



CALL OUT

AFRICA NO FILTER IS OPENING THE 2023 GATES FOUNDATION/STORIFY AFRICA FELLOWSHIP

Are you an African creative interested in exploring the impact of social and environmental issues on the communities around you? The 2023 Gates Foundation/Storify Africa Fellowship is now open for submissions! ANF will grant funds of up to USD\$5,000 to content creators in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa to explore these issues from an African perspective and a creative voice.

SUMMARY

Storify Africa, a project of Africa No Filter, is a media capacity-building initiative that offers an end-to-end storytelling service to support the communications needs of development organizations. With a focus on narrative change and storytelling, Storify Africa partners with organizations that want to communicate and amplify the issues they care about on the continent through stories that center the voices and perspectives of those they serve.

The Storify Africa Fellowship trains, supports and builds the capacity of young and emerging African storytellers, both journalists and content creators, to tell those stories. In doing so, Fellows help organizations shift entrenched stereotypes, and highlight their impact in a way that avoids reinforcing damaging narratives about Africa.

The Gates/Storify Africa Fellowship is a **four-month** program that aims to showcase the work and impact of the projects Gates Foundation supports, and to demonstrate the ways in which these projects play a key role in Africa's development. This approach is intended to help the Gates Foundation shape a new, more progressive narrative about Africa, whilst highlighting the impact of their supported projects on the continent.

Applications are due by Thursday, 25 May 2023.

The fellowship period will begin in June 2023 and will end in September 2023.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Gates/Storify Africa Fellowship is a **four-month initiative**. This call is open to applicants in **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa**, and will fund narrative-changing content of various genres.

Each Fellow will be required to produce **one piece of creative content per month** for the four-month duration of the Fellowship.

All stories and content will follow a **monthly theme** centered around an issue area in which Gates operates, e.g. **maternal and child health, agricultural productivity, financial inclusion,**

gender equality, etc. Fellows are expected to produce compelling and nuanced pieces developed in collaboration with the cohort team, and brought to life through robust research, in-depth interviews, detailed fact-finding, and bold and creative expression.

All content will be **posted on Fellows' platforms and amplified by ANF** on its channels. The Fellowship will also include **two VIRTUAL workshops per month** (eight in total), one focused on skill- and craft-building, and the other focused on the issue areas in which Gates operates. In addition, optional monthly cohort meetings (virtual) will allow for Fellows to meet and connect with each other, and share insights, experiences and knowledge with one another.

Grant payments will be disbursed in two installments: one at the outset of the program, and one at the end.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following criteria will be applied:

- Only applicants currently residing in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa will be considered.
- Priority will be given to applicants operating in the following spaces: Podcasts; Photography; Illustration; Video/Filmmaking; Graphics/Animation; Creative Writing; Blogs/Vlogs.
- Candidates can be relatively new or emerging content creators, but must already have an established platform with followers.
- Fellows will be required to produce one content piece per month, for four months.
- In addition, Fellows will be expected to attend two workshops per month, plus an optional monthly cohort session. Applicants should consider these expectations and the demands on time before applying.
- The aim of this initiative is to use creative methods to draw attention to the issue areas in which Gates Foundation operates, in a way that captures the nuances and contextual realities of the issues and gets people talking. We want to see compelling, nuanced narratives that challenge the stereotypical ways in which these stories are normally told. To that end, candidates should demonstrate some experience using their medium to accomplish similar goals.

INELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following applications will not be considered:

- Incomplete applications which lack supporting materials and documents.
- Applications from outside the five countries listed above.

TIMELINE

The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, 25 May 2023.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Consider your application unsuccessful if you have not heard back from us 2 weeks after your submission.

The program is expected to launch in June 2023, and conclude in September 2023.

Please send applications in Word or PDF format to: yuniya@africanofilter.org

TO APPLY:

Please submit a **Word or PDF document** that includes the following:

- Your full name
- Your country of origin and country where you currently reside (if different from origin)
- A **brief** statement that includes:
 1. A summary of your background and your current work as a content creator;
 2. Your motivation for wanting to participate in this program;
 3. What you hope to get out of your participation;
 4. Confirmation that you have the time and capacity to meet the obligations of this program;
 5. URL links to your work/portfolio and social media handles
- A description of your proposal for this initiative

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to pitch their ideas in more detail.

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