

Charlize Theron
AFRICA
OUTREACH
PROJECT

CTAOP.ORG



IMPACT REPORT



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ABOUT THE REPORT



Reflecting on 2024—a year of resilience and change—we at CTAOP choose to focus on the good. And there was a lot of it. Across Southern Africa, young people and their communities continued to push for progress, advancing youth rights and gender equality with unwavering determination to build a safer, healthier future. Our Program Partners (grantees) spent the year listening, adapting, and leading. They responded to structural, environmental, political, and social realities while staying rooted in the needs of the communities they serve. As CTAOP moved and learned alongside them and the young people at the heart of our work, our shared impact and solidarity grew stronger.

Still, the need remains urgent. In South Africa, 1 in every 4 girls becomes pregnant before the age of 20 (WHO, 2023). Ensuring access to youth-friendly services and preventing gender-based violence is essential to helping young people make informed choices and build the future they deserve. Meeting these challenges requires persistence, creativity, and long-term commitment—qualities our Program Partners demonstrate daily.

At CTAOP, we believe in the power of community-driven change. Through our grants, convenings, and advocacy, we support grassroots organizations that create the spaces, opportunities, and support that young people need to thrive. As one Program Partner shared: *"CTAOP is a trusted partner that collaborates with integrity and has honest relationships with their partners."*

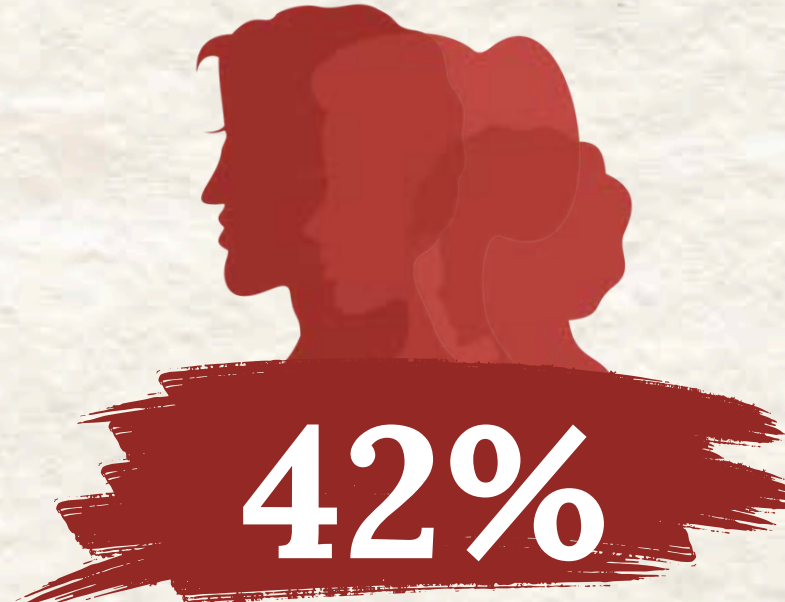
This report highlights the impact of our work together. It reflects what is possible when resources meet local action and when young people are trusted to lead. Together, we are shifting narratives, dismantling barriers, and helping every young person live with dignity, health, and hope.



THE CHALLENGE



SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN, 2017-2022



WORLD BANK, 2023



UNESCO, 2024

ABOUT US

The Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project invests in and advances the health and safety of young people in Southern Africa to create a more equitable future for all. We support transformative, locally-led change by partnering with community-based organizations that support young people, their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence prevention.

The long-term partnerships we develop are based on mutual respect and trust. This approach plays an integral role in our work, as does the power of sharing stories, convening, and a commitment to continuous learning. Since those closest to the issues are the ones who are best suited to create transformative and sustainable change, we support community catalysts. Our support is responsive and driven by what our Program Partners, the term we use for our grantees, say are the greatest needs.

We seek relationships with organizations across sectors—private, public, and nonprofit—to leverage our strength in numbers and mobilize more resources to support local solutions.

