



GLOBAL PARTNERS LEARNING AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP

EVENT FINAL REPORT

Date: 10 – 16 July 2022

Venue: Accra – Ghana

By

West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW OF THE LEARNING EVENT

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, conversations about how to do development differently and shift power to communities have become prominent. In response to this, several initiatives such as the #ShiftThePower programme, Disrupt Development, Reimagining INGOs (international NGOs), Africans Rising and many others have emerged. Similarly, the Giving for Change (GfC) programme was set out to transform how “development is done” by focusing specifically on the recognition and importance of domestic resources in increasing local ownership, unlocking agency, and strengthening communities’ ability to claim entitlements from different actors, especially governments.

The Giving for Change (GfC) programme is being implemented for five years from 2021-2025 and is spearheaded by an international consortium consisting of the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), and Wilde Ganzen Foundation (WG). The programme also includes partners from eight countries in Africa, Western Asia, and Latin America. These organisations are brought together by their shared vision on community-led development through community and domestic philanthropy. The programme is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Strengthening Civil Society policy framework.

After 18 months of programmatic work by the Giving for Change partners, an annual learning and reflection meeting was organised in Ghana, hosted by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and the STAR Ghana Foundation. This report is to provide a reflection of the shared experience, learning and reflection from the event in Ghana.

ABOUT THE LEARNING EVENT

The learning event was held at Alisa Hotel, Accra, Ghana, between 10 – 16 July 2022. The event brought together 50 participants from the GfC consortium and national anchor partner organisations, which included the Association Burkinabè de Fundraising (ABF), Development Expertise Center, Micaia Foundation, Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) and Dalia Association. Other national partners and community of practice members from Ghana also joined the learning and reflection meeting.

The learning event represented the first-time partners came together to connect and learn from each other. The event provided the opportunity for partners to network and share their experiences and learnings. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, reflect on the over-arching issues of the programme, and work more collaboratively moving forward.

GOALS OF THE LEARNING EVENT

The learning event was organised to:

- (a) Create spaces to reflect on what has worked, what has not worked, and the emerging innovations and success in the programme implementation across the eight countries, facilitate the documentation of best practices and guidelines on community philanthropy, the #ShiftThePower movement, and domestic resourcing to guide the programme's implementation.
- (b) Facilitate networking and bonding amongst GfC partners, build relationships and connections, share learnings, and create real action plans and collaborations.
- (c) Identify additional opportunities for follow-on action that help to amplify the needs and recommendations that surface from this gathering. This includes opportunities for GfC consortium members and national anchor partners in the eight implementing countries to champion regionally and globally the core thematic areas of the programme and/or find spaces and opportunities to collaborate with one another.

FRAMING QUESTION FOR THE LEARNING EVENT

The learning event was organised to reflect on the core themes, scope, and scale of the ambitions of the Giving for Change programme. The event was framed to help partners develop the Giving for Change programme so that they can;

- Build what they want in their respective countries,
- Work together to develop the community philanthropy field across the globe, and
- Reimagine development to #ShiftThePower to give voice to pioneers on the frontlines of transformational change.

THE APPROACH: HOW WAS THE LEARNING EVENT ORGANISED

The event adopted an un-conferencing approach. The un-conferencing approach was adopted because it works best when there are elevated levels of Complexity (hard problems to solve), Diversity (lots of diverse types of people needed), Passion (people really care about the issue), and Urgency (it must be fixed as soon as possible). On the other hand, it has the wonderful effect of bringing people who are passionate about the same topic together, no matter what organisation they are with or role they play within an organisation.

The GfC event was organised based on the principle that activities and learning should be fun, engaging, interactive, open-minded, flexible, and question centred. This learning event involved asking questions such as (“how can we...,” “where the opportunities are...,” “can we try this...,” etc.).

SECTION TWO: LEARNINGS AND REFLECTIONS

WHAT DID WE LEARN, SHARE AND REFLECT ON?

The event was organised over five days with each day of learning, sharing and participants challenging themselves on how to build our communities better.

- **Day One: What Do We Want to Know?**

On Monday, 11 July 2022, about sixty participants, including media partners convened at Alisa Hotel for the opening of the first-ever Giving for Change Partners' learning and reflection meeting. In his welcome address, the Executive Director of the STAR Ghana Foundation, Mr Ibrahim Tanko, encouraged the family to share their stories and be quite intentional about creating spaces like these where we can learn from each other's journeys, work together, re-energise, and share good practices, challenges, and emerging results. He emphasised the importance of finding spaces to see how we can link the local to the global to the national if we are going to transform how development is done and shift the power. *“This conference will help us go back to the vision to check how well we are doing and continue the process of building a global movement of shifting the power.”* He stated that he looked forward to constructive conversations that will challenge and inspire us as we seek ways to shift the power.



Figure 1: Mr Amidu Ibrahim-Tanko welcoming participants to the GfC learning event

Following the welcome address, Dr. Stigmata Tenga, the Executive Director of the Africa Philanthropy Network, shared the purpose of the event with partners. In her speech, she emphasised on the need to reflect and deepen conversations around ensuring that we are finding the road towards the destiny we are looking at. She defined destiny here as inspecting all systems and structures that are perpetuating injustices and inequalities in our communities. She urged the family to continue to use Giving for Change as a programme to build a movement of solidarity towards recognition. She also encouraged partners to always remember that Accra is where we had our second and particularly important designing conversations on Giving for Change. This gathering as a family is a place for us to interrogate ourselves on how we as a family are moving together, finding the right placement in the right seat in this vehicle and how we would move and use this vehicle to change the way development is done.



