

# Giving for Change

Annual Report 2024



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## The Giving for Change Alliance

The Giving for Change Alliance consists of the consortium members: the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and Wilde Ganzen Foundation. It has the following anchor partners:

<b>Brazil</b>	: Comuá Network & CESE
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	: Association Burkinabè de Fundraising (ABF)
<b>Ethiopia</b>	: Development Expertise Center (DEC)
<b>Ghana</b>	: STAR Ghana Foundation, West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
<b>Kenya</b>	: Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF, also a consortium member)
<b>Mozambique</b>	: Micaia Foundation
<b>Palestine</b>	: Dalia Association
<b>Uganda</b>	: Uganda NGO Forum (UNNGOF)

# List of Acronyms

<b>ABF</b>	Association Burkinabè de Fundraising	<b>LI</b>	Legislative Instrument
<b>ABONG</b>	Associação Brasileira de Organizações Não Governamentais	<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
<b>ACFO</b>	Authority of Civil Society Organization	<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>AJDPE</b>	Association des Jeunes pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement	<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>ASEPE</b>	Association pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la promotion de l'élevage	<b>MROSC</b>	Marco Regulatório das Organizações da Sociedade Civil
<b>CAF</b>	Charity Aid Foundation	<b>NAI</b>	National Anchor Institutions
<b>CAPSI</b>	Center for Philanthropy and Social Investment	<b>NPO</b>	Non-Profit Organization
<b>CDA</b>	Community Development Alliance	<b>PAT</b>	Power Awareness Tool
<b>CESE</b>	Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço	<b>PAUDC</b>	Pan-African Universities Debating Championship
<b>CIDP</b>	County Integrated Development Plan	<b>PCBR</b>	Presbyterian Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme
<b>CoPs</b>	Communities of Practice	<b>PDI</b>	Private Development Initiatives
<b>CSI</b>	Corporate Social Investment	<b>PBO</b>	Public Benefit Organization
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility	<b>PMEL</b>	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>CtGA</b>	Change the Game Academy	<b>P4D</b>	Philanthropy for Development (GfC)
<b>DEC</b>	Development Expertise Center	<b>RBA</b>	Right Based Approach
<b>EAPN</b>	East Africa Philanthropy Network	<b>RTI</b>	Right to Information
<b>FIA</b>	Finance Intelligence Authority	<b>SEAH</b>	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
<b>FIND</b>	Funders Network for International Development	<b>SGF</b>	Star Ghana Foundation
<b>FINGO</b>	Finnish NGO Platform	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>FGF</b>	Global Fund for Commodity Foundations	<b>TEAM</b>	Transform Empowerment for Action Initiative
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>GFCF</b>	Global Fund for Commodity Foundations	<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>GfC</b>	Giving for Change	<b>UNNGOF</b>	Uganda NGO Forum
<b>GRA</b>	Ghana Revenue Authority	<b>UP</b>	Universidade Pedagógica
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>WACSI</b>	West Africa Civil Society Institute
<b>INGOs</b>	International Non-Governmental Organizations		
<b>ISPN</b>	Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza		
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication technology		
<b>KDCF</b>	Kenya Community Development Foundation		
<b>KRA</b>	Kenya Revenue Authority		
<b>LED</b>	Local Economic Development		

# 01 Introduction

The past years including 2024 highlighted a period beset with socio-economic and political challenges. While shrinking civic space continues to challenge our work, local communities and social movements in the Giving for Change (GfC) countries continue to adapt new strategies and center rights on the agenda, while advancing community philanthropy as a key driver of sustainable change in the communities. The deepening and diversified initiatives of the Communities of Practices (CoPs) across the eight GfC countries are testimonies of their relevance and importance while national philanthropy symposiums/forums organised by national anchor institutions (NAIs) continue to convene a diverse set of actors to raise awareness and advocate for a favorable enabling environment that supports local philanthropic ecosystems. At the international level, GfC furthers its influencing work in different spaces and fora, promoting debates

and dialogue and exploring collaborations with actors that commit and start to shift practices towards adopting more equitable partnerships that truly shift the power and resources closer to communities. These discussions are increasingly relevant in the current bilateral funding crisis.

While we head towards the end of the programme implementation period, the GfC programme celebrates its success and wealth of learnings. This 2024 annual report demonstrates community philanthropy's emergent nature as consortium members, NAIs and the CoPs document our continued efforts to adapt to the needs of local communities and shifts in the contexts (both positive and negative). The report also highlights our key learnings for 2024 and reflections on the progress of our partnership.

# 02 Context Analysis

## Security situation, political context and civic space

The year 2024 saw a decline of global freedom as 60 countries experienced deterioration in their political rights and civil liberties (Freedom House, 2025). The key factors driving the degradation in rights and liberties included violence and the repression of political opponents during elections, ongoing armed conflicts, and the spread of authoritarian practices. In countries that held elections last year, close to a fourth suffered violence as candidates faced threats of assassinations and authoritarian efforts restricted voters' voices (Ibid).

In **Kenya**, civic space came under huge pressure following the Gen-Z led protests. The government has introduced the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime (Amendment) Bill 2024, which seeks to further restrict digital freedoms by criminalizing dissent and government criticism online<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, the Assemblies and Demonstrations Bill 2024 proposes repealing Section 5 of the Public Order Act, introducing harsher penalties for protestors and limiting the right to peaceful assembly. On the other hand, Kenya's nonprofit sector has seen significant legislative reforms including the Public Fundraising Appeals Bill, 2024, the Income Tax (Donations and Charitable Organizations Exemption) Rules, and the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act, 2013, which aim to enhance transparency, accountability, and governance within the sector by tightening registration, reporting, and compliance requirements for fundraising and tax-exempt status. While these measures are expected to professionalize the sector and increase public trust, they also introduce administrative and financial burdens, especially for smaller organizations struggling with compliance costs.

In July 2024, **Uganda** passed the Non - Governmental Organization amendment bill placing the formerly semi-autonomous NGO Bureau under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, raising concerns over increased state control and compliance burdens for CSOs. The broader civic environment remained complex due to the application of

digital surveillance, shifting donor priorities, and rising demands for accountability which put the pressure on civil society actors (CSAs) to adapt to a rapidly changing landscape. UNNGOF continues to advocate for an open civic space and is actively engaging stakeholders to influence policy and safeguard the sector's independence and resilience.

Meanwhile in **Ghana**, civic space was downgraded from "obstructed" to "narrow" (Civicus monitor, 2025) due to the arrests of journalists and activists as well as the passing of the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values bill. A lawsuit filed with the supreme court has paused the bill's assent, opening space for public debate. Two other laws, The Affirmative Action Gender Equity Act and the Anti- LGBTQ + bill are awaiting presidential approval. With a new government in place, discussions on rights and inclusion have gained momentum. Star-Ghana has formed a working group to navigate this evolving context, meanwhile security in northern regions including curfews and unrest disrupted civil society activities and partners activities.

On the other hand, In **Mozambique**, violence erupted following the national elections and the controversial announcement of Frelimo's victory by the Constitutional Council on 23 December, which the opposition leader denounced as fraudulent. Subsequent peaceful protests attracted unprecedented participation but faced brutal responses from authorities, resulting in over 150 demonstrators being shot, escalating tensions, and fueling widespread looting, criminality, and destruction. During this period, no community gatherings were deemed safe, which greatly affected planned GfC-related community mobilizing, particularly those around local fundraising (these were deemed counterproductive during the electoral campaigns and therefore not authorized by local leaders and very dangerous throughout the electoral protests and violent manifestations). Gatherings throughout this period ran the risk of being misconstrued as subversive, a part of demonstrations or preparations for subsequent demonstrations, and therefore risk being targeted by the police.

<sup>1</sup> Kenya ICT Policy, 2024



In **Palestine**, the overall situation in the country deteriorated in 2024 as due to the ongoing conflict and the shrinking of civil society space, a deteriorating economic situation marked by high inflation, job losses and increasing social injustice. The shift towards individualism has undermined collective efforts and increased the challenges faced by civil society organizations. In **Burkina Faso**, the security situation remains concerning due to ongoing violence, leading to major population displacements and escalating humanitarian needs. Around 30% of the territory is outside the control of the authorities, which continues to lead to massive population displacements, a quarter of whom are in need of humanitarian aid.

In **Brazil**, late 2024 was marked by political instability following an attempted coup and a conservative shift in municipal elections, raising concerns ahead of the 2026 presidential race. The tightening political climate has hindered civil society advocacy, especially in human rights, abortion, and environmental issues around the Amazon. Violence against landless workers<sup>2</sup>, women, and LGBTQ+ people remain high<sup>3</sup>, with femicides and slave labour cases reaching record levels. Further, the titling of Quilombola territories has failed to advance in line with the need for historical reparation. There are almost 500 territories in the process and only 147 titled territories<sup>4</sup> while around 30 bills going through Congress that attack territorial sovereignty and other rights, the main one being the Temporal Framework.

Bill 1904/2024, which criminalizes legal abortion after 22-weeks even in previously permitted cases, initiated a nation's wide protests in parliament, media, and the streets with involvement of women organizations including those supported by the GfC programs. Meanwhile the launch of the National Care Policy<sup>5</sup> was a highlight, which recognizes the disproportionate burden of care work taken on by women. Despite these challenges, Brazilian civil society including Comuá and CESE continue to advocate for rights-based advocacy at global forums like COP 30 and G20. Recent tax reforms exempting donations from the inheritance and donation tax have improved the philanthropic environment, with Comuá and CESE playing a key role in advancing community philanthropy and policy influence.

## Economy and climate

In **Ethiopia**, regional instability and the recent shift to a free-floating of currency has exacerbated economic hardship, increasing inflation and living costs, which in turn hampers philanthropic efforts. Nevertheless, the government is implementing macroeconomic reforms aimed at addressing the economic crisis, though the full effects of these measures will likely only become apparent in the long term. For Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), a market-driven exchange rate creates opportunities by enabling them to receive international funding more efficiently, reducing the risks of local currency depreciation, and ensuring financial stability.

Meanwhile in **Burkina Faso**, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected economic growth of 4.2% for Burkina Faso in 2024, attributing this resilience to a robust services sector despite persistent security challenges. However, the country's fiscal health has faced challenges, with the budget deficit widening to FCFA 484.2 billion at the end of October 2024, marking an increase of 23.6% compared to the same period in 2023<sup>6</sup>. Local partners reported that they were affected by the inflation and rising costs, and they have to adjust their budgets and rethink their strategies.

In **Brazil**, 2024 witnessed severe climate related disasters. Heavy floods hit northern and northeastern states, while unexpected rains in the south caused the worst flooding in the country's history affecting nearly 500 municipalities, displacing over 500,000 people and resulting in nearly 200 deaths. Similarly, large fires and droughts in the Amazon, the Cerrado, and Manaus severely impacted Indigenous populations, with smoke affecting major cities like Manaus and others in the Midwest and Southeast. Comuá members, including BrazilFoundation, Fundo Brasil, Fundo Casa Socioambiental, ICOM, and Fundo Positivo, responded by launching emergency funds, demonstrating the critical role of philanthropic organizations in disaster relief and support for vulnerable communities, including Indigenous and LGBTQIA+ populations. These events exposed environmental racism and the consequences of inadequate urban planning and infrastructure. Advocacy is growing in the lead-up to COP30, set to take place in Brazil in 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Booklet Conflicts in the Countryside in 2023, recently launched by the Pastoral Land Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Dossier of the Observatory of LGBT Deaths and Violence, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Brazilian Geography and Statistics - Institute of IBGE, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Law 15.069 of 2024.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.sikafinance.com/premium/burkina-faso-le-deficit-budgetaire-se-creuse-a-484-2-milliards-fcfa-a-fin-octobre-2024\\_50087?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.sikafinance.com/premium/burkina-faso-le-deficit-budgetaire-se-creuse-a-484-2-milliards-fcfa-a-fin-octobre-2024_50087?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

# 03 Central Domain

The Central Domain focuses on unlocking the collective power of local communities through community philanthropy and communities of practice (CoPs) represented by CSAs. Through capacity strengthening, local fundraising, mobilizing resources, and active participation in multiple initiatives advocating for communities' priorities.

## 3.1 Learnings and good practices

Across Giving for Change countries, communities made significant strides in strengthening local philanthropy, and advancing rights-based advocacy, despite diverse political, social, and economic challenges.

In **Uganda**, amplifying the role of philanthropy was advanced through the Giving Fai and the Philanthropy Debate Symposium, while initiated research by UNNGOF on regulatory frameworks is expected to be instrumental in understanding how taxation and revenue policies influence local giving, wealth redistribution, and community-driven development are essential for shaping future advocacy. The outcomes are expected to be instrumental in engaging state-actors and ensure a thriving local philanthropy.

