



Giving for Change Program APN's Half Year Update

The Giving for Change alliance is spearheaded by an international consortium comprising the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and Wilde Ganzen Foundation (WG). This report is a reflection of the work of the alliance over the last six months, articulating the milestones and achievements, as well as highlighting the challenges and lessons learnt. It is envisaged that the lessons learnt will contribute to informing programming interventions in line with the objectives of the alliance.

1) Have there been any changes in the context?

The challenges brought about by the COVID19 pandemic in the last two years contributed to a major drawback in alliance members engagement. The global relaxation of travel restrictions enabled APN to resume partnerships with alliance members and other pan-African organizations in organizing peer learning, providing technical support on policy environment and the philanthropy agenda, as well as coordinating networking events. Over the last few months, APN successfully organized face to face events, co-created convenings with other pan African organizations and participated in several events that were organized in person and in hybrid by NAIs, its members and other partners.

2) Highlight of Key results (results can also include changes you are observing now as a result of interventions undertaken in the first year)

APN set out to undertake a number of significant activities, in line with its role within the GfC. Below is a summary of the key results activities planned and implemented during the half year:

2.1 Reinforced African philanthropy through systematic mechanisms for peer learning, knowledge generation, and networking.

- Women and Philanthropy: finalized the study that was done in collaboration with NAIs in six countries (Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia). And, further conducted the synthesis and produced a Synthesis Report. All draft reports are set to be branded and will be shared during the 3rd quarter of the year.
- African Philanthropic Giving: the documentation of two giving practices: (i) Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), and (ii) Corporate Social Investment (CSI) is underway. ToRs developed and shared with NAIs for review and country adoption. We plan to undertake the research two GfC program countries (Ethiopia, and Uganda). We will also document South Africa practice for learning purposes. South Africa has advance laws supporting CSI and the practice is progressing with CSAs accessing funds from businesses for their social justice work, though not without limitations.

- Youth Inclusion in Philanthropy: APN continued to amplify the voice of young people who participate in the development of community philanthropy and social investments. We conducted interviews with [Sophie Safi Mambo](#) from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) about generosity as an important value in promoting philanthropy; [Daniel Haule](#) a 2018 winner of #MyGivingStory” a competition that was run by the Giving Tuesday in Tanzania and current Chair of the South African Youth Forum (SAYOF). [Elias Mambo](#) shared about a youth led initiative in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) in Malawi, and [Eliane Mbende](#) a young Dentist from Cameroon who is leading the Cameroon Youth Voices Chapter.

2.2 Networking and Collaboration to increase narratives and promote the practice of African philanthropy

Key results during half year include the following:

- APN continued to disseminate the 2022 Assembly messages and information through its social media platforms.
- The National Advocacy and Influencing workshop held in Johannesburg South Africa from 28 – 31st March inviting GfC implementing family members. The workshop had objectives of creating a common understanding of the status quo, and agree on the roadmap for the GfC partners to collectively influence an enabling policy environment and enhance inclusion of the marginalized communities in transformation work. Some photos and images from workshop session are found [here](#).
 - CSO's week 2023 in Ethiopia: The conference was organized by the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations' Council (ECSOC), in partnership with the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSOs). During this event, our partner The Development Expertise Centre (DEC) hosted a session on “Localization of Aid” which invited USAID, other bilateral donors and INGOs to hear from CSOs on what systems and mechanisms need to be in place for the CSOs in Ethiopia to champion the agenda. DEC received a “Certificate of Recognition” from the Government of Ethiopia for their contribution in the development of communities.
 - Youth voices and participation in accelerating Africa Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): The Agreement is an important initiative of the 2063 Development Agenda for Africa. There is a realization that the Agreement is lacking a framework and infrastructure to facilitate meaningful youth participation. APN collaborated with youth networks and selected pan-African organizations to organize for young people 2 regional meetings in [Southern Africa](#), and [East Africa](#) to share their views of what is working well, what are the gaps for their true participation and what is it that the youth themselves, national Governments, Regional Economic Bodies (RECs) and the African Union should do to ensure there is an enabling infrastructure. The planning for [West Africa](#) conversation is underway. The outcome of the conversations, is now being analyzed into a “White Paper” to enable dialogues to take place targeting policy actors and decision makers.
- Collaborate to co-create and promote philanthropy voice and action: this intervention is aiming to the importance of developing a collective position on the fundamentals of our own narratives of philanthropic action and change.
 - Pan-African and Feminist philanthropy initiative: a meeting held in Naivasha February 2023 on reimagining pan-African and Feminist philanthropies aiming to building solidarity for a transformational agenda; and launched in June at the African Union Commission in Ethiopia