Figure 2: Dr. Stigmata Tenga shared the purpose of the event with partners

“We need to dismantle the structures that perpetuate injustice and inequality in our societies. We need to find the road towards that destination and Giving for Change is our vehicle. There is pride and dignity in influencing your own destiny so let us work together towards that!” (Stigmata, opening)

Getting to know one another

The day progressed with so much excitement and energy when Barry Knight from the Global Funds for Community Foundations, welcomed everyone and asked participants to move to the back of the hall and introduce themselves to as many people as possible, while identifying things they had in common. You could see smiles on the faces of individuals as they chit-chatted their way into familiarising with each other. There was so much joy in getting to finally meet each other in person. Some people had jotters in which they printed the names of the people they talked to. Prizes were awarded to the participants with the highest number of connections made.



Figure 3: Partners connecting and networking



Figure 4: Winners of the “person with the most connections”

Setting objectives and priorities

Participants identified and shared the things they planned to leave behind and what they hoped to gain from the meeting. Among the things partners hoped to gain included knowledge and understanding of how Communities of Practice (CoPs) are working in-country, their constraints, structures, and successes, the different approaches in raising local resources within different communities, diverse cultural implementation strategies and effective tools for systematic change. On the other hand, partners were intentional about leaving behind the spirit and practice of working in silos, the fact that INGOs will shift power, pessimism, and project-oriented thinking. In sharing his view, Jimm Chick Fomunjong, WACSI added:

“We need to leave behind the belief that INGOs will shift power. We need to gain the skills to establish ourselves as the dominant powers in the sector.” (Jimm Chick, feedback from group session on question: what do we need to leave behind?)



Figure 5: What partners decided to leave behind and gain from the event

Partners contextual stories and emerging themes

Participants were introduced to the event framing questions on how to implement the Giving for Change programme so that they can build what they want, work together to develop the community philanthropy field across the globe, and reimagine development to #ShiftThePower to give voice to pioneers on the frontlines of transformational change. In groups, they were charged to reflect on the following two key questions:

- 1) What are the conditions in your country that impact how you are doing Giving for Change? (The hurdles, opportunities, progress, what would help you make more progress?)
- 2) What themes are emerging across your stories? What are the themes we should consider together?

The feedback provided from the diverse groups was breath-taking. During the group presentations, participants nodded in bewilderment as the group representatives elaborated

on the discussions they had. The groups had in-depth discussions and cautiously analysed each of the questions ensuring that they tackled every aspect possible.

Some of the hurdles included challenges managing communities of practice (CoPs) with civil society actors responding to different issues, managing expectations of CoPs receiving grants and ensuring there is a balance of self-reliance and donor-reliance. In addition, partners highlighted their struggles in making due diligence more flexible for organisations and using monitoring and evaluation as a tool to accomplish needs. Likewise, challenges dealing with the mindset of organisations and civil society actors who are stuck in the old ways of doing development, and who are not really open to change. Nonetheless, the opportunities some partners shared included engaging with governments, the platform and opportunities COVID-19 presented, climate change and the current economic challenges influencing the need to look within, and leverage community shared resources and power, as well as the opportunity to place local/sub-national organisations at the forefront.

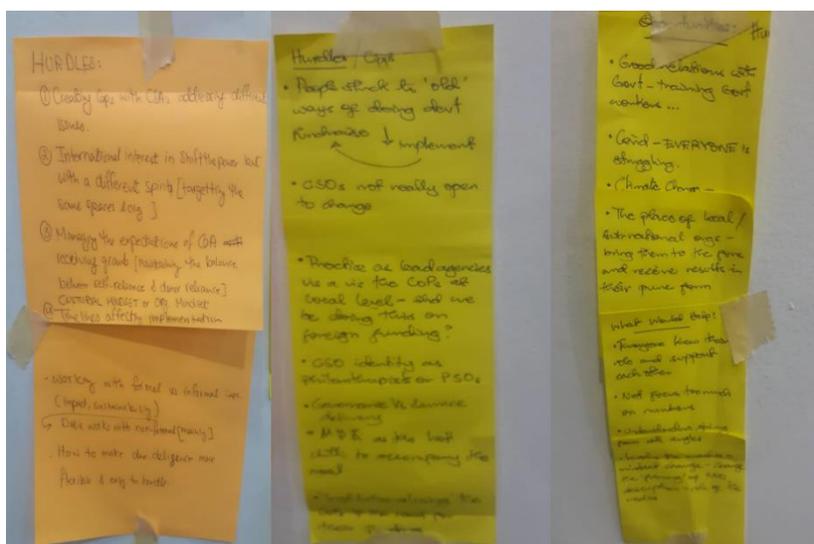


Figure 6: Emerging hurdles and opportunities among partners

After the series of reflections on the shared hurdles and opportunities across the eight implementing countries and context, the following thought-provoking questions and points were raised by the participants.

