

philanthropy 
FOR **development**

The Philanthropy And Foreign Aid Nexus

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**Giving
For Change
Alliance**



The Philanthropy and Foreign Aid Nexus
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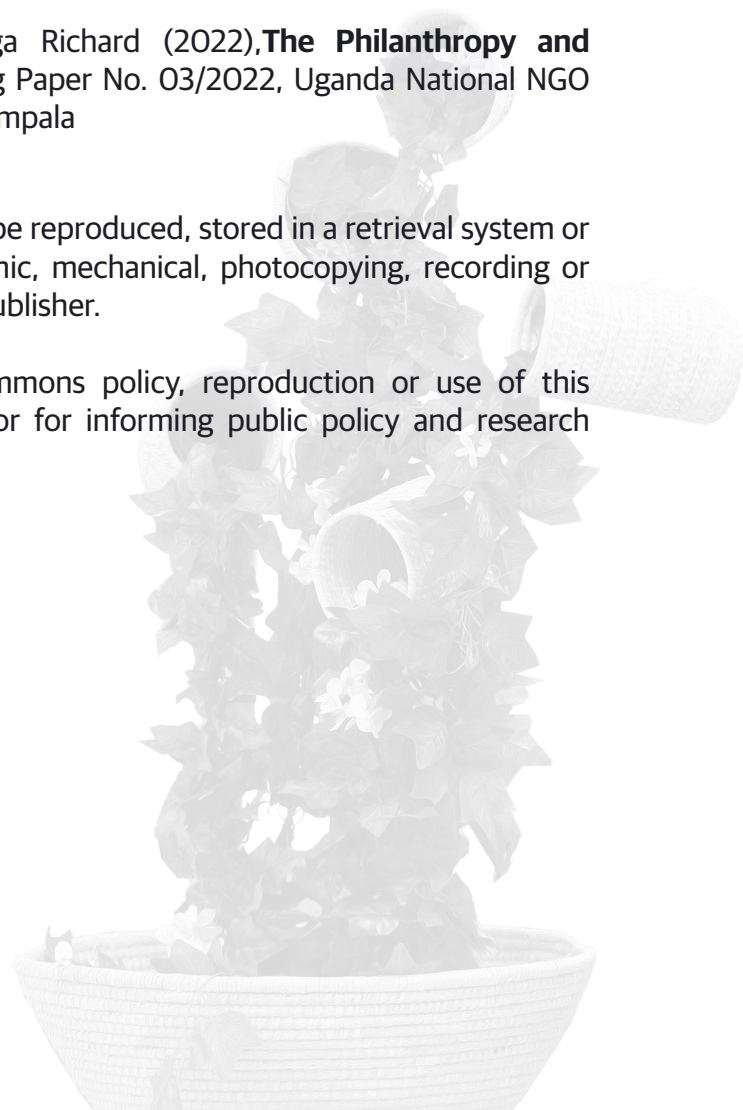


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01 Introduction

“We acknowledge the added value that philanthropic foundations bring to development co-operation. In particular, we welcome the voluntary Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement developed in conjunction with the OECD Network of Foundations Working for Development and encourage continuous multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-operation as appropriate to foster their implementation and follow-up” (Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation Communiqué, 2014, paragraph 17)¹

The statement above was part of a 'path-breaking' communique of the Global Partnership for Development Cooperation (GPEDC)². For the first time in decades of discussing aid and development, the word philanthropy was being used in an official international aid policy document.

This paper attempts to explore the nuances around the evolution of aid/development cooperation³ and philanthropy in Africa and the possibilities of leveraging a progressive relationship between the two forms of giving in development work. It should be noted at the outset that philanthropy and development aid have existed for quite some time as tools for financing and supporting development. While the story of philanthropy dates back to the Greek formulation of philanthropy as 'love for humanity' and the seminal works of influential capitalist like Andrew Carnegie in his article the 'Gospel of Wealth';⁴ philanthropy has significantly evolved. In its numerous historical epochs, philanthropy has been posited as a tool for addressing the social deficits in society by helping the poor, contributing to social causes and many such interventions.⁵

The discussions in this paper will not focus on the whole array of philanthropic practices but will restrict the discussion to philanthropic foundations that play a 'macro-role' in development cooperation and development financing. Our definition will therefore be restricted to the OECD formulation that defines philanthropic actors in development cooperation as;

*independent, non-state entities that associate private resources and deploy these through funding or by running their own programmes to advance social, cultural, economic, environmental, scientific and other public good purposes at the local, regional and/or international levels under a defined legal status.*⁶



02 *Origins of Foreign Aid* or *Development Cooperation*

Foreign aid – to which these philanthropic actors contribute to can also be understood as a governmental tool used to support countries with economic deficits that cannot be met by local resources alone. Foreign aid traces its origins to the Marshall Plan.⁷ The Marshall Plan, also known as the European Recovery Program was a U.S. program providing aid to Western Europe following the devastation of World War II.⁸¹ This was a 15-billion-dollar plan that was famed for reconstructing cities and other infrastructure destroyed by the World War II.

In a sense the Marshall Plan was intervening in societies in Europe to relieve suffering just as philanthropy has for decades intervened in societies around the world to relieve suffering. One would therefore have imagined some point of convergence in the delivery of philanthropy and foreign aid over the years. However, a loud silence in the two practices has for long been in place. A policy dialogue between the two giving practices is barely a couple of decades old.



03

Uganda

and the philanthropy-aid nexus

In Uganda, policy dialogue between these two giving practices is absent. This paper is therefore a contribution to the policy analysis work that is exploring questions around the philanthropy-aid nexus primarily in Uganda with some references to the continent of Africa. There are several interesting perspectives that emerge from focusing on the continent of Africa and Uganda that could be helpful to both country level, continental policy making and global policy on aid and philanthropy.

The Charity Aid Foundation World Giving Index Statistics indicate that in the top 10 countries that give most in philanthropic activities, Africa has four countries represented. These include Kenya in 2nd place, Nigeria in 3rd place, Ghana in 6th place and Uganda in 8th place as shown in the figure below from the World Giving Index⁹:

At the same level when one looks at the data of countries that receive most philanthropic giving, Africa also leads the way. A survey by the OECD shows that Africa received the largest share of philanthropic giving (USD 6.6 billion, 28%), followed by Asia (USD 4.1 billion, 17%), Latin America (8%), Europe (2%) and Oceania (0.12%). Of this over two-thirds of agriculture giving (69%) was allocated to African countries, predominantly with Uganda (5%), Ethiopia (8%), Tanzania (8%), Nigeria (6%), and Rwanda (5%).¹⁰

Figure 1: Most Generous Countries in the World.

The world's most generous countries

Figure 1: Highest scoring countries in 2020



Source: CAF World Giving Index 2020: A Global Pandemic Special Report

Figure 1 shows that the biggest philanthropic funders are led by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's whose giving constitutes a significant share of giving to Africa (49% of the Africa total). Official development finance explicitly directed to Uganda has grown over time - from USD 1.7 billion in 2010 to about USD 2.2 billion in 2019. Since the approval of the SDGs in 2015, official finance is distributed across 2,988 new development interventions per year, 89% of which are limited in volume (less than USD 1 million).

Figure 2 below shows Official Development Finance by donor partner to Uganda.

1 Official development finance, by development partner:

	Total ODF (million USD, commitments)		
	2010-14	2015-19	% ODA
World Bank	1840.7	3482.4	56%
United States	2174	3285.6	99%
UN agencies	684.9	1574.1	70%
United Kingdom	549.6	1550.5	100%
African Development Bank	584.8	912	55%
EU institutions	427	727.2	100%
Global funds and initiatives	263	612.54	97%
Islamic Development Bank	550.4	608.3	11%
Japan	521	576.3	100%
France	180.4	561.4	84%
Germany	400.5	492.1	89%
Sweden	171.9	300.8	100%
Denmark	400.2	210.5	100%
Norway	429.2	196.8	98%
Netherlands	173.1	156.1	100%
Ireland	214.8	134.7	100%
Korea	77	114.2	100%
Belgium	123.6	102.4	97%
Other MDBs	25	91.4	78%
Canada	48.7	85	100%
Iceland	13.8	28	100%
Other bilateral partners (21)	200.7	180.1	100%

Source: OECD (2021)

These contradictions relating to 'giving' and receiving are instructive in as far as they indicate differences in how aid and philanthropy live together in the world. On one hand we see Uganda being one of the countries that 'give' most in the world - among the top 10 and is also among the top ten recipients of aid in Africa and with significant volumes being given to Uganda as shown on Figure 3 below in 6th position as a recipient of ODA.

