

Activity Report 2023 WELTFILME e.V.

1. FILM FORWARD (FF)

As in the previous projects, eight films from Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia were translated into French and subtitled by our partner ATCNA (Association Togolaise du Cinéma Ambulant) for **FILM FORWARD (FF)**. The films were shown on social media between February and March 2023 and were viewed around 125,000 times on Meta alone. All information about FF and all 18 short films can be found at www.weltfilme.org/film-forward

2. LOOKING CLOSER (LC)

At the beginning of 2023, the films of **LOOKING CLOSER (LC)** were finalised and publicly screened in the West African partner countries from February 2023 - on mobile cinema tours (with around 29,000 viewers reached), on television and, from August 2023, also on social media. The 16 films were viewed over 500,000 times on Meta, Instagram and YouTube.

The films were shown at international film festivals and won several awards - including *Best Film Award SHORT LOOK* (Togo), Best Documentary at the *Emergence Film Festival* (Togo), Best Documentary at the *National Selection Clap Ivoire 2023* (Ivory Coast), Best Fictional Short Film at the *Togolese National Cinema Week* (Togo), five awards at *Black International Cinema Berlin* etc.

One of the project goals was to promote and intensify cooperation between the West African partner organisations within the **Film Network West Africa (FNWA)**. A comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up to set out how the cooperation - now and in the future - between YMCA Ghana, SLADEA (Sierra Leone), NAEAL (Liberia), SJDM/UTG (Gambia) and ATCNA Togo should look.

LC was meant to be a preparation for the three-year project **MOVING BEYOND (MB)**. In order to apply for MB, it was necessary to have LC and the predecessor projects evaluated (**ANNEX 1**). The funding for the evaluation was already applied for in 2022 and finally carried out by the Ghanaian market and social research agency Marketing and Consumer Insights LTD (MCI) from January to March 2023.

The pleasing result: LC (as well as the previous projects) and the associated measures were considered relevant and sustainable, while the projects were also certified as highly effective and efficient.

The proof of use (**ANNEXES 2-4**) was submitted to bengo at the beginning of 2024. Further information about LC and all films can be found at: <https://www.weltfilme.org/looking-closer/>

3. MOVING BEYOND (MB)

The application for **MB** (project duration: August 2023 - April 2026 / **ANNEXES 5-7**) was approved in July 2023.

As part of the project, film trainings, film productions and screenings will be carried out to achieve sustainable independence for the project partners. The aim is for YMCA Ghana, SLADEA, NAEAL, SJDM/UTG and ATCNA Togo to be better equipped in terms of personnel and technology, to be more closely connected locally/nationally and to establish stable structures so that they can continue or expand their film programs independently and sustainably after the end of the project.

In addition, the following joint activities have taken place and continue to take place:

- **FNWA meetings** with the project leaders and managers:

At these online meetings, the partners advise each other on the implementation of measures and the achievement of objectives. In addition, ways of sustainably expanding cooperation between the partner organisations are discussed.

- **FilmConnect lecture series:**

At this online event, which is organised alternately by the project partners, experts and/or trainers speak on various relevant topics of filmmaking: How can I professionalise myself and successfully establish myself in the film and media sector? How important is it to specialise within the various film departments? What is it like to work in the film industry as a woman? Etc.

- **Masterclass in Media for Peace (M4P)** implemented by Xchange Perspectives e.V.:

In order to strengthen and expand teaching in the subject of **Media for Peace (M4P)**, a **masterclass** was held in Ghana in November 2023, in which two trainers from each partner country took part. The trainers were trained by Felix Hoch from Xchange Perspectives e.V. WELTFILME has been working with Xchange Perspectives for over 10 years. More information about M4P and the organisation can be found at <https://www.xchange-perspectives.org/about.php>.

4. DIGITAL FILM SCHOOL AFRICA (DFSA)

WELTFILME has been the project sponsor of **DIGITAL FILM SCHOOL AFRICA (DFSA)** since 2022. DFSA is a project of YMCA Ghana and African University College of Communications (AUCC/Ghana) in cooperation with WELTFILME e.V. and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

During the **project phase 3 (DF3)**, the most important achievements are:

- The curricula and modules 4-8 of the Beginner Courses for *Screenwriting*, *Documentary Film* and *Creative Producing* were developed. The complete courses (modules 1-8) were then taught at YMCA Ghana and AUCC by trained e-trainers.
- E-trainers were trained and a system for a sustainable Training of E-Trainers (TteT) developed
- Instructional videos were produced for the courses *Screenwriting*, *Documentary Film* and *Creative Producing*
- Concepts and Curricula as well as a first initial module for for the courses *Cinematography*, *Sound* and *Editing* were produced
- The structure and statutes of a legal association was developed so that DFSA, as an independent legal entity, can sustainably develop and manage the courses in the future and make them available to other teaching institutions
- DFSA opened with a high-profile launch in Accra.

The project was scheduled to end in June 2023, but phase 3 was extended by three months (up to and including September 2023). This was to ensure that the modules on the teaching platform atingi.com would be adjusted and improved after evaluating the feedback of course developers, course instructors and learners going through the first round of teaching.

The final report ([ANNEX 8](#)) was submitted in fall 2023. GIZ has not been able to close the financial side of the project up to now. Thus, we will have to share the financial documentation next year.

Further information on DFS can be found at <https://www.digitalfilmschool.africa> and <https://www.weltfilme.org/digital-film-school-africa/>

Project phase 4 (DF4)

The application for the follow-up project DF4 was already partially drafted in 2023. To support ownership of the Ghanaian partners, they are now directly responsible for managing their own budgets. The project started in June 2024 and will end in March 2026.