- How can we strengthen the capacities of influential community members (religious leaders, chiefs, youth leaders etc.) so they have the knowledge and can hold government officials accountable?
- How can we ensure ‘Shift the Power’ is not hijacked by others?
- How do we ensure that GfC is institutionalised in organisations so that it is embedded in their strategic plans?

- Do our values and driving principles enable us to stay on track with the project objectives?
- How do we support communities in identifying their needs?
- How do we engage in issue-based and country-based learning?
- Are we shifting our own power?
- How can we help bring about a mindset shift?
- How do we develop the constituencies (institutions, government, champions, trailblazers, agents of change) we need to develop the society we want?
- Should we continue to do this work (which is all about local funding) with Dutch funding after 5 years?
- How can we institutionalise the GfC work and vision within our organisations and beyond, so it will be carried forward after five years?

After in-depth consideration of the questions raised, participants highlighted the need to address the following themes as the focus of discussion throughout the week. They include community of practice (CoP), rights and inclusion, monitoring and evaluation, language, accountability, and credibility.



Figure 7: Partners reflecting on the emerging themes from the discussion

Day Two: Digging Deeper

The GfC family arrived at the conference hall on time looking all refreshed and excited to begin day two of the event. From the emerging themes of the previous day, coordinated by Jenny Hodgson, Executive Director of the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), five groups were formed to hold discussions on:

- What innovative things we want to do,
- What we want to do more of,
- What we want to do less of, and
- What we want to stop.



Figure 8: GfC partners in group discussion on selected themes

The group discussions enabled the family to gain more insight into the whole Shift the Power concept, what was working, what was not and helped us understand the areas which needed improvement. Despite being mentally exhausted, participants were delighted at the progress being made so far and anxiously looked forward to day three. Feedback from the various group discussions can be seen in the Table 1 below:

Table 1: Reflections from group discussions

Group	Do more	Do less	Stop	New/Innovate
M & E	Intentional story telling Capturing our feelings and emotions User friendly technology/ platforms and tools on how to use tech (Asana) M&E for all (processes and formulation) Engagement of all team members in the M&E process	Mechanical M&E	Prioritising numbers Compliance only Jargons Putting timelines on behavioural change Expertising M&E	Humanise M&E, capture more feelings Store and analyse information Close the loop Tech to help smoothen edges and make data more consistent
Rights and Inclusion	Work on inclusion without labelling it as such Movement generosity and solidarity	Using tools (tracking results through	Worrying only about delivering committed results (instead of looking	Join the dots within the GfC alliance and beyond (ShiftThePower network) Create working groups

	<p>Framing of cross-cutting issues that speak to all of us</p> <p>Find issues that unite us.</p> <p>Engage in conversations</p>	<p>(traditional tools)</p>	<p>at rights and entry points)</p> <p>NGO-isation of rights (foreign logos can de-legitimise the work)</p>	
Language	<p>Recognise the power of language</p> <p>Allow communities to share their own stories, develop their own narratives, poems, songs that speak to the work they are doing</p> <p>Normalise translators, be more cognizant and empathetic of non-English speakers</p>		<p>Using language that divides people</p> <p>Using jargon and development language</p> <p>Making assumptions</p> <p>Imposing our language on communities</p>	<p>Emphasis on using language that is inclusive</p> <p>Grammarly software</p> <p>Receiving proposals in local languages, video, and audio formats. (Take note of donor language and recipient language)</p> <p>Co-creating terminologies and meanings for GfC</p> <p>Sharing knowledge on terminologies with communities</p>
Accountability and Credibility	<p>Nourish accountability</p> <p>Encourage community participation at distinct levels, including decision making</p> <p>Enhance transparency and effective communication</p> <p>Put in place indicators for participation of the community</p> <p>Use certification mechanisms</p> <p>Increase our risk appetite</p> <p>Work with groups that are organised differently</p> <p>Engage influential community members (such</p>		<p>Mistrusting associations, community-based organisations, informal groups etc.</p> <p>Undermining local capacities</p> <p>Sustaining unbalanced power relationships</p> <p>Work based on self-interest, rather than community priorities</p>	<p>Horizontal accountability mechanisms for vertical accountability</p> <p>Support different movements that question power structures.</p> <p>Engage new voices into our conversations.</p> <p>Certification approach</p>

	as traditional leaders and religious leaders), as well as government officials Local capacity building			
Communities of Practice (CoP)	Allow different contextual designs Facilitate seed funding for CoPs based on what they want to do Define CoPs more around interest Define CoPs as places of collaboration Use CoPs to catalyse national Shift the Power and other conversations Open the space to other organisations Build credibility and legitimacy Regard CoPs as a means to an end and not an end in itself Engage facilitators/trainers from the community that can speak in local languages	Non-uniformity Define the agenda for CoPs, rather than allowing for co-creation Define what success looks like		Enhance inter-country learning and exchange Elevate/amplify best practices to global level Focus more on outcome harvesting Document the process

Source: GfC partners learning and reflection meeting, July 2022

Day three: The Challenge

After two days of intense brainstorming and solution searching, the programme partners revisited the history of the alliance members and philanthropy from the origin of giving and solidarity to the creation of different organisations to the present day. The family engaged in storytelling on how giving started, the struggles, failures, and successes they encountered along the way as well as the lessons they had learnt. In addition, the shift the power manifesto was revisited to remind partners about the need to revisit how development should be done differently.

