

# Report

## Uganda National Philanthropy Forum

*'Achieving more; harnessing the Power of Philanthropy in Uganda'*

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, Silver Springs Hotel, Kampala, Uganda



EAST AFRICA ASSOCIATION  
OF GRANTMAKERS

**Nurturing Philanthropy in East Africa**

Compiled by Catherine Mwendwa, EAAG

# Background

**Over the past decade, the landscape of philanthropy globally has seen a steady rise. In East Africa, the number of philanthropy actors has increased in number and diversity. There are more individual donors, responsible businesses, community foundations, social development arms of faith-based organisations, and social impact investors championing social change in the region.**

Most organizations are increasingly keen to work as part of a larger, diverse and powerful network – a network that offers space for collaboration and coordination while building a collective voice that addresses shared concerns.

The East Africa Association of Grantmakers seeks to facilitate strong and responsive philanthropy support platforms that enhance best practices, promote local resource mobilization and advance a favorable operating environment for local philanthropy in East Africa. To achieve this, it is important to acknowledge the varying levels of engagements among philanthropy actors and the diverse contexts across the East Africa region. Although to a certain extent the region presents a shared context of philanthropy, the landscape, operating environment and practices are not homogenous. It is this background that necessitated EAAG's proposal to decentralize philanthropy conversations to the national level in a bid to capture and effectively respond to emerging concerns and issues unique to the different East African countries.

Through partner organizations in respective countries, the national forums are envisaged to;

- Consolidate and strengthen the voice of philanthropy in national development.
- Provide a learning and exchange platform for philanthropy organizations (foundations and trusts)
- Strengthen philanthropy collaboration and innovation at the national level
- Increase awareness on the value/contribution of philanthropy in national development

The forums will primarily target philanthropic organizations established or with a local presence in the respective countries. It will also seek to engage in issues of interest to private foundations, family foundations, community foundations, corporate foundations and faith-based giving.



‘This is a great opportunity for us in Uganda to join the rest of the world in understanding the increasing importance of philanthropy in our development process as well as the changing global environment’



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### Overview

EAAG in partnership with the Independent Development Fund (IDF), DENIVA and GoBig Hub hosted the first Uganda National Philanthropy Forum on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at the Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The objective of the forum was to explore strategies of consolidating and organizing the philanthropy sector in Uganda. The discussions sought to map out and facilitate the creation of an all inclusive and active national platform for philanthropy.

Themed ‘*Achieving more - Harnessing the Power of Philanthropy in Uganda*’ the forum targeted local private philanthropic organizations established or with a local presence including private foundations, family foundations, community foundations, corporate foundations and faith-based giving.

The agenda also included an afternoon learning and exchange sharing session titled *Mobilizing Private Local Resources for Development in Uganda: Lessons from Foundations* where participants shared their experiences in fundraising from local private donors to support social programmes.

# Thoughts

- How can we promote local initiatives or best practices for philanthropy in Uganda?
- How can we encourage individuals and companies to make contributions?
- How do we get to understand the changing environment of giving/philanthropy?
- How do we harmonize and promote our causes?
- How do we create a paradigm shift on giving in Uganda from one that is short term to a strategic long-term intervention?
- How do we encourage our artists to give and not beg?'- *Ddamulira*

## Opening Session

*Davis Ddamulira, Executive Director, Independent Development Fund*

At the opening session, each participant had an opportunity to introduce themselves and their organizations, an exercise that revealed a rich blend of foundations, social entrepreneurs, grantmaking organizations and community philanthropy organizations represented.

While delivering the opening remarks, Davis Ddamulira gave a brief overview of the philanthropy sector in Uganda acknowledging the increased role of local resource mobilization in supporting social change. He noted that the definition of local philanthropy should not be limited to monetary contribution/grantmaking but should seek to be more inclusive in-order to acknowledge and accommodate other types of giving such as time, voice and skills which are very common in Uganda. Philanthropy goes beyond charity and the philanthropy sector should do more to challenge socio-economic injustices as a long-term strategy in addressing poverty.

Davis further noted an increase in structured local giving in Uganda. There is a rise in the number of socially conscious businesses and high-net worth individuals, a growing middle class and intensified community mobilization especially in rural areas. However, despite this growth, the philanthropy sector players continue to work in silos because there are limited spaces for learning, sharing and collaboration amongst Ugandan foundations.

