



**INSIDE
CIVSOURCE**

2020

QUANTUM LEAPS



ABOUT CIVSOURCE AFRICA

CivSource Africa is a philanthropy advisory firm committed to nurturing a more sustainable, effective and connected civil society that advances the dignity and voices of all people. We do this through promoting reflective, responsive and accountable philanthropic practice.

CivSource Africa is also passionate about promoting African philanthropy and telling the stories of African giving and generosity.

Our interventions span the areas of developing and supporting grantee relationships, grantmaking, and providing space for conversations on cutting edge development issues.

We foster collaboration among Civil Society Organizations and facilitate leadership strengthening. We provide technical advice for resourcing models that place a premium on the dignity of both stewards and intended beneficiaries. In so doing, we champion good stewardship of entrusted resources for civil society.

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A large, reddish-brown ceramic jar with geometric patterns, set against a background of cracked earth. The jar features a wide, flat rim and a body decorated with dark, hand-drawn lines forming a grid and curved patterns. The background is a textured, reddish-brown soil with visible cracks and small stones.

**WHERE
PHILANTHROPY
MEETS CIVIL
SOCIETY**

A NOTE FROM THE CEO



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A YEAR OF FIRSTS



What a year!

One of the first meetings we held in 2020 was to define our path. We chose the words excellence, growth and soul as our guiding star. At that time, we could not have predicted how our lives would be greatly up-ended and how we would need to cling to these words to get us through 2020. They were our anchor as we sailed through the global storm that 2020 was and we made it through with many [firsts.]

One of the firsts was to operationalize and do grant making through CivFund. We found creative ways to reach out to, keep in touch with and support the partners under our two funds; Kuonyesha and Zishaye. During the nation-wide lock down, the CivAdvisory team checked on each of our partners on a weekly basis. They were able to keep abreast of partners' evolving needs as well as offer expert advice required to deal with the upheavals of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another first was holding 3 leader's retreats. These retreats are a healing balm for leaders, enabling them to (re)discover and lead with their very best selves. During the lockdown, we held several online follow up conversations with the leaders, to keep abreast of the work they were doing and how they were coping through the pandemic. We documented the stories of the first retreat cohort 'Birthing in Crisis' - and shared them to encourage other leaders that innovation can emerge in the fire of adversity.

Our philanthropy work took off with gusto. We compiled and shared four volumes of "Generosity in the Time of COVID-19." We started a podcast. We held an online Gathering of Givers that attracted an audience of over 600,000 viewers and together with the East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN), we started the embers of the Uganda Philanthropy Forum. We also published our first book - The Book of African Proverbs on Generosity, and we conducted research on giving practices in Uganda.

Through this tough year we sustained our bi-weekly context tracker as one of our premium knowledge products for development actors. As we look back, we can see that we made many quantum leaps as an organisation. These leaps will leave a positive mark on partners and constituencies we serve, for the social justice goals we aspire to advance, and for the narrative on African philanthropy that we are shaping.

I am proud and honored to lead the incredible team that made all this happen!

We could not have made these leaps without our partners who stood with us in this trying year. They include Ford Foundation East Africa, Global Fund for Community Foundations, Robert Bosch Stiftung, DOEN Foundation and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. As the African proverb goes, "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together."

This report covers the great leaps we made. We wish you good reading.

Jacqueline Azimwe
C.E.O, CivSource Africa

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ADAPTING IN CRISIS

Leveraging CivSource Africa's knowledge of the evolving ecosystem in which development and social justice organisations operate, we provided a mix of sector expertise required for our clients and partners to respond to their most interesting and complex challenges and opportunities.

Our CivAdvisory product supported clients and partners to think through, strategize and to develop

creative grant making solutions relevant to crises that the COVID-19 pandemic presented.

For the last three years, we have taken pride in our agility, and our ability to learn and quickly adapt.

All year round, we consistently carried out context analyses, which provided and shaped advisory updates on the social, political and cultural developments in Uganda

and Africa at large. The context tracker has been the CivAdvisory's core product to gather and share information within the human rights and social justice ecosystem to inform strategic programming and interventions.

This also informed conversations and decision making by the community of civil society organizations and development actors on how to respond to the rapidly evolving context.



Context
Conversations

3



Context
Trackers

23



Deep Dive Analyses
of Civil Society and
Philanthropy in the
Time of COVID19

2



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**In a moment of
crisis, the wise
build bridges, the
foolish build dams**

- Nigerian Proverb



CIVFUND (A FUND OF FUNDS)

The CivFund is the grant making arm of CivSource Africa. It operates as a fund of funds that cultivates and manages revenue streams for social justice interventions. These include donor advised funds and donor collaboratives. CivFund's goal is to strengthen civil society through flexible, responsive, and accessible funding to ignite conversations, dreams, opportunities and change for effective civic engagement. The Fund also provides fiscal hosting as part of its range of services.

2020 was the pilot year for CivFund and we hosted two funds; an art fund (Kuonyesha) and a grassroots fund (Zishaye).

