



The contributions of six Community Foundations in East and Southern Africa towards meeting the SDGs

SUMMARY

REPORT

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CHARLES STEWART
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We thank the community foundations that participated in this work for their time, leadership and sustained interest. Through their reflections on the SDGs at a programmatic and institutional level, a large audience is given a window into what exists and what is possible through deepening the practice of philanthropy in Africa.

To the researchers who travelled wide and delved deep to collate information, capture stories of change and identify areas requiring strengthening, we salute you. Your creativity and hard work, within budgetary and time constraints, produced meaningful insights into the work of community foundations and the SDGs.



The Community Foundations

Helping Africa meet the SDGs



The **Initiative for Community Advancement (ICA)** evolved from the South African Youth Leaders Network (SAYLN) into a community foundation operating in the West Coast District of the Western Cape. Since its reconfiguration into a Community Foundation in early 2018, ICA has been instrumental in the development of a number of sustainable developmental programmes in the district. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the organisation channelled both community and local government funding for this purpose. ICA has been driving local entrepreneurship, convening several events for entrepreneurs, and referring small businesses for funding to local development agencies like the National Youth Development Agency. The organisation has been engaged with and received acknowledgement from two local municipalities (Bergrivier and Cederberg Municipalities) in the district.

World Connect Malawi, an independent grant making CFSO locally registered in Malawi, invests directly in ideas generated by communities. Identifying community priorities is done by partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) and local leaders who are best positioned to drive self-sustaining development in their communities. At the project level, while WCM required that communities contribute 25% in cash and in kind, it has progressively seen each community contributing up to 90% towards their own agreed-upon solutions. This demonstrates the capacity of CBOs to finance their own development and a change of mindset towards self-reliance. From 2018 to 2021, WCM funded 220 locally-led development projects across Malawian communities, of which 121 were led by registered community-based and local NGOs. This impacted 96,193 people directly and 243,550 indirectly in the areas of health, education, environment, human rights, and economic advancement.





The **Tanzania Community Foundation Network (TCFN)** was established in 2016, providing strategic support to the Arusha Municipal Community Foundation, Mwanza City Community Foundation, Kinondoni Community Foundation and Morogoro Municipal Community Foundation. TCFN facilitates community access to improved quality education; business knowledge and entrepreneurial skills; knowledge on rain water harvest and boreholes; improved agricultural practices and knowledge on efficiency stoves. In terms of its relationship with the government, TCFN is working closely with respective Regional Commissioners, District Commissioners and District Executive Directors.

Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) in Zimbabwe was founded and registered in 2008 by its first executive director, the late Inviolata Moyo, herself a former staff member at the Community Foundation for the Western Regional of Zimbabwe (CFWRZ). 'Uluntu' is an Ndebele word meaning collective humanity. One of the pillars of UCF is the belief in local communities should facilitate their own development to ensure sustainability. UCF has traditionally viewed grant-making as an essential part of its work although not much has been achieved in this area. Since its inception, UCF has focused on a number of thematic areas of programming, including livelihoods and food security, education, social entrepreneurship and research. Some of its most recent work includes the improvement of early childhood infrastructure in Gwanda and Umzingwane Districts.



The **Zambian Governance Foundation for Civil Society (ZGF)** was registered in 2009 to help empower poor and vulnerable groups to engage effectively with government and demand greater government accountability and responsiveness to their needs. Since 2010 and through a total of 213 grants, ZGF has supported 163 organisations across all provinces of Zambia. In 2017, community philanthropy emerged as a new pillar of work. With this addition to its programme, ZGF mutated from a dedicated civil society support organisation to one that also works directly with communities. Since then, they have been active in two strands of work - supporting civil society development and community philanthropy. Today, ZGF works in 15 communities located in the urban and peri-urban areas of Lusaka, and in rural communities in Chisamba, Chibombo, Rufunsa and Luangwa Districts.



The Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe (CFWRZ) supports community-initiated projects funded through a concept called *Qogelela* (put together little by little). CFWRZ operates in three provinces - Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and the Midlands. Within CFWRZ's community philanthropy framework, community development projects are funded on the basis of contributions from local community members. This approach is less dependent on external donors as it focuses on mobilizing communities to pool resources together to meet their own development needs. CFWRZ operates primarily through the mechanism of a community endowment fund, the *Insikabayitshiye*. In the local Ndebele language, it means "a huge whale meat that cannot be exhausted". At the time of this study, CFWRZ was in the process of building up one such fund in two districts, Mangwe and Bulilima.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Infographic

A quick look at the impact and visibility of the work underway



Number of trees planted across 10 projects supported by World Connect Malawi as part of their work on environmental protection and climate change mitigation.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Number of individuals that have, to date, received grants ranging from R2,500 to R10,000 from the Initiative for Community Advance (ICA) in South Africa.



Total capital generated by the Lemara Community Microfinance Group (supported by the Tanzania Community Foundation Network) that allows individual members to borrow money and expand their individual projects.



Total savings for a 6 months cycle between two savings groups (dominated by women) established by the Zambian Governance Foundation in Namanongo community.



Number of schools equipped with essential classroom space and play centre facilities across Gwanda and Umzingwane districts, facilitated by support from Uluntu Community Foundation.



The seed funding provided by the Community Foundation of the Western Region of Zimbabwe towards the construction of a community market centre conceptualised and driven by women from Qogelela (put together little by little) community groups.



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Introduction

SDG Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The purpose was to produce a set of universal goals that would help combat the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world. Unlike their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs explicitly call on all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solve sustainable development challenges.

The value of the goals is that everyone can contribute, and every contribution, small or big, will make an impact on our world. What the SDGs represent are significant improvements in the quality of life of all people, in protecting mother nature and earth, reducing inequality and poverty, among others.