GRANTMAKING

YOUTH LEADERS

CONVENING

STORYTELLING &
ADVOCACY

GRANTMAKING



2024 GRANTEE PARTNERS

2024 GRANTMAKING IN NUMBERS



\$1,691,000

IN GRANT FUNDS GIVEN



21

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED



609,604

YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

PROGRAMMATIC THEMES FROM COMMUNITY IMPACT IN 2024



1

YOUTH-CENTRIC & INCLUSIVE
PROGRAMMING



2

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
& COMMUNITY TRUST



3

CAPACITY BUILDING &
EDUCATION



4

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS &
LOCALIZED INTERVENTIONS



5

GENDER EQUITY &
EMPOWERMENT



6

HEALTH ACCESS &
INTEGRATION

1

YOUTH CENTRIC AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

PROGRAM PARTNERS ARE DELIVERING PROGRAMS THAT ARE TAILORED TO THE DIVERSITY AMONG YOUTH, INCLUDING SERVICES DESIGNED FOR YOUNG WOMEN & GIRLS AND LGBTQIA+ YOUTH.

Philisa Abafazi Bethu's youth program in Lavender Hill tailors their interventions, such as workshops on consent and life skills, and segments them to allow for gender-specific conversations. A gender-fluid program leader ensured LGBTQIA+ sensitivity was integral to the curriculum, addressing inclusivity proactively.

The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village created the "Meaningful Room" to normalize mental health discussions. By combining health services with recreational activities like yoga and games, this setup has helped break stigmas around seeking psychosocial support.



“ THE MEANINGFUL ROOM... A PLACE TO DO YOGA, READ BOOKS, RELAX, PLAY GAMES, AND THE PSYCHOSOCIAL WORKERS' OFFICES ARE NOW THERE... IT'S A SUCCESS BECAUSE OF THE AWARENESS WE ARE DOING.

AGAHOZO-SHALOM YOUTH VILLAGE

”

2

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY TRUST

FROM ENSURING CLINIC SAFETY TO SCALING LOCAL SOLUTIONS, BUILDING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS AND ALIGNING GOALS HELP CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

After initially being told that the community of Shiya Abazali did not want youth programming, Community Healthcare Solutions (CHS) earned the community's trust by being present and consistent. CHS's ability to build relationships and connect the dots over the past two years has increased the community's agency to take ownership of homegrown initiatives that support youth in health, education, and access to services.

KZN Network on Violence Against Women has been working with the Premier's office to standardize a Provincial Prevention model that reflects the culture and tradition of different models and incorporates their innovative Rapid Response Teams and Violence-Free Zones. They also organized a gathering of 250 magistrates, judges, government officials, and members of civil society to bridge the fragmented gap between government and civil society.

“ THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE...THEY ARE LOOKING TO HOW THEY CAN SUPPORT THOSE COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES ORGANICALLY FORMING TO ENGAGE THE MUNICIPALITY.

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE
SOLUTIONS ”



3

CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION & BUILDING YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAPACITY ARE VITAL IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH.

The [African Parks](#) team established peer education networks across nine chiefdoms in the Bangweulu Wetlands of Zambia, with youth trained to deliver workshops on reproductive health, consent, and life skills. These clubs acted as hubs for peer learning and leadership development.

Working in conjunction with schools and clinics, [Small Projects Foundation](#) (SPF) identified and trained 5,500 young people to provide services in schools and health clinics. Not only are these young people gaining experience and job skills in community service industries, but they are also filling a gap in much-needed support in schools and health facilities while creating a more youth-centered environment. These youth ambassadors helped SPF support the health of hundreds of thousands of young people in the Eastern Cape.



“ PLACING [YOUTH AMBASSADORS] IN FACILITIES HAS SEEN A HUGE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE COMING IN FOR TESTING, FAMILY PLANNING, AND [SO MUCH MORE].

