



Africa Philanthropy Network

# 2022 STATE OF PHILANTHROPY BOOKLET



## A COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

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### Note from the Executive Director

With each passing year, the State of Philanthropy Booklet becomes more than just a document. It is a symbol of hope, progress, and the unwavering commitment to promoting the transformation potential African philanthropy. As we delve into the pages of the 2022 booklet, we are reminded of the incredible impact that African philanthropy has had on fostering social transformation and sustainable development.

The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) has been at the forefront of this movement, providing a vital platform for collaboration, peer learning and knowledge sharing for capacity enhancement.

One of our key highlights in 2022 was the APN Assembly held in Entebbe, Uganda. It was a pivotal moment for African philanthropy as it brought together more than 300 participants from across the continent and beyond, sparking meaningful conversations about the role of philanthropy in addressing critical issues. Tough questions were asked, and new roles were explored, all with the aim of driving change and interrogating power dynamics in the development systems. It was a time of reflection, purpose, and strategic thinking.

The impact of the African philanthropic practices goes beyond addressing pressing social and structural issues at their roots. The APN members continue to make tangible differences in the lives of countless individuals, while the secretariat is positioning itself as a go-to-platform for making a case for African, reinforcing the philanthropy field across the continent by creating mechanisms for peer learning, knowledge generation, and networking. It has strengthened collaboration aiming at building collective power to drive the needed systematic change. From the mapping philanthropy support actors across the continent, to amplifying the voices of marginalized and vulnerable communities in response to the crises including COVID-19 pandemic, floods and climate change adaptation.

The State of Philanthropy 2022 booklet showcases these achievements, serving as a testament to the power of African philanthropy and a roadmap for community-led development. As we look ahead to the future, the APN stands as a beacon of hope - with its commitment to strengthen solidarity of its members in mobilizing domestic resources and reclaiming the power in African philanthropic practices in championing social justice and inclusive growth.

APN sees the possibility of philanthropy to drive transformative change and address the pressing challenges facing Africa. The Booklet is not just a compilation of success stories, but a testament to the growing solidarity within and across the continent. It is a call to action, a reminder that together, we can transform unwanted systems and build just societies.

**Dr Stigmata Tenga**



## MWANAMKE NA UONGOZI

Working with influencers to inspire giving

Traditionally, Tanzanians are philanthropists. Their traditional system of life is characterized by supporting extended families, which in one way or another is considered as a normal way of life. There exists a relatively wide distribution of philanthropy actors across the country, within Dar es Salaam, Western and Southern regions hosting close to 55% of the philanthropy actors. At the individual level, Tanzanian philanthropic impulses are well illustrated in a recent Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) 2020 study, which indicates that 63 percent of twelve months (Mati J. 2020).

MWANAMKE na UONGOZI (MnU), an organisation that strives to promote women's full, effective participation and equal opportunities in leadership at all levels of decision making implemented the "Anza na Ulichonacho (Start with what you have)" project. The aim of the project was to establish a network of women philanthropists inspired to promote the welfare of others through their financial and in-kind support to vulnerable groups. The women would also promote philanthropic culture within the community through sharing of success stories and personal experiences using social media.

One of the inspiring stories that was shared on social media to inspire others to give is that of Khadija Omary Kopa, famously known as a Taaarab music singer and songwriter from Tanzania, born in 1963 on Zanzibar Island. Khadija has been able to support the widows, women in need and give back to the community a total of Tsh 5,000,000. She has also been able to provide financial support to 50 orphanage centres in Dar es Salaam. She has been able to reach out over Tsh 30,000 women or people in need and inspire them to be independent and pursue their goals.



Another story focused on Mwanaidy Suleiman, a Tanzanian sports lady who uses social media to motivate people to donate to the needy. To date Mwanaidy Suleiman estimates that she has been able to give back to the community a total of 5,000,000 Tshs and through this she has directly touched the lives of 20 vulnerable young women. She has also been able to provide financial support to 5 orphanage centres in Dar es Salaam. She has been able to set aside her personal time and speak to about 12 young women and people in need and inspire them to live a positive life to pursue their goals.

For Sadaka Gandhi a family Psychological Counsellor, through her 29 years to date she has been helping the community i.e more than 50 families, churches, mosques, women in need of psychological counseling and children at large and estimates that she has been able to give back to the community over 1,000,000 Tshs. Her work has directly touched over one million lives of orphans and vulnerable children and over thousand adults in need. She has also been able to provide financial support to over 50 orphanage centres in Dar es Salaam. She has been able to set aside her personal time and speak to more than 120 families, children or people in need and inspire them to live a positive life and pursue their goals.

On the other hand, Shamsa Mmasy with her Lulu Nation Foundation has seen an opportunity of helping the needy through social media approach. She has seen the number of social media users has increased to almost 3 billion from which the leading social networks are Facebook and Instagram where by, on both she has more than one million followers, she has used some initiatives to turn her followers into donors i.e. changing her approach to social media, creating a space for interaction, sharing the related content with a clear story about the problem and now all of her fund donation comes from social media followers.

These philanthropic stories continue to strengthen the Women philanthropic network as they not only provide inspiration but a shared purpose for collective giving.





## JA-NAM ORGANIZATION

Reviving communal help practices, a case of Kenya fisherfolk

Ja-nam, an organization from Kenya has been working around restoring a traditional culture of giving amongst fishermen communities along the lake shores of Asembo in Kenya. Despite the existence of the spirit of giving in the community, Ja-nam discovered that the erosion of positive social values and community fragmentation was eroding the spirit of giving. Creatively through the engagement of fishermen there have been efforts to recover the meaning and force of philanthropy and significant ways to embody the community. Responding to the hunger and malnutrition amongst children, specifically the disadvantaged school-going children, the fishermen donated omena [dagaa fish] - a locally available nutritional resource which is rich in basic protein and mineral nutrients such as calcium.

