



‘Habari za Maji’ prize for outstanding journalism for accountability in water management

Background information, objectives, application procedure, eligibility and terms and conditions

1. Introduction and background

Shahidi wa Maji is working in partnership across Tanzania through the Uhakika wa Maji Initiative¹ to transform the way water is managed so that all Tanzanians, our environment and economy can thrive. We take a fresh approach to the serious problems of water depletion, conflict, water shortage, pollution, climate change and environmental degradation by using social accountability - people power - to understand the issues and demand change. By working with communities affected by water problems to expose the root causes and potential solutions, we seek to activate the capacity within Tanzania to ensure equitable water management, and a fair water future for all. We generate evidence-based advocacy through:

- helping vulnerable communities to understand and activate legal rights and obligations;
- tracking the responses to water problems by government, private sector and other duty bearers;
- analyzing whether budgets, funding and human resources are adequate and well-used in the water sector.

Our initiative has generated compelling stories and cases studies which highlight the critical role of improved water management for Tanzania’s future. In July 2017 we shared these with thirty of the country’s leading journalists at our media training event in Dar es Salaam which aimed to enable journalists and media houses across the country to fulfill their key roles in driving positive change for our shared water security.

During the event our Chair, Herbert Kasililah also announced the launch of a new annual prize – the **Habari za Maji Prize** – for outstanding journalism for accountability on water. This document sets out the details of the award, application procedures, eligibility and terms and conditions.

Purpose and objective

The purpose of the Habari za Maji Prize is to:

1. Recognize and reward the important contribution from media professionals in increasing understanding of and driving solutions to the country’s water resource management challenges, and,

¹ Uhakika wa Maji - Fair Water Futures is funded by DFID, Scottish Government and the Hewlett Foundation, and is delivered in partnership with Water Witness International, Tawasanet, ANEW, FAN, NEMC and the Ministry of Water in Tanzania

2. Stimulate increased, well-informed media coverage of the topic to improve public understanding and action.

At the training event in June 2017 we equipped the country's leading and upcoming journalists with the technical background, networks and resources needed to fulfill their role in sharing knowledge and stimulating debate and change on water in the public interest. The training highlighted the importance of securing our fresh water today for a better future, and the key role of water in our sustainable economic growth and livelihoods. We recognize the important role of the media in bringing knowledge to people and decision makers, and in particular in helping to hold duty bearers in government and the private sector to account. We want to harness the talent of journalists across Tanzania to raise awareness and generate stronger support for sustainable water management. Shahidi wa Maji, in collaboration with Water Witness International and the Journalists Environment Team will therefore launch the **Habari za Maji prize**, a prestigious annual award in the following categories:

- A. Best use of existing evidence and Uhakika wa Maji materials
- B. Best original journalism for a fair water future
- C. Best young journalist working on water
- D. Best media house / publication covering water issues

3. Terms and conditions of the award

a. General scope and eligibility

- The scope of the award is for articles and publications in any form of media which connect the water resource management issues facing citizens of Tanzania, with clear requests for action by the specific duty bearers with the statutory/legal responsibility to take action. The articles should be clearly focused on the impact and importance of the issues, the need for action and should reference who needs act, what that action should be taken and under which legislation and policy provisions.
- By water resource management issues we include problems of water quality, pollution, catchment degradation, depletion of groundwater or rivers, water scarcity, water conflict, flooding, drought, and issues around water use permits, water user associations and environmental impact assessments.
- Articles must have been formally published in print or online, or aired on radio or television and seen/read by significant numbers of people.
- The competition is open to anyone, not just those who attended the training in June 2017 and training materials will be made available to those who did not attend on request.
- Submissions can be in English or Swahili.
- Articles and other media products submitted to the competition must have been written, produced and aired between July 2017 and February 2018.
- Multiple entries can be submitted across multiple categories.

