



# 2022

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# ANNUAL REPORT

*Connecting Africa's Library and  
Information Communities*



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## From the Executive Director



The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) this year continued with its innovative work. We continued with our webinars and online capacity-building activities.

Within this year we signed some partnership Agreements to assist AfLIA deliver on its mandate. We set our hands on responding to the few calls for funding proposals. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure any funding. We will continue to try our hands on new calls hoping to be successful as we believe in the cliché that we need to try, try and try again, if we first do not succeed we should not give up.

We welcomed a new Governing Council in May who have already started working earnestly and we sadly bid farewell to some members of the Governing Council who had served for some time on the Council, right from the beginning of AfLIA. We really do appreciate efforts put by these persons to the growth of AfLIA

Our appreciation goes to the Governing Council members, active partners, membership and focused and hardworking staff. AfLIA marches on to chalk more successes.

**Helena Asamoah-Hassan, PhD**  
**Executive Director**

## **Who We Are**

AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization, which pursues the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa.

## **Our Vision**

The trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa's development.

## **Our Mission**

To lead, empower and be a platform for the library and information community to actively promote and drive the development agenda through dynamic and innovative services to transform livelihoods in Africa.

## **Our Values**

AfLIA has the following as its core values:

- Professionalism and Inclusivity
- Integrity, Transparency & Accountability
- Innovation & Creativity
- User-focused
- Information as a Human Right

## **Where we Work**

AfLIA is a pan-African association, so its area of work is the whole geographic area known as Africa, including its islands.

## **What We Do**

- Advocacy for freedom and equitable access to information through improved facilities and human capacity of libraries, for individual and national development in Africa.
- Support human, organizational and infrastructural development of the library and information profession and services by building capacity through training to offer relevant services to communities.
- Pursue partnerships and collaboration by forging and maintaining links with other relevant organizations and associations for mutual benefits and also for those of the African people through libraries.
- Advocacy with governments and agencies - favourable library policies to be included in National Development Policy.

- Position libraries as information centres and partners on the national and global development agenda.
- Mobilise resources to support library projects and membership services in Africa.
- Organise fora for knowledge sharing and networking for librarians in Africa to support improved library and information service delivery.

We do all these with the cooperation of National Governments, National Library Associations, the different types of Libraries in Africa and our partners.

## **Summary of Objectives**

- **Support and strengthen:**
  - Support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa.
  - Drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices in Africa.
- **Visibility & advocacy:**
  - Promote libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge, information and innovative services
  - Put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- **Free access to information:**
  - Embrace the principles of freedom of access to information... enshrined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter of People's Rights.

## AfLIA's Activity Profile for 2022

### Membership

Currently, AfLIA has members in 39 out of the 54 countries of Africa and is actively working to expand membership to the rest of the Continent. On, on, we march towards covering all countries in Africa. After every webinar, seminar or conference an invitation to be AfLIA members are sent directly to the persons on the participant list.

### Webinars

#### List of webinars and virtual engagements organised in 2022

The following webinars and virtual sessions were organized and coordinated during the year.

Dates	Title	Link	Remarks
14 February – 3 March 2022	AfLIA Open Days 2022	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/aflia-open-days-2022/">https://web.aflia.net/aflia-open-days-2022/</a>	18 virtual sessions across 11 days in English, French and Portuguese
Thursday, 30 June 2022	Improving Library Service Delivery for Early Literacy Development in Africa: Best Practices	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/improving-library-service-delivery-for-early-literacy-development-in-africa-best-practices/">https://web.aflia.net/improving-library-service-delivery-for-early-literacy-development-in-africa-best-practices/</a>	Single session
Wednesday 13 July – Thursday 14 July 2022	Climate Crisis, Disaster Management and African Libraries	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/climate-crisis-disaster-management-and-african-libraries/">https://web.aflia.net/climate-crisis-disaster-management-and-african-libraries/</a>	2-day session
Thursday, 11 August 2022	Intergenerational Solidarity: African Libraries Creating	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/intergenerational-solidarity-african-libraries-creating-a-world-for-all-ages/">https://web.aflia.net/intergenerational-solidarity-african-libraries-creating-a-world-for-all-ages/</a>	Single session

