



Africa Philanthropy Network

2023 STATE OF PHILANTHROPY BOOKLET

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Each year, we publish the State of African Philanthropy Booklet, and this marks our third edition. We are committed to showcasing success stories about philanthropic practices implemented by members across the continent, aiming to promote the voice and action for African philanthropy.

We acknowledge the work done by our members and their invaluable contributions to unlocking African philanthropy's potential for community-led development. Thank you for your insights, experiences, and commitment to advancing philanthropy in Africa. I have enriched this booklet and the narrative about African philanthropy.

In 2023, the APN focused on aggregating existing knowledge, generating new knowledge, and organizing spaces that continue (re)shaping the philanthropy narrative. We also conducted dialogues to influence and advocate for an enabling environment for philanthropy and African giving to flourish and strengthen institutional capacity and capability to implement its mission.

During the year, APN was able to finalize its membership consultation process, which resulted in the APN 2024 – 2028 Strategic Framework, which is to be achieved by focusing on three strategic objectives: (i) nurturing spaces for collective voice and networking, (ii) influencing philanthropy practice and policy, and (iii) strengthening APN Resilience. The strategy implementation will commence in January 2024.

The State of Philanthropy 2023 booklet shares inspiring stories that showcase how African communities contribute to their development. Each story highlights the unique form of philanthropy giving. Whether improving access to education, supporting women's rights, or tackling issues like gender-based violence, people groups and communities are working together to create solutions that fit their needs. These stories remind us of the ubuntu spirit, which is deeply connected to experiences and cultural values. These stories celebrate the extent to which Africans have a heart and a lot of resources to give.

We hope you will enjoy reading. Stay tuned for the 2024 State of African Philanthropy Booklet!

In Solidarity,
Dr. Stigmata Tenga, Executive Director

#APNAFRICA





Redefining Community Philanthropy: Towards Local Empowerment in East Africa

In 2023, the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) embarked on a strategic mission to redefine the scope of community philanthropy across the region with targeted initiatives that strengthened peer-to-peer networking and fostered a rich exchange of knowledge among practitioners. Through comprehensive research and proactive sector engagement, EAPN deepened the understanding and application of community philanthropy, empowering emerging organizations and advocating for equitable, participatory practices. This concerted effort built a resilient international infrastructure to support innovative projects and leadership development, marking a significant milestone in amplifying the sector's role in sustainable development. The following are some of the myriad initiatives that exemplified the breadth and depth of our efforts in reshaping community philanthropy:



(i) Enhancing Peer-to-Peer Networks and Knowledge Exchange

EAPN recognized the critical need for accessible, region-specific knowledge in community philanthropy. We embarked on a comprehensive effort to delve into the complexities of community philanthropy, going beyond academic exploration to generate actionable insights. By employing rigorous research methodologies, EAPN documented a series of case studies that illuminated the dynamic nature of community philanthropy building in East Africa. These case studies served as practical guides, revealing both opportunities and challenges within the sector. Beyond gathering data, EAPN championed a participatory approach to knowledge dissemination, fostering an interactive dialogue that enriched both the theoretical understanding and practical application of community philanthropy principles.

(ii) Spotighting Community Philanthropy Organizations

EAPN escalated its commitment to showcasing community philanthropy by featuring success stories in the Ubuntu Spotlight Newsletter and partnering with CAPSI to document similar narratives. These stories, far from mere educational content, acted as catalysts, inspiring and guiding community-driven development practices. Through media partnerships, EAPN facilitated interviews and crafted op-eds and articles, elevating the visibility and impact of community philanthropy practices across the region.

(iii) Empowering Emerging Community Philanthropy Organizations

Addressing the need to support emerging community philanthropy organizations, EAPN implemented strategies to amplify their presence, connect them with established networks, and enhance their resource mobilization capabilities. This included profiling these organizations across various platforms, facilitating strategic connections with established networks, and leveraging global movements like GivingTuesday to boost their fundraising efforts. These initiatives were critical in establishing a stronger, more dynamic philanthropic sector in East Africa.

(iv) Advancing 'Shift the Power' Engagements

EAPN's active participation in the 'Shift the Power' movement, including hosting conferences and forums, underscored its leadership in advocating for a more equitable, community-led philanthropic model. These engagements were aimed at challenging traditional power structures in philanthropy, advocating for systemic change, and promoting a collaborative change process that prioritizes community-led initiatives and equitable practices.

Change realized

The East Africa Philanthropy Network's strategic endeavors have precipitated significant revolutions within the space of community philanthropy. Foremost among these changes is the enhancement of local resource mobilization, engendering a marked increase in the sustainability and self-sufficiency of community philanthropy organizations. These entities have emerged as hubs of local development, their effectiveness buoyed by the enriched networks and knowledge exchange fostered by EAPN's initiatives.

A paradigm shift towards equitable and participatory practices has recalibrated the power dynamics between community philanthropy entities and external funders, cultivating partnerships grounded in mutual respect and aligned objectives. This evolution has not only empowered local entities but has also enticed more sustainable partnerships, augmenting the philanthropic impact within the region.

Moreover, the amplified visibility and acknowledgment of community philanthropy organizations have catalyzed a substantial increase in support and resources, empowering these organizations to broaden their operational scope and intensify their community impact. This growth is manifest in the surge of innovative projects tailored to specific community needs, underscoring the efficacy and adaptability of community-driven solutions.

The initiatives have also fostered a more varied understanding of the interplay between community philanthropy and broader socio-economic development. This deepened comprehension has led to more strategic alignments between philanthropic efforts and national development priorities, ensuring that community philanthropy not only addresses immediate local needs but also contributes to long-term, strategic objectives that underpin regional stability and growth.

In summary, the strategic initiatives spearheaded by EAPN have established a robust foundation for a more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable philanthropic sector in East Africa. The insights gleaned and the recommendations provided are intended to steer ongoing and future efforts toward fostering a vibrant community philanthropy landscape that effectively contributes to the region's comprehensive development.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

A pivotal insight from EAPN's endeavors is the critical role of fostering authentic collaboration and knowledge sharing among practitioners in the community philanthropy sector. The sector's vitality is contingent upon its ability to function as an integrated and supportive network, where resources, experiences, and insights are shared openly, thereby amplifying the collective impact.

Additionally, a significant lesson learned is the paramount importance of local leadership and ownership in driving the success of community philanthropy initiatives. Projects that are conceived, led, and owned by the community not only enjoy greater legitimacy but also demonstrate higher levels of sustainability and impact. This underscores the need for philanthropic efforts to be deeply rooted in local contexts, with leadership that resonates with and is accountable to the community it serves.

The journey has underscored the adaptive capacity and resilience of community philanthropy organizations, particularly in navigating the complexities of changing socioeconomic landscapes. These entities have shown remarkable agility in responding to emergent challenges and seizing opportunities for innovation. The lesson here is the critical need to support these organizations in enhancing their adaptive capacities, ensuring they remain resilient and effective in the face of dynamic external environments

(i) Robust Investment in Research and Knowledge Sharing: Continual investment in research and the active dissemination of knowledge is paramount to maintaining the sector's alignment with evolving trends and challenges. This necessitates a structured approach to gathering, analyzing, and sharing sector-specific insights, ensuring that community philanthropy remains responsive and informed.

(ii) Strengthening Sectoral Infrastructure: It is critical to fortify the infrastructure underpinning community philanthropy, encompassing financial mechanisms, legal frameworks, and operational support systems. Such enhancement will catalyze the growth and efficacy of philanthropic organizations, equipping them to navigate and thrive in an ever-changing philanthropic landscape.

(iii) Advocating for Progressive Policy Reforms: Vigorous advocacy aimed at policy reforms that acknowledge and strengthen the contribution of community philanthropy to national development is essential. By influencing policy, the sector can gain increased recognition and integration into broader development strategies, thereby amplifying its impact and relevance.

(iv) Fostering Cross-Sectoral Partnerships: Encouraging collaboration across different sectors can reveal new opportunities for resource mobilization and the forging of innovative partnerships. This collaborative approach is vital for creating a more integrated and resilient community philanthropy ecosystem, capable of addressing complex societal challenges through collective action and shared resources.



A Beacon of Hope: ThabaNchu's Bold Stand Against Gender-Based Violence Through Sisterhood Advocacy.

South Africa is ridden with high levels of gender-based violence and femicide, in 2023, the police stats showed that 969 women had been murdered which translates to eleven women being killed every day during that period. Communities such as ThabaNchu are not immune from high rates of GBV. In 2021, Bloemspuit was named the police station recording the highest number of GBV cases in the whole Free State province. Nestled within the picturesque landscapes of the Free State Province lies Thaba-Nchu, a semi-urban area brimming with rural charm. Comprising a tapestry of villages divided into northern and southern trusts, Thaba-Nchu encapsulates the essence of community resilience and potential. However, beneath its serene facade lie intricate challenges.

In Thaba-Nchu, a former homeland during apartheid is made up of 45 villages. Within this mosaic, essential infrastructure such as 34 primary schools, 12 high schools, and two special schools stand as pillars of education. Additionally, the community is supported by 98 early childhood development centres, 10 local clinics, and 108 churches, which serve as vital lifelines addressing community needs. However, juxtaposed against these vital services are almost 100 liquor outlets, reflecting a complex social landscape where leisure and livelihood intersect.

Unemployment, particularly among the youth, casts a shadow over Thaba-Nchu's prospects. The informal sector absorbs a significant portion of the population, including casual workers and sidewalk hawkers, while the majority are dependent on social grants from government. Nevertheless, employment opportunities within government departments remain scarce, perpetuating economic disparities.



2023 statistics reveal a widening gender gap in youth unemployment, with female adolescents and young women bearing the brunt. The female-to-male youth unemployment ratio soared from 41.4% in 2021 to a staggering 66% in 2022, underscoring entrenched gendered barriers to employment. This disparity not only stifles economic empowerment but also heightens vulnerabilities, particularly among a significant number of women who are financially dependent on their intimate partners.

Tragically, these vulnerabilities manifest in a myriad of social crises. Adolescent girls and young women, disproportionately affected by unemployment, face heightened risks of substance abuse and addiction. Consequently, Thaba-Nchu grapples with soaring rates of teenage pregnancies, women-headed households, and the insidious impact of prenatal alcohol exposure. Moreover, the spectre of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence looms large, leaving scars that transcend generations. Regrettably, these compounded challenges fuel a distressing prevalence of mental health-related issues, echoing the silent cries of a community in turmoil.



In the heart of ThabaNchu, a town poised at the edge of South Africa's Free State Province, where the landscape tells stories of migration, resilience, and hope, the Sisterhood Advocate Project emerges as a powerful force against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). A project spearheaded by the Hlanganisa Community Fund for Social and Gender Justice, this initiative is a testament to the power of solidarity and collective action in the fight for women's rights and safety.

ThabaNchu, with its unique position near borders, is rich with cultures and histories but also a place where vulnerabilities have heightened. Migrant women and children, often the most vulnerable to exploitation and violence, find themselves at a crossroads of peril. It is here, in this context of heightened risk and uncertainty, that the Sisterhood Advocate Project plants its roots, offering a beacon of hope and a path toward empowerment and justice.

“ In ThabaNchu, amidst challenges and adversities, it stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of women united in the pursuit of justice. The Hlanganisa Community Fund for Social and Gender Justice, through this project, not only confronts the scourge of GBV but also illuminates the path toward a more equitable and violence-free future. ”

The project harnesses the power of community, understanding that those who are closest to the problem are often closest to the solution. Through the Sisterhood Advocate Project, over 5,000 women have been trained since project inception as community-based paralegals with a special focus on GBV. These women, known as Sisterhood Advocates, are not just participants in a program but leaders in a movement. They bring with them an intimate understanding of the challenges faced by their communities, coupled with the training and resources to make tangible differences.

The work of the Sisterhood Advocates encompasses more than legal advice and support. It is about building networks of trust and support, creating spaces where women can share their experiences without fear, and empowering one another to stand up against injustices. These advocates go door-to-door, offering not just counsel but a listening ear and a compassionate heart. They organize community forums, workshops, and awareness campaigns, shedding light on issues of GBV and mobilizing action at the grassroots level.

The impact of the project stretches beyond the individual lives it touches. It is about altering the fabric of society itself, challenging deep-seated norms and inequalities that perpetuate violence against women. The project's approach—rooted in empathy, solidarity, and empowerment—serves as a model for how communities can come together to confront systemic injustices and foster a culture of respect and dignity for all.





COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT AS A CATALYST FOR SURFACING LOCAL RESOURCES

Community-led development has a power to surface resources that we may have overlooked and allow communities to regard each other as allies in development rather than adversaries. Five organizations in Kampala and Wakiso districts elucidated this during a community foundation support initiative offered by CivSource Africa. Slum Life Survival, Kawempe Youth Centre, NamayumbaEpicentre, Youth and Community Development Foundation, and Namuwongo Community Foundation, were over the past year equipped to effectively mobilize resources both financial and in-kind from within their communities.

To establish a solid foundation for the community foundation movement, comprehensive research on community foundations was conducted in two districts, Kampala and Wakiso. It became apparent in our interaction with the study and later, with the organizations sampled in the study, that there was a conflation of the term or name “community foundation” with the community-based organization model. It appeared that numerous community-based organizations whose operations and structure did not possess the key attributes of a community foundation often possessed the phrase community foundation in their name in the Ugandan context. It remains to be established, whether the absence of community foundation-specific legislation and policies perhaps plays a part in this conflation of ideas.

We held sessions with approximately 40 organizations from Kampala and Wakiso to assess their specific needs such that our support to community foundations would be relevant for this cohort of Community Foundations. It became evident that each community foundation had a clear sense of purpose and well-defined strategies to address the community’s challenges effectively. Through deeper interactions, many organizations identified more as community-based organizations rather than community foundations. We thus went back to the drawing board and re-evaluated the characteristics of these organizations and continued our journey with those that most closely aligned with the concept of community foundations or were welcome to exploring it as a model in which they could exist – five (5) out of the forty (40) CSOs were selected and receptive of the idea. Thus began our journey of supporting community foundations by providing practical support in documentation, storytelling, and enhancing local resource mobilization capabilities. Kawempe Youth Center, Namayumba Epicenter, Slum Life Survival, Youth and Community Development Foundation and Namuwongo Community Foundation formed CivSource Africa’s our inaugural cohort for community foundation support.



