

Regional Call for West Africa

Wikimedia 2030 Movement Strategy

Saturday Oct. 31 @ 15.00 UTC

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Useful links:

- [Presentation](#)
- Recommendations [all in one](#)
- [Survey](#) OR [Reporting template](#)
- [Grants](#)
- [Video Recording](#)

Agenda		
Session	Anchor	Time (UTC)
Welcome and Introductions	Kayode	15:00 - 15:10

Welcome Address	Katherine Maher	15:10 - 15:20
Goodwill Messages	Amanda Keton Janeen Uzzel Ryan Merkley Lisa Gruwell	15:20 - 15:30
The strategy process so far	Kayode	15:30 - 15:40
The recommendations and the way forward	Erina Muhame	15:40 - 16:20
Questions and answers	Erina Muhame	16:20 - 16:35
Discussions on the way forward	Mehrdad Pourzaki Kaarel Vaidla	16:35 - 16:55
Roundup of the Session	Kayode	16:55 - 17:00
Networking	Everyone!!!	17:00 - 18:00

Notes:

Introductory notes:

- One of the most important recommendations in the Movement Strategy is “Ensure equity in the decision-making”, supported by the principle of subsidiarity.
 - This principle is also in effect in these prioritization meetings happening on local and regional level
- It would be great to hear what are the priorities
- It is a great learning experience and we look forward to hearing from communities, including African communities

[Slide deck](#)

What are the challenges that you are facing and look at which recommendation ([LINK](#)) can address that. That would be a priority for you and your group. What are some initiatives that you would like to see happen right away, what are others that can come later.

a positive impact on how content impacts people for example and sometimes the whole country is this study

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/sep/18/wikipedia-edits-have-massive-impact-on-tourism-say-economists>

Q: Regarding Identifying Topics for Impact - experience for indigenous language Wikipedias will be different than for bigger projects (e.g. English Wikipedia). Translation of manifestos for indigenous languages would have a big impact on small wikis. Where would the focus be?

A: At the principles level this seems to go beyond the English Wikipedia. Generally speaking it seems that also the indigenous languages could be covered by this recommendation. Implementation of the recommendation will be a different thing.

When taking the principle of contextualization into account there definitely seems the place for this. This is why we are having the conversation here on the regional and local level.

This is a many year strategy and we can plan out the steps for the process.

Q: Recommendation Evaluate, Iterate, and Adapt. How is the process going to flow? Are the people who do that?

A: The how will be designed together. Aligns with the principle of accountability. If there are communities

Q: Investing in Skills and Leadership development. Huge deficit in capacity building in Africa. What would investment in skills and leadership development look like? Would it open the door for the leadership for Africans?

A: Skillsets are different. People want to join the movement and we need to add the opportunities for people to learn for project management and funds management. It is crucial that we can leave it to the communities to define the skillsets.

We had an East Africa online meetup on 21st October 2020, one of the key findings we observed was that, we need to always consider raising awareness/ briefing/reminding and making sure everyone knows the step we are in as a movement (as not all wikimedians know/remember the process we are in, talking of prioritization and implementation) of the recommendations. Hopefully that will help all of us to be on the same page and will make it easier for members to give their thoughts on which areas the local communities may prioritize to work on.

Q: Do we evaluate the skills for the people? Outside people are experts in their industries and have transferable skills.

A: We are all Wikimedians, but there are experts in their own industries, before they become Wikimedians. Here's that we are going to be taught, but what about the skills that we already have.

"Establish a service that facilitates connecting/matching peers across the Movement for teaching and learning skills (e.g. peer-learning, networking, and pooling of information from partners and allies)."

Something that a lot of communities can do is a mapping.

+100 to building from community strength to organize peer learning, skill sharing. Leads to better outcomes and will meet each community's needs better.

Comment about the Ensure Equity in the Decision-making: Regional and thematic hubs will be important. Maybe it would be possible to talk about how Interim Global Council, Movement Charter and Global Council will be structured.

A: Have Interim Global Council set up first and then have them setting up the Movement Charter and Global Council processes.

From the chat: these 3 recommendations are very linked to each other (basically all the recommendation are) 6. Invest in Skills and Leadership Development 7. Manage Internal Knowledge 10. Evaluate, Iterate, and Adapt: we need to evaluate local skills, invest to consolidate and develop these skills and make sure that this investment is managed internally to make local orgs sustainables. And of course this should adapted and iterate to make it working correctly (like the quality management approach PDCA).

