

# SIVIO Connect Magazine

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UNVEILING THE HEART OF  
PHILANTHROPY

PHILANTHROPY

- ADVANCING EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
- GIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE
- THE AFRICA GIVING INITIATIVE

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## LETTER FROM THE CENTRE COORDINATOR

**SHELLY SATUKU**

Hello! My name is Shelly Satuku the Coordinator for the Centre for Philanthropy and Communities at SIVIO Institute. Welcome to our special issue on African Philanthropy. Our Centre for Philanthropy and Communities exists to foster philanthropy in its various forms across Africa. Our work initially focused on Zimbabwe, but we have since lunged into the region. We dream big, we dare to see the rise and expansion of African development enshrined in the concepts of African philanthropy. This year we are focusing on our “Big Bet”, casting the spotlight on engaged communities. We seek to enhance what people are doing within their communities. We also reflect on the work we have done to harness community philanthropy in Zimbabwe. As a think tank, we believe in evidence-based approaches to advocacy, based on sound research. We believe data always tells the story. Our research to understand community philanthropy from the community foundations lenses proved so. Our book on Community Foundations of Zimbabwe, unpacked some of the tremendous work community foundations do as well as highlighting their challenges.

The work in our centre seeks to address increasing poverty and inequality, limited coherence of policies across the philanthropy sector, and the challenge of increased dependency on external resources with limited leveraging of local resources. We have done this by leveraging technology and creating a digital giving platform, generating knowledge on the legislative space in Africa, and creating an index to measure the level of freedom of philanthropy environments in different African countries. This issue of the magazine is a focus on our thoughts and activities in the area of philanthropy and community activities.

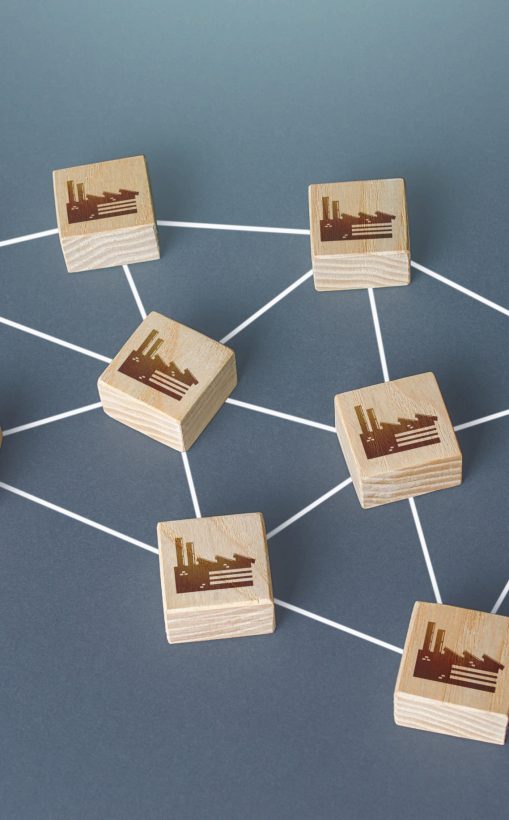
# THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPIC GIVING IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Over the years in Africa's history of natural disasters, we have seen various forms of philanthropic giving playing a role in mitigating the effects of disasters. Philanthropy plays a vital role even in addressing day-to-day socio-economic challenges faced by African societies. From poverty alleviation to healthcare advancements and education initiatives, philanthropy has the power to bring about lasting change in various parts of Africa. Based on the giving trends during the Covid 19 pandemic, it was quite evident that Africans have the ability to mobilise resources collectively to address a crisis or polycrisis. While community philanthropy is said to be the first respondent to mitigate challenges, we also acknowledge the giving by high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) when recognising philanthropy in Africa. Most of Africa's HNWIs have played a pivotal role in augmenting government's efforts to address socioeconomic challenges in Africa. The various forms of philanthropy whether horizontal or vertical, have been known to address the following problems in their contribution towards development in Africa