It is apparent that there are significant aid flows to Africa as well as large amounts of philanthropic flows especially by foundations from the global north and yet we also see significant levels of generosity happening within Africa. These contradictions are not accidental. They are rooted in a long history of foreign aid and the realities that emerged from the post-colonial development models and choices that Uganda decided to embrace. In the sections that follow we present a broad brush historical evolution of these systems.

2.1.1. Top 10 ODA receipts by recipient
USD million, net disbursements in 2019

1	Ethiopia	4 677	8%
2	Nigeria	3 277	6%
3	Kenya	3 173	6%
4	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2 810	5%
5	Tanzania	2 126	4%
6	Uganda	2 030	4%
7	Mozambique	1 841	3%
8	Mali	1 816	3%
9	Somalia	1 720	3%
10	Egypt	1 709	3%
	Other recipients	32 494	56%
	Total	57 673	100%

Source:
OECD Brochure: ODA to Africa Summary



04 *History of Development Paradigms in Uganda*

To come to terms with some of the contradictions, it is important to situate them within the political economy of Africa and Uganda. This paper will present a short history of development paradigms in Uganda and how Uganda ended up where it is. The focus is not so much to find fault but to situate the discussion on aid and philanthropy within a context where progressive partnerships can be forged, anchored in understanding the nuances and contours in the Uganda's development experience.

For most countries in Africa, the aid journey can be traced back to the period that witnessed the end of the colonial era. This is when many countries in Africa came up with new agreements with their erstwhile colonial masters to support their development interventions. While in Europe and America we trace foreign aid to the 1947 Marshall Plan, in Africa it is very much a recent phenomenon that comes with the post-colonial state and the rise of national development planning as part of the decolonization and institutionalization of state-led development models.¹² The matrix below summarizes the major historical moments and the implications for philanthropy.



Table 1: Trajectory of Development Paradigms and Implications for Philanthropy

Years	Development Paradigm	Implications for Philanthropy
1962-1979	<p>State-led development era characterized by:</p> <p>Independence laid the foundations of self-determination and national development planning.</p> <p>National development after independence celebrated as true nationalism</p> <p>The emergence of the debt trap as Uganda frantically at former colonial master to bolster the ambitious development programs</p> <p>Huge budget of the post-independence states</p>	<p>Philanthropy support was existing independently from the state - given through charities from UK - like Boy Scout, Girl Guides, Salvation Army and several such formations and support to vulnerable people's homes.</p>
1979-1995	<p>Structural Adjustment Era characterized by:</p> <p>Macroeconomic imbalances that had emerged during the early post-colonial period of state-led development</p> <p>High levels of indebtedness and debt-servicing costs, balances of payments deficits and budgetary deficits</p> <p>SAPs coincided with the end of the Idi Amin's military regime. The Idi Amin regime had put an end to the economic experimentation of the 1960s. What Amin stood for was what was referred to as an 'economic war' where he ushered in an era of political and economic chaos.</p> <p>Period (1971-79) also coincided with severe international economic disturbances: the oil shock of 1973, the international recession which followed, and fluctuations in the terms of trade for commodity exporters.</p>	<p>Philanthropy support continued as support to independent actors</p> <p>The rise of NGOs as recipients of philanthropy that got invested in humanitarian work to mitigate the effects of the 1979-1986 wars.</p> <p>Large NGOs became prominent players in development consistent with the Washington Consensus idea that the 'state was an inefficient vehicle to deliver social and economic investments'.</p>

Years	Development Paradigm	Implications for Philanthropy
1995-2008	<p>Poverty Reduction Era characterized by:</p> <p>Early economic reforms did not address poverty as they were largely geared towards stabilizing and rehabilitating an economy that was torn apart by war</p> <p>The Era was touted as a result-oriented poverty reduction approach based on Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper prepared by the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)</p> <p>Reforms included arrangements such as Alleviation of the Social Costs of Adjustments (PAPSCA), Rural Farmers Credit Programme and seed-capital “entandikwa”</p> <p>Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) was developed in 1997</p> <p>The fight against poverty became Government’s major priority area.</p> <p>Poverty eradication became a bureaucratic and technocratic trope for state building.</p> <p>Globally this is the era of the Millennium Development Goals</p>	<p>Philanthropy was largely absent from or the local policy discussions and continued as support to the International and Local NGOs</p> <p>Expansion of advocacy and rights NGOs in Uganda with support from philanthropic foundations</p>
2009 to date	<p>‘New Development Planning Era’ characterized by:</p> <p>Development plans resurfaced mostly because of the push back by government officials who argued that the failure of SAPs and PRSPs could be associated to the lack of long-term plans.</p> <p>Uganda developed a Vision 2040 document that aims to transform the Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous society</p> <p>The country is implementing its third National Development Plan in a series of six NDPs.</p> <p>These are supposed to ‘guide the nation and deliver the aspirations of the people of Uganda, as articulated in Uganda Vision 2040.’</p> <p>Globally the SDGs were officially endorsed by the UN in 2016</p>	<p>Philanthropy foundations supporting NGOs mostly</p> <p>Some Philanthropy foundations start working with Government – e.g. Bill and Melinda Gates support to the health sector, Gavi and Global Fund for HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis</p> <p>At the global level philanthropist became prominent actors in partnership with multilateral bodies like the UN (Bill Gates) and regional bodies like the African Union through (Strive Masiyiwa)</p>



05 *Emergence of the Philanthropy- Development Cooperation Nexus*

Philanthropic giving has therefore existed side by side with all other forms of development financing albeit travelling on parallel tracks.¹³ What has been absent is a sustained and ongoing discussion between philanthropy and development assistance. The early 2000s witnessed a rise in what has been called private development assistance supplementing ODA funding. This marked rise in philanthropic giving towards development can be traced back to the 2008 recession that saw governments significantly cutting their budgets for development finance and ODA as global economies went into recession.¹⁴

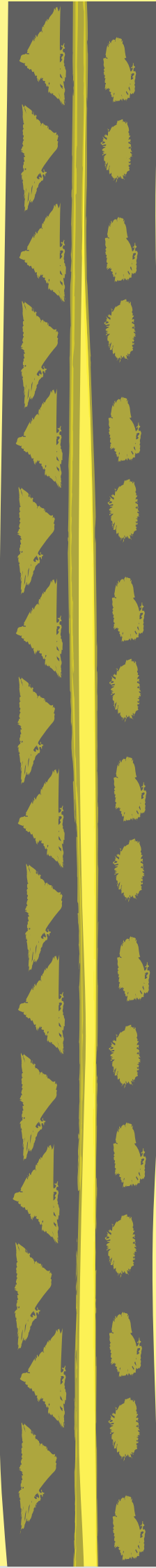
For instance, in the consultations leading to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Korea (July 2012), African countries placed great emphasis on the need to shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness. This resulted in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation's renewed focus and expanded perspective toward development cooperation and the attendant diversity of financing options. This new global development cooperation agreement was crafted broadly to accommodate other forms of development resources!¹⁵



During this period the global community worked closely with both private sector partners and philanthropic foundations to find resources and solutions to the global challenges that the world is faced with. The United Nations and other development actors have been seen expanding the role of High-Net-Worth Individuals on development committees focusing on different aspects of development.

