



Reflect-Innovate-Impact: Lessons from the EAPN- PFU Quarterly Forum

The East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) and Philanthropy Forum Uganda (PFU) Forum themed; ***Reflect-Innovate-Impact Adopting Actionable Values for Vibrant Philanthropy***” was convened on Thursday 12th October 2023 at Protea Hotel in Kampala, Uganda.

The forum gathered local philanthropists, foundations, and NGOs both from Uganda and in East Africa, with the aim of devising strategies to obtain vibrant philanthropy.

Focusing on three major words ***Reflect, Innovate, and Impact***, the forum discussions focused on sharing experiences and practical solutions from key players and partners. The event attracted 55 Participants from organizations like [Dwona Initiative](#), [Phoenix Children Foundation](#), [Raising Teenagers](#), [UN Women](#), and [Slum Life Survival Uganda](#) among others.

Evans Okinyi, the CEO of the [East Africa Philanthropy Network \(EAPN\)](#), a regional consortium of more than 50 organizations dedicated to cultivating and advancing philanthropy in East Africa, inaugurated the forum. He underscored the importance of concentrating on systemic change and elucidated how we can be agents of the transformations we aspire to see within philanthropy. Okinyi stressed the necessity of delving deep into the underlying causes of issues in communities to unearth lasting solutions. He emphasized that to attain a vibrant philanthropy, we must shift our focus from mere transactions to transformative giving, with a primary goal of achieving tangible results.

He also drew attention to the substantial influence of technology on the philanthropic landscape and the pressing requirement to involve the younger generation in discussions related to giving. Okinyi encouraged all attendees to harness the potential of collaboration, both within government and through partnerships with bilateral agencies, to establish strong alliances. In his closing remarks, he emphasized the imperative of creating a comprehensive database that empowers us to reposition ourselves effectively.





On behalf of CivSource Africa, Malcolm Mpamizo, Rotational CEO (July to October) at [CivSource Africa](#) gave his remarks and thanked all our partners who organized the forum. He emphasized that philanthropy is not about giving money but about meaningful and positive impact. He concluded by saying that if we must achieve vibrant philanthropy, we must be well-versed in the guiding principles and values that lead us towards purposeful giving. Present at the forum from CivSource Africa were Madonna Ainembabazi, Lorna Afoyomungu, and Regina Namugerwa.

Practitioners in the local philanthropic spaces shared their impact stories about self-reflection by critically examining their own values, promoting innovations in the sector, and realizing measurable impact in philanthropic endeavours. The practitioners profiled were Lizza Kawooya of Dwona Initiative, Modern Karema of [Stir Education](#), and [Light for the World](#).

During the plenary discussion about ***Place-based initiatives: Achieving measurable outcomes and long-term sustainable change in philanthropy***, a panel of members from GIZ, [FIDA Uganda](#), UN Women, and [United Nations Association of Uganda\(UNAU\)](#) led a discussion of what can be done to achieve tangible outcomes from our Philanthropic endeavors. Among all the invaluable discussions, what stood out clearly was the need to start practicing values.

In the segment of **Entrenching Inclusivity in Philanthropy**, Darren Namatovu of Phoenix Children Foundation shared about the story of Phoenix Children Foundation and how it has aimed to leave no one behind. She shared the organization's recent project that impacted about 1,000 individuals who were trained as goalkeepers and whistle-blowers in regard to protecting and supporting the advancement of children's rights. She noted that since its establishment, the organization has transformed over 2000 children's lives and individuals inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Hope Nankunda of Raising Teenagers Uganda (RTU), shared about her budding founding of the organization that saw the transformation of teenage girls who have been supported with menstrual hygiene support and mentorship to stay in school and become responsible citizens. Raising Teenager has so far supported 3,000 girls with sanitary materials.

The day's activities were concluded by a plenary discussion about ***Achieving efficient and impact-oriented philanthropy***, which was led by discussants from, Slum Life Survival (SLS), [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#) who highlighted the importance of collaboration for success in Philanthropy.

The EAPN Forum highlights the continuous need for philanthropic actors to document the work they do and learn to tell their stories to attract like-minded people, leverage the intersectionality of philanthropy work, to build on experiences to tackle challenges. When it comes to negotiating partnerships,



the forum discussions teach us to be willing to give and not just take away. The pivotal role in being transparent and accountable as well as making good use of technology was also emphasized. To ensure the longevity of systems, it was learned that Organizations in philanthropy should have in mind the acronym 'PANEL' which stands for **Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Empowerment**, and legality of the systems to achieve an impactful and vibrant philanthropy.

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