SMALL PROJECTS FOUNDATION ”

4

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND LOCALIZED INTERVENTIONS

LOCALLY-LED ORGANIZATIONS USE CREATIVE AND CULTURALLY ALIGNED WAYS TO HELP SOLVE COMMUNITY CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSFULLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

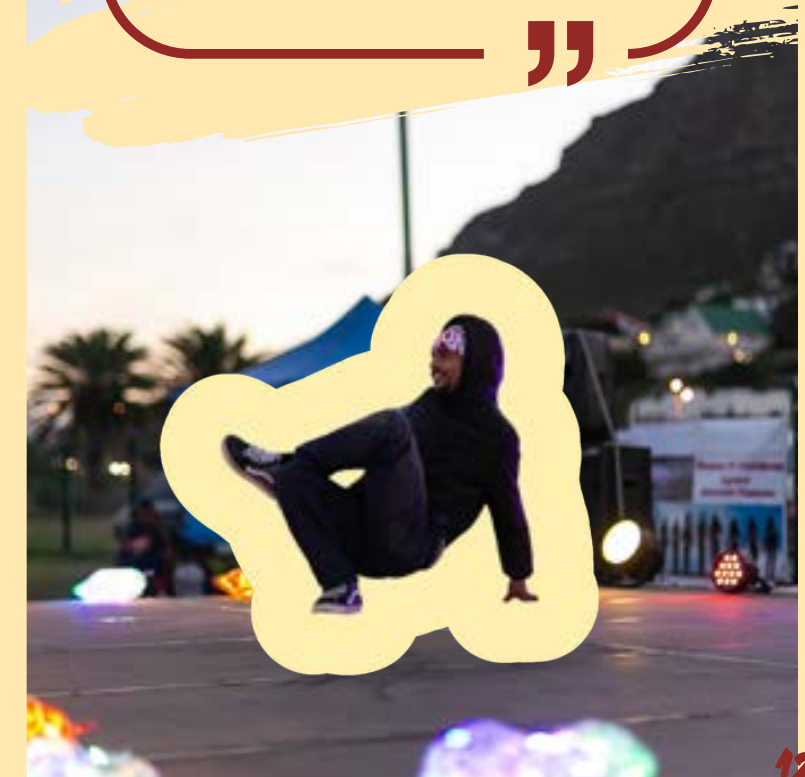
Drama For Life's Knowledge Unzipped is an arts-based sexual health and wellness education and training program that engages Wits University students. Mobile clinics were brought to university campuses, transitioning from static setups to interactive open-air experiences resembling markets. This redesign led to greater student engagement and participation.

Dlalanathi strengthened their partnerships with local government entities, like the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health, leading to collaborative initiatives, such as setting up mobile clinics and integrating SRHR services into schools. This advocacy has brought issues to the national arena and helped support policies that incorporate youth, parent, and nonprofit voices.

“ WE THEN ADAPTED
UNZIPPED TO AN OPEN-
AIR EXPERIENCE LIKE A
MARKET... PEOPLE ASKING
QUESTIONS, COUPLES
TALKING IN A SAFE SPACE
- IT'S BECOME A THING.

DRAMA FOR LIFE

”



5

GENDER EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

ORGANIZATIONS ARE ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUITY HOLISTICALLY AT THE INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY, AND HEALTH SYSTEM LEVELS

Amandla Development's girls' mentoring program used the concept of "pay it forward" to support teen mothers and educate peers on hygiene and life skills. Participants also organized community events to raise awareness about teenage pregnancy and domestic violence.

In KwaZulu-Natal, Uthingo Network recognized the need for LGBTQI+ sensitivity training for nurses in local clinics, especially in rural areas where stigma and violence against the LGBTQI+ community are high. Because there is such high staff turnover in local health facilities, Uthingo started training nurses as they learn their trade through the KZN College of Nursing, effectively helping clinics serve some of the most marginalized groups regardless of staff placement.



GIRLS [HAD] AN AVERAGE OF 17 PREGNANCIES IN THE 48 SCHOOLS PER MONTH, WHICH HAS GONE DOWN TO 4 PREGNANCIES.

