CONFERENCE AGENDA



9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference

AGILE PHILANTHROPY: ADAPTING TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL SHIFTS

📅 11 - 13 JUNE, 2025 🕹 SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA



HOSTED BY:





EAPN welcomes you to the

Edition of the East Africa Philanthropy Conference

OVERVIEW

Philanthropy today is navigating an age of record unpredictability. The assumptions that once anchored the sector— reliable donor commitments, stable global economies, and linear development trajectories—are unscrambling at an unprecedented pace. The world is no longer shifting in decades; it is transforming in real-time. In this context, the necessity of an agile, responsive, and action-driven philanthropy ecosystem is an immediate imperative. The ability to adapt to shifting dynamics while ensuring sustained, high-impact, and locally anchored solutions has become the defining challenge of modern philanthropy.

The global philanthropic landscape is profoundly shifting, driven by economic precarity, geopolitical realignments, and evolving societal expectations. Traditional donor commitments are contracting as Western governments prioritize domestic stability, leaving a funding vacuum that compels philanthropy to reimagine financial sustainability beyond reliance on aid. Simultaneously, rising inflation, economic volatility, and cost-of-living crises reshape donor behavior, forcing philanthropic actors to prioritize shortterm, high impact interventions over long-term systemic solutions. Corporate giving, venture philanthropy, and blended finance models are increasingly supplementing traditional grant-making, with companies aligning social investments with business sustainability. At the same time, digitalization is revolutionizing philanthropic practices, enabling AI-driven analytics, blockchainbased transparency, and decentralized giving platforms to optimize resource allocation and enhance impact assessment. However, these innovations also introduce ethical and structural challenges, such as digital exclusion and algorithmic biases, that require deliberate action to ensure equitable access to philanthropic resources.

Beyond financial and technological evolution, the ecosystem is contending with heightened political and social complexities. Governments across various regions are tightening regulations on foreign-funded initiatives, asserting greater control over civic space, and restricting cross-border funding, compelling philanthropic organizations to adapt to new compliance frameworks while safeguarding operational autonomy. Social expectations around philanthropy are also shifting, with grassroots movements, younger generations, and advocacy networks demanding localized, trust-based, and participatory grant-making models prioritizing community-led solutions over externally imposed interventions. The generational transition in philanthropy is accelerating a departure from institutional giving toward decentralized. tech-enabled philanthropy emphasizing transparency and measurable outcomes. At the same time, the rise of nationalism, misinformation, and ideological polarization is eroding trust in philanthropy, making it increasingly difficult for philanthropic actors to navigate contested political environments. These seismic shifts-economic precarity, social realignment, regulatory constraints, and policy disruption-are reshaping the fundamental nature of philanthropy. The sector must now evolve from a reactive model to an anticipatory, agile, and adaptive force capable of thriving in uncertainty.

In response to these urgent realities, the East Africa Philanthropy Network convenes the 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference, themed "Agile Philanthropy: Adapting to Economic, Social, and Political Shifts." Scheduled for June 11th – 13th, 2025, at Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda, this conference is an opportune space for critical dialogue, strategic collaboration, and bold action to shape the future of philanthropy in a rapidly evolving world.

OBJECTIVES

Critically assess the impact of global economic shifts, political realignments, and evolving societal expectations on the sustainability and effectiveness of philanthropy

> Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration between philanthropy, government, business, academia, and civil society to enhance systemic change and sustainable impact.

Interrogate philanthropy's role in navigating and influencing regulatory and policy landscapes to safeguard civic space and financial autonomy.

> Advance innovative financial models and capital mobilization strategies that secure philanthropy's long-term financial resilience.

Reimagine philanthropy's governance structures to embrace participatory, locally-led, and trust-based funding models.

> Examine the intersection of technology, Al, and philanthropy's future—leveraging digital tools while mitigating ethical risks.

Position philanthropy as an agile, anticipatory force that moves beyond reactive interventions to proactive, systems-level change.



TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

14:00 - 17:30

PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS & CO-CREATION SESSION

Building New Financing Models for African Social Impact

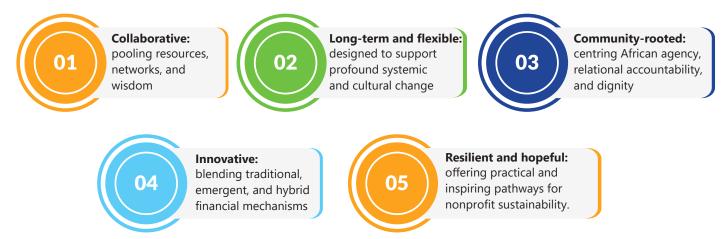
Curated by the East Africa Philanthropy Network, The Resource Alliance, TrustAfrica, and Urgent Action Fund-Africa's Harambee~Ubuntu PAFP initiative, this interactive pre-conference masterclass is a co-creation session designed to ignite bold thinking, cross-sector collaboration, and new financing models rooted in justice, solidarity, and sustainability.

Across the African continent and globally, civil society organisations and social movements—especially those led by women, youth, and communities on the frontlines—are navigating unprecedented funding constraints. Traditional donor models are faltering, short-term project cycles are misaligned with long-term social transformation, and the space for civic action is shrinking.

But amid these challenges, we also see an extraordinary opportunity.

This session brings together a deliberately curated mix of stakeholders—African-led organisations, social enterprises, social impact investors, venture capitalists, feminist movements, corporates, and philanthropies—to think and act beyond silos. We are creating the conditions for African collaborations grounded in values of shared responsibility, collective care, and abundance.

Participants will be grouped strategically to reflect different mandates and strengths. The aim is to harness this diversity to co-create financing models that are:



This is a session for co-creating financing solutions that shift power and centre dignity. Let your imagination be bold. Let your frameworks be pragmatic. Above all, let your ideas honour the incredible work being done every day by those who refuse to give up on justice.



10 June 2025 TUESDAY

PRE-EVENTS

Masterclass (Invite Only)

14:30 PM -16:30 PM This closed-door Masterclass convenes a select group of ecosystem shapers for a focused interrogation of one of the most consequential inflection points facing the philanthropic sector today. With geopolitical uncertainty, regulatory tightening, and capital reconfiguration reshaping the landscape, this session provides a critical opportunity to surface latent tensions, examine adaptive blind spots, and co-generate strategic foresight. It is less a knowledge transfer than a systems-level recalibration — a preparatory moment for those expected to attend and anchor the conference.

