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Exploratory Mapping of the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem in Mozambique

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ELEVATING PHILANTHROPY

"la Caixa" Foundation

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

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List of definitions

Term	Definition
Philanthropy	Philanthropy is the practice of giving time, money, experience, skills, and/or talent, all with the altruistic goal of improving human well-being. It includes individual giving by everyday donors and high-net-worth individuals, institutional giving through corporates, foundations, and other specialised institutions, impact investing, and venture philanthropy.
Philanthropy support organisations (PSOs)	Philanthropy support organisations (PSOs) are entities that provide various functions and services to support and strengthen philanthropy in a region or around an issue.
Philanthropy support ecosystems (PSEs)	Philanthropy support ecosystems (PSEs) are communities of organisations whose functions, activities, and interactions enable the development of philanthropy by nurturing its capacity, capabilities, connections, and credibility.
Xitique/xitiki	Xitique/xitiki is an informal community-based savings and lending system widely practiced in Mozambique, where members contribute regularly to a shared fund that is distributed in rotation. Beyond its financial function, xitique reflects deep-rooted traditions of solidarity, mutual trust, and collective support within Mozambican society.
Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs)	Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) are collaborative arrangements that involve actors from different sectors – such as governments, civil society, philanthropy, the private sector, academia, and international organisations – coming together to address complex national challenges. MSPs are characterised by shared goals, joint decision-making, and collective resource mobilisation, aiming to leverage diverse expertise and resources to achieve sustainable development outcomes. MSPs vary in their degree of institutionalisation, may take diverse forms, and can operate at different geographic scales from local to regional, national, and transboundary.

01

Introduction

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – A SECTOR AT A TURNING POINT
- CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Photo credit: UNFPA in Mozambique on Flickr

Over several months, the Aga Khan Foundation, ”la Caixa” Foundation, and WINGS explored the support ecosystem for philanthropy in Mozambique in partnership with the other members of a dedicated Steering Committee: ActionAid Mozambique, the African Philanthropy Network (APN), the Centre for Learning and Capacity Building for Civil Society (Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil – CESC), the Portuguese Centre for Foundations (Centro Português de Fundações – CPF), the Foundation for Community Development (Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade – FDC), the MASC Foundation (Fundação MASC), the University Foundation for Educational Development (Fundação Universitária para o Desenvolvimento da Educação – FUNDE), the Permaculture Institute of Mozambique (Instituto de Permacultura de Moçambique – IPERMO), and the SIVIO Institute.

Recognising the emerging trends within the sector and the potential it holds, the Committee was intent on better understanding how philanthropy is evolving in Mozambique, who makes up the infrastructure that supports philanthropy, how they are connected, the challenges they face, and the opportunities that exist to strengthen domestic philanthropy. This collaborative initiative reflects a shared commitment to building a stronger philanthropy support ecosystem (PSE) for giving and social investment, ultimately resulting in more sustainable and predictable resourcing for the critical work of civil society in the country.

This exploratory study – the first systematic mapping of Mozambique’s PSE - was conducted from July to October 2025 using the 4Cs framework (Capacity, Capability, Connection, Credibility) under the WINGS Acting Together to Lift Up Philanthropy guide, with the aim of better understanding how philanthropy in the country is organised, supported, and mobilised. The insights gathered in this exploratory report are intended to serve as a foundation for continued dialogue and collective action toward building a more robust and connected philanthropy support ecosystem in Mozambique.

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Recognising the emerging trends within the sector and the potential it holds, the Committee was intent on better understanding how philanthropy is evolving in Mozambique

Executive summary – A sector at a turning point

Philanthropy in Mozambique is at an inflection point. It can be characterised as emergent with strategic potential, rooted in strong traditions of mutual support such as xitique, social funds, faith-based networks, youth initiatives, and a growing number of digital giving platforms. However, the ecosystem needed to develop domestic philanthropy remains under-developed. It lacks formal infrastructure, coordination mechanisms, and dedicated support organisations. The philanthropy development sector as it is relies heavily on external funding, has limited institutional capacity, operates within a restrictive civic environment, and suffers from a lack of data – particularly on informal giving and diaspora remittances. Philanthropy is still widely viewed as external financial aid, rather than as a broad system of community resilience, solidarity, and social investment. Without intentional recognition and support for local – and mostly invisible – giving practices, the ecosystem risks remaining fragmented and unable to meet the country's growing development needs.

At the same time, there are clear signs of momentum: emerging local actors, an increasingly engaged private sector, active youth networks, and growing interest in domestic resource mobilisation. These dynamics create a unique opportunity to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and locally-driven philanthropy sector. Our cautious assessment of the potential of domestic giving in Mozambique puts a reasonable near-term mobilisation target in the low tens of millions of USD per year, based on remittance capture, partial formalisation of household giving, and early corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. The constraint is not a shortage of generosity, but the lack of effective infrastructure and a healthy, well-connected, and capable ecosystem for philanthropy development.

Philanthropy does not need external intervention to help it take hold in Mozambique; giving is already deeply rooted in local communities. The real opportunity lies in recognising and elevating these existing practices – by investing in human and institutional capacity and fostering stronger coordination among actors – to build a coherent, credible, and sustainable ecosystem that can effectively mobilise resources and amplify social impact.

The recommendations from this exploratory mapping provide an initial roadmap to nurture this growth by building institutional and human capacity, fostering collaboration among formal and informal actors, strengthening transparency and data systems, and linking Mozambique to regional and continental philanthropy networks. As such, this study serves as a foundation for broader engagement, inviting funders, networks, and local partners to co-create the frameworks and investments needed to establish a resilient, impactful PSE and ultimately strengthen domestic giving for development in Mozambique.

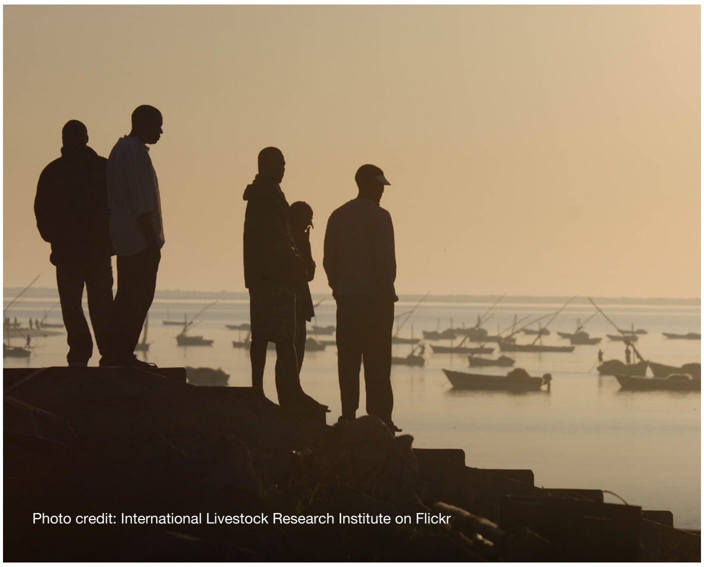


Photo credit: International Livestock Research Institute on Flickr

Context and objectives

Context of the study

Philanthropy, according to the WINGS taxonomy, refers to the practice of giving time, money, experience, skills, and/or talent with the objective of improving human welfare. It includes individual giving by everyday donors and high-net-worth individuals, institutional giving through corporates, foundations, and other specialised institutions, impact investing, and venture philanthropy. This exploratory study borrows this definition as understood in its broadest sense to include financial resources, time, knowledge, networks, and solidarity, which are seen as increasingly critical in Mozambique, where structural dynamics heighten both the need for and the complexity of philanthropy support.

Philanthropy and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Mozambique generally operate within a complex and constrained environment. The sector remains heavily reliant on external donor funding, yet global crises, shifting donor priorities, and intensified competition for aid are rendering that support increasingly precarious. The institutional and civic landscape is in flux: legal restrictions, limited transparency, and fragile trust among citizens, the State, CSOs, and the private sector all contribute to a challenging operating environment.

The recent aid budget cuts by major bilateral donors have had a devastating impact on Mozambique's already fragile humanitarian landscape. The country's 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan was slashed by nearly two-thirds, from USD 352 million targeting 1.1 million people to just USD 126 million for 317,000 people, despite escalating crises in Cabo Delgado, where conflict-driven displacement continues to surge alongside climate shocks and economic decline.[1] With only 20% of the revised plan funded by September 2025, humanitarian operations are being drastically scaled back, leaving hundreds of thousands without food, shelter, or access to education.

Local NGOs, excluded from decision-making and already weakened by funding cuts, now face the impossible task of filling the gaps left by departing international actors. This abrupt deprioritisation has not only reduced the international humanitarian presence but also exposed the lack of preparedness for a meaningful transition to nationally led responses. As Mozambican civil society leaders warn, the cuts risk turning the UN's "humanitarian reset" into an "exit strategy in disguise", deepening suffering for crisis-affected populations and undermining the country's capacity to respond to worsening emergencies.[2]

According to the CIVICUS Monitor, which rates and tracks the state of civic freedoms globally, Mozambique's civic space was downgraded from "obstructed" to "repressed" in 2021, reflecting growing restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and media.[3] Persistent social and territorial inequalities, combined with rapid population growth,[4] heighten the stakes for diversifying and strengthening local philanthropy ecosystems.

