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Vision and Mission Statements

Vision: A prosperous, equitable, and democratic Ogoniland

Mission: to support organizations promoting peace, justice and sustainable development in Ogoniland.
KIISI TRUST FUND
GRANT SEEKER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The mission of the Trust is to support organizations promoting peace, justice and sustainable development in Ogoniland. We do this in a number of ways, but primarily we work through our participatory community-based grantmaking model that allows us to work with partners, stakeholders, prospective grantees, and networks to identify and fund organizations and projects that align with the mission and aims of the Trust.

We appreciate the fact that grant proposal writing is an art and can be challenging, especially to organizations who may never have applied for a grant from a donor before. This grant seeker guide has been carefully prepared to help prospective grantees of the Trust better prepare their application materials and understand what the Trust looks for in grant applications.

Kiisi Trust-Grantee partners relationship

Our relationship with grantee-partners can be characterized by the following principles:

- Mutual respect, candor, and understanding: We are conscious of the power dynamics between ourselves as a funder in the development space and of grantee partners, and therefore our focus will primarily be on building relationships with grantee-partners and not strictly on funding.

- Capacity building: We support grantees with more than project funding. We offer technical assistance, advice, and support to help them strengthen their organizations, and offer opportunities for learning and collaboration across sectors and thematic areas.

Our commitment to fairness and transparency

- Clear procedures for submitting grant applications to the Trust
- Courteous responses to all inquiries from prospective grantees
- Fair and expeditious consideration of grant requests
- Clear policies and procedures for submitting grant reports

Guiding questions for prospective grantee-partners

- Is my grant application concept addressing a critical need in the community, and does it fall within the overall mission and thematic focus areas of the Trust?
- Are there other organizations or groups my organization could partner with in executing my proposed project, leveraging on our strengths?
  - Partnerships are strongly encouraged by the Trust.
- Have I taken the time to ensure that my grant application has been well thought-out, structured and carefully written (no grammatical and spelling errors)?

ELIGIBILITY AND PROCESS

1. How can organizations apply for grants from the Trust?

Prospective grantees can request grant application materials and templates from the Trust by sending such requests to the general inbox of the Trust: kiisitrust@trustafrica.org.

2. How long does the application process take and how soon can I expect a response from the Trust Fund?

The grant application window for prospective grantees to apply to the Trust is open 2 times during the year: Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 respectively. Typically, you can expect to hear back from a member of the Trust staff after one month of submission of your grant application. The initial response from the Trust may seek further information from prospective grantees and/or ask for clarification on specific aspects of their proposal. The entire process can take three (3) to four (4) months. The full process of grant application is illustrated below:
3. How large are the grants and what thematic areas does the Trust fund in?

The Trust gives out small grants – $10,000 and below – in the following thematic areas:

- **Peacebuilding**: Stable and secure environments are essential for social development to flourish. Violent conflicts and their aftermath inhibit and prevent development on a number of levels: disrupting education and health services, creating food insecurity, and damaging local economies. Working on both the supply and demand sides of human security means the freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. Our support to organizations working on peacebuilding is centered around mainstreaming conflict sensitivity by ensuring conflict sensitive approaches runs through our programming and funded projects.

- **Health**: People everywhere should be empowered to exercise their right to health, especially in Ogoniland. This includes access to timely, affordable and high-quality care which is essential for people to realise their economic, social and cultural potential. We work to strengthen citizen voice, community demand and accountability in the health sector so that citizens feel empowered to shape their own development and health outcomes. In addition, we strive for improved patient and population health outcomes, particularly among the most marginalized groups, through support to leadership efforts by government and service providers that tackle barriers to services and advance improvements in accountability.

- **Women’s programs (Women Economic Empowerment)**: In Ogoniland, women and girls economic options are limited by structural inequalities in men’s and women’s access to and control of resources, as well as gender-biased rules, laws and social norms. Social norms perpetuate expectations that women and girls will carry the bulk of unpaid household and caring work – work which is undervalued both socially and in standard economic analyses. To overcome these systemic challenges, our work in economic empowerment thus involves not only supporting individual women and girls’ by strengthening their knowledge, skills, resources and agency, but also enabling them to act collectively to influence wider structures and institutions in order to expand their opportunities and defend their economic rights.

- **Education and Adult Literacy**: Even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, 13.2 million of Nigeria’s children aged 5-14 years are not in school. Only 61 percent of 6-11 year olds regularly attend primary school and only 35.6 percent of children aged 3-5 receive early children education. Our work in education support aims to support government and education institutions and organizations through improved planning and access to quality education by addressing some
of the systemic barriers that hinder the implementation of and effective education strategy. Our funding advocates for education to be prioritized by supporting institutions and organizations with the expected outcome that all children access and complete quality education, within a safe and conducive learning environment, gaining the skills and knowledge for lifelong learning in Ogoniland.