	a World for All Ages		
<b>Thursday, 25 August 2022</b>	Understanding and Implementation of OER Practices in the African Library and Information Science Sector	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/understanding-and-implementation-of-oer-practices-in-the-african-library-and-information-science-sector/">https://web.aflia.net/understanding-and-implementation-of-oer-practices-in-the-african-library-and-information-science-sector/</a>	Single session
<b>Thursday, 8 September 2022</b>	Webinar: An Introduction to Wikisource – The Free Digital Library	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/webinar-an-introduction-to-wikisource-the-free-digital-library/">https://web.aflia.net/webinar-an-introduction-to-wikisource-the-free-digital-library/</a>	Single session
<b>Thursday, 3 November 2022</b>	Webinar: An Introduction to Data Librarianship	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/webinar-an-introduction-to-data-librarianship/">https://web.aflia.net/webinar-an-introduction-to-data-librarianship/</a>	Single session
<b>Thursday – Friday, 8–9 December 2022</b>	2-Day Virtual Workshop on Data Librarianship	<a href="https://web.aflia.net/invitation-to-a-2-day-virtual-workshop-on-data-librarianship/">https://web.aflia.net/invitation-to-a-2-day-virtual-workshop-on-data-librarianship/</a>	2-day workshop

## Our Major Activities

### February - March

The first-ever AfLIA's Open Days were held from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. The purpose of this was to create an avenue for the professionals in the sector to connect and share ideas on how to further promote the profession in the continent. The details of the activity can be accessed [here](#).

### April – May

A detailed review of the African Librarysites platform development strategy in preparation for discussions with TASCHA was conducted and datasets relating to the platform workstreams were retrieved and reviewed, including:

- Workstream One: Library location data
- Workstream Two: Development stories and advocacy content

The Early Literacy Development course, which was borne out of a partnership between AfLIA and Neil Butcher and Associates (NBA) was test run from 5<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. The course is made up of four (4) modules designed around specific learning objectives identified through the research carried out in the previous year on the state of Early Literacy activities in public and community libraries in 18 English-speaking African countries. Beyond emergent literacy and the role of public and community libraries in helping children learn to read, as well as how the general ambience of libraries can promote early literacy development, the course content also leads participants to gain an understanding of open licensing and how the concept can be adopted by libraries to acquire storybooks, especially in the mother tongue.

Sixty-eight (68) persons were registered for the course. The course was piloted by AfLIA, and facilitated by Dr Rachel Ojo, who was hired for that purpose. The report submitted to NBA for the project was shared in blog posts on USAID and World Bank sites and can be accessed through these links –

1. [\*A quick look at AfLIA's Early Literacy Development Course as the first cohort receives their certificates!\*](#)
2. [\*The role of African Librarians – Early Literacy Short Course Report\*](#)

The virtual graduation of the first cohort can be accessed on AfLIA's YouTube channel via this hyperlink: [The AfLIA Early Literacy Development Course - Cohort 1 virtual graduation](#)

### **The African Librarians Week (AfLibWk 3.0)**

The African Librarians Week (AfLibWk 3.0) was held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> event organised since 2020 with the theme '**Strengthening African Narratives on Wikipedia and Sister Projects**'. The purpose of the event was to help fill the gaps in African content on Wikipedia and add authentic sources to articles on Africa that required citation. The team realised that many of the articles on Africa in Wikipedia and its sister projects were not written by Africans; it was therefore a necessity for Africans to correct and strengthen the narratives on Africa to reflect what exists.

Before the event, the existing champions were contacted to recruit and train other Librarians in their countries on editing and adding citations to articles. Training was organised for the new Champions to help them better understand the various clauses on Wikipedia and its sister projects. Both champions and participants were introduced to Wikidata. A continent-wide training for both champions and the newly recruited participants was organised for both English and French-speaking countries. Participants added content, created articles and added missing references to existing articles on Africa on the online encyclopedia. In all Two hundred and forty six (246)

African Librarians contributed to Wikipedia and related sister projects (Wikidata, WikiCommons) by adding the following:

**Table 2: 2022 AfLibWk Statistics**

<b>References</b>	<b>3.18K</b>
<b>Words Added</b>	362K
<b>Articles Edited</b>	5.85K
<b>Articles Created</b>	222
<b>Article Views</b>	4.21M
<b>Commons Uploads</b>	242
<b>Total Edits</b>	10.6K

Further details on the stats concerning the outcome of the 2022 African Librarians Week can be accessed from the official campaign dashboard [here](#).