### **Story of Change: Youth Civic Engagement through PAUDC 2024 at Kyambogo University**

*In December 2024, Kyambogo University hosted the Pan-African Universities Debating Championship (PAUDC), welcoming students from across Africa to debate critical issues such as governance, climate change, and human rights.*

*The event provided a vital platform for youth civic engagement, encouraging open dialogue, critical thinking, and respectful exchange-particularly important in contexts where civic space is shrinking for young people.*

*Kyambogo University played a leading role in organizing the event, demonstrating how academic institutions can promote active citizenship. The initiative contributed to increased youth participation, greater trust in youth-led efforts, and stronger platforms for inclusive, people-led change.*

*This aligns with the central domain of the mutual Theory of Change, reinforcing the importance of empowering young voices in shaping democratic societies.*



In **Burkina Faso**, local fundraising moved from theory to practice, with a growing culture of giving and collaboration among associations. Fundraising skills improved while gaining recognition from the local community and authorities with increased willingness to contribute to social causes. Capacity building for resources mobilization and advocacy remains a priority. Initiatives for greater inclusion for people with disabilities gained momentum despite security challenges.

In **Brazil**, community philanthropy expanded through grassroots leadership development and climate advocacy. CESE and the Comuá Network diversified CoP participation, strengthened advocacy capacity, and mobilized new actors while forming new strategic partnerships, including around climate justice through the Comuá for Climate initiative. However, challenges such as limited resources, sustainability concerns, and ongoing political and social struggles, such as increased



violence against women and human rights defenders persist. Nevertheless, women's organizations have remained resilient, strengthening networks, engaging in advocacy training, and mobilizing collective action through initiatives like the Black Women's March for 2025. The Mobilizing support course further empowered participants with advocacy skills, and accessibility for disabled women is improving. Initiatives like The Transforming Philanthropy Month campaign, Storytelling, articles, and other social media campaigns has positioned the power of the collective efforts as an influencing one especially on global platforms like the G20 social.



**Palestine** continued emphasizing collective action amid conflict and shrinking civic space, strengthening grassroots leadership and local resource mobilization. However, the lack of trust in Palestinian official authorities complicated engagement, and governance instability remained a major hurdle. The ongoing economic crisis, coupled with rising gender[1]based violence and inflation, exacerbated community vulnerabilities and caused mobility constraints, which hindered project monitoring

In **Ethiopia**, CoPs mobilized funds for local infrastructure projects such as schools and libraries, while advocacy efforts at national and regional levels fostered a culture of giving despite governance instability. Advocacy efforts at national and regional levels contributed to a growing culture of philanthropy. However, challenges persisted, including fears surrounding potential funding cuts and the impact of political instability, particularly in the wake of changing U.S. leadership.

In **Mozambique**, community philanthropy grew into a broader movement despite political restrictions. Micaia Foundation continues strengthening networks among

activists and community workers. The first #ShiftThePower Mozambique convening fostered dialogue on localizing development finance, while small grants funded over 30 community-led actions before electoral disruptions.

**Kenya** and **Ghana** institutionalized community philanthropy models. In Kenya, new public benefit organizations laws and partnerships with local authorities advanced CSO sustainability. In Ghana, the Civil Society Forum and active policy engagement around the NPO Bill created stronger civic space and tax incentives for philanthropy.

## 3.2 Results

### Enhanced community philanthropy

The philanthropy ecosystem has expanded creating room for conservation with local communities, governments and private sectors within the Alliance countries. There has been increased engagement in community-led giving and philanthropy as a result of sustained conversations over the last four (4) years. Kenya and Ghana have leveraged global convenings and political events to advocate for legal reforms for community philanthropy. In **Ghana**, the general elections provided an opportunity to engage with political leaders advocating for an enabling philanthropic environment. Key recommendations presented included the enactment of a National Philanthropy Policy, the introduction of tax incentives for philanthropic actors and the establishment of a Non-Profit Affairs Desk at the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) while in **Kenya**, CSAs leveraged on the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi to lobby the Kenyan government to enact the Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) Act 2013.





- **Capacity strengthening and impact of CoPs on community philanthropy and advocacy**

In 2024, Communities of Practice (CoPs) emerged as critical vehicles for fostering local philanthropy, advancing advocacy, and strengthening the capacity of civil society actors across multiple countries. Through structured knowledge-sharing, training, and engagement with local governments and private sector actors, CoPs have played a transformative role in mobilizing resources and influencing policy.

Across the Alliance, CoPs have prioritized capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing fundraising, advocacy, and social accountability. In **Mozambique**, CoPs facilitated training programs on philanthropy and fundraising, supporting CSOs in local resource mobilization and advocacy lobbying. The integration of hybrid training models has enabled greater accessibility and adoption of best practices across various regions. In **Ethiopia**, interregional CoP meetings enabled 35 members from seven CoPs to share successes and challenges in community philanthropy. This exchange fostered positive competition and deepened the commitment to grassroots development. Private sector partnerships have been a key focus for CoPs in strengthening philanthropy: the Bahir Dar Zuriya CoP secured a partnership with Selecta Flower Farm, which has committed to supporting local philanthropic initiatives. Similarly, in **Kenya**, KCDF facilitated a national learning forum, bringing together over 80 representatives from 36 county-based organizations. The forum showcased impactful work in strengthening government engagement, fostering private-sector partnerships, and implementing innovative sustainability models. **Brazil** facilitated capacity-strengthening meetings for various CoPs to learn more about climate financing advocacy, foster collective campaigning and enhance institutional capacity for the CSAs. This contributed to the development of strategic advocacy campaigns and reinforced collaborative action among members. Additionally, CESE and Comuá Network facilitated a series of engagements through Transforming Philanthropy Month, where over 260 organizations participated in discussions on locally-led climate solutions and

***“With the qualification of the strategies learned in the Mobilising Support training, we will improve the March of Struggles, July of the Black Women, Journey for the Life of Black Women and so many other agendas. We’re going to articulate new ways of influencing governments, institutions and the Brazilian state in relation to racism, fundamentalism, feminicide against black women, historical reparations and the Good Life.”***  
*~ Lúcia Azevedo, from the Black Women’s Network of the Northeast, Brazil*

the role of community philanthropy in environmental justice. In **Burkina Faso**, CoPs played a significant role in equipping grassroots organizations with local resource mobilization skills focusing on strengthening local giving mechanisms and fostering partnerships between CSOs, community leaders, and private sector actors. Through these engagements, community philanthropy efforts have become more structured, with increased investments in education, health, and social welfare projects.

***“Through the help of CoPs, Community-Based Organizations (ASC) demonstrated strong local ownership by mobilizing funds independently and integrating their initiatives into local development plans.”***  
*~ ABF staff, Burkina Faso*

Further, the CoPs have played a pivotal role in advocating for enabling legal and policy environments for philanthropy with Ghana and Kenya engaging in mobilising CoPs to advocate for the passage of the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Bill in **Ghana** while **Uganda’s** CoPs facilitated 28 community dialogues and seven regional forums on locally-led development, resulting in the activation of district Local Economic Development (LED) Committees. These efforts are driving greater community participation in policy implementation. **Burkina Faso** CoPs engaged local policymakers to advocate for the formal recognition of community philanthropy structures leading to policy discussions on tax incentives for local giving and a framework to support grassroots-led development initiatives, while **Kenya** has utilised the Cop platform to sensitize CSAs on the newly enacted PBO Act 2013 to enhance their transition and compliance with the regulation.

- **Capacity strengthening of CSAs on local fundraising and mobilizing support refresher training and training of trainers (ToT)**

The Change the Game Academy (CtGA) training model on Local fundraising, mobilising support and social accountability continues to be used widely across the alliance partners to strengthen the capacity of CSAs to mobilise support for collective advocacy and influencing philanthropy through resource mobilisation. **Kenya** and **Ghana**, facilitated refresher training on local resource mobilization, targeting CSAs involved in grassroots advocacy and philanthropy where best practices in local fundraising, donor engagement, and sustainability models were shared. Accompanying the refresher training with seed grants in Ghana helped organizations leverage community contributions to raise additional funds, with successful cases such as the CELDAR Foundation’s fundraising for infrastructure projects and the Anuman Development Foundation’s mobilization of community

support for social services. Seven CoPs consisting of 129 CSAs from **Ethiopia** were trained in social accountability and local fundraising using the CtGA model. These trainings improved the capacity of CSAs to engage their communities in resource mobilization while strengthening their ability to advocate for policy change and inclusive governance. For example, the Liben Chukala CoP successfully advocated for the renovation of two libraries, creating spaces where youth can engage in reading, recreation, and community-building activities as active citizens. These libraries are now operational and providing valuable services, enabling young people to enjoy their time productively. Similarly, the Holeta CoP tackled gender-based violence (GBV) by advocating for the construction of separate latrines for girls in schools. This effort led to the successful building of pit latrines, which significantly improved girls' school attendance and contributed to reducing GBV. Additionally, the Holeta CoP advocated for improved physical accessibility in government offices for persons with disabilities. As a result, ramps were constructed, ensuring greater inclusivity and accessibility in these public spaces. Several countries incorporated Training of Trainer (ToT) initiatives to enhance knowledge transfer and sustainability.

In **Mozambique**, the Micaia Foundation trained CSO representatives as trainers in local fundraising and philanthropy, equipping them with skills to cascade training to grassroots organizations. Additionally, the Foundation collaborated with Universidade Pedagógica to establish the Mozambique Centre for Philanthropy, which will offer certified training in philanthropy and fundraising, ensuring long-term institutional capacity-building. **Uganda's** Civil Collective trained community leaders as trainers in advocacy-based fundraising. This ToT approach enabled CSAs to implement tailored local giving strategies that align with their advocacy objectives, further embedding philanthropy into social justice movements. In **Brazil**, the CoPs on Knowledge Production integrated fundraising training into their learning cycles, enabling CSAs to document and share best practices while ToT initiatives in **Burkina Faso** enabled seven regional CoP coordinators to provide ongoing mentorship to CSAs, enhancing their capacity in resource mobilization and strategic advocacy reinforcing quality training and improved implementation of fundraising strategies. In **Palestine**, Dalia trained its staff and community facilitators on advocacy and philanthropy best practices, fostering long-term sustainability in local resource mobilization. The association also strengthened its national advocacy efforts by engaging government stakeholders and leveraging media to amplify the role of community giving. Due to the crisis and emergency in Gaza, Dalia organised and trained CoPs on First Aid and Safeguarding to enhance their response in providing the needed intervention.

As a result of these initiatives, the outcomes below demonstrated a remarkable growth of CSAs across the alliance:

- **Enhanced Fundraising Capacity:** CSAs across the Alliance countries improved their ability to mobilize resources locally, reducing dependency on external funding.
- **Increased Community Giving:** CoPs have strengthened local fundraising efforts, leading to impactful community initiatives. In Ethiopia, Kunzila CoP mobilized 195,000 birrs (Eur 1,377) from local businesses and residents, purchasing and distributing 40kg of flour each to 36 destitute individuals demonstrating strengthened local giving structures. In Ghana, the Muslim Family Counselling Services piloted a diaspora giving model, successfully mobilizing funds to establish science labs in Zongo communities. Additionally, the Celdar Foundation raised GHS 42,900 (Eur 2,413) for a community market project, strengthening local economic resilience.
- **Strengthened Training of Trainers (ToT) networks:** In Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Palestine, trained facilitators have cascaded fundraising knowledge to grassroots organizations, expanding the reach of fundraising best practices.





- **Policy and Advocacy Gains:** The application of fundraising knowledge in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Kenya contributed to advocacy campaigns that influenced legislative reforms, including the passage of the Public Participation Act in Kakamega County, Kenya and the NPO Bill in Ghana. In Palestine, community-led philanthropy was recognized as a key pillar in local governance discussions.

- **Increased use of media and advocacy campaigns**

During the 2024 GfC alliance meeting in Uganda, the alliance members committed to improving the visibility of our work through media and documentation of impact. This was against the backdrop of a need to amplify our collective contribution to the philanthropy ecosystem through joint advocacy strategies, documenting and sharing our collective knowledge and best practices while ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of our impact.

### **Story of Change: Community Philanthropy and the Protection of Cerrado (Brazil)**

*In 2024, during the “Transforming Philanthropy Month,” Fundo Casa Socioambiental and Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN) continued to be celebrated as a joint initiative to highlight the role of community philanthropy in protecting the Cerrado—the most deforested biome in Brazil and to bring attention to the environmental and social threats facing traditional communities in the region.*

*The initiative supported local groups resisting deforestation, promoted sustainable land use, and amplified the voices of affected communities. A public roundtable held in Brasília, with funders and civil society actors, showcased the role of local philanthropy in advancing environmental justice. Comuá Network contributed by funding the event, participating as a panelist, and providing testimony in the campaign video.*

*This Cerrado initiative led to greater national recognition of community-led environmental efforts, increased visibility and funding for grassroots initiatives, and stronger legitimacy for CSAs engaging in policy advocacy. It unlocks the power of local communities through community philanthropy and demonstrates how locally driven approaches can influence national agendas and foster inclusive, sustainable development.*

**Brazil** made significant strides in using media for advocacy. The “Transforming Philanthropy Month” led by Comuá Network involved 51 activities and engaged 260 organizations, utilizing multimedia content, podcasts, and research publications to promote community philanthropy. The campaign had nearly 200 social media mentions, raising awareness about locally-led climate solutions. Additionally, the Coffee with Communicators CoP developed communication strategies for advocacy, focusing on COP 29 and climate justice campaigns. **Uganda** National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) prioritized media engagement through the Philanthropy Symposium for Media Practitioners, bringing together journalists and editors to shape narratives around local giving. This initiative resulted in increased media coverage of local philanthropy and the integration of philanthropy-related programming in some media houses. Additionally, UNNGOF formed a Community of Practice on Spotlighting Generosity, aiming to sustain positive storytelling about local giving.

