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DRR STORY GRANT CHALLENGE

The Disaster Risk Reduction Network of Africa Journalists (DIRAJ) brings together journalists and communicators in Africa interested in exchanging news, tools and practices from a disaster risk reduction perspective to build a culture of prevention rather than just a culture of reaction.

Working together with the United Nations Agency on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the African Union Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, DRR Focal Points in ECCAS, SADC, ECOWAS and EAC, DIRAJ;

- 1) Supports reporters through news exchange activities, webinars, seminars and other learning and training tools to strengthen the quality, reach and viability of their disaster reporting
- 2) Advances public understanding of the importance of prevention measures and policies through more in depth DRR reporting and storytelling before, during and after disasters occur
- 3) Informs and educates communities at risk and help build a more resilient Africa.

With funding from the United Nations Agency on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), DIRAJ is inviting journalists, news correspondents, freelance reporters and multimedia content producers to submit story pitches to be eligible for grants of up to USD1,500. The pitches are open for intended production of broadcast ready feature stories, short documentaries, investigative stories or compelling interview packages on any aspects related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR in Africa in connection with post covid recovery interventions at the community, national, regional or Pan African level.

Grant Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted by 1700hours (GMT) on 5th February 2022.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Attach a 500-word concept/pitch of your broadcast story idea indicating the problem, the justification for producing the story and the media house your story will be published.
2. Attach your CV
3. Attach samples/links of past stories undertaken in relation to any aspects of disaster risk reduction, prevention or post recovery.
4. Attach recommendation letter from any editor and commitment that once produced, the story will air/get published.
5. Attach Editors contacts- email address and phone address. Send your entry in PDF format to storygrants@diraj.org



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

OVERVIEW

- I. Please note that the only email address from which individual queries will be answered is storygrants@diraj.org. We will respond where possible, but we are sorry that we cannot guarantee a response to all emails. Emails sent to any other address found on the DIRAJ website will not receive a response.
- II. All relevant updates will be posted on www.diraj.org/storygrants2022 and via Twitter @DirajAfrica. Please note that unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted individually.
- III. Submission of an entry is taken as acceptance of all the terms and conditions of entry. Incomplete entry forms and short stories not submitted in accordance with these terms and conditions will not be eligible for consideration.
- IV. Note: Proof of any of the following conditions of eligibility may be requested from entrants at any time and will be checked at shortlist stage.

ELIGIBILITY

- I. The DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE 2022 is for a single, previously unpublished broadcast story open to print, radio, television and online journalists based in any of the African Countries as per the African Union Constitutive Charter aged 18 years or over on 1 January 2022.
- II. Entries must be submitted in ENGLISH or FRENCH. Translations of stories ideas originally published in languages other than English or FRENCH should be accompanied by translation or they will not be eligible.

- III. Entries will not be eligible where the journalist is a member of the judging panel or a close family relative of any such person.
- IV. The submitted story must not have been previously published in any print, online or broadcast platform.
- V. Journalists currently serving a term of imprisonment are ineligible for the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE. This is for practical purposes - when a journalist is shortlisted/wins, the organizers need direct and speedy access to the journalist.

THE BROADCAST STORY IDEA

- I. The story idea must be between 450-700 words. Please note: 700 is the maximum word count but not a specific target.
- II. If the story has already been submitted to other competitions or publications, please ensure that it is given a different title before being submitted to the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE. This is because, if it has already been commended elsewhere, this would then compromise the anonymity of its producer, particularly if it is shortlisted.
- III. The theme for the Story Challenge is locating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts in Africa in connection with post covid recovery interventions at the community, national, regional or Pan African level, but we encourage all entrants to submit entries that are bold, different and original in order for them to stand out from the rest.
 - I. Story concept/abstract should include pro-



- posed information sources, the angle of the story and what makes the story unique.
- II. The grant amount maximum of USD1,500 per applicant to cover travel, communication, research and subsistence during production of the story.
 - I. The format of the story must adhere to these following rules, and the STORY GRANT CHALLENGE secretariat team will change all shortlisted/Highly Commended stories to this format to ensure that they are all the same:
 - a) PDF format
 - b) Typed in Arial 12 pt black font
 - c) Double-spaced
 - d) Hard returns between paragraphs (NO indentations anywhere please and numbered correctly)
 - e) The name of the journalist, media house and press card number must appear at the top right header of each page.

JUDGING

- I. The judges of the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE will be looking for what they think is the best entry on the basis of quality and originality of prose, ability to bring out clear and missed opportunities on disaster risk reduction, original voice and a compelling journalistic package. The story should bring its subjects with dignity and
- II. DIRAJ reserves the right to increase or reduce the numbers of entries selected for the judges to read and for the shortlist at its sole discretion.
- III. All entries will be initially read by a team of sub editors who will select a smaller number of stories for the judging panel to consider plus an additional list of up to FIVE Highly Commended stories.
- IV. The 12 shortlisted pitches will be made available on the DIRAJ website from the last week of February 2022.
- V. All shortlisted/Highly Commended journalists will be contacted by the DIRAJ secretariat team before March 05th 2022.
- VI. The grantees will receive up to USD1,500 depending on the logistical weight of their production budget. The FIVE Highly Commended journalists will receive USD500 each.
- VII. The judging will be fair and independent. The decisions of the judges are final. Neither discussion nor correspondence concerning any decision will be entered.