On awards, the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia Library offered shopping vouchers as prizes ranging from \$70 to \$25 (1st Prize – \$70, 2nd Prize – \$50, 3rd Prize – \$35, 4th and 5th Prizes – \$25) for the five topmost contributors. The awardees were to use their vouchers to buy any Wikipedia paraphernalia and souvenirs from the Wikipedia online Store.

In addition, the top 30 contributors received Certificates of Excellence. Every other participant who contributed at least 25 citations / references to Wikipedia during the campaign also received a Certificate of Participation. Participants confirmed that the program offered them the opportunity to understand the difference between Wikimedia projects and how Wikipedia, as an online encyclopedia, works. With continuous training on Wikipedia, there would be a total change in perception of Wikipedia by Librarians. Some also had the opportunity to contribute by creating new articles on Wikipedia and editing Wikidata for the first time. The event has helped to bridge the digital divide that existed.

## June

- a. Following the Early Literacy Development course, a webinar was organised on 30<sup>th</sup> June. This provided the opportunity for the outstanding participants of the course from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Malawi to share what they learned in a webinar titled, '[Improving library service delivery for early literacy development in Africa: Best practices](#).' The webinar was recorded and uploaded to AfLIA's YouTube channel.

- b. AfLIA received a second grant from Wikimedia Foundation for the training of at least two hundred (200) information professionals in the African library and information science sector from 20 or more African countries on how to effectively open up and link knowledge by making their library collections more visible through Wikidata.

## July

- a. Librarians as information professionals need to be aware of the effects of climate change, and they can utilise this awareness to lead their user communities to take collective action that can save our planet. A webinar series was held on 13-14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 on the climate crisis, disaster management and African Libraries. The Director, Human Capacity Development and Training, AfLIA, was the resource person. The series can be accessed on [AfLIA's YouTube channel](#).

- b. There were discussions and engagements across borders but within the Wikimedia communities as AfLIA sought personnel that would assist in creating a course on Wikidata specifically tailored for African librarians and which would be delivered in English and French.

- c. From July 23-24<sup>th</sup>, the Director, Human Capacity Development and Training represented AfLIA at the first Wikimedia+Libraries conference in Ireland. She presented the first keynote address '[Wikimedia through the prism of critical librarianship](#)' and it was captured by the blog of the British Library. Access blog [here](#).

- d. The AfLIA Wikidata Online Short Course, which was facilitated in English and French, took off in July 2022. The project drew English-speaking library and information science professionals from Botswana, Northern Cameroon, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Germany, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. There were also French-speaking participants from Benin, Southern Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal and Togo. The midpoint report covers the initial stage of the project and the first cohort. Details can be found [here](#).

## August

- a. The development phase of the African Librarysites Platform was completed and handed over to the ALVA Project Team for testing and internal review.

- b. Africa is the continent with the highest number of young people. AfLIA celebrated the 2022 International Youth Day with a webinar on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Three (3) young librarians from Nigeria and Kenya were the resource persons. They spoke about how

libraries of all types can best serve young people and allow them to have a seat at the table when it comes to issues that affect them.

c. Also in August, the Director of Human Capacity Development and Training received a global award as the [Wikimedian of the Year \(Newcomer category\)](#) in recognition of how the continuing partnership between AfLIA and Wikimedia Foundation was formed.

d. An internal review of the African Librarysites platform's functionality was carried out, the project team assessed system features against contractual requirements. Technical feedback was compiled and submitted.



## September

a. Literacy is most often understood as knowing how to read, write and count in 'certain' languages. This has proved challenging for Africa, where a remarkable amount of our history and knowledge is oral. To mark the 2022 International Literacy Day on 8<sup>th</sup> September, African library and information science professionals were introduced to Wikisource, the free digital library, through a webinar which also showcased how librarians can add information about their communities in formats and languages that are predominantly African to Wikimedia projects. The webinar recording is accessible [here](#).

b. The rudiments of running a Learning Circle were explored. The Wikimedians we have been working with on how to implement the Wikidata project suggested we try out the Learning Circle to understand how it works, as learning how to use Wikidata effectively requires practical hands-on sessions that are better done within small

groups where peer-to-peer learning is possible. Thus, we sought out volunteers from graduates of the Wikipedia in African Libraries course and used them as resource persons to teach other librarians the **Basics of Wikipedia** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September. Two Learning Circles with a total of 36 participants and 6 facilitators from 4 African Countries (Botswana Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa), were created. Each circle was made up of eighteen (18) participants and three (3) mentors.

