KENYA

Data Strategy and Capacity Building

Data Scoping Meeting
28 April 2015, 8:00–15:00
Southern Sun Mayfair, Nairobi

Strengthening organisations to develop their own long term sustainable in-country data strategy, capacity and tools for more effective development outcomes and grantmaking

Overview

Kenya has undertaken much work to date on data and knowledge issues, and has advanced this through the Kenya Data Forum—a national initiative managed by the Deputy President's office that aims to develop and implement a long term sustainable local data strategy. Kenya, however, lacks an organized framework for collecting reliable and comparable data on philanthropy in the country; to help meet this need, the Philanthropy Sector in Kenya has come together over the decades through the creation of the East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) and more recently the Kenya Philanthropy Forum (KPF) and its Data Sub-group. In June 2015 the KPF organized a Philanthropy Data Management convening that brought together over 30 foundations and trusts to explore opportunities for strengthening data collection, management, and sharing data in the philanthropy forum for greater impact and influence on national development efforts in Kenya. As a result, certain outcomes and aspirations were agreed upon. They included:

◆ Establishing the principles for data management for philanthropy.

◆ Expanding the forum so that participation reflects the size and diversity of existing forms of philanthropy.

◆ Developing a standardized tool for data collection.

◆ Actively engaging in the existing philanthropy data initiative.

◆ Partnering with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) to establish data sets that effectively capture the contribution of philanthropy in Kenya's development.

The June 2015 meeting highlighted the urgent need for philanthropic data and that "Kenya lacks an organized framework for collecting reliable and comparable data on philanthropy in the country."

To begin systematically addressing these recommendations, Foundation Center (a philanthropic support organisation based in New York) designed a multi-stage Data Strategy and Capacity Building Program, working in partnership with KPF, EAAG, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), and the Sustainable Development Goals Philanthropy Platform (SDGPP). This initiative was kicked off at a special "Data Scoping Meeting" of the KPF on 28 April 2016, attended by a total of 51 participants representing a cross section of Kenyan foundations, trusts, and support organisations.

As reflected in the meeting agenda (see Appendix A), the objectives of the Data Scoping Meeting were as follows:

1. Establish principles for collaborative data and knowledge management

2. Understand the core data needs of philanthropy in Kenya

3. Leverage available technologies for collecting and sharing data and knowledge

4. Leverage global knowledge for local purposes

5. Identify data challenges and set local goals

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Data Scoping Meeting and outlines next steps in preparation for a follow-up meeting on Data Capacity Building in the coming months.

Setting the Scene

Since its inception, Kenya Philanthropy Forum, co-chaired at present by East African Association of Grantmakers (EAAG), and the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) has made much progress in organising the philanthropy sector in Kenya to work together. It is 'no longer business as usual,' especially as the space is now occupied by a diverse range of actors, with different motives and interests. Furthermore, development resources have become scarce due to the age old issue of resource competition, which has created the need for foundations to be more creative, accountable, and informed to maximize impact and provide value for money. To ensure effective development and grantmaking outcomes, strategies in the philanthropy sector should be informed by relevant data, not assumptions, and to this and we must up our game—by speaking through verified data-based facts, which is invaluable to philanthropy in Kenya, in enriching its collective voice.

Unfortunately, there is a knowledge gap regarding philanthropy's actual contribution to national development. The difference philanthropy is making should be clear and distinct. Such a critical gap reinforces the real need for data in, for, and by the sector to help actors quantify their contribution, compare information, and learn from each other. Moreover, philanthropy as a sector must work together to ensure that it consolidates valuable information that can be used to engage in policy processes at different levels. There are now important data initiatives in Kenya and organisations leading by example. Initiatives under the Kenya Philanthropy Forum, such as the education sector sub-committee is proving to be a valuable effort to foster stronger collaborations in data sharing, for example avoiding the duplication of scholarships through sharing of data. Another example is that of KCDF, which is keen on building capacity for managing data and subsequently, has started incorporating the role of data collection, analysis and use, as part of the organisation's culture.

