



African Philanthropy Network
THE VOICE AND ACTION FOR AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY

MAPPING OF PHILANTHROPY SUPPORT ACTORS IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

REPORT ON

WEST AFRICA REGION

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Acronyms

APN	Africa Philanthropy Network (The APN)
CET	Common External Tariff
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFC	European Foundation Centre
netFWD	Network of Foundations Working for Development
PSA	Philanthropy Support Actors
PSRP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WINGS	Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

APN is the continent-wide network of African owned and African-led organization which promote the culture of individual and community philanthropy. Members of APN include philanthropy support organizations such as networks, associations, grant makers, community foundations, academia and CSOs supporting communities to increase the effectiveness and impact of different forms of philanthropic giving. The region of the actors contains many new institutions that have come to occupy what we have termed the philanthropic space. APN has been in the lead undertaking research to understand the subject of philanthropy, its manifestation from an African perspective, the key actors, their characteristics what they do and how they relate with one another.

The field of philanthropy across Africa is growing with the growth of institutional and non-institutional philanthropy. And it is changing, with the rapid emergence of structured forms of strategic philanthropy by wealthy Africans, channels for collective giving to social causes amongst urbanized communities with reduced connections to rural roots, a growing recognition of community-based practices of social solidarity, and the emergence of African associations of philanthropists, Grantmakers, and social investors.

This report presents an analytical framework for documenting and highlighting the different types of philanthropic activity being pursued in West African countries. This exercise is conducted at the same time when our member, TrustAfrica is implementing an '**West Africa Ecosystem Strengthening Project**'

We therefore do not intend to duplicate and or reinvent the wheel, but enhance collaboration and complementarity. Data collection focused an overall mapping of PSAs in the region by country and then identifies existing categories, target groups, source of income and specific sector of the PSAs. It highlights key observations from the organizations and individuals that were interviewed. The report also offers an analysis of broader trends in the region.

1.2 Objective

The general objective of the project is to engage APN members and other relevant stakeholders in a participatory mapping process to identify PSAs, their challenges and opportunities of harnessing domestic philanthropy in western Africa region. It includes regional mapping of philanthropy support actors (PSAs) and desk review of some work done under the same subject in West Africa given the fact that the Trust Africa under the support of WINGS they are implementing a project to engage local and regional philanthropy networks, support organizations, funders, and other relevant stakeholders in West Africa in a participatory process to map and strengthen the local philanthropy support ecosystem, with the aim of creating awareness of the actors in the field and propose a roadmap to strengthen the infrastructures in west Africa.

Specifically, the objective was to conduct desk review of the mapping of PSAs in west Africa region; to produce Mapping Report of the PSAs in west Africa; present the draft mapping report to the Stakeholders validation meeting and Incorporate comments from the validation workshop; and produce Draft Final report for submission to the APN.

1.3 Scope and Methodology

The scope and methodology of this project is designing an approach for participatory members and stakeholders' participation in the study, review the submitted list of PSAs for west Africa region that was developed by APN-2022 and update it based on the situation in the region, review existing literature and researches to increase understanding of the sector in the region.

3.0 HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY FIELD

The West Africa's philanthropy history gives a good picture of the overall African scene. Until recently political instability has ragged many States in the region and deprived millions of people. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the region has suffered inter-state armed conflicts and civil wars with negative spill-over effects for neighboring countries. As a consequence, many States became fragile and were hardly able to assume the basic demands of the citizenry. The political and military involvement of ECOWAS in resolving some of the regional conflicts underscores the new engagement of West African leaders for an environment conducive to peace and prosperity.

Several countries in West African region coped with this political turmoil while absorbing the painful recipes from the adjustment programs of the 1980s and 1990s. Earlier, in the 1960s, most States assumed a central development role but failed to deliver and became increasingly oppressive and corrupt. A conjunction of negative factors i.e. mismanagement, the deteriorating international environment with the first oil shock in the 1970s and cyclical droughts contributed to a profound economic and financial crisis which precipitated the calls for IMF and World Bank intervention.

