

VOLUNTEER DATA SUPPORT PROGRAM REPORT 2023



ABOUT US



Wikimedia Hausa inspires and equips individuals with the skills they need to effectively contribute to open knowledge. | CC-BY-SA-4.0



Hausa Wikimedians UserGroup is a volunteer-based group, an affiliate of Wikimedia Foundation and a duly registered nonprofit charity in Nigeria.

Wikimedia Hausa

<https://wikimediahausa.org>

Wikimedia Foundation

<https://wikimediafoundation.org>

WHAT WE DO

We work to advance the cause of open knowledge and promote Wikimedia projects which are the foremost open knowledge projects. These include projects such as the Wikipedia project, Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons.

Our Vision

Hausa Wikimedians User Group aims to promote access to free knowledge through Wikimedia educational contents in Hausa-speaking communities; inspire and enable individuals to become active contributors in building open knowledge and drive participation in its curation and dissemination especially in Hausa language.

Our Mission

Hausa Wikimedians User Group mission is to engage and equip volunteers with necessary skills and resources, through editing training programs and workshops, to access and develop Wikimedia educational contents especially in Hausa language under a free license and also share the contents freely with others.

THE PROBLEM



We have editor retention challenges where some participants show great enthusiasm and desire to participate, often creating an account and starting to edit well during the course of a particular program. However these participants are temporarily lost (may likely not edit again, until during another in-person event where the internet is provided). Others are lost permanently, partly because they're yet to fully understand what we do and lack support to continue editing post-event.

Second, our community is emerging one and just starting to get off the ground. Some people needed little push through incentives and support before developing a natural passion for volunteer projects participation like in Wikimedia or editing enough to reach self-discovery stage.

Third, data cost in Nigeria is relatively high and soaring with rising inflation and currency devaluation. People are less likely to use their limited data plans for initiatives they do not yet fully understand or become committed to, such as volunteering for Wikipedia. We sent an evaluation survey earlier and internet data cost was one of the top issues that contributors think hinder continuous participation.

These and many more reasons were considered in early 2022 during the research phase for initiating the Annual Plan 2023 project. As a result, we decided to experiment with a lightweight intervention we ideated.

Additionally, during research for developing our Strategic Plan and writing of the original application submitted for 2023 Annual Plan project, we found the need for a support intervention like the Data Support idea and consulted with several community members where we received positive feedback enough for us to decide to march forward and add the program proposal in our 2023 application submitted to Wikimedia Foundation.

Program philosophy

Part of the key requirements for the program, is to have limited eligibility rules to enable non-power users, who may lack alternatives, benefit. It should also be small, to support greater number of users, but also enough to purchase at least a month worth of internet data for the average user.

Its purpose is to help in mitigating some of the identified problems; boost community engagement and reduce barriers to participation.

THE PROGRAM



Volunteer Data Support program is a special program designed to provide internet data support, through a lightweight process, to editors who are facing difficulties in purchasing or subscribing to internet data plans to support participation and community development.

In conceptualizing the program framework, we studied many similar active and defunct programs and chose the Indian (Centre for Internet and Society – Access to Knowledge) CIS-2K Internet Support model for a more indepth look. We eventually modeled ours based on that with some adjustments to suit our community and region.

To initiate the pilot phase as outlined in the 2023 Annual Plan, the program team undertook a series of preparatory steps in December 2022 and January 2023. The work involved the creation of comprehensive application submission pages on Wikipedia Hausa and development of grantee portal on our website to facilitate secure and private process of handling personally-identifying information such as legal names and banking details of people participating in the program.

The program was initially intended to support 10 applicants for each month (total 120 applicants per year) but this had to be changed due to some changes in the project plans.

Where it started

This program was ideated and developed into a concrete action through learning the needs of our community during the research phase for initiating Annual Plan 2023 project. We found there is a need for it and refined the idea into a working model.

Essential features

- Lightweight
- Lax eligibility rules
- Multiple cycles per year
- Clear objectives

The program proposal was adjusted as part of the required post-approval adjustments of our Annual Plan project. While the changes necessitated dropping or significantly scaling back some programs, we decided to only reduce the number of proposed beneficiaries to 60 and retain this program.

