GIVING FOR CHANGE ANNUAL LEARNING & REFLECTION MEETING

2024

ABOUT THE GIVING FOR CHANGE (GFC) ALLIANCE

The Giving for Change (GfC) Alliance is led by an international consortium of organizations that share a commitment to community-led development through community and domestic philanthropy. The consortium includes the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), the African Philanthropy Network (APN), the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), and Wilde Ganzen (WG). Together, they are working to implement a five-year programme across eight partner countries: Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Brazil, and Palestine.

ABOUT THE GIVING FOR CHANGE (GFC) ANNUAL LEARNING MEETING

To strengthen programme coordination, learning, and reporting, the GfC Alliance organizes an annual face-to-face learning meeting. This event serves as a platform to enhance the network, reflect on outcomes from country-level learning meetings, review the programme's theory of change and strategy, assess risk analysis, and foster mutual accountability.

As John Dewey wisely noted, "we do not learn from experience … we learn from reflecting on experience." Over the years, the GfC learning events have harmonized and deepened the understanding of different country experiences. This reflection has led to new perspectives that have shaped the programme's outcomes—such as the recent development of the 8-point commitments, which were assessed during this year's learning session.

The 2024 annual learning and reflection meeting was hosted by the Uganda National NGO Forum in partnership with the Giving for Change (GfC) Alliance. Held from August 11th to 17th at the Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa in Kigo, the event was centered around the theme: ***"Connecting, Supporting, and Influencing Community Philanthropy in a Context of Shrinking Civic Space."***

OBJECTIVES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The main objective of the 2024 meeting was to provide a space for GfC members and partners to take stock of progress made over the past three years, reflect on challenges, and collectively strategize for the remaining period of the programme. More specifically, the event aimed to:

- Share country-specific experiences among GfC partners.
- Build scenarios about the future of the programme.
- Reflect collectively on the future outlook of the GfC programme.
- Strategize on next steps.
- Foster networking and meaningful connections.

This annual learning event continues to play a critical role in shaping the GfC programme's future direction while reinforcing the shared commitment to community philanthropy in challenging civic environments.

DAY ONE

ABOUT OUR LEARNING EXCURSION REFLECTIONS

The learning excursion participants were truly inspired by the innovative strategies employed to foster mindset change among youth at AVSI , Watoto Wasoka , and Open Space Center .

These immersive and heartfelt discussions highlighted the uniqueness of each model for youth interventions.

At AVSI, participants were particularly impressed by the skilling model, which takes a holistic, 360-degree approach.

The passion for the craft demonstrated by the youth, the "learn as you earn" model, and the market support through sponsored exhibitions were standout features. This approach also has a cascading effect, as trained youth are empowered to pass on skills to their peers.

Similarly, the Watoto Wasoka model was intriguing, with pupils facilitating health education through football sessions. This hands-on approach created a unique and engaging learning environment. Lastly, the Open Space Center's youth-led and youth-structured model stood out for its focus on youth empowerment. It is designed and implemented by youth for youth, showcasing the power of peer leadership and agency.

Key Reflections from the Excursions:

- Documentation of Successful Models: Are GfC Alliance members adequately documenting these innovative youth intervention models for future replication and scaling?
- Ownership of Community Initiatives by Duty Bearers: There is a critical need to involve duty bearers more actively in these initiatives. Their support can help scale successful interventions and ensure long-term sustainability.
- Sustainable Climate Change Initiatives: Climate change interventions emerged as a key area that needs more focus in these youth-led programmes.
- Peer-to-Peer Skills Transfer: Participants appreciated the value of young people teaching other young people, such as in the example of pad-making skills being passed on among peers.
- Youth-Targeted, Youth-Led Interventions: The visited organizations demonstrated robust youth structures, with young people confidently communicating about their projects—something many of us struggle within our own settings.
- Organized Youth Groups for Easier Skills Transfer: The more organized the youth groups are, the easier it becomes to transfer skills and sustain the initiatives.
- Passion for Skills and Crafts: It was inspiring to witness young people passionately taking up crafts often associated with older generations, challenging stereotypes and broadening the scope of what is seen as "youth-friendly" skills.

The overall consensus was that the GfC Uganda country programming is facilitating resilience through these youth-driven initiatives. The innovative models, particularly in peer-to-peer learning and youth leadership, are setting a strong foundation for sustainable, community-led development.

DAY TWO

Day two ushered participants into introductory sessions that included: the exposition of the event theme, agenda and context setting, looking back on what has happened, connecting the dots to our programming, and re-organising our 'house'.

EXPOSITION AND KEY RESULTS OF THE LEARNING AND REFLECTION EVENT

What about Connecting – Supporting – Influencing in a context of shrinking space. As a GfC alliance, we would like to see members connecting, supporting each other, and ultimately collectively influencing Community Philanthropy at local and national levels as well as driving system change at globally.

