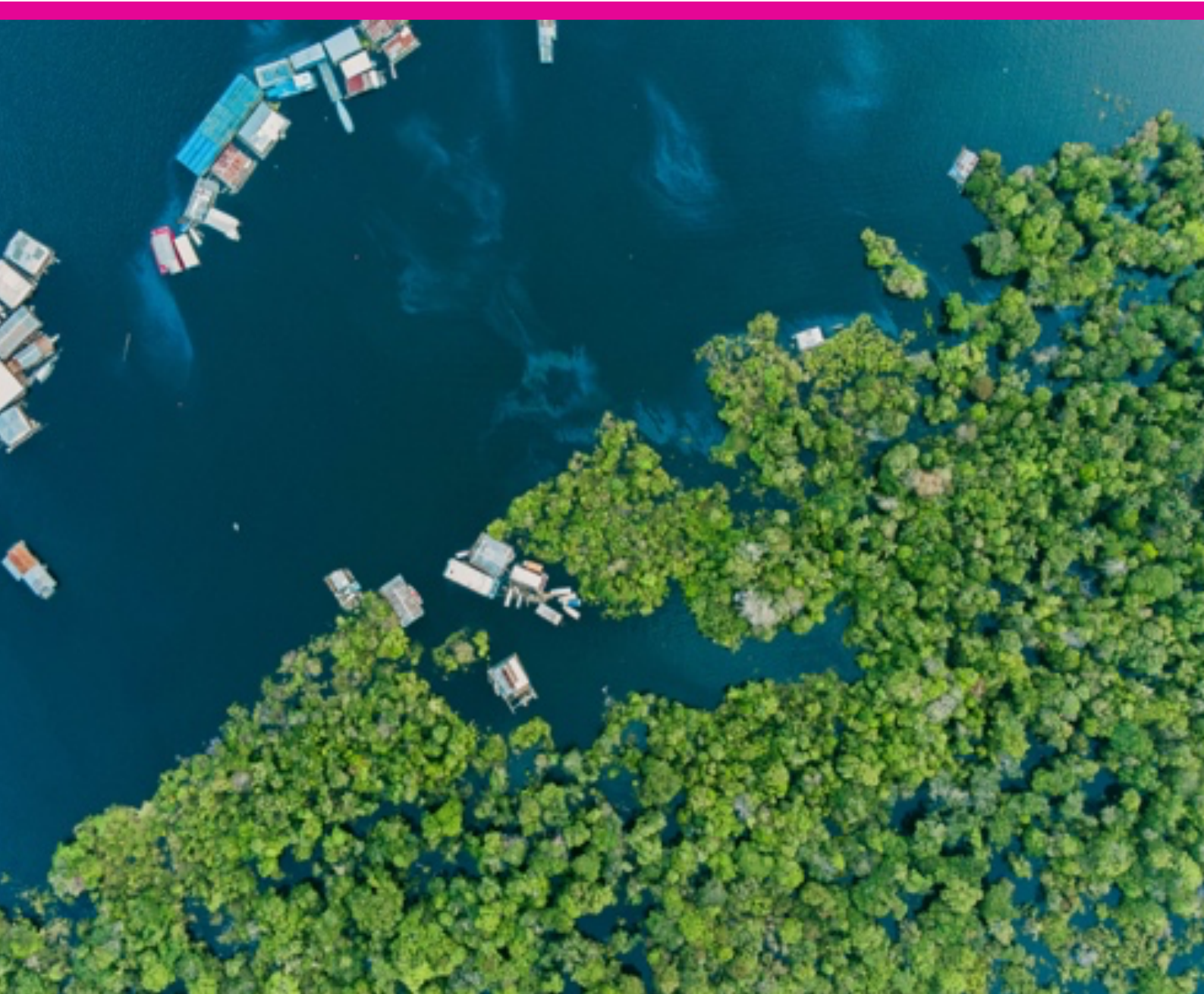




Brazil Programme

Grant-making strategy

**Contributing to a
secure, inclusive,
and equitable society**



Our vision

The Brazil Programme focuses on people – people who see their equal worth, rights, and dignity challenged or denied, and people who see these injustices and work together to address them. Through our support to civil society, we hope to enable people and communities to have access to what they need to live prosperous lives in a secure, inclusive, and equitable society.

What we fund

To pursue our vision and support our partners' work, we have divided our funding into three priority focus areas: **socio-environmental rights and land justice**; **disinformation and polarisation**; and **drug policy**. We have chosen to work in these areas because civil society and communities are well positioned to inspire positive, transformative change. Through our grant-making, we support our partners' efforts to build a thriving society where solutions are co-created with communities, changemakers, and policymakers.

