



KICTANet
The Power of Communities

Spotlight Report

January - March 2023

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Introduction

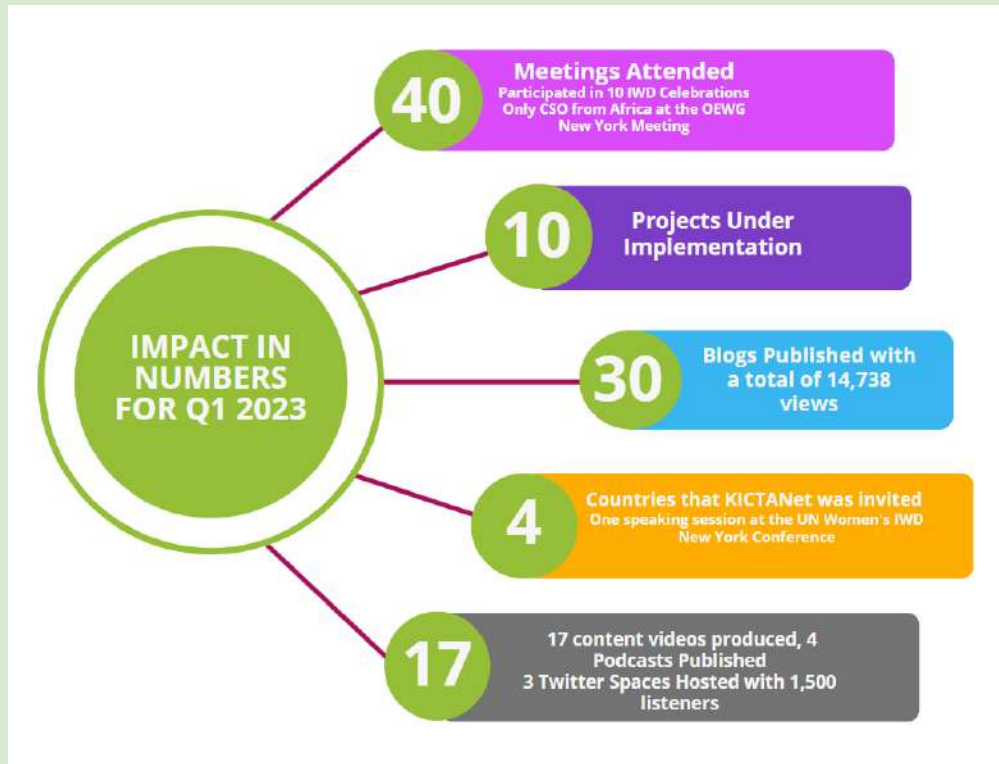
KICTANet is a multistakeholder think tank for ICT policy and regulation whose guiding philosophy encourages synergies for ICT policy-related activities and initiatives. The network acts as a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector and is guided by four pillars: policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and research. The network provides mechanisms and a framework for continuing cooperation and collaboration in ICT matters among industry, technical community, academia, media, development partners, and government.

KICTANet's overall mission is to promote an enabling environment in the ICT sector that is robust, open, accessible, and rights-based through multistakeholderism. Its strategic objectives during the 2022 - 2024 period are effective multistakeholder participation; promoting an enabling environment; building capacities and empowered communities; and institutional strengthening. Our pillars are stakeholder engagement, capacity building, research, and policy advocacy.

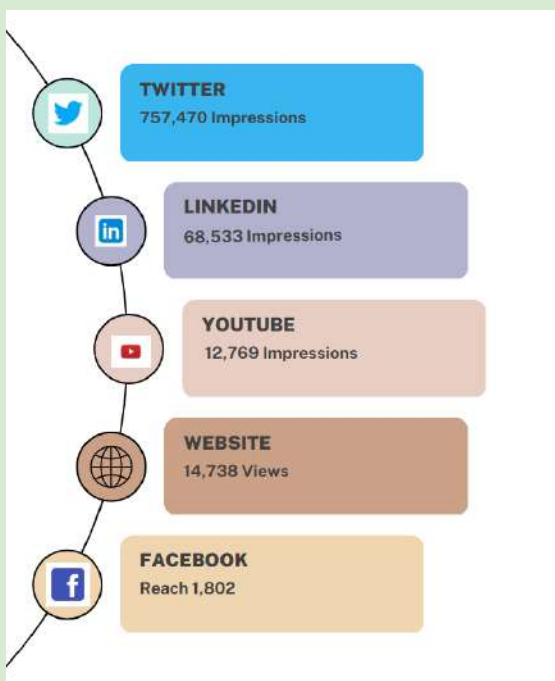
This impact report covers the initiatives and activities conducted during the first quarter January - March 2023. Some notable activities during the period include the commemoration of data privacy day, International Women's Day, and the creation of a National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation.