However, while these connections are continuing to be made, a study on philanthropy and development noted some challenges relating how philanthropy engages with development cooperation. This found out that in most cases philanthropic foundations do not know how donor ecosystems operate and even how philanthropy should get involved.¹⁶ On the side of government, they always preferred all development partners to channel resources through 'country systems' - a debate that has been very much part of the aid effectiveness agenda from the days of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. These differences in approach to supporting and financing development has been a source of significant disconnect between the two traditions of giving. Furthermore philanthropy foundations also have no culture of transparency in terms of publishing how they finance like what government and donor agencies do. Some of the foundations finance areas that may not be amenable to the state institutions.

When philanthropic foundations support areas like human rights and governance, they are not always seen favorably by government.¹⁸ For example, foundations like Open Society Foundation supports individuals and organizations across the globe fighting for freedom of expression, accountable government, and societies that promote justice and equality. The foundation's founder has been under intense criticism with some governments alleging that their resources are funding uprising and other forms of resistance.¹⁹

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the page, featuring a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of light blue triangles and circles. The bar is positioned to the left of the main text area.

On their part, philanthropic foundations have countered these criticisms by showing that philanthropic organizations are active in delivering development assistance and tend to stress long-term goals rather than fill in short-term needs. The range of activities of foundations can be as wide as those undertaken by official development agencies or non-government organisations, but each foundation develops a special focus based on preference and research to help formulate policies for delivering targeted assistance. Two distinct features of private foundations are: their flexibility and speed in decision-making; and their freedom of choice in engaging in activities they deem appropriate and timely, without having to obtain approval from official sources. This degree of independence has often caused difficulties in coordination between foundations and official development agencies.²⁰

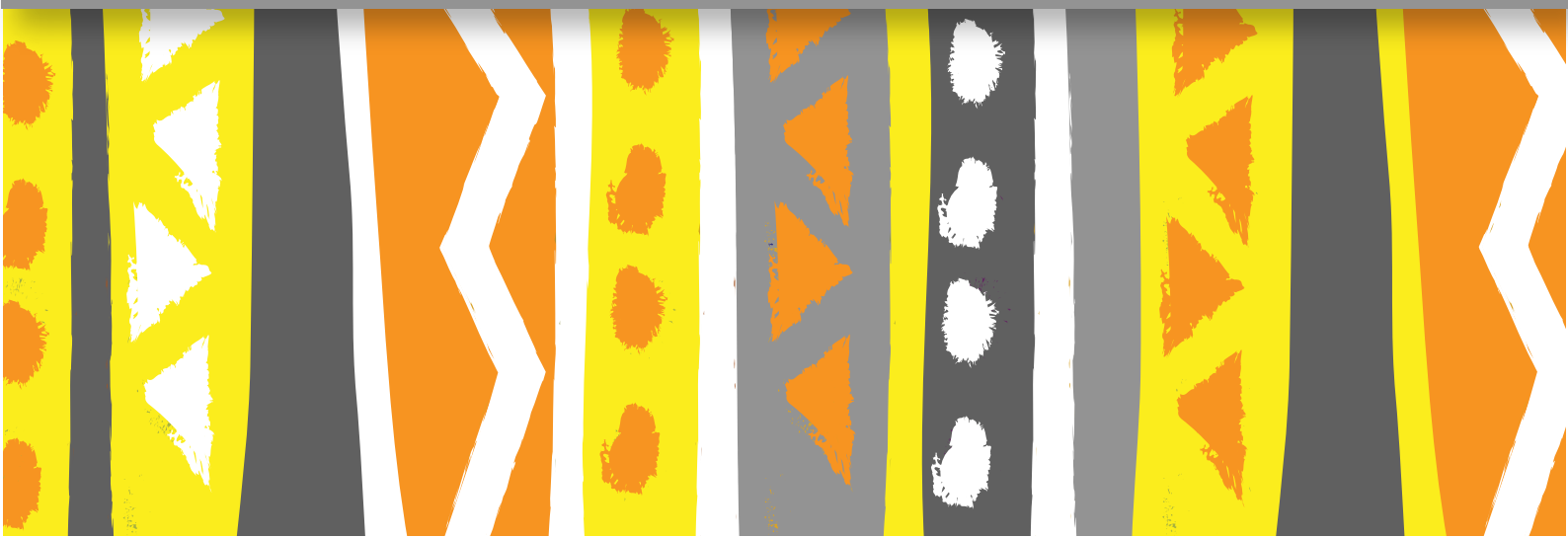
The contradictions in the global economic outlook have also been a contributory factor in the rise of philanthropy in development work and financing. For example, while the economic recession of 2008 brought significant challenges to the world, the same period witnessed a dramatic growth in wealth. From 2008 to 2020 - philanthropic giving and the number of foundations contributing to development have been growing significantly. One important milestone during this period has been the high-profile recognition of some of the super-rich and prominent individuals that are not in mainstream government to lead or become members of global development advocacy.

One example that was prominent during the era of Millennium Development Goals was the appointment of the MDG Advocacy Group that included philanthropist like Bill Gates of Microsoft and Yunus Muhammad a Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Grameen Bank and pioneer of concepts of microcredit and microfinance by the UN Secretary General.²¹ Such actions paved way for the participation of philanthropists in mainstream development work. Today we continue to witness the participation of High-Net-Worth Individuals in several global and continental initiatives. In Africa, Strive Masiyiwa is playing an important role in the Covid pandemic response on behalf of the Africa Union and other roles with governments across Africa and globally with multilateral organizations.²²



06 *Leveraging Philanthropic Support for Development Work in Uganda*

There are many roles that philanthropic foundations have been able to play in this 'new-found' relationship with the development assistance and aid community. These include roles like foundations being designers of programs, implementers, funders, conveners and contributors. Across Africa, philanthropy foundations have played these roles variously. One of the most visible and significant roles is being funders of development.



6.1. Philanthropy as Contributors to Development

African philanthropic foundations are starting to take center stage in development work in several countries. For example, in 2009, the government of Liberia established the Liberia Philanthropy Secretariat – a platform for linking national priorities with philanthropic resources. This was an innovation in leveraging philanthropy resources for development work. It was a model of philanthropy focused on improving the lives of Liberians by encouraging collaboration between government, philanthropists and foundations from all over the world to coordinate their efforts.²³

In 2015, the African Union also launched the African Union Foundation to mobilize voluntary contributions in support of the Union's Agenda 2063. This was launched to implement the proposal of the High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union. Its key priority is to advocate for partnerships with the private sector that will see inclusive economic development and growth, the growth of African business, intra-African trade and shared prosperity.²⁴

Another continent-wide initiative is the sectoral investment in infrastructure – the Africa50 Fund. It was established by the African Union to support the infrastructure funding gap across Africa by facilitating project development, mobilizing public and private sector finance, and investing in infrastructure on the continent. Africa50 focuses on medium-to-large-scale projects that have development impact and offer an appropriate risk-adjusted return to investors.²⁵

The rise in philanthropic financing and associated forms of support is an area that has drawn significant attention to philanthropy for development. Several studies show that there are huge amounts of money from high-net-worth individuals, foundations and private sector that flow from and to Africa. It is estimated that Africa gets between US\$1.25 billion and US\$3 billion from philanthropic activities.²⁶

In several regions of Africa, the idea of leveraging philanthropy has been spreading. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region there was a proposal to establish a SADC Foundation as a platform for mobilising resources from the private sector, philanthropic foundations and individuals. The idea was that this foundation could be used as a fundraising instrument for the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund.²⁷ A number of studies were commissioned by the SADC Secretariat that concluded that Southern African Development Community could access a huge pool of resources available in the region if it adopts some or all of the six options on alternative and innovative sources of funding which included; introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a lottery system; philanthropy; and regional events.²⁸

In Rwanda the government developed a strategy to engage philanthropy in implementing Rwanda Vision 2020 with recommendations to develop a Philanthropy Board in the country.²⁹ In South Africa, the National Treasury and Department of Science and Technology have conducted studies mapping current collaborations between philanthropy and government, mainly in areas of education and health; the result is the development of a mechanism or strategy for government to formally collaborate with philanthropy in a coherent way.

In 2015, Kenya also collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme in its Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy to establish their own philanthropy platforms.³⁰ A similar platform was also established in Ghana.³¹ There are significant strides being made across Africa, for countries to leverage the advantages and opportunities of philanthropy for them to support development interventions at country level.