1 Will Worley, **Mozambique: A case study of growing need and global aid cut confusion,** The New Humanitarian, (10 September 2025)
2 Ibid.
3 Manon Cabaup, **Silenced Voices: Attacks Against Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders in Mozambique,** The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and RMDDH, (October 2023)
4 **ISS African Futures and Innovation**

This study was designed with three central objectives:

01 Scan the PSE in Mozambique and identify existing philanthropy support organisations (PSOs), both formal and informal, including cultural practices, community initiatives, and emerging efforts.

02 Analyse the contributions of PSOs, their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and existing challenges, using the 4Cs framework (Capacity, Capability, Connection, Credibility).

03 Propose actionable recommendations to foster growth and strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the philanthropy sector in Mozambique.

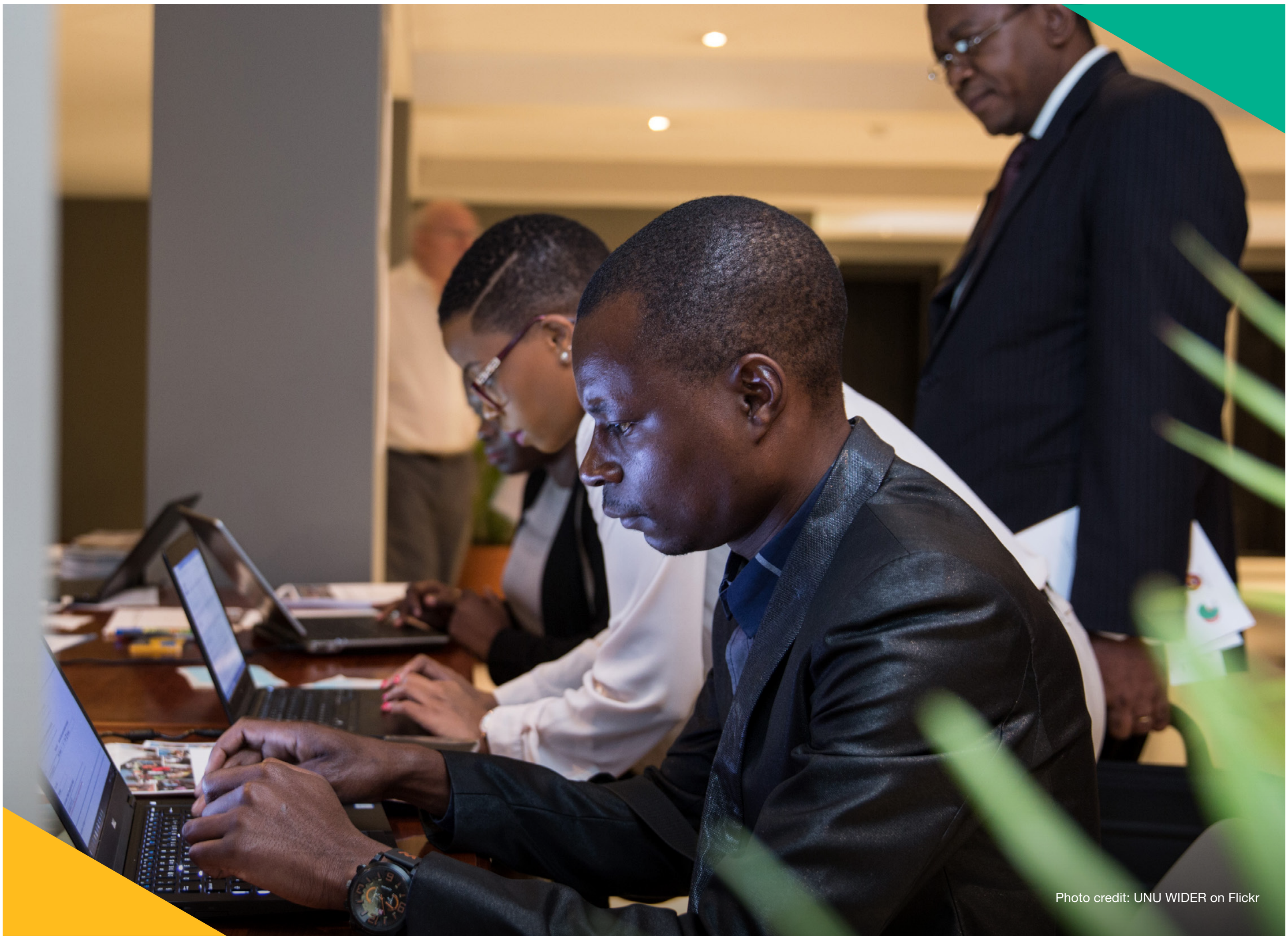


Photo credit: UNU WIDER on Flickr

02

An overview of Mozambique's philanthropic landscape: Historical, cultural, and institutional context

- HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
- CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ELEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY AND COHESION
- KEY ACTORS IN AND FOR THE PHILANTHROPY SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM IN MOZAMBIQUE

Photo credit: Marieke Peche on iStock

Historical and cultural context

Mozambique's history and culture have strongly shaped how solidarity and philanthropy are expressed today. The country's PSE reflects deep contradictions: institutional fragility and recurring crises have created dependence on external resources, while traditions of mutual support and local giving remain deeply embedded, though often invisible. During colonial rule (until 1975), exclusion and racial inequalities reinforced community solidarity networks that continue to influence the social fabric today.[5]

Following independence, a one-party socialist regime centralised power and reduced civil society autonomy, though community practices endured. The Civil War (1977–1992) devastated infrastructure and fragmented communities, but the 1992 peace agreement reopened civic space, allowing CSOs and plural forms of giving to emerge.[6] The 1990s and 2000s brought democratic transition, decentralisation, and economic liberalisation, creating space for CSOs and public–private partnerships to grow. Yet governance challenges, corruption, and instability continued to weaken their expansion.[7]

Today, Mozambique is dealing with overlapping pressures: recurrent natural disasters (cyclones, floods), localised conflicts, economic crises, and climate vulnerability.[8] At the same time, rapid demographic growth is projected to push the population above 70 million by 2050, deepening inequalities and straining access to education, health, and basic services.

Philanthropy in Mozambique shares similarities with other African countries but also exhibits unique characteristics shaped by its historical context and institutional landscape. Like many African nations, Mozambique's civic space faces challenges such as institutional fragility and limited capacity to mobilise domestic resources. The sector remains heavily dependent on global donors, with funding often directed towards programmes and priorities defined by and channelled through international NGO partners, leaving limited space for locally-led leadership and innovation. Dependence on donor funding has also weakened efforts to prioritise domestic resource mobilisation and build a sustainable, locally-rooted philanthropy support infrastructure.

In contrast, more advanced African economies such as South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria have made significant strides in developing their philanthropic sectors. South Africa boasts a robust domestic giving culture, with community foundations mobilising vast amounts of resources domestically from a variety of donors.[9]

5 Kathleen Eddy Sheldon, "**Colonial Mozambique**," Britannica, (updated 23 January 2026), and **CIVICUS Monitor**
6 Jeanne Marie Penvenne, "**History of Mozambique**," Britannica
7 Maria Martini, "**Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Mozambique**," Transparency International, (5 March 2012)
8 Isadora Zoni, "**Climate change, conflict and political unrest: Mozambique's triple crisis explained**," UNHCR, (17 January 2025)
9 While comprehensive figures on total domestic philanthropy in South Africa remain limited, **OECD (2021)** estimates that 31 large individual, family, and corporate foundations contributed approximately USD 445 million from 2013 onward. **A 2023 overview of NPO income** further indicates strong domestic support, with 75% of NPOs receiving corporate funding (averaging 27% of income) and 66% receiving individual giving (averaging 14% of income)

Kenya has pioneered digital giving platforms such as M-PESA and M-Changa, democratising local crowd-funding and integrating into regional networks like the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN). Nigeria's strong giving culture, deeply rooted in faith, places it among the most generous countries globally,[10] with mechanisms to channel diaspora remittances into social projects. These examples highlight the importance of creating local philanthropy infrastructure, implementing national reporting standards, developing digital platforms for domestic giving, and establishing transparent mechanisms to channel diaspora remittances – lessons that Mozambique can draw upon to strengthen its philanthropic sector.

10 African Philanthropy Forum and Charities Aid Foundation, World Giving Report: Giving in Nigeria, 2025. The estimated size of the domestic philanthropic sector in Nigeria is reported as a total of around USD 434.17 million between 2018 and 2023: Shafi Musaddique, "Nigerian philanthropy totalling half a billion in last five years," Alliance, (23 November 2023)

Cultural and social elements of solidarity and cohesion

Much of Mozambique's philanthropy and social cohesion is rooted in community-based traditions and informal networks. These practices, often invisible in official statistics, form the backbone of everyday resilience and mutual aid. They are grounded in trust, reciprocity, and collective identity, offering critical support in contexts where state and institutional resources are limited. Key expressions of these practices include:

- **Neighbourhood networks, local associations, and informal groups:** These remain central mechanisms of solidarity. A prominent example is xitique (or xitiki), a rotating savings scheme where members make regular contributions and receive pooled funds in turns. Other practices include social funds and collective labour, such as women working rotationally on each other's machambas (farms), as well as mutual aid in moments of crisis.
- **Religion, culture, and collective identity:** Religious spaces – Christian, Muslim, and traditional – play a vital role in mobilising communities, reinforcing solidarity values, and offering material support. Mozambican culture, expressed through language, music, art, and rituals, also fosters belonging and strengthens social cohesion.
- **Oral tradition and community communication:** In rural areas, oral communication, community radios, and local information networks sustain solidarity. These channels enable the mobilisation of resources, dissemination of needs, and maintenance of trust, ensuring that community ties remain strong and responsive.

