



Africa Philanthropy Network

Voice and Action for African Philanthropy

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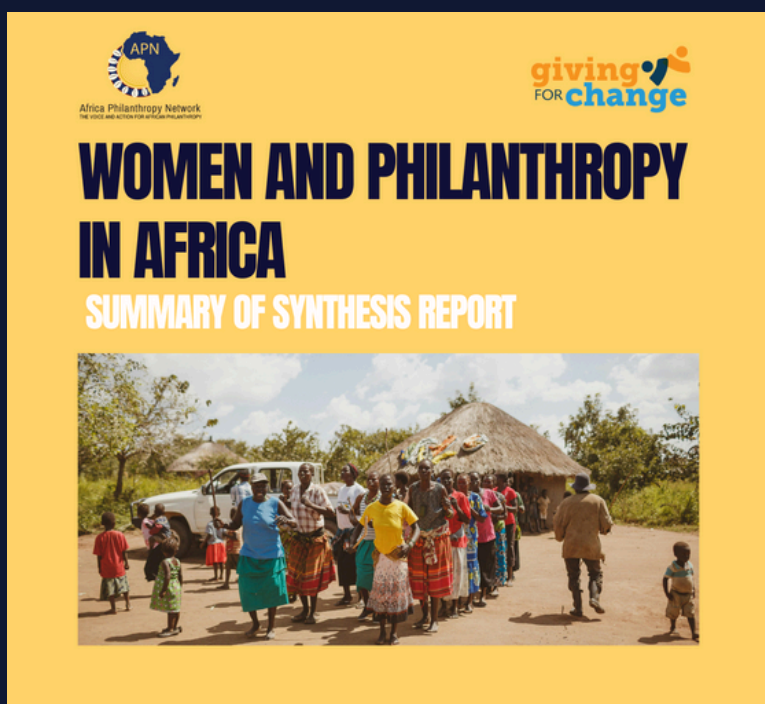
Celebrating Women in African Philanthropy

In this month of March, we are reminded of the incredible power of collective voice and action—especially in celebrating the remarkable contributions of women in African philanthropy. On March 8, 2025, we joined the global community in observing International Women’s Day under the theme, “For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.” This theme is a call to action, urging us to work together to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for everyone. It reminds us all that a feminist future—one where no one is left behind—is not only possible but it is within our reach. African philanthropy practices are uniquely positioned to realize this charge. Rooted in traditions of communal responsibility and shared values, African philanthropy provides an even stronger foundation for driving collection action and meaningful change. This is not just about giving back; it is about reimagining systems and creating structures that uplift everyone, particularly those who have been historically marginalized.

Dr. Stimata Tenga
Executive Director, APN

Research and Learning

Women and Philanthropy in Africa



The [Summary of Synthesis Report](#) on Women and Philanthropy in Africa that was conducted in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Uganda provides a better understanding of the context, trends and patterns underpinning women's philanthropy by focusing on the lived experiences and perspectives of African women.

It provides insights on the status, barriers to participation including policy environment, giving patterns, motivating factors, as well as key recommendation for unlocking more potential for women philanthropy.

African Philanthropy in the Age of Aid Freezes

In the month of January, the announcement of a freeze on aid from the United States has been felt across Africa, sending ripples of uncertainty through communities that have long relied on foreign support. This situation presents yet, another a critical moment for reflection, urging us to rethink our approach to development and consider the immense potential of African philanthropy as a strategy for transformative change and development of our nations. For too long, African countries have been trapped in a cycle of dependency on external aid, often dictated by the priorities of the donor. The recent aid freeze of USAid serves as a wake-up call, compelling us to examine how we can reclaim our power and agency. African philanthropy offers a promising avenue to catalyze national development while fostering self-sufficiency and dignity within our communities.

At the APN, we have been gathering stories showcasing the transformative role and impact African philanthropy practices from our members through the [State of Philanthropy Booklet](#). And, more narratives that highlight the value of African philanthropy are providing evidence that African philanthropy has the potential to drive community-led development. Read inspiring stories on [APN 'Simulizi' Blog](#).

Member's Corner

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Global Conference



We participated in the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Global Conference held in Naivasha, Kenya, from February 18-21, 2025 where our Executive Director, Dr Stigmata Tenga spoke in an eye-opening plenary session titled “Global Impact, Local Solutions: Funding

Indigenous Self-Determination and Leadership.” The discussions centered around the critical importance of empowering Indigenous communities through sustainable funding practices that enhance self-determination and leadership. Did you know that indigenous women constitute about 3% of the population in the world? One of the key takeaways from the Global Funding Trends from 2016-2020: about 28.5 billion was given in grants for women and girls, however, looking specifically at indigenous women we find only 392 million (1.4%) was given to organizations benefiting indigenous women. Follow updates about the conference #IFIP2025 .

Local Action: Local Leadership Lab

In case you missed it! APN is a Regional Convening Partner for the Local Leadership Lab (LLL), an experimental initiative by the CIVICUS Global Alliance. The initiative is aimed at addressing the barriers (political, technical, and behavioral) that hinder governments, donors, and other stakeholders from recognizing, enabling, and resourcing diverse local civil society groups as key development actors. The initiative supports radically inclusive spaces where local civil society groups can collaborate with other key actors and decision-makers to develop context-appropriate policies and solutions. Under this initiative we will be working in 2 countries: Uganda (CAPAIDS Uganda and FEMME FORTE Uganda) and Tanzania (APN Members). Learn more [here](#)

Upcoming Events

The African Social Movements Baraza



Trust Africa is set to host The African Social Movements Baraza, which will unite social movements from African countries to foster conversation, networking, solidarity, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing. This event offers a critical platform for activists, advocates, and change-makers to strategize on pressing social issues impacting the continent. Amid a global polycrisis marked by poverty, social polarization, environmental challenges, and geopolitical tensions, this gathering aims to address these complexities and drive collective action for Africa's development.

Register [here](#).

East Africa Philanthropy Conference

What happens when donor priorities shift and traditional grant models break? When economic uncertainty collides with shrinking aid? When governments tighten regulations, and communities demand more than just charity—real, lasting impact? Register for the 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference to learn about this and more.

Register [here](#).