The traditional culture of the Luo community, in the lake-zone of Lake Victoria, was that while women were primarily charged with raising children at home, men provided support to the women and children by proactively making sure that they would not lack food or basic requirements. The men actively took actions to make sure that all women and children were taken care of by the clan – these included widows, orphans and those who were not living with their parents. Fishermen believed that ancestors showered special blessings to those who donated fish to ancestors and the needy ahead of trading with the rest of their catch or providing for their own families. Those who gave generously were respected and known as role-models within their societies.



The culture of giving tapered off with focus shifting to the nuclear family and accumulating wealth for individual use. Fishermen were not spared – they too stopped donating fish to widows, orphans and other disadvantaged members of the community. Instead, they focused on making higher profits from their harvests. However, Ja-Nam Endeavours worked to promote the culture of giving within the fishing communities. This has seen the fishermen folks beginning to harvest fish for the purposes of supporting needy.

Other communal help practices that exist in Luo community as surveyed by Ja-Nam include:

- Clearing and ploughing of fields for needy widows in order to lift that burden from their backs. This would then leave the needy widows with the roles of planting, weeding and harvesting.
- Ploughing fields while targeting surplus harvests in order to support the needy. This practice meant that farming would not target the needs of the household only but seek to raise more produce than that for the sole purpose of giving support to needy persons who would visit or who are known to the family.
- Sending children to live with the needy or aged members of the community. Their roles would be two-fold; providing basic care and services to the elderly or aged and raising alarm or giving back reports when all was not well.
- *Taking in needy children, for example orphans, into households. Such children would continue to enjoy sense of family, in the host household, while also accessing care and company that children need for the purpose of their development as children.*

- The abila-system for meals. This required that meals would be served and shared by all children at the same point usually under the watchful eye of the head of the homestead in the abila. The abila was a house dedicated to the head of the homestead. Through this arrangement, no child would be forgotten or left out particularly in relation to feeding needs. The forum also provided the children with the opportunity to bond. They also used it to speak-up or share their thoughts on any matter which affected them.
- The dero/ mondo system. Dero was the granary. Mondo was about unfettered rights to give out possessions. This practice sought to ensure the man set aside one granary for the use of his family and another in support of needy people who would be within the society. Any support given out from the reserves of the second granary would be at his discretion and required no consultation or concurrence from anyone else.
- The sewo-welo system. Welo were visitors whereas sewo was the practice of seeing them off with gifts to support them. This system supported visitors who were from areas which had experienced inferior harvests, those inflicted with hunger or even people who had endured long spells of illness which had reduced levels of productivity. On their way out, the host would give them farm produce to use within their households once they returned to their homes.





## ULUNTU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Promoting the Right to Education.

15 years ago, Uluntu Community Foundation was born with the vision of independent and self-reliant communities in mind. Uluntu, which means “People” places the expertise of community members at the centre of their work. They envision communities free from poverty and hunger in a sustainable environment, through implementing projects that enable communities to run their own businesses.

The Foundation was registered in 2008 to provide a people centred mechanism for community development and empowerment in Bulawayo and Matabeleland provinces, in Zimbabwe with thematic areas being food security and livelihoods, education, research and social entrepreneurship.

In 2022 the Foundation realised that a small community of children had their right to education impeded, not only due to poverty but several other factors. For children living with disabilities, education was for the privileged few and those that lived near the school, at Fatima Primary School in Lupane.

Parents of these children had seemingly given up on them due to limited resources to cater for their school needs. For some, the school was as far as 7 kilometers away from their places of residence and that would have meant that if they were taking the children to school they would spend the whole day on the road and forgo their chores.

The inconvenience sometimes meant that some would opt not to educate their children. The Foundation also noted with great concern that the stigma attached to People Living with Disabilities (PLWD) was real and most parents did not put much value in the education of children living with disabilities as they did with those that were not living with disabilities.

The idea of Fatima Hostel came up after much research was done and it was agreed that it would house children living with disabilities so that they were nearer to the school and get equal opportunities. The hostel would enrol children with different disabilities including hearing impairment, intellectual challenges (Down’s Syndrome) and visual impairment. In most cases, children who are intellectually challenged did not proceed to secondary school because parents had no hope that they would make it in life hence the need for self reliance in some cases. They also did not start school in most cases at the average age of 4 years but would start at a later age and by the time they are in Grade 7 they are almost or over 18.

Uluntu is working with different partners such as Associazione Amici di Padre Savino – Onlus, an Italian organisation and Father Progress Ncube, as we share the same vision in building this hostel. Uluntu started working on the project in 2022 following agreements with the responsible authority of the school, the Zimbabwe Foundation for Education with Production. This project will complement the Government’s effort to fight for the rights of people living with disability, poverty eradication, education for all under the sustainable development goals. The project would see to it that children living with disabilities were equipped with skills that would help them in their development and later stage in life and be able to live on their own.

The biggest challenge was convincing parents to bring their children to enrol at the school and in turn accommodate them at the hostel. However Uluntu sought to include the communities and the parents in the project. Through their different skills, the community would assist in the building of the hostel and this would also give the community a sense of ownership.

Also, a number of campaigns were held by Uluntu and Friends of Uluntu to convince parents with children living with disabilities to enroll their children at the school.



Learners at Fatima primary school. The group is inclusive of all learners found in this institution with varying disabilities

Uluntu noted that as a result of these campaigns there was an increase in the enrolment of children living with disabilities as it would seem that most parents had hoped that they would significantly benefit from the hostel. The involvement of the communities proved that they were in support of the initiative and that they were embracing the idea of giving children with disabilities their right to education.

Labour and some locally available resources such as sand that was used in the construction of the hostel was sourced within the communities, therefore providing job opportunities for the community. “We have welcomed this project with open hands as this is going to change the lives of our children who are living with a disability, bring an uplift to the school as well as the community. It has always been our wish to have such a facility.”

“Our hope has been restored, we have been dreaming of this development for a long time and we are happy with the progress made so far, and this has been an eye opener to see the potential that we have as communities to run with our own development, said Mr Leonard Ncube a Fatima Village Head.”

Not only was there an opportunity for the communities to benefit from the hostel but they were to benefit from a reliable water source as well.