Throughout this process, co-creation of storytelling and local resource mobilization strategies was emphasized. Co-creation and a practical approach were necessary because of a thin line between offering support and imposing influence. At the beginning of this program, all the five organizations supported were largely self-funded or dependent on external funding. By the end of the program, they had been able to map local individual and corporate funding partners to sustain their work changing their perspectives around local resource mobilization.

Slum Life Survival (SLS) was one of the organizations supported by CivSource Africa. It exists as a non-government organization committed to making a difference in the lives of slum dwellers by empowering youth, children, and women. Slum Life Survival interfaces with the people living in slums by engaging them in projects that focus on economic development, provision of clean water, and sanitation, improving healthcare facilities, and advocating for equitable urban policies. On Friday 29th September 2023, Slum Life Survival (SLS) hosted a fundraising dinner at Kampala Kolping Hotel to pool funds to establish a community library in one of the slum zones. The event was co-sponsored by Daylight Consultants, BBS Terefayina, Mercy Scouts International, and Kampala Kolping Hotel. The theme of the fundraiser was 'Empowering the Future: A Night of Hope and Opportunity'. In attendance were change-makers from various sects in Uganda like Journalists, Local Government Officials, Buganda Kingdom Officials, CSO representatives, religious leaders, and Youth and CivSource Africa representatives.



Mr. Kenneth Kavulu, the CEO of Slum Life Survival presented its story through a documentary, highlighting the small beginnings, the impact it has had on slum dwellers, and its plans. The story of Slum Life survival has not only stopped in Uganda, as the organization has been recognized abroad for its commendable work, specifically through the 2018 Ton Schouten Memorial Award for WASH Storytelling among other recognitions over the years. Alongside the fundraising activity, testimonies from remarkable people who were formerly slum dwellers were shared, and products made by youth in the slums were displayed and auctioned. SLS successfully raised 15 million Uganda shillings (approximately 4000USD) in both cash and pledges and later received a seed grant towards its financial resilience through CivFund. For CivSource and the other community foundations present, this achievement set a new standard, showcasing the potential of local resource mobilization.

All five of the organizations supported in CivSource work of supporting community foundations have organically taken on opportunities to partner and work together including a partnership between Slum life Survival and Kawempe Youth Center to host mobile library engagements within the slum community that Slum Life Survival serves, and more is yet to come.

Building a movement is an incremental process, and as a learning organization, CivSource Africa continually improves its support for community foundations to foster the growth of a capable and sustainable movement in Uganda. We remain open to promoting the development and impact of community foundations, aligning philanthropy with civil society for community-led and sustainable development.



ABF

Burkinafaso

Pour le développement
Communautaire

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FUNDRAISING
Pour le développement
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Reconversion des mendiante handicapées à Boulsa

Le Programme Giving for Change donne le sourire à des femmes en détresse.

Au moins 6 femmes vivant avec un handicap et qui mendiaient dans la ville de Boulsa ont définitivement déposé leurs escarcelles. Cet exploit est à mettre à l'actif de l'Association des femmes handicapées de Boulsa, partenaires locaux de l'appui du programme Giving for Change.

Le Directeur Général de l'ABF, Abdoulaye Sawadogo : « ABF accompagne les associations à base communautaire dans la réalisation de leur mission par la consolidation de leurs compétences professionnelles en mobilisation de soutiens et des ressources.

Grâce aux cotisations lors des réunions, chaque femme a pu démarrer une Activité pour Générer des Revenus.

Du haut de ses 46 ans, Georgette Sawadogo, vivant avec un handicap moteur a dû fuir son village de Zambanga, du fait de la menace terroriste, pour avoir la vie sauve. Son malheur ne se limitera pas à la perte de son foyer, car elle s'est vue obligée de faire la marche le long des 20km qui séparent son village de la ville de Boulsa, afin d'avoir sa pitance quotidienne. Une fois dans la ville refuge, le marché était devenu pour Madame Sawadogo son quartier général pour mendier la charité des inconnus. Fort heureusement, comme un éclair dans un ciel obscurci par les nuages, elle a eu la chance d'assister à une séance de sensibilisation publique animée par l'Association des femmes handicapées (AFH) de Boulsa. « Depuis que j'ai adhéré à l'Association, j'ai arrêté de tendre la main et surtout de ressentir le mépris des inconnus, parce que je mendie », avoue Georgette Sawadogo.



“
Georgette Sawadogo, une des bénéficiaires de la cotisation hebdomadaire est désormais épanouie grâce aux revenus qu'elle tire de l'embouche de petits ruminants
”



Regardant désormais l'avenir avec plus de sérénité, elle assure avoir bénéficié d'une cotisation des membres de l'Association pour mener une activité. « J'ai d'abord commencé à vendre du Gonré (un mets traditionnel à base de farine de petit mil), mais je me suis vite rendu compte que ce n'est pas aussi rentable que je le croyais et je me suis lancée dans l'embouche de petits ruminants et l'élevage de volaille et depuis, ma vie a changé », se réjouit-elle.

Banaba Geneviève Ima vit aussi avec un handicap moteur à Boulsa. Comme Georgette, elle a été contrainte de quitter Boko, son village, pour sauver sa peau. Aujourd'hui, grâce à l'Association des femmes handicapées de Boulsa, elle a arrêté définitivement de se poster à l'entrée de la grande mosquée de Boulsa et l'église pour espérer glaner quelques sous. « Beaucoup d'associations font des personnes handicapées un fonds de commerce, mais avec l'Association de Mme Honorine c'est vraiment différent », témoigne-t-elle. De son avis, grâce aux petits fonds mis à ma disposition par l'Association, elle s'est maintenant lancée dans le tricotage et fabrication du savon liquide. « Ces activités me permettent de vivre dignement. Je cherchais une porte de sortie en vain, car avec le contexte sécuritaire, beaucoup viennent faire des mauvais « douas » sans que tu ne puisses faire autrement », relate-t-elle. Le salut des deux dames vivant avec un handicap est à mettre à l'actif de l'AFH.

Le programme Giving for Change au Burkina Faso en résumé

Six régions de mise en oeuvre : Le Nord, Le Centre-Nord, Le Sahel, l'Est, Le Centre-Est, la Boucle du Mouhoun

Huit partenaires, Lead des Communautés de Pratique Régionale pour la mise en oeuvre sur le terrain : Développement Sans Frontières(Ouahigouya, BenaOseguie(Dori), DagnalRoobe (GoromGorom), OCADES Caritas Burkina(Kaya), Union provinciale des associations des personnes handicapées du Bam, (Kongoussi), OCADES Caritas Burkina(Koupèla), Yanyéma Fada N'Gourma et OCADES Caritas Burkina (Dédougou))

Dans l'année 2023 quarante associations finissent le parcours de deux ans de formation en mobilisation de soutien et des ressources locales.

L'impacts à long terme prévu du programme au niveau communautaire est que les communautés expriment leur voix à travers les Acteurs de la Société Civile et sont habilitées à prendre le contrôle de leur propre développement.



“ La présidente de l'Association des femmes handicapées de Boulsa, Nobila Honorine Kalkoumdo : le retrait des femmes handicapées de la mendicité est le résultat de la mise en pratique des modules sur la mobilisation de soutiens et des ressources endogènes ”

Les bienfaits du programme

Pour la présidente de l'Association, Nobila Honorine Kalkoumdo, le retrait des femmes handicapées de la mendicité est le résultat de la mise en pratique des modules sur la mobilisation de soutien et des ressources endogènes dans le cadre du programme Giving for Change (GfC) ou « Donner pour le développement endogène » en français. Ce programme est coordonné au niveau national par l'Association burkinabè de fundraising (ABF).

Dans la région du Centre-Nord, c'est l'Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité (OCADES) Kaya qui est chargée de sa mise en oeuvre. Selon Vincent Sawadogo, un des formateurs, dans les faits, le programme se décline en plusieurs modules de formation, notamment la mobilisation de soutien et la mobilisation des financements endogènes au profit de cinq Acteurs de la société civile (ASC) dont l'Association des femmes handicapées de Boulsa. À la suite du renforcement de ses capacités, poursuit-il, chaque ASC est encouragée à mettre en pratique les compétences acquises. En sa qualité de personne-ressource, M. Sawadogo se réjouit des résultats engrangés par l'Association des femmes handicapées. « Grâce aux modules dispensés, nous savons désormais comment mobiliser des financements endogènes et les gérer, comment mobiliser du soutien au sein de la communauté et même comment mener nos activités avec efficacité. Nous avons ainsi enrôlé de nouveaux membres, des personnes valides qui nous appuient dans la fabrication du savon », témoigne Mme Kalkoumdo. Elle confie que des personnes handicapées qui mendiaient tous les vendredis devant les mosquées et dimanches devant les églises les ont également rejointes et participent aux réunions. «Elles savent désormais que la » mendicité ne peut pas les aider à sortir de la précarité, mais au contraire en travaillant au sein de l'Association, elles auront de quoi subvenir à leurs besoins. Il s'agit au total de 6 femmes handicapées qui sont en même temps des personnes déplacées internes », assure la présidente de l'AFH. Et la secrétaire générale de l'association, Martine Damiba de renchérir qu'auparavant, les réunions étaient des moments de disputes et se terminaient toujours en queue de poisson. « Grâce aux formations dont nous avons bénéficié dans le cadre du programme Giving for Change, tout a changé. Aucune personne extérieure à l'Association n'est au courant de nos déboires. Nous nous dépannons entre nous. Lors de chaque réunion hebdomadaire, nous collectons les cotisations et nous décidons à qui nous allons prêter afin qu'elle puisse mener une AGR. Ces cotisations s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la mobilisation des ressources locales », relève-t-elle.



“ Banaba Geneviève Ima passe désormais ses journées à tricoter plutôt que quémander la charité devant la grande mosquée de Boulsa ”



Travail de fourmi

Une brève déclaration décrivant la réussite célébrée

Le Fonds Pananetugri est un fonds féministe de soutien, d'accompagnement et de financement des organisations de jeunes filles et de jeunes femmes dans 9 pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest Francophones. Nos associations partenaires travaillent sur le terrain sur diverses thématiques des droits des femmes ouest-africaines, allant du renforcement du pouvoir économique des femmes au Bénin, à la lutte contre précarité menstruelle en Mauritanie, en passant par le travail remarquable de l'Association de Défense des droits femmes aide-ménagères et domestiques au Burkina. Partout en Afrique de l'Ouest Francophone, le Fonds soutient des initiatives révolutionnaires de jeunes filles et de jeunes dans leur désir de changer leur condition de vie, d'améliorer la société, de lutter pour leurs droits et surtout de prendre leur place dans le monde.

Ainsi des initiatives émergent, parmi les plus marquantes, des femmes mauritaniennes qui travaillent sur la précarité menstruelle en proposition des serviettes hygiéniques réutilisables entièrement confectionnées en Mauritanie par des jeunes filles mauritaniennes. Ces serviettes hygiéniques réutilisables sont une alternative sanitaire, économique et écologique aux serviettes jetables. Elles sont fabriquées à partir de matériaux durables tels que le coton biologique et sont conçues pour être lavées et réutilisées. L'utilisation de serviettes hygiéniques réutilisables présente de nombreux avantages. Tout d'abord, elles réduisent considérablement les dépenses liées à l'achat des serviettes jetables, elles réduisent aussi les déchets plastiques générés par les serviettes jetables, ce qui contribue à la préservation de l'environnement. De plus, elles sont plus douces et plus confortables pour la peau, car elles ne contiennent pas de produits chimiques irritants.

Le soutien du Fonds a permis la réalisation de cette initiative, en accompagnement techniquement et financièrement. Cela a permis des avantages remarquables : les jeunes filles ont acquis des compétences réelles en confection des serviettes hygiéniques réutilisables tout en respectant toutes les normes sanitaires. La vente des serviettes les permettent d'avoir des moyens de subsistances qui pourrait accroître le pouvoir économique. Les femmes mauritaniennes dans leur ensemble pour avoir une alternative des serviettes jetables, qui sont pour la plupart sont dangereux pour la santé.

Les renseignements tirés sont qu'il faut en plus de la confection des serviettes réutilisables, une bonne sensibilisation des femmes sur leur santé ; il est également important de les sensibiliser sur la précarité menstruelle qui est un fait en Mauritanie. En effet, la majorité des ménages précaires ne disposent pas de latrines, n'ont pas accès à l'eau et les toilettes publics ne sont pas non plus convenables ; d'où la nécessité de sensibiliser sur la précarité menstruelle des femmes en Mauritanie.

Cette expérience qui s'attaquent à deux principaux sujets relatifs au bien-être des filles et des femmes, santé et pouvoir économique renforcent la vision du Fonds Pananetugri qui se veut être un fonds féministe, qui renferme des valeurs féministes.

En intégrant la philanthropie communautaire comme axe stratégique de son travail et en mettant en place le Fonds Pananetugri en 2020, l'IPBF apporte un soutien considérable aux filles et aux femmes vulnérables en Afrique de l'ouest.



Reviving communal help practices, a case of Kenya fisherfolk

Ja-Nam Endeavours in Kenya have been working around reviving some traditional help practices to support the disadvantaged children in local communities of Kenya. With support from APN, Ja-Nam partnered with fisher-folk to ride on traditional practices of giving omena (dagga fish) to disadvantaged school-going children. The initiative partly sought to restore the traditional culture of giving to communities by fishermen along the lake shores of Asembo in Kenya. Hunger and malnutrition are a day-to-day reality for many of these children and they often lack proteins and minerals which are critical for their development. Ja-Nam Endeavours mobilized fishermen to donate omena- a locally available nutritional resource which is rich in basic protein and mineral nutrients such as calcium. It can also be preserved easily even by children.

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 the 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 the Luo community as surveyed by Ja-Nam include:

- Clearing and ploughing of fields for needy widows 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 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 the 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.