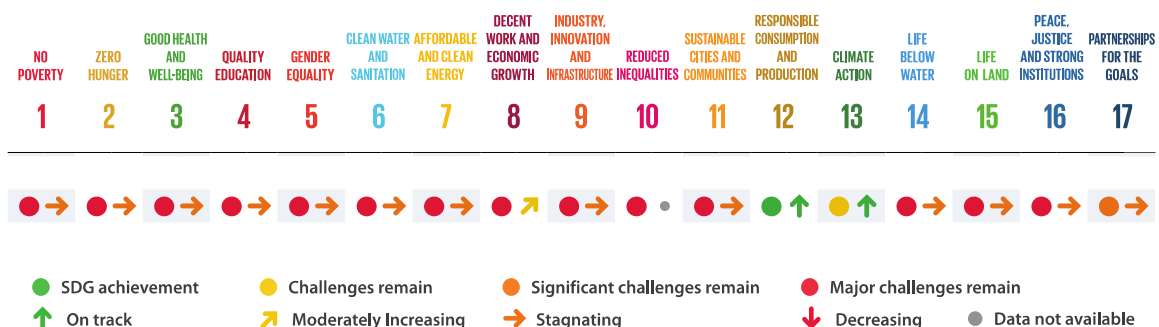
Too often, the SDGs are read and acknowledged without sufficient consideration for the targets and indicators associated with them. For the 17 SDGs, there are 169 targets and 231 unique indicators. The total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework of SDG indicators is 248. However, thirteen indicators repeat under two or three different targets.

According to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies.

Africa and the SDGs

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, SDG reports in 2020 shows that African governments have made significant strides to incorporate the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals into national strategies and development plans. In addition, national-level coordination units have been established to drive SDG implementation. The report notes that the overall average score across all African member States was 53.82 in 2020. This is a small improvement on the 2019 performance. However, it still suggests that Africa is only halfway towards achieving the SDG goals and targets by 2030. The 2022 Sustainable Development Report notes that developing countries such as those found in Africa face the largest SDG gaps. Due to inadequate physical, digital, and human infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, progress on SDGs 1–9 is stalled. The war in Ukraine, with its impact on food globally, is likely to further affect progress towards SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Africa’s SDG performance (Sustainable Development Report, 2022)



The report does indicate, however, that developing countries perform better on particular SDGs such as SDG 12 (*Responsible Consumption and Production*) and SDG 13 (*Climate Action*). While many countries have low CO2 emissions, they feel the effects of climate change more severely.

Malawi is experiencing insufficient long-term progress on SDG 1 (*No Poverty*), and many of its targets are among those showing negative trends. The country has made strides on SDG 3 (*Good Health and Well-being*) in improving health outcomes on maternal health, child health and nutrition, among others. However, this progress has often times been uneven and skewed towards the high-income households with much less significant gains for poorer households. Malawi has made significant progress on SDG 4 (*Quality Education*) through improving access to education at the primary level. However, the pace of progression from primary education to secondary education and tertiary education has remained low. Quality is also a challenge, especially in the rural areas. There are significant disparities in access to education between males and females, rural and urban residents, as well as learners from poor and rich households.

While substantial progress has been made on Goal 6 (*Clean Water and Sanitation*), a great proportion of poor households, especially in rural areas, still face challenges to access clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. In Malawi, SDG 13 (*Climate Action*) is strongly correlated to SDG 1 (*No Poverty*) and 2 (*Zero Hunger*); weather related shocks in form of floods and droughts are most the devastating of climate-related disasters. They have negatively impacted various sectors of economic growth in Malawi including food production systems, and brought about national and household income losses.

Zambia ranks 140 out of 163 countries with most of its goals reflected as either 'stagnating' or 'decreasing'. Zambia faces significant challenges when it comes to SDG1, SDG 13 and SDG 16 (goals on *Poverty, Life on Land and Peace Justice and Strong Institutions respectively*). Climate action and responsible consumption and production are the only goals on track or showing SDG achievement. The remainder of the goals are stagnating while affordable clean energy is improving. Zambia's Progress on SDG 5 (*Gender Equality*) reveals stagnation or increasing at less than 50% of required rate. Progress on SDG 7 (*Affordable and clean energy*) shows that major challenges remain. There is, however, moderate improvement although insufficient to attain goal. Progress on SDG 17 (*Partnerships for the goals*) shows that there is stagnating or increasing at less than 50% of required rate.

As of 2022, **South Africa** ranks 108 out of 163 countries in terms of overall performance against the SDGs. South Africa has a country score of 63.7 out of 100, which is ahead of the regional average of 53.6.

Regarding SDG 8 (*Decent Work and Economic Growth*) South Africa still experiences one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. Before the country-wide lockdown in 2020, the unemployment rate stood at 30% overall and at 43% among youth (15 – 34 years). In 2022, South Africa's unemployment rate stood at 33.5%. Under SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), South Africa is well versed in the rule of law and human rights concepts more generally, with policies and constitutional protections in place. However, the implementation of such is lacking and is negatively impacted by high levels of corruption. For both SDG 8 and SDG 16, there is stagnation and increase at less than 50% of required rate.

SDG 17 is more encouraging; whilst challenges remain, the country's score is seen as improving, although insufficiently to attain goal. On a macro level, South Africa is seen as an important role player in facilitating Global Partnerships and south-South cooperation and is commended for the establishment of a development-funding arm within the South African Government.

The 2022 SDG Report notes that progress on SDG 2 (*Zero hunger*) for **Zimbabwe** is stagnating. While prevalence of wasting (low weight-for-height) in children under 5 years of age has decreased, progress relating to stunting in children under the age of 5 has stagnated, as has progress related to cereal yield. All this despite the significant strides achieved in implementing flagship climate change adaptation projects such as Pfumbvudza (Command Agriculture Programme). Regarding SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), of



concern is the decreasing trend for populations using basic drinking water and basic sanitation. The achievement of SDG 8 (*Decent work and Economic Growth*) in Zimbabwe has largely been elusive due to a challenging macro-economic environment. Zimbabwe's economy needs to grow at 7% but is currently growing at an annual average rate of 2%.

Scope and Objectives of the Study

Community foundations (CFs) and community foundation support organisations (CFSOs) provide a unique opportunity for governments and donors to acquire important insights into the contexts in which they operate. They function at the interface with local communities, growing and inspiring agency and voice, with a strong assets orientation that speaks to community self-determination and leadership of their own development.

This study is part of a broader action implemented by SGS Consulting and supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to use the SDGs as the rallying call to multi-sectoral action at country and local levels. These broader efforts encourage CFs and CFSOs, along with their social capital, to engage and adopt the SDGs as a common action platform. It reinforces multi-sectoral collaboration in working to realize the SDGs (depending on comparative advantages), and offers a common reporting and accountability framework using the indicator statements and targets. This offers respective governments support to ensure that SDGs remain top-of-mind, and contribute to reporting progress against relevant indicators. All sectors work together to gather and process data and evidence to suggest SDG progress and delivery.

