



Giving for Change

Annual Report 2025



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The Giving for Change Alliance

The Giving for Change Alliance consists of the following consortium members: 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:

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

List of Acronyms

ABF	Association Burkinabè de Fundraising	MWM	Measuring What Matters
ABONG	Associação Brasileira de Organizações Não Governamentais	NAI	National Anchor Institutions
ACFO	Authority of Civil Society Organization	NPO	Non-Profit Organization
ASEPE	Association pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la promotion de l'élevage	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CAF	Charity Aid Foundation	PDI	Private Development Initiatives
CAPSI	Center for Philanthropy and Social Investment	PBO	Public Benefit Organization
CDA	Community Development Alliance	PMEL	Planning, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
CESE	Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço	PWD	People with Disability
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan	P4D	Philanthropy for Development
CoPs	Community of Practice	RTI	Right to Information
CSA	Civil Society Actor	SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	ToC	Theory of Change
CSPDE	Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness	ToT	Training of Trainers
CtGA	Change the Game Academy	TWG	Technical Working Group
DEC	Development Expertise Center	UNNGOF	Uganda National NGO Forum
DRMC	Disaster Risk Management Commission	WACSI	West Africa Civil Society Institute
EAPN	East Africa Philanthropy Network		
ECSOHF	Ethiopian National CSOs Humanitarian Forum		
FATF	Financial Action Task Force		
FIND	Funders Network for International Development		
GFCF	Global Fund for Community Foundations		
GIFE	Group of Institutes, Foundations and Enterprises		
GfC	Giving for Change		
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation		
ICT	Information and Communication Technology		
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons		
KDCF	Kenya Community Development Foundation		
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority		
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies		
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning		
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
MROSC	Marco Regulatório das Organizações da Sociedade Civil		

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Introduction

The shifting context in 2025 strongly validated the core premise of the Giving for Change (GfC) programme: that locally-led and locally financed development is essential for long-term sustainability. The sharp reduction in international funding, particularly the closure of USAID, exposed structural vulnerabilities within the development financing system and accelerated the urgency to adopt more sustainable ways of resourcing civil society.

A central theme of our work in 2025 was therefore documenting and showcasing existing and emerging practices and strategies, such as community / local philanthropy,

systems of mutual aid, and new civil society resourcing models. We also continued our capacity strengthening for the Communities of Practice (CoPs) towards building their sustainability along with strengthening National Anchor Institutions' (NAIs) organisational and financial sustainability. This 2025 annual report demonstrates GfC partners' resilience as we continue to celebrate what we've achieved and learned in this final year of programming, taking note of our shared commitment to continue to advance community philanthropy and transform how we do development post 2025.

2 Context Analysis

Security situation, political context and civic space

The first half of 2025 showed us that the current aid system and architecture of international development cooperation have become more unreliable and inward-looking. The abrupt closure of [USAID](#) left many national and local civil society organisations worldwide vulnerable as thousands of people lost their jobs while millions of people were denied lifesaving humanitarian assistance. USAID's closure exacerbated the already declining aid assistance by major bilateral donors like Germany, UK, France and the Netherlands, and more recently, Belgium and Switzerland. Global ODA fell 6% in 2024 while projections in 2025 estimated an ODA decline of 9 to 17% from 27 EU member states (OECD, 2025).

Amid this shift in the funding landscape, there is an ongoing rapid process of autocratisation as we face the lowest levels of democracy in the last 50 years. The operating and policy context remain unfavorable, characterized by shrinking civic space and limited trust between civil society actors and national governments. According to the 2025 CIVICUS Monitor, civic space remained severely restricted across most GfC implementing countries. Only Ghana and Brazil have an obstructed status, while Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, and Palestine fall under repressed or closed categories. This democratic crisis intersects with compounding economic and climate crises, highlighting an urgent need for new ways of organizing and resourcing civil society.

In **Kenya**, the civic and democratic landscape underwent a profound and troubling transformation as fundamental human rights are no longer merely obstructed but are actively contested through state-sponsored legal and political constraints. There is a heavy-handed executive disregard for constitutional protection, manifesting in a wave of abductions, frivolous arrests of human rights defenders, and the tragic custodial murder of activists like Albert Ojwang. These events created a pervasive atmosphere of political fear designed to stifle dissent. This climate of repression extended beyond

borders, as 2025 saw a disturbing rise in transnational, state-sponsored abductions across East Africa. Further, lawmakers introduced restrictive bills, such as the Assembly and Demonstration Bill. There was a severe crackdown on the press, which now operates under significant strain. Media freedom declined sharply, with Kenya dropping to 117th out of 180 countries on the Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index.

Meanwhile, in **Uganda**, the broader political environment became more sensitive as the country approached the 2026 general elections. Policy engagement spaces required careful positioning to ensure that advocacy on philanthropy and civic participation was not misconstrued as partisan activity. Further, the passage of the Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Act in April 2024 fundamentally altered the governance structure of the NGO Bureau in 2025, integrating it under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The transition contributed to slower processing timelines, procedural uncertainty, and increased administrative follow-up for NGOs seeking compliance approvals while smaller organisations navigating evolving requirements proved burdensome.

In **Ghana**, although civic space in 2025 remained relatively open compared to several countries in the region, regulatory scrutiny of non-profit organizations intensified, partly influenced by Ghana's compliance obligations under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) framework and regional peer review processes. Progress toward passage of the NPO Bill gained momentum, though concerns persisted within the sector regarding proportionality of oversight provisions, reporting obligations, and potential administrative burdens. CSO-led consultations and position papers continued to shape discourse around ensuring that regulatory reforms protect against financial misuse while safeguarding civic freedoms and operational autonomy.

Overall, the enabling environment for philanthropy needs strengthening to address concerns on cumbersome registration procedures, excessive tax and taxation obligations on donations and philanthropic resources, limited participation in policy processes and extensive government oversight. The unpredictability and volatility

of the funding landscape globally urged philanthropic funders to step in and deliver fast and more funding directly to local organisations while others shifted practices by providing more flexible, multiyear and core funding, and structuring support for financial sustainability and grantees' staff well-being.

Economy and climate

In 2025, the humanitarian situation in **Palestine** remained extremely fragile, shaped by ongoing conflict, movement restrictions, and a deepening economic crisis. The conditions in Westbank and Jerusalem faced political escalations, limited movement permission and higher restrictions, further frequent settlers' attacks on civilians. Alongside all this, we were seeing rising unemployment and limited access to financial resources due to USAID cuts, European freeze, and governmental partial payment of salaries.

In **Mozambique**, concerns about the national economy deepened through the year as the new government sought to renegotiate a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure extended funding. IMF recently confirmed that it will not offer Mozambique new loans without significant cuts to public expenditure and devaluation of the Metical. Meanwhile, southern Mozambique (along with parts of South Africa) suffered extreme flooding at the end of 2025 which put more strain on the majority of the population living in poverty. There was an outpouring of local donations in response to the floods, particularly through trusted local groups while people are becoming cautious in giving to well established institutions which have been involved in mismanagement of such donations in the past.

In **Ethiopia**, the government revised its disaster response framework that enhanced coordination under the Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) and "Bussa

Gonofa" institution (for humanitarian response during disaster in Oromia Region). The revised regulatory environment provides clearer operational space for CSOs to mobilize international resources and deliver assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in alignment with national priorities. In parallel, the government has introduced a structured domestic resource mobilization mechanism in collaboration with financial institutions, enabling citizens to contribute a small percentage of their bank transactions to a national disaster response fund. This initiative institutionalizes local philanthropy and reinforces nationally owned, sustainable financing for humanitarian response. Despite these positive developments, the impacts of past conflicts and ongoing socio-economic pressures continue to affect vulnerable populations and community-driven initiatives.

In **Brazil**, the National Environment Council (Conama) approved the Resolution 26916/2025, which recognizes that the climate crisis deepens social, racial, and gender inequalities and disproportionately affects different social groups. It is the first regulation in the country to provide guidelines for climate justice and environmental racism. Meanwhile, towards COP 30 in Belém, the Brazilian government mobilized a "mutirão" (joint effort). However, while the federal government claimed to prioritize climate action and energy transition, the internal tension between economic development and environmental preservation reached a boiling point in the second half of the year. As the year closed, the "PL da Devastação" (a new legislation that makes environmental licensing more flexible) and the expansion of oil exploration frontiers in the Amazon remained unresolved, while the recurrence of extreme climate events deeply affected local communities, highlighting the gap between high-level discourse and territorial reality. This context was further complicated by the eminence of the 2026 presidential elections, which began to influence political dynamics and resource allocation.

3 Central Domain

In the central domain, we aim to unlock the collective power of local communities, represented by Civil Society Actors (CSAs), to express their opinion through community philanthropy and by forming Communities of Practice (CoPs). Our focus will be on strengthening the capacity of CoP members through training, coaching, peer learning, and funding to influence the dependency mindsets of communities and mobilize support for their work. This is done by building local constituencies, raising domestic resources and enhancing increased political participation by capacity strengthening and funding for CoP members to express citizens' voices and claim rights at the local level, based on priorities identified by the community.

3.1 Learnings and good practice

There is a shared and evolving focus on strengthening community philanthropy as a pathway to locally led development, with particular emphasis on mindset change, system building, and the institutionalisation of community driven approaches in increasingly constrained environments. Across all countries there is evidence of a central learning that community philanthropy is a long-term process that requires sustained investment in shifting mindsets. In **Burkina Faso** (ABF), **Uganda** (UNNGOF), and **Palestine** (Dalia), there is clear evidence that moving from dependency on external aid to locally driven initiative and shared responsibility takes time, trust, and consistent engagement. This shift is not only operational but cultural, requiring communities, civil society, and institutions to reposition themselves as active agents of change. Similarly,

programmes that adopt flexible and adaptive approaches, responsive to local realities such as insecurity or political instability, are better able to sustain progress and maintain relevance.

Additionally, there is growing recognition that local giving is already deeply embedded within communities, though often informal and underutilised. **Uganda, Ghana** and APN highlight that communities consistently contribute resources in the form of time, labour, and social networks. However, these contributions have not always been structured or recognised as part of a broader development strategy. A key good practice has been the intentional effort to organise, document, and elevate this existing culture of giving into more strategic and accountable systems that can drive systemic change. This has also contributed to a gradual shift in perception, from philanthropy as charity to philanthropy as a driver of social transformation. The importance of creating an enabling environment through multi level partnerships has emerged strongly especially in **Kenya, Ghana, and Uganda**. There is increasing engagement with government actors, with some countries moving towards integrating philanthropy into national policy frameworks. Convening spaces such as national philanthropy forums, symposiums, and policy dialogues have proven effective in building legitimacy, fostering collaboration, and influencing public policy. APN's role in supporting advocacy and facilitating national level dialogues, further demonstrates the value of coordinated efforts in strengthening the ecosystem for local philanthropy.

The role of CoPs continues to stand out as a critical driver of collective action and local influence. In **Kenya, Burkina Faso** and **Palestine**, CoP platforms have evolved into credible governance actors that influence local governance, policy, strengthen accountability, and amplify community voices. Their effectiveness lies in building trust, fostering shared purpose, and enabling continuous learning and collaboration. However, this also underscores the importance of investing time in co-creation processes, as seen in Uganda and Burkina Faso, where more inclusive and participatory approaches led to stronger and more sustainable outcomes.

However, across multiple contexts, shrinking civic space and funding uncertainty remain significant challenges. In **Palestine**, **Mozambique**, and **Kenya**, political pressures, conflict, and regulatory constraints have limited civic engagement and disrupted programme implementation. The withdrawal of traditional donor funding, particularly highlighted in **Ghana** and **Mozambique**, has placed additional considerable strain on local organisations.

Despite these constraints, organisations have demonstrated resilience by adapting strategies, prioritising local resource mobilisation, and exploring diversified funding models. In response, a key good practice has been the exploration of innovative and diversified financing approaches. **Mozambique** and **Kenya** provide strong examples of investing in fundraising capacity, developing new funding mechanisms, and promoting private sector engagement. Additionally, there is a growing recognition, particularly in **Ghana**, that philanthropy alone is insufficient and must be complemented by broader financing systems, including supportive policies, fiscal frameworks, and institutional capacity. This systems-thinking approach strengthens the sustainability of community-led development efforts.

Evidence generation and strategic use of data have also emerged as important tools for influence and visibility. In **Brazil** (Comuá) and **Mozambique**, the production of research, national reports, and data platforms have helped demonstrate the value and impact of community philanthropy. These efforts not only enhance credibility but also support advocacy, inform policy, and attract new partners. Similarly, embedding learning within programme implementation, as seen across several countries, has strengthened adaptive management and continuous improvement. In addition, the importance of communication and narrative change is increasingly evident. **Brazil** (CESE) and **Uganda** highlight how storytelling, media engagement, and popular communication can shift public perceptions and broaden participation in philanthropy. Campaigns such as those led in **Brazil** (CESE) demonstrate the power of communication not only as an advocacy tool but also as a means of mobilisation and alliance building. Engaging media actors, as seen in **Uganda**, further reinforces the role of narrative in shaping policy and public discourse.

A notable cross cutting lesson is the need for intentional inclusion and intersectionality. **Brazil** (CESE) offers a strong example of integrating gender, race, and climate justice, ensuring that marginalised groups are central to decision making processes.

