



EAST AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF GRANTMAKERS



June 2016

Launch of the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement Initiative In Kenya

Introduction

The Government of Kenya through the SIFA initiative (Social Investment Focused Agenda) in conjunction with the SDG Philanthropy Platform, UNDP, OECD netFWD, key philanthropy organizations, including EAAG and Kenya Philanthropy Forum as well as other development stakeholders, launched an initiative to pilot the **Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement in Kenya** on **29th June 2016** at the **Office of the Deputy President**. The initiative brings together government, philanthropy, development agencies, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to pursue development goals on the basis of their respective comparative advantages. Specifically, this initiative focuses on the theme of Technical and Vocational Education and Skills Training due to ongoing national priorities and policies in this sector. It aims to optimize the way philanthropy and the government, together with other development actors, can help with the skills mismatch between workers (supply) and the job market (demand). While the Guidelines were presented and endorsed at Ministerial level at the *First*

High Level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), held in Mexico in April 2014, the Kenyan pilot initiative follows successful piloting of the Guidelines in India, Mexico and Myanmar.

Setting the Scene

The Kenyan launch event was hosted by The Office of the Deputy Presidency of Kenya (through the SIFA initiative), the SDG Philanthropy Platform (SDGPP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the OECD's Network of Foundations Working for Development (OECD netFWD), and the East African Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) with funding support from the SDG PP. The meeting allowed foundations, government representatives and other partners to learn more about the objectives of the project, as well as to agree on next steps. In its next phase, the initiative will consist in reaching out to foundations and government officials to establish a baseline of the state and nature of collaboration on development and TVET specific issues, followed by further



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consultations, to be synthesized in a jointly owned action plan on how to improve future engagement.

There is no way we will achieve sustainable development by 2030 unless we work together and partner and leverage on each other's expertise and experience. (Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Deputy President's Office)

From a broader perspective, the initiative was discussed as contributing towards achieving Kenya's development priorities under Vision 2030 and to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event started with opening remarks by Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, from the Office of the Deputy President, who emphasized the importance of partnerships in achieving the SDGs. With regards to education Dr Sing'Oei mentioned that the focus has shifted from accessibility to quality and relevance of education.

Mr. Maurice Makoloo, regional head of the Ford Foundation, a key player in instigating sustainable change around the globe and a founding partner of the SDG Philanthropy Platform in Kenya, offered some remarks on behalf of the philanthropic sector. He underlined the fact that Kenya has been leading on the discussion of how to engage philanthropy more deeply and systematically in achieving national development aspirations.

Philanthropy appreciates the Government's openness in recognizing the importance of the sector and philanthropic actors consider it crucial for success to be seen as key

partners in driving national and local development.

Ms. Bathylle Missika, Head of the OECD network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) subsequently introduced the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement and offered insights on the methodology which is to drive the initiative in Kenya, as well as in other pilot countries. The three pillars on which the initiative is built are:

- Dialogue
- Data
- Partnering

The ultimate goal of the voluntary and non-binding guidelines is to bridge the gap in communication and collaboration between foundations and the government to improve development outcomes.

For further information on the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement Initiative, you may access the presentation [here](#).

The Philanthropy Landscape in Kenya

Mr. Evans Okinyi, Acting CEO of the East African Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) and Mr. Arif Neki, National Coordinator, the SDG Philanthropy Platform and UN Strategic Partnerships Advisor subsequently provided presentations on the landscape of philanthropy in Kenya and recent developments. The history of philanthropy in the country is long-standing and comprises important developments ranging from systems based on practical values of trust and mutual responsibility, the concept



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of “harambee” driven by self-rule and pride to institutionalized philanthropy with the establishment of foundations and trusts. Philanthropy’s contribution to development has always been immense but often unrecognized but now we have data to prove it. The share of total foundation MDG funding in Kenya between 2002-2012 stood at \$728,382,896¹. This also indicates the important contribution of the philanthropic sector to the countries GDP. In Kenya, the thematic area supported the most by philanthropic actors is education. Philanthropy’s important potential in supporting national development aspirations results in a number of opportunities for the sector, including:

- Engagement in policy processes
- Engagement in the enabling environment for philanthropy
- Integrating philanthropy in national development processes
- Data emphasis

Nevertheless, these opportunities cannot be fully exploited if existing challenges are not actively addressed:

- Unfavorable tax and legal policy
- Limited collaboration across stakeholders such as government and philanthropy
- Lack of tools to monitor and measure social impact

Important steps to increase philanthropy’s influence in national development

¹ SDGfunders. 2014. *SDGfunders SDG Philanthropy Platform*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://sdgfunders.org/mdgs/country/kenya/lang/en/>. [Accessed 9 July 2016].

processes have been made over the past months and especially in regard to the SDGs. The sector was much more involved in the country and county level consultations around the new global blueprint for sustainable development. In an attempt to institutionalize a voice for philanthropy in the country and to form a harmonized and centralized forum that will coordinate and support the needs of any organization with an interest in philanthropy; EAAG, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the SDG Philanthropy Platform came together to encourage over 50 Foundations to form the Kenya Philanthropy Forum. Under the guidance of its virtual secretariat, made up by EAAG and KCDF, KPF helps to steer the growth of the philanthropy sector as a whole.