“As a foundation we believe in philanthropy, and as we work with communities we encourage them to give and run with their own development issues. It is under this pretext that one stakeholder Honal services, made a donation of equipping the borehole with solar at Fatima Primary School,” said Mr Vusumuzi Ndlovu the Programmes and Impact Coordinator

The school and the community have running water and that has seen the reestablishment of school garden, orchard and poultry projects. The hostel will house 45 children living with disabilities and with the help of other stakeholders it will bring immense relief to the communities in and around Lupane and the whole of Matabeleland North as this is a referral school for special education.



The community listened attentively during the sensitization meeting as Uluntu executive director and ZimFEP regional manager gave key notes addressing the audience during the sensitization meeting.





*In the picture above is the complete view of the Ephphatha project in totality. Ablution facilities, main hostel and kitchen and dining hall. The ablution facilities are at window level while other portions are at door level.*



## WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

Gambian CSOs Embrace Local Giving for Social Change

West Africa Civil Society Institute (CSOs) in Gambia are transforming lives in the country through the proceeds of local giving. The CSOs, having understood the importance of domestic giving as an alternative source of funding, leveraged the skills they acquired in Local Fundraising Trainings facilitated by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) to mobilise \$73,000 for various social change initiatives in the country.

The Gambia, a small West African country with a population of 2.5 million, became liberated from autocratic rule just seven years ago. For years, the country grappled with dictatorial rule led by erstwhile Yahya Jammeh. He oversaw the adoption of a new constitution and transformed himself into a nominally democratic leader through successive electoral wins.

These elections were neither free nor fair, and the Jammeh era was characterised by widespread corruption and extensive human rights abuses including torture and extrajudicial killings. The new government of Adama Barrow inherited poor structures and a bankrupt country with a poorly functioning state apparatus and extensive corruption. Thus the aftermath of this liberation is yet to catapult the country into its prosperity aspirations.

The opening of the democratic space in The Gambia created opportunities for citizens to become more informed and involved in participatory democracy and nation building. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are consolidating their participation in public life and driving social change. But challenges persist, including pockets of resistance to civil society in the government and CSOs' own limited financial and organisational capacity.

Under these circumstances, the CSOs are not sustainable enough to drive their mandates, hold governments accountable, demand prosperity for the people and propel social change. It is against this background that the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) intervened in the country from 2019 to 2022 to help CSOs working to improve the quality of life of The Gambian people and drive social change, to diversify their funding sources through local fundraising/giving. The intervention was anchored on the basis that "Africans love to give" and contribute to social change. However, CSOs need certain skills to effectively mobilise these resources from local givers

WACSI, thus, focused on harnessing the skills of The Gambian CSOs through Local Fundraising training and coaching to effectively make the best out of local giving to drive their social change initiatives. The results of the intervention have been remarkable as six of the CSOs who participated in this capacity strengthening initiative have been able to add value to the lives of people in the country.



**CASA-Gambia**, an organisation with focus on poverty alleviation had been battling with dwindled donor funding following the outbreak of COVID-19. They resorted to increasing the number of proposals for funding from international donors to no avail. This impacted their work and prevented them from executing social change projects in line with their mission.

The story of the organisation however took a different turn after receiving training in local fundraising/giving. After participating in the training, the organisation was able to raise \$40,000 through domestic giving to build a new market for women in their community. This new market helps over 500 local market women to trade in a safe environment while providing an organised abode for thousands of buyers in the community.

**CASA-Gambia** used the knowledge and skills gained from the training to raise \$1000 (50,000 dalasi) from market women. They leveraged the skills acquired to help these women appreciate the importance of local giving especially for the purpose of the project, which led to each of the women contributing towards it. (Each woman contributed 50 dalasi) across the community.

In addition, they organised a fundraising concert and raised about \$2,000 (120,000 dalasi) during the concert. An additional \$5,000 was raised from the Gambian diaspora from Seattle (USA) and the largest donation was secured from the community council – about \$32,000 (2 million dalasi) for the market. One of the key lessons the organisation has derived from this progress is that there is possibility in local giving.

**Raise the Young Foundation (RYF)** is a youth-led organization based in The Gambia established in 2020. It works to promote and protect the rights of women and children from all forms of abuse and exploitation and to enhance the security and protection of young human rights defenders. The organization's areas of intervention also include education, gender equality, and health rights.



As a youth-focused organisation, RYF had been looking for resources to support its projects and improve the lives of Gambian youth. However, the organisation was heavily hit by decline in donor funding during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected their cash flow and sustainability. Driven by their mission, the organisation however, had been relentless in their efforts to strengthen their financial resilience through alternative funding interventions to be able to touch more lives. Unfortunately, they only realised little positive results. During the training it came out that the organisation had not explored the power of communication in their local fundraising approach. After the training, they started developing communication materials (flyers, videos) and content on social media for their fundraising activities, which became a game changer for them.

In a country where poverty rate has risen to more than 50% amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, interventions such as supplying foodstuffs to less privileged people living in poor rural communities goes a long way to put smiles on their faces. RYF has been able to do this through local giving.

The organisation was able to locally raise \$1300 to support its initiatives and through that, supplied 2000 packs of food to less privileged people during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in 2022. Most of the donors are from the diaspora and the organisation was able to reach out to them via social media channels including Facebook and WhatsApp. Not only do the people of The Gambia give in cash to support the organisation's cause, but they also give in kind in the form of human capital. They had volunteers willing to join and contribute to the cause of the organisation. The number of volunteers tripled in less than a year (from 5 to 20 people). This is a massive success for the organisation, and it only indicates that people have interest in giving and that their efforts contribute to social change.

### **Beakanyang Kafoo**

As an organisation focusing on promoting human rights, Beakanyang Kafoo had long been looking for ways to improve the lives of people. However, it faced serious challenges such as dwindled donor support that only worsened with the pandemic as foreign donors changed their priorities. Local giving became the best bet for the organisation. They embarked on the search for local donors through various means, but it was only after gaining the needed skills from their participation in the local fundraising training facilitated by WACSI in 2019, were they able to optimise their efforts to gain more results.

Having honed their skills in local fundraising strategies, Beakanyang Kafoo was able to provide foodstuff to less privileged people in The Gambia during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic using a **\$1000 (50,000 Dalasi)** they raised through local giving.