# Addressing Poverty and Economic Development



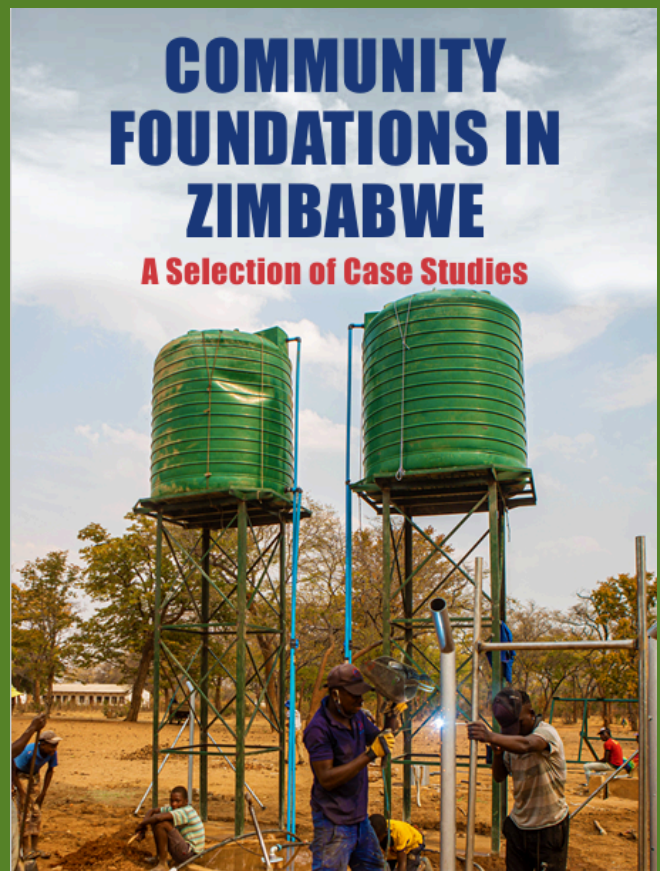
There has been a rise in High Net Worth Individuals (HNWI) on the continent. Most of them have started foundations as a vehicle for driving their philanthropic ventures. Addressing poverty and economic development on the continent has been of paramount importance for most as these have affected the progression of African countries even in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Philanthropy in Africa has been instrumental in combating poverty and promoting economic development. Through financial support and capacity-building programs, philanthropists have fostered entrepreneurship, created job opportunities, and empowered individuals to break the cycle of poverty. By investing in sustainable initiatives, such as microfinance projects and skills training programs, philanthropists have helped African communities build self-reliance and economic stability.

One of the many HNWI's providing transformative initiatives across Africa is Tony Elumelu chairperson of the United Bank for Africa. Through his Tony Elumelu Foundation, he empowers many Africans with entrepreneurial skills regardless of nationality. Since its inception in 2015, the foundation has trained more than 1.5 million Africans to venture into businesses that contribute towards economic development thus reducing poverty in the families of such successful fellows.



