

# WELTFILME e.V.

## Activity report 2025

As in the previous two years, the MOVING BEYOND and DIGITAL FILM SCHOOL AFRICA projects continued to form the focus of our work in 2025.

1. The **MOVING BEYOND (MB)** project, which runs from August 2023 to April 2026, combines film training, productions, screenings and strategic networking meetings. The aim is to strengthen the partner organisations – [YMCA Ghana](#), [Sierra Leone Adult Education Association/SLADEA](#), [National Adult Education Association of Liberia/NAEAL](#), [School of Journalism and Digital Media/SJDM \(Gambia\)](#) and [Association Togolaise du Cinéma Numérique Ambulant/ATCNA](#) – in terms of personnel and techniques. This is to ensure that, after the end of the project, the partners can establish stable structures and continue their training programmes on a sustainable basis, including through new collaborations.

### **Focus and measures for 2025:**

- **Network expansion:** The partner organisations have further expanded their networks with local organisations, film associations and the regional film industry.
- **Cooperation within the FNWA:** The working groups established last year to strengthen cooperation within the **Film Network West Africa (FNWA)** have been continued. In order to sustain cooperation beyond the end of the project, the partners are relying on a rotating management system, the creation of a joint website and joint applications for funding. A project application coordinated by SLADEA has already been submitted in this context.
- **Curricula:** Further development of curricula that are certified and will be used for film education in the future.
- **Trainer training:** Qualification and training of some new trainers in the various film trades.
- **Production:** Implementation of film training courses followed by film productions. While short films were produced in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Gambia, the feature film SIFA was made in Togo.
- **Screenings** of the short films/films produced in 2024/2025 a) on **Mobile Cinema Tours:** In total, the partner organisations in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia and Togo reached more than 17,000 viewers at 49 public screenings, which were free of charge for the audience. The screenings took place mainly in rural areas, where access to film is usually very difficult. b) **online:** The short films from Sierra Leone and Liberia were very well received and were viewed more than a million times on Facebook alone. c) **At festivals:** The films were shown at international festivals and won several awards, including *OL DON BOSS* and *THE FOOTBALL CARPENTER* from Sierra Leone and *TIDES OF CHANGE* and *MUDDY FACES* from Liberia. In addition, the feature-length documentary *CENT DOUZE*, produced by ATCNA in 2024, received further awards.

An overview of the project and all short films produced to date are available on the website [www.weltfilme.org/moving-beyond](http://www.weltfilme.org/moving-beyond).

MB marks the conclusion of a series of projects initiated in 2015, which gave rise to the **FNWA**. What began with SLADEA as the first partner organisation in West Africa gradually expanded in subsequent years to include YMCA Ghana, NAEAL, SJDM and ATCNA. A clear overview of the **successes of this long-standing**

**collaboration** is provided by the poster in **APPENDIX 1a**, which was created for the FOME Symposium 2025 (see also point 4).

The **MB interim report** for 2024 was submitted to bengo in May 2025 (APPENDICES 1b+1c).

---

**2.** The fourth project phase (DF4) of **DIGITAL FILM SCHOOL AFRICA (DFSA)** started in summer 2024 and will run until the end of March 2026. The project is being implemented by YMCA Ghana and the African University of Communications and Business (AUCB) in cooperation with WELTFILME e.V. and GIZ as the funding agency.

**The following progress was made in 2025:**

- **Complete curriculum:** Film experts from Ghana and Germany worked closely together to redesign the subject areas of cinematography, sound and editing and to create the teaching content. The curricula were then structured for digital teaching, programmed and published on the atingi learning platform. Together with the modules for screenwriting, documentary film and creative producing, the DFSA now offers a comprehensive digital training course covering many essential film crafts. In future, the range of courses on offer is to be expanded and completed, e.g. with directing, animation and film financing.