The establishment of a review committee and defining the evaluation criteria to ensure a fair and transparent process followed. The program was officially launched in February 2023 with a virtual kickoff event. This event served as a means to introduce the program's objectives, eligibility criteria, and application guidelines to community members

THE PROGRAM



Application process

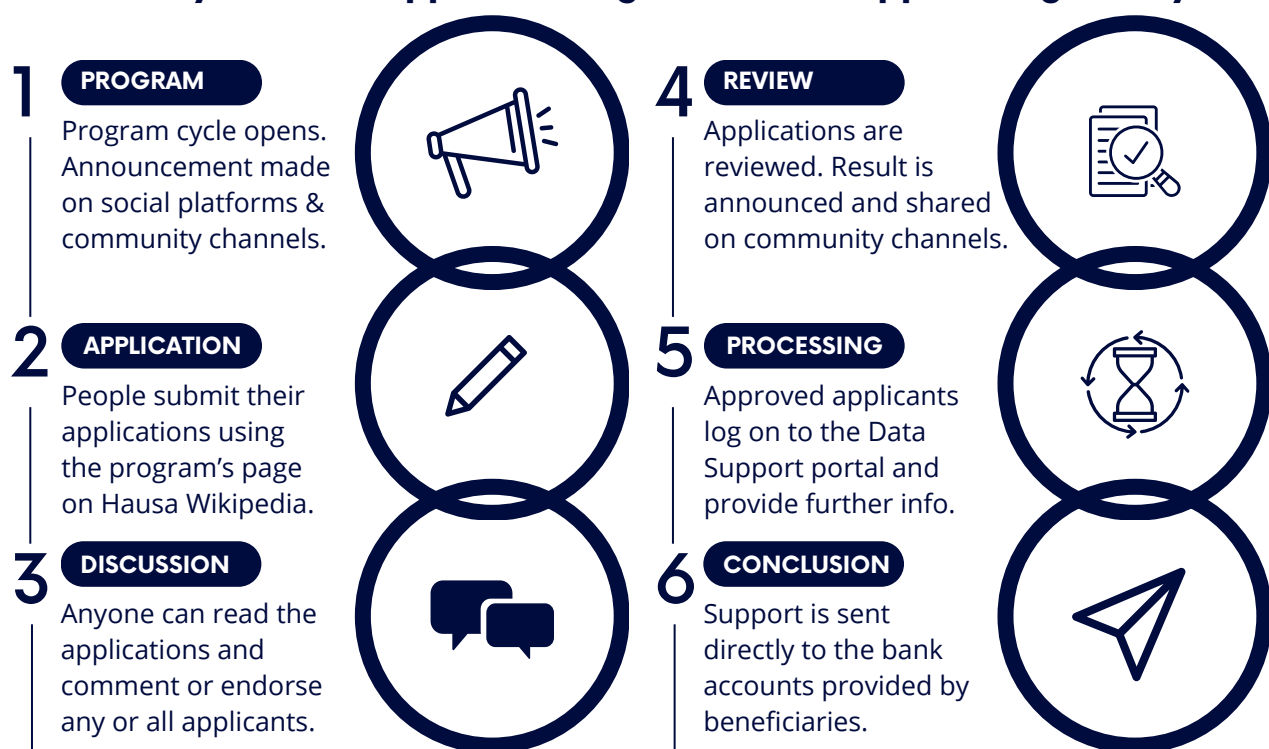
The application process for the program is open, wiki-way, and hosted locally on Hausa Wikipedia [Wikipedia:Hausa Wikimedia Data Support], this is both for transparency and ease of use as all eligible applicants are expected to be familiar with wiki markups.

In the initial stages, all applicants do not provide anything about themselves beyond their public usernames and application statements which are generally in the local Hausa language. Applicants however provide some amount of personal data about themselves necessary to facilitate the receipt of the support cash. This is done after the review process, so only pertains applicants with successful applications.

Applicants that have approved applications are notified through our community channels such as WhatsApp and on social media platforms using fliers.

The additional data is collected through a portal system designed for the program on our website; wikimediahausa.org/grantee-start. The system uses Wikipedia identity verification to accept only approved applicants and securely save the information for the Data support administration as well auditing and reporting.

Summary of what happens during each Data Support Program Cycle



THE PROGRAM



Application Cycles

In 2023, we ran five cycles for the program and approved a total of 60 applications combined. Initially it was intended to have a cycle in each 30 calendar days (monthly) with a fixed number of recipients at 5 per cycle. But during the final preparations for launching the program, we re-evaluated this proposed approach and deemed it as too rigid. It will also likely increase processing costs and effort needed to implement the program significantly

Therefore we opted for (roughly) bimonthly cadence and left the recipients number to be flexible based on recommendation of the review committee coupled with considerations of spreading the available slots to full year.

This approach, while it produced uneven numbers of recipients per cycle, worked well and gave us enough flexibility in ensuring more fair distribution and diverse representation from across the community. It also helped reduce the administrative effort required in implementing the program.

First set of applications was received on February 12th. With a two-week application period, this led the cycle to conclude on March 9th when the beneficiaries received the support cash. Subsequent cycles followed without any major problem as shown below. There was no cycle in May/June.

Summary of five cycles of the program

-   The first cycle of the program opens in February as a January/February cycle. 12 applications were approved.
-   In the cycle for March/April, applications increase as people become more aware of the program. 8 applications were approved.
-   Second highest number of applications were received in this cycle for July/August. 17 applications were approved.
-   This is the September/October cycle and has the highest number of applications received. 17 applications were approved.
-   In the final cycle of November/December, we also received many applications. 6 applications were approved.