In line with our Strategic Plan, we will continue to use our convening power using various mechanisms, tools, and approaches through the multistakeholder approach to promote an enabling environment in the ICT sector.

Impact in Numbers



Social Media Metrics



Multistakeholder Engagement

16th Edition of the Cyber Security Summit

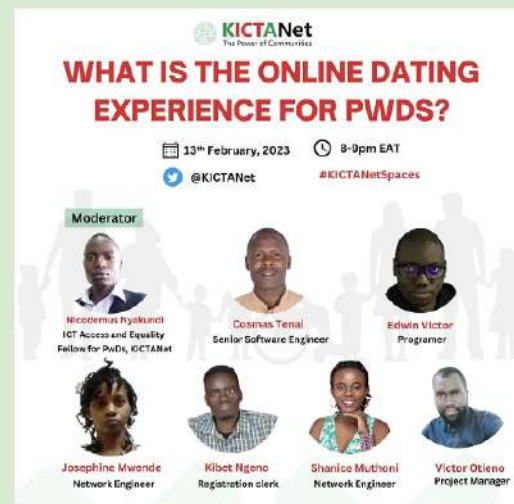
KICTANet Cyber Security Program, aims to create a more connected, informed, and strategic set of stakeholders working on cyber security in Kenya. Our various flagship initiatives, such as the [Kenya Internet Governance Program](#) and the [Kenya School of Internet Governance](#) that will be held in June 2023, the [Cyber Hygiene Project](#), and the Tatu Digital Resilience Centre, aim at assisting Social Justice Organisations (SJOs) to enhance their digital resilience and quickly respond to and recover from attacks.

On February 10, 2023, KICTANet participated in the 16th Edition Cyber Security Summit, held in Nairobi.



What is the Online Dating Experience for People with Disabilities?

KICTANet's Access and Equality for Persons with Disability team that advocates for inclusion in ICTs, hosted a [Twitter space on the eve of Valentine's Day](#), February 13, 2023. The panellists, persons with diverse disabilities, shared their experiences on the accessibility of online dating apps and their personal dating experiences. The question arose about how accessible social media platforms and other dating sites are. The types of accessibility accommodations on the different platforms are as diverse as the forms of disabilities. Therefore, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to making ICTs accessible.



Most platforms offer voice recognition, magnifying text options, and captions. However, there is room for improvement in ensuring these platforms are fully accessible to persons with varied disabilities. A total of 171 listeners tuned into the [Twitter space](#).

Expert Consultation on the Relationship between Technical Standard-Setting Processes and Human Rights

There are concerns on the human rights impacts of technical standards setting processes and the challenges to integrating human rights into these processes. One of the measures to address these challenges is through multi-stakeholder engagement. KICTANet participated in the online consultation convened by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) on February 15, 2023, and provided an overview of the technical standard-setting landscape, the key actors, and the processes of developing standards. The consultation brought together diverse experts from States, UN bodies, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), civil society, academia, private sector, and the technical community.

B-Tech Africa Stakeholder Engagement on Responsible Tech in Africa

Africa grapples with unique issues and challenges in terms of policies, regulations and measures required to improve the adoption of responsible and rights-respecting business practices. Furthermore, Investments in Africa technology sectors are now keen in assessing the human rights aspects in business operations.

On February 17, 2023, KICTANet participated in a panel session during the B-Tech Africa stakeholder engagement forum held in Nairobi. The engagement meeting was organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation. The session was augmented by a presentation from the OHCHR on the ways in which digital economy stakeholders – including tech companies, regulators and civil society – could take to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights.



World Day of Social Justice

KICTANet remains committed to promoting an enabling environment in the ICT sector that is robust, open, accessible, and rights-based. Through our Tatua Digital Resilience Hub, we work with regional social justice organisations to help with their cybersecurity needs and technological advancements they can deploy to continue operating even under difficult circumstances and environments. The [LinkedIn Post](#) had 500 impressions as of Mid-March 2023.



