

ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM 2025

5th & 6th
AUGUST
2025

VENUE
MESTIL
HOTEL,
NSAMBYA

CELEBRATING
AND RECLAIMING
GIVING

CENTERING LOCAL
PHILANTHROPY IN
UGANDA



PROGRAM



philanthropy
FOR development



CivLEGACY
FOUNDATION

Opening Ceremony

Welcome Remarks By The Organisers

8:00AM

- **Dr. Moses Isooba** – Executive Director, Uganda National NGO Forum
- **Ms. Jacqueline Asimwe** – Chief Executive Officer, CivSource Africa

Inspirational Talk: *Why Local Philanthropy Is A Game-Changer.* This inspirational speech will explore how local philanthropy is a transformative force for sustainable development, shifting power to communities, catalysing locally led solutions, and redefining resource mobilisation in Africa.

- **Mr. Francis Kamulegeya** – Non-Executive Director – MTN Uganda, a Social Entrepreneur and Philanthropist whose main interests are businesses and social projects that have a positive impact on the lives of others.

Official Opening Remarks

- **Hon. Betty Amongi Akena** – Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Keynote Address: Financing Our Future: The Role Of Local Philanthropy In Uganda's Development Financing.

10:00AM

This keynote will make a case for centering domestic giving in national development strategies, with reflections on sovereignty, agency, accountability and the ethics of funding.

- **Prof. Pamela K. Mbabazi** – Chairperson, National Planning Authority.

Panel Discussion & Plenary: Is Uganda Ready For A National Giving Framework?

11:00AM

A candid exchange between policymakers, civil society leaders, and philanthropic practitioners exploring whether the time has come to institutionalise giving through a national framework or fund, and what such a framework would need to include to be effective and equitable.

- **DG Geoffrey Martin Kitakule**, Rotarian and District Governor – Rotary District 9213
- **Ms. Barbara Nahone Ajambo Kasibante**, Manager-Regional and International Taxation – Uganda Revenue Authority
- **Mr. Stephen Okello**, Secretary, National Bureau for NGOs
- **Ms. Jacqueline Asimwe**, Human Rights Lawyer, Philanthropy Advisor and Chief Executive Officer – CivSource Africa.
- **Mr. Paul Okitoi**, Commissioner-Debt Policy Issuance – Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- **Dr. Hamis Mugendawala**, Director – Population and Social Development, National Planning Authority.

Moderated by: Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, Executive Director – Center for Basic Research and Technical Adviser, Development Partnerships and Public Sector Performance

1:00PM

LUNCH BREAK

2:00PM

Keynote Address: Reclaiming Our Traditions Of Generosity – A Political, Cultural And Moral Imperative.

This keynote will reassert the centrality of indigenous philanthropy in Uganda's socio-political evolution.

Her Royal Highness will reflect on the erosion of local giving practices amidst donor dependency and argue for a political and cultural renaissance that centres homegrown generosity as a foundation for national development.

- Her Royal Highness the Nnabagereka.

3:00PM

PARALLEL TRACKS

3:00PM

Parallel Track One: When Generosity Is More Than Money – Lessons From Business And Individual Non-Cash Givers

Host: Uganda National NGO Forum & Civsource Africa

This session explores how businesses and individuals are contributing time, skills, products, spaces, and networks to advance community causes, offering powerful lessons on how non-cash giving can be a strategic and transformative force for local philanthropy.

It will highlight real-life examples of resourceful giving, unpack the motivations behind such generosity, and reflect on how non-cash contributions can be recognized, scaled, and integrated into broader philanthropic strategies.

- **Ms. Jovia Nakitende**, Atta Breast Milk Community
- **Mr. Gerald Katabazi** – Volcano Coffee
- **Ms. Stella Kamakune** – Community Leader and Director – Vermillion Foundation
- **Mr. Stephen Rwangyezi**, Founder and Executive Director – Ndere Troupe.