These institutions prescribed painful remedies based on a market-oriented model of economic development which confined the State to limited functions. As a result, key sectors such as education and health were almost abandoned and the poorest populations left unassisted. In many areas, local solidarity and Non-Governmental Organizations' involvement and supply of services for potable water, sanitation, health and education etc. alleviated the situations of many people and offered a way out for the most vulnerable. The fragile States of the 1980s and the 1990s were disqualified; they were often incapable of meeting the basic needs of their populations and delivering essential social services.

The beginning of this new century has witnessed remarkable changes:

- The development Community is now convinced that States have to assume key functions, in contrast to the liberalization wave that tended to dispossess States from their major functions;
- The emergence of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the Millennium Development Goals have set the stage for a focused State intervention in areas such as education and health, even though other actors' contributions are expected.
- The Paris declaration, signed in 2005, promotes "aid effectiveness", seeks to fight against aid dispersion and tries to develop a mechanism based on country-led partnership and co-responsibility.

On the regional front, there is increasing agreement among leaders for popular participation to the construction of ECOWAS. The erection of the ECOWAS Parliament and the involvement of civil society in the definition of core policy options and strategies clearly indicate the road path towards the well-being of the West African people. The set up of a common external tariff (CET), the harmonizing of the rules that govern the different member States, participate to the collaborative strategies for economic integration. Likewise, within the Franc zone, the West African economic and monetary union (WAEMU) strives also to facilitate economic and monetary integration through instruments such as the CET and the Common Agricultural Program.

Although the overall picture depicted above displays contrasting results, Philanthropy would find a suitable receptacle for development in the West Africa region. On the positive side, the need for support i.e., the demand for giving is overwhelming and induces many coping strategies. Among these, Africans have other ways of giving that may not always enter the classical view of philanthropy. Besides, the ambiance of democracy that has prevailed and/or improved in recent years in the region, favours the emergence of philanthropic institutions, foundations in particular. Foundations initiated by States or relying on public funds for the initial endowment will find the environment a bit depressing. During the structural adjustment period,

there was almost no probability to survive on the basis of public funds. Nowadays, State contributions may be secured but one should not underestimate the financial constraints the West African countries have to deal with (Mr. Mohamadou SY and Dr. Ibrahima HATHIE)

In West Africa, like any other country in Africa is premised on philanthropic notions of solidarity, interconnectedness, interdependencies, reciprocity and a continuum of relationships. In addition to tradition and reciprocity, the religious dimension of philanthropy is important in the sense that a very large proportion of practices are motivated by beliefs due to membership in a religious community. This landscape has become even more diverse over time and today, the West African philanthropic ecosystem is characterised by the coexistence of very old traditions of giving rooted in cultures of solidarity and reinforced by a philosophy of shared humanity on the one hand, and modern types of philanthropic institutions, policies and practices on the other.

Indeed, some Africans and non-Africans not only have a rather narrow view of what philanthropy is in Africa but also see the term 'philanthropy' as essentially institutional. The African definition of philanthropy in general, and in West Africa in particular, includes any act of individual, institutional or community solidarity that has a positive social impact on a community. (*Rouguietou Khady Sow, Program Associate, Trust Africa, July 2022*). It is therefore clear that an appropriate narrative that reflects entire philanthropy support actors is needed. Some literatures have tried to define the philanthropy Support actors as: *"independent, non-state entities that associate private resources and deploy these through funding or by running own programmes to advance social, cultural, economic, environmental, scientific and other public good purposes at the local, regional and/or international levels under a defined legal status"*¹. Other literatures define Philanthropy support organisations/actors as 'intermediary' or 'infrastructure' organisations, including entities that provide a variety of services to support and strengthen philanthropy in a region or around a theme. They also divided PSAs into three main groups; those that focus purely on philanthropy, organizations that enable philanthropy as a subset of their main functions and funders of the PSE (WINGS, 2021).

