



# FOSTERING COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PHILANTHROPY'S ENGAGEMENT IN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN KENYA

UN Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi

21 November 2014

**Our first pilot country launch in Kenya of the Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy brought together over 80 participants from the philanthropic sector, UN system, civil society, business and government to expand the dialogue toward a more systemic approach to development challenges, exchange and deepen understanding across sectors, glean priorities for data gathering and use, and to sow the seeds for deeper collaboration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss themes such as financial inclusion and youth employment, education, and women's rights and empowerment.**

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this important consultation. In recent years, we have seen an increase in philanthropic giving - both from institutions and individuals. It is our responsibility to ensure that this giving is matched to improved lives at the grassroots level. That is why collaboration among diverse players is of high importance. We must consequently ensure that our activities are aligned to Kenya's Vision 2030 and the realization of the Post-2015 Agenda.

This is the first time that the United Nations, the Government of Kenya and foundations are coming together to strategically discuss long term collaboration on sustainable development. These discussions come at an important time, with only a few months to the end of MDGs, and at a time when the world is carefully reflecting on the next set of development goals.

Indeed, the MDGs have played an important role in championing the development agenda across the world. As we join hands today, we have to all work tirelessly to ensure that all the goals that multiple stakeholders and world leaders set out to achieve are met, even as we discuss the next phase.

Kenya has been a proponent and a great champion of the MDGs since their inception. Under the social pillar of Vision 2030, it aspires to focus on a just and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development which espouses the spirit of the MDGs. The country has made key economic progress in the last decade but poverty levels still remain high at around 42%.

These high poverty levels continue to be the greatest challenge. The country now has enormous opportunity to address these challenges through the new devolved structure of governance. However, to sustainably deliver improved services to the people, we must create broad based partnerships between governments both local and national, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society.

The recently concluded post-2015 global conversation has been very inclusive of grassroots-based institutions. The UN alone engaged in a conversation with over 5 million people around the world to understand emerging development priorities. What we have heard is that while the core issues of the MDGs were poverty reduction, health and education, people are also concerned about the environment and growing inequalities. They want accountable and transparent governments, as well as jobs for youth. Therefore the current proposal of 17 goals integrates social, environmental as well as economic concerns.

In order to meet the development aspirations of citizens around the globe however, we must acknowledge the important contribution of philanthropy and create strong linkages with government and development actors. Philanthropy brings with it many unique strengths, such as agility, commitment to innovation and experimentation, and grassroots development insights which are important assets for development.

I am excited that Kenya was selected as the first pilot country for this collaborative initiative on philanthropy - the Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy, now officially launching in Kenya. This is therefore a milestone workshop. By launching this partnership, we aim to demonstrate that collective action is the way forward in implementing the SDGs. The partnership will test new approaches and methodologies of working together where our unique strengths can be put to best use.

We at the United Nations are committed to learn and adapt to new ways of engaging with foundations. This will help to skillfully facilitate philanthropic partnerships, appreciate mutual ways of engagement, and leverage each other's resources and networks in responding to challenges.

Here in Kenya, our efforts will focus on developing capacities of local partners - actions which are crucial as we progress towards a more universal agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. I encourage everyone to engage actively in a dialogue that promises to unveil new, exciting and creative ways of working together towards the common good.



*“To meet the development aspirations of the global citizens, we must acknowledge the important contribution of philanthropy and create strong linkages with government and development actors...”*

*- Nardos Bekele-Thomas-*

## Messages from our partners of Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy



“Philanthropy needs to remain agile, nimble and innovative. While the field has recently started to engage on the Post-2015 deliberations, we need to fast-track this process. To sustain a meaningful debate to better inform the SDGs, all stakeholders should “walk the talk” and *engage in the real world to tackle real challenges.*”

**Shaheen Laksa, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**



“There have been countless development efforts that have unfortunately not succeeded because they lacked *a strong systemic approach.* The challenge for the philanthropic sector in Kenya is to shift from individual programs and projects to collaborative efforts that encompass the pillars of this approach.”