How community Philanthropy Transformed Lives in Mozambique

Towards the end of the first National Conference on Community Philanthropy, organized by Micaia Foundation in May 2023, one seasoned NGO leader stood up and said, 'community philanthropy can't work in Mozambique; most people are too poor to give'. This statement, despite coming at the end of two days of sharing stories of community philanthropy in action, still probably reflected the secret view of many others present. The fact is that yes, Mozambique remains one of the economically poorest nations on the planet (despite its natural wealth and high growth – but that's another story!). Mozambicans, however 'poor', are also very generous, and that's why Micaia, through the Giving for Change project, is uncovering so many stories of community philanthropy. Unfortunately, the dominant funding models of development have created a dependency culture in civil society at all levels. For the bigger NGOs, that doesn't represent a problem; as long as the grants keep coming and the per diems are paid, what's the problem?

The problem is that donor funding rarely reaches the rooted, locally responsive civil society associations that can facilitate local change. And when it does, it's via a bigger organization arriving to 'do development'. Micaia's work is mostly focused on changing this situation, finding ways to stimulate and support genuinely community-led development utilizing local resources.

Aware of the scepticism among civil society organization about the potential of community philanthropy, Micaia launched a seed funding programme. We offered micro-grants of just EUR200 equivalent, to support local campaigns and actions. The aim was to encourage CSO to mobilize their community members around a commonly agreed priority – lighting a dark and dangerous path; putting ramps into buildings to facilitate access for wheelchair users; and raising awareness of key issues or rights. In many cases, these local actions are really about local advocacy. Yet they have also served as a demonstration that communities have resources to give: time, materials, skills, and yes, money.

In 2022-2023, Micaia awarded 53 seed funding grants, and the campaigns and local actions supported mobilized 5,672 people (3,514 women, 2,158 men). Some of the local actions focused on environmental issues such as sensitizing people to use latrines, others on challenging premature unions and domestic violence, while others sought to highlight the needs of specifically marginalized groups such as people with disabilities or members of the LGBTQI community. While taking part in local marches, or petitioning a local government office could hardly be called 'philanthropy', these seed grants showed their organizing CSO that they could achieve a lot with very little. No one received payment. No per diems or 'sitting allowances' were offered! Instead, people came out and joined in because they cared.

In some cases, participation became much more substantial. For instance, one group mobilized people to join in with a market clean-up operation. In other cases, the seed grant was used to launch a local fundraising effort linked to a bigger project.

One very good example of how the tiny seed grant served to inspire change is the Chimoio CSO, Volunteers House, and the community school of Bengo neighbourhood in Chimoio Municipal Council. In 2023 Volunteers House was awarded a seed funding grant to raise awareness about integrating orphaned and vulnerable children in school. Encouraged by the level of community engagement, and inspired by training in local fundraising provided by Micaia, the Volunteers House team launched a campaign to raise funds to build two pre-school classes in the community. Convinced that they could raise local resources, Volunteers House applied for and was awarded a Micaia Matching Grant (maximum EUR700), which was given to them after securing donations of building materials and raising the money. Today, the two pre-school classes are open, and 60 children, including 23 orphans and vulnerable children, are enrolled. Now, with the classes functioning, mothers of some of the children have taken the initiative to cook porridge for the children to encourage them to stay in school. The porridge is made with contributions from each family (1 cup of flour per mother). Yet more community philanthropy in action.



In Maputo, the Khongolote neighbourhood had a problem: a critical footbridge, giving access to the main road, was so dilapidated that there were regular accidents, especially among older people. The Mozambican Association for Peace and National Unity (AMPUN), a local CSO that had attended some of Micaia's training on philanthropy and fundraising, applied for a seed funding grant. AMPUN organized a big community meeting to discuss the bridge and plan to rehabilitate it. A day was set for a community mobilization and fundraising drive. On the day, AMPUN and the community leaders organized volunteers to go door-to-door, asking for contributions to buy materials. A can was placed near the bridge to collect coins. Residents responded positively, contributing money, wood, iron, nails and the tools needed to rebuild and clean the bridge. The Khongolote community then worked tirelessly to rehabilitate the bridge on the same day as the campaign. This philanthropic effort not only solved an immediate problem, it also inspired the community to recognize the power of coming together to solve their own problems, valuing local resources. Excited by the success of the initiative, the residents of Khongolote now plan to raise funds to build a wider and more durable bridge, allowing vehicles to pass through.

And the story doesn't end there. With the community latrines project completed, the community leaders sat down with AVISOR and identified another problem to be addressed - the need to have classrooms in the community that can be linked with and managed by the nearest school (7km away). Once again, the community mobilized resources, especially bricks. AVISOR secured agreement from the Provincial Directorate of Education and the Municipal Council of Chimoio that, when the classrooms are built, there will be support for teachers. With that support in place, an individual donor connected with the community offered a substantial contribution, and in early 2024 the first stone was ceremonially laid.

In June 2024, Micaia will hold the second National Conference on Community Philanthropy. It's very likely that the stories of Chianga, Khongolote, and Bengo communities will be among those that feature. Will people still claim that 'community philanthropy can't work in Mozambique'? Yes, it takes time. Yes, the resources raised locally are often modest. Yes, there are people who will still sit and wait for someone else to come and solve their problems. But with just a little bit of support, as we've shown with the seed funding, a movement for change can begin. More and more people start to believe that they can take the lead and contribute to addressing their community's problems and building a better future for all.





The Role of African Philanthropy in Transforming Community Challenges Through Innovation, Policy and Practice

Youth involvement in philanthropic work within the context of Kenya holds a great potential today for we have more than 60% of the population made of the Youths and hence they can play a critical role in promoting it. They can be the driver of positive change and sustainable development across the continent. As Africa's youth population continues to grow rapidly, representing a significant portion of the total population, their active engagement in philanthropy is crucial for addressing the continent's diverse challenges and unlocking its vast opportunities.

Kenyan youth are increasingly taking ownership of philanthropic projects that tackle issues such as education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and social justice within their own communities. This grassroots approach not only ensures relevance and effectiveness but also fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among young people. As a member residing in the community of Bangladesh (Mombasa) Kenya, truly our interaction with the African Philanthropic Network (APN) has been fruitful and impacted much on the community's gradual growth and development.

There have been remarkable changes in the way previously matters of concern were taken as a norm and how things are transpiring in the recent periods. Engaging with their activities through their partner members; Pwani Youth Network (PYN) (where I am volunteering), has been a massive milestone they have brought in the community and its environs.

"Moreover, did I mention being a volunteer at Pwani Youth Network? Sure, it has impacted much on the interpersonal growth and working for the community towards their sustainability through various reach-outs made possible by partnering up with the African Philanthropic Network."

COMMUNITY IMPACT CREATED

Now, what has APN done so far to deserve such remarks? Since getting in partnership with them in 2021, June, a year down the line much effort has been put up by the team to see the betterment of the communities.

To holistically involve the communities effectively, there was the need to have the youthful population within the community equipped with informative knowledge and developmental skills that would be beneficial in their growth and interaction with the society in areas of concern. With that in line, the Changemakers For Life program was initiated by Pwani Youth Network and supported by African Philanthropic Network to be adopted by schools within the marginalized locality of Bangladesh and its environs and act as a base for behavior change for our current generation and the one to come.

And with this in place, it was reason enough to have the youth champions partake in a two-day intensive training on capacity building and developing workmanship relations with the stakeholders. The participating youths' selection was done by the staff at PYN according to the level of commitment and dedication possessed toward the development of their respective communities in previous events. The two-day training entailed exploring intrapersonal skills the champions and educators had towards creating change for sustainability for the growing generation and equipping them fully with life skills required for them to be agents of change within the society.



At the end of the two-day training, the youth participants were equipped with information and techniques to handle and coordinate perfectly with their participants for healthy discussions. An aspect of behavioral and mindset change could be foreseen in the youths compared to their initial state. When change is embraced positively, intrapersonal and interpersonal engagement is expected to be of importance for those involved.

The community too was not left behind when this course began. Schools within the localities also had a share of what was in store for them during this process as constant engagements were made to make their learning environment conducive and sustainable. Now the youths who underwent the Changemakers training had an opportunity to put into practice all they had to be agents of change as the theme goes **'Be the change you want to see, take responsibility.'**

The program aimed at reaching out to the schools with up-to-date information on Behavior Change Process and empowering them with basic life skills knowledge, to be able to live and create a sustainable space for growing and for their aspirations. Sessions were organized in six primary schools within the Bangladesh community i.e., St Mary's school, St Agatha, St Consolata, Gift Primary School, Jerusalem Primary, and St Peters with the youth champions assigned roles to be lead facilitators in administering this channel of mentorship. Creating awareness, mass sensitization, and one-on-one engagements were the strategies used to effectively deliver the objectives of this course. For change is a process and it is inevitable, the school activities would take maximum ample time for it to reach out to the adolescents with the essential information. Topical discussions were selected accordingly to fit into the exact normal activities experienced in daily life in the community.



The post-reflection of the program would be bringing up a generation of individuals with attributes and personalities that build the community towards its growth and development and the possibilities could be seen. The schools' representatives saw a bright future amongst their students as there was a sense of behavior change from their teenagers as experienced before.

They appreciated much the work and patience put in place by the Changemakers to reach out to the teenagers with information to assist in their growth and behavior change.

"The activity could not leave the fun part behind as too much work without fun for sure makes Jack a dull person. The process would use sporting engagements to raise awareness amongst the school-going children to maximize to its full capacity the change-making theme. Fun activities in between tasks were key in brainstorming for a productive engagement towards the end goal of change when associating with participants at the grassroots level."

Positive engagement creates room for healthy and sustainable growth in an individual and community as a whole. With the Changemakers program in place to facilitate Life Skills mentorship within the respective schools in the marginalized environment of Bangladesh, the participants' effective engagement called upon the involvement of outdoor activities to maximize fully the interaction between them and the Changemakers. The outdoor activities are aimed at bringing the participants (students) from their normal study environment to a more Edu-sport system of engagement whereby the facilitation will comprise sporting activities in between the interactions. This will greatly help the participants be able to perform effectively both in and out of school upholding their activities fully to the Sustainable Development Goals.

A two-day inter-school and one-month community tournaments were organized by Pwani Youth Network in partnership with African Philanthropic Network to establish healthy relationships amongst the schools and break the monotony experienced by the students from their normal day-to-day engagements.

Since in the community football is the widely ventured in sport, preferred and has an attraction of the mass, it was fit to have a football tournament within the locality involving all the seven schools under the program. The tournament aimed at raising awareness of the importance of sports in Education, sensitizing the community on embracing change towards development, and setting up a platform for talent exposure to the adolescents and young person's participating. During this period, a good population from the community had the opportunity to be part of the process of maintaining good co-ordination among the participants and ensuring a conducive environment for the activity was set.



Parents turned up in large numbers to witness the abilities their children had out of their normal learning environment. They were appreciative of the team for making the event possible for it helped keep their children away from ill activities and the use and misuse of drugs that would likely tamper with their education. And from the feedback they issued as they were interacting with the Changemakers, it was evident to them the program had played a bigger and crucial role in spearheading the changes they were observing in their children. Their mental state awareness was heightened and they seemed to be making relevant decisions based on their personal and communal development.

The teachers on the other end could not hold their joy seeing how active and dedicated their students were to the activity. The sessions in schools were a real boost to their curriculum with change as the key factor notable during the period since its initiation. The schools could now offer safe spaces for peer-to-peer engagement, and mentorship sessions that contribute to a holistic conducive learning environment. The tournament paved way for the adoption of the Edu-sport channel within the schools to maximize fully the interaction of all the involved parties in child safeguarding and sustainable development. Amongst those individuals benefiting from the partnership are staff members at Pwani Youth Network born and raised in the community who have been advocating day in out for better health, mass information awareness on matters of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), sports, film and art exposure to the creation of decent employment for the opportunity youths within the community.



Born and raised within the community, PYN CEO Alfred Sigo and his Project Officer Geoffrey Odhiambo participated as a panel members in discussions that help shape and develop their communities. With this, they have been able to mentor, empower and share insights from the discussions that spearhead change and sustainability in the community for a better tomorrow.

We hope for more engagements with African Philanthropic Network for capacity building and equipping its members with issue-based information to handle and solve matters at their community levels. I believe and it is evident that partnering up with APN has done us good both for individuals and the community as a whole within this short period of interaction. We hope for their continued support to enable more empowerment and developmental streams in the community.

Written by Alfred sigo and Brian Ochieng.

AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY IN TIMES OF COVID - 19
VOICES FROM THE FIELD

MODERATOR **SPEAKERS**

SCHOLASTICA JULLU
AFRICA PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

SHARON MOFFAT
HOUSE WIVES VOICE
ZIMBABWE

GEOFFREY ODHIAMBO
YOUTH PRISON WORK
KENYA

NYAMALIBU NGALIA
WOMEN SMALL TRADERS
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Tuesday 31ST MAY 2022 **14:00 - 15:30 EAT**

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Motor-cycle operators championing women safety through local giving

In a move aimed at combating teenage pregnancies and promoting girls and women safety in Kilifi County of Kenya, the Safe Community Youth Initiative (Safe Kilifi) engaged boda-boda (motorcycle taxi) operators often perceived as perpetrators of the vice. Utilising the APN Catalytic Grant which they received in October 2021, the Safe Kilifi focused on building the capacity of motor-cycle operators to ensure the safety of women and girls. This saw, a group of motor-cycle operators taking lead in raising awareness amongst their peers on the prevention of further teenage pregnancy and school drop-out incidences. Furthermore, the motor-cycle champions participated in fundraising for girls' keep-up, including purchasing diapers for children, uniforms for school-going adolescent girls, purchasing sanitary pads and clothing for first time young mothers in Kilifi.

This was a welcome move within the Kilifi County which has the highest teen pregnancy rate of 14% in the country. Consequently, motor-cycle operators have been blamed as perpetrators, they are accused of luring, impregnating and then abandoning teenage girls.

