

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Reporting the dynamics of indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi, Namibia and the DRC

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Abstract

Indigenous philanthropic organisations have done much work in Malawi, Namibia, and the DRC. In Malawi and Namibia, the key areas organisations spent money on were education, health, humanitarian, and child protection. Organisations in DRC were spending a lot of money on gender promotion, health, children's protection, and agriculture. Across all countries, the groups funded the most were children, women, youth, and orphans. Despite the tangible work of the organisations, they encountered many challenges. Lack of funds to undertake their philanthropic work was the major problem. The organisational values, annual revenue and expenditure were much smaller, restricting the size of service provision. Some charitable organisations had no official websites, hence impeding their discoverability. Generally, registering philanthropic organisations in the three countries was not easy, although it could be completed within four months. Amongst the key recommendations, educational institutions should work on having more philanthropic infrastructure support organisations, the enabling role of governments requires more attention (e.g., leveraging technology to make the registration process easier), income generation projects for charity organisations are highly recommended, which may act as a sustainable source of philanthropic funding, yet another source of sustainable financing could be the breeding and grooming of more corporate foundations.

Keywords: Philanthropic organisations; Charity; Foundations; Humanitarian

1. Introduction

This research is a step towards understanding the indigenous philanthropic organisations in three African countries (Malawi, Namibia, DRC). Little has been reported concerning the occurrences and manifests of philanthropy among African people. While a broader range of literature exists on what could be interpreted as philanthropic behaviour in Africa, the conceptual discussion of what signifies philanthropy in African contexts is minimal (Mati, 2017). This leaves a critical knowledge gap as the manifestation of African philanthropy and what constitutes philanthropy may differ from European and Western practices. Despite many international philanthropic organisations in Africa, it has remained a challenge to identify the indigenous philanthropic organisations in each African country. Some of these organisations do not have websites. During the 2019 Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) conference, Una Osili raised the issue of the lack of data on philanthropy in Africa (CAPSI, 2019). Investigating the operations of indigenous African philanthropic organisations helps to understand philanthropic work in the continent.

This article contributes to the growing knowledge regarding African philanthropy. Firstly, it identifies some indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi, Namibia and DRC. Knowing who is operating in which country, which city and what they do is vital, although the identities of these organisations are anonymous in this report. Secondly, this article reveals critical information, including registration issues, organisational finances, most funded groups of people or activities, mobilisation of funds, and current donor interests. Section 2 presents the methodology, Section 3 presents and discusses the results, and Section 4 summarises and concludes the study while suggesting recommendations.

2. Research approach

This study applied the quantitative research approach and a cross-sectional design. Quantitative research was more convenient during the COVID-19 pandemic. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data via Survey Monkey. The target population included community foundations, family foundations, private and operating foundations, trusts, and community chests, picked using the non-probability purposive sampling criterion. These were philanthropic organisations formed and run by the citizens of Africa, irrespective of their race. The idea was to separate the inflow of philanthropic funding from outside Africa from what indigenous African people can do to advance giving amongst themselves. Due to difficulties in identifying these organisations, the size of the target population was not ascertained. The Snowball sampling criterion was also considered to assist in recruiting respondents. This is the criterion where the respondents are asked to help the researcher by identifying other potential respondents. It was a challenge to get responses from these organisations despite our efforts to bring research assistants to each of the three countries. The response rate was poor; we only achieved 59 organisations in Malawi, 21 in Namibia and 35 in DRC.

2.1 Research data and analytical method

The data was gathered through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by a group of researchers who work for CAPSI and validated by other external experts who CAPSI identified. Insights in designing questions were obtained from previous research work such as Moyo and Ramsamy (2014). Ethical clearance was sought and received from the Wits Business School (WBS). Informed consent to participate in the survey was sought, and CAPSI, the centre responsible for this data collection, keeps the data under password protection. Anonymity and confidentiality are maintained throughout the study. Data were analysed in Excel using descriptive analysis. Given that this research did not intend to assess any causality or association among variables, inferential statistics were beyond the scope of this research. The following section presents the results of the study.

3. Results

This section provides the findings concerning indigenous philanthropic organisations and their activities in Malawi, Namibia, and the DRC.

3.1 The Case of Malawi

This country had a relatively large response rate among the three surveyed countries, with 59 philanthropic organisations. We begin by presenting the participants and their organisations' essential information.

3.1.1 Personal and Organisational Information

Figure 1 shows that most of the participants were males. These were the people occupying various positions in philanthropic organisations in Malawi. About 53% of the participants were directors, 24% founders, 10% managers and 12% occupying other positions. Does this imply that most people

who occupy high positions in the local philanthropic organisations in Malawi are males? It might be possible, but it isn't easy to make such an assertion from the current results. We know that Malawi has been one of the countries with higher gender inequality. For example, the USAID's September 2016 report shows that Malawi was ranked 173 out of 188 on the United Nations' Gender Inequality Index (USAID, 2016). It is, therefore, not surprising that males still occupy higher positions in indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi. Regardless of gender distribution, the most crucial factor is that most participants occupied higher positions and were more likely to provide critical information about their organizations.

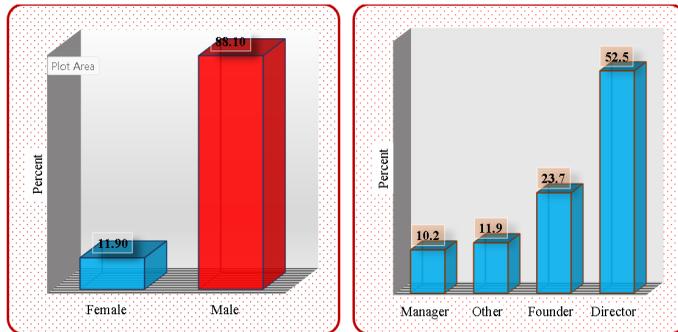


Figure 1. Participant gender (Left) and Occupation (Right)

The respondents were asked to indicate the philanthropic category that best describes their organisations. The results are shown in Figure 2. Most organisations showed that they were best described as charitable trusts, followed by community foundations, independent foundations, and churches. Some participants specified 'other', including research and locally-led development organisations.

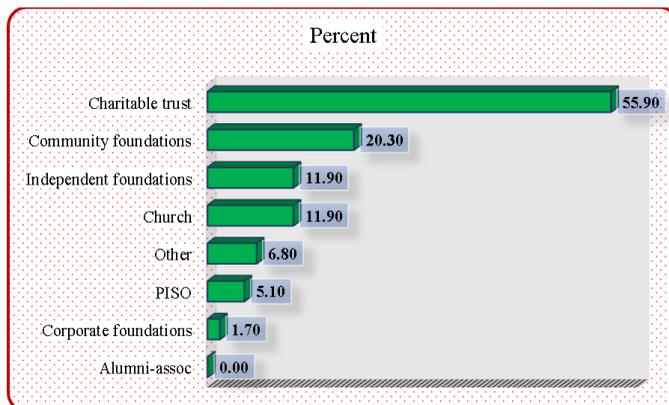


Figure 2. Philanthropic category

Philanthropic infrastructure support organisations (PISO) and corporate foundations were the least selected, while none was considered an alumni association. The shortage of PISO is evident. Milner (2017) of Alliance talked about the evolution of philanthropic infrastructures that are not enough. This is still a problem in most African countries as these philanthropic infrastructure organisations should play a role in the philanthropic sector. CAF (2017:6) stated that "... aid agencies should aim to leave in place both an enabling legal environment through technical assistance, but

also philanthropy infrastructure and charity support bodies that can continue this work.” A smaller proportion of corporate foundations indicate that few companies in Malawi consider setting up foundations. However, there is evidence of corporate social responsibility as a way of giving back to society, and for others, it is also a component of a marketing strategy to improve publicity (Mwatsika and Chitulu, 2016). The survey also reveals that the oldest organisation in the sample was established in 1990, while the youngest was established in 2019. Only nine organisations were formed in the 1990s, while the rest were formed from 2000. More organisations (nine) were formed in 2018. In general, our findings show that many organisations were young in the philanthropic sector.

The organisations were also asked why they were formed. It was an open-ended question. The responses indicated that most philanthropic organisations were created to support vulnerable children, vulnerable youth, orphans, people experiencing poverty, education and health. The first reasons for forming the organisations were generally related to these issues. Other reasons were as follows: to provide water in the communities; unite churches and pastors (basically pushing a religious agenda); sports to empower the youth; promote women’s initiatives; care for the elderly; awareness of gender-based violence; technology advancement; provision of moral support and provision of social capital investment. Lingenfelter et al. (2017) recommended more support to the vulnerable groups, who realised that it has been difficult for vulnerable children and orphans to obtain education in Malawi.

When we asked the organisations about the countries they operated, we found out that about 26 organisations were working in Malawi only. Other organisations had other operations in countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Haiti, Nepal, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Ghana, Burundi, Norway, the USA and the United Kingdom. The following section presents the companies’ registration issues.

3.1.2 Registration issues

Given that institutional and legal environments may make it difficult for philanthropic organisations to register officially, this section seeks to understand the registration of philanthropic organisations in the countries where they operate. All organisations participating in this survey indicated they were legally registered, as shown in Figure 1.3. About 93% of the organisations stated that they were registered in Malawi. Roughly 2% in the United Kingdom (UK), 2% in the United States (US), 2% in both UK and Malawi, and 2% in both US and Malawi.

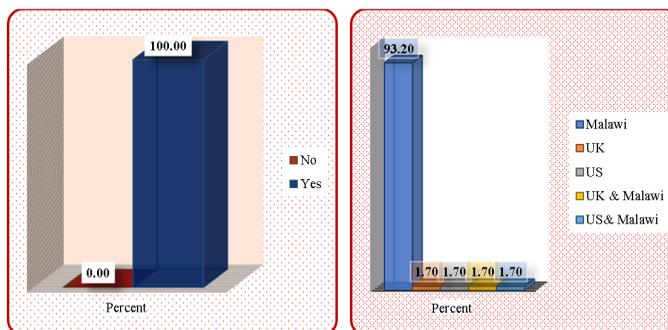


Figure 3. Registration status (Left) and place of registration (Right)

The Council for Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi (CONGOMA) specified the steps to be followed when forming a local NGO/charitable organisation: These include the following: (i) conceptualise your ideas, (ii) formulate the constitution, (iii) Identify trustees of the organisation, (iv)

design a logo and common seal, (v) register the organisation with the Registrar General, (vi) register with CONGOMA and (vii) register with the Malawian NGO Board (CONGOMA, 2019). In terms of the cities of registration, most were registered in Lilongwe, then Blantyre, Karonga, Phalombe, Stanford (CT), Zomba, Mulanje, Phalombe, Mzuzu, New York and Chiradzulu. Note that there might be unregistered local philanthropic organisations, especially in remote areas, that this study has not covered.

