

OFWA REPORT

OCT- SEPT 2022



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After crowning 2021 by celebrating the achievements and contribution of volunteers across our hubs along with a wonderful festive session, our community activity bounced back with more energy as we presented more refreshing activities and campaigns. With lessons from previous campaigns, we have incorporated improved strategies to enhance volunteer experience in our community activities to yield greater impact. We believe these strategies will make our programs more attractive, and garner more diverse audiences and interest from the community, creating a more inclusive space for all to contribute in their varied capacity to make knowledge free and accessible to all. Additionally, through these projects, we seek to enhance the youth with soft skills as well as contribute content about Africa to increase the continent's representation on the web.

This report presents activities and the impact we have achieved so far in the first quarter of the year. Notwithstanding, we still have some campaigns that are ongoing and their overall impacts we wish to highlight in future reports

GLAM and Content Creation

As part of our GLAM and Content Creation project every year, a series of content campaign efforts to fill in specific gaps in Wikipedia and its sister projects' was launched. Through these events, opportunities for the diverse interests of the community to be engaged to promote collaboration and contribution to a common goal were provided. The capacity of both existing and new editors was built. Through these projects, we have seen significant growth in volunteers as new members now actively lead initiatives and training.

The content campaigns included, but were not limited to;

- [1Lib1ref](#)
- [WikiAfcon Hackathon](#)
- Wiki Loves Africa Ghana
- Visible Wiki Women/Sheroes of Africa DTI

1.1 WikiAfcon Hackathon

In light of the AFCON tournament, a [WikiAfcon Hackathon](#) was organized. The competition spanned the entire tournament and was brought to a close-by organizing a live hackathon during the tournament's final game as depicted in the photos.

Participants were ecstatic to be editing and contributing to Wikipedia content during the live session. Articles about players, teams, referees and other interesting football events

that occurred during the tournament were contributed by participants. One major effect of this was its contribution to community bonding.

Impact

By the end of the tournament, **seventy-five (75)** articles were created, **three hundred and eleven (311)** articles were improved, and **five hundred and ninety-five (595)** references were added by **twelve (12)** editors.

The tournament winners will be announced soon. For more information, please see our meta page.



1.2 1Lib1ref

The first part of the 1Lib1ref campaign took place between the 15th of January and the 5th of February 2022. All community members in our hubs were encouraged to add to a reference on existing articles as part of the effort, which was geared towards making Wikipedia considerably more robust. The campaign received tremendous attention in the community as a result of our media campaigns and continual engagement to spearhead this cause.

Impact

Five hundred and seven (507) references were added and four hundred and seven (407) edits were made at the end of the local edition of the competition. A total of 136 articles were revised and fifteen (15) articles were generated as a result of the campaign, which involved twelve (12) editors.