Similarly, **Uganda**, **Burkina Faso**, and **Ethiopia** emphasise the importance of deliberately including youth, women, and persons with disabilities, noting that inclusion requires intentional design rather than assumption. These approaches strengthen social cohesion as well as legitimacy and effectiveness of community philanthropy initiatives.

“In the fight for climate justice, the participation of Black and Indigenous women, of traditional populations, is of fundamental importance. We are the ones who are inside the territories and in connection with nature; we don’t understand nature as something separate from us. We don’t have solutions for everything, but we have the strength to point out possible paths.”

~ Rosalva Silva Gomes

Member of the Interstate Movement of Babaçu Coconut Breakers-MIQCB

Furthermore, institutionalisation of programme gains has proven essential for sustainability. In **Mozambique** and **Brazil** (Comuá), efforts to establish dedicated centres, develop tools, and embed practices within organisational strategies have helped ensure continuity beyond project cycles. These forward looking investments position organisations to scale their work and sustain impact over time. Despite challenging environments, there is a consistent demonstration of resilience and collective strength. Across contexts, organisations and communities continue to adapt, collaborate, and assert their agency. The emphasis on collective care, solidarity, and locally rooted action, particularly in **Palestine** and across African partners, highlights that even in constrained spaces, community driven approaches remain both relevant and transformative.

3.2 Results

- **Enhanced community philanthropy**

Across all countries and alliance members, there is clear evidence of strengthened and increasingly institutionalised community philanthropy, characterised by a shift from externally driven aid to locally rooted, community-led development. In **Burkina Faso**, this is reflected in the transformation of CSAs into credible and structured actors capable of mobilising local resources and leading endogenous development initiatives, even within a fragile security context .

Similarly, in **Uganda**, the collapse of traditional donor funding catalysed a shift toward trust-based, locally driven philanthropic practices, reinforcing the role of non-monetary giving and social capital in sustaining community initiatives.

Community philanthropy in **Kenya** and **Mozambique** has been strengthened through deliberate strategies such as layered funding models, research, and the institutionalisation of practices, contributing to both the sustainability and the legitimacy of local action. Ghana further reinforces this trend, with increasing recognition of local giving as central to development, alongside ongoing efforts to formalise and integrate philanthropy into national policy frameworks. At the continental level, APN has played a critical role in influencing policy environments and elevating community philanthropy within national and regional development agendas, with governments increasingly acknowledging its relevance for sustainability and national development.

In **Brazil**, distinct but complementary approaches are evident; CESE has strengthened community philanthropy through social justice-oriented mobilisation, linking resource mobilisation to cultural action and rights-based advocacy, including large-scale initiatives such as the “Music and Human Rights” event, which mobilised both resources and large public engagement.

Comuá has focused on strengthening the philanthropic ecosystem through network building, knowledge production, and initiatives such as the Comuá for Climate Platform, positioning community philanthropy within broader debates on climate financing and social justice. Knowledge production and global engagement have positioned community philanthropy within broader debates on climate and social justice, while leveraging cultural and narrative platforms to mobilise public support and deepen awareness. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate that strengthening community philanthropy requires not only capacity and resources, but also deliberate investment in knowledge, narrative, and enabling systems that sustain long term change.

Additionally, countries such as **Palestine** (Dalia) and **Ethiopia** demonstrate how community philanthropy is embedded in practices of collective care, solidarity, and resilience, where communities rely on shared resources and mutual support systems to respond to crises and sustain livelihoods. Enhanced community philanthropy is increasingly recognised not only as a funding mechanism, but as a driver of agency, resilience, and systemic transformation.

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

CoPs have emerged as a central mechanism for capacity strengthening, collective action, and advocacy across all countries. In **Kenya**, CoPs have evolved into structured platforms for governance engagement, exemplified by the establishment of Technical Working Groups and formal partnerships with county governments, enabling civil society actors to influence policies such as access to information framework. In Uganda, CoPs and broader movement-building efforts have strengthened collaboration among actors, enhanced legitimacy, and amplified grassroots voices through media engagement and joint advocacy, contributing to both narrative change and incremental policy influence.

In **Burkina Faso**, CoPs have strengthened coordination, mutual learning, and solidarity among CSAs, contributing to increased social recognition and stronger community anchoring, despite operational challenges such as insecurity and limited resources. Similarly, in **Ethiopia**, CoPs have demonstrated tangible impact



through advocacy and community mobilisation, including securing land for livelihoods, improving access to education and other services, and engaging in peacebuilding and policy dialogue.

Story of Change: A Preschool for Every Child in Batu Town, Ethiopia

In Abomsa Kebele of Batu town, children under the age of seven have long been deprived of access to early childhood education, leaving them without a strong foundation needed for later learning. The absence of a preschool meant missed opportunities for development during critical formative years, a challenge that had remained unaddressed despite its long-term impact on the community's children. Recognising this gap, a Community of Practice (CoP) which was established in Batu town with support of DEC has identified preschool construction as a top priority following the CoP members training on local fundraising and mobilizing support. With newly acquired skills in advocacy and resource mobilization, the CoP approached government authorities and successfully secured a plot of land for preschool construction. Demonstrating the strength of community philanthropy, they mobilized 4,200,000 ETB (€22,961) locally, both in cash and in-kind, complemented by a 300,000 ETB (€1,640) "matching fund" from DEC. In addition, local and regional governments contributed 800,000 ETB (€4,373) in cash and in-kind support. This collective effort reflected not only financial commitment but also a deep sense of ownership and determination among parents and community members. Fueled by teamwork and vision, the CoP and local stakeholders successfully constructed four classrooms and two offices, laying the foundation for a fully functional preschool. Beyond physical construction, this achievement symbolises the power of collaboration and grassroots action in transforming local challenges into opportunities. For the children of Abomsa Kebele, the new preschool represents a gateway to a brighter future, while for the community, it marks the beginning of a transformative journey powered by self-reliance and solidarity.

In **Brazil** (CESE), CoP-like structures have supported intersectional advocacy, particularly by advancing gender and racial justice through collective platforms such as the Black Women's March and related storytelling initiatives. Further in Brazil (Comuá), it has strengthened network-level collaboration among philanthropic actors, enhancing collective voice, influencing the philanthropic agenda, and fostering shared learning through programmes such as Saberes and joint campaigns.



Black Women's March 2025

Additionally, CoPs have played a critical role in awareness creation and movement building. Across contexts, they have engaged youth, strengthened community voice, and facilitated participation in national dialogues and policy spaces, thereby linking local action to broader systemic change. In Palestine, CoPs and community networks similarly reinforce collective care and resilience, particularly in contexts of political uncertainty.

However, across countries, the effectiveness of CoPs is influenced by factors such as frequency of engagement, coordination mechanisms, and resource availability. Despite these challenges, CoPs remain a highly effective model for strengthening collective agency, enhancing advocacy, and advancing community philanthropy within diverse and often constrained environments.

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

Capacity strengthening of CSAs in local fundraising and resource mobilisation through the Change the Game Academy (CtGA) has been a cornerstone of the

programme, with strong evidence of improved skills, confidence, and practical outcomes across countries. In **Burkina Faso**, comprehensive training programmes reached all 60 partner CSAs, resulting in the successful design and implementation of locally driven development projects, alongside strengthened governance, solidarity mechanisms, and community engagement. These trainings, combined with coaching and retraining within CoPs, highlight the importance of long-term accompaniment and iterative learning processes.

In **Uganda**, structured local fundraising training equipped CSOs with practical tools for strategic fundraising, including supporter mapping, communication planning, and accountability mechanisms. This resulted in a shift from ad-hoc fundraising to more structured approaches, with organisations mobilising significant portions of their budgets locally and strengthening accountability to communities. Training of community facilitators further reinforced grassroots capacity by integrating storytelling, documentation, and peer learning as core components of sustainable philanthropy ecosystems. Similarly, in **Kenya**, capacity strengthening and layered funding approaches have led to substantial local resource mobilisation, demonstrating the effectiveness of combining training with practical application and financial incentives. In **Ghana**, training efforts have also contributed to building awareness and momentum around domestic resource mobilisation, although they highlight the need for complementary system level support, including policy and fiscal frameworks.

Mozambique has focused on consolidating capacity through knowledge production, research, and institutional strengthening, ensuring that learning is documented and embedded for long term sustainability. In **Brazil**, capacity strengthening takes distinct forms focusing on strengthening grassroots organisations through resource mobilisation for social justice initiatives, despite challenges in securing funding for human rights work. Further, emphasis is placed on capacity strengthening within the philanthropic ecosystem, supporting member

organisations through programmes such as Saberes, which build knowledge and confidence, and through innovation in areas such as climate finance.

At the regional level, APN has complemented these efforts through leadership training, convenings, and knowledge sharing platforms, strengthening the broader ecosystem of philanthropy actors .

107

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



135

Number of **cases** in which **CSAs succeed** in creating space for their community's demands and positions through agenda setting.



137

Number of CSAs that **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.



4 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 affect CSOs and philanthropy

Across all program countries, advocacy efforts are becoming more organized and data-driven, with a stronger focus on engaging senior government officials, the private sector, and amplifying the collective voice of CSAs through national-level dialogue platforms. Although the pace and scope of such reforms differ from one country to another.

Brazil stands out for its institutional advancements, notably the formation of the “*Mixed Parliamentary Front in Defense of CSOs*”, which has 206 legislative signatures. This was complemented by Decree No. 11.948/24, which revised rules for partnerships between CSOs and the federal government, enhancing clarity and operational conditions. The Comuá network members continue the coordinated advocacy campaign on issues such as funding cuts, civic space, climate justice, and human rights.

In **Burkina Faso**, advocacy campaigns coordinated by ABF have led to the creation of the “*National CSO Certification Framework*”, which sets standards for governance, transparency, and accountability, aiming to address longstanding issues of credibility and self-regulation.

In **Ethiopia**, while broader regulatory reforms remain gradual, these efforts have contributed to improved accountability and more structured state–CSO relations. The “*Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Philanthropy and Human Rights*” have been created, and quarterly dialogues on community and domestic philanthropy are organized at the national level. These dialogues have improved coordination of policy implementation, including the National Volunteering Policy, and engagement of government and private-sector actors.

In **Ghana**, advocacy for community philanthropy has been particularly effective with a number of development issues translated into policy commitments. For example, securing the government’s commitment to prioritize a *Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Law*. Since 2023, STAR Ghana has successfully mobilized CSOs and philanthropic actors at the national level to share their experiences and challenges and to dialogue on enabling legislation for CSO sustainability and community philanthropy. These dialogue spaces can convene more than 700 CSAs, illustrating the power of inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms to drive policy change.

In **Kenya**, KCDF, in collaboration with East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) and partners, supported the implementation of the *Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act* through issue labs and national dialogues to address compliance challenges, governance reforms, and transition timelines, helping the sector adapt to a unified regulatory framework. Furthermore, KCDF supported advocacy for new Income Tax Exemption Rules and for improved tax literacy, while highlighting the need for clearer fiscal incentives and for stronger collective responses to shrinking civic space. This helps in positioning advocacy as both reactive and forward-looking.

In **Mozambique**, Micaia supported the establishment of a *Joint Government–CSO Working Group on Philanthropy*, together with a Strategic Coordination Group of 10 CSO representatives. These platforms are strengthening collective voice and

engagement with the government and integrating the *#ShiftThePower* agenda into national discourse, despite a constrained political environment.

In **Palestine**, advocacy and engagement have also adopted more community-focused and multi-level approaches. Dalia Association combined grassroots mobilization with structured dialogue to involve CSAs and government representatives. These dialogue spaces have helped identify community priorities while maintaining relationships with public institutions, even in a challenging and unstable environment.

In **Uganda**, UNNGOF demonstrated how coordinated advocacy can shape national policy processes by convening stakeholder consultations to review the *NGO Policy (2010)* and the *NGO Act, Cap. 113*. This process consolidated sector concerns, particularly regulatory ambiguity and compliance burdens, into a unified CSO position paper that reached Parliament and Cabinet. In addition, UNNGOF has institutionalised quarterly dialogues with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to address issues of concern, such as the absence of tax incentives and the lack of formal recognition of community philanthropy within Uganda's legal framework.

At the regional level, APN has continued to promote the recognition of community and domestic philanthropy by nurturing safe spaces for dialogue and networking in 7 countries, and advocating for enabling responsive policies and an enabling environment through supporting partners with [tools to integrate gender and inclusion](#) in the campaigns across the continent, conducting studies to create new knowledge for evidence-informed advocacy, and tools to facilitate collective response. In addition to the legal assessment study in 6 countries, other multi-country studies were conducted: the Mechanism for Corporate Social Responsibility in 8 countries, [Women and Philanthropy](#) in 6 countries, and a [Social Justice Grantmaking](#) survey across the continent. A regional policy-tracking system has been established to further facilitate the collection of information about philanthropy policy changes in sub-Saharan Africa, even beyond the program period.

Overall, the program's efforts in national advocacy and influencing laws and regulations affecting CSOs and philanthropy have reached significant milestones in raising awareness among in-country governments about the essential role of community and domestic philanthropy in community-led and national development, helping them prioritize creating a supportive environment.

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

There is a strong culture of giving in societies that thrive on socio-cultural engagement and support for specific events and emergencies, but it has not yet been harnessed or directed as a deliberate strategy for community development. The concept of "alternative" funding strategies is often framed as a shift from one type of international donor or investor to another, with community and domestic philanthropic funding practices rarely considered.

