

Global Philanthropy Tracker: Kenya

Jacob Mwathi Mati, School of Humanities, Sol Plaatje University, Kimberly, South Africa;
Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI), Wits Business School,
Johannesburg, South Africa¹

Definitions

PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS (POs): A form of non-market, non-state organizations outside of the family that provide services for the public good. It includes, but is not limited to, the following: foundations (grant-making, operating, corporate, community, or government sponsored/created), community-based organizations and village associations, professional associations, environmental groups, advocacy groups, co-operatives, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, mutual entities, labor unions, societies, research institutes, diasporic organizations, online social-purpose portals, and transnational and cross-sectoral coalitions.

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES: Philanthropic activities are extremely diverse when considered at the global level. They include, but are not limited to, financial contributions, volunteering, collective action, advocacy, grassroots and direct giving and helping, and new methods such as crowdfunding and hybrid philanthropic activities (i.e., social impact bonds and social enterprises).

CROSS-BORDER PHILANTHROPY: Philanthropic activities in which the donor (individuals, foundations, corporations, or religious organizations) and the beneficiary (individuals, foreign POs, foreign intermediary organizations) are located in different countries. The term includes donations to domestic POs in a given country that focus on broad categories of international causes, such as foreign affairs, humanitarian assistance, international relations, promotion of international understanding, and international solidarity.

Overview of Philanthropy in Kenya

Philanthropy—i.e., the private giving of time or valuables (money, security, property) for public purposes—is an age-old social practice that binds societies together (Salamon, Sokolowski, and Sturza 1992; Payton, 1988; Payton and Moody, 2008; Moyo, 2016). In many parts of Africa, philanthropy is deeply embedded in everyday practices characterized by a reciprocal obligation dynamic (Mati, 2020b). Philanthropy, as a social exchange, has undergone transformations, especially in terms of scope and structure over time. Specifically, philanthropy as experienced in Kenya and the rest of Africa has, in recent decades, evolved from practices deeply embedded in everyday prosocial behaviors to some form of formal institutionalization (Fowler and Mati, 2019; Moyo, 2016).

These emergent formal philanthropic institutions are informed by both existing widespread giving cultures and especially by an expanding middle class and increase in high-net-worth individuals

¹ Contact: Email: jacobmati@gmail.com, Jacob.mati@spu.ac.za; Tel: +27 (0) 53 49104612

(HNWIs)—defined as someone with a net worth of over USD 1 million including their primary residence—with disposable income, part of which can be dispersed through charitable activities (Knight Frank Wealth Report, 2020: 1). The HNWIs have emerged in the context of sustained economic growth in the last two decades, resulting in the country moving into a lower-middle income status since 2014. By 2018, Kenya’s GDP Annual Growth Rate averaged 5.45 percent since 2004 while real GDP expanded from USD 12.75 billion to USD 89.91 billion. The 2019 *Wealth X High Net Worth Handbook* (2019) projects that between 2018 and 2023, Kenya will continue to be among the top ten fastest-growing HNW countries. Even then, Kenya is still a very unequal society. In 2018, Kenya had a GDP per capita of USD 1,710.50 and Gini Index of 41.6 percent² in a context where there are an estimated 8,600 millionaires (in USD) (World Bank, 2018; Afrasia Bank, 2019).

The list of the wealthiest Kenyans includes businessmen in manufacturing, agribusiness, financial services, and even politicians. Among HNWIs businessmen, most have made money from the banking sector, insurance, manufacturing, especially in steel and cement, as well as in motor vehicle sale franchises, agribusiness and real estate. The most common faces of individual philanthropists with established foundations, either as family or business foundations, include but are not limited to industrialists such as Manu Chandaria, Naushad Merali and his wife Zarina, Narendra Raval, Tabitha Karanja, and bankers such as Equity Group’s James Mwangi.

Other forms of expression for philanthropy in Kenya include foundations and faith-based philanthropy deriving from the canonical decrees of different faiths that those who have should give to those in need. Among Muslims it ranges from *sadaka* to *zakat* and endowed institutions such as *awaqf* along the Kenyan coast that date to 1832 (Hashim, 2010). Among Christians, tithing is most prevalent. In addition, there are established church-based philanthropic institutions that have been at the heart of education and healthcare provisioning in Kenya since the colonial period. *Dan* giving among the Indo-religious adherents (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism) is also widely practiced (Mati, 2020b). A recent Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) (2020) study indicates that the most dominant form of giving—whether directly to other individuals, to civil society organizations (CSOs) or religious institutions—is money (mentioned by 95 percent of surveyed participants). In the most recent decade, this has also been aided greatly by technological innovations, especially Mpesa, the mobile money transfer platform invented by Safaricom that allows citizens to easily send money or use the platform for fundraising purposes. In this regard, the CAF (2020) study shows that Mpesa is the most-used platform for giving, with 72 percent of survey participants citing this.

