

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

237

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

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MAGAZINE

**Unified Medic West
and Medlab West 2025**

*your Gateway to the West
African Healthcare Market*



VISION À L'ACTION

Les Femmes qui Font Bouger les Lignes de la Santé

Grit-Determination-Innovation

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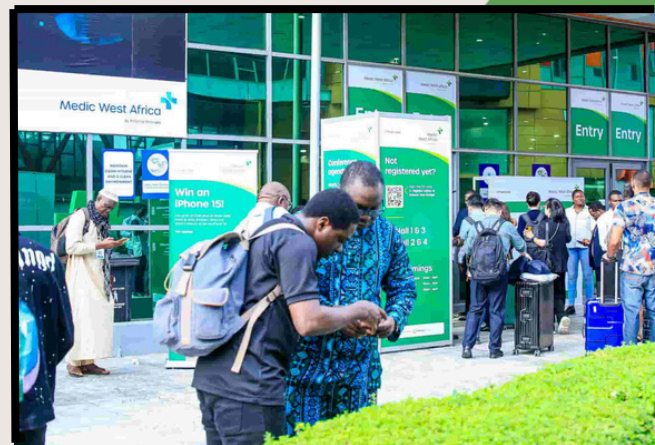


WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Global Community to Mark 30th Anniversary of Beijing Declaration at CSW69 In NEW York

RUN WITH PURPOSE

Local and global opportunities for women and girls



EDITORS NOTE

Breaking boundaries in the health care sector

Greetings to our wonderful readers, and thank you for the incredible response to our last edition. We are thrilled to see the enthusiasm with which you embraced the stories of women breaking barriers in politics. This month, we shift our focus to another crucial sector—healthcare—where women are once again leading the way and making a tangible impact.

Across Cameroon, women are not only delivering essential healthcare services but are also pioneering innovative solutions to address the country's health challenges. From improving access to care in rural communities to introducing digital health platforms, these women are using technology and creativity to bridge gaps and enhance healthcare delivery. Their efforts are transforming how care is provided and ensuring that even the most remote areas have access to quality health services.

Public health advocates are also at the forefront of tackling issues like maternal health, child health, and infectious disease prevention. By addressing both the immediate needs of the population and the broader social determinants of health, these women are building a foundation for a healthier, more sustainable future for Cameroon.



Ngobesing Linda Neh

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The women leading in this space are an inspiration—combining expertise, compassion, and innovation to create real change. Their work is a testament to the power of women in shaping the future of healthcare, and we celebrate their achievements as they continue to inspire others to join the movement toward better health for all.

We hope you are as inspired by their stories as we are. Stay tuned as we continue to highlight the remarkable women shaping the future of healthcare in Cameroon.

Stay inspired.
Stay empowered.
Stay sweet!
Love you all.

FREEDOM AFTER FOUR YEARS: DORGELESSE NGUESSAN'S LONG-AWAITED RELEASE



After more than four years of unjust imprisonment, Dorgelesse Nguessan, a single mother and hairdresser, has been released from detention, a move that rights groups are hailing as a step forward for justice. Nguessan, 39, was arrested in 2020 for participating in a peaceful protest organized by the opposition party Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC). Her release follows a lengthy and arduous battle, bringing her back to her family after a traumatic period of arbitrary detention.

Her arrest was part of a wider crackdown by Cameroonian authorities, who detained over 500 protesters in the wake of demonstrations held in September 2020. Nguessan, who had never been politically involved before, joined the protest in Douala, driven by growing concerns over the country's economic struggles. However, her participation in this peaceful assembly led to charges of "insurrection" and "public demonstrations," among other accusations.

As the fight for human rights in Cameroon presses on, the case of Dorgelesse Nguessan highlights both the persistence of political repression and the power of global advocacy. In 2022, her case was featured in Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign, a global initiative that saw thousands of supporters across the world write letters demanding her release. For Nguessan, however, this moment of freedom is bittersweet. It marks a long-awaited reunion with her family, but it is also a painful reminder of the injustices faced by countless other activists and citizens striving for their basic rights. The struggle for human rights in Cameroon continues, with the call for justice growing louder by the day.

In a military court on December 7, 2021, Nguessan was handed a harsh five-year sentence, despite the lack of any concrete evidence against her. The severity of the ruling underscored the deeply entrenched political repression in Cameroon. But after years of legal battles, her sentence was finally reduced by the Court of Appeal on January 16, 2025, following several referrals.