KUONYESHA: THE CREATIVE HABIT

Following an arts sector mapping that started in 2018 and into 2019; CivSource Africa launched the *Kuonyesha* Art Fund in October 2019 supported by the *Robert Bosch* and *DOEN Foundation*. “*Kuonyesha*” is a Swahili word, which means to show, exhibit, showcase, reveal, demonstrate.

In 2020, the fund leveraged the combined platforms of its supported artists and a series of online conversations to influence the art funding community and society.

The *Kuonyesha* Art Fund, now on its way to becoming an Africa wide fund, advanced inclusive values and challenged art funding practices that have marginalized minority artists, especially women and the differently abled.

KUONYESHA IN NUMBERS

Total number of projects selected:

61

art projects

Total number of artists:

233

artists

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Gulu:

23

projects

Kampala:

17

projects

Karamoja:

17

projects

ART CATEGORIES

17

Music

6

Literature

8

Film

5

Painting

1

Sculpture

17

Jewelry

4

Theatre

4

Art journalism

1

Illustration

15

Fashion and product design

2

Animation

2

Photography

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

29

Female

32

Male

15

Differently abled artists projects (PWD)



ZISHAYE: IGNITING HOPE

Zishaye – Zulu word for ‘ignite’, was born in June 2019 as a local fund that cultivates, manages and provides accessible and responsive grant making.

In 2020, Zishaye identified and provided funding for land, water, and climate justice, with a focus on greater North and West Nile, Two regions with a history of social injustices and limited access to opportunities.

As a fund designed to respond to unique and emergent challenges in complex environments, Zishaye executed dynamic grants to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the fund enters its second round of grant making, it will continue to design products, investments and services that respond to the emerging needs and context of its clients, partners and grantees.



128

Concept notes



16

Grantees awarded



8

Emergency grants

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF ZISHAYE GRANTEES



12,000

people supported with emergency welfare provisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“We thought you were going to give up on our proposal because of the pandemic and the lockdown. We are so glad because instead, you provided us with much more support than we expected from you, being a new partner. We are happy to work with a donor that understands that situations change and people need to adapt.”

- Zishaye Grantee



WALKING WITH LEADERS



From inception, CivSource Africa's desire has been to underscore the importance of the well-being of leaders as a critical element for leaders intent on bringing big ambitious ideas to life.

In 2020, we set out to promote revolutionary, transformative, embodied and 'self aware

leaders'. Our bespoke leadership products include retreats and masterclasses that have continued to build strength and a community of leaders that support each other.

The retreats are designed to combine the insights of solitude and the collective wisdom of other leaders walking the

leadership journey to draw leaders to their fullest potential.

In 2020, the Executive Leader's retreats attracted cohort members from across a spectrum of sectors to build bonds and communities of leadership amongst each other.



RETREAT TESTIMONIES: ”

“

“I discovered different kinds of sisterhoods - feminist sisterhoods, business sisterhoods, farming sisterhoods, spiritual sisterhoods, walking and sprinting sisterhoods. But most of all, I discovered who I am and continue to evolve into.”

“I can only describe the CivSource retreat as the beginning of the ripples of change in both my private and public life. I was an emotional wreck, and my focus totally disoriented. But this retreat opened me up to more empowering and healing spaces that followed after this. I am a better, more focused, resilient, leader who is constantly learning to listen, learn and applying myself more intentionally.”

“

“About this time last year, I was very close to giving up. When I thought about the invitation to the retreat, I kinda got excited but the excitement was quickly dampened by the overwhelming uncertainty I was in. I travelled to the resort alone lost in thought and as it grew darker the resort seemed like it didn't even exist. I became even more apprehensive and began to cry claiming this was one of the other many terrible decisions I had made. I cried till I reached the gate of the resort. I went to my room and tried to calm down. I missed the campfire and was very sad. I am strong, encouraged and inspired. Giving up is no longer familiar to me. I am more confident. I give thanks much more. Even COVID has not broken me and it will not.”

- **17** Lawyers in partnership with the Female Lawyers Committee of the Uganda Law Society,
- **24** Civil Society and Social Enterprise leaders
- **9** Representatives from the donor community



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**A good leader is like
a forest: everyone
can go there and get
something**

- Proverb from Congo

FINDING AGILITY, BUILDING RESILIENCE

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many leaders within the executive retreat cohorts expressed that they felt overwhelmed by the crisis. Many were dealing with tough decisions like letting staff go because revenue streams were dwindling. In response to this feedback from the leaders, we collaborated with Zishaye and Busara Africa to host a 10-week Master Class on Leadership Agility for Organizational Resilience.

“

The lessons from the Leadership class have set a better foundation for me as I look to recruit staff to work with me. I will be more intentional in asking for feedback, reviewing my networks and leveraging them, and learning to lead without a title.

Jackee Budesta Batanda
Senior Managing Partner,
SuccessSpa Brand Ltd

“

The masterclass on Leadership agility for organizational resilience has encouraged me to be more tuned in & disruptive as a servant leader in this VUCA world. I will endeavour to be more innovative & efficient; operate out of my comfort zone and get comfortable with failure.

Jacqueline Ayuya Mukasa
ED Centre for Public Interest Law

“

The masterclass reaffirmed the few things I was doing right and clarified the few things I need to lean into. It is quite revealing to learn that even though the world keeps changing, I am capable of changing along with it, and in some ways prepare myself for change.

