

APF QUARTERLY

AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY FORUM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

Conversations, Connections & Collaborations for Impact



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CONFERENCE
IN KIGALI

ABOUT AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY FORUM

African Philanthropy Forum (APF) was established in 2014 to build a learning community of strategic African philanthropists and social investors committed to inclusive and sustainable development throughout the Continent.

It was incubated by the Global Philanthropy Forum (GPF), a global network of strategic philanthropists and social investors committed to international causes from 2014 - 2016. In 2017, APF became an independent entity and continues to be an affiliate of the GPF.

Over the years, APF has established a stronger presence on the Continent, with footprints in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe through its convenings and initiatives. APF has also invested in the development of two volumes of the Toolkit for African Philanthropists and the "Why Give" Series, which consists of interviews with Africa's strategic philanthropic leaders to showcase their motivations for giving.

Since its inception, APF has reached over 2,500 philanthropists, social investors and key stakeholders in the philanthropic space across Africa and the world. Through APF's high impact convening and initiatives, the organization has facilitated collaborations, amplified the work of change makers and shared the best philanthropic practices and strategies for promoting homegrown development.

Our Mission

African Philanthropy Forum is a strong and vibrant community of partners who through their strategic giving, investments and influence, foster shared prosperity on the African Continent.

Our Vision

To transform the culture of giving on the Continent making it exceeds development aid by 2030. (USD 42bn FDA in 2017, source: UNCTAD Report).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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STARTPOINT: CONNECTING LOCAL NGOs TO RESOURCES NEEDED TO TRANSFORM AFRICA

In July 2021, a report on Disparities in Funding for African NGOs was jointly published by African Philanthropy Forum (APF) and The Bridgespan Group (Johannesburg Office). Through our work together, we sought to better understand the nuances within the African philanthropic ecosystem, surface the barriers facing African NGOs as they seek funding from both African and non-African funders, and share workable solutions that exist to unlock more funding for African NGOs.

A critical barrier to funding identified by more than 70% of local and international funders surveyed for the report is an inability to source African NGOs.

StartPoint

Building on the findings of the report, APF launched StartPoint, a platform designed to connect Africa's development sector by bridging the gap between donors seeking to fund credible African-led organizations and local organizations doing good.

Notably, via StartPoint:

- Funders will be exposed to a platform that enables



them to access and invest in credible local NGOs on the forefront of change in Africa

- African NGOs will be able to access a platform that gives them visibility and access to funders to catalyse their change efforts on the continent
- There will be an opportunity to facilitate strategic collaborations and pooling of resources by funders to support local NGOs and accelerate change in Africa



StartPoint at the Catalysing Change Week

The Catalyst 2030 Catalysing Change Week (CCW), the world's largest event led by social innovators and entrepreneurs, provided a unique opportunity for a live-demo of StartPoint in May.

Capitalizing on the theme of CCW2022 which was “Let's Re-Energize the SDGs” as well as the event's three catalyzing themes: Amplify, Accelerate, and Action, we hosted a session themed “Building Bridges for Impact and Launch of StartPoint.” During the session, panelists discussed the importance of a platform such as StartPoint and spotlighted other critical components for building a robust NGO sector across Africa.

In her opening remarks, Tsitsi Masiyiwa, Board Chair, APF / Executive Chair & Co-Founder, Higherlife Foundation highlighted that one of the critical barriers to funding is the inability of funders to find credible local NGOs. She noted a major feature of StartPoint is its ability to connect those who have resources with those who need resources to implement social change.

According to Oyebisi Oluseyi, Executive Director of Nigerian Network of NGOs, local NGOs need to strengthen their credibility features. This brings about transparency and aids an inclusive system of work planning process. He further shared insights on the essence of placing value on human resources responsible for driving non-profits. In his words, “Every business started with an individual but along the process, should be able to build a strong team. Donors must start investing in capacity

building in small, medium and large sized NGOs to scale in their social enterprise led interventions.”

Ndidi Nwuneli, APF Board Member and Co-founder / Executive Chair of Sahel Consulting emphasized the need for local NGOs to build trust and credibility. She also stressed the importance of visibility and amplification of their work to enable them to engage with key audiences.

