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The Embassy of Spain presents its compliments to the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and has the honour to share the brochure and information of the 9th Edition of the scholarship program SCIENCE BY WOMEN from the Spanish Foundation "Mujeres por África".

Mujeres por África - Women for Africa Foundation (FMxA), in line with its mission of contributing to the development of Africa through the drive of its women, is **launching the 9th Edition of the POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS SCIENCE BY WOMEN programme**, with the aim to promote African women's leadership in scientific research and technology transfer and to foster the capacity of the research centres in their home countries.

To achieve this ambitious goal, FMxA collaborates with the **Spanish Centres of Excellence**, whose prestige is unanimously recognized throughout Spain and internationally, thereby ensuring excellence in scientific research in various fields. **In this edition, the Foundation is selecting 28 senior African women scientists to be integrated in 26 top research Spanish centers** in the following areas: health and biomedicine, agriculture and food security, water, energy and climatic change. So far more than 120 fellows have enjoyed six-month research stays in these Centres of Excellence.

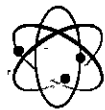
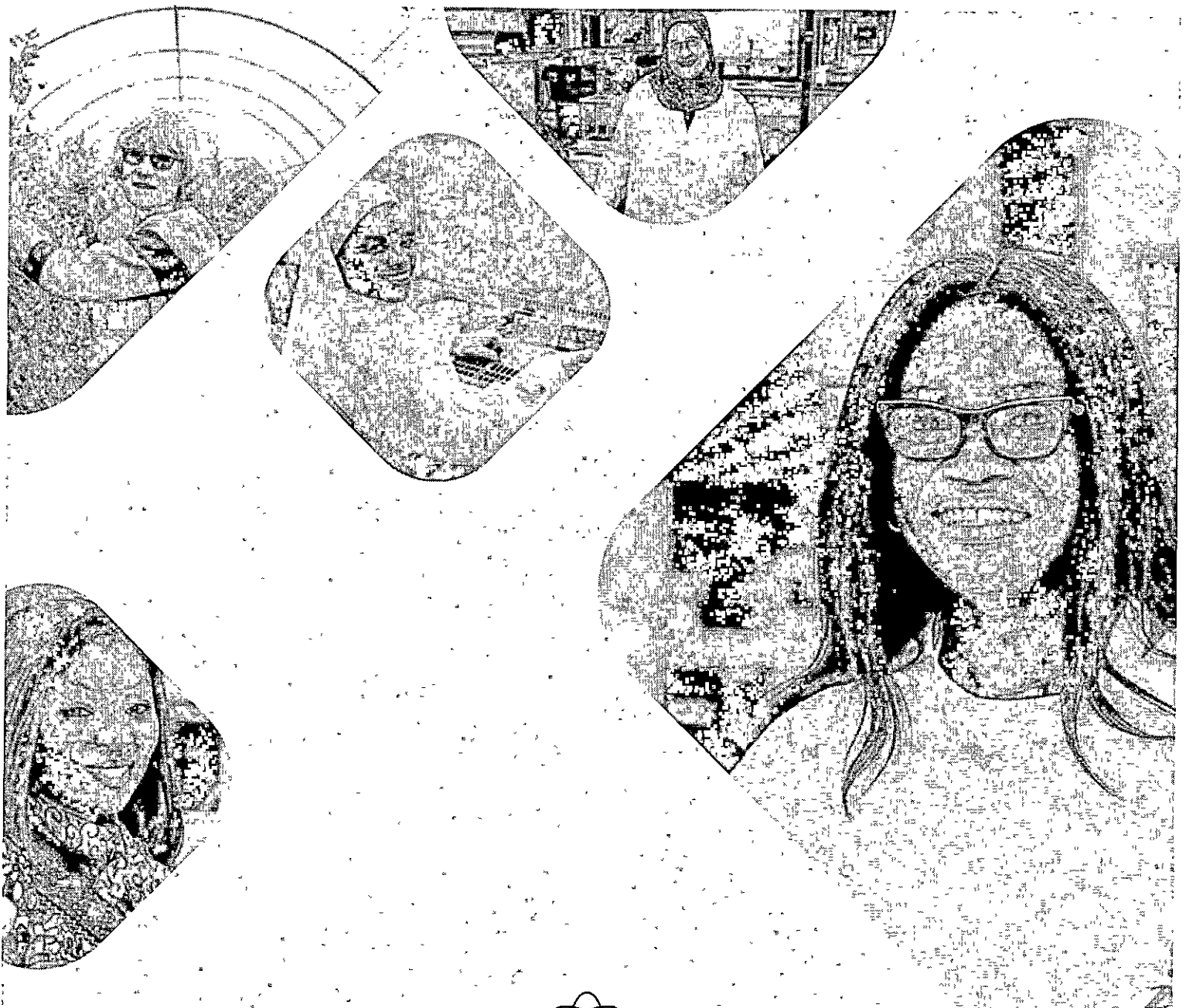
Each of these centers will host one senior woman researcher (ISCIII and BC3 will host 2) with at least three years of post-doctoral experience for a six-month fellowship. **Deadline for proposals submission is September 30, 2023.** Applications must be submitted in English via the Science by Women microsite (www.mujieresporafrica.es) and will be subjected to a highly competitive selection process by the Women for Africa Foundation's Scientific Committee. The jury's final decision, which shall be dictated by the strictest criteria of meticulousness and transparency, will be published by November 20, 2023. Successful candidates are expected to start their research projects at the assigned host institutions not earlier than January 2024.