According to the desk research on the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem Landscape in West Africa conducted in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal by Trust Africa under the support of WINGS, it revealed that Nigeria and Senegal have more established philanthropic ecosystems due to the availability of philanthropic serving organizations that strengthen the ecosystem as well as the long established presence of external funding and partnerships by donors and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) that use both countries as their bases to work across the West African region. Also, religious and corporate foundations are very active across the Francophone philanthropic ecosystems in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal due to the backdrop of religious giving and priority on CSR.

Community philanthropy is established in Burkina Faso with much work geared towards alleviating the plight of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Meanwhile, only in Nigeria are High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) active in philanthropy due to the large concentration of HNWIs in-country and liberal nature towards the announcement of big gifts.

3.0 CHARACTERISTICS OF PSAS

Based on the list of Philanthropy Support Actors (PSAs) for Sub Saharan Africa developed through desk research by The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) and reviewed by researchers in the regions from Eastern,

¹ The Guideline for Effective Philanthropic Engagement by The OECD Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) in collaboration with the European Foundation Centre (EFC), the Stars Foundation, UNDP, the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) and the Rockefeller Foundation

Southern, Central and western Africa, about 560 PSAs were listed of which a total of 123(22%) are from West African countries including 1 Togo, 46 Nigeria, 1 Niger, 15 Ghana, 8 Ivory coast, 7 Gambia, 12 Senegal, 10 Benin, 5 Burkina Faso, 1 Guinea, 0 Guinea Bissau, 0 Mali and 17 Sierra Leone. [Click here](#) to find the list of PSAs.

