

Angela Okune, PhD

Grantmaker, researcher, and delivery partner to funders and the organizations they fund, with fifteen years of experience across Africa and the Global Majority.

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Summary

- Fifteen years of experience designing and managing funds, research networks, and grant programs for foundations and knowledge organizations across East Africa and globally, in organizations of **4 to 50 employees** and up to **\$17M** in net assets.
- Managed the full grant cycle, from open call and due diligence through fiscal hosting, financial reporting, and evaluation, awarding **\$1M to 47 grantees in 35 countries** and **\$960K to 12 research teams in 26 countries**.
- Extensive experience on the grantee and implementing side of funding relationships, with first-hand knowledge of how funder requirements, reporting, and timelines shape delivery.
- Raised **\$5.6M** across four organizations, including the **\$2.3M** Wellcome grant that established a global climate and health network, and doubled a research department's funding year over year.
- Led the Wellcome-commissioned landscaping study that resulted in the founding of a global network of **100 core members** with participants in **50 countries**, and negotiated a **five-year MOU with DHIS2/HISP** providing open-source tools with a pathway into national health information systems.
- Designed transparent allocation processes incorporating independent regional reviewers, finance review, rotating advisory committees with term limits, and demand-versus-budget analysis at every panel.
- Established funds and programs built for continuity, with documented processes, defined decision rights, and governance designed for handover.

Professional experience

CSIDNet

Head of Strategy

Interim Managing Director

REMOTE, GLOBAL
Jan 2026 to present
Jan 2025 to Dec 2025

The Climate Sensitive Infectious Disease Network, the Wellcome-funded global community of practice for researchers, modelers, software developers, and practitioners building climate-sensitive infectious disease tools. Fiscally sponsored by Code for Science & Society since 2024.

- Founding lead. Secured the **\$2.3M** Wellcome grant that established the network; led hiring, governance design, partnership development, and member recruitment.
- Negotiated a **five-year partnership MOU with DHIS2/HISP**, providing open-source tools with a pathway into the health information systems used by national programs.
- Designed a decentralized selection system for five regional convenings, with **20+ regional reviewers** and review by the Finance and Events committees, assessing **467 applications** in English, French, and Spanish. Presented demand against available budget to each panel, enabling transparent prioritization on schedule.
- Grew the network to **100 core members**, a listserv of **800**, and participants in **50 countries**. Designed and administered a **\$50K** inclusive participation fund, organized five regional convenings in 2026, and established the grant management, financial tracking, and monitoring systems that support network operations.

Code for Science & Society

Director of Programs

REMOTE, US
Nov 2022 to Dec 2025

US 501(c)(3) that funds and fiscally sponsors open-source software, open data science, and AI and ML justice projects. Grew from 8 employees and \$4.5M in net assets in 2021 to 15 employees and over \$17M by 2024, fully remote across six time zones.

- Established the programs department **from inception** during a period of organizational scale-up, including recruitment, development of the funding case, and the operating systems.
- One of **five directors** reporting to the Executive Director. Oversaw the award of **\$1M to 47 grantees in 35 countries** across participatory grantmaking, capacity building, and research programs.
- Led a Wellcome-commissioned **six-month landscaping** of communities of practice for climate-sensitive infectious disease tools, including a **45-person convening**. Lead author of the resulting paper (Wellcome Open Research, 2024), whose recommendation led to the establishment of CSIDNet.

- Managed **three project managers** delivering concurrent programs, achieving **100% retention** over two years; mentored two direct reports to promotion.

Senior Program Manager

Sep 2021 to Oct 2022

- Sole manager of the Event Fund, a community-advised fund for data science communities. Awarded **\$525K to 24 teams from 27 countries**, managing the full grantee cycle from open call and due diligence through fiscal hosting, reporting, and mentorship.
- Raised **\$200K** to expand the fund; increased applications by **200%** through a new outreach strategy.
- Rotated Advisory Committee membership, introduced term limits, and documented processes to remove single points of failure. Designed the evaluation and authored the public synthesis report.

OCSDNet

REMOTE, GLOBAL

Co-Principal Investigator and Network Manager

Dec 2014 to May 2018

The Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network, run by iHub and the University of Toronto. 12 project teams in 26 countries across Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

- Secured **\$1.5M** through proposal development and donor engagement, as Co-PI of a fully remote team of five.
- Established the operational and financial processes to deploy **\$960K to 12 teams** in the Global Majority, from open call and due diligence through narrative and financial reporting.
- Designed the evaluation framework underpinning **five co-authored publications**; organized five annual multi-day convenings in Nairobi, Singapore, Bangkok, Limassol, and Toronto.

iHub

NAIROBI, KENYA

Research Director

Oct 2013 to Apr 2015

Research Manager

Oct 2011 to Sep 2013

East Africa's first technology hub, which grew from 2 employees and a \$100K budget in 2010 to 50 employees and a \$1M budget by 2015. One of four founding members of its research arm.

- One of **four directors** reporting to the Executive Director, responsible for the **20-person** research department and for organizational strategy. Managed five direct reports with **100% retention**.
- Doubled annual funding year over year, securing **\$1.6M** in grants and core funding; developed **23 partnerships** generating a further **\$1.8M** in joint funding.
- Grew the project portfolio from zero to **35 projects in two years** for clients including the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID, The World Bank, and Google.

Baraza Media Lab

NAIROBI, KENYA

Research Advisor (part-time)

2024 to present

Authored the research strategy and business plan that established Baraza Research; audited operating systems ahead of the lab's expansion from 16 to 25 staff working on a hybrid basis.

Education, fellowships, and writing

PhD and MA, Anthropology. University of California, Irvine

2021, 2018

BS, Foreign Service, cum laude with honors. Georgetown University

2010

Research fellowships, over \$200K. Fulbright (Kenya), National Science Foundation, Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the UC Berkeley Center for Technology, Society and Policy.

Publications, 25. Peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and an edited volume on open science and research infrastructure, building on doctoral research on research data cultures in Nairobi. angelaokune.me/my-outputs

AI practice. Design and operate AI agents for grant review and pipeline tracking; research where AI tools strengthen or erode frontline capability.

Languages. English, native. Japanese, proficient heritage speaker. Swahili, intermediate. Spanish, beginner.