GRANT AWARDEES

- I. All twelve shortlisted journalists will be contacted personally by email using the details provided at the time of entry. Unsuccessful entrants will NOT be contacted. The twelve shortlisted stories will be awarded contracts and thereafter commence producing the stories.
- II. For the purposes of fairness, DIRAJ reserves the right to withdraw any submission from the competition if it is brought to the attention of the secretariat that the story violates any of the journalistic codes of ethics.
- III. It is a condition of entry that all finalists of the main Story Grant and the Highly Commended stories cooperate with the DIRAJ secretariat team in all publicity and promotion opportu-



nities surrounding the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE.

- IV. By submitting an entry, journalists of all short-listed and Highly Commended entries agree to ensure that upon broadcasting/airing/flighting their stories, including in any publications, it will carry DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE credits and provided all materials bearing such approved credits, logos or trademarks are pre-approved by the DIRAJ secretariat team.

COPYRIGHT AND TERMS OF USE

- I. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries, but by submitting a story into the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE, entrants acknowledge and agree that each shortlisted entrant:
 - a. Grants to DIRAJ, its affiliates, licensees, successors and assigns a worldwide sub-licensable, perpetual, transferable, non-exclusive royalty-free licence to use in any way whatsoever including but not limited to public performance, public display, publishing, reproduction, broadcasting, amendment or modification of the entry or any part of the entry on and through the website www.DIRAJ.org or any website associated with DIRAJ in its different present and future forms - for example newsprint, Braille, talking book, podcast, audio download, electronic databases, e-paper, mobile device application, electronic media or website including mobile form or any other facsimile or derivative versions in any medium;
and

- a) ii) Without prejudice to the above, grants DIRAJ a non-exclusive, perpetual, royalty-free licence to publish the final produced stories on the DIRAJ website.

ADMINISTRATION

- I. The competition will be administered by the DIRAJ secretariat team.
- II. All announcements in relation to the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE will be published on www.DIRAJ.org and via the DIRAJ Twitter @DirajAfrica.
- III. Entrants must provide their name, email address, telephone number and postal address on the initial submission. We will make use of this data, and other information we may collect about you, for the purposes of administering the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE and promoting the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE.
- IV. Entrants must supply full details as required above and comply with all rules to be eligible for the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE. Ineligible, obscene or fraudulent entries will be automatically disqualified.
- V. The DIRAJ secretariat team reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason at its absolute discretion and reserves the right to vary the Terms and Conditions of Entry, and alter the published programme, as may be deemed necessary to ensure the proper administration and integrity of the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE and where required for reasons beyond its control. Any amendments will be published on www.DIRAJ.org.
- VI. The DIRAJ secretariat team reserves the right to cancel, modify or supersede the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE (including altering award) at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion to ensure the proper administration and integrity of



- the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.
- VII. By entering, all eligible entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by each and all of these Terms and Conditions. DIRAJ reserves the right to exclude entrants and withhold prizes for violating any of these Terms and Conditions.
 - VIII. The submission of any journalist's work will be taken as agreement by the journalist that they are willing for the submitted work to be considered and that they consent to and approve of all terms and conditions contained herein and as agreement to guarantee and procure the journalist's compliance with these Terms and Conditions. DIRAJ may at its sole discretion disqualify the entry and/or reclaim any Award and/or associated money and revise the shortlist and (if applicable). Any journalist who submits an entry warrant that they have obtained all necessary consents required to submit an entry in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
 - IX. All entrants will indemnify DIRAJ and the DIRAJ secretariat team against loss or damage (including any legal costs or expenses and any compensation costs and disbursements paid by DIRAJ and the DIRAJ secretariat team on the advice of legal counsel to compromise or settle any claim) occasioned to DIRAJ or the DIRAJ secretariat team in consequence of any breach of these Terms and Conditions by the entrant or arising out of any claim alleging that the submitted entry constitutes an infringement of copyright or contains libellous, obscene, defamatory or otherwise unlawful matter.
 - X. There is no alternative to the financial award stated and the grant is not transferable, and no part or parts of any award may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions.
 - XI. DIRAJ and the STORY GRANT CHALLENGE secretariat team will not be liable for any failure of re-

ceipt of entries. DIRAJ and the DIRAJ secretariat team have no responsibility for any entries which are lost, delayed, illegible, damaged, incomplete, or otherwise invalid. If the DIRAJ secretariat team is unable to contact a shortlisted journalist despite making reasonable attempts to do so, the judges will be entitled to shortlist another entry. Other than death or personal injury arising from the acts or omissions of DIRAJ, the DIRAJ secretariat team or their employees, DIRAJ and the DIRAJ secretariat team will not be liable for any loss or damage arising out of participation in the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE or the award of a prize.

- XII. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Kenya and entrants submit all matters arising in relation to these Terms and Conditions or the DIRAJ STORY GRANT CHALLENGE (including all non-contractual disputes) to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Kenya. Nothing contained in this clause shall limit the right of DIRAJ, its affiliates or subsidiaries, successors or assigns, to bring a claim in any other jurisdiction.

ACCEPTANCE

If you accept the terms and conditions, please execute the acceptance and return a duly signed copy together with the submission form and two current passport photos.

I do hereby accept the offer the terms and condition stated herein.

Signature

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Date.....