Experience with engaging the motor-cycles operators

To effectively engage with the motor-cycles operators, Safe Kilifi leveraged their long-standing relationship with different stakeholders in the community. "We are well known and respected among young people because of our long-standing work in Kilifi. Therefore, making an entry and getting the motor-cycle operators to partner with us was not difficult. Additionally, the trainings that we conducted empowered the motor-cycle operators with confidence, knowledge and skills to be watch dogs and convince fellow operators to refrain from harming or sexually exploiting teenage girls" according to Safe Kilifi.

Additionally, the County government also convened the mass media and other stakeholders to discuss and create visibility for the work that was being done by Safe Kilifi. This recognition by the government, motivated the motor cycle operators to go the extra mile in championing the safety of women and girls.

In deepening the understanding of the concept of local philanthropy, Safe Kilifi worked with motor-cycle operators' groups that were formed with the intention of doing business and making money for personal sustenance. Safe Kilifi reached out to 15 motor cycle stands and created awareness about their social responsibility and the need to help single teen age mothers.

The groups of operators subsequently agreed and signed a memo where they made a declaration of commitment to supporting teenage mothers and actively combating the practice of impregnating teen girls. Beyond signing the declaration, the motor-cycle operators continuously donated their time, free of charge, to not only be watchdogs, but also educate other operators in their villages to refrain from impregnating teenage girls; but instead to support the young mothers and their children. Furthermore, Safe Kilifi facilitated and supported the motor operators to conduct a group fundraising and purchase a motor-cycle. This was done by assigning a rider to operate the motor-cycle on a daily basis with a 50% of the net profit earned by this motorcycle being dedicated and used to support single teen mothers. From the same 50% portion, the operators supported two girls with school fees to join Form One and Form Two in KP Senior Secondary School and Mtomondoni Primary School in May 2022.



“

The story of the Kilifi motor-cycle operators highlights how everyday givers are joining forces to tackle society's most difficult challenges, leveraging whatever amount of money and expertise. In this case, the importance of people as a critical resource to promoting local philanthropy beyond just valuing money is also emphasized – people are already on the ground, with the capacity to building and changing lives. More so, synergy and working in collaboration with the local government, community, and other stakeholders like the media played is key in promoting local giving – there are many moving parts that should be appreciated. The promotion of sustainable philanthropy cannot be overlooked in this project – the purchasing of a motor-cycle by the operators' group will go a long way in ensuring that there are long-term resources to support girls' education and other amenities in the community.

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The Africa Giving: Harnessing Individual Giving for Sustainable Change

INTRODUCTION

The Covid pandemic period was probably one the most significant watershed moments for philanthropy. Several of the responses to COVID-19 relied on giving by individuals. It was perhaps the biggest test of whether African-based philanthropy could rise to the occasion. In many instances, local giving in the form of small cash gifts and in-kind donations saved the day. It was an equally bold statement from Africa - that yes, we can save the day.

However, the battle is not over. Most civil society organisations in Africa especially those working at the frontlines of change face an existential threat. Most of the funding has shifted towards projects and very little resources are being allocated towards institutional costs. We will not reiterate the importance of these organisations especially community foundations in cohering a framework of resilience across many societies. Yet their future remains uncertain. The twin processes of harsh laws and dwindling resources threaten the viability and long-term survival of these organisations.

Official Development Aid towards Africa is possibly at its lowest due to economic crises in source economies, for instance the UK government has cut down aid from 0.7% GDP to 0.5% of its GDP. Furthermore, the ongoing Russia Ukraine war and more recently the Palestine Israel war, has led to shifting of resources to support Ukraine and Gaza. Additionally, the COVID-19 era influenced private philanthropy foundations to increase their giving within their home countries. Several CSOs have since reported a significant decline in funding during that time and many are yet to recover. There is a threat to the survival of CSOs. Entities responsible for nurturing African agency are facing challenges of financial sustainability. In many instances the organisations have received external financial support from official development aid and private philanthropy foundations, but this is dwindling and increasingly unreliable.

Potential for a New Framework of Giving

Is it possible that there is a new site or source of funding that has not been adequately examined? Could giving by individuals help sustain these brave organisations? A study by Epic Africa found that the majority of African NGOs receive their largest share of support from private individuals. The giving by private individuals confirms findings from an earlier study by TrustAfrica and UBS (2013). Studies we carried out in 2020 and 2021 found that individuals are engaged in acts of giving to various causes. Different but interrelated studies have demonstrated that Africa has the fastest growing middle class, second only to China. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) Africa's middle class has tripled over the last 30 years to 313 million people, or more than 34% of the continent's population, according to a report from the African Development Bank (AfDB). We thought, this could be the moment and opportunity to enhance alignment between individual giving and African CSO long-term sustainability. Whilst funding from institutional sources is dwindling or overwhelmed by the growing challenges across the globe there has emerged another yet to be fully tapped source of giving in the form of private individuals who give small but regular gifts to organisations.



The Africa Giving Initiative

With that background in mind, we explored possibilities of an alternative funding framework to tap into individual giving and make a compelling case to nurture citizens' giving towards African CSOs as part of a long-term solution to enhance sustainability. We developed and deployed our groundbreaking initiative called AfricaGiving (<https://www.africagiving.org>) which bridges the gap between individual givers and non-profit organisations across Africa. The organisations listed on the platform work support various causes essential for Africa's wellbeing and development. The platform provides a secure online channel for individual donations towards non-profits working throughout Africa specifically (non-profits). The platform leverages fintech making it easy for individuals to contribute to causes they care about in a few clicks from their electronic devices.

The platform provides digital visibility to organisations particularly small grassroots organisations that are hardly noticed especially by International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) that regrant to the global south. The listed organisations provide their most recent impact report telling their success stories, summary of strategy, audited financial reports (if they have) and a motivation for funding. This has helped enhance their visibility enabling transparency and trust building. Through the registration process to join the platform, the AfricaGiving team ensured and continuously ensures that only authentic and verified organisations are listed on the platform. To date we celebrate the registration of 115 organisations on the platform. We have managed to list organisations spread across 16 African countries. The work involved building a relationship with organisations, networking to provide them with insights around resource mobilisation from individuals leveraging the platform. The platform groups organisations by location, country, and thematic focus area(s) of work to provide ease of navigation for givers. This also conveniently helps givers to narrow down to donate to causes that are dear to them.

The platform partnered with a reputable payment gateway, DPO, which allows for various payment channels such as Visa and Mastercards across different African countries. This platform helps to circumvent restrictive measures that have been put in place by many governments to impede the movement of money across borders which has largely affected cross-border philanthropic flows. To date, the platform has successfully raised US\$16 000.



Does the 10% (CAADP allocation) make a difference?



Lessons Learnt and Recommendations.

When the idea struck, we thought it was going to be an easy road. We didn't realise the various hoops and compliance processes we had to go through. We then ensured we met all legal requirements to set up a fundraising platform. The biggest work fed into ensuring the payment system is compliant and transactions are secure through encryption. Also, our platform through the due diligence by the payment gateway system ensures no donation of laundered money or financing of terrorism takes place.

Our biggest lesson through this journey has been around shifting power to individuals to support the development they want to see on the continent. The Covid era taught us what domestic resource mobilisation can achieve. There is still more work to be done especially around shifting mindsets, most countries do not have a culture of giving although the World Giving Index shows that at least 8 African Countries feature in the top 30 of highest levels of giving. Some lessons can be borrowed from Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and others to encourage giving towards sustainable change leveraging fintech.



Amplifying the voices of women in the extractive industry in Malawi

Communities in Malawi are struggling with unfair extractive activities and Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi is implementing the 'Amplifying the Voices and Participation of Women in Malawi's Extractive Industry' project to address this challenge. The project aims to create deliberate platforms and channels for women affected by mining activities to voice out their challenges. The project also aims to enable them to get support or interventions that will improve their livelihood, by highlighting issues of land injustice and community safety. This has attracted the attention of authorities, who now pursue legal battles for various compensations. This is an effort to safeguard the lives of those living in communities where mining activities are taking place.

Case Scenario:

"I saw men standing around the trenches of the mine when I was coming from Senzani Trading Center. I asked what was happening. I was told the men were searching for the body of my 10-year-old son who had drowned. I was shocked and I could not imagine that my land had become a grave for my son," said EsnartChilimba from Masenjere, in Traditional Authority Chamthunya in Balaka District, Malawi.

In 2022, a Malawian Investor approached EsnartChilimba with a proposal to buy her land for mining activities. He convinced her and two other families that he was authorized to mine by the Department of Mines and that the district assembly was notified in advance of his intention. In exchange for Esnart's one-and-a-half acres of land, he paid a sum of K500,000 (\$290) in installments. The villagers initially assumed it was just another small-scale mining activity, as the area had seen people extract soil in small quantities before.

However, the investor partnered with a Chinese company that later brought in heavy machinery including an excavator, a loader, and a container. They created deep trenches that tragically transformed into a deadly trap for children and animals. Initially, the investor showed a willingness to collaborate with the locals. He committed to providing them with a much-needed borehole and pledged to fill up any trenches that were created. However, over time, he was interested in exploiting the community's natural resources more than in the well-being of its people. Apart from paying the agreed K500,000 to the landowners, he never fulfilled any of the other promises he made.

After exhausting the mineral content at the site, the investor disappeared. In December 2022, Esnart's son slipped into the trenches which had filled up with rainwater and lost his life.

The village was shocked realizing that the district assembly did not know that an investor was operating in the district. Efforts to connect with the Department of Mines also proved futile. The community further realized that the investor had lied to them about his name and the type of mineral he was extracting in the area.

The community narrated this ordeal to the Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi and expressed fears that the area is about to experience another large-scale mining activity projected to run over 50 years.

QMAM collected stories of these experiences to create a documentary that shed light on the impact of mining activities on people living in Traditional Authority (TA) Chamthunya and Phalula. Esnart's sad story captured the attention of various stakeholders, including the Malawi Human Rights Commission, who collaborated with QMAM to investigate the incident further. The commission concluded that there is enough evidence to support an inquiry into the matter, and they promised Esnart that they would work together with the district council to ensure that justice is served.

Esnart hopes that the matter will be investigated. "Every morning when I wake up and see the big dam, I am reminded of my son," said Esnart. She is very grateful to QMAM for amplifying women's voices in the area.

The Qadria Muslim Association of Malawi is implementing the project with financial support from Southern Africa Trust (the Trust).

To date, there are no proper structures in Malawi for reinforcing mining and land legislation policies. The Southern Africa Trust supports partners working in Malawi to engage with policymakers to influence policies. Local communities need more platforms to voice issues affecting their lives. Through the amplifying voices project and other interventions managed by other regional partners, the Trust supports efforts to create local, national, and regional platforms where these and other issues are brought to decision-makers' attention.





**PARTNERING PRIVATE SECTOR FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
The Case Of Y3nsomubi Initiative Of The Giving For
Change Project In Ghana.**

Introduction

In 2023, for the first time, the Giving for Change Community of Practice pitched their social change projects to Ghanaian private sector businesses, due to the efforts of our partner, Penplusbytes. Penplusbytes is a civic-tech non-profit organization dedicated to promoting effective governance and citizen participation through the use of Information Communication and Technologies (ICTs).



"Partner Pitching project Proposal"

In this case study, we share our experiences with engaging private sector businesses to build partnerships to address some community challenges.

The Success

Accessing private sector businesses as civil society organizations has never been easy. On many occasions that we have reached out to them, either they did not respond, or where they did, may not show interest in following up on commitments. In 2023, STAR-Ghana Foundation's partner, Penplusbytes broke through this barrier. As part of supporting local philanthropy initiatives of the CoPs, the 2023 partnership with Penplusbytes focused on promoting the visibility of initiatives of CoP members.

A pitching event to private sector businesses was conceptualized to one, promote interaction between the CBOs and businesses, and two, to mobilize corporate social responsibilities for targeted communities. The pitching event was organized on Thursday 23rd November 2023. At this attempt, five influential private sector businesses attended the pitching event. These included Vodafone Ghana Foundation, Ghana National Gas Company, Margins Group, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, National Lottery Authority and Pentecost Social Services.

These organizations were represented by senior officials who were very enthused about the interventions pitched to them by some members of the CoPs. The event allowed COP members to share their planned interventions with private sector attendees who in turn asked questions to assess measurable impact and clarify pertinent issues like cost components and value for money.

Consequently, two of the businesses made commitments. Vodafone Ghana committed to offering internet connectivity to one of the CoP members-Ark Development Organisation's Kraboa-Coaltar Resource and Empowerment Center. Vodafone is also exploring partnership with another CoP member- International Child Development Programme on a financial digital inclusion project. The second business, Margins Group is also exploring offering technical digital support to another CoP member- Celdar Foundation's Skills Development Hub intervention.



"Private sector representative sharing feedback after presentations."

In addition to this, the pitching event enabled the private sector businesses to explain to the CoP members how to build partnerships around their Corporate Social Responsibilities opportunities.

Context and description of the case

In 2021, STAR-Ghana Foundation (www.star-ghana.org) partnered with Penplusbytes to create an indigenous online giving platform, (www.yensomubi.org) to support Ghanaian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to mobilize resources online to support their work and promote community development. In keeping up with the needs of the users of the platform, Penplusbytes decided to put a human face to the online platform due to the low level of trust amongst Ghanaians about online donations especially towards CSOs. Literature has shown that more Ghanaian companies are gravitating towards embracing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) largely directed towards community-based activities. While corporate institutions control relatively large CSR budgets, their approach to community development in some cases are top-down. CBOs on the other hand live with beneficiaries and appreciate their need better.

The Y3n Somu Bi platform was envisaged to combine the financial resources of corporate institutions and the localized contextual knowledge of CBOs and civil society as a whole to revolutionize community development. This rationale gave birth to an initiative called the “**Y3n Somu Bi Pitch for Change**” event which brought together non-profit organizations spearheading self-help community projects to pitch for support from private companies. The initiative was also geared towards supplementing online publicity efforts by introducing it to partners from the private sector.

The pitching therefore targeted businesses such as Vodafone Ghana, Margins Group, Ghana National Gas Company, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation and the Good Causes Foundation of the National Lottery Authority. CSO partners who participated in the pitching included Community Development Alliance (CDA-Ghana), Ark Development Organisation (ADO), CELDAR Foundation, My Hereafter Ghana, the International Child Development Programme (ICDP) and Resource Link Foundation.