Dalia Association in **Palestine** launched four media awareness campaigns in collaboration with local media channels, covering topics such as community philanthropy, women artisans’ rights, food sovereignty, and autism inclusion. A podcast in partnership with the Agroecology Union focused on the health dimensions of food consumption. The Autism CoP held four public engagement sessions to promote the inclusion of autistic children in local communities. However, mobility restrictions posed a challenge to some advocacy efforts, requiring innovative digital engagement. In **Ghana**, CSAs utilized radio and television to educate the public on the importance of locally-led development and philanthropic giving. The Yensomubi Digital Fundraising Platform also increased social media engagement, generating funds for community projects. **Mozambique’s** media engagement focused on advocacy for disability rights, gender equity, and environmental awareness. Further, the CoPs facilitated roundtable discussions with journalists, politicians, and religious leaders to enhance public discourse on community philanthropy. Social media campaigns and small-group meetings contributed to raising national awareness of local giving.

The GfC in **Kenya** contributed to media advocacy by supporting community-driven campaigns for policy reforms. Notably, public participation in radio awareness programs was conducted to promote the Kisumu County Access to Information Policy, ensuring community input. Additionally, CSAs used social media platforms to advocate for the Public Participation Act in Kakamega, which was later adopted and gazetted. In Makueni County, CoPs collaborated with African Voices to strengthen citizen engagement and participation. **Burkina Faso** regional CoPs collaborated with local media partners to conduct media interviews with CSAs to promote grassroots fundraising and philanthropy. CoPs in Ethiopia were trained

in media engagement and advocacy strategies, strengthening their ability to influence public policy. Local media played a role in amplifying issues related to peacebuilding, civic space, and human rights. Notably, advocacy initiatives on increasing philanthropic giving and gender equity gained visibility through regional radio broadcasts in Amharic and Afan Oromo.

- **Incentivising community philanthropy and advocacy through small grants**

Small grants, including seed funding and matching grants, have played a crucial role in incentivizing community philanthropy and advocacy efforts across Alliance countries. These financial mechanisms have empowered grassroots organizations, strengthened local giving cultures, and enabled community-led initiatives to drive meaningful change. Across the alliance, these grants have enabled CSOs and Communities of Practice (CoPs) to influence policies, promote local giving, uphold human rights and mobilize citizens toward collective action. For example, **Palestine, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Ghana** incentivising grants has enabled CSAs and CoP to implement advocacy campaigns on education, public health, and public infrastructure. Notably, the CELDAR Foundation in **Ghana** used a matching fund to influence local government investment in infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of trading routes and ICT centres. As a result, a community-led maternal health initiative secured **GHS 85,000 (Eur 5,045)** from

residents, contributing to the construction of a maternal healthcare facility. In **Kenya**, small grants have enabled CSAs to advocate and support the review and formulation of 9 key County policies, influence the County government's budget allocation toward the renovation of dispensaries and markets, enhance public service delivery in Busia County and promote youth and women empowerment with over 500 community members securing tax amnesty from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and six youth champions winning government tenders under the 30% procurement rule for marginalized groups.

### **Story of Change: Strengthening Civic Participation and Health Governance in Busia County (Kenya)**

*In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Busia County in Kenya made notable progress in inclusive governance and service delivery, following targeted advocacy by the Community of Practice (CoP). Through active participation in public budget processes, the CoP influenced key decisions that expanded health and gender sector funding and formalized community representation.*

*As a result, the county increased its health and gender budgets and initiated the drafting of a County Gender Policy. On 5th July 2024, a CoP representative was formally appointed to the board of the Busia County Referral Hospital, integrating citizen voice into decision-making at the facility level. These developments are significant given the county's context - frequent flooding, cross-border migration, and high rates of gender-based violence. They were accompanied by the creation of a Department of Strategic Partnership, signaling improved collaboration between government and civil society.*

*The CoP's submission of three memos during public participation forums led to the adoption of several key recommendations: the establishment of a Directorate of Disaster Management, increased sectoral budgets, and formalized civic inclusion in governance structures.*



**Brazil's** Comuá Network has successfully mobilized resources through a combination of small grants and advocacy campaigns on climate justice and community philanthropy enabling them to leverage additional financing from private sector partners and philanthropic institutions, ensuring the long-term sustainability of advocacy efforts. In addition, Comua and UNNGOF (**Uganda**) used small grants to document and produce learning products such as research on innovative approaches and studies related to community and social justice philanthropy agendas in Brazil and grassroots giving trends which produced



data to use for strengthened advocacy for increased domestic philanthropy in **Uganda**. In **Mozambique**, CoPs supported 30 local advocacy actions leading to the advancement of gender equity and environmental sustainability. Additionally, matching grants stimulated citizen contributions, leading to the successful implementation of waste management projects and women-led entrepreneurship programs. Further, CoPs in **Ethiopia** CoPs leveraged small grants to sustain their advocacy for social inclusion and local philanthropy. As a result, the women's cooperative secured government partnership through its successful small grants-supported campaign advocating for gender-inclusive economic policies.

philanthropists and CSA stakeholders fostering collective power for advocacy and sustained development. The Ghana Philanthropy Conference and the Ghana Civil Society Forum collectively convened over 800 participants advocating for the passage of the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Bill by issuing a communiqué calling on the government to collaborate with CSOs to create incentive-based CSO legislation. This forum led to the endorsement of a governance framework for CSO coordination, which is currently being operationalized. Similarly, the 2nd Ghana Philanthropy Conference resulted in commitments to advocate for the enactment of a National Policy on Volunteerism.



National philanthropy forums and conferences have enabled the Giving for Change alliance to collectively build the philanthropy movement to mobilise stakeholders to embrace and support local giving as a strategy for sustainable development. **Ghana, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda and Brazil** have convened private-public

148 Advocacy initiatives carried out by CSAs, for, by or with the trust their membership/constituency for positive (change in) laws and regulations including a regard for gender equality and respect for human rights and /or on increasing civic space and philanthropic giving

144

Cases in which CSAs succeed in creating space for their community's demands and positions through agenda setting

142

CSAs that have increased contributions of constituencies (contributions could be in kind, cash, voluntary time etc.) as compared to the previous year and in comparison, with contributions from international sources

# 04 Second Domain

The second domain aims to influence in-country national states and other actors to support the development of community philanthropy as part of their national development strategy, whether by creating favorable conditions for giving or through the creation or strengthening of multi-stakeholder networks and alliances.

## 4.1 National advocacy and influence regarding laws and regulations that affects CSOs and philanthropy

After four years in the Program, Governments in partner countries increasingly recognized the importance of community philanthropy and collaboration with CSAs, resulting in notable advocacy gains.

In **Burkina Faso**, ABF signed partnership agreements with key ministries to strengthen collaboration with CSOs and supported government discussions on enabling frameworks for local philanthropy.

In **Brazil**, advocacy efforts by CESE and the broader MROSC platform contributed to the launch of 10/2024/SERIN, recognizing good practices in state CSOs relations and formalizing mechanisms for cooperation. In Ghana, CSAs influenced political party manifestos during the general elections, advocating for a National Philanthropy Policy, tax incentives, and a Non-Profit Affairs Desk at the Ghana Revenue Authority. CSOs also pushed forward the passage of the Affirmative Active Bill and strengthened engagement on the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

In **Ethiopia**, DEC collaborated with government agencies to develop a National Voluntarism Strategy and a Philanthropy Network, advancing dialogues on community philanthropy localization and strengthening CSO-government partnerships. In Kenya, CSAs supported the full implementation of the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act 2013, contributed to drafting regulatory frameworks for fundraising and tax exemption laws, and influenced county-level policies, including the adoption of Public Participation, Gender, and Mental Health Acts.

In **Mozambique**, CSAs promoted compliance with NGO policy, streamlined CSO registration systems, and initiated dialogues with donors and government actors to

improve the operating environment for civil society. In **Uganda**, national dialogues between CSAs and regulatory authorities led to commitments for streamlining tax exemptions, establishing NGO liaison desks, and strengthening regulatory frameworks to support CSO operations and accountability. While at the Pan-African level, the discussions at the APN Assembly emphasized the need for more participatory policymaking, stronger accountability mechanisms, and better awareness among affected communities about existing policies on issues such as climate change, tax incentives, and disability rights.

## 4.2 Advocate and influence for domestic giving and community philanthropy for social and systems change

By and large, there has been a notable shift towards long-term, flexible funding models, with an increase in pan-African partnerships and advocacy efforts aimed at decolonizing aid. Through program activities, diverse CSAs were supported to participate in multi-stakeholder meetings with philanthropic actors reflecting on power dynamics and change in practice towards enhancing communities, philanthropists, private, and government engagements. As a result there has been increased engagement in community-led giving and philanthropy as a result of sustained conversations over the last four implementation years.

The Comua Network continues to ensure participation in national events to disseminate community and social justice philanthropy. The aim was to: (i) Strengthen the articulation between communicators of member organizations by creating new tools and spaces for sharing practices and information, and the creation of collective communications campaigns to strengthen the Network's advocacy initiatives; and, (ii) Strengthened articulation with non-state public sphere actors (media, academia, civil society networks, among others) to disseminate and push for philanthropy's role

in the defense of access to rights by marginalized groups and, ultimately, of Brazilian democracy. In 2024, the Network joined an alliance that seeks to strengthen Brazilian civil society, “Aliança para o Fortalecimento da Sociedade Civil”.

In **Burkina Faso**, ABF is finalizing the institutionalization of the ambitious but unique initiative aiming to introduce a reliable certification mechanism for fundraising. This initiative has received greater acceptance and appreciation, endorsed by more than 40 CSOs in the country. The mechanism will also be focusing on raising awareness, mobilizing stakeholders and advocating for the mobilization of resources.



In **Ghana**, the Volunteering Strategy has been rolled out and it is being piloted by trained volunteers under the coordination of STAR-Ghana Foundation. The pilot has enabled STAR-Ghana to gain skills in working and managing volunteers as well as inform the full roll out of the strategy in subsequent years.

CSAs in Ghana are leading advocacy and citizen engagement toward influencing duty bearers' responsiveness and commitment to contribute to increased availability of public resources for communities. This fosters citizens' participation in demanding accountability, while also contributing to community resource development. Increasingly, community members are demanding quality services, for example, the rehabilitation of major trading routes, and construction of daycare centers in Asikuma so as to enable parents, especially mothers, to balance childcare with their careers and businesses, knowing their children are in a safe environment.

Further, CSAs coalition in Ghana were able to deepen engagement with private sector actors, seeking recognition of their role in supporting community development. For example, Celdar Foundation forged partnerships with Safe Ghana Africa, Zipline, Volta River Estate, Salem Natural Mineral Water, Anum Rural Bank PLC, and two oil marketing firms. These businesses provided funding, in-kind, and infrastructure for support to community development projects. The growing interest from private businesses indicates a shift towards corporate social investment (CSI) rather than traditional corporate social responsibility (CSR). This approach has the potential to foster long-term, sustainable partnerships between CSOs and the private sector.

In **Kenya**, we have witnessed stronger community voices and more accountable governments. CSAs in Makueni county held a government-philanthropy roundtable which aimed at aligning philanthropic efforts with national development objectives. Specifically, the roundtable focused on strategic partnerships and policy enhancement to foster the growth and sustainability of philanthropy in the county. From the discussions, the stakeholders committed to optimizing the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) with broader sustainable development goals, identifying areas where collaborative efforts can significantly boost community resilience, and effective use of philanthropic resources.

In addition, a funders roundtable was held under the theme of “*Trends in Innovative Finance: The Role of Philanthropy*”. As a result, the funders prioritised mapping the evolution of philanthropy's engagement from traditional grantmaking to complex finance-driven approaches, and identified opportunities for scaling impact through blended finance, while fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

Meanwhile in **Mozambique**, the organization of National Philanthropy Conference contributed to building a movement for community philanthropy with about 305 CSAs from Maputo and Matola, and this number is growing in other cities. The process evolved in an inaugural ‘Philanthropy Week of Actions’ to celebrate the impact of community philanthropy. These efforts have resulted in the establishment of a joint government and CSO working group on philanthropy, and roundtable discussions with INGOs and donors (co-hosted with the Dutch Embassy), as well as the launching of a donor-CSO web-based platform to facilitate donations. With the growing movement for community philanthropy being established, there are plans to inaugurate a “philanthropy week in action” to celebrate the impact of community philanthropy.

In **Palestine**, several initiatives were being held, bringing the government and CSAs together to co-create solutions and discuss issues related to food sovereignty/ agro-economics, social inclusion (autism population group), the importance of libraries to rural community in the West Bank, reading spaces with local CSAs and CBOs in Kuf





Labad and many other issues of importance for the thriving of CSAs and for the growth of community philanthropy. This has resulted in the government providing an enabling environment for CSOs to mobilize resources by conducting income generating activities such as a Bazaar, Iftar, gallery, and mobile library to encourage donation of books to children from which cash and in-kind donations were received. This has also encouraged a growing community that collaborates with the private sector to address community challenges.

