

Philanthropy in Mozambique: Key Insights from the WINGS Exploratory Mapping of the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem



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Mozambique is not lacking generosity, but it is lacking the systems to unlock it.

Drawing on findings from [Exploratory Mapping of the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem in Mozambique](#), this summary highlights how giving works in practice, where the system is falling short, and where there are clear opportunities to strengthen domestic philanthropy.

Philanthropy in Mozambique is at an inflection point. Giving is already part of everyday life in the country, shaped by strong traditions of mutual support such as Xitique¹, social funds, faith-based networks, youth initiatives, and community-based communication systems. At the same time, the systems that support and grow philanthropy are still very limited.

The report shows that Mozambique is not short of generosity. What is missing are the structures needed to recognise, connect, and strengthen local giving. There

are a few organisations supporting philanthropy, weak coordination, limited data, and heavy dependence on international funding.

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.

¹ 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.

Key insights

- Giving is widespread, but often invisible. Much of philanthropy happens informally and is not captured in data.
- There are no fully-operational local organisations dedicated to only supporting philanthropy, though some promising developments exist.
- Existing support comes mainly from hybrid actors, faith-based structures, community systems, and regional or global networks.
- Domestic giving has strong potential, but it is not well organised or measured.
- The main barrier is not generosity, but a lack of coordination, data, and enabling systems.



01 Why this mapping matters

This is the first systematic effort to understand how philanthropy works in Mozambique – who is involved, how it is supported, and where the gaps are.

The study was conducted between July and October 2025, and it used the **WINGS 4Cs framework** (Capacity, Capability, Connection, and Credibility) to examine the country's philanthropy support ecosystem.

The mapping was developed through desk research and 30 interviews with a diverse range of actors.

Importantly, this is not a final picture, but a starting point for future dialogue, learning, and action.

The context: Why Mozambique's philanthropy support ecosystem is needed now

Mozambique's civic and development landscape is under pressure. Civil society organisations continue to rely heavily on external funding, but global funding is shrinking and becoming less predictable. At the same time, civic space is increasingly being restricted, and inequalities remain high.

In this context, strengthening domestic philanthropy is not just a technical issue. It is part of a broader question of resilience, local leadership, and how communities can mobilise resources and solidarity in the face of uncertainty. In order to cultivate this local culture of giving, the sector needs capacity, investment, better data, and stronger connections. This is what a strong philanthropy support ecosystem delivers.



Without stronger support for local giving, the system risks remaining fragmented and unable to meet growing needs.

02 What philanthropy looks like in Mozambique today

One of the report's most important findings is that philanthropy in Mozambique is not just formal; it is also deeply rooted in everyday life.

The report highlights a wide range of informal and community-rooted forms of giving, including:

- Xitique and other rotating savings systems;
- Social funds and mutual aid;
- Faith-based giving;
- Women's groups and neighbourhood associations;
- Oral communication systems, community radio, and local information networks.

These practices are trusted, culturally grounded, and central to local resilience. Yet because they are informal and often shaped by values of humility and anonymity, they remain largely absent from official statistics and broader philanthropy narratives.

This invisibility:

- Limits recognition of domestic giving
- Weakens data and learning
- Reinforces the idea that philanthropy comes mainly from outside



Recognising these practices, while respecting cultural norms of humility, could shift how philanthropy is understood in Mozambique.

03 Who is supporting philanthropy in Mozambique?

Mozambique's philanthropy support ecosystem is still very young. There are no fully-operational local organisations focused only on philanthropy that were identified in the study. Instead, support comes mainly from:

- Hybrid organisations such as the Foundation for Community Development, Micaia Foundation and the MASC Foundation;
- Regional and global networks such as the African Philanthropy Network;

- International funders such as the Aga Khan Foundation and "la Caixa" Foundation (through the JUNTOS! programme), and Rizwan Adatia Foundation;
- Community and faith-based systems;
- Global platforms and initiatives, such as GiveDirectly.

A promising development is the emergence of Philanthropy Mozambique, a locally anchored initiative led by the Micaia Foundation.



In practice, hybrid actors are filling critical gaps – providing training, funding support, and coordination – even though this is not their main role.

04 What is the potential for domestic giving?

While data is limited, the report highlights clear potential:

- » Diaspora remittances: USD 250–550 million per year
- » Even 5–10% redirected → USD 12–27 million annually
- » Corporate giving is growing, but not yet structured
- » Informal giving is widespread but undocumented

The conclusion is clear: the constraint is not generosity – it is infrastructure and visibility. Better coordination, stronger giving vehicles, and improved data systems could help unlock more domestic giving for locally-led development.

05 Looking ahead

Mozambique already has strong foundations:

- » Traditions of solidarity and mutual aid;
- » Trusted informal and faith-based mechanisms;
- » Hybrid organisations that are filling support gaps;
- » Active local actors and promising initiatives;
- » Growing interest in domestic giving and social investment.

What is needed now is to recognise, value, strengthen, and connect what already exists to build out domestic cultures and structures of giving.

The report recommends:

- » Building the capacity of local philanthropy support organisations;
- » Investing in data and knowledge systems;
- » Creating stronger platforms for connection and collaboration;
- » Strengthening transparency, trust, and credibility; and
- » Supporting a locally-led roadmap for the next phase.



Philanthropy in Mozambique is already alive in everyday acts of solidarity.

The challenge now is to build a support ecosystem that recognises, connects, and strengthens these efforts so they can drive long-term, locally led development.

Full report:
[Exploratory Mapping of the
 Philanthropy Support Ecosystem
 in Mozambique](#)