



The African Philanthropy Conference

– African Philanthropists Closing the Gender Gap

CivSource Africa participated in the recently concluded African Philanthropy Forum conference held on 24th and 25th October 2022. The Conference was hosted in Kigali and attended by over 190 philanthropic stakeholders from 29 countries. The event was held under the theme, “African Philanthropists Closing the Gender Gap.”

The Africa Philanthropy Forum was graced by several notable speakers and guest including the H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic Rwanda, H.E Graça Machel, Founder, The Graça Machel Trust, HRH Queen Sylvia of the Buganda Kingdom, Prof Senait Fisseha, Director of Global Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation and Mrs. Tsitsi Masiyiwa, the Board Chair of the African Philanthropy Forum.

The conference saw the launch of the Africa Gender Initiative (AGI) by H.E Jeannette Kagame, the first lady of Rwanda. The AGI is a collaborative platform that will facilitate the mobilization of funding and collaboration amongst philanthropists seeking to close the gender gap on the African continent.

Conversation was spurred around generating resources for gender equality, engaging African philanthropists in the diaspora, corporate philanthropy and the role played by top female leaders in addressing gender parity at a policy, practice and strategic level. Jacqueline Asimwe moderated a panel discussion that explored the role of male financial champions in closing the gender gap.

Prior to the two-day conference, we undertook cultural site visits to the Kigali Genocide Memorial to honor the victims of the 1994 genocide that took place in Rwanda. During this visit, we came to interact with the Ubumuntu concept a Rwandan concept that means love for humanity, a term similar to the Ubuntu concept from on which African Philanthropy is premised.

We also had the privilege of visiting project initiatives that are striving to address the challenges that come with gender inequality. The sites visited were the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Girls’ School that focuses on education of girls and women for development, the African Leadership University, that is training young people to become ethical and entrepreneurial leaders necessary for the transformation of the African continent and the Injishi Women’s Cooperative, a basket weaving cooperative seeking to empower women through craftmaking skills.

The African Philanthropy Forum Conference was attended by Jacqueline Asimwe, Ainembabazi Madonna Vicky and Ednah Rebecca Namugere. It was priceless opportunity to connect with like-minded philanthropists and philanthropy stakeholders that are driving, influencing, and funding change on the African continent as well as building alliances that are key to achieving our mission of refining the practice of philanthropy and the footprint of civil society in Africa.