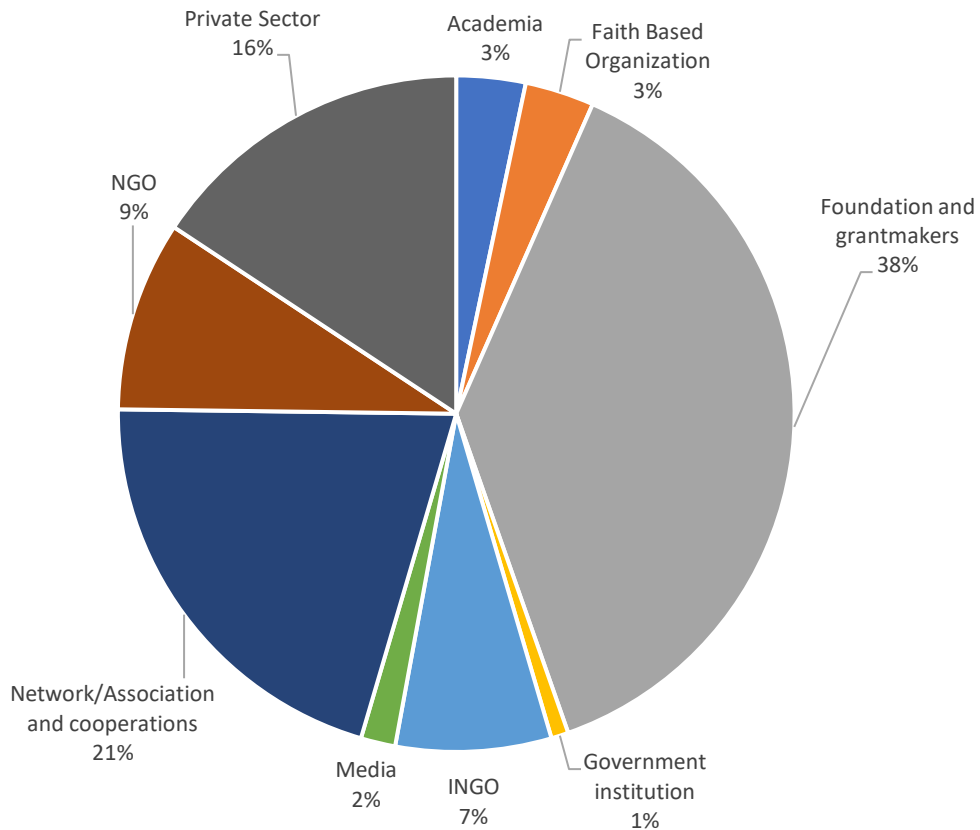
3.1 Categories of PSAs

The desk review of the 123 PSAs and other relevant information as regards to philanthropy support actors in West Africa consisted of gathering information online from documentary sources, literatures, write-ups, websites etc. A preliminary analysis of the information available was conducted, thus informed this report. The information gathered and analyzed included the names of PSAs, the contact details, countries of operation, target groups, category of the actor, their mission, sources of income and the areas of intervention of the actor. This information when put together constitutes a mapping of Philanthropy Support Actors in the Western African region.

The Philanthropy Support Actors in Western African region are in different categories including Foundations, INGOS, Development organizations, NGOs, Academia, Associations, Networks, Media, Faith Based Organizations, Cooperative societies, coalitions and movements.

Figure 01, below depicts the percentage distribution of PSAs in Western Africa by categories of those PSAs. While all categories seem to have represented a good number of PSAs, Foundations and grant makers (38%), Network and Associations (21%), as well as Private sector (16%) sub categories seems to have occupied almost 75% of all PSAs in the western Africa region. Other categories are NGOs (9%), INGOs (7%), Faith Based Organizations (3%), Academia (3%), media (2%) while government institutions occupying the least 1%. Although INGOs were only 7%, they ought to be more than that because they were counted once despite the fact that they work throughout the region covering a number of countries with a number of them having their headquarters outside the continent.