While there have been no known initiatives in Uganda, a comprehensive study that maps out philanthropic collaborations could be helpful. This would produce evidence of the different mechanisms and practices of philanthropy and known strategies. Such a study will also be helpful in developing a regulatory framework to support the development of a distinct philanthropy sector.

6.2. Philanthropy as Funders of Global Development

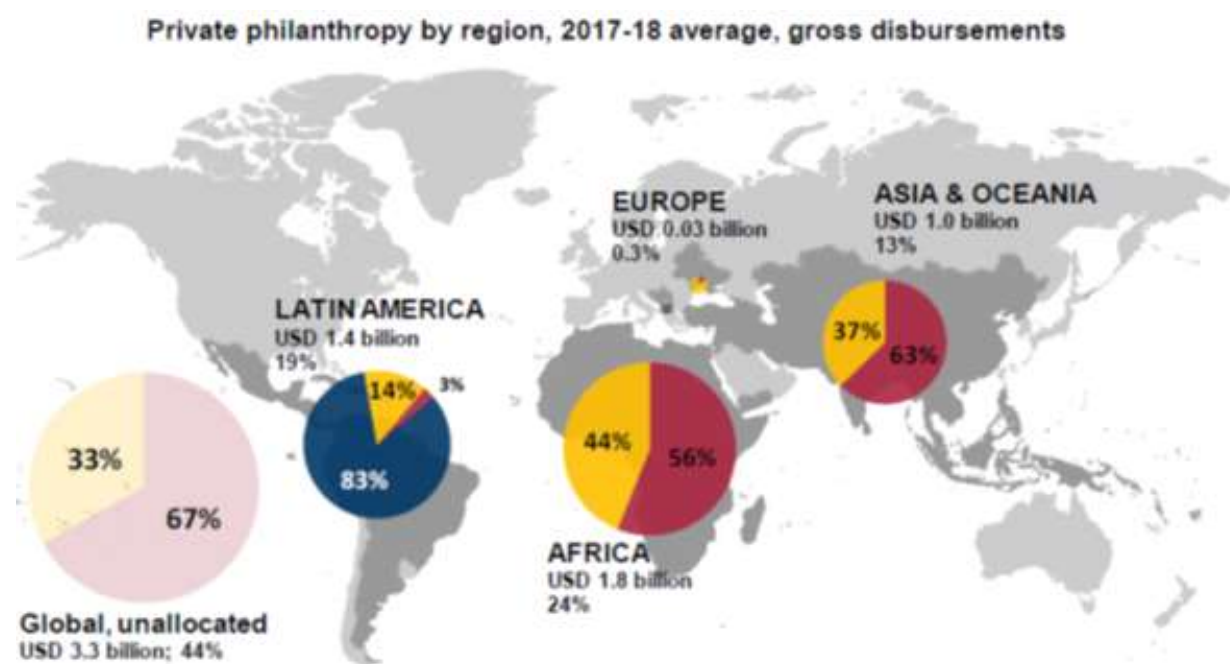
The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations Member States in New York, September 2015 put philanthropy on the global agenda as one of the mechanisms for supporting the implementation of the SDGs. In the lead up to the 76th Session of the United Nations Assembly, many countries were buffeted by global economic and geo-political forces. Governments were acutely aware of the declining volumes of ODA and the slow recovery from the economic recession.

Alternative forms of financing like philanthropy were emerging as a solution to fund vital services. However, at the same time, other aspects of globalization, particularly the proliferation of communication technologies, eroded governments' ability to limit dissent and dissatisfaction by citizens. Philanthropy positioned itself as both a vehicle for calling for greater freedoms and an important example of that freedom. This put philanthropy sometimes in crosshairs of governments keen to allow donors to support public services but hesitant to loosen control over the national moral and political narrative. However, as a result, many governments were willing to accommodate the participation of philanthropy in the shaping of global development and encourage nations to introduce policies and practices that encourage donations to service-based causes.

Although in some cases that came with restrictions of philanthropy that supports advocacy and campaigning activities. Overall, the SDG era has given birth to a new dynamic that is now even encapsulated in the 17 SDGs and 169 SDG targets. SDG 17, target 17.3 is 'mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.' Philanthropic foundations have used this indicator as an entry point to engage with the SDGs.

The SDG Philanthropy Platform affirms the newfound place of philanthropy when it states that support of the Millennium Development Goals by philanthropy was over \$6,623,378,079 that was invested in Sub-Saharan Africa.³² According to the Foundation Centre, the total foundation SDG Funding worldwide in 2016 has reached over USD \$112 billion³³ These figures did not include resources invested in other areas outside the MDG target.

If all philanthropic giving was captured, the amounts would have been much higher. For instances, community philanthropy (not recorded in the official statistics) continues to be very supportive to the attainment of both national and global goals for most countries in Africa. However, data collected by the OECD surveys shows that Africa remains the most targeted region for philanthropy as can be seen in the map below:

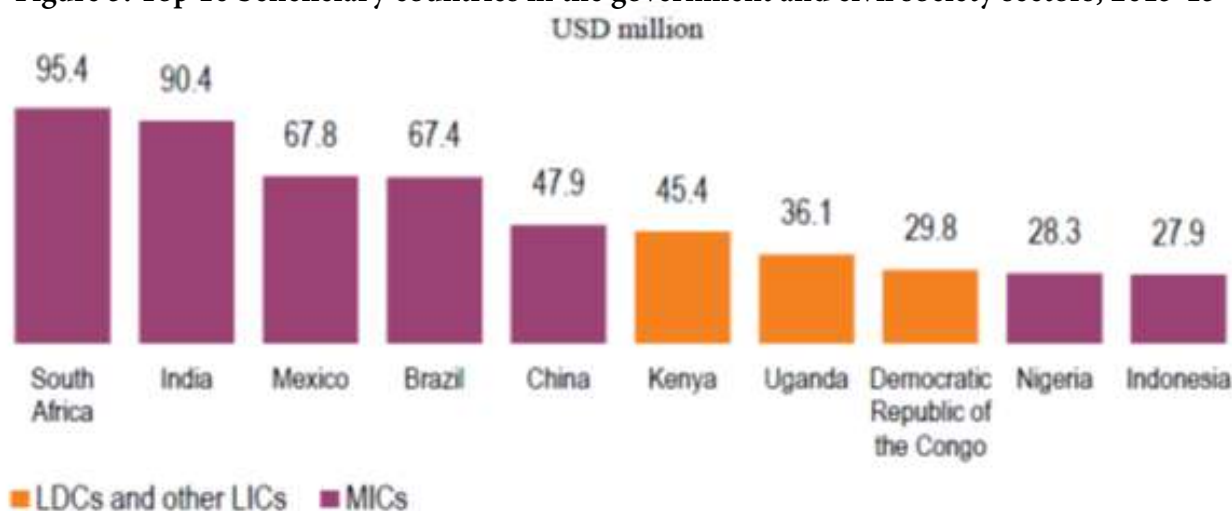


Source: OECD (2020) *Private philanthropy for the SDGs: Insights from the latest OECD DAC statistics*

Statistics also indicate that Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave 56% to Africa and were the biggest philanthropy supporter to Africa and to SDGs. The total amount of resources that flowed to Africa was nearly \$1.8 billion in 2017-18. The SDG Philanthropy Platform also estimates that \$651 billion in philanthropic giving for the SDGs could potentially be unlocked by 2030. It says that achieving this increased goal in SDG giving will not be an easy task and has already required significant efforts by many to support policy, shift donor thinking, unlock capital and educate on the SDGs. Philanthropic dollars can contribute to funding and if enabled in the right way, can unlock, and leverage additional funding sources, ensuring money is genuinely catalytic in nature.³⁴

According to the OECD survey on philanthropy, Figure 5 below shows that Uganda is one of the countries that receive most philanthropic support that goes to the sectors of government and civil society.