AMANDLA DEVELOPMENT

6

HEALTH ACCESS AND INTEGRATION

YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES AND STIGMA-REDUCING PROGRAMS ARE INCREASING THE ABILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES

***BRAVE**, an organization led by young women, collaborated with local health departments to establish youth-friendly clinics offering SRHR services, including contraception and STI testing. To reduce stigma and increase safety in a community with high rates of gang violence, these clinics often operated in neutral spaces accessible via public transport.*

*In the Eastern Cape, **bumb'INGOMSO** helped elect youth representatives to clinic committee councils in 43 of 63 clinics across two districts, ensuring youth have a voice in how the clinics operate. Also, nearly 17,000 young people visited bumb'INGOMSO's Lingomso Youth Centre, where SRHR support, economic opportunities, education support, creative arts, and psychosocial support are provided for young people in Mdantsane.*

“MANY OF THE GIRLS HAVE MENTIONED THEY WANT CONTRACEPTION, BUT THEY ARE TOO SCARED TO GO TO THE CLINICS. WE ARE WORKING ON STRENGTHENING YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH FACILITIES.”

BRAVE



YOUTH LEADERS



CTAOP's Youth Leaders Scholarship (YLS) provides full tertiary scholarships to support young changemakers in South Africa.

In addition to supporting local organizations, CTAOP supports young changemakers through our **Youth Leaders Scholarship** and **Youth Leaders Fellowship** programs. Built with the ethos that young people within communities are effective drivers of change, both programs aim to support their individual and collective potential.

The Youth Leaders Scholarship (YLS) provides young leaders nominated by CTAOP Program Partners with full scholarships for tertiary studies and wrap-around support to help them achieve long-term success. **In 2024, CTAOP supported 20 Scholars. CTAOP also hosted the annual YLS Leadership Summit for all Scholars**, allowing them to reflect, learn, bond, heal, and look towards the future.

2024 was also the inaugural year of the Youth Leaders Fellowship (YLF). YLF supports and cultivates the next generation of community leaders through a one-year placement within one of CTAOP's Program Partners. Young changemakers have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, get on-the-job experience and mentorship, as well as receive career guidance and wellness support.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN THEIR WORDS



“ [A] HIGHLIGHT FOR ME WAS THE LEADERSHIP TOOL BAG EXERCISE. THIS ACTIVITY HELPED ME TAKE STOCK OF MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE I NEED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. IT ALSO MADE ME THINK ABOUT WHAT TOOLS I CAN OFFER TO OTHERS, AND WHO IN MY NETWORK CAN PROVIDE ME WITH THE TOOLS I'M MISSING. THIS EXERCISE WAS INCREDIBLY INSIGHTFUL, AND I APPRECIATE HOW IT ENCOURAGED ME TO REFLECT ON MY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AS A LEADER. ”

“ THE SUMMIT REMINDED ME THAT AS A LEADER, I HAVE THE POWER TO INSPIRE AND UPLIFT OTHERS. THE MESSAGE THAT SOMEONE IS ALWAYS WATCHING, AND THAT I MIGHT BE A BEACON OF HOPE OR A CHEERLEADER FOR SOMEONE ELSE, REALLY RESONATED WITH ME. IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY I TAKE SERIOUSLY, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE SUMMIT'S REMINDER OF THE IMPACT I CAN HAVE ON THOSE AROUND ME. ”

YOUTH LEADERS FELLOWSHIP IN THEIR WORDS

When CTAOP asked the Fellows, “Why are you interested in community work and what change do you hope to be able to make?” here is what they had to say:

“Growing up in a community plagued by the devastating effects of drugs, gang violence, and teenage pregnancy, I've witnessed firsthand the crippling impact on our youth. Driven by a deep-seated passion for community development, I'm committed to harnessing my skills and knowledge to create transformative programs that empower and uplift. The struggles of my community's youth weigh heavily on my heart, and I'm compelled to stand up for those who desperately need support. I firmly believe that investing in our youth is investing in our future. By dedicating myself to community work, I aim to be a beacon of hope, guiding young minds toward a brighter, more promising tomorrow. This is why I am interested in community work.”

“I am altruistic in nature therefore I find joy in giving back to the community as I believe they played a role in shaping who I am and where I am in life. I want to be the mentor that I never had.”



