

WIKI IN AFRICA : BACKGROUND

“Africa will write its own history, and it will be, to the north and to the south of the Sahara, a history of glory and dignity.”

-- Patrice Lumumba (1925-1961) in his last letter before his execution in 1961.

Wiki In Africa (www.wikiinafrica.org) is a South African registered NPO whose work across the continent focuses on bridging the digital divide by encouraging the contribution of African content to global educational platforms, such as Wikipedia.

Wiki In Africa is a non-profit whose objective is to empower and engage the citizens of Africa and its diaspora to seize their own agency to bridge the digital divide that plagues Africa by addressing the overt content and contribution gaps.

Wiki In Africa's programmes are designed to expose and close these gaps by raising awareness of, access to, and training in open knowledge platforms and the open movement, such as Wikipedia. Each programme addresses systemic bias and decolonises knowledge with targeted opportunities to celebrate the myriad knowledge, cultures and histories through articles written and photos taken by Africans .

Thousands of participants research, collaborate and contribute freely-licensed, free-to-access content that present new narratives of what 'Africa' means to Africans, and alternative viewpoints for global readers. The initiatives are fun and engaging, and create multiple pathways for people of varied ages, genders, backgrounds, cultures.

Wiki In Africa addresses the following key areas:

- **Reclaiming Africa's visual narrative** with the annual [Wiki Loves Africa](#) competition. Through 7 editions, 72,375 images have been contributed to Wikipedia's media



library. , Wikimedia Commons, by 9,277 photographers from across the continent. The images have a life beyond the competition, with these images being placed to illustrate alternative African perspectives on Wikipedia articles, and thus being viewed over 787 million times since 2016; with 23 million views in July 2021 alone.

- **Gender gap:** Since 2016 [Wiki Loves Women](#) foregrounds inspiring women through partnerships with 78 equity organisations in 15 countries. In 2021 the Focus Group programme and the Inspiring Open Women podcast are launched;
- **Youth and education:** the francophone and primary school-focused [WikiChallenge African Schools](#) is an annual writing contest in 10 countries involving over 200 primary schools.
- **Technology creation** as solutions to Africa's challenges, such as the offline editing solutions [WikiFundi](#) and the award-winning [ISA tool](#) to better describe uploaded images.
- **Community immersion** through all projects and especially the [WikiAfrica Hour](#) vodcast that was launched in 2021.

Our association was founded and is governed by a board of 5 women. It is proudly women-led. It has been supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, Goethe-Institut, Orange Foundation, Movetia, Moleskine Foundation, and Wikimedia Switzerland.

OPERATIONAL TEAM 2021

- [Florence Devouard](#)
Co-Lead • Community Engagement
- [Isla Haddow-Flood](#)
Co-Lead • Advancement and Communications



- [Ceslause Ogbonnaya](#)
Wiki In Africa communications • WikiAfrica Hour host
- [Candy Khohliwe](#)
Wiki In Africa project facilitator • Wiki Loves Women admin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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KEY LINKS

- [Press Kit](#)
- [Winner quotations](#)
- [Full Jury Report 2021](#)
- [International winners page on Wikimedia Commons](#)
- [Meet the International Jury](#)
- [Wiki Loves Africa impact over 7 years](#)

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Social media hashtag:

[#wikilovesafrica](#)