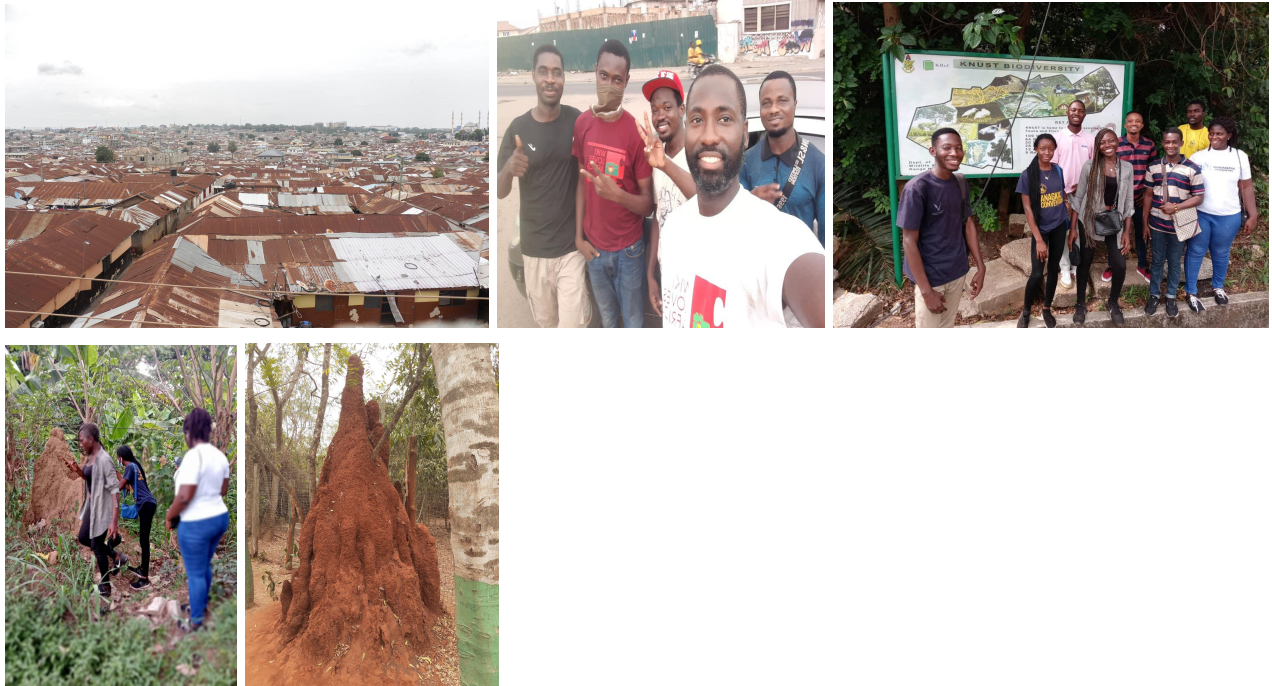
1.3 Wiki Loves Africa

We launched this year's Wiki Loves Africa campaign on a memorable note with the theme *Home and Habitat*. As part of the campaign we organized three (3) Photo Walks across three (3) regions in Ghana, thus the Ashanti region, Western Region, and Greater Accra Region.

Impact

At the end of the contest, uploads during the contest by participants were amazing. Considering the theme “home and habitat”, we got beautiful, amazing and diverse contributions surrounding the theme due to the photo walks that were organized across three regions. Even though the jury had a tough time selecting the winners of the contest due to the fact that most contributions were top notch, eventually three winners were finally selected.





1.4 Visible Wiki Women/Sheroes of Africa

Every year in our bid to bridge the content gap about women online, the Visible Wiki Women campaign is dedicated to commemorating,empowering and increasing the visibility of notable female personalities online. This year's Visible Wiki Women Campaign was organized in partnership with the Goethe Institut as part of the effort in decolonizing the internet, with the theme, “[Sheroes of Africa](#)”. The campaign was aimed at fronting women's advocacy and providing opportunities to empower more women to add their voices online as well as increase content of women on the web. It is against this backdrop that a series of personal and online activities were organized to ensure the maximum impact was achieved.

Impact

A webinar was hosted to launch the ‘Sheroes of Africa’ writing contest. There was diverse participation from both within and outside our community. The launch event hosted 3 inspiring women who shared moving stories that motivated our audience. They were also introduced to the Wikimedia movement and the opportunities in it for them. The launch event saw close to 30 participants joining from different regions across the country.

Launch event

After the launch event, virtual training for both new and existing participants to introduce and sharpen their skills on Wikipedia and other sister projects, was hosted twice a week.

In-person

2 in-person activities were organized in Kumasi and Wa which saw great attendance of women. At the end of both in-person events, **thirty-one (31) participants** were trained on how to edit Wikipedia and how to participate in the contest. Out of the 31, **Fifteen (15) were newbies**. Positive feedback was received from the participants expressing their excitement about the opportunities they have in telling their stories and projecting women. While some were interested in writing new articles, others showed interest in translating articles to other languages.

Media-drive

Throughout the campaign, media drives focused on highlighting the stories of the phenomenal women whose stories have been documented on Wikipedia, were organized to inspire our audience and participants to contribute as well as read those articles.

Writing contest

The writing contest started right after the launch. According to the [metrics dashboard](#), there were forty-five (45) participants who have signed on to the dashboard to participate. With Two Hundred and Eighty-one (281) articles created and Six Hundred and Eighty-three (683) articles improved.

Challenges

Amongst the challenges was the rampant IP address block in the region preventing some participants from participating or signing on the dashboard.

Feedback from participants

“The contest was very educative because it really helped me to know certain prestigious females who are really doing well in society “

Tinny Jnr

“The contest was very competitive compared to previous campaigns. For the first time, more than half of the participants who signed on to the dashboard contributed to articles. This year's theme has really been impactful considering the number of articles created about women. I have also got to know about what women are doing in other parts of the world.”