History of Philanthropy and the Giving for Change Programme

Philanthropy has evolved into different things due to socio-cultural, economic, and political contexts. From the 1990s to the current years, the conversations, experiences and work around community philanthropy and development of partner organisations has transformed and shaped the Giving for Change programme. This section outlines the historical journey of the Giving for Change programme from 1990 to present.

- **1990 – 1999**

In the early 1990s and before, the conversations around philanthropy became prominent. The need to build global solidarity and move from engaging community philanthropy from local to global became relevant as ideologies and awareness on philanthropy were created. As a result, more civil society organisations in the philanthropy sector were formed. For instance, the Ford Foundation established the East African Philanthropy Initiative with focus on philanthropy and how this could serve as a vehicle for community philanthropy in East Africa. Likewise, in 1995, the Nepal Women's Fund was established by a widow who previously worked for International NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations). The fund was set up on the principle of community philanthropy and currently has a base of about 5,000 individuals who give, in a country which is one of the poorest in the world. In the same light, in DRC, the women's fund commissioned their first study looking at systems of giving and how they can understand the system in which people in crises or conflict affected areas organise their resources to help themselves.

During the same period, the political landscape in some of the global south partner countries was very unstable. For example, Kenya was a one-party state with a lot of oppression and few discussions around rights despite the prominent levels of agitation. As a result, more civil society organisations were created. The Kenya Community Development Foundations (KCDF) was established in 1997 within the context of unstable politics and a top-down approach to development. The goal of KCDF was to do things differently and it invested in governance and accountability structures.

- **2000 - 2009**

Owing to the rising need to change the top-down development approaches and invest in community-led initiatives and philanthropy, the need to build the capacities of emerging civil society organisations and movements became relevant. The Wilde Ganzen Foundation, which was in operation since 1957 to support small tangible and feasible projects, scaled up to support organisations in Brazil, India, and Kenya in domestic resource mobilisation. This laid the foundation for the creation of the Change the Game Academy (CtGA) later in 2015. The

Change the Game Academy was created as a separate unit to address external donor dependency and strengthen ownership, agency and voice of communities. In the process, CtGA has built the capacities of about 2000 organisations on local fundraising and mobilising support in the global south.

Similarly, a community foundation was established in Brazil in 2006. At the initial stages, the word philanthropy triggered multiple negative reactions as it was associated with paternalism, distress, and control. In the search for the right word to describe the phenomenon of people organising resources for social change, ICOM was set up in Brazil. In the same year, the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) was also set up with support from the World Bank. The GFCF was established to combine what is on the ground with what exists and attract the attention of both bilateral and multilateral funders.

The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), on the other hand, was established in 2009 to address the need for African grant makers who were receiving funding from external donors to be able to negotiate for better resources and address inequalities and injustices in the continent. African grant makers met in 2019 and the Africa Philanthropy Grant making Network was launched by the grant makers to better organise power for better resources and share tools used by others to get better resources.

- **2010 – 2019**

Between 2010 and 2019, there was evidence of consolidation of growth and more freedoms in many countries. For example, in 2010, following a lot of agitation and a 24-year history of trying to change the constitution in Kenya, a progressive constitution arose which provided more access to services at the community level. With these new freedoms, there has been more economic growth and increased wealth and hence the ability to raise more funds locally and open spaces for influencing and increased giving.

Coupled with all these emerging organisations, global alliances and the concept of community philanthropy increasingly gained attention. For instance, the first global summit on community philanthropy was organised in 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The summit brought together 400 people from 60 countries around the world and the hashtag #ShiftThePower was launched. It was the first big event where people talked about community philanthropy and how to work together to shift the power.

- **2020 - Present**

Following the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effort towards localising development became more pressing therefore increasing global voices towards initiatives such as localisation and locally driven development. More civil society organisations (CSOs) were able

to mobilise resources locally. KCDF for instance had the highest funds raised locally during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, new innovations such as match-funding, participatory grant-making, and conversations on how to engage with the corporate sector as well as several online platforms for giving have been adopted.

As shared by Jenny Hodgson, the Giving for Change Programme (GfC) did not start from nowhere. There are a lot of years and experience under our belts. All the years of discussions around local philanthropy, shifting the power, doing development differently led to the birth of Giving for Change. The Giving for Change Programme (GfC) was also created to continue to work on transforming how development is done. Currently, more Communities of Practice (CoPs) working towards doing development differently have also been formed out of the GfC programme.