Figure 5. Top 10 beneficiary countries in the government and civil society sectors, 2013-15



Source: OECD 2018 Survey

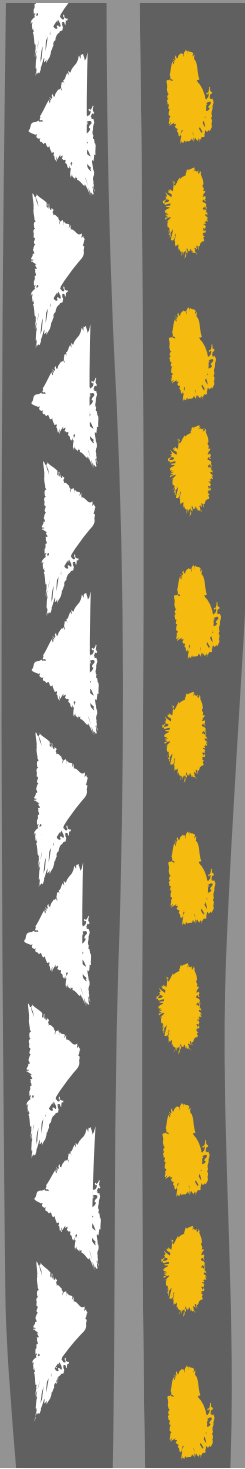
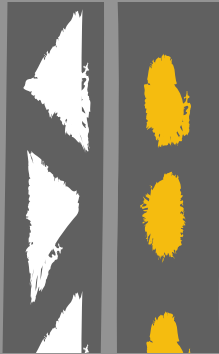
The volumes of financing in Figure 5 indicate that Uganda was in 7th position as a country that received significant volumes of funding for sectoral support. The study established that most of this funding (\$36.1 million) was geared towards areas like support to women’s equality organizations and institutions as well as to ending violence against women and girls.³⁵

While the numbers look promising for Africa, development financing by philanthropy is still challenged by the way it is given. Studies indicate that international giving to Africa is mostly from the US. Africa was the main beneficiary region of ODA flows and philanthropic giving alike (42% of region-allocable total ODA flows and 51% of region-allocable philanthropic giving). Ethiopia and Kenya also belong to the ten countries targeted by both ODA providers and private foundations.

In relation to the sectoral giving trends, SDG 4 on inclusive education was the second largest sector supported by philanthropic foundations in the years 2013-15, with 2.1 billion (9% of the total) provided by more than 100 foundations. However, there have also been significant investments to areas like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; agriculture, water and sanitation, women's empowerment, young employment and education³⁶ An interesting trend though is that more than 75% of US foundation funding to Africa is administered by intermediary organizations headquartered outside Africa.

As the global giving trends change, African giving is also increasingly being expressed through corporate, family foundations, trusts, individual giving, voluntarism and community philanthropy. On the increase are entrepreneurs such as; Folorunsho Alakija, Liya Kibede, Aliko Dangote of Dangote Foundation, Strive Masiyiwa of Higher Life Foundation, Tony Elemelu. In Uganda we have also witnessed the growth in the number of foundations. Examples include the Ruparelia Foundation³⁷ and the Patrick and Carol Bitature Foundation³⁸. Studies show that the population of Africa's High Net Worth Individuals increased by 5.2% in 2014 to 7.0% in 2020.

Total private wealth held in Africa amounts to approximately USD 2.0 trillion as at December 2020. The "Big 5" wealth markets in Africa are: South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco and Kenya - together these five countries account for over 50% of Africa's total wealth. Mauritius remains the wealthiest country in Africa, in terms of wealth per capita and Africa has the fastest growing market of HNWIs in the world. It is further projected that Africans with assets more than US\$30 million will double by 2025 - a growth of 59% over the next ten years compared to 34% of the global growth.



Coupled with the above is the emergence of continental and global platforms that are harnessing the power and developmental value of philanthropy. These include national, regional and global philanthropy platforms, such as the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN), Africa Grant Makers Affinity Group (AGAG), CivSource Africa and national philanthropy platforms in Kenya, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa among others.

The SDG Philanthropy Platform has also helped create a global knowledge and data base regarding philanthropy's significant role in development cooperation. These trends and other developments place philanthropy at the center of this decade's developmental discourse. We see a trifurcated dynamic represented by: growth in institutions, growth in beneficiaries of philanthropy and growth in literature on philanthropy in Africa.

6.3. Philanthropy as Development Innovators

In articulating the role of philanthropy as innovators in development, reference is made to a path-breaking global commitment that endorsed this role - the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA). The AAA was an outcome document emerging from the Financing for Development process of the United Nations. The Financing for Development Conferences started in 2002 and the first International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey, Mexico. It is famed for signaling a turning point in the approach to development cooperation by the international community. This is because it was the first conference of the United Nations where countries discussed issues relating to the financing of development.

While this initiative was famed as path-breaking, the first Monterrey Consensus did not acknowledge or mention the role of philanthropy. Yet the Monterrey Consensus was famed as 'reflecting a landmark global agreement between developed and developing countries, in which both recognized their responsibilities in key areas such as trade, aid, debt relief and institution building.'³⁹ A follow-up conference to review the Monterrey Consensus was held in 2008 in Doha, Qatar and it produced the Doha Declaration.⁴⁰ This declaration recognized that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of all those resources was central to the global partnership for sustainable development. This conference was held at the height of the global financial crisis and also examined the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on development. A year later the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis⁴¹ was held to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

The Addis Ababa Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁴² was therefore important as an opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and address the emerging issues.

The spirit of the AAA - to rethink development assistance - was therefore timely as the development community explored different ways in which development can be financed. The outcome document set a new tone in development partnerships when it officially included the role that ought to be played by philanthropy foundations. The AAA stated that:

We welcome the rapid growth of philanthropic giving and the significant financial and non-financial contribution philanthropists have made towards achieving our common goals. We recognize philanthropic donors' flexibility and capacity for innovation and taking risks, and their ability to leverage additional funds through multi-stakeholder partnerships. We encourage others to join those who already contribute. We welcome efforts to increase cooperation between philanthropic actors, Governments and other development stakeholders. We call for increased transparency and accountability in philanthropy. We encourage philanthropic donors to give due consideration to local circumstances and align with national policies and priorities. We also encourage philanthropic donors to consider managing their endowments through impact investment, which considers both profit and non-financial impacts in its investment criteria. (UN: Addis Ababa Action Agenda, p21) [bold emphasis mine]

An important part of the statement above was the recognition of philanthropy's capacity to innovate. While philanthropy foundations were referred to as 'philanthropy donors' - a formulation that is contestable, it was clear that there was a strong recognition of philanthropy actors as development actors - 'in their own right'. An important point made in this declaration was the place of philanthropy and innovation. The place of innovation and flexibility in the work of philanthropic actors was acknowledged.

Evidence from several studies has shown that innovations by philanthropy are diverse. They also follow several different typologies, but these are well encapsulated in the definitional formulation by the Oslo Manual on innovation. The manual defines innovation as:

An innovation is a new or improved product or process (or combination thereof) that differs significantly from the unit's previous products or processes and that has been made available to potential users (product) or brought into use by the unit (process).⁴³

The manual also points out that the key components of the concept of innovation include: the role of knowledge as a basis for innovation, novelty and utility, and value creation or preservation as the presumed goal of innovation. The requirement for implementation differentiates innovation from other concepts such as invention, as an innovation must be implemented, i.e. put into use or made available for others to use.⁴⁴ Several philanthropy foundations in Africa and across the world pride in the work they do in developing and rolling out innovations across the continent of Africa. Some outstanding innovations have been rolled out in sectors like health delivery and education improvement in Africa.

For example, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – which occupies the first place in terms of volume of giving to Africa – is known to dedicate significant philanthropic investments to solving social problems in a limited timeframe, generally by supporting a single organization or ecosystem of actions. The foundation has been an avid supporter of the Grand Challenge initiative in Africa and supports scientists within local innovation ecosystems through fellowships like the Calestous Juma Fellowship by providing five years of support that focuses on leadership development for researchers. This initiative is part of the foundation's investments in the 'Global Call to Action, a 10-year program that sponsors cutting-edge science to advance priorities in global health while providing the long-term resources that teams in low- and middle-income countries need to lead high-impact projects.' The foundation has committed an initial US\$50 million.⁴⁵

Initial focus areas of the initiative include data science, such as mathematical modeling to inform national malaria control programs; digital health services for pregnant women; and innovations to close gaps identified by current programs for eliminating neglected tropical diseases. This example illustrates the 'big bet' type innovation where a philanthropy foundation dedicates significant amount of resources – in this case \$50 million in a specific time frame to deal with a defined intervention – in this case working to develop Research and Development and leadership skills of scientist in targeted localities across Africa.