Selected candidates will receive training and integration in a dynamic, multidisciplinary and highly competitive working team, where they will be able to develop their research projects and acquire complementary skills, empowering them to transfer their research results into tangible economic and social benefits.

The Embassy of Spain kindly requests the esteemed Commission to give this brochure the maximum diffusion among the research, academic and higher education institutions of the region, as well as the link <https://mujieresporafrica.es/9th-edition-science-by-women/> for consultations on the rules and guidelines, and the email address science.by.women@mujieresporafrica.es for further information.

The Embassy of Spain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) the assurances of its highest consideration.

THE COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) ABUJA - FCT



science by women

Programme For Women, Science,
Technology and Innovation in Africa

8th Edition



FUNDACIÓN
MUJERES POR ÁFRICA

Overview

The Women for Africa Foundation (FMxA), in line with its mission of contributing to the development of Africa through the drive of its women, launched in 2014 the SCIENCE BY WOMEN program to promote African women's leadership in scientific research and technology transfer. The main goal is to enable women scientists to tackle the great challenges faced by Africa through research in health, agriculture and food security, water, energy and climate change, which can be transferred into products and technologies of great impact on people's lives.

The program's ultimate goal is to enable women to play a leading role in the transition of Africa to a knowledge-based and innovation-led economy.

To achieve this ambitious goal, FMxA collaborates with the Spanish 'Severo Ochoa' and other Centers of Excellence, whose prestige is unanimously recognized throughout Spain and internationally, thereby ensuring the excellence of scientific research in various fields. For the 1st Edition, the associated funding centers were the Spanish National Cancer Research Center, the Institute of Photonic Sciences, the Spanish National Center for Biotechnology, the Carlos III Health Institute, and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

After the success of the 1st Edition, a total of 29 Centers of Excellence from different regions of Spain have joined the program in the subsequent eight editions, and more than 120 African researchers have benefitted from it.