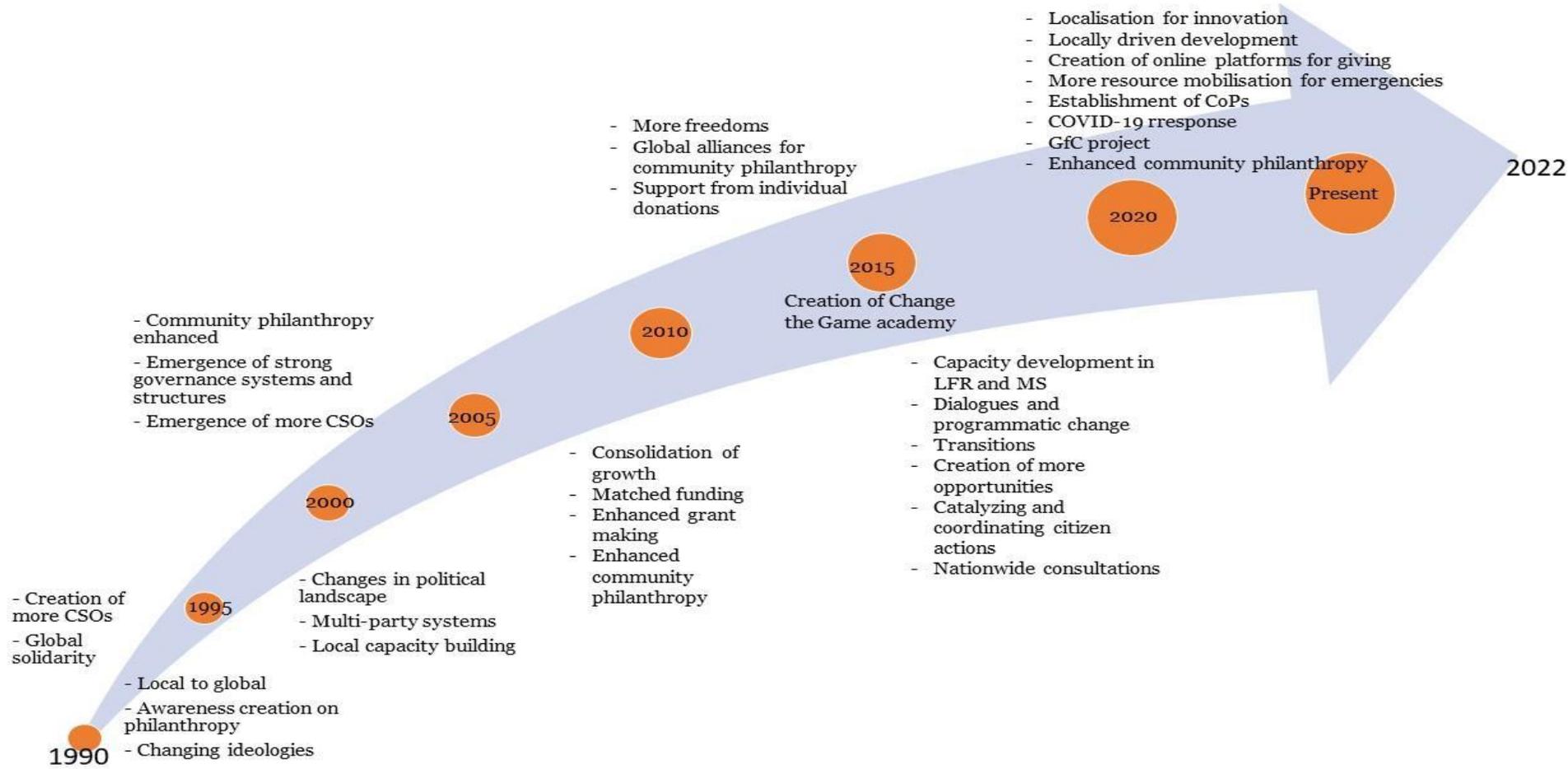


Figure 9: The pictorial view of the history of #ShiftThePower journey

The Shift the Power Manifesto for Change

After the enlightening session on the evolution of community philanthropy and the activities carried out by the different organisations, the Shift the Power manifesto was presented, and participants were classified in different groups to discuss the nine points outlined in this document. The participants spent a greater part of day three discussing the manifesto within their respective groups. The feedback from these discussions was very edifying. After going through the nine points, participants shared their views and pin-pointed some areas that were a call for concern. The key responses from the group discussions are shared below.



If we want to create a genuine alternative to existing ways of deciding and doing, we need to:

- 1 Embrace** a vision of a 'good society' built around core values of equality, democracy and sustainability and a set of organizing principles based on global solidarity and distributed leadership.
- 2 Cast** off the restrictive framework of 'international development,' which is defined by money and power and which creates artificial barriers between communities and movements in the global north and south.
- 3 Move** away from a system that is preoccupied with quick 'solutions,' and is premised on and organized around the transfer of funds. Change how we approach, and seek to measure, the notion of success.
- 4 Creatively** find ways to unlock the inherent power of communities in determining their own development course - however they define it - and let the language of 'beneficiaries' and 'recipients' be a thing of the past.
- 5 Move away** from 'building capacity' as defined by external actors and requirements, towards community organizing and movement building, where 'capacity' equates to relevance, rootedness and constituency.
- 6 Ensure** that external funding recognizes, respects and builds on local resources and assets, rather than over looks, undermines or displaces.
- 7 Expand** our horizons beyond money as the central driver of change, and place greater value on other kinds of infinite non-financial assets and resources (knowledge, trust, networks etc)
- 8 Change** the language we use so that it enables new ways of working and thinking, rather than constrains them. And challenge the dominance of English.
- 9 Change** ourselves. We need both humility and boldness, and to be ready to challenge our own power and to listen to and work with others.

In short, we want a future that is negotiated, participatory, and widely owned, and which is developed through values and processes based on movement generosity rather than the success or failure of one organization over others.

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Partners recognised that the need for change is a long-term process and that the Shift the Power agenda must begin with us. This will require adopting the principles of the Manifesto within our systems, policies, and staff.

