




THE SPOTLIGHT

CivSource Q1

Newsletter

 | **2023**

OUR 2023 first WOW flashes

Hello Reader!! It gives us great pleasure to present to you the CivSource Quarterly Newsletter. The Quarterly Newsletter is intended to keep you abreast with what is going on at CivSource Africa.

We are glad to share with you our wow moments of 2023.

Networking News:

Weaving Resilience Initiative global meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.



On 2nd March 2023 CivSource Africa participated in the Weaving Resilience Initiative global meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

Weaving Resilience is an initiative aimed at strengthening civil society in the Global South through capacity building initiatives for and by Global South organizations. CivSource Africa and CivFund are part of this initiative.

It was an honour interacting with our colleagues in a three-day meeting where we discussed the vision and values that will drive this initiative. The initiative is a brainchild of the Ford Foundation. Ford Foundation is committed to working alongside Global South partners to collectively strengthen the civil society ecosystem.



Connecting with African Social Movements Funders in Dakar, Senegal:

In March 2023, we were in Dakar for the African Social Movements Funders' meeting in Dakar in March 2023. The meeting, organized by TrustAfrica and the Wallace Global Fund, was a build-up from the African Social Movements Baraza held in October 2022. It brought together funders and social movement leaders from across the continent and beyond. The two-day meeting was geared towards moving forward the five areas of interest from the preceding meeting. The five key discussion points were:

- 1) The need to significantly scale up funding available to African Social Movements.
- 2) Establishing a substantive collaborative African Social Movements Fund.
- 3) The need for 'fit for purpose' transformed models of trust-based funding for movements.
- 4) The need to go beyond just funding support.
- 5) The need for guiding principles for donors to follow in working with African social movements.

Participants discussed the values and the campaign points that related to resourcing the proposed Fund; work around the campaign for funding models for African social movements, and the Draft Manifesto.

Inside Philanthropy:

Philanthropy support Actors Eco-system workshop, February 6th and 7th 2023
In order to forge a robust philanthropy ecosystem in East Africa, the East Africa Philanthropy Network(EAPN) and WINGS organized a workshop with the theme “**Towards a Sturdy Philanthropy Ecosystem in East Africa**”. The goal of the event was for those involved in bolstering the philanthropic sector to get together and discuss the challenges they’ve encountered and explore emerging solutions. The two-day stakeholder conversation sought to define what the philanthropy eco-system is and what it means for the region’s development space, how to reduce the technicalities existing in the philanthropy space and acknowledging that there is room for both formality and informality.

The workshop highlighted various emerging issues in the sector, such as:

- Need for transparency and demonstration of impact.
- Decolonizing giving.
- Legislative interventions to incentivize philanthropy.
- Collaboration between philanthropists to address cross cutting challenges.
- Case for Community Philanthropy.
- Participatory grant making.

In order to promote grassroots philanthropy and create an enabling environment for locally rooted giving programs to develop, the non-profit sector must work must work to:

- Ensure adequate resources (particularly human resources) are made available at national (local) level to raise funds.
- Drive diversification and long-term sustainability of philanthropic income.
- Assess the level of resources invested in philanthropic activities against expectations and targets.
- Invest in innovation to broaden the range of fundraising products (particularly digital).
- Support stronger Board mechanisms to effectively evaluate results and promote good governance.
- Develop platforms and networks to showcase philanthropy and encourage high net worth individuals to talk about their motivations for giving to inspire others.
- Lobby for changes to State regulations to influence political and financial agendas.

A philanthropy support ecosystem is a community of interacting organizations, functions and activities that enables the achievement of philanthropy’s potential by nurturing its capacity, capabilities, connection and credibility. To fulfill that, it needs an enabling environment.



Remember, “When the webs of a spider join, they can trap a lion.”

- BWEME Antonio

On Decolonization:

“If you want real impact, giving shouldn’t start with what is best for the giver, but it so frequently does.”

