



Access to Skills and Knowledge network



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#ASKnet is a cross-border consortium of youth-led, community-driven organizations building a transformative and sustainable open media ecosystem across East Africa. Born from the energy and vision of young South Sudanese innovators, the network connects hubs, changemakers, and local experts working at the intersection of media, technology, and community action. Through open-source knowledge sharing, media training, and hands-on skills development, #ASKnet empowers individuals and communities to learn, create, and collaborate across borders. From coding and repair cafés to podcasting, open hardware, and digital storytelling, the network transforms access to skills into opportunities for innovation, resilience, and peacebuilding.

Vision

A connected, creative, and open society where knowledge flows freely, empowering communities to shape their own futures through shared skills, collaboration, and sustainable media innovation.

Mission

#ASKnet builds bridges between technology, media, and civic life. We strengthen youth-led innovation, expand access to open knowledge, and grow local capacity through peer-to-peer learning, open tech, and creative collaboration.

Who we are

Founded by young South Sudanese creators and sustained through regional partnerships, #ASKnet links local hubs, educators, activists, and innovators in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan. Together, we use media and open technology to address local challenges, build livelihoods, and amplify community voices. Supported by #04g agency for open culture and critical transformation (Berlin) and Hive Colab (Kampala) with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 2022-2025.

ASKnet Members

- CC4D - Community Creativity for Development (Rhino Camp, Uganda)
- CECI - Community Empowerment For Creative Innovation (Koboko, Uganda)
- CIC - Creative Innovation Center (Rhino Camp, Uganda)
- CSCOV - The Center for Strengthening Community Voices (Wau, South Sudan)
- GoGirls ICT Initiative (Juba, South Sudan)
- Junub Open Space (Juba, South Sudan)
- KVA - Kiryandongo Video Advocates (Bweyale, Uganda)
- Koneta Hub (Juba, South Sudan)
- Ma'Mara Sakit Village (Juba, South Sudan)
- Nexus Youth Initiative Uganda (Adjumani, Uganda)
- Platform Africa (Rhino Camp, Uganda)
- RSSA - Reliable Refugee Storytellers Association (Bidi Bidi, Uganda)
- YEF - Youth Empowerment Foundation (Adjumani / Pagirinya, Uganda)

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www.asknet.community



Open Knowledge and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Open Educational Resources (OER)

empower communities to share knowledge, exchange skills, and co-create tools for real-world challenges. Access to open knowledge gives everyone an equal chance to learn, adapt, and innovate.

Open Culture: From Knowledge to Action

Open knowledge and global movements for open science, data, and learning are breaking barriers of cost, geography, and gatekeeping, creating new pathways for lifelong learning and innovation. OER invite us into a commons of ideas, where learners can reuse, remix, and redistribute freely, opening the door to social change.

Open Culture in #ASKnet

In #ASKnet, OER are living tools connecting creativity and innovation with shared purpose. Through #ASKtraining and GitHub, from repair cafés and podcast training to solar dryer projects and open guides, each hub adapts and improves materials to fit local needs, building a distributed network of community knowledge.

The Future of OER

The future of learning is open, local, and inclusive. Emerging possibilities point to a new era of decentralised and locally created content, hybrid community learning spaces, and recognition of informal learning. This is education as collective resilience, innovation rooted in culture, connecting people through shared knowledge, and shaping a sustainable, interdependent future.

#ASKotec

Origin & Idea

The #ASKotec (Access to Skills and Knowledge Open Tech Emergency Case) was created to bring hands-on technical learning to places with limited resources. Developed by the #ASKnet community, the kit provides everything needed to teach repair, innovation, and open technology skills, from soldering and solar power to electronics and upcycling. Housed in a rugged, dust-proof case, each kit contains over 50 essential tools, components, and open-source guides. Designed for mobility, collaboration, and reuse, #ASKotec turns scarcity into opportunity, empowering communities to learn, build, and share knowledge anywhere.