The participants were further asked to rate the complexity of the registration process. Figure 1.4 shows a percentage of organisations (42.4%) that indicated that the registration process was neither easy nor difficult. Moreover, 22% of those who noted that it was easy to register were matched by those who stated it was difficult. Only 8.5% of the participants mentioned that registering was very easy, while 5.1% showed it was very difficult. We cannot differentiate whether registering in Malawi was easy or difficult. It is difficult to tell why other organisations regard the registration process as difficult since there were no follow-up questions to understand why. However, a multilayered registration requirement (i.e. registering with the Registrar General, registering with CONGOMA, registering with the NGO Board of Malawi) might complicate the process. The presence of multiple levels of administration in the registration process enlarges the chances for obstruction (Musila, 2019).

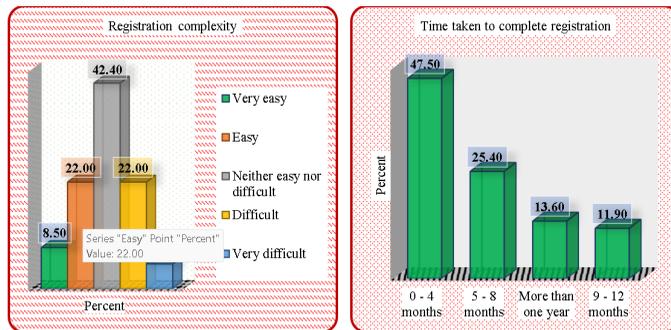


Figure 4. Registration complexity (Left) and speed (Right)

Whether registration was easy or difficult, the positive news is that most organisations mentioned that the registration process could be completed within four months. Finishing the registration process in less than four months aligns with the days required to obtain an operating licence in Malawi. The World Bank Development Indicators show that it took about 19 days to get an operating licence in Malawi in 2014. However, other organisations may have taken longer to complete the registration process. Besides the registration complexity, the organisations mentioned the specific legal and policy frameworks on philanthropy in the countries they operated, which include the following:

- The NGO Act 2000
- The National NGO Policy
- Register with CONGOMA and NGO Board
- The Constitution of Malawi, Gender Equality, AGYW, SRHR
- The NGO’s Act Law of Malawi Trusteeship Incorporation Act
- Trustees Incorporation Act
- The NGO Trustees Act

In 2018, the Malawian government proposed amending the existing NGO Act, considering a government-controlled NGO authority, and enforcing severe fines for violations of the NGO law (Musila, 2019).

3.1.3 Organisational direction and decision-making

This section shows whether the organisations had a clearly defined vision and mission. Moreover, this section shows who makes decisions in these philanthropic organisations. Almost all the organisations (94.9%) indicated they had a clearly defined vision, as shown in Figure 5 (left plot). Given that all the surveyed organisations were registered, it was also expected that they have a defined mission and vision since it is required in step two of the registration process when formulating the NGO constitution. 5.1% of the participants were unsure if their organisations had a vision. The results showed the importance of having a vision which detects an organisation’s long-term goal. Similarly, Figure 5 (right plot) shows that most organisations (93.2%) had a mission, while 3.4% of the participants were unsure if they had. Two participants did not answer the question regarding the mission.

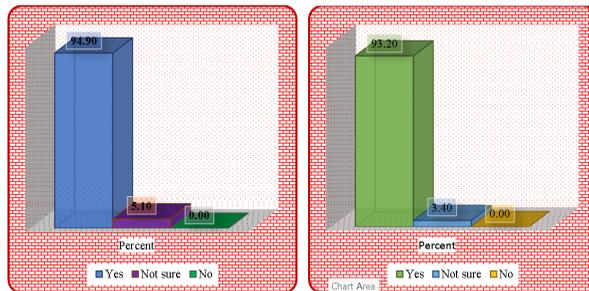


Figure 5. Registration complexity (Left) and speed Having a clearly defined vision (Left) and mission (Right)

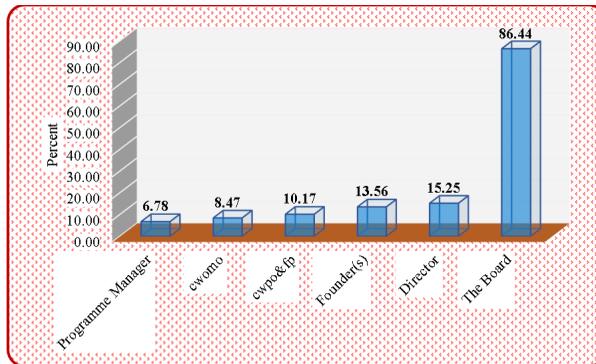


Figure 6. Responsible for charity policy decisions

The results showed the importance of having a mission that can act as a road map for an organisation. While it was essential to understand if the organisations had missions and visions, knowing who was responsible for decision-making was also important. Figure 6 displays the findings concerning the organisations’ individuals who decided on charity policy. On the top three, the Board (86.4%) was much involved in decision-making, followed by the directors (15.3%) and then the founders (13.6%). The programme manager and a committee with only members of an organisation (cwomo) were the least involved.

3.1.4 Organisational finances

This section is crucial as it reveals the finances of the indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi. The knowledge is critical as financial problems often threaten the sustainability of African

charitable organisations. Approximately 42% of the organisations in Malawi were valued above US\$50,000, as shown in Figure 7 (left plot). The second significant percentage (i.e. 33.9%) was for the organisations with the lowest value (i.e. US\$100–US\$10,000). In terms of revenue, many organisations (49.2%) had minor annual revenue, as Figure 1.7 reveals. As the revenue categories increase, fewer organisations will achieve large amounts. Only 5.1% had a yearly revenue of above US\$1000,000. This could be a major challenge for organisations undertaking their philanthropic activities effectively.

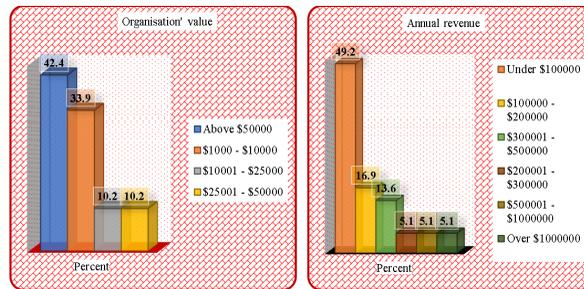


Figure 7. Organisation value and revenue

Likewise, as illustrated in Figure 8 (left plot), most indigenous philanthropic organisations (44.1%) in Malawi had smaller expenditures, less than US\$100,000 per year, followed by those who spent between US\$10,000 and US\$200,000. Only 5.1% of the organisations were able to spend over US\$1000,000. Generally, the less expenditure was in line with the less revenue received by the organisations every year. This was one of the obstacles that limited the local philanthropic organisations; they did not have strong financial muscles. Financial problems were the fundamental problem many organisations raised in the additional survey comments.

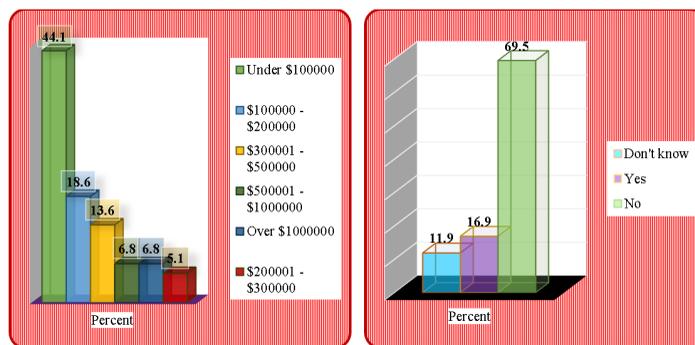


Figure 8. Annual expenditure (Left) and Reserve funds availability (Right)

The organisations were further asked if they had reserve funds; the findings are in Figure 8 (right plot). About 69.5% of the organisations indicated they did not have reserve funds, while 16.9% did not know. Only 11.9% showed that they had reserve funds. It explains that most organisations were utilising their revenue to meet their charity work, leaving them without money to put aside. Failure to have reserve funds poses a danger when unexpected emergencies require more support from a philanthropic organisation. For instance, the emergence of COVID-19 has been problematic for several organisations globally, and without reserves, a charity organisation can fail to continue its operations.

It was vital to examine how the organisations mobilised their funds, which is critical for operational and sustainability purposes. Figure 9 shows the findings. Most organisations mentioned they got money from sponsorships or donations, followed by grants, fundraising, income generation, member contribution, community, and government. Getting money from the government was a minor source. This also follows the budget constraints encountered by the African governments. Yet, it is not a safe net for philanthropic organisations to rely more on sponsorships; exploiting multiple sources and creating a balance is required.

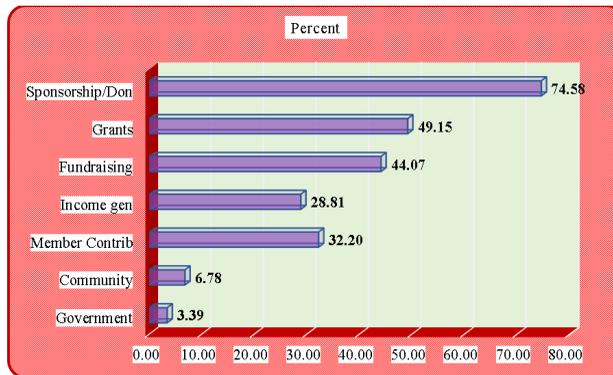


Figure 9. Mobilisation of funds

3.1.5 Giving out funds

This section explores philanthropic organisations' criteria for giving out money. The organisations were asked about their ways of communicating the availability of grants. Figure 10 shows the results. Approximately 46% of the organisations communicated the availability of grants by headhunting for relevant partners, followed by a call for proposals (adverts in the media) (36%), none of the listed options (32.2%) and a call for proposals (on the website) (30.5%). The use of websites to call for proposals was the least. It was unsurprising since some indigenous philanthropic organisations did not have websites. Participants were also asked how their organisations accepted proposals or requests. The following responses were given:

- The proposal received through community structures
- Look at the needs of the widows and their capabilities
- Brought forward at the board level
- Through our head of sponsor abroad
- In system
- Proposals
- Via the organisation's support structures
- Through partnership arrangements and development of MOU
- Direct contact/communication
- Apply and submit proposals where applicable
- By email
- The Board is responsible for providing technical expertise to the management
- By request, they check if it is in line with our organisational mission and vision
- Through email/hard copy
- Have established internal controls
- Through approval by the Board
- If the type of work being proposed is in line with an organisation's vision and mission

- Writing concept notes
- Through engagement

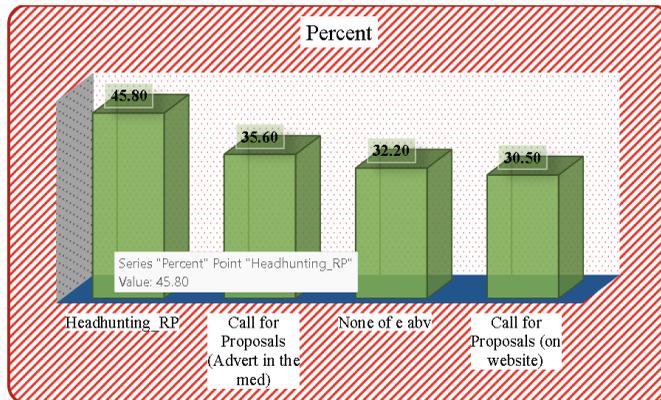


Figure 10. Communicating availability of grants

We also asked the organisations to tick the key areas they spend money on. Figure 1.11 shows the findings. The top five areas the organisation spent money on were education (79.7%), health (66.1%), humanitarian (49.2%), child protection (47.5%) and agriculture (42.4%). The bottom five activities they spent money on were as follows: small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (10.2%), policy and civil society (8.5%), microcredit and microinsurance (6.8%), arts and culture (6.8%) and solidarity (0%). It seems most organisations have always supported education, health and humanitarian, but there is increased focus on other areas such as environment and gender promotion.