To create a stronger movement, philanthropy has to stand out; in order to do that, philanthropic organizations must position themselves to make informed choices by finding efficient ways to collect, manage, and share information, data, and knowledge within the sector to guide and ensure effective decision making.

Foundation Center's Data Strategy & Capacity Building Program

Foundation Center's Data Strategy and Capacity Building Program involves a series of activities taking place over several months. First, in partnership with key local stakeholders, Foundation Center gathers background information on current data issues, constraints, opportunities, and aspirations of foundations regarding in-country data collection and knowledge management. Then, to build a collective set of goals among local stakeholders regarding data collection and knowledge management, the partners collectively develop an agenda for and facilitate an in country "Data Scoping Meeting" with local philanthropy and other relevant participants.

Data Scoping Meetings allow participants opportunities to:

◆ Learn about global data initiatives such as the Global Data Charter, other relevant regional and national data initiatives, and Foundation Center's role in facilitating data collection and knowledge management

◆ Discuss findings from pre-distributed surveys regarding data needs and provide input regarding issues, opportunities and bottlenecks, such as comparability with National Statistical Office data sets

◆ Preview tools that can be used for collecting, displaying and presenting data, and highlight concrete ways in which other philanthropic associations and organisations around the world have successfully developed portals, tools and built capacity

◆ Discuss the components of what a local data strategy would ideally include

Following the Data Scoping Meeting, Foundation Center summarizes and synthesizes the findings and works with local partners to develop an agenda for a Data Capacity Building Training to follow. The Training is designed to address the strategy, capacity, and technical challenges highlighted in the Data Scoping Meeting.

After the Training has been delivered, Foundation Center provides ongoing technical assistance to its local partners to strengthen the country's philanthropic support organisations and foundations, and continue to implement the longer term data strategy and capacity building program in country. As appropriate, this may include working with local partners to develop a technical platform to enable local data collection, management and access and creating protocols for training stakeholders to develop and manage their own data processes.

At a broader level, Foundation Center works with its partners to thread the data capacity building and strategy work into other existing initiatives in country and internationally to ensure its long term sustainability, and position philanthropy as a leader in Global and National development issues and opportunities, as well as data and knowledge management processes.

Principles for Collaborative Data and Knowledge Management

One of the key recommendations from the June 2015 Convening on Data Management in Philanthropy was "the need to establish the principles for data management for philanthropy." Because consensually agreed-upon principles serve as the basis for all data work to follow, this was a key priority for the Data Scoping Meeting. In a facilitated plenary discussion, participants proposed the following principles to guide philanthropic data collection and management in Kenya. These principles will be further refined, focused, and clustered in the next meeting.

- **Data Quality:** We need to agree upon minimum acceptable standards for data quality, to ensure credibility. Principles of best research practice should be rigorously followed.

- **Public Access to Data:** We need to collectively define guidelines on how and when to share data outside the philanthropic context. It was also noted that data for the public good is an evolving principle in Kenya. Led by the government of Kenya, this principle encourages development stakeholders, including the philanthropy sector, to generate data at the county and national level that is relevant and usable for planning and reporting.

> **"***We need to think about what informs our decisions and strategies. How can we consolidate information that best informs our work and what we do?***"**

- **Scope and Relevance:** While acknowledging and borrowing appropriately from existing standards for data collection and sharing in other contexts (e.g., International Aid Transparency Initiative, Sustainable Development Goals, etc.), the Kenyan philanthropic sector must define its own set of indicators that best suits its needs.

- **Confidentiality of Data:** When promises of anonymity are made to organisations that provide sensitive data, procedures must be in place to ensure that confidential information is not accidentally released. When confidential data is shared with other organisations or with the public, it must be presented at an appropriate level of aggregation to ensure that organisation-specific information is not released.

- **Security of Data:** Data storage systems must ensure that data cannot be inappropriately accessed by unauthorized users.

- **Data Access by Peer Organisations or Researchers:** Under what conditions can individual-level data be used for secondary data analyses and by whom?

- **Principle of Consent:** Organisations that own data should be asked by others for permission to use their data.