Figure 01: Percentage distribution of PSAs by Category

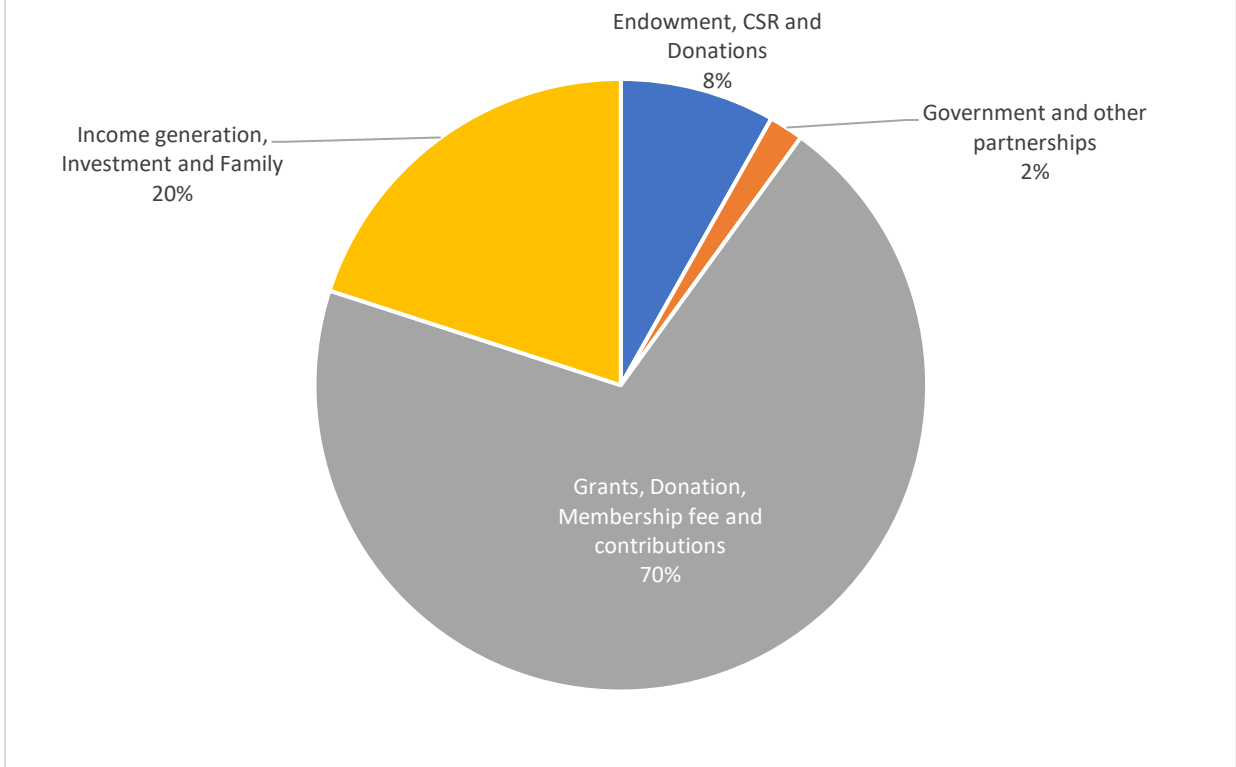


3.2 Sources of Income of PSAs

From the literature review conducted by APN, philanthropy Support actors in the Western African regions mobilize their resources from various sources including but not limited to Donations, Grants, membership fees and contributions as well as self or family financing.

Figure 02, below depicts the percentage distribution of the PSAs by sources of income. Based on the figure below, Grants, Donation and Membership fee and contributions seems to be the most strategy used by most (70%) of PSAs followed by Income generation, Investment and Family (20%). Other sources of income included Endowment and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) (8%), Government and other partnerships (2%).

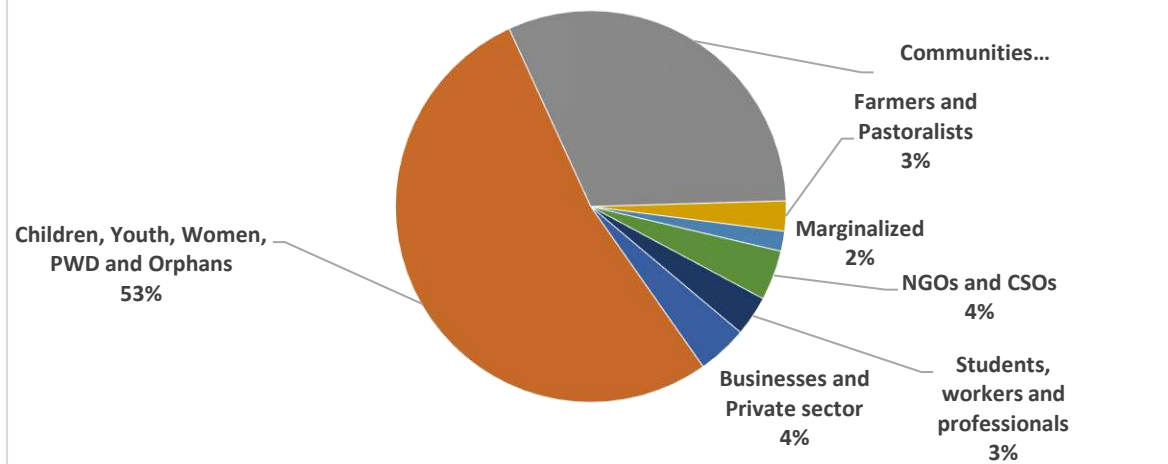
Figure 02:Percentage Distribution of PSAs by Sources of Income



3.3 Target Group of PSAs

Based on the database of philanthropy support actors developed by APN, PSAs in western Africa seems to be targeting seven different groups of beneficiaries, including a group comprised with children/youth/women/PWD/orphans which is targeted by about 53% of all PSAs. General communities is another group which is targeted by about 31% of all PSAs in west Africa. Other target groups are business/private sector (4%), NGOs/CSOs (4%), students/workers/professionals (3%), farmers and pastoralists (3%) and marginalized (2%). From the analysis in figure 03, more than half of all PSAs in Western Africa are working in alleviating the suffering of people in need including children, youth, women, PWD and Orphans as opposed to targeting the governments, other power holders, the NGOs and CSOs to strengthen their advocacy capacities etc.