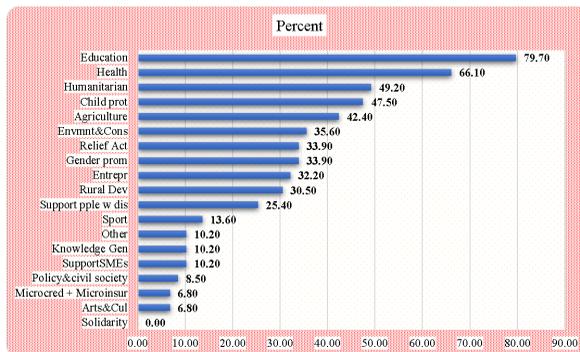


Figure 11. Major issues organisations spend money on

Many philanthropic organisations may target education due to the need to improve education in Malawi. Regarding literacy, Hinteregger (2017) mentioned that Malawi is among the lowest-performing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with 35% of the children finishing primary education. The author indicated that numerous children enrol but fail to complete school and that, particularly girls, they drop out due to pregnancy, young marriage and contracting HIV or AIDS. Given this situation, there is much need for philanthropic support to complement government efforts in improving education. As for health, Bryan (2019) stated that the cause of poor-quality health services in Malawi has been a lack of funding and that non-profit organisations (NPOs) and the government have been working to improve Malawi's health system.

Plan International (n.d.) revealed that violence against children is common in the country, with some girls facing sexual abuse before turning 18 years old and boys that are physically abused in their childhood. Cabran (2012) argued that although Malawi had a good framework for child protection that aligns with global standards, law enforcement remained a problem because of insufficient human resources and materials. Therefore, child protection is an important area that desires more philanthropic attention.

Another piece of information of interest was how organisations give money out. Figure 12 (left plot) shows the results. Most organisations indicated they used direct payments (61%), scholarships (47.5%) and collaborations (30.5%) to give away money for a cause. Under the 'other' option, the specified ways included relief, direct community grants and water project implementation, where the organisations pay for everything. Furthermore, this study intended to identify the groups that receive the most funding. We discovered that children received most of the funding, followed by women, orphans, youth, learners, old people, 'other', and the environment, as displayed in Figure 12 (right plot). It shows that most organisations were trying to promote previously disadvantaged groups such as women and children. According to the GCAP (n.d.), groups such as youth, women, older people and people with disabilities have not adequately participated somewhat in the decision-making. That has been an obstacle to the formulation of policies that are customised to improve these disadvantaged groups. Thus, Malawi's charity organisations play an essential role by directing more support to women, children and youth. The USAID (2016) report indicated that Malawi has the highest child marriage rate in the world. Philanthropic efforts towards children may help to solve this problem. Some of the feedback given under 'other' includes targeting communities with disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, girls, local communities and adolescent girls. One of the respondents indicated that the choice to give money to a specific group depends on the merit of the health research done at a particular time.

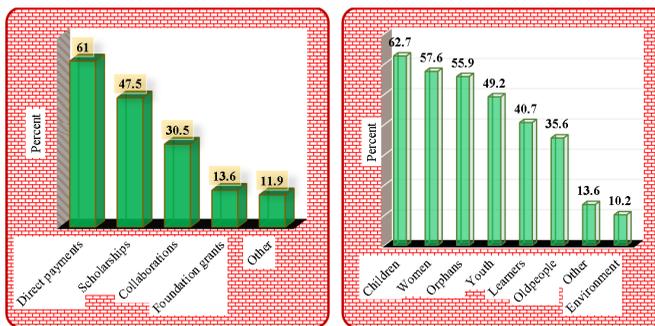


Figure 12. Instrument used to give money (Left) and key beneficiaries (Right)

Given the instruments for giving out money, as shown in Fig 12 (Left plot), respondents were further asked to specify the instrument(s) preferred and the reasons thereof. The results revealed that most organisations preferred direct payment. Because direct payment ensures that the money has reached the intended beneficiary, it is easier to track and keep records, communication is easy, assistance reaches people in need at the right time, and the expenditure goes to the neediest ones. For those who preferred scholarships, their main reason was that the money goes directly to the school accounts, making their work easier. Collaboration was also among the three preferred instruments. Participants argued that collaboration is preferred because it increases the impact of the action, is easy to monitor usage, helps to build capacity for the other organisations, facilitates the sharing of best practices and helps to monitor the spending of the funds. The ones who preferred grants stated that it was because of the difficulties of having organisations that support their causes. Moreover, that

was the first stage of looking for seed capital to support their charitable activities. A few indicated that they had no specific preference, as that depends on the need to address it.

3.1.6 Current donor trends/interests

As we live in a dynamic environment, philanthropic organisations need to be asked about the current interests of donors. Based on the responses from Malawi, the following came out often as the current interests of donors:

- Children protection/early childhood development
- Youth and Women empowerment
- Education, especially child education
- Health
- Climate/environment/conservation

About two respondents indicated no current interests due to COVID-19, and their funds had dried up. However, some suggested that the current interests were water and good sanitation, gender-based violence projects, agriculture, orphans, people with disabilities and elderly support. The standard view of the organisation was in line with our previous observation, whereby women, children and youth were the most funded groups (see Figure 1.12). Education and health were the top two major areas in which donors spent money (see Figure 1.11). Generally, the findings disclose the importance of more philanthropic support for children and women, as well as education and health. In the past, women received less attention. The USAID (2021a) indicated that gender-based violence had been a critical problem in Malawi, with girls and women who were far worse than their male counterparts on socio-economic indicators such as wage equality, literacy, political participation, and school enrolment and completion. The report also mentioned that the non-governmental sector and government responses to gender-based violence have been insufficient, under-resourced and uncoordinated. Consequently, having child protection and women empowerment among the current interests of donors is exciting news. The next section of the report takes us through the findings from Namibia's perspective.

3.2 The Case of Namibia

This section of the report presents the results based on the information and data gathered from philanthropic organisations in Namibia. Getting information and data from the organisations in this country was challenging. We managed to get 21 responses. Despite this challenge, the information gathered provides valuable insights regarding the indigenous philanthropic organisations in the country. The following sub-section shows some information regarding the participants and organisations.

3.2.1 Personal and Organisational Information

Figure 13 (left plot) indicates that females represent approximately 71% of the participants. Therefore, most of the participants in Namibia were females. Moreover, many respondents were directors and founders, with 33.3% each, as shown in Figure 13 (right plot). Few managers (9.5%) were involved in the survey compared to the supervisors (23.8%).

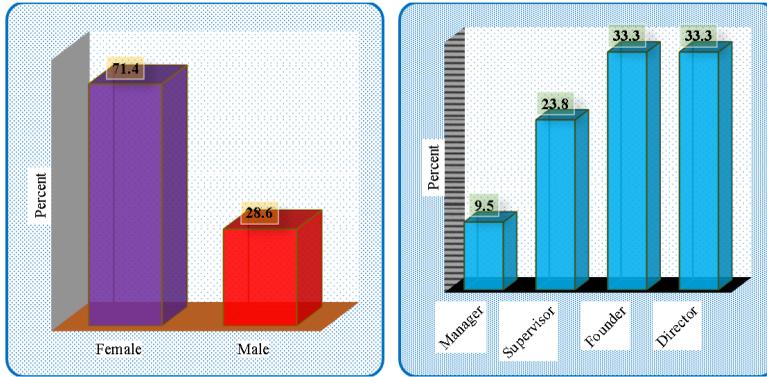


Figure 13. Participant gender (Left) and Occupation (Right)

Having more females occupying higher positions in Namibia also aligns with the country’s good score in gender equality. Namibia has been celebrated internationally for its pace towards gender equality in many dimensions, including promoting females in significant decision-making positions (Shikongo, 2019).

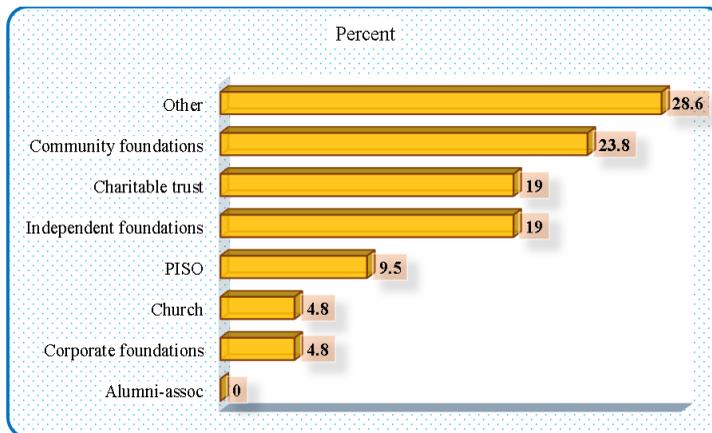


Figure 14. Philanthropic category

Contrary to Malawi, where the top selected philanthropic category was charitable trust, the top category in Namibia is ‘other’ and community foundations, as displayed in Figure 14. The descriptions indicated by those who ticked ‘other’ included Independent Non-profit Social Enterprise, Association Not for Gain, Non-profit Nongovernmental Organisation, Nature Conservation Area, Incorporated Association Not for Gain, and Community Development Organization. The bottom two categories were corporate foundations and alumni associations, just like in Malawi. Churches and PISO were in the bottom four categories. The prevalence of community foundations is crucial for community-driven development. In Kilmurray (2015:55), they talked about a “... clarion call for respect for participative community-driven development, which is grounded in local context, traditions and circumstances.”

We also sought to know the year each organisation was established and the reasons behind the formation. In addition, they needed to reveal the countries of focus. Evidence showed that only one organisation was established in 1949, while the rest were established after 1990. Most of the organisa-

tions were founded after 2007. Like in Malawi, the organisations have not been in the philanthropic sector for many years. The first reasons for the establishment of the philanthropic organisations were as follows: to support young women in decision-making spaces, support children with disabilities, provide alternative childcare, improve the quality and raise the standard of early childhood education in the informal settlements, distribute free menstrual products to Namibian children, raise awareness of transgender persons, preach the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, backing and training other charity organisations, create livelihood opportunities for marginalised groups, educate about the environment, alleviate poverty, make awareness about HIV/AIDS, empower women in Namibia, provide support to the underprivileged children in informal settlements.