At the African continent, APN in collaboration with pan-African philanthropic institutions such as Center for Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI), TrustAfrica, Africa Philanthropy Forum, East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN), and others are holding annual philanthropy conferences to share information and experiences from the field and academic research under the theme, “*New Frontiers for African Philanthropy*”.

At the 2024 APN Assembly in November, more than 220 field practitioners, philanthropy leaders, CSAs, government officials, funders, and private sector leaders engaged in dialogues about philanthropy policy and practices, knowledge generation and movement building for common good. GfC program partners showcased success stories of the impact of community philanthropy and domestic resources mobilization, as well as effective strategies and approaches for balancing the power in the development aid system. Also, GfC partners shared insights and experiences on community organizing and alliance building to influence the practice and advocacy for community philanthropy.



### 4.3 Showcase philanthropy practices through knowledge production, narratives and media

During the reporting year we have seen a notable increase in media visibility and coverage, and storytelling for narrative building. There is enhanced collaboration with journalists to tell the story of community philanthropy rooted in cultural contexts and values, improved dissemination of philanthropy research and knowledge, production of booklets, papers, blogs and reports, as well as training in communications for philanthropy.

In **Brazil**, Comuá Network produced knowledge with Network partners aiming to increase the visibility of the community and social justice philanthropy. For example, from March to December 2024, 139 media publications featured Comuá, its members, or mentioned the Network in broader contexts. Highlights include articles published in Carta Capital and in the Um Só Planeta portal.



New knowledge was also produced with Network members and partners, and effective communications formats were adopted to strengthen the advocacy strategy by reaching new spaces, channels and diversifying audiences; and reinforcing communications products to disseminate community and social justice philanthropy, such as podcasts and webseries, to highlight the transformation promoted by community and social justice philanthropy. A host site was also developed to centralize publications, studies, articles, and audiovisual material. The Transforma Hub was further reinforced, and a new episode of the Comuá Podcast was launched while the network participated in other relevant podcasts from the Brazilian philanthropic field. The collective campaigns co-created with members also highlighted new communications formats, as it focused on audiovisual contents tied with a common narrative.

In **Burkina Faso**, ABF has been consistent in its efforts to engage media and story writers in showcasing philanthropy practices since 2022. ABF continued working with a network of national media journalists composed of eleven (11) media houses and individuals to document experiences of implementing community philanthropy.

In **Ghana**, new knowledge was produced for advancing local philanthropy. The “Local Giving in Africa Research Report”, co-published by WACSI and STAR-Ghana Foundation generated empirical evidence on giving. This report has become a reference point for information and its findings contributed to over 700 academic and sector reports on philanthropy in Africa. Radio discussions on philanthropy aiming to create awareness of the government and enhance public knowledge of the role played by philanthropy (cash and in-kind contributions) towards community-led initiatives were successfully initiated.

In **Kenya**, during the year KCDF collaborated with other CSAs to convene a forum that brought together about 118 media practitioners and stakeholders to explore how authentic narratives can shape societal perspectives and drive action. The Forum which was titled “*Repositioning Community Philanthropy for Impact through storytelling*”; highlighted storytelling as a crucial tool in community philanthropy.

In **Uganda**, media houses are integrating philanthropy conversations into their programming, featuring community-driven giving practices and success stories. This is a result of a symposium for media practitioners that was conducted by UNNGOF. CSAs alliance partners collaborated to convene the Gathering of Givers 2024. The event that brought together about 300 participants to share their perspectives on generosity in Uganda.

Using catalytic grants to showcase African philanthropy, the APN also produced about 23 knowledge products, of which 13 blogs, 5 video documentaries, and 5 research

papers. In addition to that, about 14 publications/reports and 12 commissioned blogs showcasing the role and impact of African philanthropy practices were harvested and disseminated. All knowledge products including the booklet of Climate Justice, and My Giving Story, can be accessed in APN Simulizi Blog, Publications, and the YouTube channel.

*Going forward, all program partners continue to commit to enhancing knowledge production and new narratives on community philanthropy through:*

- a. Engaging with more media and artists,
- b. Recognizing that language has power, avoid words and terminology that further disempowers
- c. Invest in tools and skills that enable us to practice language justice
- d. Working with communities in ways that builds on indigenous knowledge,
- e. Hold intergenerational dialogues to pass on hidden and indigenous knowledge.
- f. Map the sources and sites of indigenous knowledge and document them
- g. Package and share the knowledge about the role of community philanthropy

 **577**  
Meetings with government officials, individual donors, emerging philanthropic actors and other powerholders

**20**   
Cases in which governments and powerholders show (open/public/verifiable) awareness on the importance of facilitating donations to CSAs

# 05 Third Domain

The overall objective in domain 3 is to influence and partner with international development actors to appreciate, support, and promote the development of community philanthropy as a central pillar of broader efforts to shift power and resources closer to the ground, and to strengthen local ownership of development processes amplifying the ability of citizens and communities to be heard and to claim rights and entitlements. Our work under domain three centers on three main strategies: 1) build on, engage, and collaborate with other sector initiatives, 2) grow the visibility, voice, and influencing power of southern CSAs and leaders in the #ShiftThePower movement so that they can participate more fully and have a greater voice in conversations and processes aimed at reforming aid, and 3) promote and foster new ways of working that leverage actors and assets on both emergent (community philanthropy, #ShiftThePower) and mainstream (funders and INGOs) sides of the system.

Below are the learnings and good practices on the three strategies for this domain

## 5.1 Build on, engage, and collaborate with other sector-based initiatives.

- In December, the **GFCF** hosted two sessions centered on “The INGO Problem – Power, Privilege, and Renewal” by Deborah Doane. The publication primarily examines how International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) serve as obstacles to redistributing power and resources to local civil society. It draws inspiration from the RINGO Project and the #ShiftThePower movement. Participants in both sessions deliberated the significance and urgency of a radical reimagining that transcends individual institutions, governance frameworks, and management structures. In light of the current period characterized by multiple intersecting crises, particularly the narratives against civil society propagated under the pretense of nativist populism, the establishment of alternative values-based, horizontally networked global civil society operating systems is more imperative than ever.
- In **Brazil**, participation in the G20 Social by **Comuá Network** in 2024 resulted in the construction of new recommendations for the philanthropy field through the C20 working group. Among the recommendations, recommendation 19 is of particular note: “Recognize and support the catalytic role of philanthropy, particularly community philanthropy, to promote sustainable development and mobilize resources that are accessible and tailored to the needs of the communities.”
- Additionally, in Brazil, the launch of the “Social Movements and Philanthropy in Brazil” report examined the self-financing strategies of local movements, the

challenges they face, and the impact of philanthropic support on their actions. The report also analyzed the differences in philanthropic approaches and highlighted the need for greater involvement of private social investment to strengthen social movements and promote significant social and political change.

- In **Palestine**, in cooperation with Bar du Midi and Maité for Le Spot, the **Dalia Association** screened the film “The Untold Revolution,” which highlighted the issue of food sovereignty within the Palestinian context, specifically in the West Bank.
- In the Netherlands, **Wilde Ganzen (WG)** together with partners from Kenya and Uganda participated as jury members of the Bright Ideas Contest that aimed to gather insights from Dutch INGOs and their partners to input on the set of recommendations put forward to influence the new policy framework of the Dutch government. WG also provided inputs in the Brief that Partos members prepared ahead of the release of the new policy framework. Further, WG also participated in the Partos panel discussion on equitable partnership and locally led development where WG highlighted the importance of local resource mobilization and community philanthropy as strategies for sustainable development. WG also supported the digitalisation of the Power Awareness Tool (PAT) which was launched after the panel discussion. PAT is a tool that guides organisations through an honest look at decision-making dynamics, ensures everyone’s voice is valued and shifts power where necessary in partnerships.
- In **Ghana**, the Ghana Civil Society Forum provides a platform for coordinated CSO engagement with the government. Previously, Ghana lacked such a structure, relying on fragmented groups that made it hard for CSOs to unite on essential issues. The Forum is now positioned to lead sustained advocacy and policy engagement beyond the GFC initiative. It has established four working groups

focused on CSO Sustainability, Accountability, Enabling Environment for Civil Society, and Strengthening the Forum. These groups have actively engaged in discussions, especially around the draft NPO Bill.

## 5.2 Grow the visibility, voice, and influencing power of southern civil society actors and leaders in the #ShiftThePower movement so that they can participate more fully and have greater voice in conversations and processes aimed at reforming aid.

### Building from the #ShiftThePower Global Summit in Colombia

The GFCF supported various activities in Giving for Change countries aimed at building on the momentum from the 2023 Global #ShiftThePower Summit, including convenings in the Netherlands (meeting with Partos), Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique. In April, KCDF, the East African Philanthropy Network, and the GFCF co-hosted a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, titled #ShiftThePower - a global conversation rooted in the local, which brought together a cross-section of civil society actors (including Summit participants). In August, the NGO Forum in Uganda and the GFCF co-hosted a similar event in Kampala. An Open Space approach was utilized at both meetings, encouraging participants to consider specific lines of work or areas for action that would help advance the #ShiftThePower agenda. Measurement, storytelling, local resource mobilization, and advancing human rights were among the topics that participants chose to discuss in depth with their peers.

A key milestone in 2024 was the first convening around #ShiftThePower in **Mozambique**. Discussions surrounding community philanthropy and critiques of the current international development system in Mozambique are still relatively new and underdeveloped. Thanks to the efforts of GfC partner **Micaia** over the past four years, and now in partnership with the Tindzila Foundation and MUVA (a national organization which describes itself as “a social incubator for female economic empowerment” and subscribes to the values of the #ShiftThePower movement), it felt like the right time to gather a group of civil society actors in Mozambique to begin exploring the potential for community philanthropy as part of a larger conversation about reforming and transforming aid and localization. Mozambican participants were joined by colleagues from other parts of Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe), who are at various stages in their journey toward community philanthropy (Kenya: advanced, South Sudan: first exposure), creating an opportunity to build the conversation horizontally and through the lens of context and practice.

The “Too Southern to Be Funded” campaign and report also gained traction, reinforcing the call for more equitable funding mechanisms for Global South civil society. The report, which was originally instigated and funded by Peace Direct, revealed that, despite commitments made by international funders to support Global South civil society, loopholes associated with the notion of “tied aid” continue to benefit INGOs in their home countries. Within GfC, the global campaign served as a visible moment of joint advocacy efforts, with eight Alliance and consortium members (APN, UNNGOF, KCDF, WACSI, Star-Ghana, DEC, Rede Comuá, GFCF) actively participating in planning sessions, disseminating information across social media and their respective websites. The campaign’s open letter garnered 271 signatures, 2,113 web views, and 1,507 views from three blogs.

- The launch of the report “Community Philanthropy, Women’s Philanthropy and Feminist Philanthropy: Understanding Opportunities and Challenges for Collaboration to Improve Women’s and Communities’ Realities” by the **GFCF** showcased the urgency of calling for new forms of organizing that are ambitious and inclusive, harnessing the power of networks built over twenty years of system strengthening and deep relationship building within feminist, women’s, and community philanthropy spaces and beyond, all rooted in the belief that alternative futures are possible and within our collective reach.
- In **Ethiopia**, advocacy concerning the localization of aid has resulted in a substantial transformation in the manner in which INGOs interact with local civil society organizations (CSOs). INGOs are increasingly emphasizing the empowerment of local CSOs through the provision of capacity-building programs and the innovative allocation of sub-grants. This methodology guarantees that aid is channeled toward local CSOs, permitting communities to directly benefit from the expertise and leadership of these indigenous organizations. By prioritizing local ownership and leadership, the strategy augments the efficacy and sustainability of developmental initiatives, promoting enhanced community engagement and long-term impact.
- In 2024, the **GFCF** and **Comuá Network** launched the third cohorts of their respective Fellowship programs: the #ShiftThePower Fellowship and the Saberes Fellows under the Saberes Program. The focus of the third cohort of the #ShiftThePower Fellowship will be on community philanthropy, mutual aid, and solidarity resourcing. Research projects conducted by Fellows will form part of the agenda for a Symposium on Community Philanthropy, which will be held in Kenya in October 2025. For the Saberes Fellows, the third cohort will focus on Funding Local Climate Solutions. Both Fellowship programmes highlight ongoing efforts to deepen leadership and advocacy on community philanthropy.

### 5.3 Promote and foster new ways of working that leverage actors and assets on both the emergent and mainstream sides of the system.

**Measurement is Political:** The GFCF hosted two online webinars in April to examine measurement not as a one-size-fits-all solution but as a flexible approach grounded in shared frameworks between local donors and communities that value both tangible and intangible accomplishments. This effort is built on the previous work from the Measuring What Matters report and discussions from the December 2023 Summit. The webinars also highlighted innovative measurement approaches and methods from Brazil, Kenya, Indonesia, and the broader Asia Pacific region that addressed the critical need for metrics reflecting community-defined success and attracted over 200 participants. A separate in-person meeting was held in Bali in July, including members from an action learning group on Measuring What Matters (GfC partners Comuá Network, Dalia Association, Star-Ghana, and KCDF are part of this group). The meeting was framed around the question, “What will it take to build new systems that measure what matters?” Topics such as measuring trust, identifying barriers that hinder meaningful insights, and who and what needs to change to advance toward a better system (and how) were explored, along with the use of art and other non-written forms. Participants created videos discussing subjects such as subjectivity versus objectivity in monitoring and evaluation, why it is time to shift power in measuring to the communities themselves, and why “Useful to whom?” should be the central question when approaching evaluation.