# Improving HealthCare Access and Infrastructure

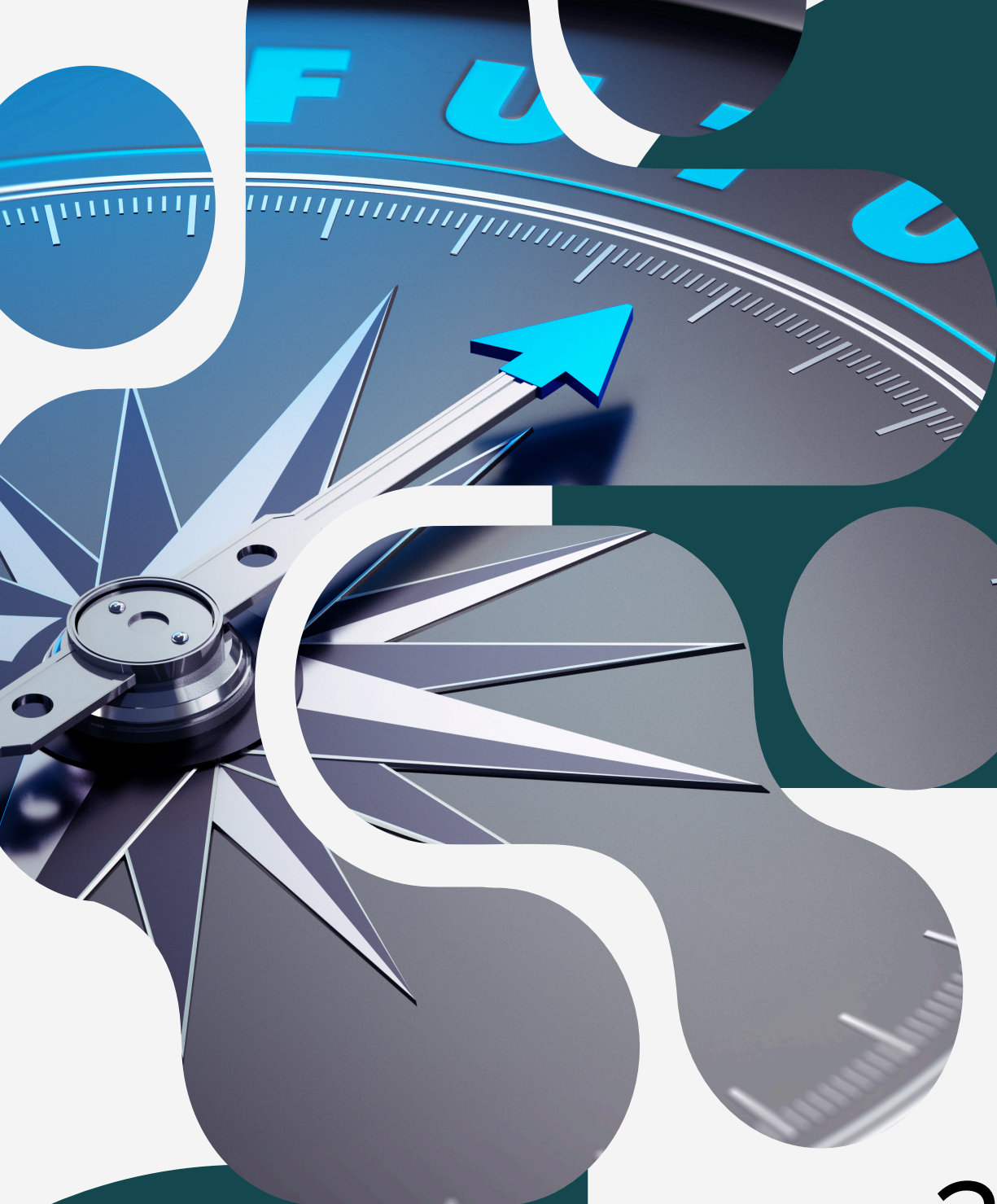
Philanthropy has made substantial contributions to improving healthcare access and infrastructure in Africa. Especially during pandemics, we have seen contributions to saving lives through the provision of healthcare facilities and medicines. Through funding medical research, building hospitals, and providing medical supplies, philanthropists have played a pivotal role in combating diseases and improving healthcare outcomes. Additionally, philanthropic investments in healthcare education and training programs have empowered local healthcare professionals, enhancing the capacity to provide quality care to underserved populations. In Zimbabwe and other African countries, we see grassroot organisations also taking centre stage in building clinic blocks for the provision of better healthcare in rural areas. More recently, a community in Gwanda district of Zimbabwe saw members mobilising resources internally to build a clinic. In some parts of the country, we see community Share Ownership trusts, leading community development work in the provision of healthcare facilities. A case highlighted in our [Community Foundations of Zimbabwe book](#) of Gwanda CSOT which facilitated the building of a clinic, classroom blocks, and many more developments shows the power community philanthropy and resource mobilisation has towards development.











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# EMPOWERING FUTURES: LOCAL ACTIONS, GLOBAL IMPACT





## Advancing Education and Youth Empowerment



Philanthropy has been instrumental in advancing education and empowering Africa's youth. By supporting scholarships, school infrastructure development, and teacher training programs, philanthropy has expanded access to quality education, particularly in remote and marginalized areas. These initiatives have empowered young individuals, enabling them to break free from the cycle of poverty and contribute positively to their communities and the continent. Philanthropists such as Strive and Tsitsi Masiiwa have been instrumental in providing education to the less privileged but talented youngsters in Zimbabwe and beyond. Again, like many other HNWI's, they have a foundation, the Higher Life Foundation which has provided scholarships to thousands of children since 2009.

Many of the recipients are successful enough to uplift their own families from poverty. Because of our African principles ingrained in the philosophy of Ubuntu, philanthropic giving to improve quality of life is being passed down from one person to the other. In terms of youth empowerment, they say the youth are the future, investments are being made towards empowering the youth to take up entrepreneurship opportunities and to develop their skills.