5. STAFF

2023 was a full year. All the more reason for us to appreciate the fact that we can still work with a great team:

Fiona Klassen has been supporting WELTFILME since 2022 and now works for us on a permanent basis - for MB and DFSA, and since June 2024 solely for DF4. Fiona has been Program Director at WELTFILME since September 2024.

Anna Schlemmer has been in charge of financial accounting for our projects and the association since 2018. Due to her new full-time position at a company, Anna is no longer able to continue her work at WELTFILME. We are grateful for the excellent and long-standing collaboration and wish her all the best for the future.

Evgeni Fedarovich has been Financial Operations Manager at WELTFILME since April 2024. Welcome to the team, dear Evgeni!

Jörg Heidemann processes the tax accounts for the association and takes care of posting the association's receipts.

Jan Kunzmann hosts the WELTFILME website and cloud on a voluntary basis. Many thanks for that!

Nico Hertel was in charge of post-production at LC and supported the partners at MB in the creation of curricula. Nico is also responsible for the archiving of all film files and the inventory of the acquired equipment.

Nicolai Rissmann, freelance cameraman and editor, helped supervise the post-production of LC's films and advised the partners on the development of their curricula (MB).

Josefine Bingemer was involved in the post-production of LC. At MB, she accompanied the documentary films from the development of the material to completion as well as the development of the curriculum. She has also given online training courses on "How to write and teach documentary treatment".

Sven Kirschenbauer is responsible for the website and the WELTFILME YouTube channel, which now has 2,350 followers.

When something needs to be designed, **Franz Ossig** is our graphic designer.

Thank you all once again for the wonderful collaboration!

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- February 2023: Participation in several events that took place as part of the Berlinale 2023, including presentation of the DFSA project at a GIZ network meeting with representatives of the African film sector
- May 2023: Meeting with Leila Bendra-Lehnert and Dominik Lehnert (Xchange Perspectives e.V.)
- September 2023: At the invitation of Bremer Höhe, our landlord, WELTFILME hosted a public film evening. Afterwards there was an exciting Q&A.
- September 2023: Participation in the country discussion Ghana, organized by BMZ Division 203 (West Africa II)
- November 2023: AfriKamera film festival (Berlin): Participation in the opening ceremony
- December 2023: Film Festival Black International Cinema Berlin: screening of LC's films followed by a Q&A
- December 2023: Meeting with members and friends of WELTFILME at the Lucia Christmas Market in the KulturBrauerei (Berlin)

8. DONATIONS

DFSAfrica is fully financed by GIZ, while the other projects are 90 percent financed by the BMZ. The remaining 10 percent must be financed by our own contribution. WELTFILME urgently needs donations to get the own funds up to what is needed.

Some members and friends have donated to WELTFILME - thank you very much!

Fiona sought advice from Christian Stelkes on fundraising several times and then launched a fundraising campaign on social media. Many thanks to you, dear Chris and dear Fiona!

If you have any ideas on where and how else we can generate donations, please contact the WELTFILME management team. Many thanks in advance!

Equipment donation

Dominik Lehnert from Xchange Perspectives e.V. put us in touch with a well-known media company in 2022. This media company donated used film equipment again in 2023. The equipment is transported to West

Africa via CVJM Westbund, a long-standing partner organisation of YMCA Ghana. Many thanks to all those involved who made the donation and equipment transportation possible.

9. OFFICE

We are happy to have an office again! Since April 2023 we are the main tenant of the office community WELTFILME e.V. at Schönhauser Allee 59,0437 Berlin. Come and visit us!

10. PROJECT OUTLOOK

The MB and DFSAfrica projects are in full swing and will each last until spring 2026.

11. SUCCESS STORIES

For some trainers and trainees who have been trained in WELTFILME projects, 2023 was a very successful year. Below is a selection of their individual success stories:

Ghana:

Goddy Nana Mensah has produced and released his first feature film. SESIME was screened in Ghana at the National Theatre, NAFTI and the Goethe Institute in Accra, among others.

Sierra Leone:

The film CLASHOFERA, which was produced by **Schwarbu E. Kamara** and **Zachariah Lloyd Sesay** among others, has won several awards.

Zachariah Lloyd Sesay has found a producer in South Africa for his screenplay THE PATH OF RUGANZU.

Liberia:

Luther N. Mafalleh was nominated for Film Director of the Year at the Liberia Film Awards.

Joseph F. Doe was named best film editor at the Liberia Film Awards. His short documentary FISHING FOR LIFE (Project FF) has won several awards.

All four of LC's productions were nominated for Best Short Fiction or Best Documentary at the Liberia Film Awards. The film GIFTED VOICE won in the category "Best Short Fiction Film of the Year".

Gambia:

In addition to the SJDM/UTG training program, **Salieu Jallow**, former trainer, held a film workshop.

Togo:

LC's productions have won several awards. LITTLE TINKERER won Best Documentary at Clap Ivoire 2023, while A TICKET FOR EUROPE was awarded Best Short Film at the Togolese National Cinema Week and the Grand Public Festival in Lomé (Togo).

Ghana:

Goddy Nana Mensah produced and published his first feature film. Among other venues, SESIME was screened in Ghana at the National Theatre, at NAFTI film school and at the Goethe Institut Accra.

APPENDICES (conditionally available on request):

1. LC Evaluation
2. LC Report Part I
3. LC Report Part II
4. LC Receipt list
5. MB Application Part I
6. MB Application Part II
7. MB Budget
8. DF3 Final Report
9. Accounting of WELTFILME e.V. 2023