

# TSF 2022

## Year-End & Way Forward Report

### Volume 17 Part 1

## IT'S TIME...

January – December 2022

“The great powers of the world may have done wonders in giving the world an industrial and military look but the great gift still has to come from Africa – giving the world a more human face.”

Steve Biko

### Introduction

As the world rushes headlong into a more digital and technologically dominated world, the **element of humanity** must not be forgotten.

With responses to existing challenges mostly driven by technology, a very real challenge is that the majority of the world are either not ready, understanding of, or able to effectively use the mechanisms and offerings of the digital-world.

The road to a more acceptable and safe future for all is to find ways to focus on a vision that combines the **critical thinking** of the human mind with **empathy** and **understanding** of the human heart. This work requires Philanthropy in particular, and Businesses, Development and NGO's in general to look deeply and carefully into the rationale, implementation and positioning of these new offerings and responses.

Critical for our combined success will be the ensuring of deep and lasting impact for those already compromised by the systems, who could be further disadvantaged by the new

offerings that promise much, but may divide and polarise further.



Already too many large foundations along with global public bodies and governments do not genuinely take the deeper needs of those they support into account. Decisions are too often made based on out of touch perspectives and solutions driven by external policies - and beliefs in more and more digitally enhanced offerings- and not on the actual primary needs of the people in the field itself.

### The past year

In 2022, deep societal challenges increased dramatically due to regular and often inappropriate lockdowns. Business suffered globally, but more so in Africa where people earn daily income from wages or small businesses.

During this period, the value of our work as a Foundation was endorsed. Besides the direct support the Foundation provided to initiatives both financially and emotionally during the crises, the anecdotal stories that emerged as a result of their training or schooling was encouraging. From the School Enterprise Challenge network, where young people started small businesses to support their families, or in some cases guided their families in existing businesses with the knowledge they had gained, to the support provided to traumatised scholars by TLT in the Public School system, our initiatives thrived.

On a macro level, the long-planned preparation for expansion of some of our more established initiatives (The Greenlight Movement and the Maharishi Institute) within South Africa and beyond its borders began. This was supported by exciting partnerships with other Foundations initiated and brokered by TSF.

The international eco-system that we participate in, and our visibility within it, has laid the platform for an exciting decade ahead. Our focus of supporting humanity from the 'inside-out' across all sectors in which we work, is now also finding wider support amongst other foundation and forums.

### Rise of Africa...

One aspect is clear. For too long Africa has been the play and appropriation ground of the colonial countries and the West.

Extraction of minerals and local materials, unfair pricing, inappropriate collusion and ongoing manipulation have been the modus operandi – and besides this being unfair and inequitable - is now creating a mounting wave of anger across African societies, and NGO's in particular.

The concept of change reminds us that anything is possible and our combined efforts can create a transformational impact on the planet. Together, we have the potential to create more positive and appropriate outcomes in the world around us. But it's how we go about it that counts.

The oft quoted phrase from Margaret Mead '*never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has*', is more appropriate than ever, adding weight to the argument that real change comes from the ground up, not the top down.

### Our role

Along with an increasing network of allies gained through our intentional engagement around the successful initiatives that we have supported, we are now ready to assist and make meaningful impacts in countries across Africa. Our strategy from 2023 will be to actively engage in this space as a core imperative. Our visibility and acceptance in the field has enabled us to gently explore ways to present and galvanise fellow philanthropists and foundations looking for more effective approaches to development and education, galvanising others to join us in our journey.

We will stay engaged with forums and networks like the Synergos Global Philanthropy Circle, The International Education Funders Group (IEFG), IPASA and a number of Foundations that we are directly connected to who focus on Africa.

There are active and visible groups from Venture Capital entities to the Catalyst 2030 network who are all full of talent and intentions. However, we believe they will not achieve their stated aims using the mindsets that created the problems in the first place. Part of our role will be to gently challenge

and galvanise deeper more conscious engagement prior to taking action.

As we move forward, there are a number of underlying principles we will carry with us, including:

- Working with organisations that build on what's strong in individuals and communities, not what's wrong.
- Engage with and empower stakeholders/members of the community to determine what's best.
- Focus on communities as a system before prioritizing solutions and potential projects.

Where possible, we must also encourage and support work across sectors – NGO's, business, government, citizens – and look to create spaces where unlikely partners can come together and learn from one another. An increasingly important element is to work with those who obtain input directly from their intended audiences.

## The Key

In a recent article written by Nicolette Naylor of The Ford Foundation, headed '**Philanthropy as the practice of love, courage, and justice**', many of the findings and practices we embrace as a Foundation were highlighted. A paragraph from the piece stated:

*Our over-emphasis on defining philanthropy as the giving of money for worthy causes has led us down a path where we see our work as being about money and about the wealthy giving to the poor. We have assumed that those with money have answers to problems facing poor communities. We need to stop equating money and people with money as being the ones with the ability to solve problems. We have to reimagine our relationship with money and its power in a way that places an obligation and*

*responsibility on those with resources to fulfil a vision of the love and interconnectedness of humanity, and go back to what philanthropy is about – the love of humanity. Returning to the love of humanity requires questioning oneself on how you are doing on the love of humanity scale. Is your love abusive, controlling, stifling creativity, and fuelling co-dependency? Is your love about assimilating communities into your way of seeing the world, or is it freeing, empowering, and nurturing?*

## Beyond the challenges

We have seen that the challenge is often those that hold the funding reins and power are not often willing enough to realise that they might not know, or that the solutions are not solely in their hands.