Jan Schwier, Partner at Bridgespan Group highlighted the role of due diligence in access to required funding. He noted that some organizations that are identified for funding fail to make it through the due diligence review, and stressed the need to work with local NGOs to remove hurdles that prevent them from accessing much needed funds.

To access StartPoint or have your organization uploaded to StartPoint, please visit www.startpointafrica.org For easy access, organizations can be filtered by country, focus areas, years of existence or budget.

For questions and inquiries about StartPoint, please send an email to startpointafrica@africanpf.org

FEEDBACK

Surely there is an evolving shift ongoing regarding foreign donors' bias for INGOs doing all the work. USAID for example has a strategy for ensuring new local NGOs (partners) are driving the work being done while being supported by the INGO to execute and build their organizational capacity to 'receive funds' through the process.

Being part of the networks is key, and African NGOs need to be more organized and have the right systems in place.

Grassroot organizations are key in terms of addressing local challenges. They tailor made solutions to address challenges peculiar to a particular society. Interventions are specific and not generalized.

Also how can we work in partnership with communities, governments, private sector etc to ensure the funding is catalytic. I'd love to hear more when it's launched! Looking forward to sharing with our members at connective Impact!

ENABLING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

In the last quarter of 2021, we launched the African Philanthropy Podcast Series, a conversational and knowledge-sharing initiative that engages APF members as they share their experiences and impact to inspire others to take action.

January 2022 saw us expand on topics and guests who are supporting millions of people in communities across Africa in areas including economic empowerment, gender equity, food security, leadership, health as well as youth employment and engagement. Guests also shared philanthropic best practices that help move the needle on development in Africa.

Below are excerpts from episodes of the podcast series.

EPISODES

Advancing Opportunities for African Youth, Transforming Families and Communities



On this episode of APF Podcast Series, our guest was Reeta Roy, President and CEO of Mastercard Foundation and she shared the Foundation's strategy for empowering and upskilling youth in seven African countries through the Young Africa Works Program.

In addition to the Young Africa Works program, she highlighted other initiatives deployed which have enabled the Foundation's success in its operating environment. She also touched on the hurdles scaled and eventual impact made by the various initiatives. "Any organization, any foundation committed to working in Africa to support agencies and extraordinary leaders and organizations, especially those with young people, needs to make sure that they are also willing to listen, understand and ready to evolve and be present."

Charged with two mandates, advance the course of financial inclusion and prepare the young generation for the world of work, the Foundation has since recognised Africa as a continent to commit resources, energy and make impact on the youthful population, close the financial inclusion gap as well as improve access to education. Overall, the work of the Foundation has helped the young people of Africa create and access dignified work and thereby improve their lives and that of their families and communities.

Reeta highlighted that the rich African culture, values and structure of economies have been a learning curve to the work of the Foundation on the continent. Context matters and needs differ from country to country, hence, the need for multi-faceted strategy that is being deployed to help build strong, robust and vibrant economies.

Mastercard Foundation has been on the forefront of advancing opportunities for African youth, transforming families and communities in selected countries across Africa. In 2018, the Foundation launched the Young Africa Works strategy in Kigali, Rwanda, and set an ambitious target of enabling 30 million young people, particularly young women, to secure dignified and meaningful work by 2030.

Overall, the work of the Foundation has helped young people of Africa create and access work and thereby improve their lives and that of their families and communities.



...understanding the journey of the people she wanted to help and seeing firsthand the transformation of the young beneficiaries made philanthropy become a reality for her.

The Future of Giving: Perspectives of a Next-Gen Philanthropist

For the first time, we had a Next-Gen philanthropist as a guest in the person of Elizabeth Tanya Masiyiwa and she helped unpack the future of giving from a unique perspective.

She touched on how her childhood experiences have shaped her thinking and guided her philanthropic journey. Tanya also highlighted the role of education in changing lives and the transformational impact of investing in people. Beyond these, she spoke about the evolution of philanthropy and the energy Next-Gen philanthropists bring to the table while acknowledging the extraordinary leadership of the preceding generation.

She further highlighted the impact her mother and matron of the Higherlife Foundation had on her, helping her to understand the journey of the people she wanted to help and seeing firsthand the transformation of the young beneficiaries made philanthropy become a reality for her. Impacting the lives of people by the work being done as a family and as a foundation has enabled Elizabeth to tackle some of the complex problems that we see in our communities.

As a young philanthropist, Elizabeth shared about her capacity and the desire to pursue all the ideas she generates, especially with regard to education.

Tanya also shared lessons and challenges as a young woman navigating the space and provided insights into how young Africans can engage, thrive and achieve sustainable impact in Africa.



Transformative Mentorship, Youth Engagement & the Next Generation

On this episode of APF Podcast series, Mwende Mbevi, Executive Director of the Kenyatta Trust joined us for an insightful session and deep-dive into the operations and impact of The Trust. She covered the core values; service, leadership, integrity, justice and peace that The Trust instills in their student's DNA who in turn teach the importance of these values to their own families when the time comes.

The Kenyatta Trust's imperative is clear; to sustainably create opportunities for growth academically, morally, and socio-economically for the nationwide class of scholars admitted into The Trust each year. Helping to level the inequalities these youth face will compound over time to create empowered, visionary members of society who will be agents of positive change transforming more lives just as theirs have been here and now.

Mwende noted The Trust initially started with a handful of students who were about to write their National Examination and has over the years metamorphose into a force that motivates, educates and provides support not just for Kenyans in the formal education sector, but to the

general deserving youths, ensuring they are well engaged to excel and be the best with their diverse skills set.

Via the efforts of the Kenyatta Trust, Kenya's young population is yielding a huge dividend to the country as graduates of the various initiatives are now giving back in the capacity of mentors to current beneficiaries.

The Trust provides support to these young leaders because every individual that forms The Kenyatta Trust family will not only positively impact society but will have a story to share with their own children.



A Focus on Blood:Water

On this episode of APF Podcast Series, our guest was Nadia Kist, the Director of Africa Partnerships for Blood:Water. The conversation centered on the organization's goal, strategy and effects of leveraging local partnerships for sustainable impact in communities.

Nadia provided insights on community-based philanthropy which is the bane of the organization's work. Through outreaches and intimate knowledge of the areas where they work, Blood:Water's partners identify and empower local heroes to champion issues affecting the health of community members.

Most of the successes that have been attained towards mobilizing resources are attributed to communities and partners believing in the work of Blood:Water in Africa and the organization's job to ensure accountability and feedback on the impact being made.

More specifically, Nadia shared insights on the impact and central importance of grassroots organizations, communities and their initiatives in turning the tide on the HIV global epidemic which has driven the organization's message about a different landscape on the HIV epidemic, assuring communities of testing, treatment and prevention methods to help curb the spread. They also noted that provision of clean water, adequate hygiene and sanitation have a ripple effect on slowing disease progression and improving quality of life.

Blood:Water is an international nonprofit that partners with African community-driven organizations to end water & HIV/AIDS health disparities through organizational strengthening and financial support. Since 2004, Blood:Water has partnered with grassroots organizations in sub-Saharan Africa to join them in serving the communities where they work and to improve the health of community members.

Most of the successes that have been attained mobilizing resources are attributed to communities and partners believing in the work of Blood:Water in Africa and the organization's job to ensure accountability and feedback on impact being made.



ACT Foundation: Supporting Social Impact Across Africa' section

Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation is a grant-making non-profit organization established in 2016 to support local, national and regional non-profit organizations working to address challenges and associated vulnerabilities across the African Continent.

On this episode of APF Podcast Series, we had an exciting session with Osayi Alile, the Chief Executive Officer of ACT Foundation. She shared insights on the story of ACT Foundation and its pan-African impact. Osayi discussed the critical factors behind the selection of the organization's focus areas which are leadership, healthcare, environment and entrepreneurship, and their importance in implementing development programs that address challenges Africans are grappling with across the continent which require expert support.

...an indigenous organization that helps provide solutions and funding to local NGOs, this was more visible at the advent of COVID-19 with a drought of global funding when the Foundation stepped up its effort to support local NGOs

The Foundation aimed to be an indigenous organization that helps provide solutions and funding to local NGOs, this was more visible at the advent of COVID-19 with a drought of global funding when the Foundation stepped up its effort to support local NGOs. Osayi highlighted that a key feature of the organization's success is the drive to monitor and evaluate processes that work while improving on those in need of amendments.

As a trailblazer in the philanthropic space, she provided guidelines on the critical factors required to start a foundation and maintain sustainable momentum for far-reaching impact.



Economic Empowerment and Social Development

"When CSOs make an impact and partake in developmental issues, we notice a corresponding improvement in the citizenry, in particularly in healthcare, education, earning opportunities and rights."

On this episode of APF Podcast Series, we had an interesting conversation with Noura Selim, the Executive Director of Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD) on the topic: Economic Empowerment and Social Development. Noura highlighted the commitments made by SFSD to promote social inclusion and jobs as the base of comprehensive and sustainable development through Economic Empowerment, Increasing Access to High-Quality Education, Social Empowerment and Encouraging Artistic and Cultural Creativity.

Sharing the historical narrative of the Foundation, Noura noted that the Sawiris

Since its establishment, SFSD has focused on addressing the most pressing issues facing the most marginalized Egyptians such as poverty, unemployment, provision of health services and little access to quality education.

Foundation's founding executives desired to manage their philanthropic effort with the same accountability and prowess as obtained in business management, hence, the birth of a foundation that professionalized charitable giving and enhanced giving efforts beyond charity to bring about sustainability and impact in their philanthropic endeavors.

Working to mitigate the continent's compounding unemployment and poverty, efforts are being focused beyond charity to economic empowerment of the continent's populace by training, access to micro-loans and grants for small business and ensuring these businesses thrive even when the funding stops.

The Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD) was established in 2001 with an endowment from the Sawiris Family as one of the first national donor foundations in Egypt. Since its establishment, SFSD has focused on addressing the most pressing issues facing the most marginalized Egyptians such as poverty, unemployment, provision of health services and little access to quality education.



The stories of Africa's innovation, creativity and advancement show the continent is not the same way it was 50 years ago

Promoting Narratives that Matter

The stories we hear and share about Africa have a great influence in shaping not just what others think of the continent, but how and what we think and act on as well. The narrative is a major factor in shaping public opinion about events, news, and even developmental stories in Africa.

On this podcast session, we had Moky Makura, the Executive Director of Africa No Filter, an organization that supports the development of nuanced and contemporary stories that shift stereotypical and harmful narratives within and about Africa.

Despite the change efforts of international donors in helping uplift Africa in terms of access to better healthcare, poverty alleviation etc, the negative stereotypes and narratives that persist about the continent overshadow the change efforts, hence, the drive, in everybody's interest, to show that progress is actually being made.

The stories of Africa's innovation, creativity and advancement show the continent is not the way it was 50 years ago; however, the story of African brokenness, dependency and constant need for fixing seems to enjoy more coverage over the efforts and success.

Moky highlighted the lapses that have been identified and provided insights on the organization's efforts to change the narratives.



A Focus on Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropy

"I firmly believe that philanthropy is a natural extension of what Orbis and Allan Gray already do each and every day. Just as these firms strive to promote their clients' financial security and peace of mind, so too will Allan & Gill Gray Foundation strive to make a positive contribution to the common good. It is this holistic view of business entrepreneurship and the symbiotic relationship amongst all stakeholders—clients, employees, owners, and society—that the Foundation seeks to preserve."- Allan Gray.

Anthony Farr, the CEO of Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy was our guest on this episode of the podcast and he shared on the journey and evolution of the organization as well as the relationship between business success and its role in the operating environment.

...initiatives such as JASIRI are helping with the creation of value and purpose driven entrepreneurs in curbing youth unemployment. The outcome of these initiatives are sustainable job creation and meaningful employment for youths in the region.

Speaking on the evolution of the Foundation, Anthony reiterated the philanthropic work of the foundation can be traced to the very first business started by Allan Gray. Business being a force for good is a key framework that has been built in how the management runs the overall enterprise, dedicating a certain amount of resources to the transformation of the society. With the establishment of Allan & Gill Gray Foundation in 2015, the philanthropic activities pursued under the banner of Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies now have global reach.

Youth-inclined initiatives such as JASIRI are helping with the creation of value and purpose driven entrepreneurs in curbing youth unemployment. The outcome of these initiatives are sustainable job creation and meaningful employment for youths in the region.

The Foundation also provides targeted support for organizations working towards human dignity, equitable opportunity, and the public good. Its approach in assessing the purposeful leadership and long-term thinking of possible grantees and partners is consistent with what they have learned from the investment management businesses, coupled with citation for the human and personal nature of the work and its impact.

listen to all episodes of APF Podcast Series here: <https://anchor.fm/african-pf/>

PODCAST LISTENERSHIP DATA



GEOGRAPHY (TOP SEVEN)

In a world where celebrity appears to be the highest calling, where everyone wants to be a leader or an owner, management is often seen as a second-rate calling. For so many years I felt the same way, focusing my attention on the things that are prized by the world. Stewardship, however, the critically important role that Jesus outlines in several of his teachings (see Luke 12 and Luke 19) is an unfamiliar, even unpopular language in today's world, closer to the idea of management than leadership.

The Bible offers several inspiring illustrations of the meaning of stewardship: in 1 Peter 4:10 a steward is presented as one who is put in charge of the multiple possessions and property of another – one who is highly trustworthy. In the ancient world, this position was not only a great responsibility but a high honour in society. But when it comes to our finances, are we really leaders or stewards?

Those who have much wealth will at some point in time wrestle with the ownership of that wealth. Does it exist for my personal comfort and satisfaction, or is there a greater purpose for all that I have? Am I a steward of what has been entrusted to me, or can I do with this whatever I wish? Psalm 24: 1 teaches us that: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." In essence, God is the Owner of all things and we, His children, are called to care for that which is already His. We have the highest honour of being good stewards of all that is entrusted to us, whether it be children, households, talents, possessions, or wealth.

STEWARDING *Wealth*

Neil Hart



Any philanthropist or foundation that manages wealth must battle the issue of ownership. It is, in my opinion, the number one stumbling block to the healthy giving of wealth.

Philanthropy then is the management of wealth from the perspective of the steward, not the owner. But what are the principles and paradigms that we keep in mind when we steward wealth for greater purposes than ourselves? Beyond the principle I have outlined above, there are 3 additional paradigms that are of critical importance to good stewardship in philanthropy:

ARTICLES AND OPINIONS

1. Earth's resources

Let us begin at the beginning: stewarding our calling as Christians intersects with how we steward the planet's resources. In Genesis 1, God gives us our original mandate: to co-labour creation with him, to steward the planet, and to use the resources to create heaven's culture on earth. Genesis 1 and 2 use much stewardship language: being fruitful, filling the good earth, and using its resources to cultivate all that the Creator has entrusted to us. God wants us to use resources wisely. Genesis also uses many languages relating to rulership and reigning. Stewardship has a high calling of reigning over things in a benevolent manner where we create a culture of care and flourishing. Christians can sometimes be the worst of stewards of the earth, believing falsely that heaven is our ultimate home and that there is little need to take care of the earth. Nothing could be further from the truth. How we steward the resources of the earth determines how we are entrusted with the more that comes through our hands. God loves his creation and if it is important to him then it must be important to us.

2. Power

Philanthropy can do much harm when it is not stewarded in the correct spirit. Money brings with it the double-edged sword of power. When ego is not in check then power is wildly at play. Through pride 'we devolve from a desire to be great to a desire to be thought of as great; from a desire to serve the weak to a desire to be served by the weak; from a desire to save the world to a desire to have it' (John Mark Comer, Garden City: Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human).

Where does this wrestle come from? Galatians 5:17 tells us “For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other so that you are not to do whatever you want.” Basically, my soul desires things that are opposed to what the Spirit of God desires for me. Philanthropists must first yield their power to the will of God, working in humility with an attitude that asks ‘how can this money serve those best who need it most?’

At Mergon we have to constantly keep ourselves in check in this area. We distribute several millions every year and walk on the tightrope of power and humility. One of the things we aim to do is distribute finances in a servant-hearted manner. To measure this, we do a survey every year, asking our beneficiaries questions relating to how well we have served them. We present these findings without edit to our Board to keep us accountable.

Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24. This is especially true for those stewards of wealth. The power we carry must be crucified by the cross of Jesus along with everything else.