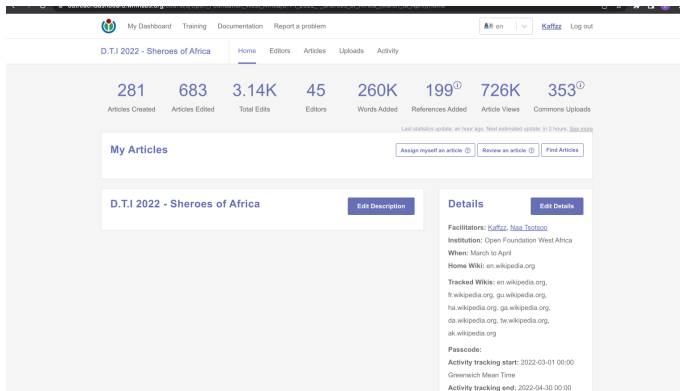
Dasupremo

“The contest went on well from my point of view. This is the first time I have taken part in a writing contest because I always do photography contests and contribute to Wikimedia Commons. This contest has helped me to familiarize myself with the writing and content editing on Wikipedia. There was a lot of content to be edited in some of the articles I worked on during the contest and I was happy to edit, add citations and even create new articles for public figures. Going forward, I hope with the little experience I have gained from this contest, I will continue editing on Wikipedia and if there is any other contest in the near future being a photography or writing contest, I will definitely take part.”

Fquasie

“Next time it should extend the language by adding more local names. Also, Wiki Data should be added.”

Uprising Man



The campaign also encouraged participation from other individuals and affiliates in the African continent and beyond who are passionate about bridging the African content.

In order to increase the visibility and impact of the campaign, we partnered with media houses and institutions including UNESCO Ghana who saw the campaign as intriguing and helped publicize the event.

The launch of the 2022 AWC saw over 57 participants from over 10 African countries. It was also graced by speakers from the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Professor Kodzo Gavua-University of Ghana Archaeology Department, Dr. Phiwokuhle Mnyandu-Howard University, and Lein Tetteh-Ghana Tourism Development Company. As much as we created the opportunity for participants to learn from the event, we got astonishing comments from the speakers which also suggested that they also learned a lot from each other. Both Speakers and Participants mentioned how delighted they were to be part of the event and how impactful the event was. A video of the launch event can be found at this [link](#).

Impact

Following the launch event, 3 training sessions and 3 clinics spread throughout the campaign period were organized. The series of training focused on building the capacity of participants on some of the Wikimedia projects such as basic introductory to Wikipedia editing, Wikimedia Commons, Meta-Wiki, and Wikidata and the clinics were set aside to offer technical support to participants. Over 22 participants benefited from the training sessions which were hosted and a total of 18 people participated in the virtual clinics.

We saw participation from other African countries like Nigeria, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, Sudan, and Tanzania. A total of 224 participated in the campaign across the various participating countries and a total of 1.98K images were uploaded and **4K articles** were created at the end of the campaign across board with reference from the [AWC Program dashboard](#).

Africa Wikimedia Technical Community Hackathon (AWMT)

The African WikiMedia Technical Community Hackathon was a hybrid two day event that hosted developers, translators, testers and other technical documentation writers to come together and work together on technical projects, learn from each other, and make new friends as well as find ways to solve existing problems.

The **African WikiMedia Technical Community Hackathon** formerly known as **Africa Wikimedia Developers Project (AWMD)** initially started as a project that sought to start a developer community on the African continent and to encourage more developers to volunteer for the movement. Last year there was a proposed change of name from AWMD to AWMT to ensure more inclusion in participation of anyone who contributes (or wants to contribute) to Wikimedia's technical areas - as code creators, maintainers, translators, technical writers and other technical roles.

The hackathon saw technical contributors with new projects, joining existing projects, creating new projects with other technical projectors.