Figure 10: The GfC manifesto for change

Also, moving away from expertise design of capacity building, recognising that citizens organise and mobilise differently and acknowledging the fact that different actors bring different resources to the table were identified as key points.

Some of the challenges to implement the manifesto raised by the participants were the ability to contextualise terminologies to the different contexts and practice them, identifying how activities can create less dependency, building a collective voice and stop thinking about influencing the system. After the conversations around the manifesto, another session of identifying topics to discuss during the following day was held. As the conversations went on, the following thematic areas were raised as key points for the final working group discussions: advocacy, diving deep into CoPs, capacity building, crowdfunding, and working with different stakeholders for influencing

Before we rounded up the day, Charles Vandyck, Head, Capacity Development, WACSI enumerated some strategic key questions which left participants reflecting. He mentioned that the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic was a blessing in disguise as it brought momentum and renewed dynamism to conversations on how we can enable communities to prioritise their own development. He urged the family to reflect on our understanding of shift the power and whether we were ready to seize the opportunity and provide alternative ways of doing things. *“You cannot give what you don’t have!”* He concluded. To round up the day, participants formed working groups to discuss the themes that were raised before the reflections.

Day Four: Moving Forward

After three days of brilliant and insightful conversations, day four generated some mixed feelings as participants were overjoyed with the accomplishments and interactive nature of the sessions but at the same time, sad that the event was ending so soon. They however continued the group discussions enthusiastically with the aim of finding concrete solutions to how we can develop and sustain the communities we want. The key highlights from the working groups were as follows:

GfC Working Groups

1. Capacity Building

Even though capacity building is still relevant, there is a need for a change in thinking towards community-led capacity strengthening where communities themselves identify their needs, and we help in finding solutions. This brings about more ownership and better progress.

2. Crowdfunding

How are we attracting people to donate to our causes? There is a need to leverage telling success stories, ensure accountability for money received on giving platforms, find ways of auditing the funding process to build trust, peer accountability (using peer members to check what funds donated have accomplished) to provide more visibility for projects on the platform and the shift from depicting poverty-related stories.

3. Diving Deep into Communities of Practice (CoP)

The group shared challenges, approaches and learning needs. Some of these challenges included sustainability, keeping the interest of the CoP, transition within the various organisations, missed and mixed expectations and prioritising different interests. The group celebrated its first anniversary on 14 August 2022 and an online learning CoP will be established.

4. Participatory Grant Making

Participants discussed the need to explore and exchange views, experiences, and different options on how to do development differently.

5. Advocacy/Influencing

The ShiftThePower movement should be built from the ground up, starting with communities.

- How can we ensure the movement is not hijacked by bigger or global North actors? How can we control the narrative?
 - Create our own spaces where we can invite others
 - Create joint messages and counterarguments
 - Convey the message that this is a long-term change that takes time: *“we don’t feed our babies with fertiliser.”* Moses Isooba.
- It is important to work with the media to reach a broader audience
- There is a big expectation that emerging philanthropy can sustain African civil society in the long-run, but there is a tension between high-net-worth individuals, corporate foundations etc. on the one hand and critical civil society organisations on the other. How can trailblazers in this regard (visionary funders) inspire their peers?

SECTION THREE: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIALISING

Cultural Night

Day four was lit with a cultural dinner in the evening where the entire team appeared in their various traditional regalia. It was an exceptionally beautiful evening with bright smiles on the

faces of everyone as the atmosphere radiated with joy and happiness. It was the first time the family had come together after 18 months of behind the scenes work and it was the last time, they would be meeting each other for the learning event. It was a packed-full eventful evening with prizes being awarded, storytelling, loud laughter, chit-chatting, music, and dancing. Everyone retired very exhausted but very satisfied with the turn of events.



Figure 11: The GfC cultural night

Field Visits

Friday marked the last day of the event after four days of learning, collaborating, discussing, networking, sharing, storytelling and a whole lot more. It was a day for the family to tour and have a glimpse of Accra. The family visited the National Museum, the Arts centre and the market and had lunch together for the first time away from the conference area. The event

marked a turning point in the lives of the GfC family and everyone departed promising to keep the #ShiftThePower concept up and running.



Figure 12: Partners visit to the Museum

The visit to the GfC classroom project

Some of the GfC partners engaged with implementing stakeholders of the Breman Jamara GfC Classroom Project in the Central Region of Ghana. The classroom project is being implemented by the Multimedia Group through the Giving for Change (GfC) Project, under the auspices of STAR-Ghana Foundation (SGF) and WACSI. This is a classroom construction project which is being carried out in selected districts in the central and northern regions of Ghana. The goal is to provide safer school buildings for pupils to learn through local philanthropy.

The new Breman Jamara School is a three-classroom unit block with an ICT (Information and Communication Technology) laboratory and library, a common staff room and the headmaster's office. Still under construction as seen in Figure 15, the project is being funded locally through cash and in-kind donations from individuals and cooperatives such as the Forestry Commission, DBS Roofing Sheets, the Israeli Embassy, Duraplast Ghana, Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority, the Planned City Extension Project, and Tropical cables.



Figure 13: The locally funded Breman Jamara classroom project

Fiifi Koomson and the Classroom Project Lead at the Multimedia Group, Emefa Atiamoah-Eli, together with the District Chief Executive (DCE), briefed the GfC partners on the status of the project and its benefits to the people of Breman Jamara. The partners shared their reflections about the significance of the project to the district and how the Multimedia Group is ensuring accountability to all donors and stakeholders.