- **Wilde Ganzen** together with Vice Versa organised a live debate and World cafe on Measuring what matters - Decolonising MEL in The Hague. WG is one of the panel discussants together with Peter van der Knaap (Director of IOB - Evaluation Unit that advises and conducts policy evaluations for the Dutch MFA). In the world cafe (with 100 participants from Dutch INGOs, Foundations, MEL practitioners, development consultants, researchers) WG highlighted the importance of centering local communities' voices in MEL and evaluation processes, challenging top down and donor-driven ways of doing MEL. WG in collaboration with Vice Versa Global also organised an event in Kenya on “Repositioning Community Philanthropy Impact through Storytelling”. This event helped in raising awareness on the importance of shifting power and in the wider understanding of community philanthropy among young people, development and media practitioners, and policy makers. During the event, a documentary on Stories of Impact about Uganda which was produced in partnership with Vice Versa Global was also launched.



- **Wilde Ganzen** has continued to engage international development actors by sharing lessons from the GfC programme. Efforts to influence INGOs and donors, especially through collaborations with Vice Versa have strengthened the visibility and legitimacy of community-driven approaches. While private philanthropy organizations are showing growing interest in participatory and trust-based approaches, many remain hesitant to take risks. Wilde Ganzen continues to work towards shifting mindsets and broadening engagement, particularly by linking Dutch philanthropy organizations with the alliance work of Partos. Additionally, through its partnership with Radboud University, research is being conducted to explore citizen engagement in global solidarity and its impact on development policies. As part of the learning trajectory with Belgian and Dutch private development initiatives (PDIs), Wilde Ganzen offered a course on “Working in a facilitating manner” and organised an in-person workshop on participatory planning monitoring and evaluation (PMEL) where ways on practicing community-led approaches and trust-based and equal partnerships were discussed. Likewise with Partos member organisations, WG and



Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices India jointly organised a learning session showcasing the different PMEL tools that Praxis is using.

- As a member of Philea's Funders Network for International Development (FIND), Wilde Ganzen engaged Philea members on the importance of promoting local ownership and self-reliance of local organisations. In the first in-person meeting of FIND, WG highlighted the role of local resource mobilisation and community philanthropy in shifting power and in promoting sustainable locally led development. WG also participated as panel discussant in the FIND webinar on locally led development where we showcased WG's experience on participatory grant making.
- In Kenya, the '**Giving to Kenya**' Webinar, hosted in partnership with Charity Aid Foundation (CAF), CAF America, **KCDF**, and CPF Financial Services (CPF Group), convened 121 organizations to refine strategies for effective cross-border philanthropy. Key recommendations included understanding Kenyan legal frameworks, forming strategic partnerships with local entities, conducting rigorous due diligence, and leveraging intermediaries to facilitate donations. Transparency, impact assessment, and community-centred approaches were emphasized to ensure effective aid delivery. The webinar also explored diverse giving methods, from direct donations and CSR initiatives to in-kind contributions and volunteering. Donors were advised to prioritize reputable organizations, use secure payment methods, and engage partners with local expertise for maximum impact.

- **The #ShiftThePower Webinar:** From Dialogue to Action on May 30, 2024, hosted by **KCDF**, LightUp Impact, and FINGO, built on Lightup Impact Days 2023 discussions to tackle trust issues between grantmakers and grassroots organizations. Over 100 organizations participated, exploring ways to enhance local capacities and promote sustainable development. Key takeaways included empowering local leaders, adopting adaptive strategies with real-time feedback, ensuring sustainability, fostering transparent communication, and promoting equitable collaboration. The discussion also underscored the benefits of unrestricted funding, reinforcing accountability while providing flexibility to grassroots organizations.



Cases in which international and bi-or multilateral donors give space to, vocally support, change funding policy to support community philanthropy aimed at strengthening the political roles of CSAs



(cases in which) international bi-or multilateral donor officials have shown (public/open/verifiable) awareness on the negative effects of their present practices and/or have expressed support for the advantage of community philanthropy

# 06 Cross Cutting Issues

## a. Gender and Inclusion

For GfC Alliance and consortium members, working with marginalized and minority groups, and engaging with those on the fringes, is central to our work. Building on progress from previous years, the alliance partners advanced on implementing a bolder vision for gender, youth and social inclusion by integrating priority needs of diverse populations, particularly women and other marginalized people. Most partners went through a shift in the way that gender equality and social inclusion was conceived, centering henceforth, on accountability to all. We were not able to incorporate this breadth individually, but the sum total of GfC committed to collectively deliver on gender and inclusion with a deliberate analysis of risks and assumptions from input, output and outcome level.

We know that building relationships with minority groups and communities at the edges of society, during a crisis or otherwise, requires humility, humanity, and being ready to do some deep listening, recognizing and admitting our own prejudices, and acknowledging that we ourselves are not the experts. We will continue to hold partner-led sessions to highlight key insights, learnings, and further ways to ensure all actors, especially those at the edges of our work, many of whom are women or women-led organizations, are included.

Through the national platforms, we reach out to marginalized or hard to reach organisations and target transformation support to them. The alliance sought out opportunities to amplify their voice (claims and concerns) through networking and additional entry points for engagement and action. NAIs in collaboration with the consortium partners engage in a range of information and knowledge, generating and disseminating activities as well as raising awareness and developing the capacity of relevant CSAs. Some activities stimulated individual and collective citizen action, and the creation of new groupings; whereas others, focused directly on creating an effective environment for lobbying and advocacy. The APN organized meetings with NAIs individually providing technical support, conducted tailor made trainings, and shared

tools to support the integration (e.g. Gender and Inclusion policy, Gender Assessment checklist on policy processes; campaign building, influencing and advocacy tools).

The first ever, Women and Philanthropy study was conducted in selected countries: Kenya, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Ghana. These studies are providing recommendations on effective strategies to increase women's participation and contribution in promoting community philanthropy. The main purpose is to facilitate the incorporation of a 'gender lens' into mainstream operational and implementation approaches, even beyond the program period. Also, during the Philanthropy Media Symposium, women journalists were mobilized into a network that will continuously highlight women-led giving initiatives and ensure gender-sensitive philanthropy reporting. Through these efforts, a long-term shift in public narratives was fostered ensuring that both young people and women are visible, engaged, and empowered actors in the philanthropy ecosystem. Youth were actively engaged and spaces to share their views were provided through the program implementation by all members of the GfC program. It is worth mentioning that APN conducted the Youth Summits, Youth essays, storytelling competitions and research bringing together youth philanthropists, social entrepreneurs and CSO leaders from different parts of Africa and beyond.

As a result of collective engagement to promote community philanthropy and domestic philanthropic giving, we have realised changes in law, policy, budget and operational practice that address the strategic needs of women and excluded groups.

Further, through targeted advocacy, capacity-building, and community-driven philanthropy, the programme has facilitated meaningful participation by women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), ensuring their leadership in philanthropy and local development. **Uganda** mobilised women journalists and youth during the Philanthropy Media Symposium to enhance gender-sensitive philanthropy reporting and highlight women-led giving initiatives. In **Kenya**, 98% of KCDF's grant partners focus on advancing issues affecting women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities while over 167 CSAs within the CoPs are youth and women-led and/or

serving thus advancing the reach and engagement of the marginalized groups. Similar to **Mozambique** whose programme efforts prioritized partnerships with organizations led by or serving women and people with disabilities (PWDs). **Burkina Faso** has successfully integrated women, youth, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced people in philanthropy and advocacy initiatives (e.g active participation of girl leaders in advocacy for education and empowerment of out-of-school girls in sports tournaments and other community events/fairs). Meanwhile, over 60% of **Palestine's** programme participants are women, reflecting their increasing responsibility in socio-economic roles due to the current situation in Palestine. Moreover, youth participation in resource mobilization has been remarkably active, demonstrating their strong determination to drive meaningful change. For instance, the Women Artisans CoP (15 members) protects cultural heritage and ensures fair opportunities for female artisans.



CoPs in **Ethiopia** advanced on Gender-Based Advocacy focusing on preventing early marriage, promoting financial inclusion for women, and improving working conditions in flower farms. To enhance education and accessibility, they constructed separate latrines for girls to reduce dropout rates, provided 24 wheelchairs, and built ramps in government offices for persons with disabilities. Additionally, CoPs empowered youth through digital literacy training and youth-led initiatives, resulting in the establishment

of libraries and youth centers, fostering learning, innovation, and community engagement. In **Brazil**, the CoPs include women from diverse backgrounds, such as indigenous, fisherwomen, black, LGBTQ+, and disabled women. In 2024, participation expanded to sex workers and quilombola women. The promotion of Religious and Cultural Inclusion was evidenced by efforts to address religious fundamentalism and gender violence, with women from African-origin worship houses, indigenous faiths, and Christian denominations participating. At the institutional level, CESE included inclusion and diversity as one of the criteria in selecting members of new CoPs and they adapted training methodologies to improve accessibility for visually impaired women while Comuá Network implemented anti-discrimination and safeguarding policies to ensure inclusion within its programmes. Self-organized actions of women in Brazil include the indigenous women's march, preparations for the "Black July" agenda (International Day Latin American and Caribbean Black Women) and the 2025 black women's march. Actions and advocacy to guarantee rights were strengthened through holding of meetings and hearings with public authorities, carrying out public acts of visibility, communication campaigns, letters of demand related to compliance with protocols in the care of victims of sexual violence and protection of sexual and reproductive rights; the defense of the right to health, menstrual dignity and disability protection.

*"This listening and this exchange (during the Mobilising Support advocacy training) help in the defense of women's rights as a whole. It's a reflection that will help us go back to our community, as multiplier agents, and better plan our actions to make our advocacy more effective. It's also an opportunity to create this support network to strengthen the different struggles."*

*~ Maria Rocha, from the Coletiva Cabras, Brazil*

All supported projects in **Ghana** undertake gender and social inclusion analysis to understand the different needs and interests of males and females and introduce specific strategies to ensure equitable participation of females and persons with disabilities, as they face most risks of being left out of participation and benefit. For example, the Community Development Alliance organized a citizen's march in support of the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act. Likewise, the Presbyterian Community Based Rehabilitation Programme (PCBR), which supports disability inclusion, ensured the inclusion of women with disabilities as volunteers for fundraising, allowing them to become active participants in their community development.

In conclusion, GfC partners recognize that for decades, it has been clear that funding mainstream programs is limited— particularly those that do not consider gender. All GfC partners know that gender and social inclusion must be deliberate and consistently

embraced across all levels of policy making processes to achieve effectiveness. In the future, partners will proceed with the strategies that are effective and continue to enhance engendered social justice philanthropy practices for community philanthropy to thrive as a key development strategy.

## b. Climate

In programme countries, citizens are increasingly aware of climate change and its effects on daily life. With climate shocks increasing in number and severity, they are faced with unseasonable rainfall, droughts, floods and high temperatures, amongst others. This impacts food security, water reserve and the environment. To address these issues, for example, in **Burkina Faso**, reforestation and environmental protection initiatives were implemented by ASC, while community education on climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and land conservation was integrated into ASC activities. Various CoPs also worked on enhancing awareness of sustainable practices through

***“The integration of climate-related activities within community based initiatives highlights the increasing importance of sustainability in community development.”***  
~ ABF staff

media campaigns and local initiatives. Meanwhile in **Palestine**, a local partner EDCA has played a crucial role in the success of the Itaava Water Project by mobilizing local resources, fostering partnerships, and engaging local communities in project implementation. Water scarcity has been a persistent issue in Makueni County, with about 64% of the population using unimproved water sources. The Itaava Water Project, hence, provides a sustainable, climate-resilient solution, ensuring that communities have reliable and uninterrupted access to clean and safe water at closer distances. By reducing reliance on unsafe and distant water sources, the project has reduced insecurity cases, supported small-scale farms for food security, and strengthened community resilience to climate change.

Further, the public debate around climate change and climate justice has also increased in GfC countries, and although not a thematic focus area of the GfC programme, climate justice and environmental protection activities have been taken up by consortium and alliance members and their partners. For example, the GFCF awarded new sub-grants to support community philanthropy approaches, including initiatives focused on climate change and social justice. In **Brazil**, the advocacy Comuá pelo Clima which was supported by Comuá Network highlighted the interconnectedness

between community philanthropy and climate justice in reaction to the limited climate funds that reach marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples, quilombola communities, LGBT individuals, and women. The advocacy seeks to strengthen political positioning, collective action to build strategies, narratives and the production of knowledge in the field of climate philanthropy, boosting and giving visibility to these agendas both in the public sphere and in the national and international philanthropic ecosystems. Meanwhile, at the **regional level**, APN in 2023 commissioned an essay competition and using lessons from the stories submitted a session titled: ‘Turning the tide: intersecting realities in climate justice’ was organised during the 2024 APN Assembly. Participants in the session collectively acknowledged the need for climate-resilient infrastructure and highlighted the significant role of marginalized communities in advocating for their rights and needs in the face of climate change impacts. There was a sense of shared commitment to mobilize alternative resources and technology to tackle climate challenges, ensuring that local voices and practices remain at the forefront of climate justice initiatives.

