Wiki In Africa Strategic Plan
Updated: September 2023

Strategy 2023–2025

This document outlines Wiki In Africa's strategic plan for the years 2023-2025, focusing on strategic priorities and tactics to ensure the sustainable growth in scale and scope of each of the organisation's programs.

This strategy provides a tactical and programmatic roadmap for how the organisation's vision and goals will be achieved. It provides a number of frameworks and directions for achieving these goals.

Wiki In Africa: purpose

Wiki In Africa is a legal non-profit association registered in South Africa that furthers the aims of the global open knowledge movement with a particular focus on solutions that bridge the representation and skills gaps of underrepresented or marginalised groups and communities.

As an organisation, Wiki In Africa runs fun, easy-to-access programs that encourage content contribution, skills training, and community development across Africa and beyond. Although Wiki In Africa was not officially registered in South Africa until March 2017, many of its projects have been operating since 2014. The history of Wiki In Africa and the WikiAfrica movement is comprehensively covered on this History page.

Wiki In Africa's stated intentions are to empower and engage citizens of Africa and its diaspora to collect, develop and contribute educational and relevant content that relates to the theme of Africa under a free license, and to engage in global knowledge systems by encouraging access to, awareness of, and support for open knowledge, the open movement and the Wikimedia projects, working in collaboration with like-minded organisations.

Wiki In Africa's activities are designed to rebalance the type and diversity of information and perspectives that are available online about and from Africa, leveraging Wikipedia and the Wikimedia projects as platforms for the dissemination of this knowledge to multiple peoples residing on and off the continent.

In short, it provides various ways to encourage and train people and organisations to create, preserve and share open knowledge. In doing so, it provides easy access for readers to those
knowledges and perspectives and thereby change how Africa-based and global readers alike relate to Africa.

Wiki In Africa in operation

Wiki In Africa's programs are well known among the Wikimedia and larger Open communities. Created before the registration of Wiki In Africa in 2017, some of the programs have been operating since 2014.

The full impact of these multilayered programs since the organisation’s registration can be found at the following documents:

- Annual Report 2018
- Annual Report 2019
- Annual Report 2020
- Simple APG grant 2020 • 2020 Final report
- Simple APG grant 2021 • 2021 Mid-term report
- Wikimedia Community Fund 2022
  - Midpoint Report
  - Report Documentation of work process, story, and impact

Further information can be found through these channels:

- Website: www.wikiinafrica.org
- Wiki In Africa on Meta
- Wiki In Africa's YouTube channel
- Wiki in Africa on Twitter
- Wiki in Africa on Facebook
- Wiki In Africa on Linked-In
- Wiki In Africa Strategy Documents

Since 2016, Wiki In Africa has been funded by the Wikimedia Foundation, Goethe-Institut, Orange Foundation, Creative Commons, Movetia, Moleskine Foundation, Wikimedia CH, and has worked with Ynternet.org.

What Wiki In Africa is not

Wiki In Africa has absolutely NO intention of working above, instead of, or replacing any national user group. The purpose of Wiki In Africa is to create projects that consistently collaborates with and supports the work of existing and future Wikimedia volunteer teams and Usergroups, and in no way intends to replace any of the work that they do on the ground in their country or beyond.

Wiki In Africa’s status

A non-profit voluntary organisation registered with the Department of Social Development, South Africa. Registration number: 187-625 NPO
Registered with South African Revenue Service (SARS), tax number: 9279133251
Wiki In Africa’s mission

Wiki In Africa’s mission is to facilitate global access for all to open knowledge that reflects and represents the diverse cultures, peoples, biodiversities, and histories of the African continent and other previously marginalised and disenfranchised communities with the same depth and breadth as other knowledges.

Wiki In Africa’s principals and values

Wiki In Africa's mission is deeply rooted in bridging gaps in representation and access for disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Our principles and actions are guided by access, justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity. As a global organisation, we strive to act with integrity whilst upholding and inspiring the following values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Respect</th>
<th>Flexibility</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Empowerment</td>
<td>Being Bold</td>
<td>Fun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wiki In Africa’s programmatic focus

Wiki In Africa’s programs address the following key gaps and sectors in innovative, engaging, and fun ways:

- Representation gaps: Wiki Loves Africa
- Gender equity: Wiki Loves Women
- Youth activation: WikiChallenge African Schools + WikiAfrica OERs
- Access through technology: WikiFundi + ISA Tool
- Community development: WikiAfrica Hour + WikiAfrica Heritage

Though each individual initiative is designed to stand alone, they are integrated and specifically designed to accelerate and develop the skills of leaders to run participation events and develop communities across Africa.

