



**MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP**
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

Knowledge Networks

Knowledge Networks are thematic groups formed around a specific topic or challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa, and they are a component of the Mandela Washington Fellowship funded by the U.S. Department of State. Knowledge Networks provide a platform and tools for long-distance collaboration to empower members to embrace shared challenges and opportunities.

Knowledge Network members can include:

- Mandela Washington Fellows and Fellowship Alumni
- Reciprocal Exchange Participants and Alumni
- Leadership Institute Staff
- Professional Development Experience Staff

Potential resources available for Knowledge Networks include:

- A Canvas group to collaborate and share opportunities
- Dedicated Zoom and/or email accounts
- Unique hashtags on Givitas to highlight your Knowledge Network's work and elevate calls for collaboration
- Advertising in the Fellowship Focus to share Knowledge Network activities and events with the broader Fellowship community
- Features on Fellowship social media



Knowledge Network Feature: Driving Inclusive Development

The Disability Inclusion Knowledge Network, which started as an informal WhatsApp group, now includes over 80 members of the Fellowship community from 20 African countries and the U.S. It focuses on disability rights, accessibility, and inclusive development in Africa. In 2020, members of the group were awarded a Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund Rapid Response grant to address gender-based violence affecting persons with disabilities during COVID-19 in Botswana. In 2022, the Knowledge Network held a virtual town hall on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that was attended globally by stakeholders across the private and public sector.





Interested in forming a Knowledge Network?

Complete the Knowledge Network Interest Form at mwfellows.info/KNintform



Questions?

Contact the Fellowship Team at MWFAlumni@irex.org

-  mandelawashingtonfellowship.org
-  [Facebook.com/MandelaWashingtonFellowship](https://www.facebook.com/MandelaWashingtonFellowship)
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The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX.