3. Legacy

Several years ago, there was a survey done with people over 90 years of age. They were asked one question: if you had your life to live over again, what would you do differently? There were 3 common answers which I find very significant and meaningful to this topic. They were: 1. To love more, 2. To reflect more, and 3. To leave a legacy.

Our only true legacy as those that steward wealth is not how much was given and to how many people, or how many people knew about us. Legacy is only ever about God's enduring Kingdom. It is, as the disciple John put it, fruit that remains into eternity. Pledge something greater than yourself, greater than your wealth. Something beyond yourself and your own abilities. What can you and your business resources create that is far greater than you? What will outlive you and reverberate into eternal realms? It is simply this: the growing Kingdom of God. As Dallas Willard often said, “The Kingdom of God is the best news on how to live on planet earth”. We have a unique part to play in it. Let us play it well.

Philanthropists must first yield their power to the will of God, working in humility with an attitude that asks 'how can this money serve those best who need it most?'

We have tried our best at Mergon for over four decades. As we steward our entrusted resources for the sake of His kingdom, God has continually exceeded our expectations – multiplying our resources, relationships, *and gratitude*, for greater Kingdom impact. Knowing we are the stewards, not the owners, has been the golden thread in the tapestry of our story.

The Mergon Foundation acts as a catalytic resource partner to kingdom-minded ministries who serve the most vulnerable and bring hope and restoration to communities across Africa and the Middle East. To date, the Foundation has distributed over \$55 million to hundreds of organisations.

For more information visit www.mergon.co.za.



CENTERING PAN-AFRICAN PHILANTHROPIES AMID THE SHIFTING GLOBAL SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER

- Halima Mahomed, Senior Fellow for African Philanthropy, Trust Africa &
- Ndanatsei Bofu-Tawamba, CEO, Urgent Action Fund – Africa

There is no question that we are living in unprecedented times. The past three years, marked by the onset of Covid-19, were an era on their own. While a global challenge, the notion of the pandemic as the “great equaliser” was a complete myth; indeed, it reinforced and deepened the existing systemic structures of violence and injustice, with disproportionate impacts on women, gender diverse persons, persons with disabilities, informal workers and people of colour.

The pandemic, along with global shifts such as the rise in prominence of anti-gender and anti-rights groups on one hand and renewed vigour of anti-racist, feminist and mass civic mobilisation on the other, all make for a unique historic moment for Africa. It is past the time for Africans to take charge of the challenges brewing on the continent and reset the agenda for what needs to be addressed, and how. One avenue that can help to bolster this is African philanthropies.

The term philanthropy is foreign to Africa, but the concept has deep-seated roots in the concepts of mutuality, reciprocity and solidarity, reflected in a multitude of everyday practices — giving from what people have in the present (not just from what they have left over). Think of African women sharing financial resources with each other and for communal growth through practices of *Esusu* within Yoruba culture, or the *Ukub* in Eritrea, where women in communities form a credit-based system

through money contributions, and discuss socio-political and socioeconomic affairs that affect them and their communities.

Then there is the *motho le motho kgomo* initiative in Botswana (loosely translating to one person, one cow), where locals and others contributed to the construction of the first tertiary campus; the productive asset sharing prevalent in agrarian societies; the thousands of elderly women who took on responsibility for a generation of orphans during the HIV pandemic in Southern and East Africa; or the multitude of communal support mechanisms that people use to carry each other in times of birth and death.

In Egypt, between 2011-2013, at the forefront of political attacks and with security forces attacking human rights defenders with impunity, youth groups capitalised on technological advancements in the country, using social media, SMSs and informal online groups to crowdsource financial and technical resources for an array of issues: medical relief, blood donation and for financial relief for survivors of violence against women on the streets and in private spheres.

Furthermore, African philanthropy is inspired by religious roots, with numerous examples of those in the Nigerian diaspora, of Muslim and Christian faith, engaged in transnational philanthropy and financing towards poverty alleviation in their home country. Both as individual and collective practical

demonstrations of their faith, they served as primary safety nets for many, when Covid-19 compounded already existing crises.