## c. Sustainability

Grant funds from the **GFCF** have had the additional effect of positioning partners, many of whom small grant funds were the first such international funding for their organizations, not only to be better structured internally with policies, staffing, etc., but also to gain capacities in showing evidence of the importance of building resilience through local resource mobilization.

In **Uganda**, Civil Collective (recipient of one of the small grants from the GFCF) has leveraged the small grants given to it to leverage an additional \$6,000 in support from the International Foundation for Recovery and Development to facilitate community needs assessments. Funding for this came through the UNDP’s Global Environment Facility Small Grants program. With one of the GFCF’s partners in **Kenya**, Nguzo Africa Foundation (recipient of one of the small grants given by the GFCF) at the 8th East Africa Philanthropy Conference in June, organized by the East Africa Philanthropy Network and its partners (where the GFCF also presented and spoke on the panel “From the system we have to the system we want: How can community philanthropy pave the way for fostering people power?”) urged leaders to question traditional practices where accessing international aid is difficult for small organisations and called on INGOs to cede some of the money-power to community/county based organisations. According to Nguzo Africa, two outcomes from their engagement are shared: the first is that HIVOs has now started to reflect on how their future fundraising strategies do not disrupt or compete with the fundraising efforts of local community organizations. The second is that an open letter that Nguzo Africa wrote to Earth Fund and World Resource Institute,



which urged them to enhance their local community-led approaches, led to Earth Fund now wanting to learn more about working with communities under the #ShiftThePower movement.

Similarly, in **Brazil**, the small grant awarded to the PIPA Initiative enabled them to mobilize \$20,000 from the José Luiz Egydio Setubal Foundation for institutional development, research activities, and communications in the philanthropic field. Fundo Tindzila, another small grant partner of GFCF, was able to attract the interest and commitment of two other funding partners for the Matha community: CMA-CGM Better Ways and Mozambique BioFund. The additional resources will support community-led natural resource management programs, including community reforestation, eco-tourism, and other nature-based revenue generation projects.

Within the Alliance, in **Mozambique** with Micaia, a series of meetings with senior officials at universities in Maputo have resulted in securing a principal agreement from Universidade Pedagógica (UP) in Maputo to collaborate in establishing the Mozambique Centre for Philanthropy. The new Centre will continue the work on philanthropy beyond the end of the Giving for Change programme as a learning and networking space, certifying training modules (philanthropy and local resource

mobilization), and sponsoring postgraduate philanthropy research. Additionally, informal CSO platforms (learning communities) were created to sustain learning and engagement in community philanthropy.

In **Ghana**, there is a gradual shift toward corporate social investment and impact investing, indicating an increasing interest in long-term, sustainable collaborations between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. A notable example is the recent partnership formed by Celdar Foundation with Safe Ghana Africa, Zipline, Volta River Estate, Salem Natural Mineral Water, Anum Rural Bank PLC, and two oil marketing companies. They have contributed funding, in-kind support, and infrastructure for various community development projects that Celdar Foundation is carrying out.

In **Burkina Faso**, community-based organisations supported by ABF have engaged local authorities to include their activities in the local development plans. Local resource mobilisation is integrated into ABF's future programming. Local authorities and technical services have been involved more, with a commitment to providing technical support to CSAs.

# 07 Review of Learning Plan

In 2024, the Giving for Change Alliance began to focus on the program's conclusion. Alliance members discussed key questions about its current state during the Partner Learning and Reflection meeting in Uganda in August. Recommendations included utilizing existing Alliance resources, promoting collaboration with humility, supporting transformative leadership, and enhancing community-based storytelling. These efforts aim to elevate community philanthropy and demonstrate alternative development approaches to enrich civic engagement and foster a culture of giving. The scenario planning exercise beyond the Giving for Change program helped Alliance members understand current resourcing contexts and make assumptions for future scenarios. Three outcomes were explored: a) what innovative ideas can be amplified with abundant funding? b) how to sustain the program with limited funding, and c) how to drive change with no resources. A key theme was the need to deepen relationships, moving away from the focus on money, among Alliance members, national and regional partners, the donor community, including the private sector, and allies in the #ShiftThePower movement. Additionally, changing mindsets and implementing systems change is not a time-bound task; it requires long-term investment from various actors.

The success of the #TooSouthernToBeFunded campaign highlighted the importance of “showing our workings” during the planning phase with global partners. It underscored the need to collaborate with a media firm that understands the language and politics of the work (in this case, Freedom Studio, a 2023/4 #ShiftThePower Fellow's organization). Additionally, it was important to accommodate different levels of engagement, allowing for a light-touch approach for partners to contribute as they felt. More importantly, it was essential to use a common language that all partners could understand and relate

to. The lessons learned from this will be carried forward into the new campaign for Giving for Change in 2025.

## *Reflecting on Communities of Practice within the GfC programme and as a broader strategy for co-creation and co-learning*

The use of communities of practice (CoP) as a strategy was incorporated into the original design of the Giving for Change programme, but without specific prescriptions for implementation methodologies. Anchor partners have adopted and adapted the concept of CoPs within their own contexts, employing various forms, approaches, and structures. The CoP approach signifies a departure from a more traditional capacity delivery model that relies on training and similar methods, and it inherently creates new opportunities for co-learning through experimentation and practice. In 2024, contingency funds were used to support a research project examining the application of a CoP approach across the Alliance. This project may help identify similarities and differences, key characteristics, and contribute to broader reflections on learning strategies that emphasize emergent practice and collaborative learning spaces. The framing question for the project is “To what extent are Communities of Practice a suitable vehicle for advancing change, particularly in promoting community philanthropy and enabling communities to claim their rights with respect to government?” This work will build on an initial mapping exercise on CoPs conducted in 2023 and the insights and lessons from the annual Partner & Learning Reflection meeting in Kenya in August 2023.

# 08 Partnership

During the Partner Learning and Reflection meeting, a conclusive reflection focused on partnerships and the requisite types of organizations essential for advancing the program's objectives. This includes an introspective analysis of the organizations within the Alliance. To facilitate further contemplation regarding the program and to direct activities in 2025, the following inquiries were presented: How has the program's funding contributed to the impact of the organizations' work? Is there an alternative partnership arrangement that effectively supports a systemic approach to addressing systemic issues? What are the existing power dynamics within the program that have either facilitated or impeded impact? Are the members of the Alliance the appropriate stakeholders to instigate change? Separately, Alliance partners conducted an internal partnership review examining collaboration among consortium members, NAIs, CoPs, and local actors. The review highlighted progress around different areas of partnership, including shifting power and resources, flexibility and adaptability, collective power, and movement building. The yearly gatherings of Alliance partners remain essential for guiding the future of the GfC programme and strengthening our collective dedication to community philanthropy in a difficult civic context.

During the reporting period, two new interview profiles were conducted and published on the #ShiftThePower Treehouse - Philanthropy That Transforms - showcasing the story of Comua network and insights from WACSI on community philanthropy and civic space in Ghana. Specifically, consortium members and NAIs engaged together in the following joint activities:

- GfC consortium members and NAIs participated in the 6th APN Assembly from 5 to 8 November 2024 in Zimbabwe. The Assembly serves as the flagship event of the APN, bringing together members, partners, and practitioners to share experiences and new knowledge while collectively advancing the voice and action of African philanthropy.
- GFCF in collaboration with Star-Ghana and the Kenya Community Development Foundation: A breakout session was organised in November at the 2024 African Philanthropy Network Assembly titled *"The role and power of informal philanthropy*

*in movement building."* The session's objectives were to elevate the role of social movements as active self funders of their struggles and aspirations; to spotlight and celebrate citizens organizing for social justice and accountability in Africa; to reflect on and reimagine the role of formal CSOs in supporting informal and emerging self-organized movements without undermining their positive attributes; and to examine the role of community philanthropy in sustaining citizens and social movements.

- Wilde Ganzen and APN jointly organised a weeklong workshop that aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of Finance Managers/directors and staff who are involved in the GfC programme. It also aimed to enhance understanding on the importance of financial sustainability, shifting the power and the need to address challenges around balancing trust-based partnerships and donor (financial) accountability. The workshop was facilitated by WACSI.
- Wilde Ganzen and APN through the Change the Game Academy provided training on Local Fundraising with members of APN, to support their members in developing a diversified donor portfolio and local income streams.

Meanwhile, NAIs continued to engage with Dutch embassies through participating in meetings, field visits and other advocacy efforts. In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Uganda, NAIs engaged with key staff from the embassy through inviting them in programme activities and field visits, or having update meetings. In April 2024, CESE in Brazil met with the Dutch Ambassador Andre Driessen to discuss the situation and work of CESE with human rights defenders. Through partnership with the Dutch embassy in Uganda, UNNGOF will implement a two year project that aims to mitigate and respond to human rights violations in Uganda. In the Hague, Wilde Ganzen, on behalf of the GfC alliance engaged the Civil Society department and Social Development division of the Dutch MFA through a number of convenings/lobby meetings (with Partos) including learning sessions related to locally led development, and shared inputs on the new Dutch development policy and the EU Global Gateway Strategy.



# 09 Reflection on Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (ToC) remains valid for most of the GfC alliance partners, while some highlight the need for adaptations given their local contexts and the evolving global funding landscapes. The indication that the ToC remains true is definitive, but more efforts and resource investment are needed to promote community philanthropy as a key development strategy and shift the power towards localization. While communities have demonstrated their power at the local level, building a collective voice at the national level for policy change remains a challenge.

In **Brazil**, the ToC is considered globally valid and aligns with the concerns of local actors and partners' vision where they focus on diversifying communication strategies to reach various actors and position community philanthropy as a key community-led development strategy. While in Palestine, the ToC is progressive. It is achieving its intended outcomes, specifically in increasing the participation of CSAs and fostering local philanthropy given the recent developments that are posing new realities, i.e. increasing funding needs and shifting discussions with local donors towards solidarity support and unconditional funding.

In **Africa**, the ToC remains relevant in unlocking the collective power of communities to express their opinions and hold power-holders accountable through philanthropy. Likewise, governments are becoming more aware, adopting laws and regulations that enable philanthropy to grow. And, funders are adopting practices to unlock the

potential of community philanthropy and domestic resources mobilization through CSAs. Nonetheless, achieving CSA role in influencing policies and practices that are affecting their constituencies, catalyze people-led, inclusive social changes require more and diversified resources, in addition to much stronger local institutions.

In the **Netherlands and Europe**, the ToC remains conceptually valid, especially its commitment to shifting power dynamics in international aid through community philanthropy. However, political and funding shifts present challenges to some original assumptions under the ToC. While awareness of community philanthropy has increased, substantial changes in funding practices remain limited, posing a critical need for shifting from general awareness to targeted, evidence-based advocacy engaging policy makers, funders (philanthropists) and Private Development Initiatives (PDIs). The alliance will be commencing a focused research to understand the effective strategies for influencing donor practices, as well as to address some of the challenges.

**Globally**, the ToC remains valid and has been validated by the #ShiftThePowerSummit. The key is in the connection between the three domains, demonstrating how community-level actions and donations can be recognized and responded to by larger stakeholders. Contextual adaptation to address challenges related to resource mobilization and influencing power dynamics are required.

# 10 Risk Analysis

While in chapter 1 risks related to the context have been discussed, in this section we will briefly highlight programmatic and organizational risks. The main programmatic and organizational risks we identified during proposal development stage were;

**Insecurity and Armed Conflicts:** this risk has materialized to varying degrees across countries, with significant implications for CSOs and communities especially in **Brazil, Mozambique, Burkina faso, Ghana, Palestine** and **Kenya** making it difficult for CSOs to operate freely or safely. Mitigation strategies focus on adapting activities, engaging in peace dialogue, providing economic opportunities for vulnerable populations, and shifting to safer methods (like online platforms in **Palestine**). Despite challenges, CSOs continue to advocate for rights and adjust to evolving security dynamics.

**Wrong choices of program partners or beneficiaries:** this risk hasn't materialized this year.

**Insufficient engagement of marginalized groups:** this risk has moderately materialized across different contexts. In Mozambique, towards the end of the year, CSOs that we had funded with matching grants or seed funding were simply unable to operate due to interference from the authorities. In response, Micaia maintained close communication with grant recipients ensuring that Micaia could remain responsive, discussing the rescheduling of activities, postponing grant disbursements, and, in some cases, mutually agreeing to terminate grant contracts. While In **Palestine**, ongoing movement restrictions have hindered the effective participation of some marginalized groups in sessions. Despite these challenges, Dalia provided follow-up sessions for groups that were unable to attend due to movement challenges.

**Corruption and Fraud:** this risk hasn't materialized this year.

**Incidents regarding SEAH:** this risk hasn't significantly materialized in all contexts, yet it remained relevant for **Mozambique**. The sudden death of the national GfC coordinator while not directly related to SEAH, this unexpected leadership gap posed a potential risk to the oversight and safeguarding continuity. Following a thorough internal review, and with only 16 months remaining in the project, Micaia decided to redeploy financial resources to strengthen the team's capacity. Two specialist staff were hired

an advocacy officer and a learning officer, while the executive director will assume the project management role.

