



4th African Philanthropy Conference 2023: Philanthropic Shifts in Focus



Dakar, Senegal

The 4th African Philanthropy Conference, held in Dakar, focused on the theme *'Philanthropy at an Inflection Point'*. Organized under the thematic pillars of **People, Power, Practice, and Policy**, the conference provided a diverse and dynamic platform for discussing the evolving landscape of philanthropy in Africa.

The conference was divided into two distinct segments: the Academic Conference and the Practitioners and Change Enablers segment. The former aimed to provide a space for researchers and thought leaders to present their findings and narratives that define African philanthropy at its current inflection point.

Bhekinkosi Moyo, Director at [CAPSI](#) – Johannesburg, set the tone for the Academic Conference by highlighting its significance in capturing the evolving nature of African philanthropy. He emphasized that the conference acted as a platform for academics to explore philanthropy's value in the present context. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director of [Trust Africa](#), echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the growing movement of academics asking how philanthropy can contribute to the changing landscape.

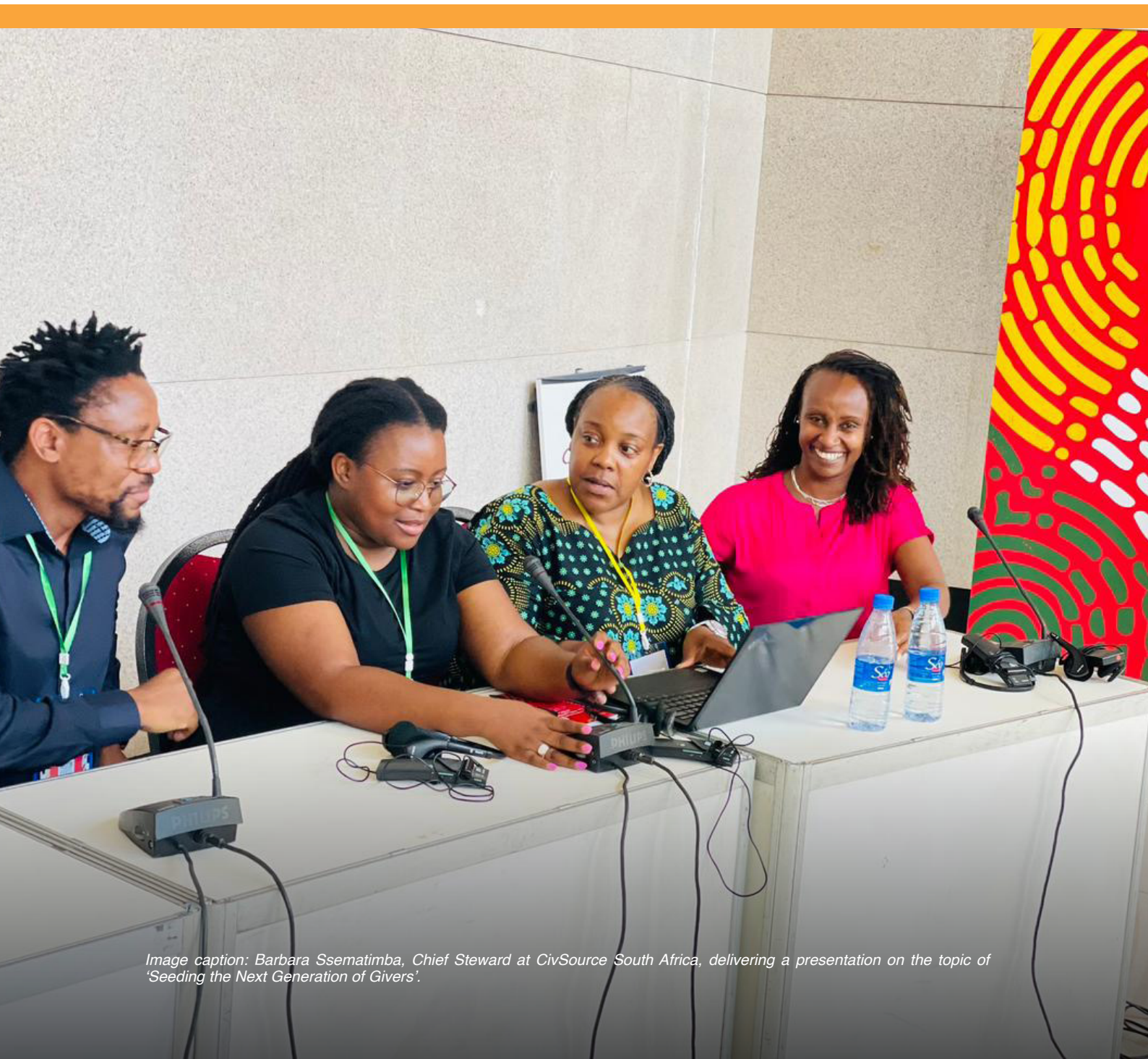


Image caption: Barbara Ssematimba, Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa, delivering a presentation on the topic of 'Seeding the Next Generation of Givers'.

