

# GHANA

## Data Strategy and Capacity Building

Data Strategy and Capacity Building Workshop  
29 November, 2017 ♦ UNDP Office, Accra



# Introduction

This report synthesizes the key outcomes from the Ghana Data Strategy and Capacity Building Workshop, which was held in Accra on the 29th of November, 2017. The workshop was developed based on input provided by the cross section of Ghanaian foundations, support organizations, and civil society more broadly that participated in an earlier “Data Scoping Meeting” held on the 4th of October, 2017.

During the Data Scoping Meeting, participants worked together to:

- ◆ Understand the value and opportunities for advancing the philanthropy data agenda in Ghana
- ◆ Establish common principles for collaborative data and knowledge management
- ◆ Identify key data and knowledge challenges as well as needs
- ◆ Explore existing technologies for collecting and sharing data and knowledge
- ◆ Set local data and knowledge goals and priorities. The Data Strategy and Capacity Building workshop focused on how to move forward on each of these priorities.

The workshop was hosted by Foundation Center (FC) and the SDG Philanthropy Platform (SDGPP). FC facilitated the workshop.

These meetings are part of FC’s broader agenda to support the philanthropy sector’s capacity to collect, analyze, and share reliable and pertinent data in order to illustrate the value and contribution of Ghanaian philanthropy to broader development goals, facilitate philanthropic collaboration, and inform grantmaking decisions.



# Reaffirming Principles, Needs, and Priorities:

Values, principles, and priorities that are collectively agreed on are vital in order to move forward toward a shared and effective data strategy. The workshop participants in Accra had the opportunity to review and reflect on the principles proposed during the October 4th Data Scoping Meeting. The participants reaffirmed their commitments to the principles and discussed the needs and challenges identified during the previous meeting. (Commitments, needs, and challenges can all be found in the [Data Scoping Meeting Report](#)).

The participants also discussed the three priorities, which are:

1. Sustainable financing and resources
2. Capacity building and technology
3. Engaging with government

## BUILDING A DATA SYSTEM FOR PHILANTHROPY:

# The Global Philanthropy Data Charter

There is value in ensuring that the collective data strategy in Ghana connects with other ongoing data processes globally. At present, there is a growing recognition among countries and philanthropy support organizations of the need to develop robust systems for collecting and analyzing data on philanthropy. Recognizing that this is a global challenge, Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), a global network of philanthropy support organizations, with FC, has convened a series of meetings with philanthropy stakeholders around the world to identify global principles and values that should guide the development of such data systems. The result of these high-level conversations is the Global Philanthropy Data Charter, a framework for data collection and sharing to usher the philanthropic sector's data related work.

Acknowledging the diversity in practice, culture, and legal environments in which philanthropy operates around the world, the Charter provides an overview of the key values and principles that should shepherd the collection and management of philanthropy data,

and that are relevant and applicable across different regions and contexts. These principles further speak to the practical aspects of collecting and sharing data, ensuring its validity, quality control measures, and the importance of neutrality and objectivity.

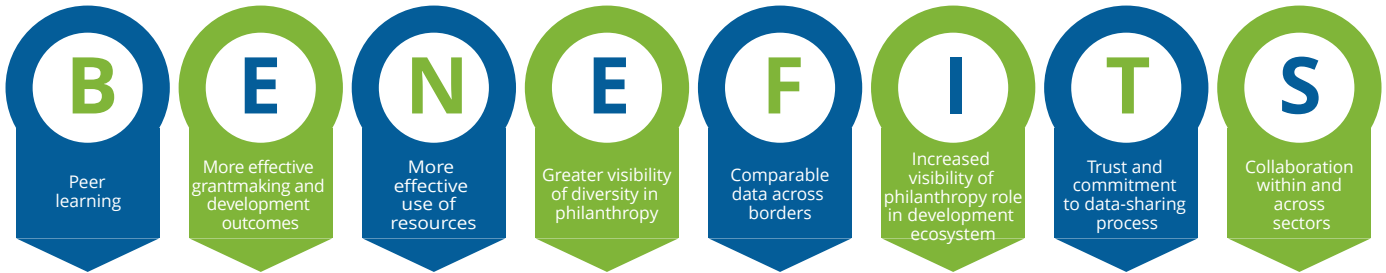
The Charter also offers guidelines that the stakeholders engaged in the data strategy process in Ghana can use to benchmark progress and outlines potential benefits of adopting a collective approach to collecting knowledge, such as:

- ◆ Better coordination of philanthropic investments
- ◆ Sharing of knowledge
- ◆ Promoting collaboration
- ◆ Reflecting diversity

The values and principles in the Charter can be used to inform the essential elements of good philanthropy data practices, and are reflected in the values and principles surfaced by participants in the earlier Ghana Data Scoping Meeting.

# GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY DATA CHARTER

Good data for greater impact



## MORE EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY

### GOALS

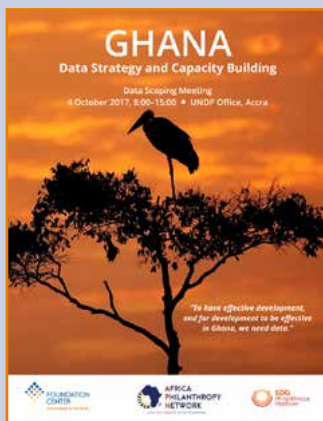
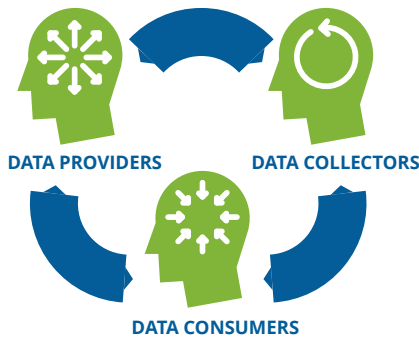
- 1 Usable, high-quality data on philanthropic investments, activities, and outcomes
- 2 Secure and sustainable global, regional, national, and subnational system for collecting and maintaining philanthropy data
- 3 Sufficient organizational capacity to participate in field-wide data collection efforts; access, analyze, and draw meaningful conclusions from data; and apply data-driven insights to decision making

### VALUES

RESPECT      SHARING  
 TRANSPARENCY      IMPROVEMENT  
 ACCOUNTABILITY      INCLUSIVENESS



### STAKEHOLDERS



To learn about the outcomes of the first data scoping meeting in Ghana, including highlights from the discussions and key recommendations, please read [“Ghana: Data Strategy and Capacity Building”](#) report.

# Action Plans for Priority Areas

During the data scoping meeting in October 2017, the participants agreed on three priority areas for continued work regarding data challenges and needs in Ghana:

1. Sustainable financing and resources
2. Capacity building and technology
3. Engaging with government

At the Data Strategy and Capacity Building workshop, working groups were formed in order to develop action plans to address each of these priorities.

## PRIORITY AREA 1: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND RESOURCES

This priority area stresses the need for dedicated funding for research, data collection, analysis, and management to ensure proper resourcing for building a long-term data strategy and data management system. Group participants discussed the value proposition, key benefits, what needs to get funded and by whom.

“Without data,  
everything is conjecture”

The group agreed that it is important to create a coordinated data system for stakeholders, including philanthropy, for better impact assessment of development related investments in Ghana. This data system will benefit Ghana by i) providing accessible, reliable and relevant data, ii) allowing evidence based planning and prioritization, and iii) helping eliminating duplication of effort. The components of what a data system is based on were presented in the Data Roadmap.

For this priority area, the group identified some potential funding sources which include international foundations (e.g. AT&T, Gates, Mellon, Ford, Intel), bilateral and multilateral official donors, and local funders (government, private sector/CSR, indigenous community foundations, high net-worth individuals).

## PRIORITY AREA 2: CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY

Participants had previously identified capacity building as an urgent need. This includes training in the areas of data collection and management, addressing key data quality issues, being able to define and categorize different types of philanthropic entities, and adopting and leveraging technology to gather and analyze data.

The group underscored the necessity to educate staff of different organizations active in the social sector about the purpose of data and various data processes. They emphasized the need to design a data collection framework that includes details on what instruments should be used, roles and responsibilities, accessibility to the data, data quality assurance, and details on collectively agreed policies and procedures to gather, refine and analyze this data.