10 Cas de féminicides en 27 jours



Liste des femmes tuées en Janvier 2025 au Cameroun

- 1er Janvier à DOUALA :** Aurelie Murielle Nya, 24 ans, découverte étendue sur le sol, son concubun interpellé
- 1er Douala à Bependa :** Carine, 27 ans, découverte en état de putréfaction dans sa chambre.
Son concubin recherché
- 3 Janvier à Bafoussam :** Tatiana Noubissie decède après avoir été frappée par son compagnon
- 10 Janvier à Dschang :** Matricide, une femme tuée par son fils de 40 ans. Le repris de justice est retourné en prison
- 11 Janvier à Dschang :** Pauline Flore Atenkeng violée et tuée
- 18 Janvier à Kribi :** Darolle prise au piège après une fausse offre d'emploi. Elle est kidnappée et tuée
- 23 Janvier à Yaoundé :** Angèle Ekole violée et tuée dans la maison familiale. Son corps mutilé
- 23 Janvier à Mokong :** Matricide, une femme tuée par son fils
- 24 Janvier à Obala :** Kati decède quelques jours après avoir été battue par son époux militaire.
- 27 Janvier à Mora :** Nafissatou Babarou, 19 ans, succombe à un viol conjugal

FEMICIDE IN CAMEROON: 10 WOMEN KILLED IN 29 DAYS AND THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In Cameroon, the shocking reality of femicide has once again come to the forefront. In January 2024, 10 women were murdered by their intimate partners in just 29 days, a stark reminder of the widespread domestic violence plaguing the country. This tragic statistic is part of a global pattern where femicide accounts for 60% of all female homicides. As International Women's Day approaches, the focus must shift from superficial celebrations to addressing the systemic issues that enable this violence to persist.

Globally, 85,000 women and girls were intentionally killed in 2023, and more than half of these deaths were committed by intimate partners or family members. In Cameroon, the brutal deaths of 10 women in such a short period highlight a deep-rooted crisis that devastates families and communities. These killings not only leave survivors grappling with trauma but also reflect entrenched gender inequalities that normalize violence against women.

International Women's Day has long been a day for reflection, celebration, and advocacy for women's rights. However, with femicide taking such a heavy toll on women's lives, the day must serve as more than just a platform for symbolic gestures like fabric displays and parades. It is time for the global community to focus on concrete actions that address the root causes of femicide, especially in places like Cameroon.



The senseless killings of 10 women in just 29 days in Cameroon is a wake-up call for urgent action. As International Women's Day approaches, it is critical to use this platform not for symbolic acts, but to take real steps toward ending femicide and violence against women. The global community must unite to push for stronger laws, greater accountability, and a shift in societal attitudes that normalize violence. The time for meaningful action is now—before more lives are lost.

THE **Power** LIST

"Women Shaping Cameroon's health care sector"

Women in Cameroon are playing a pivotal role in shaping the healthcare sector, driving significant advancements in public health, medical education, and healthcare accessibility. Many women in Cameroon serve as doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators, and public health advocates, leading initiatives to improve maternal and child health, combat diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS, and expand healthcare services in rural areas. Their leadership and dedication have been essential in addressing health disparities, advocating for policy changes, and pioneering innovative health programs that improve the lives of countless individuals across the country.



DR. NOELLA GWANYAMA: CHAMPIONING MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH IN CAMEROON

In the heart of Cameroon's North West region, Dr. Noella Gwanyama is leading a transformative initiative aimed at improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes. As the founder of Talk Pregnancy with Dr. Noella (TPWDN), Dr. Noella's organization is making significant strides in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality while also empowering women and adolescents with critical information about sexual and reproductive health. Through her work, she has become a beacon of hope for many families, particularly in marginalized communities, who struggle with inadequate access to healthcare.



TPWDN'S MISSION

Talk Pregnancy with Dr. Noella (TPWDN) was established to bridge the gap in maternal healthcare services, particularly for women and newborns in crisis-affected areas. The organization focuses on educating and empowering women, adolescents, and healthcare workers with accurate, up-to-date information on pregnancy, preconception care, antenatal consultations, and family planning. The goal is not only to improve the immediate healthcare needs of mothers and children but also to build long-term solutions that ensure sustainable healthcare access.