Emphasis should be placed on the value of building credible, transparent and efficient local nonprofits. This, he noted, is key in seeking the support of local donors or leveraging on community resources. He acknowledged the timely nature of the Uganda National Philanthropy Forum terming it an opportunity for the sector to share best practices, work together and build a credible movement that is more organized and one that achieves more. The Independent Development Fund (IDF) will continue to support the Uganda National Philanthropy Forum.



Davis Ddamulira,  
Executive Director,  
Independent Development Fund

# Philanthropy in Uganda

*Ojijo Pascal, Founder GoBigHub, Uganda*

**Practice & Trends** | Uganda, like many African countries has an embedded philanthropy culture informed by traditional ways of life, social interactions and religious beliefs. A significant percentage of giving in Uganda happens informally and therefore remains largely undocumented. Local philanthropy in Uganda focuses mostly on addressing immediate needs such as food, education, health, access to social amenities and empowerment of marginalized groups. Community philanthropy is very common, especially in rural areas where members come together to form associations/groups to collectively address common socio-economic challenges in their communities.

In the recent past, Uganda has seen a rise in institutional philanthropy with the establishment and growth of various foundations (faith-based, corporate, family and public foundations) and registered community philanthropy organisations. Very few local foundations are grantmaking organisations as most are involved in direct service delivery as opposed to grant making. For example the Nnabagereka Foundation provides direct social services to its beneficiaries. In addition, very few companies have foundations that independently manage their corporate giving programmes. Corporate giving is largely unstructured or through Corporate Social Responsibility/marketing departments.

On resourcing; most foundations leverage on both local and foreign funding. Sources range from multilateral funding, international NGOs, global foundations, corporate institutions, individuals and religious institutions. Like other East Africa countries, Uganda's development funding has been strained in the recent past and so organizations are keen to adopt sustainability as a key operational model.

For these reasons, the fundraising culture has evolved to include micro-charity contributions (small donations- mobile giving/ crowd funding), sustainability models such as endowment building & income generating activities and adoption of entrepreneurial philanthropy. A growing number of change-makers especially young people are taking up social entrepreneurship as an innovative approach in tackling socio-economic challenges that face the country. Rightfully so, a lot of development funding has gone into enterprise development.

**Tax and legal Environment for Philanthropy** | Local philanthropic organizations in Uganda exist in various forms. There is no specific law governing foundations – they can be registered as NGOs under the NGO Act, a Trust under the Trustee incorporation act or as Companies limited by Guarantee under the Companies Act.

Uganda tax laws provide various benefits for foundations, individuals and other local philanthropic organizations under the income tax Act;

- **Benefit is applicable to tax exempt organizations only.**
- **The extent of the tax relief is limited to 5% of chargeable income**  
(Individuals & Institutions)

“Trusts in Uganda are established by the Trusts Act Cap 164 of 1954 and the Trusts incorporation Act Cap 165 of 1939. Foundations can be registered either under the Trustee’s Incorporation Act or as companies limited by guarantee under the companies Act.”

**Report—A review of the Tax Environment for Philanthropy in E Africa -EAAG (2010)**



“Uganda’s Income Tax Act establishes a category of exempt organizations which includes those that are of a religious, charitable, educational, or public character. Qualifying organizations are exempt from tax on almost all categories of income.

Individuals and legal entities are eligible for tax deductions for charitable contributions. Ugandan law subjects certain sales of goods and services to VAT, with a fairly broad range of exempt activities.

Foreign grants are exempt from VAT. “ -  
**Council on Foundation - Uganda Profile**



# A Case for a National Philanthropy Forum

*Nicanor Sabula, CEO, East Africa Association of Grantmakers*

**1. Philanthropy & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) |** The UN system and national governments acknowledged philanthropy as a strategic partner in shaping and helping achieve the newly launched SDGs and not just a source of national and international development funding. For this reason, philanthropy as a sector at different levels are organizing itself to strategically respond to these demands by working collaboratively with governments and other development stakeholders.

To achieve this, data has been identified as a key element. So far, data limitations have hindered the attempt to accurately plan and track the contribution of philanthropy in development processes in Uganda. A National Philanthropy platform can take strategic approaches in developing a framework for data collection on philanthropy. There are ongoing initiatives seeking to streamline philanthropy in the larger development arena.

