

Why Multistakeholder Partnerships Matter for Inclusive Development: Lessons from Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Findings from Regional Studies in Africa, South and
South East Asia, and Latin America

Today's biggest challenges—like inequality, climate change, and health crises—are deeply connected and too complex for any one actor to solve alone. Multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs) bring sectors together to tackle root causes and share financial and non-financial resources for lasting change. In addition to being critical vehicles for collaboration, MSPs, if done right, center communities' agency and ensure the equitable involvement of local actors. Philanthropy can go further, faster, by joining forces with others. WINGS believes collaboration and cross-sector partnerships are key to tackling today's challenges. As the [Philanthropy Transformation Initiative](#)

urges us, we must shift our mindsets to enable change, align behind our values, and act with the future in mind. Through the #LiftUpPhilanthropy Fund, WINGS, the global network of actors who grow, strengthen and transform philanthropy, collaborated with Africa Venture Philanthropy Association, Latimpacto and Sattva Consulting on three regional studies to illustrate the state of these multistakeholder partnerships in Africa, South and South East Asia, and Latin America. The studies identify common recommendations to create enabling ecosystems and provide philanthropy and policy makers with tools and resources to build and scale partnerships.

The Potential of Multistakeholder Partnerships

- They address complex and systemic challenges
- They create bridges between sectors
- They mobilise and diversify resources

- They enhance legitimacy and local ownership
- They enable innovation and adaptive approaches
- They influence policy and drive systemic change

Multistakeholder partnerships are not optional but essential for addressing today's urgent, interlinked social and environmental challenges. By aligning goals across sectors and pooling resources, MSPs deliver integrated solutions that support social, economic, and

environmental transformation. They address systemic change if they include policy change, community voices, and are organized around solving root causes, rather than focus on service delivery alone.



1. Create Foundational and Enabling Conditions

Through strengthening of support ecosystems which are critical for successful MSPs.

- *How?* Invest in actors supporting the capacity, credibility, capability, and connections for partners from all sectors engaged in MSPs to foster systemic collaboration (e.g. MEL, tech, strategy).

Through advancing policy and regulatory enabling environments through supportive policies and regulations which are essential for enabling collaboration and innovation.

- *How?* Advocate for policies that enable collaboration and innovation.
- *How?* Bridge fragmented regulations to enable integrated approaches.

2. Emphasise Systems Change and Locally Led Approaches

Successful MSPs pursue systems-level change rooted in local knowledge and leadership, centering the voices and perspectives of communities.

- *How?* Shift from fragmented top-down projects to systemic locally driven solutions.
- *How?* Focus on equity and local knowledge for sustainable outcomes.

3. Foster Equitable and Inclusive Governance Structures

Successful partnerships rely on equity, inclusion, and clearly defined governance structures and roles. Like all collaborations, they require sustained attention to building relationships and trust.

- *How?* Design governance frameworks that balance power dynamics.
- *How?* Ensure genuine participation of local communities, Indigenous groups, and marginalised voices.
- *How?* Establish backbone organisations to support shared accountability.
- *How?* Start with stakeholder mapping and contextual analysis.
- *How?* Cultivate trust through transparency and inclusive dialogue.

4. Unlock Resources and Innovations

Through expanding and diversifying innovative funding mechanisms which are needed to sustain MSPs and can be adapted, iterated and scaled.

- *How?* Use blended finance to combine public, private, and philanthropic capital.
- *How?* Develop flexible models that support innovation and long-term viability.

Through prioritizing adaptive management and continuous learning.

- *How?* Embed strong MEL systems for responsive implementation.
- *How?* Support data systems and flexible context-aware decision-making.

5. Strengthen Capacity Building for Action

Through promoting cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing of the critical learnings MSPs generate.

- *How?* Create platforms for peer learning and knowledge exchange.
- *How?* Facilitate cross-country and cross-sector partnerships.
- *How?* Strengthen regional coordination and policy dialogue.

Through investing in capacity building and leadership development across all sectors.

- *How?* Provide training in governance, finance, and stakeholder engagement.
- *How?* Build interdisciplinary expertise and local leadership.
- *How?* Develop skills for effective cross-sector partnering.

Next Steps



1. Read the regional studies on the philanthropy support ecosystem for multistakeholder partnerships
2. Learn about [mindset shifts and barriers to partnerships](#) - how to overcome them using tools, frameworks and stories from across the globe

3. Share your story of transformation on partnerships with us
4. Sign up to learn more about the [Transform program](#) from WINGS, The Partnering Initiative and Philea

Contact Us



If you would like more information on MSPs, or discuss how WINGS can partner with you, please contact ecosystems@wingsweb.org.