Much support for women in Namibia is commended, as women have been behind men in several areas, including being part of the digital age. For instance, the World Wide Web Foundation (2020) found that 47% of women had no Internet access and that no national policy acknowledged Internet Communication Technology (ICT) as a tool that can be applied to fight gender inequality. We realised these organisations were registered in Namibia and operate in that country. A few organisations were also working in South Africa and Zimbabwe. One organisation disclosed that it also operated in 136 countries, while the other was in 133 countries.

3.2.2 Registration issues

Contrary to Malawi, where all the organisations mentioned that they were legally registered, Namibia had 2 (9.5%) out of 21 organisations that were not registered. While we may not know the precise reasons for being unregistered, it would create a disadvantage as potential sponsors of philanthropic organisations are more likely to exclude unregistered organisations. For example, in 2019, the Embassy of Finland had a call to fund local non-profit projects in Namibia; the call excluded unregistered organisations from applying (Funds for NGOs, 2019). Figure 15 (right plot) shows that the rest of the organisations were registered. Most organisations were registered in Namibia except the one registered in Germany (Figure 15, left plot). Another organisation indicated it was registered in many countries worldwide but without naming the countries.

As for the complexity of the registration process in Namibia, 76.2% of the organisations revealed that it was neither easy nor difficult, as Figure 16 illustrates. Yet, 14.3% and 4.8% of the organisations indicated that registration was difficult and very difficult, respectively. Only 4.8% of the participants showed that it was easy. The two registered organisations ticked an option that the registration was ‘Neither easy nor difficult’; thus, their response aligned well with their registration status. Based on these results, it was reasonable to say registration was difficult in Namibia. Although the participants showed that it was difficult to register philanthropic organisations in Namibia, the registration was generally completed within four months.

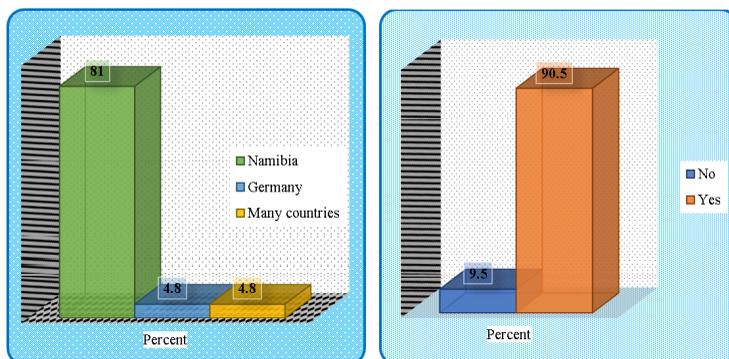


Figure 15. Registration status (Right) and place of registration (Left)

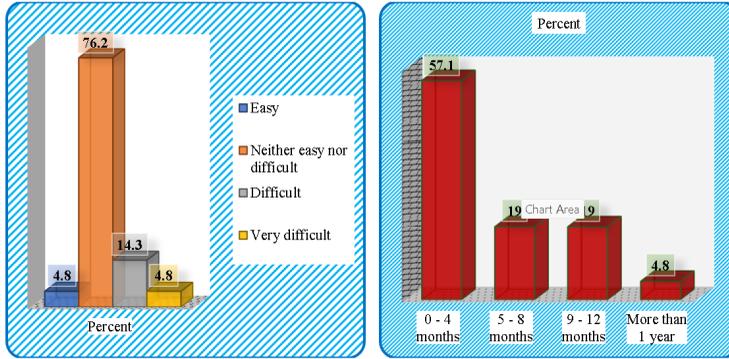


Figure 16. Registration complexity (Left) and speed (Right)

Only 4% of the organisations revealed that it took over a year to complete the registration process. The organisations mentioned that they were registered with the following institutions:

- Masters of High court
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Business and Intellectual Property Association of Namibia
- Ministry of Justice
- Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Social Security Commission
- Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA)
- Ministry of Health and Social Services
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health and Social Services
- Republic of Namibia Companies Act 2004
- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
- District Court Stendal
- The Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority

3.2.3 Organisational direction and decision-making

Like Malawi, most organisations (81%) in Namibia had a vision, as demonstrated in Figure 17 (left plot). One participant (4.8%) was unsure if they had a vision, while another (4.8%) showed that their organisation did not have a vision.

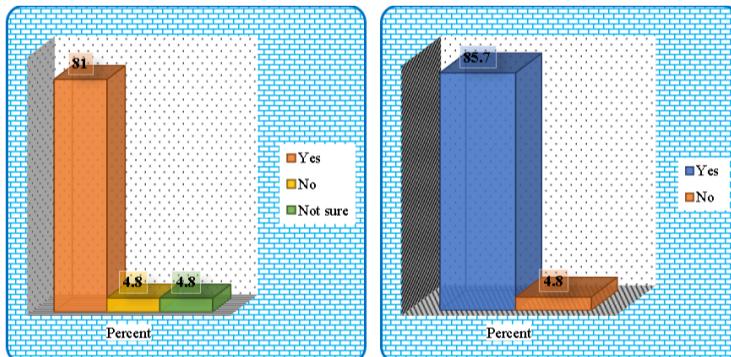


Figure 17. Having a clearly defined vision (Left) and mission (Right)

Two of the participants did not answer the question. Not having a vision is a matter of concern given that the respective organisation was formed in 2007; it should now have a vision. In terms of a mission, as shown in Figure 17 (right plot), 85.7% of the organisations showed that they had a mission, while only one (4.8%) indicated that it did not have a mission. The organisation without a mission is the same one that showed it had no vision. Two participants did not answer the question. The findings of the people who decide on charity policy in their organisation are shown in Figure 18. The Board (61.9%), a cwomo (23.8%) and programme manager (14.3%) were mainly responsible for deciding charity policy in many organisations. Thus, unlike in Malawi, founders and directors were not involved much in Namibia’s decision-making. Founders were the least involved in charity policy decisions. What was also outstanding in Namibia was that a cwomo plays a significant role in decision-making.

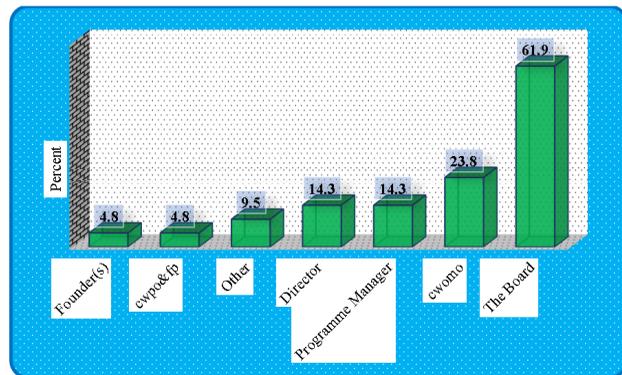


Figure 18. Responsible for charity policy decisions

3.2.4 Organisational finances

This section presents the findings concerning the finances of the organisations. Figure 19 shows the values and revenues of the organisations. While in Malawi, the highest percentage of the organisations indicated that they were valued above US\$50,000, most (33.3%) organisations in Namibia were valued between US\$1000 and US\$10,000. A similar number of organisations indicated they were valued at over US\$50,000. The proportion of low- and high-valued organisations in Namibia was the same. There were few organisations with high values; the majority were less valued. Unlike in Malawi, none of the organisations in Namibia received revenue above US\$1000,000. Most organisations (52.4%) got an annual revenue below US\$100,000, followed by 19% with revenue between US\$100,000 and US\$200,000. Malawi portrayed a similar picture, except that no organisation reported revenue of over US\$1000,000 in Namibia.

As for the annual expenditure, Figure 20 (left plot) shows that many (47.6%) organisations in Namibia spent less than US\$100,000 per annum. This was unsurprising given that most organisations’ revenues were below US\$100,000. Small annual revenue and expenditures may imply the limited capacity of the indigenous philanthropic organisations in Namibia. Financial constraints have remained a challenge for most local charitable organisations. A related study by Ephraim (2019), who analysed civil society organisations (CSOs) in Namibia, also revealed that inadequate financial resources were the main problem that often resulted in failed projects. As explained earlier regarding the importance of reserve funds, Namibia participants were asked if their organisations had reserve funds. The findings are illustrated in Figure 20 (right plot). Many organisations (57%) indicated that they did not have reserves. Only 24% showed they had reserve funds, while 14% did not know. There was one participant who did not answer the respective question.

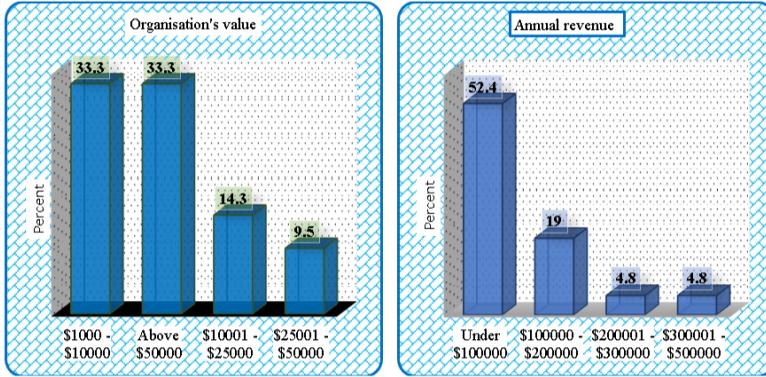


Figure 19. Organisation value and revenue

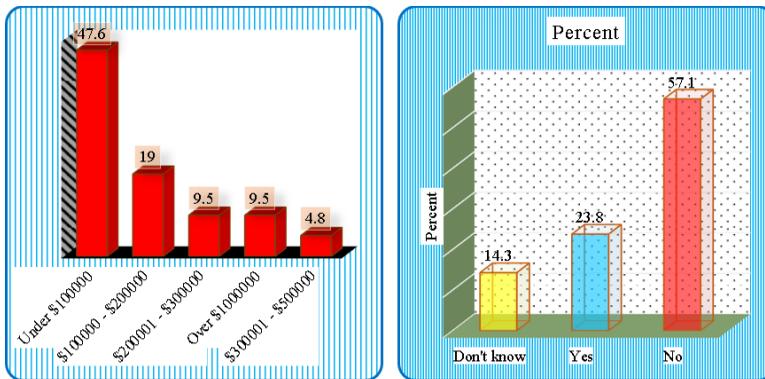


Figure 20. Annual expenditure (Left) and Availability of reserve funds (Right)

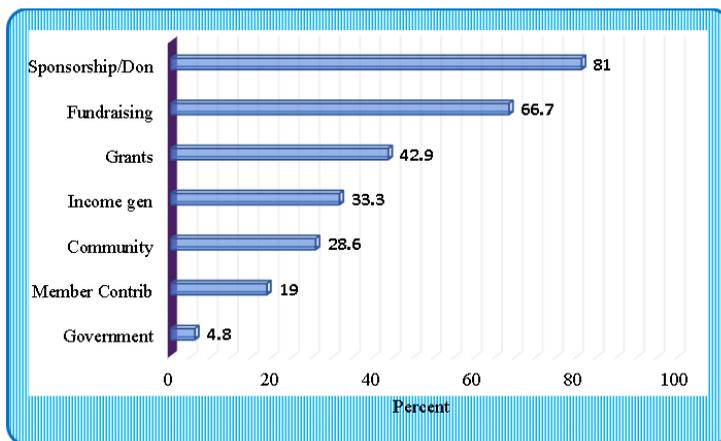


Figure 21. Mobilisation of funds

Furthermore, the organisations were asked how they got money. The results are shown in Figure 21. It is clear from the figure that Namibian indigenous philanthropic organisations mobilised

money mainly through sponsorships or donations (81%), fundraising (66.7%) and grants (42.9%). These ways were also the top three ways in Malawi. The government is also a much lesser significant source of money. In related research by Ephraim (2019), CSOs in Namibia also depended much on donations. His analysis revealed that donor relationship management, income diversification, financial management, management competence and income generation were valid factors influencing the organisations' financial sustainability in the country. They recommended that to attain financial sustainability, the CSOs should consider income-generating projects, adopt appropriate financial management practices, and implement management training as possible measures.

