

USAID Strengthening Civil Society and Media Systems (Sawt) Activity

Call for Applications Sawt Media Fellowships Support Annex I: Announcement



Funder	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Prime Implementer	Internews
Funder Project Name	Strengthening Civil Society and Media Systems (Sawt) Activity
Funding Opportunity Title	Sawt Media Fellowships Support
Announcement Type	Call for Applications
Funding Opportunity Number	Fellowships #001
Announcement Date	August 1, 2024
Applications Deadline	August 15, 2024
Extended Deadline	September 14, 2024
Submit Applications to	jo-sawt-grants@internews.org

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The Opportunity

As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing media professionalism and specialization, Sawt Activity is thrilled to announce the launch of Sawt Media Fellowships Support program for the year 2024. This initiative aims to empower journalists and media practitioners by providing them with needed support to pursue fellowships or attend events abroad, enhancing their skills, knowledge, professionalism, and specialization in key thematic areas that align with Sawt's priorities, including civic participation and engagement, human rights, sustainable development and environment.

About Sawt

Strengthening Civil Society and Media Systems (Sawt) Activity is a five-year (2022-2027) cooperative agreement funded by USAID and implemented by Internews in partnership with Mercy Corps and the International Center for Non-Profit Law (ICNL). Sawt aims to foster sustained civic engagement in Jordan through civil society and digital media innovations through two objectives: 1) **Good, Trusted Knowledge-Building Resources:** Citizens and civil society build knowledge through accessing and engaging critically with accurate and fact-based information and 2) **Participation & Advocacy:** Citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Jordan effectively participate in civic spaces and advocate for policies through knowledge-based collective action.

About Internews

Internews is an international nonprofit operating in 100 countries. At Internews, we believe everyone deserves trustworthy news and information to make informed decisions about their lives and hold power to account. We train journalists and digital rights activists, tackle disinformation, and offer business expertise to help media outlets become financially sustainable. For more information about the organization please visit: www.internews.org.

About Sawt Media Fellowships Support Program

Internews is soliciting applications from enthusiastic journalists and committed media practitioners seeking to advance their professional careers by joining and benefiting from media fellowships offered in-person abroad and attending global events or fora. Accordingly, this program is designed to support participants efforts to benefit from professional experiences, international best practices, and comparative insights, fostering their professional development and contributing to increased specialized content as part of wider enhancement of media practices and journalism quality in Jordan, which underpin a healthy information ecosystem that is conducive to advocacy and public policy reform efforts.

For the current year, 2024, USAID Sawt aims to select two journalists and media practitioners applying to benefit from this support program. The fellowships and events, for which the applicant is requesting Sawt's support to join or attend, should preferably take place and conclude during 2024. Selected applicants will receive full or partial support with a funding ceiling of up to \$12,000, supporting them to join or attend media fellowship and international events that the applicants identify. Provided support could include providing selected applicants with stipends, supplies, software subscription or other needs that effective participation in the identified fellowship or international event require, according to Internews Sawt policy to support individuals.



Applicants are encouraged to seek fellowships and events that are held in Arabic or English and thematically align with Sawt's priorities, which include:

- Civic Participation and Engagement
- Human Rights
- Sustainable and Community Development
- Environment and Climate Change

This program seeks to empower media professionals who aspire to make an impact and a positive contribution towards these crucial domains, furthering the goals of Sawt and contributing to positive societal change through professional, credible, evidence-based, and engaging journalism. Through this support opportunity Sawt aims to contribute to the advancement of quality journalism in Jordan, informing citizens and advancing sustained civic engagement.

Beneficiaries from this support will be encouraged by Sawt to engage with any community of practice that fosters collaboration among media as well as CSO partners of Sawt related to civic space, freedoms of expression, media freedoms, environment and climate, as well as sustainable and community development.

Illustrative Examples:

The following list provides illustrative examples of running fellowships and global events, applicants can apply to get Sawt's support to join or attend:

- [The Thomson Reuters Foundation Journalist Fellowship Programme.](#)
- [London School of Economics Journalism AI Fellowship Programme](#)
- [ICFJ's Health Innovation Journalism Fellowship](#)
- [Al Jazeera Institute Fellowship](#)
- [World Climate Summit](#)
- [DW Global Media Forum](#)
- [International Journalism Festival](#)

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Sawt Media Fellowships Support program is dedicated to fostering excellence in Jordanian journalism, as such, this support is exclusively available to practicing journalists and media practitioners¹ from Jordan, working in digital media platforms. Submissions can be made by full-

¹ The use of the term media practitioner, in contradistinction to journalist in the Jordanian context, is meant to cover non-members of the Jordan Press Association who have roles of editorial, managerial, research, or training nature in media organizations.



time or freelance journalists and media practitioners conducting editorial or managerial roles. Sawt will select 2 journalists or media practitioners to benefit from Sawt Media Fellowships Support and receive relevant technical and financial support, based on the following:

Eligibility:

Applicant must:

1. Be a Jordan-based² journalist or media practitioner, working with an existing digital media platform.
2. Have a minimum of 5 years of journalistic experience.
3. Have demonstrable interest and experience reporting on one of the thematic areas of priority for Sawt and provide recent relevant work samples (a minimum of 5 examples), which can be uploaded as documents or as web links.
4. Identify the event or fellowship opportunity they plan to attend or join, with proof of acceptance or engagement in an enrolment process.
5. Demonstrate that the fellowship duration does not exceed 12 months.
6. Strong command in the language of instruction of the identified fellowship or event, ensuring the applicant's ability to fully participate in them (Arabic or English).
7. Provide a signed letter of support from an editor, producer, or supervisor who can confirm that the applicant will be allocated time to participate in all of the identified fellowships' or events' activities, and that reports will be published or broadcast in a media outlet.
8. Commit to producing a minimum of 7 content pieces, or their equivalent depending on the type of media organization, utilizing knowledge gained through the event or fellowship.

Evaluation Criteria

Sawt will evaluate applicants based on the below criteria:

1. Experience in covering civic space, human rights, sustainable development and environment topics.
2. Long-term commitment to advancing media's role in civic engagement and participation as well as shaping public policy, demonstrated through career path and work samples.
3. The degree to which the identified event or fellowship aligns with Sawt's thematic priorities, and how acquired knowledge and practices will be transferred to improve applicants' media organizations performance and impact, as well as how it will improve their individual content production abilities.
4. A detailed breakdown outlining the needed funds and their purpose, such as tuition or participation fees, travel and accommodation bookings and costs, equipment needs, and any specialized training ahead of joining the fellowship or event.

² The definition of this criterion specifically includes Jordanian journalists and media practitioners and residents who are descendants of Jordanian women carrying relevant ID cards, who work in journalism and media in a Jordan-based digital platform and are active in producing content that is focused on Jordan.



Application Instructions

Interested applicants can apply through the following steps: download and complete the attached program description and budget forms, attach all requested support documents and send application packages in email to jo-sawt-grants@internews.org by 15 August 2024 17:00 Amman time. **Please note that the deadline has been extended until 14 September 2024.** Applications submitted after the deadline will **not** be considered.

Note: *For the purposes of this opportunity, Sawt will only be accepting applications in English.*

If you encounter difficulties with submitting your application or have questions, please email jo-sawt-grants@internews.org

Disclaimer

The issuance of this Call for Applications does not commit Internews to provide any kind of support to any prospective applicant responding to this solicitation. Prospective applicants will not be reimbursed for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Internews reserves the right to reject any and/or all applications or make a selection without further discussion or negotiations.

Internews reserves the right to disqualify applicants from consideration if they have been found to have engaged in unethical or improper professional conduct.