HOSTS:

EAPN, The Resource Alliance, TrustAfrica & Urgent Action Fund-Africa's Harambee-Ubuntu PAFP initiative

18:00 PM -19:00 PM

Conference Registration

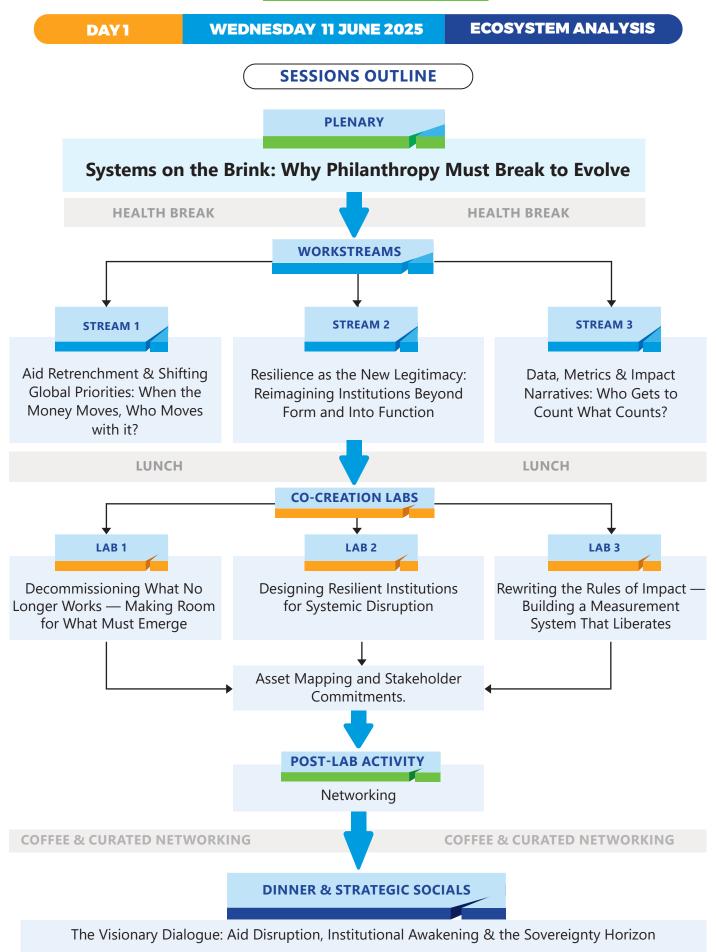
Delegates begin to arrive for orientation. This window allows for formal credentialing, material collection, and light networking before the opening reception. The tone is warm but intentional, setting the rhythm for the work ahead.

19:00 PM -21:00 PM

Opening Reception

As the region's ecosystem actors convene, this reception will set the social architecture that scaffolds the days ahead. Designed to foster familiarity and early rapport among participants, it will offer a vital space for informal engagement and cross-sector introductions before the working sessions. Delegates will be welcomed with curated refreshments and light entertainment, creating an environment of ease and collegiality. Meaningful collaboration is first built in shared presence.

9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference



- Provocateur-in-Residence - Brian Kagoro - Open Society Foundations

DAY1 11 June 2025 WEDNESDAY

Ecosystem Analysis

Philanthropy stands on a fractured foundation – caught between the slow collapse of inherited models and the high-speed acceleration of global disruption. While we speak of innovation, collaboration, and community-led impact, much of the sector remains structurally dependent on external capital, reactive by design, and conceptually stuck in frameworks shaped decades ago. Aid is shrinking. Trust is cracked. Data systems remain extractive. The measurement of "impact" still rewards compliance, not transformation. We must ask: Why does philanthropy continue to orbit donor calendars instead of lived community rhythms? Why is resilience still an exception and not a systemic outcome?

This day calls for intellectual courage. We will not tinker at the edges; we will interrogate the ecosystem's very architecture: its outdated funding logic, legitimacy gaps, geopolitical blind spots, and its tendency to protect its own comfort over its stated purpose. From the retrenchment of Western aid to the ideological fragility of legacy structures, we will surface the fault lines philanthropy has been too polite to name. We will expose inherited myths, disassemble inherited power, and confront the ecosystem with one urgent truth: we cannot fully redesign what we are unwilling to re-analyse.



08:55 AM -09:10 AM

Conference Foresight: What This Moment Requires

This session will contextualize the shifts reshaping the philanthropic and development landscape across East Africa and beyond. It will surface the underlying tensions, structural inflection points, and converging disruptions that define this moment economically, politically, and institutionally. More than a state-of-the-sector update, it will outline the key questions this convening must confront and the systems-thinking lens required to interrogate them

9:10 AM -10:30 AM

PLENARY SESSION:

Plenary Session: Systems on the Brink: Why Philanthropy Must Break to Evolve

This session establishes the meta-frame for the entire convening: our current ecosystem is not just misaligned but structurally incompatible with the world it seeks to serve. The architecture of development as

we know it — financial, institutional, and philosophical — is no longer fit for purpose. Philanthropy sits at a crossroads: adapt on its own terms, or become irrelevant on someone else's. The cracks are foundational. Donor logic is shrinking while social complexity is expanding. Partnerships are often transactional, designed to manage noise, not mobilize systems. The public sector is overburdened, private capital is self-preserving, and philanthropic capital is increasingly unsure whether it is a risk-taker or a reputational custodian. The 5P Framework will be interrogated as elements of an ecosystem that must be restructured, not simply harmonized. Each space has its own incentives, timelines, and boundaries of accountability. And yet — unless restructured — they remain locked in fragmentation. This session asks: Can we still call it a system when it doesn't cohere? Can we call it responsive when it fails to regenerate trust? This day begins with a proposition: that the legitimacy of philanthropy will not be secured by what it funds, but by how courageously it is willing to reimagine the conditions under which it exists.

LEADS:

Briggs Bomba, Director of Programs, TrustAfrica | Mendi Njonjo, Director, KCB Foundation | Margaret Mliwa, Regional Director, Office of Eastern Africa, Ford Foundation | Houghton Irungu, Executive Director for Amnesty International Kenya

10:30 AM -11:00 AM

Health Break

This is a moment to recalibrate both focus and energy. It offers space to let the morning's insights settle while creating room for informal exchange and quiet reflection. Even systems thinking needs a breath between beats. 11:00 AM -13:00 PM

DEEPER ECOSYSTEM INTERROGATIONS WORKSTREAM 1

Aid Retrenchment & Shifting Global Priorities: When the Money Moves, Who Moves with it?

This session confronts the shrinking footprint of traditional development capital. The implications for Africa are profound. The default logic of grant-funded stability is collapsing under the weight of its own fragility. What's emerging in its place is a philosophical vacuum, not a funding gap. What happens when aid no longer leads the agenda? Who decides what fills that void – domestic capital, private equity, or politically aligned philanthropy? And are we architecting new financing models, or simply shifting power from one elite to another? This session dissects the geopolitics of cutback, interrogates the legitimacy crisis in global giving, and asks what it means to design financial sovereignty in a post-aid paradigm.

LEADS:

CivSource-Africa | Foundation for Civil Society | Kenya Community Development Foundation

WORKSTREAM 2

From Control to Co-Creation: Building Legitimacy Through Trust, Community Power, and Shared Resources

Trust is no longer a currency that institutions can assume; it must be earned, demonstrated, and continually renewed. Across the philanthropic and development sectors, legacy institutions face an erosion of credibility, relevance, and proximity to the communities they claim to serve. This session interrogates the deeper anatomy of institutional friction: the persistence of outdated structures, the exclusion of local actors from decision-making power, and the symbolic rather than structural forms of accountability that now dominate. We will explore whether some institutions are more invested in preserving legacy than catalyzing transformation and what this tension reveals about the shifting demands for legitimacy. Central to this conversation is the localization question—not as a rhetorical commitment but as a systemic restructuring of where influence, capital, and voice reside. True localization challenges institutions to reimagine governance models, financing practices, and relational dynamics to center local sovereignty rather than external validation. Institutional relevance will not be secured through form alone if resilience is the new legitimacy. It will require a fundamental reimagining of function, culture, and the relational logic by which institutions engage with the ecosystems they claim to support.

LEADS:

West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) | Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) | Global Giving

WORKSTREAM 3

Data, Metrics & Impact Narratives: Who Gets to Count What Counts?

For decades, philanthropy has outsourced legitimacy to the language of metrics. However, as systems become more complex, the data designed to simplify them distorts those systems. Who defines what success looks like? Who is included in measurement — and who is left invisible by design? This session explores how dominant evaluation models continue to support top-down power, disregard lived expertise, and favor globally dominant frameworks over contextually rooted wisdom. How can measurement evolve to honor depth over scale, dignity over efficiency, and transformation over optics? And what would it take to build a new impact infrastructure that is participatory and unapologetically rooted in the local context? This is a call to reclaim who holds the pen that writes the story of progress.

