

## #ASKnet

### Tools and Resources

The community members curate and share Open Learning Guides, toolkits, and resources from their work so that others can adopt, adapt and deploy them in their own communities to promote local innovation and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.

## #ASKotec

#ASKotec – the ‘Access to Skills and Knowledge open tech emergency case’ is a resource kit for community trainers that is designed as a light and handy mobile workshop creation set, equipped with a broad range of items needed to teach others. The kit is especially valuable to communities where access to tools, power and materials is often scarce.



## #OpenGuides

#ASKnet has so far released five ‘OpenGuides’ providing beginners and advanced users with methods and strategies to apply open culture principles more effectively – opening doors to new creative opportunities for collaboration, learning and developing new skills.



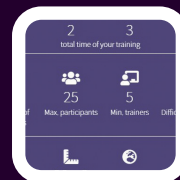
## #ASKLead

The #ASKnet Local Expert Action Directory (LEAD) is a growing and functioning tool to connect people who have specific expertise and skills in media, ICT, and a range of various technologies – be they device repair, software programming, or mechanical skills with potential clients, other community members, and all those seeking advice and information about youth-led South Sudanese innovation culture.



## #ASKTraining

An initial prototype of the #ASKTraining platform, to be used to compile, share and streamline the running of workshops, learning content and deliver ‘how to’ instructions is created to make training easier and more accessible. In this way, experiential knowledge is secured, which improves the sustainability of activities and facilitates the induction of new members and participants.



## #ASKnet

### Access to Skills and Knowledge network

#### About

#ASKnet is a cross-border consortium of community driven organizations with an aim to build a transformative and sustainable open society and a professional media skills ecosystem. The network provides access to a range of open source knowledge and information, media and IT related training as well as community oriented hands-on skills.

#### Vision

Building a transformative and sustainable media development ecosystem. Establishing a strong and sustainable network of South Sudanese-led youth driven organizations to address community challenges, empower with knowledge and skills, inspire innovation and creativity, engaging peacebuilding and community empowerment among all members of society.

#ASKnet – Access to Skills and Knowledge network

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<https://asknet.community>

#ASKnet is supported by r0g\_agency (Berlin, Germany) and Hive Colab (Kampala, Uganda) as implementing partners.

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#### Structure

#ASKnet is governed by a Steering Committee drawn from all of its member organizations, with a Network Coordination Office – a team facilitating executive operations, and an international advisory network that oversees progress and strategic alignment of #ASKnet.

#### #ASKnet Members

CC4D – Community Creativity for Development (Rhino Camp, Uganda), CECI – Community Empowerment For Creative Innovation (Koboko, Uganda), CIC – Creative Innovation Center (Rhino Camp, Uganda), GoGirls ICT Initiative (Juba, South Sudan), Junub Open Space (Juba, South Sudan), Koneta Hub (Juba, South Sudan), Ma’Mara Sakit (Juba, South Sudan), Platform Africa (Rhino Camp, Uganda), YEF – Youth Empowerment Foundation (Adjumani/Pagirinya, Uganda) (July 2023)



Access to Skills and Knowledge network

## #ASKnet

Access to Skills and Knowledge network

Building on the context from which #ASKnet emerged as an initiative for improved access to information, media literacy and proactive peacebuilding, a cross-border network of peers and experts is now evolving into an independent, self-sufficient network. Their grassroots, community-led focus contributes to strengthening civil society structures in South Sudan, while creating a basis for strengthened communication and cooperation, especially between communities of refugees in neighboring countries together with those in South Sudan. Many of the existing #ASKnet members and their communities have undergone training of trainer programs and peer-to-peer learning in self-taught formats, developed collaboratively through workshops and programs run by the initiative. As such community-based media and life skills organizations led by young South Sudanese innovators have joined together to create a formal network that provides them with a platform for exchange and represents their interests at national, regional and international levels in culture, policy creation and economic development. A group of committed individuals representing the member organizations manages the network and ensures its sustainable growth.

### 2015

#### The jHUB 'pioneers'

The program started in Gudele, Juba with a series of community-based media and IT trainings. The participants, hailing from various parts of South Sudan, drafted and signed a Charter of Common Values on October 17, 2015, launching the Juba Open Knowledge and Innovation Hub (jHUB). Later that year the jHUB community co-created the first #peacehackcamp! <https://peacehackcamp.net/>

### 2016

#### Migrations, new horizons

As armed conflict erupted again in July 2016 in South Sudan, the community scattered, with some members taking refuge in neighboring countries. Hosting of training workshops were graciously taken on by program partners in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Kigali and Kampala. The #ASKotec kit was developed and initially tested by the small, emergent network of local initiatives in South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya that has since evolved into what is now #ASKnet.

### 2017 / 2018

#### An informal network

A number of new, initially informal organizations were established and launched by former jHUB members, who began sharing various skills with local participants in their specific contexts. These also included refugee settlements in Northern Uganda, and towns in South Sudan such as Bor. #ASKnet emerges as an informal network as a collaboration of media organizations and local experts starts to grow. First collective sessions, focused on Media and Open Tech culture were held in the Rhino Camp South Sudanese refugee settlement.

### 2019

#### Community practices

Six 'pioneer' hubs, all legally registered organizations, form the first collective #ASKnet community, the term emerging from the use of the #ASKotec to help support initial community trainings. In collaboration with the Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) with members coming together from 5 continents, DOTS, the first international #ASKnet summit was held in Nakuru, Kenya, hosted by ASKlab.

### 2023

#### An emerging network

The network is growing by running stakeholder engagement and by exploring future strategic partnerships. It represents collectively agreed member interests in relevant forums to become a regional platform for sharing member expertise, information and knowledge. Recently 9 members – located in South-Sudan and Uganda – are organized under the umbrella of #ASKnet.

### 2022

#### Founding an innovation consortium

Adaptation of the informal international #ASKnet group of hubs into a consortium, with a legal registration in South Sudan, finalised in March 2023. Foundations are laid for an inclusive cross-border and self-governed network of South Sudanese and youth-led media and innovation organizations able and open to bring on more members.

### 2021

#### Hub strengthening

With the Covid-19 pandemic receding #ASKnet hubs increase their own community engagement, with a broad range of media and life skills training, also helping to empower more community members in need of support and attention. The 'Labmobile' at Rhino Camp, and an innovative locally sourced housing prototype for community activity at the Pagirinya Refugee Settlement in Uganda join a family of resources and programs established earlier in South Sudan.

### 2020

#### Decentralized actions

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, #ASKnet evolves from hosting local trainings with a limited number of participants to a more decentralized network of online activity. With two online training and mentoring 'tracks' – one focusing on organizational development and one on digital media and open tech skills, a community of individual #ASKnet certified experts, as well as formalized media and innovation hubs emerged.