One of TPWDN's key initiatives is the establishment of preconception centers where couples can receive guidance on family planning and health before, during, and after pregnancy. These centers aim to ensure that women have the knowledge and support they need to make informed choices about their reproductive health, thereby reducing complications during pregnancy and childbirth



TRAINING HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

A vital part of Dr. Noella's strategy has been capacity building within local communities. In collaboration with TPWDN and Open Dreams, Dr. Noella trained 15 individuals, including five healthcare workers from the Wum Health District and ten healthcare volunteers. These individuals now serve as ambassadors in the fight against maternal and neonatal mortality, spreading crucial information about safe pregnancy practices and facilitating access to medical resources in communities that need it most.

GROUNDBREAKING SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Noella's work has not gone unnoticed. Her commitment to improving maternal health in her community earned her the prestigious Aviva Women in Science Fund Community Project grant under Open Dreams, making TPWDN the first organization to receive this funding. This grant supports the organization's community engagement efforts and encourages research and scholarship for medical students pursuing neonatology.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CAMEROON'S MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Dr. Noella's work through TPWDN is not just about addressing immediate needs, but about creating a sustainable impact for future generations. By focusing on education, healthcare access, and community empowerment, TPWDN is gradually transforming the landscape of maternal and neonatal healthcare in the North West region. Dr. Noella's unwavering passion and commitment are shaping a brighter future for Cameroon's mothers and children, and her work stands as a testament to the power of knowledge, compassion, and collective action in improving lives.

As TPWDN continues to grow and expand its reach, there is no doubt that Dr. Noella will remain at the forefront of this essential work, driving positive change and saving lives in Cameroon and beyond.



DR. MRS. FRANCISCA HONGLA BIAKA: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NURSING WITH VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



Dr. Mrs. Hongla Biaka is an exemplary woman whose dedication, leadership, and resilience have solidified her as a trailblazer in education, healthcare, and business in Cameroon. Born in 1961 in Victoria (now Limbe), South West Region of Cameroon, she has built an illustrious career rooted in her deep Catholic faith, her commitment to societal change, and a passion for uplifting others.

Dr. Biaka's journey began at Saker Baptist College (1979 Batch) before she moved to England. Upon her father's passing in 1986, she returned to Cameroon to take the helm of PAN Electric Enterprise Ltd, where she served as Chairperson and CEO, displaying her entrepreneurial spirit early on.

Her most significant contribution, however, lies in her leadership of Biaka University Institute of Buea (BUIB), which she took over after the death of her late husband, Dr. Lawrence Francis Tonye Biaka, in 2014. Originally founded in 1998 as St. Francis School of Nursing and Midwifery, BUIB has blossomed under Dr. Biaka's stewardship into a prestigious higher education institution, offering specialized programs in Health Sciences, Management, and Education. Her philosophy of empowerment through education has transformed the lives of countless students and professionals, as many have advanced their careers through the university's self-development policy.

Dr. Biaka's leadership extends beyond education. As the Southwest Regional Delegate of the Chamber of Commerce, she has fostered a more organized and competitive business community in the region. Her dedication to improving the entrepreneurial landscape of the Southwest, combined with her role as 1st Vice President of the Cameroon Women Business Leaders Association, underscores her influence in shaping both the education and business sectors. Furthermore, she serves as the 3rd Vice President of The National Association of Private Higher Education Institutions in Cameroon, further solidifying her leadership in the higher education sector.

Her numerous accolades, including Officer of the Order of Valour, Commander of the Order of Valour, Knight of the Order of Valour, Honorary Doctorate from the University of Essex, and the Leadership Initiative Award in Education, reflect her global recognition as a woman of exceptional merit. Dr. Biaka's impact transcends borders and fields, making her a true force to reckon with.

Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, education, and service, and she continues to inspire women and future leaders to break barriers, embrace their potential, and create lasting change in their communities.



DR. NGWASHI CHRISTABEL: A VISIONARY LEADER TRANSFORMING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Dr. Ngwashi Christabel is an exceptional medical doctor and global health expert whose dedication to improving maternal and child health has earned her recognition across the world. With over six years of experience in clinical care, public health management, and policy advising, Dr. Christabel's impact is felt far beyond her native Cameroon.

Her remarkable journey is defined by a passion for creating sustainable health solutions. A highly skilled trainer for the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) program, deployed by the American Association of Family Physicians, Dr. Christabel has empowered countless health professionals with life-saving skills. Her ingenuity also led her to design a strategy that successfully halved maternal deaths in a West African country—a monumental achievement that has improved the lives of countless mothers.