LEADS:

Humentum | EPIC Africa | Imaginable Futures | Usawa Agenda

13:00 PM -14:00 PM

LUNCH

A shared table softens strategy and deepens relationships. This lunch offers a moment to expand the conversation, forge unexpected connections, and let insights mature through dialogue beyond the stage.

14:00 PM -16:00 PM

CO-CREATION LABS

Building directly from the insights, tensions, and provocations surfaced in the day's plenary and workstreams, these labs will offer structured design spaces where participants move from insight to invention. Each lab will focus on generating bold, testable responses to the systemic challenges identified earlier, blending practical experimentation with strategic imagination.

Lab 1:

Decommissioning What No Longer Works – Making Room for What Must Emerge

As the plenary surfaces sectoral stagnation and the interrogations lay bare outdated architectures, this lab becomes the space for design. Participants will identify one structural habit, mechanism, or practice that no longer enables relevance, and co-develop bold, testable replacements. Whether phasing out donor-led reporting regimes, reinventing how power flows through consortia, or retiring outdated funding pipelines, the lab will produce a "Transition Deck" – a mapped framework of legacy elements to sunset and the new leverage tools to take their place. What must be dismantled for the system to evolve? And what infrastructure must rise in its place?

LEADS:

Moving Minds Alliance |Urgent Action Fund-Africa | Disability Rights Fund | Uganda National Trans Forum

Lab 2:

Designing Resilient Institutions for Systemic Disruption

Every institution says it's resilient, until disruption calls its bluff. This lab begins with a shared premise: fragility isn't just external – it is operational, cultural, and strategic. Together, participants will interrogate what makes an institution resilient not in theory, but in practice. Drawing from the morning's exploration of trust erosion and legitimacy gaps, this lab surfaces the deep interior redesign needed to create institutions capable of absorbing shock while staying grounded in mission. We'll prototype blueprints for structural resilience: from governance recalibration and adaptive capital models to cultural retooling and relational accountability. Each participant will build a "Resilience Framework" customized to their context, balancing the technical with the political – and naming the core shifts needed to move from survival logic to sovereign readiness.

LEADS:

BK Foundation | Realtime Insights | Stir Education | Mama Hope

Lab 3:

Rewriting the Rules of Impact – Building a Measurement System That Liberates

After confronting the extractive nature of traditional metrics, this lab picks up the pen: who gets to write the story of progress? Participants will challenge the logic of scale-for-scale's sake, interrogate the violence of technocratic indicators, and co-create a regenerative measurement framework that repositions impact as transformation, not just deliverables. The session will explore participatory evaluation, narrative sovereignty, and context-anchored learning systems that reflect the wisdom of those most affected. We'll build a "Liberatory Measurement Compass" – a prototype model that can guide institutions in assessing progress through dignity, depth, and decentralization. Because when metrics become tools of control, impact is domesticated. But when measurement is reclaimed, learning becomes liberation.

LEADS:

Development Dynamics | MoFund Africa | Evidence & Methods Lab | Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship 16:00 PM -16:45 PM

Systems Checkpoint: Gaps, Patterns & Strategic Possibilities

This session pulls the whole system into one reflective frame. From the provocation of the morning plenary to the granular interrogation of outdated practices, participants will synthesize what the day has revealed about the architecture we've inherited and the ruptures we can no longer ignore. What are the critical tensions that surfaced across rooms? What legacy systems are holding us back? And what signals of adaptation are beginning to emerge? Beyond reflection, this session initiates an asset-mapping lens: what knowledge, networks, and institutional capital already exist within this convening, and how might they be leveraged to begin responding to the very challenges we've named?

16:45 PM -18:00 PM:

Coffee & Curated Networking

This will be a relaxed window for informal dialogue, reconnection, and relationship building. Whether deepening ideas from the day or sparking new alliances, participants will have space to engage intentionally with peers across the ecosystem.

18:00 PM -19:00 PM:

The Visionary Dialogue: Aid Disruption, Institutional Awakening & the Sovereignty Horizon

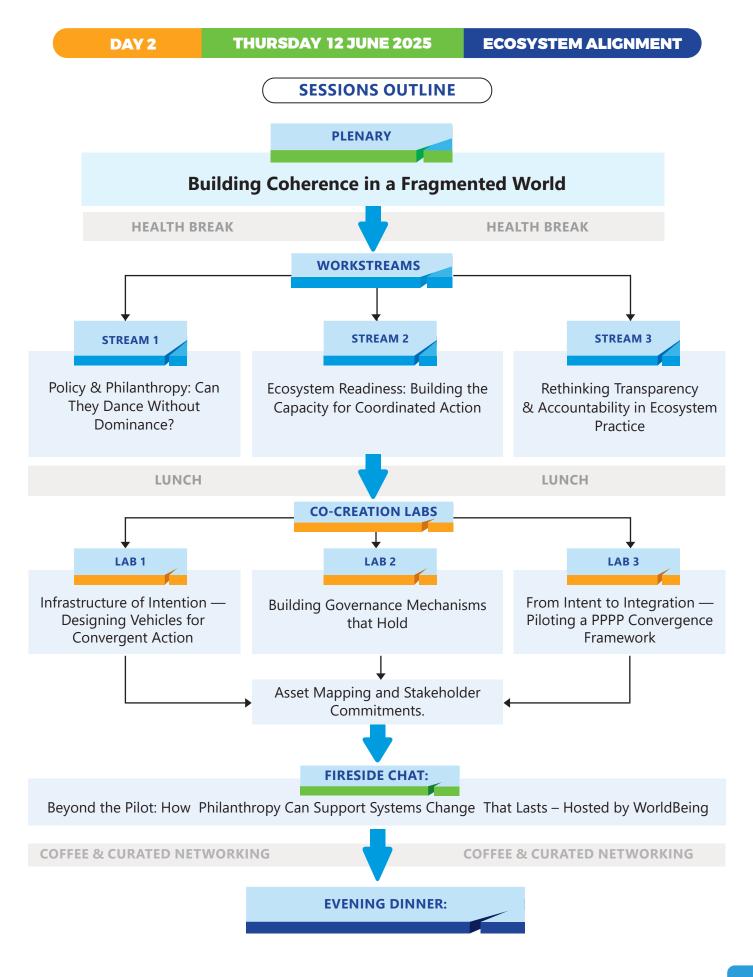
As the architecture of aid trembles under shifting geopolitics, we must ask: What forms of vision, agency, and authorship did we defer in its shadow? This is not a session on aid withdrawal but a return to intellectual sovereignty. A moment to unearth what was muted by dependency, and to surface the institutional capacities long buried under conditional generosity. This dialogue invites us to reimagine disrupted flows not as loss, but as leverage — to rewire power, restore strategic imagination, and articulate new compacts. What does sovereignty demand when safety nets dissolve — and how do we build institutions rooted deeply in place, yet resonant across the globe?

Provocateur-in-Residence - Brian Kagoro - Open Society Foundations

19:30 PM -21:00 PM:

Dinner & Strategic Socials

This evening gathering will blend good food with generative conversation. Set in an informal atmosphere, it will offer room for reflection, celebration, and cross-sector connection as the first day of convening winds down. 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference



12 June 2025 THURSDAY

Ecosystem Alignment

DAY 2

This day asks: What might coherence look like in a system designed around divergence? For decades, development actors – government, philanthropy, private sector, civil society – have danced around one another, often naming "partnership" while avoiding shared risk, shared decision-making, or shared design. The result? Parallel efforts dressed up as collaboration. Duplication masked as momentum. Trust reduced to compliance. Yet in an age of compounding disruption, convergence is an observed necessity.