Session 1:
Remarks from UNNGOF Board chair, Mr. Xavier Ejoyi.
Country Director – ActionAid International, Uganda

The UNNGOF Board chair emphasized the importance of having a network to influence change. He echoed that in such a dynamic world, the motivations around change tend to be a conspiracy- it is individualistic inspired by greed, largely corporate greed and state control of the agenda of giving. As such, we need voices that demonstrate practical axles of women, youth, CBOs, et. al.

He recognized that together we can amplify and ensure we have a shoulder to lean on across the board in pursuit of social justice. Further, he intimated that the Board of Directors (BOD) is interested in advancing this community led development agenda in Uganda.

CONTEXT-METER GFC COUNTRY READINGS

This was an experience sharing session that sought to have a common understanding of key events, trends, and processes and how they affect our GFC programming. The session was flagged off by Moses Isooba, the Executive Director UNNGOF. It commenced with an engaging narration of the Uganda context, followed byBurkina Faso, and Netherlands country experiences.

The physical and civic space situation in Uganda: On the former, He gave an account of the intrusion of Civil Society Organisation (CSO) offices by the police due to alleged suspicious activity. He added that the government knows how to control the sector, citing examples of how laws are weaponized which constricts the civic space, for example, how every CSO should report every transaction above $135 to the Finance Intelligence Authority (FIA). The subtle clap down of bilateral donors has led to the decline of aid resources. He also reminisced about a time when the Government closed UNNGOF accounts and was invited to sit on the APRM National Governance Council. Consequently, this situation above has had an impact on the civil society perspective on global concerns like climate change, war, et.al which have become far-fetched, because the focus is on daily survival.

Progressively, he acknowledged that with the above, connecting domain 1 & domain 2 requires more collective planning and action and proposed that Civil Society actors must think differently and that everybody has got an inspiring story.

Bukina Faso: The context was characterised by terrorist attacks in 6 regions of GfC programme implementation. Amidst the rebel activities, the programme implementation continued. The magic bullet to their resilience was strategic collaboration and the belief that mindset change starts from within the country rather than externally.

The Netherlands: Despite the change in government in July 2024, there has been a consensus on the key priorities around international development that seek to accelerate locally led development. Similarly, the European Union (EU) is taking a localised approach in the way they are working.

India: The crackdown on INGOs based on compliance allegationswere closed off so that the country's development comes from within.

Reflective Questions and Themes Arising from the Context Sharing Session.

The context review session triggered critical thinking among participants to ask the right questions that steered the discussions. See below:

Exploring the alternative models:
- Are we investing in alternative models as much as we need to be?
- What are the recommendations of exploring different models
- It is important to create alternative power.
- What would new power look like for us?

The influence of aid on poverty and inequality:
- Is aid reducing poverty and inequality?
- What role do we need to play in answering these questions?

Strategic collaboration: Who do we collaborate with?

Lessons from current successful movements: There was a loud echo to learn from social movements, human rights groups, LGBTQI – A case of Kenya and Uganda, where the source of funding the movements has been blamed on INGOs, embassies, and foundations.

Impact of our contexts on development aid: A case of too southern to be funded:
- The INGOs should answer the impact of the money received instead of local organizations.

Emerging organisation: Critical questions that emerged included;
- Do we need a new type of organisation?
- Do we need new systems, structures, or new organisations established – how are we preparing for the changes (a case of the Frog analogy).
- Should we discuss emerging ways rather than the dominant system?.
- If we are going to change something -What sort of organisation are we going to look like?

Visibility:
- Take local stories in national and international spaces.
- Brazil – local funds pooled in organisation: they (INGOs) are creating their own initiatives
- There is a disconnect between community philanthropy and international development.

Power dynamics:
- Can we unite based on the shared history to bring visibility to what we are doing? How can we bring visibility nationally and internationally?
- Falling short on our goals – what mechanisms are we putting in place to get community voices to be able to influence?
- Understand how the INNGO system works – What is our local solution.
- We seek the validation of the system which is not seeing us and not listening.

Remodel our advocacy efforts: There is a need to re-strategise our advocacy in our own lens rather than influencing the way development is currently being done. Additionally, focusing on 'who we are, how we do development,' will help us to jump out of the box of money, aid.

Hypocrisy of INGOs: Experiences were shared on how INGOs didn't practice what they are preaching.

Sustainability of Community Philanthropy: Focus more on promoting citizens voices. How far and how practical is it?

Session conclusion: From the myriads of reflective questions, domain leads need to follow through engagement to ensure that some of these are answered. The outcomes will then re-direct on-going giving for development efforts.

