82 | COMMUNITY FORUM

Africa GAC Session
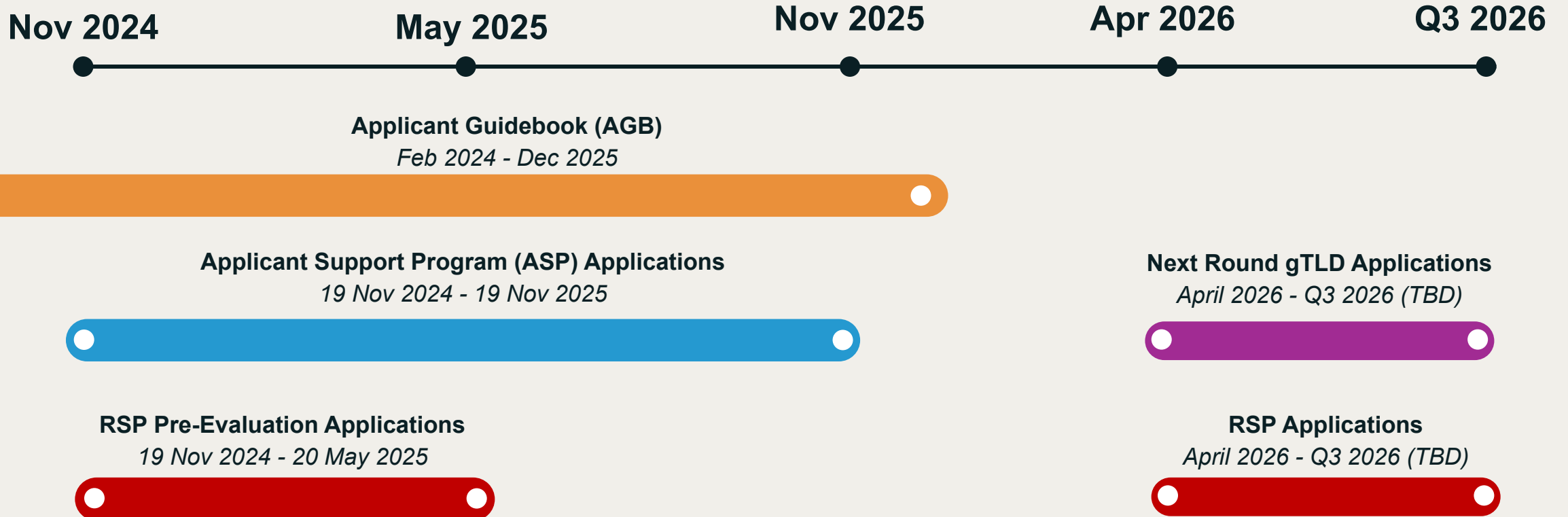
Briefing on New gTLDs Next Round Program

01

Overview of The New gTLD Program: Next Round

Bob Ochieng, Sr Director,
New gTLD Program: Next Round - , ICANN

Benefits of Operating a gTLD

Brand management

Increased credibility

Control over policies

gTLDs provide organizations with the ability to make an impact on a global scale.

Monetization opportunities

Flexibility and creativity

Enhanced security

Localization

New gTLD Program: Next Round Timeline (Key Dates)

Nov 2024   May 2025   Nov 2025   Apr 2026   Q3 2026

Applicant Guidebook (AGB)
Feb 2024 - Dec 2025

Applicant Support Program (ASP) Applications
19 Nov 2024 - 19 Nov 2025

Next Round gTLD Applications
April 2026 - Q3 2026 (TBD)

RSP Pre-Evaluation Applications
19 Nov 2024 - 20 May 2025

RSP Applications
April 2026 - Q3 2026 (TBD)

Dates are subject to change.