## **November**

Exploration of a partnership with Figshare, for indexing 5th AfLIA Conference and 7<sup>th</sup> African Library Summit proceedings began. Additionally, intensive orientation sessions were organized for the ALVA Champions on the Platform's structure, key features, data entry and visualisation tools and all other functional capabilities were conducted.

## **December**

The second Cohort of Early Literacy Development course took off on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and ran for the first two weeks of December. Thirty one (31) participants from Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were admitted for the course. The course delivery method was adjusted based on the feedback from the piloting. Although the course is hosted on AfLIA's Moodle learning platform, participants received each module of the course as pdf copies immediately after the live session for the module. The Christmas holidays delayed the course completion in 2022.

## **New Partnerships**

While maintaining its existing partners, AfLIA signed a new MoU with Neil Butcher and Associates (NBA). In November 2022, a memorandum of understanding between NBA and AfLIA was signed to develop the capacity of African library and information professionals and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the UNESCO OER Recommendation.

## **Our Partners**

AfLIA has different types of relationships with these partners as follows:

- **Africa Union** -Agreement towards the development of African Information and Knowledge Society, National, Academic and Community Libraries, etc, with a view to enhancing delivery of the right information to the right person at the right time and development of Library and Information professional associations as

promoters and driving force for equitable access to information, knowledge, and innovative services in Africa.

- **Bibliotheca Alexandrina of The Arab Republic of Egypt (BA)** - promotion of cooperation in the field of library and information sciences, capacity building and establishing African libraries networks and disseminating information among African libraries.
- **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc (BCALA)** - to establish co-operation between AfLIA and BCALA on issues relating to library and information services, library resources and services sharing, in order to promote research and learning in all fields.
- **CILIP** - to carry out best practice in the development of Library Professional standards and accreditation including pursuance of development agendas framed on UN 2030 SDGs; exchange of ideas and information on conferences; professional exchanges enhancing professional experience and development; Cooperation in advancement of knowledge and access to information as a human right; and a discussion of the creation and distribution of best practice content and potential publishing partnership with Facet Publishing.
- **EBLIDA** - best practice development of Library Legislation; implementation of UN 2030 Sustainable development Goals; and exchange of ideas and information on conferences
- **eLearning Africa (eLA)** - promotion of research and learning in all fields in Africa.
- **Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)** - capacity building of African public librarians.
- **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)** - joint projects to strengthen the library field in Africa.
- **Mentors without Borders** - to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on the basis for the development of a close partnership between MWB and AfLIA for teaching software development. The program is aimed at teaching mentees about web development, mobile development or artificial intelligence/machine learning. In this program, the students will learn and practice under the direct supervision of software development experts. Students will develop their skills in HTML, CSS, Javascript, C++, Java, Python, Kotlin or Swift. Students will also learn database skills, Agile software development practices and test-driven development principles
- **South African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE)**- to work together on the African Storybook initiative and equitable and meaningful access to

knowledge, skills and learning through the adoption of open learning principles and distance education methods.

- **The Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA), University of Washington** - research into status of libraries in Africa.
- **The Wikimedia Foundation** - a collaboration aims to close the gap of underrepresented African voices on global platforms by training library professionals to edit, create, and share authentic knowledge on Wikimedia projects including Wikipedia, Wikidata, WikiCommons and WikiSource
- **The Wikipedia Library** - collaboration on organizing webinars on Wikipedia topics relevant for libraries and librarians; Organizing the first African Librarians Week ; Hosting a progressive course model on AfLIA’s Moodle platform
- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** - intellectual property rights and access to information.
- **Women’s Global Education Project (WGEP)** - promotion of research and learning in Africa.
- **Worldreader** - local e-content for young children.
- **Yaounde African Parliamentary Institute (IPAY)** - to provide a non- exclusive framework for partnerships between the parties in the implementation of their action programmes for the training and capacity building of parliamentary staff in the fields of documentation and institutional information.