#ASKotec Access to Skills and Knowledge Open Tech Emergency Case

A resource kit for community trainers, #ASKotec provides everything needed to teach electronics, solar power, and basic ICT skills. Equipped with a broad range of items, including portable, solar-power electronics designed as a light and handy mobile workshop creation set, for remote learning and repair. Empowering people to fix, build, and innovate, especially valuable to communities where access to tools, power and materials is scarce.
Repair. Reuse. Reimagine



#ASKotec Media Kit – Stories that Connect Communities
The #ASKotec Media Kit was born from the #ASKnet network's need to make media education accessible anywhere, especially without stable power or internet. A modular learning and storytelling toolkit packed with exercises for community media training. The #ASKotec Media Kit combines portable, low-tech tools with open learning guides, helping communities document their stories, share local knowledge, and amplify youth and women's voices in media for peace, inclusion, and resilience.
Open Media. Shared Voices.

#ASKnet Platforms and Services



#ASKtraining - Create your Training Plans
The #ASKtraining platform is an open, adaptable, and community-driven space designed to compile, share, and streamline workshops, OER and "how-to" guides. By compiling and circulating hands-on knowledge with peer-to-peer sharing resources, this collaborative platform supports the sustainability of activities and local innovation, strengthens open learning networks, and facilitates onboarding of new members and participants.
<https://training.asknet.community/>



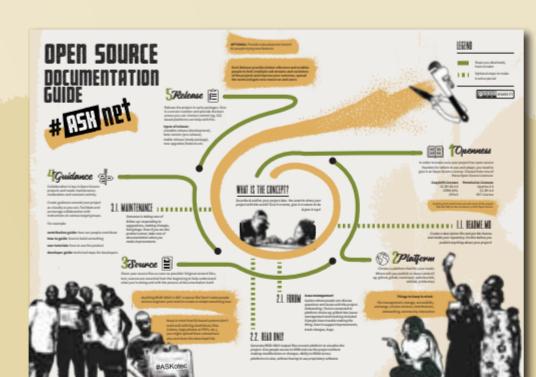
#ASKlead - Connecting Local Expertise
The #ASKnet Local Expert Action Directory (LEAD) links skilled community members in media, ICT, and technology with peers, clients, and collaborators for expertise from storytelling and repair to programming and design. Built on peer-to-peer and ToT programs, LEAD showcases youth-led South Sudanese innovation in action.
<https://lead.asknet.community/>



#ASKaggregator - Collaborate. Communicate. Change.
A collaborative platform connecting #ASKnet's campaigns, OERs and stories to enhance visibility, coordination, and creativity. Network members use #ASKaggregator to share, amplify, and promote their community social media campaigns in real time. Work together to create change by sharing, tweeting, and posting your stories. Participate online to amplify impact, coordinate action, suggest new campaigns, and spark engagement across borders.
<https://aggregator.asknet.community/>

#ASKnet Open Guides

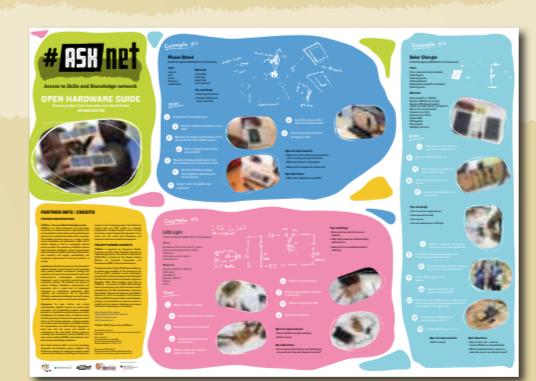
#ASKnet develops and shares practical Open Educational Resources (OERS) guides, toolkits, and training materials that anyone can adapt, remix, and apply in their own community. Our #OpenGuides series introduces open culture, digital literacy, and creative collaboration methods for changemakers at every level.



