



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

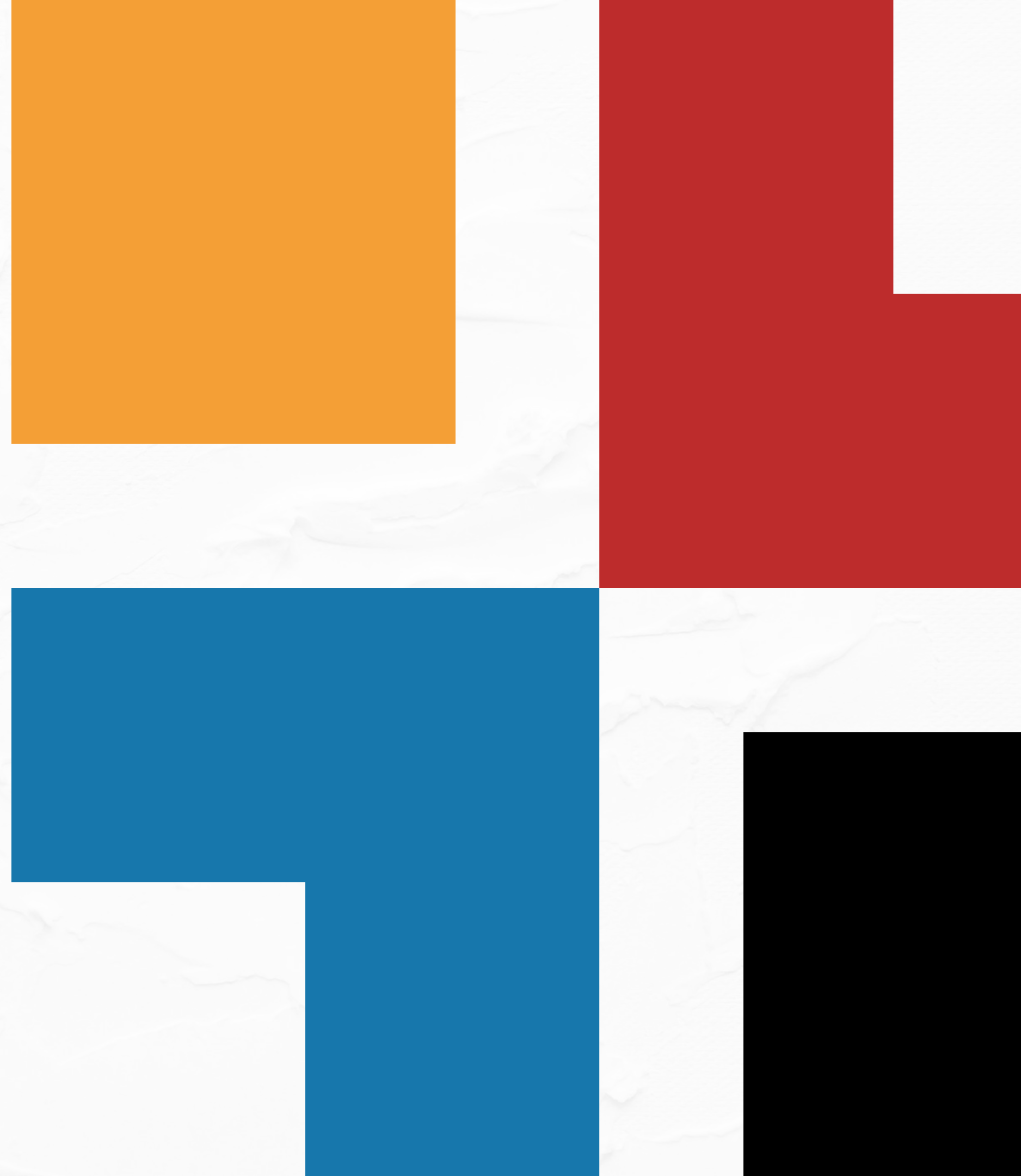


Table of Contents

1

MESSAGE FROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2

ABOUT MEDIA
FOUNDATION FOR
WEST AFRICA

4

OUR PROGRAMMES,
INTERVENTIONS &
IMPACT - 2025

5

FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION &
DIGITAL RIGHTS

21

MEDIA FOR
DEMOCRACY &
GOOD GOVERNANCE

45

MEDIA FOR PEACE &
SOCIAL COHESION

51

INSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Message from Executive Director



In 2025, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) advanced press freedom, democratic governance, and social justice despite ongoing threats to journalists, including political pressure, digital harassment, and mis/disinformation. We strengthened our regional presence through initiatives promoting journalist safety, digital rights, and responsible information ecosystems. Key efforts included dialogues between media and security agencies in Guinea-Bissau and Ghana, and capacity-building in digital literacy and online safety for women journalists in Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

We also convened regional discussions on artificial intelligence, press freedom and the future of journalism. Through our Media for Peace and Social Cohesion Programme, MFWA partnered with ECOWAS to deliver training across all twelve (12) member states, equipping journalists, civil society, and democratic actors to counter mis/disinformation, promote responsible political communication, and support peaceful democratic participation. In Guinea-Bissau, MFWA combined research, policy engagement, and public education to strengthen ethical journalism, including media literacy campaigns, the production and publication of a national media study, newsroom safety policy, and contributions to revising the National Media Code of Ethics.

Through our flagship investigative journalism project, The Fourth Estate, investigations exposed major governance failures in Ghana, prompting institutional responses and reforms. Notably, revelations about irregularities in Ghana's National Service Scheme database led to the suspension of the digital deployment system and the instigation of a forensic audit. Investigative reporting that exposed inequities in the scholarship scheme contributed to the passage of the Ghana Scholarships Act, strengthening transparency and accountability in the administration of public scholarships.

Complementing these investigative efforts, MFWA strengthened journalists' capacity to report on complex economic governance issues such as illicit financial flows, domestic revenue mobilisation, and progressive taxation through specialised trainings, investigative journalism fellowships, and national policy dialogues. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the courage of the journalists we support, and the collaboration of our many partners across the region. We are deeply grateful to our institutional partners and donors and funders whose support continue to make this work possible.

As we look ahead, MFWA remains resolute in its mission. In an era of rapid technological transformation and complex democratic challenges, our commitment is clear: to strengthen democratic resilience, empower journalists and citizens with credible information, and help build a West Africa where freedom of expression is respected, protected, and enjoyed by all.

Sulemana Braimah
Executive Director, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)

About Media Foundation For West Africa

A regional independent non-governmental organisation

Works across the

16

countries in West Africa

the

largest & most influential

media development and freedom of expression organisation with:

- formal Partnership with ECOWAS
- a UN ECOSOC Consultative Status.
- Equivalency Determination Certification with NGOSource that certifies the organisation as being the equivalent of a public charity in the United States

Our Vision

A West Africa in which all persons enjoy the right to freedom of expression without fear or threat by any actors.

Our Mission

To promote and defend the right to freedom of expression of all persons particularly, the media and human rights defenders in West Africa.

Overall Strategic Goal

The right to freedom of expression is respected, protected and promoted in West Africa; with enhanced transparency and accountability in governance through quality journalism, increased public access to factual information (both online and offline), and increased civic participation in governance.

Our Programmes

The MFWA remains West Africa's leading freedom of expression and media development organisation with nearly 30 years experience working across the region. In 2021, we undertook an extensive contextual analysis of key media and freedom of expression challenges and opportunities across West Africa to inform our new Strategic Plan (2023-2026).

Freedom of Expression & Digital Rights

Freedom of Expression (FoE) is a vital human right, which when violated, hinders participatory and accountable governance. MFWA continues to document abuses and compile data for accountability and advocacy.



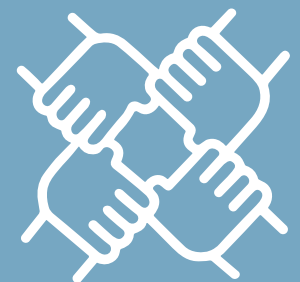
Media for Democracy and Good Governance

A vibrant and professional media strengthens democracy by promoting civic participation, public accountability, and countering extremist narratives. The Media for Democracy and Good Governance programme enhances the capacity of the media across West Africa, positioning the subregion's media as better watchdogs for participatory, transparent, and accountable governance.



Media for Peace and Social Cohesion

In all open societies, the media functions as a key vehicle for socialisation. In West Africa, where societies are mélanges of very complex religio-politico and social persuasions, the media's role in positive socialisation is even more critical. In view of this, our Media for Peace and Social Cohesion Programme focuses on integrating West Africa's media into the subregion's firewall against toxic narratives that undermine peace and social cohesion.



OUR PROGRAMMES, INTERVENTIONS & IMPACT



EMPOWERING MEDIA & VOICES FOR PUBLIC GOOD

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & DIGITAL RIGHTS

In 2025, we advanced freedom of expression and digital rights across the region through a mix of policy dialogues, journalists' capacity strengthening, digital rights advocacy, and regional convenings. These interventions responded to rising threats against journalists, online harms targeting women and activists, and the growing governance implications of digital transformation.

Strengthening Journalist Safety and Media–State Relations in Ghana

MFWA continued to work for the optimisation of the safety of journalists by facilitating structured media–security dialogues in Ghana. We held three media–security dialogue engagements in Accra and Tamale, bringing together nearly 300 participants, including journalists, editors, civil society actors, and senior security officials. These engagements improved mutual understanding of the roles and mandates of the media and security agencies, surfaced operational challenges affecting the safety of journalists, and strengthened collaboration between the media and security services. Participants committed to sustaining the dialogues in addressing threats against journalists and contributing to a more enabling environment for press freedom.



This engagement should reach every level of the police and other security organisations — commanders at the various levels and the junior ranks — so that they all understand the role of journalists, and so that journalists also understand the role of the security services in our country. That way, we can more easily minimise the effect of these attacks on journalists.

DSP Robert Anabiik Anmain, Head of public Affairs, North East Regional Police Command



We all admit that challenges exist, and to address them without blaming each other. That is the foundation we are building on: collaboration, shared effort, and trust in one another.

**Atta Ayi Mensah, Divisional Officer
Ghana Fire Service**



I've really had a very good time here with the session with the security agencies. This has been a very interactive one, one long overdue and I must commend the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) for giving us the platform to really appreciate the work we do as journalists and as security officials.

**Kofi Adu Domfeh, News Editor,
Multimedia Group Limited**



Advancing Digital Rights, Online Safety, and Gender Equality

Recognising the growing threats posed by online harassment and digital surveillance, MFWA implemented targeted digital rights and safety interventions, particularly for women in media and politics. In Ghana, we enhanced the digital literacy of female journalists in Ho and Takoradi by training them on online safety in order to report effectively on issues-related on online gender-based violence (OGBV).



A group photo of female journalists who participated in the Digital literacy training in Ho, Volta Region

Freedom of Expression
and Digital Rights



Enhancing
Freedom
of Expression
's Digital
Rights
and
Gender
Equality
Liberty
a D

ing support

assy of the
lom of the



These trainings strengthened participants' ability to use digital tools securely, report responsibly on digital harms, and advocate for safer online spaces.