THE 8-POINT COMMITMENTS - IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Progress of implementation of the Kisumu 8-point commitments.

The GfC team members took time to take stock of the implementation of the 8-point commitments from the 2023 Kisumu learning event - Identify what has been done and what commitments need to be re-strategised. Please find a collection of narratives from each country partner:

Collective advocacy strategy:
- A campaign themed 'Too southern to be funded' was collectively implemented by the Giving for Change (GfC) alliance members.
- LGBTQI: There were limited strides albeit the need to increase consciousness around LGBTQI inclusion amidst the different contexts.
- Prioritising different issues at different levels – nationally participated in different communities.

The work around the CoPs: Country teams shared the progress and impactful work on their Community of Practice (CoP). For example, the CoPs in Ethiopia are driving change through collective advocacy, for example, presenting social inclusion issues - they advocated for access to government offices by PWDs among others.

RINGO prototype: There was a call to expand the RINGO strategic stakeholders to co-create with for greater programme impact, this was cited as one of the reasons why there could be under-reporting on the RINGO proto- types. Considering this, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) plans to have more collective voices in 2025. Updates on RINGO Language and lexicon prototype were shared, click here for details on the intelligent website for using AI to decolonize language.

Improved visibility: KCDF used the Ghanaian videos produced by West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) to their audiences. This also covered the commitment to more collaboration within countries, which was emphasised for the subsequent implementation period. Additionally, the Bukina Faso team shared on their strategy of increasing frequency on broadcast media, and this has attracted the attention of potential collaborators like Islamic bank.

GIVING FOR CHANGE (GFC) MID-TERM REVIEW (MTR) FOR DOMAIN 2 AND DOMAIN 3

Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) shared national level advocacy amplification nuggets on: Consider spaces that are readily available to have collective and diverse voices at the national level, bringing INGOs and donors in one meeting, need to build a strong advocacy strategy and requested that countries should do systematic national level conferences, one after another. This will allow participation of APN and GFC members in each other's meetings.

Synergy between the domains: Appreciation of how issues from the Community are taken on at the national and international level respectively and ultimately, a feedback loop back to the community created and or strengthened for ease of coordination.

Gender and social Inclusion:
- There is still unfavorable legal environment for the effective inclusion of LGBTQI (a case of Uganda, Ghana, among others.), given the different contexts.
- The CoP in Ethiopia collectively advocated for access to government buildings, which was a success.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE 8-POINT COMMITMENTS

1. Citing the example of Kenya using Ghanaian videos for their audiences, how can we share our products across countries?
2. How can we build the language around the characteristics of community philanthropy?
3. Following the unfavourable legal framework on anti-gay bill (Ghana, Uganda, et.al), what should CSOs do to ensure inclusion?

Session Action Points

Connectivity of domains: There should be linkage of domains – Results arising from interventions of the CSAs, CoPs, and Government (Domain 1 &Domain 2) should be shared and popularised through domain 3 interventions like #ShiftThePower

Gender and social inclusion: Leverage the available platforms to amplify and advocate for participation of marginalised groups in communities, that is LGBTQI, PWDs, indigenous communities.

Programme visibility: A joint visibility and communications strategy needs to be developed for a harmonized and coordinated way of storytelling as well as to facilitate outcome reporting on the work done by partners and curated in a relatable format to suit various audiences.

One advocacy strategy: Develop an advocacy strategy for the Giving for Change (GfC) alliance as part of sustaining advocacy efforts.

Systematically convene national Philanthropy conferences: There is need for collective planning to facilitate full participation by alliance partners. To foster meaningful participation in each other's conferences collective planning was emphasized.

Collaborative philanthropy: A call for unequivocal commitment to partner collaborations that will solidify the Community Philanthropy discourse, thus breaking silos.

Media relations: It is important to build media relations with media practitioners to strengthen their inclusion and participation in Community Philanthropy conversations.

INGOs inclusion in RINGO prototype: To attract appreciation and buy-in of the RINGO prototypes, it is imperative that INGOs are included.

Eliminate silo reporting within organisation: GfC programme is not implemented in a vacuum, it builds on other programs.

Conclusively, every country took a part of the 8-point commitments and implemented to the best. We need to link our work so that it can evolve from the different work that we have done. It is worth noting that expectations should not cut across all countries – It is important to understand the different contexts, for example, the issue on LGBTQI inclusion.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE KISUMU 8-POINT COMMITMENTS

The Giving for Change (GfC) alliance took time to assess the progress of the 8-point commitments made during the 2023 Kisumu Learning Event. Each country partner shared their experiences, highlighting successes, challenges, and areas requiring re-strategization. Below are the key narratives from the country partners:

1. Collective Advocacy Strategy

Campaign: *"Too Southern to Be Funded"*
This campaign was implemented collectively by GfC alliance members, spotlighting the challenges faced by Global South organizations in accessing funding.

