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Innovators in Residence Call for Applications

Apply now at mediainnovationnetwork.org

 +254 780 993 137

Deadline

Aug 31 2021



\$20,000
support available
to 9 teams



akumediafutures



The Aga Khan University, Media Innovation Centre is offering a grant of up to \$20,000 to accelerate or incubate nine media start-ups from rural and urban areas in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Media and Communications



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Innovators-in-Residence Program 2021-2022



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Media Innovation Center
The Aga Khan University
(Graduate School of Media and Communications)

Expression of Interest

The AKU GSMC Media Innovation Centre, together with its partners DW Akademie and Media Challenge Initiative (MCI) are looking for the brightest media minds from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to join our 2021-2022 Innovators-in-Residence program, a 12-month incubation and accelerator program that provides mentorship, training and coaching to media innovators in East Africa.

We want to ensure innovators from both rural and urban areas get access to this program and for this reason, this year's cohort will include **a special track for rural innovators.**

We want to support **innovators working on ideas that promote journalism in rural communities** in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Specifically, we are looking for media solutions that improve access to information, public dialogue and participation for rural communities considering the great linguistic diversity, potentially low connectivity, limited access to professional news media and low literacy rates. Innovators working outside cities such as Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Kampala are highly encouraged to apply.

Urban-based innovators are also highly encouraged to apply as we also have slots for them.

The **9** winning teams, **4 from Uganda, 4 from Tanzania and one from Kenya** will join our programme for a period of 12 months and receive the following benefits to turn their ideas into successful products.

- A physical space in your home country to work and connect with a regional network of game-changers in the media space.
- Expert coaching and mentorship based on the innovator's needs as well as high-quality training by experienced professionals drawn from journalism and business.
- Become a lifetime member of our young and growing community of journalism and media innovators.
- Monthly stipend of \$1,000 per team.
- Grant Funding of up to \$20,000.

We highly encourage applicants to apply as **pre-formed teams** of journalists, storytellers, visual artists, data analytics specialists, photographers, videographers, graphic designers, cartoonists, illustrators, coders, programmers and/or animators

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who will work as a team to create viable solutions to the pressing challenges of the East African media landscape. Individual applicants who do not yet have pre-formed teams **are welcome to apply**, but **should be ready to build a team** once they qualify for our programme.

The projects can range within the following media challenges, but we are open to any other exciting ideas. Feel free to surprise us!

- **Community-based or community targeted journalism:** Community-based media that cover critical societal issues at a grassroots level. Journalists working in rural areas in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are highly encouraged to apply. We want to support ideas that help us answer the following question: **How can we tailor our community journalism to be more relevant to our local audiences?**
- **Youth-targeted journalism:** Innovations and start-ups that are producing or intend to produce journalistic content that targets young people. Innovations that address the issues of East African youth and package the content in digital formats that resonate with the youth. We want to answer this question: **How can we engage young audiences?**
- **Fact-checking:** Innovations that will assist journalists and storytellers to address misinformation and disinformation in East Africa. We are open to projects that answer the following question: **How can we address mis- and disinformation?**
- **Digital journalism:** Innovations that focus on delivering high-quality journalism told and packaged in exciting digital-based storytelling formats such as graphics, podcasts, video and other visual forms of storytelling. We are looking for innovative projects that would answer the following question: **How can we create meaningful storytelling using new digital tools and methods?**
- **Documentaries or 'alternative media':** Innovations that focus on retelling journalism in unconventional ways such as documentaries, docu-series and limited series. We would like to know: **How can information be transferred in an engaging and thought-provoking manner?**

Who Can Apply?

- Media innovators from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Journalists and innovators **based in rural areas are especially encouraged to apply.**
- Innovators working in pre-formed teams **or those applying as individuals but are willing to team up for this programme.** Innovators can only apply in teams of 2-5 members.
- Projects producing content in any East African language are welcome to apply. Applications must be submitted in English.
- Projects that address journalism and media challenges other than storytelling are welcome. Apps and projects that support journalists and existing media houses in their work are invited to apply.
- Participants must be above the age of 18 years.

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How to Apply

We are cognizant of the challenges that our applicants may encounter while applying online, therefore we have provided you with several options:

1. **For online applicants:** If you have access to reliable internet connection, please submit your application via a google form here.