Impact

This was a 2 day hybrid event Hackathon event, which saw the participation of participants from Ghana, Nigeria and Chad. 20 participants were supported with data scholarships to attend the event. Some of the training that was hosted included;

- How to contribute to Open Source Development Projects using Git and Gerrit
- How to use Phabricator
- Introduction to Mediawiki and Mediawiki Installation
- Wikimedia Projects Translations

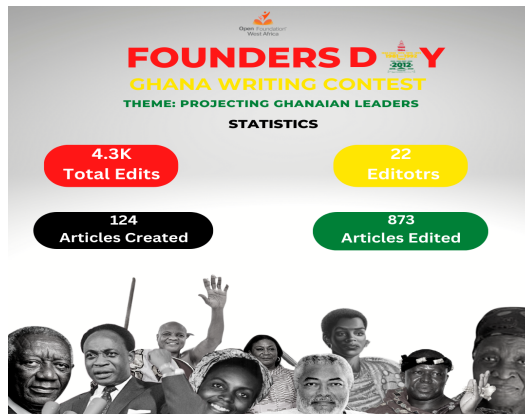
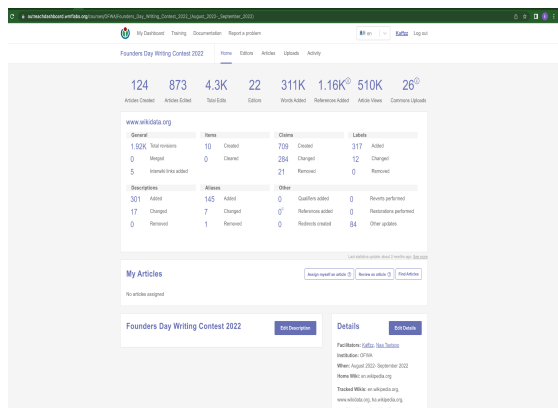
Participants were also given assignments to practice afterwards.



Founders Day Ghana Writing Contest 2022

This year's campaign was themed ***Projecting Ghanaian Leaders***. The third edition of the contest was themed to highlight both old and new Ghanaian leaders playing significant roles in the country on Wikipedia. The contest saw contributions on articles of these leaders that weren't projected on Wikipedia at all.

At the end of the contest **four thousand three hundred (4,300)** articles were contributed by **twenty two (22)** editors. The contest also saw **eight hundred and seventy three (873)** existing articles edited under the theme. **One hundred and twenty four (124)** new articles were created with **one thousand and sixteen (1,016)** references recorded via the [dashboard](#)



Wikimania 2022

Every year, hundreds of volunteers who work on Wikipedia and its sister projects gather at Wikimania to celebrate free knowledge. For the second time, the global event was held virtually with pockets of satellite events organized by wikimedia community members across the world. This year's Wikimania themed " Festival edition was exceptional, as OFWA community members showed up in their numbers to participate in our satellite events that were organized in 4 regions of Ghana. In the past only a selected few could attend Wikimania annual and as such not many community members had the opportunity to be part of the annual celebration however the hybrid event has made it possible for community members to continually be part of this event.

How was it celebrated? What got the community talking about it? We are happy to share excerpts of what took place.

We organized 5 satellite events and awarded over 50 community members across the country with data scholarships to offer them the opportunity to participate in the virtual wikimania conference.

Satellite events were organized at 5 of our hubs thus; the **Kumasi WikiHub, Walewale Wiki Hub, Tamale with Hub, Ho Wiki Hub and Accra WikiHub**. This Year's OFWA Wikimania satellite events were hosted in 3 new regions compared to last year and these were, **Ho, Walewale** and **Tamale** Community members joined in the celebration by watching sessions together, discussing and sharing their experience and participated in several team bonding activities which were organized as part of our satellite events.

Prior to the event we hosted a technical support session for all hub leaders to ensure that they were well supported to host their events at the respective hubs. We also had a dedicated team to provide technical support to community members facing challenges joining the virtual wikimania sessions. The season of Wikimania always has a way of engulfing the atmosphere with such excitement and eagerness as community members feel included to participate. Unlike before when wikimania was solely an in-person event, many of our community members could not participate. Although virtual events have their own set of challenges we are grateful that community members had the opportunity to come together to celebrate this special occasion.

Impact

We supported over 50 members with data scholarship and we hosted 5 satellite events. Interestingly our satellite wikimania events attracted newbie participation across our hubs. This year we saw more than 30 new members join in the celebration at the various satellite events that were organized.

Watch excerpts of [Wikimania 2022 : The OFWA Experience here](#)



Advocacy & Awareness

1.1 Girls Code Project

Open Foundation West Africa together with Love Aid Foundation on the Girls code project trained over a hundred girls at the [Mawuko Girls Senior High School](#) on wikipedia as part of our vision to increase digital literacy skills amongst women and girls.

In the survey conducted all 108 girls knew about Wikipedia however, what they did not know was that they could actually edit it.