Diverse CSAs received training in community philanthropy and domestic resource mobilization and were supported to engage in both alternative funding and non-funding resource mobilization, using various strategies.

In **Brazil**, community philanthropy operates on a large scale and with considerable sophistication. Comuá Network ran a national campaign that gathered over 5,000 signatures to support climate-affected communities, connecting philanthropy to public policy. Comuá Climate Platform mapped more than 3,500 initiatives, mobilizing over USD 80 million and reaching nearly 500,000 people. This shows the potential of coordinated locally led solutions, when backed by strong networks and platforms.

Further, ABF in **Burkina Faso** successfully formed partnerships with Coris Bank and UNDP, signaling progress in diversifying funding sources. Training in domestic resource mobilization, focusing on local fundraising and support efforts, has helped several CSOs generate local resources to sustain their activities. For example, in Rissiam, the Teegawende association raised 2,765,000 CFA francs (€4,215) for a sheep project to assist people with disabilities; and in Siguivoussé, APSC raised over 23 million CFA francs (€35,063) to improve access to healthcare. These examples show how locally driven efforts can mobilize substantial resources to address social issues and promote community ownership.

Story of Change: Securing healthcare in Boromo, Burkina Faso

The lack of fencing in Boromo Urban CSPA 1 (health center) exposed patients and healthcare staff to serious safety risks, including animal intrusions, theft and accidents, as confirmed by previous incidents. Faced with this situation, the Association Solidarité et Développement Communautaire (ASDC) decided to take action by capitalising on both the achievements of the Giving for Change programme and the skills developed through the Change the Game Academy's mobilisation of support (MS) and local fund raising (LFR) training courses, delivered by ABF. Through strengthened skills, ASDC and local community members were able to conduct structured and credible community advocacy as well as mobilise local authorities, technical service providers and community leaders. With support from these different stakeholders, the health center was made more secure by constructing solid fences around the building. This fencing project estimated at 57,574,694 CFA francs (€87,513) was implemented through the technical support of OCADES Dédougou and oversight of local authorities and communities.

In **Ethiopia**, DEC has worked to integrate community philanthropy effectively into local government structures and systems. It increased awareness of a national NGO proclamation and trained 7 districts on government-led volunteer initiatives. Although still developing, these efforts enhanced community participation and strengthened accountability, creating a foundation for sustainable community and domestic philanthropic giving to grow through voluntary practices.

In **Ghana**, community and domestic philanthropy are increasingly part of the national development conversation. The 2025 Philanthropy Conference brought stakeholders together to focus on domestic resource mobilization. STAR Ghana awarded five grants, including matched and seed funding, to test community philanthropy methods. There is a noticeable shift in public attitudes toward locally driven philanthropy.



2025 Ghana Philanthropy Conference

In **Kenya**, the emphasis has been on innovation and sustainability. KCDF organizes and supports national gatherings to promote alternative financing models such as endowments, results-based financing, and blended finance. Collaborations with social entrepreneurship networks have further enhanced enterprise-driven strategies. These initiatives are directly addressing declining donor funding and are positioning community philanthropy as a driving force within larger financial systems.

In **Mozambique**, Micaia has organized campaigns like the “Week of Actions” and the 3rd National Philanthropy Conference, which brought together around 100 stakeholders to encourage community philanthropy practices. Innovations, such as a donor–CSO web platform and the [Kukura initiative](#), are improving access to local funding while strengthening the identity and credibility of the philanthropy movement.

In **Palestine**, Dalia Association has strengthened community philanthropy through practical, locally rooted initiatives. Community mobilization activities such as organizing bazaars for women artisans and facilitating the sale of women’s products to solidarity

groups in Ireland and Italy, linking farmers to local markets, and coordinating voluntary community days in Hebron, Salfit, and Bethlehem. These initiatives have not only led to mobilised resources but also to reinforce community ownership and resilience in a highly constrained environment.

In **Uganda**, UNNGOF has combined high-level dialogue with grassroots mobilisation. The 2025 Philanthropy Week Symposium brought together 450+ participants to focus on corporate engagement and national and local giving frameworks. Additionally, public campaigns such as youth-led clean-up drives and biker processions have reframed community philanthropy as a collective civic responsibility. Platforms like the [Gathering of Givers](#) have further highlighted everyday practices, including volunteerism and in-kind contributions, thereby strengthening trust and participation in local giving.

At the regional level, APN has played a catalytic role in expanding capacity and momentum. It initiated training for youth on leadership in philanthropy, social impact entrepreneurship, and impact investment across the continent. It also began training its 54 member organizations on financial sustainability through domestic resource mobilization. Additionally, it co-created a philanthropy observatory and innovation hub ([P-Hub](#)) in Tanzania as a pilot national mechanism to collectively promote community and domestic philanthropy. This aims to influence practice and advocate for an environment that supports philanthropic growth, as happened through the advocacy for the [charitable status](#) of CSOs.

APN continues to collaborate with other pan-African philanthropic organizations, such as the Center for Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI), Africa Philanthropy Forum, and global networks like WINGS, GFCF, and PHILEA to promote and influence the role of community philanthropy in driving systemic change through research and gatherings.

Overall, the program's advocacy for community and domestic philanthropy, have led to, initiating, strengthening and embedding strategic partnerships for social and systems change. Donors, individuals and institutions, have increasingly made investments through CSAs, including flexible and multi-year contributions. As a result, there has been greater engagement in community-led philanthropic giving and domestic resource mobilization, fostering a positive mindset.

4.3 Showcase philanthropic practices through knowledge production, narratives and media

Over the years of programme implementation, we have observed significant growth in new knowledge and stories of change, which have shaped the narratives around

community and domestic philanthropy. Effective giving practices and policies, along with their influence on the community, are becoming more visible through mainstream and social media and so are storytelling for narrative development. Partnerships with the media and journalists have been strengthened in the process.

GfC partners shared their success stories about how community philanthropy and domestic resource mobilization positively impacted development and showed effective strategies for balancing power within the aid system.

In **Brazil**, storytelling work is highly developed and diverse. Innovative formats like podcasts, web series, and audiovisual campaigns have expanded organisations' reach, while the Funding Observatory and related research projects provide data-driven insights. Campaigns linking philanthropy to democracy and civic engagement have enriched public discussion on accountability and social justice. More detailed information on produced articles can be found at <https://redecomua.org.br>.

In **Burkina Faso**, ABF in collaboration with 10 media outlets, has increased its visibility and established itself as a prominent voice in community philanthropy and domestic resource mobilization. Their success stories are available at <https://www.abfburkina.org/a-propos-de-abf/giving-for-change/>.

In **Ethiopia**, media tours and public communication efforts have increased awareness and legitimacy of community philanthropy, although narrative systems are still in the early development stage. All articles produced are available on the [DEC Website](#).

In **Ghana**, storytelling has reached both breadth and depth. Media and digital campaigns have engaged over 26,700 people worldwide, while documentaries, docu-series, and "stories of change" amplified authentic community voices. All blogs and stories are accessible at <https://star-ghana.org/stories-of-change/>. A forthcoming book on volunteerism will further support long-term knowledge development and sector learning.

In **Kenya**, Issue Labs and convenings function as platforms for peer learning and knowledge sharing, helping to shift narratives toward sustainability and local resource mobilisation. Practical tools and emerging frameworks facilitate the replication and scaling of innovative practices. Information about the relationship with the media and articles produced can be found at <https://kcdf.or.ke/kcdf-in-the-media/>.

In **Mozambique**, storytelling is encouraged through digital platforms like WhatsApp groups and public events such as the National Philanthropy Conference. These spaces enable sharing of stories, exchanging knowledge, and forming narratives

about community philanthropy. are available at <https://micaia.org/philanthropy-and-funding/giving-for-change/>.

In **Palestine**, Dalia Association's efforts in narrative change and advocacy are closely linked. Collaborating with radio stations and other media outlets has amplified community voices with stories, interviews, and campaigns. Additionally, Dalia also explored the use of podcast to increase public awareness and put more pressure on government officials. For more information, visit <https://dalia.ps/olive-harvest-volunteer-program-palestine>. Additionally, Dalia Association has published two studies: Food Sovereignty after the 7th of October and The Derailed Development Drive Between the Decline of Foreign Aid and the Weakness of Government Interventions; both provide important insights into changing aid dynamics and local resilience.

In **Uganda**, UNNGOF has actively worked to reshape narratives through media engagement, including journalist breakfasts that challenge the dominance of elite-focused narratives in philanthropy. Knowledge products such as a Social Entrepreneurship Toolkit and platforms like Giving Fairs and Philanthropy Week have increased the visibility of grassroots practices, emphasizing inclusivity and everyday giving. Case studies and stories can be found at <https://ngoforum.or.ug/publications/case-studies-success-stories/>.

At the regional level, APN plays a key role in generating and sharing knowledge, aiming to reshape the narrative. Over the years, APN has become an essential continent-wide network that promotes voice and action for community philanthropy, as highlighted in the [15 Years of APN documentary](#). APN has expanded its knowledge library by producing and publishing more than 39 blogs and stories in 2025. All are available on the [SIMULIZI Blog](#) and their [YouTube channel](#).

Since 2021, APN has compiled a booklet to showcase and celebrate what has worked well and what has not. Here is the [2025 Philanthropy Booklet](#); other booklets are

available on the website. There has been extended media engagement with journalists through commissioned stories. Here is the ["African Media Practitioners on Philanthropic Practices"](#) essay booklet for more stories.

Overall, the GfC program has fostered locally rooted, community-led development by shifting the narrative from charity to systems change, thus transforming CSAs' mindsets. It has also raised awareness among local and sub-national governments about the potential of community and domestic resources in development. This narrative is no longer peripheral, it is becoming central to policy influence, resource mobilization, and legitimacy-building. The role of networks, multi-stakeholder alliances, and coalitions remains vital in connecting these efforts, broadening learning, and reinforcing a shared vision for community philanthropy as a driver of systems change.



5 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
- 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 May 2025, Giving for Change partners - **Comuá Network, Kenya Community Development Foundation, Dalia Association, and GFCF** - participated in an Alliance Magazine webinar titled [Building Back Power: Community Philanthropy as a radical force beyond Aid](#), co-organized by

Wilde Ganzen Foundation (WGF). The webinar focused on community philanthropy as a strategy for rebuilding civil society resilience and grassroots power.

- Together with Vice Versa Global, WGF organised a [World Cafe](#) in The Hague as a culmination of a series of world cafes held in the last years on the topic of Shifting Power. Around 70 participants from INGOs, Dutch foundations, academia and development consultants participated in the event with panel speakers from Porticus Foundation, ZOA, Wageningen University and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency of the Dutch government. Key findings of the GfC Domain 3 research, [“What it takes for international funders to shift power”](#) was presented and discussed during the event’s breakout sessions. The publication “Localisation Special” which highlights different approaches to locally led development and with stories from Dalia (Palestine) and KCDF (Kenya) was also launched during the event.
- In collaboration with Peace Direct at its inaugural Peace Connect conference in October, **GFCF** curated a designated #ShiftThePower “stage.” As part of this collaboration, four interactive sessions were organized, co-facilitated with partner organizations. These sessions were *“After Aid: Reimagining the Material Base for Civil Society and Social Movements,” “Alternative Resourcing: What does it mean, and what does it look like?” “What Matters? And How Can We Measure it?”*, and *“What is Possible Now?”*. During these sessions, participants examined the visual manifestations of social power and alternative resources, shared examples of community philanthropy from regions such as Palestine, Ukraine, and Nepal, critically analyzed measurement challenges, and collaboratively envisioned innovative approaches towards work, courage and imagination. Additionally, discussions focused on how these ideas could be integrated into larger, more coherent and achievable frameworks.



Peace Connect



Measuring What Matters convening

- Wilde Ganzen also supported [Philea's Funders Network for International Development \(FIND\)](#) in developing a [long term strategy](#) to advocate towards donors and philanthropic funders to adopt and support locally-led development and influence the European Commission's Director General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) on the implementation of the Global Gateway Strategy, which until now heavily focused on the role of private companies/international investments in contributing to international development. Further, WGF contributed to [Philea FIND's Peer Learning Journey](#) that culminated in an [online repository of learnings](#) around reimagining philanthropic models and various ways of exploring locally-rooted approaches to international cooperation that are tailored to the challenges of the 21st century.
- In **Brazil**, Comuá Network /has also continued to participate in the Action Learning Group Measuring What Matters (within the #ShiftThePower Movement), contributing to the development of a collective project with the MWM Action Learning Group: a game on the M&E system and its power dynamics. Lastly, the executive team was supported by Comuá to take language courses and other professional development opportunities.
- CESE in **Brazil** hosted a virtual dialogue session and publication, "*Trends in International Cooperation: Impacts on Civil Society Organizations.*" The session and [publication](#) were supported through partnerships with CESE, Giving for Change, PPM/BfdW, and Heks. The meeting yielded comprehensive and complementary analyses on the systemic impacts arising from the decline in international cooperation, alongside the challenges faced by social organizations in Brazil and globally. It also emphasized the importance of collective reflection on the implications of the conservative funding for civil society and highlighted the need to move beyond merely analyzing budget reductions or the reorganization of institutions. But instead to strategically focus on analyzing how unsustainable resourcing impacts on the autonomy and influence of civil society.
- In March 2025, two APN staff members came to **Burkina Faso** to participate in the national forum and related media activities. In July, ABF was elected to the APN Board of Directors, thereby strengthening its position within pan-African philanthropy networks. This new role allows ABF to contribute to the strategic direction of the network and to represent the voice of West African community organisations at the continental level.