In addition to her clinical and programmatic contributions, Dr. Christabel founded Healthsavi, a health communication platform that educates individuals, particularly mothers, about the importance of health literacy. Through this innovative initiative, she has been a driving force in making health information more accessible and empowering communities to take charge of their well-being.

Currently serving as a Health Specialist at The World Bank Group, Dr. Christabel helps governments across Europe and Central Asia address pressing health challenges. She is at the forefront of global efforts to build resilient health systems that prioritize patient-centered, community-based care—an effort that intersects with sustainable financing, digital innovation, and evidence-based policies.



TRANSFORMING AFRICA



Dr. Christabel's appointment as Chair of the Board of the For Mom and Baby Foundation marks a new chapter in her mission to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths in Africa. As she takes on this leadership role, she brings her wealth of experience and unwavering commitment to ensuring that no mother or child in Cameroon or Africa dies from preventable causes.

Her leadership philosophy is grounded in collaboration, with a clear focus on using innovative strategies to bring lasting change. "I am honored to be elected as the Chair of the Board of this foundation which is on track to becoming Cameroon and Africa's most influential and impactful grassroots organization," says Dr. Christabel. "With the support of my fellow board members and the team, I am confident we will succeed."

Dr. Ngwashi Christabel's extraordinary career exemplifies the power of combining expertise with passion to drive systemic change in healthcare. Her relentless work is a beacon of hope for many, and her commitment to empowering communities, especially mothers and children, makes her a true leader in the global health landscape.

DR. EDITH GIBSON: PIONEERING TROPICAL SKIN CARE AND EMPOWERING WOMEN WORLDWIDE

Dr. Edith F. Gibson is making waves in the world of medical aesthetics as a groundbreaking entrepreneur, public speaker, and advocate for tropical skin care. As the Founder and CEO of the Tropical Derma Research Group and the 'Xcape' skincare line, Dr. Gibson has spent over a decade advancing the science of skincare tailored to the unique needs of tropical skin.

Her expertise spans advanced aesthetics, oncology, and holistic skincare, with certifications from top institutions like Grace Medical and the National Laser Institute. Dr. Gibson's pivotal research in the tropics from 2010 to 2017 led to her Doctorate in Industrial Psychology and the launch of her flagship skincare brand in 2019. Through her initiatives, she introduced medical aesthetics to Cameroon, earning a ministerial award for her contributions.

In 2021, Dr. Gibson partnered with Dr. Tim Hamilton of Grace Medical Equipment to establish a globally recognized training protocol for tropical skin management. Her work continues to inspire and empower women, providing them with the tools to care for their skin and careers. Through the Tropics Derma Institute, she trains the next generation of medical aestheticians, spreading her passion and knowledge worldwide.

Dr. Gibson is not only changing the skincare industry but is also reshaping the future for women in medical aesthetics.



DR. MARIE SOLANGE NDOM EBONGUE: A TRAILBLAZER LEADING LAQUINTINIE HOSPITAL INTO A NEW ERA

A historic milestone has been reached at Douala's Laquintinie Hospital, one of Cameroon's most prestigious medical institutions, with the appointment of Marie Solange NDOM EBONGUE as its General Manager. For the first time in the hospital's 93-year history, a woman has been entrusted with this leadership role, marking a transformative moment for both the institution and the country's healthcare system.

Dr. NDOM EBONGUE, a renowned cardiologist and trailblazer, brings with her a wealth of experience, a passion for patient-centered care, and an unwavering commitment to improving healthcare in Cameroon. Her appointment is more than just a personal achievement; it is a beacon of hope and inspiration for women in medicine and leadership across Africa.



A CAREER BUILT ON EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATION

Since joining Laquintinie Hospital in 2014, Dr. NDOM EBONGUE has proven herself as a dedicated and innovative healthcare professional. Rising through the ranks due to her expertise and work ethic, she quickly became one of the hospital's leading cardiologists. Her stellar medical career took on greater prominence during the Covid-19 health crisis, where she served as the Deputy Head of the Covid Specialized Care Center in Douala. In this role, she demonstrated exceptional leadership, managing complex situations and effectively mobilizing medical teams to provide critical care during a challenging time. Her ability to balance clinical care with administrative leadership has set her apart, and her reputation as a strong, decisive leader has made her the perfect candidate to lead Laquintinie into its next chapter.