# Promoting Sustainable Development and Conservation

Philanthropy has played a crucial role in promoting sustainable development and conservation efforts in Africa. By investing in renewable energy projects, environmental conservation initiatives, and sustainable agriculture programs, philanthropy has helped address environmental challenges while promoting economic growth. Many companies venture into corporate social investment or responsibility which entails looking after the environment to ensure sustainability while realising their profits. Companies like Safaricom, have designated funds channelled towards environmental protection and sustainability. Corporate social responsibility is also viewed as a philanthropic venture for corporations to give back to the communities in which they operate. The various environmental investments by philanthropists, communities, and corporates have not only protected Africa's rich biodiversity but also created opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, benefiting both people and the environment.





## Fostering Collaboration and Local Ownership

Effective philanthropy in Africa recognizes the importance of collaboration and local ownership. By partnering with local organizations and stakeholders, philanthropy organisations ensure that initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and contexts of African communities. This approach fosters sustainable development, empowers local leaders, and builds long-term resilience within communities.

Philanthropy in Africa has the power to transform lives, empower communities, and drive sustainable development. Through addressing poverty, improving healthcare access, advancing education, promoting sustainable development, and fostering collaboration, philanthropy in Africa can make significant contributions to Africa's progress. However, it is vital to ensure that philanthropic efforts are sustainable, contextually relevant, and built on collaboration with local communities. By harnessing the power of philanthropy, there will be continued creation of positive change and build a brighter future for Africa.





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# PHILANTHROPIC MOVEMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



We delve in the multifaceted world of Africa Giving, exploring the diverse issues that shape philanthropy across the continent. From grassroots initiatives to large-scale donor programs, we examine the impact of giving on communities and individuals

Investigate the challenges and successes of fundraising efforts



# GIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

*The digital age has revolutionized nearly every aspect of human life, including philanthropy. With the advent of technology and the widespread use of the internet, philanthropic efforts have been catapulted into a new era of connectivity and impact. We seek to leverage the intersection of philanthropy and the digital age, examining how technology has transformed the way people give, engage, and create positive change in society. Through innovation and understanding the power of individual giving many giving platforms have risen to facilitate resource mobilisation from people.*

The digital age has democratized philanthropy by providing accessible platforms for giving. Online fundraising platforms, crowdfunding websites, and social media campaigns have made it easier for individuals to contribute to causes that resonate with them. Giving platforms have made philanthropy more accessible to a wider audience. Anyone with an idea or a cause can seek funds through crowdfunding, without the need for traditional connections to venture capitalists or philanthropists. This democratization of giving allows individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate in philanthropy and support causes they care about. The convenience and simplicity of digital giving platforms have expanded the reach of philanthropy, enabling people from all walks of life to make a difference with just a few clicks.

In the digital age, philanthropic organizations and individuals can harness the power of social media to raise awareness about pressing issues and mobilize support. Through compelling storytelling, engaging videos, and impactful visuals, organisations can reach wider audiences and inspire them to take action. The viral nature of social media campaigns has the potential to create a ripple effect, spreading awareness and generating a groundswell of support for important causes.

The digital age has provided philanthropy organisations with access to vast amounts of data that can inform strategic giving decisions. Through data analytics and machine learning, organizations can identify trends, assess impact, and target their resources more effectively. This data-driven approach enables philanthropists to make informed decisions, allocate resources efficiently, and maximize the impact of their giving.

Digital platforms have transformed the way donors engage with philanthropic organizations. Furthermore, digital platforms facilitate communication between donors and beneficiaries, creating a sense of connection and accountability. Technological advancements have fostered a spirit of collaboration and global giving. Philanthropic organizations and individuals can now connect and collaborate across borders, transcending geographical limitations. Online platforms enable the pooling of resources, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. This global connectivity has the potential to address complex challenges that require collective action and foster cross-cultural understanding and empathy.



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# Challenges and Ethical Considerations

While the digital age has brought numerous benefits to philanthropy, it also presents challenges and ethical considerations. Data privacy, cybersecurity, and the digital divide are critical issues that need to be addressed. Additionally, ensuring transparency and accountability in online giving platforms is essential to maintain public trust. Philanthropists must navigate these challenges and uphold ethical standards to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of their digital philanthropic endeavors.

Online giving platforms have revolutionized philanthropy by making it more accessible, engaging, and impactful. They have empowered individuals to contribute to causes they care about and have facilitated innovative approaches to addressing societal challenges. By leveraging the power of technology and connectivity, crowdfunding platforms have transformed the philanthropic landscape, enabling individuals from all walks of life to make a difference in the world. Technology has transformed philanthropy, empowering individuals and organisations to create meaningful change on a global scale. However, it is important to recognize the challenges and ethical considerations that accompany this digital transformation. By harnessing the power of technology responsibly, philanthropy in the digital age has the potential to address pressing societal issues, amplify diverse voices, and create a more equitable and interconnected world.