Initiatives such as the Partnership for Philanthropy Platform and [www.sdgfunders.org](http://www.sdgfunders.org) can further broaden understanding of the role of philanthropy in the broader context of global development during the MDG s– SDG transition.

The National Philanthropy Forum is an opportunity to actively nurture and promote the role of philanthropy in Uganda.

*Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy – a collaboration between foundations that make international grants, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Foundation Center and RPA – whose goal is to enable philanthropy to engage more effectively in global development goal processes, and help the UN and governments understand the added value of philanthropy’s engagement.*

[WWW.SDGFunders.org](http://WWW.SDGFunders.org) website – portal providing information to support Philanthropy Engage in the Global Development Agenda

## 6. Strengthening Global Philanthropy Agenda |

Linkages and interconnections in philanthropy are becoming critical. There is a push for a clear framework that will allow a chain of interaction from the local to the global levels.

Institutions such as the African Philanthropy Network (APN) and WINGS provide channels to link local issues to the regional and global discussions. The NPF's will be an integral part of these channel.

**2. Dwindling foreign funding for development** | reduced development funding from Official Development Aid and other traditional donors has opened up opportunities for governments, communities, private sector and CSOs to explore innovative, collaborative and sustainable solutions in addressing socio-economic challenges in the region. Such a forum would prove a good platform to discuss and prioritize local development issues to maximize the impact of the limited development resources.

**3. Growth in extractive industry** | Philanthropy as a sector is expected to play a key role in not only amplifying the voices of communities by advocating for economic justice but also investing in the creation of sustainable communities.

**4. Era of collaboration** | there is an increasing pressure for the philanthropy sector to do more to accelerate and demonstrate the impact of their work. This has created an opportunity to collaborate with other development stakeholders and government. The national philanthropy forum is envisaged to be instrumental in strengthening collaborations in programmatic areas, funding sources, sectors and organizations.

**5. Operating environment** | National forums have the ability to consolidate a collective voice, define an operating environment that is favorable for promoting local giving and advocate for appropriate and supportive legislative and regulatory frameworks at the national level. There are also concerns over consistent threats to civil space in East Africa and philanthropy has a role to play to safeguard civic freedoms and support the work of civil society.

# Way Forward;

Facilitated by Davis Ddamulira, IDF

Participants agreed that the Uganda National Philanthropy Forum is essential in organizing, coordinating and networking the philanthropy sector in Uganda. Drawing from the discussions led by Davis, the following emerged;

The forum should seek to achieve the following goals;

- A) Provide a platform to share best practices, learn and foster collaboration among foundations- The national forum should seek to foster dialogue and consolidate efforts to focus on promoting philanthropy, cooperation and accountability in Uganda.
- b) Enhance the operating environment for philanthropy in Uganda – the forum seeks to form a collective voice for advancing a better policy and legal environment that promotes local philanthropy in Uganda. The forum should also serve as a focal point when the sector needs to initiate discussions with the governments development agencies and the general public on different areas of interest at the country level.
- c) Generate knowledge and create awareness on the contribution of local philanthropy to national development. Generate, consolidate and share philanthropy data- there is limited data on how the contribution of philanthropy to the national and global development plans.

## Composition

Private and public foundations (family, corporate, community, faith-based and individuals foundations) established or operating in Uganda

Individuals philanthropists/high net worth

Companies (with giving programmes)

Philanthropy Support organizations

# Proposals; building stronger philanthropy

Facilitated by Davis Ddamulira, IDF

## Way Forward

Participants agreed to form an interim working group to provide strategic leadership of the Uganda National Philanthropy Forum. The working group shall be inclusive and reflective of the philanthropy landscape in Uganda. It was also agreed that the Independent Development Fund be the lead convener and facilitator in Uganda supported by DENIVA and GoBig Hub. The organizations will provide institutional support in planning meetings. EAAG committed to providing technical guidance for the process.

Emphasis was also made on the value of enhancing multi-stakeholder conversations between the forum members and other development stakeholders such as beneficiaries of Philanthropy, private sector, international donors with a presence in Uganda, local and national government.