A distinctive feature of philanthropy in Mozambique is the strong cultural value placed on humility and anonymity. Many individuals and organisations contribute, whether through money, scholarships, medicines, clothing, food, or other forms of support, yet prefer not to be publicly acknowledged.

As several interviewees explained, "I prefer to help, but I don't want it to be known." This practice underscores the presence of significant but invisible internal flows of giving, which remain largely absent from official statistics and international narratives. If captured, such contributions could highlight that Mozambique's philanthropy sector does not depend solely on external resources but is also generated from within its own communities.

This 'invisibility' reduces both recognition of these gestures and the motivation to establish a culture of documenting giving practices in the country. Recording and valuing such giving while respecting the cultural humility associated with anonymity could reinforce domestic credibility and strengthen perceptions of philanthropy as an active contributor to the development of Mozambique.

Key actors in and for the philanthropy support ecosystem in Mozambique

Mozambique's PSE is shaped by a mix of formal and informal actors, each operating at different levels of influence. Their effectiveness is further determined by the legal and policy frameworks that govern the civic space, incentives, and regulatory conditions for philanthropy. Together, these dynamics create both opportunities and constraints for the growth of philanthropy in the country.

Philanthropy support organisations

According to WINGS, PSOs provide various services to support and strengthen philanthropy in a region or around an issue.[11] Three main kinds of PSOs are categorised in the guide: (1) PSOs that focus solely on philanthropy, (2) PSOs that support philanthropy as a subset of their main functions, and (3) funders of PSOs.

11 WINGS, Understanding the Meaning of Terms: Definitions and Taxonomy, (September 2021)

No local PSOs that focus solely on philanthropy were identified within the study. However, regional and global PSOs, including the African Philanthropy Network (APN) and the Socio-Environmental Funds of the Global South (Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur), are active in Mozambique. These networks act as key support infra-structures and global connectors, linking Mozambican actors to wider ecosystems of resources, learning, and collaboration. GiveDirectly, a global online giving platform, supports philanthropy in Mozambique through the use of technology to provide unconditional cash transfers to households affected by climate disasters, poverty, and conflict. The platform continues to expand its initiatives to broaden the scope of challenges for which its users can raise funds.[12]

There are however promising local developments: The Micaia Foundation has catalysed the emergence of a philanthropy-focused organisation in Mozambique through its announcement of a new entity called 'Philanthropy Mozambique - the Mozambican Centre for Research and Promotion of Philanthropy and Innovation in Funding for Development' at the 2025 national conference on philanthropy, and the subsequent signing of an MOU with Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo as a key partner in the initiative. With the establishment of an advisory board underway, this initiative represents one of the first locally anchored PSOs in the country, signaling the nascent development of a dedicated infrastructure to support, coordinate, and strengthen philanthropy in Mozambique.

Without currently operating local PSOs that are dedicated only to philanthropy, Mozambique's philanthropy ecosystem is defined by the second category of PSOs: those that support philanthropy as a subset of their main functions, also called hybrid PSOs. Organisations such as the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and the MASC Foundation stand out for their long-standing roles in resource mobilisation, grant-making, multi-stakeholder engagement, and partnerships with diverse communities to foster broader development.

With regards to funders of the support ecosystem, international private foundations including the Aga Khan Foundation, "la Caixa" Foundation and Rizwan Adatia Foundation (RAF Global) were identified as key actors. These foundations engage through multi-year programmes, networks, and partnerships designed to advance domestic giving, community philanthropy, and locally-led initiatives. In terms of multilateral funders, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded Giving for Change, a five-year, €24 million programme that supported community philanthropy across Africa, with the Micaia Foundation serving as the anchor institution in Mozambique. No domestic funders of Mozambique's PSE were identified in the study.[13]

12 GiveDirectly, "**Mozambique**"
13 GFCF, "**Announcing 'Giving for Change', a new partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs taking community philanthropy to the next level**", (17 February 2021)

Photo credit: Steve Evans from Citizen of the World_Moz on Flickr

Community philanthropy and informal giving practices

Local networks, community associations, women's groups, social funds, and xitique continue to serve as fundamental pillars of Mozambique's social and economic life, even though they are often missing from formal statistics. These grassroots practices, grounded in trust and reciprocity, have a direct impact on critical areas such as microcredit, food security, and informal education, providing resources and support that formal systems may not reach. For example, xitique enables communities to pool resources for household needs, small business ventures, or educational expenses, illustrating the tangible benefits of these collective mechanisms. Despite their widespread presence and influence, their invisibility in national data limits formal recognition of their social and economic value, underscoring the need for greater acknowledgment and support of these locally-rooted philanthropic practices.

Government and public institutions

The State plays a central role in shaping the enabling environment for philanthropy through its ministries, laws, and local authorities. The Ministry of Economy and Finance oversees the implementation of the Law of Patronage (1994), which provides certain tax incentives for philanthropy.[14] Yet, this law is little known and rarely applied in practice. Overall, the state tends to see philanthropy and civil society more as complementary or competitive forces than as strategic partners. This has created a regulatory environment that is frequently described as restrictive and unpredictable, eroding trust among actors.

14 LexMundi, "**Social Enterprise Law Surveys: Mozambique**"

Faith-based organisations

Religious institutions, including Christian churches, the Muslim community, and other traditional faith groups, hold significant influence within Mozambican society. They play a central role in mobilising resources, delivering social services, and reinforcing values of solidarity and mutual aid. Faith-based philanthropy enjoys high levels of community trust, and religious actors are often among the first responders in times of crisis. However, these contributions are rarely captured in official data, leaving a large segment of philanthropic activity in Mozambique invisible in statistical records and ignored in policy debates. While most faith-based initiatives are viewed positively, there have also been episodes that have raised questions about the transparency and credibility of certain religious actors. This underlines the need for greater accountability and stronger governance practices within faith-based philanthropy to preserve trust and ensure sustainability.

Civil society organisations (CSOs)

Mozambique is home to hundreds of CSOs, ranging from large national NGOs to small community-based associations. While diverse, many remain heavily dependent on international donor funding, which constrains their autonomy and limits space for innovation. Some CSOs have recently started to explore resourcing sustainability models such as service provision, community funds, and small-scale product sales, but these are still in early stages. Fragmentation remains a defining challenge: while there are ad hoc alliances, Mozambique lacks a robust, coordinated platform that could unify philanthropy and CSOs to amplify their collective voice, including on resource mobilisation and diversification.[15]

The research also identified hybrid CSOs that focus on implementing social programmes as their core mission but also play an important structuring role within the philanthropy support ecosystem. These organisations support civil society development through fundraising capacity building, impact evidence generation, and fund management. In the absence of formal, dedicated, national-scale philanthropy support organisations, these hybrid CSOs fill critical gaps and sustain the development sector's functionality.

15 African Philanthropy Network, **Mapping of Philanthropy Support Actors in Sub-Saharan Africa: Southern Africa Region**, (15 March 2023)

Case study – The JUNTOS! programme: Strengthening civil society from within

One of the most significant initiatives shaping Mozambique's civil society ecosystem is the JUNTOS! programme,[16] an initiative of the "la Caixa" Foundation and the Aga Khan Foundation, implemented in Mozambique since 2014. The programme focuses on strengthening the capacity, sustainability, and impact of CSOs through innovative and collaborative approaches rooted in Build-Based Learning (BL). It currently works with 26 partner CSOs in Mozambique, supporting them through face-to-face and online training, peer learning exchanges, and community innovation projects.

JUNTOS! adopted a systems-oriented approach, investing not only in service delivery but also in organisational development, network building, and coordination. Its support has contributed to improved governance, financial management, strategic planning, advocacy capacity, and accountability systems among participating CSOs, responding to the chronic underfunding of core organisational functions. By promoting collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms, the programme has also helped reduce fragmentation and strengthen the collective civil society voice.

While not a dedicated philanthropy support programme, JUNTOS! functions as a hybrid CSO support system, reinforcing critical functions such as organisational resilience, learning, trust building, and fundraising readiness.

16 **JUNTOS! Mozambique**

> Building smarter alignment and structured dialogue could help transform contributions into mutually beneficial collaborations.


Photo credit: UNFPA in Mozambique on Flickr

Private sector

National and multinational companies, especially in the banking, energy, telecommunications, and mining sectors, are increasingly engaged in CSR programmes. However, most corporate initiatives remain ad hoc, short-term, and assistance-oriented, producing limited structural impact.[17] Positive cases are emerging in sectors such as energy and telecommunications, where longer-term commitments and sustainability lenses are being explored. Despite this, a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for corporate philanthropy is absent. Untapped opportunities include corporate volunteering, skills transfer to CSOs, blended finance, and impact investment, all of which could significantly increase private sector contributions to the philanthropy sector and the overall development of the Mozambican economy. At present, many companies treat philanthropy as a reputational expense rather than a strategic investment in sustainable development. Building smarter alignment and structured dialogue could help transform these contributions into mutually beneficial collaborations.