The objective of the study was to support CFs and CFSOs to be able to profile their current work in order to understand and reflect how they contribute and align to select SDGs.

The following six CFs/CFSOs participated in this study:

- Tanzania Community Foundation Network
- Initiative for Community Advancement (South Africa)
- Zambia Governance Foundation
- World Connect Malawi
- The Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe
- Uluntu Community Foundation (Zimbabwe)

The study employed both primary and secondary data collection methods; CFs were free to decide on their methodological approaches which included questionnaires, interviews held with CF leaders, CFs board members, partners and government officials and focus group discussions. Secondary data was obtained through reviewing various CF documents, including constitutions, implementation plans, annual reports, progress reports to donors and evaluation reports.





SDG 1:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

A garbage collection project, implemented by Morogoro Municipal Community Foundation (MMCF), one of the CFs under the umbrella of the **Tanzania Community Foundation Network (TCFN)**, is designed to help break the cycle of power for women and youths. The intervention, which began in 2016 and implemented by groups in the Ukwela and K/Ndege wards, emerged from initiatives led by the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). Through the MMCF, the groups were linked to the Morogoro Municipality to establish the garbage collection project. The fees paid for garbage collection by respective households are used to pay labourers who collect the garbage. After collection, the garbage is sorted and processed into organic fertilizers and pesticides to be used in tree nursery projects and gardens. The project assists group members to generate income and also generates employment opportunities for community members. By so doing, the initiative compliments the government efforts on the attainment of the SDG 1 (*No Poverty*); specifically target 1.4 which entails *“By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”*.

Since this initiative aims at reducing the negative environmental impact of pollutions with an intent of creating a sustainable and resilient human settlement, this project also helps progress towards SDG 11 (*Sustainable Cities and Communities*), specifically target 11.6 *“By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.”*

In Tanzania, the **Tanzania Community Foundation Network (TCFN)** assisted in establishing **Community Microfinance Groups (CMGs)** which generate savings that help families build assets, pay school fees, improve homes, and install power and running water, among others. CMGs services have also contributed to bridging the long-existing gender gap in financial inclusion as 51.9 percent of the beneficiaries of CMGs reviewed in the study are women. Financial inclusion of women plays a critically role in reducing poverty and contributes to improving economic and social development of the family and more broadly, society. Therefore, it can be



deduced that through these projects/arrangements, CFs contribute to the empowerment of women and therefore compliments efforts to the attainment of SDG 1 (*No Poverty*). It specifically speaks to SDG 1.4 which states that *“By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”*

The CMGs, with 51.9% female participation, also contributes to the attainment of SDG 5 (*Gender Equality*), specifically SDG Target 5.a *“Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.”*

World Connect Malawi (WCM) supported the Katengeza Community Based Organization to **improve the processing of medicinal plants to support HIV and AIDS patients** within the Katengeza community. Katengeza CBO received the first granting of USD685 from WCM in 2020 to improve packaging and labelling, enabling them to earn USD2,465 in a year after selling the products. Part of the revenue (USD1,164) was reinvested in the expansion of the farmland for the medicinal plants, while USD1,301 was shared among the members. Katengeza CBO received a second granting of USD9,312 in 2021 for the construction of a processing house and purchase of a processing mill.

With increased processing capacity and proper packaging and labelling, Katengeza CBO earned USD15,607 within two months in 2022. Each member of the group received approximately USD300, allowing them to meet household consumption needs. The organisation reinvested the remaining revenues by purchasing solar driers to hasten the drying of medicinal plants, a laptop and printer to facilitate labelling and there are plans to buy a tea bag making machine. There is a strong cohesive spirit among members in the organisation driven mainly by transparency and accountability.

The Luso Langa Initiative, a community youth driven development initiative in Malawi, was established in 2015 as a school group by young people intent on building their talents and skills to develop their community. The group secured land from Village Justen for poultry farming, with each member contributing an indigenous chick to the enterprise as an initial capital investment. The group received its first grant of USD2,206 from WCM in 2019 which enabled them to expand the poultry housing and production of their own chicken feed. In 2020, the group received a second granting of USD5,870 from WCM and this facilitated further expansion of poultry housing, and the purchase of an 8000kw solar system and a 520 eggs capacity incubator. Women occupy leadership positions such as Deputy leader, Secretary and Treasurer. The average age of the group is 21 years, with leadership positions equally distributed between males and females. All 15 girls/women own a mobile telephone for personal and business transactions.

It is clear that the interventions outlined above and supported by WCM are helping Malawi to meet SDG Target 1.2. (*By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions*). Interventions are aligned to Indicator 1.2.2. (*Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions*). The initiatives also help meet SDG 5 Target 5.5 (*Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life*), and aligned to Indicator 5.5.2 (*Proportion of women in managerial positions*). In addition, it contributes to meeting target 5.b (*Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women*) and is aligned to Indicator 5.b.1 (*Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex*).





SDG 2:

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

As a result of the community endowment fund established by the **Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe (CFWRZ)**, a local community in Bulilima District **acquired and repaired a defunct grinding meal from the local council**. After operating the grinding meal for a year, the community was able to purchase a new and more advanced grinding meal from a private company through a hire purchase arrangement.



Being able to run our own community grinding meals has been very helpful. Before we had these community grinding mills, local private grinding meals were charging us up to ZAR30 to grind a bucket of maize. Our community grinding meal charges ZAR10. This competition has made the private service providers also bring down their prices to ZAR10.

Community member, Ward 4, Bulilima District, Zimbabwe



The purchase of the second grinding meal has meant that the enterprise is now able to process products beyond maize meal. The machine is also able to process fodder, so farmers are able to put grass through the grinding meal to ensure a more refined feed for their cattle. Smaller twigs from trees could also be processed through the grinding mill before being fed to the cattle. Improved feed availability means livestock could now better withstand climate change effects such as the deterioration of grazing pasture due to heat stress and limited precipitation.



Grinding mill owned by local social enterprise



Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) purchased a hammer mill for Namanongo community following the completion of the milling house and officially handed it over to Namanongo community on 4 September 2020. Community contributions towards the installation of the hammermill took the form of land, labour to build the milling house and security for the hammermill. A challenge experienced has been the fact that the hammermill only produces roller meal with low sales while most community members prefer the breakfast meal.¹ The Tukumanine Development Association has committed to raising resources to buy the dehuller, a component that will enable the hammer mill to also produce breakfast meal.