- **Timeliness and Frequency of Data Collection:** How often should different types of data be collected? How rapidly should data be analyzed and results shared with authorized users?

- **Acknowledging Data Sources:** Intellectual property rights/data ownership must be properly credited, especially when analyzing data that is not your own.

- **Adherence to Principles of Ethical Practice:** The same principles of ethical behavior that apply to all collective activities apply to activities associated with data.

- **Transparency:** Methods by which data were collected must be stated in sufficient detail to allow users to judge the credibility of the data.

- **Accountability:** Data managers have to be willing to stand behind the data collected by their organisation.

- **Standardization:** In order to ensure the ability of data to be widely and efficiently used and shared, specific formats for data collection must be agreed to and adopted.

- **Reconciling Data from Multiple Sources:** Data come from multiple sources; methodologies for data collection may differ, making it difficult to compare or combine data from different sources. Guidelines must be developed to ensure that data from different sources are appropriately used outside of their original context.

- **Inclusivity:** Data processes should be respectful of the context/environment in which they employed.

- **Clear Value Proposition:** Only collect data when it is clear what the data will be used for. Keep in mind that the most useful data are those that benefit not just the data collection organisation but the public, as well.

Competing Principles

In some cases, different principles may conflict with each other. In such cases, stakeholders should establish guidelines to decide which principle applies over the other.

Data and Knowledge Challenges and Needs

In order to use the principles outlined above, and develop a data and capacity building strategy for Kenyan philanthropy, the group first identified the challenges and needs currently experienced by the sector, to prevent the continuation of bottle necks and build the right tools and develop the right approaches to meet the needs.

CHALLENGES

Limited capacity for data collection

Limited capacity generally appears to stem from a lack of systems, human capacity and skills, and funds.

> **"There is a knowledge gap regarding philanthropy's actual contribution to national development; the difference philanthropy is making should be clear and distinct."**

What this actually means for the sector is that, some organisations rely on several external parties for data analysis and reporting which can create delays, differing methodologies and lack of control over process.

There are issues around technology and the use of information management systems, due to the fact that many records are analogue, some organisations use Excel, and others use more sophisticated systems, and the collection process can also be expensive and time consuming, and sometimes is not without risk to the collector i.e., security.

Many of these issues translate to a lack of equipment, lack of taxonomy, gaps in communication, as well as challenges for actually collecting data and then subsequently processing data and verifying data accuracy. These issues also mean that tracking transformational impact is difficult, in part because there is uncertainty as to if and how to measure intangibles, and what actual indicators should be used that can cut across thematic issues and be comparable across sectors. Furthermore, little attention is given to longer-term impact, as the focus is on short-term M&E, often to satisfy donors.

It was felt that there is much data but little knowledge, and uncertainty as to how to derive credible, coherent knowledge out of the data, which means that choosing where to start can be overwhelming.

Limited collaboration in data collection, management, and sharing

Duplication of efforts across different sectors and a lack of knowledge sharing is thought to lead to falsification of interpretation of data, due to both the above capacity related issues, and in particular, because there is limited collaboration between different players in the same sector as well as across sectors in data sharing and partnering. In order to better collaborate, the notion of a clearance process between organisations, including information and agreement on how that data would be used, is crucial.

Unfortunately there are also strained relationships between the government and civil society, including philanthropy, more broadly around data sharing, largely related to trust issues. This will take time to repair through relationship development and creation of a value proposition for data sharing.

Credibility of data sources

Another issue experienced by Kenyan philanthropy is that of credibility, as there seems to be a lack of authenticity and integrity surrounding the data that is collected, including a lack of disclosure on collection techniques and lack of adherence to minimum standards. Hence the data that is being provided to organisations, or shared often lacks supporting documentation including basic facts such as where the data comes from and how it was collected.

There is also a lack of understanding about what other sharing platforms are out there to compare and learn from, which is further complicated by donor restrictions on data sharing.