17 Example: BCI, Annual Reports 2023

03

An analysis of the findings using the 4Cs framework

- **AN ANALYSIS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S PHILANTHROPY SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS**
- **A CAUTIOUS ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF DOMESTIC GIVING IN MOZAMBIQUE**
- **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS: A CATALYST FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION IN MOZAMBIQUE**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **CONCLUSION**

This chapter analyses in detail the different layers of Mozambique's PSE using the 4Cs (Capacity, Capability, Connection, Credibility) methodology,[18] which seeks to identify the strengths of PSOs and maturity of the PSE in regards to the development of philanthropy in the country.

18 WINGS, Understanding the Meaning of Terms

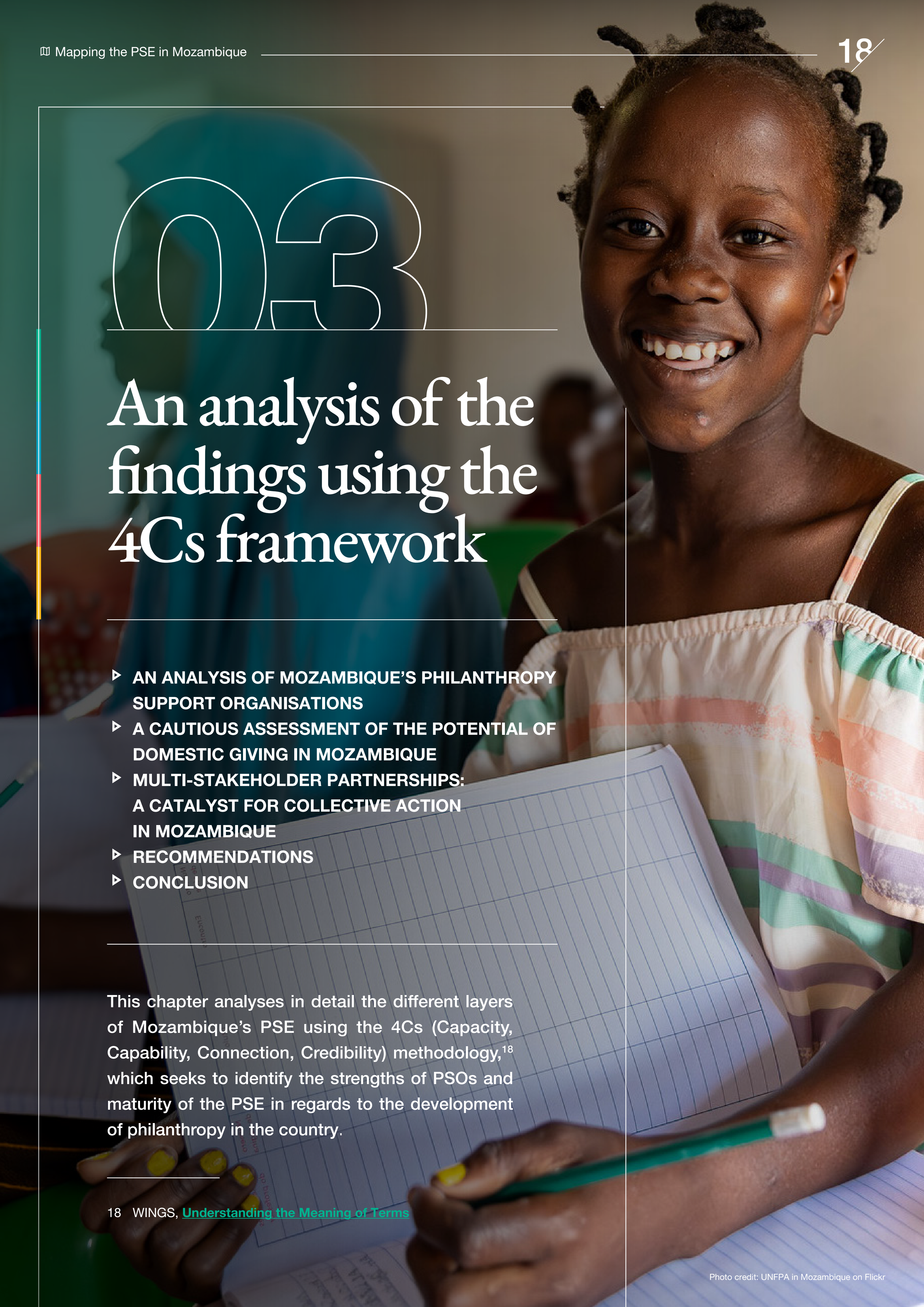
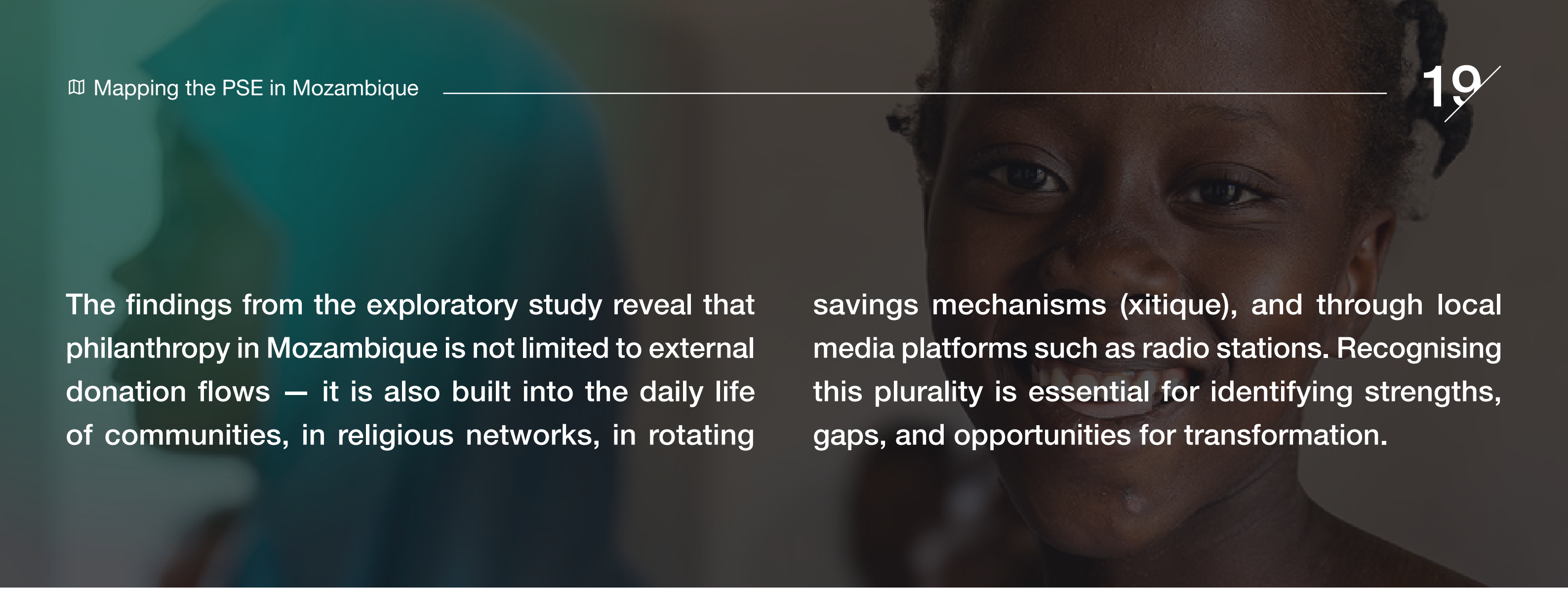


Photo credit: UNFPA in Mozambique on Flickr



The findings from the exploratory study reveal that philanthropy in Mozambique is not limited to external donation flows — it is also built into the daily life of communities, in religious networks, in rotating savings mechanisms (xitique), and through local media platforms such as radio stations. Recognising this plurality is essential for identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities for transformation.

An analysis of Mozambique's philanthropy support organisations

As outlined above, Mozambique's PSE is marked by a narrow set of hybrid actors that perform the roles and functions of PSOs as a secondary function of their work, rather than dedicated PSOs that solely focus on the development of philanthropy.

Complementing these actors is a vibrant informal and community-based dimension with practices such as xitique, community social funds, women's networks, faith-based solidarity initiatives, diaspora remittances, and various other undocumented forms of giving which serve as invisible support infrastructures. Though often absent from official statistics, these informal mechanisms are vital to social resilience, community cohesion, and local resource mobilisation across Mozambique.

Capacity: Building resources for philanthropy

The capacity dimension examines the ability of PSOs to mobilise and manage the financial, human, and digital resources necessary to sustain the philanthropy sector.

In Mozambique, organisations such as the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and the MASC Foundation have invested significantly in strengthening community-based organisations through funding, technical assistance, and mentoring. Their models combine local fundraising with international donor support, offering a practical example of how domestic philanthropy and external resources can complement each other.

The National Forum of Community Radio Stations (Fórum Nacional das Rádios Comunitárias – FORCOM), for example, strengthens the institutional and communication capacities of community radio networks, many of which indirectly contribute to local philanthropy by mobilising community solidarity and supporting locally-driven fundraising efforts. While its primary focus lies within the civil society and media development sphere, its work helps create enabling conditions for community giving and collective action.

Despite these efforts, systemic capacity challenges persist. These hybrid PSOs depend heavily on short-term donor cycles, which constrains their ability to plan long-term and invest in institutional development. The absence of both national incentives for philanthropy and a dedicated policy framework further weakens the infrastructure needed for sustained local giving.