Community Development (Governance, Voice & Accountability): We support citizens and communities, particularly people from vulnerable or excluded groups, to become empowered to make choices about their own development – and to act on these choices. We engage with communities, government, business and other critical stakeholders to foster a culture of active citizenship. We aim to expand the access of poor and marginalized people to the knowledge, resources, assets and capabilities to make their voices heard in decision-making and policy change; to negotiate with political and economic elites; to realise their rights and exercise their responsibilities; and to secure responsiveness and accountability from public and private sector duty-bearers around public services and rights protection.

Agriculture/environmental rights: Environmental rights means access to unspoiled natural resources that enable survival, including land, shelter, food, water and air. Despite its recognized role as an engine for economic growth, African agriculture remains hobbled by inadequate public spending and policies. Grants given support advocacy by smallholder farmers organizations and civil society organizations to deepen economic sustainability, knowledge exchange of best practices, agro-entrepreneurial skills for women, and protection and advocacy for environmental rights.

Youth Skills Development and Small Enterprise Support: The youth are important to economic growth and development because they have the potential to be innovative, willing to take risks, and the ability to learn and adapt in a changing world. In Nigeria, the role of youths in economic productivity and sustainable development cannot be overemphasized. Nigeria, with its increasing population, more than half of which are young people under the age of 24 and a fifth of which are youths (15-24), have a potential to benefit from demographic dividends. Our support in this area is aimed at primarily equipping youths with appropriate skills necessary for creating employment opportunities and places emphasis on self-reliance, entrepreneurship and mindset shift.

5. What are the required documents needed for submission of a full grant application?

- Grant narrative form
- TrustAfrica Foundation (TAF) Fluxx Outcomes and Activities Table form
- Grant Budget sheet
- CAC registration
- Letter of recommendation (for first-time applicants)
- CVs of relevant staff
- Letter of Partnership with prospective partner (preferred)
- Organizational Profile form
- Banking information form
- Bank statements (preferably audited)

Prospective grantees are only required to submit a short concept note at the beginning of each grant cycle. Once a concept note has been cleared by the Trust team, the prospective grantee would be required to submit a full grant application. The Trust is happy to share current application materials and templates to prospective grantees whenever they request them.

6. What are the different stages of the grant application process?

Stage 1: Invitation from the Trust. The first stage is an official invitation sent by the Trust via email to prospective grantees that includes a concept note and TAF Outcomes and Activities forms. This email invitation typically would include deadlines for submitting concept notes, as well as any new additional information from the Trust on grants.

Stage 2: Full grant application. Once a concept note has been approved by the Trust team, a formal request to the prospective grantee would be made asking them to submit a full grant application. Additional documents and supporting materials from the prospective grantee would be requested.

Stage 3: Review by the Trust’s Advisory Council. Only approved full grant applications and supporting documents from prospective grantees are submitted to the Advisory Council for their review, debate, and vote on grant applications.

Stage 4: Ratification by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may either simply ratify the grant decisions made by the Advisory Council, give additional feedback on grant applications, or deny funding to any particular prospective grantee detailing reasons why.

Stage 5: Grant Contract. At this stage, only approved grant applications are given permission to register on TrustAfrica’s online grant management platform, Fluxx. From here, a formal grant contract would be shared with the prospective grantee, detailing any

4. Can my organization submit more than one proposal?

The Trust can only accept one proposal per organization during each grant cycle. In addition, current grantee-partners of the Trust can re-apply for another grant only when their current funded project has been formally closed out by TrustAfrica.
7. What if my organization has been working in Ogoniland but currently does not have a bank account or CAC registration

Due to TrustAfrica’s due diligence process check on prospective grantees, and our need to ensure transparency and accountability on all funds, we require that all prospective grantees be at least formally registered either with the State or National body responsible for licensing of non-profit organizations. In the absence of a CAC registration license, the Trust will accept a State registration license.

A bank account in the name of the prospective grantee organization is required. The Trust is unable to pay project funds into personal bank accounts. However, if a prospective grantee does not have a formal bank account, we encourage them to get a fiscal sponsor/agent who can accept project funds on their behalf. That fiscal agent/sponsor must either have a CAC or State registration license and a formal bank account in their organization’s name.

8. Can I apply on behalf of another organization?

Due to TrustAfrica’s commitment to fairness and transparency, as well as accountability, it is important that no individual or organization submit grant application materials on behalf of a prospective grantee. Should prospective grantees require assistance in filling out the grant application materials, they are encouraged to contact the Trust staff at kiisitrust@trustafrica.org. In addition, all grant application materials should be completed using either Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel, using the Trust’s grant application templates.