> **"I don't think there can be a more opportune time to talk about data."**
>
> —*Janet Mawiyoo*

NEEDS

In order to face these challenges, outlined above, Kenyan philanthropy has many needs that must be fulfilled to achieve its data and knowledge goals, all of which are possible, attainable and sustainable. These needs which feed the data and capacity building strategy include:

◆ A need for evidence-based decision making

◆ Indicators both global and local to use for collecting data, and a baseline for comparison

◆ Ongoing capacity building and skill development that is specifically responsive to the challenges faced and outlined

◆ The need to create a data culture and raise awareness around the importance of data, including clearly articulating why it is so crucial

◆ Increased accountability for data and the need to identify ways to compare different data sources and find common denominators, subsequently verifying data sets for accuracy

◆ Tools and processes to better analyse data, and actually use knowledge

◆ An open, common data portal for philanthropy to share and present data in a public space in an easily interpretable and visual format. This will encourage additional collaborations, increase transparency, and provide a system for identifying gaps as well as over funding.

"We need quality data, better use of data and the ability to compare data."

Findings from Pre-meeting Survey on Current Data Practices

At the beginning of the Data Scoping Meeting, results were presented from a pre-meeting survey that sought views on the data-related experiences, context, and needs of participating organisations in order to set the stage for the day's discussions. Survey responses were received from 25 organisations prior to the meeting. Among the key findings:

100% are willing to share lessons learned with peers

96% use indicators to track their impact

88% assess the impact of their programs

80% have a monitoring and evaluation strategy

76% have access to the information they need to achieve their goals

44% use comparative information about the work of other organisations

The findings indicate that the Kenyan organisations attending the meeting have a strong appreciation of the value of data in planning and evaluating their work. This is suggested by the strong majorities that use indicators (96%), assess impact (88%), and have an M&E strategy (80%).

While just 44 percent are currently using comparative information about the work of other organisations, 100 percent said they are willing to share lessons learned with their peers. This underscores the strong need in Kenya to build data and knowledge systems that allow information to be easily collected and shared among philanthropic organisations.

When asked about the most pressing data-related challenges facing their organisations, no single challenge rose above the others. Organisations were equally likely to mention each of the following challenges: access to data, capacity, application of data, sharing data, comprehensiveness, and technology. In short, there is work to be done in each of the areas.

Leveraging Technologies for Collecting and Sharing Data and Knowledge

There are many portals and technologies for collecting and sharing data already in existence around the world, from which lessons learned and best practices can be emulated. A number of these were highlighted in the Data Scoping Meeting.

Model 1: Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) Grantee Map

The KCDF map highlights projects that have been funded across Kenya by KCDF. It allows users to view ten years of grant-level information about the work of KCDF, including the names and locations of recipient organisations, grant amounts, thematic focus of the grant, and project briefs. The map powerfully illustrates what can be achieved through modern mapping technology, and begins to fill a critical information gap regarding the contributions of philanthropy to national development in Kenya. For more information visit www.kcdf.or.ke/grants-map.

Model 2: AFE (Association of Corporate and Family Foundations) Colombia Map

KPF, EAAG, and the SDG Philanthropy Platform (SDGPP) have been exploring various ways of consolidating philanthropic data in a more accurate, reliable, and useful way through south-south learnings. In April 2016, the SDGPP organized a trip to Colombia, where there is a willingness to collaborate and share data openly, to learn about the AFE data management map. AFE created and refined the portal and collected the data over several years with and for its 62 member foundations. The map allows users to voluntarily feed in their grants and project data, allowing real time tracking of investments by foundation, geographical area, SDG, and other filters; and subsequently presents gaps and areas for collaboration. Such a portal also highlights the opportunity for strategic partnerships and effective investments (with greater impact), and acts as a mechanism for attracting other strategic partners and improving the position of organisations, which can lead to the creation of new collaborations. This transparency of data also increases credibility and accountability. For Kenya, a portal with such capabilities would create a better understanding of what is happening and who is doing what and where, in the 47 counties. By nurturing KPF, which brings the benefit of belonging to a collective organisation, Kenyan philanthropy and the sector more broadly can work together to build something that is collectively owned, and would also assist in engaging with the Kenyan government. For more information visit mapa.afecolombia.org.