*Moderated by
Mr. Benjamin Rukwengye,
Founder and Chief Executive
Officer – Boundless Minds.*

Parallel Track Two: Movement For Generosity: Learning From Uganda's Signature Giving Campaigns

Host: Raising Teenagers Uganda

This session will explore the design, growth, and impact of mass giving events like the Kabaka Birthday Run, Rotary Cancer Run, and Hike for Girls. Panelists will unpack what drives public participation, what sustains these movements, and how they can be better institutionalised and scaled to meet national development goals.

- **Rtn. Rita Balaka** – Rotary Cancer Run.
- **Ms. Hope Nankunda** – Raising Teenagers Uganda/Hike for Girls.
- **Mr. Joseph Beyanga**, aka Joe Walker – Road safety enthusiast.
- **Ms. Esther Kalenzi** – 40 Days over 40 Smiles
- **Omuk. Sam Dick Kasolo** – The Kabaka Birthday Run.

Moderated by Rtn Oskar Semweya-Musoke

Parallel Track Three: Everyday Giving, Sustaining Uganda's Development Priorities

Host: Giving Tuesday

This session will explore the transformative potential of Giving Tuesday as a locally adaptable platform for mobilizing resources, amplifying everyday generosity, and deepening civic engagement in Uganda. Drawing from inspiring local campaigns such as those led by **Backup Uganda**, **Absa Bank**, and **DHL Uganda**.

The session will highlight how both grassroots organisations and corporate actors are leveraging the Giving Tuesday movement to fundraise, tell their stories, and foster a culture of giving.

- **Ms. Annemaaike Kruisselbrink-oweitu** – Backup Uganda)
- **Mr. Emmanuel Ssekitto** – Faces Up Uganda)
- **Ms. Rehema Hassan Nambi** – Smart Girls Foundation

*Moderated by
Ms. Madonna Ainembabazi
& Ms. Lizza Marie Kawooya*

8:00AM

PARTICIPANT MORNING REFLECTIONS

9:00AM

Keynote Address: From Leakages to Leverage – Crafting a Policy Agenda for Transformative Local Philanthropy

Africa's philanthropic potential is vast, but much of it is lost through fragmented systems, informal practices, and policy neglect. In this keynote, Brian Kagoro will unpack the structural and political leakages that weaken local giving and propose a bold policy and practice agenda for change.

He will challenge government, civic actors, and the private sector to reimagine philanthropy as a lever for social justice and economic transformation and to invest in an enabling environment where local giving thrives and delivers lasting impact.

• **Mr. Brian Tamuka Kagoro**, Managing Director, Programs – Open Society Foundations

9:30AM

Private Sector Panel: Beyond Corporate Social Responsibility – Private Sector Leadership in Reclaiming Local Giving and Social Investment

This session will invite private sector actors to reflect on and reframe their role in Uganda's philanthropic landscape, not merely as donors through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), but as strategic partners, social investors, and ecosystem builders.

They will provide insights into models of corporate giving that are rooted in local values, responsive to community needs, and aligned with national development priorities. They will also share what policy shifts are necessary to trigger and facilitate this kind of investment.

- **Mr. Emmanuel Njuki**, Legal & Corporate Affairs Lead – Nile Breweries Limited
- **Mrs. Annabel Ogwang Okot**, Chief Executive Officer – Centenary Foundation
- **Mr. Martin Opio**, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager – Total Energies
- **Dr. Winnie Nabiddo Mukisa**, Manager, Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance – National Planning Authority

Moderated by: Ms. Barbara Kasekende, Head Business Advisory – Uganda Development Bank.

11:30AM

Corporate Social Responsibility, Findings from Uganda, and Other Countries. What Does The Research Say?

This session will present key insights from a comparative study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and across the African continent, highlighting trends, innovations, and persistent gaps in how businesses engage with social impact.