## Staff

Bless K. Dzah, Accountant
Doreen Appiah, Program Officer
Eunice Jones - Arthur, Administrative Assistant (Membership)
Nkem Osuigwe, Human Capacity & Training Director
Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Executive Director
Joel Sam, AfLIA & ACAfI Projects Director
Michael Thompson, Webmaster
Stanley Boakye-Achampong, Research Coordinator & Communications Officer

## Governing Council Members (May 2021 – May 2023)

#	Name	Role / Position
1	Mr. Alim Garga	President
2	Mr. Mandla Ntombela	Immediate Past President
3	Prof. Rosemary Shafack	Vice President
4	Mr. Bernard Akondzo	Central Africa Representative
5	Mr. Eric Haumba	East African Representative
6	Ms. Rania Shaarawy	North Africa Representative
7	Ms. Elizabeth Matheus	Southern Africa Representative
8	Prof. Chinwe Anunobi	West Africa Representative
9	Mr. Souleymane Sogoba	French speaking West Africa Representative
10	Mr. Iaguba Djalo	Portuguese speaking Africa Representative
11	Ms. Sarah I. Negumbo	Chair: National Libraries Section
12	Mrs. Neemat Abdulrahim	Chair: Public Libraries Section
13	Mrs. Comfort Asare	Chair: National Library Associations Section
14	Dr. MacAnthony Cobblah	Chair: Academic Libraries & Consortia Section
15	<i>Vacant</i>	Chair: and Research Libraries Section
16	Dr. Sarah Kaddu	Chair, Education & Training Institutions Section
17	<i>Vacant</i>	Chair: IFLA Africa Section
18	Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan	Executive Director
19	Doreen Appiah	Secretary to the Council

