

# #ASKnet

Access to Skills  
and Knowledge network

## PROFILE

Juba, South Sudan, November 2023

# The Access to Skills and Knowledge network

## About

#ASKnet in full stands for Access to Skills and Knowledge network and is a consortium of community driven organizations with an aim to build a transformative and sustainable open society and a professional media ecosystem. The network provides a platform for exchange and representation of South Sudanese interests in culture, society, technology, innovation, and business creating a basis for better communication and cooperation. #ASKnet provides access to knowledge, media, archiving, and promoting an open culture in South Sudan. Thus fostering the creation and use of information as a key factor for empowerment.

## Background

The program began in 2015 with the establishment of Juba's Open Knowledge and Innovation Hub (jHUB), a community-based open media training project that offered an open forum for discussing, identifying, and developing solutions for South Sudan's post-conflict difficulties. The jHUB community was scattered towards the end of 2016 as the conflict erupted once more. Since then, the program has developed into a network of smaller, community-driven hubs and organizations operating in South Sudan and Uganda. Now, efforts are being made to formalize the consortium and attract additional initiatives with similar goals to join.

## Network Vision and Mission

In order to empower people in precarious situations, hubs and community-driven organizations create social structures and provide access to information. A consortium made up of several organizations can help to amplify their voices and activities and promote peer growth. The following vision and mission have been adopted by the consortium:

**Vision:** Build a transformative and sustainable media ecosystem.

**Mission:** To establish a strong and sustainable network of South Sudanese-led community driven organizations that address community challenges, empower with knowledge and skills, and inspire innovation and creativity among youth.

## Our core values

Guiding principles that help the consortium achieve its goals, mission and vision:

- **Ethics and integrity:** We strive to be open and accountable to our partners, membership, and stakeholders, using sound judgment, abiding by ethical standards, honesty, responsibility, transparency, and dependability.
- **Innovation (not imitation):** The network supports creative leverage, uniqueness by encouraging members to differentiate between innovation and imitation.
- **Drive:** Strengthening collective identity, collaboration efficiency and power to achieve shared objectives.
- **Respect and non-discrimination** for all people, regardless of gender, age, etc.
- **Non-political/Non Partisan:** The network will remain impartial by not having any political ties.

## Functions of the network

On behalf of its members, the network will:

- Run multi level stakeholder engagement and partnerships.
- Represent collectively agreed member interests in relevant forums.
- Participate in resource mobilization and lobbying to ensure sustainability of projects within its mandate.
- Maintain a platform for sharing member expertise, information and knowledge.
- Engage in knowledge creation to advance sector development through improved performance, evaluation of aligned member projects.

## Membership

An organization must be community-driven, nonpartisan, and politically neutral in order to be accepted into the network. Institutions wishing to join should submit an application to the network coordination office for assessment together with a current Certificate of Registration from the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission or other appropriate authorities and a copy of the organization's mandate.

The benefits of joining the network include but not limited to:

- **Connection:** #ASKnet is a platform for networking locally, regionally and internationally.
- **Representation:** #ASKnet represents and collectively amplifies its members' interests.
- **Resources:** #ASKnet members share access to skills and knowledge, capacity development, and project resources including pooled resource mobilization and lobbying.
- **Leadership:** #ASKnet members collectively decide on resource allocation and contribute to sector planning.

## Leadership and structure

#ASKnet is governed by a **Steering Committee (SC)** drawn from member organizations, with the **Network Coordination Office (NCO)** facilitating executive operations and an advisory body that oversees progress and strategic alignment of the consortium.

## Members (July 2023)

The current members of the consortium are:

- 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)

## Partners

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