“

My name is Lisa Anapa, and I work with Melody FM here in Takoradi. Recently, an unknown person took my picture, found me on Facebook, and contacted me showing me the photo. I found it really alarming — and from the workshop we just had, everything pointed to cyber stalking.

The workshop taught me a lot. I learned that when you come across posts or comments that bully women online, you shouldn't just scroll past them. When you report, and I report, it goes a long way toward getting the comment or post taken down. I also used to use one password for literally everything; now I have six different passwords for different purposes, and a dummy email so my main inbox doesn't get choked with spam.

I've also learned to use AI effectively. I wasn't really using it in my writing before, but now I know how to give it the right prompts to get what I need. And I know not to just copy and paste — I go through it to make sure it reflects the ideas I want, rather than just pushing out whatever the AI says. ”

Training Testimonials



We convened public forums on online gender-based violence that contributed to heightened public discourse on OGBV and reinforced calls for stronger institutional responses.



A cross-section of participants at the OGBV forum in Accra



Webinars

Two regional webinars brought together journalists, academics, environmental defenders, and human rights activists to examine legal threats against journalists, the impact of artificial intelligence on press freedom, and strategies for collective resilience. These engagements strengthened cross-border solidarity and knowledge exchange on rights-based digital governance.

—————→ [Learn more](#)

Promoting Media Freedom as a Regional Norm

Policy Dialogues

In Senegal, we conducted bilateral engagements with journalists, media owners, and key state institutions, including the Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy. Discussions focused on the safety of journalists, media independence, and strategies to improve freedom of expression conditions in fragile political contexts with a special focus on the Sahel region.

Launch of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Fellowship in Nigeria

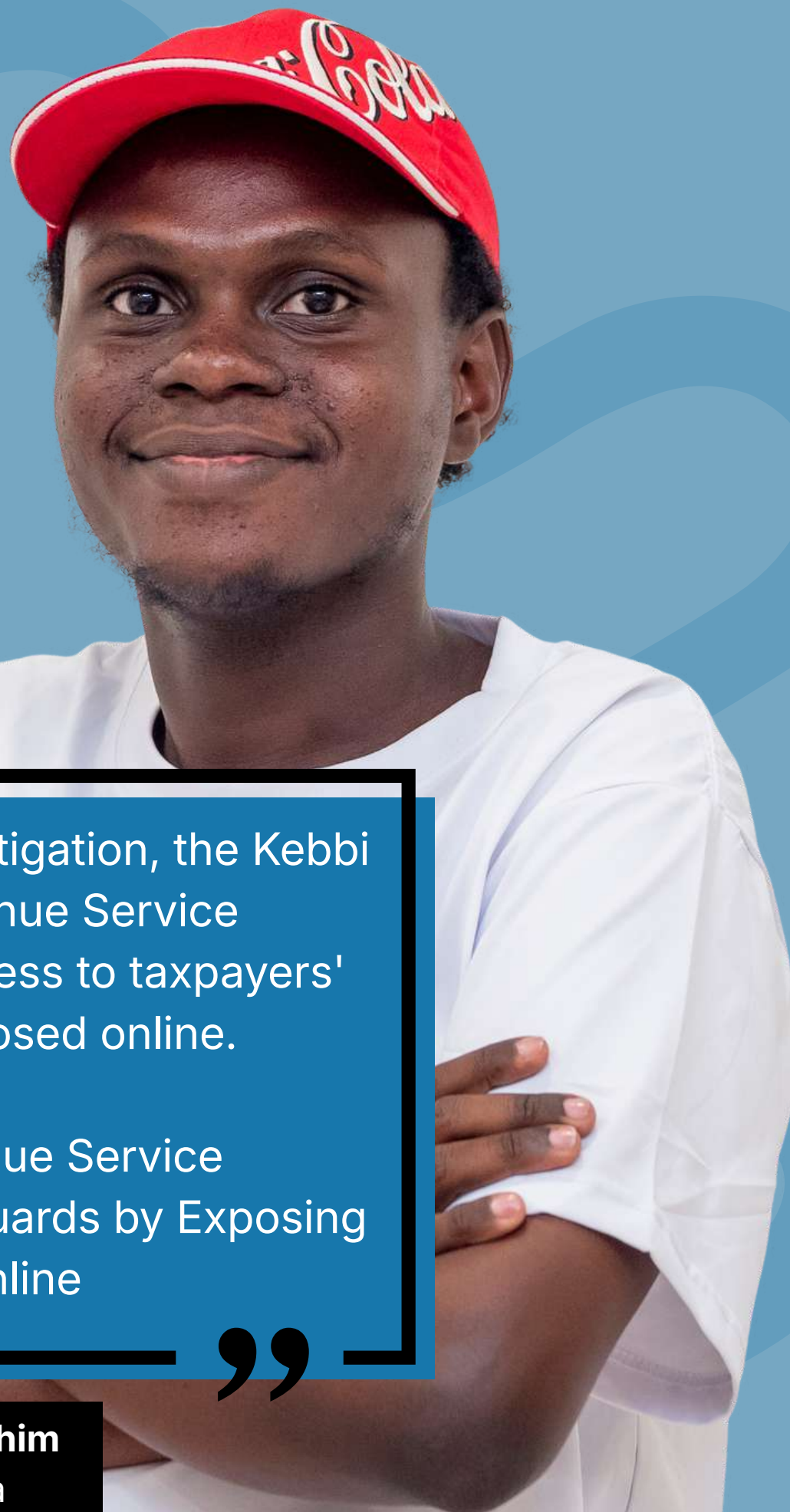
In 2025, we launched the DPI Journalism Fellowship in Nigeria, equipping 15 Nigerian journalists with deeper knowledge and reporting capacity on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to advance public awareness and understanding of the country's digital transformation.

Over the course of the fellowship, the cohort published 80 stories across national newspapers, radio stations, and digital outlets. Several of the stories triggered state actions ranging from regulatory investigations and legislative motions to new government and institutional programmes.

[Click here](#) for more stories from our DPI Fellows across West Africa.



DPI Fellows participating in a three day DPI capacity building workshop Abuja



“ Following my investigation, the Kebbi State Internal Revenue Service blocked public access to taxpayers' data it had left exposed online.

Story: Kebbi Revenue Service Violates DPI Safeguards by Exposing Taxpayers' Data Online

Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim
— Daily Episode, Nigeria



“ After my report, the Nigeria Data Protection Commission launched an investigation into Temu over data-privacy violations affecting an estimated 12.7 million Nigerian users.

Story: Poor Data Privacy: How online scams and unsolicited ads score Nigeria's digital economy low

Juliet Umeh,
Assistant Hi-Tech Editor at Vanguard, Nigeria

Strengthening Global Digital Governance Engagement

Freedom of Expression
and Digital Rights

At the global–national interface, MFWA convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in Ghana on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) review process. Representatives from government, civil society, academia, and the technical community increased their awareness of the WSIS+20 agenda and developed recommendations for Ghana's engagement in the global digital governance processes.



Some participants at the WSIS+20 workshop at Accra City hotel

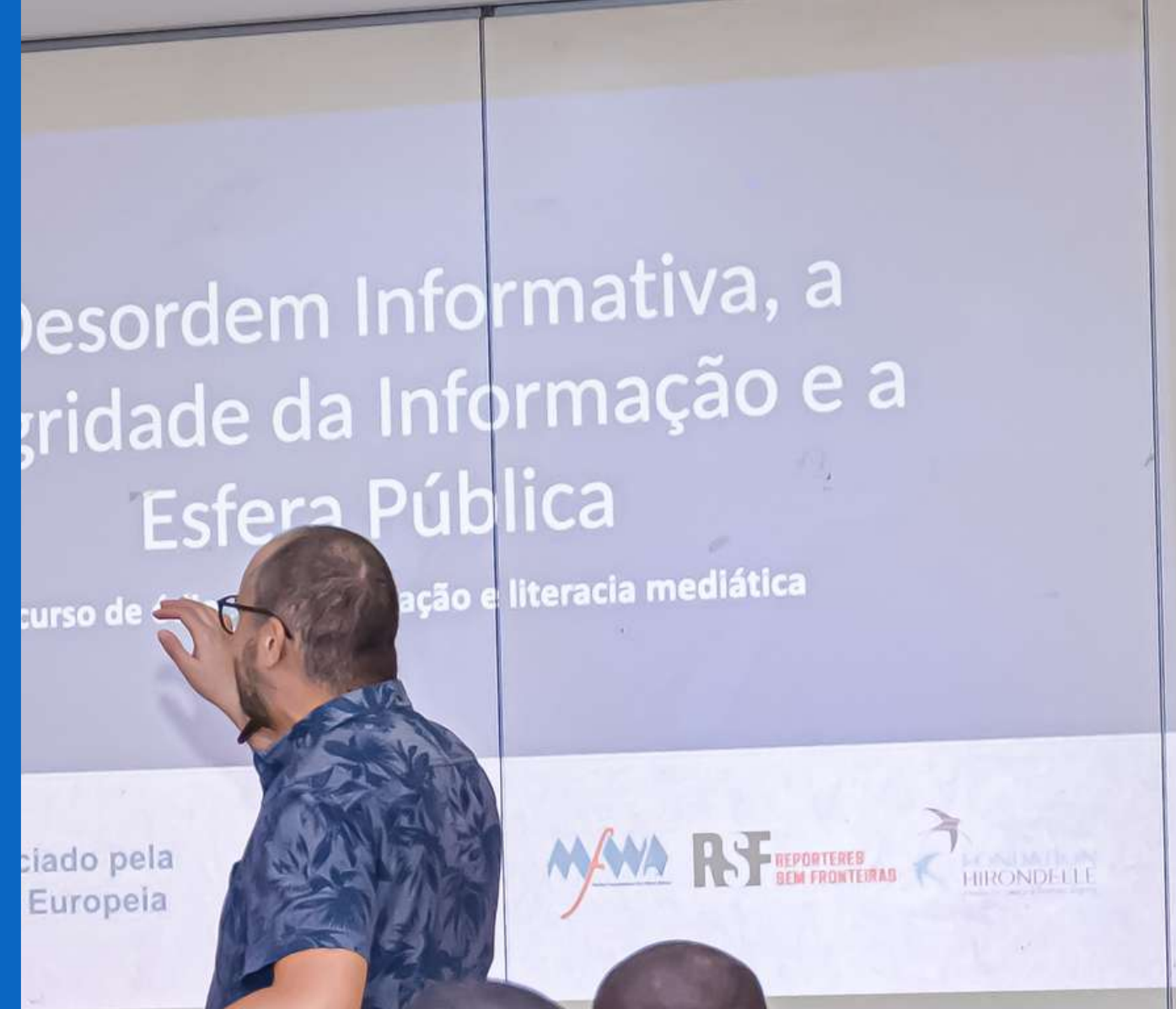
Our Media Freedom Work in Guinea Bissau



In Guinea-Bissau, our work focused on strengthening the safety of journalists, ethical media practice, and public resilience against mis/disinformation and hate speech.

Together with local media actors, we produced and launched a **Model Newsroom Safety Policy** to provide practical guidance for newsrooms on the implementation of physical, digital, and psychosocial safety measures.