Background to Wiki In Africa’s strategy

Wiki In Africa’s strategy document describes how the organisation and its many layered programs will work towards achieving the goals of facilitating global access for all to open knowledge that reflects and represents the diversities of the African continent.

The strategy details the organisation’s approach over the next 3 years (and beyond). It describes, through the strategic activities of our existing and well established programs, to activities required to achieve the organisation’s overarching goals. The strategy guides the continued
engagement and expansion of these programs through the work of the Wiki In Africa’s wider community, collaborating partners, volunteers, board and team members.

Wiki In Africa’s Theory of Change

In 2021, Wiki In Africa developed its theory of change. As seen in the two diagrams below:
Objective 1: To inform, make visible and advocate to close knowledge gaps and redress biases
unaware > observers

Objective 2: To provide fun, engaging and multiples ways and formats for individuals to contribute
supporters -> active participants -> leaders of programmes and teams

Goal 1:
To provide multiple ways and to reduce the barriers for individuals and groups to contribute their knowledge to the open movement and thereby reduce knowledge gaps and redress biases.

Content gaps are progressively closed
Users globally have access to multi-layered views of Africa in multiple formats
African stories become commonplace
African producers are validated
Objective 1: Identify and train leaders to activate open movement projects (individual)

- Select appropriate leaders
- Provide training and opportunities that develop skill and capacity
- Create opportunities for information transfer
- Mentor and support individual development
- Provide networking opportunities

- The leader has gained new technical and leadership skills
- Leader applies new skills by training and supporting community with activities and events
- The leader has knowledge of how to navigate the movement
- The leader can access and build on supportive interpersonal relationships
- The leader’s increased network in the movement opens up new opportunities

Objective 2: To grow networks of communities that boost the open movement and reduce knowledge gaps and facilitate cross-pollination between these communities (group)

- Create programmes that engage communities around content contribution
- Partner with content, network and facilitation organisations
- Create platforms for network growth and communication
- Promote activities of the groups

- Communities boosted by existing networks around collective interests
- New initiatives emerge in collaboration between communities
- Already existing initiatives expand their coverage

Goal 2:
building the capacity of a network of leaders across Africa, and developing communities, who are committed to boosting the open movement and reducing knowledge gaps, and redressing biases.

SDGs
WM 2030 Recommendations
Knowledge Gaps Index/Taxonomy
ITU Digital Divide
UNESCO OER Recommendation Action Areas

Dedicated leaders support a vibrant open community that is working to reduce knowledge gaps

A strong open community reinforced by diverse partners dedicated to reduce gaps and redress biases

A flourishing open movement
Long term goals and expected outcomes

The Theory of Change is applied across the following goals and expected outcomes. This results in 5 strategic tactics

Goal 1

To provide multiple ways and to reduce the barriers for individuals and groups to contribute their knowledge to the open movement and thereby reduce knowledge gaps and redress biases.

Expected Outcomes:

- A critical mass of informed, supported and empowered contributors progressively close the content and representation gaps
- Users globally have access to multi-layered knowledge relating to, and alternative narratives for, Africa, gender and other marginalised communities and groups
- The stories, knowledges and perspectives of the previously marginalised become “the norm” alongside other knowledge streams
- The lived and past experiences, cultures and histories of the previously marginalised are visible and validated

Strategic tactics:

- Visibility
- Access
- Skills acquisition

Goal 2

To build the capacity of a network of leaders across Africa, and developing communities, who are committed to boosting the open movement and reducing knowledge gaps, and redressing biases.

