WACSI
WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

West Africa Civil Society Series (WACSeries)

Call for Articles

The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) was created by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) 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 debate 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 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.

WACSeries Publications

The following types of publications are also accepted:

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.

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 maximum number of words is 1500.

WACSeries Issue Papers, with a maximum of 4000 words, aim to raise awareness on key issues in West Africa.

THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS

For 2026, WACSI welcomes contributions that fall within the following thematic areas

AI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping how organisations generate knowledge, deliver services, engage communities and influence policy. For civil society organisations, AI presents significant opportunities to enhance efficiency, evidence generation, advocacy and learning, but also serious risks related to ethics, data protection, bias, accountability and trust.

This special WACSeries call includes articles to be published on the **Hive Mind** platform, an online training and community of practice platform for social activism; on AI for Social Change, exploring how CSOs in West Africa can adopt, govern and use AI responsibly and effectively. Contributions should provide practical insights, policy-relevant analysis and grounded experiences that support civil society actors in navigating the AI landscape.

KEY TOPICS

Contributions should address one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. **Safeguards for Nonprofits' Effective Use of AI (Social Media Learning Nuggets)**

Explore essential safeguards that nonprofits should implement to ensure the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence. It should cover ethical considerations, data protection, risk mitigation and best practices to help organisations maximise AI's potential while minimising risks.

2. **Transparency and Accountability in Nonprofits' Use of AI (1000 – 1600 words)**

Highlight the importance of transparency and accountability when nonprofits adopt AI technologies. It should discuss how nonprofits can maintain public trust by being open about their AI practices, ensuring clear communication about data usage and establishing mechanisms for oversight and ethical decision-making.

Authors interested in submitting articles under the AI for Social Change category are encouraged to submit their articles via email to Whitnay Segnonna (wsegnonna@wacsi.org) and cc Jimm Chick

Fomunjong (jcfomunjong@wacsi.org) and Mabel Shu (mlum@wacsi.org).

OTHER TOPICS FOR WACSeries

Contributions should address one or more of the 4 following topical issues:

Civil Society Sustainability: Authors can consider developing articles related but not limited to leadership transition in civil society, CSO accountability and transparency, governance and operational practices within CSOs.

Technology for development: Technology for development refers to the use and application of technological tools and systems for social, economic, and political development. It involves the deployment of technological innovations, with the aim of combating poverty, promoting social inclusion, good governance and economic growth.

Women and youth leadership: Authors interested to contribute articles related to this theme can explore issues related to the roles women and youth can play in the development of the region, the challenges they face or examine key successes that have been realised by women and or youth, deriving lessons learnt to enlighten, encourage and empower others.

Enabling Environment for Civil Society: Contributors can analyse issues related to the legal and political restrictions affecting civic space, legitimacy, transparency and accountability of CSOs, collaboration and partnerships among CSOs and other development actors.

Contributions submitted within the scope of the above-mentioned topics will be published solely on WACSI's website.

Authors interested in submitting articles under the WACSeries category are encouraged to submit their articles via email to Mabel Shu (mlum@wacsi.org) and Patrick Kofi Adu (padu@wacsi.org) and cc Jimm Chick Fomunjong (jcfomunjong@wacsi.org).

BENEFITS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Authors benefit from opportunities that are not limited to:

- Expert input and guidance to publish on WACSeries editions;
- Publication of articles on the HiveMind Platform;
- 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;
- 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 financial remuneration for all submissions under this call. Remunerations will be provided only for contributions submitted within the sub themes defined under the AI for social change category of the call. Any other approved article will be published on WACSI's website at the appropriate time.
- WACSI reserves the right to approve proposal submissions for further development and publication.
- All final papers are subject to a technical review. All content of papers must be original, void of plagiarism and unpublished. Co-authored contributions are welcome.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Articles for the call on AI for social change should be submitted on or before **22 May 2026.**

The WACSeries publications are open all year round.