¹ Maize meal is a household essential in any home in Zambia. Mealie meal or maize meal, is a relatively coarse flour made from maize or mealies. The ground maize is can be milled and then sifted to various degrees - unshifted maize meal still contains all the components of the seed like fibre (roller mill), while highly sifted or refined white maize meal (Breakfast meal) has a low fibre content.





SDG 3:

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

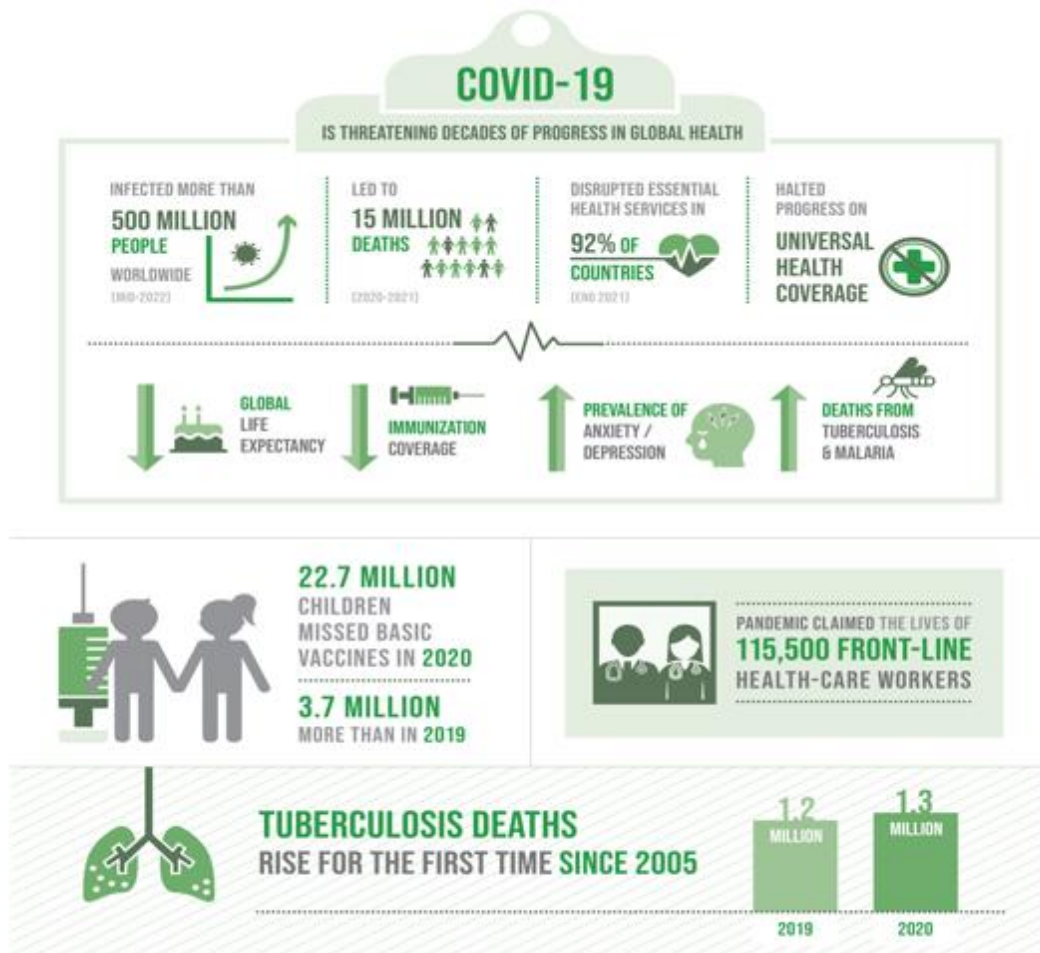
Nkhorongo Health Centre in Malawi provides services to 24 000 people in 42 villages. The community around the health centre specifically called for the intervention, and services are facilitated by the community development organisation Association for Sustainable Development (ASUD). Access to HIV/AIDS services had been a challenge because the health centre lacked appropriate infrastructure, forcing HIV testing and counselling to be conducted in an open space and thus limiting client's privacy and contributing to less than 400 clients accessing the services per year. In 2020, **the Nkhorongo Health Centre in Malawi received a grant of USD10,000 from WCM for the construction of the new, client-centred Nkhorongo Antiretroviral Therapy Centre (ART) Centre**. As a result, more than 200 clients access the services per month and the ART default rate has drastically decreased to less than 4%. Deaths related to HIV/AIDS have also reduced due to increased number of clients accessing ART. Prior to the ART Centre, an average of 12 people were dying every year due to AIDS-related diseases in communities around the health centre; this has improved to an average of three AIDS-related deaths in 2022.



The success stories are as a result of long, working relationships on HIV/AIDS interventions between ASUD, the Health Centre and the community, all deepened by WCM support. The interventions are aligned to Target 3.3 (By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases) and Indicator 3.3.1 (Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations).



In **Tanzania**, the Morogoro Municipal Community Foundation (MMCF), under the umbrella of TCFN, **supports individuals in need of healthcare with treatment costs**. One notable case was community member, Tubu Ifuge, who was assisted with fitting of artificial leg. Two men suffering from an undiagnosed swelling of the face and eyelids both received CT scans and were helped to access health insurance.





SDG 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

For approximately five years, the **Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF)** in Zimbabwe has worked closely with communities, conscientizing them about the importance of **building the necessary infrastructure and providing Early Childhood Development (ECD) classes**. In this way, their work speaks directly to SDG 4 (*Quality Education*). Once the community structures had been established and commitments had been obtained, UCF secured matching funds from international donors for the purchase of building materials that could not be sourced locally. Communities pledged a variety of contributions (including skilled and unskilled labour) towards the construction of classroom blocks and ECD play centres, preparation of meals for the learners feeding project, and income generation projects in the garden. In this process, UCF played a critical, mobilisation role among the different stakeholders, and as a result, a total of 45 schools were equipped with essential classroom space and play centre facilities across Gwanda and Umzingwane.

UCF's School Readiness Initiative ran from May 2019 to October 2021. The programme targeted 10 primary schools in Gwanda District and involved collaboration between UCF, Child Protection Society, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the Rural District Council and communities. Local businesses and individual donors, including those in the diaspora made donations for school fences, a water tank, a pump, the piping and school fees. All these conspired to reduce the school drop-out rates. One community mobilized to construct a new classroom block and new toilets. As part of its exit strategy, UCF mobilizes communities to form partnerships to help maintain new school infrastructure.