In Uganda Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has supported projects in health including one between Johns Hopkins University which received \$4.97 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to undertake the initial phase of a unique program aimed at improving health outcomes in Uganda and East Africa, in coordination Makerere University College of Health Sciences in Kampala, Uganda.

The faculties of medicine, nursing, and public health at both schools will developed an institution-building relationship to further extend the educational capacity of Makerere University, Uganda's largest university. The Foundation also supported the Stronger Systems for Routine Immunization (SS4RI) project at district level, to provide timely, high-quality immunization services to protect eligible children and women from vaccine-preventable diseases.⁴⁶

Another example comes from Hewlett Foundation. This foundation has been a big player in improving the quality of education in Africa. In 2007, the foundation invested in researching big trends in primary education in the developing world and concluded that what they saw was tremendous progress in getting kids into school, but also emerging evidence that they weren't learning once there. There was a recognition that education donors and governments, focused on students' access, had achieved massive increases in enrollment in a short time.

However, while these unprecedented gains constituted a major advance, they were only part of the story. The foundation then invested significant resources over \$10 million to develop an innovation in assessments of progress in education that would take place at the household level. A nonprofit educational organization called Pratham in India that was collecting data on a large scale to measure the extent of children's learning in India, found very low levels of mastery. Hewlett Foundation came together with partners from India and Africa to innovate a children's learning assessment idea that became an East Africa wide initiative known as the Uwezo.⁴⁷

In Uganda the project was incubated at Uganda National NGO Forum for 3 years before becoming an independent organization. The initiative focused on assessing education of children and raising awareness of the learning. This initiative went on to influence the work of the World Bank and Global Partnership for Education which revised or launched strategies that focus on learning.⁴⁸

In the above examples and many more from foundations across the Africa we see the explosion of innovations in systems change led by philanthropy organizations. Systems change innovations are those that focus on change in policies, processes, relationships, knowledge, power structures, values or norms of participants within a system that affects a social issue.⁴⁹ In this case and many such cases across Africa we see the emergence of philanthropy as influencers of policy practices.



6.4. *Philanthropy and Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Development.*

As acknowledged in the AAA Declaration, which says; 'we recognize philanthropic donors' flexibility and capacity for innovation and taking risks, and their ability to leverage additional funds through multi-stakeholder partnerships' - this is a role many actors are undertaking. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are hailed as a vital new element of development cooperation. These are seen as important partnerships in dealing with issues of deadlocked intergovernmental negotiations, ineffective treaties and overly bureaucratic international organizations.

In the context of the Agenda 2030, that recognized the role of philanthropy in development, multi-stakeholder partnerships have been promoted through the enactment of high level panels that include philanthropist and development partners as members. Within the UN system over the past quarter of a century, high-level panels have become an ever more popular change management process. Successive UN Secretaries-General have increasingly relied on the work of such panels to push for institutional reform, drive policy adaptation and promote normative development in virtually all the UN's mandate areas.⁵⁰

At the global level this is a model that has been embraced by some of the key philanthropists. Some of the prominent names like Bill Gates are now household names within the UN systems. Some of Africa's High Net Worth Individuals have also joined these multi stakeholder partnerships. For example, Strive Masiyiwa a prominent businessperson from Africa was named as the African Union Special Envoy and coordinator of the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) which is high level panel of the Africa Union.⁵¹

In a sense, multi-stakeholder partnerships are now ubiquitous. While they are promoted variously at the global and national level, there are some criticisms. Some observers view the new emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships as problematic since voluntary public-private governance arrangements might privilege more powerful actors, in particular "the North" and "big business," and consolidate the privatization of governance and dominant neo-liberal modes of globalization.⁵²

Also, some argue that partnerships lack accountability and (democratic) legitimacy. Yet others see multi-stakeholder partnerships as an innovative form of governance that addresses deficits of inter-state politics by bringing together key actors from civil society, government and business.⁵³ For the proponents of multi-stakeholder partnerships, they are considered as important mechanisms to help resolve a variety of current governance deficits. It is in this light that philanthropists have expanded their reach.

While historically, philanthropy foundations have worked primarily with civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in multi-stakeholder partnerships, this has changed. With the growing influence of the big foundations, their influential leaders have also become influential figures on the international development scene.

To live up to their reputation, ambition and mission, they recognize the need to scale up their financial contribution by capitalizing on other resources. Philanthropy foundations are now cultivating networks with other foundations, governments and the ODA donor community to enhance their footprint and impact. Such partnerships have helped foundations influence policy and develop innovative, cross-sector solutions to address social and environmental problems.



Within the context of the Agenda 2030 – there is a global consensus that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will hinge on multi-stakeholder involvement. This would mean mobilizing resources from a range of groups across the public, philanthropic and private sectors, as well as civil society with the context of SDG 17. At the country level, the additional basis of these collaborations is that philanthropic financial resources must be paired with the knowledge and work of in-country philanthropists, who can tap their existing networks to achieve real and sustainable outcomes. There are several examples of partnerships and below are examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships with a strong presence of philanthropy operating in Africa:

*The Gavi Alliance:*⁵⁴

This is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries. In 2016, Gavi channeled more than half of total donor assistance for health and most of the donor assistance for immunization, by monetary measure. Gavi supports the immunization of almost half the world's children. Gavi has helped immunize over 760 million children, preventing over 13 million deaths worldwide, helping increase diphtheria vaccine coverage in supported countries from 59% in 2000 to 81% in 2019, contributing to reducing child mortality by half. It also seeks to improve the economics of vaccines, negotiating bulk prices, supporting price discrimination and reducing the commercial risks that manufacturers face when selling vaccines to the poor and developing countries.

It also provides funding to strengthen health systems and train health workers across the developing world. Gavi's approach to public health is anchored with a business-oriented and technology-focused model, using market-oriented measures and seeking quantifiable results. Gavi follows a model termed the "Gates approach" or US-type approach.⁵⁵ It contrasts with the approach typified by the Alma Ata Declaration, which focuses on the effects of political, social and cultural systems on health. Gavi works with donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry in both industrialized and developing countries, research and technical agencies, civil society and private philanthropists led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Gavi also has observer status at the World Health Assembly.

But GAVI has been criticized for giving private donors and philanthropists more unilateral power to decide on global health goals, prioritizing new, expensive vaccines while putting less money and effort into expanding coverage of old, cheap ones, harming local healthcare systems, spending too much on subsidies to large profitable pharmaceutical companies without reducing the prices of some vaccines and its conflicts of interest in having vaccine manufacturers on its governance board.⁵⁶

However, with all these downside challenges, it still represents one of the largest multi-stakeholder partnerships in health. At the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, Gavi has become a key player in the Covax initiative which is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.⁵⁷

Uganda is supported variously by Gavi including the comprehensive multi-year plan (cMYP) which is a single plan which consolidates several immunisation activities in the country. Gavi is also supporting Uganda in the fights against the Covid pandemic by supporting the Covax vaccines delivery.⁵⁸

*Global Partnership for Education:*⁵⁹

GPE works to transform education systems holistically, based on a deep understanding of country context and evidence. Strengthening government-led education systems. GPE promotes policy dialogue to identify key education priorities that have the potential to unlock system-wide change. GPE also works to align external support to these priorities and jointly monitor, learn and adapt during implementation to build evidence and enable course-correction.