Capability: Enhancing knowledge, skills, and expertise in the sector

The capability dimension examines the functions of PSOs that can enhance the effectiveness of the PSE. It identifies the ability to co-create and strengthen strategies through advisory support; provide monitoring, learning, and evaluation to assess and improve the performance of philanthropy; and support implementation by offering staff, services, and systems to execute strategies. This dimension also includes PSOs that create knowledge and data to build evidence and shared learning on philanthropy, and enhance human potential through training, mentoring, and developing expertise in philanthropy support practices.

Organisations such as MASC Foundation enhance institutional capacity by providing fundraising advisory support, technical assistance, and training to a broad spectrum of community stakeholders, though with a primary focus on CSOs, rather than actors across the philanthropy sector.

Similarly, Afrilanthropy,[19] an international solidarity platform that works across a number of – African countries including Mozambique since 2017 – contributes to strengthening the ecosystem through strategic advisory services that help design and refine organisational and programmatic strategies, linking local actors to funding opportunities and supporting the execution of development initiatives.

The overall technical and strategic capability of Mozambique's PSE and its actors remains under-developed due to the sector being nascent and having no fully operational dedicated national organisations actively engaged solely in philanthropy development. Many actors consequently have limited access to up-to-date knowledge on philanthropy trends, resource mobilisation tools and techniques, and impact measurement capabilities. Furthermore, data collection and documentation capacity is particularly weak, limiting efforts to quantify philanthropy's contribution to Mozambique's national development.

There is a clear opportunity to strengthen capability across the ecosystem by creating shared data and metrics platforms to reduce duplication and improve accountability, as well as by developing digital capacity-building programmes for resource creation and mobilisation in partnership with CSOs – such as the h2n Association and N'weti (Communication for Health) – universities, and the private sector. These interventions can enhance innovation, learning, and collaboration across the philanthropic ecosystem, enabling both formal and informal actors to scale their impact and better integrate evidence into practice.

19 Afrilanthropy

Connection: Building networks, partnerships, and collaboration

The connection dimension focuses on PSOs that foster relationships, dialogue, and collaboration across the PSE. These organisations facilitate interaction and inclusive spaces where philanthropy stakeholders can engage, share perspectives, and learn from one another for mutual benefit. They also orchestrate collaborations by structuring and managing partnerships, alliances, and collective models that advance shared goals. Additionally, they build and strengthen narratives by shaping organisational or ecosystem stories that create spaces for dialogue and enhance the visibility and understanding of philanthropy's role in social development.

Whereas the research did not identify any formal networks in Mozambique exclusively dedicated to philanthropy beyond the emerging Philanthropy Mozambique, the African Philanthropy Network (APN) provides an important continental platform through which Mozambican actors can engage with peers, share experiences, and participate in collaborative initiatives that strengthen the broader philanthropy ecosystem. Currently, APN is partnering with local organisations to better understand the legal enabling environment for CSOs and PSOs in the country.[20]

Locally, the Micaia Foundation plays a complementary role by fostering connections between CSOs, communities, philanthropy, and other stakeholders, helping to build collective narratives and promote collaborative approaches that enhance social impact within Mozambique. The foundation has a strong focus on community philanthropy, and is in the process of initiating Mozambique's first PSO with Philanthropy Mozambique.

Overall, many development efforts in Mozambique operate in silos or are competing for scarce resources. There are significant opportunities to strengthen connections by developing multi-sectoral platforms that integrate formal PSOs, private actors, CSOs, and informal community networks. Regional observatories, co-designed learning platforms, and coordinated advocacy initiatives could facilitate information sharing, mutual support, and collective action. Strengthening these connections will be critical to sustaining collaboration, amplifying sector influence, and ensuring that the philanthropic ecosystem can mobilise domestic resources, attract social investment, and support inclusive development outcomes.

20 African Philanthropy Network, **Synthesis of the Existing Assessments of the Legal Environment for Civil Society Organizations Including Philanthropic Support Organizations in Mozambique**, (2021)

Credibility: Trust, legitimacy, and the power to influence

The credibility dimension focuses on PSOs that strengthen trust, transparency, and the legitimacy of philanthropy and its support ecosystem. It encompasses organisations that enhance the reputation and openness of philanthropy, building confidence among stakeholders in the sector. It also includes actors that promote public engagement, encouraging citizen participation and awareness to support the growth and development of philanthropy. Additionally, this dimension captures PSOs that influence the policy environment, advocating for regulatory and legislative frameworks that enable a more robust, accountable, and sustainable philanthropic ecosystem.

Similar to earlier observations regarding other dimensions, the credibility support space in Mozambique remains nascent, with relatively few actors operating in a structured or formalised manner. The research did not identify any PSOs in Mozambique that are focused on this function yet.

Nonetheless, organisations such as the MASC Foundation and the Micaia Foundation contribute indirectly by fostering good governance and transparency and encouraging stakeholder participation, albeit primarily amongst civil society actors and not the broader PSE.

At the community level, credibility is grounded in proximity, trust, and cultural norms. Traditional giving systems such as xitique, local social funds led by women's associations, and religious networks including the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) and the Islamic Council of Mozambique (CISLAMO) operate on principles of accountability and reciprocity. While informal, these mechanisms have sustained social cohesion for generations and are often more trusted at the local level than are formal institutions. Integrating these grassroots practices with formal philanthropic structures could strengthen mutual trust, reinforce legitimacy, and enhance the visibility of domestic philanthropy.

Strengthening governance, adopting shared transparency standards, documenting impact, and linking community-based credibility with institutional recognition are critical steps for building a more trusted, resilient, and influential philanthropy support ecosystem in Mozambique.

A cautious assessment of the potential of domestic giving in Mozambique

There are no reliable, up-to-date figures that capture the full scope of domestic giving (individual, corporate, and informal) in Mozambique. The data that is available is partial and gives us a tentative and cautious picture of the level of philanthropy that could be unlocked with strategic investment into growing a PSE in the country.

Because Mozambique has strong traditions of mutual aid and community-based giving, the "untapped" potential for domestic giving is likely significant. As mentioned above, the pool of informal giving, which may be significant, is virtually undocumented in national statistics and philanthropic sector reports. Given the country's large population and cultural practices around giving (e.g., community social funds, faith-based networks, local informal giving) a modest increase in efforts to formalise or aggregate these streams could yield meaningful new resources for social investment.

Photo credit: UNU_WIDER on Flickr

What we can quantify today

Recent sources show ~USD 250–550 million/year in diaspora remittances to Mozambique. World Bank-based trackers report USD 254.6 million in 2023 and USD 266.9 million in 2024,[21] while an official figure cited by the news agency Lusa puts the figure at ~USD 544.8 million in 2022.[22] If organised vehicles (community foundations, cause-based funds, digital platforms) could redirect even 5–10% of annual remittances to philanthropic purposes, that would mobilise at least USD 12–27 million/year from the USD 250–550 million inflow base.

In low-income countries, people donate ~1.45% of their income on average, according to CAF World Giving data.[23] Mozambique is not separately broken out in that research, but the overall figure is a useful anchor for scenario-building, especially given that informal and community finance is widespread in Mozambique. If the country approached this low-income average and only one-third of that were channelled through organised mechanisms (leaving two-thirds informal), that slice would still be material.

CSR and philanthropy by corporate foundations are growing but under-systematised in Mozambique; there is no reliable national spend figure yet. One could anticipate a potential near-term figure in the low-to-mid tens of millions if reporting improves and incentives and vehicles mature.[24] This does not yet include the potential for large-scale public-private-philanthropy partnerships, which can mobilise resources for civil society at high volume and bear much promise for future development action.[25]

As this study shows, the binding constraint to domestic giving in Mozambique is not limited generosity – it is lack of infrastructure and visibility. A strengthened ecosystem of coordinated vehicles, better data, and higher formal capture of already active mutual-aid practices could significantly help unlock this potential for locally-led development.

21 TheGlobalEconomy.com, "Mozambique: Remittances"
22 Club of Mozambique, "Mozambique: Remittance inflows see six-fold rise in seven years"
23 CAF, World Giving Report 2025
24 Friedrich Kaufmann and Claudia Simons-Kaufmann, "Corporate Social Responsibility in Mozambique," Ideas, (2016)
25 WINGS, Why Multistakeholder Partnerships Matter for Inclusive Development: Lessons from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, (17 September 2025)

"A strengthened ecosystem of coordinated vehicles, better data, and higher formal capture of already active mutual-aid practices could significantly help unlock this potential for locally-led development.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships: A catalyst for collective action in Mozambique

Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can drive collaboration and sustainable development in Mozambique by increasing resources and aligning efforts across sectors. These partnerships bring together government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and international actors to address complex socio-economic challenges through structured platforms for dialogue, coordination, and joint action. By drawing on diverse expertise, networks, and financial resources, MSPs enable the co-creation of solutions that are both context-specific and scalable. This approach has been particularly effective in sectors such as agriculture, health, and education, where collective action is essential for achieving lasting impact. However, due to the under-developed state of philanthropy in Mozambique, the full potential of philanthropic engagement in MSPs remains largely untapped.