LGBTQI Inclusion
Limited strides were made in advancing LGBTQI inclusion, despite a recognized need to raise awareness and increase consciousness across different regional contexts.

Prioritizing National Issues
GfC members worked within their respective countries to prioritize and address issues at various levels, ensuring representation in local communities.

2. Community of Practice (CoP) Updates

Country teams reported on the progress made through their Community of Practice (CoP) initiatives. Notable work included Ethiopia's CoP, which successfully advocated for social inclusion, such as securing access to government buildings for people with disabilities (PWDs).

3. RINGO Prototype Expansion

There was a call to expand RINGO strategic stakeholders to co-create for greater program impact. Underreporting on the RINGO prototypes was attributed to limited collective voices. In response, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) committed to amplifying these voices in 2025. Updates on the RINGO Language and Lexicon Prototype were shared, including a focus on using artificial intelligence (AI) to decolonize language.

4. Improved Visibility

The Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) shared that they used videos produced by WACSI for audiences in Ghana, emphasizing cross-country collaboration. In Burkina Faso, the team increased their presence on broadcast media, attracting interest from potential partners like the Islamic Bank. This reflects the growing recognition of the GfC's work at a national level.

5. Mid-Term Review (MTR) for Domains 2 and 3

The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) shared advocacy insights, urging countries to create spaces where diverse voices can come together. APN stressed the importance of developing national-level conferences that bring INGOs, donors, and local organizations into dialogue, allowing for a more coordinated advocacy strategy across the GFC alliance.

6. Synergy between Domains

Participants appreciated how issues raised by communities were elevated to national and international levels, with feedback loops established to ensure continuous coordination between the grassroots and higher-level interventions.

7. Gender and Social Inclusion

Challenges to LGBTQI Inclusion
Countries like Uganda and Ghana face unfavorable legal environments that hinder the inclusion of LGBTQI communities. However, progress has been made in other areas, such as Ethiopia's CoP advocating for PWD access to government buildings.

Reflective Questions from the 8-Point Commitments

Several critical questions emerged during the review:

1. **Cross-Country Collaboration:** How can we better share resources, such as media products, across countries?
2. **Community Philanthropy Language:** How can we build and refine the language to describe community philanthropy more effectively?
3. **LGBTQI Inclusion:** In countries with hostile legal frameworks, what can civil society organizations (CSOs) do to ensure LGBTQI inclusion?

Key Action Points from the Session

Connectivity of Domains
There should be better linkages between Domains 1, 2, and 3. The results of civil society actions and advocacy work (Domains 1 & 2) should be disseminated and amplified through Domain 3 efforts, such as the #ShiftThePower campaign.

Gender and Social Inclusion
Leverage existing platforms to advocate for marginalized groups, including LGBTQI, PWDs, and indigenous communities. This requires a sustained commitment to amplifying their voices at both the national and community levels.

Programme Visibility
A joint visibility and communications strategy should be developed to ensure a harmonized approach to storytelling and reporting on GFC efforts. This will help partners curate content that resonates with diverse audiences.

Advocacy Strategy
A unified advocacy strategy for the GfC alliance should be developed to sustain advocacy efforts. This strategy will be instrumental in advancing the alliance's goals across different contexts and regions.

National Philanthropy Conferences
Systematic national philanthropy conferences should be organized to ensure full participation of alliance partners. Collective planning will foster greater engagement and strengthen the GfC's advocacy work.

Collaborative Philanthropy

There was a call for unequivocal commitment to collaborative philanthropy efforts to break down silos and strengthen the community philanthropy discourse.

Media Relations

Building relationships with media practitioners is essential to increasing their participation in community philanthropy conversations and enhancing the visibility of GfC's work.

INGO Inclusion in RINGO Prototype

To increase the acceptance and buy-in of the RINGO prototypes, it is essential to include INGOs in the conversation, promoting a more collaborative approach to their development.

Eliminate Silo Reporting

GfC programs should not be implemented in isolation. They should build on other ongoing initiatives, fostering synergy and cross-program learning.

CONCLUSION

Each country partner has implemented the 8-point commitments to the best of their ability, though context-specific challenges, such as LGBTQI inclusion, remain. Moving forward, it is crucial to link our work across countries and evolve from past efforts. While expectations cannot be uniform across all contexts, there is a shared understanding that continued collaboration and strategic rethinking are key to advancing the GfC's collective mission.