Model 3: SDGfunders.org

SDGfunders.org is a data and knowledge hub for philanthropy. It presents aggregate data on foundation funding to the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. The portal illustrates the fact that, perhaps without realizing it, global philanthropy has already been working towards the MDGs and the SDGs. A special widget is also currently being developed that will allow organizations to determine which SDG indicators are relevant to their work, enabling them to use a globally shared framework for monitoring progress, in addition to their own indicators. For more information visit sdgfunders.org.

> **"We won't have significant impact unless we have info at our finger tips. We won't influence government unless we have facts."**

Model 4: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (connecting global and local)

Achieving the SDGs depends upon data to measure progress, so it's important to understand what data exists globally and locally and where the gaps are. To do this, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) is a consortium of organisations working together at all levels on a range of specific projects and interventions across all sectors in development. In Kenya, one example of the work is to define a geo-spatial model for counties, and determine how to use such a model to assess needs, such as where roads are needed and what the budget should include for repairs. This work aims to inform national planning including the MTP III and Vision 2030. The GPSDD is also working with governments to draft country data road maps. For more information visit www.data4sdgs.org.

"Data Dreams"

Building on the discussions earlier in the day participants were encouraged to envision possible solutions to their data needs. Inspired by examples of data mapping platforms in use in other contexts, many participants expressed the hope that the Kenya Philanthropy Forum could develop a platform of its own. As one participant put it, "We need a 'kick ass' Dashboard showing graphs, charts, and an easy way to explore data; [i.e.,] an integrated, connected system showing demographics, indicators, populations, and geography." Others offered similar comments:

◆ An interactive and interesting data system

◆ A platform providing accurate, current, reliable philanthropy data

◆ Controlled active participation in a common philanthropy data platform for Kenya

◆ "The Colombian dream"—a system that reflects aspects of the AFE Data Platform

◆ A data system that reflects the diversity of the local philanthropy sector/practices

Other comments focused on the need to change the internal culture of philanthropic organisations regarding the use of data, backed up by sufficient resources to make such changes happen:

◆ Shift in (organisational) culture towards more data oriented practices

◆ Enhanced trust and willingness to share data

◆ Collaboration in open data sharing

◆ Making data more lively, interesting, "magical"

◆ (Sufficient) resources for capacity building

Finally, the "dreams" of some participants focused on the social benefits that could result from more effective use of data:

◆ Tangible impact evidence that contributes to effective development outcomes in Kenya

◆ Sensitized population on the value of giving

◆ Ultimately it's about improving people's lives

◆ A platform for data that leads to sustained impact on the Kenyan population, efficient resource allocation, systems for measurement (impact and such), tools etc. This would be a means to an end for increasing the quality of life in Kenya.

Goals and Priorities

In order to identify a way forward on developing a data strategy, a set of goals and priorities important to Kenyan philanthropy were collectively developed. To do this, participants ranked the data challenges identified in previous sessions in order of priority. Each participant was asked to "vote" for three challenges as their top priorities.

1. **Create a value proposition (31 votes):** Highest priority was given to overcoming general ignorance in the sector about the value of data on philanthropy and the importance of taking a collective approach to data collection and management. To this end, a majority of participants suggested that one of the next steps that should be taken by the field is to create a "value proposition" for collecting and sharing philanthropic data.

"*If we have something to hide, we should ask ourselves why.*"

2. **Capacity building (21):** Participants also identified capacity building as an urgent need. This includes building general awareness among staff of the relevance of data to their work, building their skills in working with data, and developing aptitude for drawing meaningful conclusions from data.

3. **Creating a culture of collaboration (18):** As demonstrated by the pre-meeting survey results, Kenyan philanthropic organisations are unanimous in their willingness to share information with each other. To facilitate knowledge sharing, participants suggested that identifying knowledge partners and developing networked ways of working would be a high priority in the next stage of work on data issues. This will allow organisations to increase the speed with which they can exchange information and make progress on their own goals.

4. **Inclusivity (10):** Efforts need to be made at the beginning of this initiative to ensure that the right voices are at the table. Not only is inclusivity an agreed-upon principle of KPF, but it also ensures that data collection is put to the right purpose and reduces duplication of efforts. While in-sector inclusivity is important in the initial stages, cross-sector inclusivity should eventually be considered, as well.

