WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

West Africa Civil Society Series (WACSeries)

Call for Papers and Articles

The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) was created to reinforce the institutional, operational and knowledge capacities of civil society in the region as well as enhance knowledge on civil society in the region. WACSI also serves as a resource hub for training, research and documentation, experience sharing and policy dialogue for organised civil society in West Africa.

WACSI facilitates the publication of high quality theoretical and original research papers, blog pieces, case studies or technical notes. These can be authored by academics, civil society researchers and practitioners and students from any part of the world. Contributions should aim at documenting information to educate, sensitise or raise informative debates on critical issues affecting development in West Africa.

ABOUT WACSERIES

WACSeries are analytical periodic write-ups on topical themes and issues relevant to West Africa. It emphasises the contributions of civil society organisations (CSOs) and actors to the promotion of democracy, good governance and the socio- economic development of West Africa by deepening discourse on matters affecting civil society in the region. The write-ups provide experts, researchers and practitioners a space to reflect, develop and share analyses and posit views and recommendations on emerging issues and debates.

OBJECTIVES OF WACSERIES

• To raise awareness on key development issues in West Africa;
• To generate debates and discussions on these issues;
• To proffer recommendations on civil society's role in development;
• To provide recommendations to policy makers.

Types of papers to submit

1. *WACSeries Op-Ed:* The WACSeries Op-Eds are thought provoking and intellectually engaging write-ups that provide critical reflections and analysis of issues relevant to civil society and development in West Africa. The approximate number of words is 2000.

2. **Blogs** are shorter articles of a maximum of 800 words. Contributors can use blogs as a medium to provide expert views on specific topics or provoke debates and discussions on key issues related to any of our key themes. Interested contributors will be provided with the Institute's blog guidelines to aid them.

3. *WACSeries Issue Paper:* The WACSeries Issue paper with a maximum of 4000 words, aims to raise awareness on key issues in West Africa.

Areas of focus of papers for publication

Contributions should address one or more of the following topical issues:

- CSOs and private sector partnerships
- Philanthropy and locally led development
- South-South and/or North-South collaborations
- Indigenous knowledge on CSOs governance and management
- Digital technology/digitalisation
- Shift the power, localisation, decolonisation
- Civic space and an enabling environment
- Women, youth, diversity and inclusion

Procedure for submitting a paper

For **blogs** and **WACSeries Op-Eds**, we encourage contributors to share an overview of the idea with WACSI's Knowledge Management team via email stating a deadline for which they intend to submit a first draft. If the contributor intends to author an Editorial (made of at least 4 blog articles), s/he should provide details on the themes s/he seeks to address in each of the blog articles. Our team will either confirm the theme(s) or follow up with contributors for clarity and confirmation.

For **WACSeries Issue Papers**, we encourage contributors to submit the following;

1. An abstract (400 words max) that provides an overall idea on how the contributor seeks to address one or more of the issues raised in the call.
2. Author's Name, Affiliation, Email Address, Phone Number
3. CV or short biographical details.

Authors interested in submitting any article are encouraged to share their ideas for exploration and discussion. They can also contact Mabel Shu (mlum@wacsi.org) or Nancy Kankam Kusi (nkusi@wacsi.org) and cc research@wacsi.org to check the suitability of their proposed contribution.

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

WACSeries publications are accepted and published on WACSI's website all year-round)

BENEFITS

WACSeries authors benefit from opportunities that are not limited to:
- Expert input and guidance to publish on WACSeries editions;
- Dissemination of WACSeries through a wide regional and international network of research institutes;
- Media engagement at local and international level to raise awareness on topical issues raised in the papers;
- Press release on publication and/ or publicity on social media;
- A 10% discount on a single WACSI fee-paying training of your choice;
- Invitation to WACSI-led seminars and conferences on issues related to the topic addressed by the author;
- Increased visibility and exposure to West Africa research and practitioner networks;
- Increased visibility to a global audience with an interest in civil society in West Africa;
- Contributing to thought leadership on civil society and development in West Africa and having the platform to make that contribution.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS
- WACSI does not provide any financial remuneration for submissions under this call.
- WACSI reserves the right to approve proposal submissions for further development and publication. Any approved paper/article will be published by WACSI at the appropriate time.

All final papers are subjected to a technical review. All content of papers must be original, void of plagiarism and unpublished. Interdisciplinary projects and jointly authored papers are welcome.