Figure 14: GfC Partners engaging with project stakeholders

SECTION FOUR: FOLLOW-UP ACTION STEPS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Following four days of intensive discussions and collaborations, a post evaluation survey was shared with participants to share their reflections, insights, key action steps and recommendations. Results from the survey showed that, the family indicated received a lot of learnings from the event which they found very useful for their organisations. Gaining valuable information for their work, making new connections, learning from several experiences and

finding answers to their questions were the topmost important insights indicated by the participants. These insights also helped them in developing action steps towards implementing the shift the power agenda within their respective organisations and countries.

Key action steps

At the end of the Giving for Change learning event, the partners from the working sessions concluded and decided on follow-up actions they would engage in to keep the Shift the Power flame burning. These included:

- Establish an online CoP to exchange on the community level work (KCDF).
- Communication actions to raise community awareness and lobbying of the authorities.
- Implementing the GfC project in our country by restructuring the communities of practice, making them freer to decide what they want to do, stimulating action within the communities of practice and investing more in the perception of community philanthropy philosophy by different actors.
- Develop a document with talking points for conversations with INGOs and donors (GFCF).
- Ensuring that the notion of shifting the power is embedded into our organisational strategy.
- Helping link COP initiatives to broad national and global lobby initiatives around shifting power. Making philanthropy conversations truly local.
- Build trust and communicate often with stakeholders including internal staff.
- Invest more in documenting stories.
- Explore the option of using peer-review to do risk analysis instead of WG doing this (WG).
- Change the approach of offering capacity building and making it more demand based.
- Use our monthly family meetings to discuss a specific challenge brought forward by one of the alliance members and share thoughts, advice, and resources.
- Leverage the localisation aspect of #ShiftThePower including the use of local languages and messaging in the GfC project implementation.
- Raising funds with local communities to take leadership in developing their immediate needs as a community.
- Map our collective power in Palestine, taking #SHIFT THE POWER home starting with Dalia and transcending to the Arab World.
- Educating my COP members about the need to take advantage of the GfC programme to give a new direction to our organisations to be self-sustaining.

- Following up with country specific M&E implementation.
- Instilling the idea of ShiftThePower through Community Philanthropy onto CoP based on their understanding and capacity level.

Emerging lessons learned

Participants shared the following lessons and insight from a post evaluation survey

- CoPs are great spaces for learning and sharing.
- When it comes to creating the communities we want, we must begin from the communities themselves.
- The need for transparency and accountability in ensuring that investments yield dividends.
- Working in collaboration and creating partnerships is the best approach to achieve one's goals.
- Using the small and matching grants mechanism as a catalyst to scale up giving.
- The grassroots form the very core of development in my country and therefore it starts from them.
- Letting communities identify, prioritise, and take responsibility for their needs.
- In promoting and ensuring #ShiftThePower by using community philanthropy as a major strategy, context, language, and relevance must be considered.
- Storytelling, feelings, emotions, friendly systems, and technology should be taken seriously when measuring results.
- Mindset shifts from both communities and CSOs to embrace changing the funding orientation.
- Need to engage with the government and other non-established groups beyond the CSO (Civil Society Organisation) space such as coalitions and social movements.
- Integrating social inclusion and ensuring diversity in representation.
- Need to include inter-faith groups in addressing collective community interests.
- The variation in the group formations provided participants with the opportunity to engage with different people thereby increasing the level of collaboration with everyone present.

Recommendations

In other to ensure that the GfC programme is not only continuously implemented but also improved upon, the family, based on their different assessments of the event proposed the following recommendations:

- A debriefing meeting should be held either in December 2022 or January 2023.

- Continue these frameworks of exchange each year for a harmonisation of actions.
- Spend more time in breaking down the manifesto. With a clearer understanding of the manifesto, it will serve as a guide for all partners in pursuing the GfC agenda.
- The next event can include some community members from the host country who can elaborate on their experiences and what their expectations are when it comes to shifting the power, what they will want to be done differently and if possible, how.
- Visits to project sites can be fixed in between the days so participants can share their experience and give suggestions on how to make such projects better.
- Countries can present their specific achievements/challenges and how they achieved them or solved the challenges. Achievements can be facilitated in the form of exhibitions/gallery.
- Have more field visits to exchange experiences to see how the other countries do their field activities.
- Begin and end with prayer.
- Facilitation should be done by country & partner representatives.
- COP conveners from other countries should be made part of the meeting as the real implementation of GfC lies with them. Building their capacity in such meetings will help improve their knowledge and sustained interest.
- An assessment session of the GfC programme progress with a reference of indicators from the PMEL frameworks and ToC should be included in the programme.

The family believes that if these recommendations are taken into consideration, the next event will be more impactful.

The GfC learning event was a great revelation for the entire family as it was a steppingstone for greater things ahead. The family is looking forward to continuing working as hard as possible to ensure that the communities we want are developed and creating footsteps in terms of philanthropy for others to follow.