b. Categories of award and prizes

Category	Qualifying criteria	Prize
A. Best use of existing material to drive accountable water governance	Most impactful use of existing evidence and materials. The article should use reliable secondary material, for example, evidence generated by the Uhakika wa Maji Programme to date. Stories and additional investigations/interviews based on our case studies and materials will also fall into this category.	Habari za Maji trophy and choice of either a Hewlett Packard Pavilion 360 Laptop OR a Sony a6000 digital camera (or equivalent) – each worth TZS 1.54 million, PLUS a TZS 500 000 cash award.
B. Best original journalism for a fair water future	Open category across all formats for best performing entrant fulfilling the media’s accountability role and displaying qualities of outstanding journalism	Habari za Maji trophy and choice of either a Hewlett Packard Pavilion 360 Laptop OR a Sony a6000 digital camera (or equivalent) – each worth TZS 1.54 million, PLUS a TZS 500 000 cash award.
C. Best young journalist working on water	Best performing entrant under age 28	Habari za Maji trophy and a HP Chromebook 11 AND a Sony DSCH300 Digital Compact Bridge Camera, together worth TZS 1.14 Million.
D. Best Media House / Publication coverage of water issues	Award for consistent and high-quality coverage on water related issues to a publication, channel, station or media house.	Prestigious Habari za Maji Chalice for outstanding media coverage for shared water security in Tanzania.
E. Participation to the competition	Recognition of all who entered into the competition	Certificate of recognition

Note that:Articles / outputs and contacts of winning entrants and best runners up will be posted on our websites, circulated to our contacts on global news outlets / media networks at the BBC, UK Guardian, Circle of Blue and Ooska News.

c. Judging criteria

The Habari za Maji Prize partners and the media community invited to the training jointly established the judging criteria for the prizes. These are based on the 'attributes of outstanding journalism' identified at the June 2017 event:

- i) **Accurate and truthful:** submissions must use reliable knowledge and evidence supported where possible by science, objective analysis, research and triangulation across sources. Quotes and references to official materials and laws must be accurate.
- ii) **Ethical and responsible:** entrants must respect the principles of ethical and responsible journalism and should 'do no harm', avoid libel and be legally compliant. This should include protecting sources of sensitive information, and where possible seeking balance and comment from multiple sides of a debate/issue.
- iii) **Public interest:** Submission must have a clear public interest and public benefit impact or intended impact i.e. it must work towards or contribute to improved wellbeing of Tanzanian citizens.
- iv) **Compelling and creative:** Good journalism needs to be appealing and interesting to read, view or listen to and so submissions must reflect excellent production values, be innovative in how it attracts and informs the audience, use graphics and images effectively and show journalistic flair.
- v) **Timely and relevant:** relatedly, submissions should be relevant to the readership and audience and must attempt to reflect contemporary and immediate events. For example publication could be tied in with key dates in the parliamentary or budget calendar or to coincide with key meetings about the water sector.
- vi) **Tenacious and persistent:** The fast pace of the media world often means that stories are published one day, forgotten the next. But, to drive change in behavior and policy, media coverage needs to see issues through, to stick with a topic to its successful resolution. Submissions should therefore reflect this requirement to doggedly pursue change, maintaining coverage and debate in the long term.
- vii) **Wide readership and coverage:** Submissions need to have a meaningful audience size and therefore the last criteria concerns the coverage (number of readers, viewers, listeners etc) attained by the submission and the numbers of people reached.

d. How to apply

Applicants who wish to be considered by the prize judges should:

Submit your application pack which should include:

- i. You contact details and a clear indication of the category or categories you wish to enter (A, B, C or D)
- ii. A copy, scan or link to your published material(s), article(s), story (ies), or digital copy (ies) of your programme(s). (Note that media houses or publications entering in Category D should include all relevant articles or products aired within the qualifying period).

- iii. Details of the date published or aired, where and with whom and actual or estimated readership/audience size and location. Details of how figures on the readership/audience size have been established should be provided and exaggerated data will lead to disqualification.
- iv. A brief note which describes how your submission meets the seven criteria set out above.

All applications should be sent to mediaprize@shahidiwamaji.org with the exact heading in the email: 'Habari za Maji Prize submission' by 28th February 2018. Multiple entries or media house entries should be included in a single email.

e. Deadlines and timescale

Deadline for all submissions is 28th February 2018. Only articles and programmes aired between July 2017 and February 2018 inclusive are eligible. Submissions can be made any time after 1st October 2017.

f. Judging and prizes

A panel of experienced judges will review entries and make the awards. Prizes will include a cash award, a laptop, camera, and the professional honor of receiving this prestigious award as set out above. Actual prizes may vary slightly depending on availability. Judging panel decisions will be final. There will also be an opportunity for winners to have their materials circulated internationally. A notable national figure will be invited to award the prizes to winners of the competition at an event in 2018.

g. Disclaimer

Entrants participate at their own risk and cost, and take full responsibility for their actions, publications and programmes. In particular they should ensure legal compliance and base claims or reporting on reliable and checked knowledge. The partners cannot be held responsible for any damages or financial, legal or other claims arising from participation in this competition.

Any queries about the prize should be directed to Pendo Hyera email: pendohyera@shahidiwamaji.org.

We look forward to your participation – For a fair water future!