- **KCDF** and **GFCF** participated in the 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference, held from 11–13 June 2025 at the Serena Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme *“Agile Philanthropy: Adapting to Economic, Social and Political Shifts”*. The flagship convening brought together over 550 participants from 32 countries, including philanthropic organizations, government, civil society, academia, media and the private sector. KCDF engaged in discussions on strengthening African agency, decolonizing philanthropy, and promoting equitable funding and governance models within the sector. GFCF hosted the session *“There is an Elephant in the Room”* - which was organized in partnership with Hivos, Femme Forte, and Ubuntu Harambe, and focused on the need and opportunity for new forms of resourcing for social change. Key insights from the conference emphasised that agility in philanthropy requires rethinking operating models and funding relationships, positioning local actors as architects of development, ensuring data sovereignty, and leveraging cross-border collaboration for learning and solidarity.
- **Micaia** co-organised and hosted a meeting in London with **GFCF** and key international NGOs and funders to discuss the ‘post-aid’ era and explore what is now possible. The meeting facilitated connections between Micaia and influential institutions, including ODI Global, Comic Relief, and the British FCDO. A case study detailing the evolving aid landscape in Mozambique was presented, which was regarded by participants as a *‘powerful example of resilient, locally-led responses coordinated by a rooted and capable African institution,’* as one participant remarked.
- In **Mozambique**, Micaia hosted the 3rd National Conference on Philanthropy. The conference drew a higher level of participants than the previous two annual conferences. The rich discussion clearly showed a serious interest in exploring the potential to mobilize Mozambican financial and other resources. Through the conference, several new partners and allies were identified who will support continuing work in Mozambique. These included the Aga Khan Foundation, University Foundation, LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) Foundation, and Vodacom Foundation. Internationally, Micaia was invited and accepted to join the Change the Game Alliance and appointed as the national partner of the Charities Aid Foundation to support the annual CAF World Giving Survey.
- In **Ghana**, in a bid to promote conversations on local philanthropy, WACSI and STAR-Ghana continued to produce and disseminate learning materials on local fundraising and resource mobilisation via their respective social media platforms. The reports were produced as part of the work - [The Power of Six: Practical Tips for Local Fundraising in Ghana and Beyond, Unlocking Africa’s Potential: My Takeaways from the “New Financing Models for Social Change” Masterclass.](#)
- STAR Ghana collaborated with APN and other CSOs to organize the Ghana Philanthropy Conference on *“Repositioning Domestic Resource Mobilization as a Catalyst for Accelerating Development.”* This conference was aimed at repositioning philanthropy from the margins to the mainstream, elevating it from a peripheral tool into a central strategy and practice that mobilizes resources, people, and ideas to transform communities and the nation at large. The conference provided a platform for philanthropists, development partners, civil society, the private sector, government, and community development facilitators to come together to reflect, reimagine, and collaborate on redefining and accelerating philanthropy’s contribution to national development.
- In **Uganda**, UNNGOF hosted the Uganda Philanthropy Week and the Annual Philanthropy Symposium, marking a significant milestone in the national discourse on local giving. The conversations moved beyond charity narratives and focused on systems such as tax frameworks, regulatory clarity, media representation, private-sector engagement, and national giving infrastructure. The symposium and related activities helped reposition philanthropy from charity to civic responsibility and development strategy.
- In addition, UNNGOF participated in bi-annual reflection and learning engagements facilitated through the Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). CPDE is the primary CSO platform formally engaging with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), ensuring civil society representation in global development policy discussions and advancing the Istanbul Principles.

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

Amplifying the voice and making the case for Stories for Change

With funding from the contingency budget, the Giving for Change programme had the opportunity to invest in a joint project to raise the profile of community philanthropy, explain how it shifts power, and contribute to a broader narrative shift among a wider range of audiences through film and video. Under the themes *#TheTimesNow* and *#TheStoryIsOurs*, the *Stories for Change Festival* was held in January 2026, and it was an important moment to highlight and celebrate work that is happening all over the world, at a time of intersecting global crises, including the funding crisis precipitated by the collapse of USAID in January 2025, but also by the general withdrawal of funders – in the form of reduced budgets and deprioritising support for human rights and social justice sectors. At a time when many in the development and humanitarian sectors are scrambling for solutions, the Festival highlighted community philanthropy as a strategy to shift and share power, to inspire a sense of possibility that other ways of working and organizing are not only possible but alive in communities all over the world. With over 600 registrants for the Festival sessions and over 67,000 video views/impressions/reach across our various social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, BlueSky), interest showed that the films/documentaries resonated with a global audience that preferred human-centered storytelling and grounded lived experiences.

The day-long programme, split into two sessions - *“The Time for Community Philanthropy is NOW!”* and *“The Role of Community Resources in Claiming and Defending Rights”* - the Festival explored (1) how communities can respond to the challenges and opportunities ahead; and (2) the relationships between community philanthropy/local resources and the defense, protection, and claiming of rights. Trailers and short clips from KCDF (Kenya), Uganda NGO Forum, Star-Ghana/WACSI (Ghana), Dalia (Palestine), ABF (Burkina Faso), CESE and Comuá Network (Brazil), Micaia (Mozambique), and DEC (Ethiopia) were premiered in the sessions. In addition, Wana Udobang, a writer, poet, and performer, recited her commissioned piece for the Festival, *Of Hands and Clay*. This [blog](#) post captured the spirit of what the Festival was all about: that the future of sustainable development lies in relationships, in locally held wisdom, and in the humanity communities continue to nurture.

Please see Annex 1 for more information on the different capacity strengthening activities and communications materials that were produced for the Story for Change initiative.

Community Philanthropy Symposium

In October, GFCF brought together a select group of partners, including the 2024/5 #ShiftThePower Fellows to Kenya, who had already been exploring and documenting community philanthropy and local asset mobilization from the context of their work and practice. A framing question for discussions was: *How can community philanthropy and local asset mobilization help drive larger efforts to put communities at the heart of their own development processes, to advance equity and justice, and shift power?* One key outcome of the gathering was a compilation of new research papers which will highlight the value and importance of community philanthropy. These research papers which will be published over the course of 2026, and will contribute to the larger body of knowledge, both from the perspective of theory and practice, around community philanthropy and the #ShiftThePower movement.

Another key outcome of the convening was that local resource mobilisation emerged as more than a financial strategy; it was framed as a means of reclaiming agency, strengthening community ownership, and advancing justice in environments where CSOs are increasingly required to justify their legitimacy rather than the impact of their work. The roles of trust, culture, and giving traditions are central to strengthening community philanthropy. Research from Malawi demonstrates that people give primarily out of passion, belonging, and religious obligation, reinforcing the understanding that giving is deeply emotional, spiritual, and culturally embedded. Case studies from **Kenya** further illustrate community philanthropy as a form of collective action and political resistance, showing how communities mobilise resources, organise, and respond when formal systems fail. These examples challenge prevailing narratives that portray communities as passive or powerless, instead affirming their long-standing capacity to care, organise, and lead.

These reflective blog posts from partners - [A glimpse into the future of philanthropy. Relationships as the real infrastructure – reflections on the GFCF Community Philanthropy Symposium](#), [Why we need to create spaces to imagine the new](#), and [Your movement is lonely. So is mine. Let's talk about why](#) – highlight the significance of slow, transformational work of rebuilding trust, shaping new possibilities, and fostering new solidarity and horizontal relationships across movements, which is more crucial now than ever.

Research on Shifting Power

Wilde Ganzen Foundation commissioned a [research](#) that examined the work of the GfC programme, particularly under Domain 3, which aimed to influence international donors, (private foundations, bilaterals, and INGOs) to support community philanthropy and move power closer to the ground. The key research questions explored in this study were: *What strategies did GfC partners use to influence donors? and What achievements, challenges, and impacts have resulted?* The analysis draws on GfC partners' perspectives, as well as reflections from donors and others in the sector. The study found out that GfC partners used a range of individual and collective strategies to influence donors, grounded in the relational nature of systems change and mindset change work. The study also highlighted key insights and approaches that are particularly influential in changing donor behaviour and advancing community-led change. Further, another related research, "[What it takes for international funders to shift power to communities](#)" was conducted to understand and learn on why and how funders begin to shift power, the barriers and enablers that shape their journeys, and strategies that are effective in helping them make progress.

Network strengthening and #ShiftThePower Fellows

Since 2022, 47 Fellows from 25 countries have been selected, and organized into three Fellowship cohorts. The focus of the 2024/5 #ShiftThePower Fellows was specifically on research. Fellows identified research topics which focused broadly on community philanthropy and other features of a community-led development paradigm (such as measurement and value, trust and power).

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

In times of turbulence, what is Possible Now? Launching a systems change initiative The dismantling of USAID in January 2025 marked a profound disruption of the global development aid architecture. While deeply destabilizing, this rupture also created space to re-examine a system that has long been criticized as transactional, unreliable, and shaped primarily by donor interests rather than community priorities.

For GFCF the moment accelerated an existing line of exploration and inquiry under Domain 3 of the GfC programme: to make community philanthropy and other alternative practices that seek to shift, share and build power more visible in mainstream development discourse.

During the reporting period, the GFCF began to explore more intentionally – with a range of partners and allies - what it would take to build an *architecture of coherence* which recognizes what already exists and works. Possible Now is an emerging conversation that is taking place in both the global South and North and, at its heart, is the story of thousands of people, groups and communities who, without waiting for permission or central coordination, are building new forms of resilience, solidarity and innovation. With its emphasis on creating the space and conditions in which communities and the organizations that serve them can build local resources in ways that translate into the claiming and protection of rights, the GfC programme has been instrumental in planting seeds and deepening root systems of such an alternative.

Key activities included:

- Discussions with over 200 individuals at face-to-face meetings (in Nepal, Kenya, Zambia and the UK) and through online conversation circles (groups of 2-4) to socialize and refine the proposition of Possible Now as a system change initiative.
- Engagement of two independent consultants: Suleiman Abdullahi (ex-NEAR Network and now with Common Reserve) to participate in Nepal and Kenya meetings and to draft a framing paper for Possible Now, and David Jacobstein (ex-USAID) to produce a short set of case studies (*Democratic Resilience and Community Philanthropy*) of work which models a Possible Now approach (experimental, relational, emergent practice, values-based, grounded in and adapted to context), as well the beginnings of a framing paper on the role of funders in supporting systems change (*Building on the Possible: What Strategically Supporting Systems Change Requires*).
- In a deliberate effort to strengthen some of the theoretical underpinnings of Possible Now, the GFCF developed a partnership with the Sustainable Development Institute at Monash University in Australia to serve as learning partners, particularly through the application of relevant systems theories and bodies of work (including ideas and practices associated with Living Labs, relational infrastructure, infrastructure of belonging etc.).

Other activities of Alliance partners included:

- In partnership with GiveOut, the GFCF produced the [Community is Resource: Reimagining LGBTQI resourcing](#) report. This report examined the wider resourcing ecosystem that sustains LGBTQI movements, revealing that these movements are not waiting to be externally resourced but are actively resourcing themselves and contributing to broader reimagining efforts. A key outcome of the partnership with GiveOut is a new joint fund (to be launched in 2026 at the

Give Out Summit, a high-profile public event) specifically aimed at supporting LGBTQI+ movements and organizations in testing and strengthening alternative resourcing strategies.

- In **Ethiopia**, advocacy on localization of aid influenced international, multilateral, and bilateral donors to commit support to local CSOs through capacity-strengthening and sub-granting mechanisms. Several donors have begun allocating at least 50 percent of their sub-grants directly to local CSOs, marking a significant shift toward localization of aid delivery. At the international level, DEC enhanced its visibility and engaged in advocacy and policy dialogue to promote community philanthropy as a sustainable development approach.
- In **Mozambique**, Micaia concluded negotiations with the Pedagogic University of Maputo (UP), to establish Philanthropy Mozambique: *Mozambican Centre for Research and Promotion of Philanthropy and Innovative Development Funding*. Linked to the physical creation of the Centre, they developed a detailed strategy for both Philanthropy Mozambique and Micaia to continue philanthropic work. Philanthropy Mozambique is an initiative of Micaia Foundation and will operate within it for the foreseeable future. While Micaia focuses primarily on strengthening civil society capacity and community action (the demand side), Philanthropy Mozambique will concentrate on influencing donors, funders, and policy (the supply side).
- In **Ghana**, the publication titled [“Strengthening INGO-NGO Partnerships and Collaborative Action in Ghana”](#) encapsulates valuable insights obtained from the convening with INGOs in Ghana, providing actionable recommendations for INGOs, national NGOs, and donors to align with the Shift the Power principles. It serves as a vital resource for leaders and decision-makers dedicated to fostering more equitable, sustainable, and locally driven partnerships within Ghana’s development sector. A second Issue Paper on [“Shifting Power through Effective Collaboration”](#) explored the critical need to transform the relationship between INGOs and NGOs in Ghana and beyond.
- In **Uganda**, UNNGOF, in collaboration with CivSource Africa and other CSOs, convened the Gathering of Givers 2025, a national platform designed to spotlight grassroots philanthropy and elevate everyday acts of generosity. The Gathering of Givers showcased how communities contribute through time, talent, small cash donations, volunteerism, and in-kind support to drive local development. The platform intentionally highlighted local changemakers whose contributions often go undocumented and unrecognised in formal development discourse. The event reinforced the message that philanthropy in Uganda is not confined to large foundations or corporate donations but is embedded in cultural practice and community solidarity. An important outcome has been increased trust and collaboration around philanthropy initiatives. Following the

event, several organizations expressed interest in co-creating future local giving fairs as part of building a broader philanthropy movement.