SCOPE, STRUCTURE, AND TRENDS

Most philanthropists are driven by everyday moral and ethical compulsions drawn from religious beliefs and the existence of widespread individual and community needs in an environment where the state is unable to meet these needs. Others, especially businessmen, are driven by “disinterested” motives as well as calculative “good for business” motives, and even the feeling of

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=KE&view=chart>

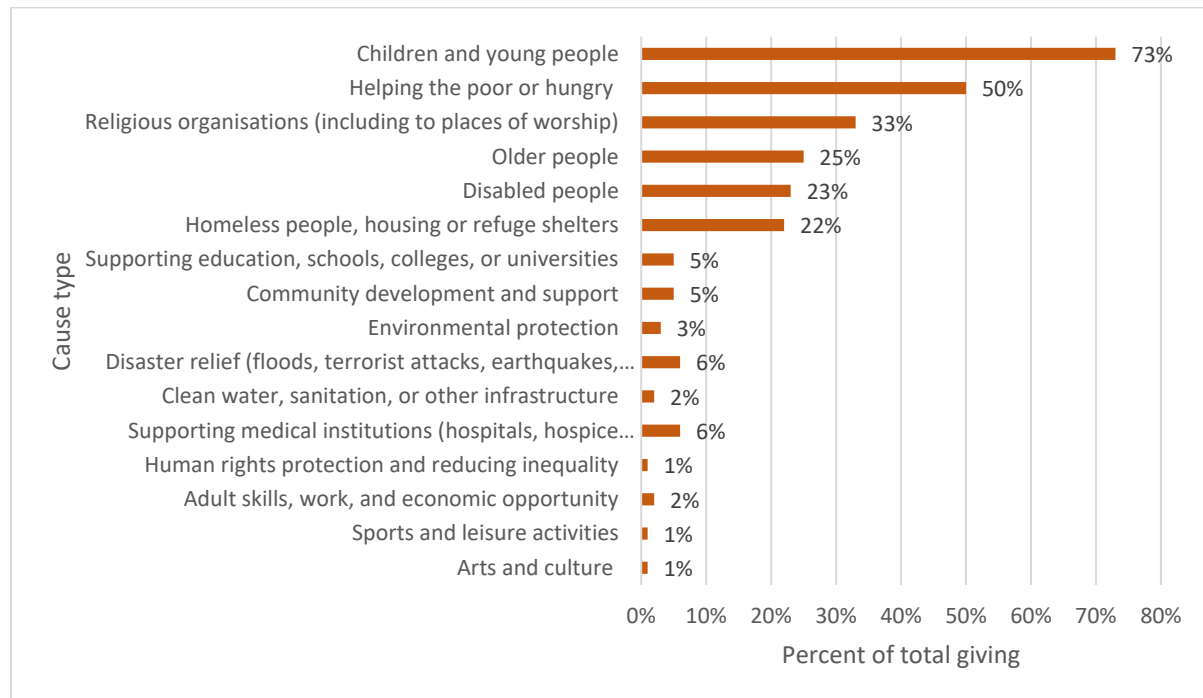
a need to do good (Mati, 2020a; Mati, 2020b). Given their influential role, many have been honored with some of the highest civilian medals, such as Head of State Commendation, for their philanthropic activities. For example, Manu Chandaria was awarded the Elder of the Burning Spear (one of the highest civilian honors in Kenya) by President Mwai Kibaki in 2003 in recognition of outstanding service to the nation (Global Philanthropy Forum, 2020).

While the number of formal foundations being established is increasing, because of the existence of multiple regimes of registration, the number of registered and currently operational foundations in Kenya is not easy to determine as no publicly available register of such is available.³ A study by Kanyinga and Mitullah (2007) estimated that there were 223 foundations by 2005. The most common types of foundations were community foundations (36 percent) and corporate foundations (21 percent). To determine numbers, one must go to the various registers under the different Acts. These registers, kept by various agencies (by the Attorney General's Office or the NGO Registration Bureau), do not necessarily tell us whether these foundations are still active after their registration. It is through combining such lists that estimates were made in Kanyinga and Mitullah's 2007 study.