We spearheaded a nationwide revision of the National Media Code of Ethics, enhancing provisions on digital journalism, social media responsibility, fact-checking, inclusion of marginalized groups, and journalist protection. The updated Code was endorsed by 37 representatives from various media associations and regulatory bodies, signifying progress in professional self-regulation and ethical accountability.





Over 160 people in Bissau, including youth, civil society members, university students, differently abled persons and people with albinism, improved their skills in critical information assessment and advocacy for responsible communication.



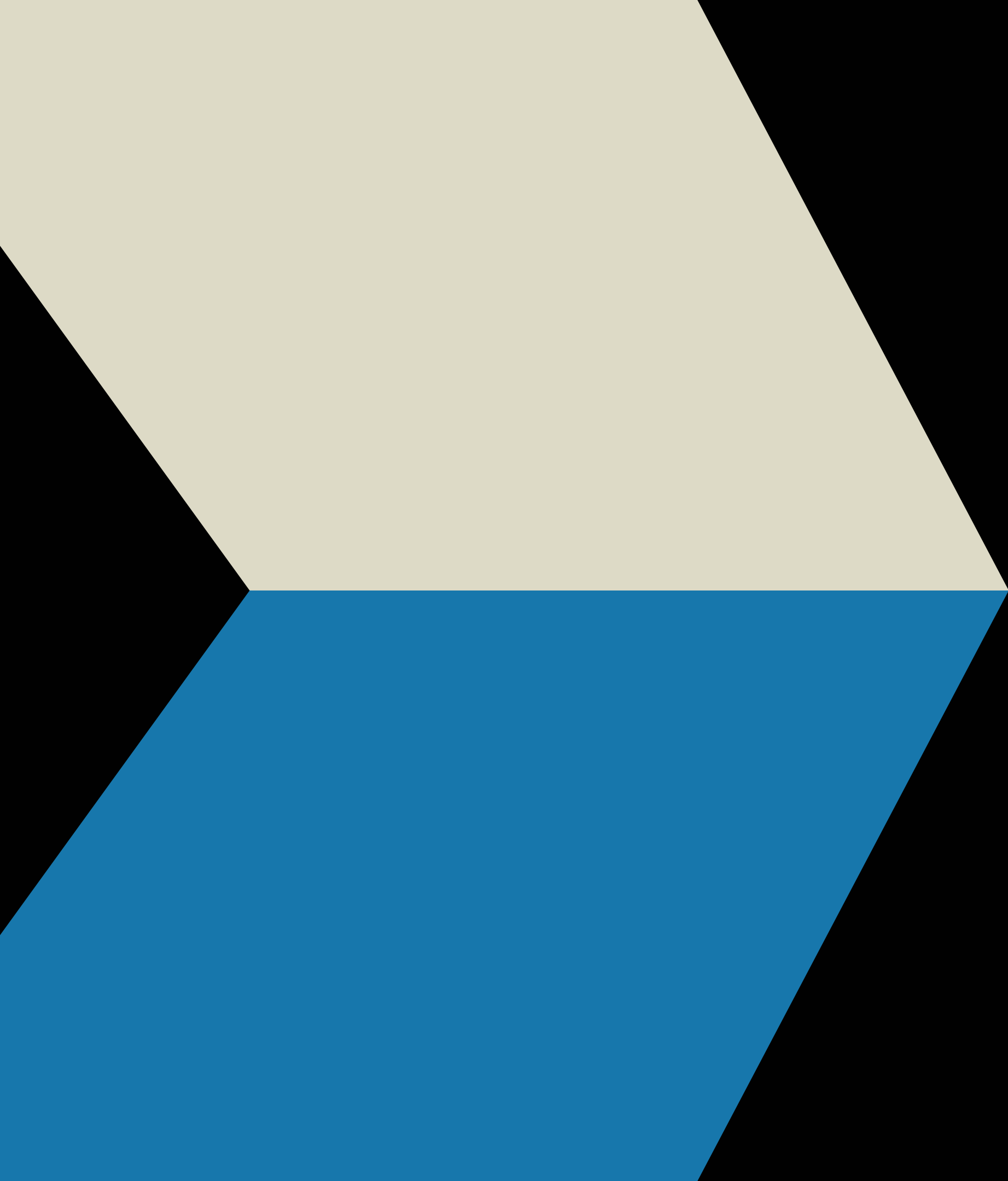
Ahead of the 2025 elections in Guinea Bissau, the MFWA, together with Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and Fondation Hironnelle (FH) with support from the EU-Delegation in Bissau, donated 300 reflective vests to journalists in Guinea-Bissau to enhance their safety when covering the national elections.

To ensure inclusion, the project reached more than 500,000 diverse audiences through local languages, locally-relevant formats and community-led approaches, including:

- youth-led community drama series in Bissau, Gabú, and Nhacra
- broadcast of 15 educational radio programmes through 10 local radio stations,
- Airing of 13 radio jingles,
- Publication of 11 short videos in Portuguese and Creole, and printed flyers
- one locally produced music track addressing mis/disinformation and hate speech.



Photos of youth during a nationwide MIL campaign in Guinea Bissau



MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

Advancing Media Development,
Accountability Reporting, Fiscal Justice and
Domestic Revenue Mobilisation

Advancing Gender Equality in the Ghanaian Media

In partnership with the French Media Development Agency, Canal France International (CFI), MFWA launched a strategy document to address gender inequalities in the Ghanaian media. Titled “MFWA-CFI Strategy on Promoting Gender Equality in the Ghanaian Media”, the document was unveiled on March 27, 2025, in Accra.

It sets out key actions to increase women's leadership in newsrooms, improve gender balance in media content, strengthen gender-sensitive workplace policies, expand advocacy efforts, and foster collaboration across institutions. The launch brought together stakeholders from civil society, academia, government, the diplomatic community, media associations, and media professionals from across the country.



Strengthening Journalists' Capacity on IFFs and Tax Justice

Between January and May 2025, 80 journalists in Ghana (Upper West, Western, Ashanti, and Eastern/Volta regions) received enhanced knowledge and skills to report on Illicit Financial Flows, progressive taxation, and tax justice. Several journalists produced investigative stories highlighting revenue losses linked to lapses in municipal revenue systems, and the impact of IFFs on science education and local research. This was thanks to Oxfam in Ghana.



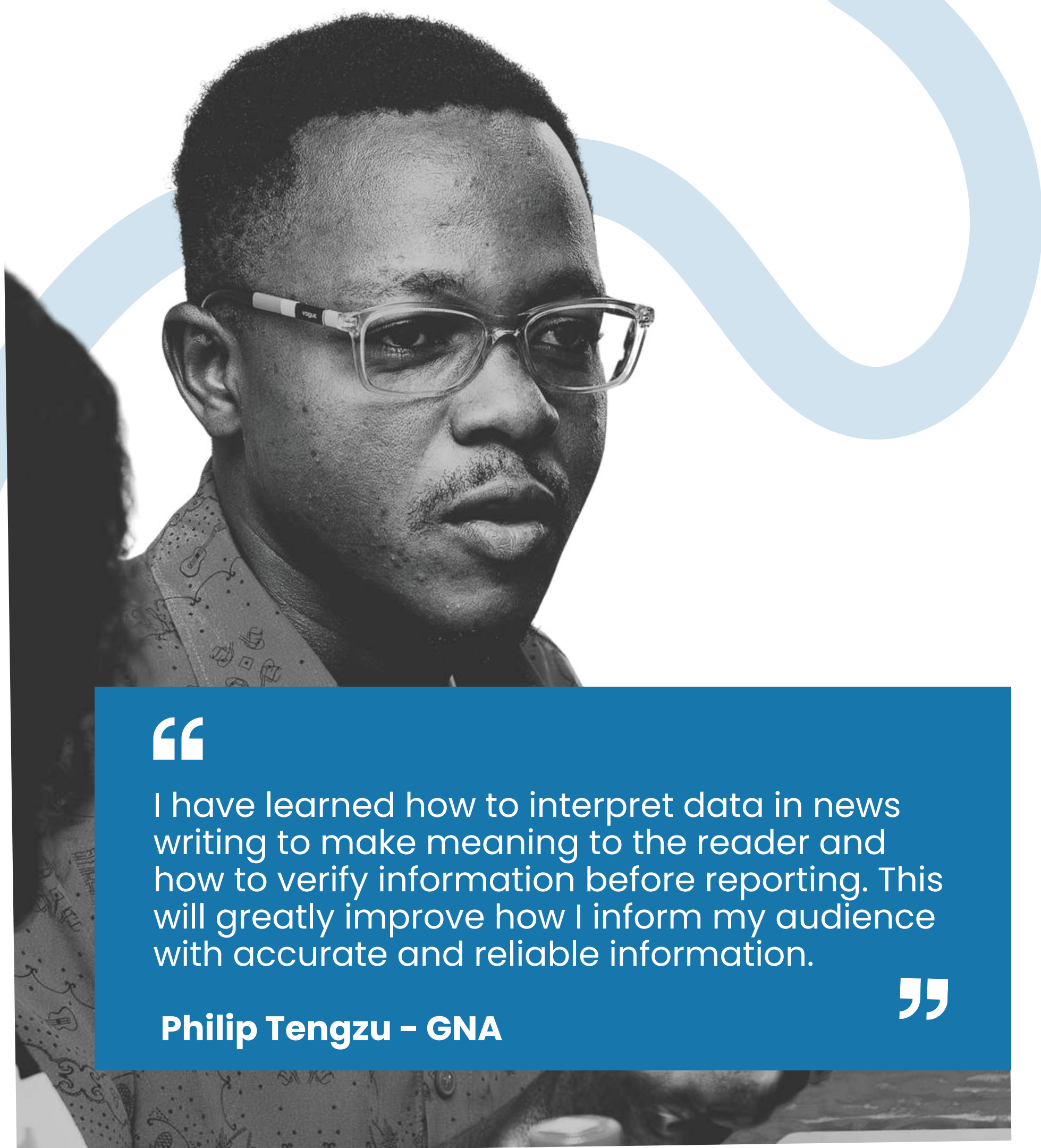
“ The training was insightful and practical. It gave me a much clearer grasp of the nuances of illicit financial flows (IFFs) and the various tax regimes, and how both shape the challenges of underdevelopment and poor infrastructure. Going forward, I intend to take a keen interest in IFFs and taxation, and I now feel fully equipped to build this into a defined niche in my journalism career. ”

Rosaline Djan - Skyy Power FM, Takoradi

Additionally, we organised a training for 30 journalists in Ghana on:

- investigative journalism and anti-corruption reporting with particular focus on the gendered dimensions of corruption.
- how to use the Right to Information (RTI) Law, to access public interest information from persons or institutions for their stories.