- **Qualification of teaching staff (train-the-e-trainers):** In order to guarantee high training standards in the long term, a curriculum for training as an e-trainer was developed at the DFSA. Based on this, 27 trainers were trained in digital didactics and course administration. 17 of them now lead courses at AUCB (6) and YMCA (11). A newly established co-teaching model ensures sustainable resource management and a balanced workload for lecturers.

- **Digital film studies:** Classes in the six subject areas began in October 2025. The enormous interest is reflected in 1,087 applications from seven African countries (including Nigeria, Kenya and Sierra Leone). 212 applicants were accepted onto the courses, achieving a balanced gender ratio (52.4% women / 47.6% men). In collaboration with atingi, an automatic certificate of participation was established during this phase, which will support the students in their future careers. Students based in Ghana will apply their theoretical knowledge in practice at the beginning of 2026 when they work together to implement their own short film projects.

- **Institutionalisation and ownership:** A milestone in this phase is the transfer of budgetary and digital responsibility to the Ghanaian partners. The registration of the DFSA as an independent non-profit organisation has created a structure that enables institutional independence and local ownership. The agreement on cooperation between the DFSA and the Ghanaian state film school UniMAC and the Ghana Academy of Film and Television Arts (GAFTA) also ensures local recognition, professional networking and the opportunity to reach even more young people through additional courses at other institutions.

- **Network maintenance and securing the future:** In August 2025, the new academic year was officially opened in Accra. Representatives from GIZ and WELTFILME used the kick-off event on site to discuss opportunities and structural conditions for the next project phase with their partners.

Further information and details on the courses offered can be found at <https://www.digitalfilmschool.africa>, <https://www.digitalfilmschool.africa> and <https://www.digitalfilmschool.africa>

The six-monthly interim reports for 2025 were submitted to GIZ in accordance with the contract (**ANNEXES 1d+1e**).

### 3. Staff list

We are very grateful that we can continue to work with a great team.

**Evgeni Fedarovich** has been Financial Operations Manager at WELTFILME and Treasurer of the association since 2024.

**Jörg Heidemann** handles the association's tax returns and takes care of booking the association's receipts.

**Fiona Klassen** has been supporting our team since 2022. She has been Programme Director at WELTFILME since 2024.

**Mariella Maracke** works with Fiona Klassen to manage WELTFILME's social media channels.

**Christian Moris Müller** supports MB with story development and post-production in the feature film sector.

**Nico Hertel** is responsible for post-production at MB and leads online courses in editing. As part of DFSA, he supports the Ghanaian teams in the production of educational films.

**Nicolai Rissmann**, freelance cameraman and editor, supports the post-production of MB's films.

**Josefine Bingemer** is responsible for material development and post-production in the documentary film sector at MB.

**Jan Kunzmann** hosts the WELTFILME website and cloud. Thank you very much for your great support!

**Sven Kirschenbauer** takes care of the WELTFILME website and YouTube channel.

**Franz Ossig** is our graphic designer for all creative matters.

**Thank you all very much for the wonderful cooperation!**

---

### 4. Further activities in 2025

#### January

WELTFILME and NAEAL were invited by the organisations Apodissi (Nigeria) and Casa del Cinema di Trieste (Italy) to become part of the **FRAME project**. The initiative aims to strengthen the creative industries in Nigeria and Liberia through partnerships and newly created film curricula. FRAME aims to close existing gaps in education and promote synergies between vocational schools and the private sector. The application submitted to the EU (Erasmus+) in February 2025 was not approved, despite positive feedback. A new application is planned for 2026.

#### February

Alexander Pfeuffer and Frank Domhan took part in the **Berlinale meets GIZ: Films Made in Africa event** in Berlin.

#### March

WELTFILME was invited to send a jury member to the Potsdam **Film Festival Sehnsüchte (ISFF)**. Josefine Bingemer kindly took on this task for WELTFILME.

In March, WELTFILME was informed that our landlord, the housing cooperative 'Bremer Höhe eG', needed the premises of our old office for its own use. As a replacement, we were offered an **office** on the ground floor of

the same building at Schönhauser Allee 59. The move took place in July 2025 – with the active support of Rogier Hardeman. Since then, WELTFILME has been the main tenant of the premises, which are shared with four subtenants.

