

Annual Report 2025

Voice4Thought Foundation



www.voice4thought.org

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Preface to the Annual Report

By 2025, the complex political developments on the world stage show a rise of autocratic regimes. For some people and their leaders, this shift reflects a deep frustration with years of poor governance, and we recognise that these are real and complex dilemmas, without easy solutions. But whatever form a political system takes, one thing is clear to us at Voice4Thought: every person has the civil right to express themselves and deserves real ways to do so. That belief is at the heart of everything we do. It is why we will keep showing up, with our humble mission to create room for critical voices, and to provide people the skills, the means, and the support to make themselves heard.

Voice4Thought sees media, in all its forms, as a creative space without borders. The Bon Buzz project in Chad has given voice to young media makers who felt squeezed in an increasingly polarized country, and who feared that the freedom to speak had all but vanished. But as Bon Buzz shows, depolarized storytelling is a powerful tool, capable of expressing ideas, that authoritarian leaders and their supporters might consider controversial, in ways that open minds rather than close them and what power tries to keep shut.

The V4T Academy in Mali has demonstrated the quiet power of theatre. Young artists brought difficult dilemmas of ethnic polarization to the stage, performing before audiences of military governors, soldiers, municipal officials, and opposing citizens. In those moments, theatre proved what politics often cannot: that unison is possible.

Voz'Pa in Colombia built a bridge between two communities that would normally never share the same story. In 2025, a pilot project connected Sibaté and San Basilio de Palenque through PhotoVoice, where participants documented their everyday lives with cameras, transforming personal images into texts, video blogs and a cultural exchange between both communities.

Over the past years, V4T has developed methods to carve out space for expression in difficult situations, where conflict and peace stand in constant tension. 2026 will be the year we aim to bring these methods to an even wider audience, drawing on our successes to deepen and strengthen our approach. An important step in this is the renewal and launch of our website resultra.org, creating a dedicated space for publications from across our programmes. More information about our organisation and projects can still be found at voice4thought.org.

With great energy, we look ahead to 2026!

"Si des conflits vous menacent, souvenez-vous des vertus du dialogue et de la palabre !"
(If conflicts threaten you, remember the virtues of dialogue and the palaver!)
Amadou Hampâté Bâ, *Brief aan de Jeugd*, 1985

On behalf of the V4T team and the Board,

Mirjam de Bruijn, General Director

About Voice4Thought

Voice4Thought: dialogue and knowledge to think critically

Vision

Voice4Thought is a nonprofit foundation that offers a platform where different voices can participate in building an inclusive debate and critical knowledge on social, political and economic issues of our time. Most of these voices are actors in long-standing, often unseen, unrecognised, silenced or forgotten social and political processes of change in their countries of origin and across borders. We believe in the power of storytelling in multiple ways. Therefore, we provide them with a digital and physical space to tell their stories through academic, artistic, and journalistic expressions, workshops and outlets, and provide a space for others to rethink the world critically.

Mission

We seek to bring academia to the streets and the streets to academia: we believe in knowledge as the result of a co-creative process in which we seek for new connections and opportunities to learn in order to enable dialogue between academia, decision-makers and civil society. The reciprocal process is at the core of our aim to develop new methodologies for understanding (political) change in societies and giving a space to the unheard voices. The power of diverse Voices (V) and ways of Thinking (T) helps us to rethink our world from a critical perspective. Together we can set up new and innovative ways of creating and sharing knowledge and create an inspiring knowledge community of engaged people.

What we do

The core of Voice4Thought is our digital platform where we connect all dots. Nevertheless, we are equally engaged in on-the-ground projects and events. We host a platform for bloggers worldwide and organise workshops, debates and cultural events. We support voices and collectives with whom we work in writing and executing projects, such as the Voice4Thought Academy in Mali and Bon Buzz in Chad.

In our work we focus on the use and integration of different media and sources: text, video, photography, audio, cartoons and multimedia. We use different and new research methodologies in an experimental framework, which involves using visuals to promote an interactive fruition of our projects. With this approach, we aim to elaborate new forms of dissemination of knowledge by collaborating with cultural organisations, universities and publishing houses to start new initiatives inspired by the V4T philosophy.

ANBI Status and Chamber of Commerce

Voice4Thought Foundation is recognised by the Dutch Tax Department as a public benefit organisation. It has an ANBI status (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling). The RSIN fiscal number of the foundation is 856321382. We are registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce/Kamer van Koophandel (KvK 65930029).