Expected Outcomes:

- A flourishing, truly global diverse open movement

Strategic Tactics:

- Community development
- Platform creation
Wiki In Africa's Theory of Change, the following overarching goals and objectives direct the strategic focuses of the organisation. The table below shows how Wiki In Africa's goals, objectives and activities relate to its existing programmes, initiatives and actions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Related program initiatives and actions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 1:</strong> To provide multiple ways and to reduce the barriers for individuals and groups to contribute their knowledge to the open movement and thereby reduce knowledge gaps and redress biases.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| To inform, make visible, and advocate to close knowledge gaps and redress biases | Publish materials and content that supports the issues | • On-Wiki project pages  
• Websites  
• WLA, WLW, and WA Twitter takeovers  
• Presentations at Wikimedia and aligned events |
| | Informing global WM/open community about alternative solutions and opportunities. | • WA Hour  
• On-Wiki project pages  
• Telegram announcements  
• Wikimedia L announcements |
| | Advocating externally for alternative open solutions to real-life issues (education, gender, glam, etc.) | • WLW Inspiring Open podcast  
• Presentations at Wikimedia and aligned events |
| | Make visible research that documents the issues and consequences | • WA Hour  
• On-Wiki project pages  
• Websites |
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</tr>
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</table>
| To provide fun, engaging, and multiple ways and formats for individuals to contribute | Run and promote competitions to the general public                        | • Programs:  
  ○ WLA annual contest  
  ○ WLW annual SheSaid drive  
  ○ ISA drives  
 • Promotion:  
  ○ Websites  
  ○ Partner networks  
  ○ Social media campaigns |
|                                                                          | Host special opportunities for Wiki-related groups                        | • WLW Focus Group  
 • WC WM liaisons  
 • WLA professional photographers  
 • WA Heritage  
 • Partners:  
  ○ WPWP  
  ○ AfroCine |
|                                                                          | Layer activities to ensure individual and group pathways                  | • WLW Focus Group training  
 • WLW Event toolkit  
 • WLA Wide Angle / Nos Jardins  
 • WA Heritage training  
 • WC WM liaisons mentorship  
 • WA Hour News alerts |
|                                                                          | Create technical tools to support participation from individuals and groups | • WikiFundi  
 • ISA Tool  
 • Offline OERs |
**Goal 2:**
building the capacity of a network of leaders across Africa, and developing communities, who are committed to boosting the open movement and reducing knowledge gaps, and redressing biases.

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• WC WM liaisons  
• WLA professional photographers  
• WA Heritage |
| | Provide training and opportunities that develop skill and capacity | • WLW: Focus Group  
• WC WM liaisons  
• WLA Wide Angle / Nos Jardins  
• WA Heritage |
| | Create opportunities for information transfer | • WA Hour  
• WikiFundi resources (offline)  
• WLW Inspiring Open Podcast  
• Social Media Campaigns  
• Monthly Newsletters |
| | Mentor and support individual development | • WLW Focus Group  
• WC WM liaisons  
• WA Heritage |
| | Provide networking opportunities | • WA Hour  
• WLW Focus Group  
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| To grow networks of communities that boost the open movement and reduce knowledge gaps and facilitate cross-pollination between these communities | Create programs that engage communities around content contribution       | • WLA annual contest
• WLW annual SheSaid drive
• ISA drives
• WikiChallenge annual drives |
|                                                                          | Partner with content, network and facilitation organisations            | • WPWP
• AfroCine
• Offline Projects
• Kiwix
• Wikipedia Weekly ?
• WLA, WLW and WA twitter take over |
|                                                                          | Create platforms for network growth and communication                   | • WA Hour
• WLW Focus Group
• WLA organisers support programs
• WLA jury process |
|                                                                          | Promote activities of the groups                                        | • On-Wiki project pages
• Websites
• Social media campaigns
• Monthly newsletter
• Communications platforms: Telegram, Messenger, Whatsapp |
Wiki In Africa’s strategy

Wiki In Africa’s mission is to make it possible for anyone who wishes to take part in, and actively contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge from Africa and other historically marginalised communities.

The goals outlined by the Theory of Change above break down to 5 strategic tactics to achieve these goals:

1. **Visibility:**
Wiki In Africa will inform, make visible, and advocate to close knowledge gaps and redress biases.

2. **Access:**
Wiki In Africa will provide multiple ways and to reduce the barriers for individuals and groups to contribute their knowledge.

3. **Platform creation:**
Wiki In Africa multiple programs are fun, engaging, and offer different ways and formats for individuals to contribute.

4. **Community development**
Wiki In Africa programs will grow networks of communities to boost the open movement, reduce knowledge gaps and facilitate cross-pollination between these communities.

5. **Skills acquisition**
Wiki In Africa shall build the capacity of a network of leaders across Africa and identify and train leaders to activate open movement projects (individual).

In addition, Wiki In Africa will strive to be financially, operationally sustainable, and will build programs and resources that are designed for participation, reuse and adaptation by the larger free knowledge movement.