As a partnership, GPE brings together donors, multilateral institutions, civil society, teacher representatives, philanthropic foundations and the private sector behind partner country governments' plans. It was launched in 2002, originally known as the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative. It was launched to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. In 2016, Robyn Rihanna Fenty an artist, entrepreneur and philanthropist from Barbados became GPE's first Global Ambassador. In her role Rihanna encouraged world leaders and policymakers to boost their support for global education and education emergencies through GPE.⁶⁰

Since its inception, GPE has grown from partnering with 7 developing countries in 2002 to close to 70 countries in 2019. GPE leverages the financial support of donor countries, international organizations, the private sector and philanthropy and encourages partner developing countries to allocate 20% of their national budget to education, with a significant proportion (45%) for primary education. Since 2003, GPE has received US\$5.7 billion from donors.⁶¹

Uganda has continued to benefit from this GPE facility since 2011 with a total grant of \$116,049,666 coordinated under the Embassy of Ireland to Uganda and UNICEF. During the Covid pandemic an additional US\$15 million COVID-19 grant has been extended to Uganda to support student learning during school closures, safe reopening of schools and re-entry of students, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through large print and braille materials, radio lessons saved on memory cards and TV lessons with interpreters for students with hearing impairment.

GPE also set up a remedial program for at risk girls and a re-enrollment campaign to reach girls and children from vulnerable populations and strategies to support the continued learning of students, teachers, activities to improve coordination among various stakeholders and building capacity of systems of education at all levels.⁶²

Overall, we see strong multi-stakeholder partnerships emerging between the philanthropy and development community as indicated in the preceding discussion. What seems clear is that philanthropy has joined the center stage of development cooperation discussions as one of the additional sources of financing, innovation and partnership in development cooperation. The uphill challenge that remains is that Africa's philanthropy actors are not well represented in the global engagements as contributors to these partnerships.






07

Gender, Development Cooperation and Philanthropy

Wealth and power are two critical variables in development work. In the development community, we have seen the emergence of the wealthy as powerful contributors to development cooperation, and they have also shaped the direction of global development policy. What is evident in the literature on philanthropy and development is the absence of the documentation on gender and philanthropy.

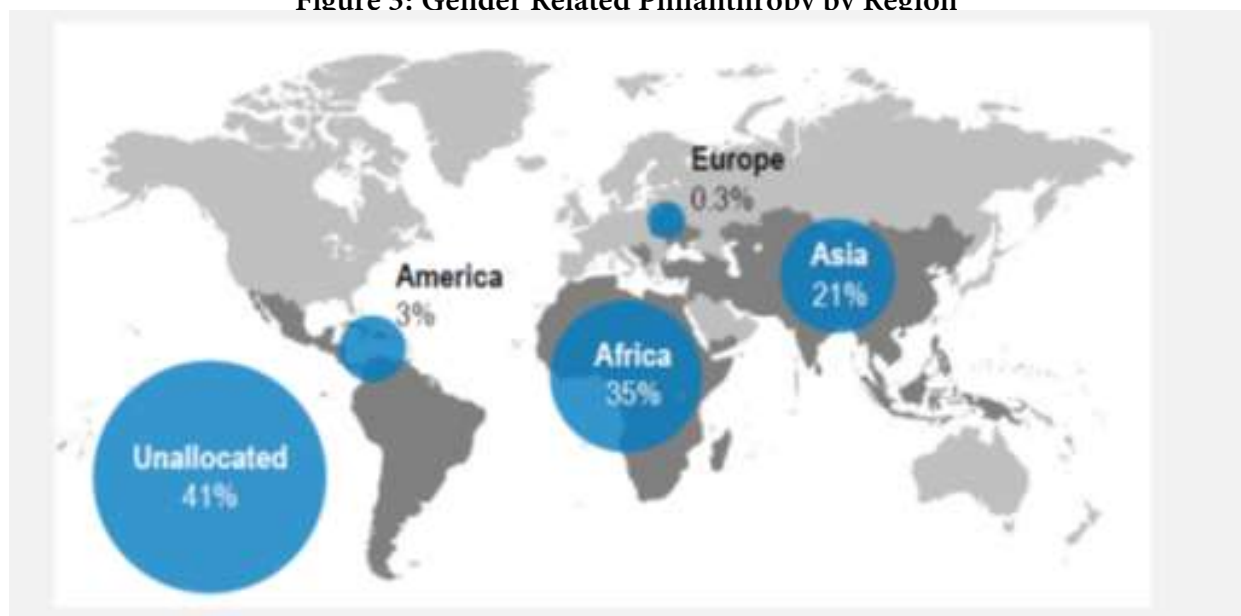
There is a visible absence of women in philanthropy discussions. While some research is available on philanthropy for gender equality, there is still no work that clearly shows the level and contribution of women to philanthropic giving in Africa that focuses on challenging the excesses of patriarchy that is very much the face of wealth - both globally and on the African continent. However, it is worth noting that there are important developments on the continent that need to be explored, studied and further documented.



A study by the OECD indicates that private philanthropic giving for gender equality in developing countries has been on the rise. Some foundations are entirely focused on women and girls and have made it their core mission to achieve gender equality.⁶³

Others are increasingly acknowledging the importance of weaving gender issues into their existing programming while recognizing that gender equality is indispensable to achieving development across all dimensions. For example, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's (BMGF) approach to transforming agriculture is premised upon greater investments in gender equality. The study found that 28% of the total giving for gender targeted Africa, followed by Asia (19%), America (5%) and Europe (1%). The five of the top ten recipient countries were from the African continent and they included Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Figure 3 below shows that volumes of gender related philanthropy by region.

Figure 3: Gender Related Philanthropy by Region



Source: OECD (2019), "Insights on philanthropy for gender equality"

There are a lot more examples that need to be documented to ensure visibility and recognition of the role of female philanthropist in Africa and the revolutionary giving informed by - sisterhood, feminist approaches and challenge to patriarchy - that are happening on the continent. The examples above are just indicative of the wealth of giving that may still go unnoticed and needs to be better documented. In the next section we reflect on some of the key recommendations to strengthen the role of philanthropy in development.



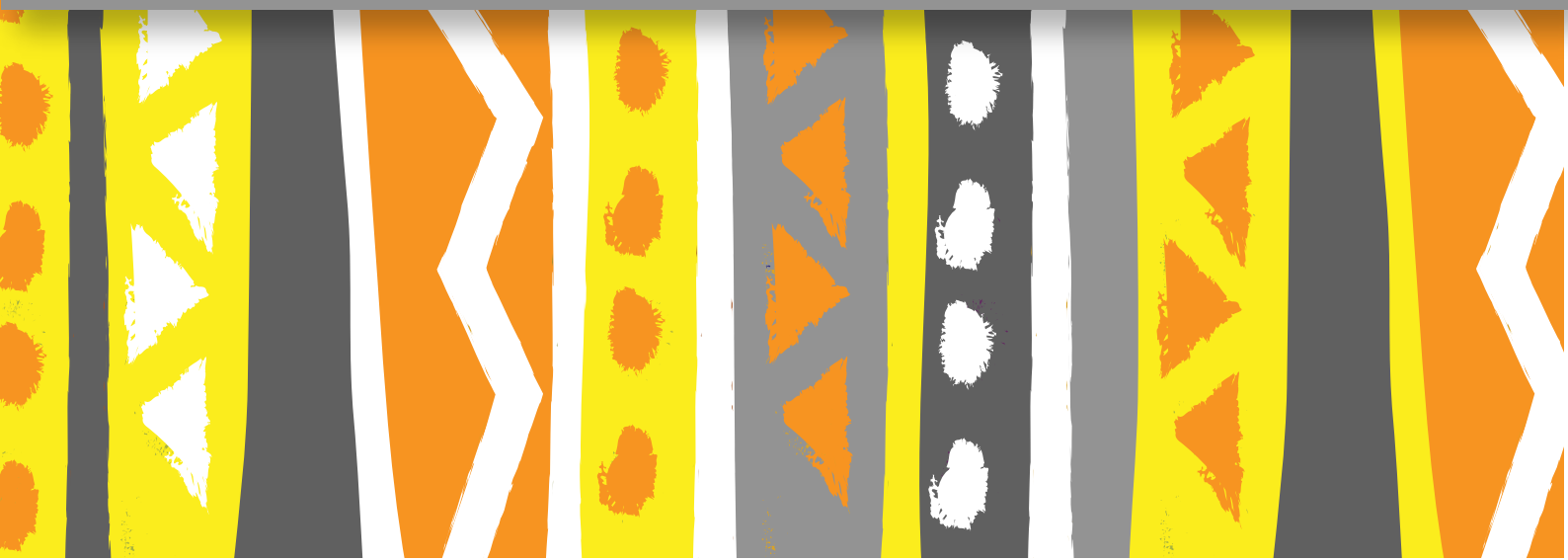


08

Recommendations

for deepening the nexus

As evident from this paper, countries in Africa are taking a diversity of actions and demonstrating keen interest in philanthropy. It is not yet clear how Uganda intends to deal with issues of philanthropy as a provider of development resources. To further leverage the benefits of philanthropy in development cooperation work, more needs to be done by the various actors involved in development work. Below are some broad recommendations that could inform further process.