A section of the students reported using it. And what did they use it for? Research and homework were their responses. More than 80 percent of the student expressed their interest to be Wikipedians and contributors of open knowledge.

Students were enlightened after the training and had the opportunity to create their user account.

We believe that the vision to see a gender transformative society must also reflect in the kinds of knowledge we access online and that begins by empowering more women and girls with the needed skills to do that.

Personal personal observation by trainers

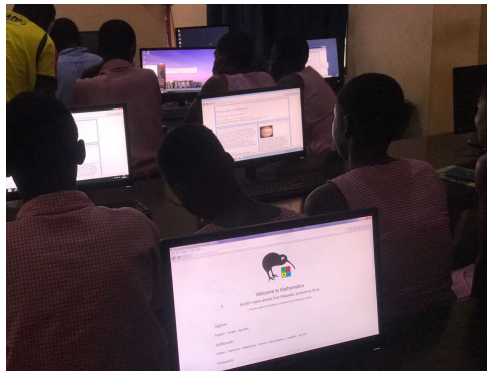
“Many of the girls are hungry and thirsty for knowledge and skills that can catapult their learning experience and the career they will choose later on.

Having discussions or workshops like this helps them become immune to the knowledge gap and how they can contribute to it.

I suggest more of this is organized to promote Wikipedia and advocate for gender gap for Wikipedia contributors (especially the female) and this could go a long way to change the narratives and empower the girls.”



1.2 Kiwix4Schools Outreach Program



Last year we officially launched the Kiwix4schools outreach program which empowered community members from the different regions where our hubs are located to take Kiwix to schools in their communities. This enabled us to reach 5 regions across Ghana. This year we implemented similar strategies to help us reach more schools as the feedback we received from the schools was encouraging.

Impact

We trained 12 community members from different regions and showed them practically how the Kiwix tool works and how they can install them on computers once they visit the school. As part of the training, students were introduced to Wikipedia as a way of drawing their interest as we visited a total of 12 schools in the Northern, Ashanti and Volta regions.

Challenges

- One of the challenges we faced during this project is that some of the computers in certain schools has viruses that corrupted the Pendrive that was being used for the installation
- Copyrighted content cannot be put on Kiwix unless they are open source
- Some content we wished to put on Kiwix were not compatible with the computer devices in the schools.

- Unmatched student to computer ratio
- We wish we can have localized content on Kiwix but so far none have worked yet we hope to still explore more opportunities

1.3 Open Dialogue: The Role of Open Knowledge In Global Environmental Change In a Digital era



There has been increased attention and concerns about our environment in recent times. In partnership with Youth Climate Council Ghana, an Open Dialogue was hosted in commemoration of this year's World Environmental Day Celebration.

The theme for the dialogue was: The Role of Open Knowledge in Global Environmental Change in a Digital Era.

The aim of the event which was held virtually was to showcase the role Wikipedia and other open knowledge platforms play in mitigating these issues.

The discussions were around transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature and how this can be attained in the digital era.

The panel was made up of representatives from Youth Climate Council Ghana, representatives from Eco Warriors, Fellows from the Wikimedia Foundation, and community members with expertise in this field.

The event was attended by over 35 participants from different regions of Ghana. Find a link to the [Open dialogue recorded video](#)

Capacity building and community development

1.1 Train the Trainers Workshop

Building the capacity of our community members has been one core of our operations. Throughout our 5 year journey, we have networked with organizations and youth across the country to impact knowledge and skills and improve their leadership qualities. The Train the Trainers (TOT) workshop was one such opportunity for hub leaders to come together, network amongst themselves, and learn new things to improve their skills. The aim of this is to give them the needed exposure and skills to be able to effectively run their hubs

IMPACT

12 leaders from respective hubs and new team members were trained. After the TOT workshop, 3 new hubs were launched at Tarkwa, Walewale, and Wa in addition to the existing hubs. Part of the skills that were imparted/taught included leadership and hub management skills, communication skills, and managing volunteer burn out amongst others. They also had the privilege to improve their experience with Wikimedia and other sister projects, learn about Copyright and Creative Commons licenses, etc. These we believe helped to boost their capacity and improve their leadership skills.