5. **Quality of Product/Developing a Data System (10):**
There is the desire to develop a data management system for Kenyan philanthropy, and in doing so, care should be taken to maximize both ease of use and compatibility with other related data systems (e.g., KNBS and other important sources of statistical information). Where possible and feasible, opportunities to leverage existing data processes/platforms should be taken advantage of (e.g., KCDF, Colombia, SDGfunders).

> **"If we own the process, we own the product."**
>
> —*Evans Okinyi*

6. **Build Trust in data processes (7):** Not every organisation will be equally ready to participate in collaborative efforts to collect and share data in the early stages of this initiative. Effective collaboration depends upon establishing high levels of trust among partner organisations, and trust is established through developing consensus around shared goals, and candidly addressing issues or concerns as they may arise.

Although these goals were separately identified as priority areas, they are not mutually exclusive. Most, if not all, of them are intertwined. For example, trust building, collaboration, capacity building, and enhanced data culture can be integrated across many aspects of this work. Likewise, some of these activities can take place in parallel.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Overall, this meeting created an opportunity to continue the from work undertaken in Kenya to date, bringing 50 participants together to a consensus to take the data process to the next level. The foundations that were not part of the KPF education sector sub-committee were encouraged to join in order to work towards the creation of a commonly owned, shared data portal for philanthropy as a common agenda and primary goal. EAAG committed to facilitating the data processes in the East African region through local philanthropy forums, and in Kenya through the Kenya Philanthropy Forum and its data sub-committee, with KCDF, SDGPP, and other partners, and supported by Foundation Center, to spearhead the implementation of the data and capacity building strategy.

Participants expressed their interest for active engagement across the six focus goals determined during the meeting (for a list of participants and their interests, see Appendix B). The goals have been clustered and sequenced, in order to enable different priorities to be worked on concurrently. All of the identified priorities feed into the bigger picture of developing capacity and skills to collect, present, and analyze data through a shared portal, and guarantee that progress is made before and at the next convening to be held in early July 2016. This next convening will allow the partners and participants to:

◆ Further develop and implement the data strategy based on the scoping meeting and outcomes outlined in this report

◆ Move forward the work on the six specific goals and priorities

◆ Commence training and skill development on the data capacity and knowledge gaps

◆ Start to determine content and develop wireframes for a shared use portal

Appendix A – MEETING AGENDA

Kenya Data Strategy and Capacity Building—Data Scoping Meeting

Strengthening organisations to develop their own long term sustainable in-country data strategy, capacity and tools for more effective development outcomes and grantmaking

28 April 2015, 8:00–15:00, Southern Sun Mayfair, Nairobi

Time	Session	
08:00-8:30	Setting the Scene: Welcome, Introductions, Objectives and Survey Findings	Evans Okinyi, EAAG Janet Mawiyoo, KCDF Larry McGill, Foundation Center
08:30-09:15	Principles for Collaborative Data and Knowledge Management *Facilitated Session*	Foundation Center
09:15-10:45	Data and Knowledge Challenges and Needs *Facilitated Session*	Foundation Center
10:45-11:00	**Break**	
11:00-12:00	Leveraging Technologies for Collecting and Sharing Data and Knowledge Local & International Case Studies	Melvin Chibole, KCDF Arif Neky SDG Philanthropy Platform Foundation Center
12:00-13:00	**Lunch**	
13:00-13:15	Linking Global and Local Knowledge Initiatives	Foundation Center
13:15-14:45	Setting Local Data and Knowledge Goals *Facilitated Session*	Arif Neky SDG Philanthropy Platform Foundation Center
14:45-15:00	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	Evans Okinyi EAAG

"If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together"

Appendix B – PARTICIPANTS (By Interest Area)

Meeting participants are listed under the specific priority area in which they have expressed interest in further work.