Again, local giving has helped the organisation contribute towards improving youth understanding of human rights, gender-based rights and development issues. This is an initiative that has contributed to civic education in the country and was made possible by in-kind support that helped the organisation set up a summer camp for youth between the ages of 15-19 years. Inspired by the efforts of the organisation, the Bassey council provided foodstuffs to help to feed the youth during the youth camp.

Even more exciting is that through the skills acquired, the organisation will be able to continually touch more lives because they have been able to build strong ties with The Gambian diaspora community in USA who have committed to providing about \$500 dollars monthly to support the work of the organisation, and improve the lives of people living in poor communities in the country.

## Supportive Activists Foundation (SAF)

The World Health Organisation in 2007 estimated that 120 000 people in The Gambia had a mental illness. Out of this figure only less than 4000 receive treatment every year. It also estimated that around 12% of the people in the country are likely to have a mental disorder and 3% a severe mental disorder. This is a problem Supportive Activists Foundation (SAF) is working to eradicate through local giving.

Despite having a very important mission, SAF had been badly hit by a decline in foreign donor funding. A situation that affected their efforts to pursue such an important mission. The organisation had since engaged in local fundraising models to salvage the situation. However, they achieved little to no results.

During the local fundraising training, the leadership of the organisation discovered that the reason they had not succeeded in their local fundraising efforts was because they paid little or no attention to appreciating their staff, which was the number one killer of workers' morale. The training was eye opening experience for the staff on the meaning and appreciation of resources, which is not limited only to financial but also include time and in-kind support. All staff of the organisations are volunteers, however, leadership of the organisations were not appreciating and quantifying the time resources staff were providing to the organisation



After the training, they embarked on raising in-kind support (since financial resources were not very successful) for the specific needs of the organisation with the techniques gained from the course. As a result, they secured two pieces of land (\$11,000 in cash) that would host their rehabilitation centre to support people living with mental illness.

They also partnered with the Sky-High Group (a private company) to provide chips for their awareness campaigns across high schools in the country.

### Household Disaster Resilience Project (HELPS- The Gambia)

The story of Household Disaster Resilience Project (HELPS- The Gambia) – a national organisation that seeks to build households’ resilience to the devastating impacts of climate change and disasters is an inspiration for local giving. The organisation is contributing significantly towards tackling sanitation problems in The Gambia through local giving.



HELPS- The Gambia having grappled with the ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic had embarked on a nation-wide and beyond (diaspora) mapping of potential donors to cushion their finances on projects that improve people’s quality of life.

However, the results had not been significant until they participated in the local giving training and coaching sessions.

They applied the skills they acquired into developing a comprehensive local fundraising plan centred on social media, traditional media, and existing network of each individual staff. The implementation of the plan led to raising of \$13,000 (mostly contributed by diaspora) within two years, to support a Trash Free Gambia initiative in four major regions of the country.

This has been a ground-breaking initiative in the country that is contributing to address the quandary of indiscriminate waste dumping and the lack of proper waste management.

**Gambia Rural Poor Association (GAMRUPA)** is an organisation focused on bringing The Gambia’s poverty rate to the lowest level through social interventions. Though the organisation is pursuing a great mission, they struggle to achieve the progress they aspire for due to inadequate funds. They have had to put some social intervention projects on hold until they have funds from foreign donors whose contributions constitute a higher percentage of their overall funds. They have since been looking into other means of mobilising funds to drive their mandate. The organisation saw impressive results after participating in the local fundraising/giving training.



The organisation has been able to secure two plots of lands to the tune of \$11,000 through local philanthropy. This fund is supporting four local businesses in The Gambia that provide income to local people through employment. These four businesses, through this support, would expand to provide food for hundreds of people living in the country.

WACSI has been facilitating local fundraising training under the Change the Game Academy initiative since 2018. Over 300 individuals from 161 CSOs in Ghana, The Gambia and Sierra Leone have benefited from the workshops.

These experiences by CSOs in The Gambia provide deeper assurances to CSOs in other West African countries that if well applied, local fundraising techniques can yield lasting results. This can enable CSOs to generate the resources needed to champion different development initiatives and improve the quality of life of people in their communities



HERE IS A VIDEO LINK TO SOME OF THESE



## FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY (FCS)

Greening the Coastline: How Our Community Came Together for a Beach Clean-Up and Tree Planting at Msasani Beach

Date: Friday, December 9, 2022 Location: Msasani Beach

We all love the beach. It's an experience that appeals to our senses: from the sound of waves breaking on the shore, the feel of wet sand on our feet and the sea breeze on our skin. Being close to any water body makes us happier and calmer psychologically and physiologically. That is why almost everyone flocks to the beach on weekends.

However, water bodies offer more than what we aesthetically enjoy from them. Oceans, lakes, rivers, etc. host myriads of creatures including plants and animals. Without a marine ecosystem, we lose a healthy habitat, a crucial source of food, clean water, and business (think fisheries for instance). The destruction of coastal life would be a great loss. Hence, the need to protect them at all costs.

Through the Giving Tuesday Initiative, the foundation for civil society (FCS) organized a special Beach Clean-Up and Tree Planting event at Msasani Beach in Dar es Salaam. FCS is an independent Tanzanian non-profit organization that provides grants and capacity building services to civil society organizations (CSOs) so as to enhance their effectiveness in enabling engagement of citizens in development processes.



The exercise was done under the auspices of the #GivingTuesday initiative, a global generosity movement and is in line with other events FCS has held including raising funds and inviting participants to attend charity events for orphanages, schools, and hospitals.

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It was also a response to a call by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to celebrate Tanzania's Independence Day commemoration held annually on December 9 by 'doing good'. Through the Local Government Authority (Ward, Village/Mtaa) we were able to mobilize members of their communities around Bonde la Mpunga, Msasani, and Mikocheni to attend.

The clean-up event also included Waste and Brand Audits (WABA) for data collection of brands that produce much waste, as well as an awareness session for participants to understand the connection between their lifestyle choices and the collective community impacts of plastic and trash in our environment.