More information can be found on our website: www.voice4thought.org

Highlights and projects

1. Voice4Thought Academy Mali

For Voice4Thought Académie in Mali, 2025 marked the closing year of the PGLR+ programme. After six years of intensive training, creating and celebrating together, the V4TA family is alive and kicking, and ready for new adventures. In 2025, the production of theatre plays, documentaries and research reports reached a new level, and the teams across the 8 provinces have grown into true professionals. This year also marked another milestone: V4TA became an official Malian association, enabling it to seek funding at a national level. The future of V4T and V4TA is one of partnerships, and we are grateful to PGLR+ and the consortium members for the opportunity to build V4TA in Mali to the point where it now stands: on the threshold of autonomy.

One example of V4TA's work in 2025 comes from one of the most forgotten regions of Mali, where conflict has made access extremely difficult. The Inner Delta of the Niger is largely under jihadist occupation, yet the V4TA team did everything in their power to continue working in the region and to invest in the future of its youth.



From 17 to 21 January 2025, Tenenkou hosted a creative residency organised by the V4T Académie team from Douentza. Over five days, young leaders from the communes of Tenenkou, Diondiori, Diaka and Diafarabé came together to form an artistic troupe dedicated to community awareness, centred on the theme of women and elections in Mali. The residency aimed to promote women's participation in electoral processes through artistic expression, with the outcomes to be showcased during an awareness tour across the participating communes.

View our [Facebook page](#) for updates and activities of the programme.

2. Bon Buzz: depolarizing journalism

2025 was the year the Bon Buzz project in Chad could harvest the fruits of its increasing popularity. The workshops we gave in 2023 and especially in 2024 reached far more people beyond the actual participants. Through social media, online news platforms and lobbying the name of Bon Buzz starts buzzing itself. That's how GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), a major funder and development organisation got to know about the Bon Buzz project. Voice4Thought organised a tailor-made training, applying the Bon Buzz method on a specific theme: nomadic pastoralism. The project coined 'Reporting on nomadic pastoralism in dire straits' resulted in a range of publications, of which some have also been published on Voice4Thought's publication platform www.resultra.org. The goal was to provide a counter force to the polarisation centered on the Chadian nomads, by publishing nuanced stories on nomadic pastoralism. 22 participants benefited directly from the training, many more, through the publication of depolarised stories.

In the beginning of 2025, 28 February 2025 to be precise, Voice4Thought organised a conference at the CEFOD in N'Djamena. This coincided with the end of the Bon Buzz 2 course and was aimed at raising awareness of Bon Buzz, its subject matter and methodology. Eight different media outlets were present to cover the event. We had a panel of four members: one from CRASH, two former participants and the editor-in-chief of FM Liberté, one of Chad's leading radio stations.

2.1 Bon Buzz Réseau

The Bon Buzz Réseau project was carried out from May 2025 to January 2026 by Voice4Thought in collaboration with CRASH and built on the highly successful previous Bon Buzz training sessions. The main objective was to establish lasting connections among former participants within a national network of Chadian journalists, bloggers, and influencers focused on media depolarization.

The project combined publications, writing workshops, conferences, field research, and webinars on topics such as climate change, social media, identity, and agro-pastoral conflicts. In total, this resulted in nine publications, several public events, radio broadcasts, and field research. In addition to knowledge transfer, strengthening journalistic skills, cooperation, and co-creation were central priorities. In-person meetings proved essential for strengthening bonds and motivation.

Despite limited resources and challenges regarding support and publication, the project clearly contributed to dialogue, mutual understanding, and professional growth. The evaluation highlights the importance of intensive support and recommends a follow-up with a more robust structure for the publication process and regional coordination.



Photo left: visit at Mandela FM radio station in N'djamena by the Bon Buzz Team.
 Photo right: Bon Buzz event hosted together with Bon Buzz members in Mongo.

Check for updates and activities on the [Bon Buzz Réseau Facebook](#) page. Published articles can be found on [Resultra.org](#).

3. VozPa'Colombia

In 2025, VozPa'Colombia launched a pilot project in two Colombian communities: Sibaté and San Basilio de Palenque. The project focused on amplifying stories from marginalized contexts through workshops and creative productions.

A key component was the PhotoVoice project, in which participants documented their everyday lives using cameras and shared these stories through texts and videos, culminating in a cultural exchange between the two communities. In addition, participants took part in workshops on conducting in-depth interviews and transforming them into published pieces.

