

Sustaining Impact Prize 2026 - Call for Applications

Recognizing Organizations Building Impact That Lasts

The **Sustaining Impact Prize** celebrates African social innovators and impact focused organizations that are working to sustain meaningful social and environmental impact over time.

Rather than recognizing innovation alone, the prize highlights organizations that are finding practical ways to resource, strengthen, and continue their impact work, especially in contexts where external support may be limited or uncertain.

Who Should Apply?

The Sustaining Impact Prize is open to **early-stage African impact-focused organizations that have been in operation for between 0 and 8 years**, including:

- Social enterprises
- NGOs and nonprofits
- Community based organizations
- Social innovators
- Impact focused organizations

Applicants should demonstrate a clear commitment to sustaining their impact over time and meet **the assessment criteria** outlined in this brief.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against three key criteria:

1. Alignment with Global Goals

Demonstrate how your initiative contributes to one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Sustainability of Impact

Show how your work is currently sustained, or how you plan to sustain your impact over time.

3. Future Proofing

Explain how your organization intends to strengthen its income, resource base, partnerships, or internal capacity to continue delivering impact over time.

How to Apply

Complete the online application form and submit **one** of the following:

Option 1: Recorded Video (Most preferred)

Submit a **5 minute video** covering the same four areas above.

Your recording can be uploaded through the application form on the website or emailed to:

info@sustainingimpactsummit.org

Option 2: Recorded Pitch Deck

Submit a recorded presentation of no more than **5 slides** covering:

- The project or initiative you are implementing
- The impact it is having, supported by evidence or numbers where possible
- How the work is currently sustained, or your plans for sustaining it over time
- How the project intends to strengthen its income, resources, or long-term sustainability

If you are unsure how to record your PowerPoint presentation, Microsoft provides a step-by-step guide here: [How to Record a Presentation](#)

Upload your recorded pitch deck through the online application form on the website or email it to info@sustainingimpactsummit.org.

Please note: All applicants are required to register for the summit and are expected to attend both Day 1 and Day 2 of the event.

Selection Process

Applications will progress through five stages:

Pre Screening

Submission and initial review of applications.

Stage 1

Screening of applications and invitation to the next stage.

Stage 2

Interviews with shortlisted applicants.

Final Stage

Selected finalists present to summit judges and plenary participants.

Awards and Post Event Support

Winners are selected, recognized, and supported after the summit.

Why Apply?

Successful applicants will gain:

- Cash prizes
- ASEW Fellowship
- Global recognition and visibility through the SIS & ASEW platforms
- Access to ASEW Premium Trainings
- Mentorship opportunities
- A platform to showcase your work to funders, investors, development organizations, and other ecosystem actors.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Applications Open	10 July 2026
Application Deadline	31 July 2026
Shortlisting and interviews	3 to 14 August 2026
Finalists Announced	17 August 2026
Final Presentations at SIS 2026	27–29 August 2026

Applications are now open.

We look forward to learning how your organization is sustaining impact and building work that lasts in Africa.