- Moky Makura

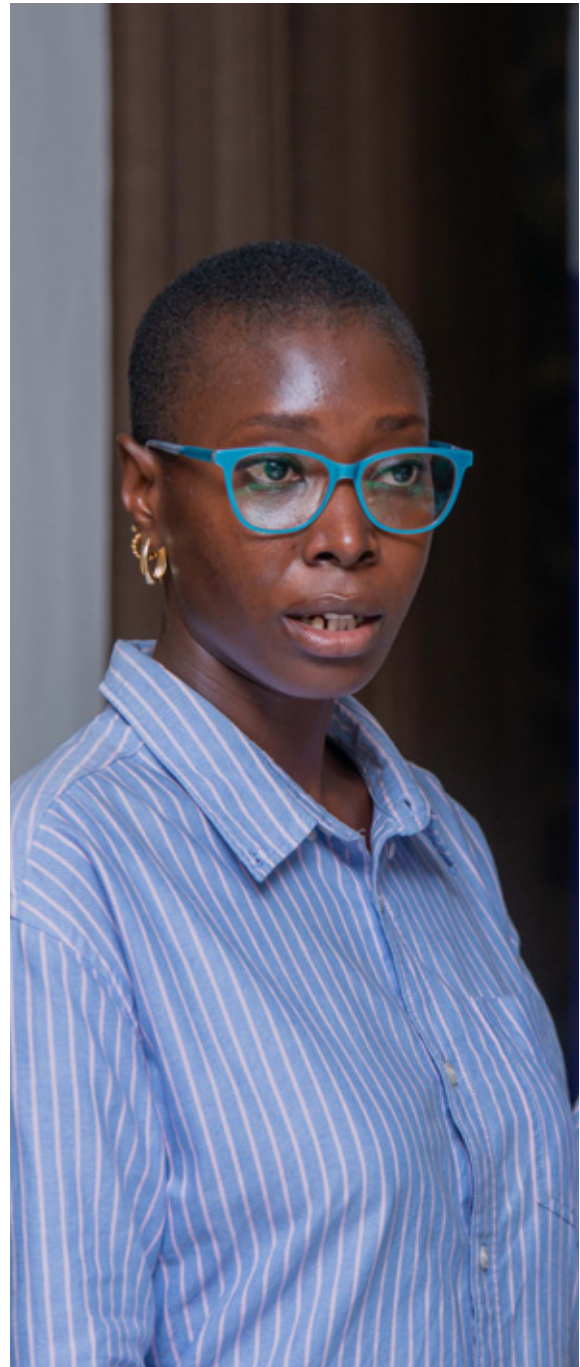
Unfortunately, this sentiment is all too common in the world of philanthropy, particularly in regard to aid for Africa.

As part of our efforts to refine the practice of philanthropy, we have engaged in reflection on how African philanthropy was done in the past. Through conversations on decolonizing aid, reimagining donor-partner relations, and anti-racism conversations, we are collectively exploring better ways of being and doing philanthropy.

In March, we organized an in-person conversation on decolonizing aid focused on donor-partner relations in women’s rights and women-led organizations. The event brought together 23 organizations thematically aligned to women’s rights work in Kampala. The keynote address was given by Dr. Busingye Kabumba, and the sessions were facilitated by Twasiima Bigirwa.

The discussion centred on women’s rights work, exploring possibilities for mutual aid, alternatives to the NGO model, and the invisibilization of grassroots organizations advancing women’s rights. The panellists presented the hurdles to decolonial radical change and knowledge ownership as a limitation to decolonizing. The participants shared the reality of pushback in the face of shrinking civic space and funding cuts and were prompted to interrogate their own perpetuation of in the way they treat their staff or go about their work.

In addition to curating spaces for these reflections, we are committed to synthesizing these conversations and sharing the learnings as we seek to create tools to support the field (re)humanize and decolonize.





Philanthropy Strategies in South Africa:

Women in Philanthropy Strategy session 2023-24 By Women in Philanthropy South Africa (WiPSA)

The discussion centred on how knowledge, connection and trust can fuel change.

WiPSA resolved to continue creating safe spaces for people to connect and have difficult conversations, as well as to challenge and provoke existing thinking and systems with impact and relevance as an intervention through knowledge. For more information about Women in Philanthropy South Africa (WiPSA): <https://wipsa.org/>

The role of philanthropy in fostering local civil society:

As a member of WINGS, CivSource Africa took part in the EU focal points meeting. The Panel focused on the role of African Philanthropy in fostering local civil society in Uganda and explored what an Enabling Environment for philanthropy in Uganda looks like and the role of multi-sectoral partnerships in fostering this environment.

An Enabling Environment for philanthropy simply refers to the conditions within which philanthropy not only exists but is also appreciated, celebrated, and nurtured to thrive. For us to foster this environment in Uganda, we must continue to re-ignite conversations on local philanthropy with key stakeholders and engage key policy makers to identify areas for review and reform in the legal and policy frameworks that govern philanthropy and Philanthropy Support Organizations (PSOs). Furthermore, there was (and still is) a need for PSOs and philanthropists to identify strategic actions for strengthening the institutional and policy environment for local philanthropy in Uganda and this can only be in partnership with civil society actors. The European Union-Uganda road map for engaging Civil Society 2021-2027 provides an opportunity for synergy between the Philanthropy Forum Uganda and the EU to leverage the existing avenues to ignite dialogue on the opportunities for fostering civic engagement in Uganda.