In Sibaté, the focus was on writing workshops and developing journalistic skills, resulting in a first blog and several ongoing projects. In Palenque, the emphasis was on audiovisual storytelling, where photographs were transformed into video blogs. Watch one of the produced video's [here](#).

Partners of the pilot project are: La Chiva Loca in Sibaté and NWS LATAM VZW in Antwerp, Belgium.

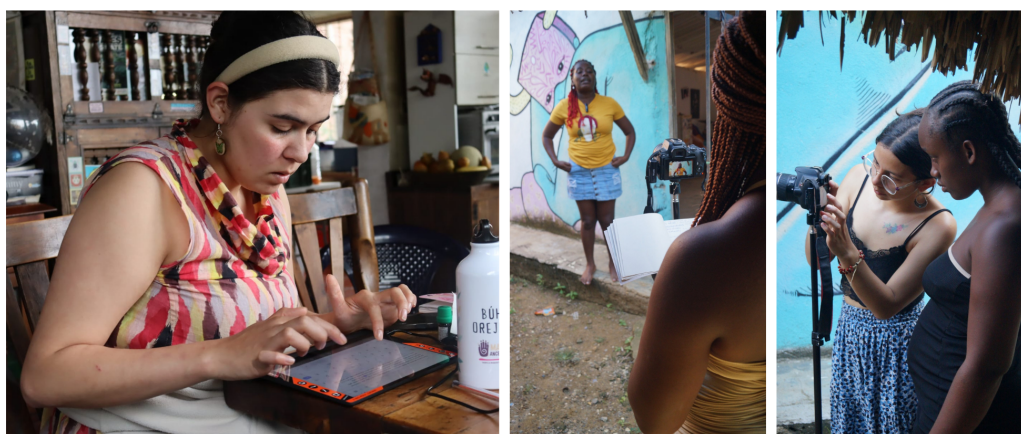


Photo left: Participant of the PhotoVoice workshop in Sibate.

Photo middle and right: Recording of mini-documentaries about Palenque in which women share stories about their community.



Photo: Julio Manrique Psychiatric Hospital, from the [PhotoVoice series](#) 'A place of mysteries and stories embedded in its architecture'.

4. TiaSauti@Lab

In August 2025, Voice4Thought continued work on TiaSauti@Lab, an atelier to explore Swahili orature via digital content for which we conducted a pilot recording in Lamu in 2024. On the Kenyan coast, additional readings were captured in a recording studio in Mombasa and the office in Lamu of the newly founded Swahili Libraries CBO, whose members participated in the production of the project. The voices were of two talents: a madrassa (quran school) teacher from Mombasa and a female poet from Pate island (Lamu). In 2026, the previous and new recordings are edited into the first series of vodcasts (video podcasts) that will be published on Voice4Thought's Resultra platform.

A related project, UMADA (Ustadh Mau Digital Library), centered on the digitisation of poetry manuscripts and audio recordings from Lamu; Voice4Thought was involved in teaching audio digitisation in workshops in 2022. UMADA was completed in 2024 and a follow-up proposal was submitted to UCLA (MEAP project) to continue digitisation, where V4T would play an administrative and project coordinator role for two years. Results of the application are expected during summer 2025, and the content would feed back into TiaSauti@Lab.



Photo: Assad Ahmad recording Swahili prose in a Mombasa studio, August 2025.

5. Bridging Humanities

The journal and publication platform Bridging Humanities has had a quieter year in 2025. Following the merger of Brill Publishers with DeGruyter (Berlin), the relationship with our publishing partner needs to be redefined. Initial discussions with Brill-DeGruyter suggest that the new combination may require Bridging Humanities to reorient itself and adopt a more business-driven model, a direction that calls for careful consideration. V4T is therefore exploring the possibility of joining another publishing house, and the first steps towards this will be taken in 2026.

View our last publication on nilepop.bridginghumanities.com.

6. Microgrants

Through microgrants, [Voice4Thought](#) supports individuals from its network in further developing themselves and building a sustainable future. These microgrants are intended for people with whom we have built meaningful relationships and whom we wish to support in taking the next step in their personal or professional development. Equally important is our commitment to maintaining long-term connections within our network. We see these microgrants as part of an ongoing exchange of knowledge and experience: a reciprocal process in which recipients contribute, in their own ways, to knowledge production, reflection, and publication.