This day explores what it would take to move from friction to functional alignment – not just across sectors, but across values, time horizons, and accountability structures. What does it mean for philanthropic capital to integrate into national development plans without being absorbed by bureaucracy? Can private capital align with social priorities without sanitizing impact? Can governments trust actors who have long operated outside their policy frameworks? More critically, what new coordination, governance, and power-sharing models are needed to avoid reproducing fragmentation in the name of reform? We will surface bold experiments and sobering failures because coherence must be designed, tested, and protected.

7:45 AM _ 8:30 AM	Registration & Settling In Delegates arrive, settle into the day's pace, reconnect with peers, and prepare to engage
8:30 AM - 8:50 AM	Welcome & Framing Remarks A welcome to anchor the day's focus. A strategic invocation to highlight why alignment has become mission-critical and what institutional posture is needed to move from polite partnership to functional synergy.
8:50 AM _ 9:10 AM	Keynote Address:A high-level address to provoke clarity of purpose. The speaker will reflect on the political, financial, and operational implications of systemic misalignment—and invite the room to imagine what philanthropy might enable when it is coherent with state, society, and economy.Speaker: Mamadou Biteye OBE, Executive Secretary, The African Capacity Building Foundation

9:10 AM -10:30 AM

PLENARY SESSION:

Building Coherence in a Fragmented World

Alignment is the missing infrastructure. In today's fractured development ecosystem, actors speak the language of collaboration while protecting territorial mandates. What results are not synergy but static: philanthropy working besides, not with, government policy operating without philanthropic intelligence, and private sector capital

flowing parallel to social need. This plenary confronts the **discipline of alignment** head-on. What systems, incentives, and values must shift to ensure assets don't just co-exist but converge? We'll examine the **critical enabling conditions for functional synergy:** political will that tolerates shared authority, regulatory frameworks that permit co-creation, and community-led models that ground strategy in legitimacy. Without these, coordination remains performative. They make alignment possible – not perfect, but principled, intentional, and structurally embedded. This session asks not whether alignment is desirable, but whether we are institutionally mature enough to withstand its demands.

LEADS:

Nadia Kist, Co-Executive Director, Blood:Water | Kennedy Mugochi, Regional Director - East Africa, Hivos | Dr. Tendai Murisa, Executive Director, Sivio Institute | Shaun Samuels, Managing Director, SGS Consulting

10:30 AM

Health Break

11:00 AM

This pause is designed to support integration; step back, process emerging ideas, and reconnect before diving forward

11:00 AM -13:00 PM

DEEPER SYSTEM INTERROGATIONS

WORKSTREAM 1 Policy & Philanthropy: Can They Dance Without Dominance?

Philanthropy often idealizes collaboration with government—until it meets the rigid boundaries of bureaucratic mistrust, unclear

mandates, and incompatible timelines. At the same time, public institutions remain skeptical of philanthropic influence and wary of private capital steering public agendas. This session interrogates the mechanics of policy-philanthropy alignment: where it succeeds, fractures, and what it would take to move beyond symbolic MoUs into real regulatory coherence. We'll explore cross-border policy harmonization, examine emerging governance frameworks that allow for joint planning, and ask how philanthropic institutions can be legitimate contributors to national development plans, not shadow funders or external agitators. Alignment must be institutional, not interpersonal. It must be codified through a policy acknowledging power, defining roles, and enabling reciprocity without capture.

LEADS:

Amnesty International, Kenya | Southern Africa Trust | Foundation for Civil Society | The Institute for Social Accountability Kenya|Pollicy | Foundation for Civil Society

WORKSTREAM 2

Rethinking Transparency & Accountability in Ecosystem Practice

Most partnerships are built on optics; few are built on trust. Yet without radical transparency and authentic accountability, the foundation needed to unlock and sustain domestic capital remains fragile. This session explores how transparency and trust are ethical imperatives and strategic levers for local resource mobilization and financial sovereignty. From community-led funding consortia to cross-sector coalitions grounded in accountability, we examine how governance must be restructured to co-hold power, co-validate legitimacy, and catalyze trust among local funders, institutions, and communities. How can governance be co-owned across sectors? What does ethical accountability look like when power is unequal but mutual commitment is non-negotiable? And how do we shift from consulting communities to contracting them as full co-architects of impact and investment? We'll examine mechanisms for transparent resource flows, participatory grantmaking, and shared governance as design imperatives – because without trust, alignment is fiction, and without transparency, domestic capital remains hesitant.

LEADS:

Strategic Issues & Research Council | TuiFUND | Uganda NGO Forum | Wacu Mwenja & Co Advocates

WORKSTREAM 3:

Ecosystem Readiness: Building the Capacity for Coordinated Action

Philanthropy often positions itself as catalytic, yet it rarely develops the ecosystem capacity needed to sustain structural change. This session asks: What is the proper economic role of philanthropy, and what capacity must exist across the system to fulfill it? We'll identify systemic capability gaps across government, the private sector, and community institutions – from policy literacy to financial engineering to adaptive governance. We'll explore what it takes to move from isolated pilot projects to scalable, cross-sector transformation. How do we embed technical knowledge where it's lacking, redistribute expertise where it's hoarded, and create shared infrastructure for continuous learning? We must invest in ecosystem readiness.

LEADS:

The END Fund | KCB Foundation | ForumCiV | The Wellspring Foundation | Development Dynamics

13:00 PM -14:00 PM

Lunch & Networking

Coherence is often built in the margins. This lunch invites participants to reflect on the morning's tensions, exchange ideas across sectors, and feed the body and the network. Consider this a continuation of alignment, served informally.

14:00 PM -16:00 PM

CO-CREATION LABS

Lab 1:

Infrastructure of Intention – Designing Vehicles for Convergent Action

Drawing from the sector's frustration with irregular coordination and fragmented follow-through, this lab interrogates one key constraint: the absence of shared vehicles. Ideas exist. Commitment

exists. However, convergence remains rhetorical without institutional vessels to carry priorities across timelines, mandates, and accountability layers. This lab moves from aspiration to architecture, asking: What new institutional forms – cross-sector compacts, independent-backed giving platforms, catalytic convenings, or inter-agency councils – must be adopted to enable continuity? Participants will identify design elements of high-functioning coordination mechanisms and map how trust, financing, and decision-making can be co-held without hierarchy. The output will be working presentations for cross-sector "alignment vessels" – mechanisms built to translate intent into infrastructure and dialogue into durable execution.

LEADS:

Visionspring International | Oxfam International, Kenya | Next Step Foundation | Women Fund Tanzania Trust

Lab 2:

Building Governance Mechanisms that Hold

Alignment fails when governance is either symbolic or siloed. This lab begins by asking: if trust is the missing infrastructure in cross-sector work, how might we build it structurally, not just relationally? Participants will co-create foundational elements of governance architecture that can hold multi-actor coordination, from joint decision-making protocols and transparency clauses to accountability compacts and escalation frameworks. Drawing lessons from coalition failures and breakthrough partnerships, the session surfaces the minimum design conditions needed for trust to be earned and sustained: clarity of mandate, legitimacy of voice, and durability of process. The outcome will be a blueprint that institutions across sectors can adapt to structure cooperation, prevent drift, and embed credibility into shared mandates. Without co-created governance, trust becomes aspirational. And without structures that hold, even the most principled partnerships collapse under their own rhetoric.

