



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COLLABORATIVE PHILANTHROPY IN ASIA

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Collaboration is an emerging trend in Asian philanthropy. With a growing and diversifying philanthropic environment, cross-sector, multi-stakeholder collaboration at scale is becoming more viable in the region. As a result, a number of innovative philanthropic collaboratives have surfaced in countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong SAR and India in recent years.

Four factors contribute to this development:



An increase of philanthropic capital and diverse approaches to funding



Asia's rich history of community giving



A predominance of next-generation wealth holders and philanthropists who see collaboration as a means to enhance the efficiency of their philanthropic activities



The awareness that the challenges of the 21st century are complex issues and that collaboration can facilitate integrated solutions

The trend towards collaborative philanthropy is linked to the demonstrated value of collective impact.²

A collaborative approach necessitates that philanthropists and philanthropic organisations rally around a shared aim, which results in their not only pooling resources but also thinking about how to formulate integrated solutions to problems at scale.

This enables philanthropic collaboratives to, through the sum of their parts, develop solutions that can address complex systems and are therefore more effective. This is especially the case where there is strong alignment with policymakers that ensures successful solutions can be taken forward at scale by the public sector e.g. through policy change or state-level and national implementation.

Depending on their aims, resources, and expertise, philanthropic collaboratives operate along a spectrum of degrees of resource integration and forms of governance. In addition to philanthropist and philanthropic organisations, their members

2. FSG, "Developing the Collective Impact Framework"

may include policymakers, corporations, social purpose organisations (SPOs), and civil society.

For philanthropists and philanthropic organisations themselves, the additional advantages of collaborative philanthropy

include peer learning opportunities, shared resources and increased risk-taking ability. Grantees may benefit by gaining access to streamlined and long-term funding, increased opportunities for targeted and long-term capacity building, and greater credibility.

Key insights that have emerged from the research include:

- 1 | The potential for collaborative philanthropy to facilitate integrated solutions for collective impact and systems change are immense. Philanthropic collaboratives are in a unique position to pool resources at scale, ensure credibility and visibility at a systems level and enable smooth multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- 2 | Defining a shared aim is key for the success of any philanthropic collaboration. Building trust takes time yet is essential to enable the alignment of values and empowered leadership. Clear and regular communication facilitates effective collaboration and ensures that the collaborative adapts to changes in the ecosystem and remains rooted in its local network.
- 3 | Collaborative philanthropy can be pursued through a range of approaches. These generally lie along a spectrum of degrees of resource integration and forms of governance. Many collaboratives go through evolutionary life cycles that will move them across this spectrum.
- 4 | The increasing private sector application and social sector adaptation of technology and data science can help to enable effective collaboration across sectors and stakeholders. Technology can enable and support collaborative operations, while data can drive collaborative strategy formation.
- 5 | There are potential pitfalls to philanthropic collaboration. Beyond the operational hurdles of forming and running the collaborative, there may be heightened groupthink among donors and reduced individual funding opportunities for potential grantees.



As the only comprehensive funders' network in Asia, AVPN is a leading ecosystem builder for the social investment sector with 600+ members globally. AVPN's mission is to catalyse the movement toward a more strategic, collaborative and outcome focused approach to social investing, ensuring that resources are deployed as effectively as possible to address key social challenges facing Asia today and in the future.

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