

5 South African recipients announced as part of the third Google News Initiative Innovation Challenge

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Five South African recipients have been selected as part of [Google's News Initiative \(GNI\) Innovation Challenge](#). Daily Maverick, Quote This Woman+, Media Hack Collective, Open Cities Lab, and Code for Africa (CfA) are among the 34 recipients drawn from Israel, Turkey, Middle East and Africa. The recipients, among them 21 journalists and publishers from 10 countries in Africa, were selected for their work in promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion in the journalism industry. The GNI Innovation Challenge is part of Google's \$300m commitment to helping journalism thrive in the digital era and has seen news innovators step forward with many exciting initiatives demonstrating new thinking.



“This year, we sought to broaden our criteria to include digital innovation initiatives that promote goals like reader engagement, new reader income, subscriptions, disinformation among other things. Following a thorough assessment, numerous interviews, and a final jury selection, 34 projects from 17 countries were chosen to receive \$3.2m in funding,” said Ludovich Blecher, head of innovation, Google News Initiative.

The recipients met all the five criteria requirements including impact on the news ecosystem, equity and inclusion, inspiration, innovation, diversity, and feasibility. Some of the African recipients include Kenya's [Wananchi Reporting](#), Nigeria's [Dubawa](#), and South Africa's [Quote This Woman+](#).

South Africa's Quote This Woman+, an interactive online database solution and tool helps journalists and newsrooms to efficiently access diverse expert sources for their news coverage. The database provides a growing community of African women+ experts from all fields, including science, public health, economic policy, politics, education reform, environmental justice and more.

Wananchi Reporting provides features that allow both the unserved and underserved Kenyans from remote and excluded areas to tell their stories and highlight diversity in a manner that avoids misrepresentation by allowing them to contribute to the news ecosystem through their technology-driven interactive platform.

Nigeria's Dubawa is a digital platform that helps newsrooms source and license quality images from local African photographers and photojournalists. Starting with Nigeria, Atlas is looking to host relevant news images and editorial images curated from local African photographers and photojournalists which anyone can instantly download.

This year's challenge received a total of 425 submissions from 42 countries, representing a 27% increase in total applications. Notably, there was a significant increase in applications from news organisations undertaking fact checking activities at 118% when compared to previous innovation challenges in the region. Proposed projects which use artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) also showed significant growth (92%), reflecting a trend across the news ecosystem to embrace cutting edge new technologies and data.

Below is the breakdown of more winners from the continent:

Burkina Faso

1. [Association des Blogueurs du Burkina](#)

Burundi

2. [RegionWeek](#)

Congo

3. [Congo Check](#)
4. Afrikpic/Halvest Company

Egypt

5. [Egyptian Streets](#)
6. OSH for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Research

Kenya

7. [Nation Media Group PLC](#)
8. [Wananchi Reporting](#)

Morocco

9. [Morocco World News](#)

Niger

10. [African Development University](#)

Nigeria

11. [The Republic](#)
12. [TheCable](#)
13. [Dubawa, Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development](#)
14. [HumAngle Media](#)
15. [Foundation for Investigative Journalism \(FIJ\)](#)

South Africa

16. [Daily Maverick](#)
17. [Quote This Woman+](#)
18. [Media Hack Collective](#)
19. [Open Cities Lab](#)
20. [Code for Africa \(CfA\)](#)

Uganda

21. [Minority Africa](#)

Complete details of all selected projects available at the [Google News Initiative website](#).

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