

WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique



#EMPOWERING

Empowering African students through knowledge sharing

"The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice."

– ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Tags : Education, Offline, WikiFundi, Vikidia, Writing competition, Francophonie, Africa

WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique engages students from primary schools across Africa in contributing to Vikidia, the encyclopedia for 8- to 13-year-olds that anyone can improve. It encourages them to create and improve articles on topics related to African culture, history, environment, and more. It promotes knowledge sharing, digital literacy, and cultural diversity.

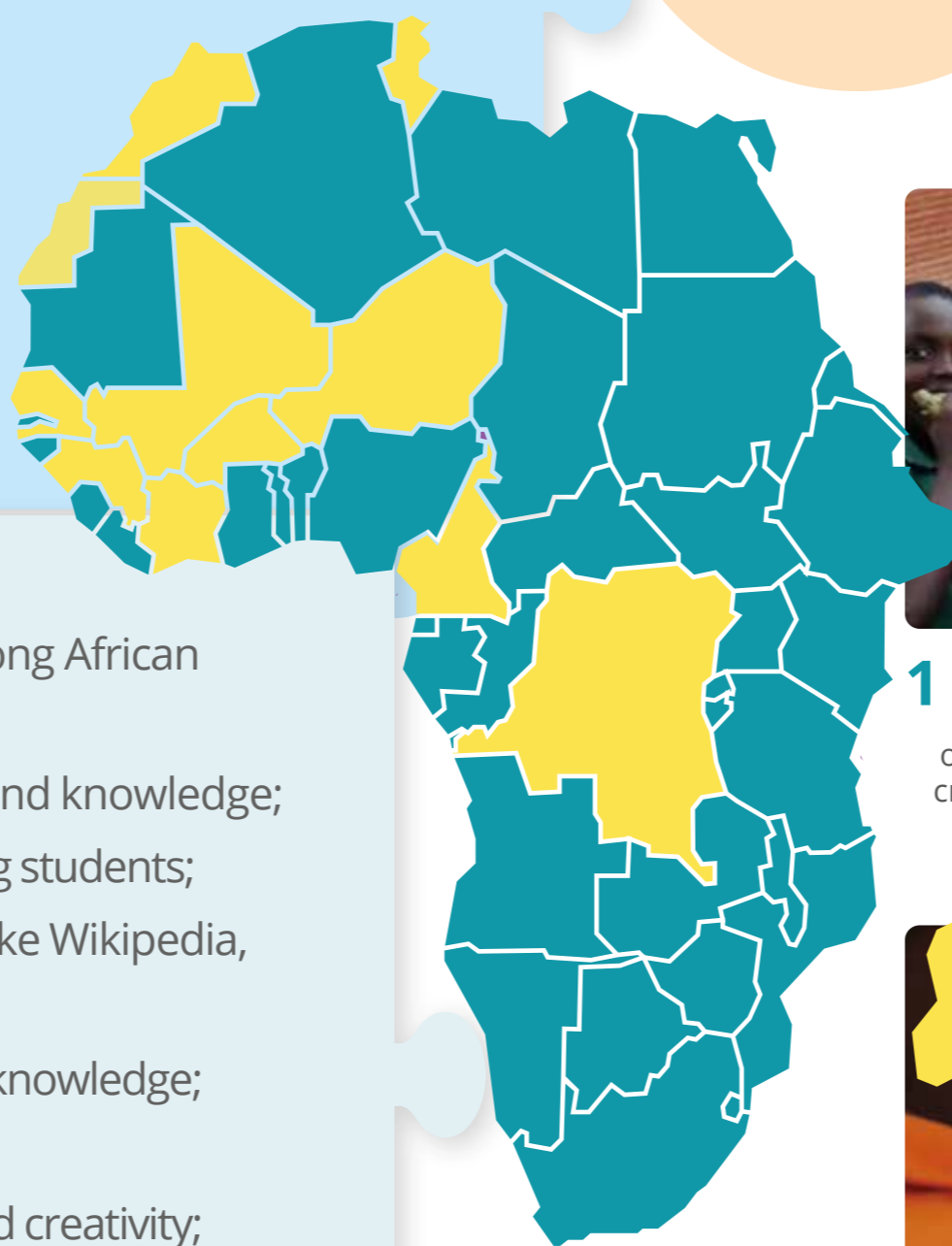
WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique plays a crucial role in empowering Africa's youth, promoting digital literacy, and fostering a sense of ownership over their cultural heritage. It contributes to the growth of Africa-focused content online and ensures African perspectives are included in the global knowledge landscape.