Figure 03: Percentage Distribution of PSAs by Target Groups



3.4 Reasons for Establishment of Philanthropic Organizations in West Africa

In general, the rationale for the establishment of philanthropic organizations in west Africa is informed by several interlocking factors prominent among them that include the need to respond to existing demand in society, providing opportunity for philanthropists to express and pursue their philanthropic interests.

Some literatures say that the establishment of foundations (e.g., corporate and private) in Ghana and other countries in west African countries philanthropic space is a recent phenomenon. While comprehensive data on the number of foundations is lacking, the recent years have witnessed a significant growth (Kumi, 2019b). However, the lack of data does not help in accessing data in comprehending the diversity of the foundations landscape in the region. Reasons for establishing philanthropic organizations as mentioned above are varied. However, it is important to mention that the purpose for establishing philanthropic organizations is influenced by their organisational forms. For instance, philanthropic infrastructure organizations among the reasons for their establishment include the creation of an enabling environment for philanthropy and social investment, and advocating for the mobilisation of domestic resources as well as developing strategic and innovative philanthropic platforms. Likewise, for the organizations focusing on social welfare, service delivery and advocacy were formed with the need to support the vulnerable in society, improve the standard of living of the marginalised, supporting women's empowerment and rights as well as promoting active citizenship for inclusive development.

3.5 Country of Operations

A majority of the surveyed philanthropic organizations in west Africa operated mainly within their specific country with their activities spreading across the country. Only a few organizations such as (i.e., AWDF) operated across the African continent. For this reason, it could be argued that PSAs in west Africa tend to give locally rather than across borders. This finding is in-line with the observation that among African philanthropists, giving is local (Ansah, 2018). For instance, according to Bridgespan Group (2020), between 2010 and 2019, 81% of 64 large African gifts were given by philanthropists within their own countries. However, there are a few instances where cross boarder giving occurred mainly in response to disasters such as Ebola. In general, giving by philanthropic foundations and similar philanthropic organizations in west African countries is often geography and community specific rather than international in nature.

4.0 LEGAL AND OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Laws and Regulation of Philanthropic Organizations

Some studies conducted in different countries in west Africa indicate that although some countries such as Ghana lacks a dedicated legal structure for philanthropic organizations almost all operating organizations in west Africa are legally registered as Companies Limited by Guarantee under the Companies Code 1963 (Act 179) for the case of Ghana and Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) although registration under CAC is not mandatory for the case of Nigeria.

In the case of Mali, the regulation of philanthropic organizations is provided by the Law 2017-049, promulgated on 8 September 2017. Generally speaking, there was a prior law (Law 04-038) enacted on 5 August 2004, relating to the status of associations in Mali and dealing with their operation. The foundation's law provides general provisions relating to the legal definition of a foundation and also the type of foundations allowed in Malian context.

In Burkina Faso, philanthropic organizations are defined as “any non-political organization, created by one or more legal persons, called ‘founders’, who decide on an irrevocable assignment of property, rights or resources for the realization of a general interest purpose with a non-profit policy.” Law 008-2017, constituting the legal regime dedicated to foundations in Burkina Faso, provides the definition of what a foundation stands for and establishes a classification based on each type.

The Ivorian context is not different from other west African countries but in their case, there is only one law regulating most civil society organizations, which is the Law 60-315, relating to associations enacted in September 1960. In accordance with the provisions of the Ivorian Constitution, the present law aims at guarantee the needed legal framework for the existence and the regulation of civil society organizations.

4.2 Governance and Decision-Making

Governance

From the desk review all the listed philanthropy support actors had well defined vision and mission with well elaborated areas of interventions. In relation to the organisational vision, a greater number of actors focused on improving on the potentials of children, women, youth, people with disabilities, orphans and the general communities to enhance sustainable development, enhancing social protection of vulnerable youth, uplifting those oppressed by poverty and social injustice, conserving history, preserve and promote culture as well as providing education and a source of livelihood to the less fortunate in society among the most critical areas.

