Africa Knowledge Initiative: The groundwork

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WiR, Africa Knowledge Initiative

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About

What?

Africa Knowledge Initiative (AKI) is a project with focus on using the primary resources from African Union's archives to close the knowledge and content gap that exists on the internet about Africa, leveraging the Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. AKI has decided to kick off its activities using three AU holidays; **Africa Youth day - 1st Nov 2022**, **Environment/Wangari Maathai day - 3rd March 2023** and **Africa day 25th May 2023**.
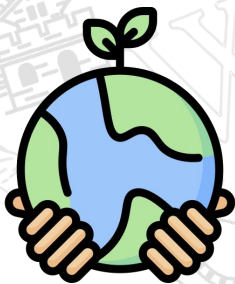
Why?

The fact that there are more articles on the internet about Paris, than there are about Africa, is quite alarming. Furthermore, the people who frequently write about Africa on the digital space, are rarely Africans or rarely live or lived in Africa. The AKI is an avenue to hand Africans the pen and paper to take over the narrative from those who par consequence of not being Africans but writing about Africa, have largely misrepresented the African continent globally.

Who?

Wikimedia Foundation, African Union and Africa No Filter, are partnering on the Africa Knowledge Initiative (AKI).

Implementing partners + local organizers

- **Campaign:** Africa Youth Day 2022
  Implementing partner: The WikiVibrance Project in collaboration with Wikimedia Community User Group Botswana
- **Campaign:**Africa Environment Day 2023
  Implementing partner: Wiki In Africa and Wikimedia Community User Group Côte d'Ivoire
- **Campaign:** Africa Day 2023
  Implementing partner: Open Foundation West Africa

Statistics

- 47 local organizing communities from Africa and diaspora
- At least 53 events across Africa and diaspora
- 54 programs recorded on the dashboard
- 1,467 participants recorded
- 11, 670,000 words added
- 16,210 references added
- 12, 530 new articles created across wiki projects besides Wikidata & Commons
- 31,800 wiki articles improved
- 26,140,000 views on newly created and improved articles
- 52, 000 Wikidata revisions
- 2, 526 Wikidata items created
- 17, 320 Wikidata claims created
- 6,260 Wikidata descriptions added
- 5, 039 Wikidata labels added
- 1,481 Wikidata interwiki links added
- 10, 690 uploads on Commons

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Q&A

Reactions, questions or comments towards how to maximize the opportunity the Africa Knowledge Initiative has provided.

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Thank you.

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