- **APN** co-created and participated in the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) Global Conference in Naivasha, Kenya. The purpose was to strengthen the visibility of African philanthropic perspectives within global funding dialogues. Through targeted engagement with funders, Indigenous leaders, and civil society actors, APN advanced discussions on locally rooted philanthropy, equitable financing, and power-shifting to Indigenous communities. The engagement contributed to deepened relationships with global funding actors and reinforced APN’s role in promoting partnerships that support Indigenous- and community-led initiatives across Africa, positioning African philanthropy as a credible voice in shaping inclusive funding practices. Over the years of programme implementation, we have observed significant growth in new knowledge and stories of change, which have shaped the narratives around.



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



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 advantages of community philanthropy.

6 Cross Cutting Issues

a. Gender and Inclusion

In 2025, GfC made progress in widening participation of women, youth and other marginalised groups while recognising that sustained effort is required to ensure that inclusion translates into long-term structural influence. Through the CoPs and national platforms, we were able to reach out to marginalised or hard to reach groups and provided transformational support to them. The alliance sought out opportunities to amplify their voice (claims and concerns) through networking, advocacy engagement and action. NAIs in collaboration with other CSAs engaged in a range of information and knowledge generating and disseminating activities as well as raising awareness, developing the capacity of relevant CSAs and collectively advocating for policy change. In Brazil, CESE works with CoPs that engage diverse groups of women in their awareness raising and advocacy, e.g. women domestic workers, indigenous women, peasant women, fisherwomen, quilombola women, young and adult black women, lesbian and bisexual women, women with disabilities, sex workers, women from urban and peripheral territories, young women, and women of different faiths.

“Communication is a right, and being well-informed to participate in public debate is a right that all people have, and women are often disadvantaged because they do not have access to this right.”

~ Andressa Franco
from Revista Afirmativa, Brazil

In **Kenya**, county partners mobilised and empowered women, youth and other marginalised groups to actively shape planning, budgeting, and policy outcomes, ensuring that their voices are not just heard but acted upon, i.e. through using social accountability tools, particularly Community Scorecards (CSCs) which enable

marginalised groups to assess health service delivery gaps and generate evidence for advocacy.

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

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.



Mental health support - Women at South camp

In **Kenya's** Busia County, the CoP played a leading role in revitalizing and advocating for the passage of the Gender Policy after years of being shelved. This was a major milestone in promoting gender equity and institutional responsiveness at the county level. Additionally, in the same county, the CoP's advocacy led to the enactment of the Busia County Sexual and Gender Policy with different stakeholders providing the required resources to ensure its approval and implementation.

In **Uganda**, UNNGOF's continued collaboration with Open Space Centre and other youth-focused actors enabled the strategic reframing of philanthropy as a form of civic engagement and leadership, rather than charity. During Philanthropy Week, young people led street campaigns, which included biking, market clean-ups, road engagements, and public mobilization. These activities helped demystify philanthropy and demonstrate that local giving activities happen in public spaces and in practical acts of service. Further, youth dialogue created a safe space for discussion around volunteering, civic responsibility, and policy recognition. These conversations contributed to ongoing advocacy discussions around volunteer policy and youth civic participation.

At the pan-African level, APN conducted youth training on philanthropy and leadership, including the creation of a WhatsApp group which is being actively used as a platform for peer learning, connection and co-identification of advocacy issues.

In conclusion, GfC contributed to meaningful change by placing women and youth at the center of our approach, recognizing them not as beneficiaries, but as partners and key drivers of change. Their high level of engagement translated into stronger community cohesion, increased leadership, and more responsive, locally driven solutions. The year 2025 marked continuous reflection, mainly the uncertainty led to the emergence of new and evolving community needs, alongside a noticeable strengthening of resilience patterns-particularly among women, who played an increasingly central role in sustaining community responses. All GfC partners recognise the importance of deliberately integrating gender and social inclusion across all levels of policy making processes to achieve long lasting change.

b. Climate

In GfC countries, national governments and its citizens became more aware of climate change and its *disproportionate effects on different social groups*. 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:

- In **Burkina Faso**, more than half of the 60 community-based organizations trained, developed project ideas related to the environment, particularly in sustainable agriculture, agro ecology, non-timber forest products, reforestation and natural resource management.
- In **Ethiopia**, CoPs implemented a range of environmental protection activities in their respective localities. These activities included tree planting under the Green Legacy initiative, routine care of planted trees, and community-based environmental cleaning campaigns; community awareness raising on environmental protection and shared responsibility for safeguarding natural resources; and promoting environmentally sustainable income-generating activities, such as bee keeping.
- In **Uganda**, a First 100 Givers campaign was rolled out to encourage Ugandans to become more engaged in direct action and giving towards climate work through a small grant by GFCF.

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, Comuá members in **Brazil** advanced the importance of the intersectionality of the climate agenda with social justice, linking the impact of climate changes and policies on the lives of minority groups, especially women, black, indigenous and traditional populations as well as the defense of Brazilian biomes, such as Cerrado and the Amazon. Comuá positioned community philanthropy as the "missing link" in global debates in 2025 (e.g. GIFE Congress and climate financing forums) through [The Global South House](#), which served as a strategic space to give visibility to a financing architecture deeply rooted in communities and the *Plataforma Comuá pelo Clima* ("Comuá for Climate Platform") which showcases reliable and effective community-based funding models, practiced by Comuá's members, to ensure resources reach the territories and communities fighting for climate justice and rights. CESE's podcast series "*Black Women on the March: Building Good Living*", amplifies the voices of black women through sharing their stories of change, about the importance of adopting agro ecology as an anti-racist response to the changing climate.

Meanwhile in **Kenya**, through the Young Environmental Innovation Challenge (YEIC), KCDF recognizes and supports youth-led innovations focused on practical solutions to climate change. The challenge provides a platform for young people to design scalable, community-driven responses to environmental degradation and climate risks.

In addition, KCDF supported one partner in Makueni County to implement interventions that address the impacts of recurrent drought by strengthening water governance systems, promoting collective community action, and improving access to water in schools and local communities.

c. Sustainability

Sustainability within the program is primarily driven through the establishment and strengthening of Communities of Practice (CoPs), which demonstrate consistent and active participation from member initiatives. This engagement is rooted in a shared belief in their collective mission, motivating volunteers to contribute meaningfully toward achieving common goals. Despite limited resources, CoPs have proven to be a resilient and adaptive model. Their structure allows them to expand or contract based on available resources, while maintaining continuity of activities. Notably, collaboration

within these communities has led to more efficient use of resources and increased overall effectiveness.

The sustainability of partner organizations and the programme has also been strengthened through the development of organizational capacities, governance, and financial autonomy, as well as growing self-confidence among local stakeholders. Training initiatives and local assistance have empowered organizations to establish greater legitimacy, pursue their own priorities, and engage in meaningful dialogue with authorities and donors. By integrating the mobilization of local support and resources, the operation of CoPs, and the capitalization of learning, the programme has effectively contributed to embedding these dynamics in a sustainable manner beyond its implementation cycle. GfC's system-level advocacy and influencing work, rooted in community organising and voice, and strengthened by the global #ShiftthePower movement, all contributed to long-term results and positive impacts that will be sustained by the movement itself beyond the programme period.



Improving Healthcare Center, Burkina Faso



Comuá Members Assembly 2

7

Learning Reflection

Overall, the GFC alliance has demonstrated learnings that conclude that transforming development systems requires locally rooted eco-systems of trust, collective agency, adaptive learning, and diversified resources not isolated projects.

Across contexts, partners agree on a central learning insight onwardsL sustainable development is fundamentally relational, locally driven, and iterative rather than technical or time-bound. Community ownership emerges strongest where initiatives are co-created from the out-set, with trust-building, inclusion and long-term engagement prioritized over rapid delivery.

A consistent theme is the power of collective action and networks. CoPs, coalitions and alliances significantly enhance advocacy, resources mobilisation, and policy influence. However, their effectiveness depends on intentional inclusion, shared agendas, and managing internal power dynamics. Fragmentation weakens influence, while coordinated, evidence-based positioning strengthens civil society legitimacy with governments and donors.

Partners highlight a shifting funding landscape, marked by declining external aid and growing relevance of local philanthropy and citizen engagement. This shift reinforces the need for diversified, locally rooted resource mobilisation, though systemic barriers (e.g. restrictive policies, capacity gaps) persist. Crises, such as funding cuts, can also catalyze openness to new approaches and innovation.

Power shift is neither automatic nor rhetorical; it requires organized, credible actors, long-term investment, and enabling environments. While progress is visible in increased community voice and accountability, entrenched inequalities (gender, youth, disability, race) require deliberate facilitation and safeguarding to ensure meaningful participation.

Another cross-cutting insight is that adaptability and learning-by-doing are critical. Partners increasingly emphasize iterative learning, peer exchange, and real-time reflection over static evaluations. Flexibility is essential to respond to complex, changing contexts, including political instability and emerging community needs. Finally, there is growing recognition that knowledge, storytelling, and alternative metrics (e.g. trust, relationships, sense of community) are central to influencing systems and redefining what counts as impact.

Advocacy and Influencing of Donors and INGOs

The shutdown of USAID, against a wider backdrop of funding cuts and shifts in funder priorities, has dominated this reporting period. Despite the massive disruption – and the real and harmful effects - that have resulted because of the cuts, one outcome has been to reinforce the importance of community philanthropy as a strategy not just for funding, but for engaging citizens in driving their development.

For **GFCF**, this has helped shape and refine strategies related to communications and advocacy which form part of the close-out of the programme, forcing a clearer and more explicit focus on why community philanthropy is so essential in the context of any future system, and validating the importance of continuing and expanding work begun under the GfC programme so that it can continue to exist beyond the programme. The second [donor mapping and temperature test](#), conducted by the Alliance partners, showed that the number of donors, networks, and INGOs identified nearly doubled since 2021, when the exercise was first performed. More notably, the percentage of ‘ally’ relationships increased even as the overall pool expanded. In 2021, nearly one in four mapped donors kept Alliance partners at arm’s length, and by 2025, that number drops to fewer than one in twenty. ‘Cool’ relationships decreased from 30 to just eight donors, even though the total donor pool expanded by 45%.

As one Alliance partner reflected during the GfC monthly meeting, when the results were shared, “We’ve moved from invisibility to being *on the radar*. *That’s a powerful shift in relational capital*.” However, many of these relationships are individual institutional ones – one partner, one donor, one project. Another insight revealed that, contrary to the common narrative that philanthropy in Africa and Latin America is mainly externally driven, the 2025 map clearly shows allies within these regions—countries such as Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Brazil, and South Africa. The ongoing question and opportunity are how to leverage these allies collectively and strengthen sources of aligned support. More importantly, in this moment, how can we leverage these assets to advance the next stage of the wider #ShiftThePower movement – Possible Now? The work of Giving for Change (and GFCF) has been building towards the new system we envision, one that champions and highlights the transformative power of community. Another partner put it more succinctly, “Whatever the question or challenge is, the answer is always community!”

Community-led development through community and domestic philanthropy – Communities of Practice in the Giving for Change programme

Alliance partners have adopted and adapted the idea of CoPs within their specific contexts, using different forms, approaches, and structures. Using the GfC contingency

funds, GFCF conducted research on the application of the CoP approach across Alliance partners, with the framing question: “*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 was built upon an initial mapping exercise on CoPs conducted in 2023, with insights and lessons from the GfC annual Partner & Learning Reflection meeting in Kenya in August 2023.

The final [learning paper](#) was presented to Alliance partners during the last Giving for Change family meeting in December, which was also accompanied by this [blog post](#) that reflected on how, in the GfC programme, local civil society organizations have come together around shared learning and community-led development to build collective confidence and influence, strengthen local decision-making, and shift from dependency on external funding toward domestic resource mobilization, embodying principles of the #ShiftThePower movement and demonstrating how locally driven collaboration can lead to meaningful transformation in community empowerment and philanthropy.

Please see Annex 2 for more information on the key learnings of GfC Alliance partners.



East Africa Philanthropy Network Conference, Rwanda



Commua Members convening, Brazil

8 Partnership

The GfC consortium members played a critical role in spearheading learning within the GfC alliance. The monthly Family meetings contributed to peer-to-peer knowledge exchange. In 2025, the Family meetings provided space for different staff of NAIs to discuss and learn from the results of the GfC Partnership Review as well as the research on the CoPs (domain 1) and shifting power (domain 3). In addition, the monthly internal newsletter allowed for deeper connection amongst Alliance members as news updates are highlighted that may not otherwise get shared except in the half-year or annual reports. The [last annual gathering of GfC Alliance partners](#) strengthened solidarity across the alliance as demonstrated by the shared commitment to continue advancing community philanthropy worldwide post-2025.