Notable examples of public-private partnerships include the IDH Mozambique Climate Resilience Program, which brings together government extension services, agribusinesses, and community organisations to promote climate-smart agricultural practices.[26] In health, the upSCALE programme,[27] led by the Ministry of Health in partnership with UNICEF, the Malaria Consortium, and private technology providers, illustrates how MSPs can strengthen community health systems through digital innovations. In disaster preparedness, the Drone-Based Disaster Management Project, involving the African Development Bank, government disaster agencies, private technology firms, and local civil society actors, demonstrates how MSPs can enhance national resilience to climate shocks.[28]

Philanthropy can play a critical catalytic role in such partnerships; it brings flexible, risk-tolerant funding, convenes diverse partners, opens access to influential networks, and elevates local and community leadership. Through MSPs, philanthropy can spark innovation, build trust, and unlock long-term, systemic change.[29] However, to achieve this, institutional infrastructure that can anchor MSPs is critical – and this is where the philanthropy support ecosystem can help. A stronger ecosystem will be key to catalysing partnerships and innovating with finance for scalable, sustainable, and equitable impact.

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26 IDH, **Mozambique Climate Resilience Program – Annual Report 2020**, (6 October 2020)
27 Malaria Consortium, "**Experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of data discussion meetings for upSCALE**," (5 March 2024)
28 African Development Bank Group, "**African Development Bank and Mozambique launch drone-based initiative to strengthen country's disaster preparedness**," (4 April 2025)
29 WINGS, **Why Multistakeholder Partnerships Matter for Inclusive Development**

Photo credit: UNU_WIDER on Flickr

Recommendations

As highlighted throughout this report, while strong traditions of community solidarity, grassroots innovation, and local resource mobilisation exist in Mozambique, the country has no formal PSOs and few hybrid ones, limited technical and strategic capacity, and virtually no coordination mechanisms connecting formal, international, and community-level actors. The current philanthropy ecosystem remains heavily dependent on external funding, lacks shared data and metrics, and has yet to develop structures to support sustainable philanthropic activity.

Regardless of its current infancy, Mozambique's PSE holds significant potential for development. The strong culture of community solidarity, the existence of informal giving mechanisms, and the diverse range of actors provide a foundation on which formal PSOs can build. By leveraging local knowledge, networks, and grassroots innovation, emerging PSOs can begin to establish structures, standards, and practices that strengthen coordination and strategic giving. With targeted support, capacity building, and connections to regional and international philanthropy networks, the ecosystem can grow into a credible and sustainable sector capable of mobilising domestic resources and amplifying social impact across the country.

As a strategic next step, the Steering Committee affirmed that the roadmap development process must be locally led, with Mozambique-based organisations – particularly members of JUNTOS! – coordinating the process and engaging a broader range of stakeholders in the country. In addition, the Committee emphasised the importance of mapping and learning from existing informal platforms, exploring the landscape of corporate philanthropy, and using the pre-mapping findings to stimulate broader research, dialogue, and policy conversations. These ideas will be picked up in the next phase of the process, including through in-person meetings between members of JUNTOS! and involving the Steering Committee members (as and when necessary) to develop a roadmap.

The recommendations below are organised into three categories: (1) actions for emerging PSOs in Mozambique to build foundational capacity, capability, connection, and credibility; (2) guidance for funders and regional networks seeking to nurture the growth of the Mozambique PSE; and (3) areas for future research to better understand and support the development of philanthropy in the country.

Dimension (4Cs)	Emerging PSOs in Mozambique	Regional & Continental PSOs & Networks	Ecosystem Funders
Capacity – Strengthening institutional & human resources	Incubation programmes with mentorship support; localised capacity building with diversity of actors including universities and think tanks; strengthen civil society learning hubs to incorporate philanthropy	Facilitate knowledge exchanges and joint training programmes; connect emerging PSOs with regional learning resources	Invest in training, technical assistance, and pilot blended finance initiatives; support formalisation of community foundations and grassroots giving practices
Capability – Innovation, data & knowledge systems	Develop shared data and metrics platforms; promote digital social innovation labs; support blended finance and social enterprise models	Provide frameworks and guidance for cross-border innovation labs; facilitate access to regional research and best practices	Fund digital infrastructure, data systems, and applied research; support piloting of innovative funding and social enterprise models
Connection – Building collaborative infrastructure	Co-create national philanthropy and/or social investment platforms; strengthen links with local networks	Integrate local PSOs into regional philanthropy networks; facilitate national collaboration and learning	Engage in national platforms as co-design partners; support multi-sectoral coordination initiatives
Credibility – Legitimacy & trust	Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues; introduce national accreditation/trust seal; open data portals; community feedback mechanisms	Promote regional benchmarking, recognition, and knowledge sharing; support cross-border credibility and learning initiatives	Fund transparency, accountability, and observatory initiatives; support storytelling and documentation of good practices

For future exploration and research

In addition to leveraging this exploratory research as an initial guide, future works should broaden the scope and:

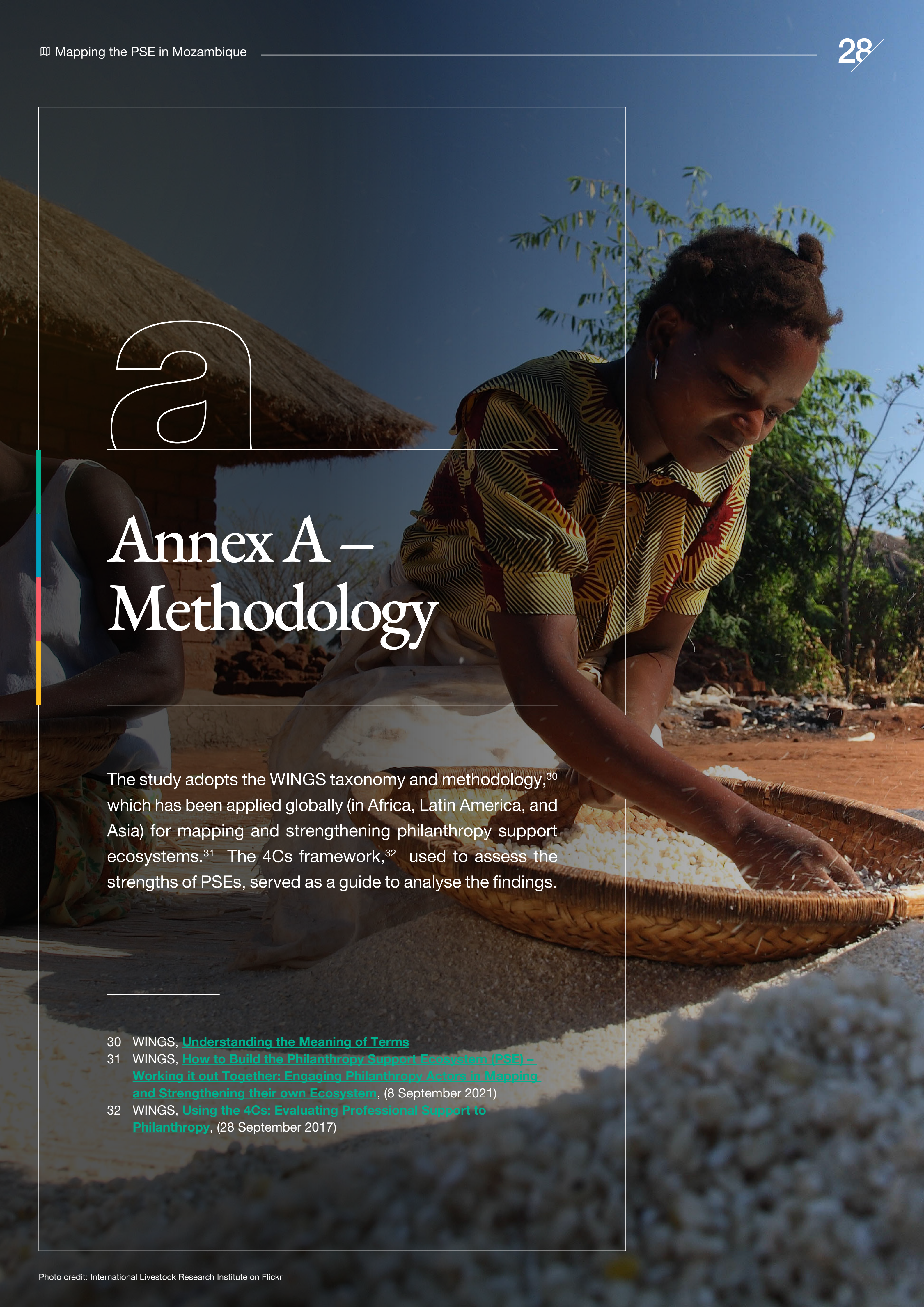
- Conduct an in-depth national survey on giving and solidarity practices and potential in Mozambique, capturing informal, faith-based, and diaspora-led philanthropy.
- Explore the economic value of philanthropy in Mozambique and its contribution to job creation, social enterprise development, and local economic resilience.
- Map and evaluate the digital transformation of philanthropy, assessing how community media, data platforms, and AI tools can enhance everyday giving.
- Undertake longitudinal research on trust and legitimacy in philanthropy, exploring the interplay between community credibility and institutional accountability.
- Undertake research on corporate philanthropy to understand how companies and communities give, what structures and motivations exist, and how these actors can be better integrated into the national philanthropy ecosystem conversations.