Leadership and decision making

Where some could potentially predict a convergence of direction and management methods of organizations, the literature observed diversity of the mechanisms used. However, it is still possible to establish two main lines of governance for PSAs in the west African region. Thus, decision-making power within organizations generally rests either with the founders or with delegated persons (directors, managers, management committee, etc.). These two management methods have direct implications both on operation and on the actions carried out by the organizations. We can suppose that organizations led by founders would focus more on spontaneous actions, whereas those whose management is delegated to managers/directors would be more oriented towards standardized actions. The still significant share of organizations where decision-making power belongs with the founders (the literature says about 20% of the PSAs in west Africa belongs to this category) can be an interesting indicator to comment on. It can be analysed as lack of formalization as one of its major consequences. The second option materializes a management held by agents, employees or delegates.

In this sense, people delegated to manage organizations on a daily basis generally have obligations. They therefore may have to report on their management and have accountability obligations. Here, it is the use of

a board of directors which is widely supported by organizations. Boards of directors are useful in order to avoid concentrated management handled by a single leader, whether a founder or a single director. This aspect brings the management of these PSAs closer to that of companies, without the profit-seeking part.

4.3 Channel of communication about grants availability

Various literature reviews from west Africa shows that the dominant channel for communicating the availability of grants by foundations was through calls for proposals which are advertised through websites, social media channels and other mainstream media. Request for application was submitted mainly through emails and postal delivery, direct communication and the signing of memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with selected actors

4.4 Priority areas for philanthropic giving

In west Africa, the education and humanitarian sectors are mentioned as received the largest funding followed by gender promotion. Other sectors, including child protection, policy and civil society, agriculture and knowledge generation, also mentioned as receiving support from philanthropic organizations. Instruments for funding and recipients in west Africa were collaborations, direct payments and scholarships. Aside from these instruments, grants were also mentioned as an important mechanism for providing funding to support the work of organisations. The grants, direct payments and collaborations were mentioned as more preferred instruments for funding. The literatures reviewed suggests that groups that received most fundings from the PSAs were youth, women, children and orphans. This is a clear reflection of the funding priority areas of PSAs in west Africa.

5.0 NATURE AND TRENDS OF PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 Existing Giving Trends

The reviews of the trends of philanthropic organizations in west Africa show some prominent priority areas in which philanthropic organizations are running their activities. It appears interesting to present these areas to assess the potential philanthropic organizations when it comes to tackle poverty and other systemic issues. A brief review of the areas of action of the philanthropic organizations in west Africa reveals four priority areas of action that are the following in the order of importance: health; fight against poverty; protection of vulnerable people; education and training.

These four priority areas of intervention are all related to the social sector, which aims at alleviating the suffering of people in need. This means that the philanthropic organizations tend more to focus their actions on symptoms and not on the root causes that generate these situations. And some researchers tend to call this type of philanthropy a "reactive philanthropy". Henceforth, philanthropy performed this way can never tackle durably, poverty and subsequent sufferings. To be more effective, philanthropy should target root causes of poverty, injustice, lack of health care and other vulnerabilities. Therefore, foundations and related funders should invest more resources on what we identify conventionally as the public sphere. Root causes of sufferings, like oppression, corruption, and environmental issues etc., should catch the attention of philanthropic organizations in west Africa.

5.2 Collaborations among Philanthropy Support Actors

Philanthropic organizations in west Africa including foundations, trusts and family trusts are non-governmental organization, characterized by their non-profit goal. Aside of them, there are other non-profit organizations like associations or NGOs. As sometimes, they are sharing the same goal and the same geographical area, it is clear that there will be interactions between philanthropic organizations and other non-profit organizations. At present, there is no ground study of the kind and the consequences of those interactions

in the west African countries and even broader in Africa. However, we think, inspired by the paper of Moyo (2008), that there is a relationship of power between foundations, mainly international foundations and other NGOs and even between local foundations. This relation might take root in the relation of funding existing between local actors of the non-profit sector and international foundations and constitute a challenge to the most effective use of philanthropy.