CONVENING



Every year, CTAOP hosts our **Swidler Summit**—a convening of our Program Partners in South Africa—for a week of connection, reflection, learning, and restoration. While we hosted 3 smaller regional Summits in 2023, in August 2024, we brought the whole group of Partners together (and welcomed some new ones) at our second-ever national Summit. Rooted in the belief that to support sustainable systems change effectively, we must also support the well-being of community leaders, the **Swidler Summit is all about “care for the carers.”** According to our Program Partners, this work is incredibly needed yet rarely funded. Alongside an immense sense of shared values, the week was filled with tailored skills building, deep breaths, a-ha moments, belly laughs, and profound wisdom.

SWIDLER SUMMIT REFLECTIONS



In an anonymous survey, 32 of 33 respondents rated the Summit "Excellent"

Q: What did you find most valuable about the Summit?

I found the Summit's focus on wellness exceptionally valuable, particularly because many funders often overlook this critical aspect for organizations operating in hostile and conservative environments.

I found the conversation regarding how to maximise youth involvement in an impactful and authentic way to be really powerful.

I loved the reconnection with people from partner organisations...There was a comfort and ease in being together...I also valued the space that was offered. The programme was not rushed and you adapted and adjusted to the needs of the group.

Q: How do you anticipate your Summit experience contributing to you and/or your work?

...two key contributions are presently identified: (i) the very real and acknowledged wellness I feel, and (ii) the new ideas and strategies to begin turning into proposals to co-develop with CTAOP...On the wellness point, since the Summit, a high level of both mental and actual work capacity has been re-established within myself. This is a definite game-changer!

The Summit so helpful in providing tools for personal well being within a sector where burnout is so prevalent. It is a time of year we all look forward to. It also allows for deeper connection and understanding of our own and others' work.

Attending the summit has recharged my enthusiasm for my work and personal life, providing me with a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

Change our thought process. To be inclusive... youth to be consulted on type of interventions to be done.

Q: In your own words, please share what it is about the Swidler Summit that is unique or uniquely valuable?

It is built on deep value and respect for the organisations present and participants. The detail to which we are prepared, supported, spoilt, cared for trusted in like no other donor I know and I felt seen valued and respected as a valued member of the Summit. It does feel like family.

The Swidler Summit is uniquely valuable in that it is human-centered and holistic in its approach. Everything is designed to ensure that we put our best foot forward in our service as well as take care for ourselves.

Safe space to get loose of all the heavy work we carry, rejuvenate, and learn.

It's not just a space to evaluate work but also for pausing, reflecting and healing.

The Summit emphasized meditation, relaxation, personal reflection, and growth. This is unique, especially since it was funded by a donor.

STORYTELLING & ADVOCACY



Rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu—our interconnectivity as humans—our work builds connections across oceans, sectors, and cultures. In 2024, CTAOP engaged in speaking engagements, wrote articles and blogs, and hosted summits, workshops, and virtual roundtables. In addition, CTAOP supported our Program Partners with dozens of capacity strengthening and funding opportunities and resources to enhance their work and meet the needs of young people.

Our Program Partners' WhatsApp group has also become a space for the collective sharing of resources, news, networking and advocacy opportunities, funding and employment opportunities, fostering belonging, and spreading joy.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR ADVOCACY...



REIMAGINING FUNDER ACCOUNTABILITY

AS PART OF A SEVEN-ARTICLE SUPPLEMENT IN THE STANFORD SOCIAL INNOVATION REVIEW, CTAOP TEAM MEMBERS LORRIE FAIR, ASHLEE GEORGE, & CHARLIZE THERON AUTHORED A PIECE EXPLORING FUNDER ACCOUNTABILITY ROOTED IN MUTUALITY, RELATIONSHIPS, AND POWER ANALYSIS. THIS SUPPLEMENT WAS AMONG SSIR'S 20 MOST POPULAR ARTICLES OF 2024.



ACTIVIST'S INSTAGRAM TAKEOVER

21-YEAR-OLD SOUTH AFRICAN HIV ACTIVIST IBANOMONDE NGEMA TOOK OVER CTAOP FOUNDER CHARLIZE THERON'S GLOBAL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT ON WORLD AIDS DAY (DECEMBER 1) TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV.