**Insufficient human resources and staff turnover:** this risk hasn't significantly materialized in all contexts except for Palestine. The turnover of a few employees caused minor tension during transitions, but the situation remains fully under control. In response, Dalia ensured ongoing team follow-up and knowledge sharing sessions which have helped ensure a smooth transition despite staff changes.

**Financial dependency:** the risk has partially materialized, with varying levels of exposure across countries. In **Ghana**, STAR-Ghana has secured a new donor for its local philanthropy efforts, though at a small scale. However, with local philanthropy already mainstreamed, the closure of GfC is unlikely to significantly impact continuity. To strengthen sustainability, STAR-Ghana is embedding GfC-related initiatives within its wider organizational strategies. In contrast, **Kenya's** CSAs have become more resilient and are exploring alternative strategies to achieve financial sustainability prompting the exploration of alternative funding opportunities. In **Mozambique**, Micaia will continue its community philanthropy work although at a smaller scale without GfC. While some activities will continue on a cost-recovery basis, Micaia is actively seeking alternative funding particularly in the UK, US, and in Portugal in 2025.

**Data breach and connectivity:** this risk hasn't materialized. However, connectivity remains an issue in fragile contexts like **Palestine** and **Burkina Faso**. At the same time, partners such as **Comuá, ABF, and KCDF** are advancing digital security and aligning with data protection regulations.

**Economic crisis and Inflation:** just like the previous year, this risk continues affecting partner countries. In **Ethiopia**, high inflation and the free-floating currency have sharply increased the cost of living, negatively impacting community philanthropy efforts. In **Mozambique**, Inflation surged rapidly in the second quarter, making basic food supplies significantly more expensive. At the same time, banks faced liquidity crises, and a shortage of foreign exchange affected businesses of all sizes, as they struggled to pay for essential imported goods. In **Palestine**, inflation and rising living costs have reached up to 53%, significantly impacting daily life and economic stability.

# 11 Annex

## Annex 1: Country Highlights

### Brazil

2024 was a year marked by both persistent tensions and emerging opportunities. Brazil's social movements faced political instability, with resistance hindering key legislation and a shift towards conservative parties in municipal elections. Revelations of an attempted coup led to high-profile arrests linked to the previous government. Severe floods and unprecedented fires in the Amazon, Cerrado, and Pantanal regions highlighted environmental crises, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and intensifying calls for climate justice ahead of COP30 in 2025. Human rights challenges intensified, including violence against women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and marginalized communities. Controversial legislation criminalizing abortion sparked nationwide protests. Land conflicts worsened for Indigenous and quilombola populations, and urban housing deficits increased. Despite these challenges, the participation of Brazilian civil society in global events like the upcoming COP 30 and the past G20 summit offers opportunities to advance rights-based perspectives and advocate for community and social justice philanthropy. CESE responded by strengthening governance, initiating projects supporting indigenous and quilombola rights, and enhancing organizational practices. Comuá Network remained committed to articulating diverse actors, producing knowledge, and strengthening its position as a relevant political actor. In 2024, the Network and its members continued to support civil society actors in their fight for human and environmental rights and coordinated advocacy and social justice grantmaking efforts.

#### **Key activities realized by CESE:**

- Training of 12 organizations with all women participants on mobilising support and enhancing advocacy.
- 13 projects received small grants to implement plans as follow up of the local fund raising and mobilising support courses which were provided in the previous years. These are for organisations that engage blind and low-vision women, black women, lesbians, religious women, quilombolas, communicators, people living in the peripheries, who work with young people.

- CESE co-created activities together with the MROSC and ABONG platforms, such as the launch of the Mixed Parliamentary Front in Defense of Civil Society Organizations at the Chamber of Deputies; the launch of Notice no. 01/2024/SERIN by the State Council (Confoco Bahia), identifying and disseminating good practices to foster collaboration and cooperation between the state public administration and civil society organizations.
- Publication of Decree No. 11.948/24 on rules and procedures for partnerships between the federal public administration and civil society organizations, being the result of a participatory process by civil society.
- Strengthened actions and advocacy to guarantee rights through holding of meetings and hearings with public authorities, carrying out public acts of visibility, communication campaigns, letters of demand related to the applicability of the law on ethnic-racial relations in schools and connected with quilombola education; compliance with protocols in the care of victims of sexual violence and protection of sexual and reproductive rights; the defense of the right to health, menstrual dignity and confronting violence of women and girls; and the condition of disability in protocols for the care and protection of women, creating data and subsidies for public policies to combat violence against women with disabilities.
- Publication of an article about the CoP achievements and a series of posts card on Domestic Workers' Day, April 27; as well as the Coletivo Mupps, with an article about the actions in defense of the menstrual dignity of women and girls.
- Organising and mobilisation around the "actions March of Struggles", including International Women's Day, as well as the launch of the Black Women's March for 2025 as key advocacy moments.
- CESE conducted the campaign "Have a faith, have a vote" aiming to establish greater dialogue with members of the wider society, especially with the church; countering fake news that proliferate in the religious environment during the election period; and; rolling out of a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of public policy for Climate Disaster Aid.
- CESE organized events and meetings with German ministries, Dutch and French embassies, and the UN Human Rights Council, highlighting the effects of development models and climate change in Brazil.



### **Key activities realized by Comuá Network:**

- Comuá awarded subgrants to promote community and social justice philanthropy through direct support to partner organizations for local actions and advocacy.
- Organized and hosted a national event “Transforming Philanthropy Month 2024” which successfully engaged over 260 organizations nationwide; hosted 51 local events focused on climate action and social justice philanthropy.
- Hosted community of practice (CoP) meetings through the Capacity Strengthening Programme. These CoPs enhanced peer learning and facilitated joint advocacy initiatives, connecting climate justice to broader human rights and social justice agendas, with meetings proposed and led by network members based on their specific interests.
- Comuá promoted knowledge production and dissemination in collaboration with network members and partners through publications, studies, and collective learning, enhancing the visibility and influence of community and social justice philanthropy in Brazil’s philanthropic ecosystem.
- Comuá engaged in international events (online/in-person), professional exchanges, and meetings with the Global Fund for Community Foundations and other GfC alliance partners, sharing best practices on collective advocacy, climate philanthropy, participatory grantmaking, and M&E.

### **Story of change**

In Brazil’s Northeast, a network of women’s organizations supported by CESE is driving change from the ground up. Through a Community of Practice (CoP), they share strategies, strengthen advocacy skills, and defend the rights of traditional communities. In Paraíba, their efforts led to a historic win: the quilombola community of Caiana dos Crioulos received its first official land title, securing rights for over 300 families and access to key public services. In Piauí, the babassu coconut breakers began the formal process of land titling for the Santa Rosa Territory — protecting the livelihoods and culture of thousands of women. These victories show that advocacy is more than policy change — it’s the power of women organizing, influencing, and reclaiming their future.

### **Burkina Faso**

The security situation continues to give cause for concern, with ongoing violence leading to major population displacements and humanitarian needs. Around 30% of the territory is outside the control of the authorities, which continues to lead to massive

population displacements, a quarter of whom are in need of humanitarian aid. Local partners reported that they were affected by the inflation and rising costs, and they have to adjust their budgets and rethink their strategies.

The Giving for Change programme is proving to be a catalyst for sustainable local development in Burkina Faso. Community ownership, advocacy, and local philanthropy are growing, but strengthening institutional partnerships and diversifying fundraising approaches will be critical to ensuring long-term impact.

### **Key activities realised:**

- Local civil society actors (40) independently organised fundraising activities and advocate for local contributions. ₣45.008 was raised through community events, individual donations, and local partnerships. Continued to train 20 new local CSAs.
- Engagement of local authorities, media coverage, and integration of community philanthropy and activities of local CSAs into local development plans.
- Community events were held such as “Inclusion Days,” cultural nights, fairs and sport tournaments which strengthened public awareness and support among youth.
- Radio broadcasts, game shows and media publication to promote best practices and raise awareness on local philanthropy and other activities of the CSAs, e.g. during the “Night of Inclusion”.
- Accompaniment of journalists from afaso.net and canal 3 media networks to gather stories.
- Effective advocacy and institutional partnerships: Several CSOs secured formal support from government agencies and technical partners while continuing the national CSO certification initiative with plans to launch a certification institute in 2025.
- Involvement of religious and traditional leaders, reinforcing the social acceptability of projects.
- Capacity building and empowerment: 40 CSOs completed training and implemented their development projects. 7 trainer-coaches provided hands-on support to CSOs, improving skills in fundraising, governance, and inclusion.
- Resilience amid security and economic challenges: CSOs supported displaced communities with essential aid (food, school kits). Despite insecurity, five out of six regions received monitoring visits, reinforcing programme continuity.

## Story of Change

Reforestation and environmental protection initiatives have been carried out by the CSAs, such as the Association des Jeunes pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement (AJDPE), which has planted trees with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Sustainable water management has been improved by the installation of wells by the Association pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la promotion de l'élevage (ASEPE).

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia is facing political and sociopolitical instability in various parts of the country. Little peace in some parts of Ethiopia has had a significant negative impact on the country's economy. The recent free-floating of currency has exacerbated economic hardship, leading to inflation and a higher cost of living. Nevertheless, the government is implementing macroeconomic reforms aimed at addressing the economic crisis and fostering national dialogues to achieve lasting peace.

Against this background, one of the most significant takeaways from the civil society actors (CSAs)/Community of Practice (CoPs) in Ethiopia is the power of amplifying community voices, ensuring that the priorities of CSAs that represent communities are heard and getting responses. GfC has ensured capacity building and CoPs had small grants to support economic empowerment initiatives, securing sustainable funding for both advocacy and philanthropic efforts. This all led to tangible outcomes, such as the construction and renovation of libraries, roads, additional classrooms construction in schools, as well as support for destitute individuals. These successes showcase the transformative impact of community-led initiatives and the important role CoPs play in representing their communities. Moving forward, the focus will need to be on strengthening the capacity of CoPs and ensuring their long-term sustainability through institutional support and strengthening them to be self-reliant in carrying out right-based advocacy and community development through community philanthropy.

### Key activities realized:

- GfC efforts targeting government sector office representatives resulted in cases in which governments and power holders have changed practices that improved their accountability towards communities, respect for human rights, and increased gender inclusiveness.
- Advocacy on the localization of aid has led to a significant shift in the way International NGOs (INGOs) engage with local Civil Society Organizations

(CSOs). Development Expertise Center (DEC) has hosted “Localization of Aid” advocacy workshops, fostering partnerships between CSOs and donors. These efforts have led to donor commitments for funding and training, empowering local organizations to lead community-focused projects.

- DEC and consortium members implemented various training, advocacy, and community-driven initiatives to promote gender equality, and empowerment of youth and Persons with Disabilities. One of the results was accessibility improvements, e.g. establishment of ramps in government offices and the provision of 24 wheelchairs for persons with disabilities.
- Capacity strengthening activities included training on Social Accountability for 7 CoPs (129 member CSAs) using Change the Game Academy (CtGA) tools.
- Members of CoPs were trained on Human Right Based Approach (RBA), the right to development, media and advocacy.
- CoPs obtained training on peace building and conflict resolution to contribute to the current peace process.
- Hosted #ShiftThePower summit in partnership with the Global Fund for Community Foundation. Collaborated with RINGO and WINGS to connect Ethiopia local level efforts to global initiatives.
- Joint advocacy work with the Dutch MFA/Embassy in Ethiopia.

## Story of Change

In Kunzila, Ethiopia, the CoP's joint effort has achieved a breakthrough for the flower industry. Because of the dedicated work of its 18 members taking proactive steps to improve the lives of workers facing challenges like low pay and gender inequality. After an intensive advocacy training, they have succeeded to establish workers associations that championed fair pay, safety kits, and overtime compensation. This effort not only strengthened workers' rights but also led corporations to contribute resources to community projects which enhanced their reputation in the community, creating a win-win scenario for both local communities and businesses.

In 2023, when the conflict started, the CoP demonstrated the strength of solidarity by uniting workers, leaders, and local authorities to protect businesses and community property. This marks how grassroots collaboration based on rights and solidarity led to thriving communities that transform vulnerability into lasting resilience. It is happening.

## Ghana

In 2024, Ghana's civic space was downgraded to 'narrowed' by CIVICUS, with challenges including arrests of activists and the passage of the Anti-LGBTQ+ Bill. A new government, led by the National Democratic Congress, opens opportunities

to revisit restrictive legislations. Civil society faces funding pressures due to global aid cuts and shifting donor priorities. Nonetheless, the passage of the Affirmative Action Act marked a major civil society win. Amid these dynamics, local philanthropy and community-led development have grown as viable strategies for resilience and sustainability.

Concerning the global aid cuts, Ghana has been impacted by the US' global 'stop work' order on USAID and the cancellation of development projects. This, coupled with a reduction in bilateral funding, is likely to constrain access to funding for CSOs, affecting their capacity to defend and promote citizens' rights and ensure accountability. Addressing this emerging situation requires both short- and long-term approaches. In the short term, there is a need to influence private foundations to elevate their support and fill immediate funding gaps. GfC has supported CSOs in integrating resource diversification strategies, including local philanthropy, into their work. While this remains a long-term solution, there is a need to accelerate its upscaling within CSOs.