On February 20, KICTANet [commemorated](#) the World Day of Social Justice, themed “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice.” The main goal of commemorating this day is to raise a voice against social injustice and unite various communities. The World Day of Social Justice promotes social injustice awareness and breaks down barriers based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or handicap.

Discussion on Digital ID

KICTANet has been part of a local and global coalition of civil society organisations working on promoting the adoption of rights-respecting digital identity in Kenya. As part of the local National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) coalition, the team met with officials from the Ministry of Interior on February 22, including the Principal Secretary - John Tanui and the Data Commissioner - Ms. Immaculate Kassait, to discuss Kenya’s Huduma Namba Digital ID programme from the perspective of the new administration.



KICTANet called upon the Ministry to ensure multistakeholder consultations prior to and during the implementation of the programme. As part of the global conversations on Digital ID, KICTANet is working with other civil society organisations to raise advocacy on the human rights and technological dimensions of digital ID in Kenya and across other countries.

Consultation on access to the Internet and its impact on women’s engagement in public participation mechanisms

How has public Internet access enhanced women’s engagement in public participation? A major legal barrier to public participation is the lack of definitive public legislation to guide the process, as defined in Article 10 of the Constitution. Other barriers to public participation include the lack of access, affordability of devices and bandwidth, cultural bias, cyber security, a lack of digital literacy, and limited notices for participation.



On February 23, KICTANet convened 35 thought leaders from various stakeholders, including industry participants, government representatives, and civil society organisations involved in internet access and women's digital rights. The [blog](#) post from the event had a total of 200 views by mid-March 2023. Participants discussed access to the internet and its impact on women's engagement in public participation. Other issues include the barriers to internet access, meaningful public participation, the

impacts of women's public participation, and long-term sustainable solutions to women's public participation. This engagement was in partnership with International Center for Nonprofit Law (ICNL).

Last-Mile Connectivity Roundtable

KICTANet has been advocating for affordable infrastructure, local content, and capacity building, in the deployment and sustainability of community networks as complementary access models. KICTANet continues to support community networks across Africa in institutional strengthening, knowledge management, capacity building, policy advocacy, technology, innovation, sustainability, and the inclusion of women and gender-diverse persons.



A practical example is KICTANet's support for the largest mesh network in Africa, the Angaza Community Network. Angaza targets a population of 600,000 in the Mathare slum and its environs (Eastern part of Nairobi). It is a Community Network that offers free WiFi and seeks to connect Africa's most vulnerable and marginalised communities by partnering with governments, development partners, businesses, civil society, and local communities to shift resources for good causes.

From March 1 to 2, KICTANet participated in a last-mile connectivity roundtable convened by the Association for Progressive Communication (APC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Digital Access Programme of UKAID. The event brought together community practitioners and stakeholders in the last-mile connectivity sector. The [blog](#) post from the event had a total of 1204 views by mid-March 2023.

Film Screening of Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age Commemorating International Women's Day (IWD)

Women and gender diverse groups are continually silenced from sharing content online due to vicious and targeted cyber attacks. KICTANet has taken a mixed approach in tackling online gender based violence through production of comic strips, documentaries, digital security training, and high level strategy engagements with women parliamentarians.



KICTANet was part of a [panel discussion](#) on "Misogyny in the Digital Age." This was part of a film screening of Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age organised by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and a panel discussion on tackling online gender-based violence held at the Goethe Institute Nairobi.

The chief guest at the event was the German Ambassador to Kenya, Somalia, and the Seychelles, Sebastian Groth. The feature documentary told the story of four women leaders whose lives had been overturned by cyber violence and their quest not to be silenced. All panellists shared their insightful perspectives on how to approach and deal with Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV).

Sharing Learnings on Women's Empowerment through Technology

Digital transformation not only provides new avenues for economic empowerment of women but also significantly contributes towards gender equality. Notably, the Internet and digital platforms offer opportunities to earn additional income.



KICTANet participated in an engagement organised by the University of Nairobi, to explore how technology can be used to promote gender equality. The forum featured thought-provoking discussions, networking opportunities, a presentation on digital skills, and a Google-led workshop on the importance of self-promotion among others.

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Use of Technology

The emergence of internet social spaces such as TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook has created a significant gap in how these key platforms disseminate information to the public in a unified and effective manner through the internet.



KICTANet was represented at a meeting convened by Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya) on March 15, 2023. The meeting participants included journalists and social change innovators, for instance software developers and creatives.

This engagement is aimed at helping the media fraternity develop innovative solutions to promote transparency and accountability in delivering public services through accurate and effective media reporting.