Key reflections

Knowing what the interest of private sector businesses and pitching your intervention is a critical success factor and it requires time investment. For our partner, Penplusbytes, this meant undertaking thorough research. To start with, about 100 private sector businesses were screened to arrive at least 30 to be invited for the pitching event. Additionally, about 10 were visited in-person and only 5 turned up for the event. This also means that to get more than 5 of them to attend, even more work would have to be done by the team. This can prove challenging to civil society organization which usually work with small teams on very tight budgets and schedules.

We also found a disjoint between how civil society is implementing community development and that of private sector in some key sectors like health and education. For example, while CBOs are engaged in brick-and-mortar support, we find that private sector is rather shifting from brick and mortar to “soft support” in the forms of trainings, health screenings and donations linked to their area of work. This means that while a CBO may pitch a health compound, they may not get support from some private sector organizations because they will rather donate medical equipment instead of construct the physical infrastructure needed to house the equipment.

Bureaucracy is another challenge that CSOs will encounter at every stage of working with the private sector. While CSOs are more likely to work on smaller projects with small teams, private companies work in large teams and on several projects. Engagements go through a lot of levels and need several approvals which can be challenging for CSOs to keep up with. The thumb rule is to build RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND RELATIONSHIPS. Interestingly, we find that staff of these organizations are more likely to act when on in-person interactions rather than electronic engagements.



The Youth Café and Gender Equality

Gender inequality is a cross-cutting issue that affects everyone, including men and boys, but especially women, girls, transgender, and gender-non-confirming youth. Our experience shows us that young girls are often balancing adult responsibilities, whilst also subject to the removal from formal education, disenfranchisement, and lack of economic opportunity. They are vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence; child marriage and forced marriage; unplanned pregnancies; and sexually transmitted infections. These factors can prohibit them from negotiating full control of their own bodies, ultimately impacting on their rights, future, and livelihood.

In this context, the Youth Café applauds its efforts to ensure the retention of over 10,000 adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in school and reduce the risk of new HIV infections among those aged between 13-19 years in 30 secondary schools in Kenya.

Journey to gender equality initiative

The rising need for gender equality education prompted us to broaden our scope of services to reach the larger mass and offer amicable solutions to vulnerable people in society, specifically targeting corporates and the grassroots level. Thus, the Youth Café implemented the Community Engagement and Accountability in Girls' Education Project (CEAGE) in Kenya. The project aims to enhance the retention of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in school and reduce the risk of new HIV infections among those of them aged between 13-19 years in 30 secondary schools. Targeting 10,000 AGYW from Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos, and Kiambu counties, CEAGE employs an innovative strategy consisting of the Preventive Alert Mechanism (PAM) and a Retention Advocacy Group (RAG) to reshape social norms regarding girls' education, reproductive health, and positive discipline. This approach seeks to mitigate risks such as early marriage, pregnancy, gender-based violence (GBV), and HIV infection, while also promoting school retention.

PAM serves as a school-community accountability tool, aiding in predicting, preventing, and addressing dropout cases among girls. Through monitoring attendance, behavior, and academic performance, schools can identify and support at-risk girls. RAG, predominantly composed of AGYW decision-makers, takes action upon referral of flagged cases from schools. Support provided by the RAG includes peer mentoring, counseling from teachers, assistance with school requirements, sponsorship for fees, skills training, and intervention with families regarding GBV, early marriage, or financial challenges. The RAGs collaborate with schools and communities to develop and implement action plans each term, addressing identified causes of absenteeism and supporting girls to remain in school.

CEAGE adopts a youth-centric approach, actively involving AGYW in program design and implementation, guided by the motto "for you and with you." Comprehensive activities are carried out to facilitate PAM uptake, enhance RAG functionality, empower peer educators, engage communities, and connect vulnerable AGYW with sexual and reproductive health (SRH), HIV, and GBV services.



Benefits realized

Our ground-breaking reproductive health and sexual rights trainings reduced the vulnerability of 10,800 girls facing the risk of HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and dropping out of school. Pre and post training surveys showed an improvement of young people's knowledge of contraception from 64% to 92%.

We reached 700 community leaders that became part of the Preventive Alert Mechanism (PAM) and a Retention Advocacy Group (RAG) that enabled us reach 10,800 girls. Through our combined efforts there was an increase from 47% to 83% as retention rate of girls in school. The efforts to reshape social norms regarding girls' education, reproductive health, and positive discipline to reduce the risk of new HIV infections among adolescent girls saw an increase in uptake from 36% to 75% by girls.

Furthermore, the Youth Café trained and supported 56 accountability advocates across Kenya to drive accountability for family planning and gender equality, working with a wide pool of 375 young changemakers. We employed our youth-led data-driven accountability models and youth-led research models to help provide those advocates with the evidence they need to influence decision-makers and hold them to account on sexual health and rights, and gender equality commitments at the local and national levels. We also utilized civic technology to offer opportunities for 300 more people to participate in research and policy, collect data, and create pathways to demand more action that supports girls' education and school retention, reproductive health, and positive discipline.

This shows that the dynamics in environments and communities often bring factors that pressure individuals to make extreme decisions for themselves. Girls and women are usually the most affected and hence get hindered from engaging in activities that promote their development socially, economically, and politically. Therefore, individuals, communities, organizations, and society at large need to be deliberate in all instances to embrace gender transformative strategies that offer chances to question gender norms, to address power imbalances between people of different genders to foster diversity, equality, and inclusion.

The Youth Café and Community Philanthropy

The Youth Café recognizes the dynamic and expanding nature of social, economic, and environmental challenges that mostly affect vulnerable population segments such as the disabled, refugees, and minority groups, and the ever-growing need to address such challenges. Against this backdrop, the Youth Café recognizes efforts it has made in collaboration with other youth-led and youth-serving organizations to address societal challenges from a bottom-up approach to promote civic engagement and build resilient and sustainable communities.

Context

The Youth Café worked in partnership with the East African Philanthropy Network and 215 youth-led and youth-serving organizations in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania) for a study on "Youth Organizational Ecosystem Strengthening for Regional Development" to develop recommendations for how to strengthen support for youth-led and youth-initiated mechanisms to hold decision-makers to account. We did this through:

- **Investment in Capacity Building:** Through training programs on advocacy, communication, project management, and policy analysis, we enhanced the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities of 215 youth-led organizations and initiatives.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** We fostered partnerships and collaboration between youth-led organizations, civil society groups, government agencies, and other stakeholders to leverage resources, expertise, and networks to amplify their impact and hold decision-makers more effectively to account.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** We supported youth-led advocacy efforts aimed at influencing policies, laws, and regulations that affect youth rights, participation, and accountability in their efforts of policy research, and engagement with policymakers to ensure that youth voices are heard and taken into account in decision-making processes. It also involved access to information and resources whereby we ensured that the youth-led organizations we partnered with, got access to relevant information, data, and resources needed to effectively hold decision-makers to account. This could involve providing access to research findings, legal resources, government documents, and funding opportunities to empower youth-led initiatives in their advocacy efforts.

Benefits realized

1. Empowerment of Youth: Our support for the youth-led initiatives of advocacy, communication, project management, and policy analysis empowered 8,000 young people, to actively engage in governance processes and advocate for their rights and interests. This empowers them to become active citizens and agents of change in their communities.
2. Enhanced Civic Participation: We fostered a culture of civic engagement and strengthened democratic governance that saw an increase from 33% to 58% in civic participation among young people in East Africa as they were encouraged to become more actively involved in democratic processes, such as voting, advocacy, and community organizing in different settings.
3. Innovation for policy and regulation: Through fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and creative solutions by youth to governance challenges, there was the formulation of 3 policies and 8 regulations that promote youth rights, participation, and accountability.

THE YOUTH CAFÉ

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA

www.theyouthcafe.com



"We learn that Yesterday's societal solutions may not necessarily solve today's problems. As the world morphs, it does so, both to the good and the bad. Therefore, Different societal challenges need creative and innovative solutions to solve them."



**THUBUTU AFRICA INITIATIVES (TAI)
COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY SUCCESS STORY**

Whatever progress there will be in life, it doesn't come through adapting but through daring!

The Swahili word 'Thubutu' means 'to dare'. Dare to be your change! However, to be your change, you need to get opportunities; opportunities to gain information, learn, process, and shape your thoughts and ideas.

Thubutu Africa Initiatives (TAI) is a non-governmental organization in Tanzania with registration no. 00NGO/R2/0008 with its head office located at NSSF MAFAO House – Shinyanga 2nd Floor, Western Wing, Plot No 36 & 37, Mjini Kati Street, Along Mwanza Highway.

TAI wants to see local communities flourish, daring to take measures into their own hands. Children are at the base of this, and they deserve a safe and healthy environment that enables them to reach their full potential. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. One of the major problems? The lack of 'education' (as an information provision tool) to impart knowledge as knowledge drives change.



GULIO LA AFYA
BUKAMA - IGUNGA
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POWER OF COMMUNITY GIVING

It all started when through the community meetings where one of the challenges raised in the education sector was an increased school dropout and poor performance among schoolgirls of standard 5 to 7 because of poor latrines at school. There were few latrines compared to the number of girls, old and not in good condition including changing rooms which were mentioned by girls to discourage them from using, especially during their menstruation. This made most of them stay at home during this time, resulting in poor performance, caused by poor school attendance, thus influencing an increased dropout of school. This scenario made community members come up with the solution of constructing latrines with changing rooms to reduce the cases of school dropout and poor performance among girls. TAI supported the initiative and through the selected team for resource mobilization, they conducted several meetings at school and all streets around the project area which were fruitful. The team also used the door-knocking method, and this was done by moving to different stakeholders and community members like businessmen, government and private institutions, and individuals looking for resources. The process which helped to increase understanding of community philanthropy ideas since most of the community members who did not attend the meetings that were organized, were reached in their working sites.

Since the community philanthropy project is voluntary, community members were free to pledge anything that was within their means and they were sure of donating despite the size, and the focus was much on materials since it was easy and a preference of the majority community members to give out materials as compared to money, because this was the first project to be implemented through community philanthropy approach, and most of the community members wanted to first prove if the project will be successful through the stated approach and this made them to be willing to provide material and manpower support compare to financial support.

Through community philanthropy techniques TAI supported a collection of 89% of the materials used in the construction of toilets from the community members. This evidenced that community members are ready to participate in solving their problems. This was due to the full involvement of community members in project design, planning, and transparency of the committee team during and after resource mobilization. It was a wakeup call to the community members, knowing that, they can use the available resources within their localities to address the identified challenge. Since it was a community project, communities were free to give out materials without considering the ratio and size as long as it was building material the committee welcomed them and this made them feel free to donate even the remaining material or tools for construction in which they were using at their working sites.

The participatory approach puts community members at the front-line during project implementation. This made them feel part of the project since they were involved from the initiation stage and the team was constantly giving out feedback on each step during project implementation. Through the project introduction meeting, community members became very positive about the approach to be used and ready to participate. Because they were the ones who selected the fund fundraising team, they had trust in them as they were capable of conducting the project successfully.

Thubutu Africa Initiative – TAI successfully and managed to facilitate the construction of a girl's toilet at Lubaga Primary School at Shinyanga Municipal in Lubaga ward by using human, financial, and material resources which were organized by the mobilization team through community giving. The coordinating team managed to spread the idea of community philanthropy within and outside of the Shinyanga region using different social media like radio, Facebook, Twitter, and blogs among others. Community members appreciated the innovation used since the project was accomplished timely and they encouraged the team to conduct different projects by using the community philanthropy approach since it is one way of ensuring sustainability, accountability, transparency, and commitment which made community members feel part and part of the project. TAI is now a pioneer of community philanthropy and a number of civil society organizations are learning from TAI on how to implement different projects in their localities by using local giving which has increased the value of community resources in project implementation.

Community philanthropy is voluntary, only through a bottom-up approach communities get organized as they become aware of their issues. And when the community is aware they are ready and proud to engage in their development. In this, Community members were free to pledge whatever they had, willingly and in their own time as long as it was within the stated period of implementation and this made them donate as much as they could no matter the stage of the project. In addition, the engagement of community members in problem identification, project designing, and planning helps in smoothen resource mobilization process and ensure project ownership and sustainability. This makes them to be aware of all necessary resources required and their values in every stage of project implementation.

Nonetheless, accountability and transparency are key in implementing community philanthropy projects. This helps community members to know the value of the material they had contributed and how they were used. It has very potential to engage influential figures in the community like religious leaders, community leaders, public figures, platforms, and social media in influencing community members to participate in their development. It helps increase trust in community members and their willingness to donate their resources as most of them will donate according to how familiar they are with the person mobilizing those resources.

“Community philanthropy approaches are evident that every resource is valuable in the community, despite how small or large, and every contribution is a resource not necessarily a financial resource. Community members were free to donate whatever they were willing to give as long as it could be used to accomplish the project.”





The journey for Luwi Community: Enhancing unity through community philanthropy in Mangochi district, Malawi.

In the history of Luwi Village, March 2023 was a month to remember. Cyclone Freddy, which affected many countries in the world including a number of districts in Malawi, led to relentless rains which resulted in floods that ravaged the area from 17th to 21st of March 2023. Luwi Village, nestled in the heart of Group Village Head (GVH) Kasankha, Traditional Authority (T/A) Nankumba, Mangochi district, bore the brunt of Cyclone Freddy which caused the Luwi River to overflow and flood the surrounding areas. This crocodile-infested river is a crossing point for different villages within the GVH's area and is a crossing point for many villages. The flooded river made it impossible for people to pass through and this brought a lot of problems that needed an urgent solution - the construction of a structure on the river to bridge the divided villages.