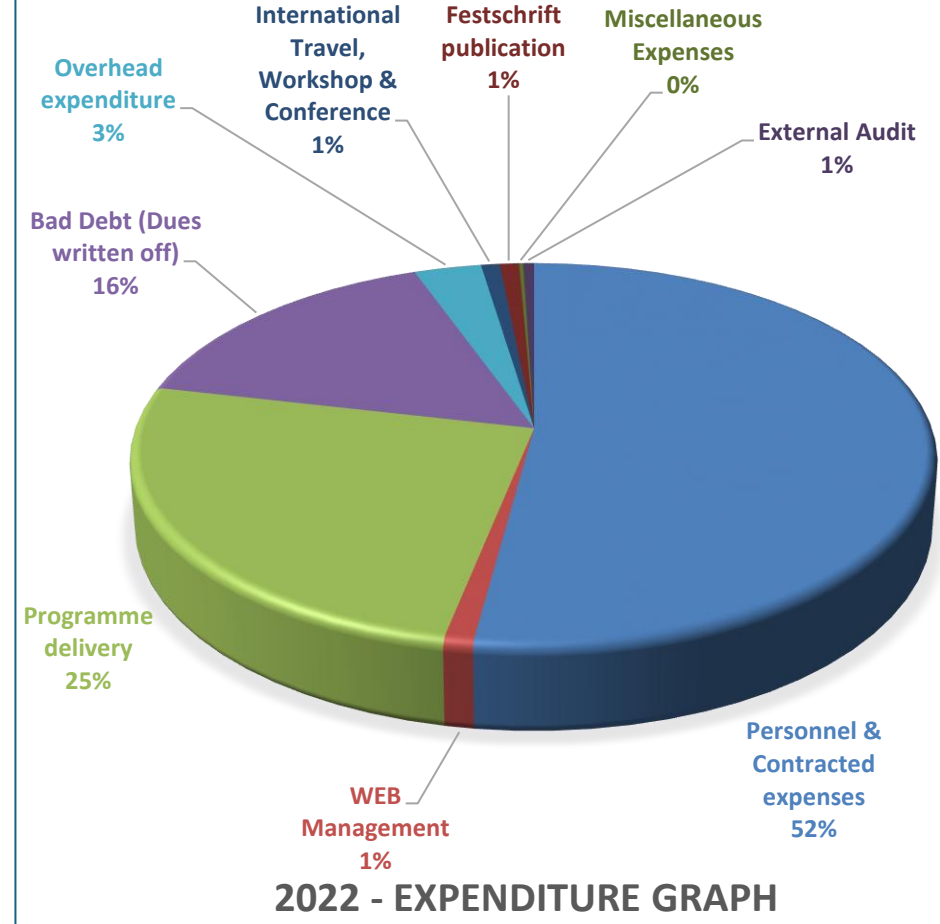
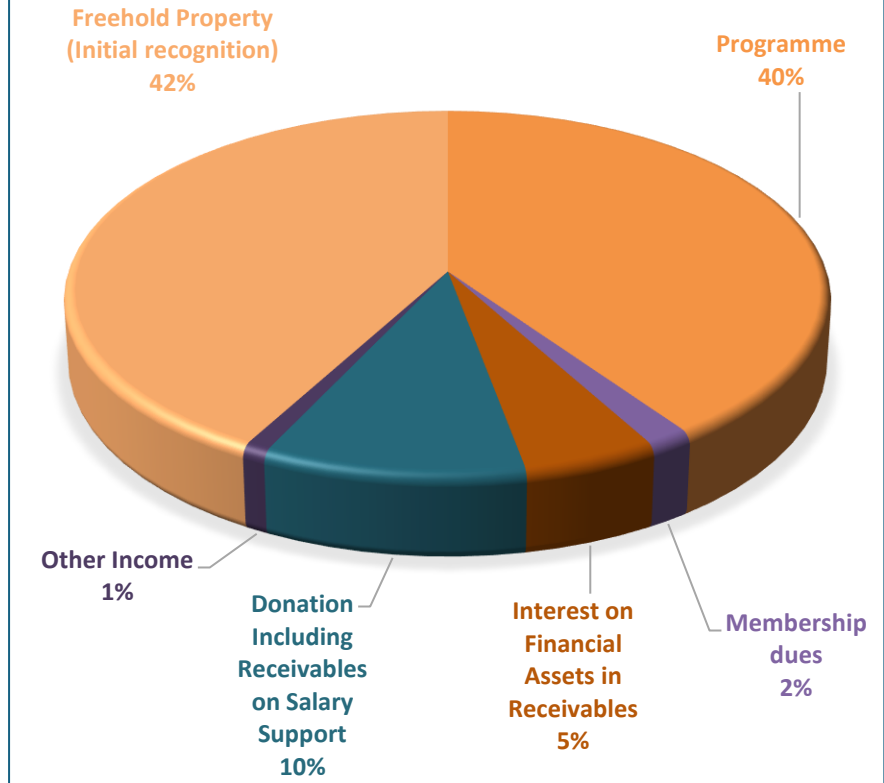
# Financial Report

## AfLIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Programme	336,935.66	38
Conference income	-	0
Membership dues - Receivables	51,600.00	6
Interest on Financial Assets in Receivables	43,361.92	5
Donation Including Receivables on Salary Support	84,737.87	10
Other Income	7,760.00	1
Freehold Property (Initial recognition)	351,498.33	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>875,893.78</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Personnel cost	207,430.32	52
Office supplies		0
Utility		0
Maintenance		0
Communication & Publicity		0
Equipment		0
Festschrift publication	3,525.00	1
Workshops & Conferences (including AfLIA 2023 Conference in Accra)	3,417.53	1
Web management and subscription of online services	4,226.54	1
Insurance		0
Bad Debt (Dues written off)	63,370.00	16
Miscellaneous Expenses	733.41	0
Programme delivery	100,951.42	25
Overhead	12,256.00	3
External Audit	2,000.00	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>397,910.22</b>	<b>100</b>

## 2022 - INCOME GRAPH



## Contacts

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Website: [web.aflia.net](http://web.aflia.net)

X: [www.x.com/afliacon](https://www.x.com/afliacon)

Facebook: [facebook.com/aflianetwork](https://facebook.com/aflianetwork)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/ organization/22326599/](https://linkedin.com/organization/22326599/)

Flicker: [flickr.com/photos/15543599\\_6@N07/](https://flickr.com/photos/15543599_6@N07/)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AfLIA/>



[web.aflia.net](http://web.aflia.net)



[aflianetwork](#)



[AfLIACon](#)



[AfLIA](#)