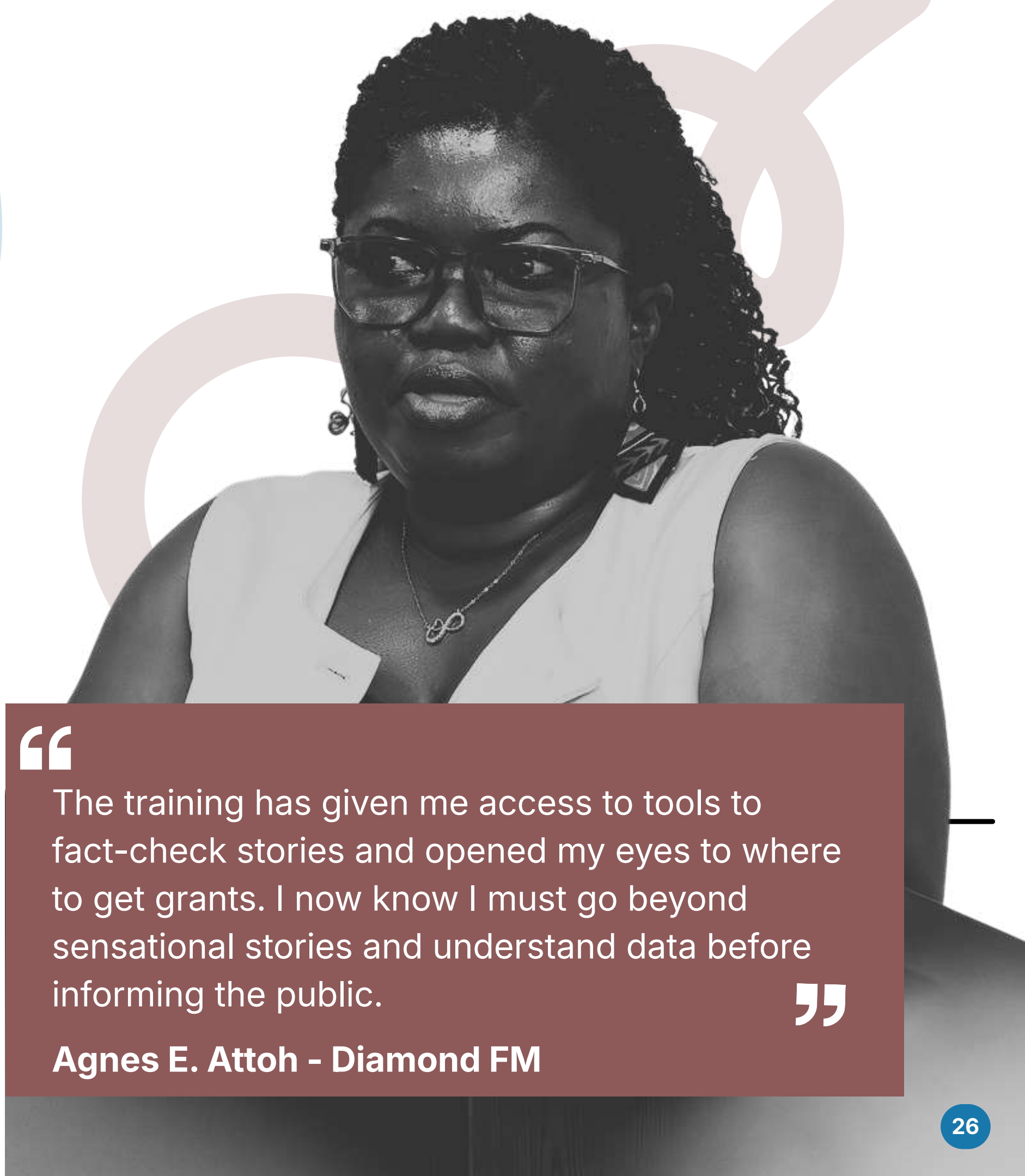


“

I have learned how to interpret data in news writing to make meaning to the reader and how to verify information before reporting. This will greatly improve how I inform my audience with accurate and reliable information.

”

Philip Tengzu – GNA



“

The training has given me access to tools to fact-check stories and opened my eyes to where to get grants. I now know I must go beyond sensational stories and understand data before informing the public.

”

Agnes E. Attah – Diamond FM

Inaugural Convening of Community of Practice for Investigative Journalists in Ghana

The MFWA constituted the first Community of Practice (CoP) for Investigative Journalists in Ghana. It is a professional network built to strengthen collaboration, mentorship, and accountability reporting.

The CoP nurtures investigative talents and amplifies the collective impact of journalists working to promote accountability and fight corruption in Ghana.



Members of the Community of Practice for Investigative Journalists in a group photograph

Developing the Next Generation of Investigative Journalists

Media For Democracy
and Good Governance



A group photo of NGIJ fellows from cohort 7 of the NGIJ fellowship 2025

Under our Next Generation Investigative Journalism (NGIJ) Fellowship programme, we empowered 10 more early-career journalists with enhanced understanding and capacity to report on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation (DRM). The Fellows produced and published investigative stories and fact-checked claims, examining the human costs of Ghana's debt crisis, inefficiencies in revenue collection systems, and misleading official data.

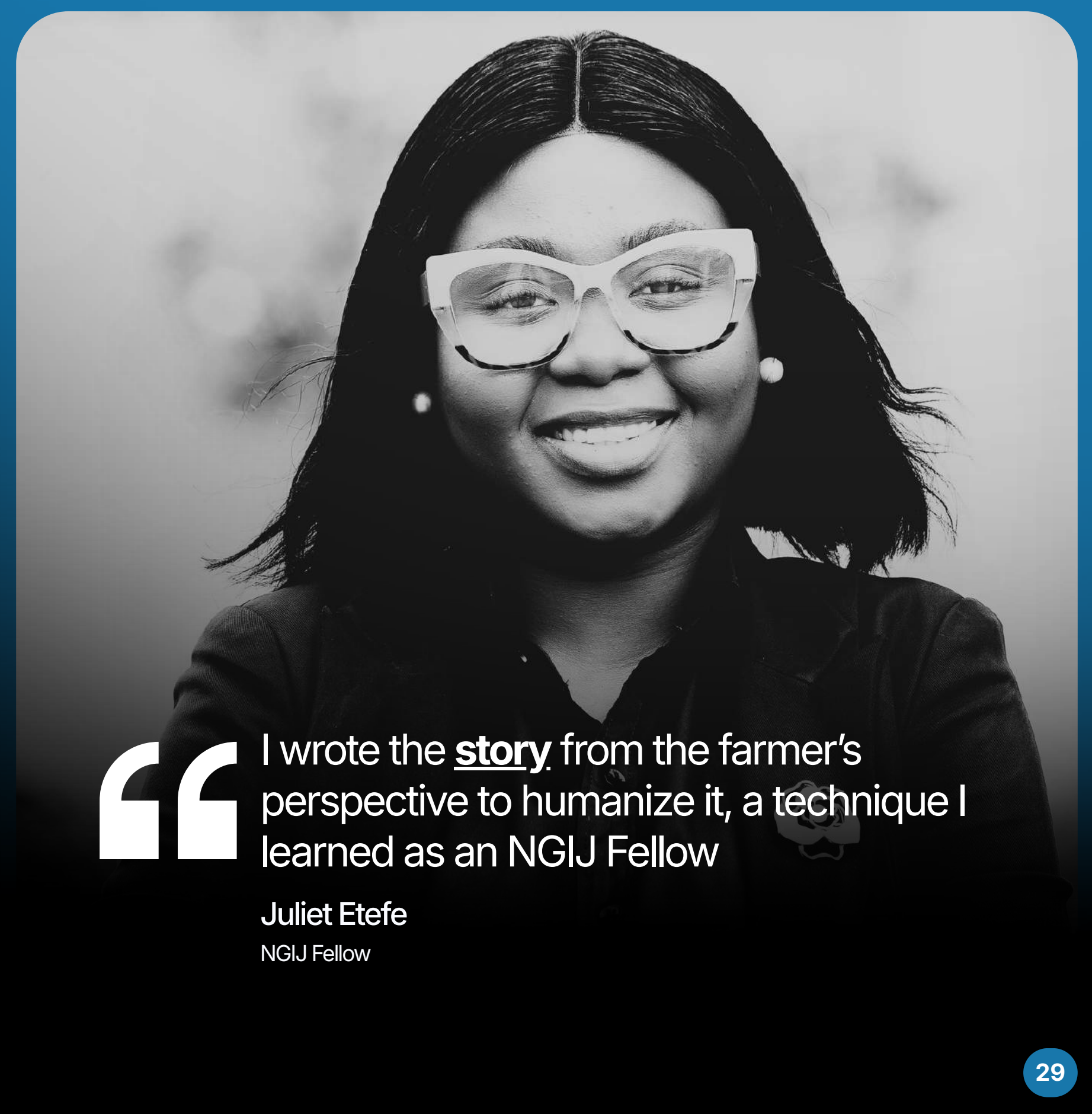
NGIJ Fellow wins National Cocoa Reporting Award

A black and white portrait of Mark Kwasi Ahumah Smith, a man with short hair, wearing a patterned shirt with a large, ornate collar. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

“

I have learned to probe issues deeper. I've also acquired the skill to present numbers through data visualization tools like infographics and maps, allowing me to tell impactful stories that communicate figures effectively.

Mark Kwasi Ahumah Smith
NGIJ Fellow

A black and white portrait of Juliet Etefe, a woman with long dark hair, wearing glasses and a dark top. She is smiling at the camera.

“

I wrote the story from the farmer's perspective to humanize it, a technique I learned as an NGIJ Fellow

Juliet Etefe
NGIJ Fellow

Research & Policy Engagement on Fiscal Justice

Media For Democracy
and Good Governance

To improve public awareness and strengthen evidence-based advocacy on domestic revenue systems, the MFWA produced and published a study on **"Tax Gaps, Illicit Financial Flows, and Revenue Mobilisation in Ghana"** covering September-December, 2025. The findings were disseminated at a public tax dialogue in Accra, engaging 70 participants, including tax and regulatory authorities, civil society actors, and media representatives, strengthening stakeholder understanding of fiscal leakages and promoting dialogue opportunity on policy and administrative reforms.

As part of public education, MFWA also produced and published a documentary on accountability gaps in property tax administration, exposing transparency and governance weaknesses in local revenue mobilisation systems and expanding public awareness of fiscal governance challenges.



Photos of participants and dignitaries at the Tax Dialogue

National Dialogue on Corruption and Governance

Media For Democracy
and Good Governance

Under our project titled: **Tax for Development: Strengthening Civil Society and Media for Fiscal Justice**, we convened in Accra, a national multi-stakeholder forum on anti-corruption and governance in June 2025.

Nearly 200 participants, including journalists, media associations, civil society actors, and accountability stakeholders deliberated on the legal and institutional loopholes that enable corruption and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Ghana.

Three key recommendations from the forum were:

- The need to resource anti-graft institutions and ensure their operational independence;
- Assets declared by government officials should be made public to improve transparency and accountability
- Strengthen physical and legal protection for whistleblowers



A cross section of participants at the National Dialogue.

Empowering Journalists with Tools for Fiscal Accountability Reporting

Media For Democracy
and Good Governance

To support sustained investigative reporting, MFWA launched a Media Guide on Illicit Financial Flows, Progressive Taxation, Resource-Based Lending, and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation in August 2025. The guide was rolled out through three regional sensitisation workshops held in Takoradi, Tamale, and Kumasi, benefiting more than 100 journalists. These engagements strengthened journalists' ability to apply technical concepts for fiscal accountability reporting.