- East Africa Philanthropy Conference: dissemination the findings of the Legal Assessment Baseline Study conducted in 10 countries aiming to create public awareness.
 - 4th African Philanthropy Conference: planned to discuss the future of African philanthropy and the policy and regulatory framework for it to thrive.
 - GfC Learning Workshop: contributing to the strategic co-creating of the workshop.
 - Co-hosting WINGS Forum: APN is co-hosting the forum in Africa, and therefore involved on all aspects from the overall planning, program design, coordination of the host of committee, etc.
 - Global ShiftThePower Summit: APN is participating in the advisory committee for the planning of the summit.
- Showcasing Philanthropic Practices: three activities have been implemented.
 - A learning webinar was organized inviting all year 2022 grant partners to share their lessons, the showcased stories of change and suggest what can be done differently by APN to further promote community philanthropic practices and facilitate policy environment.
 - 2023 Essay Contest: APN continued to host essay competition for youth aged 18 – 35 across the continent. This time the theme was “African Philanthropy Practice in the Age of Ongoing Climate Change.” A total of 68 submissions were edited with independent media team to select 5 winners. The winners were announced and invited to share their stories at a TwitterSpace. The five winning essays can be accessed on [APN 2023 Essay Booklet](#).
 - We continued to collect commissioned stories on the role of African philanthropy. During the six months we have published 16 stories in our [Simulizi Blog](#).
 - In March a 2023 Call for Proposals was launched. We received 52 applicants from 14 African countries and one from the global south. The proposal has been carefully reviewed, and by the time of this report, at least 14 catalytic grants have been awarded. Others potential proposals were returned to applicants with comments for improvement. We are hoping to issue all grants awards on the third quarter.

3) Domain 2 (if applicable to your organization): What are the most important results you’ve seen in the past six months? What are you most proud of?

- APN has been able to improve the systematic mechanisms for peer learning, knowledge generation, and networking. We see this on the increased capacity to organize and co-create event (both on line and in person), and data collection by finalization of researches which were pending;
- We have increased the number and spaces for youth to participate, share knowledge and identify gaps in policy; and
- Very proud of our enhanced ability to network and collaborate in promoting the narratives and promote philanthropic practices. This is done through catalytic grants, co-creation of convenings and presenting the work at different levels.

4) What have you learned regarding your approach and activities? Either from results achieved or efforts that did not work?

We are expecting to learn further from the ongoing MTR. Below is the list of key lesson learned this far:

- A need to put deliberate efforts in creating spaces for peer learning and collaboration among NAIs and between NAIs and Consortium partners.
- It is important of documenting the voice and policy determinations of people in Communities of Practice (CoPs).

- In order to achieve the program intended lobby and advocacy outcomes, there is a need for the NAIs to establish meaningful collaborative arrangements with the like-minded organizations at national level including existing CSOs and networks, the media, private sector, the parliament, just to mention a few.
- A need to refer to the baseline study findings and benchmarks in reporting evidence informed progress, cannot be over emphasized. MFA indicators that GfC partners have agreed to track must be known and well interpreted by each organization, and reported on.
- Space for CSAs, especially human right defenders and activists is closing. Given the importance of ensuring voices and participation these actors and other marginalized communities in community development – we need to think of effective strategy to enhance their inclusion and gender equality in all program activities.

5) Have you gained new insights related to the higher-level objectives of this work: transforming how development is done, enhancing community-led development, social inclusion, gender equity, changing power dynamics, respect for human rights by governments etc.?

- a. Enhancing community-led development, through:
- The ability to recognize and make use of progressive laws, regulations and policies in all programme countries which enable the formation of associations, philanthropic giving, and resource mobilization.
 - Realization that some aspects in legal instruments may not necessarily require amendments, but rather mass awareness and education through joint lobbying and advocacy initiatives.
 - Appreciating the relevance of context as noted (during the advocacy and influencing workshop in Johannesburg) around community philanthropy; gender and inclusion to facilitate the enabling environment; and use of remaining 2.5-year period by all NAIs to enhance their national level efforts in policy advocacy and influencing.
- b. Respect for human rights: through the influence of NAIs on development initiatives and promotion of community philanthropy and power dynamics. Inclusion and involvement of diverse groups, communities and civil society in influencing and advocacy priorities interventions. NAIs can make use of and leverage the existing CSOs and networks with capacity and interest to push change in certain issues, themes or sector policies.

6) What challenges are you facing? Do you have any questions or topics you'd like to discuss with the other NAIs?

Shrinking civic space and legislation which do not support the growth of CSA resources and community philanthropy, remains a challenge that requires collective effort. The legal environment and space for civil society in program countries remains narrow. Through various conversations with NAIs, APN acknowledges the limited. Yet, we believe meaningful collaborative arrangements between NAIs and the key stakeholders' groups at national level, will maximize existing progress and enhance our advocacy and influencing outcomes.

7) Do you already have thoughts/ideas on the focus for next year? Any changes or new activities you would like to include?

APN plan to continue with the collaboration with NAIs, with intensive focus on:

- National level organizing and philanthropy/shifthe power platforms

- Deepening and intensifying the information and narrative about social justice philanthropy, gender and inclusion in the program implementation at all levels.
- Enhance the aggregation of data, learning and knowledge management capacity so as to increase its relevance as a go to platform for knowledge about African philanthropy.
- As we start to implement our 5 year strategic plan, APN will leverage on the GfC partnership and resources to foster its institutional and financial sustainability.

8) Are there any other things you would like to share?

APN appreciates and acknowledges the Program approach as it promotes the potential for domestic resources and recognition of community philanthropy as central development strategies. These are vital in APN mission and remain part of its core mandates.