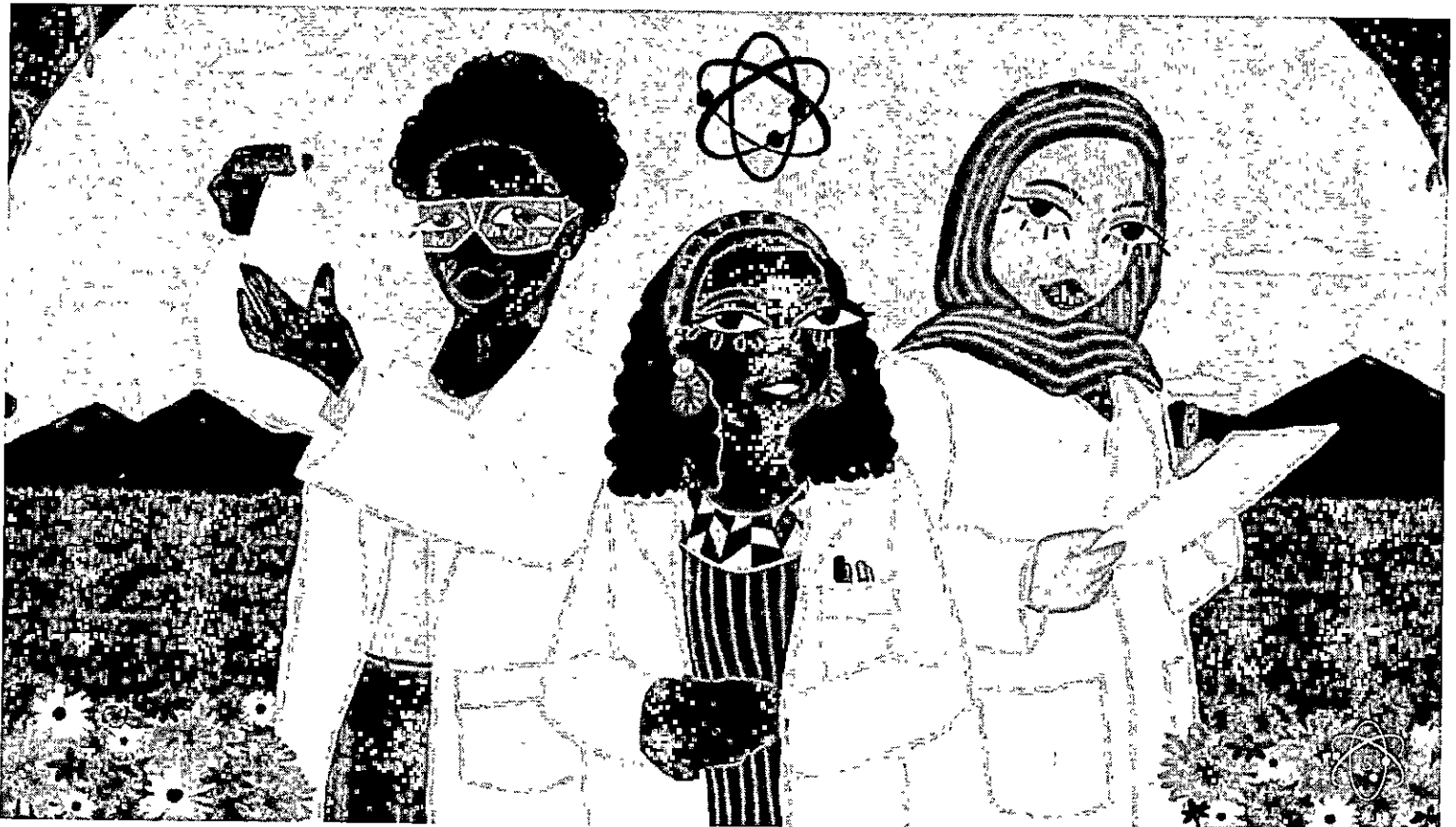


Many factors contribute to this trend. Some extreme factors include war and political instability. However, while both men and women mention the lack of mentoring, resources and funding as key issues, women mostly point to gender inequality and the lack of role models, managerial support and work-life balance.