It is expected that the committee will act as a think tank and members will participate voluntarily. The working group was tasked to develop a working document of the forum that would provide guidance in;

- A) Defining the agenda of the forum
- B) Defining eligibility criteria for members
- C) Consolidating a list of potential members of the forum
- D) Proposing common and priority issues the forum should address
- E) Suggesting a working structure for the forums
- F) Setting a long and short term agenda with respective timelines
- G) Defining a suitable and convenient model of information sharing among members

**Proposed  
working  
document  
expected by end  
November to be  
validated by  
members in  
January 2016**

## Members of the working group

Proposed by participants

- A) Davis Ddamulira, Executive Director, Independent Development Fund
- B) Pascal Ojijo, Founder, Gobig Hub
- C) DENIVA, Bonnie Mutungi, Coordinator, DENIVA
- D) Evelyn Omala, Director of Operation, Segal Family Foundation
- E) Margaret Sekaggya, Executive Director, Human Rights Centre, Uganda
- F) Byamukama Bobson, Co-founder, Mwana wa Gwanga Foundation

Participants proposed to reserve a slot for 2 more foundations from corporate and family foundation.

# Reflections

‘There is so much knowledge to learn between and among ourselves’

‘Embrace philanthropy in all its forms, from those that address social injustices to those that provide basic social services’

‘Corporate giving as philanthropy debate; All parties that seek to meaningfully invest in communities should be supported.’

‘Fundraising is not just about money but growing your resources through sustainable approaches’

‘Networks provide an understanding between & among various forms of giving. An understanding that fosters better collaborations’

‘Most want to give in a meaningful way but do not know how to. How can we support them?’

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	ACCORD	Hellen Achan Amule	Policy & Advocacy
2	Acc-Plus Foundation Africa	Brian Mangeni	Founding Director
3	Action Africa Help Uganda	Justine Wanda	Finance & Admin Officer
4	Action Africa Help-Uganda (AAH-U)	Kanyangareng Oscar Okech	Programme Manager
5	Agro-Tourism Association	Joseph Taremwa Ruhakana	CEO
6	Akola Project	Lauren Baldwin	Operations Coordinator
7	Amity Child-Uganda	Danson Tushabe	Executive Director
8	Baylor-Uganda	Emily Ausubel	Resource Mobilization Officer
9	Bead for Life	Joanita Nambi	SBS Coordinator
10	Bulogo Women's Group	Walubo Jude	Program Officer
11	DENIVA	Rugambwa Justus	Executive Director
12	DENIVA	Bonnie Mutungi	Coordinator
13	Dextra Foundation	Owachgiu Denos	
14	EAAG	Nicanor Sabula	CEO

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
15	EAAG	Catherine Mwendwa	Programmes Officer
16	EAAG	Rachael Bigala	Research Assitant
17	Forum for African women Educationalist Uganda	Chola Kunda	Resource Mobilization Officer
18	Go Big Hub	Viwal Hawal	Admin
19	Gobig Hub	Ssali Emmanuel	
20	GoBigHub	Ojijo Pascal	Founder & Team Leader
21	Health Promotion and Rights Watch-Uganda	Nankunda Hope Mwijuka	Director
22	Human Rights Centre Uganda	Margaret Sekaggya	Executive Director
23	IDF	Davis Ddamulira	Executive Director
24	IDF	Sarah	Programme Senior Manager
25	Inter-Religious and Intercultural Dialogue Programme	KIZITO NGANDA	Programme Officer
26	Inter-Religious and Intercultural Dialogue Programme	Dr. Nsereko vincent	
27	Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue Programme	Sister Mary Goretti Kisakye	Executive Director
28	KCDP Youth Project	Kagiri Sulaiman	Chairman
29	Uganda Charity Trust Fund	Muyanja Henry	

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
30	<b>Kikandwa Environmental Association</b>	Kaganga John	
31	<b>Mara Foundation</b>	Gakuo M.W Roy	Representative
32	<b>Mariam Nagujja</b>	Author	Focus Group Int
33	<b>Mwana wa Gwanga Foundation - Uganda</b>	Afuah Yunus	Social Worker
34	<b>Mwana wa Gwanga Foundation - Uganda</b>	NAMULI BRANON	
35	<b>mwana wa Gwanga Foundation - Uganda</b>	Akandwanaho Frida	Consellor
36	<b>Mwana wa Gwanga Foundation - Uganda</b>	Byamukama Bobson	Co- founder
37	<b>National Association for Women'S Action in Development (NAWAD)</b>	Patience N Muramuzi	Executive Director
38	<b>Organisation for African Progressive Movement</b>	Kasozi Mulindwa	Chairman
39	<b>Platform for Labour Action (PLA)</b>	Grace Mukwaya Lule	Executive Director
40	<b>Private Sector Foundation of Uganda</b>	Godwin Othieno	Programme Design
41	<b>Rural Women Initiative</b>	Seruzi Alexander	
42	<b>Segal Foundation</b>	Evelyne Omala	Operations Director
43	<b>Students fro Global Democracy Uganda</b>	Otim Ivan	Program Officer
44	<b>Kick Corruption Out of Kigezi (KICK)</b>	Namara Ruth	Advocacy & Comm Officer