**Heather Grady, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**



“Kenya is well-known for its technological innovations to an extent that it is earning the reputation of being called the “Silicon Savanna”. *The data revolution and the mounting requests for compiled data* and information on who is doing what and where in the philanthropy sector which is a major gap currently.”

**Angela Hariche, Foundation Center**



“When setting our priorities, we have to take into consideration changes in time and in context,. But our mission has not changed over the years. Therefore, future discussions should not be focused on what we work on, because this remains largely the same, but how we work on these issues. How do we internally begin to increase collaboration and extend this collaboration to various other stakeholders?”

**Maurice Mokoloo, Ford Foundation**



“MasterCard’s main interest in being part of this philanthropy partnership platform relates to the foundation’s programming strategies and goals around economic opportunities for youth, education and financial inclusion in Kenya.”

**Joseph Dickman, The MasterCard Foundation**

### Workshop at glance



**80 +  
participants**



**Multi  
Stakeholder**



**20 +  
Speakers**



**Philanthropy  
data  
collection**



**Three  
theme-  
based  
workshops**

## TAKING A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN LINKING GLOBAL GOALS, NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND EFFORTS OF PHILANTHROPY

The first plenary was moderated by **Heather Grady, Senior Fellow at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**. Panelists included **Maria-Threse Keating, Country Director of UNDP Kenya; Gideon M. Mailu, Acting Director of the Enabling Coordination Department and MDG Focal Point at the Ministry of Devolution and Planning; Maurice Makoloo, Regional Representative of Ford Foundation; Dr. Jo Abbot, Deputy Head (Programmes) at DFID Kenya; and Dr. Helen Gichohi, Managing Director at Equity Group Foundation.**

Heather Grady opened the plenary by stating that the philanthropic sector has been minimally involved in the MDG framework, but that the opportunities to drive development for the Post-2015 Development Agenda are tremendous, as philanthropic foundations can relate their work to each of the (currently 17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an opportune time for philanthropic foundations to strengthen the future development goals in every area and especially in those that require more support.

The first 16 goals address priority development areas, while the 17<sup>th</sup> goal focuses on the means of implementation. The key concept behind the SDGs is to link economic, social and environmental goals together. There have been countless development efforts that have unfortunately not succeeded because they lacked a **strong systemic approach**. The challenge for the philanthropic sector in Kenya, as elsewhere, is to shift from individual programs and projects to collaborative efforts that encompass the pillars of this approach to make faster, deeper progress.



The first plenary on taking a systems approach in linking global goals, national priorities and efforts of philanthropy, illustrated by the speaker highlights above, provided important insights into the philanthropic landscape in Kenya and ideas on how to create an enabling environment for foundations to drive Post-2015 development in the country. The discussions indicated that **stronger collaboration between foundations, as well as between foundations and other stakeholders, especially the government, are anticipated, and would be**

**highly valued.** Although a systems-level approach to aligning various interests, aims and efforts has not been laid out in detail yet, there is growing consensus that the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs provide significant opportunities for philanthropic actors to drive development forward through collaborative efforts. Challenges for the work of the philanthropy sector were also identified in terms of a changing enabling environment, given the proposed amendments to Kenya's Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act.

*“Devolution has been a game changer in the last 18 months in Kenya. Localization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in tandem with devolution is a good opportunity to involve citizens on the ground in the future development process.”*

**- Marie-Threse Keating,  
UNDP-**

*“Too often, international actors spend too much time on re-researching and figuring out what the local challenges are even though this knowledge is readily available through the local foundations.”*

**-Manu Chandaria-**

### KEY TAKE AWAYS

- There are good precedents of foundations teaming up with other partners in development, for example, the “Beyond Zero” campaign on maternal health, which can be built on.
- It is important for foundations to understand and engage in the bigger picture of development in the country.
- The government is open to partnerships with foundations, to achieve the MDG agenda and also to put Kenya on a sustainable development path of SDGs.
- Although the presence of international philanthropy is important, local / indigenous foundations are key in sustaining progress in the long term, and these efforts should be encouraged.
- Devolution in the Kenyan context is an important development. Disaggregation of data by counties as well as identifying possible entry points within county structures are useful steps for foundations to partner with the government.
- An environment for philanthropy to operate effectively and transparently is crucial.