Fortunately, in the last few years, due in part to the activation of nodes, networks and communities of practice across Africa that are being instigated, driven and led by local people, progress is being made. Albeit slowly.

A leading exemplar of this is GFCF, the [Global Fund for Community Foundations](#) based in Johannesburg, South Africa. They believe in champions, and espouse real people-led development. They have been active globally since 2006, focusing on shifting the power to the community level - having firmly been driven by the belief that it's not only the right thing to do, but it's also the most effective way to ensure results that will last and that are owned and shaped by the people they are meant to reach.

GFCF believe that it's time for people, institutions and networks – wherever they are, big and small – who care about **inclusion, dignity and justice**, to work together for a world in which top-down meets bottom-up. Basically, **community driven philanthropy**.

## The importance of Community philanthropy

In the past decade there has been a more formal emergence of growing global community philanthropy movements that are focused on more community control, resources, voice, agency and power. It is made up of new kinds of institutions (including community foundations, women's funds, environmental funds, etc.), all exploring new ways of working (using approaches and terms like participatory grantmaking, giving circles and community asset mobilization).

Community philanthropy organizations are being shaped by local context and culture, and by people frustrated by the failures of traditional development aid; anxious about the sense of alienation and disenchantment in their communities; and inspired by the belief that without local resources, local leadership and local buy-in, development projects will continue to be like shooting stars – that flash spectacularly and then die.

The logic of **community philanthropy** is simple:

It is based on the idea that all communities have assets (money, skills, talents, knowledge, networks, etc.). When these are pooled together, they build community power and voice, and that when people contribute their own resources they start to feel like co-investors with a stake in their own development; they care more about the outcomes and act in ways that advance and protect their collective interests. Local resources help create new, more horizontal forms of accountability (to the community, not just external donors), which are based on trust and transparency.

From within our eco-system, [The Greenlight Movement](#) (TGM) is the ideal tool to allow communities to self-assess, understand, activate and monitor their own progress, and

the expansion of TGM into Africa from 2023 is exciting and well-timed.

## Additional Elements

As part of a renewed focus on communities and the expansion of TGM, there will also need to be budget allocated to support, enhance and deepen the capacity of local catalyst convenors (coaching, peer to peer sharing, informal and formal learning, tools etc.). These convenors are the key to successful engagement with the stakeholders.

This approach will take time, but will contribute to a new philanthropic model that supports the initial understanding; followed by the careful capacity building and imbedded sustainability of each initiative; all essential to address complexity and deliver simply but far more successfully in the long term.

Vitaly, we must continue to support the expansion and growth of our existing eco-system, playing strategic communication and other operational assist roles for the exemplars we already support. At the same time, we will continue to look for other initiatives or organisations that have unearthed approaches that can materially impact on the lives of individuals, schools and communities.

Besides the all-important elements of self-development and self-starter style entrepreneurship, part of our upcoming exploration will also include a deeper assessment, and where required, a strategic engagement, with the food and agricultural sectors where globalist policies are forcing unwanted stress through advanced systems and technological approaches.

## In Conclusion...

We are delighted with our positioning and increasing influence in the sector, and are looking forward to expanding and deepening our networks and eco-systems, always looking for far deeper impact and spread of our work.

We will continue to actively focus on galvanising a deeper consciousness and awareness of the humble egoless subordinate role philanthropy should play in the overall sector. With the creative use of our available capital and our position of influence, TSF is uniquely positioned to play a broad role in a number of sectors.

At the same time, we will continue to play a bridging and networking role in order to further expand the eco-system. We will also partner with and back initiatives that embody the intangible - but critical - core elements of awareness and deeper emotional support work.

In summary, we will:

1. Continue to grow and nurture our eco-system and play a role in the most meaningful networks that we are involved in.
2. Continue to support, invest in, and galvanise partnerships for our existing initiatives, leveraging the value and responses each has, to ensure buy-in and take-up on a broader scale.
3. Hold a prime focus on South Africa and Africa at large, looking to connect-to and support the growth of African Philanthropic networks and forums.

4. Continue to challenge the language and approach used in Development & Philanthropy.
5. Seek out and support other promising initiatives within and around our eco-system that have the potential to contribute significantly to the change required, as well as have more appropriate responses to challenges in each sector.
6. Look to activate buy-in or partnerships with major Foundations in order to expand initiatives that we underpin.
7. Provide ongoing assistance and strategic input for partners that we work with, including UK based TeachaMantoFish and SIGNAL, and in South Africa, The Greenlight Office, TLT, MII, GROW ECD and others.
8. Continue to seek out and support unique initiatives operating in the space of providing individual entrepreneurship options including SEC and Food Ladder.
9. Connect with Business to influence their approaches and deepen their ESG or CSI models to become more Consciousness based, and to broaden their focus to include the welfare and wellbeing of their staff, clients and the regions they operate in.