All came in unison to ensure that the surrounding environment is kept clean. Hands in gloves, wielding trash bags and other tools, they canvassed the beach meter by meter, removed the waste and hauled it into a truck. In just a few hours, volunteers were able to clear the most polluted landscapes.

## MOTIVATION

“I am a footballer. I train on this beach daily. So I must participate in this exercise” says Ally. Another volunteer, a university student remarks “I study education, but the environment is my passion. We must ensure we keep and preserve our mother earth as it is for the next generation”. On the part of local leaders, Hemed Mohamed (Msasani street Chairperson) had a lot to say; “This is public property, so there are a lot of interests and it is our responsibility to safeguard them. There’s fishing activity and with it comes matters of public health. Also, for recreation purposes, the beach must be clean. You can see, we have a lot of investors currently, hence we need to ensure the proper business environment. Events such as these make us so happy, I do not need an extra push to attend”.

## CHANGES REALIZED AND LESSONS LEARNT

At Msasani beach, garbage, such as cans, glass bottles, plastic bags, and other containers from polluters were collected. Also, volunteers collected hospital waste, such as needles and broken surgical instruments. In a few cases, discarded worn-out fishing nets were observed as well. It is so unfortunate that, according to data, it takes more than 400 years for plastic to degrade at the bottom of the ocean. Now, how long would it take for plastic to decompose on the shore? It’s terrifying to even think about it.

It was so important to have waste management experts as well participating in the exercise. After collecting the garbage, specialists took time to edify volunteers on how waste is analyzed scientifically and its importance. Data about what kind of waste is too common, the level of toxicity, who is a major polluter, and what can be done. Such facts are forwarded to relevant policymakers, authorities, and manufacturers of products who remain the major contributor of part of the waste. The end goal is to minimize hazardous waste like plastics and influence producers to opt for recyclable packages or products.

Volunteers were also able to plant a number of trees in the area around the shore as allocated by the local government. Why trees? “Dar es salaam, for instance, is too hot at the moment. This is one of the results of climatic change in which deforestation plays a key role” says Laki Michael, Executive Director of the Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT). Trees and woods help to connect communities and ensure our urban areas are economically, socially, and environmentally more sustainable.

For urban areas specifically, trees improve poor air quality by cleaning pollutants from the air, reducing the risk of flooding, cooling the temperature, and providing shade around the beach. Each business owner was tasked with the upkeep of the tree planted around his/her vicinity. Local leaders will hold them accountable.





*Planting trees will help the environment to heal itself.*



*We have a moral obligation to protect the environment for the future generations.*

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The environment, especially marine biodiversity, cannot be saved by sporadic beach cleaning alone. There must be a radical shift in mindset. Each one, especially beachgoers and producers of consumer products must assume responsibility as per National Environmental Policy. Besides, waste produced at home ought to be handled accordingly. There is a lot at stake as mentioned above. Although the efforts may not achieve zero waste in the short term, a lot can be achieved in the long run, particularly on plastic materials.





## URGENT ACTION FUND AFRICA

Tackling Gender Inequality Through Social Justice Grantmaking: Can this Become a Reality?

The African landscape is crippled by many roots that foster the growth of inequality, compounded crises and oppression. Unjust political systems characterized by authoritarianism, militarism, technological surveillance and crises of democracy have heightened women's exclusion from political life, intensified state-sanctioned violence against Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), constricted civic space and women's organizing and engagement.

When such structural inequalities and crises arise, women need bigger and better resources to respond swiftly, to organize safely and effectively. Feminist grantmaking is, as such, key to driving any form of desired change and catalyzing collective power that makes African women stronger, safer, and more resilient in the face of repression and backlash. At Urgent Action Fund -Africa (UAF-Africa), we have committed to transforming power relations through strategic resourcing for African feminists and WHRDs/their formations, as an act of solidarity.

Recognizing the need to move resources rapidly on a continent where opportunities and threats arise and decline quickly, UAF-Africa's rapid response grantmaking mechanism enables us to support unanticipated, time-sensitive, innovative and unique initiatives that promote women's agency. At the Fund, we work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, constantly staying alive to the trends and lived realities of women on the continent. Our fastest grant thus far has been provided in under 2 hours, in Tunisia at the height of the revolution.

In setting context to this conversation, during the most recently concluded 2022 African Philanthropy Network (APN) assembly that was held in Entebbe, Uganda from 8th to 10th November 2022, we questioned the significance of feminist approaches to grantmaking, with an understanding of intersectionality and how this has been evolving through UAF-Africa's movement building and rapid response grantmaking work. We profile feminist approaches to grantmaking as an intentional way in which we are practicing the ethos and feminist principles that we uphold. This has been a journey of aligning our actions to our values and the values of the movements that we work with and are accountable to.

Exploring this discourse further, we questioned how the ecosystem of philanthropy can become more flexible in funding feminist activism, how to ensure that we are listening to the urgent needs of women, how to track and report/tell stories of feminist action to spotlight the gendered inequalities that women, girls and non-binary people face. We acknowledge that African feminist movements are some of the most dynamic drivers of social justice and change on the continent, transforming lives at the community level, and leading policy change at national/regional levels; yet are the least resourced group.

In Nigeria, for instance, we saw the tenor of the EndSars protest shift once feminist leaders stepped in to support the resistance. In demonstrating unity, sisterhood and solidarity, UAF-Africa was able to quickly disburse resources to the feminist movement in Nigeria to facilitate the collective mobilization of masses who demanded an end to police brutality, poor governance, inequality, and other forms of atrocities. One result was the abolishing of the police unit that had been widely criticized for the terror they unleashed on Nigerian citizens.

Across Francophone West Africa, which has witnessed civil unrest, violent extremism, terrorist attacks and threats to WHRDs, UAF-Africa supported movement strengthening approaches to a network of more than 500 Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) who have challenged rape/sexual violence of women/girls and provided safety and wellbeing grants for WHRDs who are at the forefront of leading activism and providing support to survivors of violence and attacks.