A Vision for a Modern, Patient-Centered Healthcare System

Dr. NDOM EBONGUE's vision for Laquintinie Hospital goes beyond maintaining the status quo. Her approach to leadership is focused on bringing modern, personalized care to the forefront. One of her first major initiatives as General Manager is the creation of a customized care center at the hospital, aimed at providing individualized care plans tailored to each patient's needs. Her commitment to modernizing healthcare in Cameroon is unwavering, and she intends to make Laquintinie Hospital a shining example of what is possible in public health, setting new standards for patient care, technological advancement, and medical excellence.

Her leadership style is grounded in collaboration, empowerment, and inclusivity, ensuring that her team works together towards common goals. She is keenly aware of the immense expectations placed on her shoulders and the profound impact that her leadership could have on shaping the future of healthcare in Cameroon.



CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Dr. NDOM EBONGUE's appointment is also a significant step forward in recognizing the importance of women in leadership roles, particularly in male-dominated sectors like healthcare. As a former President of the Cameroon Doctors' Association (MEDCAMER), she has long championed the value of women in decision-making and leadership. Her rise to this prestigious position underscores the power of hard work, resilience, and determination in breaking barriers.

Her journey serves as a powerful reminder to all women that with talent, dedication, and passion, there are no limits to what can be achieved. By becoming the first woman to head Laquintinie Hospital, she is not just breaking a glass ceiling—she is creating a path for future generations of women to follow, proving that they too can lead, innovate, and make a profound difference in their communities.



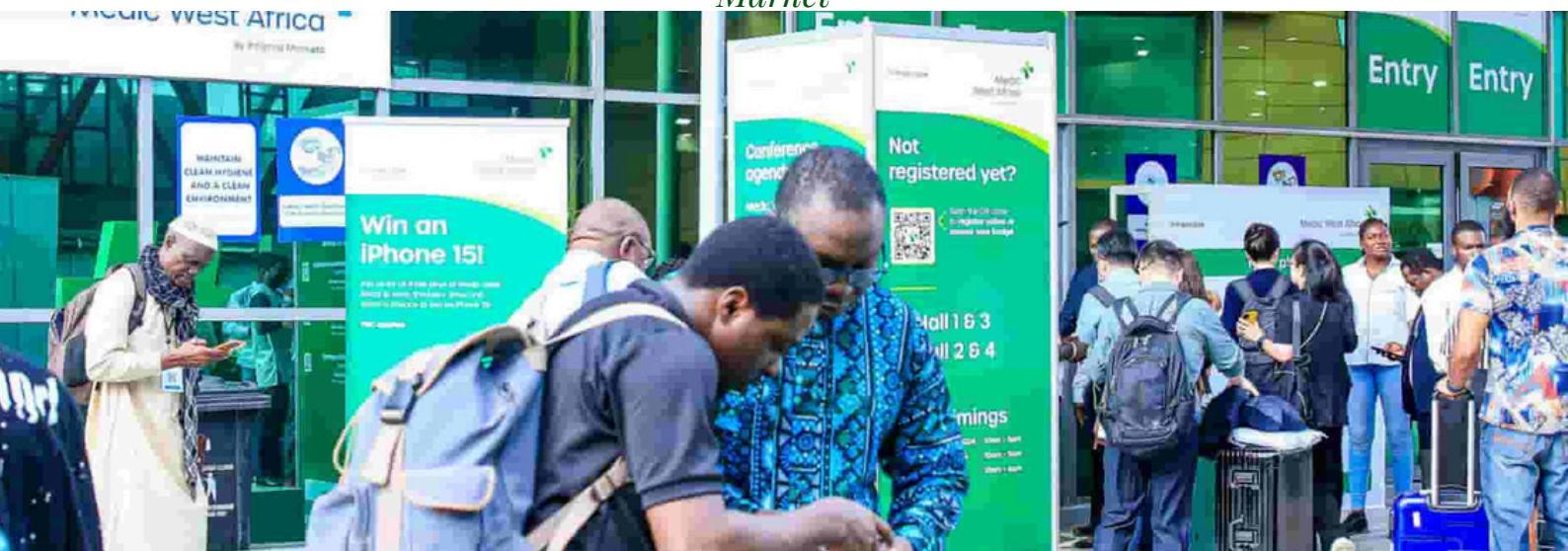
A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND CHANGE

Dr. NDOM EBONGUE's leadership is a symbol of hope for the future of African healthcare. Her appointment inspires both women and men to believe in their power to bring about positive change, not only in healthcare systems but in society at large. As a leader, she is committed to creating an environment where competence, compassion, and commitment to service are the driving forces behind every decision.