Ladder to Learning, a grassroots organization working to amplify the learning experience in public primary schools through educational services, **received a grant of USD5 000 from World Connect Malawi to support learning hubs at Biwi Primary School in Central Malawi**. By 2022, the hub, impacted 1 300 learners (62% girls and 38% boys) with minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics.





Generally, we see a great improvement in learners' ability to read. Most learners had no reading culture because once they go back home from school, they are absorbed into household chores. But now we see learners coming back in the afternoon to utilise the library for reading.

Yakobe Milopo. the Head Teacher at the Nsala Primary School. Malawi

The organisation also received just over USD9,000 for the construction of a library (a specific ask by the community) at the Nsala Primary School in Southern Malawi. The need for library was driven by the poor performance of learners who had few books and no space for reading at their school. The new library is now supporting 1471 learners (787 girls and 684 boys). Specifically, the interventions implemented contribute to Target 4.1 (*By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes*). It is also aligned to Indicator 4.1.1 (*Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex*).

The Arusha Municipal Community Foundation (AMCF) in Tanzania mobilized bursary funds from various stakeholders to assist school programmes, with a focus of supporting children with disabilities. As a result, 40 children in Arusha and five in Kinondoni Municipality are supplied with school uniforms, school bags, stationeries and food, with some also receiving support for school fees. Among the partners who collaborated with the CFs on this programme include the Tanfoam Ltd Company, Banana Investment Company, the Arusha District Commissioner and the Regional Commissioner in Arusha and individual donors. This educational support programme aligns with SDG Target 4.5 which states that *“By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.”*

In **South Africa, the Initiative for Community Advancement (ICA)**'s Education Community Affiliated Fund is in its embryonic stage but will be primarily used to **provide scholarships to children completing primary school**, to enable them to attend quality secondary schools. A committee has been established and R110,000 (USD6,000) raised for the fund so far. The committee is currently in discussions with ICA to define the criteria for applications with the Call for applications having opened in November 2022. ICA's Education Fund is aligned to the SDG 4.5 target *“By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations”*.





SDG 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) has supported community financial asset building in several ways, including setting up and supporting two savings and lending groups in the community. The groups are currently women dominated, meet monthly and have a six-month cycle for the scheme. The intervention has created an opportunity for women to access the much-needed finances to start or improve their businesses. Women have reported being empowered to make financial decisions at the household level and learning about potential business ideas from peers. In a rural setting with high poverty levels and where formal employment is not an option, this has greatly contributed to the reduction of poverty at household level and therefore contributed to SDG 5 (*Gender Equality*). Through the savings and lending scheme, the intervention is promoting sustainable livelihoods through micro-financing and enterprises development and has the potential to also reduce incidents of gender-based violence at household level.

The lack of boreholes in Namonongo community in Zambia posed a problem for the community. For the women and girls in particular, it meant walking long distances to find other sources of water thus impacting on time available to do other household chores, undertake businesses, pursue income-generating activities and focus on studies. **Through targeted grants by ZGF, the borehole and handpump were installed close to the hammermill.** The ZGF contribution to the borehole and hammermill amounted to ZMW45,125 while the community/other contribution amounted to ZMW44,049. The borehole and handpump were handed over to the community in February 2022. While both interventions have improved the water and sanitation situation at the community level, they also yield impacts that contribute to SDG 5 and Target 5.4 (*Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate*).

As a result of their membership to savings groups supported by ZGF, **women in the community reported feeling a sense of empowerment as they had greater participation in financial decisions at the household level.** Most of the women confirmed having also increased their risk-taking abilities as evidenced by their



establishment of small businesses selling a wide range of goods including second hand clothing, groceries and tomatoes, among others. Through the savings groups, ZGF could potentially be contributing to SDG Target 5.2 (*Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*). This is because research on women's economic empowerment and GBV demonstrates that women with greater economic power may be at a lower risk of experiencing this type of violence.

The afore-mentioned solar hub in Namanongo community supported by M-Power, has also contributed to Zambia's progress towards SDG Target 5a (*Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women*); women and men in the project are motivated to purchase mobile phones as they have now have access to charging stations.

Sarah is living proof of the success of the Arusha Municipal Community Foundation (AMCF) in Tanzania; she is an excellent salonist who uses her skills to capacitate other girls in her community. Sarah joined the youth development platform within the AMCF where she made the most of various training and leadership programmes. Thanks to the support from TCFN and AMCF, Sarah, going from beneficiary to board member, demonstrates the true meaning of empowerment.





SDG 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

In **Tanzania**, TCFN facilitated the construction of a water reservoir at Naura Secondary school in Arusha. Since this facilitated harvesting water during rainy season, it helped enhance agriculture projects at school. As a result of droughts in the area, ensuring the availability of water for crop cultivation that ultimately improves the diet of school children, remains important. The project also helped students learn about farming as part of their extracurricular activities. The reservoir project costed 11.5 million Tshs (USD 4929) to complete.

In **Malawi**, The Malidade Water and Sanitation initiative was established in 2021 after a community interface meeting highlighted access to safe drinking water was a big challenge in the area. Women regularly walked more than 6km in order to access safe water sources. The initiative facilitates the provision of safely managed drinking water services, using solar powered pump into tanks that distribute water using pipes and taps in Malidade Village. In 2021, **WCM provided the initiative with grant of USD10,000 for the complete solar powered system. In 2022, the organisation provided an additional grant of USD7,988.73 for the booster pump and extra pipes to enable the initiative cover 150 additional households** (approx. 1 050 people). The intervention help Malawi meet SDG Target 6.1 (*By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all*).



People used to share water sources with livestock, dogs and wild animals in streams and open reservoirs. Water borne diseases were rampant especially among children under five.

Dollar Madise, Local Leader at Malidade



In **Zimbabwe** and with funds borrowed from *Qogelela* self-help projects, **the Tshitshi community was able to fund a local piped water project**. Accessing safe drinking water had been a challenge for this community; most households having to travel long distances (up to 5 kms) to access clean water. This was particularly concerning with the Bulilima and Mangwe District generally quite dry and receiving about 350mm of rain annually. This is a particularly challenging situation for households with elderly members who have no assistance. Another consequence of long distances to drinking water sources is increased time poverty for women who spend more time fetching water and less time on their own interests and income-generating activities. There were high yielding boreholes already in existence in Tshitshi although they were far from many households they were meant to service. The project involves the purchase of solar equipment, pumps, water tanks and pipes.