The leadership and initiative of ordinary people played the biggest part in mitigating the toll of the pandemic on the continent. Organised, but not legally constituted, these and many other practices embedded in daily life hold the shape of the kind of giving most prevalent on the continent. While these narratives do not fit into the Global North definitions of the term, they must first be centred when we talk of African philanthropy.

Over and above this, legally institutionalised giving fora have also emerged — in the form of community, private, corporate and high net worth (HNW) foundations — and these are increasing significantly. We note that there are important critiques to engage around the limited role of corporate and HNW philanthropy in addressing structural issues underlying injustice as well as critical conversations to be had on the origins of philanthropic money.

We are, however, seeing a small shift, with some HNW Africans playing an increasing role in addressing structural challenges on the continent. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's research on governance in Africa; the Raith Foundation's support for human rights groups in South Africa; Zimbabwean businessman Strive Masiyiwa, the AU's special envoy on Covid-19, who also headed the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, are some examples. Masiyiwa and other African philanthropists brought a diversity of African experts from public, private and social sectors into conversations to increase the capacity of the African manufacturing sector's response to Covid-19.

African philanthropic initiatives like these and civil society initiatives such as the Health Justice Initiative in South Africa have attempted to counter global socioeconomic, political and pharmaceutical architectures and systems that have designed an unsustainable reliance, which leaves Africa vulnerable to further forms of structural violence and exclusion.

The continent is making huge strides on crowdsourcing technology. BackaBuddy, a South African crowdsourcing platform, has raised over R325-million for charities and

individuals. The Kenyan open source platform Ushahidi, created in 2008 to respond to the rise in ethnic violence during elections in the country, has since been deployed 12 000 times across the globe, to track various crises. At a structural level, feminist philanthropies such as Urgent Action Fund-Africa as to Urgent Action Fund and the Africa and African Women's Development Fund are breaking barriers in advancing locally led and intersectional agendas on systemic change, while foundations such as TrustAfrica are working to ensure African narratives are advanced in global policy discussions, on issues like illicit financial flows and resource justice.

Despite these strides forward, there is a larger conversation that needs to happen around power, narrative and agenda setting. At the micro level, the majority of our formalised philanthropic institutions have imported philanthropic practices and systems from the Global North — our structures of engagement, funding, assessment and implementation of social interventions are modelled on bureaucratic systems that place inordinate hardship on those doing the work of social change on the ground, demand systems of accountability that centre funder interests and efficiency, and are not rooted in the priorities of those living the injustice; they narrow what is seen as the legitimate civic space. In short, these ways of working entrench existing power and inequity.

As African philanthropic institutions, we have not interrogated whether these structures are the most appropriate for our constituencies; whether they help or harm the work on the ground or critically examine what practices within these are mandated by our own laws; and what indeed we have flexibility on, but have imported a-contextually as “good practice”.

We are far from reaching the potential of our philanthropy and we need to reset and reframe the practices that shape institutionalised philanthropy on our continent. We also need to reset how we conceptualise the role of institutionalised philanthropy around rooted agendas and space for agency — shifts in practice must be accompanied by shifts in ideology on how change happens. This demands a casting off of colonial and Western legacies, narratives and practices to genuinely transform our institutions and platforms.

At a macro level, recent times have painfully exposed the current state of African philanthropy in relation to who owns the pen in framing continental and global narratives and agendas on social change. The current neoliberal, North-to-South development and philanthropic agenda-setting processes have led to an undermining of issues, priorities and power within the continent, and have in fact been a significant barrier in reducing inequalities and decolonising existing power dynamics. In fact, too often, these have actually deepened the status quo.

While the onset of Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests brought about significant attention to some of these agendas — and indeed we have seen a raft of philanthropic and international aid conversations revolving around decolonisation, localisation, “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” and power — the narratives underlying these conversations are often being curated by those who hold money and power, and we are being forced to participate in conversations not of our own design. This inherently limits the scope and extent of the fundamental transformations that are needed in the development and philanthropic sectors.

It is time for African philanthropies to disassociate from the dominant narratives, and assert narratives of change that are owned by us and meaningful to our context. These narratives must centre on organising our power. We can no longer look at transformation of philanthropic and development agendas in a framework where we are at the mercy of those who hold power to determine what power is shared, decolonised or localised, and the extent to which this translates into practice. It is not enough to be invited into conversations by power holders, in their spaces, using their narratives, on agendas that have already left the station.