The specifics

- Targets students aged 9 to 13 in French-speaking Africa;
- Organized within the official education framework;
- Open to schools members of the Digital Schools Network of the Orange Foundation;
- Free writing theme... but encourages contributions on local cultural, historical, and environmental topics;
- Texts and illustrations are published under free licenses on Vikidia and Wikimedia Commons; and
- Winning institutions receive prizes ranging from € 2,500 to €5,000 per school to spend on educational materials or school infrastructure.

Impacts and benefits

- Promotes educational engagement and active learning among African students;
- Amplifies online representation of Africa's culture, history, and knowledge;
- Fosters cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among students;
- Enhances digital skills and familiarity with online platforms like Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, and Vikidia;
- Empowers students to become contributors and creators of knowledge;
- Builds teamwork and collaboration among participants;
- Provides a platform for students to showcase their talents and creativity;
- Increases access to information about Africa for a global audience;
- Inspires a sense of pride and ownership in African heritage and identity; and
- Finally, the prizes offered to the winning schools improve the quality of the studying environment of hundreds of children.



Connect with WIKICHALLENGE!



Impact since 2017

457 participating schools

467 articles written and published on Vikidia

2608 Photo, drawings and videos submitted to Wikimedia Commons

11 countries participated

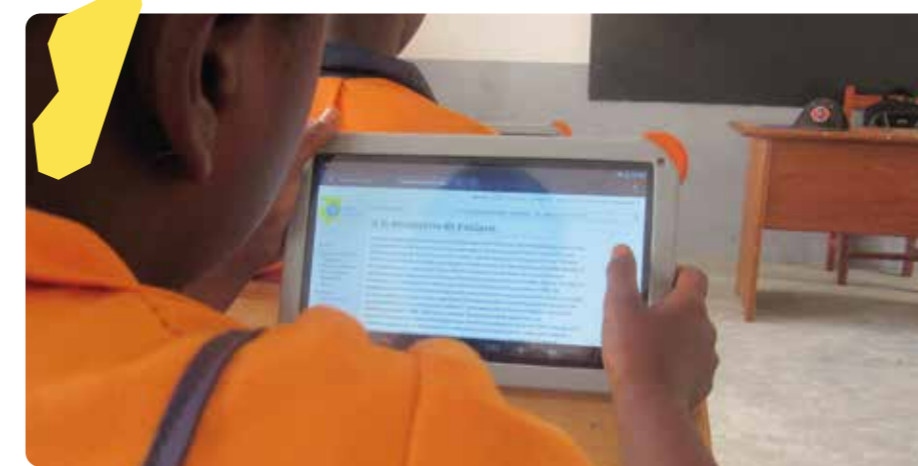
62 schools awarded prizes



1 Students are invited to participate in the challenge by researching and writing articles. In doing so, they not only expand their own knowledge, but also contribute to creating information about Africa that is then accessible to people (and other children) worldwide.



2 The digital mediators were trained in two in-person sessions, organized in Senegal and in Tunisia, facilitated by Wikimedians. In addition to the training, the facilitators receive assistance from members of the Wiki in Africa team and the Vikidia and Wikimedia community.



3 The participating schools are given access to digital equipment (tablets and mini-servers) and resources, such as offline Wikipedia or Vikidia. Often with limited or no internet connectivity, schools were given WikiFundi, the offline editing platform that mimics editing Wikipedia.



4 Participation becomes integrated into each school's educational plan. This has occurred through visits to museums and places of interest, encouraging students to conduct interviews with notable persons, or participating in cooking or drawing workshops.



5 Students receive guidance and support from educators, volunteers, and Wikimedia affiliates who use the training materials and resources provided by the initiative. WikiChallenge introduces collaboration and teamwork to students, encouraging knowledge sharing, and ideas exchange.



6 At the end of the contest, awards ceremonies are organized in all countries to celebrate the participating schools. This recognition acknowledges their combined achievements and motivates the young people to continue their journey as open knowledge contributors.



7 For the WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique 2022, an international award ceremony was held in Senegal during the Dakar Biennale.

International partners



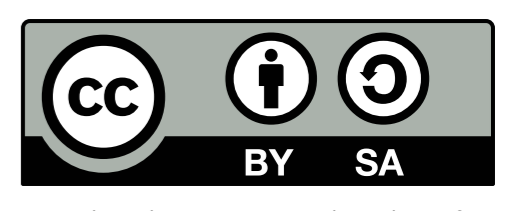
Partnering Wikimedia Usergroups



WikiChallenge Écoles d'Afrique is a Wiki in Africa project.



Elevating Africa's Voices Globally
www.wikiinafrica.org



Copyright © Florence Devouard & Wiki in Africa. License: Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike

Wiki In Africa is grateful for funding from the Wikimedia Foundation.