It needs to be mentioned that formal philanthropic organizations are not the only way that philanthropy is exercised. There is a huge component of direct giving among Kenyans (EAAG, 2012). A 2018 national household survey of 1,991 participants representing all the country's 47 counties by Yetu Initiative revealed that 93 percent of Kenyans give either directly to other individuals or to charitable causes (Yetu Initiative, 2018). Results indicate that 92 percent of participants give informally to individuals while 64 percent give to organizations, with most giving directed toward helping fellow citizens overcome challenges related to "health, education, poverty, and economic empowerment" (Yetu Initiative, 2018, p. 7). Twenty-four percent (24%) of all giving was directed to each of these causes. These findings are consistent with those of CAF (2020) that show that 62 percent of individuals surveyed gave to organizations. With regard to individual philanthropy, most people (74 percent) gave to causes that support children and young people (CAF, 2020; Mati, 2020b). Figure 1 below summarizes all cases supported by individual donors in Kenya.

³ Philanthropy organizations in Kenya can register as various forms of NGOs under non-governmental organizations (NGO) co-ordination Act (1990, revised 2012) CAP 134 of the Laws of Kenya, as Trusts under the Trustees Act, CAP 167 Laws of Kenya (1982, Revised 2012) and Trustees (Perpetual Succession) Act, CAP 164, Laws of Kenya (1982, Revised 2012).

FIGURE 1
CAUSES SUPPORTED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Source: CAF (2020) *Growing Giving in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania*, <https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/growing-giving-in-kenya-uganda-and-tanzania-report.pdf>

Philanthropy from corporate businesses and foundations has also been on the rise (Yetu Initiative, 2018). Data on 82 different funders based in Kenya from the East Africa Philanthropy Data Portal (2020) indicate that between 2006 to 2019, grants amounting to USD 73,928,092 were given to 2,799 different organizations spread across various countries around the globe (the majority of which were African). Of this amount, 16.87 percent (USD 17,139,705) was granted to local Kenyan organizations while the rest (83.13 percent) was granted to organizations outside the country (for specific countries, see Table 1 below). Within Kenya-based grant recipients, the highest single grant during this period was USD 4.7 million to Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs. Three other grantees received more than USD 1 million in grants. The smallest grant was USD 500 given to Satima Consultants.

Kenyan-domiciled organizations, however, are not the largest recipients of philanthropic grants from Kenya-based funders. The top recipients are organizations in the United States, who received a total of USD 24,760,661 (24.38%). The highest grant to a US-based organization was USD 13,000,000 and the lowest USD 5,000. The high proportion of grants to non-Kenya-based organizations can be explained by the presence of many transnational organizations in Nairobi. Table 1, constructed from East Africa Philanthropy Data Portal by Candid and East Africa Philanthropy Network,⁴ provides a detailed breakdown of these grants by Kenya-based grant making organizations to grantees based in Kenya and elsewhere in the world.

⁴ <https://phileastafrica.org/>

TABLE 1

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS BY KENYA-BASED GRANT MAKING ORGANIZATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS BASED IN KENYA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

Country of recipient	* Total Dollar Value of Grants in each country (2006-Aug 2020)	Total number of grants (2006- Aug 2020)	% of total grant value to each country from Kenya-based donors (2006-Aug 2020)	*Average dollar value grant (2006-Aug 2020)	Highest dollar value of single grant from single donor (2006-Aug 2020)	Lowest dollar value of single grant from single donor (2006- Aug 2020)
Angola	\$31,865	4	0.042	\$7,966	\$10,000	\$5,215
Benin	\$18,600	3	0.025	\$6,200	\$6,800	\$5,000
Botswana	\$79,002	4	0.105	\$19,751	\$31,148	\$2,082
Burkina Faso	\$295,111	11	0.393	\$26,828	\$161,636	\$3,000
Burundi	\$2,184,103	130	2.910	\$16,801	\$146,900	\$580
Cameroon	\$240,917	37	0.321	\$6,511	\$20,000	\$500
Canada	\$11,700	3	0.016	\$3,900	\$5,050	\$1,650
Central African Republic	\$7,724	2	0.010	\$3,862	\$3,862	\$3,862
Chad	\$14,000	2	0.019	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	\$235,216	51	0.313	\$4,612	\$12,000	\$550
Congo, Republic of the	\$27,089	5	0.036	\$5,418	\$7,101	\$4,994
Cote D'Ivoire	\$64,479	6	0.086	\$10,747	\$25,200	\$5,359
Egypt	\$128,256	23	0.171	\$5,576	\$10,000	\$2,389
Eritrea	\$3,408	1	0.005	\$3,408	\$3,408	\$3,408
Ethiopia	\$102,240	6	0.136	\$17,040	\$42,360	\$2,000
France	\$30,000	3	0.040	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Gambia, Republic of the	\$45,000	5	0.060	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$4,000
Ghana	\$5,091,330	14	6.783	\$363,666	\$4,900,000	\$1,880
Guinea	\$23,835	4	0.032	\$5,959	\$10,107	\$4,364
India	\$5,243,993	637	6.986	\$8,232	\$208,805	\$309
Indonesia	\$5,000	1	0.007	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Kenya	\$17,980,859	1169	23.955	\$15,381	\$4,500,000	\$500
Lesotho	\$15,000	1	0.020	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Liberia	\$172,475	26	0.230	\$6,634	\$15,000	\$3,740

