

Guidance for Philanthropy: Powering Transformative Multistakeholder Partnerships

An overview for philanthropic actors
interested in multistakeholder partnerships

Philanthropy has a vital role to play in solving the world's most pressing challenges—by enabling collaborative partnerships that reach across sectors and borders. Philanthropy brings flexible, risk-tolerant funding, convenes diverse partners, opens access to influential networks, and elevates local and community leadership. Through multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs), philanthropy can spark innovation, build trust, and unlock long-term, systemic change.

Based on findings from regional research by WINGS and its partners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, here are nine ways philanthropy can help MSPs thrive:

1. Play a Catalytic Role

- Act as a **convener to bring** diverse actors together across sectors.
- Fund **ecosystem actors or backbone organisations** that coordinate, align, and drive MSPs.
- Use philanthropic influence to shift mindsets—from fragmented, short-term projects to **systemic, long-term change**.

2. Leverage Adaptive and Flexible Funding Models

- Provide **patient, risk-tolerant capital** to support experimentation and early-stage innovation.
- Support **core operating costs and capacity strengthening**—not just project-based funding.

3. Expand and Diversify Funding Streams

- **Fund projects and initiatives** that governments and private sector cannot, such as feasibility studies, proofs of concept.

- Use **catalytic capital** to de-risk and unlock greater private and public sector funding for development.
- Develop **blended finance models** that combine philanthropic, public, and private capital to de-risk investments and unlock larger flows of funding, centering people and communities.
- Facilitate **match funding or co-investment platforms** to scale initiatives.
- Use catalytic capital to attract additional public and private investment.

4. Support Capacity Building and Leadership Development

- Invest in **training and leadership pathways**, especially for local, Indigenous, and community-led organisations.
- Build interdisciplinary skills in areas such as **governance, finance, impact measurement, and adaptive management**.

5. Strengthen Philanthropy Support Ecosystems

- Fund philanthropy support organisations to provide **strategic advisory, MEL systems, technology tools, and knowledge exchange platforms.**
- Help establish institutional infrastructure that can **anchor MSPs** at national and regional levels.

6. Promote Cross-sector and Regional Collaboration

- Support **cross-sector convenings, peer learning platforms, and regional networks** that share lessons and replicate successful models.
- Encourage governance frameworks that **balance power**, promote inclusion, and ensure **shared accountability.**

7. Advocate for Enabling Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

- Use your voice and influence to promote **policies that incentivise collaboration and innovative finance.**

- Support reforms that enable **more effective and transparent cross-sector partnerships.**

8. Embed Equity, Inclusion, and Local Ownership in Funding Strategies

- Prioritise funding that centres communities and includes **traditional knowledge and local leadership.**
- Ensure that **marginalised groups and Indigenous communities** have a voice in decision-making and access to resources.

9. Invest in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

- Fund robust MEL systems to **demonstrate impact, inform strategy,** and build trust.
- Support **evidence generation** to influence policy and attract long-term capital.

Overall Recommendation for Philanthropy

Philanthropy should move beyond grantmaking to act as a strategic enabler of systems change—catalysing

partnerships, investing in institutions, and innovating with finance for **scalable, sustainable, and equitable impact.**

How to get started

If you are a philanthropic actor interested in learning more about MSPs and how to get involved, we recommend visiting the [Philanthropy Transformation Initiative's](#)

[Principle 4](#) which has recommendations on how to get started and how to go beyond, plus tools, resources and stories of action.

Contact Us

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

For Further Reading

- [Strengthening Collective Impact In South And Southeast Asia](#)
- [Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Latin America for Climate and Biodiversity](#)
- [TPI report and database](#)