



Looking Back

with

Awe, Looking Forward With Determination





*Image:
Jackie Asimwe
CEO at CivSource
Africa attending
APN meeting in
November 2018*

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HHeading back home to Uganda, after attending the 4th African Philanthropy Conference, I can't help but be filled with wonder.

As I looked at each of the people on the opening panel, who were the hosts of the event, I literally have a story about where I met each of them.

The opening panel consisted of Dr. Stigmata Tenga, the CEO of [Africa Philanthropy Network \(APN\)](#); Ms Mosun Layode, the CEO of the [Africa Philanthropy Forum \(APF\)](#); Mr. Evans Okinyi, the CEO of the [East African Philanthropy Network \(EAPN\)](#); Dr. Ebrima Sall, the CEO of [Trust Africa](#), Prof Bheki Moyo, the Director of [CAPSI](#) and Raymond Muchemwa, Executive Manager, Finance and Operations from [Southern Africa Trust](#).

Just a few short years ago, 5 to be exact, CivSource Africa was the new kid on the block. We were new on the African philanthropy scene and knew no one. It was thus interesting to note how I got to know each of the people on the opening panel, people who have each distinguished themselves as key philanthropy players on our continent.

I first met Dr. Stigmata Tenga when I attended an APN members' forum in Mauritius in November of 2018. The only person I knew in the room was the then Ford Foundation East Africa CEO, Mr. Maurice Makoolo. He was the keynote speaker at the event, and he invited me to sit at his table. I sat between him and Dr. Tenga. Maurice graciously introduced me to Stigmata and that started our friendship. Stigmata has such a warm personality and she welcomed me warmly and called me sister. I hung on her every word and made sure I walked with her during one of the excursions. We kept in touch thereafter. CivSource Africa went on to become a member of APN.

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Image: 4th African Philanthropy Conference 2023 | representing the host organizations | In order: Dr. Ebrima Sall, Dr. Stigmata Tenga, Mosun Layode, Prof Bheki Moyo, Evans Okinyi and Raymond Muchemwa.

At the same meeting, I met Evans, CEO of EAPN. We talked briefly then, and more at length over the next few months as he explained what EAPN did and why it would be beneficial for CivSource Africa to join.

In 2019, I led a 5-member team to the EAPN conference in Arusha. It was our first regional meeting. We participated with such gusto. We were officially welcomed as members and attended our first EAPN members forum. At the conference itself, we set up a stall, we had CivSource Africa banners strategically placed around the conference room, and we appeared on 2 panels. We left with such a rich experience. Fast forward to date, CivSource Africa is the chair of EAPN. At the EAPN conference in Arusha, I met Prof Moyo. He was a guest speaker at the main conference dinner. I remember sitting beside him at the conference. I introduced myself and spoke a bit about CivSource Africa. Prof Bheki and I were later to meet at various philanthropy gatherings in Johannesburg, where he is based, as well as in New York. It was while I was attending the most recent EAPN philanthropy conference in Zanzibar, that Prof Moyo extended an invitation to the 4th African philanthropy conference.

In 2019, a friend of mine, Mr. Keith Kibirango, wrote an email introducing me to Mosun. She and I tried to set up a phone meeting, but it somehow never worked out.

Last year, in late September of 2022, I received a WhatsApp message from Mosun stating that she was desperately looking for

me. The reason was that APF was having it members forum in Kigali, Rwanda, and she wanted me to moderate one of the sessions. Of course, I said yes. I was looking forward to meeting this lady whose audience had eluded me for about 2 years.

When we met in Kigali, it was like we had always known each other. Mosun welcomed me with open arms. I have since met her at two other philanthropy meetings.

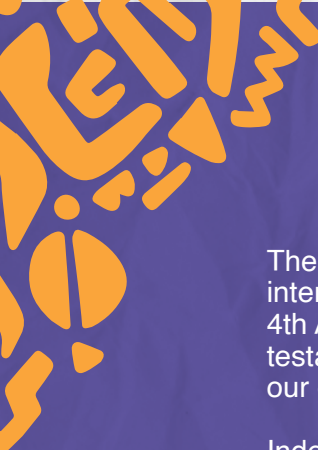
I met Dr. Embrima at 2 big philanthropy gatherings in Naivasha. Together with Urgent Action Fund, Trust Africa is building a vision, has developed principles and is sourcing game changing funding for pan-African and Feminist philanthropy. It is a transformative vision about the role and place of pan-African and feminist philanthropy in contributing to a better Africa.

Prof Ebrima is soft spoken, wise and a towering figure in philanthropy on the continent.

Finally, there is Raymond of Southern Africa Trust. I met and interacted with him in June this year when we both attended an APN strategy reflection meeting.

As I reflected on each of the stories and how CivSource Africa is connected, I couldn't help but be grateful that we are now members of a continent-wide family of people and institutions working in/for/with African philanthropy.





The fact that we have met and interacted with each of the hosts of the 4th African Philanthropy Conference is testament to the power and potential of our collaboration.

Indeed, in his opening remarks at the conference, Evans stressed the importance of collaboration as a key ingredient in propelling African philanthropy.

I felt that collaboration in the connective tissue that was evident in that room. I felt a kindred spirit with the people at the meeting. We are all working for a better Africa, working to uplift our communities, working towards better ways of confronting, and addressing the various challenges our continent faces.

Yes, we are flawed - which family isn't? Yes, we deal with contradictions

and schisms between where we are and where we want to be, between who we are and who we aspire to be, but that's what makes collaboration critical. We are better together. We go further together. We reach new heights together.

I was reminded of two African proverbs in this regard:

One hand cannot clap alone.

A single bracelet does not jingle.

As I leave the conference, I leave with renewed resolve that CivSource Africa will be a better collaborator, we will participate more actively, show up more bravely and be there more consistently for and within our family of African philanthropy practitioners.

Jacqueline Asimwe

CEO, CivSource Africa

**A single
bracelet does
not jingle.**



**One hand
cannot clap
alone.**

An illustration of two hands clapping, with the hands rendered in orange and white. The hands are positioned around the text 'One hand cannot clap alone.'