DAY THREE
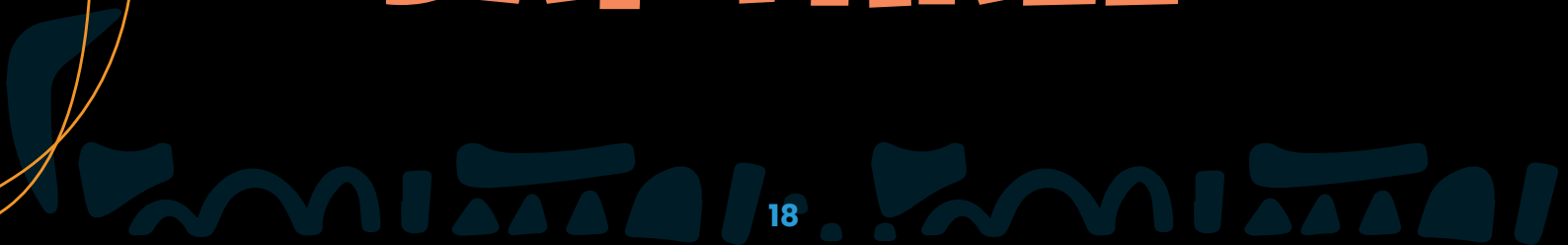
Looking into the Future, What Next?

DAY Three of the learning event provided an opportunity for GfC partners to reflect on how to enhance collaboration /building a supportive environment for GfC Alliance.
There were three (3) key discussion areas identified and each group presented the key agreements:

1. Enhancing the visibility for the GfC programme:

A harmonised understanding of GfC visibility: There is need for a harmonised appreciation of the power of GfC program visibility.

Communications Coordinator Proposal: A proposal to designate a   communications coordinator, preferably from the Global South was made. The designate would support to develop a comprehensive communications and visibility plan for the alliance.

Funding Considerations: Ensuring each country has sufficient funding for communications, independent of specific projects or activities, through consolidated funding from the alliance.

Mediums for Visibility:
•   Academic Journals: The alliance needs to establish and nurture relations with other like-minded actors like Africa Women in Philanthropy, hosted by CAPSI.
•   Central Repository for Each Organisation: The team proposed creating a landing page, replicating successful models like KCDF's repository.
•   Ongoing Events and Conferences: We should participate in festivals and strategic events that promote significant connections.
•   Strategic Invitations: There is a need for intentional mobilisation of key sector players that boost visibility and enrich conversations.
•   Social media: We need to engage in internet governance discussions to leverage the potential of internet in driving change.

2. Collective advocacy

How do we do collective advocacy?

Based on our past GfC experience; to reach the 'north star' of our collective advocacy, the team shared their reflections on how to piece the collective advocacy puzzle together. Suggestions made were around messaging, resources, shared goal, clarity on how success looks like, and spaces.

See below:

Message: The focus of the messaging should include replicating learnings from the 'too Southern to be funded' campaign, and cognizance of the hypocrisy of localisation actors.

Resources: Invest more in partnerships, collecting and utilising our evidence bases (data and stories) with support from our communications personnel, harness the synergies from the different stakeholders we engage with and reach out to various like-minded organisations.

Spaces: Map out new spaces and maximise our engagement in current spaces. For example, utilise platforms like Devex publications, WINGS, GfC spaces, Philanthropy Conferences, Comua philanthropy month, UN Climate week, and Giving Tuesday. Additionally, we need to show up for eachother – attend each other's events, do the best with what we have, and report back key takeaways.

Shared goal: With a common understanding of the GfC advocacy goal, we can strategically engage targeted actors.

What does success look like for our collective advocacy: An enabling environment for community philanthropy, create entry points for dialogue with funders, the local philanthropy concept will resonate with people's voices, and they will be able to tell their story.

What do we need to do: Develop a media kit and have progressive relations with the media,generate a consolidated message for different events, map out stories, spaces, and resources, use our Local Philanthropy

3. Movement building:

The team appreciated the power of committing and working as a collective to drive the desired agenda. It was echoed that GfC aspiration should not be hinged on funding but also leveraging other resources within organisations and communities.

Conclusively, the session acknowledged that visibility is an essential ingredient that will elevate our work around collective advocacy and movement building.

EMERGING ISSUES:
SMALL GROUPS SELF ORGANISING TOPICS

To deepen conversations on how to strengthen programme implementation, there was a session where participants proposed the most relevant topics or themes that would enrich the programme. Consequently, 5 topics were selected with justification. See below:

1. Outcome Harvesting (OH):

Following an OH training by GfC in April 2024, country MEAL teams were tasked to start the exercise and encouraged to engage in peer learning for best application of findings and avoidance of implementation errors. This discussion was therefore an experience sharing and learning session from teams that had successfully conducted OH. See reflections below:

- **Practical utilisation of the tool by implementing partners:** After the training, taking the first step to commence the OH exercise will build country MEL teams expertise.