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*“The platform provides digital visibility to organisations particularly small grassroot organisations that are hardly noticed especially by International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) that regrant to the global South”,*  
**Shelly Satuku**



## The Africa Giving Initiative

As we are living in the digital age, we thrive to leverage on technology to promote a culture of giving towards causes across the continent. One of our flagship initiatives under the centre for philanthropy and communities is the Africa Giving platform. This is an alternative funding framework to tap into individual giving and make a compelling case to nurture citizens' giving towards African CSOs as part of a long-term solution to enhance sustainability.



The platform seeks to bridge the gap between individual givers and non-profits advancing change on the continent. Currently, 102 organisations from 16 African countries have been listed on the platform. The listed organisations work to support various causes essential for Africa's well-being and development. The platform provides digital visibility to organisations particularly small grassroot organisations that are hardly noticed especially by International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) that regrant to the global South. The listed organisations provide their most recent impact report telling their success stories, a summary of strategy, audited financial reports (if they have any), and motivation for funding. This has helped enhance their visibility enabling transparency and trust building. Through the registration process to join the platform, the Africa Giving team ensured and continuously ensures that only authentic and verified organisations are listed on the platform.

The Africa Giving platform provides

a secure online channel for individuals to donate to non-profits only, working throughout Africa. To date, more than six thousand United States dollars only (US\$6,000.00) has been raised through the initiative, with US\$578.00 donated through the platform without any hiccups. Yes, it's tried and tested!

Our aim is to encourage people to embrace technology in advancing philanthropy. To promote the initiative, we officially launched it in South Africa in November 2023. On the 24th of May, 2024 we launched the platform in Zimbabwe at a cocktail event in commemoration of Africa Day. As a run-up to the event (between February and May), we conducted the 100 for 100 campaign to encourage 100 people to donate at least US\$100 in support of African non-profits listed on the platform.

The campaign raised a total of US\$ through platform donations and US\$ through cash donations.

We thank all those who took part and invite you to give on [www.africa.giving.org](http://www.africa.giving.org) to become the change you want to see!









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## CITIZEN'S FEATURE



# Community Foundations in Zimbabwe

**Community philanthropy plays a crucial role in anchoring societies in Africa. It is a vehicle of empowering local communities to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. It involves individuals, organizations, and businesses within a community coming together to pool resources and knowledge to tackle community issues. Our study on Community Foundations of Zimbabwe helped us understand and appreciate the work done in communities by the people themselves. We saw the potential community philanthropy has in advancing local development, and the challenges and opportunities faced. In this article we profile the major takeaways from the study.**



## **Strengthening of Local Ownership**

Community philanthropy empowers local communities by fostering a sense of ownership and agency. By allowing community members to identify their own needs and design solutions, it ensures that interventions are tailored to the specific context and culture of the community. This approach enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of development initiatives, as local stakeholders are deeply invested in their success. It also helps communities retain their dignity once they have ownership in the philanthropy that leads to their community development.

## **Building Trust and Solidarity**

Community philanthropy fosters trust and solidarity within communities. It encourages collaboration, cooperation, and shared responsibility among community members, leading to stronger social cohesion. Trust is a critical foundation for sustainable development, as it enables communities to work together towards common goals and overcome challenges collectively.

## **Addressing Local Priorities**

One of the key strengths of community philanthropy is its ability to address local priorities. It allows communities to identify and prioritize their most pressing needs, whether it is access to clean water, education, healthcare, or economic empowerment. By focusing on local priorities, community philanthropy ensures that resources are allocated where they are most needed, resulting in targeted and impactful interventions.

## **Leveraging Local Knowledge and Expertise**

As they say, knowledge is power. Communities possess vast knowledge about their environments and are in a position to understand their situations better than is, their challenges and some of the ways to solve their predicaments. Indigenous knowledge systems also play a role in forging communities and helping mitigate some of the challenges. Community philanthropy recognizes and leverages this local knowledge, engaging community members as active participants in the development process. By tapping into the wisdom and insights of the community, philanthropic efforts become more culturally appropriate, sustainable, and effective.

