



# African Affiliates

**Growth and what else?**

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[USAID Biodiversity & Forestry](#), PD, via Wikimedia Commons





**“If you want to go fast go alone.  
If you want to go far go together.”**

– African Proverb

# A bit of History on Affiliates...

1

Wikimedia Deutschland formed as the first Chapter in 13 June 2004

2

In 2006 a Chapters Committee was created by the Board to facilitate recognition of Wikimedia Chapters

3

By the end of 2009, there were 17 chapters, mostly based in Europe & North America

4

In February 2010, the Wikimedia Foundation's Board commissions a "[Movement roles](#)" project to clarify movement governance.

*“The board affirms the importance of a strong decentralized movement structure and its own responsibility to lead organizational development of the international Wikimedia movement, and directs the ED to dedicate necessary resources to this.*

”

5

The movement roles project proposed an Affiliation model which was adopted by the Board in 2012. The Chapters Committee was renamed to the Affiliations Committee and charged with the responsibility of Recognition and Derecognition of three types of Affiliate:

1. **Chapter:** Formal registered Independent Nonprofit based in specific country/Geography.
1. **Thematic Organization:** Formal registered Independent Nonprofit focused on specific theme.
1. **User Group:** simple and flexible affiliated group that are an alternative to chapters and thematic organizations



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# Value proposition of Affiliates...

## Affiliates principles

The primary reason for recognizing affiliates is to empower them to get further recognition and support within their communities, and to identify their work with the projects.

... In doing this Wikimedia Affiliates help to expand the effective network of the Wikimedia Movement.

1

Work with local language communities to **identify and support priority content** production onwiki.

2

Provide **space for offline engagement** for members through local events.

3

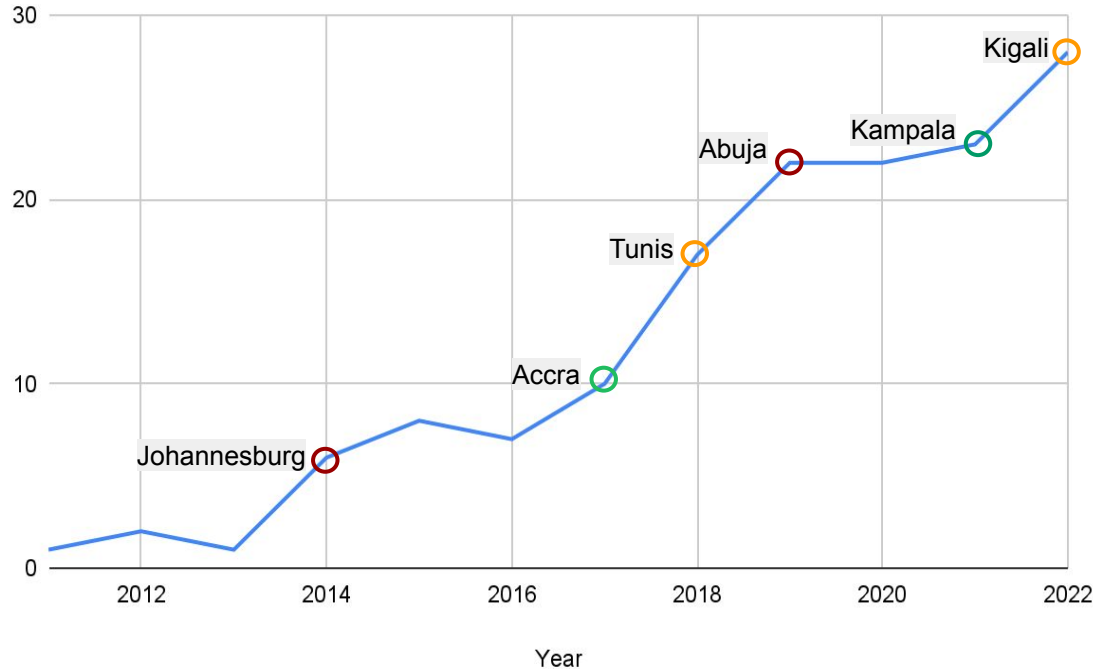
Build **professional capacities** to pursue advocacy work with external entities to advance onwiki work.