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

2. **For offline applicants:** If you do not have access to a reliable internet connection, please consider the following options:

Option A

Send your application via WhatsApp to our secure line. If you prefer this option, WhatsApp, text or call this number +254780993137 and the application questions will be sent to you immediately. Please respond to the application questions before the deadline.

You can also drop your application at our office. If you prefer this option, please collect a physical application form from our office and ensure the filled application form is delivered before the deadline.

**Media Innovation Centre,
2nd floor,
06 Peponi Road, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.**

[MAP](#)

Option B

You could visit our offices in Nairobi Kampala and Dar es Salaam and you will be provided with an internet connected computer to make your application online. Please notify the respective hub at least a day before for ease of access. See details of our offices and partner hubs below.

Option C

Send your application through our partner organisations. If you prefer this option, please collect a physical application form from our partners' office and ensure the filled application form is delivered before the deadline.

- **For Ugandan applicants**, you can collect and drop your filled application form in the following partner offices: (partners to provide phone numbers and physical addresses)
 - i. The Innovation Village (Jinja)
The Innovation Village Jinja
Plot 5 Main Street, Jinja
Opposite Local Flavours and DHL.
 - ii. Northern Uganda Media Club (NUMEC) in Gulu,
Northern Uganda Media Club,
P. o Box 126
Upper Churchill Drive
Gulu City, Uganda

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- iii. Media Challenges Initiative (MCI) in Kampala
MCI Media Hub
Roof Top, Tirupati Mall,
Kabalagala, Kampala
+256775434172/ +256705807674
- iv. Aga Khan University, Kampala
Aga Khan University
Plot 9/11, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi Road
P. O. Box 8842
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 414 349 494
- **For Tanzanian applicants**, you can collect and drop your filled application form in the following partner organisations:
 - i. Ennovate Hub in Mwanza.
Flat 5&6, Second Floor,
Academic Block,
St Augustine's University of Tanzania, Malimbe, Mwanza.
 - ii. Tanzania Media Foundation in Dar-es-Salaam
Tanzania Media Foundation,
No. 2, Plot 18
Dahomey Street, Kinondoni, next to the Leaders grounds.
 - iii. The Aga Khan University offices
Salama House
Urambo Street

Deadline for applications is **Tuesday, August 31, 2021.**

Pre-application workshops.

For those interested, there will be online and physical workshops on Human Centered Design and Pitching to help you sharpen your idea. Below are details of the workshops.

Online workshops

Date: July 23

Topics: Human Centered Design and Pitching

Venue: Online/ zoom

[APPLY HERE](#)

Offline workshops

Date: August 11- 12

Topics: Human Centered Design and Pitching

Venue: Ennovate Hub (Mwanza)

To apply, reach out to Ennovate Hub on **+255 752 817 723**

To see innovators that we have previously supported, see our current cohort; [ONA Stories](#) from Tanzania, [Minority Africa](#) from Uganda, and The [Lam Sisterhood](#)

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from Kenya.

Candidates will be shortlisted and interviewed by a selection committee and a panel of independent judges.

About:

The Media Innovation Centre- Aga Khan University, in partnership with our project partners, Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie, Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), and Media Challenge Initiative (MCI) in Uganda supports the next generation of media innovators finding unique solutions to the most pressing challenges of the media industry working on unique ideas.

The Media Innovation Centre is fully funded by the German Development Bank (KfW Entwicklungsbank) within the context of the Media Futures East Africa (MFEA) project. The key objective of MFEA is to strengthen the long-term viability of quality media in East Africa, making a demonstrable contribution to the quality of and access to media in East Africa.

DW Akademie is part of Deutsche Welle. As a strategic partner of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, DW Akademie carries out media development projects that strengthen the human right of freedom of opinion and promote free access to information. They enable individuals to form their own opinions based on reliable facts and encourage people to take part in public debates and defend their opinions. This is how they can actively participate in societal developments and improve their living conditions.

The Media Challenge Initiative is a youth-driven nonprofit based in Kampala, Uganda dedicated to building the next generation of journalists in Uganda and Africa who are skilled in knowledge and solutions-based journalism. MCI envisions an empowered generation of critical journalists who advance positive development and social change through their journalism.

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