GfC Partners Meeting

During the reporting period, consortium members and NAIs engaged together in the following joint activities:

- Wilde Ganzen Foundation together with KCDF, UNNGOF and APN organized a

parallel session during the 2025 African Philanthropy Conference in Cairo which aimed to explore community philanthropy and local resource mobilisation as long-term solutions for promoting local ownership and strengthening CSO legitimacy in the Global Majority to reclaim and preserve civic space.

- GFCF conducted two new Alliance partner profile interviews with ABF and KCDF: [“Community Philanthropy Changes Mindsets in Burkina Faso”](#) and reflections from KCDF on what community looks like and insights from using the Giving for Change programme to effect change in Kenya.
- GFCG, KCDF, Comuá, Dalia and WGF jointly organized a webinar with Alliance Magazine on “Building back Power: Community Philanthropy as a Radical Force Beyond Aid”
- With funding from the GfC contingency budget, GFCF led the coordination of a Stories for Change project which provided capacity strengthening and produced various communications products including video documentaries.

Meanwhile, NAIs continued to engage with Dutch embassies through participating in meetings, field visits and other advocacy efforts. For example, MFA and Dutch embassy staff participated in a workshop for GfC alliance members and Tanzania CSOs on reimagining CSOs resourcing through community and domestic philanthropy. In Uganda, UNNGOF met with the First Secretary at the Dutch Embassy to discuss progress of GfC and the broader localisation efforts. The Dutch Ambassador also participated in a series of activities, reinforcing diplomatic visibility and recognition of the philanthropy agenda in Uganda. Meanwhile, KCDF had meetings with the Dutch embassy to provide an update on the GfC programme as well as a briefing on the state of civic space in Kenya including a discussion on what it requires for funders, bilateral and partners to ensure civil and human rights are upheld in Kenya and the region.

In the Hague, Wilde Ganzen Foundation, on behalf of the GfC alliance engaged the MFA’s Civil Society division and Civil Society division through a number of convenings/meetings, including learning sessions related to shifting power and the role of philanthropy in international development together with Philea and WINGS.

9 Reflection on Theory of Change

Across the alliance, there is a strong consensus that the Theory of Change (ToC) remains valid in its core, relevant, and appropriate to diverse national contexts. Partners confirm its core assumption that sustainable change requires active involvement of local organisations. For many, 2025 has served as a period of validation. When communities contribute resources (land, labor, or money), they gain ownership, and influence, as well as a stronger platform to demand accountability. Some members also reported strategies leveraging synergies between domains, giving rise to a new area of implementation called domain “X”, which reflects the fluid, interrelated, and adaptive nature of programme activities.

A primary similarity among partners is the centrality of community philanthropy and local resource mobilisation as the foundation for shifting power and achieving transformative development. Most partners agree that the programme has successfully strengthened community agency, enhanced the capacity of local organizations to advocate for their needs, and improved spaces for engagement with government actors. There is also a shared recognition that the ToC must move beyond treating community philanthropy as a marginal idea, instead positioning it as a central pillar of national development conversations.

While ToC reflections are consistent to an extent, across the life of the programme different partners introduced specific adaptations based on their unique political and economic environments. **Burkina Faso’s** ToC for example was adapted in 2021 to focus on the autonomy and credibility of community organisations rather than international aid

dynamics. In **Palestine**, and in response to regional political escalations, the approach shifted toward solidarity building and flexible, unconditional funding mechanisms to build trust. This led to tangible results, including a noticeable change in the tone and quality of dialogue, with increased openness, trust, and responsiveness of stakeholders to community-defined priorities. In **Ghana**, it is evolving toward a diversified financing model that includes “fee-for-service” to complement local philanthropy which is currently seen as favoring service delivery over advocacy. In **Uganda**, there is a distinct emphasis on narrative change, shifting the public perception of philanthropy from “charity” to “civic responsibility” and using institutional credibility frameworks as a precondition for local giving.

The alliance members faced several significant hurdles in realising the full vision of the ToC , such as funding and resources, where the global reduction in traditional donor funding as well as the current nature of local giving have created a scramble for resources within the civil society sector, making it difficult to carve out sustainable pathways for community philanthropy. Challenges like institutional silos continue to limit the power of collective voice and the potential for a unified solidarity movement. In conclusion, year 5 of the five-year programme confirms that Giving for Change is a structuring lever for organisational, social and institutional transformation. Beyond the projects carried out, the programme contributes sustainably to rebuilding trust, strengthening local capacities and repositioning communities as central actors in their own development.

10 Risk Analysis

This section provides an overview of the the main programmatic and organizational risks and the their status during the reporting period:

Insecurity and Armed Conflicts: this risk continues to negatively impact CSOs and communities in **Kenya, Brazil, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Palestine** and **Tanzania** (where APN is located) making it difficult for CSOs to operate freely and safely. Mitigation strategies included intelligence gathering with other CSOs, adapting advocacy strategies (e.g. non-confrontational approach, joint media statement; Dutch embassy briefings), engaging in constructive and peace dialogues, and shifting to safer methods (like online platforms in **Palestine**). Despite challenges, CSOs continue to advocate for rights and adjust to evolving security dynamics with stricter safety measures and care policy (e.g. Comuá in Brazil).

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

Insufficient engagement of marginalized groups: this risk only materialized in Palestine where movement restriction and settlers attacks at main roads limited participation of marginalized groups in GfC sessions. Despite these challenges, Dalia provided follow-up sessions for groups that were unable to attend due to movement and safety challenges.

Corruption and Fraud: this risk has partially materialized in Uganda and Kenya. In Kenya, a local partner was implicated in a whistleblower report alleging fraud and the misappropriation of programme funds. Measures undertaken include verification activities, arbitration, and legal case filing.

Incidents regarding SEAH: this risk hasn't materialized.

Insufficient human resources and staff turnover: this risk hasn't materialized.

Financial dependency: the risk has partially materialized, in varying degrees across countries. In **Kenya**, **KCDF** has sustained conversations with grantees and CoPs on community philanthropy to share strategies on local resource mobilisation and collaborations to enhance sustainability. In **Brazil**, Comuá launched the Funding Observatory to monitor funding trends and support collective responses to the funding crisis. **ABF (Burkina Faso)** and **Star Ghana** integrated local resource mobilisation in their organisational strategies and future programming with partners/CoPs. Both **Dalia in Palestine** and **Micaia in Mozambique** joined the Change the Game Academy (CtGA) Alliance to strengthen local fund raising efforts and widen their network with self-resourcing organisations in other countries. Other NAIs (**ABF, CESE, DEC, UNNGOF**), **WACSI** (Star Ghana partner), **APN** and **KCDF** will continue to actively engage in CtGA to strengthen institutional capacities to mobilise resources and engage in match funding activities with support from Wilde Ganzen.

Data breach and connectivity: this risk hasn't materialized.

Economic crisis and Inflation: this risk continues to affect partner countries especially in **Kenya** where economic-related protests during the anti-finance bill happened due to high cost of living, overtaxation, corruption and mismanagement of resources by the government officers. In **Burkina Faso**, the government decided to leave ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), impacting trade and economic conditions in the country. In **Palestine**, inflation rate increased to 53% while exchange rate dropped to 17%, worsening the economic situation, also partly caused by the withdrawal of international donors and non renewal of registration thereby increasing unemployment. Mitigation measures adopted include integrating economic empowerment in grantees' support, and local resource mobilisation.

11 Annexes

Annex 1: Giving for Change Stories for Change Initiative

The [Stories for Change](#) initiative – working with both Giving for Change Alliance partners and allies from the broader #ShiftThePower movement – offered a platform to begin to shift narratives and help make the case for community philanthropy as a strategy for shifting power and claiming rights. A central theme of our work in 2025 was therefore documenting and showcasing existing and emerging practices and strategies, such as community / local philanthropy, systems of mutual aid, and new civil society resourcing models, which have been a key focus of the Giving for Change programme.

In partnership with Giving for Change Alliance partners, GFCF has produced two short documentaries and one video montage to add to the collection of documentaries produced by Alliance partners and launched during the Story for Change Festival:

- [Leading Voices](#). Across the world, leaders are building on living traditions of solidarity and mutual aid and are using community philanthropy strategically for development that is led and driven by the people. The documentary featured interviews from trailer blazers from Nepal, the Philippines, Palestine, Uganda, Ukraine, Indonesia, Poland, and Mexico – all reflecting on these questions: *What does community philanthropy look like where you are? Why has it been overlooked?, and why does it matter now?* They shared their experience, their analysis, and how they express their hope.
- [Our Rights, Our Resources](#). This provocative video essay begins with the challenge that there is a widely held misconception in international development that communities mostly mobilize resources for “soft” issues such as education, health, disasters, etc., and not on issues related to rights claiming and protection of human rights. Drawing on stories from Uganda, Kenya, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines, the documentary demonstrated multiple ways in which communities are – and have always been ready to resource human rights’ work.

- [In Just a Few Words](#). A celebratory, joyful video montage featuring partners and #ShiftThePower Fellows during the Community Philanthropy Symposium in October 2025, sharing stories about what community philanthropy means to them. From local leadership to collective action, these voices capture the heart of a global movement for change, #TheTimelsNow.

Ahead of the Stories for Change Festival and working closely with two consultants who provided technical assistance to Giving for Change Alliance partners in producing short videos and documentaries, organized six tailored training sessions:

- [What makes a great short video?](#) Trainer: Freedom Studio (Nepal) & [short training video](#) by Professor Eddie McCaffrey.
- [Working with media agencies](#): Trainer: Professor Eddie McCaffrey (UK).
- [Interview techniques for powerful videos](#): Trainer: Ana Amrein Esnaola (Spain). [A second short training clip for asking great interview questions](#) was also produced.
- [The key elements of storytelling](#): Trainer: Ana Amrein Esnaola (Spain). [A second short training clip on practicing great storytelling](#) was also produced.
- [Low cost / high impact videos](#): Trainer: Matthew Smart (Nigeria).
- [End-to-End Campaign Design](#): Trainer: Mary Mbuti (Kenya). Mary was also the social media manager for Stories for Change.

Linked to the documentary project, and as part of a broader efforts to strengthen the campaigning and storytelling “muscle” of Global South actors / the #ShiftThePower movement, the GFCF developed a partnership with Nepal-based Freedom Studio, a civic media agency which uses creativity (including “Artivism”) as a strategy for advancing social change to help design and support a joint advocacy and influencing campaign. Over 30 GFCF partners, including GfC Alliance partners, participated in a two-day workshop led by Freedom Studio that covered basic principles of digital storytelling, visual composition for impactful design, photo and video content production, and tools for creative and engaging social media advocacy campaigns.

Annex 2: Country Highlights

Brazil

Rede Comuá

Context

In 2025, Brazil faced a complex political and social landscape marked by tensions between global climate leadership and domestic priorities. While the government promoted climate action ahead of COP30 in Belém, debates over environmental regulations and oil exploration in the Amazon exposed conflicts between economic development and environmental protection. At the same time, extreme climate events continued to affect communities across the country.

Political polarization intensified, with rising disinformation and increased risks for environmental and human rights defenders. Structural violence and insecurity also remained major challenges for marginalized communities, particularly in urban peripheries and traditional territories.

Within the philanthropic sector, discussions highlighted that climate financing often fails to reach grassroots actors and communities most affected by climate change and inequality. The year was also marked by uncertainty in civil society funding due to shifts in international funding priorities. In response, Rede Comuá promoted community and social justice philanthropy as a strategy to connect funding with local realities.

Key Achievements

In 2025, Rede Comuá launched a new strategic cycle (2025–2030) focused on strengthening institutional development, expanding partnerships, and increasing the visibility and influence of community philanthropy.

A central initiative was the Saberes Program, which supports knowledge production within the network. The third cohort focused on *financing locally led climate solutions* and brought together researchers and practitioners from across the network. Participants highlighted the programme's transformative impact, strengthening both their analytical capacity and their connection to the broader community philanthropy movement.

Another major initiative was Transforming Philanthropy Month 2025, a decentralized national campaign organized in collaboration with network members and strategic

partners. The initiative mobilized more than 1,100 participants and 230 organizations through webinars, campaigns, and discussions focused on the intersection of climate justice, democracy, and human rights. The initiative strengthened collaboration among civil society actors and reinforced Comuá's role as a key voice in Brazil's philanthropic ecosystem.

A significant milestone during the year was the launch of the Comuá for Climate Platform, which mapped 3,500 locally led climate solutions supported by member organizations across Brazil. The mapping revealed that between 2023 and 2024, Comuá's members mobilized over R\$450 million (approximately Eur 75.6M) to support community-based climate initiatives. These initiatives reached 25 Brazilian states and nearly half a million people, demonstrating the effectiveness of flexible funding mechanisms that prioritize local leadership.

The year also saw strong international engagement, particularly in preparation for COP30. Together with partners such as the Alianza de Fondos del Sur and the Amazon Community Funds Network, Comuá co-created The Global South House, a collaborative space for dialogue on alternative climate finance models rooted in community leadership.

The first edition of The Global South House, held alongside COP30, gathered more than 1,200 participants, 109 panelists, and representatives from nearly 50 countries, creating a global platform for discussions on climate justice, community philanthropy, and new financing architectures.

