

Africa and the Wikimedia Foundation

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Agenda

- Why do we care where editors come from?
- Some fresh data on Wikimedia and Africa
- A quick history of Foundation involvement in Africa
- What the Foundation is looking for
- What the Foundation can offer
- What the Foundation would like to learn
- Time for questions

Why do we care?

- Contributing to Wikipedia is meaningful, empowering, and as important as participating in academic discourse
- When African editorship is very low, we are missing important voices, with different contexts, knowledge maps, hierarchies and categories
- The paucity of GS editors necessarily results in subtle [systemic bias](#)
- [\[\[w:Wikipedia:There is a deadline\]\]](#)

Fresh data - views

- Monthly page views from Africa: 173M (1.5%)
- Most consulted Wikipedias in Africa in descending order: English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Afrikaans (6k/hour), Swahili (2k/hour)

Fresh data - edits [1/2]

- Monthly page edits from Africa: 25,000 (1.3%)
- Most editing countries: Egypt (0.3%); Algeria (0.3%), Morocco (0.2%), South Africa (0.2%), Tunisia (0.1%), Nigeria (0.05%)

Fresh data - edits [2/2]

- Countries with any active (5+ edits per month) editors on **English WP**: Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- Countries with any active editor on **French WP**: Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria, Morocco, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tunisia
- Wikipedias in other languages with active editors: Arabic (~200), Afrikaans(29), Portuguese(~1-10), Swahili(12), Yoruba (1), Amharic(4), Malagasy(2), Igbo(2).

A quick history of WMF & Africa

- Kiswahili Wikipedia Challenge (2009) and Setswana Wikipedia Challenge (2011)
- Wikipedia Zero (talk to Adele! :))
- Intervention to spur creation of WMZA
- Grants to Kenyans (offline distribution; CC Launch)
 - Difficult to integrate; UK-centric content; not scalable
- Grant to Ghanaians (community building and outreach)
- Grants to South Africans (Joburgpedia '13&'14; WLM '13; Wiki Indaba; matched OSF funding for staff)
- Grant to Ugandans (village Wikipedia center); Grant to fund promotional media production in Cameroon

What WMF is looking for

- First and foremost: **a handful of self-motivated active editors**. We strongly believe such a core is the basis for most other activities that would promote our vision
- Community initiatives: ideas for Wikimedia mission-aligned work that local communities are interested in undertaking
- Partners: external organizations (non-profits, government agencies) interested in partnering with the local communities and WMF to promote our educational mission (e.g. offline Wikipedia distribution)

What WMF can offer

- **Funding:** we have several [grant programs](#) available to fund your local initiatives and your participation in international events.
- **Networking:** the WMF has a global perspective on movement initiatives, and is aware of many tools, projects, and contacts. We can help connect you with people and tools most useful for your work.
- **Advice:** we have experienced Wikipedians, program leaders, project managers, and software developers, and are happy to advise you on any question that may come up in your work.

What WMF would like to learn

- We want to know more about YOU, and your colleagues in your country: how do you contribute? What motivates you? What are the main obstacles to your contributing, or to your contributing more?
- We want to learn how we can support you better. What resources can we put at your disposal? What actions might we take that would benefit your work?
- We want to answer your questions: this event is a rare opportunity for human face-to-face dialogue. Ask us anything!

Talk to us!



- Anasuya Sengupta – Senior Director of Grantmaking

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- Adele Vrana – Wikipedia Zero partner manager for Africa

- photo CC-by-sa Myleen Hollero



- Asaf Bartov – Head of WMF Grants and Global South Partnerships

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