Cross-border philanthropy
An exploratory study of international giving in the United Kingdom, United States, Germany and Japan

Helmut K. Anheier and Regina List
Editors
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About the authors
Charitable giving has never been confined within national boundaries. In spite of our increasingly global society and of the huge amount of public support for international charity, however, very little is known about the flow of charitable funds from one country to another.

This report presents the first attempt to make a systematic survey of the ways in which charitable funding is distributed from one country to another, and of the amounts of money involved. With great care the international team of researchers show how even major donor countries receive considerable international charitable funds for every international gift they make. Focussing on four major donors - the UK, the US, Japan and Germany - the research maps the different types of cross-border philanthropic flows from individual donations, to corporate gifts and major governmental transfers including those for educational purposes.

It shows that there are some striking differences in the ways in which nations give to people in other countries. While the UK leads in terms of individual public donations for needs in developing countries, the US government transfers huge amounts of overseas aid through philanthropic intermediary organisations.

This report will be of interest all those involved in international studies, globalisation, international philanthropy and the study of civil society. It provides new and authoritative data.

This is a joint report of the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) at the London School of Economics and the Center for Civil Society Studies (CCSS) at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). Commissioned by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), the research was carried out as part of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project at IPS, and represents the commitment of the CCS, CCSS and CAF to the study of global philanthropy.