Community-owned water piped tanks in Tshitshi

CFWRZ also worked with the community around Nguwanyana Primary School to set up a piped water system for the school as there was only one borehole (approximately one kilometre from the school) serving both the community and the school. This challenge caused several conflicts between the school and the community. There were long queues at the borehole, learners were required to fetch water during school and missing lessons, and the school was unable to conduct agricultural activities because of lack of water. There was also a high turnover rate for teachers as some were simply unable to withstand water shortages. It was clear that an urgent and sustainable solution was needed.





SDG 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Through **AMCF in Tanzania**, five schools benefitted from an energy efficient project. Prior to this intervention, the schools were using more energy consuming stoves. As a result of the project, schools began using energy efficient stoves that use less firewood and were more environmental-friendly. Through these interventions, it is clear that TCFN is helping communities and by extension, Tanzania on the whole, make progress towards SDG 7 (*Affordable and Clean Energy*) specifically target 7.3 which state “By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.” It also speaks to target 7.b which states “By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and Small Island developing States”.

In a similar vein, **the ZGF brokered a partnership with the company M-Power which set up a solar Hub in Namanongo community in Zambia** in May 2021. Services offered at the Hub include selling of beverages (cold drinks/beers), food storage (at a fee), printing, typing, and scanning services, music and video sharing, hair cutting, and phone charging, also at a fee. In addition to the solar Hub, M-Power has set up a lending scheme for solar products including solar lights/lamps, hair clippers, security lights, TVs, done through monthly payments. In a community with no access to electricity, the interventions have contributed to SDG Target 7.1 (*By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services*). The impact of the solar Hub includes increased income generating opportunities for both men and women as they can stock up on perishable goods and sell them over time. It has also improved nutrition for households as they have increased the variety of proteins to include fresh meats and chicken which can be stored at the Hub.





SDG 8:

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

In **South Africa**, as part of ICA's Community Affiliated Fund Programme, four funds have been established. Two of the four funds - Community Rebuilding Fund and Bergrivier Youth Fund - have seen a cycle of programme beneficiaries receiving grants. Both funds put out calls for applications whereby potential recipients detailed why they were requesting the grant and how the funds are to be used. To date, **nine individuals have received grants ranging from R2,500 (USD 137) to R10,000 (USD 546)**; five through the Community Rebuilding Fund in September 2021 and four through the Bergrivier Youth Fund in May 2021.

Through these grants, individuals have been able to leverage opportunities to improve their and others social and economic realities. These initiatives contribute directly to South Africa meeting the SDG Target 8.3 (*Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*). In addition, in helping community members achieving some degree of economic viability, these programmes are helping to make progress towards SDG Target 8.6 (*By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training*).



A Cutting Edge: *Johnee's Story*

Johnee Blaauw is a 50-year-old barber shop owner in Piketberg, Western Cape. He first opened his shop in 2011, likening running a business to raising a child. "You have to nurse him," Jonhee said. "You must take care of him and let him grow." For years, he was barely able to make ends meet and couldn't afford to hire staff. However, he never gave up on his dreams of growing his shop.

Johnee applied to the municipality for funding to expand his business, including employing and training others. The municipality referred him to ICA where he applied for and was awarded a Community Rebuilding Grants for R7,000 (USD 397) in September 2021. It could not have been more timely; the day before the grant was dispersed Johnee's shop was broken into and R11,000 (USD 623) worth of equipment was stolen. The grant was therefore used to replace some of the stolen equipment and also to boost the academy arm of his business. In this aspect of his work, Johnee takes individuals off the streets and trains them. In one case, Johnee worked with a drug addict living on the streets, sent him to rehabilitation for seven months and subsequently trained him. This young man is now five years sober and has been working with Johnee during this time. Under Johnee's guidance, the young man opened and now manages a second barber shop branch in Porteville.

Prior to the grant, Johnee would see on average, 50 clients per month. He now receives 70-80 per week, and sometimes up to 150 over the weekends. He attributes this exponential growth to the ICA grant and the exposure it facilitated, particularly on social media. In addition to the long-standing employee running the Porteville shop, Johnee now employs four persons in Piketberg and two more through his rehab initiative. All employees are under the age of 30.

In a gesture to show his appreciation to the Piketberg community, Johnee has begun to give back; prior to the opening of schools, Johnee offers free haircuts to learners. Such kind acts that pay it forward not only assists families financially but sow the seeds of community philanthropy that will, in time, bear fruit.





In the western region of Zimbabwe, at least five grocery shops at the Tshitshi Business Centre are run by members of *Qogelela* self-help groups. These shops sell a variety of household goods including bread, cooking oil, salt, sugar, flour, soap, shoes and clothes. Some of the goods were sourced from neighbouring South Africa while others were locally sourced in Bulawayo. Grocery shops owners were able to establish and stock their groceries through loans obtained from *Qogelela* Self-Help groups at 10% interest rate per month. Such loans are issued at 30% interest per month in the private market. The *Qogelela* concept thus ensures financial inclusion for poorer community members.

In addition, women from eight *Qogelela* Self-Help groups decided to invest in a community market centre in Bulilima where everyone could sell with wares. CFWRZ mobilised the community members and assisted them to submit a successful application for a stand from the local city council. During the construction phase, *Qogelela* group members contributed bricks, quarry and other locally available materials, an external NGO also contributed some building materials and CFWRZ gave a seed fund of USD150.





SDG 13:

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

In **Malawi**, the Naphambo Tree Planting Project in rural Zomba District, southern Malawi, speaks to SDG 13 (*Climate Action*). The initiative is a self-driven afforestation intervention which started in 2012 in Naphambo community.

The community was driven to call for an intervention by the need to protect the Likangala River bank. The river had become a threat to the community after members depleted the forest cover on the bank. With no forest cover, excessive flooding became more frequent, at one point washing away some portion of the community graveyard. The interventions were scaled up from 2017, when Vincent Shem, a Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Alumnus approached the community to support the sustainability of local initiatives. The community was also linked to the Forestry Institute of Malawi (FRIM) for more technical support. **WCM provided a grant of USD3,142 to scale up nursery production which would provide more seedlings for planting in the river bank. The community has now planted 17 different species of trees covering 20,000m² (2 hectares) along the river bank.** Some trees that were planted in 2012 have now been harvested for sale and/or members' household use. **A total of USD768 was earned from the sale of the harvested trees and USD668 was shared to support members' households needs.** In addition, USD100 went to support nursery activities.