### **Key Activities realised**

- **Movement Building & Policy Influence:** Civil society organizations (CSOs), through Communities of Practice (CoPs), influenced political party manifestos and advocated for enabling legislation, including a National Philanthropy Policy and tax incentives.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** The Ghana Civil Society Forum was formalized, with four working groups advancing policy advocacy (e.g., NPO Bill, RTI Act, volunteering strategy).
- **Local Philanthropy in Action:** Local resource mobilization efforts yielded tangible impacts—crowdfunding, diaspora giving, and private sector partnerships funded healthcare, education, and inclusion projects.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** CoPs received coaching, mentoring, and technical support on fundraising and advocacy; 35 organizations adopted new strategies.
- **Research & Learning:** The Local Giving in Africa research report, co-published by STAR-Ghana and WACSI, became a regional reference point.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Partnerships were built with businesses and corporate actors to support community development initiatives.
- **Inclusion & Reach:** Gender and disability inclusion were mainstreamed, with women comprising 58% of 31,706 direct participants.

### **Story of Change**

#### **Advancing Civic Space through the Non-Profit Organizations Bill**

One of the most significant milestones in Ghana's journey towards a more equal and just society has been the collective efforts of CSOs in influencing the passage of the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Bill, a process that had been delayed for nearly two decades.

At the 2nd Ghana Civil Society Forum held on 25th and 26th June 2024, a resolution was agreed upon, emphasizing the need for an enabling environment that allows CSAs to operate freely, without political interference. The passage of the NPO Bill will provide a much-needed regulatory framework for the sector, protecting CSOs from undue political influence and enhancing their legitimacy, accountability, and sustainability. STAR-Ghana Foundation, convener of the Ghana CS Forum, has brought together over 400 organizations in the last two years, with CoPs playing a key role in organizing the forum and contributing as speakers. This collective action is a step toward increased domestic philanthropic giving and greater trust in CSAs, furthering inclusive social change in Ghana.

### **Kenya**

The election of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States in November 2024 has raised concerns about funding for human rights and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa. On top of this, rising cases of forced disappearances and political abductions undermine public confidence in the rule of law but also instill fear among political dissidents, refugees, and whistleblowers, making it increasingly difficult for activists to operate freely. Further, there is a crackdown on freedom of expression and digital advocacy. Other key human rights commissions have also been politically compromised, with government-aligned appointments undermining their ability to operate independently. These legal changes mark a broader trend of state-driven suppression of civic engagement and digital activism which have been instrumental in holding the government accountable as well as threaten democratic governance and the rule of law, signaling a shift toward greater executive control over independent institutions. In Kenya, three new laws aim to enhance transparency, accountability, and governance within the sector by tightening registration, reporting, and compliance requirements for fundraising and tax-exempt status. While these measures are expected to professionalize the sector and increase public trust, they also introduce administrative and financial burdens, especially for smaller organizations struggling with compliance costs. Adapting to these changes, capacity strengthening for compliance and advocacy for reforms have been essential for public benefit organisations (PBOs) to thrive in the evolving regulatory environment.



## Key activities realized

- Continuous support for intercounty community of practice (CoP) convenings in the 6 counties: Kakamega, Kwale, Makueni, Kisumu, Nairobi and Busia and held quarterly learning forums for cross-learning and best practices sharing.
- Supporting the current 16 grantees to enhance their advocacy on public participation and public accountability. With this support the partners have influenced the full implementation, development and drafting of 25 county and national policies.
- Supported national public awareness campaigns and annual convenings on local giving/philanthropy.
- Enhancing Community philanthropy through media, research, and documentation to amplify the voices of the community on local giving: 118 participants participated in the storytelling forum, among which a representative from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and; East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN) conducted a study on family giving traditions in East Africa, emphasizing the growing trend towards collaborative and varied charitable activities and highlights the importance of ongoing education and growth within the philanthropic sector.
- Lobbied for the review of laws and regulations affecting civic space in Kenya (including the operationalization of the 2013 PBO Act, among others)
- Supported multi-stakeholder meetings with national level philanthropic actors to enhance shift the power conversations and change in practice seeking to mobilize philanthropists-private- government engagements.
- Fostering collaborations between the public and private sectors in philanthropy.
- Global and regional conversations held to advocate for a stronger ecosystem for shifting power in philanthropy and development.
- At the national level, KCDF coordinated and convened national alliance implementers' convenings with the 8 GfC national anchor institutions to learn and share best practices on CoPs.

## Story of Change

In Kisumu, TEAM, KMET and SUTO have all worked jointly to advocate for the operationalization of access to the Information Act and Bill (2024). Key outcome has been the successful finalization of the Access to Information Policy and Bill 2024 by the Technical Working Group (TWG) at the executive level. The policy has been uploaded to the Kisumu County website for easy public access and undertaking county-wide public participation radio awareness to gather stakeholder feedback input and acceptance before its approval and undergo community-level public participation to gather stakeholder feedback before its submission to the Cabinet.

## Mozambique

The second half of 2024 in Mozambique was dominated by significant political instability and violent repression linked to the national elections and subsequent peaceful protests which otherwise caused brutal responses from authorities and escalation of violence and chaos as fuelled by the release of more than 1,500 prisoners that resulted in over 200 deaths by year's end. Micaia's operations were significantly disrupted, offices, especially in Maputo, were closed repeatedly, planned community gatherings and local fundraising activities were unsafe and banned, and all activities halted entirely from 20 December to 6 January. With the inauguration of President Daniel Chapo on 15 January 2025, uncertainties remain about governance, security, and Mozambique's ability to handle a daunting economic crisis characterized by massive debt, pressure from the IMF to cut spending, forex shortages, rising youth anger, and increased poverty, further complicated by rural migration due to drought. Turning from the general evolution of the project to specific outputs, there was again a very good level of activity and reach, despite the many challenges of the second half of the year. Nevertheless, there is no avoiding the fact that the level of completed actions was lower in the second half of the year than in the first six months. Several important activities have had to be taken forward into 2025.

## Key activities realized

- Continuing community philanthropy training through new models, such as hybrid delivery, advanced modules, trainer programs, certification opportunities, network strengthening, and launching an online fundraising app (a donor/CSO web-based platform to facilitate donations). In total, 116 activists and CSO members participated in at least one activity.
- Maintained seed and matching funding programs supporting local citizen actions (30 grants reaching 1032 participants, out of which 682 were women) and piloted decentralized funding; however, matching grants faced delays and local pressures due to the political crisis.
- Strengthening the Movement for Community Philanthropy through membership growth (305 new civil society members), government-CSO collaboration, donor engagement, launching a donor awareness 'Philanthropy Week' (though limited by political unrest), hosting the second National Conference on Community Philanthropy, round tables on community philanthropy with key stakeholder groups (e.g. journalists, religious leaders, politicians), thematic exchanges/learning visits with CSOs, round table/event with INGOs and with donors (co-hosted with the Dutch Embassy) and introducing joint initiatives to promote philanthropy despite disruptions from electoral violence.
- First #ShiftThePower meeting held in Maputo, with 30 delegates, 16 from

Mozambique and 14 from other countries (Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Colombia and Laos). The conference provided the opportunity for participants to reflect on the state of civil society and development finance in Mozambique, the role of international actors (funders and INGOs) and their interactions with Mozambican NGOs and civil society in general, and to explore what needs to be done to ensure that more resources are directed to local actors.

- Establishing a 'platform' with a coordinating group of civil society activists after the ShiftThePower meeting.
- Held a series of meetings with senior officials at universities in Maputo and secured in principle agreement from the Universidade Pedagógica (UP) in Maputo to collaborate in establishing the Mozambique Centre for Philanthropy. The Center will carry out the work on philanthropy beyond the end of the GfC project, e.g. as a learning and networking space, certification of training modules (in philanthropy and fundraising), and sponsoring postgraduate philanthropy research.

### Story of change

In 2024, a quiet transformation took place in Malhazine, a neighbourhood in Maputo. At the heart of it: the Hixinkanwe Association — known for its weekly “solidarity pot” and growing role as a safe space for healing. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Association welcomed over 150 people — many women living with HIV — to therapeutic sharing circles. Among them, a widow and mother who once felt invisible found dignity and belonging. Today, with an undetectable viral load, she is an activist offering others the same compassion that changed her life. Hixinkanwe's impact stretches beyond Maputo. From small business owners to community leaders, its members now live with purpose. Active hubs in Gaza and Inhambane support thousands to stay in treatment and reclaim their lives. Through care, trust, and solidarity, Hixinkanwe shows that healing can be revolutionary.

## Palestine

The overall situation in Palestinian in 2024 has deteriorated with shrinking civil society community spaces, worsening economic situation as well as increasing injustice. The political control over community work has increased since the October 2023 genocide, the community development and civil society are under attack with higher funding conditionality and vetting process emerging. Moreover, with the election of Trump, it is expected that USAID funding for Palestine will stop. Currently, the main focus of support is dedicated toward humanitarian aid in areas of military invasions (mainly Gaza and north of West Bank) while there is limited support for community development. In

Gaza, the continuing genocide caused starvation and displacement of citizens, and the community's priority is focused only on humanitarian interventions.

### Key activities realised

- Local giving is promoted through providing in-kind support to community development initiatives.
- Dalia staff was trained in lobbying and advocacy and attended the training on national advocacy and lobbying which was provided by the African Philanthropy Network.
- Civil society actors (CSAs) were trained in lobbying and advocacy and attended follow up sessions. They also received First Aid training to deal with the current political situation and provided community support when needed.
- Farmer CSAs received support to promote practice of rainwater retention and to cope with limited water supply (as caused by climate change and also land occupation).
- Dalia held an awareness session on safeguarding with women-led initiatives (25) and CoPs. This is to equip women with knowledge and skills to mitigate any risks related to their participation and engagement in movement and community activities.
- Implemented community mobilization activities that raised the community's ability and belief in local resources and the efficient utilization of these resources.
- Collaborated with radio stations to amplify the voices of the CoPs through storytelling, media campaigns, and interviews.
- Published the paper “Philanthropy in the Palestinian Context” to share knowledge and learnings with different generations and partners.
- Dalia participated in international platforms like Funding Freedom, Funders4 Palestine, Edge Funders, etc .
- Produced podcasts to share internationally the voices of the communities.

### Story of Change

The women participating in all events exceeded 60%, and this is highly noticed due to the current situation in Palestine which puts women in charge of activities but also overburdening them (socially and financially). Meanwhile, we noticed the youth's determination to make a change and their participation has increased especially in mobilising resources in the communities. Further, the Women Artisans CoP which is a group of 15 all women artisans are passionately willing to protect the culture and heritage as well as defend the rights of all artisans working in different sectors. They overcame the social challenges and managed to collaborate and travel and break the social ties.

## Uganda

In 2024, Uganda's NGO sector faced significant regulatory changes, including the passage of the Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Bill, which brought the National Bureau for NGOs under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, increasing government oversight. This raised concerns about compliance burdens and potential restrictions on civic space. Additionally, Uganda's civic landscape was influenced by global shifts, such as Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. elections.

UNNGOF focused on strengthening Uganda's philanthropy ecosystem through strategic partnerships and key initiatives like the Gathering of Givers 2024 and the Philanthropy Debate Symposium. These efforts, combined with studies on regulatory frameworks and the impact of revenue collection on local giving, highlighted the potential for domestic philanthropy to thrive. UNNGOF continues to advocate for a more enabling legal environment and work towards protecting civic space in Uganda.

### **Key Activities Realized**

- Training in Local Fundraising and Mobilising Support to equip partners with skills on local resource mobilization.
- Training of Community Facilitators: P4D facilitators participated in the IAF Africa Regional Conference to enhance grassroots facilitation skills.
- Training of Civil Society Actors to engage media practitioners in amplifying philanthropy narratives.
- Community Dialogues on Giving: conducted 28 fireplace conversations and 7 regional dialogues on local economic development policies.
- Compliance Clinics for CSOs: hosted a national dialogue on NGO taxation and compliance with key government bodies.

- Campaigns on topical Issues: commissioned studies on philanthropy regulations and revenue collection to support advocacy efforts.
- Annual Philanthropy Symposium was organized in December 2024 to engage youth in shaping Africa's philanthropy landscape.
- Local Giving Fairs: convened the Gathering of Givers 2024 to showcase Uganda's generosity and engage policymakers.
- Reflection Meeting with Philanthropy Enablers: participated in the African Philanthropy Assembly to discuss sector challenges and solutions.
- Hosted discussions on re-imagining aid and localization efforts in Uganda during the Bi-annual Reflection Meetings with development partners:
- Hosted the GfC Annual Learning Meeting in August 2024 to review programme progress and strengthen community philanthropy strategies.

### **Story of change**

In 2024, UNNGOF strengthened its commitment to advocating for a pro-philanthropy policy framework in Uganda. By mobilizing diverse stakeholders, UNNGOF aimed to highlight local giving as a key driver of development and ensure it is supported by enabling policies.

A major achievement was forming strategic alliances with institutions like CivSource Afrika and Qweshunga, enhancing advocacy efforts through knowledge-sharing, visibility, and policy engagement. Additionally, UNNGOF prioritized media engagement by hosting the Philanthropy Symposium for Media Practitioners, equipping journalists with tools to reshape narratives around local giving. This initiative led to increased media coverage on philanthropy, with journalists adopting a more contextualized approach and some media houses integrating local giving into their programming.