Conclusion

This exploratory mapping of Mozambique's PSE spotlights a sector that is at a pivotal moment. While limited formal structures, dependence on external funding, fragmented coordination, and evolving regulatory and digital contexts present real challenges, the country possesses deep-rooted energy, abundant creativity, and a strong culture of solidarity that can underpin the growth of domestic philanthropy and locally-led development.

Philanthropy in Mozambique is not a fledgling idea relying on outside solutions to take hold. Traditions of giving are already embedded in community life through xitique, social funds, faith-based networks, youth initiatives, and digital platforms. Developing the sector requires recognising, valuing, and strengthening these practices, building human and institutional capacity, and connecting actors into an organised, trusted, and resilient ecosystem capable of mobilising resources and amplifying social impact.

This mapping, based primarily on desk reviews and a limited set of stakeholder interviews, offers a preliminary view of the emerging PSE rather than a comprehensive assessment. The recommendations presented in this report provide a pathway to develop a more in-depth understanding, guide future research, and inform interventions that can strengthen the sector's capacity, capability, connections, and credibility. By building on existing practices and supporting emerging PSOs, Mozambique has the potential to establish a robust philanthropy ecosystem that sustains locally-driven development and catalyses systemic social impact.



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Annex A – Methodology

The study adopts the WINGS taxonomy and methodology,[30] which has been applied globally (in Africa, Latin America, and Asia) for mapping and strengthening philanthropy support ecosystems.[31] The 4Cs framework,[32] used to assess the strengths of PSEs, served as a guide to analyse the findings.

30 WINGS, Understanding the Meaning of Terms
31 WINGS, How to Build the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem (PSE) – Working it out Together: Engaging Philanthropy Actors in Mapping and Strengthening their own Ecosystem, (8 September 2021)
32 WINGS, Using the 4Cs: Evaluating Professional Support to Philanthropy, (28 September 2017)

Photo credit: International Livestock Research Institute on Flickr

Selection criteria for interviewees and desk research

Whereas the study includes a few ecosystem funders, the researcher did not prioritise existing international funders who, in addition to their global or continental operations, have initiatives in Mozambique. Instead, the focus was on:

- Documenting organisations and actors that create connections, build capacities, and introduce innovation specifically within Mozambique.
- Identifying contributions from existing local organisations, digital and communication platforms, and community foundations, among other initiatives in the country.
- Assessing the existence of formal and informal actors and their role in Mozambique's PSE and how they foster a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable ecosystem.

The exploratory study sample was purposively selected to reflect the diversity, relevance, and representativeness of Mozambique's PSE, guided by the following criteria:

1. Diversity of actors in the ecosystem

- Non-profit organisations: national, local, and community-based, at different levels of maturity.
- Private sector: companies and corporate foundations implementing social responsibility initiatives.
- Cooperation and multilateral agencies: influencing financing and public policy environments.
- Academia and research centres: knowledge and data producers.
- Regional networks and platforms: those with presence or influence in Mozambique.
- Community and informal practices: local associations, savings groups like xitique.

2. Functions within the PSE

- Capacity building: training, mentoring, technical assistance.
- Financing infrastructures: community funds, digital donation platforms.
- Knowledge production and systematisation: data, reports, academic studies.
- Advocacy and enabling environment: legislation, public policy, self-regulation.
- Strengthening sector credibility and transparency.

3. Influence and strategic relevance

- Potential to inspire or model practices for larger groups of other actors
- Representation of often-invisible groups, such as youth, women, and local communities.

It is important to note that some areas of the ecosystem remain under-documented due to lack of available data, particularly community and informal philanthropy and diaspora remittances, and that, despite efforts for diversity, interviews could not represent all voices in the sector.

Data collection

A total of 30 interviews were conducted with a diverse range of organisations, capturing both the macro perspective of large institutional actors and the micro dynamics of local and community actors.

Given the exploratory nature of the mapping, qualitative methods were used for data collection and analysis, complementing desk research to provide detailed insights into participants' perceptions and facilitate contextual understanding.

The data collection tools included:

- Desk research: initial desk research identified potential partners, followed by in-depth research to gather information from existing sources.
- Virtual interviews: conducted with key stakeholders to complement desk research, providing firsthand insights into the ecosystem and contextual nuances.

Applying the taxonomy to the context

To better understand the landscape of philanthropy in Mozambique, PSOs were classified according to their focus and role within the ecosystem. The suggested framework helps differentiate between those directly implementing projects and those providing the critical support needed for a sustainable philanthropic sector.

1. **PSOs exclusively focused on supporting philanthropy**

   These organisations dedicate their mission entirely to strengthening philanthropy itself. Their activities are geared toward building the sector's capacity and facilitating resource mobilisation. Key examples include:

- Academic institutions and think tanks
- National and regional donor/foundation thematic networks
- Community foundations mobilising and managing local resources
- Digital donation and citizen engagement platforms
- Intermediary and community funds
- Advocacy platforms and experts

2. **Organisations that include philanthropy support as a subset of their mission**

   Some actors operate primarily in other sectors but allocate a portion of their work to support the development of philanthropy. By contributing research, strategic guidance, or visibility, they strengthen the ecosystem indirectly. Examples include:

- Banks offering philanthropic wealth management services
- Consulting firms providing strategic or operational support to foundations
- Non-profit organisations, networks, and support organisations, including INGOs
- Media and technology organisations/platforms giving visibility to philanthropic activities

3. **Ecosystem funders**

   This classification includes foundations and other philanthropic funders that support PSOs or invest in the philanthropy ecosystem. These actors contribute beyond project funding by strengthening institutional capacity, fostering collaboration, and investing in long-term innovation. Examples include:

- Government
- Private institutional funders
- Multilateral and bilateral development finance agencies

The 4Cs matrix

Complementing the taxonomy, the research used the 4Cs matrix as a guide to assess the robustness of the ecosystem:

- **Capacity:** organisations that focus on building financial, human, technological, and institutional resources for philanthropy.
- **Capability:** organisations with a focus on building skills, knowledge production, and evaluation mechanisms for philanthropy.
- **Connection:** organisations or platforms that focus on relationship building within philanthropy, such as networks, partnerships, and collaborations at the local, national, and regional level.
- **Credibility:** organisations with a strong focus on enhancing the reputation, legitimacy, transparency, public trust, and influence of philanthropy.

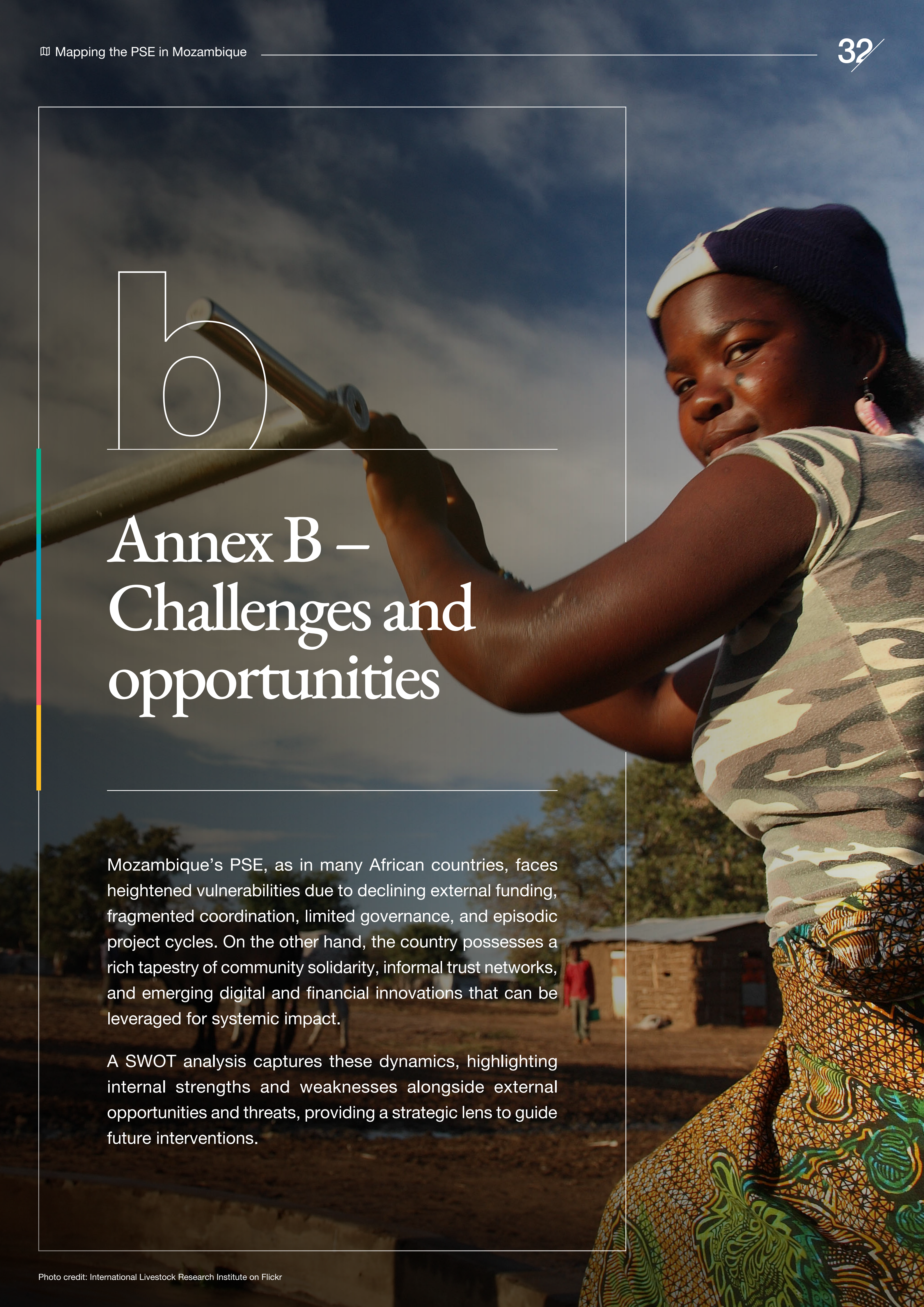
Where civil society meets philanthropy support: Overlaps and distinctions

In many contexts across Africa, particularly in emerging ecosystems such as Mozambique, the roles of civil society organisations (CSOs) and philanthropy support organisations (PSOs) are often misunderstood or used interchangeably. This confusion arises because both sets of actors engage in social development, mobilise resources, and operate within the same civic space. However, while their missions intersect, their core functions differ.

