

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS PROGRAMME TEAM CONDUCTS FIELD VISIT TO SUPPORT TANZANIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NETWORK



*The participants on the first day of the strategic plan development process*

Our Community Foundations team recently concluded a ten-day visit to Tanzania as part of our mission to grow and support community foundations across Southern Africa. The purpose of the visit was to develop a strategic plan for the Tanzanian Community Foundation Network (TCFN), which is the umbrella organisation of the Arusha Municipal Community Foundation, Kinondoni Community Foundation, Morogoro Municipal Community Foundation and Mwanza City Community Foundation respectively. Fourteen people attended the workshop, which also served as a peer learning platform.

TCFN Secretariat reflected on its work to date and its role as a Community Foundation Support Organisation (CFSO). This mainly related to how it could better support CFs in the country; grow community and institutional giving for local development; maintain and grow its national member network, and position itself as a value-adding partner amongst social protection and philanthropy stakeholders. Each community foundation presented an overview of their programmes, key challenges, and successes

in their localities. It was refreshing to see and hear the participation of young people who gave meaningful contributions. Their youthful perspective, energy, and commitment to be co-creators of solutions to unlock community development was encouraging.



*Shaun Samuels, MD of SGS Consulting; with TASAF Executive Director Mr Ladislaus Mwamanga and R&D Specialist Madame Tumpe Lukongo*



*Harry Mbise and Mbarouk Mbarouk from Kinondoni Community Foundation providing a youthful perspective on social challenges*

As a continent with a median population age of 19 years, we cannot leave young people behind in crafting African solutions to our uniquely African challenges. The workshop also provided a platform for peer-to-peer learning and sharing of insights from the field. It allowed all in attendance to seek a deeper understanding of the giving practices and the broader philanthropic landscape of Tanzania. The session also allowed the individual community foundations the opportunity to realistically reflect on the impacts they had achieved to date, and how they could find more creative ways of unlocking resources (both financial and non-financial), and positioning themselves as strategic partners to other actors in the philanthropic ecosystem.

Executive Director of TASAF, Mr. Ladislaus Mwamanga shared some opening and closing remarks on the first and last day of the workshop. Rahma Makalo represented TASAF for the entire duration of the workshop. We are grateful to Madame Tumpe Lukongo, Research and Development Specialist at TASAF for sharing her insights and also facilitating a meeting with one of TASAF's strategic partners, the World Bank.

The Tanzanian Social Action Fund (TASAF) graciously availed their meeting facilities in Dar es Salaam to host the workshop. TASAF is the government custodian of a comprehensive social protection programme which boasts a significant grassroots footprint across the country.

Our mission to grow the movement of community foundations compels us to constantly seek opportunities to build and strengthen alliances with like-minded organisations who share the same vision for local philanthropy and community-led development. To this end we met with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), the Women's Fund Tanzania Trust and the apex continental philanthropy body, African Philanthropy Network (APN).

One of our biggest take-outs from the visit to Tanzania is that the community development field is vast, but the workers are few, however, these few workers are resilient and steadfast in their commitment to serve their communities. We are confident that community foundations will continue to grow and be a formidable movement in Tanzania. A strategic plan that is currently being developed serves as a road map for a long, challenging but fulfilling journey ahead. As we look to the road ahead and plan for our next country visit, we say kazi iyendelee!



*Yolisa Lawrence, Community Foundations Programme Co-ordinator facilitating a session*



*The participants on the last day of the strategic plan development process*

Asante sana!  
**The SGS Consulting Team**