"Luwi CBO members and the Tilitonse Foundation team outside a forest managed by Luwi CBO"

Among the challenges faced, the most pressing was the loss of accessibility to crucial amenities such as the Health Centre, schools, and business center. The consequences of this disconnection were profound. 'For example, in relation to the inaccessibility of health services, the community registered four home births, furthermore, people were not able to access general medical assistance which prolonged healing of those that were sick during the time' narrated Esnart Innocent, one of the members of Luwi Community Based Organization (CBO). The community bared the disruption of education for children both at Nankhwali primary and secondary school levels. Most of the children in the area couldn't go to school during this time and that kept parents and guardians worried about their children performance. The most crucial thing, the community experienced food shortages, stemming from community members not being able to access their farms which were mostly across the flooded river.

Recognizing the urgent need for action, the CBO swiftly mobilized community members and collaborated with local leaders to address the connectivity crisis. Under the guidance of the CBO's Chairperson, Harrison Katema, the community embarked on a three-day mission to construct a 75-meter-long elevated sandbag bridge for temporary connection between Kasankha and Kamphale G.V.Hs. The bridge connects northwest of the GVHs.

"We managed to do the work within 3 days, no money was spent but resources such as reused sacks, sand, tree logs, and community members' time," narrated Damiano Zidana, the CBO secretary, showcasing the resourcefulness of the organization and dedication of the community. The collective effort involved men and women working tirelessly from 5:30 a.m. of each day until 9:00 a.m., ensuring minimal disruption to daily household chores.

'It took a lot of hard work, commitment, and passion from each of the community members to do the work, for example, the community members provided 40 empty sacks and did not get too tired to source tree logs and stones to reinforce the structure, narrated John Pius, one of the CBO members.

"The project not only bridged physical gaps but also fostered unity and solidarity within the community". Loveness Saopa, a CBO member, emphasized how the shared endeavor enhanced cohesion and mutual support among residents.



The sandbag bridge built by Luwi CBO and community members which connects villages separated by the river.

Post-construction, life gradually returned to normalcy. Children resumed their education, markets and health centers became accessible, and community members went to their fields once again. The swift response to the crisis within three days stood as a testament to the community's capability and determination in philanthropic initiatives.

The lessons gleaned from this endeavor were invaluable. Ivy Banda, another CBO member, underscored the power of unity and self-realization. "There is power in unity, we can achieve more together! We also learnt that there is so much potential in us and within our community and we should not be underestimating our potential," she affirmed, encapsulating the newfound confidence within the community. Reflecting on their journey, the CBO members acknowledge the transformative impact of community-driven initiatives. Ivy Banda, shared, "With the experience that we had during the project, we would encourage many communities to start their philanthropic initiatives. They will realize that there is power in community philanthropy!" She emphasized, "It takes the realization of an issue as a problem affecting the whole community, and so intervening is relatively easy. Money comes later in the process, and because of such realization, there is a breakthrough, no matter how small, as it makes a difference." Ivy advocated for grassroots solutions and community empowerment based on Luwi's firsthand experiences.

The CBO also narrated that another key aspect is to engage community leaders, particularly chiefs, in the process. Their awareness of the community's capabilities, and the belief that they are better placed to solve their own problems than outsiders, make collaboration easier.

'We are also privileged to have Group Village Headman Kasankha as one of the CBO's Board members but what is key is leaders' engagement in whatever way possible', narrated Eliza Focus, the CBO's vice director. The Group Village Headman oversees an area encompassing several village headmen and is well positioned to mobilize members of the community for various initiatives.

The success of the bridge project was not an isolated achievement for Luwi CBO. Since its establishment in 2002, the CBO has been a beacon of progress in the community. With 38 members, including 21 females and 17 males, the organization has undertaken various community initiatives leveraging local resources and expertise.

One notable initiative is the management of a 6-acre forest for natural resource conservation. The community actively participates in maintaining the forest, from nurturing tree nurseries to sharing tree seedlings among members and the community at large. This commitment caught the attention of Emmanuel International, an NGO operating in the region, leading them to donate 25 beehives to Luwi in 2017 for beekeeping. This initiative has helped generate extra revenue that the CBO utilizes for its various activities.



A tree nursery managed by Luwi CBO which contains various tree types including fruit trees



Above: One of the hives that the organization owns.

Furthermore, the CBO's commitment extends to education as it mobilizes resources to support the initiative that some primary and secondary school teachers have to raise school fees for needy students. In addition, the CBO links other children to available school bursaries, so far the CBO has supported 100 children (79 girls and 21 boys) since the start of this initiative in 2021. One major achievement of these bursaries is that it enabled people such as Pius John, who is now a member of the CBO, to gain education up to graduate level from the University of Malawi.

Luwi CBO's success story exemplifies the power of grassroots initiatives, community resilience, and the transformative impact of collective action. Their journey serves as an inspiration for communities worldwide, highlighting the potential within communities to drive meaningful change and foster sustainable development by themselves.

Luwi CBO is one of the 23 Grant Partners working with the Tilitonse Foundation under the Catalyst Funding window in the Shifting the Power Programme.



Above: Luwi CBO's Chairperson, Harrison Katema, shows off some of the honey harvested



High Net Heart Individuals and Their Power to Drive Community Development

African philanthropy holds its unique appeal, only if we strive to find it. By its nature, African philanthropy is rooted in culture; is based on trust; involves everyone; and respects local knowledge – the singular moral to all African giving is community as one. African philanthropy at its core does not need regulation, nor does it require taxation and tax receipts, it is simply Africans giving as people, as families, in diverse and various ways, responding to context and needs. Uganda is the same!

Over the last three years of its implementation, the Philanthropy for Development programme implemented by the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), with a goal that aims to promote “A society that recognizes, respects and harnesses the power of local philanthropy and domestic resource mobilization to fulfil the development aspirations and interests of citizens and their organisations”, celebrates the identification of the types and nature of giving in Uganda, naming it and giving it its due recognition as a driver of community led development. This is a positive start and a strong foundation for engagements towards development because the mindsets of citizens are being positively influenced.

The argument at the start of the programme was that giving in Uganda does happen, however the specifics of this giving needed to be identified, acknowledged, amplified and geared towards development of the country. Through the work of the pool of community facilitators, and partner organisations in the 14 traditional regions of Uganda as at independence, the programme set out to enhance the capacity of citizens and their organisations to understand the power of their own giving and the dividends in being responsible for their own development. Stories from the regions bear progress towards these ideals.

Juxta posed against the phenomenon of High Net Worth (HNW) individuals, giving in Uganda is characterised by individuals with lots of heart for community, moving them to give even when they themselves do not have much to give. To coin a term, High Net Heart (HNN) individuals, more and more, stories of philanthropy that work, revolve around these High Net Heart individuals. Relatedly, The Sense-making Policy Paper 2 (The Nexus between CSOs & Philanthropy in Uganda), describes philanthropy and civil society organizations as conjoined twins, held together by the umbilical cord of gift-giving and associated pro-social philanthropic behaviors that society has built over the years. The paper also highlights that the foundational philosophy of civil society is driven by the idea of associating and collectively organizing to respond to societies’ needs. These High Net Heart Individuals are also seen to drive the focus and agenda of these organisations;

“I am proud of the soccer academy, through it, I have seen a reduction in drug use and some youths are back in school. The parents are now supportive of the academy and approach me to talk to their children and enrol them in the academy.” Says Musema.

Musema Vanmaron a male youth in Vurra Subcounty is giving his time and expertise as a coach to train the youth to be productive and get them out of drugs and crime. He uses the soccer academy to engage the youth in other skilling activities like brick laying, quarrying, hair dressing etc. Fikra Harriet, a social worker by training gives her time and expertise to training women in soap making, handcrafts and others.

“I used to be selfish, yet I am a good trainer. Through WECISNET, I opened-up and started training different people and groups; now, I have gotten exposure to diverse groups including the prostitutes, teenage mothers and others to the level that CSOs and leaders like Members of Parliament reach out to me. I am proud of what I am doing in the communities in Arua.” - Fikra.

Chandiga Hamis was motivated by Harriet to start training women in baking, a skill she had sat on for long. “After the training, I got motivated and I mobilized my fellow women and trained them in baking. We now bake different items and sell them to support our families, we have formed an association and now support one another.” - Chandiga

Haruna Mutabazi, an elder and resident of Rubanda District is giving towards improving the livelihoods of the Batwa community in his area, sharing his bee keeping skills for commercial honey production to provide income towards improving their livelihoods.

“Ever since the government evicted these Batwa, they got stranded, and they are our neighbours. Batwa used to eat honey while in the forests, this is why I decided to train them in commercial beekeeping so they can raise some money by selling honey both locally and beyond”
- Haruna Mutabazi.

After the Government relocated the Batwa community, who had long since lived in the equatorial forests of what is now the Mgahinga National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, and Echuya Forest reserve, their life became hard. From once living simple lives, the government edict prescribed that they now find their livelihood and survival in an economy and way of life controlled by money that they were ill prepared to deal with.

Nevertheless, In South Western Uganda, Kaboyo Secondary School has benefitted from the largesse of one of their teachers, Peter Kagamba, the Information Technology teacher. Following a government resolution to make computer science compulsory in schools, despite the lack of facilities to do so in some schools, Peter offered his own personal laptop for the use of the school; all soft copy documents of the school were saved on his computer, all school exams were typed and saved on his computer, students did the computer lessons on this one laptop. Consequently, the community rallied by their local organisation, Kabarole NGO and CBOs Association (KANCA) started fundraising towards a functional computer laboratory for the school, giving whatever they have.

In Fort Portal City, Isaac Mugisa, through his Community Based Organization – Humura Vulnerable Children/Youth Support Organization (HUVUCSO), is playing a vital role in mobilizing and inspiring his community to embrace local philanthropy. Isaac’s dream to start a vocational centre was timely and received a warm welcome from the community members. Recognising the benefit to their community, they contributed towards this dream with timber, sewing machines, and others offering their labour. Annet Kansime, a community member consequently offered her labour to freely train women (young mothers) in tailoring.

The challenge now remains as how to amplify the work of these; to recognise that the popular grant making schedules, requirements, and considerations that the civil society sector uphold, would frustrate rather than enhance such actions that directly respond to the development needs of these communities as determined by them.

Mindset change is a difficult battle to win, but not impossible. These stories of resilience as driven by individuals and their communities speak to the endless possibilities, if only communities are supported and allowed to lead their own development. Maybe the mindset change that is required here is not that of the communities, but rather of the ‘outsiders’, read development actors, who seek to prescribe for the communities what their development should look like based on their own idea rather than that of the communities.





Harambee Ubuntu: Re-imagining the Future of Pan-African and Feminist Philanthropy

In the heart of Africa, a visionary initiative has taken shape, deriving from a partnership between Urgent Action Fund - Africa (UAF-Africa) and Trust Africa. The Harambee – Ubuntu: Pan-Africa and Feminist Philanthropies initiative is a bold attempt to redefine African philanthropy, prioritizing local ownership and a vigorous resource infrastructure that supports pan-African and feminist movements.

With a collective grant-making experience of over 40 years on the continent, Urgent Action Fund—Africa and TrustAfrica deeply understand the importance of investing in sustainable infrastructure solutions to rejuvenate pan-African social justice movements.

Harambee~Ubunthu envisions an ecosystem of philanthropies grounded in pan-African and feminist values and principles, with shared infrastructure and mechanisms that connect and strengthen social movements by moving money and other resources in service of their efforts to advance justice and equity.

The initiative acknowledges the enduring resilience of African activists and movements, who remain true to their commitment to solidarity, collective responsibility, and determination to transform the continent’s narratives and uplift our stories.

The complexities and under-resourcing of crises in Sudan, the Sahel region, and other parts of Africa underscore the urgent need for readily available financial resources that can move rapidly based on transformative principles like trust.

In February 2023, the initiative raised more than 530,000 USD from Pan-African Scholars, Academics, activists, Feminists, and philanthropists, signalling a call to develop an endowment that would resource movements in the next ten years.

Within a remarkably short period, Harambee~Ubuntu has continued to attract the attention of more brightminds within the philanthropic landscape who believe deeply in the power of investing in social change. Their involvement in championing the cause is a testament to the initiative’s potential to drive meaningful change and impact.

The path forward involves deepening transformative philanthropic narratives and practices within a holistic framework, championing new partnerships, and reshaping the philanthropic ecosystem. The ambition does not stop here. The goal is to mobilise over \$25 million in new financial resources to support pan-African feminist and social justice movements. With the Hewlett Foundation already on board as a first grantor, the future looks bright as fundraising continues, aiming to create a sustainable and impactful legacy.

Harambee signifies pulling together, collaborating, and collectively working towards a common goal. Ubuntu represents the philosophy of interconnectedness, unity, and shared humanity. Harambee~Ubuntu affirms the rich history of African giving, rooted in solidarity, mutuality, and humanity.



#EmpoweringFeministMovement! #Amandhla! #HarambeeUbuntu #PanAfricanPhilanthropy #FeministPhilanthropy #SocialJustice



From Impossibility to Possibility, Local Philanthropy Yields Dividends in Ghana - WACSI

In Ghana, known as the gateway to Africa, domestic philanthropy is deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric. Rooted in the African philosophy of "Ubuntu," the act of giving is not merely a tradition but a way of life for the country's over 33 million inhabitants. A poignant example of this spirit emerged in 2019 during the tumult of the COVID-19 pandemic when the Ghanaian government swiftly mobilised GH¢51.54 million (USD \$3,881,119.56) from both individuals and corporate entities within the country to combat the crisis. These funds were instrumental in bolstering pandemic response efforts and mitigating the uncertainties faced by the populace.

The ethos of local giving extends beyond national initiatives to permeate community landscapes, where it serves as a catalyst for positive change. It has been observed to enhance livelihoods, address communal challenges, drive community development, and even save lives. This narrative sheds light on the remarkable endeavours of three organisations – Nyankonton Aid Foundation, GMI Global Vision, and Billa Mahmud Community School – each exemplifying the transformative potential of local philanthropy in Africa, epitomising values of compassion, solidarity, and collective action.

In the Ashanti region of Ghana, specifically in the Bekwai Municipality and AtwimaKwanoyama District, the livelihoods of 40 mothers have been significantly improved through the proceeds of local philanthropy. These women, who once relied solely on farming for survival, have acquired vocational skills from a community-led project implemented by the Nyankonton Aid Foundation, a locally-based organisation.