LEADS:

Zizi Afrique Foundation | Global Grassroots Support Network | Safaricom Foundation

Lab 3:

From Intent to Integration – Piloting a PPPP Convergence Framework

Drawing from ecosystem capacity gaps and the shared frustration with fragmented implementation, this lab surfaces a collective opportunity: to pilot the Public-Private-Philanthropy Partnership Framework for East Africa. This is envisioned as a foundational infrastructure for cross-sector governance that enables coordination across ministries, funders, implementers, and community actors with structural integrity. Participants will interrogate its logic, refine its components, and pressure-test its applicability across diverse country contexts. Key co-creation areas will include institutional thresholds for participation, mechanisms for pooled resourcing, and governance anchors that ensure community legitimacy and political durability. By the close session, the group will have advanced a model that could become

the region's first adaptive, multi-stakeholder framework for development alignment, designed as a living operating system.

LEADS:

ForumCiv | Development Dynamics | BK Foundation | Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGS | Basic Needs Basic Rights Kenya

16:00 PM -16:45 PM

Coherence in Practice: Where Alignment Is Possible – and Where It's Not

This session zooms out from the day's sessions to consider the whole system in motion. What was uncovered across policy, trust, and institutional capacity? Where are the coordination failures still most entrenched? More importantly, where is alignment taking form, and what's enabling it? Participants will work together to spotlight

alignment gaps, surface practical pathways for multi-actor coherence, and identify which assets present in the room – political will, catalytic finance, cross-sector platforms – can be activated beyond this convening. This is where convergence becomes a practical and not a rhetorical ambition.

Coffee & Curated Networking

16:45 PM -18:00 PM This segment invites participants into structured yet relaxed engagement. Guided prompts and thematic corners will encourage peer exchange across institutional divides, focusing on translating dialogue into collaborative potential. Thoughtful design will ensure inclusion, intention, and inspiration.

17:00 PM -18:00 PM:

Fireside Chat: Beyond the Pilot: How Philanthropy Can Support Systems Change That Lasts

Too much of philanthropy's legacy has been built on isolated excellence–pilots that spark inspiration but rarely shift architecture. In a moment defined by compounding crises and generational

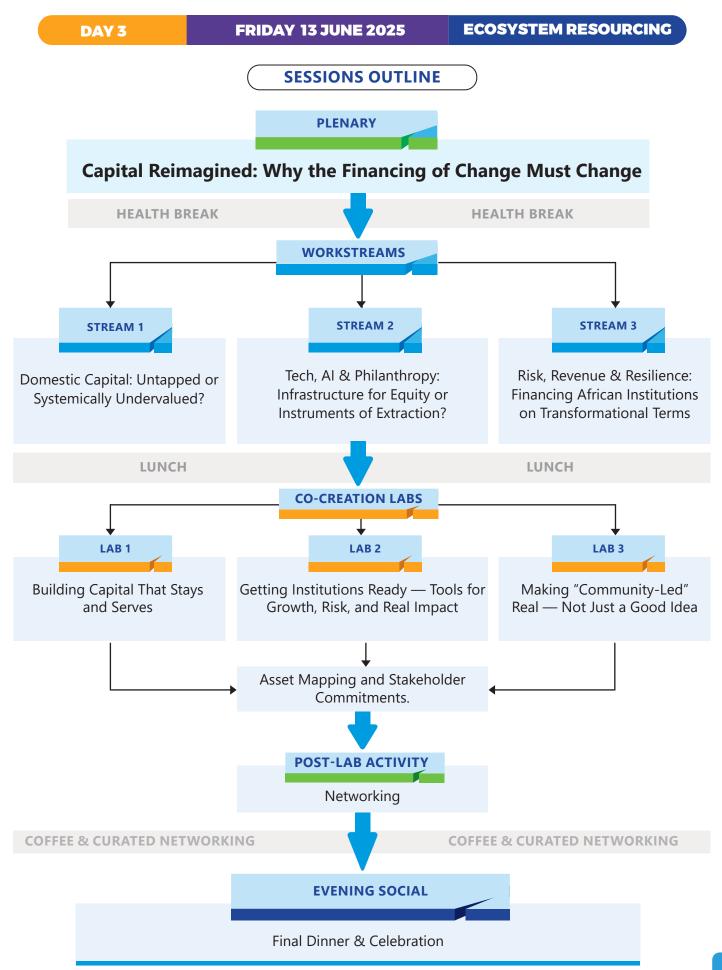
urgency, the sector must move beyond funding what works in isolation to embedding what lasts in public systems. This dialogue interrogates a central question: What does it take to build public systems that do not borrow success—but institutionalize it? Through the lens of WorldBeing's pioneering work integrating mental health into national education systems in East Africa, we will explore the deeper anatomy of sustainable systems change: alignment with government, trust-based partnerships, locallyrooted models, and philanthropic capital that is as patient as it is bold.

Host: WorldBeing

19:30 PM -21:00 PM

Dinner & Strategic Socials

As conversations deepen and familiarity grows, this evening will offer space for informal yet catalytic interactions. Shared meals have long been catalysts of trust, and this one is curated to surface the crosssector imagination, partnership seeds, and leadership clarity that tomorrow's systems will require. 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference



13 June 2025 FRIDAY

DAY 3

Ecosystem Resourcing

Philanthropy has long positioned itself as the great enabler, deploying capital to solve society's most complex challenges. But the question now is not how much capital flows, but how and why it flows the way it does. Too often, resourcing decisions mimic colonial patterns: risk is socialised, control is centralised, and power remains upstream. Capital becomes timid. Investment cycles are too short for systems change, and liquidity rarely meets the pace of urgency. Meanwhile, those obsessed with formal markets and imported models quietly overlook informal, faith-based, community-rooted domestic capital. It is time to unlearn this architecture.

Day 3 calls for the bold re-engineering of philanthropy's resource logic. What would it take to centre local capital not just as filler, but as a first mover? To normalize risk-sharing rather than risk-passing? To shift from fragmented grant cycles to long-term economic empowerment? We will examine how to move from charity to capital infrastructure — from funding programs to funding power. We'll interrogate the promises of Al, blockchain, and fintech, and ask: Are they democratizing giving or simply making exclusion more efficient? We'll ask if social enterprises truly redistribute wealth or reinforce extractive models in new clothes. We will provoke a collective redesign of how philanthropy moves money, transfers risk, and builds economic sovereignty, so that our resource strategies match the scale of the transformation we seek.

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	Registration & Settling In Delegates reconvene for the final day, entering with reflections from prior sessions and anticipation for what lies ahead. This window allows for logistically and intellectually reorientation as participants ground themselves in the day's core theme: capital, its flows, logic, and power.
8:30 AM _ 8:50 AM	Welcome & Framing Remarks These opening remarks will sharpen the focus for Day 3, setting the tone for honest inquiry into how capital is mobilized, structured, and governed in the philanthropic ecosystem. The framing will challenge participants to examine their institutions' role in either reproducing fragility or enabling financial sovereignty, and to imagine capital as a tool of systems change, not charity.
8:50 AM _ 9:10 AM	Keynote Address This keynote will interrogate the prevailing architecture of resource mobilization. It will surface the risks of financial orthodoxy and the missed potential of underutilized domestic capital with urgency and nuance. The provocation will be apparent: philanthropy must move from transactional giving to revolutionary resourcing, where strategy, not sentiment, drives how and where money moves.
	Peter Laugharn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation



PLENARY SESSION: Capital Reimagined: Why the Financing of Change Must Change

The problem is not just underfunding - it's the architecture of how capital flows, what it prioritizes, and whom it protects. This plenary reframes the conversation around money from quantity to quality, accountability, and design. In a world where risk is passed downstream,

liquidity arrives too late, and domestic capital is sidelined as informal or ungovernable, we must ask: What kind of financing architecture can deliver systems change? Philanthropy, development finance, and private capital operate within paradigms built for containment, not transformation, favoring shortterm deliverables over long-term sovereignty. Meanwhile, financial models that center community control, adaptive timelines, and cross-sector solidarity remain underfunded or excluded.