In order to implement such a framework however, certain skills and tools are required. The group highlighted the need for skill development of staff to design and administer data collection instruments that can be effectively used to gather high quality data. They also expressed a strong desire for trainings at a beginner level in areas such as computer literacy, creating and using spreadsheets, and training on data review and validation. In addition, the group stressed the importance of looking at technology in a holistic way and emphasized the need to leverage existing technology tools such as Meltwater and SurveyMonkey and for exploring creative ways to use social media as a data source. The group also underscored the need for and use of tools that can analyze big data and create meaning from it. Moreover, the group agreed that it was crucial to look beyond numbers and make use of qualitative data such as reports, case studies, stories and the like in the data process to ensure a comprehensive story. Overall, tools and capacity building programs should enable stakeholders to tell compelling human centric stories.

These tools and skills, however are only relevant if put into practice and used. To this end, the group would like a national web portal where organizations can easily add, update, and visualize their own and others data and knowledge. Such a web portal should take into account existing data repositories and systems, must be accessible online, and would also require an offline version in order for the data and knowledge to be added to the portal even when internet is unavailable. This offline version would ideally sync with the live version upon reconnection with the internet. To ensure constant accessibility, such a portal would also be accessible and updated by way of a mobile app. The web portal will be user friendly with interactive features, up to date relevant content, and data map visualizations. The data that is input will be categorized by subject, issue area, organization type, organizations/program/grantee location and the like, as well as qualitative report upload. In addition, the group agreed they would like to see a portal with two-tiered access authorization meaning those organizations/sectors that are not directly involved in philanthropic data work, collection, and sharing will have limited access to data and knowledge on the portal, whereas a 'member' would have full access. There was also discussion around whether a feedback loop could be incorporated and potentially a listserv when updates are made. The group would also like to explore the potential for the portal to capture other types of giving beyond dollars such as volunteering, community contributions, and individual giving, as well as relate the data to the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **PRIORITY AREA 3: ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT**

In the October Data Scoping Meeting, participants expressed the need to be able to access government data, which is currently not open. Also, there is a need for the government's involvement and participation in data dialogues with the civil society organizations

(CSOs) that play a central role in the data movement in Ghana. Essentially, philanthropy is part of both a broader development ecosystem, and a data ecosystem, and hence ensure it is connected with all relevant stakeholders.

The group set an approach for engaging with the government on the topic of philanthropic data which begins with the fundamental need to build trust, and secondly to have data available demonstrating philanthropic contribution to national development. These components are the basis for engagement. It was agreed that CSOs and the government need to work together on the structure and legal definition of philanthropy in Ghana to ensure long term impact – this means formalizing the sector which was seen as a prerequisite for engagement. In order for the sector to formalize, the groups whom are doing the work need to actually be identified, taking a bottom up approach and subsequently creating a voice for philanthropy. (By *formalization*, the group referred to structures, strategies, and regulations for philanthropy.)

The group agreed that after formalization, existing local networks need to be mobilized and should engage with the government in strategic dialogues. There should be a situational assessment of the philanthropic sector in Ghana which should be used to present strategies/plans to government and in an inclusive way so as to ensure that an appropriate cross section of the philanthropic sector is represented.

The question of who to engage with at the government level was also covered and those identified include the Registrar General of Ghana, the National Development Planning Commission, Department of Social Welfare the Ministries of Finance, Interior and Gender as well as the Ghana Data Center, the Statistical Office and Parliament. Engagement with the media and an advocacy process is also desirable.

# Data Roadmap

In order to help participants understand the components of a data system, FC presented a data road map consisting of three main stages data collection, data processing, and data analysis.