For African philanthropic narratives and agendas to influence the global discourse, several things need to happen. We need to take ownership of shaping our own agendas and narratives on power — the lead taken by feminist funds in Africa are great examples of this. We need to organise power in ways that local movements, communities and activists who bear the brunt of inequality, discrimination and erasure of voices lead the agendas of transformation.

We must strengthen intellectual and practical knowledge bases, but within grounded narratives that value and legitimise philanthropy as much more than money. We must support African philanthropic infrastructures to champion and amplify multiple voices and narratives of African philanthropies, and advocate for a broader enabling environment that strengthens the impact of individual and institutional giving practices without harming them.

We must demand pan-African philanthropic fora that decentralise money as a source of coercive power, and root power in people as primary agents of what change is needed. And finally, African philanthropies need to come together to collectively set our own agendas and frameworks — and not only within our niche or individualised circles of influence. A collective pan-African voice is vital to position a counter-narrative that roots power and agendas within us, on the continent. We have for too long only aimed to raise uncomfortable conversations on these issues, but discomfort is something you can live with while still perpetuating the status quo. True transformation requires we go far beyond discomfort.

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but within grounded narratives that value and legitimise
philanthropy as much more than money.**

APF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nyimpini Mabunda has been appointed as a Board Member of African Philanthropy Forum with effect from 21 March. Nyimpini Mabunda is the CEO for Southern Africa at General Electric. He has a 25+ years background leading major consumer goods, food franchise, and telecoms businesses across Africa and the United Kingdom. Prior to joining GE, he fulfilled roles at the Country/Divisional CEO level for two major multinational businesses – Vodafone/ Vodacom and Diageo.

His expertise in strategy, marketing, sales, digital transformation, data analytics, business turnaround, private equity, stakeholder management, and market development define him as a well-rounded leader who has an impressive track record of driving results and talent development.

Nyimpini is a recognized industry leader who sits on a few external boards as non-executive director and chairman. He is also a former senior advisor for Boston Consulting Group (BCG) where he assisted the partners to build the business in Technology, Media, and Telecom (TMT) and Consumer Good Practices across sub-Saharan Africa. Nyimpini who holds an MBA from the University of Cape Town is a regular speaker and panelist at industry events, some highlights include his role as a judge and panelist at the Stanford University's Africa Business Forum start-up initiative, emcee at the



NYIMPINI

official Nelson Mandela Memorial in Uganda, and moderator at the ILLA Africa lawmakers conference.

More recently Nyimpini was appointed Chair of U.S. Chamber's U.S.-South Africa Business Council, the premier Washington-based business organization dedicated to the economic relationship between the United States and South Africa. The Council represents America's leading companies doing business with South Africa, and it is comprised of senior executives of U.S. companies from every sector investing in South Africa.

His leadership and board experience will be an asset to the organization as we continue our work to elevate the visibility and capacity of the nonprofit sector.



AFRICAN PHILANTHROPISTS CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

The 2022 APF Conference will be held on 24 and 25 of October in Kigali, the city of a thousand hills. In the last two years, our community and network have grown and enabled us to make resounding success in our impact on the continent; this year's gathering will be an inspiring mix of talks, workshops, and sharing of unique experiences with other key players in the philanthropy ecosystem.

Over the course of two days, approximately 150 philanthropists, social investors, high-net-worth individuals, corporate foundations, and thought leaders will discuss, explore, and proffer solutions to systemic issues on the African continent. This year's theme "**African Philanthropists Closing**

the Gender Gap" is geared towards engendering principles, practices and policies to help accelerate the achievement of gender parity. This will culminate in the launch of the **Gender Fund** initiative, a program aimed at transforming and creating opportunities for women and girls to exercise their power, agency, and leadership at all levels.

It is an opportunity to connect with Africa's largest community of stakeholders in the development sector thereby spurring collaborative actions that will solve problems and move the needle toward the Africa we want.

To be with us in Kigali on the 24 and 25 of October, please register via the link <https://africanpf.org/apf2022/> or send us an email at conference@africanpf.org for more information.

THANK YOU





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