## DATA-BUILDING BLOCKS FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION—OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN KENYA

*The session on data and information was led by Angela Hariche, Director of International Relations at the Foundation Center; and included Nicanor Sabula from the East Africa Association of Grantmakers; James Gatungu from the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics; and Melvin Chibole from the Kenya Community Development Foundation.*

In regard to the Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy, the Foundation Center works with various partners with the aim of gathering more quality data on philanthropy globally, starting with Kenya. The country is well-known for its technological innovations to the extent that it is earning the reputation of being called the “Silicon Savanna”. In her opening remarks, Angela Hariche referred to **the data revolution and the mounting requests for compiled data** and information on who is doing what and where in the philanthropy sector – currently a major gap.

The Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy has four elements. Its data element, the **SDGfounders.org** portal, is a place where reliable data and information on what is happening in the philanthropic sector can be collected and shared. There are five pilot countries where this will be introduced and Kenya is the very first to be launched.

A major challenge in building effective collaboration between actors in the philanthropy sector towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda manifests itself around **willingness and mechanisms for data sharing**. Competition for funding opportunities, and uncertainty on how such data will be used, reduces the trust and openness of many foundations to share data. Another obstacle relates to the question of how to cluster data - including identification of the types of data needed by various types of users. An opportunity to facilitate data sharing, and making information more easily accessible, was identified through technological innovations and digital mapping that would show which organization engages on what, and where. It is considered crucial that information is gathered in a centralized place. It remains to be discussed whether the National Bureau of Statistics, as a government actor, would be the right institution to compile information provided by “non-state actors” such as philanthropic foundations, or whether this could be housed in a “neutral” independent platform.

The majority of workshop participants were familiar with the concept of a data revolution and the **Financing for Development Agenda**, which provides for a good starting point to improve the situation around data, information gathering and sharing.

When discussing data, we must realize that data generation is one aspect, but using data that is already available to develop strategies and interventions is equally important. In order to capture opinions on the needs related to SDGfounders.org, the workshop’s participants completed a survey at the end of the panel discussion.

*“A problem we face is that we do not have sufficient data to inform and convince the government of the positive impact that we have created. We find ourselves in a tight corner because the data available is very scattered. What is needed is a central repository for data and statistics which can be presented to government and other stakeholders. This would put us in a much better place to negotiate and accurately present the valuable contribution of this sector in development.”*

**- Nicanor Sabula, Association of East African Grantmakers-**

### KEY TAKE AWAYS

- There is little information about philanthropy in Kenya. There is a clear need for information who is doing what and to what effect as well as more work around coordination and collaboration towards common goals.
- The National Bureau of Statistics is open to work and support data collections from the philanthropic sector, especially addressing the important issues of harmonization, openness, quality of data as well as usability.
- Collecting some basic data on philanthropic activities will help to show impact of the CSO and philanthropy and break down some of the inherent mistrust between government and foundations/non-profits.
- The key challenges that need to be addressed: organizing a centralized depository/clearinghouse, addressing issues related to mistrust, secrecy, and negative assumptions about use of data. The data must work for all stakeholders in order to be sustainable.



The workshop included three breakout sessions that gave participants the chance to delve deeply into development themes on which their organizations focus, and each was attended by 10-30 participants. The sessions were co-facilitated by the six institutions who had organized the workshop.