Fighting Back: Strategies for Online Safety and Combating Cyberbullying

KICTANet has produced an e-learning module on Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV) with the support of GIZ. The module has six lessons that explore forms of OGBV, its harms and tips for survivors to cope in case they experience it.

On March 16, 2023, KICTANet participated in a [panel discussion](#) aimed at countering online hate by building strategies for combating cyberbullying. The [Twitter space](#) attracted 685 stakeholders from the government, civil society, academia, and media to discuss the impact of social media on the state and society and highlight both opportunities and challenges.



Citizen Engagement & Democratic Innovation

Although Article 10 of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya lists the concept of public engagement as one of the nation's core principles of governance, different organisations have approached the issue differently in the ICT sector. KICTANet has been more vocal in the public participation debate, guided by the multi-stakeholder engagement approach.



On March 23, 2023, KICTANet participated in a roundtable meeting on citizen engagement and democratic innovation in the public participation and citizen engagement agenda.

Promotion of human rights in tech companies in Africa

The myth that only governments have an obligation to respect human rights is now overtaken by the adoption of the Human Rights Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Accordingly, tech companies have a responsibility to ensure that their operations are in line with human rights standards.



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human

Rights) has been engaging African governments, technology companies, startups, civil society, academia, and investors under the B-Tech Project to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

There is an understanding that the use and development of technologies at scale can have civic, social, economic, political, and environmental impacts that may sometimes be unintended or unplanned, resulting in the infringement of human rights. On March 27, 2023, KICTANet participated in the launch of the B-Tech Africa project in Cape Town, South Africa, for the first strategy and coordination meeting of 2023.

Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) Strategy Meeting

Governments from across the world formed the Freedom Online Coalition in an effort to encourage Internet freedom and defend basic human rights like free speech, association, assembly, and privacy online. KICTANet's two members of the trust are part of the advisory team.



All of the coalition's member governments endorsed the tenet that online rights are equivalent to those offline when they signed the Freedom Online: Joint Action for Free Expression on the Internet founding text.

The Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) held a hybrid strategy and coordination meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 27-28, 2023. This meeting presented an opportunity to reflect on progress towards implementing the 2023 Program of Action, discuss developments related to the FOC's priority policy areas, and explore strategies to advance human rights further, both online and offline, worldwide. The convening brought together the FOC's 36 member states, observers, and representatives from the multi-stakeholder advisory network. KICTANet's two board trustees attended and continue to participate in the monthly coordination meetings of the Advisory Network.

Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) 2023

The DRIF is a forum that holds discussions on the development of African digital policy. The event aims to promote dialogue, produce plans of action to increase digital inclusion and rights in Africa, and broaden networks and collaborative efforts in this field.

KICTANet signed an MoU with Paradigm Initiative to host the 2023 Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF23), to be held from April 12-14, 2023, themed "Building a Sustainable Internet for All." The sessions will focus on, among other themes, Internet shutdowns, Universal Service Fund (USF) utilisation, data protection, content moderation, and censorship.

Also lined up at the event will be key launches of research, platforms, and networks.



Stakeholder Engagement with ICT Authority

The government is committed to roll out 100,000 km of fibre, 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots, 1,450 digital village smart hubs, and the growth of data centres by 2027.

KICTANet participated in a stakeholder engagement on digitising government services and the rollout of public Wi-Fi hotspots hosted by the ICT Authority of Kenya. Deliberations focused on the Kenya digital superhighway, existing public Wi-Fi hotspots, regulatory framework compliance, and licensing. KICTANet's priority in partnership with the UKAid Digital Access Program is to ensure enhanced capacity building at the village level, local relevant content creation and consumption, and cyber hygiene awareness, especially in marginalised areas.



Policy Advocacy

Data Privacy Week

KICTANet actively participated in the Data Privacy Week held between January 23-27, 2023, at the Kenyatta International Conference Center, Nairobi, organised by the Office of the Data Commissioner. The Data Privacy Week was themed "Promoting Data Privacy in a Digitally Transformed Economy."



KICTANet hosted two-panel discussions: 1. The digital superhighway and creative economy: the value of personal data and compliance with the data protection regulatory framework in the growth of the digital and creative economies - the government's perspective; and, 2 Digital superhighway and creative economy: the value of personal data and compliance with the data protection regulatory framework in Kenya. During Data Privacy Week, the Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait, MBS Lawyers Hub CEO Linda Bonyo, Multimedia University Lecturer, Our Trustee John Walubengo, CISA, CDPSE, (OGW) were hosted on NTV to share the best practices of Data Protection. The [session](#) on the NTV YouTube channel has 545 views as of Mid-March 2023.