- **Collective support to harvest outcomes:** All OH implementers to share and learn from the existing OH expertise (those who have already implemented the OH exercise)

- **Shared learning from the findings:** GfC should consider physical sense making workshop for OH MEAL teams to share experiences, outcomes, and strengthen capacities.

2. Advocacy opportunities in upcoming global spaces.

Alliance members should be able to map out and leverage international spaces that can amplify our community-led development agenda.

Leverage spaces where some of our partners have agency to present issues from other countries.

Preparation is key: The team learnt that the approval processes to participate in some global engagements take long, therefore adequate planning is desired.

3. Shifting the power – Alternative power centres

Shifting the power partly entails shifting money and privilege, this could take a long time to be achieved. One of the remedies is to create alternative power centres. Participants reflected on some of the pathways to achieve this. It is important for us to recognise the vast resources that are within our reach to ignite the power within.

What power do we have so that we can engage collectively.
- Humility to learn from others and recognise the power in collaboration.
- Authenticity/Solidarity/ Trust building.
- Evidence based engagements (Body of knowledge)
- Maximumly utilise the various engagement opportunities
- Community-based storytelling (legitimacy and credibility)
- Self-regulation culture (Forward/backward accountability)
- Alliance building/networks: Each alliance member should respond to each other's interests noting that interests are not static, incentivize collaboration, and encourage transformative leadership.
- Take charge of the power to write your own story (GfC Accra, Kisumu, Kampala story)

4. Private partnerships for policy influencing.

To expand the pro-activeness of actors in the ecosystem, there is a need to re-strategise our efforts on how to engage the private sector better. See below the discussion points:
- Engage private sector through associations
- Organise sensitisations on the value of philanthropy: This should be evidence based with a mechanism to have the private sector on board.
- Gradually use our relationship with Private Sector to expand our network relationships slowly.
- Use of Government structures as a strategy to bring the private sector on board.
- Value proposition, Building a strong case, Leverage networks, Evidence and impact

5. Issue voting /multi-voting – accountability and support for Palestine.

The discussion was centered around the GfC alliance offering solidarity to Palestine. The team recognised that Community Philanthropy is a much shorter way to achieve a change to these complex issues like politics.

Country implementation strategies – Post Kampala 2024 reflection event.

Based on the discussions that ensued in the past 2days of the learning event, each country reflected on some of the priorities for the subsequent implementation period. The converging points across all the countries for each domain included;

Domain 1: Documentation of models and learning exchanges.

Domain 2: Movement building and strategic partnerships with Government and like-minded CSOs.

Domain 3: Advocacy at international level, movement building, and strengthen the linkage between Community Philanthropy & #ShiftThePower

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE: WHAT NEXT?

Day three of the learning event offered an opportunity for Giving for Change (GfC) partners to reflect on future strategies to enhance collaboration and build a supportive environment for the GfC Alliance. Three key discussion areas were identified, with each group presenting their key agreements:

1. Enhancing Visibility for the GfC Programme

• **Harmonised Understanding of GfC Visibility:** There is a growing need for a unified appreciation of the importance of GfC programme visibility, ensuring that all partners are on the same page about its power.

• **Communications Coordinator Proposal:** A suggestion was made to designate a communications coordinator, preferably from the Global South, to develop a comprehensive communications and visibility plan for the alliance.

• **Funding Considerations:** It was recommended that each country secure adequate funding for communications, independent of specific projects, by consolidating funding from the alliance.

• **Mediums for Visibility:**
  ◦ Academic Journals: Establish relationships with like-minded actors such as Africa Women in Philanthropy, hosted by CAPSI.
  ◦ Central Repository: Develop a central repository for resources, modeled after successful examples like KCDF's repository.
  ◦ Ongoing Events and Conferences: Encourage participation in festivals and strategic events to build connections.
  ◦ Strategic Invitations: Mobilise key sector players to boost visibility and enrich conversations.
  ◦ Social Media Engagement: Engage in discussions on internet governance to leverage its potential in driving change.

2. Collective Advocacy

How do we advance collective advocacy?

Based on the GfC's past experiences, the team shared reflections on achieving the 'north star' of collective advocacy, focusing on the following areas:

- **Message:** Build on learnings from the 'Too Southern to be Funded' campaign and address the hypocrisy of localisation actors.
- **Resources:** Strengthen partnerships, utilise evidence bases (data and stories), and harness synergies from stakeholders.
- **Spaces:** Map new and existing spaces such as Devex publications, WINGS, philanthropy conferences, and UN Climate Week to increase engagement.
- **Shared Goal:** A common understanding of the GfC advocacy goal allows strategic engagement with targeted actors.
- **Success Indicators:** Success for collective advocacy would mean creating an enabling environment for community philanthropy, establishing dialogue with funders, and amplifying local voices.

