

Postgres Summit US 2026, New York City, USA

From the Ground Up: Building and Growing PostgreSQL Communities in Africa

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DjangoCon US Organizer · Communications Lead, Python Ghana · Black
Python Devs

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What We Will Cover Today

01

Who I Am and Where I Come From

My story and why this talk matters

02

The State of Postgres in Africa

Where communities exist, where they are growing, and the gaps

03

Anatomy of a Grassroots Community

Roles, structures, and what makes communities sustainable

04

The Global-Local Partnership

How the global Postgres ecosystem can show up for Africa

05

What Comes Next

The future we are building, and an invitation to be part of it

A Geospatial Analyst with a love for Open Source and Open Technology

Based in Ghana

Working in GIS, Remote Sensing, Geospatial data science, and using Python/Django and other useful tools.

Co-Founder, PgGhana

Ghana PostgreSQL Users Group, the **first West African PostgreSQL community**

Open Source Community Involvement

- Communications Lead - Python Ghana Community
- Advisory Board - Black Python Devs
- DjangoCon US Organizer
- Individual Member, DSF

PostgreSQL Communities Across the African Continent

WHERE COMMUNITIES ARE GROWING



Madagascar

Very Active and **FIRST** Postgres user group in Africa



Cameroon

Early-stage community building underway



Kenya

Active Postgres user group, meetups in Nairobi



Togo

Early-stage community building underway



Ghana

PgGhana — first West African PostgreSQL community

***5 out of 54 countries have established
Postgres User Groups as of today!
More work to do for the rest!***

PgUG Community Leaders Across the African Continent

WHERE COMMUNITIES ARE GROWING



Baovola Marie Anna

Madagascar



Steve Yonkeu

Cameroon



**Ezra Yendau &
Benedict Kofi Amofah**

Ghana



Monica Oyugi

Kenya



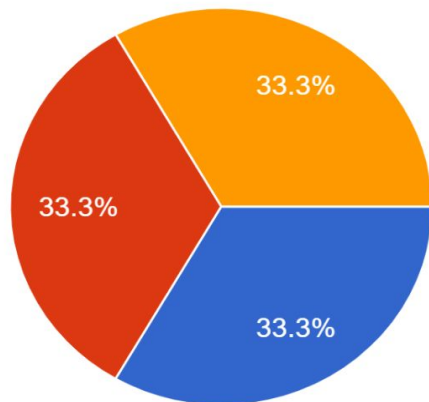
Salomon Biata

Togo

Why Are The Leaders Championing PostgreSQL User Groups Across Africa?

What was the primary reason you decided to start a PostgreSQL community in your country?

3 responses



- No existing PostgreSQL or open source community in my area
- A personal passion for PostgreSQL and open source
- Encouragement from the global PostgreSQL community
- A gap in professional development for local tech talent

Why Are The Leaders Championing PostgreSQL User Groups Across Africa?

In your own words, describe the moment or story that led you to start your community. What happened at your very first event?