UNESCO Internet for Trust Conference

KICTANet participated in the UNESCO's Internet for Trust conference on February 21-23, 2023, in Paris, France. The conference was themed "Regulating Digital Platforms for Information as a Public Good' led by UNESCO and ARTICLE 19. KICTANet is among the coalition members that aims to promote and protect freedom of expression on social media platforms in Kenya. At the same time, ensuring content moderation is done fairly and transparently.



International Women's Day Commemoration at UN Women New York

KICTANet attended and contributed to a high-level panel convened by the International Telecommunication Union and UN Women on March 8, 2023, as the world commemorated International Women's Day. Zebib Kavuma, Deputy Regional Director of UN Women East and Southern

Africa, and Christine Sund, Senior Advisor, ITU Regional Office for Africa, attended the event. Some key highlights from the sessions were the skill gaps between men and women.

For instance, only 63% of women use the Internet, compared to 70% of men. This keeps women disadvantaged in an increasingly digital world where science and technology drive the global economy. In addition, 1 in 3 women have experienced online gender-based violence, and more than 70% have experienced cyber violence. KICTANet shared our work on policy advocacy and capacity building to tackle online gender-based violence. The [event recording](#) shows that the webinar was attended by 148 unique participants, representing 35 different countries.



Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

KICTANet has followed the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications (ICTs) in International Security. As a result, we participated in the fourth substantive session of the OEWG at the UN headquarters in New York. KICTANet shared its reflections on the previous sessions through our policy brief, [Kenya's Cyber Diplomacy at the UN](#). We also issued a [statement](#) at the 4th OEWG on the security of and in the use of ICTs, which covered: potential threats in information security; rules, norms, and principles of state behaviour; application of international law in ICTs; confidence-building measures; capacity building; and stakeholder engagement. The [blog](#) post from the event had a total of 970 views by mid-March 2023.



Launch of the National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation

On March 14, 2023, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa [launched Kenya's National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation](#). This initiative, of which KICTANet is part, aims to promote and protect freedom of expression on social media platforms in Kenya.



The coalition is part of the Social Media 4 Peace project, which aims to strengthen societies' resilience to potentially harmful online content, particularly hate speech that incites violence, while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing peace through digital technologies. At the same time, to ensure content moderation is done fairly and transparently, the coalition will focus on four critical areas in Kenya: policy and legal reform, capacity building, research, and advocacy. During its launch in Nairobi, the formation of the coalition was lauded by Ms. Katrin Hagemann, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation in Kenya, and Prof. Hubert Gijzen, Regional Representative and Director, UNESCO.

1st National Disability Dialogue

KICTANet participated in two days of the first national disability dialogue at the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE). The event's theme was *"Building Back Better on Disability Inclusion: Progress and Challenges toward Achieving Global Disability Summit Commitments."* Through a multistakeholder approach, the conference sought to look into the progress, opportunities, and challenges towards achieving the global disability summit commitments of 2018 and 2022.



The forum brought together 300 delegates from all over the country, representing various stakeholders, including organisations for persons with disabilities. KICTANet fellows from the ICT Access and Equality program showcased our commitment to digital accessibility towards an inclusive and accessible ICT space. Through the KICTANet exhibition booth at the venue, we managed to engage with 30 visitors who wanted to know more about organisation programs and their intersection with the disability dialogue. The event was held between March 15–16, 2023. The [blog](#) post from the event had a total of 704 views by mid-March 2023.

Consultative Meeting with Women MPs in the ICT Caucus

Given the complexity of gender-related internet governance issues, stakeholder engagement is vital in finding legislative and policy solutions.

On January 26th, KICTANet, in collaboration with the Communication Authority of Kenya held a strategic meeting with women Members of Parliament and Members of County Assemblies. We discussed the state of ICT and the needs, challenges, and opportunities for women.



The ICT caucus was led by Gloria Orwoba - nominated senator; Florence Jematiah Serгон - women representative for Baringo County; Njeri Maina - women representative for Kirinyaga County; Catherine Mumma - nominated senator; and Rahab Mukami - women representative for Nyeri county. It is expected that the team will develop a strategy for the legislators that addresses the needs of women in the field of ICTs in Kenya.

