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Sustainable Freight Transport Systems: Opportunities for Developing Countries

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by

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OUR MISSION

Oak commits its resources to address issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

We are a family-led, staff managed foundation.
Our history

OUR ORIGINS
The resources of Oak Foundation originated from an interest in the Duty Free Shoppers business which Alan Parker helped to build.

FOUNDATION
Oak Foundation was formally established in 1983.

FIRST GRANTS
Early grants were made in Denmark to organisations supporting single mothers and torture victims (1983) and in Zimbabwe to groups supporting vulnerable children and families, primarily at a community level (1984).

PROGRAMMES
Grants continued to be made annually in several countries until a new phase for Oak Foundation began in the early 1990s, when annual grant-making began to increase and staff were hired to run substantive programmes.

TODAY
Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made over 3,300 grants to not-for-profit organisations across the globe.
Where we are

Oak has its main administrative office in Geneva, Switzerland and a presence in eight other countries: Belize, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, the UK, the US and Zimbabwe.

We employ approximately 69 staff.
Our grant-making in 2014

We made 328 programme grants to 311 organisations in 45 countries;

Our grant-making totalled USD 170.78 million.

The average grant size was USD 490,000.

The size of grants varied between USD 5,000 and USD 5.6 million.

In addition, a Special Initiative grant was made to ClimateWorks Foundation for a total of USD 75 million.
Our programmes

We have seven programme areas.

**Child Abuse:** We envision a world in which all children are protected from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

**Environment:** We aim to achieve a low-carbon global economy and the recovery of marine fisheries and habitats.

**Housing and Homelessness:** We focus on preventing homelessness by funding sustainable solutions that improve the economic and social wellbeing of the most marginalised youth, adults and families.

**International Human Rights:** We aim to protect the fundamental rights of all human beings, to hold violators to account and to empower those who defend them.

**Issues Affecting Women:** We envision a world where women have the rights, capacity and opportunity to experience safety from violence and to enjoy their full and equal human rights.

**Learning Differences:** We envision a world where students with learning differences are agents of their own learning success and are supported by educators and environments that expect, embrace and respond to diverse learner profiles.

**Special Interest Grants:** Recognising the need to remain flexible and seize opportunities, we provide funding to a range of programmes in health, humanitarian relief, education and the arts.
We have one joint programme:

**Joint India Programme**: We aim to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

We have two sister foundations:

**Oak Foundation Denmark**: We are a national grant-making organisation that aims to improve the daily lives of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups in Denmark and Greenland.

**Oak Zimbabwe Foundation**: We are a national grant-making organisation that aims to help maintain and develop Zimbabwean non-governmental social, health and education organisations.
We support organisations that:

- target root causes of problems;
- are replicable either within a sector or across geographical locations;
- include plans for long-term sustainability;
- have secured co-funding;
- strive to collaborate with like-minded organisations;
- demonstrate good financial and organisational management; and
- value the participation of people (including children) and communities.
Trends in our grant-making:

- Plan to keep staff at reasonable levels
- Longer, bigger grants
- Increasing number of core support grants
- Use of re-granters
- Increasing demand for capacity building
- Significant policy work
- Increasing interest in campaigns and new types of social movements
- Increasing interest in cross-foundation work
Our challenges

Measuring our impact

Maintaining contact with/supporting smaller organisations

Choosing in which geographies to make grants

Balancing service delivery, policy and campaigns

Partnership & Collaboration