Connecting Inwards with our Mopane wellness retreats:

On the 11th to the 14th of January 2023 the Mopane Leadership Program facilitated the first Experience Retreat of 2023. We spoke about the importance of each ingredient in the baking process. We spoke about how it is important to mix all the ingredients together at the right time, using the right method and tools. The importance of heat and time in the baking process.

We related all this to building teams, the importance of knowing and understanding each team member and how to mix them right in order to get the best cake (organization). We equated the cake to the organization's vision and mission and how all the team members should know what cake the organization is baking. We had fun in the process. We learned a lot.



If you'd like CivSource Africa to facilitate your team retreat, please reach out to us: aasiimwe@civsourcea.com. We use fun and creative ways to support team and organization wellness and wellbeing.

Exploring wellness with wellness Hub partners:

(Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi, NGO forum and legal and Huna rights center)

The Ford Foundation through the Weaving Resilience Fund initiative seeks to address the constriction of civic space by networking organizations to provide localized strategic assistance to nonprofit organizations across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The foundation believes that people closest to the problem are closest to the solutions. The weaving resilience fund through the relevant hubs seeks to listen and to learn from the individuals, communities and the organizations who have courageously led social activism work for the benefit of citizens and vulnerable communities.

The Wellness Hub is therefore a holistic well-being approach that seeks to address and respond to the physical and emotional strain civil society organizations and leaders face.

The wellness hub recognizes that civil society organizations face challenges not only to their operations but to their team members' very lives and livelihoods. These challenges cause burnout and insecurity of team members and their immediate family members.

The purpose and main objective of the wellness hub was to support organizations that have become pillars within the shrinking civic space and civil rights activists that are experiencing stress, burnout, and threat because of the work they do. The wellness hub through its service of self-care, wellness and wellbeing for organizations and civil rights activists generated solutions that go against Ablism, Colonial Tendencies, Sexism and Racism. The wellness experience retreat facilitated by CivSource Africa was therefore a platform to support the three wellness hub partners to meet and experience wellness together, learn about wellness and develop the systems and structures that can support the success of the wellness hub.



There are no systems, structures, practices that help us identify wellness problems, yet the Civil society space is very toxic because it is always evolving. The talk about Wellness is being centered around mental health without first addressing what happens to the person, the body before arriving at having an unhealthy mind and what could be done to mitigate the outcomes.

Watch Out Here We Grow!

In June 2022, we launched the second Cohort of the Grow Mentorship and Coaching Program after we had graduated 25 leaders that had participated in our pioneer class of this great initiative. The second cohort has moved a journey of 10 months and through this period of learning, unlearning and relearning, the 25 participants have delved into modules on understanding self – Know yourself to Grow Yourself, appreciating brands both at the individual level and organization level – Know your Brand to Grow your Brand, People relations – Know your People to Grow your People, Money Matters – Know your Money to Grow your Money both at the individual and institutional level, and creating visions – Vision Board learning and exercise. All these modules have been to expose the Growers to the challenge of leading self and others.

Each Grower at the beginning of the program was assigned to a coach who has since inception supported the growers to work on their personal development goals while buttressing their learning and growth in general. We appreciate the work and the role the coaches play in ensuring a successful program but most importantly in contributing to creating an embodied leader aware of self and there surrounding in a bid to lead better.

To be part of the Grow Mentorship and Coaching Program follow:

<https://www.civsourceafrica.com/about-grow>

In June 2023, a call will be out inviting expressions of interest from leaders that were to be part of the Grow initiative.

Know your Money to Grow your Money
– Session 2:
Institutional Finances
9am – 1pm
Saturday,
15th April 2023
Fairway
Hotel
Moses Rutahigwa
FACILITATOR

www.civsourceafrica.com

Growji Module 3
Know your People
to Grow your People
9:00am to 1:00pm
Saturday 18th
February 2023
Fairway Hotel
Joseph Ajal, ACC
HR Professional, Executive Coach
Facilitator

www.civsourceafrica.com

Growji Module 4
Session 1
Personal Finances
9:00am to 1:00pm
Saturday 18th
March 2023
Golden Tulip
Grace Makoko
Chartered Banker
Facilitator