Exploring Themes at the Academic Conference

The conference also featured engaging discussions under the theme *‘Women, Youth, and Philanthropy’*. This theme delved into the unique perspectives and potential of women and youth in driving philanthropic endeavours, with a focus on their ability to enact social change. Presenters discussed topics such as women’s roles in curbing social problems, youth engagement in philanthropy, and leveraging digital technologies for social impact acceleration.

The discourse revolved around the importance of participation and inclusion, particularly with regard to the youth and women. There was a shared recognition of untapped potential among the youth and women and the need for supportive policy systems to empower them as catalysts for positive change.

CivSource South Africa presents at the academic conference: *‘Seeding the Next Generation of Givers’*

On the second day of the Academic Conference, CivSource South Africa took the spotlight by introducing their presentation on *‘Seeding the Next Generation of Givers’*. The focus was on their ongoing program, WePower, designed to empower young individuals with the principles of Ubuntu and equip them to combat the prevalent corruption among African leaders. This year-long learning initiative aims to instil a sense of responsibility and address deep-rooted issues within leadership on the continent. Notable speaker Jacob Mati from the [Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment](#) added insights into disruptions and inflections.

The line-up of presenters included Lerato Mashianoke, who delved into *‘An African Feminist Perspective of Social Justice Philanthropy in South Africa’*, followed by Wanjiko Munyaka, who discussed *‘Digital Technologies for Social Impact Acceleration’*. Barbara Sematimba’s presentation on *‘Seeding into Generation Next of givers’* further enriched the discussions.



Women and youth are catalysts of transformative philanthropy in Africa, driving significant inflection points. Embracing diversity and inclusion, they engage a wide spectrum of actors to foster positive change within their communities. As new voices emerge, from impact investors and social entrepreneurs to sports personalities and artists, there is a resolute shift towards local ownership and knowledge. Together, they forge a dynamic path, redefining the future of philanthropy on the African continent.

— Chief Steward CivSource South Africa, Barbara Ssematimba.





Image caption: Barbara Ssematimba, Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa, delivering a presentation on the topic of 'Seeding the Next Generation of Givers'.



Drawing inspiration from [CivSource Africa's](#) existing GROWj program, a mentorship and coaching initiative for young CEOs, the WePower program is set to be implemented through collaborative group learning, coach pairings, immersive learning opportunities, and fostering intergenerational connections. The program has garnered attention for its innovative approach and was presented at the African Leadership Academy and the Raymond Ackerman Academy. Although still a work in progress and not yet a complete research paper, the presentation received positive feedback and a request to return with research findings at the next academic conference.

The presentation sparked inquiries about CivSource's involvement in cultivating ethical and responsive leadership, akin to the principles underpinning the WePower program. The chief steward of CivSource South Africa, Barbara Ssematimba, who was also a presenter, explained the ongoing success of the [GROWj program](#) within the Africa program and highlighted the effectiveness of Rotational Leadership in the Africa Leadership Mentorship program. This exchange further solidified the relevance and potential impact of CivSource Africa's initiatives in shaping a new generation of ethical leaders.

Image caption: Barbara Ssematimba, Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa, alongside Jackie Asiimwe, CEO of CivSource Africa.

As the conference drew to a close, it reached its pinnacle with a thought-provoking keynote delivered by Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem. Drawing from her experiences with UN Women, she shed light on the central significance of power that intricately links the thematic foundations of the conference. Dr. Kanem underscored that the essence of the challenges within diverse philanthropic endeavors ultimately orbits around the dynamics of power and authority.

Dr. Kanem's address resonated with the audience as she raised pertinent questions about ownership and control over women's bodies and their life chances. She envisioned a world where every person, especially women and girls, possesses true autonomy over their bodies and lives.

She underscored the significance of African philanthropy as a source of financing, innovation, and knowledge. Dr. Kanem noted the emergence of foundations as key development partners and governments' efforts to promote philanthropy through enabling legislation. She emphasized the role of philanthropy in advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights, strengthening national health systems, and contributing to various dimensions of women's empowerment.

“Philanthropy’s role in all this is the importance to continue to advocate for increased attention and support to sexual and reproductive health and rights and for more financial and human resources to strengthen national health systems and supply chains. Philanthropy can also contribute to critical dimensions beyond the health system, such as women and girls’ access to education, employment, digital technology, and economic empowerment opportunities.”

— Dr. Kanem

““”

It comes down to: Who is the owner of the body of a woman? Who controls the life chances of a 10-year-old girl?

In other words, what if every person on the planet – all 8 billion of us, and women and girls in particular – had true control over their own bodies, lives, and futures?

““”

Dr. Kanem's powerful call to action urged attendees to ensure that every woman and girl asserts control over their bodies. She concluded by envisioning an Africa characterized by rights, choices, and gender equality, fostering peace and prosperity for individuals, families, communities, and the continent as a whole.



**Do all you can to assure
that every woman and
girl claims her body.**

Dr. Kanem

In its entirety, the 4th African Philanthropy Conference was a forum of insightful discussions, critical reflections, and actionable insights, contributing to the ongoing evolution of philanthropy's role in shaping Africa's present and future.

© **Barbara Ssematimba**

Chief Steward at CivSource South Africa



Plot 2 Suuna II Road, Ntinda
civsourceafrica.com
+256 393 224 056
info@civsourceafrica.com