



Strategy for GoPhilanthropic's planned wind down

After 12 wonderful years, GoPhilanthropic Foundation (GoPhil) recently made the difficult decision to wind down, following serious conversations about our long-term financial sustainability and the current limitations with dedicated fundraising and operations staff based in the U.S. The decision to start this process at this particular moment puts partners at the center, ensuring that there is sufficient time and resources to consider our partners' sustainability, working with each organization on personalized plans to ensure a smooth transition and giving them as much time as possible to prepare in advance. Our priority is to support our partners throughout this transition, ensuring the least possible impact on their critical work.

Working closely with our partners

We are currently working closely with all 24 active partners to develop individual plans to support them in aspects such as: a) helping them find replacement funding for their programs and operations; b) acting as a sounding board and providing further guidance for strengthening their fundraising efforts and other internal processes where our team can be of support; c) serving as a liaison with other individuals and organizations for securing alliances; d) identifying capacity development, networking and skill building opportunities;

e) planning workshops and gatherings for the regional networks for partners to learn and support each other and ; f) ensuring planning inspired by principles of restorative practices in order to have a healthy closing process in which everyone feels heard, understood, and able to process emotions.



Gratitude for our donor community

We are immensely grateful to our vibrant and active donor community, many of whom have supported us since GoPhil's inception. Their commitment and loyalty to our partners has enabled us to establish partnerships and provide long-term grants for critical budget line items. We understand that our decision to wind down also leads to a loss of this community, so where possible we are having one-to-one conversations with individual and family foundation donors, to discuss in-depth the current transition. We are also exploring the opportunity to host a future in-person gathering as we recognize the power and value of bringing our community together face-to-face, just as we have done many times since our beginning.

We will continue fundraising until the end of March 2024, so donors will have an opportunity to contribute towards a final grant to a partner or partners of their choice with high-priority needs. For those who wish to continue supporting these partners beyond 2024, we are identifying ways in which they can either give directly to that partner organization, or via another fiscal sponsor in the U.S.

Beyond financial support for partners

During our time working with partners, especially in the past few years where we have experimented with the learning networks, and more recently with the learning grants awarded to each organization, we have observed that offering capacity development

and peer-learning support, combined with providing core grants for operational costs and/or programs, is the most effective way for our partners to increase their stability and sustainability. This is why we want to be intentional in also including the *beyond-financial support* in our wind-down, as we wholeheartedly believe that this is an important contribution we have made and will be a crucial part of our partners' success in the upcoming stage.



As well as a last fundraising campaign to support our partners with final grants for operational and/or program costs, we also hope to secure funds to provide each partner with one more unrestricted capacity building grant in 2024, which they can use for any of their organizational development or staff training needs. These learning grants will be a continuation of the ones awarded during 2023, which have yielded excellent results. The partners have used the grants for a wide range of purposes, including Monitoring and Evaluation training, English courses, attending relevant conferences, team-building activities, and strategic planning. The common message we have received from partners is that they rarely (if ever) receive this kind of flexible funding for building the capacity of their teams and organizations yet recognize how critical it is. We have been so excited to hear all the different ways in which they have used their 2023 capacity building grants and know many of the partners already have ideas for how to best utilize their next one.



We are also planning for our partners in the Latin America and India networks to gather one more time before our closure. The Learning Network meetings will be organized as usual, with input from the partners about their most pressing interests and needs, with facilitated workshops and discussions. This is a crucial space for partners to learn and share together, providing support to each other on their challenges and celebrating their successes. During these gatherings, we will discuss ways to remain in touch with each other, explore ideas and mechanisms to keep working together, and possibly start a self-run collective in Latin America as has been suggested by some of the members. The intention has always been for the networks to become autonomous, and we plan to

explore this possibility. Ideally, the networks will find an opportunity to collaborate across regions and share learnings in the future.

In addition to these network meetings, we plan to support the Latin America partners to attend the Global Fund for Community Foundation's Shift the Power Summit in Colombia in December 2023. This will be an empowering and nurturing experience, providing the first opportunity for partners from Guatemala and Mexico to meet in person as well as to access educational and discussion spaces and network. We believe that beyond the impact of attending the Summit, and being surrounded by peers and possible funders, this will be an excellent opportunity for partners to start planning ways to collaborate while being inspired by other innovative actors in the sector.



In-person visits to our partners have always been important to our work and relationships. We plan to visit as many partners as possible over the coming year to learn more about their progress, witness their impact, and support them in the upcoming transition.

Fiscal partnerships

GoPhil has a number of fiscal partners, where the partner organization raises their own funds in the U.S. which are then channeled through GoPhil because of our 501c3 status. GoPhil then provides critical oversight, management, and communications support for these donations, updating donors on how the funds are utilized and on the funding needs of the partner organization. We recognize that our closure will impact these organizations greatly, so we are working with them to explore alternatives for post-2024, whether that be supporting them to register as a 501c3 organization in the U.S. or helping them to find another fiscal partner.



Sharing our learnings

GoPhil has been on an intense learning journey over the past 12 years. We have learned much from both our successes and failures, and have constantly evolved our model, particularly in line with Trust-Based Philanthropy practices. Our core values of listening and learning; our belief that those closest to the problems understand the issues most deeply; and in promoting equity and honoring diversity in all our relationships have remained unchanged from the start. Over the years we have continually reviewed, updated, and refined our processes and practices to ensure these fit with our values and are as supportive, accessible, and responsive as possible for partners. For example, we launched

a partner based Advisory Panel, implemented a Rapid Response Fund whereby we were able to respond to requests for emergency support within 24-48 hours, and we also streamlined our grant application and reporting processes to reduce the time and burden on partners.

Over the next year, we will actively explore ways to share our learnings with other funders and interested organizations - doing our best to document and share what has worked for us as well as what hasn't worked! We are committed to seeing a world with more equitable funding practices, where power is shifted and where grassroots and community-based organizations can access the support they need. We believe that by sharing what we have learned along the way, we can contribute to a better philanthropic ecosystem.

What will success look like as GoPhil makes its transition?

1. Providing full grants to all partners in 2024,
2. Supporting partners with capacity building grants and opportunities and spaces to learn together,
3. Helping our partners to access new funding opportunities,
4. Providing avenues for our donors to continue supporting partners beyond 2024,
5. Documenting and sharing our learning for the benefit of the wider funding community.

Our goal is to allocate and disperse all funds by June 2024 with GoPhil continuing important transparency and accountability practices in overseeing both grants and capacity building support, until the end of December 2024.

As we enter this new phase and transition, we welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have! Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to learn more about this plan, or if you have ideas or feedback for us.

We wish to thank each of you for being a central part of this journey: a journey where partners and donors have had the opportunity to come together and contribute to creating a more just and equitable world. It has been our great honor and privilege to be on this journey with you.