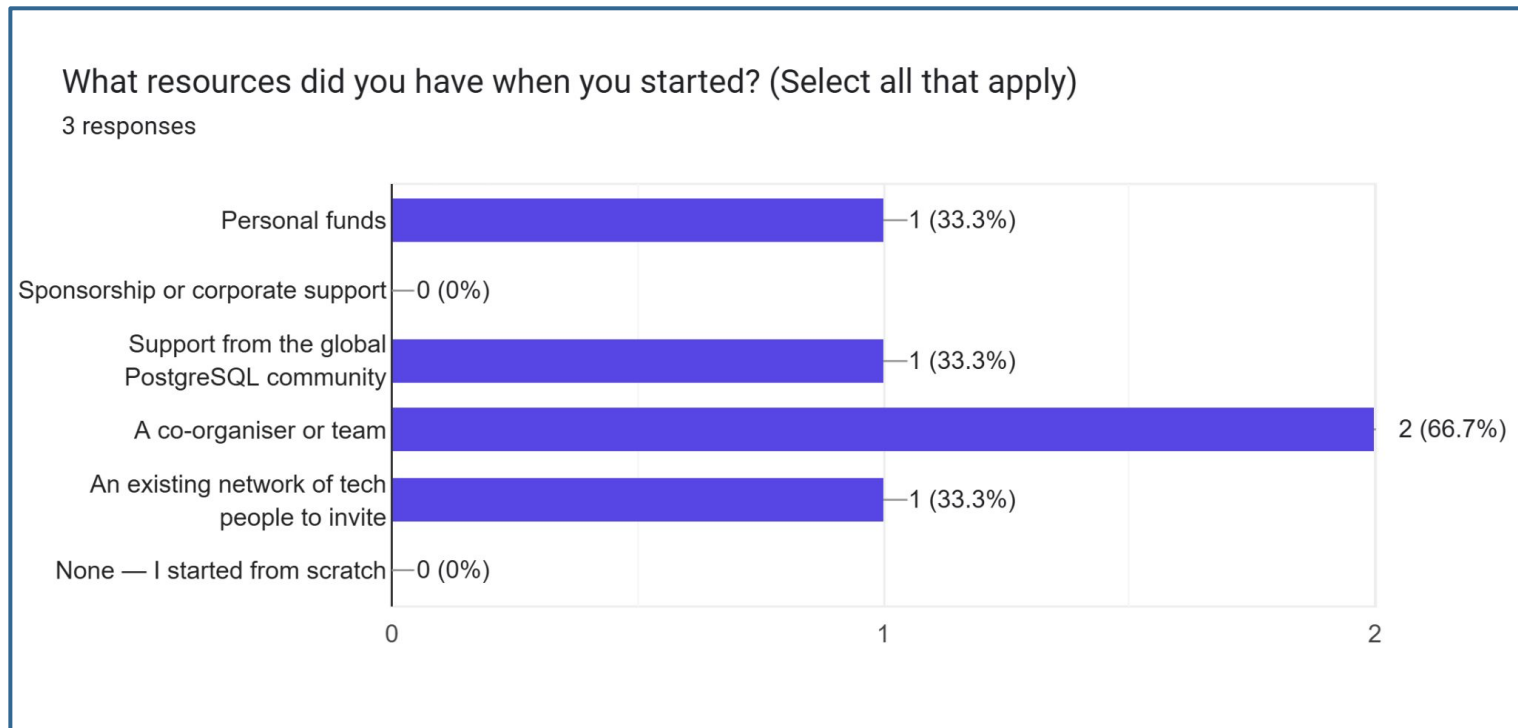
3 responses

Meeting in person with about 30 participants. That was our very first event.

After attending my first Postgres event in Montreal 2025 i was inspired to start one in my region.

While working on the Diversity and Inclusion team at the time, I noticed there were no PGUs in Africa, which struck me as inconsistent with the inclusive values we were promoting.

Why Are The Leaders Championing PostgreSQL User Groups Across Africa?



How PgGhana Was Born

The Problem

No local PostgreSQL community. Developers learning in isolation, no local events, no local mentors.

The Decision

Two individuals decided to change that: “*We just started with no permission needed*”.

PgGhana

The first West African PostgreSQL Users Group is born: meetups, knowledge sharing, community.

Today

A growing community of Postgres users, contributors, and advocates across Ghana and West Africa.

Not born from a grant. Not spun out of a corporate initiative.

Built by developers in Ghana who believed PostgreSQL deserved a home in West Africa.

Why African Developers Are Choosing PostgreSQL

Truly Open Source

No licensing fees. No vendor lock-in. Ownership of your own infrastructure which is critical for startups and governments building on constrained budgets.

Growing Open Source Education

The ongoing growth of open source education is fostering this acquisition as the go to database management tool

Community Trust

Postgres has a reputation for reliability and community integrity. Developers trust it because it has earned that trust over decades.

Enterprise Ready

As African startups and businesses scale, they need a database that scales with them without surprise costs or forced migrations to proprietary solutions.

The Roles That Make a Community Thrive

A healthy Postgres community is not just users — it is an ecosystem of interdependent roles.

Contributors

File bugs, write patches, review PRs. The technical heartbeat of the project.

Educators

Write tutorials, run workshops, translate docs. They lower the floor for everyone.

Organizers

Run meetups, coordinate events, maintain communication channels. They keep the community alive.

Mentors

Guide newcomers, answer questions, sponsor contributors. They ensure continuity.

Advocates

Champion Postgres in their workplace, community, and government. They drive adoption.

Most people only see contributors. Every other role is equally essential — and often more accessible as a first step into the community.

What It Actually Takes to Build a Community From Zero

1. **Start before you feel ready**

PgGhana did not wait for funding, a sponsor, or a perfect plan. We started with a meetup and a group chat.

2. **Lower the barrier to entry (Understand Your People)**

Not everyone will submit a PR. But anyone can attend a meetup, share a post, or introduce a friend.

3. **Protect your organizers**

Burnout is the number one killer of community momentum. Distribute responsibility early.

4. **Build in your language and context (Localization)**

A tutorial that makes sense in Accra looks different from one written in San Francisco. Local context is not a limitation — it is a feature.

5. **Celebrate small wins loudly**

First meetup. First blog post. First contributor. These moments build identity and momentum.

How the Global Postgres Ecosystem Can Show Up for Africa

WHAT IS WORKING

- Open documentation accessible to anyone, anywhere
- PostgreSQL's permissive license removes cost barriers
- Conference talks increasingly available online for free

WHERE THE GAPS ARE

- Documentation not available in major African languages
- African voices underrepresented at global conferences

The global community does not need to build these communities for us. It needs to resource, amplify, and trust the people already doing the work.

The Future We Are Building

- A PostgreSQL user group in every major African country, city and beyond
- Postgres documentation translated into Swahili, Hausa and beyond
- African schools teaching Postgres as a first-class database option (in most cases)
- African voices on stage at PGConfs, Postgres Summits, and beyond
- A continent-wide African PostgreSQL network that is connected, resourced, self-sustaining

The other chapter of PostgreSQL is being written in Africa.

We are ensuring this giant leaves a permanent, heavy footprint across Africa.

We are building — from the ground up.



scan to reach out to me

Thank you!

Find us on LinkedIn



scan for slides

Ghana PostgreSQL Users Group
PostgreSQL User Group Madagascar
Postgres User Group Cameroon
PostgreSQL Togo
PostgreSQL Nairobi User Group

Join us, support us, and learn from us—because we want to learn from you, too.