3.2.5 Giving out funds

This section provides information concerning the way organisations give out money in Namibia. Figure 22 shows how the organisations communicate the availability of grants. Contrary to the Malawian case, where headhunting for relevant partners was a commonly used way of communicating the availability of funds, most organisations in Namibia indicated that it was none of the specified methods. In the second position were organisations that used calls for proposals via adverts in the media (38.1%) and headhunting for relevant partners (38.1%). Moreover, 23.8% of the organisations considered the 'call for proposals (on website)' option.

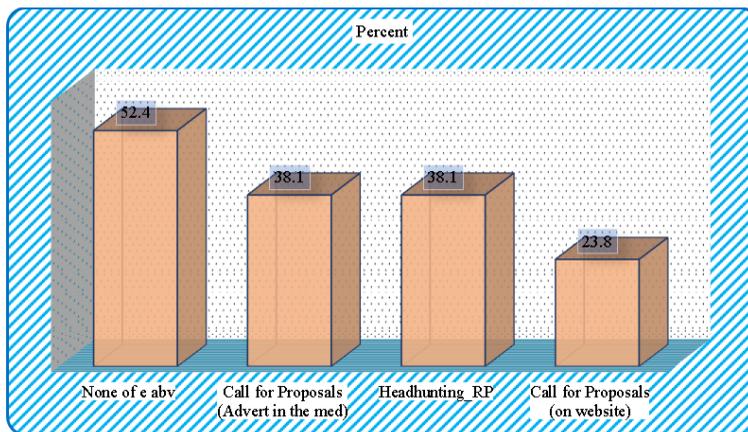


Figure 22. Communicating availability of grants

Furthermore, the organisations were asked to indicate how they accepted proposals or requests. In general, the following were the responses:

- Via requests and invitations
- Groups reach out to the organisation for support, which must be in line with the organisation's vision
- Through emails
- Evaluation process and through good networking
- Trusted relations and influence of the project
- The Board will be part of major partnership approval
- Applications presented to the Management Committee
- Talk directly to people in underprivileged societies and offer the organisation's service free of charge
- Through written proposals

For further insight, Figure 23 shows the major issues organisations they support. The top five issues that organisations in Namibia spent money on were education (57.1%), humanitarian (42.9%), health (42.9%), children protection (38.1%) and rural development (33.3%). Five areas that received less money included arts and culture (9.5%), policy and civil society (9.5%), sports (4.8%), solidarity (4.8%) and microcredit plus microinsurance (0%).

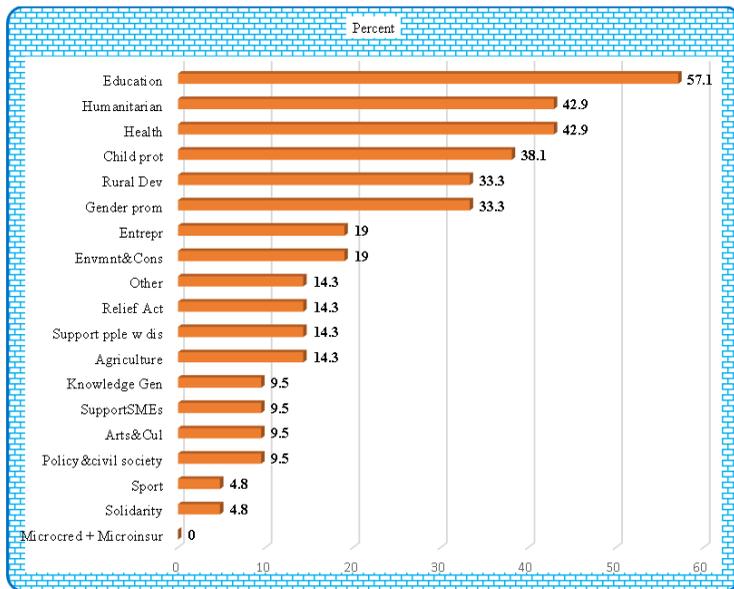


Figure 23. Major issues organisations spend money on

Therefore, while agriculture in Malawi was among the top five issues to spend money on, it was not in Namibia. Rural development was among the top five in Namibia. However, in both Namibia and Malawi, education, humanitarianism, health, and child protection were the top four areas in which philanthropic support was received. More support for education in Namibia is something to applaud, given that the country is still fighting to transform its education system. According to Katjavivi (2016:3), the vice-chancellor of the University of Namibia, “Before Namibia’s independence, the country’s education system was designed to reinforce the Apartheid system rather than provide the necessary human resource base to promote equitable social and economic development.” Moreover, it was fragmented along ethnic and racial lines. Significant progress has been made since independence, although the performance of some schools is still below expectations, with a high dropout rate. Philanthropic organisations have a role to play in improving education in the country.

Given Namibia’s extreme poverty level, humanitarianism is also crucial. Ghitman (2020) stated that the country’s unemployment rate is 33.4%, and 20% of the population resides in the slums. Furthermore, Namibia has many homeless people who usually take refuge in used buildings in cities, park benches, and bridges. According to USAID (2021b) report, Namibia is prone to several natural disasters such as epidemics, floods, food insecurity and cyclical drought. USAID responds by concentrating on solving humanitarian needs and directing funds to disaster risk reduction programmes that reinforce the communities’ ability to prepare for and relieve the impacts of disasters. In terms of child protection, this is another critical area that requires much philanthropic work. Children in the country encounter challenges such as child labour (often in agriculture), child trafficking, forced labour and child abuse (Welge, 2020). Regarding the instruments used to give away money for a cause, most organisations in Namibia indicated that they used direct payments, as

shown in Figure 24 (left plot). This was also the case in Malawi, where direct payment was at the top. While scholarships rather than collaborations were mainly used to give away money in Malawi, organisations in Namibia mostly use collaborations rather than scholarships. Foundation grants were not common in Namibia, as in Malawi.

Among the instruments in Figure 24 (left plot), the organisations shared their preferred instrument(s) and the reasons with us. Although not many reasons were provided, those who chose collaboration believed it would facilitate spending money on long-term solution projects. A permanent and evolving effect on the beneficiaries is ensured. They also pointed out that collaborations raise the impact of philanthropic actions. Those who preferred direct payment pointed out that it becomes easier to keep records. Moreover, it ensures that the beneficiaries have received the support. More so, another organisation argued that it is easier as their requests are linked to specific activities.

We can now present the findings concerning the groups that receive the most funding (Figure 24, right plot). Like Malawi, children were funded the most while funds towards environmental activities received the lowest. Children were followed by orphans, youth, women, ‘other’, learners and old people. Those who ticked ‘other’ mentioned specific groups such as sex workers, schoolgirls who begin menstruation, transgender individuals, students and the general population for health activities. One organisation revealed that they supported everyone with no or only a low income but cared for and loved their dog and/or cat since their funds were for spray, vaccination and anti-parasite treatment of cats and dogs. While women received more support than youth in Malawi, the opposite was true in Namibia.

The situation of orphans in Namibia is pitiful. According to the SOS Children’s Village (n.d.), the country has approximately 140,000 orphans; 70,000 have become orphans due to AIDS. Sadly, children who were orphaned because of HIV regularly lack a caring family environment. Their needs are not met in most cases, and they are vulnerable to forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Charity organisations need to allocate more resources to meet the needs of the orphans.

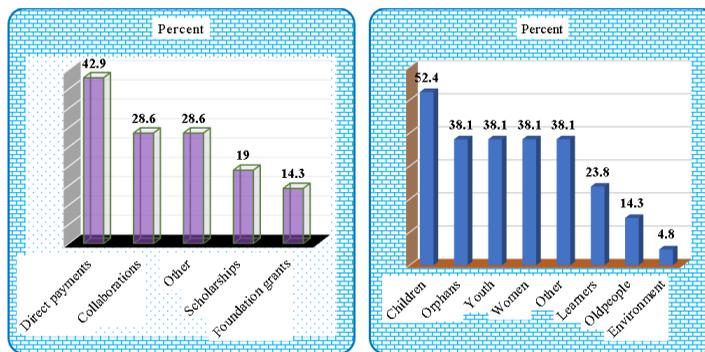


Figure 24. Instrument used to give money (Left) and key beneficiaries (Right)

3.2.6 Current donor trends/interests

Based on the findings in Namibia, it seemed the current interests of donors were on the following top four items:

- Children support, for example, early childhood education
- Youth and women empowerment
- Education
- Health

Given our previous findings, where education and health were among the top areas that receive donor funds, it is plausible to see these two as among the current trends. COVID-19 has become

a significant problem, with donations being pumped into the health sector. Among the responses, fighting poverty and climate change were also highlighted as current donor interests. Humanitarian in most African countries has remained a common area that receives substantial amounts of money, as demonstrated in Figure 23. The next part of the report presents findings from organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

3.3 The Case of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

This part presents results regarding the local philanthropic work in DRC. About 35 organisations responded to the survey, of which one was eliminated as most questions were not answered. The organisations were reluctant to respond to the study as in the other two countries. Some essential information concerning the participants and organisations is presented in the following section.

