About The Project

Wikimedia User Group Nigeria (WUGN) is proud to be part of the Wiki Loves Women (WLW) project in collaboration with the Goethe Institute (GI). WUGN is pleased to introduce the maiden edition of this multi-country, multi-faceted project that aims at encouraging the contribution of content that celebrates Africa's female leaders, and reflects the realities faced by women and girls across Africa. The inaugural edition of this project will be staged simultaneously in four focus countries across Africa.

The Wiki Loves Women (www.wikiloveswomen.org)project is designed to leverage Wikipedia's role as a global repository to ensure that the online representation of women is easily accessible and fair in its coverage.

The project encourages the release of existing researched and verified information under the correct open license so that it can be drawn onto Wikipedia. The subsequent content created on Wikipedia will assist in redressing the systemic bias online about women. The donated data and content will specifically focus on women's contribution to the political, economic, scientific, cultural and heritage landscape, as well as the current socio-political status of women, in each country. The project will achieve its aims by working with gender equality-focused civil society organisations to release their intelligence onto Wikipedia. At the same time, it will work with established Women's groups and existing Wikipedia Volunteer groups to disseminate this information through the Wikimedia projects. In this way, the project will encourage the activation and support of new and existing editors (both female and gender-sensitised male Wikipedians.

The Wiki Loves Women project was designed in the spirit of the WikiAfrica movement by Florence Devouard and Isla Haddow-Flood. The main objective of WikiAfrica is to use the effective leverage of the most used in the world encyclopedias, Wikipedia, to challenge and to change mindsets about Africa, either on the part of Africans or generally by any person living on our planet. WikiAfrica triggers this development by encouraging the active contribution of knowledge about Africa on the internet, especially on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia projects, for individuals as well as by organisations across the African continent and around the world.

For more detail on the project visit: http://www.wikiloveswomen.org/

Participating Countries

For its pilot phase, the project is organised in four countries. **Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire** were strategically selected (two each from the Anglophone and Francophone linguistic countries in Africa).The project will run simultaneously for the period of 12 months among the focus countries.

Why Wiki Loves Women?

Gender inequality is widespread throughout Africa. Although progress has been observed in the context of existing inequalities in terms of family life, education, the workplace, in politics, there remains a systemic bias in favor of men, especially with regards to both online and offline information, news, knowledge sources, and representation in the media. Many outstanding African women have shaped the past of African societies. There are daily realities that women and girls face due to their gender. Women play a key role today in the economic, environmental and social development of Africa today. Africa should know about these stories and realities.

These realities should sit alongside stories that relate to their male counterparts. But very few of this content can be found online, even on Wikipedia, which is yet today one of the largest sources of global information.

Wiki Loves Women project seeks to fill two major subject gaps – women and Africa – on the free encyclopedia Wikipedia. These gaps exist both in content on these two themes, but also in terms of participation in the editorial level. Our objective is to fight against the existing inequalities between men and women on the African continent.

This is still very relevant with Nigeria yet to sign the bill on Gender and equality opportunity into law. It is therefore important for this project to assist in correcting these anomalies.

Potential Content Partners

WLW, in partnership with WUGN, will be seeking to partner with Nigerian Civil Society organisations that focus on women-related activities in the area of politics, business, science, education, medicine, technology, law, culture and heritage. The team will work with partnering organisations to contribute relevant quality data and verified information on Nigeria's women on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects.

What is involved

The PCPs are supported by WUGN whilst donating free licensed content such research, data, images, and relevant videos to the relevant wiki media projects.

WUGN will assign a Wikipedia in Residence (WiR) to each PCP to liaise with them and work on the events and content liberation sessions they have decided upon. A WIRs is an experienced Wikimedian who will work with the PCP to identify the content that can be contributed and facilitate the process of contribution to the relevant Wikimedia Projects. This can be done by organising fun interactive and learning events such as edit-a-thons, workshops, training sessions, and conferences.

We hope you will consider joining us on this exciting and important project!

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