Photos from the launch of IFF media guide and sensitisation workshops for journalists across Ghana



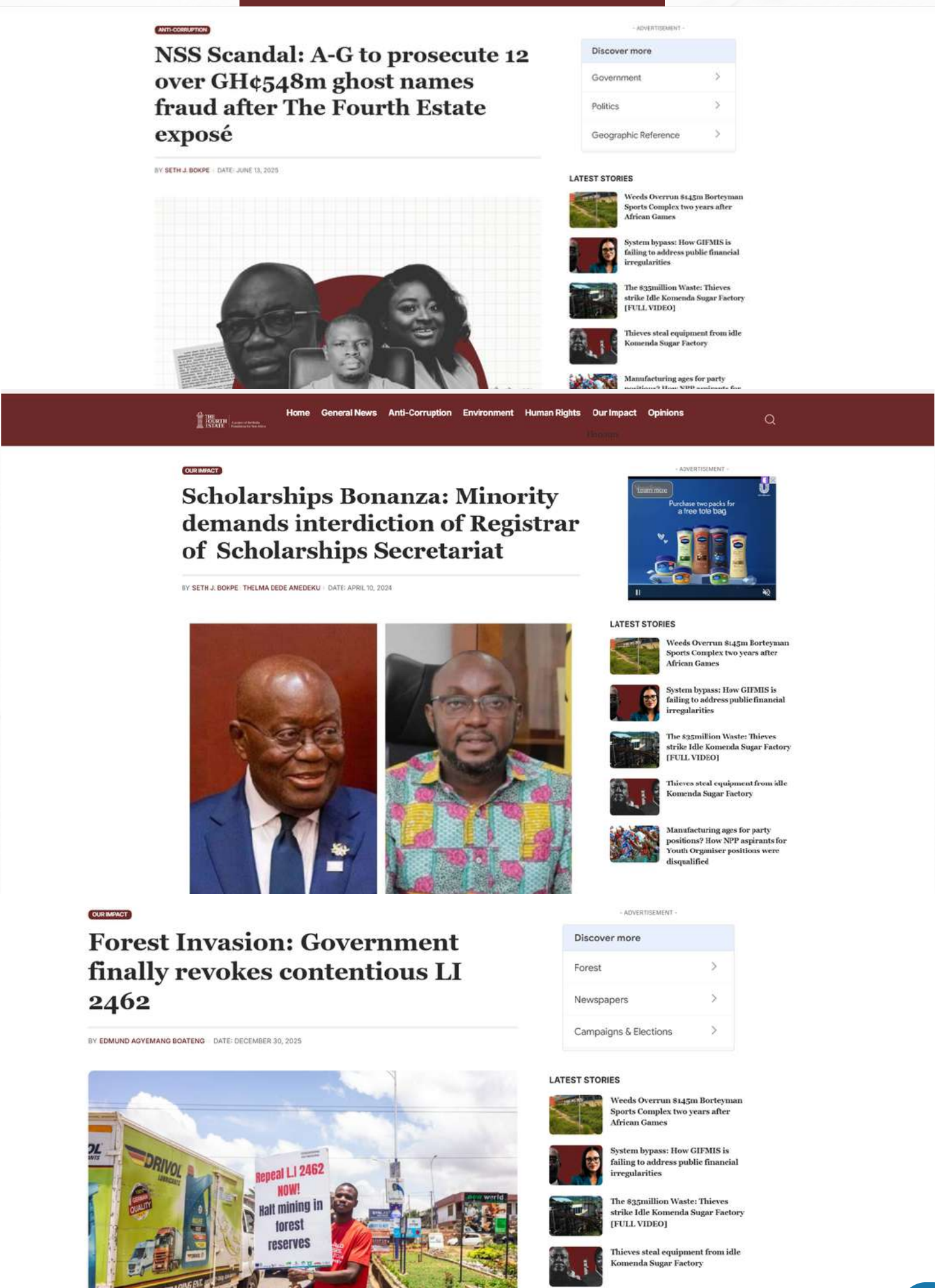
Our independent journalism project



The Stories, the Impact

From Exposure to Action: Governance and Justice Outcomes Triggered by The Fourth Estate

In 2025, our investigative journalism project, *The Fourth Estate*, produced investigations that triggered official inquiries, audits, arrests, prosecutions, and policy/legal reforms, while also securing remedies for citizens affected by systemic failures in Ghana.



NSS Scandal: Ghana Gov't suspends **national service digital system** after The Fourth Estate exposé

Anti-corruption
& Our Impact

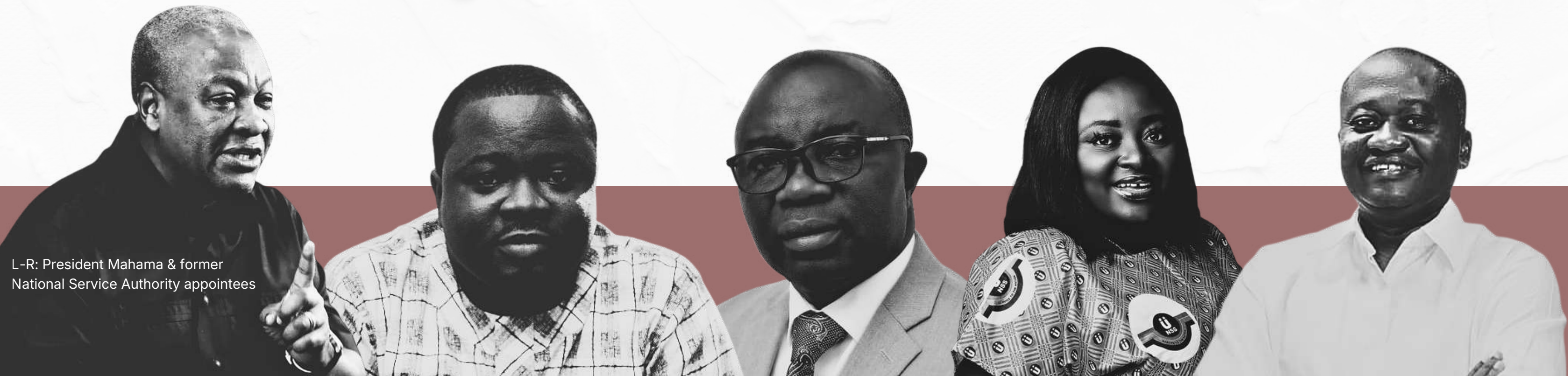
The Fourth Estate uncovered large-scale manipulation involving thousands of names of non-existent people (ghost names) in the personnel deployment database of Ghana's National Service Authority (NSA), the coordinating agency for its mandatory national service programme.

This raised concerns about corruption, value-for-money, and the integrity of the Centralised Service Management Platform (CSMP/ "Metric App"). Following the publication of a series of investigative stories, the Ministry of Youth Development and

Empowerment suspended the system and initiated a technical and forensic audit, leading to the deployment of a new platform.

The Attorney-General further opened an independent investigation, confirmed irregularities, and revised estimated losses from GH¢548 million to GH¢2.2 billion (22 October 2025).

Criminal proceedings were initiated, including charges against the former Executive Director, Osei Assibey Antwi, and his deputy, Gifty Oware Mensah, with multiple suspects reportedly seeking plea bargain arrangements.



L-R: President Mahama & former
National Service Authority appointees

National Lottery Authority (NLA) / KGL Deal – Regulatory and Legal Review:

Anti-corruption
& Our Impact

The Fourth Estate's reporting exposed the misuse of funds intended for social protection and raised transparency concerns around Ghana's National Lottery Authority's licensing arrangements with KGL. Following the publication, Ghana's telecommunications regulator, National Communications Authority (NCA) directed telecom companies to submit transaction data linked to KGL operations, while the matter moved into formal review by the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice, alongside steps to begin account reconciliation that had reportedly lapsed since 2019.



L-R: Member of Parliament, Sammy Awuku (top left), Former Chief of Staff, KGL Boss, Former AG, Godfred Dame, and musician D-Black

Unprecedented Asset Declaration Compliance following Presidency Enforcement

Anti-corruption
& Our Impact

Following the directive by Ghana's President, John Dramani Mahama, requiring political appointees to declare their assets under Article 286 and Act 550, *The Fourth Estate's* analysis found at least 55 appointees non-compliant and published the defaulters list.

This triggered a rapid enforcement by the Presidency, including summons, salary forfeiture (three months) for defaulters and a compliance push that produced an unprecedented level of asset declaration among presidential appointees within months.

L-R: President John Mahama;
& various government
appointees



Health & Human Dignity – **Fistula** Survivor Gets Immediate treatment



A human-interest investigation led to direct remedy for a survivor of obstetric injury. Following *The Fourth Estate's* reporting, the Ghana Health Service, working with the National Fistula Committee, supported treatment, and surgery at Ashaiman Hospital, which successfully repaired her condition—restoring health, dignity, and her reintegration into family life.

Legislative Reform of Ghana's Scholarship Awards Scheme

Following *The Fourth Estate's* exposure of inequities in Ghana's scholarship awards, Parliament passed the Ghana Scholarships Bill, enhancing transparency and fairness with measures like gender equity, publication of beneficiaries, and clearer criteria to strengthen accountability in education financing.



Environmental Governance – Reversal of Mining-in-Forest Policy:

Our Investigations that revealed how mining licences expanded into forest reserves contributed to the revocation of L.I. 2462 through the Environmental Protection (Mining in Forest Reserves) Revocation Instrument, 2025, which matured into law on 10 December 2025 after being laid in Parliament by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources. This effectively ended presidential authorisation of mining in forest reserves.