To learn more about the philanthropy landscape in Kenya access the presentations [here](#) and [here](#).

Landscape of TVET in Kenya

“TVET IS THE ANSWER”

Mr. Bashir from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology suggested the establishment of a coordination desk to facilitate efforts around TVET among various partners.

Education is a major tool for social evolution as it improves lives. Therefore, education must continuously change and improve. (Mr. Bashir, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)



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In his presentation, which can be accessed [here](#), Mr. Bashir provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the TVET landscape in Kenya. For a long time, the sector struggled as it remained disorganised with multiple players, lacked a systemic approach and remained rather low on the government’s investment priorities. However, with the introduction of new reforms in 2013, TVET became increasingly more important in national planning and budgeting processes. Noteworthy progress has been achieved in the sector since, such as the development of a TVET masterplan with strategies ready for implementation. There are currently 49 Technical and Vocational Colleges in place with another 130 under construction and 10 national polytechnics functioning in the country. However numerous challenges remain, which mainly relate to insufficient funding, a lack of tools and staff to properly equip the existing TVET institutions and missing administrative, fiscal and legal arrangements between training providers, Government and employers.

Dr. Dinah Mwinzi, Principle Secretary, Vocational and Technical Training was the Chief Guest of the event and started by stating that “we must celebrate the students” who complete TVET courses. Kenya is ranked highly globally in creativity but there is a need to have high quality skills to meet the demand of investors. We must therefore become internationally competitive in the standards and quality of technical and vocational training.

Examples of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

This penultimate session highlighted multiple good practice examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the country.

Sri Bharatam of Kuza Bishara talked about the **TVET Consortium** with Housing Finance Foundation (HFF) and UNDP’s Biashara centres, which is a collaboration fostered by the SDG Philanthropy Platform.

Please go [here](#) to receive more information on this exciting initiative.

Ms. Joy Muballe of the Lundin Foundation introduced a center of excellence set up in Lodwar, Turkana one of the most remote areas in Kenya, in collaboration with the County Government. The **Lodwar Youth Polytechnic (LYP)** aims to catalyze skills development and improvement in training capacity for the oil and gas sector and support sectors. Lundin Foundation worked together with the Turkana County Government and others to make the LYP one of the first philanthropy-government partnerships in TVET. Find the presentation on this example [here](#).

The **Hands on the Future National TVET Conference & Kenya Skills Show 2016** which will take place in September was introduced to the participants by Mr. Kevin Doyle, Chief Executive Director of the initiative. The event which will have more than 20,000 participants, including youth, their parents, employers and many others, will be a great opportunity to strengthen collaboration across the TVET ecosystem in order to substantially contribute to addressing youth unemployment and the skills gap present across multiple economic, social and cultural sectors in Kenya.



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He also advocated for participation in the Permanent Working Group on Technical & Vocational Education and Training. Potential new members must be aware that commitment and dedication are crucial for meaningful participation in the PWG. Go [here](#) to get more information on the Hands on the Future National TVET Conference & Kenya Skills Show 2016.

Finally, Mr. Matanda Wabuye from KNCCI presented their current TVET initiatives, and emphasized the importance of collaboration and networking for partnerships in order to identify key areas of competence for youth that will lead to employability and self-subsistence.

Optimizing and Upscaling Philanthropy, Government and Multi-Stakeholder Collaborations

During an open discussion, participants raised a number of issues ranging from the need to include people living with disabilities, as well as how to make TVET more attractive and change parents' perception on vocational training and how to strategically reach out to and include CSOs.

Following an inclusive and stimulating discussion, concrete proposals to move forward were made, including from Sri Bharatam, founder of Kuza Biashara, who offered to share the curriculum and assessments used in the Kuza Biashara platform with the Ministry of Education while beginning a process of certification for the micro-courses they offer in technical and vocational skills for youth.

Prof. Sperling from the Rahimtulla Trust pledged Kshs one million as a matching grant towards a study, gathering and analysing data on the TVET landscape in Kenya. Mr. Varsy Wanjau from the Wadhvani Foundation also pledged to support this venture.

Ms. Florence Syevuo from the SDGs Kenya Forum stated that they would be happy to provide assistance through their technical expertise to foundations and the government in moving TVET forward.

Way Forward

The initiative to pilot the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement in Kenya was successfully launched and welcomed as being timely and relevant to Kenya's 2030 development agenda. Next steps include sharing a survey to be distributed to philanthropy and government. Results from the survey will be collated, analysed, and presented to multiple stakeholders – those present at the launch meeting and others. On that basis, participating stakeholders will identify areas for convergence and agree upon a set of commitments to foster further engagement and collaboration between philanthropy and the public sector, with special focus on TVET.

The initiative will be documented in a published case study, to be presented – as part of a broader study comprising of the findings of other countries – at the Second High Level Meeting (HLM2) which will be held in Nairobi **in November**.