Marie Solange NDOM EBONGUE is more than just a pioneering woman at the helm of Laquintinie Hospital—she is a force of change, a champion for women's leadership, and a shining example of what is possible when we dare to dream big and strive for excellence. Her journey is a testament to the incredible potential within each of us to shape a better future, and with her leadership, the future of healthcare in Cameroon has never looked brighter.

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Your complimentary attendee pass provides exclusive access to a wealth of opportunities, including:

Networking: Connect with over 500 exhibitors from more than 40 countries, expanding your professional network and creating valuable partnerships.

Product Discovery: Explore groundbreaking products and innovations across eight key categories, gaining insight into the latest advancements shaping the healthcare industry.

Educational Sessions: Engage in insightful learning sessions, including CPD-accredited courses, to enhance your knowledge and earn free CPD credits.

Interactive Experiences: Witness live demonstrations and engage with global innovators, gaining firsthand exposure to the newest tools, technologies, and solutions transforming healthcare.

Don't miss out—click link to register

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JOHN HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Summer
Institute in
Gender and
Health

**OFFERED BY: DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

The Summer Institute in Gender and Health offers a range of flexible, asynchronous and synchronous courses, each lasting between 2 and 5 half days, held from 8 am to 12 pm EST to accommodate global time zones. Students can choose to take as many courses as they like, with no minimum or maximum requirement. Past participants have represented diverse academic and professional backgrounds from countries such as Australia, Brazil, India, Nigeria, South Korea, Mexico, Uganda, and many more. The program features a curriculum taught by leading faculty with extensive expertise in gender and health.

Eligibility Criteria: The program is open to individuals with a strong interest in gender and health. While there are no specific academic prerequisites, applicants are generally expected to have a relevant academic or professional background, such as in public health, social sciences, or related fields. The Summer Institute is ideal for professionals, students, and researchers aiming to enhance their knowledge and skills in gender and health.

For more information on courses, eligibility, and to register, visit the [Course Offerings page](#) and [Registration link](#).

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AWiMLearning Featured Micro-Course: Revenue Diversification & Business Models

Media sustainability is critical to ensuring ethical, independent journalism, and the ability to report without financial constraints. This month, we are featuring the AWiMLearning micro-course on Revenue Diversification and Business Models, a crash course designed to help media professionals strengthen financial sustainability while aligning with the broader goals of the Kigali Declaration.

📌 Course Overview:

🕒 Duration: 1 Week

📖 Includes: 2 Lessons, 1 Quiz

🎯 Level: All Levels

Through practical exercises and case studies, this course will equip participants to:

- ✓ Develop financial strategies that support ethical journalism and newsroom independence.
- ✓ Explore sustainable revenue models that reduce reliance on traditional funding streams.
- ✓ Identify new opportunities for monetization while maintaining editorial integrity.
- ✓ Strengthen media resilience in an evolving digital landscape.

By diversifying income sources, media professionals and organizations can better navigate financial challenges, ensuring long-term sustainability and continued commitment to ethical reporting.

🔗 [Enroll in the Micro-Course Here](#)

www.237womenonthemove.org

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She Wins Climate

Empowering women-led climate startups
in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



The She Wins Climate Acceleration Program supports women-led startups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia that are focused on innovative climate solutions. The program aims to enhance the investment readiness of these startups by providing opportunities for mentorship, visibility, tailored training, business support, and peer-to-peer learning.

Key Details:

Target Regions: Eastern Europe (e.g., Armenia, Poland, Romania) and Central Asia (e.g., Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan).

Focus Sectors: Clean technology, renewable energy, waste management, circular economy, and more.

Eligibility: Women founders (21+), fluent in English, with for-profit startups in early stages (pre-SEED, SEED, Series-A), operating for at least one year.

Program Benefits: Investment opportunities, expert mentorship, visibility, and business support.

Application Deadline: March 17, 2025.

Selection Criteria: Innovation, impact, scalability, market traction, and financial

The 10-month program begins in April 2025. For more information, visit the application page or contact support@vc4a.com.