Programme strategies


In addition to those discussed above, the overarching specific tactics include:

1. **Build inter-project communities**,  
2. **Train and mentors Wikimedia leaders**,  
3. **Train key skill groups, i.e. photographers**,  
4. **Foster digital skills and content contribution from the next generation**,  
5. **Advocate for open practices through external-focused campaigns**, and  
6. **Expand our circle of friends in the open knowledge movement.**
To achieve our goals of closing representation and content gaps, Wiki In Africa's programs address the following key gaps and sectors in innovative, engaging, and fun ways:

* Representation gaps: Wiki Loves Africa
* Gender equity: Wiki Loves Women
* Youth activation: WikiChallenge African Schools + WikiAfrica OERs
* Access through technology: WikiFundi + ISA Tool
* Community development: WikiAfrica Hour + WikiAfrica Heritage

Though each individual initiative is designed to stand alone, they are integrated and specifically designed to accelerate and develop the skills of leaders to run participation events and develop communities across Africa.

See for smart objectives for each program, view the Wiki In Africa Multi-year Plan 2023 and other relevant strategy documents here:
“Photography continues to play a key role in how we are seen, not just as Africans, but as black people from every corner of the world. Stereotypes and prejudice are incited by images, and if it’s used, yet again, to undermine those of us who are truly doing the difficult work, then we need to have some uncomfortable conversations.”

-- Aida Muluneh, Ethiopian photographer,
The problem with photojournalism and Africa, Al Jazeera, 2017

Wiki Loves Africa is an annual continent-wide competition that shifts the visual narrative of Africa by encouraging people to contribute Africa-relevant media (photos, video or audio) relevant to an annual theme.

Wiki Loves Africa (WLaF) is photo contest that takes place annually and is run across the African continent. Wiki Loves Africa encourages the ‘crowd’ contribution of local knowledge of heritage and communal cultures by entering media (photographs, video and audio) about their environment onto Wikimedia Commons for use on Wikimedia projects.

Wiki Loves Africa particularly encourages participants to contribute media that illustrates a specific theme for that year. Each year the theme changes. Themes are chosen from topics that are universal, visually rich and culturally specific, for example, markets, rites of passage, festivals, public art, cuisine, natural history, urbanity, daily life, notable persons, etc.. In 2014 the theme was Cuisine. In 2015 the theme was Cultural Fashion and Adornment. The theme for 2016 was Dance and Music. 2017 was People at Work, 2019 was Play, 2020 Africa on the Move (Transport), and 2021 explored Health + Wellness. The theme for 2022 was Home & Habitat.

The annual Wiki Loves Africa photographic competition has been held 8 times since its launch in 2014. It is responsible for the contribution of 88,640 freely-licenced and accessible images by 10,380 photographers from across the continent. On average 80% of all contributors are new to Wikipedia.

The images have a life beyond the competition with Wiki Loves Africa's images being collectively viewed over 1 billion (!!!) times since 2016. In the 2022 contest, 31 Wikimedia communities hosted ‘official’ activities in 26 countries.

Goals

Programme goals for Africa-wide participation are to:

- Change the visual narrative of Africa that exists on global knowledge sources and creative repositories, such as Wikipedia and its sister projects.
- Counter-balance the representation of universal topics with images that depict African examples.
● Provide easy access for creatives from across Africa to a globally significant platform in order to share their passion for and pride in their cultural heritage and the contemporary practices.
● Provide training for creatives to expand and challenge their professional oeuvre using the open movement as a training ground.
● Reward people for contributing the right kind of material to Wikimedia projects.
● Engender pride in local heritages, traditions, cultures and communities across Africa.

Programme goals in support of the Wikimedia Movement are to:

● Draw attention to, and increase the illustration of, subjects that relate to Africa on the Wikimedia projects, including Wikipedia in many languages.
● Introduce the benefits of, and ability to, contribute to Wikimedia Commons to new communities.
● Support new volunteer communities as they work together around an important local project.
● Build capacity for leadership and organiser activity within the programme

Key project links:

- WLA’s Commons portal
- Meta portal (for organizers)
- WLA dedicated website
- Facebook: @wikilovesafrica
- Instagram: @wikilovesafrica
- Twitter: @wikilovesafrica
- YouTube playlist
- Telegram channel
- Mailing list
- Nos Jardins training

On Strategy

As a project, Wiki Loves Africa answers the Wiki In Africa’s priorities:

● Increasing visibility
● Lowering barriers to contribution
● Addressing knowledge gaps and biases
● Active focus on diversity, inclusion and empowerment
● Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer

Wiki Loves Africa contributes towards the UN’s SDG 10 Reducing Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries. The SDG focus also depends on each year’s theme, for example in 2020, the Transport theme answered SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Multimedia: African visual narrative focused focused projects and campaigns pose Wikimedia-based solutions that address the following gaps as identified in the Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy:

- Content: Interaction Gaps + Multimedia
- Contributors: Representation Gaps: Cultural background + Socioeconomic status

Within the 2030 Wikimedia Strategy, the Wiki Loves Africa project works towards resolving the following recommendations:

- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
- Identify Topics for Impact
● Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
● Innovate in Free Knowledge

With regards to organising the contest, there has been a concerted effort from its onset to Ensure Equity in Decision-making and a consistent effort with regards to Managing Internal Knowledge so that the process is transparent, and that all participating communities are fully supported in their actions.
Gender-Equity: Wiki Loves Women

The groundbreaking Wiki Loves Women program addresses the biases that women face in the media through Inspiring Open. It builds Wikimedia communities and develops content through its annual SheSaid campaign on WikiQuote. It also mentors and develops the leadership skills of female Wikimedians through its Focus Group program.

Wiki Loves Women activates and trains leaders who, through a series of layered activities, build the awareness and skills of participants. This ensures that participants can seize their own agency and address the persistent systemic bias that exists about Africa’s women online and in the media.

To facilitate participation, Wiki Loves Women hosts a series of easy-to-access content contribution drives – such as the enormously successful #SheSaid drive, that draws attention to specific gaps in the Wikimedia projects. This two-pronged approach targets two critical aspects of the digital gender divide: participation and content. Whilst Wiki Loves Women has an intense focus on Africa, the program is international in reach and intention.

The Inspiring Open podcast series presents a series of conversations with seminal women from across Africa who have succeeded by using an “open” philosophy. This podcast series works against the media bias and provides vital insight into notable women.

Combined, Wiki Loves Women’s projects informs, mobilizes, and trains people to contribute factual information about women and women’s issues to open knowledge platforms. In doing so, celebrate the pivotal roles that women play in each country or region’s political, economic, scientific, cultural, and heritage landscape. Encouraging the contribution of meaningful content to the Wikimedia projects is a tool to transfer skills, build confidence and self-worth, and show the impact they can make.

In our journey to bridge the gender gap, Wiki Loves Women had, between 2016-21, operated in 15 countries with over 78 gender-focused NGOs and civil society organisations in Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, France, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. On the ground impact can be viewed here.

Goals

1. **Raised visibility of gender and representation gaps**: Wiki Loves Women’s activations, events, and works with the partners significantly raises the level of knowledge about the consequences of the gender gap and provided skilled participants eager to combat these persistent gaps.

2. **Transferred key digital and knowledge contribution skills**: sustained contribution of gendered subjects that interest, reflect, and relate to women through strategic, layered skills transfer at key points in the participants’ journey, and a focused program to develop the Wikimedia and gender-equity knowledge, and project management, communications and community building skills of community leaders.
3. **Increased gender-specific content**: an increase in the amount and type of content on the Wikimedia projects that relate to, celebrate, and interest women.

**Key project links:**
- Wiki Loves Women dedicated website
- Wiki Loves Women explainer video
- Wiki Loves Women YouTube playlist
- Facebook: @WikiLovesWomen
- Twitter: @WikiLovesWomen
- Wiki Loves Women on Meta
- Wiki Loves Women on English Wikipedia
- Wiki Loves Women on French Wikipedia

**On Strategy**

Wiki Loves Women contributes towards the UN’s **SDG 5** Gender Equity: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Wiki Loves Women answers the following priorities for Wiki In Africa:
- Increasing visibility
- Addressing knowledge gaps and biases
- Active focus on diversity, inclusion, and empowerment
- Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer
- Leveraging the mutual benefit of partnerships

Wiki Loves Women contributes towards the UN’s **SDG 5** Gender Equity: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Our Gender Equity focused projects and campaigns pose Wikimedia-based solutions that address the following gaps as identified in the **Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy**:
- Contributors: Interaction: Tech Skill + Roles
- Contributors: Representation: Gender + Geography
- Content: Representation Gaps: Gender + Cultural Background + Important Topics