02

Outreach Engagement and Communications Efforts

Regional Approach to Outreach

CATEGORY	TARGETS	CONDUITS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	ENGAGEMENT DATE (s)	OUTCOME / STATUS
Brands					
Geos (cities/regions)					
Communities / Identities					
Entrepreneurs					
Professions / Sectors					
Investors / Funders					
Other					
Nonprofits, NGOs, Charities					
IGOs					
Indigenous/Tribal Orgs					
Micro Business / Social Enterprise					
IDNs/Lingusitic					
Other					
RSP Targets					

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	DATES	AUDIENCE	Attend, Spoonsor or Speak?
La Parra				

gTLD Engagement Regional VPs

Bob Ochieng

Chris Mondini

Samiran Gupta

Rodrigo De La Parra

Naela Sarras

Pierre Dandjinou

Baher Esmat

Save Vocea

Not for Distribution

| 2

Outreach and Engagement

Over the course of 2024, there was near-exclusive focus on ASP-eligible entities, in underserved or less-developed regions.

Next Round Engagement: 2024 Activity (by region)
Year End / Total Event Count = 201
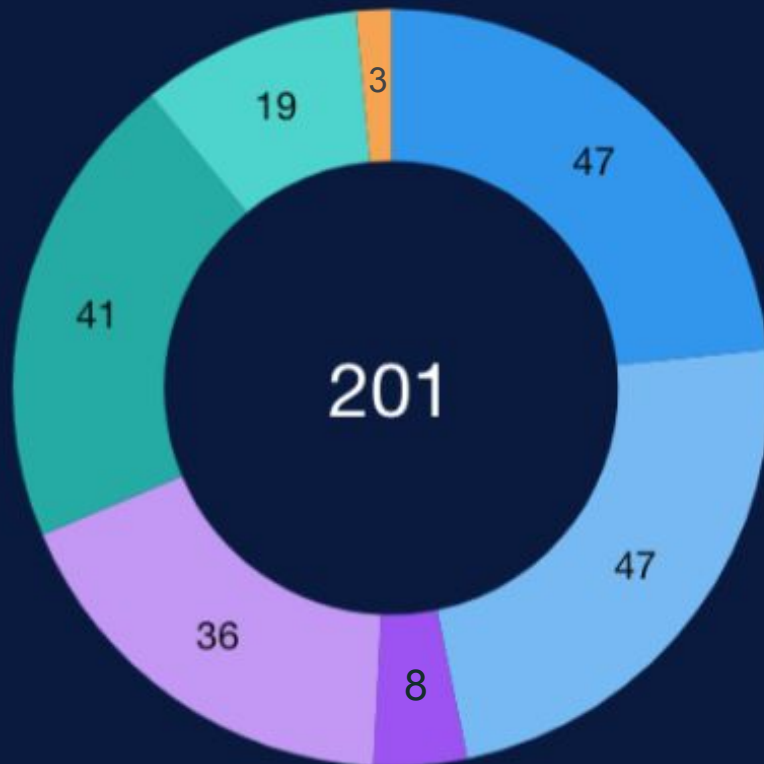
Target Audience Engagement Region: Engagement Region Name

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Middle East
- North America
- Oceania

LINK: View Report (All Regions Next Round ASP - Dashboard)

03
Champions Toolkit and Other Resources

02

Please use the Next Round Champion's Toolkit to raise awareness
https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/resources/ChampionsToolkit

Toolkit includes: slide decks, scripts, FAQs, and (soon) video presentations, and remote speaker request form.

New gTLD Program: Next Round

ONLINE SPEAKER or ONLINE MEETING Request Form*.