Create a Value Proposition

Margaret Aduto

Joy Zawadi

Judy Mwangi

Bernadette W. Karari

Solomon Onyata

Lionel Angote

Daniel Masawi

Capacity Building

Sarah Nasimiyu

Sarah Njuru

Joy Zawadi

Maina Wambugu

Judy Mwangi

Charles Njoroge

Victor Ochieng

Yoy Munene

Bernadette W. Karari

Joyce Njambi

Knowledge Sharing/Collaboration/Trust

Vincent Rapando

Alex Ndolo

Maria Omare

Ephantus Muhunyo Maina

Fred Lesakale

Wanjiru Wahome

Deborah Kimathi

Sarah Nasimiyu

Maina Watambugu

Bernadette W. Karari

Data Collection/Building a System

Joy Zawadi

Judy Mwangi

Yoy Munene

Joyce Njambi

Not Specified

Marloes Kibacha

Judith Nyambega

Imran Rattansi

Catherine Mwendwa

Kevin Doyle

ABOUT KPF

The Kenya Philanthropy Forum aims at enhancing cooperation and coordination among philanthropy actors in Kenya and other stakeholders in the private and public sphere. It also seeks to heighten recognition and the contribution of the philanthropy sector in the national development agenda. Specifically the forum seeks to:

1. To strengthen partnerships among the philanthropy actors through building synergies and leveraging investment resources for greater impact.

2. Positively engage national and county governments and other multilateral partnerships to influence public policies and proactively respond to development challenges - to enhance a favorable environment for growth and impact of philanthropy in Kenya.

3. To provide institutional strengthening to philanthropy actors in program development and implementation.

4. To strengthen collective research, collation of data, documentation, peer learning, sharing of information and best practices for greater influence and impact of the philanthropy sector.

The forum has successfully brought together 40 foundations and trusts to be part of its membership since its inception in March 2015. These include private, corporate, and community foundations. KCDF in partnership with the EAAG currently acts as the interim virtual secretariat with rotational leadership among the steering committee members.

The forum has initiated a series of interventions that has organically increased and built the constituency of the philanthropic sector in Kenya. They include:

◆ A forum on data management in philanthropy that identified critical data sets that would improve data collection on local giving and give the sector recognition in national development.

◆ A meeting of foundations and trusts working in the education sector that demonstrated the important need to consolidate efforts on education.

◆ Representation of foundations as technical advisors to the UNDP—United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

◆ Recognition of the philanthropy sector in the Development Partners Forum.

◆ And ongoing conversations on the place of philanthropy actors in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

◆ In line with this, the Kenya Philanthropy Forum has established sub-groups on:

➤ **Data management:** The team seeks to establish clear philanthropy data sets in partnership with the Kenya Bureau of Statistics to effectively collect data that demonstrates the philanthropy sector's contribution to GDP.

➤ **Promoting an enabling environment:** Continuous conversation on ensuring that the regulatory, legal, and fiscal environment continues to facilitate the work of the philanthropy sector.

➤ **Education:** To strengthen partnership, increase effectiveness of the philanthropy sector in supporting education in Kenya, and positively engage national and county governments and other multilateral partnerships to influence public policies and proactively respond to development challenges

For more information about KPF or this work, please contact: programmes@eaag.org or susan.odongo@kcdf.or.ke.

About Foundation Center

In order to strengthen the philanthropic sector to achieve more effective development and grantmaking outcomes, Foundation Center works with partners to understand the global philanthropic landscape and the in-country contexts within which philanthropy operates. We work with partners to understand specific data and knowledge gaps and associated capacity issues, and facilitate the building of long term sustainable local data strategies and capacity to address these issues. We work to provide technical assistance to local philanthropic organisations and associations to develop their own data collection processes and infrastructure and organize information in ways that allow it to be accessed, aggregated, analyzed, compared, and researched. Important partners in this work may include the National Bureau of Statistics, international and local foundations and philanthropists, grantees, and existing data infrastructure networks and processes both global and local, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Worldwide Initiative for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), and others.

For more information about Foundation Center or this work, please contact Lauren Bradford, director of global partnerships, at lbr@foundationcenter.org.

FOUNDATION CENTER
Knowledge to build on.

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