

# The Power of Collective Action:

## Together, We are Greater

### Nurturing Mutual Growth: Strengthening Local Civil Society

Zizi Afrique knows that no single actor can transform the education landscape alone. In 2024, we reaffirmed our role as a convener and enabler; investing in Africa-led, community-rooted organisations to drive change in their contexts.

Through the Mutual Growth with Partners (MGIP) initiative, we supported 16 organisations across 14 counties in Kenya. A growth needs assessment surfaced their priorities:

- Fundraising
- Financial management
- Theory of change refinement
- Storytelling

Over nine months, Zizi Afrique staff and consultants worked side by side with these partners. The results:

- Two partners established new financial management systems
- Nine submitted proposals to funders
- Five secured a combined KES 31.5 million (~USD 245,000) through grants and crowdfunding
- Many others reported institutional growth; such as new boards, policies, and crowdfunding platforms

“

Before this training, fundraising felt like a major hurdle...  
Thanks to MGIP, we secured funding and advanced to  
the second stage of another proposal.  
Zizi didn't give us fish—they taught us how to fish.

— Executive Director,  
GEEP Kenya

”

### Becoming a Regranting Organisation to Scale the Mission

Recognising the barriers that small, Africa-led organisations face in accessing resources, Zizi Afrique embraced a new posture: not just implementing, but regranting.

In 2024, we shared funding with 11 partner organisations, channeling 35% of our annual budget through them. This approach is not about pass-through funding; it's about amplifying our shared mission for foundational learning by supporting partners to:

Access resources directly, and Collaborate under a collective impact agenda

# Positioning East Africa as a Hub for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Knowledge and Practice

As co-leaders of the ALiVE initiative, we continued to elevate East Africa as a knowledge powerhouse in social and emotional learning (SEL). In 2024:

- The ALiVE Book, published by Springer, reached 33,000 downloads and was cited 13 times, including by Brookings.
- We contributed chapters to the Handbook of Social and Emotional Learning and the Sage Handbook of Sociology of Education.
- ALiVE tools were added to the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Measurement Library, meaning that Zizi Afrique's work is now recognised as a resource for global actors working in fragile and emergency contexts.

We also:

- Spoke at global events including World Youth Skills Day and the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA).
- Supported South Africa's national curriculum institute through technical exchanges.
- Inspired new interest from Burundi and South Sudan, who expressed intent to join the ALiVE movement.
- Zizi Afrique co-convened The Inaugural East African Community Regional Education Conference 2024 themed, '*Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Collective Action for Quality, Inclusive, and Life-long Learning in East Africa*', focused on improving education in the region with a major focus on SEL.

“

This is not just another talking shop - it's a conference that will change the landscape of learning in East Africa.

— Mr. Jackson Agufana Hassan,

CEO, Kenya Union of the Blind

(on the EAC Regional Education Conference)

”