With in the **2030 Wikimedia Strategy**, the Wiki Loves Women project works towards resolving the following recommendations:
- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
- Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
- Innovate in Free Knowledge
- Provide for Safety and Inclusion
- Manage Internal Knowledge
Youth activation: WikiChallenge African Schools + WikiAfrica OERs

Wiki In Africa’s education focus is based on a long-game strategy. Many of the volunteers coming into the movement must first deconstruct and re-assess how copyright and knowledge platforms collate information and work before they can effectively contribute to the Wikimedia projects. The education programmes that we build and run in various communities and iterations are in order to provide an alternative view to how knowledge is created and shared, through absorbing open movement practices, and essential digital, research and writing skills in practical applications.

Wiki In Africa’s education programmes assist schools and teachers as they teach students how to write curriculum-relevant articles for Wikipedia. Thus students learn how to do research, analyze outcomes, collaborate, write real reports for a global audience and develop the technical and editorial skills to add content on local subjects to Wikipedia. In some cases, the programmes use WikiFundí, the offline editing environment that mimics the experience of editing Wikipedia, to navigate context-specific challenges. In other cases, this offline solution is not needed.

The WikiChallenge Ecoles d’Afrique (WikiChallenge African Schools) develops the digital skills and citizenship of Africa’s youth in partnership with Wikimedians in each country. Since 2017, the francophone and primary school-focused WikiChallenge African Schools has rolled out in 10 countries across Africa, with over 250 participating schools that has resulted in 357 articles and 1,973 photos, drawings and media being created by pupils and submitted to Vikidia.org. Over the 5 editions, 49 schools have received prizes.

WikiChallenge Ecoles d’Afrique is a multi-national writing contest that creates a fun way for students (9-13) to learn how knowledge is built by contributing to Vikidia, the little sister of Wikipedia (aimed at children aged 8-15 years). It has operated during the school year in 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2021, and 2021-2022 and works with local Wikimedian groups and Orange Foundation staff as local facilitators. This programme is designed and managed by Florence Devouard.

Impact of the WikiChallenge contest:

- in 2018, 4 countries were involved, 33 schools participated, 40 articles written, 6 winning schools
- in 2019, 7 countries were involved, 65 schools participated, 99 articles written, 600+ photos submitted, 11 winning schools
• in 2020-21, 9 countries were involved, 100 schools participated, 138 articles written, 800+ photos submitted, 20 winning schools
• In 2021-22, 9 African countries took part and resulted in 80 articles and 442 photos, drawings and videos submitted by students from 69 schools.

The countries involved in WikiChallenge include Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, RdCongo, Sénégal and Tunisia.

Wiki In Africa also curates and creates Open Education Resources (OERs) to better facilitate the often complex concepts that are essential to contributing to our programmes. These are collectively known as WikiAfrica OERs.

Goals: WikiChallenge

1. Introduce online knowledge systems and key digital contribution skills at an early age via existing pathways at schools,
2. Engender in students a culture of contribution reflecting, with pride, their own culture, environment, language, history and experiences,
3. Support meagerly resourced, offline schools and students access to a fun contest that transfers essential digital skills,
4. Develop the materials, curriculum and programme to run the project within a school framework,
5. Involved in, and train local Wikimedian groups in a longitudinal regional educational program, and
6. Consult and involve educators, education institutions and other stakeholders to determine relevance and map a strategic way forward.

Goals: WikiAfrica OERs:

• Provide existing or create new information resources to support teachers,
• Create and provide materials for use in class in offline situations to support and increase students understanding, and
• To provide suggestions and instructions for activities to be carried out with students.

Key project links:

WikiChallenge

• WikiChallenge on Meta in English
• WikiChallenge on Meta In French
• WikiChallenge contest on Vikidia (in French)
• Facebook page
• Wiki In Africa project page
• WikiChallenge on WikiFundi

WikiAfrica OERs:

• Offline curated resources
• WikiAfrica Online Resources
• Lesson plan and resources for teaching Copyright concepts and use
On Strategy

As a project, the youth-focused projects answer the Wiki In Africa’s priorities:

- Lowering barriers to contribution
- Addressing knowledge gaps and biases
- Active focus on diversity, inclusion and empowerment
- Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer
- Leveraging the mutual benefit of partnerships

Wiki In Africa’s Education programs collectively contributes towards combining UN’s SDGs 4: Quality Education by providing educational solutions that foster better digital skills transfer, a greater understanding of the open movement, and knowledge creation and dissemination through fun practical applications.