Nyana Kakoma
Founder
Soo Many Stories

“

The masterclass opened me up to myself and my service to others. It has given me room for both introspection and growth. I look forward to advancing as a leader of influence and challenging others in my sphere to do the same.

Esther Kalenzi
Team Leader
40 Days Over 40 Smiles Foundation



LOVE TO
LEARN

TELLING STORIES AND GATHERING GIVERS



The banner is orange and white. The top half is orange with the text "African Proverbs ON Generosity" in large, bold letters. "African" and "Proverbs" are in dark purple, "ON" is in red, and "Generosity" is in light blue. Below the text is a colorful illustration of three women in a field, one carrying a basket on her head. The illustration is signed "© wiz FEB 2020". The bottom half of the banner is white and features three logos: CivSource (with the tagline "Where philanthropy and civil society meet"), omurima omurabi (with the tagline "Rachana umurabi"), and a partial logo for "GE CI".



Building on our work to shape narratives by telling the stories of African philanthropy, we hosted the [Gathering of Givers](#) under the daring theme; *Count, Recount and Account*. The event was televised and reached over 600,000 viewers and [streamed live to an audience of 6,000 viewers](#).

The gathering celebrated the culture of giving in Uganda as it confronted the perception that Ugandans and by extension Africans are not philanthropic givers.

Her *Royal Highness* the Nnabageraka of Buganda was the chief guest. The Nnabegeraka carries with her a high cultural authority, making her an influential voice in shaping narratives on generosity as part of the cultural code of Africans.

GENEROSITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

VOLUME 3

A Compilation of stories on Giving in the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Uganda

Period Covered

JULY 2020

Sticking with the Gathering of Givers' cultural subtext, we also launched our book; [African Proverbs on Giving and Generosity](#). The book is a curated collection of proverbs from across the continent. It served as an anthropological presentation of African thought to illustrate that philanthropic giving is part of the African heritage.

We also published four volumes of *Generosity in the Time of COVID-19* ([Volume 1](#), [Volume 2](#), [Volume 3](#) and [Volume 4](#)). These publications documented stories of philanthropy in Uganda. This work was mentioned made during the Masterclass Introducing the Community Foundations Model by Wits University, by the Global Fund of Community Foundations and the Worldwide Initiative for Grantmakers Support (WINGS) as an example of the unique role local resources play in the field of philanthropy, especially during a crisis.



comm-UNITY! PODCAST

CivSource Africa launched its **comm-UNITY! Podcast** to provide a platform for conversations on philanthropy in the region. The podcast attracted guests across the spectrum of philanthropy and over 660 listeners. With 51% of its listeners in Uganda, the podcast also has a growing international audience.

In partnership with the Robert Bosch Foundation, CivSource Africa commissioned a study to explore the legal and policy framework for philanthropy as well as giving practices in Uganda. The report was launched by Ms. Doris Akol, former Commissioner General at the Uganda Revenue Authority and Dr. Bhenkosi Moyo, Adjunct Professor at Wits Business School offered commentary on its findings.

The research is part of our contribution to the growing body of knowledge on philanthropy in Africa.

660
listeners

51%
in Uganda

9 episodes
season 3

10 episodes
season 2

9 episodes
season 1

WE VALUE RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKS

We value our global relationships, networks and our role as thought leaders in philanthropy and leadership.

In 2020, we collaborated with the Worldwide Initiative for Grantmakers Support (WINGS); a network of over 130 organisations working in over 50 countries, to host the WINGS Forum meeting on Power and Philanthropy. Our CEO Ms. Jacqueline Asiimwe was elected board chair of the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN).

Together with EAPN, we supported the incubation of the Uganda Philanthropy Forum to bring together institutions and individuals engaged in philanthropy.

The forum will serve as a platform to interact, share information and engage in efforts that promote local philanthropy and advance dignity.

We also jointly hosted a meeting with EAPN for the funding community to think through ways to respond to COVID-19 in a manner meaningful to the differently-abled community.

CivSource Africa's thought leadership across several organisations, networks and institutions such as WINGS, African Philanthropy Network (APN) and EAPN is premised on our work to influence philanthropic practice.



THE CLAN IS GROWING

This year, we welcomed new members to the CivSource clan.



William Denis Omara
Grants Management
Associate



Allen Asimwe
Associate Support, Mopané



Sharon Atim
Administrator,
Finance and Operations



Sean Solomon Oseku
Associate, Communications



CIVSOURCE AFRICA AT 3

On 1st October, CivSource Africa celebrated her 3rd birthday. We thank you all for walking with us, believing in us, teaching us, learning with us, correcting us and mostly spurring us on. We are very grateful.

‘We are because you are’.
UBUNTU.

EYALAMA NOI, MWEBALE
NYO, APWOYO MA TEK,
WEBALE INHO, MWEBARE
MUNONGA, ASANTE SANA,
THANK YOU.





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**IF PEOPLE COME TOGETHER,
THEY CAN MEND A CRACK
IN THE SKY.**



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