## DATA COLLECTION

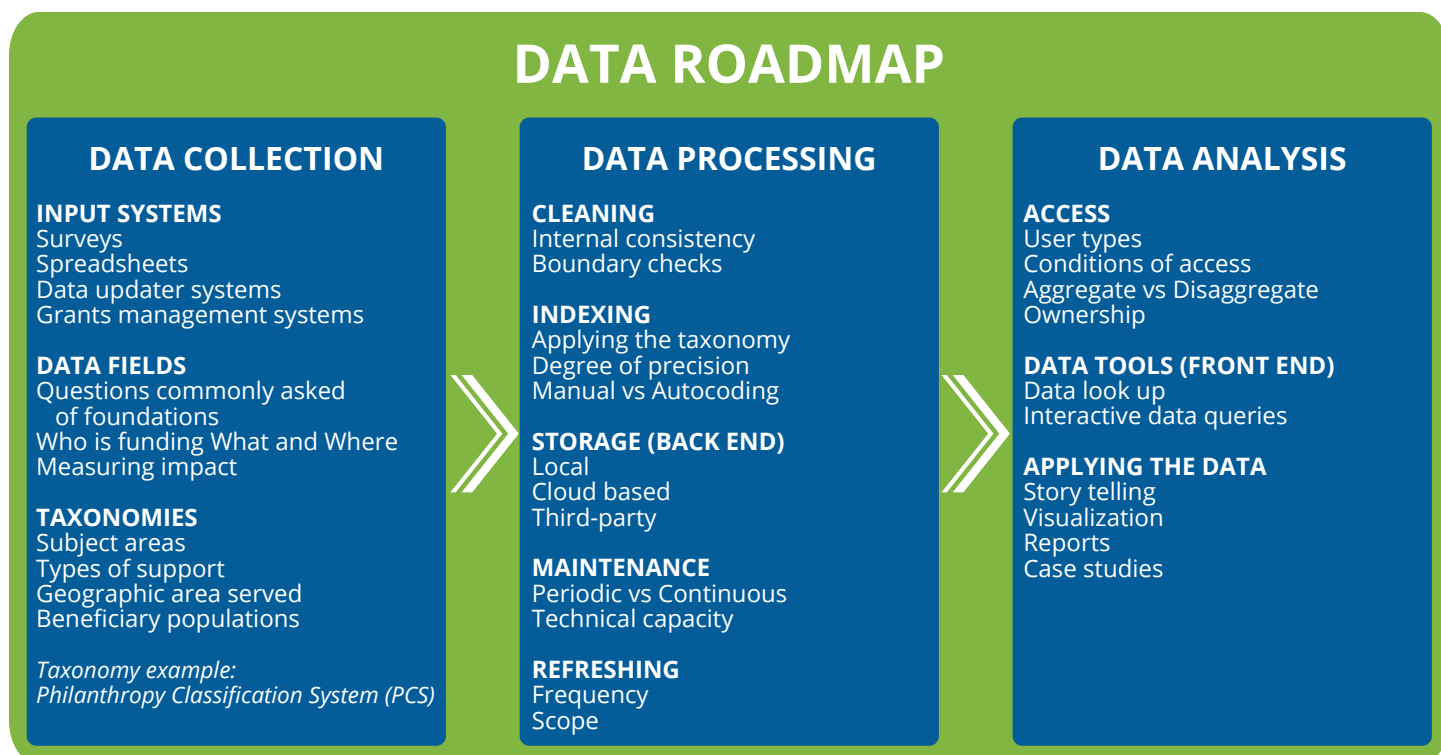
The first stage of the data road map presented at the workshop is data collection, which can include various data input systems and tools. Surveys, online input tools (e.g. [Foundation Center Updater](#)), spreadsheets, grants managements systems, and qualitative data portals (e.g. [Issuelab](#)) were some of the examples of data input systems and tools discussed in the workshop. Other commonly used and important data fields which are frequently used to collect data were also discussed along with some examples of taxonomy used by the sector.

## DATA PROCESSING

Data collection is followed by a data processing stage. Data processing is when data is cleaned, indexed, stored, maintained and refreshed.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The final stage of the data roadmap discussed was data analysis. Once data is processed, in order for it to be used to tell a story it needs to be analyzed. In order to undertake analysis, data needs to be accessed and queried in a range of ways and then applied and communicated - some examples of how to do this were also presented in the workshop.



# Identifying Early Wins and Potential Blockers for the Action Plan

To ensure quick progress towards building a philanthropy data system for Ghana, participants identified possible early wins and potential blockers as a mechanism for follow up:

## EARLY WINS AND IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS (ROLES)

- ◆ Represent philanthropy and civil society more broadly at philanthropy and impact investing networks. Organizations responsible for moving item forward: African Women Development Fund (AWDF), Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), West Africa Civil Society Institute (WASCI), The Resource Mobilization Center (TRMC), Social Enterprise Ghana (SE Ghana) with UNDP to facilitate.
- ◆ Identifying useful existing tools. Organizations responsible for moving item forward: Ghana Statistical Service, National Philanthropy Forum (NPF), Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR), and Water Health Ghana.
- ◆ Forming a small committee to commence work on developing a definition of philanthropy in Ghana, including undertaking a situational assessment. Organizations responsible for moving item forward: Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), Social Enterprise Ghana (SE Ghana), National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), African Assistance Plan (AAP), Water Health Ghana and The Resource Mobilization Center (TRMC).
- ◆ Leveraging the WASCI platform, which has a publicly available regional database (including Ghana) on social and philanthropic organizations for use in this data work and portal. The platform is working with the Department of Social Welfare of Ghana. CSOs, including philanthropic organizations, can register to this platform. Organizations responsible for moving item forward: Foundation Center (FC), West Africa Civil Society Institute (WASCI), Savannah Integrated Rural Development Aid (SIRDA), UNDP, and the Resource Mobilization Center (TRMC).
- ◆ Engage with the Ghana Statistical Service and National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). Organizations responsible for moving item forward: African Assistance Plan (AAP), National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). Leverage the Ghana Philanthropy Forum as a space for continuing the conversation and moving forward in March (NPF)
- ◆ Leverage the Ghana Philanthropy Forum as a space for continuing the conversation and moving forward in March (NPF)
- ◆ Ensuring that philanthropy is included in the discussion regarding the NGO bill. Organizations responsible for moving item forward: West Africa Civil Society Institute (WASCI), The Resource Mobilization Center (TRMC), African Assistance

## POTENTIAL BLOCKERS

- ◆ Lack of available funding
- ◆ Lack of staff resources
- ◆ Lack of a plan and/or framework
- ◆ Absence of collaboration
- ◆ Insufficient inclusiveness and transparency
- ◆ Lack of data sharing practice by government
- ◆ Lack of enabling data government policies and priorities
- ◆ Inadequate existing capacity to engage with other sectors and government
- ◆ Sustainability of this groups commitment



# Collective Action Plan and Way Forward

Based on the recommendations and considerations developed by the workshop participants, the following is a proposed collective action plan to inform the next phase of developing a philanthropy data system in Ghana:

1. Implement the tasks identified as Early Wins
2. Establish a community of practice among all members who agree to share data.
3. Identify minimum shareable data and begin sharing knowledge and information as a community of practice. This can serve to foster a culture of data sharing and provide opportunities for member organizations to learn from and support each other.
4. Evaluate and enhance the data capacity of participating organizations. As a first step, Foundation Center could visit a selection of organizations to evaluate the organizational data and gain a better understanding of existing knowledge management practices and systems in Ghana
5. Commit to the Ghana philanthropy data process. Propose a primary and secondary organization contact person to join and participate in the data working group.
6. Develop an up-to-date database of contacts.
7. Develop a work plan, allocate tasks, and determine necessary resources needed to implement the plan.
8. Determine how often the working group should meet.
9. Expand the data working group, including by inviting additional organizations, volunteers, and data experts.

