a•gen•cy

(ey-juhn-see) < Medieval Latin agentia, equivalent to Latin ag- (root of agere to do, act, manage) + -entia –ency.

Noun: 1. The capacity for human beings to make choices. African agency, therefore, involves the capacity for Africans to make their own choices about their future. It involves an aversion to dependency and embraces the notion of being responsible for one's own course of action.

At TrustAfrica, we work to support and promote African agency.

CreATIng soluTIons TogeTher

TrustAfrica is a public foundation that strives to secure the conditions for governance, equitable development and African philanthropy throughout the continent. Led by Africans, we convene dialogues, award grants, build knowledge, and provide technical assistance to advance these goals.

First known as the Special Initiative for Africa, TrustAfrica began at the Ford Foundation and became an independent entity in 2006. It is led by seasoned professionals from more than a dozen countries across Africa and the diaspora. We operate from a conviction that Africans must set the agenda for development and take the lead in implementing it.

Since our inception we have convened hundreds of grassroots leaders, scholars, policy makers, and activists to set priorities and craft strategies. We have granted more than US $13.5 million since we began, to advance work that builds on these discussions.

Our Core Programs Center On

POLITICAl Governance: Strengthening civil society organizations. We believe that an active citizenry is an essential part of a prosperous, sustainable, and democratic society. We focus on these critical issues:

• Political Governance: Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to encourage citizen participation and provide an alternative to government systems

EconomIc Governance: Fighting against corruption and economic mismanagement and strengthening domestic resources

AfRICAn philAnThropy: TrustAfrica seeks to promote the capacity of African peoples to make choices, to advance Africa's culture of giving and extend its reach to a more independent civil society, to support agency and strengthen locally-driven development.

GOVERNANCE

African Philanthropy

TrustAfrica works to secure the conditions for democratic governance by strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations. We believe that an active citizenry is an essential part of a prosperous, sustainable, and democratic society. We focus on these critical issues:

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Creating solutions together

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In existence 2006

Disbursed 2013

13.5 million US $
Within these programs, we conduct major projects and initiatives focused on:

- **Economic Development**
  - **Basic Education**: We are working to identify innovative programs to support basic education for children in Africa.
  - **Higher Education**: We are helping to revitalize the African University System by convening dialogues to shape crucial policy reforms.
  - **Agricultural Development**: We seek to build a more robust advocacy movement for sustainable and equitable agricultural development in Africa.
  - **Investment Climate & Business Environment**: We award competitive grants for research and advocacy to promote enterprise and improve livelihoods among Africa’s poor.

- **Justice & Governance**
  - **International Criminal Justice in Africa**: We are working with organizations at the national and regional level to strengthen international criminal justice systems in Africa and help civil society advocate against impunity.
  - **Civil Society in Liberia**: TrustAfrica is working to foster stability and democratic participation as the nation rebounds from civil war.
  - **Zimbabwe Alliance**: With other funders, we provide grants to strengthen the capacity of civil society and promote democratic transformation in Zimbabwe.

- **Philanthropy**
  - **African Grantmakers Network**: We are collaborating with other grant-making institutions to create a platform for African philanthropic institutions and highlight local voices within the global philanthropy landscape.

- **Theory of Change**
  - **Our Theory of Change**: Our theory of change holds that greater citizen engagement in political and economic governance enables societies to become more stable, more prosperous and more equitable. In working to strengthen the mechanisms for participation, we operate from a firm belief in democratic principles, a deep commitment to social justice, and a clear understanding of the need for economic vitality.

- **Core Values**
  - **TrustAfrica, We Believe In**: Building trust in African initiatives, facilitating collaboration among African institutions and building long-term relationships with partners in developing innovative and timely solutions to challenges of democracy and development, maintaining the highest standards of institutional performance, and forging closer ties with the African diaspora to strengthen global alliances for Africa.

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**Core Values**

- Building trust in African initiatives
- Facilitating collaboration among African institutions and building long-term relationships with partners in developing innovative and timely solutions to challenges of democracy and development
- Maintaining the highest standards of institutional performance, including sound management, accountable and transparent governance, effective communication and sustainable results
- Forging closer ties with the African diaspora to strengthen global alliances for Africa.