Capacity Building

Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition

On January 16, 2023, KICTANet partnered with Equality Now during the 2023 Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition, themed “Women’s Economic and Political Rights in the Digital Space.” The Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition (AGEMCC) is the only moot court competition in Africa dedicated to the promotion and protection of the rights of women in Africa.



At the end of the competition, the Best Teams of the 2022-2023 Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition were Ryan Migani, Murhula Bahati, Claudio Faro, and Nadia Mutisi. This year’s theme was Women’s Economic and Political Rights in the Digital Space. The theme resonates with KICTANet’s work within the gender program. A total of 13 teams from 8 countries participated in the competitions.

Data Privacy Day Exhibition

During Data Privacy Week, KICTANet was able to showcase its publications and initiatives on privacy and data protection, amongst other activities. The team was also privileged to host Hon. Allan Chesang, Senate ICT Committee Chairperson, and Ms. Immaculate Kassait, the Data Protection Commissioner, at our [exhibition stand](#). The KICTANet team shared our work with them.



Through the engagement, KICTANet sought to enhance and strengthen cordial relations between the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and the Senate ICT Committee on ICT policy issues.

Staff Retreat and Planning Meeting

KICTANet held a staff and trustee planning retreat at the Southern Palms Beach Resort in Diani from February 1-3, 2023. The retreat was necessary for the organisation to review and strategize for a stronger future and synergize program activities to implement the objectives per the 2022-2024 strategic plan. The staff were taken through the processes required to create a positive performance management culture to promote value for money while urging all to focus on delivering results from all their programs and activities.



Safer Internet Day 2023

In marking Safer Internet Day on February 7, 2023, the theme was “Together for a Better Internet.” KICTANet’s convenor, Grace Githaiga, shared insights and learning experiences on “User protection and online respect” on KBC English Service Radio. Safer Internet Day is observed annually on the second day of the second week of February to promote a safer and better internet for children and young people. These celebrations bring together children, stakeholders, and organisations that promote the safe, responsible, and positive use of digital technologies for children and young people.



African Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA) Talks

KICTANet participated in a panel session on Digital Rights in the 2023 Nigeria Elections organised by the African Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA) on February 21, 2023. We discussed the trends, comparisons, challenges, and recommendations from the 2022 Kenya elections. KICTANet is a member of the [Alliance](#) that envisions an Africa where digital rights are upheld in all aspects of life, governance, and the economy, ensuring equity and prosperity across the continent.



Convening of Weaving Resilience Hubs

The Weaving Resilience program encompasses 34 social justice organisations in 30+ countries to help build the resilience of civil society organisations, movements, and social justice leaders. Some of the

program's collaborators are the Asfari Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Foundation for a Just Society, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. All these are weaved together and led by the Ford Foundation. KICTANet actively participated in the week-long event on the Ford Foundation's Weaving Resilience Hubs in the City of Cape Town, South Africa.



KICTANet's [Tatua Digital Resilience Centre](#) supports social justice organisations in East Africa to maintain, grow, change, recover, and survive in a changing environment by implementing effective digital strategies. The centre supports social justice organisations in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, working to advance digital rights and, after that, scale to other organisations in East Africa and, ultimately, the continent. The Tatua Digital Resilience Centre is calling on social justice organisations (SJOs) in East Africa—Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda—to [seek organisational digital resilience services](#) from the centre.

KICTANet Celebrates International Women's Day at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation

KICTANet participated in a two-day training for female journalists and social communicators organised by Pollicy in collaboration with the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), and the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT). The workshop was held at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's East Africa offices from February 28 to March 1. The [blog](#) post from the event had a total of 1,328 views by mid-March 2023.



KICTANet Celebrates International Women's Day with the Rotary Club

As part of commemorating International Women's Day, KICTANet shared with members of the Rotary Club of Nairobi the intersection of gender and Tech. We highlighted our work of raising awareness on how technology can be a tool for gender equality. In journalism, technology has always been a transformative force. Major technological innovations, such as the production of mobile, immersive, and data stories, have restructured work processes and reshaped journalistic outputs.



We also celebrated women's achievements and contributions with a series of events and engagements aligned to this year's theme, *"DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality."* The theme also aligned with the priority theme for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), *"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."* The two resonated with our gender program, which has taken a deliberately gender-responsive approach to innovation, technology, and digital education to increase the awareness of women and girls regarding their rights and civic engagement.