Libya	\$13,080	3	0.017	\$4,360	\$5,600	\$3,740
Madagascar	\$55,000	11	0.073	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Malawi	\$655,506	20	0.873	\$32,775	\$184,470	\$2,610
Mali	\$598,889	10	0.798	\$59,889	\$150,000	\$4,964
Mauritania	\$17,250	3	0.023	\$5,750	\$7,250	\$5,000
Morocco	\$44,650	9	0.059	\$4,961	\$11,000	\$7,000
Mozambique	\$336,495	3	0.448	\$112,165	\$199,195	\$8,000
Namibia	\$25,000	5	0.033	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Niger	\$9,650	2	0.013	\$4,825	\$6,200	\$3,450
Nigeria	\$763,869	77	1.018	\$9,920	\$193,270	\$1,700
Rwanda	\$306,961	34	0.409	\$9,028	\$23,760	\$2,000
Senegal	\$73,600	10	0.098	\$7,360	\$15,000	\$5,000
Sierra Leone	\$40,038	9	0.053	\$4,449	\$10,000	\$4,500
Somalia	\$21,650	5	0.029	\$4,330	\$5,000	\$3,150
South Africa	\$8,771,373	41	11.686	\$213,936	\$8,100,000	\$1,100
South Sudan	\$41,000	8	0.055	\$5,125	\$10,000	\$4,500
Sudan	\$188,982	31	0.252	\$6,096	\$12,000	\$1,000
Switzerland	\$20,000	1	0.027	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Tanzania	\$1,907,349	93	2.541	\$20,509	\$185,000	\$1,995
Togo	\$57,549	11	0.077	\$5,232	\$9,000	\$5,000
Tunisia	\$36,202	4	0.048	\$9,051	\$10,601	\$5,000
Uganda	\$3,592,373	199	4.786	\$18,052	\$263,000	\$499
United States	\$25,018,234	170	33.331	\$147,166	\$1,300,000	\$3,400
Zambia	\$80,771	9	0.108	\$8,975	\$12,000	\$5,000
Zimbabwe	\$333,187	40	0.444	\$8,330	\$45,400	\$800
Total	\$75,059,860	2956	100			

Source:

<https://maps.foundationcenter.org/#/list/?subjects=all&popgroups=all&years=all&location=192950&excludeLocation=0&geoScale=ADM0&layer=gm&boundingBox=-46.494140625,-14.349547837185362,75.673828125,35.67514743608467&gmOrgs=all&recipOrgs=all&tags=all&keywords=&pathsOrg=&pathwaysType=&acct=eafrik&typesOfSupport=all&transactionTypes=all&amtRanges=all&minGrantAmt=0&maxGrantAmt=0&gmTypes=all&minAssetsAmt=0&maxAssetsAmt=0&minGivingAmt=0&maxGivingAmt=0&andOr=0&includeGov=1&custom=all&customArea=all&indicator=&dataSource=oced&chartType=trends&multiSubject=1&listType=recip&windRoseAnd=undefined&zoom=4>

*Given to multiple/consortium of recipients by African Economic Research Consortium in 2018. For a single recipient, \$4.3 million was given to Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

The specific sectors supported by these grants is provided in Table 2. Specifically, the table shows that having received USD 29 million in grants, organizations working in international relations had the largest share of these grants (39.7 percent of total grants). The data suggest that investments in science are negligible, as only USD 5,753 in grants were made during this period. This data differs from an earlier East African Association of Grantmakers (today's East Africa Philanthropy Forum) study that reported that the most supported issue by those HNWI with formal foundations was education, taking up to 26 percent of all grants (EAAG, 2012). The second most funded sector, receiving 24 percent of the total funds, was the agriculture sector. This funding is aimed at organizations seeking sustainable solutions to perennial food shortages that are occasioned by droughts and floods in the region. Health, human rights advocacy, and economic empowerment also attracted a large proportion of funds in 2011 (EAAG, 2012).