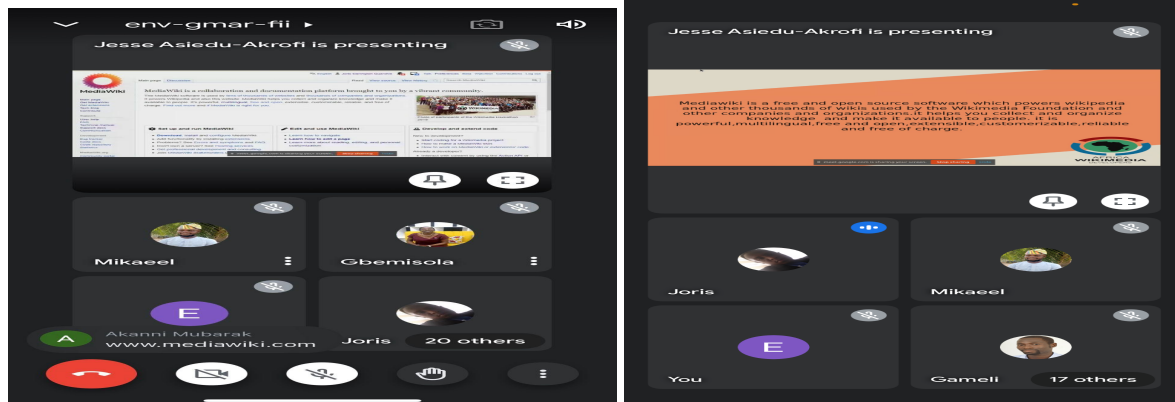
Challenges

One of the dominant challenges that cut across all our training this year was IP blocks. This either hindered participants from editing or creating new accounts. Some got their IP address unblocked after a while.



1.2 African Wikimedians Developers Project 2021

As part of our goal to rekindle the developer community we have, we organized an introductory session where we introduced participants to the Wikimedia movement, projects, and the Africa Wikimedia community and zoomed in to media Wiki and opportunities that lie within. This was well attended by internal and external community members from other countries like Nigeria. A total of 22 people participated with 13 being new members. The feedback we had from most of the participants was that the program was very insightful and they hope to learn more and contribute more to the Wikimedia projects. The only challenge was that online training limits the ability for participants to practice as most of them tend to join virtually with their mobile devices. In the future, we hope to incorporate a hybrid system to offer more participants the opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in learning about the project.



1.3 Monthly Community Meetups

Monthly community meetups are hosted in different parts of the country where our hubs are located. Every first month in a quarter, we organize newbie training dedicated to newcomers who want to learn about the open movement and Wikipedia. Subsequent months are dedicated to learning other sister projects of Wikipedia and creative commons. We began the year with the relaunch of the Tarkwah wiki hub for their first in-person training since all past activities have been virtual. Other training took place across different parts of the regions.

Impact

Over 800 participants were trained through these activities, including 600 new members who joined our community across our hubs. These activities included;

- Walewale Wiki quarterly Newbie month training
- Wa Wiki Hub quarterly Newbie month training
- Accra Wiki Hub Newbie month quarterly Newbie month training
- Wikimedia commons workshop
- Tarkwa Hub relaunch
- Tamale quarterly Newbie month training
- Ho quarterly Newbie month training

Annual General Meeting

At the end of every year share some highlights of the impact we have attained with our community members and partners. This year's annual general meeting was a hybrid event that saw about 20 participants joining both virtually and in person. We also took the opportunity to highlight some of the projects community members can anticipate in the coming year and new strategies that will be adopted in implementing the project. Additionally, we took the opportunity to acknowledge participants and winners of the various contests which were organized this year. We also awarded our star ambassador of the year



Retreat 2021

We believe that team bonding, effective organizational assessment and well outlined strategy is an antidote that spurs on one's quest to attain success. This saw an addition of club/ hub leaders from the various regions in Ghana specifically, who for the first time gained all the skills needed.

Impact

- Team grooming and bonding
- Year in review [Identifying strengths and improving weaknesses
- Preparation for the coming year while adopting newer strategies
- Skills and knowledge provisions for Hub and Club leaders to build confidence and community growth



Our Partnerships

1.1 New Partners

Over the past years, partnerships have been a backbone which supports our growth and expansion across The following outlines the new partners we onboarded:

- [University of Health and Allied Science](#)
- [Cisco Ghana](#)
- [Ghana Commission for UNESCO](#)
- [Afritech Hub](#)
- [Media Foundation for West Africa](#)
- [Pamitouch Foundation](#)
- [Akropong Presbyterian College of Education](#)
- [Youth for Climate Council](#) (YCC)
-