3.3.1 Personal and Organisational Information

Figure 25 shows the gender distribution of the participants and their occupations. The respondents, in the largest number, were males. Most of the participants were founders (38.2%), followed by managers (23.5), directors (20.6%), 'other' (11.8%) and then supervisors (5.9%). Similar to Malawi, females are less represented in the survey and potentially in the higher positions of the organisations. DRC has been performing poorly in terms of gender equality; for example, it was ranked 36th out of 52 African countries in 2015, with an overall Gender Equality Index of 49.2 (African Development Bank, 2015). Figure 26 presents the philanthropic categories that best describe the organisations that responded to the survey. 'Other' and charitable trusts were at the top, while alumni associations and corporate foundations were at the bottom. The organisations that ticked 'other' specified they were described as a Nonprofit Organization (NPO), non-governmental organisation, women's organisation, organisation of research and promotion of talents and skills. Unlike in the previous two countries, it seemed DRC had a better number of organisations described as PISO.

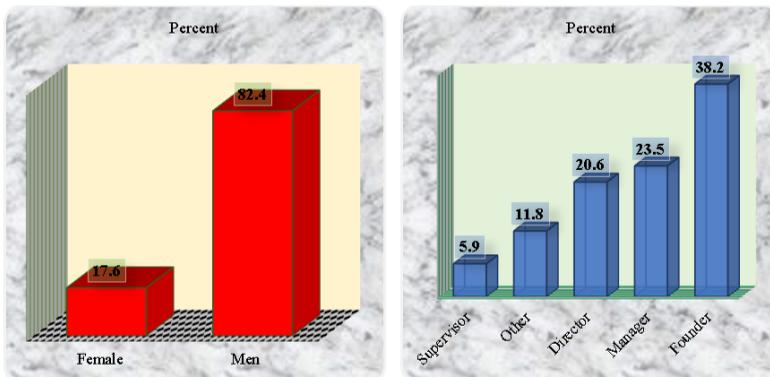


Figure 25. Participant gender (Left) and Occupation (Right)

In terms of age or maturity, one organisation was established in 1960. Six organisations were founded in the 1990s, while the rest started in the millennium. Like Namibia and Malawi, most organisations had not yet stayed in the philanthropic sector for long. The participants provided several reasons for the establishment of their organisations. The reasons include the following: to promote sustainable economic and social development, educate vulnerable people, respond to humanitarian crises, support local entrepreneurs, enable skills and talents of youth, fight social injustice, promote food security, fight malnutrition, promote self-empowerment in the food sector, fighting against sexual and gender-based violence and striving for equitable access to health care and education for vulnerable groups.

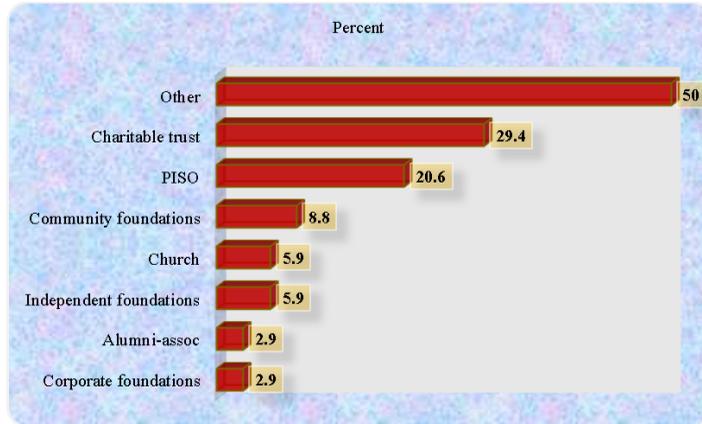


Figure 26. Philanthropic category

Generally, most organisations tend to help vulnerable groups such as orphans, children, women, and people living with disabilities. Most of the organisations indicated that they only operate in DRC. Still, some were also in at least one of the following countries: Burundi, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Congo–Brazzaville, Rwanda, Uganda, Gabon, Botswana, Madagascar, Chad, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Niger, Burundi, Togo and Mali.

3.3.2 Registration issues

As in the case of Namibia, 5.9% of the organisations in DRC specified that they were not registered, as depicted in Figure 27 (left plot). All the organisations in the survey were registered in DRC in terms of registration place (Figure 27, right plot). However, the two organisations did not indicate where they were registered.

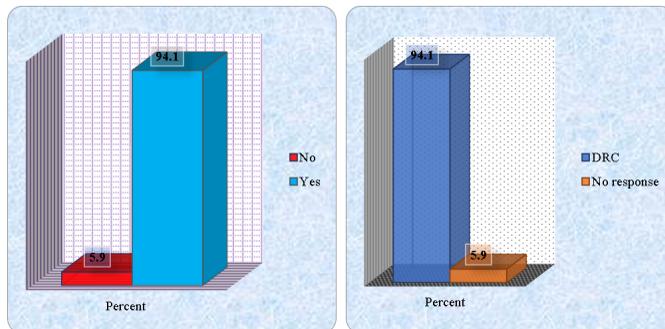


Figure 27. Registration status (Left) and place of registration (Right)

Like the other two countries, most respondents (50%) mentioned that the registration process in DRC was neither easy nor difficult, as depicted in Figure 3.4 (left plot). Approximately 35% of the organisations indicated it was easy to register, while about 15% indicated it was difficult. It was plausible to conclude that registration in DRC was easy. Nearly half of the organisations revealed that registration took at most four months, as shown in Figure 28 (right plot). Still, 23.5% indicated that registration took over a year to complete, which is a matter of concern. The participants mentioned the specific legal and policy frameworks on philanthropy that were applicable where they

operated. These include Law 004/2001 of 20 July 2001 on general provisions applicable to non-profit associations and public utility establishments, and Statute Internal regulations Notarial deed F92.

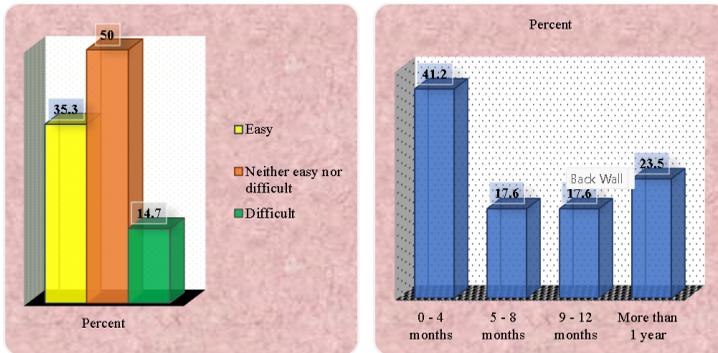


Figure 28. Registration complexity (Left) and speed (Right)

3.3.3 Organisational direction and decision-making

In line with the findings of the other two countries, most Namibian organisations had a vision, as shown in Figure 29 (left plot). However, one respondent was not sure whether they had a vision. There was another who did not respond to the respective question. Asking whether the organisations had a mission, about 97.1% showed that they had a mission while one organisation did not (Figure 29, right plot). As for charity policy, the top three of those involved in deciding the charity policy were the Board, founders and a cwomo, as Figure 30 shows.

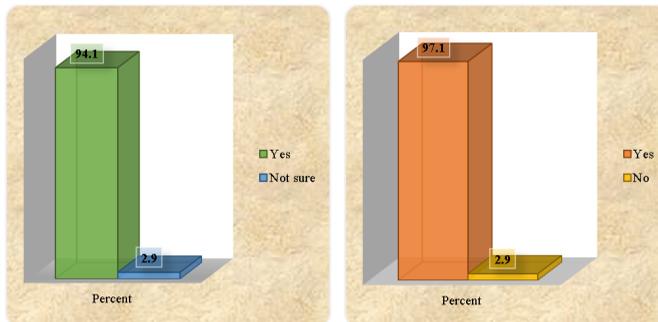


Figure 29. Having a clearly defined vision (Left) and mission (Right)

The fewest involved in charity policy were the directors, programme managers, and a committee of people from the organisation and foreign persons. The directors were the very least influential in deciding charity policy.

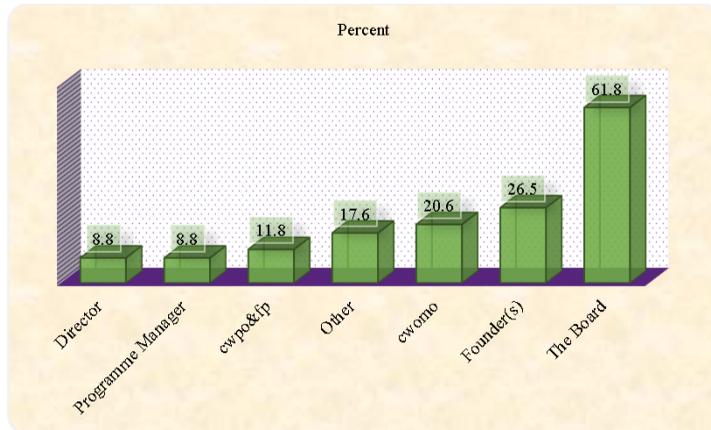


Figure 30. Responsible for charity policy decisions

3.3.4 Organisational finances

Organisations were asked to indicate their values; the findings are shown in Figure 31 (left plot). Most (38.2%) organisations in DRC had values between US\$1000 and US\$10,000. Only 23.5% of the organisations were valued at more than US\$50,000, 20.6% were valued in the \$25,001–\$50,000 range and 17.6% were valued in the 10,001–25,000 range. Furthermore, the organisations revealed their annual revenues. Figure 31 (right plot) shows the findings. Like the other two countries, most philanthropic organisations in DRC (55.9) received revenue below US\$100,000. However, DRC showed a relatively high percentage (14.7%) of those with an annual revenue above \$1000,000 compared to Namibia and Malawi.

Similar to the findings from the other two countries, most organisations spent less than US\$100,000 per year. The expenditures are displayed in Figure 32 (left plot). Smaller revenues per annum may explain why the organisations spent smaller amounts. They could not spend more than what they received. Organisations need to find ways to increase their revenues to expand their expenditures. In this case, strategies to mobilise funds become crucial. Another interesting issue was to check if the organisations had endowment/reserve funds in place. The findings are displayed in Figure 32 (right plot). As in Malawi and Namibia, most organisations (50%) in DRC had no reserve funds. However, a reasonable percentage (41.2%) of the organisations had endowment/reserve funds. Approximately 9% of the participants needed to know whether they had reserve funds.