This session challenges the ecosystem to evolve – from capital that funds projects to capital that builds institutional and economic power. It asks what it will take to redesign financing systems that fit for the purpose and the future. We will surface emergent practices in revenue generation, digital accountability, and domestic capital activation, and explore whether the sector is ready to finance activity and agency.

LEADS:

Henrietta Bankole, Vice President Africa, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors | Samuel Mugacha, Lead Programme Manager, Imaginable Futures | Richard Johnson, CEO, Healthy Brains Global Initiative | Dr. Stigmata Tenga, Executive Director, African Philanthropy Network | Christopher Harrison, Executive Chairman, The Next Step Foundation

10:30 AM

11:00 AM

Health Break

This break invites restoration. As we push toward resource reinvention and systems-level solutions, it offers space to recharge, ground, and prepare for the final stretch of work that still lies ahead.

11:00 AM -13:00 PM

DEEPER ECOSYSTEM INTERROGATIONS WORKSTREAM 1:

Domestic Capital: Untapped or Systemically Undervalued?

Africa moves billions annually through homegrown capital systems – from diaspora remittances and SACCOs, to faith-based giving, high-net-worth philanthropy, rotating savings groups, community

cooperatives, local investment clubs, etc. Yet these channels remain structurally undervalued, excluded from national financing strategies and donor logic. Why? Because they are often illegible to formal institutions, and therefore dismissed as peripheral, unreliable, or too difficult to regulate. This session interrogates that erasure, not as oversight, but as embedded bias within the architecture of aid and philanthropy. It questions why donor frameworks still privilege foreign capital flows over indigenous financial ecosystems, even as the latter demonstrate greater reach, resilience, and rooted legitimacy. We will surface models where local capital has not only filled institutional gaps but has outperformed formal mechanisms in speed, trust, and adaptability. The conversation will explore how to elevate domestic capital from an emergency buffer to a central feature of development finance. Because a system that excludes its own financial backbone cannot credibly claim to build sovereignty.

LEADS:

African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) | Safaricom Foundation | Axum Earth | SDG Partnerships Platform

WORKSTREAM 2:

Tech, AI & Philanthropy: Infrastructure for Equity or Instruments of Extraction?

Technology shapes how capital is moved, measured, and justified – but for whom is this intelligence standardized? In the rush toward Al-driven grantmaking, algorithmic evaluation, and blockchainenabled transparency, philanthropy risks reproducing the same orders it claims to dismantle. This session examines the hidden biases in digital infrastructure: whose data counts, whose expertise is collected, and what is lost in translation. It alarms how tech, often imported, elite-engineered, and externally governed, can displace local practice under the guise of "innovation." Yet beyond critique, we ask: how can philanthropy move from adapting to Al to strategically shaping it? None of the dominant digital tools have been designed with philanthropic equity missions at their core. What would it mean to actively feed into, govern, and set ethical standards for Al systems that impact philanthropy's future? Participants will unpack emerging models of digital accountability, interrogate the myth of neutrality in Al, and explore philanthropy's potential to co-create an alternative digital infrastructure that serves justice, not just innovation. Because in the absence of deliberate positioning, even the most promising technologies become instruments of capture rather than vehicles of liberation.

LEADS:

Jackfruit Finance | Epic Africa | Development Gateway | Jubapay | Gertrudes Foundation

WORKSTREAM 3:

Risk, Revenue & Resilience: Financing African Institutions on Transformational Terms

Philanthropy continues to cycle through a paradox it rarely names: it champions sustainability but structurally resists institution-building. African civil society remains trapped in a survival economy – overaudited, under-capitalized, and locked in short-term grants designed more for reporting than for results. This session challenges that reason head-on. It unpacks how philanthropy has normalized fragility by refusing to fund core operations, shying away from risk, and treating revenue generation as a deviation from "mission." Yet if we are serious about shifting power, economic resilience is non-negotiable. We'll examine bold models of adaptive financing – catalytic capital, mission-tied investments, programmatic endowments – and how to build institutional readiness to operate and own. Because no transformation is possible if the engines of change are kept structurally underfunded.

LEADS:

The Risk Collaborative | Open Briefing | PEAS Uganda | Idyllic Homes | East Africa Business and Investment Advisory Council

Lunch & Networking

This pause is for reconnection as we explore how capital flows and power shift. It's a space to ground, reflect, and build energy for the final movements of the convening

CO-CREATION LABS

Lab 1:

Building Capital That Stays and Serves

This lab offers a strategic recalibration of how capital is designed, deployed, and governed across the ecosystem. Participants will dissect the barriers preventing capital from staying long enough or serving deeply enough, starting with a clear-eyed reflection on legacy financing models, where short cycles,

rigid compliance, and donor-driven priorities dominate. We'll then surface emerging innovations in local, blended, and catalytic finance – from pooled community-led vehicles to performance-linked instruments and layered capital models that combine public, private, and philanthropic resources. Finally, the lab will look ahead: what infrastructure, risk-sharing logic, and accountability metrics are required to make capital move, but compound value – social, economic, and institutional – over time?

LEADS:

GivingTuesday Africa | The Resource Alliance | Elzeever & Company | KPMG East Africa

Lab 2: Getting Institutions Ready – Tools for Growth, Risk, and Real Impact

Bold strategy needs strong institutions – but too many are asked to drive transformation while running on fumes. This lab is for those redesigning their own operational backbone. Participants will interrogate the internal gaps that stall scale: from finance model fragility and leadership succession to poor board accountability and an overreliance on donor cycles. Together, we'll prototype tools that grow institutional strength: new governance setups, blended revenue strategies, reserve fund frameworks, and leadership transitions that prioritize mission durability. This is about building organizations that can absorb risk, own their future, and lead without crumbling.

LEADS:

Revolutionise International | Galvanizing Africa | Firelight Foundation | Philanthropy Advisors

Lab 3:

There is an Elephant in the Room

We are calling you to a radically imaginative space for a candid conversation on the future of resourcing. The recent and ongoing exits of international funders feels like the COVID-19 effect happening all over again. Funders pulling out and movements returning to what they have always known: each other. Mutual aid. Local money. A collective desire to build a different kind of system rooted in self-reliance. The challenge now is to ensure that this return to local resourcefulness isn't binned at the first scent of foreign aid, and that growing local money can exist alongside growing international money. Or that sustainability, community-led resourcing is not treated as something "cute" and abstract. But there is an elephant in the room. Come help us name it.

LEADS:

Hivos East Africa | Global Fund for Community Foundations | Femme Forte Uganda | Trust Africa

16:00 PM -16:45 PM

Shared Ground, Shared Commitments

This final synthesis moves from learning to leadership. It draws together the week's reflections – across the flow of capital, institutional readiness, and community-driven legitimacy – and invites each participant to name what they can contribute to what must now be built. What capital, data, infrastructure, or partnerships already exist within the room? What will it take to align them around shared priorities? Participants will surface concrete commitments: grounded next steps tied to assets, mandates, and institutional capacity. This is the first page of what comes after – the shift from convening to co-creation.