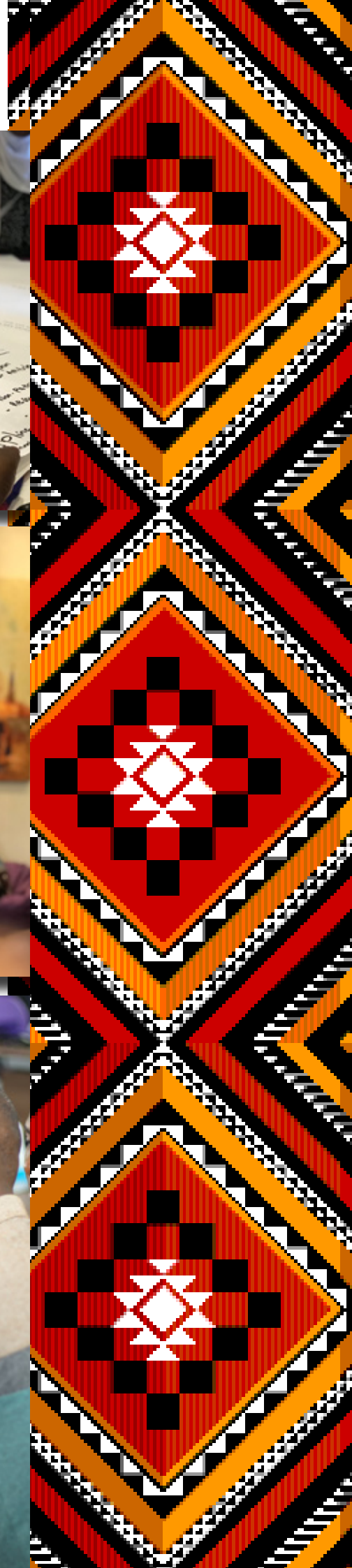
www.civsourceafrica.com

Learning with the CivFund:

Keeping people safe with safeguarding courtesy of the Usalama Fund.

Learning forms an integral part of the Usalama Fund. To deepen learning, Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC) worked collaboratively with the CivFund to design and organize a learning convening on safeguarding in Uganda titled: 'What works for organizations to keep people Safe-Learning from indigenous and modern practices,' held on the 21st – 22nd February 2023. IIDC and the CivFund facilitated collective learning, sharing of evidence, challenges, pit falls and strategies that strengthen safeguarding in context. The learning focused on safeguarding risks, traditional and modern practices including means to sustain learning and good practices. As a result of the learning and experience sharing, the Usalama partners learned how to strengthen safeguarding by adapting each of the approaches.

For more information about the Usalama Fund visit:
<https://www.civsourceafrica.com/usalama-fund>



Defining Financial Resilience with the Resilience Fund:

The Civfund supported 14 organizations to undertake initiatives aimed at growing their financial muscle to sustain their social justice work. As a learning organization the CivFund is keen on documenting lessons (both positive and negative) from the partner initiatives. The learning session brought together all Resilience Fund partners to share their experiences and learn from each other. The objectives of the learning sessions were, providing a space for learning and identification of opportunities for building Financial Resilience, engaging partners to define their success from their perspective and creating an understanding about their contribution towards the Resilience Fund outcomes and movement building to foster and build social capital among partners for collective action towards Financial Resilience.

For more information about the Resilience Fund Visit: <https://www.civsourceafrica.com/resilience-fund>



Fostering art conversations with Kuonyesha Art Fund:

In keeping with its mission of supporting, promoting, and celebrating art and artists in all their forms in Uganda, In February, the Kuonyesha Art Fund hosted an artist's conversation titled: 'The arts and culture in conversation with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)' at the Uganda National Theatre.

The Culture and Creative Industries in Uganda are increasingly attracting the attention of various stakeholders, the most recent of which is the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), which seeks to familiarize artistes across the multidisciplinary spectrum with proper business practices and fulfill their obligation of paying taxes from their earnings.

To view conversation, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmkb4q-rXMg> and here <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/lifestyle/entertainment/artists-to-ura-understand-us-before-imposing-taxes-4155192>



Governance:

CIVFUND organized her 9th board meeting on 16th and 17th March 2023.



Farewell:
We bid
farewell
to the first
inaugural
Kuonyesha
Art Fund
Advisory
committee –
2019 – 2023.



**Light is
the task
when
many
share
the toil.**

**Our Quarterly reflections:
Quarter 1 2023**



Unearthing:
letting go in
the best way
possible,
untangling
the knots,
unwrapping
the gifts
hidden far
too long and
unearthing
the potential
that's always
been there!

**Theme: Unearthing the hidden
outcomes from our work**



Fun Reflections: Photo Booth!





A look back at 2022



Read about our 2022 CivSource Africa highlights here: <https://www.civsourceafrica.com/annual-reports/2023/3/23/civsource-africa-2021-report>

CivSource Africa also mapped its journey!

Reading allows you to travel without moving your feet; read our latest publication about CivSource Africa's five-year journey here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/593ea10db8a79bc4102e122f/t/643a47b8d02a980ab83579b5/1681541136132/It+takes+a+Village+-CSA.pdf>





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