While for the Lusophone region, we have continued to build and power feminist movements to mobilise and resist amidst hostile and repressive contexts. These efforts include supporting Gender Links in Mozambique which organised a feminist forum that convened representation from all Lusophone countries, and through which they re-shaped and re-positioned strategically politicised frameworks and models to sustain their activism and institutional capacities.

As COVID-19 spread across the world, governments generally responded with restrictive mitigating measures such as social distancing, curfews and lockdowns, often accompanied by heightened policing and securitisation. For feminist movement builders, COVID-19 was a human security concern accompanied by a rise in domestic violence, drastic effects on sources of livelihood and increased unpaid labour. However, the global measures to mitigate COVID-19 were not designed to deal with the material concerns associated with the impact of the pandemic. Instead, communities had to grapple with the real threat of illness and death alongside concerns about income, food, housing, and water. Following UAF-Africa's history of supporting women's organising during the Ebola crisis, which we drew on to support feminist movements responding to COVID-19, we were able to nimbly re-align our funding support to weave into the unprecedented dynamics that the pandemic presented hence supporting our constituencies to sustain their activism, including providing material, technical and financial support.

The distinctive elements that are impacting and influencing social justice change through UAF-Africa's rapid response grantmaking model include:

Giving women economic power by expending funds directly to women's groups and trusting them to manage their finances autonomously. We, additionally, provide flexible funding that enables grantee partners to self-determine their agendas, respond to changes in their contexts, seize unanticipated opportunities, and invest funds where they are most needed. Using a participatory grantmaking approach that places activists and defenders at the core of decision-making and implementation. We invite WHRDs, movements and structurally excluded groups to contribute towards funding decisions as they identify their own well-informed strategic solutions and priorities. This is aimed at decentralising the power of decision-making from the Fund to the movements.

Forming equitable partnerships using a bottom-up approach to engage with our grantee partners/constituencies, whereby, even as we respond quickly to crises and urgent situations, our grantee partners take the lead in determining their interventions and response mechanisms. We respect their knowledge and trust their solutions.

For example, when COVID-19 struck, we remained alive to the challenges women were facing and supported our grantee partners to define solutions based on the varying contexts across the region. A particular case is a Ugandan group that reached out to us overwhelmed by the number of GBV survivors who sought protection at their GBV shelter and who were supported to hire more lawyers for legal representation of the survivors' cases and expand their psychosocial and wellness/care services for the survivors to remain safe, as opposed to being locked up with the perpetrators.

For UAF-Africa, building trust among our grantee partners is a core principle. As much as we listen to their voices, we trust their wisdom and knowledge and we believe that solutions are best designed and implemented by the communities that understand their issues and relevant interventions to respond to those issues. This funding model abandons the charity mindset and acknowledges the agency of the communities. Since we are accountable to our constituencies and movements, and in navigating power dynamics, we engage open and honest dialogues with our grantee partners and constituencies, and by stepping back, listening, and making room for agency and autonomous leadership.

- Drawing on our experience of supporting activists in conflict, post-conflict, and unstable political situations, we centre cultures of care and integrate holistic security, collective care, self-care and wellbeing of activists into our urgent response mandate. We have similarly invested in co-creating unconventional spaces, such as virtual Ubuntu gatherings for activists to connect, share their challenges, triumphs, and fears, and collectively heal through art, poetry, and dance.
- Providing technical and solidarity support beyond finances: We go beyond providing financial support to building relationships and holding collective and one-on-one capacity enhancement, learning and networking sessions that build power, confidence and political solidarity among grantee partners, most especially to those situated in grassroots based communities.

Our intersectional funding approach builds more collective power of voice and advocacy, dismantling the syndrome of movements working in silos and more fragmented ways. We fund across movements, communities and gendered themes of oppression, disbursing funds in the shortest time possible and in some cases in untraditional ways when banks are closed, or deposits make activists unsafe.

I leave you with a quote:



Strong relationships are never built on transactional engagements; both parties must engage with honesty and integrity, acknowledge the other as a vital part of their success, be willing to have courageous conversations, and have compassion for each other's humanity,' **Kierra Johnson**





# UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM

Enhancing CSO credibility and legitimacy in Uganda - UNNGOF

The legal environment for CSOs in Uganda has become very stringent. With the ever emerging rules and regulations, organizations find it hard to remain compliant and some do not clearly understand their obligations in regards to the regulations set.

Under the NGO regulatory framework, CSOs have to register with over 6 regulatory bodies; the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, the Uganda NGO bureau, Finance Intelligence Authority, NSSF and URA. The mandatory registration with these authorities bestows the CSOs with cumbersome obligations that sometimes require funds. With the reduced donor funding and limited funds to meet these obligations, CSOs often fall short to meet their end of the bargain. UNNGOF through the Philanthropy for development programme organized legal compliance health checks on the NGO regulatory framework.

The first round in 2021 of the health checks targeted UNNGOF members and implementing partners and the second round in 2022 under the #BeLegit campaign was opened up to all CSOs in Uganda.

The campaign takes the form of mainly 'door-to-door' compliance clinics/sessions to UNNGOF members and non-members where a candid conversation is held to facilitate a deeper understanding on the NGO regulatory framework and a health check is done on their status in as far as complying to government regulations and administrative procedures is concerned. The sessions are not a fault-finding exercise but rather; one that seeks to foster learning, self-regulation and compliance

The health checks at these organizations have been through on-site visits with face-to-face interactions between the visiting team (a lawyer conversant with the regulatory framework and an UNNGOF staff) and the host organization staff (Head of the Organization, Finance Team or Compliance officer among others). A legal assessment tool that is premised on the traffic light notion and the obligations to the 6 authorities mentioned above is administered to organizations. This assessment flags red areas that the organizations have failed to comply with, orange in areas the organizations are trying and green in areas the organizations have fully complied with.



The assessment sessions are also capacity building sessions on how organizations can register and enlightenment on the paperwork is required for both registration and submission of returns. Additionally, where legal support is needed to meet the obligations, the lawyer (consultant) further assists the organizations to meet these obligations at no cost. Additionally, the organizations are given a hand book of a compendium of laws as a reference, to further understand their obligations. To date over 184 organizations have benefited from the health checks in Uganda and more will benefit since the campaign will run up to 2025.