THE PROGRAM



Reviewing and processing

While the project is intended to provide succor to those who genuinely need support to purchase internet data bundles, we are not oblivious of the fact that it's not possible to definitively determine whether a user is personally capable of purchasing data subscription for themselves or not. So we focused on defining unambiguous basic eligibility criteria.

The key criteria include requirements for having an account on Hausa Wikipedia, having non-zero contributions and not being currently grantee of Wikimedia Foundation or Wikimedia UG Nigeria. The criteria are written boldly on the project main page on Hausa Wikipedia and shared to the community through flyers and during the kickoff event.

Review was initially done by a team of Hausa Wikimedians UserGroup organizers on Google sheet and later volunteer committee members. Individual reviewers score applicants considering their overall application statement and contributions profile.

Approved applicants and the general community are then notified of the results and the further details submitted by the beneficiaries are forwarded to the Wikimedia Hausa account officer who processes the transfer to individual accounts.

Summary of what happens during Program Applications review

1

Eligibility checks

- Published eligibility rules are used to remove ineligible applications. Such as: 1. Users with no Wikipedia account or zero contributions; and 2. Active grantees of Wikimedia Foundation or Wikimedia UG Nigeria.

2

Applications scoring

- Applicants statements (or lack of) are considered and scored. *
- Contributions on Hausa or other Wikimedia projects considered.
- Recommendation list with sorted applicants score-wise is prepared.

3

Compilation and

- Recommendation list is used to select applicants based on available number of slots for the current cycle (to spread the slots to full year). Current slots are filled based on scores.

4

Finalizing list & announcement

- Final list of approved applicants is prepared and announced via community channels.
- Beneficiaries proceed to the processing stage of the program.

* Scores from different reviewers. Final scores are simple arithmetic means.

BENEFICIARIES

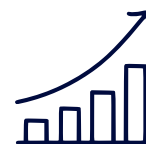


List of beneficiaries of Data Support program for 2023 pilot implementation.

S/N	Wikimedia Username	S/N	Wikimedia Username
1	Yusuf Sa'adu	31	Dev moha2507
2	Aisha Yahuza	32	Dev ammar
3	Muhammad Idriss Criteria	33	Yusuf Sa'adu
4	Devlosopher	34	BnHamid
5	787IYO	35	787IYO
6	Dev ammar	36	SIRTEE1
7	AlG9770	37	Iliyasu Umar
8	BnHamid	38	Hafsat Mohammad Sani
9	Sadammuhammad11234	39	Sadammuhammad11234
10	Legendry3920	40	Erdnernie
11	Emm Zait	41	El-hussain14
12	Lawielas	42	Abdurra'uf Uthman
13	A Sulaiman Z	43	Hauwau sulaiman
14	Jidda3711	44	Umar-askira
15	Aminu Ya'u	45	Sanusi Gado
16	Ibrahim Sani Mustapha	46	Legendry3920
17	Bikhrah	47	Ibrahim Sani Mustapha
18	Zahrah0	48	Aminu Ya'u
19	Mrymaa	49	Mrymaa
20	Erdnernie	50	Aminu Badamasi
21	Mr. Sufie	51	M Bash Ne
22	M I Idrees	52	Carter009
23	Mamee3370	53	Saudarh2
24	Muhammad Idriss Criteria	54	Hamza DK
25	Jalamcy2023	55	A'isha A Ibrahim
26	Zahrah0	56	Misbahu umar
27	Galdiz	57	Umar A Muhammad
28	Asmee S Danja	58	Ibrahim abusufyan
29	Bikhrah	59	Hafsat3639
30	A Sulaiman Z	60	Bikhrah

- * These are usernames not real names. Some users use their real names as usernames.
- * Some usernames may appear more than once. These are in different program cycles.
- * Some users have since changed their usernames. The original usernames used at the time of application have been retained in this report. It's easy to link old usernames to new ones.

PROGRAM STATS



In the 2023 implementation of the program, we received a total of 181 valid applications, of which we were able to support 60 applicants after review (or 33% of all valid applications). However, 115 or around 64% of the applications all passed the set criteria for the program, and had it been possible, would get the support. These are represented in the bar chart as the third bar.

The reason for having the recommended applicant pool was that in the initial design of the program it was intended to use a set of objective criteria and approve immediately as applicant passes, this is an essential requirement for making the program lightweight. However, the program size has to be scaled back later due to changes in the overall 2023 Annual Plan of which the program is a component.

The final approved applications are selected from the pool of recommended applications based on the average scores from the reviews. From the approved applications in total, 16 submissions were from females while the remaining 44 were from male contributors.