GfC Learning Event in the News (or News Blitz)

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/time-for-africa-to-look-within-for-revenue-civil-society-advocates.html>

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/africa-must-prioritise-internal-measures-to-raise-revenue-wacsi/>

<https://www.thefinderonline.com/news/item/23810-enhancing-local-philanthropy-key-to-community-development>

measures to raise revenue – WACSI
Source: Afua Aprakuwa Boaso
12 July 2022 8:31pm

Time for Africa to look within for revenue – Civil society advocates
By Incent Ananwa

Collaborate to advance development – WACSI urges philanthropic organisations
By Ghana Today — July 10, 2022

Enhancing local philanthropy key to community development
By Julius K. SATSI, ACCRA

Indiscipline human activities moving Ghana to state of water scarcity

600,000 GH\$
PROMOTE & CORRECT BEHAVIOUR
GET NOW

African Philanthropic organisations meet to enhance giving for societal change

Figure 17: Clippings from the learning event

APPENDIX I – PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Name of Organisation	Website	Country	Number of representatives
Africa Philanthropy Network (APN)	www.aricaphilanthropynetwork.org	Tanzania	3
Association Burkinabè de Fundraising (ABF)	www.aburkina.org	Burkina Faso	3
Dalia Association	www.dalia.ps	Palestine	2
Development Expertise Center	www.decethiopia.org	Ethiopia	3
Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF)	www.glabalfundcommunityfoundations.org	South Africa	4
Kenya Community Foundation (KCDF)	www.kcdf.or.ke	Kenya	3
Micaia Foundation	www.micaia.org	Mozambique	2
STAR Ghana Foundation	www.star-ghana.org	Ghana	4
Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF)	www.ngoforum.or.ug	Uganda	3
West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)	www.wacsi.org	Ghana	10
Wilde Ganzen	www.wildeganzen.nl	Netherlands	3
Penplusbytes	www.penplusbytes.org	Ghana	1
Songtaba	www.songtaba.org	Ghana	1

Community Development Alliance (CDA)	www.cdaghana.org	Ghana	1
The Light Foundation (TLF)	www.tlghana.org	Ghana	1
West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF)	www.waafweb.org	Ghana	1
Youth Development, Research and Innovation Centre (YOUDRIC)	www.youdrigh.org	Ghana	1

Appendix II – LEARNING EVENT AGENDA

AGENDA

Sunday, July 10, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
ALL-DAY	Arrival of participants

Monday, July 11, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM Plenary	Welcome remarks, expectations & agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Goals of convening b. Group icebreaker c. Ways of working: co-design working agreements for our time together d. Acknowledge assumptions of shared terms
10:00 AM	Personal Introductions and getting acquainted: group exercise
10:30 AM	COFFEE BREAK
10:45 AM	Breakout Session 1 Participant-led discussions on conditions, hurdles, opportunities, etc. (small groups) Breakout Session 2 Participant-led discussions discussing the themes that came up from the first breakout session.
1:00 PM	LUNCH
2:00 PM Plenary	Sharing of notable insights from breakout sessions
2:30 PM Plenary	Sessions-setting Exercise for Days 2- 4: Identify themes/topics for discussion from Day 2 onwards

3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK
3:30 PM Plenary	Closing round/reflection on the day
4:00 PM	Unstructured Time
7:00 PM	GROUP DINNER

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM Plenary	Open discussion: what are the key themes that we need to address?
10:00 AM Plenary	First plenary session (from topics agreed upon on Day 1)
11:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 AM Open space Plenary	Open space sessions/or plenary session (as decided on Day 1)
1:00 PM	LUNCH
2:00 PM Open space	Open space sessions (as decided on Day 1)
3:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK
4:00 PM Plenary	Reflecting on what we are learning – and where we want to go
5:00 PM	Unstructured Time/Informal networking

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM Plenary	Open discussion: How can we work with the wider constituency of community philanthropy across the world from Siberia to Sinai and beyond?
10:00 AM Plenary	Plenary session (from topics agreed upon on Day 1)
11:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 AM Open space Plenary	Open space sessions/or plenary session (as decided on Day 1)
1:00 PM	LUNCH
2:00 PM Open space	Open space sessions (as decided on Day 1)
3:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK

4:00 PM Plenary	Closing round/reflection on the day: a. How do we share our learning and bring people into the programme, so it supports other (networks) and builds our “family”?
5:00 PM	Unstructured Time/Informal networking

Thursday, July 14, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM Plenary	Open discussion: systems change – ways of influencing change
10:00 AM Plenary	Plenary session (from topics agreed upon on Day 1)
11:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 AM Open space Plenary	Open space sessions/or plenary session (as decided on Day 1)
1:00 PM	LUNCH
2:00 PM Open space	Open space sessions (as decided on Day 1)
3:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK
4:00 PM Plenary	Moving forward (wrap up, look back and ahead): a. Consider the over-arching framing question for the week – provide answers/recommendations/etc.
5:00 PM	Unstructured Time/Informal networking
7:00 PM	CLOSING CEREMONY DINNER AND CULTURAL NIGHT

Friday, July 15, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Site visits (optional)
AM	Open sessions (as needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning/measurement/facilitators meeting
ALL-DAY	Unstructured Time/Informal networking

Saturday, July 16, 2022

TIME	ACTIVITY/SESSION
8:00 AM	Breakfast
12 PM	Room check-out

Gallery of our Memories

<https://web.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.5140943152670819&type=3>