When UNNGOF first rolled out the door to door health checks, it was structured as a supply driven initiative with UNNGOF reaching out to organizations to take part. With the launch of the #BeLegit campaign, organizations have shown an appreciation for compliance and have reached out to UNNGOF to avail the services to them; changing the narrative to demand driven. UNNGOF has witnessed organizations that benefited from the door to door health checks fundraise to meet their legal obligations. Case in point; UNNGOF was approached to support AGMs and Audit processes of some of its members and implementing partners.

UNNGOF has also seen some weak organizations left with no choice but to close their operations due to enormous fines attracted as a result of failure to meet their obligations. This leaves the sector with only organizations that are credible and legitimate.



### Lessons learnt

Most organizations are willing to comply but are limited by funds. For example, making returns to these authorities requires payment of some funds. The actual return fees are minimal but since most of the organizations fail to meet the obligations, fines are levied on them, yet no donor is willing to spend funds on fines. Furthermore, organizations lack sensitization; they do not understand their obligations clearly. Most organizations are not aware of the timelines of filing returns and the consequences of not meeting obligations under each law, as such, they attract enormous fines.

Compliance with government regulations is mandatory for CSOs that want to thrive, partner with the government and engage with their communities. This is because through the compliance checks we found out that even if an organization is changing peoples' lives and impacting the community, once it's not meeting its obligations under the NGO framework it is still at risk of closure or being suspended by the government, like we saw in 2022.

### Recommendations

We recommend building development partners' interest in compliance since it affects the vehicles through which change is envisioned at the grass root. Therefore, NGOs should engage development partners to support the legal compliance by setting aside funds to support lawyers and paying different government dues especially those related to different returns, and forms to be submitted at different levels.

There is also a need for investment in training and sensitization on the different legal requirements. Nearly every organization we engage in has not had training on the companies act and anti-money laundering laws despite the fact that this particular law requires training of staff; this should therefore be done. There is a need for NGOs to streamline legal compliance, by including it in their day-to-day work to avoid being caught off-guard and to constantly remind themselves of the obligations they have to meet.



WEBSITE STORY LINKS





## CIVSOURCE AFRICA

Celebrating 100 Episodes of the Comm-UNITY Podcast:  
Voices of African Philanthropy

In 2022, the Comm-UNITY podcast hit a major milestone: its 100th episode. For over a hundred episodes, the podcast has been a platform for documenting stories of African philanthropy. This is not just a celebration of numbers, but a celebration of the hundred voices that have contributed to the platform and to the African Philanthropy ecosystem. These voices bore witness to the palpable presence, workings, and wins of African Philanthropy. Each episode showcases experiences and insights of philanthropic actors in the African and global community, building a rich body of knowledge on the subject.

The podcast was born out of a crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic. Launched and initially hosted by Jacqueline Asiimwe, the Comm-UNITY podcast documented how sharing, supporting and existing collectively as a community had been transformed or needed to be transformed in light of the pandemic. Prior to establishing the platform, CivSource had conducted a study on the landscape of philanthropy in Uganda. The findings had indicated the existence of philanthropy in Uganda, both formal and informal and had recommended the need to shape and promote positive narratives about African Philanthropy.

From this recommendation, the podcast's trajectory evolved to focus on spotlighting stories of African philanthropy. The podcast has since explored philanthropy from the perspectives of various sectors such as visual and performing arts, the legal fraternity, the disability rights movement, climate activists, philanthropic collectives such as Rotary International and Rotaract. The Comm-UNITY podcast has also featured a variety of guests from lawyers, teachers, social entrepreneurs, social justice activists and journalists young and old alike, whose stories have provided diverse insights on how African philanthropy is undertaken

The collection of stories documented in the past year has showcased the channels, models and the multifaceted nature of philanthropy, including the giving of one's time, talent, finances, and all forms of treasure.

Her Royal Highness Queen Sylvia Nagginda Luswata of the Buganda Kingdom told of the story of structured philanthropy undertaken by the Nnabagereka Development Foundation, Dr. Stigmata Tenga expounded on the power that backs philanthropy, Sameera Mehra presented findings from a study that explored giving in Uganda and the causes Ugandans prioritized, and our youngest guests by far, Gillian and Daniella 21 and 16 years shared the story of how they raised 11 million Uganda shillings to address the issue of menstrual hygiene for young girls in western Uganda.

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As we curated each episode, we came to appreciate the power of storytelling in shaping narratives, capturing history, changing minds, and touching hearts. It was heartwarming to see how many of our guests embraced the powerful identity of a philanthropist; an identity many had steered clear of because of its stereotypical representation as belonging to givers from the global north. In some of these conversations, we found ourselves reflecting on what drives our philanthropy and what led us to the communities and spaces we currently serve. These are aspects that can easily be overlooked amidst the daily grind of our routines. The Comm-UNITY podcast provided a much-needed opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate the different roles we play in the philanthropy ecosystem.



You can tune in to the Comm-UNITY podcast via the following platforms:



**CIVSOURCE AFRICA WEBSITE**



**APPLE PODCASTS**



**ANCHOR FM**



**GOOGLE PODCASTS**



**OVERCAST**



**RADIO PUBLIC**



**POCKET CASTS**



We are  
grateful.





## FOYER D'ENFANT + FEMME FET+F /ASBL

Droits des Femmes-Enfants & Développement Communautaire

### L'Organisation FOYER D'ENFANT + FEMME FET+F / asbl soutient les femmes de la communauté d'Uvira pendant la période du COVID 19.

Uvira est une ville du Sud-Kivu en République Démocratique du Congo où connaissent depuis très longtemps à la violence intercommunautaire menant à de l'insécurité généralisée qui a conduit à la destruction de centaines de villages et le déplacement de milliers d'habitants vers des camps étrangers, centres urbains ou à l'étranger et la zone étant très enclavée, l'accès aux soins humanitaires est souvent difficile ou possible qu'à pieds ou par hélicoptère. La pandémie du COVID 19 a exacerbé la situation déjà compliquée des habitants d'Uvira. Heureusement que les ONGs, et autres mouvements communautaires de cette communauté sont toujours prêts à porter secours en temps de crises.