TABLE 2
PROPORTION OF FUNDING TO DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT FIELDS/SECTOR

Thematic areas of support	Total Number of Grants	Total Dollar Value of Grants	Total Number of Funders	Total Number of Recipients
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	66	\$18,500,000	10	45
Arts and culture	76	\$492,869	7	40
Community and economic development	204	\$15,900,000	14	123
Education	350	\$18,400,000	21	98
Environment	61	\$508,714	10	51
Health	494	\$6,400,000	15	160
Human rights	1354	\$13,900,000	5	498
Human services	456	\$4,900,000	13	238
Information and Communications	100	\$1,200,000	4	54
International relations	91	\$29,000,000	10	66
Philanthropy	7	\$149,689	3	6
Public affairs	226	\$2,000,000	5	150
Public safety	372	\$3,700,000	6	162
Religion	291	\$2,100,000	7	24
Science	5	\$5,753	4	1
Social sciences	29	\$613,660	5	15
Sports and recreation	3	\$271,729	4	14
Unknown or not classified	44	\$201,850	3	15

Source: Foundation Maps by Candid and East African Philanthropy Network,
<https://maps.foundationcenter.org/#/list/?subjects=all&popgroups=all&years=all&location=192950&excludeLocation=0&geoScale=ADM0&layer=gm&boundingBox=-46.494140625,-14.349547837185362,75.673828125,35.67514743608467&gmOrgs=all&recipOrgs=all&tags=all&keywords=&path>

[waysOrg=&pathwaysType=&acct=eafrikak&typesOfSupport=all&transactionTypes=all&amtRanges=all&minGrantAmt=0&maxGrantAmt=0&gmTypes=all&minAssetsAmt=0&maxAssetsAmt=0&minGivingAmt=0&maxGivingAmt=0&andOr=0&includeGov=1&custom=all&customArea=all&indicator=&dataSource=oced&chartType=trends&multiSubject=1&listType=gm&windRoseAnd=undefined&zoom=4](#)

PHILANTHROPY'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

In 2015, the Kenya Philanthropy Forum was established in partnership with local philanthropic organizations to facilitate the representation of the local philanthropy voice in policy discussions such as the national development plan and collaborative opportunities. Over 70 foundations have been connected through the Kenya Philanthropy Forum, which is managed by SDG Philanthropy Platform, Kenya Community Development Foundation, and East African Association of Grant Makers (United Nations, 2020). Other SDG-supporting initiatives are mainly international foundations. According to Candid, foundations funded SDG initiatives in Kenya to the tune of USD 323,876,936 in 2016. The 25 key foundations involved and their contributions are reflected in Table 3.

TABLE 3
FOUNDATION FUNDING OF SDG INITIATIVES IN KENYA (AS OF AUGUST 22, 2020)

Name of Foundation	Amount of funding towards SDGs in Kenya (USD)
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$125,710,000
Ford Foundation	\$24,240,000
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	\$20,720,000
The Rockefeller Foundation	\$14,320,000
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$10,780,000
The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	\$9,860,000
Segal Family Foundation	\$8,780,000
Carnegie Corporation of New York	\$6,060,000
Comic Relief	\$6,040,000
Novo Foundation	\$5,750,000
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	\$5,500,000
California Community Foundation	\$4,690,000
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Inc.	\$4,200,000
Anonymous Australian Funders	\$3,590,000
American Jewish World Service - Donor Advised Funds	\$3,550,000
Human Dignity Foundation	\$3,500,000
National Endowment for Democracy	\$3,400,000
Climate Justice Resilience Fund	\$3,080,000
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	\$2,940,000
The Cummins Foundation	\$2,920,000
The Christensen Fund	\$2,840,000
Foundation to Promote Open Society	\$2,620,000

The Nu Skin Force for Good Foundation	\$2,380,000
The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	\$2,350,000
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	\$2,330,000

Source: SDG Funders by Candid, <https://sdgfunders.org/sdgs/dataset/recent/location/Kenya/> (April 09, 2020).

The data on the amounts directed to each specific SDG provided in Table 4 below shows that the largest share of grants went to *SDG3: Health and Well-Being*, whereas *SDG14: Life Below Water* received no grant funding.