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# Affiliates in Africa are Growing

## 28 Affiliates and counting!

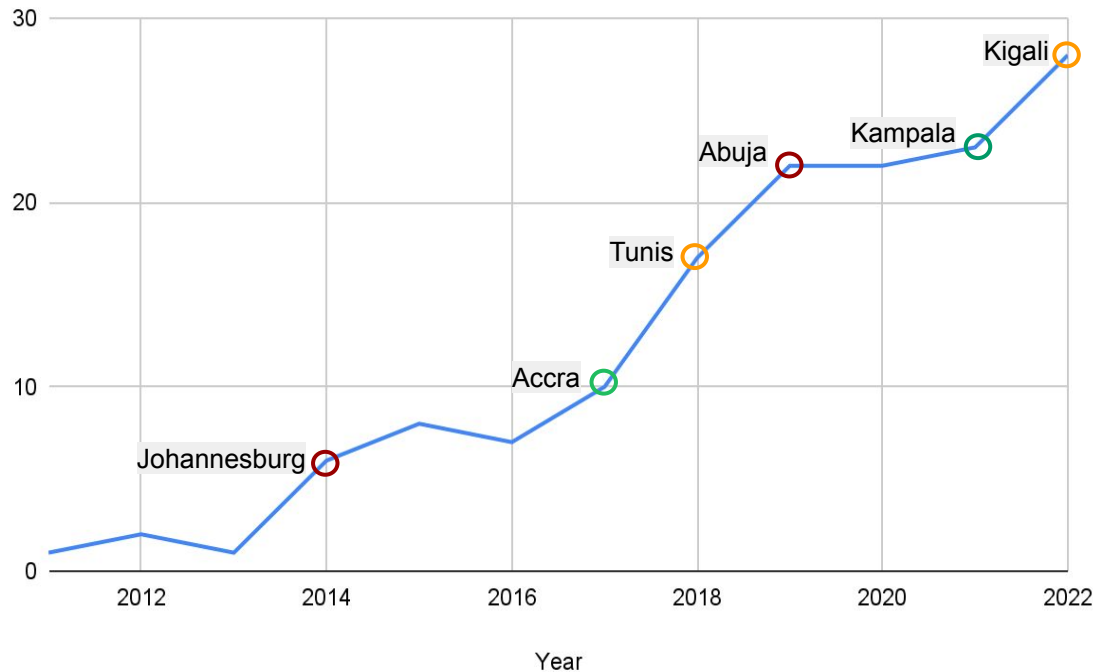


Since our meeting in Kampala 2021, we have welcomed **5 new** affiliates in the region, in:

- **Wikimedia Community User Group Rwanda**
- Gungbe Wikimedians User Group
- Wikimedians of Lagos User Group
- Tyap Wikimedians User Group
- **Wikimedia Community User Group Kenya**

# Affiliates in Africa are Growing

## 28 Affiliates and counting!



We also have Four (4) more community groups working towards affiliation.

Even more encouraging, we have three (3) User Groups who are in the process of becoming Chapters!

1. Wikimedia User Group Nigeria
2. Wikimedia Ghana User Group
3. Wikimedia Community User Group Uganda

# The editor pool in the region...

- The average unique monthly editors across Wikimedia projects in Africa is **~9428**. Where **25%** are active editors and **15%** are active content editors.
- This means that African Affiliates have a significant share of the total editor population to work with!



Organizer Editors

**108**



Participant Editors

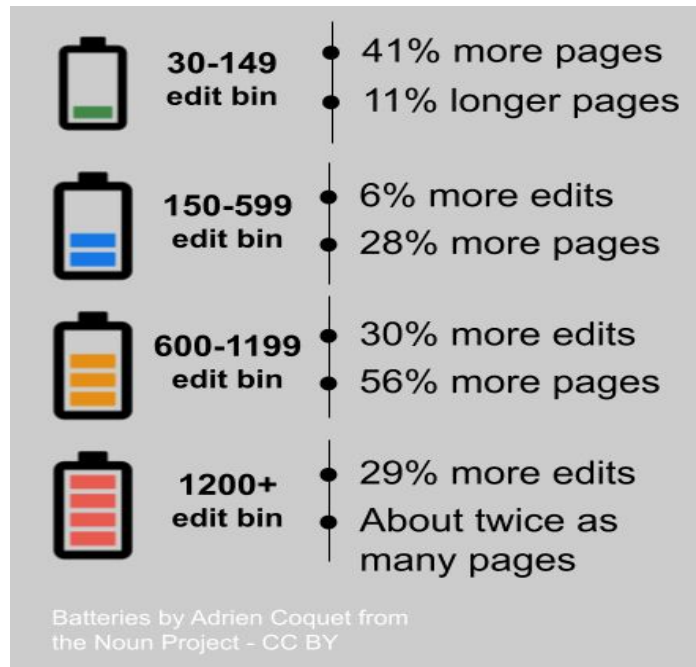
**690**



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# An interesting trend...

- Affiliated editors outperformed unaffiliated editors on combined contributions across the 113 selected Wikipedia language projects, with **25% more edits** (average of nearly 300 edits more) and **81% more pages created** (average of 35 more pages).
- However, Affiliated editors wrote **17% shorter pages** on average across selected Wikipedia language projects.
- **Unaffiliated editors also out-performed affiliated editors on Wikidata**, looking at the average number of edits, pages created and the length of pages in words.
- Affiliated editors performed better than unaffiliated editors within specific edit bins as shown on the info -graphic to the right.