In this part of the country, farming serves as the lifeline for its inhabitants. However, the community has lost its green lands to illegal mining, with over 60% of their farmlands no longer able to bear fruit, plunging them into poverty and hunger. This situation has not only led to increased poverty but has also exacerbated issues such as teenage pregnancy, school dropout rates, and other social vices.

Concerned about these challenges, the Nyankonton Aid Foundation embarked on a journey to find alternative ways of improving the lives of people in this Municipality through a women's empowerment project. The project aims to train mothers in food preparation and farming, including mushroom farming, beekeeping, and snail rearing. However, the foundation initially lacked funds for the project and had to mobilise resources from the local community, leveraging fundraising techniques learnt from a resource mobilisation training facilitated by WACSI. Despite initial challenges, the community rallied behind the project, contributing GHS 147,000 in cash and kind by 2023, which brought it to fruition.

"We are delighted to have brought this project to life, and the overwhelming support from the two communities has been instrumental in its success," remarked Prince Afriyie, Executive Director of the Nyankonton Aid Foundation.

One beneficiary, Nyarko Jenifer, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I have truly benefited from the project. I have received training in soap making, cooking, and baking, which has given me valuable skills."

Similarly, in the rural enclave of Amanga in the Upper East region of Ghana, where agriculture is the lifeblood of over 800 inhabitants, a new dawn of economic opportunity has emerged, through local philanthropy. With the inception of a Basket Weaving project by the GMI Global Vision Foundation, a community-based organisation, this community now boasts an additional income stream beyond farming.

For the residents of Amanga, life oscillates between abundance and scarcity, mirroring the cycle of the seasons. While the rainy months usher in prosperity through farming, the dry spells cast a shadow of uncertainty, particularly felt by the women of the community. Faced with dwindling resources, many are compelled to seek livelihoods in urban centres, leaving behind fractured families and interrupted education.

Despite earnest attempts by local authorities and women's groups to diversify income sources, meaningful progress remained elusive. Recognising the dire need for intervention, the GMI Global Vision Foundation, took up the mantle to uplift Amanga's women and families. However, the dream of implementing a Basket Weaving Project seemed like a distant mirage amidst financial constraints.

Undeterred, the foundation seized an opportunity presented by a local fundraising training facilitated by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) in 2022. Armed with newfound strategies, they rallied the community, garnering GHS 6,700 in less than six months from the local people including traditional leaders and faith-based organisations. Witnessing the grassroots momentum, WACSI offered match-funding support of GHS 15,000, catalysing the project's fruition.

With a total of GHS 21,700 at their disposal, the GMI Global Vision Foundation launched the Basket Weaving Project, offering vocational training to women in Amanga. From humble apprenticeships to skilled artisans, the project witnessed a transformative journey, empowering over 100 women to achieve economic autonomy.

Samuel Azure, the Foundation's Executive Director, reflects on the project's impact: "Today, these women...have been empowered to be economically independent."

Among them is AwulaFrasimi, whose newfound skills have not only bolstered her confidence but also provided a stable income to support her family.

In her newfound job, Frasimi, a young mother in her late 20s, sells her crafts for twelve Ghana cedis (GHS 12.00) per basket. On her lucky market days, she could make a sale of over two hundred Ghana cedis (GHS 200). She uses this money to take care of her child and the family.

With each intricately woven basket, lives are transformed. Frasimi, now a proud provider, shares, "This brings me great joy...I no longer depend solely on farming." Indeed, the Basket Weaving Project stands as a beacon of hope, illustrating the profound impact of local philanthropy in fostering community resilience and prosperity.

But the ripple effect of local philanthropy extends beyond rural communities. In urban centers like Accra, underserved community schools like the Billa Mahmud Memorial Future Leaders School find themselves grappling with inadequate resources to provide essential ICT facilities.

Despite the ardent desire of over 300 young minds to explore the digital frontier, they face crumbling computers and a shortage of equipment.

"It has been a struggle for us. Sometimes, we are unable to have our computer lessons because we are many and the computer in the laboratory is small – some are even spoiled," lamented Charles Nketia, a basic two student, reflecting the sentiments of his peers.

Undeterred by these challenges, the school community embarked on a journey of hope, seeking ways to raise funds within the school community to renovate the computer laboratory. Yet, the road proved long and arduous.

"As you know, we target children living in the most deprived communities in Accra. Their parents cannot afford higher school fees, so it is hard for us to take anything from the fees to fix the laboratory for the children," noted Mabel Akpor, Headmistress of the school.

After several failed attempts, the school community realised they needed new fundraising techniques. Their turning point came in 2022 when they participated in a local fundraising training facilitated by the WACSI. Empowered by newfound knowledge, they devised a strategy to mobilise funds leveraging the Parent Teacher Association Levy (PTA) within their community.

In less than five months, the school raised Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 2000) from the school community. Recognising their resilience and efforts, WACSI provided match-funding support of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 10,000) to make their dream a reality.

With a total of Twelve Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 12,000) at their disposal, Billa Mahmud Memorial Future Leaders School wasted no time in breathing new life into their computer lab.

Today, the once dilapidated space has transformed into a vibrant hub of learning, teeming with excitement and possibility. Equipped with refurbished computers and new equipment, over 300 children are embarking on a journey of discovery, unlocking doors to endless opportunities.

"We are happy about these new computers because they will allow us to gain hands-on experience that complements what we learn in our computing class," remarked Priscilla Maamah, a basic two learner, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

For the teachers, the impact is equally profound. Adjei Erasmus, a computing teacher, said renovated computer laboratory will make his work easier and enhance learning outcomes.

"Now my students can practice whatever they learn and apply it in the digital world, unlike previously when everything was taught theoretically," he said.

From rural villages to urban centers, local philanthropy continues to catalyse positive change, fostering resilience and prosperity for communities across Ghana.

The success stories of Nyankonton Aid Foundation, GMI Global Vision, and Billa Mahmud Memorial Future Leaders School underscore the transformative impact of local philanthropy in Ghana. These initiatives showcase how grassroots efforts can address pressing community needs. One crucial lesson from these endeavours is the power of community mobilisation and ownership in driving sustainable change.

By engaging local stakeholders and leveraging resources within the community, these organizations were able to overcome financial constraints and achieve their goals. Furthermore, these stories highlight the importance of capacity building and knowledge sharing in strengthening philanthropic efforts at the grassroots level. Through initiatives like the fundraising training facilitated by WACSI, organisations gained valuable insights and strategies to mobilise funds effectively.

Moving forward, it is essential to continue promoting a culture of giving and solidarity within Ghanaian communities, fostering collaboration between local actors, civil society organisations, and government agencies. By harnessing the collective strength of communities and investing in local solutions, Ghana can further unleash the potential of local philanthropy to drive inclusive development and prosperity nationwide.



BLOG

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Par: Yangueral Ngarari

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The Transformative power of community-led development and local philanthropy in Malawi

How the innovative local fundraising efforts and resource mobilization driven by community foundations and supported by World Connect Malawi Organization, address various societal critical needs in Malawi.

The Case of Local Giving Empowering Education: The Luso Langa Scholarship Program

Tasneed Elias, a Banking student at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), embodies the transformative impact of local philanthropy on education. Hailing from Chipoka in Salima district, Tasneed is among the beneficiaries of the Luso Langa Scholarship program which is run by the Luso Langa Community Foundation.

For Tasneen, the scholarship has been instrumental in her academic journey, providing essential support for school fees and educational materials. With this assistance, she excelled in her Malawi School Certificate of Education exams, achieving an impressive score of 16 points and securing admission to MUBAS.

Reflecting on her experience, Tasneen notes; "I was fortunate to be one of the 29 students selected for the program, which not only covered educational expenses but also offered invaluable counseling, coaching, and mentorship. These resources helped me set career goals and navigate the challenges of adolescence."

The impact of the Luso Langa Scholarship extends beyond Tasneen, benefiting a total of 26 students, with 19 successfully passing their Malawi School Certificate of Education examinations. Another standout student, Quent Kuno, scored 23 points and earned admission to Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR).

As a community foundation, Luso Langa relies on locally mobilized funds to sustain its impactful initiatives. Canon Chenjezi, Executive Director of the Foundation, explains their approach.

"We organize various fundraising activities within our community. For example, we recently organized a number of gospel music shows where community members contribute cash at the door. We also operate a community chicken farming business. Additionally, we engage community members, including those in the diaspora, to contribute to our shared goals of development."

Beyond the scholarship program, Luso Langa Foundation has also undertaken infrastructure improvements, including the reconstruction of six teachers' houses at Chipoka primary school. Linda Msiska, the school's Headteacher, expresses gratitude for the initiative, highlighting the tangible benefits for both educators and students.

"The renovation of these houses has significantly improved the living conditions for our teachers, enhancing their ability to serve our students effectively. We are deeply grateful to Luso Langa for their commitment to our school community," Msiska remarks.

The story of Luso Langa exemplifies the power of community foundations in driving localized development initiatives. Unlike traditional NGOs, community foundations prioritize solutions that are identified and supported by the communities they serve and encourage community members to contribute assets and resources.

Through initiatives like the Luso Langa Scholarship, community foundations promote a culture of community philanthropy, empowering Malawians to contribute to their own development and fostering sustainable progress at the grassroots level.

The Power Community Action: The Story of Chikolorele

Residents of Chikolorele, a vibrant local community in Dedza district, have garnered widespread attention for their collective initiative to address a pressing need: the construction of a teacher's house at Golomoti Primary School. With only three teacher's houses for 19 educators, many teachers lacked proper accommodation, posing a significant challenge to education in the area.

The community mobilized resources totaling 4.2 million kwacha, comprising 1.8 million kwacha in cash and construction materials valued at 2.4 million kwacha. Facilitating this endeavor is Grassroot Action and Support Organization (GASO), a locally owned community foundation that has been spearheading philanthropic efforts in the area for the past two years.

GASO's approach involves engaging the community to harness local assets and resources to address pressing issues. Recognizing the urgency of the teacher's house construction, GASO collaborated with community leaders to prioritize the project and mobilize resources for its realization.

Group Village Head Chikolorele, also a GASO board member, underscores the grassroots nature of the initiative, highlighting the generous contributions from households, many of whom may not be financially affluent but are deeply committed to their community's well-being. Emphasizing the importance of local ownership in driving development, stressing the need for proactive community involvement rather than reliance solely on government interventions. The group village head point out that, In addition to door-to-door contributions, GASO organized a football Bonanza which had boosted our fundraising efforts. With eight local teams participating, the event generated approximately six hundred thousand kwacha through gate collections and donations. He qualified saying this shows the community's solidarity and support for the cause.

Justin Chimangeni, GASO's Executive Director, expresses gratitude for the community's trust and support, noting the transparent management of resources entrusted to GASO for the project. By empowering the school management committee to oversee the project, GASO ensures accountability and effective utilization of resources.

Supported by World Connect Malawi, GASO is one of six pioneer community foundations in Malawi dedicated to mobilizing resources and fostering collaboration with community stakeholders. Their model of community-led development exemplifies the spirit of community philanthropy and local giving, aligning with Malawi's broader goal of promoting self-reliance and inclusive wealth as outlined in Vision 2063, the country's development blueprint.

Chikolorele's proactive stance serves as a beacon of community-driven progress, demonstrating the transformative potential of collective action in advancing education and fostering sustainable development at the grassroots level.

When Local Fundraising Sparks Community-Led Drive

The spirit of giving is woven into the fabric of Malawian culture and ethos. From the tradition of offering condolences at funerals to the common collective efforts of congregations pooling resources for building communal prayer spaces, the ethos of communal support runs deep.

While Malawians have a long history of rallying together in times of crisis, such as the recent outpouring of support for cyclone Freid survivors, these efforts often address immediate needs rather than tackling long-standing developmental challenges. But amidst this backdrop, a beacon of hope shines bright in Mzimba district, where a community organization is catalyzing local giving for addressing community development needs.

Tikwenda Organisation, a grassroots initiative nestled within the embrace of Sub Traditional Authority Yohane Jere, is a Community Foundation that is advancing community philanthropy. Tikwenda embodies the local mantra "We are moving," reflecting the community's determination to chart its own course towards development.

Functioning as a conduit for community-led progress, Tikwenda is helmed by trusted local leaders. It therefore fosters dialogue across 17 villages, igniting conversations on shared socioeconomic challenges and pathways to progress, while mobilizing resources for tangible action.

This year, the community, spearheaded by Tikwenda, united to construct a new Agriculture Planning Area Office. Recognizing agriculture as the lifeblood of their region, locals rallied to donate locally available construction materials such as bricks and sand while others, including those in the diaspora, contributed money which was used to purchase other items.

In a creative twist, Tikwenda orchestrated a music festival, featuring two renowned artists who generously discounted their fees in solidarity with the cause. Even the airwaves joined the chorus of support, with a local radio station airing promotional spots free of charge. The festival was a success with the organization mobilizing nine hundred thousand kwacha in gate collections. Bolstered by unwavering support from local chiefs like S/TA Yohane Jere, Tikwenda's community-centric approach has garnered praise and momentum. Embracing this grassroots philanthropy, S/TA Yohane Jere lauds the initiative's potential to spur transformative change.

"I am very excited with these local giving models. For a long time we have always contributed towards events like funerals. But this model takes another step by addressing key issues that we are grappling with. I'm sure in three to five years we are going to achieve great things."

Looking ahead, Manson Soko, Executive Director of Tikwenda, envisions a future of self-reliance and holistic development. With a slate of initiatives on the horizon, Tikwenda aims to catalyze progress across sectors, from education to healthcare.

Tikwenda stands as one of six trailblazing organizations championing community philanthropy in Malawi, supported by the empowering efforts of World Connect Malawi. As the flame of communal giving continues to burn bright, the journey towards sustainable development for all is well underway.

CAFORD Fundraises for Community-Led Development

In the heart of Nkhotakota District in Malawi's central region lies Community Action for Development (CAFORD), a pioneering community foundation reshaping the landscape of development funding and implementation models. Originating as the Kapita Community-Based Organisation in 2017, CAFORD has since evolved into a registered entity, focusing on galvanizing community contributions to propel local development initiatives. Throughout 2023, the organization spearheaded critical projects in their area, including the rehabilitation of a health facility and the construction of two community-based care centers — all made possible through community-driven efforts.