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
45	<b>Water Aid</b>	Solomon Kyegwe	Program Coordinator
46	<b>Young Mothers Care Foundation - Uganda</b>	Wanamama Tonny	Managing Director
47	<b>Young Mothers Care Foundation - Uganda</b>	Neumbe Angella	Secretary
48	<b>Young Mothers Care Foundation - Uganda</b>	Caroline	Treasurer
49	<b>Youth For Charity Missions International</b>	Kasakye Babra	
50	<b>Youth For Charity Missions International</b>	Stephen Kapere	President
51	<b>3 Z Foundation</b>	Mohammed Katotto	Manager



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Evelyne Omala, Segal Family Foundation



Pascal Ojiji– GoBig Hub

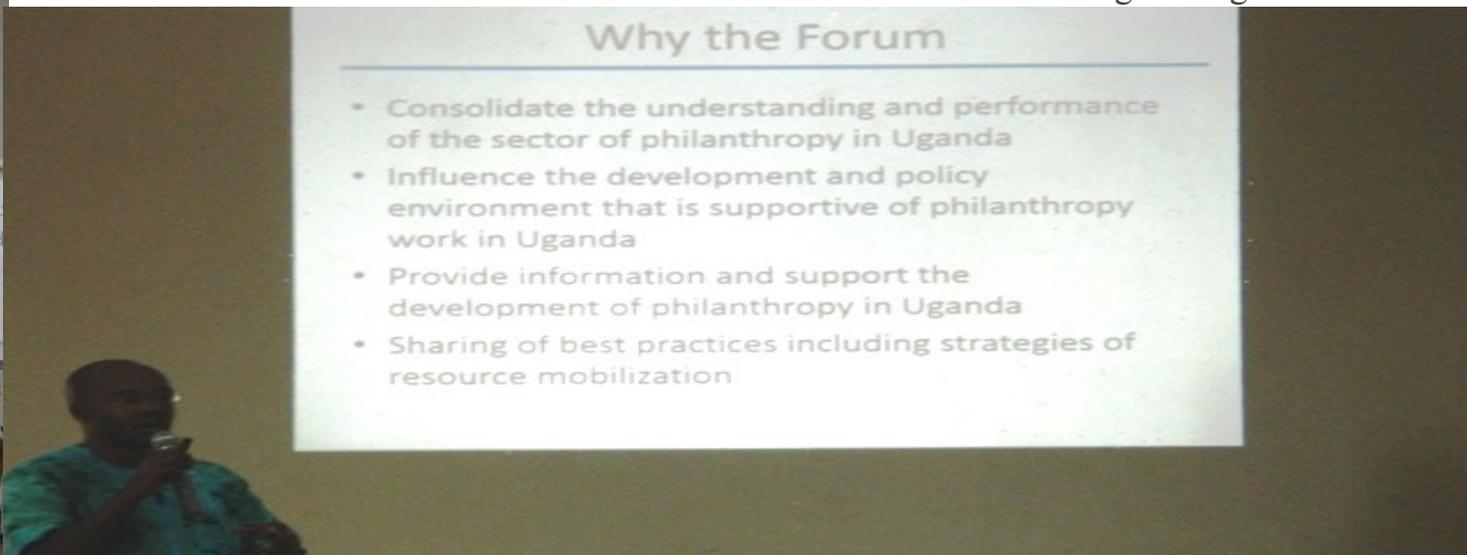


22.10.2015 13:31

Sr. Goretti—Inter-Religious & Inter-cultural Dialogue Programme



22.10.2015



- ### Why the Forum
- Consolidate the understanding and performance of the sector of philanthropy in Uganda
  - Influence the development and policy environment that is supportive of philanthropy work in Uganda
  - Provide information and support the development of philanthropy in Uganda
  - Sharing of best practices including strategies of resource mobilization



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