Ada Salt Miners Reclaim Economic Survival

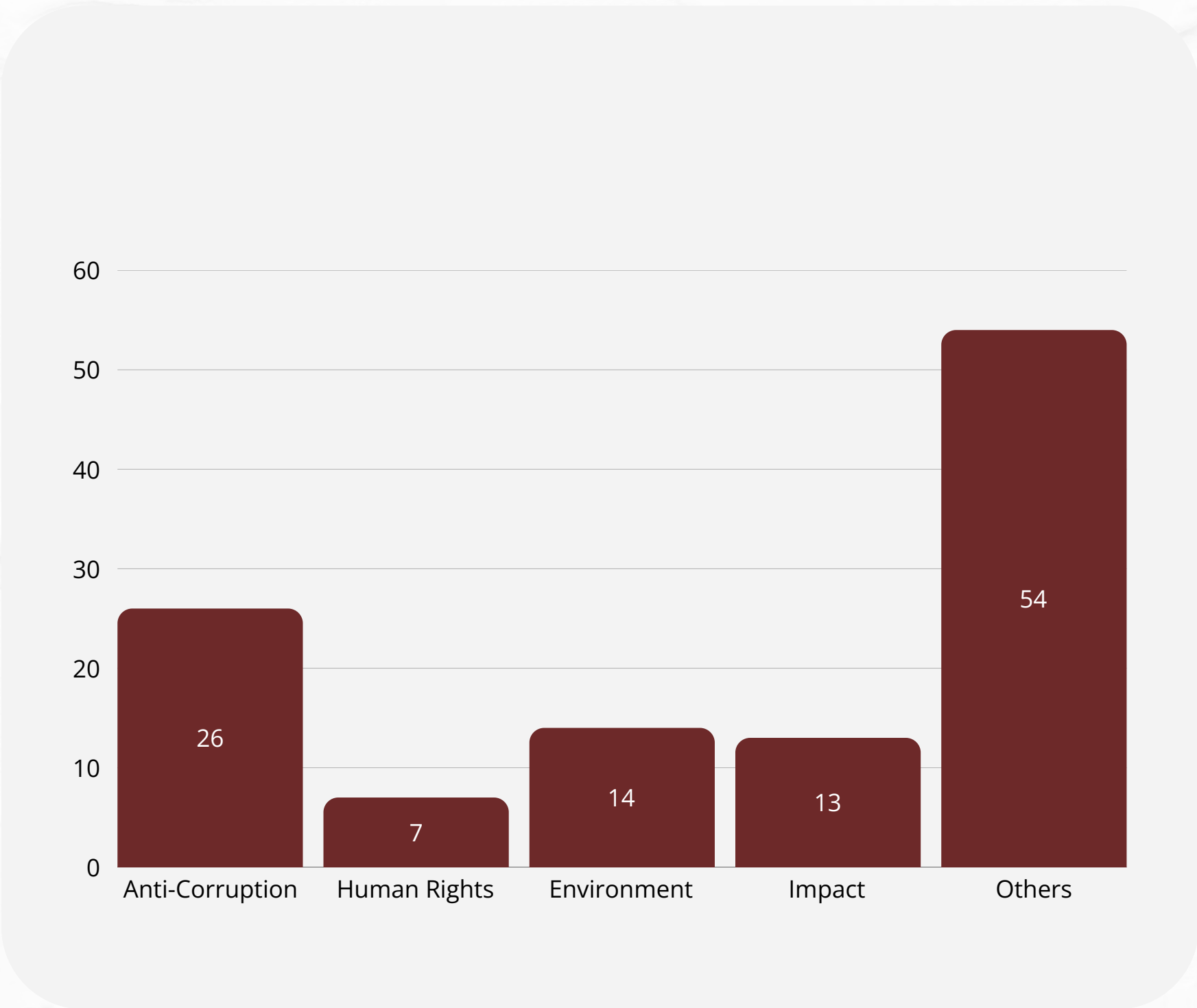
Anti-corruption
& Our Impact

Following *The Fourth Estate's* investigation, titled, ***Death and Brutality: The Battle for West Africa's Largest Salt Deposit***, which exposed human rights abuses linked to the Songor Lagoon lease, hundreds of artisanal salt miners in Ada, a town in the Greater Accra region of Ghana, have reclaimed portions of the lagoon previously claimed by private salt mining company, Electrochem Ghana Limited (EGL).



For the first time in years, more than 30 communities around the lagoon have resumed traditional salt mining. Families fractured by lost livelihoods are reuniting, as men who fled the area in search of survival have returned home.

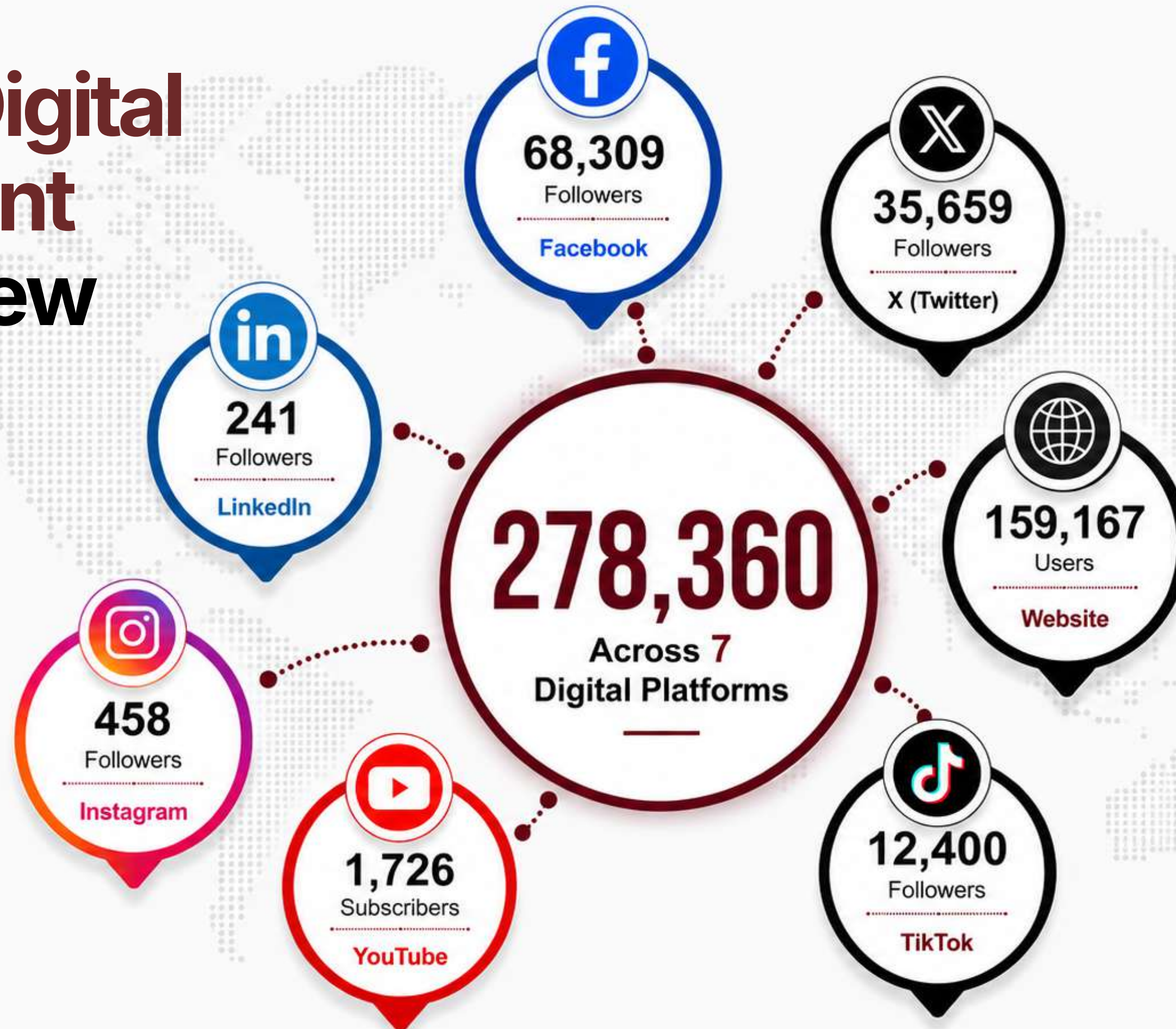
2025 Published Stories Overview



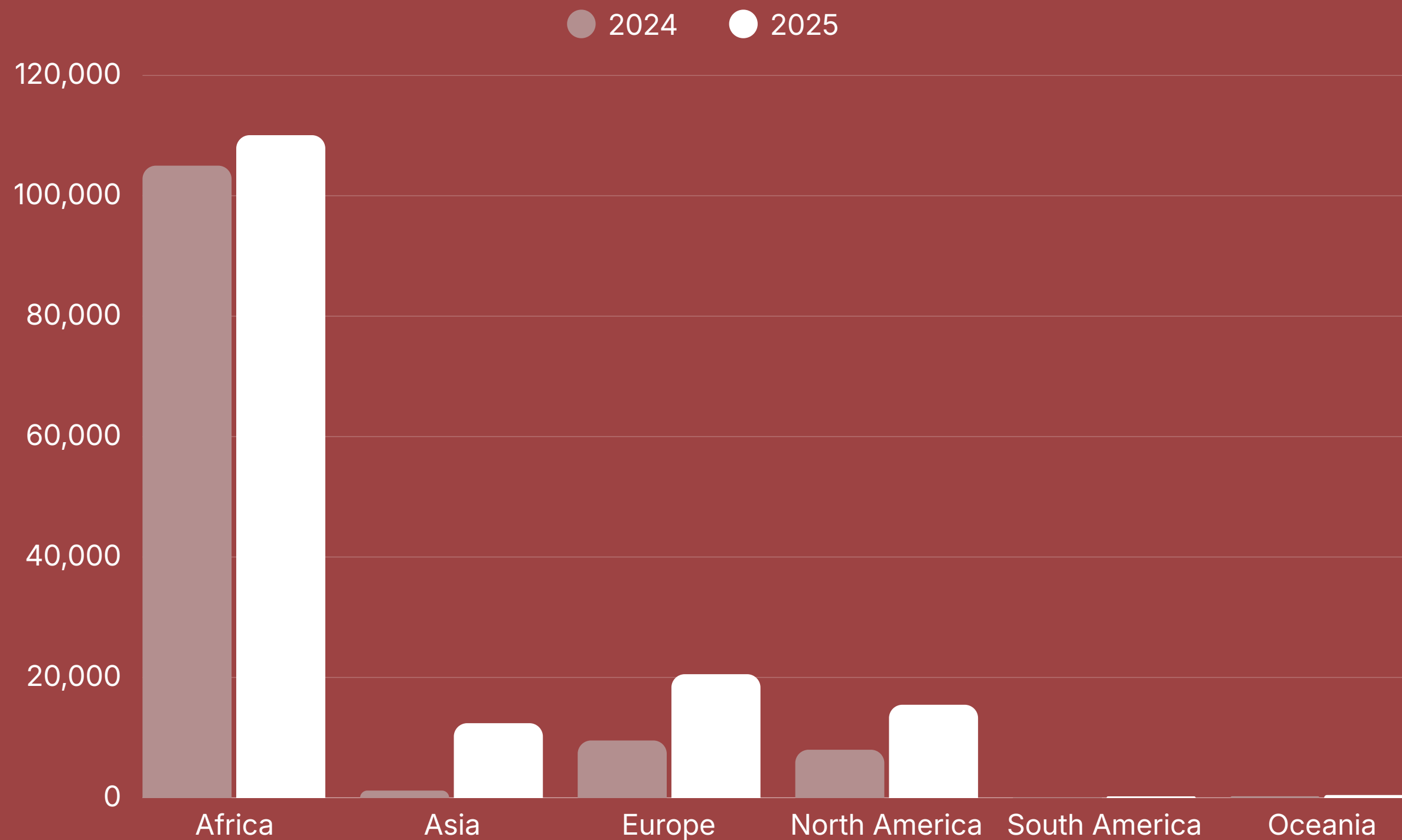
Others	54
Anti-Corruption	26
Human Rights	7
Environment	14
Impact	13
Total Number of Stories	114

A total of 114 stories were published with anti-corruption category being the highest with 26 stories.

2025 Digital Footprint Overview



Website Reach in 2025



Active Users by Region

Figures & year-on-year change

Region	2024	2025
 Africa	104,996	110,057
 Asia	1,207	12,397
 North America	7,989	15,460
 Europe	9,524	20,535
 South America	42	249
 Oceania	262	469
Total	124,020	159,167

MEDIA FOR PEACE & SOCIAL COHESION

- Affective Polarization
- Countering mis/disinformation & election integrity

In 2025, MFWA's Media for Peace and Social Cohesion Programme focused on countering disinformation, polarisation, and harmful narratives that threaten democratic stability, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence in Ghana and across West Africa. Through research, dialogue, training, and regional collaboration, the programme strengthened the capacity of media actors, political stakeholders, and civil society to promote informed public discourse and peaceful democratic engagement.