In a bid to bolster these endeavors, CAFORD organized a series of fundraising activities, from a successful Football Bonanza to a well patronized Mother's Day bash, where mothers within their sphere of influence were treated to a special dinner.

The highlight came with a mock wedding event, drawing crowds of locals and stakeholders, including officials from the Nkhotakota District Council. Notably, the District Council Chairperson played the role of the groom, underscoring the council's endorsement of CAFORD's mission. Additionally, local community radio lent its support by promoting the event free of charge, resulting in a remarkable fundraising total of 1.8 million kwacha.

CAFORD's Board Chairperson, Leonard Mdechi, emphasizes the efficacy of community engagement in fundraising for development projects. He envisions a future aligned with Malawi's Agenda 2063, characterized by widespread grassroots involvement that complements government efforts.

"We're empowering communities to spearhead fundraising efforts and actively participate in project implementation. Given the limitations of government resources, community ownership of projects alleviates pressure on national expenditure, fostering sustainable development."

The success of CAFORD's initiatives, particularly the mock wedding fundraiser, has piqued the interest of neighboring communities in Nkhotakota, sparking a ripple effect of emulation and community-driven fundraising endeavors.

Collaboration with existing local structures such as village development committees (VDCs) and area development committees has been instrumental in ensuring the sustainability of CAFORD's projects. By leveraging grassroots participation, the organization strengthens community bonds and empowers individuals to shape their own destinies.

Through partnerships with entities like World Connect Malawi, which supports community foundations, CAFORD and similar initiatives are driving positive change at the grassroots level. World Connect Malawi Programs Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Daniel Chisoni hails Community Foundations as a tool for catalyzing impactful development projects, underpinned by principles of transparency and accountability.

"Through various training in local giving and resource mobilization, and knowledge building among communities, we have now capacitated six pioneer Community foundations that have embraced key principles of community philanthropy. We are also excited that the participatory action through activities of community foundations is fostering transparency and accountability which in turn is sustaining financial trust and longevity of projects as funds keep pouring in through various fundraising initiatives."

As communities across Nkhotakota and beyond embrace the ethos of local giving for tailored development, Malawi inches closer to realizing its potential as a self-reliant and developed nation.

Here is a link to photo-Audio Gallery with each image and audio clearly labeled:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VcrOrMEcBqRFdVNVpseMM0Wp6wUojUXd?usp=drive_link





Masebela Community: Building Hope Brick by Brick

In the heart of Zambia's Chibombo district lies Masebela, where, for years, this community grappled with the absence of accessible education facilities, forcing children to embark on treacherous journeys to distant schools. The Masebela community, faced with the tragic loss of a child due to the lack of nearby education facilities, united to construct a school. With the unity of residents, who contributed their own resources towards the school, and a partnership with the Zambian Governance Foundation for Civil Society (ZGF), they overcame challenges to provide a safer and more easily accessible learning environment for their children.

Hope is being built brick by brick as this community celebrates the successful establishment of the Masebela Community School, a beacon of resilience and collective effort. The school stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration and determination.

The Masebela community faced significant challenges, including the absence of accessible education facilities. With the nearest school located five kilometres away, children endured a treacherous journey to the distant Kalala school, a hazardous trek exacerbated by harsh weather conditions during the winter and rainy season, often risking their safety.

The catalyst for transformation came in 2010, when tragedy struck: a young pupil lost her life while attempting the perilous journey to Kalala. This heartbreaking incident served as a rallying cry, galvanising the community, its traditional leaders, and civic representatives to seek a solution. Determined not to let such a tragedy recur, the community resolved to build a school: Masebela Community School.

Headwoman Esther Kalubila vividly remembers the toll this took on the community, particularly its young girls, who often forfeited their education in favour of early marriages, underscoring the urgent need for change. "We could no longer accept the absence of a school. Our children needed an education that was easily accessible," she declared, echoing the sentiments of a community united in grief and determination.

The journey to realise this vision of building Masebela Community School was far from easy, but the spirit of determination and unity swept through the rural community. Residents, including Headwoman Kalubila, came together to decide on how best they would initiate the project.

The head woman explained that through the meetings held, the community resolved to fund the project themselves as they lacked adequate support from the government. A dedicated committee was established to oversee the school's progress and mobilise resources. Greenford Busiku, a community member, was appointed chairperson for the project.

"Each household committed to contribute some money – any that they could afford – to the project. Some even brought bricks to the project," she explained. "Headwoman Kalubila contributed a piece of land where the school would be constructed."

Construction of Masebela Community School began in early to mid-2023 after the committee eventually mobilised adequate resources to begin construction of a classroom block. Nevertheless, realising that they still needed a more strategic way to fund the completion of the school, the residents decided to seek external assistance.

The chairperson of the project, Mr. Busiku explained that they heard about ZGF's work in the neighbouring village of Mbongolo, as the organisation had been championing community-led development in the area. Inspired by the work of ZGF in Mbongolo, the people of Masebela sought a partnership with the organisation. ZGF introduced a Community Foundation as a concept that would pool resources and provide support for Masebela's development projects and initiatives. Seeing this need, the residents decided to form the Masebela Community Foundation. Greenford Busiku, who was then head of the previously established committee, later got appointed chairperson of the 28-member Masebela Community Foundation that would handle the completion of the school and address other projects in the area.

Mr. Busiku outlined the foundation's strategic plan, emphasizing the gradual expansion of the school to accommodate older students and the provision of essential subjects by dedicated teachers appointed by the community. "What makes this endeavor amazing is that the community did not just mobilize construction costs; they also contributed to teacher salaries," he stated. "To support our teachers, every parent pays K15 per child every month."

Benefits or changes realized:

Today, the Masebela Community School stands proud, providing education to 130 pupils from preschool to grade 2. The initiative not only addresses the immediate need for education but also mitigates safety risks because the children now have access to education closer to home, eliminating the need for hazardous daily journeys.

Moreover, the community's commitment extends beyond construction costs, as they contribute to teacher salaries, of which two teachers were appointed by the community members to conduct lessons in Mathematics, English, and Tonga, among other subjects. Parents' involvement through monthly contributions further underscores their dedication to their children's education.

Mrs. Majila, who serves as the Deputy Headteacher at Kalala Primary & Secondary School, the nearest school from Masebela, shared that Masebela community now having a school covering grades from preschool to Grade 2, is a step in the right direction.

She stated that she would welcome the older children with open arms and ensure that their education thrives until Masebela Community School expands.

Through the collective endeavours of the Masebela community and the establishment of the community foundation, the dream of building Masebela Community School has become a reality. Beyond the physical structure, it symbolizes the triumph of collaboration and the enduring spirit of community-driven development.

Racheal Mwila, the Operations and Philanthropy Development Manager at ZGF expressed confidence in the future of the Masebela community and their ability to create a better life for themselves and their children.

"The school is poised to become the community's legacy and a symbol of their resilience and commitment to providing a brighter future for generations to come. We are hopeful that it will also serve as a beacon of hope, inspiring other communities to act and invest in education as a catalyst for progress and transformation," she added.

The partnership with ZGF not only facilitates the completion of the school but also holds the potential for additional transformative projects, shaping the development of the Masebela Community.

A promotional graphic for the Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF). On the left, the text 'Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF)' is displayed in large, bold, black font. Below it are three bullet points: '* Supporting civil society & community-based organisations', '* Promoting community-led development', and '* Building the field of philanthropy'. A green button with the text 'VISIT US NOW' is positioned below the bullet points. At the bottom left, there is a phone icon followed by '+260 971 252 020' and a link icon followed by 'www.zgf.org.zm'. On the right side, a black and white photograph of four young children in school uniforms is shown. A circular graphic with the hashtag '#ShiftThePOWER' is overlaid on the photo. The background of the graphic is a light, textured pattern.

Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF)

- * Supporting civil society & community-based organisations
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- * Building the field of philanthropy

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#ShiftThePOWER



Sanitation Project Improves the Level of Hygiene at Kyambiti Primary School in Kitui County.

By KCDF Communication Team

Clean water and sanitation is listed as strategic development goal number six which was adopted as a universal call to action by the United Nations in 2015. Access to clean water and sanitation matters because it is a human right. For quite some time, the pupils at Kyambiti Primary School located in Katulani sub-county in Kitui County were not entitled to this human right as they lacked a proper sanitation facility with no access to water posing a major health risk.

Modern washroom facility at Kyambiti Primary School



Kyambiti Primary School, located in Kitui County, in the lower eastern part of Kenya, was founded in 1962 under the sponsorship of the African Inland Church (AIC). It is a mixed public day school which has over 200 pupils. The school is under the management of an 18-member Board of Management and has a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) committee that oversees the welfare and education of the learners. The current headteacher, Mr. Paul Muthama joined the school in 2020, and first on his agenda was to uplift the infrastructure of the school. "When I joined, the school infrastructure was not in a good state; classroom roofs were falling, there was a lack of water and as a result, pupils had to bring water from home, and in addition, the pit latrines that pupils used were in a very poor condition. Together with stakeholders and a team of the school's alumni, we saw the need to approach different bodies including NGOs, CBOs, and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for their assistance, and in our different interactions, we met with representatives of Kyeni Kya Kyambiti a local community-based organization", shares Paul.



Kyeni Kya Kyambiti community-based organization started operating in 2018 with four key developmental areas of focus including education, environment, community empowerment, and running a youth programme. Kyeni Kya Kyambiti's theory of change on education focuses its efforts on the impact of the education standard in the primary schools translating to better grades for the learners who then transition to good high schools and come back to the same village they schooled in as qualified graduates. This is the focus that made representatives of the Kyeni Kya Kyambiti organization led by the Chairman Dr. Ray Mutinda pay a visit to Kyambiti Primary School.

Dr. Ray Mutinda- Chairman- Kyeni Kya Kyambiti organization

“We went to the primary school and had a discussion with the teachers and noted a couple of areas that were affecting the performance of the school and interestingly enough sanitation was one of them. Very few people would imagine the link between sanitation and poor performance in the school.



Kitui is a hot area, and you can imagine learners going to a pit latrine made from iron sheets with an earthen floor. It stinks. After the learners attended to the deplorable latrines, they would not be confident enough to go back to class because the stench would still hover around them, especially the girls. Again, we noted that there were no facilities where the girls would be able to comfortably change particularly during their menstrual period”, explains Dr. Ray.

With this background, Kyeni Kya Kyambiti began to fundraise internally as an organization towards the construction of two modern stone-walled toilet blocks for girls and boys each with four toilet units that have a handwashing facility.

However, the funds raised were minimal and hence Kyeni Kya Kyambiti put down a proposal and began to look for partners who would come on board to fund the construction. Kyeni Kya Kyambiti submitted a proposal to Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) which was at the time running an open call for proposals under its Pamoja4change programme which is generously funded by KCDF's institutional partner Wilde Ganzen based in the Netherlands. The Pamoja4Change programme offers an opportunity for communities to take charge of their development by raising 50% of the funds needed for the project and KCDF matches the other 50% of the funds. Kyeni Kya Kyambiti's proposal to KCDF was granted at a total cost of Kes. 801,500 with the agreement that Kyeni Kya Kyambiti would have to raise the other half cost of the project at Kes. 400,75. This was after representatives from KCDF together with Kyeni Kya Kyambiti made a survey visit to Kyambiti primary School to ascertain the commitment to partner together in the project.

“We already had some seed capital upon KCDF agreeing to partner with us, and it became very easy for us to match what was coming but beyond that, we received quite a great amount of goodwill from the community, so it was very easy to mobilize the community members to bring in their materials in kind. I recall a community member who gave his 10-liter water tank to support the construction. We are also fortunate as an organization to have engineers and contractors amidst us and so we agreed that part of what we were going to give to the project is our technical expertise. One of our members headed the technical design work of the project and another one was the project manager. The workmanship was mobilized from the community making the whole construction process cost-effective”, explains Dr. Ray excitedly.

Part of the Parent Teacher Association Committee of Kyeni Kyambiti Primary School



A total of 103 parents that were mobilized by an eight-member Parents' teacher association (PTA) committee gave of themselves fully to contribute towards the success of the project. The parents offered to chip in the provision of sand, water, and ballast, and split labor roles as part of their in-kind contribution. The construction happened in June 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the challenges experienced were barriers in communication with some parents. However, the project carried on with the parents who were able to be reached via phone. 12-year-old Tabitha David is a grade six pupil who is aspiring to be a nurse. Tabitha shares her joy of experiencing the use of the new modern toilet.



Left: Tabitha David, Pupil- Kyambiti Primary School

“I did not like to use the old toilets that were made from iron sheets and had an earthen floor and yet there was no other alternative. The toilets were dirty and produced a bad stench.

Now, we are very happy to use the modern toilets as they do not stink. We also have a designated area where we can wash our hands. Amongst ourselves as learners, we have a duty roster to clean the facility every Monday through to Friday”, shares Tabitha.

Handwashing facility

Kyeni Kya Kyambiti representatives are glad that this initiative has made a difference in the learners of Kyambiti primary school. “They had never seen a water closet toilet and so you could see the joy in the faces of these kids as it was the first time they would go to a toilet and flush and even find a shower bathroom. That boosted their confidence, which is a keen aspect we were looking at as an organization. In terms of performance, we may not be able to tell whether it has improved out of this. Still, we would want to imagine that now going forward this confidence and the ability to access a modern sanitary facility is itself going to contribute to high morale resulting in more time dedicated to their studies”, shares Dr. Ray.



Although Kyambiti Primary School has made significant progress in improving the level of hygiene and sanitation, there are still some needs to be addressed. One of the most pressing needs is the lack of a library facility for the learners. Despite this, the sanitation project has had a positive impact on the school, creating a cleaner and healthier environment for the pupils to learn in. “If we would not have got this funding, I think the situation would have remained as it was. We appreciate that a remote area like this one was reached through the support”, says Mr. Muthama, the Headteacher.

The old washroom facility.



Parents, teachers, and pupils outside the modern washroom







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