Our Education focused projects and campaigns pose Wikimedia-based solutions that address the following gaps as identified in the Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy:

- Readers: Interaction: Tech skills + information depth + familiarity
- Readers: Representation: Cultural background + age
- Contributors: Interaction: Tech skills + Role + Motivation
- Contributors: Representation: Socioeconomic status + Language + Age

Within the 2030 Wikimedia Strategy, the Educations project works towards resolving the following recommendations:

- Innovate in Free Knowledge
- Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
Access via technological solutions: Wiki Fundi and ISA Tool

The tech projects have been developed by Wiki In Africa to increase access to training and contribution and to better support community engagement.

Both tools have received accolades from the very different communities that they support.

Our focus remains on WikiFundi (with offline resources) and the award-winning ISA tool. This does not mean that other tech solutions to access might not be considered and developed within the next year.

WikiFundi was developed to facilitate outreach and education goals in places where access and data can be challenging.

Throughout 2021, WikiFundi was translated and adapted into Spanish. From 2022 onwards, Wiki In Africa has embarked on a visibility campaign with educators and Wikimedia organisations to increase usage beyond Africa.

It is difficult to assess the impact of WikiFundi due to the offline nature of the tool. We will be monitoring and requesting user experience through conversations with known users.

In 2021, WikiFundi was awarded the Open Education Award of Excellence for Open Infrastructure. Find the Open Infrastructure 2021 award page here.

The ISA Tool was developed to ensure that the images contributed each year to Wiki Loves Africa (and, in turn, other photographic contests, and GLAM collections) achieve their best potential placement on the Wikimedia projects through better labelling and descriptions.

The ISA Tool continues to bring structured data to Wikimedia Commons images through strategic online drives. Wikimedia SV has declared interest in further adding to the ISA Tool and has applied for funding from the Swedish Innovation Agency as part of a GLAM improvement project. At the WikiDataCon 2019 awards, the ISA Tool was named the coolest data tool.

In Sept 2022, the recorded impact of ISA since its launch in 2019 is:

- 391,918 contributions by 1,247 users in
- 208 campaigns adding descriptions to 1,604,626 images
Goals: WikiFundi

- Enable access by using technology to provide access to Wikipedia and other OERs in an offline situation.
- Lower the barriers to training and collaborative contribution by providing a similar environment to the MediaWiki editing interface (as seen on Wikipedia, with the same templates, etc) for offline situations.
- Facilitate the transfer of key digital skills and best language and writing practices in offline situations.
- Provide OERs that facilitate and support teaching and training in multiple situations.

Goals: The ISA Tool

- Lower the barriers for new and experienced editors to describe images by linking them to WikiData items.
- Enable communities to add community or culturally specific data to images via captions, rather than generic and lengthy terms.
- Increase the usability of images contributed to Commons through more detailed descriptions, that are interlinked and searchable through WikiData.
- Improve the descriptions and captions of Wikimedia Commons images, especially Wiki Loves X competitions and focus categories.
- Provide a fun, easy-to-access, mobile-first way for Wikimedians to organise campaigns to improve categories of images.

Key project links: WikiFundi

- WikiFundi Website: [www.wikifundi.org](http://www.wikifundi.org)
- Wiki In Africa project page
- WikiFundi on Meta
- WikiFundi FAQs
- WikiFundi Offline OEResources:
  - Get WikiFundi

Key project links: ISA Tool

- Access the ISA tool here: [https://isa.toolforge.org/](https://isa.toolforge.org/)
- ISA on Commons
- Wiki In Africa project page
- Diff Article
- Recent Wikimedia Commons edits made with the ISA tool
- The ISA How To manual
- Explore the campaigns

On Strategy

As key technology and accessibility projects, Wiki Fundi and ISA both answer to Wiki In Africa's strategic priorities:

- Increasing visibility
- Facilitating access through tech solutions
- Lowering barriers to contribution
- Active focus on diversity, inclusion, and empowerment
Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer

Addressing knowledge gaps and biases

Leveraging the mutual benefit of partnerships

WikiFundi contributes towards combining UN’s SDGs 4 and 10 Quality Education and Reducing Inequalities by providing an offline educational platform that facilitates training and digital skills lessons continues when data access is limited or not possible.

Our Access focused technology solutions pose Wikimedia-based solutions that address the following gaps as identified in the Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy:

- Readers: Interaction: Tech skills + familiarity
- Contributors: Interaction: Tech Skill + Motivation
- Content: Interaction: Structured Data
- Content: Representation: Socioeconomic status + Language + age

Within the 2030 Wikimedia Strategy, our projects work towards resolving the following recommendations:

- Innovate in Free Knowledge
- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
- Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
Community Cohesion:
WikiAfrica Hour

In 2021, Wiki In Africa launched the WikiAfrica Hour to support the growth and development of Wikimedia user groups across the WikiAfrica movement.

The monthly livecast program showcases Wikimedia activities through an African lens, foregrounding African Wikimedia activities across the continent, and in the global community.

WikiAfrica Hour is a live broadcast, interview format monthly ‘vodcast’ that aims to reconnect, network, and drive sharing and collaborations across the continent. The ‘show’ is currently hosted by Ceslae Ogbonnaya.

Impact:
In the first year of its broadcast, the 15 episodes were aired featuring 51 guests from the Wikimedia movement, with 4,015 YouTube views.

Goals
The main goals of the programme are to increase the cohesion of the Wikimedia Movement across by:

- Increasing the understanding of and sharing opportunities within the global Wikimedia Movement
- Showcasing the global movement through an African lens by offering alternative perspectives, applications and solutions
- Providing a platform where African solutions, contributors and leaders are showcased to the regional and global movements

Key project links:
- WikiAfrica Hour on Meta
- WikiAfrica Hour on Wiki In Africa website
- YouTube Playlist
- Facebook channel
- Twitter handle

On Strategy
As a program, WikiAfrica Hour answers the Wiki In Africa’s priorities:

- Active focus on diversity, inclusion and empowerment
- Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer
- Leveraging the mutual benefit of partnerships
Our Community Development focused projects and broadcasts pose Wikimedia-based solutions to address the following gaps as identified in the Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy:

- Contributors: Representation: Cultural + Geography
- Contributors: Interaction: Tech skills + Role + Motivation

Within the 2030 Wikimedia Strategy, the WikiAfrica Hour project works towards resolving the following recommendations:

- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
- Ensure Equity in Decision-making
- Manage Internal Knowledge
- Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
- Innovate in Free Knowledge
- Identify Topics for Impact
WikiAfrica is a GLAM training and support initiative initially created for heritage professionals and enthusiasts based within the Western Cape, South Africa. The programme being developed is intended as a template that can be adapted to other programmes across Africa, and beyond. The initial programme started in May 2021 and will roll out throughout the year. It is a collaboration between Wiki In Africa and the Simon's Town Museum, Cape Town. This programme is designed and hosted by Isla Haddow-Flood, with assistance from Tazneem Wentzel.

Goals

The main goals of the programme are to:

- Develop a slow, manageable, collaborative, consultative and supportive programme with Heritage and memory professionals and enthusiasts to introduce and facilitate the integration of Wikipedia and Open movement practices into the Heritage sector in Cape Town
- Provide knowledge, theoretical information, practical application and programme development support as alternatives in their community and education programmes
- Inform and assist as heritage organisations put skills and knowledge into action:
  - in the form of content expansion and creation directly on Wikipedia, Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons and in the development
  - in the development of realistic community and education interventions that are adapted to their unique situations, limitations and resources.
- Build a nurturing, self-sustaining and supportive local then regional network that helps and assists each other.
- Share this model with communities across Africa to grow and develop the GLAM space.

Key project links:

- WikiAfrica Heritage on Meta
- Wiki In Africa on Wiki In Africa website
- Whatsapp Group (private)

On Strategy

As a program, WikiAfrica Heritage answers the Wiki In Africa's priorities:
- Increasing visibility
- Lowering barriers to contribution
- Addressing knowledge gaps and biases
- Active focus on diversity, inclusion and empowerment
- Developing emerging communities through capacity and skills transfer
- Leveraging the mutual benefit of partnerships

Our GLAM/Heritage focused training pose Wikimedia-based solutions to address the following gaps as identified in the Knowledge Gap Index Taxonomy:

- Contributors: Representation: Cultural Background + Gender + Geography
- Content: Representation: Cultural Background + Gender + Geography

Within the 2030 Wikimedia Strategy, the WikiAfrica Heritage project works towards resolving the following recommendations:

- Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement
- Identify Topics for Impact
- Invest in Skills and Leadership Development
- Innovate in Free Knowledge