TABLE 4
DISTRIBUTION OF FOUNDATION FUNDING BY SDGS

SDG	No. of Grants	Dollar Value of Total Grants
SDG 1. No Poverty	85	\$10,338,587
SDG2. No Hunger	158	\$44,440,987
SDG3. Good health and wellbeing	945	\$164,246,405
SDG4. Quality education	876	\$34,454,151
SDG5. Gender Equality	1039	\$141,048,857
SDG6. Clean water and sanitation	91	\$5,558,364
SDG7. Affordable and clean energy	17	\$4,534,998
SDG8. Decent work and economic growth	349	\$41,509,836
SDG9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	141	\$33,609,958
SDG10. Reduced inequalities	114	\$19,595,908
SDG11. Sustainable cities and communities	167	\$12,618,632
SDG12. Responsible consumption and productions	77	\$20,153,173
SDG13. Climate action	44	\$4,170,521
SDG14. Life below water	0	-
SDG15. Life on Land	406	\$25,694,823
SDG16. Peace justice and strong institutions	699	\$73,642,850
SDG17. Partnership for the goals	114	\$5,589,747

Source: SDG Funders by Candid, <https://sdgfunders.org/sdgs/dataset/recent/location/Kenya/> (as at August 22, 2020)

Foundations have also made grants to other grant making organizations as well as higher education and research institutions. Table 5 below shows the top 25 recipients. It should be noted that these organizations are not necessarily Kenyan-based but are funded to do their work in Kenya.

TABLE 5: 25 TOP GRANTEEES WORKING ON SDGS

Grantee name	Amount of Grant (USD)
Path	\$26,110,000
University of Washington Foundation	\$13,890,000

Technoserve, Inc.	\$13,630,000
United States Fund for UNICEF	\$11,550,000
Mannion Daniels Limited	\$10,210,000
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung	\$9,810,000
Living Goods	\$9,290,000
Shining Hope for Communities	\$9,140,000
Well Told Story	\$7,000,000
Mercy Corps	\$6,050,000
Catholic Relief Services	\$5,650,000
Ipas	\$5,500,000
Marie Stopes International	\$5,000,000
Save the Children Federation	\$4,500,000
Sidai Africa Limited	\$4,490,000
Clinton Health Access Initiative	\$4,050,000
Hester Biosciences Africa Limited	\$4,000,000
Equality Now	\$3,500,000
Maasai Wilderness Conservation Fund	\$3,430,000
Options for International Health	\$3,420,000
Federation of Women Lawyers (Kenya)	\$3,110,000
Kenya Human Rights Commission	\$3,090,000
Public Health Institute	\$2,920,000
Elanco	\$2,870,000
Tony Fitzjohng Adamson African Wildlife Preservation Trust, Inc.	\$2,590,000

Source: SDG Funders by Candid, <https://sdgfunders.org/sdgs/location/Kenya/dataset/recent/?tab=tab-recipientsspanclasstooltiptitlefiguresexcludegrantsmadebetweenfundersrepresentedinthesedataspan> (August 22, 2020)

PHILANTHROPIC RESPONSES TO COVID 19

Available information from newspapers suggests an explosion of philanthropic activities in response to COVID-19, with most efforts channeled through the *National COVID 19 Emergency Response Fund* (NCERF) established by the government of President Uhuru Kenyatta on March 19, 2020. In setting the NCERF, the President disallowed uncoordinated philanthropic activities, especially prevalent among politicians, fearing that such initiatives might lead to crowding, especially in informal settlements, and inadvertently cause the virus to spread. Further, President Kenyatta called upon all Kenyans, corporate entities both domestic and multinational, as well as international development partners, to support the national government's initiative. The seed capital of the fund was drawn from the Exchequer and included contributions through voluntary salary-cuts undertaken by the senior ranks of the executive, judiciary, legislature, and county governments (*APA News*, March 30, 2020). A month later, over USD 12 million had been raised

in cash and material donations as corporations, foundations, religious institutions, and individuals stepped forward to donate to the fund (*Nairobi News*, April 21, 2020). Table 6 shows some of the largest donors. Besides cash contributions, the members of the NCERF Board are senior executives in Kenya’s private sector who have freely donated their time and expertise (Juma, 2020). Noteworthy here is the fact that compared to other African countries, especially South Africa and Nigeria, Kenya’s wealthiest, as individuals, have contributed very little—if anything—to this fund. However, their companies have contributed immensely. Nonetheless, the NCERF’s major undoing is the absence of social-sector actors on its board.

TABLE 6
BIGGEST DONORS TO THE NATIONAL COVID EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Name of contributor	Sector	Amount of contribution (USD equivalent)
NCBA	Banking	\$1,000,000
ECOBANK	Banking	\$100,000
Media Owners Association	Media	\$1,500,000
The National Treasury	Government agency	\$1,500,000
Safaricom	Telecommunications & mobile banking	\$2,000,000
Kenya Commercial Bank	Banking	\$1,500,000
ABSA Bank	Banking	\$500,000
First Chartered Securities	Banking	\$250,000
CitiBank	Banking	\$213,000
DEvki Group	Steel and cement	\$200,000
UBA Bank	Banking	\$150,000
Kenya Civil Aviation Authority	Aviation	\$150,000
BAT Kenya PLC	Agribusiness	\$106,000
KENGEN	Power generation	\$200,000
Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)	Government agency	\$100,000

Sources:

1. *The Star*, April 21, 2020, List of organizations with biggest donations to Covid-19 fund, <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-04-21-list-of-organizations-with-biggest-donations-to-covid-19-fund/>;
2. *Business Today*, April 19 2020 Bank Commits Sh100 Million to COVID-19 Emergency Response, <https://businesstoday.co.ke/ncba-commits-sh100m-to-covid-19-emergency-response-fund/>
3. Ecobank, April 15, 2020, Ecobank Kenya Donates KES 10 Million to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, <https://ecobank.africa-newsroom.com/press/ecobank-kenya-donates-kes-10-million-to-the-covid19-emergency-response-fund?lang=en>
4. *KBC*, April 27, 2020, KenGen donates Ksh 20M towards Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, <https://www.kbc.co.ke/kengen-donates-ksh-20m-towards-covid-19-emergency-response-fund/>
5. *Capital Business*, April 28, 2020, EPRA Donates Sh10 Million Towards COVID-19 Kitty. <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2020/04/epra-donates-sh10-million-towards-covid-19-kitty/>

Other actors have made direct in-kind contributions. An example is businessman and philanthropist Narendra Raval who pledged to donate Sh100 million (i.e. USD 1 million) worth of oxygen to all government hospitals in the country (*Standard Digital*, April 08, 2020). In a similar

vein, the telecommunications company Airtel, partnering with Longhorn, established a free e-learning portal for quarantined learners with Airtel offering free internet access to learning websites (*The Star*, March 22, 2020; *The East African*, March 18, 2020). For its part, the mobile telecommunications giant that invented and controls the mobile money platform in Kenya, Safaricom, waived fees for sending or receiving amounts less than ksh.1000 (USD 10), an effort to provide some cushioning for the poorest in society who send small amounts. This is on top of donating USD 2 million to the National COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund (*The Star*, April 21, 2020).

According to Africa Centre for Strategic Studies (2020), in Nairobi's informal settlements, a number of indigenous organizations such as Mutual Aid Kenya, Sarafu Credit, the Kenya Red Cross Society, and Zakat Kenya have responded by "identifying at-risk families and providing targeted assistance through direct cash transfers, food parcels, and alternative supply chains to provide essential commodities." In Kibera, local grassroots charity Shofco established hand-washing stations, community toilets, and clean-water kiosks. These are staffed by volunteers and a network of health workers. In addition, Shofco has provided 3000 of the area's most vulnerable families with a direct cash transfer of USD 24 per month for three months to meet their basic needs, with financing coming from the local private sector and the Kenya diaspora (Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 2020: n.p.).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR

Ongoing experiments in the provision of social safety nets in a time of crisis offer useful opportunities for innovative philanthropy. In the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, philanthropic organizations should invest in advocacy to reengineer social policy towards greater inclusion and universal social protection. Additionally, there is an opportunity to use lessons from current experiments in fundraising, grant making, and delivery of social safety nets in slum areas to model future sustainable interventions that address the problems of poverty and access among the most vulnerable Kenyans.

The intervention by the state in setting up a NCERF is an opportunity for philanthropic organizations to leverage this goodwill to lobby for streamlining of the legal policy environment to incentivise gifting as well as the establishment of a national fund, whence the philanthropy organizations and civil society can draw funds for their work. The fund board would, however, need to have representatives from the formal philanthropic sector, especially from civil society affiliated groups.

Last but not least, philanthropic organizations have an opportunity to build on the rich culture in existing traditional relational practices (reciprocity, solidarity, and cooperation) of giving and fuse this with innovations in mobile technologies to leverage fundraising and solidarity based solutions, especially in generating resources towards the SDGs.

References

- AfrAsia Bank (2019) *Africa Wealth Report 2019*.
https://e.issuu.com/embed.html?u=newworldwealth&d=africa_2019
- Africa Center for Strategic Studies. (2020). African Adaptations to the COVID-19 Response.
<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-adaptations-to-the-covid-19-response/>
- APA News. (2020, March 30). Kenya launches COVID -19 emergency response fund.
<https://apanews.net/en/news/kenya-launches-covid-19-emergency-response-fund>
- CAF. (2020). Growing Giving in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/growing-giving-in-kenya-uganda-and-tanzania-report.pdf?Status=Temp&sfvrsn=2226b47_4
- Candid and East Africa Philanthropy Network (2020) East Africa Philanthropy Data Portal.
<https://phileastafrica.org/>
- Daily Nation*. (2020, March 16). Safaricom waives M-Pesa fees.
<https://www.nation.co.ke/business/Safaricom-waives-M-Pesa-fees-coronavirus/996-5493068-5ufie6z/index.html>
- EAAG. (2012). Summary Report: “The State and Nature of Philanthropy in East Africa.”
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d0bf7d_739992a58b9b4868a935da2b27bc67d9.pdf
- Fowler, A., & Mati, J. M. (2019). African gifting: Pluralising the concept of philanthropy. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 30(4), 724–737.
- Global Philanthropy Forum. (2020). *Manu Chandaria*. <https://philanthropyforum.org/people/dr-manu-chandaria/>
- Hashim, A. (2010). Administration of Waqf institutions at the Kenyan Coast: Problems and prospects. *Awaqf* no. 10.
- Juma. (2020, April 22). *Kenya Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund Raises Ksh 1.2 Billion*. Soko Directory. <https://sokodirectory.com/2020/04/kenya-covid-19-emergency-response-fund-raises-ksh-1-2-billion/>
- Kanyinga, K. & Mitullah, W. (2007). *The Non-Profit Sector in Kenya: What we know and what we don't know*. Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi.
<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3fe8/0fbfaae9da1888b7ade3ccc2b63511a38e2b.pdf>
- Knight Frank (2020). *The Wealth Report. The Global Perspective on Prime Property & Investment 2020*. 14th Edition. <https://content.knightfrank.com/content/pdfs/global/the-wealth-report-2020.pdf>

- Mati, J. M. (2020a). *High Net Worth Individual Philanthropy in East Africa: A review of literature*. Unpublished report (April 2020). Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI), Wits Business School.
- Mati, J. M. (2020b). Gifting and Philanthropy Environment in contemporary Kenya: Agency and structural determinants. *International Review of Philanthropy and Social Investment*. 10.47019/IRPSI.2020/v1n1a1
- Moyo, B. (2016). How to Make Societies Thrive. In Mahomed Halima and Coleman Elizabeth (eds.) *The role of African Philanthropy: Claiming Agency: Reflecting on TrustAfrica's First Decade* (pp. 17–29). TrustAfrica.
- Nairobi News*. (2020, April 21). Sh1.2 billion already raised for Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund. <https://nairobineews.nation.co.ke/general/sh1-2-billion-already-raised-for-covid-19-emergency-response-fund>
- Payton, R.L. (1988). *Philanthropy: Voluntary action for the public good*. American Council on Education.
- Payton, R.L. and Moody, M.P. (2008). *Understanding philanthropy: Its meaning and mission*. Indiana University Press.
- Salamon, L.M, Sokolowski, S.W, & Sturza, D. (1992). *America's nonprofit sector: A primer*. Foundation Center.
- Standard Digital. (2020, April 08). World's billionaires join fight against virus by donating money, equipment. <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001367269/world-s-billionaires-join-fight-against-virus-by-donating-money-equipment>
- The East African*. (2020, March 18). Book publisher Longhorn opens free portal for quarantined learners. <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Kenyan-publisher-opens-free-portal-for-quarantined-learners/4552908-5495826-9yd043/index.html>
- The Star*. (2020, March 22). Covid-19: Airtel offers free internet access to learning website. <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-03-22-covid-19-airtel-offers-free-internet-access-to-learning-website/>
- United Nations. (2020). *Kenya Philanthropy Forum*. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=11212>
- Wealth X applied intelligence. (2019). *Global HNW Analysis: The High Net Worth Handbook 2019*. <https://www.wealthx.com/report/high-net-worth-handbook-2019/>
- Yetu Initiative. (2018). *Why Kenyans give: A nationwide survey of philanthropic behaviour*. <http://yetu.org/public/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/How-Kenyans-Give-brochure.pdf>.