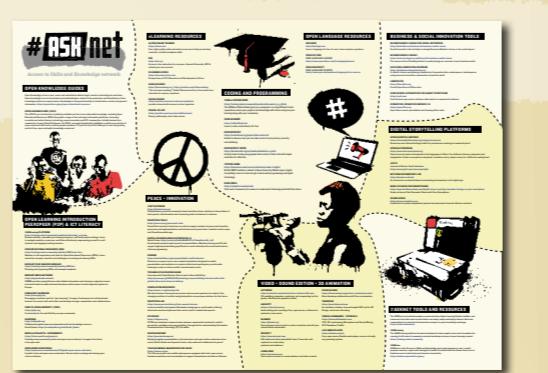
Open Source Documentation Guide (#ODG)
An introduction to open source methodologies, the #ODG provides easy guidance to increase the impact and innovative capacities of collaborative projects. Packed with strategies to apply open source principles effectively, the #ODG is a door to new creative opportunities!



Open Training Guide (#OTG)
The #OTG is a learning resource that can be used by anyone to facilitate easier Access to Skills and Knowledge. It offers tools and methodologies to help design and run your own training, wherever you may be, with whatever resources you have at hand.



Open Hardware Guide (#OHG)
The #OHG is for anyone interested in exploring open technologies in a very practical way. Examples of hands-on skills, possibilities and projects for open hardware methodologies and introduction to resources, it's a tangible tool in the form of a rugged A1 poster for trainers, tinkerers and facilitators.



Open Learning Guide (#OLG)
The #OLG introduces Open Educational Resources (OER) around the topics of online literacy, technology and DIY communities. Designed to help solve the acute post-independence social, political, educational and environmental challenges which arose through the long-lasting conflicts in South Sudan.

The #ASKnet Story

2015 – The jHUB 'pioneers'

Community media trainings with participants from around South Sudan drafted and signed a Charter of Common Values, sparking the creation of the Juba Open Knowledge & Innovation Hub (jHUB) and co-creation of the first #peacehackcamp in South Sudan.

2016 – Migrations & New Horizons

As conflict spreads in South Sudan, members relocate across East Africa, developing the #ASKtec kit and planting the seeds of today's #ASKnet.

2017 – New Members Emerge

New informal organisations are established and launched by former jHUB members to create local hubs and teach skills in local contexts and refugee settlements, such as Rhino Camp in Northern Uganda, and towns in South Sudan such as Bor.

2018 – A Growing Network

#ASKnet takes shape as an informal collaboration of media makers and open tech innovators across the region. A first collective training session on Media, IT, Open Tech innovation and repair culture is held in Rhino Camp South Sudanese refugee settlement.

2019 – From Hubs to Community

Six legally registered hubs unite as the first #ASKnet collective; in collaboration with the Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) first international #ASKsummit (DOTS) held in Kenya.

2020 – Decentralized Action

In response to COVID-19, #ASKnet shifts to online training and mentoring to connect media and tech hubs across borders with the emerging community of #ASKnet experts.

2021 – Strengthening Local Impact

Hubs expand community programs and life skills trainings in South Sudan and Uganda. The "Labmobile" is launched at Rhino Camp, and #ROSHOP modular housing prototype at Pagirinya Refugee Settlement in Uganda joins the expanding resources and programs.

2022 – 2023 – Founding the Consortium

#ASKnet formalizes as an international consortium, a self-governed, inclusive cross-border network of South Sudanese youth-led media and innovation hubs.

2024 – Expanding Reach

New partnerships and open culture initiatives strengthen collaboration and OER development across the network, and the launch of the #ASKtraining platform.

2025 – 13 Hubs Strong

#ASKnet grows to 13 member organisations, each advancing local independence and innovation within their communities.

2026 – The Future Is Open

The network continues to expand, welcoming new communities to co-create, collaborate, and share open knowledge for resilience, empowerment and transformation.