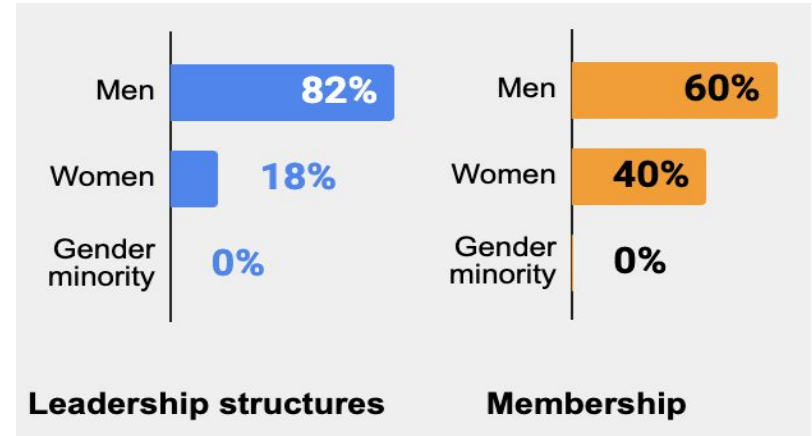
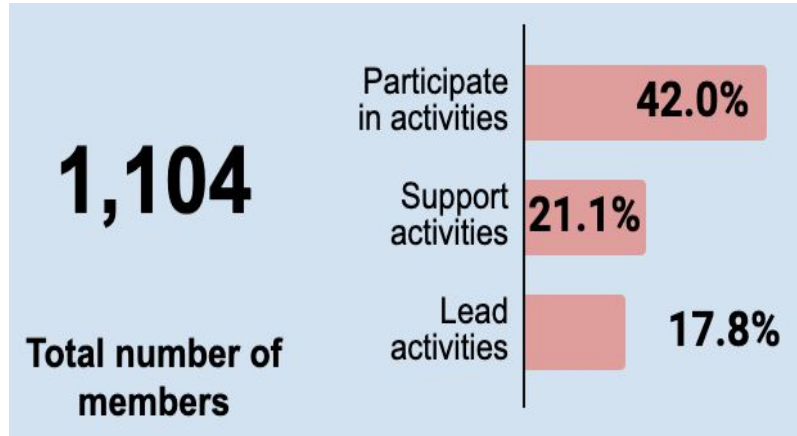




# Affiliates Need to Grow Diverse

African affiliates have a good Membership pool from which to draw volunteers to participate, support and lead activities.

However, affiliates need to work harder to attract a more diverse demographic into our rank and file.



# Affiliates lead partnerships

W I K I  
G A P

Let's close the internet gender gap



Wiki Africa  
Education  
by Moleskine Foundation



**African Library &  
Information Associations  
& Institutions**



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# Funding data 2022 (global with MEA data)

## Number of grants

491

Globally a 35% increase from 2021 (364). MEA: 322 grants (193 in 2021). 293 Rapid Funds, 23 General Support, 4 Alliances and 1 Conference Fund, 1 Research Fund.

## New countries

20

90% from non-high income countries.  
50% in MEA region.

## Increase in funding

51%

Globally \$8.2M to \$12.4M  
MEA: **149%** from 2021, from 873K to 2.1 M (USD), from 11% to 19% of global funding.

## New grantees

163

MEA: 91 new grantees  
8 transitioned from rapid to GSF





# Opportunities for exploration

More people are coming online in the continent, yet **very few of them are aware of Wikimedia projects.**

Countries are **revising their Copyright laws to catch up to the digital age**, and yet don't often know which licensing choice to pursue.

Very few GLAM institutions have worked on **digitization or cataloguing**. And yet more are interested in repatriation of cultural objects.

Valuable local written works are **coming onto the public domain** and will need more volunteers to get these into our projects.

More academic institutions are recognising the importance of Wikipedia, but are unsure **how to incorporate it into their curriculum.**

The world is starting to warm-up to admission of more indigenous forms of knowledge. Yet, most of Wikimedia communities are still unsure of **the best way to take in such forms of knowledge into our Wikimedia Projects.**



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# Current movement roles discussions

The **Movement Charter Drafting Committee** will create a document that will support the Wikimedia Movement in working together toward the **Strategic Direction**. The Committee's task is to draft the Movement Charter in line with **the Movement Strategy recommendation “Equity in Decision-Making”**.

**Hubs Pilot**. The idea of Hubs responds to the desire to share power, moving more decision-making closer to the communities involved. They are also expected to bring greater efficiency when working within a region or a theme, compared to the current model centralized in the Wikimedia Foundation.





**Thank You**  
**Enjoy the**  
**conversations**  
**under this**  
**Sycamore Tree**