Key Learnings

The work carried out in 2025 generated several important lessons for Rede Comuá and its partners:

- **Community philanthropy plays a critical role in connecting global debates with local realities:** By mobilizing flexible funding mechanisms and supporting grassroots organizations, community philanthropy can ensure that resources reach communities directly and respond to local priorities.
- **Knowledge production and data are powerful tools for influencing the philanthropic field:** Initiatives such as the Comuá for Climate Platform and the Funding Observatory demonstrate the scale and effectiveness of community-led solutions and help challenge dominant narratives about philanthropy.
- **Collective learning and collaboration remain essential:** Communities of Practice and other network spaces enabled members to share experiences, respond collectively to funding challenges, and strengthen their advocacy strategies.

- Importance of institutional resilience and internal care practices. The implementation of safeguarding policies, people-management strategies, and governance improvements strengthened the Network’s internal capacity during a demanding year characterized by funding uncertainty and the intense workload associated with COP30 preparations.

Overall, 2025 marked an important step in Rede Comuá’s evolution as a leading actor in community and social justice philanthropy. By strengthening partnerships, promoting innovative funding models, and amplifying the voices of grassroots organizations, the Network continues to contribute to more inclusive and locally led approaches to climate action, human rights, and social justice in Brazil and beyond.

CESE

The 2025 implementation of the Giving for Change programme in Brazil took place in a highly complex political and socio-environmental context. While there were important advances in democratic accountability—such as convictions related to the 2022 coup attempts—conservative forces continued to gain strength ahead of the 2026 elections. At the same time, major environmental and social setbacks occurred, including the approval of legislation weakening environmental protections and continued increases in femicide, disproportionately affecting Black women.

Strategic Focus and Approach

CESE’s work in 2025 strongly emphasized the intersection of gender, race, and climate justice, recognizing that environmental crises disproportionately impact Black women and traditional communities. This integrated approach guided all major programme activities and proved highly relevant in addressing environmental racism and systemic inequalities.

The programme maintained a community-led model, working closely with a diverse Community of Practice (CoP) composed of women’s organizations across Northeast Brazil, including Black, Indigenous, quilombola, LGBTQIA+, youth, and women with disabilities. Participation, co-creation, and local leadership remained central to implementation.

Key Achievements

The GfC programme contributed significantly to strengthening women-led movements and organizations; expanding political participation and advocacy capacity; promoting inclusive, community-driven approaches to development; and advancing climate

justice narratives centered on marginalized groups.

Key highlights:

- **“Nothing About Climate Without Black Women” Campaign:** A major advocacy and communication initiative reaching broad audiences through multimedia content, generating strong engagement (nearly 30,000 views and 1,700+ interactions on Instagram alone).
- **II March of Black Women (Brasília):** A landmark mobilization strengthening political advocacy, collective identity, and international solidarity among Black women’s movements.
- **Communication & Advocacy Capacity Building:** Workshops and dialogues enhanced feminist communication strategies, linking digital tools, ancestral knowledge, and political mobilization.
- **Support to Grassroots Initiatives:** Six small projects funded, contributing to advocacy, agroecology, LGBTQIA+ visibility, and climate justice actions.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion:** Strong progress in disability inclusion, particularly through collaboration with blind women’s organizations, leading to institutional learning and practice changes.
- **Policy Influence:** Engagement in national and state-level processes (e.g., MROSC frameworks, public policy dialogues) contributed to improving civil society–government relations.

Key Learnings

A key lesson was the importance of linking struggles—especially gender, race, and climate—as a strategic and necessary response to current challenges. The programme also reinforced the value of:

- Co-creation with grassroots actors, strengthening ownership and relevance
- Communication as a political tool, not just visibility
- Alliances and networks, particularly amid shrinking civic space and funding

The growing influence of conservative agendas and reduced international cooperation highlighted the need for stronger, long-term collaboration and diversified funding strategies.

The programme confirmed that supporting grassroots women’s organizations is essential for sustainable and inclusive change. While the formal GfC programme cycle concludes, participating organizations are stronger, more connected, and better equipped to continue their work independently, ensuring lasting impact.



CESE Campaign at COP30

Burkina Faso

Context

Burkina Faso continues to face a complex humanitarian and security crisis marked by internal displacement, disrupted livelihoods, and pressure on social services. Ongoing insecurity has caused large scale population movements, creating social and economic challenges for both displaced communities and host populations.

Despite these challenges, some progress has been reported in stabilising parts of the country, including the reopening of schools, health facilities, and administrative offices. However, insecurity still limits mobility and access in several regions, affecting development work and community initiatives.

In 2025, the GfC programme further strengthened collaboration between CSOs, local authorities, and community leaders across several regions. The experience showed that meaningful change requires long-term support, flexible implementation and continuous learning, particularly in fragile contexts.

Key Achievements

1. Capacity Building and Training

A key pillar of the programme was the completion of the Mobilising Support and Local Fund Raising (MS/LFR) training pathway for 60 community organisations

(CSAs) across six regions. All organisations completed the training successfully and developed 60 local development projects, which are currently being implemented.

These projects address diverse community priorities including income generating activities; community health initiatives; environmental protection and agroecology; education and awareness raising; advocacy and social inclusion.

Training and coaching were delivered through regional Communities of Practice (CoPs) located in Dédougou, Fada, Ouahigouya, Koupéla, Dori, Kongoussi and Kaya. These communities created spaces for peer learning, exchange of experiences, and collaborative problem solving.

2. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

The programme strengthened MEL through participatory evaluations, field monitoring missions, and regular communication with partners via phone and digital platforms. Field monitoring confirmed that participating organisations significantly strengthened their capacity to mobilize local resources and implement community initiatives. Continuous coaching and learning exchanges enabled them to adapt their approaches and strengthen governance, accountability, and community engagement.

3. Strengthening Networks and Partnerships

Regional and national Communities of Practice (CoPs) served as platforms for coordination and knowledge sharing between organisations, local authorities and development actors.

At the national level, a National Forum organised by ABF helped position local resource mobilisation as an important component of community development policy. The forum strengthened dialogue between CSOs, government representatives, and development partners.

Internationally, the programme also strengthened ABF's role within African philanthropy networks. Since 2023, ABF has been a member of the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) and in 2025 it joined the APN Board of Directors, reinforcing its contribution to community philanthropy discussions across the continent.

4. Communication and Advocacy

Partnerships with national and local media increased the visibility of community initiatives. Regional CoPs collaborated with community radio stations and digital platforms to share success stories and promote community led development.

5. Inclusion and Community Participation

Women, youth and other marginalised groups were actively involved in programme activities. Women played leading roles in economic empowerment initiatives, health projects and local advocacy, while young people contributed to community mobilisation and innovation.

The programme emphasised participatory approaches that recognise community organisations as partners rather than beneficiaries, strengthening ownership and sustainability.

Key Learnings

- Organisational credibility is fundamental
- Local resource mobilisation strengthens sustainability
- Long term accompaniment is essential
- Communities of Practice are powerful learning spaces
- Local actors can drive change even in fragile contexts
- Platforms for exchange among CoPs and consultation frameworks for local authorities are essential for sustainability

The GfC programme in Burkina Faso demonstrates that community led development is both possible and impactful, even in challenging contexts. By strengthening organisational capacity, promoting community philanthropy, and supporting local collaboration, the programme contributes to more sustainable, inclusive and locally owned development processes.

Ethiopia

Context

The government of Ethiopia has strengthened its disaster response framework through updated legislation and enhanced coordination under the Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC) and “Bussa Gonofa” institution (for humanitarian response during disaster in Oromia Region). The revised regulatory environment provides clearer operational space for CSOs to mobilise international resources and deliver assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in alignment with national priorities. In parallel, the government has introduced a structured domestic resource mobilization mechanism enabling citizens to contribute a small percentage of their bank transactions to a national disaster response fund.

Meanwhile, on the peace process, the government has established the Ethiopian Peace Dialogue Commission which has actively engaged CSOs, grassroots groups, and diverse stakeholders, contributing to broader public participation in the peace process. These efforts are expected to contribute to improved peace and stability, creating a more conducive environment for economic recovery, investment, and citizen engagement in development processes.

Despite these positive developments, the impacts of past conflicts and ongoing socio-economic pressures continue to affect vulnerable populations and community-driven initiatives. Economic reforms, including transition toward a market-based exchange rate system, have introduced short-term inflationary pressures and increased cost of living, posing challenges for lower and middle-income households and community philanthropy. At the same time, government’s ongoing macroeconomic reform agenda signals a commitment to long-term economic stabilization and growth while the full effects of these reforms will take time to materialize, early indications suggest gradual improvements in coherence and economic governance.

Key Achievements

- GfC advocacy on localization of aid influenced donors to commit support to local CSOs through capacity strengthening and sub-granting mechanisms. Several donors began allocating at least 50 percent of their sub-grants directly to local CSOs.
- The establishment of the Ethiopian National CSOs Humanitarian Forum (ECSOHF) which was initiated by DEC in collaboration with ASDEPO and other civil society actors to influence societal actors to support local philanthropy. The Forum now includes 90 member organizations and has received support from the government of Ethiopia.
- DEC led targeted advocacy on localization, influencing the Parliament’s Standing Committee and ACSO to revise the CSOs’ proclamation. As a direct result, localisation of aid has been formally incorporated into the revised legal framework guiding CSOs.
- In collaboration with ACSO and other government institutions, the project supported volunteerism and philanthropic practices at national level and across 7 districts in the two regions.
- Strengthening the institutional and leadership capacity of 7 CoPs.
- The CoPs advocated for improved access to electricity, clean water, and employment opportunities for youth and persons with disabilities; advocated with flower farms resulted in wage increases of 50 to 70 percent for workers; mobilised 84 hectares of farmland, creating temporary farming opportunities for 168 landless youths; influenced the allocation of an additional 9.5 hectares of cultivated land to enhance food security and livelihoods; advocated for the reopening of schools

which were closed due to conflict in the Amhara National Regional State; secured 2 hectares of land for irrigation for productive community use, strengthening local agricultural activities and income generating activities; advocated for improved awareness of duty barriers and enhanced access to workplaces for women, youth, elders, farmer cooperatives, and CoP members; advocated and secured land to construct library for persons with disability in the city; mobilised funds for the construction of a kindergarten school.

Key Learnings

- Active community participation significantly enhances sustainability, ownership, and long-term positive impact.
- Sustained engagement and trust-building with stakeholders are essential for achieving results in rights-based advocacy and community-led development through community philanthropy.
- Capable CoPs can effectively advocate for community priorities while mobilising local resources. This dual role strengthens local ownership, accountability, and sustainability. CoPs increasingly hold power holders into account, shape development agendas, and contribute to transformative shifts in power dynamics and community-led development.



DEC Local Youth Action

Ghana

Context

In 2025, Ghana experienced a period of cautious recovery and renewed political engagement, creating both opportunities and pressures for civil society. A newly installed administration initiated national consultative forums on macroeconomic recovery, governance reforms, and anti-corruption, opening entry points for CSOs to influence policy.

Civic space remained relatively open, although regulatory scrutiny increased, particularly around the Non-Profit Organisations (NPO) Bill. At the same time, the abrupt reduction in international aid, including the closure of USAID programmes, significantly affected CSOs, reinforcing the urgency of strengthening domestic resource mobilisation.

Economically, Ghana showed signs of recovery, with projected GDP growth of 5.4% and declining inflation. However, these gains have not yet fully translated into improved living conditions. Notably, Ghana ranked third globally in the World Giving Report, highlighting strong potential for local philanthropy.

Key Achievements

- **Advancing policy frameworks for philanthropy:** A major milestone was the establishment of a government–civil society technical working group to develop a national philanthropy policy. The Millennium Development Authority was designated as the focal institution for coordinating philanthropic efforts.
- **Strengthening civil society coordination:** The 3rd Ghana Civil Society Forum convened approximately 700 stakeholders and resulted in government commitment to advancing a favorable NPO law. The Ghana Philanthropy Conference 2025 further strengthened dialogue on domestic resource mobilisation and led to concrete policy commitments.
- **Scaling community philanthropy:** The programme significantly expanded locally mobilised resources. Community foundations mobilised funds for infrastructure and livelihoods, while digital fundraising platforms supported multiple campaigns despite a constrained funding environment.
- **Strengthening capacity and leadership:** Approximately 25 community foundations were established; over 150 local leaders were trained, and more than 1,500 community members engaged in local giving initiatives. Education programmes reached over 3,800 teachers, strengthening inclusive and learner-centred approaches.
- **Promoting visibility and narratives:** Storytelling and communication efforts,

including documentaries and campaigns, significantly increased the visibility of community philanthropy and locally led development.

Key Learnings

A key learning is that while local philanthropy is growing in visibility and legitimacy, it remains insufficient on its own to sustain civil society organisations—especially in areas such as advocacy, systems change, and institutional strengthening. Much of local giving continues to be directed toward service delivery rather than long-term organisational resilience.

This has led to a shift in thinking toward a more ecosystem-based approach to financing, where community philanthropy is complemented by supportive public policies, fiscal incentives, private sector engagement, and strengthened internal capacity of CSOs. The ongoing development of a national philanthropy policy represents a critical step in building such an enabling environment.