Socio-environmental rights and land justice

The 1988 Brazil Constitution recognises the rights of Indigenous and traditional peoples to the lands on which they live, and the natural resources present on those lands. In addition, the Constitution establishes that private land must serve a social function, contributing to the collective or common good and preserving the environment. However, the incomplete implementation of these constitutional rights has left many communities exposed to violence and to significant disparities in access to land and housing in Brazil.

To this end, we support efforts to:

- uphold the land rights recognized by Brazilian law and reduce violence resulting from tenure insecurity;
- in rural and forest areas, protect human rights defenders and traditional communities, and encourage alternative development actions that favour and promote the ability of communities to thrive; and
- in urban environments, protect under-resourced communities against forced evictions.
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Disinformation and polarisation

Healthy democracies function best when everyone has equal opportunities to thrive and participate in the public sphere. However, the increase in disinformation and polarisation in Brazil in recent years has: undermined the ability of democratic institutions to function effectively and address key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence; increased violence and hostility in the public arena, reducing the possibilities of civic engagement and public participation; and compromised the quality of public debate.

To this end, we support efforts to:

- foster independent media to create networks of quality information, reduce news deserts, and uplift marginalised voices;
- improve the strategic communications capacities of civil society and develop narratives that help build new constituencies around democratic values; and
- understand how disinformation works through research and data, creating an evidence base for strategies to address disinformation.

Drug policy

Brazil's current drug policy prioritises criminalisation. It also neglects alternative evidence-based solutions that prioritise the health and wellbeing of people. This approach has led to high rates of incarceration, particularly of Black Brazilians, as well as violence and stigma.

To this end, we support efforts to:

- research the impact of Brazil's drug policy and create evidence for more effective, just, and fair approaches;
- advocate for policy reform centring the needs of the communities most affected by the current drug policy;
- build broad, diverse movements and civic alliances working for a new drug policy; and
- strengthen alternative policies with a positive evidence base, which are guided by harm reduction and prevention.

Where we fund

We support organisations where our partners' work has the potential to create broad impact. Our land justice and socio-economic rights portfolio focuses exclusively on the northeastern region and in the area known as Matopiba. Our other focus areas emphasise creating positive impact in the northeast of the country, as well as in other parts of Brazil.

How we work with our grantee partners

Application process

Our grants are usually multi-year and long term (three years or more). When we formally invite an organisation to apply for a grant, we discuss the size of the grant and whether it will be project support or core support (i.e., flexible and unrestricted funding). We typically provide core support grants. We work with organisations to develop the application in partnership, ensuring we communicate consistently about when and who will make the decision on a grant, how the application process works, and how long it will take. We also discuss the possibilities of renewal well in advance of the end of a grant. We consider all renewals as distinct and separate grants.

[Download this document to learn about the grant-making timeline and process.](#)

Communications

We believe that the best relationships are built on trust, and we foster that in our relationships over time. We maintain a relationship with our grantee partners throughout the lifetime of the grant to share learning and impact with other grantee partners and the foundation. We value honest, open, and frank exchange and invite feedback on how we can be better grant-makers. We will ask for formal reports on an annual basis. At the start of the grant, we discuss the regularity of our communications and communications preferences. For example, we can offer an online meeting every six months. We strive to visit our grantee partners in person when possible. In addition, we commit to sharing our strategies and approaches, as well as where a grant fits within broader efforts at the start of the grant.

Events and partner convenings

When practical, we attend events organised by grantee partners to listen and learn from their experience. We also explore opportunities to convene and consult our grantee partners to better inform our grant-making and foster joint learning and connections.

Our budget and requests for support

Our annual budget is currently USD 3.3 million. As a small team, we can only make up to 15 grants per year. This means that we have to turn down many requests that come our way, despite alignment with our strategy. Organisations that fit our current strategy can submit an enquiry through our website: <https://oakfnd.org/submit-enquiry/>. We know it can be challenging for organisations with limited resources to connect with funders, and we value and consider all submissions, but an enquiry does not guarantee a formal invitation to apply for funding.

Additional information

History

We began our grant-making in Brazil in 2015 through the Joint Brazil Programme (JBP), which covered a range of issues related to human and socio-environmental rights in the metropolitan region of Recife, Pernambuco. In 2020, we redefined our strategic and geographic priorities to support a broader range of initiatives across the northeast of Brazil. Our current grant-making focuses on the fields of socio-environmental rights and land justice; disinformation and polarisation; and drug policy.

Our team

We are a small, but passionate team, inspired by the courage and creativity of our grantee partners. Our programme officer and fellow are Brazilians based in the country.

Contact us

If you would like to speak to us, please email us on info@oakfnd.ch.

Connect with us on social media

Through our social media channels, we amplify the voices of our grantee partners and support the work of our programmes. We want to inspire hope and possibility.



Our grantee partners

For information on our current grantee partners, [visit our grant database on our website](#) or read our annual reports. Visit our website page to learn more about our partners' work. We publish stories on a regular basis that help explain our grant-making approaches.