Call for submission of Case Studies

Existing African Models on Philanthropy Practices

1. Background

For decades, humanitarian aid continues to save lives, alleviate poverty and suffering for many men, women, and children after disasters. Local organisations, which include civil society organisations, also called local actors, play a critical role in responding to humanitarian crises. Local organisations have direct access and network to meet the needs of those who have been affected by disasters. They know and understand the local context hence can quickly identify and respond to urgent humanitarian needs. Thus, local actors are the key instruments needed to sustain humanitarian responses.

However, for decades, donors seem to have failed to recognise and appreciate the crucial place and role of local organisations in delivering direct response actions to humanitarian disasters victims. Most of the humanitarian aid is always channelled through international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), a multilateral agency or a United Nations (UN) agency before reaching local organisations. In some cases, the funds are sub-granted to local organisations, while in other instances, humanitarian support programmes are subcontracted to local actors or, worse off, local actors are used as implementing agents.

Over time, global conversations and projects have emerged to shift this sub-contractual relationship between local and international organisations, some of which include.

- The Grand Bargain commitment at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit
- The localisation agenda initiatives
- Power-sharing and shifting power to grassroots movements
- Re-imagining INGOs
- Giving for Change

Similarly, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), the Global Fund for Community Foundations, the NEAR (Network for Empowered Aid Response) Network, STAR Ghana Foundation and independent consultants (Somalia), with funding and oversight support from Save the Children Denmark is embarking on the Innovation for localisation project in two
geographical areas in West Africa and Somalia. The goal of the project is to promote cooperation and collaborative effort in shifting resources to local actors. The Innovation for Localisation project’s overall goal is to scale up community philanthropy to quickly and transparently get funds to local civil society across Africa.

2. Call for Case Studies

Under the Innovation for localisation project, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) is inviting individuals, organisations, associations and groups from across Africa to submit stories or cases of existing community or local philanthropy models or practices they are engaged in.

The overall goal of this call is to identify, document and disseminate information on existing innovative, indigenous practices and or models of philanthropy or giving in Africa. It further seeks to explore, where possible, how these philanthropic approaches, practices and models interact with other existing practices within the African philanthropy ecosystem.

The case studies of approaches, practices and models submitted should address (but not limited to) the following key guiding questions:

1. What challenge/problem/disaster the initiative was created to address?
2. How was it set up?
3. Why was it set up?
4. When was it set up?
5. Who was involved in the process and how they were involved? For example, who was/were the promoter(s) of the initiative and what was their motivation for setting this up?
6. How were the resources raised, and how much was raised?
7. What form of resources were raised?
8. What facilitated the successes of the initiative?
9. What challenges were encountered in raising the funds
10. What is the current state of this practice?
11. How would you recommend this practice to be used in a different context?
12. Which group, association, organisation, or agency can (did) you collaborate with to expand this model/practice?
13. If there are any pictures/or videos to illustrate the initiative, submit separately in a jpeg format when submitting the case study.

Case studies are expected to be approximately 2000 words.
3. **Eligibility Criteria**

This call is designed to respond to the overall goal of the Innovation for the localisation project. Individuals, groups, associations or organisations in Africa can submit their cases on Philanthropy ecosystems in Africa that nurture local ownership and leadership in steering fundraising to ensure sustainable equitable development financing in West Africa.

Case studies that will be accepted must:

1. Be implemented in Africa by Africans.
2. Respond adequately to the key guiding questions for this call.
3. Be an already existing and tested model or practice.
4. Should respond to the goal of the call and closely align to the value proposition of this initiative.

Cases from the informal, local or community-based practices and models will be duly considered.

4. **Evaluation Criteria**

The following key criteria will be used for the evaluation and selection of case studies submitted.

1. Innovativeness of the model
2. Responsiveness to the goal of this call
3. Validity and consistency of information provided.
4. Added value and originality of the model.
5. Proof or evidence of the existence of the model
6. Suitability to the purpose of the call
7. Feasibility of the model

5. **Benefit**

- Selected case studies will receive USD 300.
- Stories will be published and disseminated widely on social media platforms.
- Selected applicants will present their stories at the African Philanthropy Conference to be held in June.
6. **How to apply?**

1. Visit WACSI’s website through this link to download the application document.
2. Fill application document
3. Submit application document, and a full case study of maximum 2000 word count with all proof of evidence to info@wacsi.org, cc research@wacsi.org

7. **Timeline**

- Call Opens: 8 March 2021
- Information session: 23 March 2021 (15:00GMT). Click here to register for the information session
- Deadline for submission: 5 April 2021 (23:59 GMT at the latest)

8. **Assessment process**

**Step 1:** All case studies received within the deadline of 31 March 2021 will be screened against the requirement of the call to check and confirm their eligibility for this call. All rejected case studies will be informed accordingly.

**Step 2:** The initial selected case studies will go through a first assessment by the assessment committee. This first assessment will be done against the evaluation criteria. Shortlisted applications will be submitted for a second review.

**Step 3:** The shortlist case studies will be shared with project partners, including the Global Fund for Community Foundation (GFCF) and STAR Ghana Foundations and other key stakeholders for final screening and approval.

**Step 4:** WACSI expects to communicate decisions on all applications by 30 April 2021. Successful applications will be informed by email and will receive an award of USD 300. All selected cases will be presented at the African Philanthropy Conference in June 2021.