16:45 PM -17:00 PM

Closing Ceremony

This ceremonial close marks the official conclusion of the 9th East Africa Philanthropy Conference. It will honor the collective energy, strategic courage, and intellectual labor poured into the convening and offer final reflections for the future.

17:00 PM -18:00 PM

Networking Hour

This open, curated space allows delegates to reconnect, exchange contacts, and deepen post-session conversations. Whether forging cross-border alliances or planting the seeds of future collaborations, this final networking hour ensures no connection is left incomplete.

19:00 PM -21:00 PM

Final Dinner & Celebration

The final evening brings the community together for shared reflection, celebration, and rest. As music, food, and laughter create a lighter tone, we honor the spirit of solidarity and collective ambition that has defined the past three days. This is not just a dinner but a reaffirmation of why we gather.

DAY 4

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

14 June 2025 SATURDAY

9:00 AM - 13:00 PM

The Coalition Behind the Conversation

At a time when quick wins dominate, these institutions chose to invest in depth, dialogue, and collective intelligence. Their stewardship helped birth this space for reflection, resistance, and redesign.

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation has long positioned itself as a global architect of social justice, embedding its grantmaking and convening power within the movements it seeks to amplify. Ford's work transcends traditional philanthropy in Africa—it is a structural partner in reimagining governance, rebalancing power, and advancing equity. From strengthening civic infrastructure to supporting intersectional feminist organizing and fiscal justice movements, Ford's investments are anchored in trust-based philanthropy and long-term solidarity. It continues to challenge dominant paradigms by advocating for participatory governance, inclusive economies, and a redefinition of accountability as relational, not just transactional. In a world marked by democratic fragility and rising inequality, Ford Foundation remains steadfast in resourcing imagination, dissent, and systems repair.



With over nine decades of legacy, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is a cornerstone institution in the architecture of global philanthropy. Its approach transcends traditional funding: it sees communities not as recipients, but as codesigners of change. In Africa and beyond, Mott's work in community foundations, civic space, and inclusive economic development has helped reimagine how local philanthropy ecosystems can thrive – structurally, not symbolically. Mott is one of the few funders committed to building platforms enabling community resource mobilization and self-determination. Through support for local giving, rights-based governance, and trust-based models, it is advancing a new paradigm where capital is redistributed and recoded to reflect community values and sovereignty.



The Open Society Foundations (OSF) is a movement architect. With a mandate to advance justice, human rights, and open societies, OSF has reshaped what bold, unapologetic philanthropy looks like in a multipolar world. In East Africa, OSF's presence is deeply rooted in political imagination: supporting movements that resist oppression, protect civic space, and build democratic institutions from the grassroots up. But beyond rights protection, OSF now rethinks philanthropic infrastructure – investing in narrative power, local governance, and cross-border solidarity as pillars of a reimagined development order. Its strategy reflects a shift from transactional giving to structural accompaniment, where philanthropy is an ally in struggle, not a patron of progress.



Civing for Change is an influential collective that refuses to see communities as beneficiaries and instead sees them as the primary agents of change. Anchored by a global consortium of partners and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the program challenges the conventional aid logic by centering community philanthropy, shifting power to the grassroots, and advancing participatory governance. Across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, Giving for Change supports the emergence of local giving cultures, civic accountability, and co-owned development. It is not just a funding initiative but a systemic intervention in how legitimacy, power, and resources move. By privileging trust, storytelling, and community-driven solutions, Giving for Change builds movements and a new grammar for what development can become.



The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is one of the world's most strategically grounded philanthropic institutions, combining deep compassion with catalytic systems thinking. With a focus on vulnerable populations, from youth and refugees to people with disabilities, the Foundation exemplifies long-view investment that centers dignity, inclusion, and community voice. In Africa, the Hilton Foundation

FOUNEDATION

Small Foundation is a catalytic actor in Africa's inclusive economic transformation, working at the nexus of entrepreneurship, capital access, and systemic change. With a singular focus on supporting early-stage business ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa, the foundation brings strategic patience, network intelligence, and a field-building ethos to its partnerships. Unlike conventional funders, Small Foundation does not chase scale

anchors its work in localization, not as a trend but as a governance principle, supporting local actors to lead transformative change within their systems. Whether in early childhood development, safe water access, or youth opportunity, the Foundation is not merely a funder but an enabler of locally defined futures. Through patient capital, ecosystem-building, and a commitment to accountability with humility, it continues demonstrating what it means to fund with purpose, proximity, and permanence.

for its own sake — it invests in the infrastructure of resilience: intermediaries, knowledge platforms, and institutions that enable entrepreneurs to thrive, even in frontier markets. Its commitment to ecosystem density, rather than fragmentation, allows it to co-create sustainable pathways where capital, capabilities, and context are aligned. By nurturing the connective tissue between investors, innovators, and enablers, Small Foundation is shaping a future where local enterprise isn't an exception to development, but its engine.

FOUNDATION

The KCB Foundation is a catalytic force in East Africa's development ecosystem, embedding philanthropy not as charity but as long-term economic empowerment. Rooted in the belief that sustainable transformation requires dignified livelihoods, the Foundation anchors its work in skills, enterprise, and inclusive finance. Its flagship 2jiajiri programme has redefined youth empowerment by integrating vocational training, access to capital, and ecosystem support into a single, regenerative model. KCB's philanthropic architecture is built for scale and system influence, creating pathways from informality to economic agency. In an era where development requires more than interventions, KCB Foundation exemplifies how financial institutions can structurally align with national aspirations and community resilience.

imaginable

Imaginable Futures operates at the intersection of learning, equity, and systemic change. As a global philanthropic investment firm and a venture of The Omidyar Group, it is committed to reimagining education not as a sector, but as a lever for human flourishing. In Africa, the organization takes a portfolio approach to addressing complex, intergenerational challenges—investing in early learning, youth livelihoods, and inclusive education financing. Imaginable Futures is not simply funding projects but designing the conditions under which all learners, especially those historically excluded, can thrive. Its model centers proximate leadership, catalyzes ecosystem resilience, and seeks to shift narratives from access alone to agency, dignity, and participation.



EPIC-Africa is one of the continent's most strategic ecosystem builders, creating the data, insights, and institutional support necessary for African civil society to thrive. In a landscape where philanthropic investments often lack transparency or context, EPIC-Africa fills a critical void—mapping who is funding what, where, and with what kind of impact. Tools like its African CSO Technology Use survey and transparency indices empower funders and grantees to move from fragmented initiatives to coherent strategies. Their work pushes the sector from anecdote to evidence, enabling local actors to access funding and influence its structure. EPIC-Africa isn't simply tracking philanthropic flows but interrogating their logic, legitimacy, and alignment with Africa's development ambitions.

Are we funding African civil society as effectively as we think?

The EPIC-Africa Funder Survey invites philanthropic actors to critically examine how they engage with African civil society organizations, surfacing data on funding flows, power dynamics, and institutional alignment. This survey allows funders to reflect on their practices, learn from others, and contribute to a continental evidence base to inform brighter, fairer, and more locally attuned resource strategies. Scan the QR code below to start the survey.