C'est le cas de l'Organisation FOYER D'ENFANT + FEMME/asbl qui défend et promeut les droits humains, spécifiquement ceux des femmes et des enfants. Une de leurs success stories parle de l'accompagnement de dix femmes démunies pendant la période ravageuse du COVID 19. La pandémie du COVID 19 a aggravé la situation déjà déplorable et inquiétante de plusieurs personnes vulnérables et spécifiquement des femmes mais malgré cela, la vie ne s'est pas arrêtée à Uvira. Les femmes se sont levées comme actrices de développement en mettant en place des stratégies de résiliences, qui sont devenues de nouvelles habitudes communautaires et qui ont permis de vivre normalement pendant la pandémie.

À Uvira, la pandémie du COVID 19 a été déclarée vers le début de l'année 2019 avec l'enregistrement de quelques cas de maladies et le gouvernement congolais a immédiatement mis en place des mesures sanitaires de prévention pour limiter la propagation de la pandémie. Ces mesures ont ébranlé l'avancé socio-économique des communautés et surtout des femmes du secteur informel et celles vivant en situation de handicap. Les mesures barrières visant à soutenir le bien-être des communautés tels que : le port obligatoire d'un cache nez ;



le lavage des mains au savons ou l'usage d'un désinfectant ; la distanciation sociale d'un mettre et l'interdiction du regroupement de plus de vingt personnes et particulièrement la fermeture des frontières avec les pays limitrophes n'ont pas été facilement acceptés par les membres des communautés. Bien que ces mesures soient nécessaires, elles ont eu un impact négatif sur la dynamique socio-économique des populations et particulièrement sur la vie des femmes qui travaillent dans l'informel, qui ont déjà sur elles, le poids de la responsabilité familiale en plus d'être sujettes à des violences au quotidien.

Au constat de tous ces événements, l'Organisation FOYER D'ENFANT + FEMME/asbl qui a pour mission de défendre et de promouvoir les droits de la femme, a accompagné dix femmes de deux catégories : les femmes petites commerçantes et les femmes en situation d'handicape. L'Organisation a commencé par identifier dix femmes démunies dans la communauté appartenant au groupe de petites commerçantes et vivant en situation d'handicape et a ensuite organisée des séances d'échanges pour identifier les besoins et les soucis liés à la pandémie. Les femmes petites commerçantes ont eu beaucoup de problèmes avec la fermeture des frontières avec le Burundi car ne pouvant plus faire d'échanges commerciales, elles ont fini par utiliser le capital de leurs petits business pour parvenir aux besoins de leurs familles.

Cette fermeture des frontières a également engendré la rareté et la cherté des produits menant à la hausse des prix des produits encore disponibles sur le territoire. Ceci à causer la faillite de plusieurs de ces petits business. Les femmes en situation d'handicape quant à elles, ont signalées être dans la couture, la vannerie et avec la pandémie, elles peinent à avoir des clients. Celles qui étaient employées au centre pour handicapés ont perdues leurs emplois dû à la crise du COVID 19.

Les séances d'échanges ont aussi permis de mieux les sensibiliser sur la pandémie et sur les mesures adaptées à leurs catégories de personnes afin de mieux faire face à la pandémie. L'Organisation a accompagné les petites commerçantes en les appuyant en capitaux des Activités Génératrices de Revenus (AGR) :





vente des produits locaux qui n'exigent pas de traverser la frontière pour les avoir. Elles ont aussi été encouragées de faire un champ communautaire où elles ont fait la culture de manioc et de maïs ; ces femmes ont été animées en approche AVEC (Association Villageoise d'Épargne et de crédit). Par cette approche, elles ont commencé à se réunir chaque samedi et au cours de ces réunions, elles font des cotisations uniformes afin d'épargner pour se constituer un capital et de s'assister en cas de problèmes. FET+F a également accompagné les femmes vivant en situation d'handicapé dans les AGR de fabrication des paniers en mettant en leur disposition les matériaux nécessaires et le cadre approprié pour mener à bien cette activité.

L'impact qu'a eu cette accompagnement est vraiment significatif car les femmes ont pu être assez outillé par la FET+F pour sensibiliser leurs familles et les membres de la communauté sur la pandémie. Elles ont également pu mieux s'acclimater, ainsi que les membres de la communauté aux mesures barrières. Cette accompagnement a également permis d'avoir la création des AGR dans plusieurs secteurs tels que l'agriculture, l'économie, l'élevage, l'artisanat, et la mise en valeur des produits locaux. Grâce aux AVEC, elles ont pu avoir les capitaux grâce aux micro-crédits rotatifs entre elles entraînant à une hausse en autonomie économique.

En fin de compte, il y a eu beaucoup de leçons apprises. Parmi ces leçons, on peut noter qu'après l'accompagnement de l'Organisation FET+F, les femmes ont été mieux outillé en connaissances sur la pandémie : les symptômes, les causes et les mesures de prévention et elles sont en retour devenues des agents éducateurs de la communauté. Les moyens mis à leurs portées ont été utilisés pour la confection des cache-nez, les dispositifs de lavage des mains fabriqués localement avec des bidons, bassines, marmites, gobelets, et pour remplacer le savon et le désinfectant, la cendre qui est accessible à tous. La socialisation de la pratique du lavage des mains n'a pas été utile que pour le COVID 19 mais aussi pour se protéger contre la fièvre typhoïde et le choléra qui ravageaient la communauté. Cette accompagnement par FEF+F a également facilité l'engagement dans l'agriculture et l'élevage, palliant ainsi au problème de manque d'emploi de ces femmes. Les capitaux produits par les AVEC et les AGR ont aidé à ce qu'elles ne fassent plus recours aux institutions financières qui exigent des gages et des intérêts élevés pour avoir le capital pour leurs activités. Les femmes ont donc quitté l'état de victimes et sont devenues des acteurs du développement en mettant en place des mesures de résilience.



Africa Philanthropy Network

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