The initiative is aligned to Target 13.1 (*Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries*), and Indicator 13.1.1 (*Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population*).





SDG 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

In **Tanzania**, the community of Lemara formed a Community Microfinance Group (CMG) known as VICOBA. The **CMG generated the capital of a hundred million TSH (USD 42,845) which allows individual members to borrow money and expand their individual projects.** The money was generated from buying of shares, member subscription fees, savings and loan interest. Each group member owns his/her own business, including a general spare parts supply shop and a pig keeping project, among others. The Arusha Municipal Community Foundation (AMCF) convened training on leadership, development and governance and also facilitated networking among the youth. This resulted in young people seizing leadership opportunities and positions in various local government development committees, village committees and within the Defense and Security Committee of Sokoni 1. These efforts by AMCF complemented government efforts to implement the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) specifically target 16.7 *“Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”*

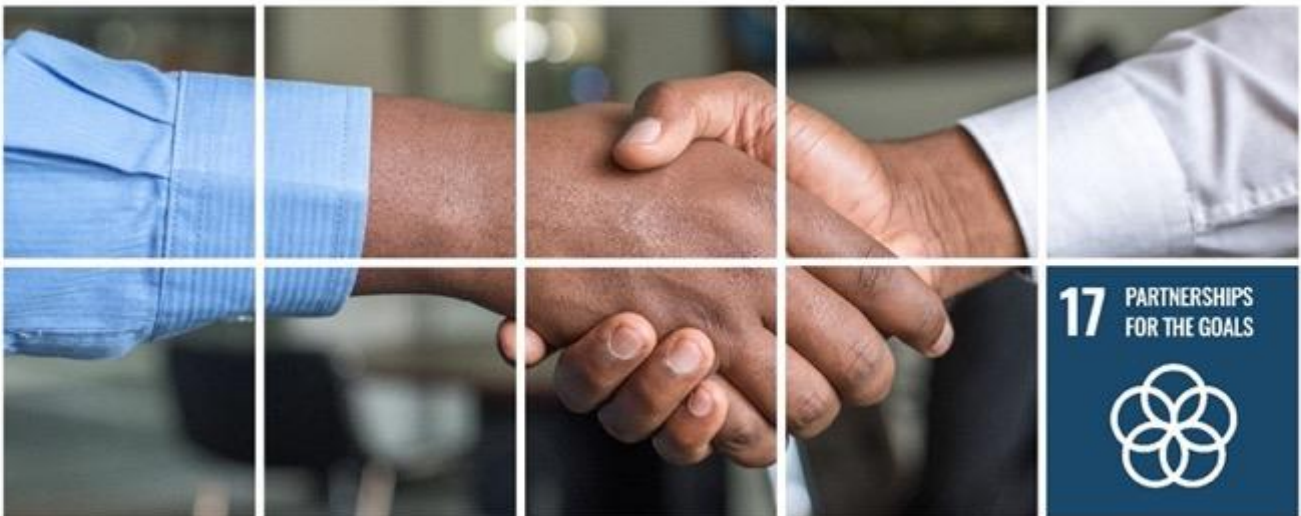
In **South Africa**, ICA’s Citizenship Engagement Programme **supports the formal engagement of community members with development agencies and municipal bodies.** This contributes to the strengthening of all the structures involved: the development partners, government and the community movement itself. Within this programme, ICA has also **begun the process of developing an online platform with Open Up**, an organisation that partners with government, organisations, industry leaders and civil society to identify, gather and make accessible information that supports open communities and an empowered citizenry. The information that will be loaded onto the platform, along with Bergrivier’s IDP priorities, have been identified by the municipality, community members and ward committees. It contains identified projects as well as budget projections. This will enable the prioritised projects to be shown visually as per the group of individuals that



raised them. This will give the public a sense of whether the municipality is responding to issues raised by all three groups of stakeholders. It is hoped that the platform will be ready for testing with the public in the near future.

This programme is aligned to SDG Targets 16.6: *Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*, 16.7: *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels* and 16.10: *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements*.





SDG 17:

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

All the community foundations that took part in this study rely upon and leverage collaborations across sectors. In the last five years, **WCM has supported 245 community-led development projects with USD1,144.429 in direct grant funding.** The World Connect investment leveraged an additional USD1,416,194 in cash and in-kind contributions from Malawian communities, representing almost USD1 from Malawian communities for every USD1 in external donor support. This demonstrates an extraordinary commitment from the communities engaged. The partnerships have led to high levels of growth in leadership among young people especially women, increased entrepreneurial mindsets and creation of over 5 000 jobs across Malawi. WCM believes it is shaping a generation of new leaders that will usher in a different approach to development, focused on self-reliance and attainment of improved and sustainable results for the community and country at large.