HOLLYWOOD REPORTER INTERVIEW

NEO MOHAJANE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT PAST PROGRAM PARTNER HIVSA, AND MICHÉ WILLIAMS, A YLS GRADUATE AND PROGRAM PARTNER BRAVE ROCK GIRL ALUM, JOINED CHARLIZE FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER.

HOW WE SHOW UP



Each year, Program Partners are invited to give anonymous feedback about how CTAOP is showing up as a funder. This is part of CTAOP's approach to accountability and an assessment of the value CTAOP brings to our community. Feedback focuses on how effectively CTAOP supports our Program Partners to succeed in progressing towards our shared goals.

The reflections reveal that CTAOP is more than a funder—we are a trusted, empowering, and values-aligned partner. Across the board, Program Partners describe CTAOP's approach as **relational, flexible, and deeply supportive**, contributing not only to programmatic success but also to organizational growth and personal transformation.

Perhaps most powerfully, Program Partners shared that CTAOP's way of showing up creates the conditions for significant and sustainable impact.



A RELATIONSHIP ROOTED IN TRUST AND RESPECT

Program Partners consistently emphasized CTAOP's trust-based approach to philanthropy. Rather than micromanaging, CTAOP empowers organizations to lead with their own expertise and respond nimbly to emerging needs.

“ BY TRUSTING US TO DIRECT FUNDING WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED, CTAOP HAS BOLSTERED OUR OPERATIONAL STABILITY... AND ENABLED US TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. ”



“ CTAOP BELIEVES IN TRUST PHILANTHROPY... THEY EMPOWER RECIPIENTS TO INNOVATE WITHOUT FEAR OF MICROMANAGEMENT... WE FEEL VALUED, RESPECTED, HEARD, SUPPORTED WHILE BEING STRETCHED TO REFLECT ON OUR WORK MORE CRITICALLY. ”

FLEXIBLE SUPPORT THAT ENABLES REAL IMPACT

Program Partners spoke to the transformational power of flexible and responsive funding that meets real needs—especially in times of crisis or for underserved areas of their work.

MORE THAN JUST A FUNDER: A TRUE THOUGHT PARTNER

Beyond financial support, CTAOP is described as an authentic partner that shows up with humility and insight. CTAOP actively engages in co-creating solutions and walking alongside Program Partners.

“CTAOP REMAINS THE SHOULDER TO LEAN ON...ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP. THE RELATIONSHIP IS RECIPROCAL, HONEST, AND AMAZINGLY HUMANE.”









“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CTAOP IS UNIQUE IN ITS TRANSPARENCY AND THE CONFIDENCE IT INSPIRES AS A THOUGHT PARTNER... OFFERING COLLABORATIVE BRAINSTORMING ON CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS.”

CENTERING HUMAN CONNECTION AND CARE

At the heart of many responses is a feeling of being genuinely cared for—not just as organizations but as people. CTAOP’s approach is described as healing, humane, and deeply relational.

ONWARD...

AS WE JOURNEY INTO 2025, OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS CONTINUE TO HELP US NAVIGATE OUR ROLE.
HERE ARE A FEW LESSONS WE ARE BRINGING INTO THIS YEAR:

-  *Continue fostering trust-based relationships that allow for flexibility and autonomy, which nonprofits deeply value.*
-  *Keep the lines of communication open, with consistent feedback and opportunities for shared learning, as this strengthens the overall partnership.*
-  *Share the approach with other funders to improve the sector as a whole. By demonstrating how trust-based philanthropy works and how it benefits grantee partners, CTAOP could be a model for others.*
-  *Invest in capacity strengthening, leadership development, and community connections, as these are seen as integral to long-term success.*
-  *Strengthen intra-grantee partner collaboration through structured knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.*
-  *Maintain a holistic approach that addresses both financial and developmental needs, supporting organizations beyond just providing funds.*



**We are so grateful for our CTAOP community.
Join us in making an impact in 2025!**

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PHOTOS BY
SHEN SCOTT & BULUMKO GANA



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