A group photograph of participants at the multi-stakeholder forum held in Koforidua

Resolving **Polarisation-Induced Policy Paralysis** on Illegal Mining

Under our intervention titled: *"Breaking the Gridlock: Resolving Polarisation-Induced Policy Paralysis in Ghana,"* the MFWA convened a high-level national dialogue in Koforidua in October 2025.

Stakeholders, including, state actors, parliamentarians, traditional and religious leaders, academics, media practitioners, legal experts, activists, and civil society organisations built consensus on solutions to Ghana's illegal mining (galamsey) crisis.





The dialogue culminated in the issuance of a national communiqué, outlining consensus-based recommendations on legal and regulatory reform, enforcement capacity, community leadership, sustainable livelihoods, environmental restoration, financial monitoring, and transparent national accountability mechanisms.

Photos of some participants at the High level National Dialogue on Galamsey in Koforidua



Countering **Disinformation and Polarisation** in Ghana's Democratic Space

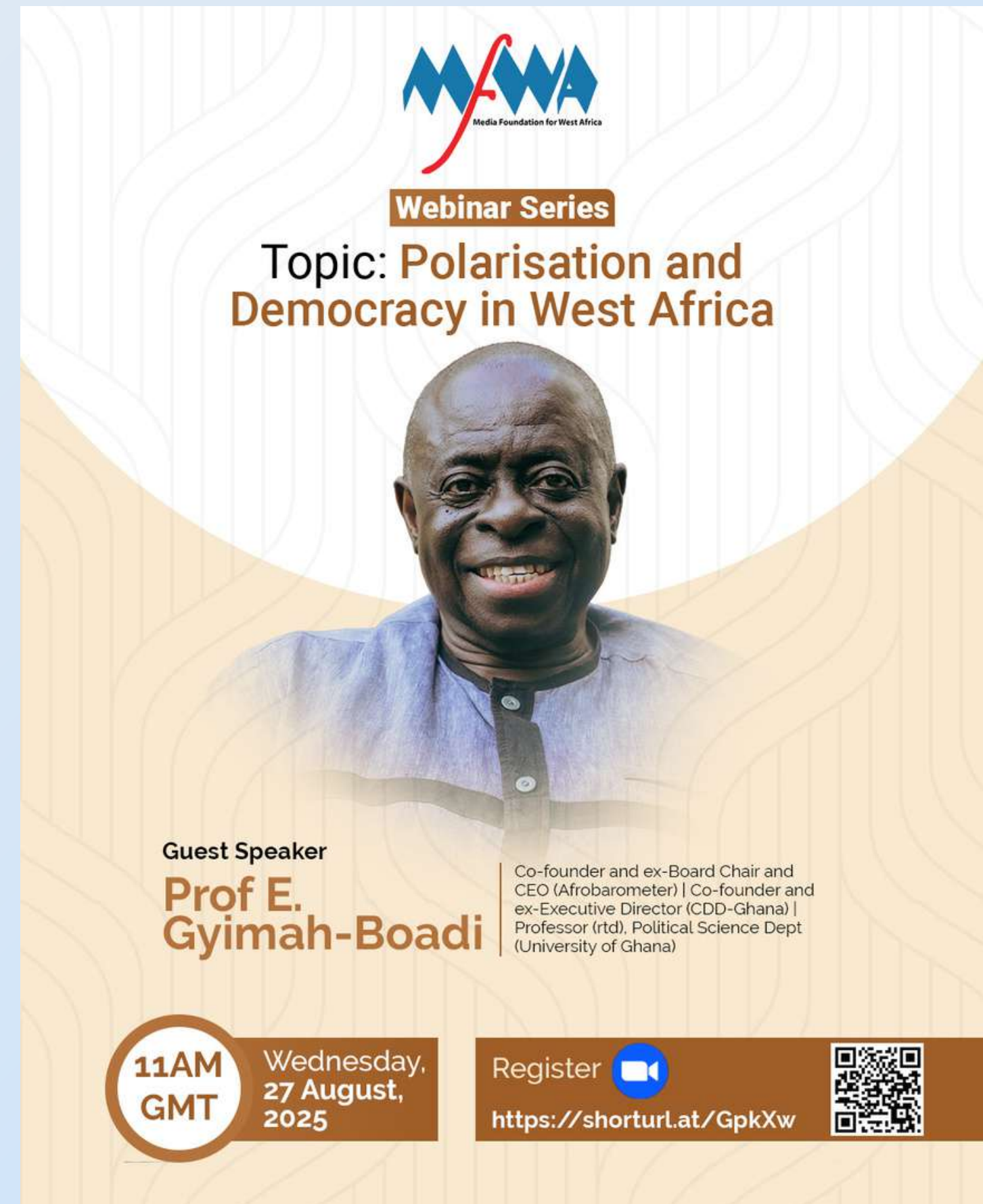
To help address information disorder during electoral processes, MFWA under its project ***"The Role of Political Parties and Other Stakeholders in Countering Information Disorder and Propaganda Narratives in the 2024 Elections in Ghana"***, launched and disseminated its comprehensive research publication on the state of mis/disinformation, polarisation, and state threats in Ghana.



The MFWA launched the Depolarisation and Democratic Norms Series (DDNS) to strengthen regional discourse on democracy and social cohesion.

A maiden webinar, held in August 2025, engaged 130 participants from across West Africa exploring the structural and historical drivers of political polarisation.

Participants also examined pathways for strengthening democratic norms, including decentralised governance, inclusive power-sharing, equitable resource allocation, citizenship reform, and sustained civic education.



The poster features the MFWA logo at the top, which consists of stylized blue and red letters 'MFWA' with the text 'Media Foundation for West Africa' below it. Below the logo, the text 'Webinar Series' is in a brown box. The main topic, 'Topic: Polarisation and Democracy in West Africa', is written in large, bold, brown letters. In the center is a portrait of Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi, a smiling man with short grey hair wearing a blue button-down shirt. Below the portrait, the text 'Guest Speaker' is in small black letters, followed by 'Prof E. Gyimah-Boadi' in large, bold, brown letters. To the right of his name, his credentials are listed in small black text: 'Co-founder and ex-Board Chair and CEO (Afrobarometer) | Co-founder and ex-Executive Director (CDD-Ghana) | Professor (rtd), Political Science Dept (University of Ghana)'. At the bottom left, a brown box contains '11AM GMT' in white, and another brown box contains 'Wednesday, 27 August, 2025' in white. To the right of these boxes is a brown box with 'Register' in white, a blue video camera icon, and the URL 'https://shorturl.at/GpkXw' in white. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

MFWA
Media Foundation for West Africa

Webinar Series

Topic: Polarisation and Democracy in West Africa

Guest Speaker
Prof E. Gyimah-Boadi

Co-founder and ex-Board Chair and CEO (Afrobarometer) | Co-founder and ex-Executive Director (CDD-Ghana) | Professor (rtd), Political Science Dept (University of Ghana)

11AM GMT **Wednesday, 27 August, 2025**

Register  <https://shorturl.at/GpkXw>



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Resources, Communications, Partnerships, & Results



Partnerships and Outreach

The MFWA leveraged on its MOU with ECOWAS in a number of engagements this year. We partnered ECOWAS and GIZ-Nigeria to deliver a large-scale Information Integrity Training Programme for journalists across eight ECOWAS member states. 275 journalists from state-owned broadcasters, private and mainstream media, print outlets, and digital platforms benefited from the trainings.

Countries: L-R: The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Benin.



Participants strengthened their skills in fact-checking, media and information literacy, conflict-sensitive reporting, and the ethical use of open-source intelligence tools. As a result, journalists were better equipped to identify and counter anti-democratic narratives, misinformation, and harmful content, while fostering cross-border collaboration among ECOWAS media professionals.



A group photo of dignitaries and participants in various trainings and workshop organized across the region

Additionally, the MFWA undertook institutional visits to key ECOWAS divisions, including the Directorate of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and the ECOWAS Parliament, to deepen collaboration on promoting the region's democratic governance agenda.



Photos: Staff of the ECOWAS Directorate of Communication, the ECOWAS Directorate of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) pose for a group photograph.



We also joined the ECOWAS Election Observer Mission to Cote d'Ivoire for the country's October 2025 presidential elections, contributing to regional efforts to promote credible, transparent, and peaceful elections.



A cross-section of ECOWAS Election Observers in Cote d'Ivoire

Improving **Institutional capacity** and programme delivery

Institutional
Development

As part of our continued efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance programme delivery, we welcomed several talented professionals to our team in 2025.