Drawing on case studies and data, the session will examine how local contexts shape CSR approaches, the extent to which corporate giving aligns with community priorities, and emerging models that blend profit with purpose. Participants will also reflect on opportunities for deeper collaboration between the private sector, philanthropy, and civil society to scale sustainable, locally rooted impact.

- **Dr. Stigmata Tenga**, Executive Director – African Philanthropy Network (APN)

12:00PM

Keynote Address: Rethinking Sustainability – Alternative Financing Models. This Session Will Challenge Participants To Move Beyond Survivalist Models And Radically Reimagine Civil Society Financing In A Post-aid Era.

It will set the stage for bold thinking and paradigm shifts in resource generation. It will be followed by a brief presentation of present emerging models that move away from short-term, project-based funding toward long-term sustainability: social enterprises, community investment vehicles, local endowments, and blended finance. The session will interrogate feasibility, ethical trade-offs, and risk management strategies.

- **Mr. Leonard Okello**, Chief Executive Officer – The Uhuru Institute

12:30PM

Brief Presentation Of Emerging Alternative Models.

Building Endowments: A Strategic Pathway To Civil Society Sustainability

• **Ms. Grace Maingi** – Executive Director of the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF)

Social Enterprise And System Strengthening Models

• **Mr. Modern Kalema Musiimenta** – Country Director at STIR Education, & Founder-MENTA Leadership Academy.

Resourcing Youth Action: Reimagining Local Philanthropy For Youth Civil Society

• **Mr. Gabriel Iguma** – Hub Director for Restless Development Uganda.

12:45PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:45PM

Parallel Track One: Resourcing Youth Action: Reimagining Local Philanthropy For Youth Civil Society

*Host: Restless Development
And Partners*

This dedicated youth session will spotlight the urgent need to rethink how local philanthropy supports youth civil society in Uganda.

Amid shrinking donor funding and restrictive eligibility criteria, most youth-led organizations continue to operate without sustainable or core resources despite their central role in addressing pressing community challenges.

Drawing on the findings of Restless Development's 2024 State of Youth Civil Society Report (Resourcing Youth Power to Thrive), the session will explore innovative, community-driven, and youth-responsive funding models.

Parallel Track Two: Rethinking Sustainability: Social Enterprise And System Strengthening Models

*Host: MENTA Leadership
Academy*

This session will engage civil society leaders in a reflective and forward-looking conversation on how CSOs can reposition themselves for greater sustainability and impact amidst shifting funding dynamics.

The session will introduce and critically examine two practical program strategy models—the social enterprise model, which leverages market-based solutions to generate income, and the systems strengthening model, which focuses on long-term structural change through collaboration and capacity building.

Parallel Track Three: Building Endowments: A Strategic Pathway To Civil Society Sustainability

*Host: Kenya Community
Development Foundation*

This session will explore the potential of building endowments as a long-term solution to the persistent financial vulnerabilities faced by civil society organisations (CSOs) in Uganda and across the region.

As donor landscapes shift and external funding becomes less predictable, endowments offer a proactive and strategic approach to achieving financial autonomy, institutional resilience, and sustained impact. The session will unpack the concept and structure of endowment funds, examine enabling legal and policy frameworks, and draw lessons from successful models from Kenya and beyond.

It will also offer practical guidance on how CSOs can initiate, manage, and grow endowments—whether through local philanthropy, strategic partnerships, or investment instruments.

3:45PM

Concluding Plenary – Facilitated By Ms. Jacqueline Asiimwe and Dr. Moses Isooba

What Will We Take Forward? Sector leaders will respond to key takeaways and share personal or institutional commitments to growing local philanthropy.

- What are you taking away?
- What are you still sitting with?
- What are you going to do?
- Who are you connected with?

Closing Remarks

• **Mr. Jackson Twesigye Kaguri** – a philanthropist and the founder and CEO of Nyaka Global, a non-profit organization focused on providing education and support to vulnerable children and communities in Uganda. He established the organization in 2001 in response to the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in his home village

• **H.E Frederieke Quispel**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Uganda



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