Applicant Support Program (ASP Stats

ASP Activity and Progress Report (6 March 2025)
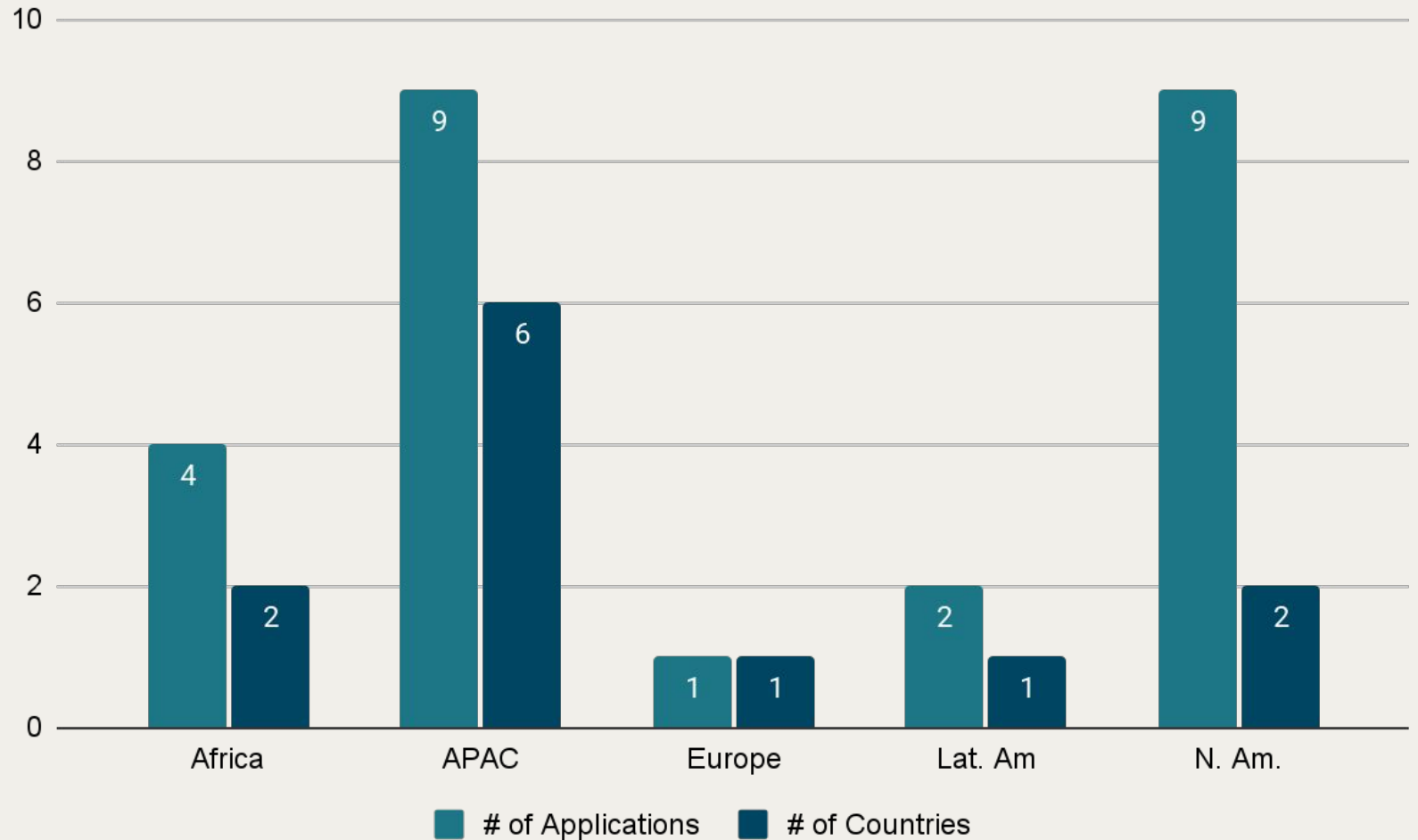
Applications with "pending" regional information not included

BY THE NUMBERS

31 APPLICATIONS DRAFTED OR INITIATED*

REGION

Region	
Africa	**4**
Asia/Australia/Pacific	**9**
Europe	**1**
Latin America/Caribbean	**2**
North America	**9**
Pending	**8**

2 APPLICATION UNDER REVIEW

0 APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Bar chart — # of Applications and # of Countries by region:
- Africa: Applications 4, Countries 2
- APAC: Applications 9, Countries 6
- Europe: Applications 1, Countries 1
- Lat. Am: Applications 2, Countries 1
- N. Am.: Applications 9, Countries 2

Legend: # of Applications, # of Countries

Visit the ASP Program Statistics page for additional application metrics updated monthly as of the 19th.

Lastly:

01 **Please join a monthly Implementation Review Team (IRT) call on Outreach, Engagement, and Communications**

The next meetings will be :
- **13 March 2025** at 15:00 PT (during ICANN82)
- **16 April 2025** at 12:00 UTC

Visit the Next Round Booth for More information: