

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 2025 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

Wikimedia Community Insights Report 2020

National Cinema Pages

A missing link in African Film representation

National Cinema articles on Wikipedia are vital gateways for global recognition 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 Wikipedia |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!



START EDITING TODAY!

www.TheAfricaNarrative.org/ACWPFILM25