MIND THE GAP

AFRICAN FILM & TV ON WIKIPEDIA







Wikipedia drives global knowledge

- Is the world's #1 online resource
- Ranks as the world's #1 most visited site by search engine traffic*
- Appears on the 1st page of 99% of all Google searches—often as the #1 result.
- Integrated on social media platforms like Facebook and TikTok, as well as voice assistants like Siri and Alexa.
- Fuels the knowledge of AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT and Gemini.
- Is a popular destination for information about Film and TV. In 2023, 21 Film and TV-related articles—and 15 in 2024—ranked among the Top 50 most-viewed articles on English Wikipedia.*Ahrefs.com (May 205 rankings)

*Ahrefs.com rankings

And yet, Africa is notably underrepresented

- Just 1.5% of Wikipedia contributors are based in Africa
- Only 15% of contributions originate from the continent.
- Only 25% of edits about the sub-saharan region originate from editors in the region
- 100 times more geotagged articles on France than on Africa on English Wikipedia
- More edits originate from Hong Kong each quarter than do from the entire continent of Africa over the same period

National Cinema Pages A missing link in African Film representation

National Cinema articles on Wikipedia are vital gateways for global recogniton of a country's film and TV industry.

A web search for a country's film or cinema will bring up the country's Wikipedia Cinema page—if it exists—as a top result. Yet:

- 16 African countries (30%) do not have a Cinema page on English Wikipedia.
- 25 countries (46%) lack a national cinema page on French Wikipedia.
- The majority of existing pages have notable gaps in prose, technical style, and coverage.

*July 2025



Notable African films, TV programs, personalities, and other topics are missing from Wikipedia.

A representative sample of major category nominees from 3 African Industry Awards

Many without an entry on English or French Wikipedia

2024 Sotigui Awards

Out of 21 major award nominees:

- 12 (57%) have no entry on English or French Wikipedia
- including (100%) of 5 of the winners

2024 Ecrans Noirs

Out of 28 major award nominees:

- 18 (64%) have no entry on English or French Wikipedia In addition:
 - 12 (67%) of directors of nominated films don't either

2024 Africa Movie Academy Awards

Of 35 major award nominees:

- 17 (50%)
- including 4 (50%) of the 8 winners

Compiled October 2024 by AfroCreatives WikiProject

African Film and Television articles are often insufficiently updated.

Many lack basic elements such as quality images & filmography tables.

	Wikipedia Edition	Articles Surveyed	% with images	% with low- quality image	% with image 10+ years
Directors*	English	757	31%	48%	26%
	French	495	37%	20%	26%
Actors	English	935	26%	35%	23%
	French	465	33%	14%	20%
Actresses	English	888	31%	37%	20%
	French	381	39%	22%	16%

^{*}Just 26% of Directors pages surveyed on English Wikipedia have a filmography table

Compiled October 2024 by AfroCreative WikiProject

African Film & TV creatives are vastly underrepresented in numerous categories.

A Sample survey of six occupations in African Film and Television on Wikipedia:

	English Wikipedia	French Wikipedia	Arabic Wikipeda
Cinematographers	60	31	41
Film & TV Editors	39	45	42
Costume Designers	10	9	8
Film & TV Score Composers	18	10	13
Art Director	8	7	3
Production Designer	3	0	1

July 2025. Source: AfroCreatives WikiProject



Coverage shortfalls of African Film Festivals

African Film Festival pages on Wikipedia are an important way to chronicle developments in notable films and industry players, yet fewer than 20% have a Wikipedia page.

Of those, most are scant and poorly updated.

African Film Festivals that have a Wikipedia article:*

English Wikipedia

- 14% of film festivals in Africa
- 21% African film festivals outside the continent

French Wikipedia

- 17% of film festivals in Africa
- 18% African film festivals outside the continent

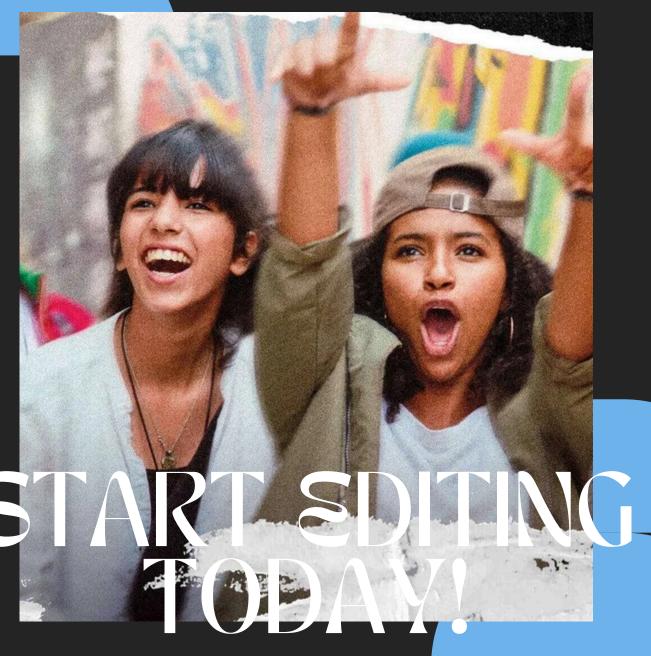
As of July 2025



The gender gap

- 12% of Sub-Saharan African biographies are about women compared to 25% across Wikipedia
- 23% of all Wikimedia content related to the Sub-Saharan Africa region is about women
- 19% of Wikimedia affiliate groups in Sub-Saharan Africa are led by women

ONTHE MOVENT!



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