

#GIVINGTUESDAY KENYA SUMMIT

REPORT



**Harmonizing Impact:
Aligning Local-led
Initiatives to the SDGs.**



BEST WESTERN PLUS, WESTLANDS, NRB



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INTRODUCTION.

The GivingTuesday Kenya Summit, held under the theme “Harmonizing Impact: Aligning Local Led Initiatives to the SDGs,” convened a diverse and passionate group of stakeholders from the GivingTuesday Kenya Partners community including individuals, organizations, organized groups as well as donors committed to driving change within their communities. The Summit not only provided a space where passionate minds converged, but also created a platform for transformative ideas to find inspiration. The gathering crafted in collaboration with the GivingTuesday Africa team and the Brookings Institute aimed to enrich the partners’ understanding of the value of harnessing movements such as GivingTuesday as a model of practice and also delving deeper into the SDGs and sharing insights on the necessity of their contribution for the goals to be achieved.

The opening remarks by the regional coordinator-East Africa Philanthropy Network representative, Matilda Maseno shed light on the important role generosity and giving play in contributing to the overall national and global development agenda. This can only be done when local organizations embrace a collective action outlook rather than working in silos and also create systems of operations albeit simple to organize their processes for more effective impact. An emphasis on the use of storytelling as a tool to demonstrate impact was also made to highlight successful evidence such as the #MyGivingStory campaign which emphasized the stories of remarkable heroes and heroines who have worked to transform the lives of people in their communities. This cemented the importance of using our voices as Africans to tell our own narratives and inspire future generations to know that giving is beyond monetary value but it transcends tribe, language, and culture and rises above the prejudice of society as generously is the language we can all understand.

SESSIONS

Ignite Talk Session-

Debunking the SDGs & How Local Organizations Can Get Involved

Speaker: Lilian Mbuti.

This session enabled participants to build their capacity on the SDGs, understand their role in contributing to their actualization, and address the challenges that hinder them from advancing in their service to their communities. The key outcome from this session was the essential action of globalizing our vision as local practitioners to expand our horizons and ensure our local actions make a resounding impact on the international scale. A reminder of the need to take a step back and reflect on the impact made by implementors when facing situations of uncertainty was also shared. Analyzing the success and lessons learned to chart a better cause for the future.

The need for more structured operations in the organizations was echoed. If there is to be success in the achievement of the SDGs then organizations need to create systems even though they are not elaborate to showcase their work. Investing in areas such as communications, finance, and implementation will play a significant role in aiding the achievement of the existing goals.



Plenary Session:

Shaping the Narrative of Local Impact.

Speakers: Titus Kuria *Canada Mathare Education Trust*, Gilliane Celestine *Africa Youth Trust*, Epiphany Muriuki *Drawing Dreams Initiative*. **Moderator-Peige Omondi- GivingTuesday Kenya.**



The plenary session featured a panel of esteemed speakers and thought leaders, each sharing invaluable insights on the role of local organizations in SDG implementation. The key outcomes from the session included:

1. Remaining True to Purpose:

Amidst challenges, remaining true to the organization's mission is paramount. Unwavering commitment empowers organizations to navigate difficulties and persevere as highlighted by Titus Kuria "We have been in existence for the past 17 years and over time the key lesson learned has been the value of remaining accountable to the reason why we started the work we do" Taking the time to build a trustworthy brand in the eyes of the community will enable you to not only serve their needs more effectively but also create an organization that is built on the principles of accountability and service thus making it less difficult to navigate the donor landscape for support.

2. Addressing the Root Cause of Challenges.

"We had to take a step back and understand what contributed to the actions of our community members when addressing the early pregnancy pandemic and education inequality. We realized that we were not handling the core issue but rather giving temporary solutions" Epiphany Muriuki on how they have worked to reduce the pregnancy pandemic in parts of Laikipia County. This brought to light the important need to understand the dynamic cultures and traditions of the community members in order for a more sustainable impact. The embracing of a horizontal model of implementation will not only promote a sense of ownership by those benefitting from the interventions but also provide an opportunity to reduce and eventually eradicate societal challenges.

3. A Call for a Inclusive and Diverse Society.

Discussions delved into acknowledging biases and ensuring inclusivity and diversity within the Global South. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and LGBTQ+ individuals, participants emphasized the importance of tailored approaches for these communities including having an emphasis

Sustainability Models: The panel underscored the evolution of non-profit models into sustainable entities. Social enterprises, community frameworks, and strategic partnerships were highlighted as pathways to sustainable impact. Participants stressed the need for continuous adaptation and innovation to create lasting change.