Q: Will this affect and reform the Affiliate Selected Board Seat (AS BS) process? So that Africa can have a better representation in the final decision? To who seats in the WMF board of trustees?

A: New board selection next year, probably Spring 2021 and it is really important for all of us to think about nominating as potential board members. To consider running for the board. It is really important to have African elected board members on the board.

Shani said from a call a week before that the current system supports Wikimedians from bigger communities or supported by the big communities.

Last year 2 Africans applied for becoming the BoT member.

[From the chat] coor With regard to the recommendation 2, Some countries are technologically advanced than others. And I know that we can leave comments on the tools page but some volunteers may not feel comfortable commenting on their challenges on a talk page. As we aim to improve user experience on Wikimedia Foundation projects, I think it is important for us to create environments where users especially from Africa can freely share or communicate in a language which is more comfortable to them any technical challenges they face in using Wikimedia Foundation projects.

Q: Provide for Safety and Inclusion. How can the Foundation support it? How can we support members of the community?

A: This is something that we have been thinking about in community resilience overseen by Maggie Dennis, also trust & Safety. A big problem that we want to resolve to support the people in the local communities in more robust ways. Figure out how to share information quickly and how to partner with local communities to map out threats.

Digital Security office hours that would support the people. Sharing free knowledge is a political act and we would need to work together to decrease that risk and provide the support.

Q: new bylaws modifications from Community selected to Community sourced: why this change ?

A: Legal requirement for the Foundation to have a final say regarding the board membership. There has been a lack of clarity from the past. Election does not reflect what is really happening.

We want to have a global and representative board of trustees. There is an over-representation of European and North American communities. Many of the other communities have very little presentation. We need to set up the process for bringing people on board. Voting is still featured as a component.

Honesty is an important part - the process is actually a nomination. It is a more honest way of talking about it. Helps to think about what would make the historic processes more fair for global communities.

Q: Mapping of projects with the communities. Develop projects for histories of languages, how to do that?

A: There are lots of examples regarding programs. Dumisani looks at what is most effective out there and Felix is involved around global campaigns. In terms of partnerships, what is possible to replicate something that has worked around the world. Usually, the answer is "yes" with some adaptation. In India a successful project tiger.

Q: In our quest to invest in skills and development, can the Wikimedia Foundation and other chapters offer more internship opportunities to volunteers, especially volunteers from Africa?

Q: As regards skill development can something like the greenhouse experience be organised for Africans?

A:

Q: How do the movement enable participation of all contributors in healthy and secure communities?

A:

Q: Still on the skill development. There's a need to go beyond taking online courses. I also share in Zita's thought on internship opportunities especially for the African volunteers. What about knowledge sharing? Should we not implement sessions that will enable adept knowledgeable Wikimedians to imbibe some of these skills with the volunteers in dire need of them? Maybe we should encourage inexperienced volunteers to lead projects or enable spaces for them to get involved with guidance from volunteers who have led such roles before?

A: Action of taking the notice of the question and getting a response. Appetite from larger groups to provide experience.

A: Tech spaces. How to work better with community developers

Q: How to encourage volunteers to take part in training opportunities we want to offer? These opportunities are available, but volunteers are not able to pull through because of lack of resources. If someone signs up for the course, would there be support in going through. It is not easy to work with the volunteers.

A: Bringing up an important issue. There are financial barriers in the movement. In the Project Tiger the chromebooks and stipends for internet access can be provided. A lot more people participated. The funding that exists is now Project GLOW. Can be used for stipends. The foundation has recycled laptop program.

Q: How can we ensure that by 2030 the discussions on internal affiliate or community channels like telegram, whatsapp, or other affiliate channels are accessed by the movement?

A: Maybe hubs can function as interference points.

Comment: Telegram channels are popular. How do we ensure that information can be easily accessed?

Q: There was a call for software development. Some Wikimedians are willing to work on such things. People who are knowledgeable in building applications. Then we can develop skills in that area.

Q: Maybe it is possible to have cash awards instead of gift cards for Africans.

Wikimedia Learning Centres in SE Asia, Latin America, West Africa and East Africa
Many +1s