CSOs primarily work directly to address social, economic, or environmental issues, whereas PSOs support philanthropic actors to be more effective in their giving. They do this through capacity building, knowledge generation, collaboration, resource mobilisation, and policy and advocacy work that supports the growth of philanthropy itself.

Despite these differences, both are deeply interdependent: strong civil society creates the demand and legitimacy for philanthropic action, while a well-functioning PSE ensures that civil society has the resources, skills, and enabling environment needed to deliver impact. Put simply, CSOs implement change on the ground, while PSOs strengthen the system that funds and enables that change.

Recognising the distinction between these two actors is key to mapping Mozambique's PSE accurately.



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Annex B – Challenges and opportunities

Mozambique's PSE, as in many African countries, faces heightened vulnerabilities due to declining external funding, fragmented coordination, limited governance, and episodic project cycles. On the other hand, the country possesses a rich tapestry of community solidarity, informal trust networks, and emerging digital and financial innovations that can be leveraged for systemic impact.

A SWOT analysis captures these dynamics, highlighting internal strengths and weaknesses alongside external opportunities and threats, providing a strategic lens to guide future interventions.

Photo credit: International Livestock Research Institute on Flickr

Strengths

Mozambique's PSE benefits from a small group of diverse actors, practices, and capacities that collectively enable a degree of resource mobilisation, in particular from international donors. Key strengths include:

- **Vibrant diversity of actors:** The landscape includes a mix of hybrid PSOs, global platforms and initiatives, and informal community networks. Existing hybrid PSOs could harness the energy, networks, and innovative approaches of these varied actors to strengthen coordination and mobilise resources to expand the reach and impact of philanthropy support.
- **Community-based trust networks:** Traditional solidarity practices – such as rotating savings groups, social funds, and faith-based networks – sustain local giving and provide legitimacy and cohesion that underpin grassroots philanthropy.

Weaknesses

- **Limited formal presence:** The PSE in Mozambique is still largely undeveloped, with no dedicated PSOs and few hybrid PSOs operating in a structured or formalised manner. This limits the sector's capacity to share best practices and offer systematic guidance for philanthropic actors or those interested in engaging in philanthropy.
- **Fragmentation of actors and initiatives:** Many philanthropic efforts operate in isolation, often overlapping or duplicating activities. The absence of established platforms for coordination reduces efficiency and constrains opportunities for collaboration across formal and community-based actors.
- **Uneven technical and strategic capability:** Most actors, especially emerging PSOs, have limited access to up-to-date knowledge on philanthropy trends, resource mobilisation, impact measurement, and digital tools, which hinders their ability to design and implement effective initiatives.
- **Weak data and knowledge systems:** There is a lack of shared metrics, documentation, and research on philanthropy's contribution to national development. This reduces visibility, limits learning across the sector, and makes it difficult to track outcomes or advocate for increased resources.
- **Dependence on external funding:** The sector relies heavily on short-term international donor funding, which constrains long-term planning, institutional development, and the sustainability of locally-rooted philanthropic initiatives.
- **Limited policy and regulatory support:** There are few national incentives, legal frameworks, or policies specifically supporting philanthropy, which creates barriers to scaling domestic giving and professionalising the sector.
- **Under-developed collaboration with civil society and informal actors:** While informal networks and civil society actors play a key role in local giving, the PSE has limited mechanisms to integrate these actors into structured philanthropy, limiting the potential to amplify impact through partnerships.

Opportunities

Mozambique's hybrid PSOs have significant potential to leverage a number of factors to strengthen the PSE through integrating informal systems, engaging the private sector, and promoting philanthropy as structured social investment. The mapping identified the following:

- **Nascent sector with foundational opportunities:** Mozambique's PSE is still emerging, which presents a unique opportunity to shape its development from the ground up. This nascent stage allows for the establishment of robust structures, norms, and practices that can guide sustainable giving, strengthen local resource mobilisation, and integrate both formal and community-based philanthropic approaches.
- **Recognition and integration of informal systems:** Linking xitiques, social funds, and religious networks to formal PSOs can increase credibility, mobilise domestic resources, and reduce dependence on external aid.
- **Private sector engagement:** CSR programmes and strategic partnerships can align profit motives with social impact, creating shared-value projects.
- **Strengthening of MSPs to include philanthropy:** MSPs can bring together government, civil society, the private sector, and philanthropy to jointly design and implement solutions, aligning diverse resources and expertise to achieve shared social and economic impact.
- **Digital and innovation capacity:** Fundraising platforms like GiveDirectly have the potential to enhance transparency, participation, and efficiency, enabling more effective resource mobilisation, monitoring, and collaboration within the sector.

Threats (External risks and constraints)

The growth of Mozambique's PSE faces several external pressures that could limit its effectiveness and sustainability:

- **Shifting global funding priorities:** International donor resources are increasingly directed towards security, trade, or migration agendas, reducing the pool of funds available for structured philanthropy development and local giving initiatives.
- **Digital and infrastructure gaps:** Unequal access to digital tools and connectivity, particularly in rural areas, limits the adoption of innovative philanthropic platforms and the scaling of interventions.
- **Regulatory and political uncertainty:** Complex legal frameworks, bureaucratic hurdles, and the politicisation of civil society create risks for the registration, funding, and continuity of philanthropy-focused organisations.
- **Reliance on short-term and fragmented initiatives:** Episodic, donor-driven projects dominate the landscape, threatening the sustainability of locally-led giving and undermining the credibility of the emerging philanthropy ecosystem.
- **Limited domestic fiscal capacity:** High public debt and constrained State budgets limit opportunities for public-private partnerships and reduce government support for philanthropic initiatives.[33]

33 N'weti and Wemos, "Mozambique: A strong case for debt cancellation," (2024)

Summary and findings

This analysis of Mozambique's PSE reveals a complex, nascent landscape. Existing hybrid PSOs operate under relatively challenging conditions, while informal community systems anchor social solidarity, trust, and local giving practices. Overall, the PSE is under-developed and under-resourced, and not yet able to fill the critical gaps left by the withdrawal or unpredictability of international funding.

There are few formal hybrid PSOs, such as the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) and the MASC Foundation, that provide structure, advisory support, and governance models with the aim of strengthening other actors through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and coordination. Importantly, though these foundations work with a broad spectrum of entities, currently they primarily focus on CSOs, not philanthropy more broadly. There are no formal PSOs in Mozambique dedicated solely to philanthropy development and support.

National organisations and/or platforms like the Micaia Foundation, FORCOM, and Afrilanthropy demonstrate strong capabilities in technical advisory, programme design, and implementation support, often complementing the efforts of community actors and filling gaps in areas such as digital capacity, civil society strengthening, and local fundraising.

Informal and faith-based systems – including xitique, CCM, and CISLAMO – provide legitimacy, social cohesion, and trust in philanthropic giving and mutual support that formal institutions cannot easily replicate. Community media initiatives such as the h2n Association and N'weti facilitate citizen participation and transparency, linking informal and formal practices.

Despite these promising practices, the ecosystem faces challenges including limited coordination, reliance on short-term donor cycles, and weak enabling policies, with shared platforms for learning, data, and accountability still under-developed.

Key lessons emerging from these findings include:

- **Formal PSO structure is lacking:** There are very few established organisations that function as hybrid PSOs in Mozambique, and no dedicated PSOs.
- **Trust and legitimacy are critical:** Community and faith-based practices show that social mobilisation and credibility are often more important than financial resources.
- **Replicable good practices exist:** Across civil society strengthening activities, local media, and community philanthropy models and tools are emerging that can be scaled or institutionalised.
- **Coordination remains the main challenge:** Transforming isolated initiatives into common platforms and networks is essential to maximise collective impact.

Strengthening Mozambique's PSE will therefore require:

- Investing in the development and institutional capacity of dedicated PSOs.
- Building shared knowledge and data systems to enhance sector-wide capability and learning.
- Creating platforms to connect formal and informal multi-stakeholders.
- Establishing standards and frameworks in the long term to strengthen credibility, transparency, and trust.

Ultimately, the sustainability of Mozambique's philanthropy support ecosystem depends on recognising that philanthropy extends far beyond formal institutions. Rooted in everyday acts of solidarity, community giving, and collective resilience, it represents a unique model that, if better coordinated and supported, can drive sustainable social transformation.

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