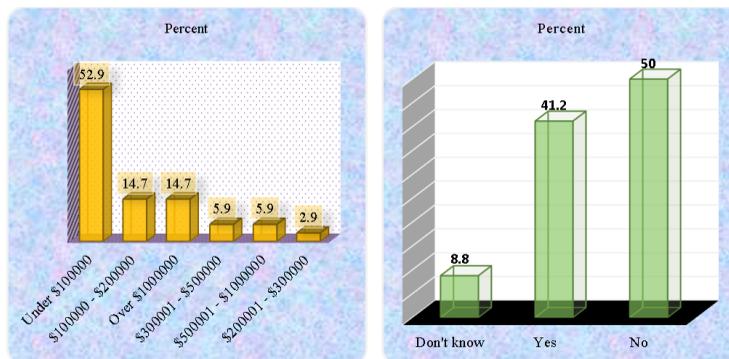


Figure 31. Annual expenditure (Left) and Availability of reserve funds (Right)

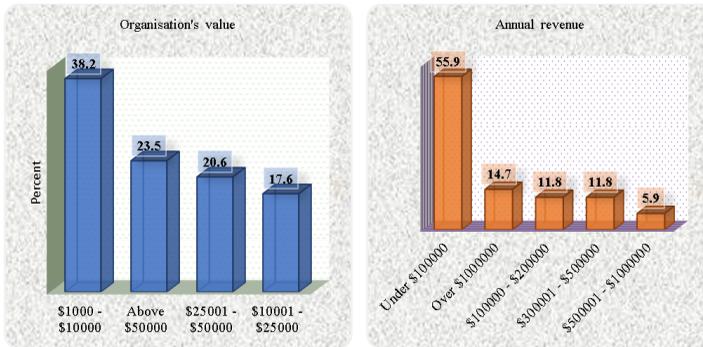


Figure 32. Organisation value and revenue

3.3.5 Giving out funds

Figure 33 shows how organisations get the money. The findings for DRC are different from those of the other two countries. In DRC, membership contributions, grants, and income generation were the top three ways of earning money. However, the top three ways in Malawi and Namibia were sponsorships or donations, grants and fundraising. Those who ticked 'other' specified external funding, finance projects and financing of the partners as sources of funds. Across all three countries, optimising the mobilisation of funds from various sources is essential.

Like Malawi, many organisations used headhunting for relevant partners, followed by a call for proposals (advert in the media). Call for proposals (on the website) was among the least used methods to communicate the availability of funds (Figure 34). Consistent with the other two countries, organisations in DRC provided information regarding how they accept proposals. The responses included the following:

- Proposals are assessed for their conformity with the church's principles, values and social doctrine,
- Evaluated based on pre-established selection criteria,
- A partnership contract basis,
- There are specialised departments for assessing specific proposals or requests,
- Consultation with the directors and other members,
- Administrative channels for the submission of proposals,
- Through an exchange of correspondence,
- A committee analyses the proposal while the chairperson of the Board makes the final decision.

Organisations were also asked to indicate the key issues they support. The findings are shown in Figure 35. The top five issues that organisations spent money on were gender promotion (82.4%), health (79.4), children protection (70.6%), agriculture (64.7) and entrepreneurship (61.8). These top five issues differ from the other two countries in that DRC included gender promotion and entrepreneurship. The issues organisations supported the least encompass relief activities (14.7%), arts and culture (14.7%), support to SMEs (11.8%) and sport (5.9%).

Oxfam International (2021) notes that "The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a vast mineral-rich country that has been caught up in years of conflict, poverty, and lack of respect for human rights. DRC has been ranked 176th out of 187 countries in the 2015 UN Development Index, and the country has not met any of the Millennium Development Goals. The poverty rate remains above 80 percent, and life expectancy is 58 years old."

In addition, several people need assistance in areas such as Ituri, North and South Kivu, where prolonged and recent conflicts occur. They have also encountered about ten outbreaks of Ebola since

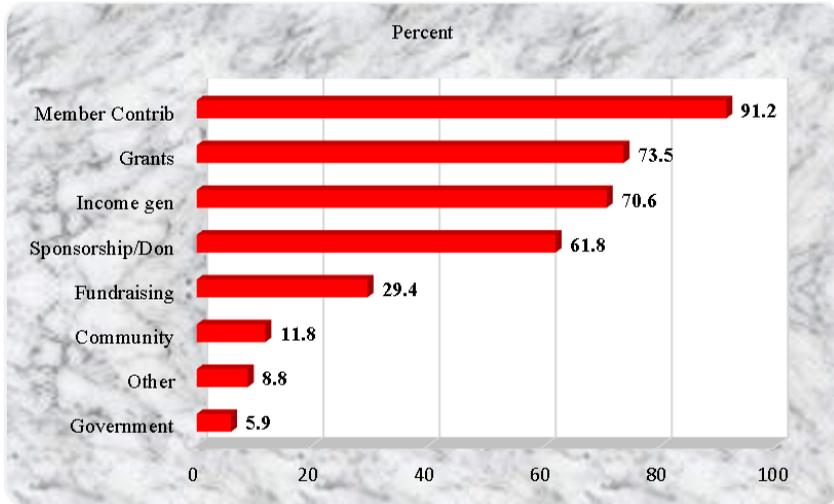


Figure 33. Mobilisation of funds

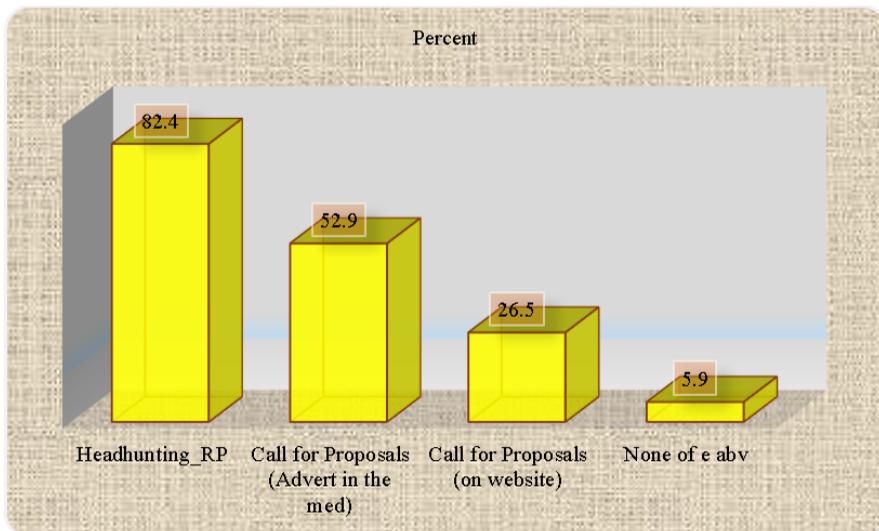


Figure 34. Communicating availability of grants reverse scale

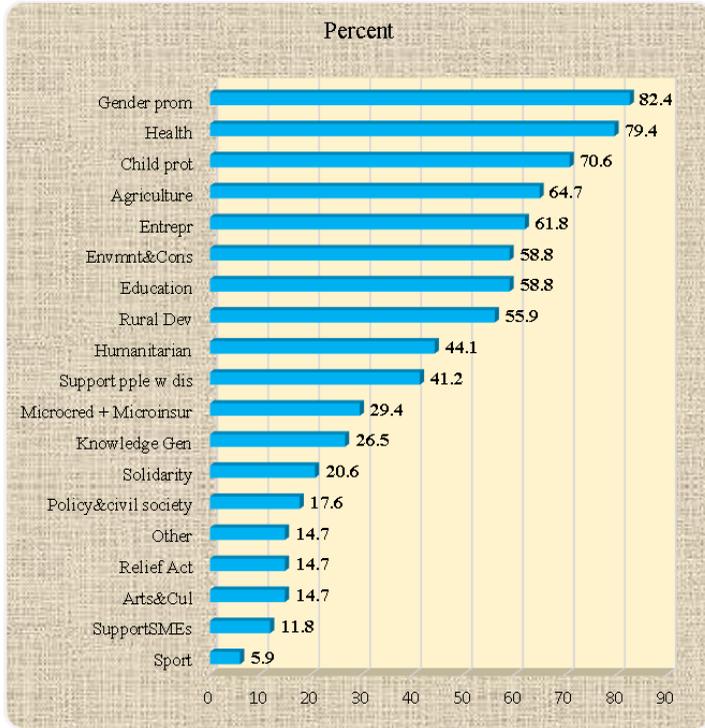


Figure 35. Major issues organisations spend money on

1976, which have further pushed societies into extreme poverty. This calls for more philanthropic work in many areas of DRC.

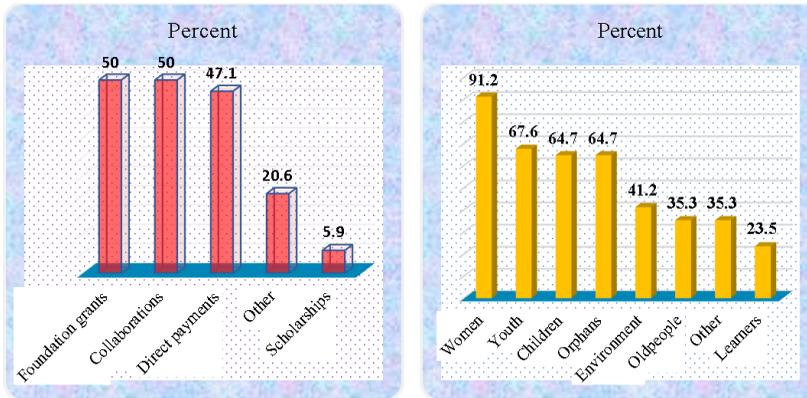


Figure 36. Instrument used to give money (Left) and key beneficiaries (Right)

Concerning the instruments organisations were using to give away money for a cause, most organisations in DRC used foundation grants (Figure 36, left plot). This differed from Namibia and Malawi, where only a few organisations used foundation grants. Very few organisations considered scholarships to give away money in DRC. As for preferred instruments to give money away for causes, philanthropic organisations in DRC revealed that grant was their most preferable instrument, followed

by collaborations and direct payments. The reasons for preferring grants included an ability for the organisation to respond promptly to actual needs, allow the directors to offer equal opportunities to its members and ensure long-term support. Reasons for using collaboration encompass the following: (i) it facilitates good collaboration in implementing projects, (ii) facilitates sustainability and ownership of achievements, and (iii) facilitates transparency in implementation and stakeholder engagement. Direct payment was preferred for its ability to reach the target directly, ease of use, suitability to use in an uncertain environment and favoured by the beneficiaries of old age.

The organisations were also asked about the groups that receive the most funding, and the findings are shown in Figure 36 (right plot). Contrary to the other two countries, in DRC, women rather than children received the most funding, while learners instead of the environment had the least support. It seems philanthropic organisations in DRC were more supportive of environmental activities (41.2%) than Malawi and Namibia, where the percentages were 10.2% and 4.8%, respectively. Greater attention to women is required in DRC. Fraser (2017) mentions that gender-based violence is common, especially in the eastern provinces of DRC, although the piece has been established in the country. It is indicated that this gender-based violence is perpetuated via many factors such as (i) the country's culture that perpetuates hurtful gender discrimination, (ii) 57% of women that do not have formal education, (iii) women care for about four children and (iv) the mean daily income of women that is \$0.74. These factors have intensified the women's risk for gender-based violence due to their cultural norms and socio-economic position. Child education in many DRC provinces remains an issue requiring more attention. For instance, on their webpage, the Chance for Childhood (2021) stated that more than 40% of children of children in North Kivu are out of school and that the classes are overcrowded. What is also worrying is that unemployed and uneducated children are more likely to be recruited as child soldiers due to political instability in the region.