Another important insight is the value of collective action and movement-building. The coordinated advocacy around the NPO Bill demonstrated that broad-based coalitions—such as the Ghana Civil Society Forum—are more effective in influencing policy than fragmented efforts. Shared ownership of advocacy agendas has strengthened legitimacy, coherence, and impact.

Finally, the programme reaffirmed that community philanthropy is not only a financing mechanism but also a governance approach. By embedding community priorities into formal planning processes and strengthening local leadership structures, the programme contributed to more accountable, inclusive, and locally anchored development outcomes.

Kenya

Context

Throughout 2025, Kenya's civic and democratic landscape underwent a profound and troubling transformation, marked by a formal downgrade from Obstructed to a "Repressed" status by CIVICUS. This climate of repression extended beyond borders, as 2025 saw a disturbing rise in transnational, state-sponsored abductions across East Africa. High-profile activists and journalists forcibly disappeared and tortured in coordinated efforts between Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, signaling a regional erosion of the rule of law and the safety of civil society actors.

The primary risks that materialised in 2025 centered on the normalisation of state violence and the systematic capture of independent oversight institutions. The memorial protests of June 2025, held to honor the victims of the previous year's unrest, were met with lethal force that resulted in a staggering toll of 79 deaths, hundreds of injuries, and numerous enforced disappearances over the reporting period.

The sudden shutdown of major donor streams like USAID in early 2025, coupled with shifting European priorities, left many governance-focused organizations struggling to survive.

Despite these constraints, the GfC programme in Kenya remained adaptive and resilient, reaffirming the importance of diversified funding, local philanthropy, and flexible strategies.

Key activities

- County partners have continued to play a strategic role in influencing budget processes and strengthening service delivery through sustained engagement and structured partnerships with county government officials. As a result of these efforts, several counties have reported increased allocations to priority sectors, including education, health, water, agriculture, and socio-economic empowerment programmes aimed at supporting marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- The Communities of Practice (CoPs) have made significant strides in influencing key county-level policies through sustained advocacy, coalition-building, and capacity strengthening initiatives, including mobilisation efforts and local fundraising trainings resulting in 7 policies being passed and adopted in parliament while 17 policies are in various review stages in the respective counties.
- KCDF conducted close-out meetings across different counties, which demonstrated that CoPs have matured into credible, results-oriented governance actors delivering tangible policy and budget outcomes.
- KCDF continued to enhance the capacity of the Cops through the Change the Game Academy (CtGA) training modules.
- KCDF in partnership with the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) and KPF has continued to host convenings on community philanthropy.
- KCDF has intensified its advocacy to strengthen the legal, regulatory, and fiscal environment for philanthropy and civil society.

Key learnings

- CoPs have demonstrated a strong impact as platforms for community-led development, collective action, and civic engagement across 6 counties.

- CoPs also functioned as active learning and governance ecosystems, delivering measurable capacity gains and influence.
- There are various strategies for community philanthropy that reach high impact.
- Powerful impact of fostering collaboration among local organisations, government officials, and community members through capacity strengthening, participation, grants support and collaboration resulting in the enactment of the Busia County Sexual and Gender Policy with different stakeholders providing the required resources to ensure the actualisation of the policy.



KCDF Community Members procesession Kisumu

Mozambique

Context

The final year of the Giving for Change programme in Mozambique (2025) took place in a highly volatile political and economic context. Following unrest after the 2024 elections and a forceful state response, the newly installed government under President Daniel Chapo stabilized the situation but faced deep structural challenges. Economic pressures intensified due to high public debt, IMF conditions, and major aid reductions—most notably the abrupt withdrawal of USAID funding—triggering widespread disruption across civil society.

Strategic Focus and Approach

Recognizing 2025 as the concluding year of GfC, Micaia focused on consolidating achievements and ensuring sustainability beyond the programme. Three core themes

guided the work: (1) documenting and sharing learning; (2) institutionalising gains; and; (3) expanding the philanthropy network.

Significant research outputs were completed, including studies on corporate philanthropy, public attitudes toward giving, and the first State of *Philanthropy in Mozambique* report. These efforts contributed to building a knowledge base to inform future locally driven development.

While reduced aid created risks, it also opened opportunities for innovation, efficiency, and increased emphasis on local philanthropy and resource mobilization.

Key Achievements

1. Strengthening Community Philanthropy

- 113 members from 54 organizations joined the philanthropy movement
- Expansion of communities of practice across multiple regions
- Establishment of coordination structures and active communication platforms

2. Capacity Building and Innovation

- Development of modular training programmes in fundraising and philanthropy
- Creation and testing of a sustainable training business model
- Launch of the [Kukura app](#), with over 80 CSOs enrolled in pilot use

These initiatives aimed to create self-sustaining support systems for civil society beyond donor dependency.

3. Grantmaking and Local Resource Mobilisation

- Hope Fund: Supported 10 organizations responding to crisis, reaching over 4,400 beneficiaries
- Matching grants: 14 organizations funded, mobilizing nearly equal levels of local contributions
- Pilot community foundation model (ACADEC) demonstrated local fund management potential

These mechanisms strengthened local giving and community ownership of development initiatives.

4. Research, Learning, and Engagement

- National conference with ~100 participants from government, CSOs, and private sector
- Roundtables and surveys to understand giving behaviors and sector challenges
- International engagement, including a London convening on the “post-aid” era

Findings revealed strong willingness among citizens to give but constrained by economic hardship and low trust in institutions.

5. Institutional Development and Sustainability

A major milestone was the establishment of Philanthropy Mozambique, a new centre (in partnership with the Pedagogic University) focused on research, policy influence, and donor engagement.

Micaia also developed a forward-looking sustainability strategy, including fee-based training services; revenue from digital tools (Kukura); event ticketing and sponsorships and continued donor engagement. Meanwhile, internal adjustments (e.g., cost reductions and restructuring) ensured continuity despite declining external funding.

Key Learnings

- Smaller, grassroots organizations are more adaptable to community philanthropy approaches
- Crisis conditions (e.g., funding cuts) can accelerate openness to innovation
- Youth engagement presents strong potential for movement growth
- Trust and transparency are critical to increasing local giving
- Rural contexts offer opportunities to embed philanthropy within cultural practices

The GfC programme in Mozambique successfully concluded with a strong foundation for future work. Despite a challenging environment marked by political instability and shrinking aid, Micaia achieved substantial progress in building a national community philanthropy ecosystem.

The combination of knowledge generation, institutional development, practical tools, and strengthened networks positions Micaia and its partners to continue advancing locally led, sustainable development in Mozambique beyond 2025.

Palestine

Context

In 2025, Palestine faced a highly fragile and deteriorating humanitarian and political context. Ongoing conflict, movement restrictions, and economic decline significantly impacted daily life across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. In the West Bank, increased political escalation, mobility restrictions, and settler violence disrupted

livelihoods and community stability. In Gaza, conditions were even more severe, with widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and limited access to basic services such as water, healthcare, and electricity.

At the same time, shrinking civic space, funding cuts from international donors, and delayed government salaries deepened economic hardship and limited civil society action. Communities experienced heightened psychosocial stress and reduced access to essential services, particularly for women, children, and other vulnerable groups. In this context, local organisations such as Dalia played a critical role in supporting resilience and promoting community-led responses.

Key Achievements

Despite the challenging context, the Giving for Change programme reached a higher level of maturity in 2025, strengthening community agency and local philanthropy.

• Strengthening Community Initiatives

Dalia supported 15 community-led initiatives across the West Bank and Gaza through seed grants and targeted capacity development. Training focused on community philanthropy, participatory approaches, resource mobilisation, and advocacy.

Additional activities included community philanthropy camps, participatory research training, and technical support on food sovereignty, water management, and psychosocial support. These efforts enabled grassroots organisations to respond more effectively to urgent needs while strengthening long-term capacities.

• Community Mobilisation and Advocacy

Communities of Practice (CoPs) continued to play a central role in collective action. Key achievements included:

- Five community mobilisation initiatives, such as women's artisan markets, linking farmers to local markets, and volunteer campaigns
- Dialogue sessions involving community members, NGOs, and government actors
- Media engagement through storytelling and radio campaigns
- Publication of two studies on food sovereignty and declining foreign aid

These activities strengthened grassroots' voices and increased advocacy towards decision-makers.

- **International Engagement**

Dalia expanded its presence in international platforms, resulting in stronger partnerships, increased knowledge exchange, and greater visibility of Palestinian community voices globally.

- **Inclusion and Community Impact**

The programme placed strong emphasis on women and youth participation. Women represented 65–70% of participants, reflecting both intentional inclusion and shifting social roles. Youth also played a key role in mobilisation and innovation.

A notable example is the Women Artisans Community of Practice, which grew from 15 to 40 members. These women strengthened their networks, increased mobility, and accessed new markets, including international solidarity groups. Their engagement contributed to both economic resilience and stronger collective voice.

In addition, psychosocial support activities created safe spaces that enhanced emotional resilience and community solidarity.

Key Learnings

The experience of 2025 highlighted several important lessons.

- Shrinking civic space remains a major constraint, limiting community action while increasing the need for locally led approaches.
- The programme demonstrated the power of collective action and trust-based collaboration. Communities of Practice proved effective in strengthening solidarity, amplifying voices, and supporting advocacy.
- Flexibility and adaptability are essential in conflict settings. Dalia adapted its approach by shifting toward solidarity-based and flexible funding mechanisms, improving trust and responsiveness to community needs.
- Long-term relationships and networks are critical. Strong partnerships at local and international levels enhanced both the reach and effectiveness of interventions.
- The programme showed that community philanthropy and local resource mobilisation are viable even in fragile contexts. By strengthening advocacy, participation, and local ownership, the programme contributed to more equitable and community-driven development.

Overall, 2025 demonstrated that even in a highly constrained environment, community-led approaches can build resilience, strengthen voices, and drive meaningful change. Sustainability is rooted in the strength of Communities of Practice, which continue to function as adaptive and resilient structures despite limited resources. Their focus on advocacy, resource mobilisation, and participatory learning ensures that community priorities remain central. Looking ahead, the programme provides a strong foundation for scaling community-led approaches and deepening the impact of local philanthropy in Palestine.

Uganda

Context

In 2025, the Ugandan civil society landscape was defined by a transition toward locally-led development amid a fluid political environment. The regulatory framework underwent a major shift following the 2024 amendment to the NGO Act, which integrated the NGO Bureau under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, resulting in administrative delays and increased compliance burdens for many organizations. Simultaneously, traditional donor funding continued to decline, shifting toward shorter cycles and stricter requirements, which created an urgent need for civil society to accelerate domestic resource mobilization. While informal community giving through religious institutions and savings groups remained vibrant, it lacked the coordination and policy recognition needed for systemic impact. This environment required a delicate balance in advocacy to ensure that efforts to promote philanthropy and civic participation were not misconstrued as partisan activity in the lead-up to the 2026 general elections.

Key Achievements

UNNGOF implemented a diverse set of activities designed to strengthen the domestic philanthropy ecosystem and institutionalize local resource mobilization.

- Capacity Strengthening: 36 participants from 35 CSOs were trained in strategic local fundraising, focusing on supporter mapping and ethical solicitation.
- National Convenings: UNNGOF co-organized the Uganda Philanthropy Week and the Annual Philanthropy Symposium, attracting over 750 stakeholders to discuss tax policies and national giving frameworks.
- Policy Engagement: The forum led regional consultations to develop a consolidated CSO position paper on the NGO Policy review and engaged legislators to address gaps in the current legal environment.
- Narrative Change: Youth-led street campaigns, biker processions, and market

clean-ups were held to demystify philanthropy and make it visible in public spaces.

- **Accountability Frameworks:** The forum promoted the Quality Assurance Mechanism (QUAM) as a voluntary self-regulation tool to improve governance and rebuild public trust in NGOs.

Key Learnings

- 1. Ownership:** When communities contribute their own resources—even in small amounts—they naturally demand greater accountability from leaders, effectively “buying into” the development outcomes.
- 2. Strategic adaptation to shifting context:**
 - **Navigating Bureaucracy:** The integration of the NGO Bureau into the Ministry of Internal Affairs created administrative delays. UNNGOF found that structured dialogue and compliance clinics were more effective than confrontation in keeping CSOs operational.
 - **Political Neutrality:** In the pre-election climate of 2025, successful advocacy required framing civic participation as a “development strategy” rather than “political activism” to maintain safety and influence.

3. Institutional results provide evidence of impact

- **Proven sustainability:** 35 CSOs proved that local fundraising is viable, with some now sourcing up to 50% of their project budgets from within their own communities.
- **Policy integration:** Efforts were successful in getting Local Economic Development (LED) and philanthropy discussed within the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and by the National Planning Authority.

4. Tactical Learnings for NGOs

- **The Media Multiplier:** Moving media from “*event reporters*” to “*advocacy partners*” shifted the national narrative; everyday acts of youth-led giving now receive prime-time visibility.
- **Collaboration over competition:** To survive shrinking global donor pools, NGOs must “*co-design*” and “*co-implement*” events (like Philanthropy Week) to reduce duplication and present a unified front to the government.
- **Youth as Shapers, Not Just Volunteers:** Effective inclusion requires moving beyond “*tokenism*.” Intentional spaces, such as Youth Dialogues, are necessary to ensure the 70% of the population under 30 influences policy.

giving 
FOR **change**