3. Movement Building

The team emphasised the power of working collectively to drive their agenda. The group agreed that GfC's aspirations should not rely solely on funding but also on leveraging resources from within organisations and communities.

EMERGING ISSUES AND SELF-ORGANISED DISCUSSIONS

Participants self-organised into small groups to discuss five key topics aimed at enriching programme implementation. These are:

1.   Outcome Harvesting (OH):
Following an April 2024 training, GfC's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) teams reflected on the successful application of OH, sharing learnings and providing peer support to new implementers. There was also a call for a physical workshop to facilitate learning across teams.

2.   Advocacy Opportunities in Global Spaces:
Participants mapped out upcoming international spaces that can amplify community-led development agendas. They emphasized the importance of planning and preparing in advance due to long approval processes for global engagements.

3.   Shifting the Power – Alternative Power Centres:
Shifting the power is a long-term goal, but building alternative power centres can expedite the process. Participants discussed the importance of collaboration, storytelling, trust-building, and self-regulation, recognising the power within communities to drive change.

4.   Private Sector Partnerships for Policy Influence:
The group explored strategies to engage the private sector in advocacy work, including evidence-based sensitisation on the value of philanthropy and leveraging government structures to bring private sector actors on board.

5.   Solidarity and Support for Palestine:
The alliance discussed offering solidarity to Palestine and highlighted the potential of community philanthropy as a quicker route to address complex issues like politics.

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES – POST-KAMPALA 2024 REFLECTIONS

As the event concluded, each country partner reflected on their priorities for the next implementation period. Key areas of convergence across all countries for each domain included:

Domain 1: Documentation of models and learning exchanges.

Domain 2: Movement building and strategic partnerships with governments and like-minded CSOs.

Domain 3: Advocacy at the international level, movement building, and strengthening the link between Community Philanthropy and the #ShiftThePower movement.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The session highlighted that increased visibility is a crucial ingredient in elevating collective advocacy and movement-building efforts. Collaboration across countries, leveraging shared resources, and sustained commitment to the goals of the GfC Alliance will be key to future success.

TABLE 1:
GFC ALLIANCE MEMBER IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY AREAS BY DOMAIN.

COUNTRY	DOMAIN 1	DOMAIN 2	DOMAIN 3
Brazil	• Learning exchanges • Documenting products and communications	• Participating in the collective advocacy *(upcoming campaigns on climate and involve other GFCF alliance members.)*	• International advocacy on climate. • Learning exchange with Mozambique
Ghana	• Documentation of models, case studies, and stories	• Advocacy and building movements for enabling environment.	• Collective advocacy at national and international levels on *#ShiftThePower* through conversations and visibility.
Burkina Faso	• Capacity building of the 20 associations in the 4 regions • ABF coaching monitoring in the 6 regions. • Boosting of COP activities Legal, psychological and health support for girls and women affected by all kinds of violence.	• Media campaign to raise funds for local development initiatives. • Collection of data on stories of change	• Strengthen advocacy and collaboration with GfC alliance members • Engage in international dialogues with development partners on locally led development

COUNTRY	DOMAIN 1	DOMAIN 2	DOMAIN 3
Mozambique	• Strengthen and maintain the grant system (matching/seed) • Inspire and accelerate the impact of our CoPs with the experiments of the Alliance members. • Expand our communication skills (Data collection and management system)	• Building the movement for Community Philanthropy. • Establishing a joint govt-CSO working group philanthropy.	• Establishing the #STP platform in Mozambique (Organising and facilitating meetings)
Kenya	Collating all documentation: GfC story of CoP Learning cross border (one-on-one exchange and showcasing CoP differently) Alliance building post-2025	Policy influencing enabling environment for Civic Space and Philanthropy (Tax rule and PBO regulation)	Linking and connecting local actors to Global conversation on Philanthropy and shift the power.
Ethiopia	• Outcome harvesting • Increasing visibility	• Influencing the govt to use Community Philanthropy as an entry point for development.	• Movement building • Sustainability

COUNTRY	DOMAIN 1	DOMAIN 2	DOMAIN 3
Netherlands	Research for influencing: With Radboud University &University of Nairobi -on perceptions in partnerships and shifting power in development cooperation. New research on perceptions on shifting power with Uganda/Ghana/Netherlands Feeds into AIV advice letter on development policy and promoting citizen engagement &its role in global development.	Advocacy in Europe: Engagement with Civil Society division Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Connection with partners: Philea, FIN, Partos -funders international WG for development ViceVersa (Global) specials, documentaries, and World Café.	M&E in Europe: Support on quality reporting. Consolidation on reporting. Conduct end of programme Evaluation.
Uganda	• Build and support alternative Power Centers	• Alliance building at all levels.	• Policy influencing (Pro-philanthropy policies)

SCENARIO BUILDING:

What are the likely scenarios as we head into the program's end?