The END Fund is a catalytic philanthropy initiative working at the intersection of health equity, systems transformation, and local capacity. Focused on ending neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), the Fund mobilizes private capital, strengthens national health strategies, and channels resources to where they are most impactful, particularly in Africa. The END Fund's model is deeply collaborative, anchoring in-country leadership while enabling multisector partnerships that address the systemic roots of poverty and marginalization. Its approach represents a new frontier of health philanthropy that centers dignity, sustainability, and community agency as essential development infrastructure.



WorldBeing is a global nonprofit redefining the architecture of youth development by centering mental health as a systems-level imperative. Rather than treating wellbeing as a downstream intervention, WorldBeing embeds psychosocial support into the operating systems of education, shaping national curricula, influencing budget priorities, and training teachers as frontline caregivers. With active partnerships in Kenya, Rwanda, and India, the organization's model is anchored in three principles: government-led scale, community-informed design, and evidence-based impact. Their work demonstrates that mental health is not just a service—it is the connective tissue enabling better outcomes in education, gender equity, and economic empowerment. WorldBeing's presence at the East Africa Philanthropy Conference underscores a fundamental truth: well-being is foundational infrastructure for thriving systems in an age of intersecting crises.

Hivos people unlimited

Hivos is an international organization rooted in social justice, open societies, and sustainable futures. With a history of bold activism and local partnership, Hivos funds and amplifies community-driven solutions in civic rights, climate justice, gender inclusion, and economic equity. It brings a systems lens to development, understanding that progress demands funding programs and challenging the ideologies and power structures that restrict collective liberation. From advancing inclusive governance to reimagining energy transitions, Hivos shows what it means to pair innovation with accountability and global solidarity with local authorship.

C Foundation

The Bank of Kigali Foundation exemplifies the convergence of financial capital and social equity, serving as the philanthropic arm of Rwanda's largest financial institution. Through catalytic investments in education, entrepreneurship, and social infrastructure, the Foundation advances Rwanda's development agenda with intentional alignment to national priorities. Its work is grounded in recognizing that inclusive growth requires not only access to finance but systems of support that center dignity, opportunity, and long-term economic empowerment. From equipping youth with 21stcentury skills to enabling women-led enterprises, the Bank of Kigali Foundation demonstrates how corporate philanthropy, when embedded with purpose, can help reshape the scaffolding of social mobility.



Impact Investing Kenya is reconfiguring how capital connects to purpose by catalyzing a vibrant ecosystem for investments that deliver both financial returns and social impact. It serves as a national platform uniting investors, social enterprises, policymakers, and philanthropic actors to unlock the transformative potential of blended

FORUMCIV.

ForumCiv is a leading Swedish civil society organization that operates at the nexus of human rights, democratic governance, and sustainable development. Deeply committed to strengthening local ownership, ForumCiv works with grassroots actors to shift power, build civic infrastructure, and protect participatory democracy across the globe. finance. As aid models shift and domestic resource mobilization becomes paramount, Impact Investing Kenya supports the design of innovative vehicles that channel patient, mission-aligned capital into sectors that matter most—health, agriculture, education, and climate resilience. It is critical to build trust infrastructure, standardize impact metrics, and advance a new compact where capital enables systemic equity, not just scalable outputs.

In East Africa, its programming supports a broad ecosystem of civil society organizations, enabling capacity development, promoting gender justice, and advancing rights-based governance frameworks. ForumCiv's strategic focus on localization is not just thematic—it is structural. ForumCiv underscores that resilient development must be authored by those closest to its consequences by redistributing decision-making, fostering movement-led advocacy, and amplifying marginalized voices.



The African Philanthropy Network is the continental voice advancing the legitimacy, visibility, and influence of African-led giving. As a convener of over 100 member institutions, APN provides more than just a platform—it is an ideological movement reclaiming philanthropy as a tool of self-determination. APN resists the narrative that

philanthropy must be imported through advocacy, movement-building, and knowledge generation. Instead, it centers collective agency, community wisdom, and solidarity-based resourcing. APN's policy positions on localization, unrestricted giving, and trust-based approaches continue to shape donor behavior and recipient power. APN is a political proposition, more than a network: African philanthropy is not only real—it is radical, strategic, and indispensable.



The Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) at Wits Business School is the continent's premier knowledge engine for understanding and reimagining African philanthropy. At the nexus of policy, scholarship, and practice, CAPSI anchors philanthropy in indigenous wisdom, lived experience, and structural relevance. It challenges extractive paradigms by producing Africa-authored research, curating cross-continental dialogues, and shaping a curriculum that reflects the complexity of local systems. From designing frameworks for trust-based funding to convening continental forums on impact, CAPSI is cultivating a new generation of ecosystem stewards who measure legitimacy not by capital deployed but by transformation enabled. Its work is central to shifting philanthropy from transactional charity to institutional co-creation.



Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa) is a frontline responder, a protector of dignity, and a feminist political force. With a model rooted in rapid response, UAF-Africa disburses critical resources within days to women and genderdiverse activists facing risk, ensuring movements are not paused by crisis, but protected through it. But beyond the urgent, the fund is deeply strategic: investing in long-term infrastructure for feminist futures, supporting healing justice, and backing intersectional organizing from the grassroots up. UAF-Africa transforms philanthropy from passive observer to active accomplice in dismantling structural violence. Their theory of change is clear: when women and gender-diverse people are safe, resourced, and trusted, systems begin to shift—and societies reimagine what power can look like.



TrustAfrica is one of the continent's most respected independent foundations, shaping a future where African institutions lead, communities decide, and power is redistributed—not recycled. From civic engagement and tax justice to higher education reform and equitable climate finance, TrustAfrica intervenes at the root, not the symptoms, of inequality. What makes their work catalytic is not just what they fund, but how: aligning grants with movement strategies, centering continental priorities, and building infrastructure that outlasts the funding cycle. TrustAfrica believes that philanthropy should not only fund progress, but also help govern its direction. As a grantmaker, convenor, and thought partner, it remains a compass for what African-owned development can look like when capital aligns with sovereignty.

ROCKEFELLER Philanthropy Advisors

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is one of the world's foremost thought leaders and facilitators in philanthropic strategy. With deep expertise in systems change, impact investing, and trust-based giving, RPA serves as both advisor and steward to funders seeking bold, long-term solutions to global inequity. More than a service provider, RPA plays a structural role in shaping philanthropic practice, advocating for power-shifting philanthropy, robust civic engagement, and reimagined funding models that honor local agency. Their presence at this convening signals a commitment to co-creating a more accountable, relational, and reparative philanthropy ecosystem.



The Firelight Foundation is redefining how philanthropy supports grassroots power. With a firm belief in local leadership and generational transformation, Firelight funds and accompanies community-based organizations across Africa that build care, education, and protection systems for children and youth. More than a grantmaker, Firelight is an infrastructure builder — investing in institutions, not just interventions, and walking alongside partners to deepen impact. Its work exemplifies what it means to resource from below: with trust, patience, and a commitment to shifting narrative and structural power to local communities.



Development Dynamics (DD) is a premier pan-African Think Tank, Do Tank, and Through Tank committed to unlocking the next generation of innovation, investment, and impact across the continent. With a distinct capability to convene and catalyze actors across the social impact and development ecosystem, DD operates at the nexus of thought leadership and implementation, reimagining

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systems while advancing the instruments that shape them. DD works to reframe entrenched development paradigms, resolve complex intersectional challenges, and build new agency architectures across policy, philanthropy, and civic systems through deep partnerships with investors, investees, and intermediaries. Whether crafting new capital pathways or strengthening institutional intelligence, DD does not merely support projects – it activates purpose-driven ecosystems that are locally grounded, structurally agile, and globally resonant.

VENUE SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA

HIMMIN



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