Some literatures in west Africa have written that international foundations like the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller foundation are the most giving foundations to Africa (Foundation Center, 2015). In most of the cases, this aid is not directly given to organizations headquartered in Africa. The aid transits through international organizations headquartered outside Africa, leading projects focused on Africa. The PSAs which depend solely on this kind of funding, are more likely to shape their activities not on the local needs, but on the priorities established by the donor.

Therefore, the main issue is the possibility for local organizations, recipients of international donors, to use the funds in the best field. This sets the problem of the nature of collaboration between local organizations and international foundations/INGO. The relation between international donors and recipient organizations should not be a hierarchical relationship but a horizontal one, focused on collaboration to reach long-term goals. It is only in this occurrence that philanthropy could play its role of a lever of development (Arsène Brice Bado, CERAP- 2022).

6.0 STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, WEAKNESSES AND THREATS

Some literatures have identified the strengths, Opportunities, weaknesses and threats that the philanthropy field in west Africa can identify with as a way of reflecting on ways to engage and collectively build the infrastructure for African philanthropy.

Strengths

- Traditional African values of sharing and solidarity
- Emergency of new foundations and organizations which are willing to promote the culture of philanthropy

Some of the mentioned Opportunities:

- Global awareness around philanthropy
- Existence of an African Donor Network and an African Philanthropy Forum
- The emergence of concept as "philanthrocapitalism" "africapitalism"

Identified Weaknesses:

- Foreign foundations dominate the sector of philanthropy in the west African countries studied.
- In Africa, philanthropy is practiced through informal channels for cultural, religious and security reasons
- Reactive, non-strategic philanthropy (actions focus on symptoms, not root causes)
- Weakness of the State-Philanthropist Partnership (a change in public policy can have a greater impact on the issues to be addressed)
- Paradox of immediate recognition of philanthropic actions: African philanthropists are targeting the problems of tomorrow (unemployment, social inequality, illiteracy of girls, etc.) to gain immediate recognition, and glory. The donation therefore presents itself as an investment whose social and environmental benefit must be direct.

- Legal framework for philanthropy to be perfected, or to be created: In the existing laws, it is not clear who is to be considered a philanthropist? What is a philanthropic foundation? Beneath this term lie several realities far away from the gift out of love for humanity. What areas can be funded by philanthropic foundations?
- Use of philanthropy to compensate for abusive business and/or environmental practices

Notable Threats in the field:

- The perception of Western philanthropy in Africa as "perverse", "a Trojan horse", "a reparation of the injustices of the past" (e.g., slavery)
- The political and security situation of some countries is generally 'worrying (terrorism, civil war...)
- Sensitivity about the origin of wealth and potential fiscal and security implications have negative effects in the growth of philanthropy.

7.0 CONCLUSION

This literature review made it possible to highlight the general aspect of philanthropy in the West African region. Obviously, PSAs have an enormous potential to grow philanthropy, but this is unfortunately not sufficiently exploited.

Philanthropy sector is a growing sector, which is increasingly positioned as a variable to be taken into account in the development of the continent. However, the level of investment as well as the persisting challenges are limiting its potential.

By and large, PSAs are not willing to disclose information about income. This level of confidentiality was a challenge to the mapping exercise leading to spending a lot of time or opting for secondary sources of data through the process of PSAs identification through the determination of levels of income.

A notable high number of PSAs tend to support work on symptoms of poverty and problems facing communities, rather than root causes. This requires a change of mindset and advocacy for a more effective and social justice nature of philanthropy that targets root causes of poverty, injustice, and inequalities; particularly related to access and utilization of services by marginalized and other vulnerable groups.

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