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## BREAK OUT SESSION ONE: FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

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### FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- Look at organizations that have developed a mapping of the sector and build a more extensive landscaping of work on what has been done - don't reinvent this.
- Cast the information net widely and then drill down on specific sub-issues, and once there is agreement on more specific issues to address, work to generate greater commitment and collaboration in these areas.
- Support research to find out key parameters that inform development initiatives funded by philanthropic organizations.
- Coalesce efforts to realize common goals and create more meaningful impact to society.
- Be more creative in the collaborative efforts undertaken (other than meetings) and action oriented.
- Use innovative communications techniques and social media to track ideas, partnerships and projects.
- Measuring success and monitoring & evaluation in this area needs to be enhanced .
- What are the linkages between financial inclusion and youth employment? There was a sense that financial inclusion and youth employment, while related, are each so substantial that they may require two separate streams of work. This may depend on whether the financial inclusion programs are a key component in making improvements to youth livelihoods in areas like agriculture, microenterprise, SMEs, services, digital jobs.
- What sectors are job-rich for youth, and is access to finance the solution or are there other more impactful interventions? Given the energy behind financial inclusion in Kenya right now, does that represent a Kenyan priority approach to generating youth employment?

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## BREAK OUT SESSION TWO: EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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### FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- A more inclusive forum is needed to bring on board all the key players in the education sector to encourage dialogue and collaboration.
- Explore innovative partnerships across multiple sectors and stakeholders that can add value to the education sector in Kenya.
- Explore potential of using social media to track ideas, partnerships and projects.
- Consider developing a mapping system that shows who is doing what and where in the education sector, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and contradictions and seek complementarity in priority setting and coverage. Look at organizations that have developed a mapping of the sector. Devolution presents a major opportunity in Kenya to extend support beyond the Ministry of Education from national to the county level.
- Take the opportunity to encourage and nurture a greater number of foundations to engage strategically on the issue of the **quality of education**, moving beyond the issue of access. This has implications for curriculum reform in line with market expectations. Collaborations could also occur around specific gaps on sub-issues (e.g., literacy and numeracy, library resources, key resource teachers and school clusters).
- The enormous potential in the **informal sector** has to be acknowledged and used better. A lot of concern was raised on this issue and the need to follow up to get relevant data and to advocate for the support of this critical sector that is often neglected by the education system and foundations working in this area. More information is needed on what foundations and other players in the field of education can do to encourage and foster skills of young people in the informal sector in order to support community development at large.
- There is a great need and opportunity for **harnessing information technology innovations and building technical capacity** which has not been fully addressed by the education sector and its funding partners including philanthropic organizations.

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## BREAK OUT SESSION THREE: PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

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### FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

- There was a proposal to launch a foundation advisory group within UN Women on the premise of the important role philanthropy plays in Kenya in gender equality. The important added value of philanthropy is in challenging the status quo, the ability to take risks, to respond rapidly, stimulate innovation and create sustainable pathways to progress.
- Focus on assistance in targeting/reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized groups where government has not been successful or interested.

# Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy

This project for the *Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy* (the Platform) focuses on philanthropy's input into this developmental landscape by helping grantmakers to better understand the opportunities for engaging in global development goals processes. It will help to build a means for philanthropy to participate more in the global discussions on the Post-2015 Agenda, something welcomed by many governments and others. The project will, at the same time, assist governments and the UN system in comprehending the added value of philanthropy's direct engagement. It will also, crucially, help amplify the voice and action of grantees in determining and achieving international targets and strategies.

The four overarching objectives of this project are to:

1. Create a means for philanthropy to engage better as a partner in the Post-2015 Agenda.
2. Create new methods of outreach and engagement to connect philanthropy to development ecosystems.
3. Develop country-level structures that identify opportunities for philanthropy and partners to collaborate.
4. Make data on philanthropic investments more accessible to track progress, find partners, and tell stories about effective collaborative efforts.

These objectives will be met by the three implementing partners – UNDP (undp.org), Foundation Center (foundationcenter.org), and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (rockpa.org).

*For more information on the Platform in Kenya and globally please visit*

<http://www.rockpa.org/about-us-sponsored-projects-post-2015-partnership-platform-for-philanthropy>.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/partners/foundations/>

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