### May

WELTFILME was invited by the **BMZ to attend a meeting on Ghana**, which Alexander Pfeuffer attended. The meeting served as a forum for discussing development policy frameworks and presenting the strategic approach to development cooperation with Ghana.

### July

Frank Domhan took part in the **FOME coordination meeting** in Berlin. WELTFILME has been a member of the network since 2016 and is involved in its coordination group. Further information on FOME (Forum Media and Development) can be found at <https://fome.info>.

### August

Fiona Klassen, Frank Domhan and Alexander Pfeuffer took part in the **DFSA Commencement Event** in Accra (Ghana). The event marking the start of the new academic year was jointly organised and run by partners YMCA Ghana and AUCB. The week-long stay was also used to discuss the possibilities and structural conditions for an upcoming project phase with the partners and GIZ.

### November

The short films *THE FOOTBALL CARPENTER*, *TIDES OF CHANGE* and *OSUSU MASTER* were screened at the **Black International Cinema Berlin film festival**.

Josefine Bingemer attended the opening of the **AFRIKAMERA festival** (Berlin).

### December

Samuel Asamoah (YMCA Ghana) and Alexander Pfeuffer presented the work of the FNWA at the **FOME Symposium** in Bonn ([Appendix 1a](#)); Samuel Asamoah's travel expenses were kindly covered by the BMZ. He then travelled on to Berlin to coordinate the next operational steps for MB and DF4 with the WELTFILME core team.

---

## 5. Successes

2025 was a successful year for our partner organisations and many project participants. A selection of successes and achievements is presented below:

**YMCA Ghana** held a six-day masterclass in set design. The masterclass was led by Prince Kojo-Hilton, who has worked as an art director and set designer on numerous internationally renowned film productions. In addition, YMCA Ghana was once again asked by World YMCA to provide film coverage of a multi-day international event in Canada.

**SLADEA** was able to conduct a two-day acting training course led by the multi-award-winning actor and filmmaker Adetokumboh M'Cormack. M'Cormack was also persuaded to give a lecture on the topic of 'Africans in the diaspora as cultural bridge builders' as part of the FilmConnect online lecture series (part of the MB project).

In 2024, **ATCNA** produced the feature-length documentary *CENT DOUZE*, which won further international awards in 2025. The feature film *SIFA* was completed in the same year and is scheduled for festival release in 2026. Both productions underscore the high artistic standards of the partner organisation.

**SJDM** once again hosted the (project-independent) Cinekambiya Festival and was able to expand its network. The state broadcaster GRTS (Gambia Radio & Television Services) is interested in broadcasting the productions created at SJDM as part of WELTFILME projects. The private broadcaster Star TV has also announced that it will offer internships and potential permanent positions to graduates of the WELTFILME training programmes.

**NAEAL** produced the documentary film *THE WOMAN CHIEF* as part of MB. It was screened at the EU Film Festival in Liberia in 2025. At the Liberia Film Awards, the production *TIDES OF CHANGE* was named 'Best Documentary of the Year' and the film *MUDDY FACES* was named 'Best Short Film of the Year'.

---

## 6. Conclusion and outlook

The year 2025 was marked by the growing independence of our partners. The high number of applicants for the DFSA, the intensified cooperation with the FNWA and the audience figures achieved for the evaluation of MB films demonstrate the relevance of WELTFILME's work.

In 2026, the focus will be on the successful completion of the MB and DF4 projects and the transition of the collaborations into permanent, independent structures. We would like to thank all our sponsors, partners and the team for their dedicated cooperation.

---

## APPENDICES

- 1a** Poster FNWA
- 1b** MB interim report 2024; Part I
- 1c** MB interim report 2024; Part II
- 1d** DF4 interim report 2 (December 2024 – May 2025)
- 1e** DF4 Interim Report 3 (June 2025 - November 2025)