# Catalysing Sustainable Development

Community philanthropy plays a vital role in catalysing sustainable development in Africa. By investing in local solutions, it builds capacity within communities, enabling them to continue addressing their own challenges long after external funding ends. This sustainable approach fosters resilience and self-reliance, breaking the cycle of dependency on external aid and fostering long-term development. Although from the study none of the organisations have arrived at a point where they can function without external funding, their scope and commitment is projected to help them get there.

## Challenges and Opportunities

**Limited Resources:** Lack of financial resources remains a significant challenge in community philanthropy. Many communities face economic constraints, making it challenging to mobilize adequate funds for their initiatives. Creative approaches, such as leveraging partnerships and exploring alternative funding sources, can help overcome this challenge.

**Institutional Capacity:** Strengthening the institutional capacity of community-based organizations is crucial. Building skills in project management, financial literacy, and monitoring and evaluation can enhance the effectiveness and impact of community philanthropy initiatives.

**Collaboration and Coordination:** Collaboration among various stakeholders, including philanthropic organizations, governments, and community members, is essential for maximizing the impact of community philanthropy. Establishing networks, platforms, and partnerships can facilitate coordination and knowledge sharing.

**Policy and Regulatory Environment:** Creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment is essential for the growth and sustainability of community philanthropy. Governments can play a vital role in supporting and recognizing the contributions of community philanthropy, providing tax incentives, and ensuring an enabling legal framework. There is also a need for community organisations to understand and be aware of the regulatory frameworks that affect their work for better advocacy and engagement of the state for an enabling environment for philanthropy.

Community philanthropy in Zimbabwe, and more broadly in Africa holds immense potential for driving sustainable development and empowering local communities. By embracing local ownership, leveraging local knowledge, and addressing local priorities, community philanthropy can unlock the transformative power of communities to create lasting change. However, addressing challenges such as limited resources and strengthening institutional capacity requires collective efforts from all stakeholders. Through collaborative action, African countries can harness the full potential of community philanthropy to build resilient, inclusive, and prosperous communities.



# Access to Education Powered by Communities

It is now a well-established fact that communities are aware of the challenges within their society and have knowledge of how to mitigate some of the challenges. Various evidence of community philanthropy across Africa shows the potential communities have to drive meaningful sustainable development. This March 2024 alone two stories captured by the Chronicle, a Zimbabwean newspaper on the 4th of March, highlight the efforts made by communities to improve their conditions in society.

The first article by Mthabisi Tshuma titled “How a community is building a school from the ground up” is a true testament of the power of solidarity within a community. The article states that the members of the Norwood community in the Matabeleland South province started leveraging on natural resources already existing in their area to drive meaningful change. Zimbabwe has a shortage of learning facilities evidenced by a student-teacher ratio of 1:46 on average. Zimbabwe has approximately 6 million school-going age groups (3 years to 18 years) for both primary and secondary education. With such a figure, the country has only 10517 schools, and this implies a shortage of schools to cater to the growing population. The Norwood community did not just fold its hands at the educational problem they had as a community where children had to walk many kilometres to school.

They thought of building classroom blocks to solve their problem in the area of access to education in their area. Instead of waiting for external aid, they realised that they had resources around them that they could use to solve part of their problem. The stepping stone, having the educational infrastructure first. They realised the area was endowed with a natural resource, river sand, which was being extracted by external opportunistic businesspeople. The community members started extracting the sand and selling it, and proceeds channelled towards building a school block. The construction is still ongoing and soon children will have a sheltered educational facility provided by the local community.









# Access to Health Powered by Communities

Access to healthcare is a challenge in many parts of Zimbabwe as people, in rural areas mostly, walk for long distances to get to the nearest clinic for treatment. Accessibility to healthcare facilities is one of the biggest contributors towards maternal mortality rates. Community members of the Mhalipe area in Gwanda realised no messiah was coming to deliver them and provide healthcare facilities. The members mobilised one another in solidarity and contributed at least one hundred and fifty rand (R150) per household, a currency better accessed as many people in the area usually cross over to neighbouring South Africa in search of jobs. They have since started engaging people living in the diaspora to help them mobilise resources towards building a clinic. Community members identified their challenge which was the lack of nearby medical facilities forcing some to walk long distances to access medical attention. They mapped a way forward and decided to own up their development. From the article by Sukulwenkosi Debe-Matutu, the community members prove there is dignity in leading the much needed development in their community.









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