The Mawazo Institute, a non-profit research institute based in Nairobi, Kenya, is seeking nominees for its upcoming E-book profiling African women who are using science to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for exceptional female African researchers, practitioners, innovators, educators, tinkerers and makers of all stripes who are helping the public and decision-makers navigate the current crises. This includes women who are working on research into the virus and its vaccines, as well as those engineering policy solutions that help mitigate the socio-economic and political effects of the pandemic, and much more.

Nominees’ work will have a focus on building long-term resilience to future crises on the continent, and will showcase the many ways that African women engage in science, and the deep influence of science over our daily lives. Scientists may be located on, or off the continent at the time of nomination. For this call, Mawazo defines ‘science’ as inclusively as possible, acknowledging the diverse ways in which science is applied and practised in our society. To us, science encompasses the broad fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) as well as the Social and Behavioral Sciences (including fields such as sociology, economics, geography, psychology, anthropology and political science). This list is not exhaustive, so we encourage you to submit your nominations if you feel that the work meets our other criteria.

We invite eligible women scientists to nominate themselves, and also encourage members of the public to submit nominations on behalf of promising candidates. Ten finalists will be competitively selected from the nominees to be profiled in an E-book celebrating and recognising the impressive contributions of African women to the global scientific enterprise. Through the campaign, we also hope to encourage the uptake of science amongst young girls and women.

Finalists will also have their profiles shared on Mawazo’s digital and social media platforms, giving them an opportunity to attract new partners to their work, and raise their public profiles.

We are looking for scientists whose work showcase the diversity of Africa’s science community. Nomination forms are available online here. **Nominations close on Friday 5th February 2021 at 5:00 PM (East African Time).**

**Eligibility:**

Nominees must be:
- Citizens of an African country
- Women
- Passionate leaders and visionaries within their fields or society at large
Benefits:
The selected scientists will have their work and profiles featured in a digital media campaign and a commemorative e-publication. The media campaign will run across Mawazo Institute platforms and those of our partner organisations. Scientists may also be selected to highlight their work and scientific journey on other Mawazo platforms and events, including the Nairobi Ideas Podcast, and receive compensation for this.

Selection Process:
Finalists for the campaign will be judged by the Mawazo Institute and/or its partners. Finalists will be notified by mid – February 2021.

Once selected, Mawazo Institute will develop feature profiles on all ten scientists, including photography and video content (where possible).

About Mawazo Institute:
The Mawazo Institute is a non-profit research institute based in Nairobi, Kenya. In Kiswahili, “mawazo” means “ideas”. Our mission is to support the next generation of female scholars and thought leaders in East Africa, and to get policymakers and the general public engaged with their work. We envision a world in which the ideas and voices of African women are amplified to shape the future of the continent.

Our programmes equip young African women to conduct high quality research on issues affecting the continent’s development, prepare them to launch successful careers in their field, and position them to be thought leaders with influence both within and outside academia. Visit https://mawazoinstitute.org/ for more information about our work.

Nomination Form:
Nomination forms are available online here. Scientists may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Nominations close on Friday 5 February 2021 at 5:00 PM (East African Time).

Incomplete nomination forms or nominations that do not adhere to the requirements specified below will not be considered.

If you have trouble accessing the form, kindly send an application with the following information to contact@mawazoinstitute.org.

- Nominee first & last name (*required)
- Nominee email address (*required)
- Nominee social media handles, if any (e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Nominee website (if any)
- Nominee field of profession (*required)
- In 250 words (or less), share one reason why you are nominating this individual for the campaign (*required)
- Answers to the following questions (*required):
  1. Is the nominee of any African citizenship?
  2. Does the nominee currently live in Africa?
  3. Is the nominee above the age of 18?
  4. What is the nominee’s gender?