KICTANet Celebrates International Women's Day in Kawangware

On March 7, 2023, KICTANet participated in the International Women's Day Celebrations organised by Youth Alive Kenya at the Maisha Poa Hall, Kawangware. The meeting brought together 120 women domestic workers from Korogocho, Kawangware, and Kiambu, with leading digital innovators and trainers for domestic workers, around the theme "Enhancing Digital Innovations to Advance Informal Employment for Women in Kenya Today."



The event aimed at brokering linkages between the rich semi-skilled human resources found in the different communities and professional trainers who will build their capacity further and provide a rich pool of qualified professionals. We guided the participants in understanding the [basics of cyber hygiene](#) skills that would help them stay safe while in online spaces. We reminded participants of the mnemonics STICK – Stop Think – Check! employed by the Tatu Cyber Hygiene program to always be alert and on the lookout for cyber hygiene threats.

International Women's Day in Makueni County

On March 8, 2023, KICTANet participated in the International Women's Day [celebrations in Makueni County](#). We shared our work on leveraging technology to respond to and prevent sexual and gender-based violence, which has been prevalent in the region.



This was in line with this year's United Nations theme: DigitALL Innovation and Technology to Promote Gender Equality. In attendance were women, religious leaders, and partner organisations such as Equality Now, Mapaca Trust, the Jumuisha Initiative, ActionAid, World Vision Kenya, Kibwezi Disabled Persons Organization, and the Kenya Red Cross. The primary conversations focused on using technology and promoting innovations as an economic empowerment tool for women and how technology can prevent and respond to SGBV. The [blog post](#) from the event had a total of 968 views by mid-March 2023.

International Women's Day (IWD) at Y254 TV

On March 9, 2023, KICTANet had the opportunity to present the topic, "Technology for Gender Equality," on the "SPOT on Tech" program on the Y 254 channel of Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) in honour of International Women's Day. Y-254 TV is a youth-oriented television channel that broadcasts chat shows and other entertainment programs.



Among the topics discussed included: Why is the issue of gender equality, innovation and technology so relevant right now? And how can we address online gender-based violence and the means available to do so?

Stephanie Ayieta, the [session](#) host, lauded KICTANet for their work on the gender program. The session was aired during the morning hours and has received a total of 196 views on [YouTube](#).

Sustainable Operating Models for Connected Schools in Kenya

On March 22, KICTANet participated in a [workshop](#) convened by Strathmore University with the support of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UKAid partnership in Kenya, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA).

The workshop, themed “Co-Creating Sustainable Models for Connected Schools in Kenya,” supports the second pillar of the partnership, “Promoting sustainable models to expand school connectivity in underserved communities,” and adopted a multi-stakeholder approach. Key opinion shapers on the table were KICTANet, ITU, CA, UNICEF, AheriNet, KPLC, Huawei, Airtel, Strathmore University, and Liquid Telecom, among others.



Data Protectors Podcast Episode 1

KICTANet, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), commenced the [Data Protectors Podcast](#). This podcast series aims to help SMEs in Kenya comply with data protection regulations. The AU-EU D4D Hub launched the podcast series produced by the Kenyan think tank KICTANet and the Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Kenya, in collaboration with the Nairobi Legal Hackers network. The AU-EU D4D Hub project is co-financed by the European Union. The [first episode](#) has 139 plays on Soundcloud.



Data Protectors Podcast Episode 2

The second episode of the [Data Protectors Podcast](#). This podcast series focuses on registration as a data controller or processor. It explains who must register, why it is important, and how exactly one can register with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner. The moderator was Priya Karia-Shah, Director of Risk and Privacy Compliance at Carepay Ltd. The speakers included Elaine Wangari, a Data Protection Specialist



at HTB Group London; Rosemary Koech-Kimwatu, co-organizer of Nairobi Legal Hackers; and Data Protection Officer (DPO) at KCB Bank Group. The [second episode](#) has 30 plays on Soundcloud.

Podcast: How Kenyan Women In Politics Encounter the Online Space

Through KICTANet's membership with Women@Web, a DW Akademie initiative, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), we successfully produced a podcast on challenges women faced during political campaigns within the online space. The production aimed to create awareness of the lived experiences in politics.