Approved Applications

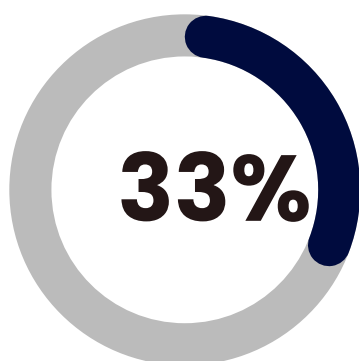
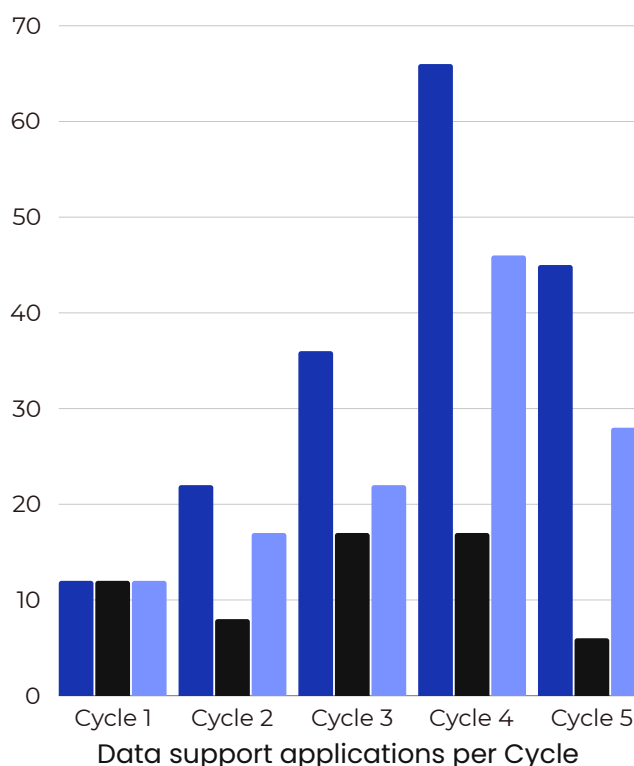
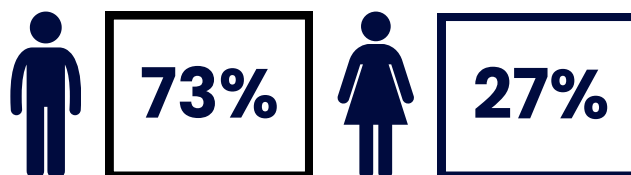


Chart key

- Applications received
- Applications approved
- Applications that met basic criteria for approval

Gender distribution *



* Gender distribution considers successful applicants only.

REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS



The program has been well-received by the community and for each cycle, there were more applications than the program can actually support. We have received feedback and comments from beneficiaries and applicants on the need to reduce the period between cycles or to increase the number of applications we approve.

The approach of using onwiki request forms for the public application statements and tradition of consistent archival of results and past requests has proved very effective, and increased program transparency.

One of the key challenges of the program is that we were not able to provide to all applicants who pass the basic criteria as initially envisioned. This is partly because of reduction in the budget allocation for the program when the Annual project plans were adjusted. However, we did set a target metric number for a total minimum of 60 recipients in the adjusted 2023 proposal and we achieved that.

Based on community feedback, beneficiaries responses and our own assessment of the program performance this year, we have decided to retain and improve the program in our next Annual project.

In the 2024 Annual Plan, we are expanding the program and plan to support more people. Roughly we are increasing the total number of beneficiaries to reach 100. This will increase our acceptance rate from the current 32% to over 50%, assuming non-significant changes to the level of total applications.

Given the expected increase in workload in the 2024 project, and to improve efficiency, we are reconstituting our Review Committee of reviewers with additional set of experienced members to provide effective and timely support to the review processes.

What beneficiaries say

Am very grateful and delighted for your intervention to support me to continue my editing activities. I say thank you so much, looking forward to hear from you.

- 2nd Cycle Beneficiary in April, 2023

How we collect this data

We ask beneficiaries to optionally share their thought on the program during submission of their personal information. We received feedback from 22 people across all cycles in 2023.

THE WORK TO ADVANCE **OPEN** **KNOWLEDGE** NEVER ENDS



The work of building Wikipedia never ends. Wikimedia Hausa, with support of Wikimedia Foundation, organizes in-person and virtual programs and also partners with organizations to advance the cause of open knowledge. | CC-BY-SA-4.0

FOLLOW OUR ACTIVITIES AND JOIN US TODAY

Our activities are in the open and we always welcome new members. Follow our social media pages and visit our website to get more insight into our ongoing and past activities. We announce our upcoming programs on these platforms and you can also have a chance to participate in our programs taking place close to your location. Contact us today to know more about our activities.



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info@wikimediahausa.org

Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge – that's what we are doing.

– Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia co-founder

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