Support that Voice4Thought provides can be in the form of education, through the Study Fund or Nchinda Horizon, formerly known as Education Cameroon (a specific program for schoolchildren in northwest Cameroon), but we also provide nonprofit wages for individuals to help them take a step further towards financial stability in a context of, amongst others, conflict, oppression, marginalisation, like the fund for displaced herdsmen in Mali.

The core motive of granting the microgrant is creating the opportunity for letting their voices and stories be heard. The recipients are responsible, in co-creation with Voice4Thought, for giving this shape.

Microgrants are funded by donations.

6.1 Study Fund

The [Study Fund](#) gives out scholarships to motivated students who want to personally grow and increase their knowledge but do not have the means to realise their ambition.

By 2025, we have supported Deuhb Zyzou, a journalist from our network, by paying fees for a school in journalism in Liege, France.

In 2026, we plan to explore ways to improve the Study Fund's operations, including fundraising and the selection process.

6.2 Nchinda Horizon

The programme Education Cameroon will from now on continue as Nchinda Horizon. Lukong Godwill and Gosse van Dijk, with the help of a team of volunteers, have been working to bring the story of this beautiful project to a wider audience, resulting in their own webpage and a beautiful logo.



The new name is inspired by the word "Nchinda", which means guardian light in a local language spoken in and around Bamenda. Nchinda Horizon continues, together with Voice4Thought, to work towards helping underprivileged children from the Bamenda area obtain their school diplomas. And with results! So far, eight young adults have successfully completed secondary school with our help, and 22 children are well on their way to reaching this milestone. Funding for the next school year is not yet fully secured, so if you would like to help us continue this good work, visit the website and consider donating or helping in another way: <https://nchindahorizon.org/>

In September 2025 we paid the school fees for the children and they are on track to complete the school year successfully. However, it does not come without setbacks. When we speak with the children, we notice that it is not easy. The constant threat of attacks and violence, the lockdowns (periods in which all public life is forced to a standstill) and the general standstill in Bamenda make going to school a challenge. Classes are cancelled far more often than in other parts of the country, and yet the children must cover the same curriculum and meet the same requirements as children elsewhere in Cameroon. A poignant example of this is that in January, some of the Nchinda Horizon children had to flee the classroom during an exam due to nearby gunshots. Despite these difficulties, the children do manage to pass their subjects. That is an enormous achievement.

A bright spot in Bamenda this year was the visit of Pope Leo XIV to Bamenda on 16 April. The Pope reminded the world of the forgotten crisis in Bamenda. The separatists even observed a three-day ceasefire during the Pope's visit. Let us hope that this visit contributes to a more peaceful future for Bamenda.

6.3 Fund Herdsmen Bamako

Since 2015, central Mali has become increasingly unsafe due to violence by various armed groups, including the army, the Wagner Group, Dozo militias, and jihadists. Fulani pastoralists, known for their semi-nomadic livestock herding in the Sahel, are caught between these groups. Because some Fulani have joined jihadist movements, the wider Fulani community is often associated with terrorism and targeted by violence, even though

most are not affiliated with any armed faction. As a result, many flee through dangerous routes to Bamako. To support a group of herders and cattle traders there, a non-profit loan fund has been established. The project also aims to give them a voice by documenting their experiences and stories of the conflict.

Over the year of 2025, the herdsman in Bamako have been living in difficult circumstances. Cattle markets were repeatedly attacked and frequently forced to close, disrupting the group's main economic activity of buying and reselling livestock. In addition, several members of the herders' group fell ill. Living on the margins of the capital city is extremely difficult. Despite these hardships, the herders managed to repay a large part of the loan, making it possible to use the returned funds for a new round of loans.

Website and Facebook statistics

1. Website statistics

Voice4thought.org

In 2025, the total number of visitors to Voice4Thought.org was 18,000, an increase of 193,8% from the year before. 17,000 of them had not previously visited the site. About 14,000 of those were from China and Singapore, which do not constitute V4T target audiences. The majority of hits were on the homepage and the 'About' page. A possible explanation is the newly launched website getting a better search engine response.