Michael Etrue
Programme Associate



Elizabeth Abena Egyin
Investigative Journalist



Nana Oduro Korankye
Graphic Designer



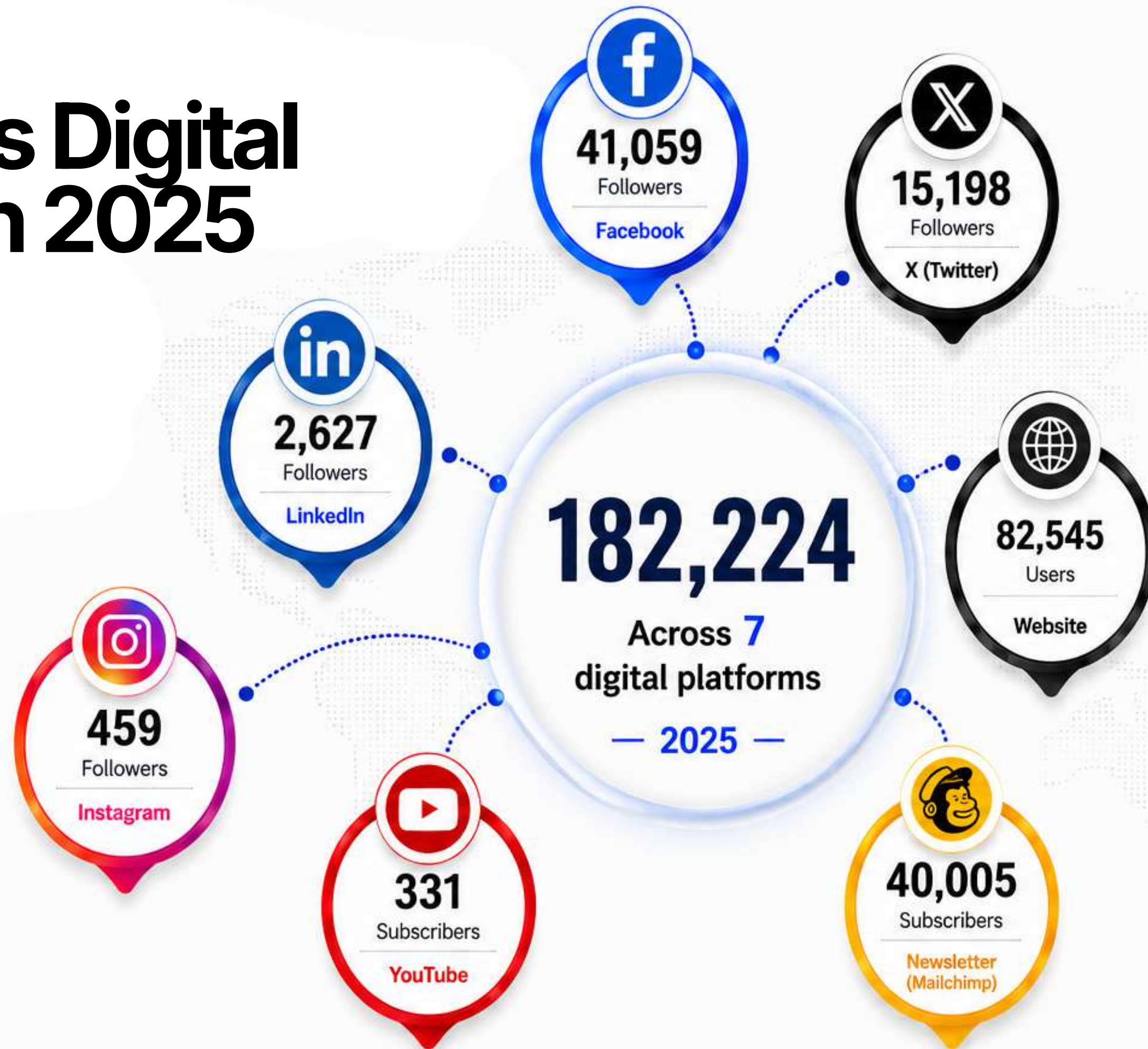
James Abbey
Video Editor



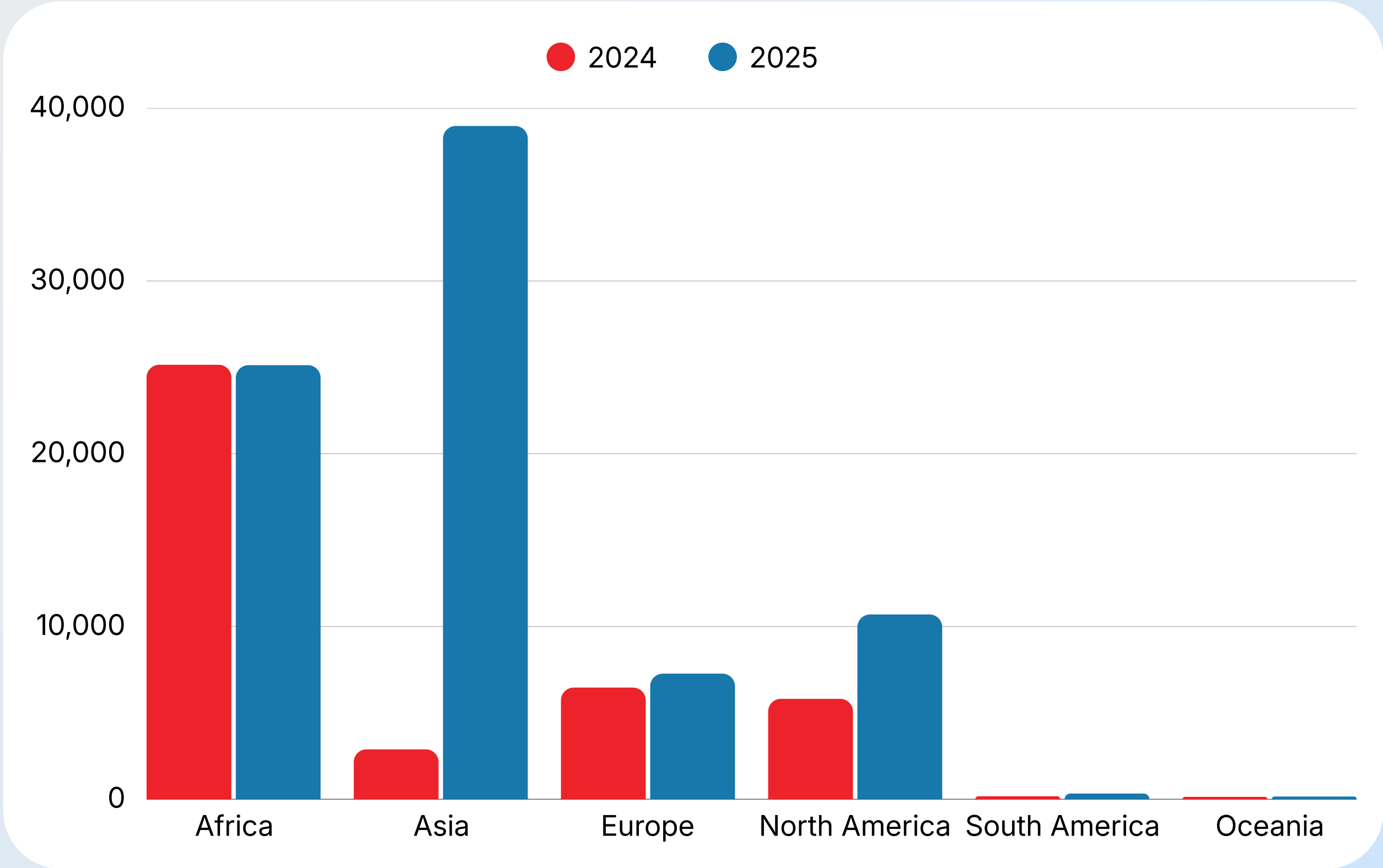
Institutional
Development

As part of our monitoring and evaluation processes, we organised quarterly staff learning events to reflect on our work and chart the way forward.

MFWA's Digital Reach in 2025



MFWA's Website Reach in 2025



Active Users by Region

Figures & year-on-year change

Region	2024	2025
 Africa	25,147	25,124
 Asia	2,888	38,967
 North America	5,812	10,695
 Europe	6,463	7,271
 South America	175	330
 Oceania	140	158
Total	40,625	82,545

2025 financial year

Institutional
Development



11.4%

New Partners

88.6%

Recurring Donors

USD 2.5 Million

in Grant Support

Securing **USD 2.5 Million** in Grants from a Diverse Group of Partners. **19 recurring donors & 2 new partners** enabled us to expand our initiatives.

Thanks to our funding partners



Our Major Publications in 2025

Strategy Document on Promoting Gender Equality in the Ghanaian Media



Polarisation and Democracy in West Africa



Illegal Mining and Implications on Peace, Community Resilience and National Security in Ghana

Professor Kwesi Aning and Mustapha Abdallah
Editor: Kojo Impraim, Ph.D.
September 2025



The Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact of Illegal Mining on Local Communities in Ghana

Kwaku Afari, Esq.

Editor: Kojo Impraim, Ph.D.

September 2025



Research Report for the High-Level Stakeholders Dialogue on Solutions to the Galamsey Crisis in Ghana: Mobilising Citizens Consensus

Editor: Kojo Impraim, Ph.D.

September 2025



Drawing the Linkages: Illegal Mining, Livelihoods, Agriculture and Food Security in Ghana

Isaac Kwabena Danso

Contributors:
Rafia Kanyiti Imoro-Kipo
Gifty Owusu
Hakeem Akwei Abekah-Brown

Editor:
Kojo Impraim, Ph.D.

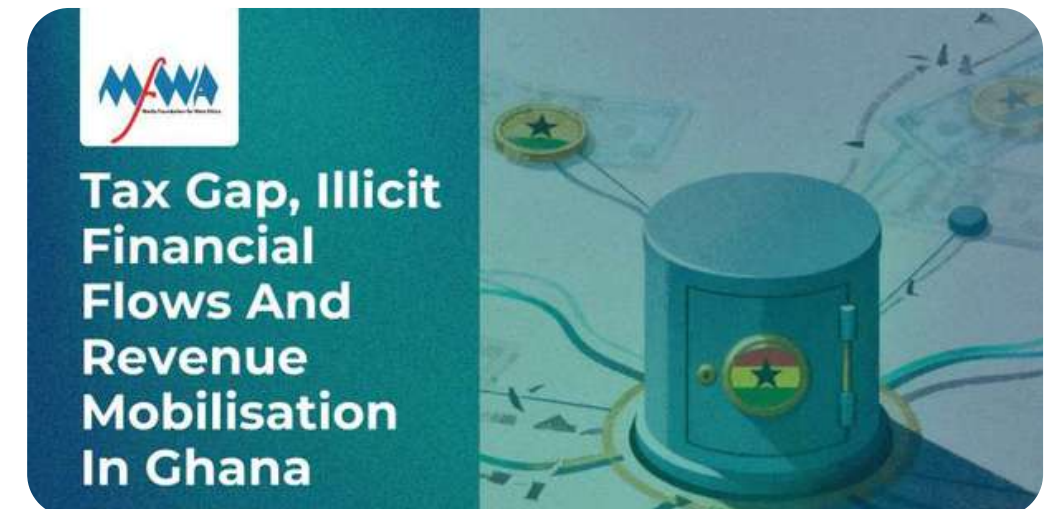


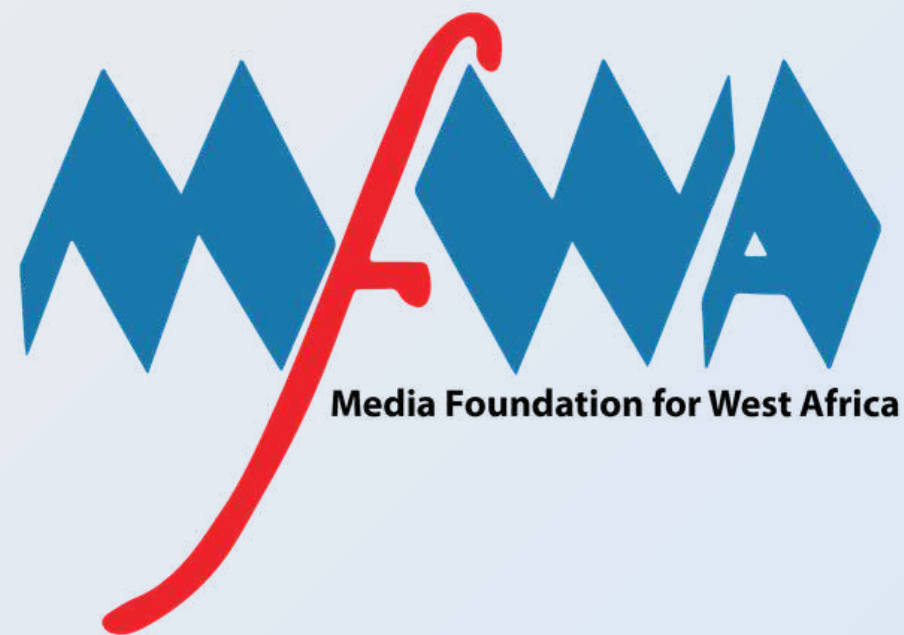
Paralysis of Mining Laws and Implications on Economic Development: A Contextual Analysis

Oliver Barker-Vormawor, Esq.



Tax Gap, Illicit Financial Flows And Revenue Mobilisation In Ghana





ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Empowering Media and Voices for Public Good

Media Foundation for West Africa
Aar-Bakor Street, Ogbojo

📞 +233 (0) 302 555 327

📘 Media Foundation for West Africa

✉ @TheMFWA

🌐 Media Foundation for West Africa(MFWA)

✉ info@mfwaw.org

🌐 www.mfwaw.org