Scenario planning plays a big role in understanding the current context on resourcing using assumptions in making possible future scenarios. In the words of Jeremy Heimans, 'The future will be won by those who can spread their ideas better, faster, and more durably." As part of our GfC alliance winning strategy, 3 scenarios were discussed in relation to the GfC programme amidst abundance, limited, and no resources.

SCENARIO A: Using our own resources/assets

Which 3 components of the GfC program should we keep at the national level and which 3 on the international level?

At national level:
1. We need to continue using the COPs as a vehicle to advance community led philanthropy: Sustainability, solidarity, Strategies.
2. Make use of the existing philanthropic models: Piggyback on thegains from the Change the Game Academy (CtGA), Community Philanthropy, and Match Funding.

At International level:
Strengthen the Alliance building: We need to foster relationships – invest in growing the movement, considering GfC as a practice or philosophy rather than a programme, this will drum up international advocacy. There should be connectivity between community, national, and international levels.

SCENARIO B: With no funding; What can we keep and what can we change.

What are we keeping?

1. **Keep the CoPs as vehicles for community philanthropy (Contextspecific):**
key words - Growth, registration, consolidation, influencing
- To strengthen the influencing efforts from the Local to national connection to international level.
- The CoPs can engage in Income Generating Activities to finance any engagements that require funding.
- The CtGA model of Local Fundraising needs to be adopted by the CoPs

2. **Explore and strengthen our Movement building efforts:**
- There should be more connection to networks and or countries
- Advocacy influencing on policies
- Convenings on Shift the power and Community Philanthropy – moving the needle on key issues.

3. Fortify the Alliance efforts:
Explore each partner's strength and utilise the potential for the good of the alliance.

What needs to change?

1. **Re-thinking domains:** Part of this involves improving and dropping some indicators – For example, some that are not direct measures of the intended results.
2. **Do away with "egos, silos, and logos" among the alliance partners** – GfC alliance members should have one branding and focus on communities.
3. **GfC programme extension:** systems change is not time bound since it involves mindset change. Therefore, extending the programme beyond 2025 is desired.
4. **Harness synergies within our philanthropy eco-system:** We can invite others into the movement, this increasing our pool of resources. There is a need for members to be intentional at inviting other like-minded Civil Society Actors into the movement.

SCENARIO C: There is the same level of funding (or more): What innovative areas of the program can we amplify/expand? And what expertise do we have?

- **Amplify CoP voices:** There is a need to expand and leverage on the CoPs voices for social accountability.

- **Utilise evidence-based advocacy:** Generating and using existing evidence as a tool for advocacy for community philanthropy.

- **Strategic collaboration with like-minded actors:** To Identify and collaborate with like-minded actors, for example, Giving Tuesday, Movement for Community development, WINGS engagements.

- **Strengthen partnerships with the private sector:** to advance Community Philanthropy.

- **Fortify the enabling environment for philanthropy:** Continue to support the enabling environment for philanthropy: policies, regulations, taxation, laws.

- **Re-Imagining/Transforming development aid system:** Deepen engagements with donors/ development partners to re-imagine or design the development system relevant to the current context.

DYNAMISING PHILANTHROPY

Facilitated by Ms. Jacqueline Asiimwe, CEO, CivSource Africa, the session sought to trigger reflection on catalytic models that can drive transformation in the Philanthropy sector.

WALK -TALK- Connect

In Jacqueline Asiimwe's words.........

I had a truly inspiring time this afternoon with the Giving For Change (G4C) partners.

I spoke about energizing philanthropy and encouraging impactful actions. I used the metaphor of a drum, likening it to a powerful tool and skill, highlighting its roles in celebration, communication, and inspiration.

I emphasized the importance of drumming with the community, listening to their rhythm before harmonizing with our own. I also touched upon the concept of drumming into symbolizing our advocacy efforts and drumming out of-challenging stereotypes and limiting beliefs hindering our dynamism.

I also pondered whether our endeavors reverberate- that is, create ripples that extend far beyond ourselves.

To foster a deeper connection among us, I led the partners on a refreshing walk outside the usual meeting room setting. It was delightful to bond over conversations and shared moments of play.

This experience encapsulates my passion - the essence of walking, talking, connecting, and striving to make our world a better place.

CONCLUSION

The learning and reflection meeting raised critical issues that need a robust strategy for follow-up. This will enable the alliance partners to remain on track and truly wedded to the bold and transformative vision of the programme.

The alliance leaders/domain leads will need to closely follow through the key emerging issues that may hamper or accelerate domain implementation.

National anchor institutions also need to regularly connect with domain leads to enhance their capacity in delivery of the programme.

Giving for Change Alliance
Kampala, Uganda
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