3.3.6 Current donor trends/interests

Most participants indicated that the current donor interests include improving health care, supporting food security, protecting the environment and supporting education. Given the COVID-19 crisis, increased sponsorships have been directed to health care. More support for health care may remain for many years to come.

4. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

The summary and conclusions are from all the three countries investigated in this research. In terms of demographics, most respondents were males. The survey was answered mainly by indigenous philanthropic organisations' directors, founders, and managers.

4.1 Summary and Conclusions

Across all the countries, a few organisations were described as corporate foundations and alumni associations. The most occupied philanthropic categories in Namibia and Malawi were community foundations, charitable trusts and independent foundations. Unlike the other countries, DRC had a better number of organisations characterised as PISO. Organisations described as PISO were still lacking in the investigated countries.

We released that almost all philanthropic organisations were legally registered in the countries in which they operate. The process of legally registering a philanthropic organisation was difficult in Namibia but easy in DRC. There was no clear cut on whether registering in Malawi was easy or difficult. Almost all the organisations were only registered in their home countries. Each organisation had a specific direction, informed by a clearly defined vision and mission. Except for one participant in Malawi and another in DRC who were unsure, each participant indicated that their organisation had a vision and specified it. The same applies to having a mission; almost all organisations stated they had one. Only one organisation in DRC showed that they had no mission.

Regarding charity policy decision-making, most organisations in Malawi include the Board, founders and directors. However, programme managers were the least involved in charity policy decisions. Organisations in Namibia mainly consider their programme managers, a cwomo and the Board in charity policy. The founders were the least involved. In DRC, the three groups that were more involved in charity policy decisions were the board, founders, and a committee with only members of an organisation (cwomo).

As indicated by most participants in their additional comments, the major challenge is the need for more finance to carry out philanthropic activities effectively. To get a general idea of the organisation's finances, we asked the organisations to indicate their organisational values, annual revenue, and annual expenditure. The values for most organisations in DRC and Namibia were smaller, between US\$1000 and US\$10,000. However, most organisations in Malawi indicated that they had a value above US\$50,000. Generally, across all the investigated countries, most organisations reported low annual revenue and low expenditure (below US\$100,000). Due to low revenue, we believe it remained a challenge for indigenous philanthropic organisations to increase their expenditures.

As for the mobilisation of funds, indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi and Namibia got their money primarily through sponsorships/or donations, fundraising and grants. The primary three sources of getting money in DRC were membership contributions, grants and income generation. The government had been the most minor source of funds across all three countries. Thus, philanthropic organisations in the countries could count on the government for financial support. We realised that many organisations still needed endowment/reserve funds. The ability of the organisations to reserve is inhibited by low revenue and a need for more funds to meet their philanthropic activities.

We were also interested in how the organisations communicate the availability of grants. Our findings suggested that organisations in Malawi and DRC used headhunting for relevant partners, followed by a call for proposals (advert in the media). In Namibia, most organisations indicated none of the specified ways. Nevertheless, the second alternative was a 'call for proposals (advert in the media)'. The least used way across all the countries was 'call for proposals (on the website)'. Underutilisation of calls for proposals via websites might be explained by indigenous philanthropic organisations that do not have official websites. Besides, the targeted beneficiaries, especially the underprivileged ones, may not have access to the internet. The second point makes a call for proposals on the website ineffective.

The findings showed that the five areas organisations in Malawi spent money on were education, health, humanitarian, child protection and agriculture. Areas such as SMEs, policy and civil society, microcredit plus micro-insurance, arts and culture, and solidarity received the least support. In Namibia, the top five issues organisations spent money on were education, humanitarian, health, child protection and rural development. The five areas most organisations spent less on were arts and culture, policy and civil society, sports, solidarity, microcredit and microinsurance. For DRC, the top five areas the organisation spent money on were gender promotion, health, child protection, agriculture and entrepreneurship. The top five issues in DRC differ from Namibia and Malawi in that gender promotion and entrepreneurship were amongst the top issues sponsored in DRC.

In general, the areas where organisations spent less money encompassed relief activities, arts and culture, SMEs, and sports. The findings revealed high commonalities between Namibia and Malawi. The two countries had four common areas (education, health, humanitarian and child protection) on the top five regarding funds directed towards these areas. The same applies to the common issues (microcredit plus microinsurance, policy and civil society, arts and culture and solidarity) that received fewer funds. As for DRC, organisations progressively supported entrepreneurship and gender promotion. It showed their recognition of possibly new areas that recently gained attention besides the commonly supported humanitarian, education and health areas.

Many organisations in Malawi and Namibia tend to use direct payments to give away money for

a cause. Although scholarships rather than collaborations were typically used to give away money in Malawi, organisations in Namibia mostly used collaborations rather than scholarships. Foundation grants as an instrument to give money was rarely utilised in Namibia and Malawi. However, these grants were the most used instrument in DRC, with few organisations using scholarships.

Regarding the groups that receive the most funding, the top four recipients were children, orphans, women and youth. This holds across all three countries. The difference was that women received the most funding in DRC while children received the most funding in Malawi and Namibia. Environment received the smallest funds in Namibia and Malawi, whereas it received better funding in DRC (above learners and older people). Philanthropic organisations in DRC tend to be more supportive of environmental activities than Malawi and Namibia.

4.2 Recommendations

The findings of this study produced essential insights. We were able to draw some recommendations. This section presents a list of recommendations.

4.2.1 Government facilitation

The African governments need to play a significant role in the philanthropic sector, primarily to facilitate the growth of indigenous philanthropic organisations. Creating and promoting African philanthropic organisations may lead to sustainability in the philanthropic sector and reduce over-reliance on international charity organisations. Two critical observations from our results led us to this recommendation. We observed that the government was the minor financial source for the organisations across all three countries. In this case, one may argue that African governments are financially constrained; they need the complementary role of philanthropic organisations in societies. However, it is not only about financial support; there are also other ways the government could facilitate the operations of philanthropic organisations, such as facilitating their registration process. This study observed that the registration process was difficult, especially in DRC and Namibia. We recommend that the respective governments reduce the complexity of registration. One way to do that is to take advantage of the fourth industrial revolution and its accompanying technologies to ease and speed up the registration process. Blockchain is one of the latest technologies that can be adopted and integrated into the registration of philanthropic organisations.

4.2.2 Philanthropic infrastructure support organisations (PISO)

Philanthropists in Africa should pay attention to the fact that few organisations fall under the PISO category. Donors' reluctance to support infant philanthropic organisations was another issue mentioned by the respondents, as indicated in additional comments. We believe that PISO might be a critical missing link that should help create robust networks among philanthropic organisations in Africa. Different organisations can be connected. Connected philanthropic organisations may consider collaborating on specific projects. A PISO can facilitate the sharing of information and resources.

4.2.3 Corporate foundations

Third, the investigated countries showed a much smaller number of corporate foundations, just like the PISO category. It is critical to promote corporate foundations in African countries. The idea is that most philanthropic organisations need help financially. A corporate foundation may have the advantage that its grant-making is essentially drawn from an underlying profit-making enterprise.

4.2.4 *Use of websites*

It is strongly recommended in this study that all indigenous philanthropic organisations should have official websites. The websites should consistently be updated, especially the contact details of an organisation. The researcher and his assistants encountered a major challenge in identifying the philanthropic organisations that operated in DRC, Malawi and Namibia. Some did not have websites, so it was not easy to search for them. Other organisations had websites, but the contact details on the websites were not working. This lack of visibility is problematic as those who want to contact the organisation cannot do so. People should quickly identify and contact a philanthropic organisation. On the website, the organisations should specify their vision and mission statements. This may explain why only a few organisations can call for proposals using websites.

4.2.5 *Promote collaborations*

A major problem of smaller revenues and expenditures needs to be addressed in Namibia, Malawi and DRC. Note that this should apply to all African countries. What should be done, as almost all the indigenous philanthropic organisations are meeting this challenge? It is time to develop and enhance collaborations among charitable organisations. Collaborative projects permit organisations to combine their financial and intellectual resources to achieve specific projects effectively. Where one organisation would have failed to pull off, combined efforts can make it possible.

4.2.6 *Self-sustained projects*

Philanthropic organisations should also pay attention to the sustainability of their support. Projects that ensure the self-sustainability of the beneficiaries are essential (e.g., empowering women through sewing training). Thus, an organisation may not need to continue assisting the beneficiaries once they stand alone.

4.2.7 *Income generation*

Indigenous philanthropic organisations should aim to optimise all possible sources of funds, especially income generation. Many organisations in the DRC source funds from income generation; it will be important for organisations in other countries to do the same. This is critical for sustainable funding of philanthropic projects. Virtue Ventures (2020) distinguishes between two forms of income-generating activities: (i) Cost recovery (discrete) – which is meant to recover all or a certain proportion of the costs incurred when delivering a charitable service; this includes conference fees, special events, and so on. (ii) Earned income (ongoing) – which makes a stream of revenue generated through activities related and not related to the organisation's mission. They gave an example of zoos in Washington and Thailand that sell zoo products as part of social enterprise. Venture philanthropy is also one of the mechanisms used to ensure the sustainable funding of philanthropic work. Unlike traditional philanthropy, a venture philanthropy fund works like a venture capital fund by investing in profit organisations to generate a financial return (Harvard Business School, n.d). R&Co4Generations, a philanthropic group of Rothschild & Co., embarked on venture philanthropy as an instrument to enable the foundation to extend its capacity and impact by utilising investment profits to continue its mission of sponsoring environmental and social causes (Rothschild & Co, 2024).

4.2.8 *Reserve funds*

Currently, many indigenous philanthropic organisations still need reserve funds. We recommend that the organisations aim to have reserve funds that can be used in emergencies. A crisis such as the COVID-19 situation affected all organisations in the world. Those who had reserve funds were able to sustain themselves for a while. Given the severe poverty levels in Africa and many people who need charity, philanthropic organisations may be tempted to support too many people and then struggle to reserve.

4.2.9 *The environment*

It is disturbing that fewer organisations support the environment in Namibia and Malawi, although it was better in DRC. Given the increased environmental concern, we recommend that many philanthropic organisations be involved in programmes that promote a clean environment. This may include the support for solar projects and afforestation.

4.3 *Areas of future research*

Despite the insightful knowledge about indigenous philanthropic organisations in Malawi, DRC and Namibia, the study's main limitation is the small sample size. Thus, this research can be extended by considering many respondents in the sample, especially those tiny charity organisations that operate at the village level. These organisations include local churches and burial societies, which engage in activities that may amount to "philanthropy" within the local community. Additionally, future studies may consider including several African countries, which provides room to scrutinise similarities and differences in how giving manifests in those countries. Different methods can also be adopted to analyse data from the various philanthropic organisations. This includes identifying areas where relationships and causations amongst multiple variables can be analysed through regression analysis.

Biography notes

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