

REFLECTIONS ON TRUST, RISK, AND DUE DILIGENCE

A PANEL DISCUSSION HELD BY THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

TRUST

WE TRUST OUR PARTNERS
AND WANT TO EARN
THEIR TRUST

It's ABOUT

- MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY
- SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS (CLOs) TO PURSUE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES
- OFFERING FLEXIBILITY TO ADAPT AS NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

WITHOUT TRUST
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT
TO HAVE IMPACT.

CLOs DEAL WITH COMPLEX ISSUES:

❌ THERE ARE NO LINEAR SOLUTIONS

✅ THEY NEED FLEXIBILITY AND CORE SUPPORT

"FUNDERS PUT ORGANIZATIONS IN A BOX
THAT DOES NOT ALLOW THEM TO ADAPT." - LARA

FUNDERS NEED TO
TRUST COMMUNITY-LED
ORGANIZATIONS.

ANELE YAWA
GENERAL SECRETARY, TAC
SOUTH AFRICA

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

✅ ARE INSTITUTIONS WORKING
TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO

✅ ARE STRENGTHENED WITH
CORE FUNDING

❌ ARE NOT
PROJECTS THAT
COME AND GO

RISK

NOT JUST FINANCIAL RISK.
WHAT ABOUT RISK TO IMPACT?



GERTRUDE BIBI ANNON-QUARSHIE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
AWDF, GHANA

AT AWDF WE TALK
ABOUT RISK HOLISTICALLY.

EXCESSIVE MONITORING
AND REPORTING = WASTE OF TIME,
FUNDING, ENERGY

"WE ARE WORKING
FOR COLLECTIVE
CHANGE."
- GERTRUDE

CLOs ARE ABOUT
"CHANGING THE
LIVES OF THE PEOPLE."
- ANELE

"THE JOY OF THE WORK IS REALLY TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING TO ACHIEVE
CHANGE ON THE FIELD" - GERTRUDE

"THERE IS A REAL RISK TO NOT SHIFTING THE POWER TO THOSE WHO HAVE THE SOLUTIONS." - HAMDA

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS TO CLOs ALLOW THEM TO:

INVEST IN THEIR
OWN SYSTEMS FOR
ORGANIZATIONAL
SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITIZE THE
NEEDS OF THEIR
COMMUNITIES

ADAPT THEIR PROGRAMS
WHEN NEEDED

DEVELOP SYSTEMS
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR
OTHER FUNDING

ANTICOLONIAL FUNDING

FUNDERS ARE:

- CONSTANTLY LEARNING AND REFLECTING
- PARTNERS NOT BOSSES
- PUTTING COMMUNITY VOICES AT THE FOREFRONT
- FUNDING COMMUNITIES' PRIORITIES
- ACCOUNTABLE TO COMMUNITIES

DUE DILIGENCE

SHOULD BE:

- ✅ GUIDED BY A DEEP TRUST FOR CLOs
- ✅ ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE TYPES OF
SUPPORT THAT ARE NEEDED
- ✅ ROOTED IN MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

SHOULD NOT BE:

- ❌ PRIMARILY ABOUT ELIMINATING
ORGANIZATIONS FROM
CONSIDERATION FOR FUNDING
- ❌ THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLOs ALONE:
FUNDERS CAN EASE THE BURDEN BY
DOING THEIR OWN HOMEWORK

OUR MONITORING AND
EVALUATION INCLUDES
LEARNING, CELEBRATING WINS,
AND PROVIDING SUPPORT
BEYOND FINANCIAL.



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