

NGO Forum Writing Contest 2022

Background

The NGO Forum is a voluntary, independent networking body of around 350 national and international NGOs that support its members to effectively respond to the humanitarian and development needs in South Sudan. All member organisations provide assistance to the South Sudanese people regardless of ethnic background, political affiliation, or religious belief.

The NGO Forum provides a platform through which NGOs, the Government of South Sudan, the UN, donors, and other external stakeholders can exchange information, share expertise and establish guidelines for a more networked, efficient and effective use of aid resources in South Sudan. The Secretariat primarily focuses on information sharing, networking, capacity enhancement, representation and communication around safety and wellbeing.

The Forum is comprised of two main constituencies (national NGOs – NNGOs and international NGOs - INGOs) served by a joint Steering Committee of INGO and NNGO members coordinated by the NGO Secretariat. While there is a dedicated National NGO Focal Point in the NGO Secretariat all positions serve both the National and International NGO Groups.

NGO Forum Purpose is to support NGOs support members in the principled delivery of aid assistance in South Sudan in order to save lives and improve lives. The Forum aims to achieve this purpose through a number of services that it offers its members by exercising a number of functions.

The writing Contest

The Writing Contest is an initiative of the South Sudan NGO Forum Communications and Advocacy Working Group (CAWG), whose objectives are; to improve the capacity of CAWG members, and to provide principled and effective communication. The NGO Forum Comms and Advocacy WG, through the writing contest specifically, **seeks to nurture the next breed of South Sudanese writers who can tell stories in the South Sudanese way to the global audience & respond to humanitarian and development needs of South Sudan.** An opportunity designed to benefit South Sudanese students studying in South Sudan based institutions, with plan in place to include South Sudanese studying outside the country.

We are looking for potential creative writers who display the ability to think outside the box that is, those who provide something other than formulaic answers to the selected theme, and can do so in a novel or unusual way. Essay should be about the chosen topic/theme rather than diverting to something else.

The essay should be written in English that is understandable and does not hinder a reader's ability to comprehend. However, those that display an incredible use of vocabulary, clever ideas, mature style, and advanced English, will have an added advantage.

Eligibility

- The writing contest only targets university and secondary school students based in schools within South Sudan. If you're a South Sudanese but studying outside the country, you're ineligible for this contest.
- All submissions have to be written in English

- Only unpublished work can be reviewed. Any previously published work submitted results to automatic disqualification of the contestant. Previous publication is considered to include on or in a newspaper, newsletter, magazine, book, website, electronic magazine, personal blog, Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook.

Submission criteria

- Please indicate your name and full time contact details on top of the story.
- The story must be over the topic/theme: **The Impact of COVID-19 on Education in South Sudan**
- A catchy title
- Introductory paragraph
- Body text between 500-600 words
- At least one image with caption, credit and a signed Consent Form of any person(s) photographed. Use the NGO Forum video and photo consent form that can be downloaded at <https://docs.southsudanngoforum.org/coordination/ngo-forum-documents/south-sudan-ngo-forum-photo-and-video-consent-form>.
- **Stories can be submitted to the NGO Forum via email to comms-officer@southsudanngoforum.org and dkango@oxfam.org.uk no hand delivery will be accepted.**

Timeframe: Call for stories opens on **26 August 2022**, and the closing date for receiving is **Friday 09 September 2022** at **5:00 PM South Sudan Time**. Any submission made after the deadline will not be considered.

Winner and reward

- The winner will be rewarded.
- A certificate printed by the NGO Forum Secretariat; publishing of the winning stories in a local newspaper; giving of some assorted NGO Forum visibility items to the winner.
- Two best runners up will each receive a certificate and assorted NGO Forum Comms and Advocacy WG members' visibility items.
- The winner will be invited to present their piece of work at an NGO Forum CAWG social event.
- The ten best writers will be invited for CV creative writing to be able to compete in the job market.