V4tacademie.org

V4TAcademie.org during all of 2025 got a total of 1700 visitors. While internet access among users in Mali is still on the rise, visits to websites are low compared to the use of social media. This is emphasized by the statistics of V4T Academie on social media. Starting in 2025, the [TikTok channel of V4T Academie](#) had a few very successful video posts, including one posted on 25 June, which has reached 1,8 million views, 62000 likes, 1554 comments and 9530 bookmarks. The second most visited video has reached 925000 views, and there are two others that went viral with over 30000 views to date, while other video posts typically reach between 2000 and 3000 views. All of the material posted there originates in the projects set out by V4T Academie in the active regions around the country. Leading up to V4T Academie becoming an independent organisation, in 2026 the site was updated to better reflect the achievements and continued activities of the organisation in Mali.

2. Facebook statistics

In 2025, the Voice4Thought Facebook page received a total of 4700 views to its videos, posts and other content. The page itself got a total of 795 visits.

In 2026, V4T will revise its social media strategy, to align with the new content approach where new content will be posted mostly on Resultra.org.

Organisation in 2025

The Voice4Thought team consists of an enthusiastic group of people who aim to connect different worlds, in collaboration with others. The organisation serves as a unifying platform where individuals, each driven by their own motivations, develop and promote their eclectic projects. In 2025, the team consisted of:

Vera Bakker	photographer, editor & researcher
Mirjam de Bruijn	general director & researcher
Maartje van den Eijnden	finance & organisation
Thomas Gesthuizen	web & IT, researcher
Laurens Nijzink	journalist, researcher
Jasmijn Peeters	researcher
Sjoerd Sijsma	audiovisual specialist & artist
Catherina Wilson	researcher
Pelle Yntema	researcher

Local teams

In the countries where we carry out projects, there are local teams representing V4T. Below is a list of the key personnel:

Team Cameroon, Nchinda Horizon, Bamenda

Godwill Lukong	project manager
Gosse van Dijk	co-project manager

Team Mali, Voice4Thought Academy Mali, Bamako

Modibo Galy Cisse	project manager
Mamadou Togola	monitoring and evaluation
Tabita Goita	finances
Aboubacar Camara	responsible visual arts

Team Chad, Bon Buzz, N'djamena

Kelpessang Claudine	coordinator, trainer
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Daliam Gérard editor, trainer
Bruno Allahisse (CRASH) representative CRASH, trainer

1. Board and Advisory Board

We were very happy to welcome our new supervisory board member Walter Gam Nkwi in June 2025.

Supervisory Board

Maarten Mous
Fiona Dragstra
El Haje Amedou Sy
Walter Gam Nkwi

Advisory Board

Balt Leenman
Kitty Zijlmans
Anonymous member

Our Supervisory Board and Board of Advisors are not remunerated for their contributions to the organisation.

2. Collaboration and funding

Active Partnerships in 2025

Bridging Humanities, the Netherlands
Chad+, Chad
Coup d'Afrique Slam de Poésie (CASP), Cameroon/Chad
CRASH, Chad
Eyeses, the Netherlands
Five Stars, Chad
ICCO/CORDAID, the Netherlands/Mali
Leiden Global, the Netherlands
Ndjam s'enflamme en slam, Chad
Oxfam, the Netherlands/Mali
Slameroun, Cameroon
SNV, the Netherlands/Mali

Funding partners and donors in 2025

Dutch Embassy, Mali

Fondation Hironnelle, Switzerland
IHE Delft, the Netherlands
European Union, Chad
GIZ, Germany
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, the Netherlands
Leiden University, the Netherlands
University of Wisconsin, United States of America

We have also received private donations for the Cameroon Education program and the Study Fund.

Looking forward to 2026

- VozPa'Colombia will launch a PhotoVoice programme in Cazucá and facilitate a workshop on tactical writing in Soacha.
- Nchinda Horizon, the successor to Education Cameroon, will be officially launched under its new name. A key focus will be writing a project proposal, a process that will actively involve students from the programme itself, ensuring that the youth whose future is at stake have a voice in shaping it. Voice4Thought's commitment remains to continue creating meaningful opportunities for young people in this part of Cameroon.
- In Ghana, we will take the first steps towards establishing the VIM Academy, opening a new chapter for Voice4Thought on the continent.
- In Mali, our relationship with V4TA, which has recently become an official association, will deepen into a formal partnership, marking an important milestone in the growth of the movement.
- In Chad, the Bon Buzz network continues to grow and will become our main foothold in the country, strengthened by an important collaboration with our partner CRASH.
- 2026 will be a year of consolidation and forward momentum: actively searching for new funding and building on the foundations laid by PGLR+ in Mali as the Academy Mali programme comes to an end.