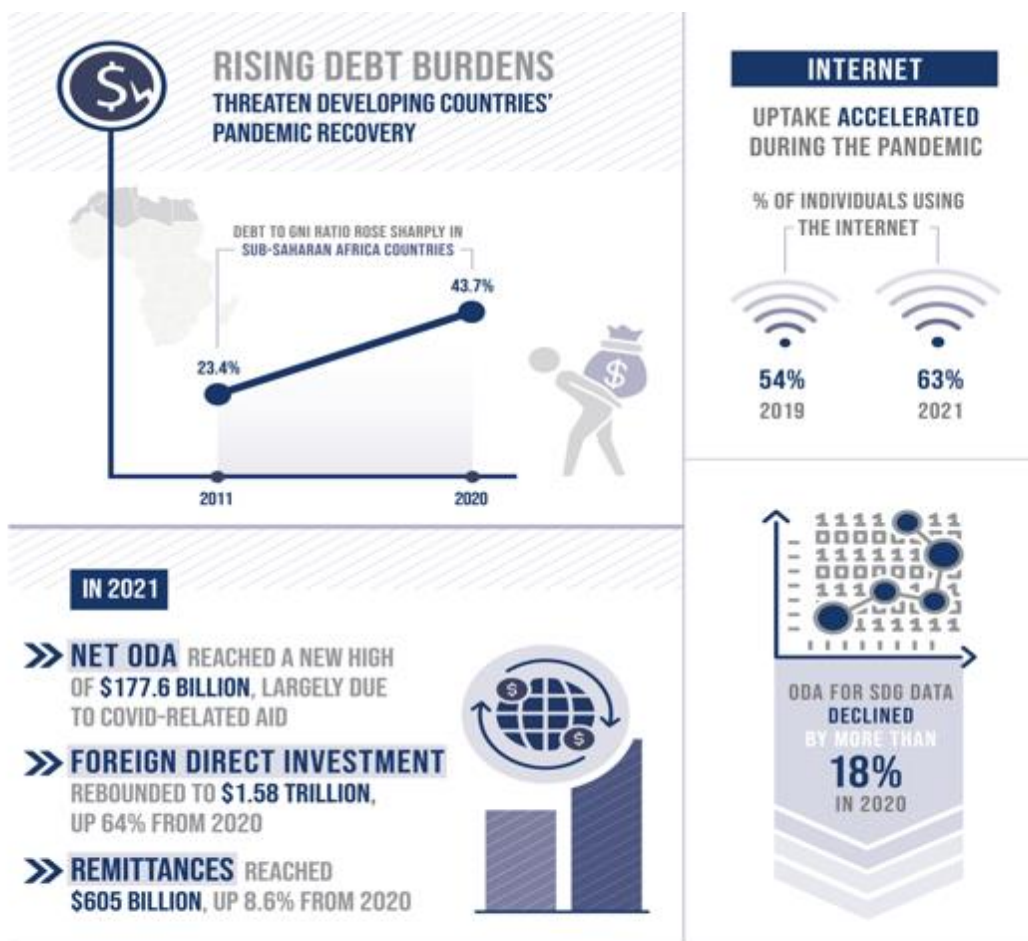
By brokering some partnerships for the Namanongo community, such as Greenway Grameen Infra Private Limited, ZGF has contributed to SDG Target 17.7 (*Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed*) and target 17.8 (*Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology*). The extent to which the communities are using the internet is still to be established.

ICA in **South Africa** has been part of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Most recently, **ICA has been endowed with offices in the newly built youth skills centre in Piketberg.** The municipality donated the land, PPC (a private sector organisation) contributed over R3million (USD 170,000) towards the project and ICA is tasked with managing the day-to-day operations of the centre.



In implementing its objectives **TCFN’s collaboration with partners** includes (but is not limited to) city councils/municipality, the Global Fund, Slovakia Aid, Tanfoam Ltd Company, the Arusha District Commissioner and the Regional Commissioner in Arusha and individual donors. Notably, Banana Investment, Samless Adventures, Adia Tales, Twende Porini, Cairo Café, Fifis Hotel, Andrews Hotel, Jaribu Africa Adventures and Maisha Camp were supporters of the **Okoa Maisha project for street children in collaboration with the AMCF**.

*The partnership between the Initiative for Community Advancement (ICA) in South Africa and the Bergrivier Municipality can be viewed as a **good practice**. This is a mutually beneficial relationship for a number of reasons, including ICA conducting research on mapping the NGOs and relevant stakeholders in Bergrivier for the municipality and which proved highly informative. In addition, the municipality utilises ICA networks to share opportunities that become available through the municipality and vice versa. For example, one of ICA grantees, Johnee Blaauw, first approached the municipality and was informed of ICA’s Community Affiliated Fund Programme. Blaauw was eventually successful in his application for an ICA grant.*



Conclusions and Recommendations

The study highlighted just how interrelated SDGs are; while the documentation attempted (for ease of reading and analysis) to situate programmes largely within one goal, it is clear that progress and retardation of one goal impacts upon the others.

Reflections from Zambia capture this well by showing how gender equality frees up time for economic activity, essentially speaking to SDG 1, 2, 5 and 8 specifically. As such, women's workloads hold back their productive potential. In rural areas in particular, where there are limited options for formal employment, increased opportunities for income generation for both men and women are the greatest avenues to get the communities out of poverty. The greatest impact of the interventions on the communities and more so on the women, has been the freeing of time for the women to undertake income generating activities. This allows them to become more financially independent and empowered, positioning them to be better able to influence decision making in and beyond their households. This has been achieved through the establishment of amenities (such as the hammermill and boreholes) close to the communities, as well as the establishment of savings groups through which the women have increased access to finances.

Reflections on the contributions of community foundations towards the SDGs incited a greater appreciation of all that community foundations do but also provided an opportunity to identify areas in need of strengthening. Recommendations to address these include:

Formal training and capacity building on SDGs

While community foundations clearly facilitate a lot of good in the communities in which they are active, specific knowledge around SDGs is lacking. It is clear that programmes address aspects of social and economic development without being specifically or deliberately aligned to the SDG agenda. It is important for community foundations to engage in structured capacity building interventions to have a better understanding and appreciation of the SDGs, their targets, and indicators. Community foundations may see value in using the SDGs as a guiding and planning framework. This will greatly improve the interpretation of social challenges, inform strategic planning processes and better position the organisation to attract external funding.

Closer collaboration between government and community foundations

Interventions by community foundations clearly compliment the work of government and assist in lifting communities out of poverty. However, the relationship between CFs and government should be strengthened with regards to SDGs progress and monitoring. By having a better understanding of the work and impact of CFs, government would be in a position to report more comprehensively on SDGs. As a result of closer collaboration and better flow of information, CFs can share important information with government that positively reflects social and economic development at community level. In addition, by recognizing the value of programmes and projects led by CFs, governments could be convinced to set aside funds to support their programmes.



Stronger Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

For the majority of the CFs in this study, no specific references to SDG targets and indicators are made. Some community foundations have developed their own indicators, which may to varying degrees, align with the SDG indicators. There is a need to build the capacity of CFs to develop appropriate indicators to measure the impact of their interventions. The existing SDG indicators may or may not be appropriate but can serve as a starting point in some instances.

For 2023, there should be increased focus on capacity building and strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanisms aligned to the SDGs. In addition, in order to assist community foundations to occupy spaces during SDGs discussions, the SDG working groups/task teams at national level will be identified in the countries under review. There will be efforts to communicate with and engage these teams to advocate for greater appreciation of the contributions of community foundations to the SDGs.



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