## Resources

**Africa Philanthropy Knowledge Base**  
TRUST AFRICA & ISSUE LAB

**Global Philanthropy Knowledge Center**  
WINGS & ISSUE LAB

**Foundation Directory Online**  
FOUNDATION CENTER

**Global Philanthropy Data Charter**  
WINGS

**Philanthropy Data System**  
AFE COLOMBIA

**Foundation Maps**  
FOUNDATION CENTER

**SDGFunders**  
SDG PHILANTHROPY PLATFORM

**WASHfunders**  
FOUNDATION CENTER

**Early Childhood Development Funding Map for East Africa**  
FOUNDATION CENTER

## APPENDIX A – MEETING AGENDA

# Ghana Data Strategy and Capacity Building

## Data Strategy and Capacity Building Workshop

29 November, 2017 ♦ UNDP Office, Accra

Time	Session	Speaker
07:45 – 08:15	Arrival & Registration	
08:15 – 08:30	Welcome & Introductions	UNDP, Foundation Center
08:30– 09:00	Our Agreements and Understandings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ PRINCIPLES</li> <li>♦ CHALLENGES &amp; NEEDS</li> <li>♦ LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGIES</li> <li>♦ GOALS &amp; PRIORITIES</li> </ul>	Facilitated by Foundation Center
09:00 – 09:45	Building a Data System for Philanthropy: A Roadmap	Delivered by Foundation Center; informed by WINGS Data Charter
09:45 – 10:00	BREAK	
10:00 – 12:00	Action Plans for Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ PRIORITY 1: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND RESOURCES</li> <li>♦ PRIORITY 2: CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY</li> <li>♦ PRIORITY 3: ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT</li> </ul>	
12:00 – 12:15	BREAK	
12:15 – 12:45	Identifying Early Wins and Potential Blockers for Action Plans	Facilitated by Foundation Center
12:45 – 13:15	Agreeing on Action Plan and Way Forward	Facilitated by Foundation Center
13:15 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00	ADJOURN	

## APPENDIX B – PARTICIPANTS (BY ORGANIZATION)

### WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE (WACSI)

Frank Arthur Sombo

Nana A. Afadzinu

### NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM (NPF)

Dr. Ben Ocra

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION (NDPC)

Patience Ampomah

### GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE (GSS)

William K. Addo

### UNDP

Selorm Kobla

Issac Ofosu Debrah

### THE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CENTER (TRMC)

Karen Shomeh Sai

### MINISTRY OF SANITATION AND WATER RESOURCES (MSWR)

Ebenezer Charway

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE GHANA (SE GHANA)

Roisin Fogarty

### AFRICAN ASSISTANCE PLAN (AAP)

Rose Meda D. Offei-Asare

### SAVANNAH INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AID (SIRDA)

Hajia Almia Sagito

### AFRICAN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT FUND (AWDF)

Nana Bamea Kyei-Boadi

### TRAINING RESEARCH AND NETWORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT (TREND)

Kofi Biscoff

### WATER HEALTH GHANA LTD.

Charles Armah

Nana Fredua

### WATER AND SANITATION FOR THE URBAN POOR (WSUP)

Anthony Addae

### FOUNDATION CENTER (FC)

Lauren Bradford

Larry McGill

## ABOUT SDG PHILANTHROPY PLATFORM

Launched by the United Nations Development Program, Foundation Center, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors in 2014, SDG Philanthropy Platform's (SDGPP) partnerships illustrate the dedication of foundations and philanthropists from North and South America to Asia and from Europe to Africa. The SDG Philanthropy Platform informs and catalyzes collaboration through building awareness and connections between those working in the philanthropy sector and beyond. SDGPP shares a belief that the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an important and effective new roadmap to a better world for all. The platform has brought together hundreds of foundations and philanthropists across many countries to create new partnerships to increase funding and create programs that will have greater, and more sustainable, impact on people's lives.

For more information about SDGPP, please contact Issac Debrah, national coordinator of SDG Philanthropy Platform (Ghana), at [isaac.debrah@undp.org](mailto:isaac.debrah@undp.org).

## ABOUT AFRICA PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) is a continent-wide network of African philanthropic organizations. The Network was launched in July 2009 at an inaugural convening led by: African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and TrustAfrica (TA). The mission of the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) is "to be the platform for the promotion of an African voice and agenda for philanthropy."

For more information about APN, please contact Stigmata Tenga, executive director of APN, at [stenga@africaphilanthropy.org](mailto:stenga@africaphilanthropy.org).

## ABOUT FOUNDATION CENTER

In order to strengthen the philanthropic sector to achieve more effective development and grantmaking outcomes, Foundation Center works with partners to understand the global philanthropic landscape and the in-country contexts within which philanthropy operates. We work with partners to understand specific data and knowledge gaps and associated capacity issues, and facilitate the building of long-term sustainable local data strategies and capacity to address these issues. We work to provide technical assistance to local philanthropic organizations and associations to develop their own data collection processes and infrastructure, and organize information in ways that allow it to be accessed, aggregated, analyzed, compared, and researched. Important partners in this work may include the National Bureau of Statistics, international and local foundations and philanthropists, grantees, and existing data infrastructure networks and processes both global and local, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), and others.

For more information about Foundation Center or this work, please contact Lauren Bradford, director of global partnerships, at [lbr@foundationcenter.org](mailto:lbr@foundationcenter.org).



**FOUNDATION  
CENTER**  
Knowledge to build on.

32 Old Slip ♦ New York, NY 10005  
(800) 424-9836 ♦ [foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org)