



## Case Study

# East Africa Association of Grantmakers



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Nurturing Philanthropy in East Africa

# Global Philanthropy Data Charter Case Study

## East Africa Association of Grantmakers

### Kenya Data Strategy and Capacity Building Process

There has been an increased growth of the philanthropy infrastructure in Kenya and the recognition of philanthropy as a strategic partner in planning and implementing national and global development plans. The government of Kenya has been proactively engaged in developing data on development and has opened up space to engage and support different data stakeholders to improve data collection, management and sharing. This necessitated the need for philanthropy actors to increase collaboration with each other and link their work to other developments actors and the broader development ecosystem. For this reason, accurate, reliable and relevant data has become and will be critical in informing these collaborations and in implementing, measuring and reporting on philanthropy's contribution to achieving development goals going forward.

The challenge is that Kenya lacks an organized framework for collecting reliable and comparable data on philanthropy. Factors that have stifled philanthropy support organisations in collecting and sharing reliable and comparable data include;

- Ensuring Inclusivity and context specific data- Diversity in legal regimes and giving structures of philanthropy in Kenya makes it difficult to develop an inclusive taxonomy that captures a reflection of the nature of philanthropy (both structured and informal). This also makes it difficult to design tools and methodologies that accurately quantify the value of local philanthropy.
- Poor collaboration in Data Sharing and Management – sources of information on philanthropy are largely disjointed, incoherent, and not always well organized. In addition the poor collaboration in data sharing and management leads to duplication and mistrust – some organizations are not open to sharing data especially transaction data largely because there is no established framework for collective philanthropy data management and sharing that provide guiding principles, values and modalities for protecting data.
- Data Quality and Assessment- There is also no common approach or required reporting structures to tracking and reporting on philanthropy and this has affected the accuracy and

limited the level of analysis. Organizations that have structured giving programmes do not necessarily have harmonized record keeping systems and this becomes a challenge when obtaining accurate financial records especially if the objective is to analyze giving trends or compares forms of giving.

Limited capacity for Data Management among philanthropy actors -It's on this basis that EAAG through the Kenya Philanthropy Forum (a network of foundations and trusts in Kenya) facilitated organized conversations among philanthropy actors to explore opportunities to strengthen data collection, management and sharing. The result was an agreement to collectively; establish the principles for data management for philanthropy; develop a standardized tool for data collection, build the data capacity of foundations/trusts and actively engage and complement the existing philanthropy data initiatives including the Philanthropy Data Charter, Kenya Bureau of statistics and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. The Kenya Philanthropy Forum established the Philanthropy Data Subgroup that would provide leadership in achieving these goals and addressing the local data challenges. The Subgroup, led by a partnership between the East African Association of Grantmakers, Kenya Community Development Foundation, Foundation Center and the SDG Philanthropy Platform, took participants through a multistage process to develop a contextually relevant data strategy.. Facilitated by Foundation Center as part of its Data Strategy and Capacity Building Program, participants identified a number of principles for collaborative data and knowledge management to guide the process. They included principles on data quality; public access to data as well as that by peers and researchers; data security and consent; acknowledgement of data sources; application of best practices; transparency; accountability; standardization; inclusivity and data comparability. Leveraging on the Global Philanthropy Data Charter, participants were able to place proposed principles and values to those highlighted on the charter and relate the local context/process to global efforts to achieve quality, inclusive and comparable philanthropy data. The principles of quality, safeguarding, accessibility and accountability soundly resonated with those of the Kenya Philanthropy Forum members and helped frame conversations of data priorities providing a broader understanding of what it takes to achieve a collective data strategy and common data system.

To reflect on the principles the following priorities were identified; they included;

- The need to create a value proposition for collective data management where the participants summed it up in a tagline 'Philanthropy Data in One Portal for One Kenya'. The value proposition for the Kenya Data System is a reflection of the data benefits highlighted in the charter.
- Build an inclusive data capacity strategy to strengthen data management skills among foundations and trusts

- Enhance a culture of collaboration by building trust in data sharing processes.
- Develop a secure collective data system. .
- Ensure comparability by aligning the Kenya philanthropy data process to existing national and global data systems

The charter has helped EAAG as a support network facilitating this process appreciate the value of improvement and acknowledge the challenges that come with connecting the process to the principles, values and expectations. In addition, while aligning to the principle of inclusiveness EAAG and Kenya Philanthropy forum has committed to engage relevant stakeholders in growing and strengthening the data process to reflect different forms of giving, include relevant government, private sector and global data initiatives.

It would be helpful if the charter was translated to Swahili and provided more elements to address challenges that face support organizations in developing standardized tools in a context where philanthropy is largely informal and less organized.

## References

### Reports

[Convening of Data Management in Philanthropy](#), Kenya Philanthropy Forum, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015

[Data Scoping Meeting](#), Kenya Philanthropy Forum, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

[Data strategy and Capacity Building](#) Workshop, Kenya Philanthropy Forum, 4-5 July 2016

[Of Narratives Networks and Spaces](#) - A Baseline Mapping of the African Philanthropy Infrastructure Sector – Halima Mohammed, March 2014

### Other Resources

<http://www.grantcraft.org/videos/vlog-from-the-field-lauren-bradford-interviews-catherine-mwendwa-eaag> video interview with Catherine Mwendwa from East Africa Association of Grantmakers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItR80tgTI8M&feature=youtu.be> webinar on the data strategy and capacity building work in Kenya

<http://www.grantcraft.org/blog/innovations-in-data-and-knowledge-sharing-east-african-philanthropy-leads-t> Innovations in Data and Knowledge Sharing: East African Philanthropy Leads the Way

[www.sdgfunders.org](http://www.sdgfunders.org)

[www.philanthropydata.wingsweb.org](http://www.philanthropydata.wingsweb.org)

[www.dataforum.or.ke](http://www.dataforum.or.ke)

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