STORIES OF IMPACT:

Catalysts for Change Session.

During the summit, organizations shared their impactful journeys, serving as inspiration and catalysts for change within their respective communities:

Activate Action:

This youth-led community-based organization focuses on empowering vulnerable youth, including those living with HIV and disabilities. Their initiatives are fully community-centered, driving economic empowerment and poverty eradication. Leveraging the power of social media and locally-led solutions, Activate Action demonstrated how grassroots efforts can drive significant change.

My Body My Body:

Championing gender and women's rights in ASAL regions, My Body My Body emphasizes comprehensive, inclusive sexual and reproductive healthcare for all. Through community-centered conversations, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement, the organization showcased the transformative impact of grassroots initiatives.

WeForest International:

WeForest International, operating in Kenya, India, and the USA, advocates for SDGs 13, 17, and 15. The organization focuses on championing the voices of indigenous communities. Their innovative approach includes raising awareness through community engagement and campaigns, leading up to the CoP28. They presented a petition requiring 2 million signatures, underscoring the power of collective action.

Riziki Source:

Addressing SDG 8, Riziki Source bridges the gap for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) by creating a social enterprise for meaningful and dignified work. Their model focuses on "selling talent, opportunity, and ability," decolonizing philanthropy by empowering communities at the grassroots level. Through their innovative approach, Riziki Source demonstrated the transformative potential of social enterprises in driving sustainable change.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

The 17 Rooms Journey

In the breakout sessions, attendees actively engaged in discussions, focusing on actionable steps aligned with thematic SDG goals:

People (SDG 1-5): Participants identified specific challenges, such as poverty of finance and intellect. The discussion revolved around empowerment, accountability, and self-sensitization. Collaboration with young and diverse stakeholders, utilizing resources like finance, HR, and digital advocacy toolkits, was considered pivotal for sustainable change. The consensus was to target Gen Z and Gen Alpha, aiming for transformative results by 2035.



Peace (SDG 17):

Challenges such as lack of accountability, ethnic clashes, political instability, and poverty were discussed. Proposed solutions included awareness creation, community governance, strengthening existing institutions, financial literacy, and psychosocial support. The timeline for these actions was set at around 2 years, contingent upon priority and stakeholder engagement.



Planet (SDG):

Participants highlighted challenges such as lack of representation, literacy, and livelihoods, leading to food insecurity. Proposed solutions included global awareness campaigns, training programs, peer mentorship, and increased funds for community-led organizations. The urgency was underscored, setting a deadline before CoP 28 and emphasizing collaboration with NGOs, CSOs, activists, and governments.

Prosperity (SDG 8-11):

Challenges like unemployment, gender-based violence (GBV), and stereotypes were addressed. Solutions included sensitization, dialogue, mentorship, sharing opportunities, and community engagement. The timeline for these actions was set at one year, relying on internal and external goodwill, expert contributions, and partnerships for implementation.

Partnerships (SDG 17):

Challenges related to power imbalances, coordination, transparency, and duplications were tackled. Proposed solutions included continuous policy briefs, donor and partner engagement, organizational development, and community involvement. Immediate action was emphasized, aiming for implementation within 6 months to one year, with the active involvement of the state, community, non-state actors, and funding intermediaries.



Throughout the summit, the role of social media emerged as a crucial tool for credibility, amplifying the voices of local organizations and fostering global collaboration. By strategically utilizing social media platforms, organizations can enhance their visibility, engage with wider audiences, and garner support for their initiatives. Building credible online narratives can increase partnerships, funding opportunities, and greater community impact.

CONCLUSION:

Call to Empower Communities for Sustainable Change.

The GivingTuesday Kenya Summit served as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing the power of local initiatives in driving sustainable change. By embracing inclusivity, authenticity, and collaboration, communities can work together to achieve the SDGs. The actionable steps identified in the breakout sessions, coupled with the impactful stories shared by organizations, provide a roadmap for transformative change.

As participants return to their communities armed with newfound knowledge and inspiration, the momentum generated at the summit is poised to create a ripple effect, fostering positive change at the grassroots level. Through continued collaboration, innovative approaches, and unwavering determination, the vision of a more equitable, just, and sustainable future can be realized.





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