a. Create an enabling legal and operating environment at country level:

Uganda should consider developing a clear law to guide philanthropy. This law needs to make a well-defined distinction between philanthropy organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The law could also explore creating clear tax incentives and financial regulations that make it possible for foundations to receive funding without any encumbrances and this funding be protected by law to allow foundations to carry out their mandates in a manner that will grow the sector in-country.

b. Strengthen Country Level Coordination and Knowledge Sharing:

There is limited evidence of knowledge sharing between foundations, government, donors and civil society. In most cases philanthropy partners work on their own and only interact with government when they have an interest to pursue and with civil society when they are funding CSOs. Putting in place a strong coordination mechanism will be critical for the growth of philanthropy so that there is continuous knowledge sharing that allows all parties to understand the mechanics of each other's work. This will ensure that philanthropy efforts are mutually reinforcing, mindful of national development strategies and complementary rather than duplicative or extractive.

While many foundations pride themselves to being 'learning organizations' learning within foundations themselves must have the potential to inform other foundations or partners operating in the same sector.

Thus, sharing lessons learned about the effectiveness of innovative approaches, but also developing assessment tools and approaches (e.g., due diligence and impact audits) within trusted groups of peers could help foundations better manage risks in selecting partners or investing in risky projects and environments. In Uganda today we see the proliferation of conditions that could be described as shrinking civic space and in such situations many of the funders are not sure what should be the best way to continue playing their role. Investing in social analysis, political economy analysis and scenario building will go a long way in ensuring foundations stay relevant and connected to country conditions in the places they work.

c. Create dedicated philanthropic dialogue platforms:

Uganda needs a government-promoted dialogue platform for philanthropy. It is important that philanthropy continues to stay in constant dialogue with government. A dedicated policy space for institutionalized dialogue could provide a more stable and sustainable base for ongoing cooperation. This, in turn, would allow engagement to continue beyond the short lifecycle of personal relationships between the government and foundation staff. These dialogue platforms can also identify relevant entry points for partnership between foundations, CSOs and governments as a way of creating strategic intersections that are indispensable first steps to any solid partnership.

Uganda has a history of developing "Partnership Principles,". In 2003 as part of its Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), the Government outlined its "Partnership Principles," detailing policies for development cooperation.

Since 1995 Uganda and all its Development Partners have signed international agreements to enhance the impact of aid notably as part of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) in 2008, Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Financing for Development, Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. All these frameworks are a justification for an inclusive partnership principle.

d. Build a strong Gender and Philanthropy Portfolio:

While philanthropy foundation investments in development have been known to target gender issues, a lot more work needs to be done. Beyond financing, female philanthropist's work and contributions need to be documented and amplified and made visible across Uganda. Because of the deep intersections between wealth, power and patriarchy, it is important that the philanthropy foundations and development partners pay particular attention to how they are contributing to creating more egalitarian and gender transformative societies that both challenge patriarchal power and build empowering outcomes for women and girls in all funding portfolios.

This kind of endeavor needs be anchored in the appreciation that gender issues are an integral part of all forms of marginalization including; including Youth, Person and Disabilities and other societal categorization.

e. Build local capacities:

For organisations with more modest means, “strengthening the front line”, i.e., supporting local NGOs and social entrepreneurs at the local level, would help build local capacities. This, in turn, would diversify the range of implementing partners even if at a cost (more due diligence needed) and the risk that some organisations will not necessarily deliver to the highest standards. It is important to note that expanding capacity in any field in which philanthropy works will go a long way in ensuring more impact of the investments of foundations and other development partners and create sustainable models in development cooperation work.

f. Develop a solution-focused approach to philanthropy and development:

An important paradigm shift that needs to happen is shifting from a “culture of failure” to a culture of learning. More foundations need to invest in trying new approaches, documenting results (as well as possible failures) and investing further on that basis. Long due-diligence processes are also not always needed when testing partnerships and investing very small amounts to test an idea. Testing new approaches could also be done together with other funders to limit each organization’s own risks. Learning-as-you go needs to be the way to go.

The world has experienced significant shifts in development thinking and very few models can claim to fit all sizes hence investing in a process of learning from success and failure is critical.





09 *Conclusion*

For years, philanthropists have worked closely with development actors but not always overtly. They have pooled their resources and knowledge to grow the number of investments in charitable causes. In the process, they have built organic forms of collaboration and achieved high levels of impact. But now is the time to enhance that collaboration and build closer relationships with local philanthropic counterparts, CSOs, Government and providers of Official Development Assistance.

A generational shift is therefore required - with the new generation of philanthropists ready to disrupt the development cooperation sector. Founders of philanthropic foundations are often successful entrepreneurs who decide to devote part of their wealth to philanthropic causes, after making a fortune in business. In today's world there are many who have started their ventures at a younger age than the historical philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie who divided his life into two parts - one to make the money and the other to give it away.

For the new generation of philanthropist, they may want to make an impact during their lifetime. They are often looking for ways to create value rather than funding long-standing institutions and giving out grants, they have come up with new approaches. They are hands on people and are doing a lot in the world. The work of these philanthropists needs to therefore be more nuanced, so it ensures greater connections with the realities of Africa today and connected both globally and locally. It is in this spirit that a sense-making paper like this aims to make a modest contribution.

End Notes



- 1 See <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/content/mexico-high-level-meeting-communique> for detailed communique
- 2 This Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), formed in 2012, as an association of governments
- 3 and organisations that seeks to improve practices of international development. It has 161 participating countries and 56
- 4 major organisations concerned with development. See <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/> for details. Uganda was a
- 5 Co-Chair for this partnership for the years 2017-2019 represented by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic
- 6 Development - Hon. Mathai Kasaija
- 7 The discourse of Aid Effectiveness was part of the Paris Declaration commitments that focused on ensuring that Overseas
- 8 Development Assistance was managed well when it was given to Development Countries. The Development Cooperation
- 9 Discourse is about mobilizing all financing for development and also ensuring that ODA and all other financing are effectively
- 10 managed and deliver results for the intended beneficiaries. Philanthropy was recognized with the context of the
- 11 Development Cooperation agenda.
- 12 See the full letter here - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gospel_of_Wealth
- 13 For a detailed discussions of this evolution see Ssewakiryanga Richard (2021) The Meaning and Practice of Philanthropy in
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- 29 <http://efc.issuelab.org/resource/advancing-equality-what-can-foundations-do-a-selected-overview-of-equalopportunities-actions.html>.
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- 33 See <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/george-soros>
- 34 See <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2017/12/soros-philanthropy/547247/>
- 35 Ibid, p.3
- 36 See <https://news.un.org/en/story/2010/09/352042-ban-mobilizes-his-superheroes-give-added-thrust-mdgs>
- 37 See <https://live.worldbank.org/experts/strive-masiyiwa>
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- 41 See <https://www.africa50.com/our-company/>
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- 43 Features - <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/11407-sadc-has-huge-potential-for-funding-own-programmes.html>
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<https://medium.com/@DrNickAustin/why-the-gates-foundation-believes-transforming-agriculture-starts-with-greater-investment-in-gender-95ac4aa28449>

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