The Science by Women program is built around the ability of African women scientists to innovate. In this model, science, research and innovation must play a key role in accordance with the standards of the globalized world. This should be done so that, firstly, African people may be able to live better lives, and also to achieve the transition of Africa from a receiver to a generator of development. And African women wish to be and should be involved since they suffer most from unstructured development. Thus, they have a strong desire and full right to be part of the solution based on human welfare, social inclusion and environmental sustainability

Although in Africa the gender gap in technological and scientific fields remains wide, the latest UIS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics) data on research and experimental development (R&D) reveals variation across countries. The percentage of female researchers relative to the total number of researchers in a country is an important indicator of progress and development. Compared to a global average of 30%, UIS data shows over 54% of researchers in Tunisia are women, 42% in Egypt and 31,4% in sub-Saharan Africa. However, other countries like Mali and Togo do not even reach 12%.

Foto Ilustración de Precious Narotso, Nairobi, Kenia



In order to achieve the mentioned objectives, FMxA carries on different activities, such as:

- ◇ Drafting Rules and Guidelines and publishing the call for fellowships for each edition after approval of the Governing Board.
- ◇ Shortlisting candidates.
- ◇ Supporting selected fellows with their visa applications and liaising with Spanish consulates and embassies.
- ◇ Supporting the participation of fellows in international conferences as well as the publication of their findings in scientific reviews.
- ◇ Supporting and following up on the social integration of fellows.
- ◇ Enhancing the visibility of fellows, associated centers and sponsors in social networks and media.



Direct and indirect beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the program are the fellows selected by the host centers.

The indirect beneficiaries are the students, doctoral researchers and junior members on the fellows' teams.

So far, the impact is highly significant. Most fellows have published their findings in or submitted them to international scientific journals (Elsevier, Royal Statics Society, NOVA Publishers...), participated in prestigious conferences (Academy of Science of France, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Baltimore)

and Massive Open Online Courses (SDG Academy...). They have acquired leadership skills, enabling them to be promoted to decision-making positions on their return to their centers or universities of origin.

Moreover, Women for Africa Foundation has facilitated the setting up of N.O.W. IS AFRICA (Network of Women Innovating in Science in Africa) with the aim to enhance the interaction between fellows and to offer specific training programs.

Funding

Science by Women is the flagship program of FMxA. It has grown in a spectacular fashion, from 5 associated centers to more than 30 expected in the 9th edition, from 9 beneficiaries to 120, from 6 African countries to 20, and from 30 applications to more than 300.





Associated Research Centres

**BioCruces Bizkaia Health Research Institute
(BC)**

Kronikgune Research Center

Deusto Institute of Technology (DeustoTech)

Basque Center for Climate Change (BC3)

Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC)

**Biodonostia Health Research Institute
(Biodonostia HRI)**

**Basque Center for Applied Mathematics
(BCAM)**

**Basque Center for Macromolecular Design
and Engineering POLYMAT Fundazioa**

Vall d'Hebron Institut de Recerca (VHIR)

Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO)

**Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona
(ICMAB-CSIC)**

Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG)

Barcelona School of Economics (GSE)

**Institute of Science and Food Technologies
(ICTA)**

Prince Felipe Research Center (CIPF)

**Fundación para la Investigación del Hospital
Cínico de la Comunidad Valenciana - INCLIVA**

Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (IAS)

**Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands
(PLOCAN)**

**Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary
Islands (IAC)**

**Biomedical and Health Research Institute
(IUIBS)**

**Spanish National Cancer Research Centre
(CNIO)**

**Spanish National Centre for Biotechnology
(CNB)**

Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII)

Institute of Mathematical Sciences (ICMAT)

Center for Research in Agricultural Genomics

Institute for Neuroscience (IN)

Material Physics Center (CFM)

**Repsol Technology Center Campus of
International Excellence in Agrifood**

**Instituto de Ciencias y Tecnología
Ambientales (ICTA-UAB)**