The podcast guests include Mylline Anunda and Anitah Epale, who are community change-makers within their communities. Mylline Anunda is the CEO of Enkong'u Olosho, a local Community-Based Organisation (CBO), and also ran for the Kajiado North MP seat in the 2022 election. Anita Epalle is a woman representative for Bunge La Wananchi and also serves as the chairperson of the Young Politicians Congress. The [podcast](#) on KICTANet YouTube has 54 views as of mid-March 2023.

Take On Tech on KBC TV

Take on Tech is a weekly show on the national broadcaster KBC Channel 1. The talk show explores technological concepts and debates and allows the audience to interact and engage with a panel of experts on topical technological subjects. In a series of our programs, we also engage women on various issues revolving around tech gender gaps.



Through our stakeholder engagement approach, in the period under review, we hosted Andrew Lewela Mwanyota, CEO of Kenya Network Information Centre (KeNIC), in our Take on Tech show. In this [episode](#), Mr. Lawela created awareness about the domain name system in Kenya and the importance of the .ke domain to the economy. The other two episodes on the show since January 2023 include the Take on Tech on Damu Sasa Technology on Startups [episode](#), where the guest was Ogunde Aaron Ochieng, the Co-Founder of Damu Sasa. This innovative end-to-end information management platform for blood services seeks to save lives by facilitating the timely availability of safe blood for transfusion, especially to mothers and children in Africa. Damu Sasa saves lives every day.

Cyber hygiene awareness

As part of efforts to create awareness, KICTANet collaborated with local actors and produced several video features on cyber hygiene which have been disseminated on YouTube and other social media platforms.

The skits were modelled on the comprehensive cyber hygiene curriculum developed in 2022 which is available through an interactive e-learning platform. The topics covered in the skits include: [device safety](#), [secure access to devices](#), [social media and messaging platforms](#), [connectivity cyber hygiene](#), and on how to [keep money safe online](#).



Angaza Community Network

KICTANet has plans to set up the Angaza Community Network in Mathare, Nairobi, targeting a population of 350,000 marginalised groups and offering free Wi-Fi in the slums. Our commitment is to set up 10,000 Wi-Fi hotspots and conduct cyber hygiene awareness campaigns to 50,000 users directly and another 10 million indirectly. The [blog](#) post from the event had 4728 views by mid-March 2023.



Kenyan Women Experiences on Online Gender Based Violence

KICTANet produced a [documentary](#) that captures the stories of how women are targeted online, and their recommendations for coping with OGBV. The women interviewed included politicians, persons living with disabilities, civil society, media and human rights defenders. The documentary gives a human touch to what has been seen as an abstract human problem and calls for more action from stakeholders such as governments and technology companies to address online gender based violence.



Research

Rights-based Responses to Online Hate Speech in Kenya and South Africa

On February 23, 2023, KICTANet participated in a round table meeting with a delegation of experts from the Allard K. Lowenstein Human Rights Clinic at Yale Law School, ALT Advisory, and other stakeholders from civil society organisations in the peace sector to discuss the results of research from Kenya and South Africa and ways to support existing efforts to fight online hate speech.



The vice chairperson of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Wambui Nyutu, OGW, was in attendance. We highlighted the work KICTANet has done around disinformation and misinformation, focusing on tackling online hate.

3rd Annual Data Law and Cyber Security Conference in Namibia

KICTANet participated in the 3rd Annual Data Law and Cyber Security Conference Namibia, organised by the Intelligence Transfer Centre (ITC) on March 22, 2023. KICTANet presented some of the research findings on the nuances of Data protection from a gender perspective.



The virtual conference aimed to advocate for the protection of Namibian citizens against the abuse of their data and personal information and to encourage safe regulation of cross border flow of personal data. The conference sessions will highlight the traditional balancing scales of justice: protecting personal information to ensure the right to privacy while granting access to information with a legitimate right of access. It will also help delegates understand the key issues in the areas of POPI and provide awareness of cyber-attacks and how companies can protect their information and people with proper cyber-security tactics.

Weekly blogs on Topical ICT Policy Issues

KICTANet has continued to publish blogs on topical ICT issues affecting the country. These blogs continue to spur debate and dialogue from the public. The blogs in this quarter have covered a wide range of internet governance and policy developments in the ICT sector including [artificial intelligence](#), [blockchain](#), [Chat GPT](#), [digital taxation](#), [infrastructure](#), [digital identity](#), and [cloud technology](#).

Communications Authority of Kenya and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Workshop

KICTANet was a key participant in a [stakeholder engagement](#) on a national survey on children's online safety and protection held at the Samara Hotel in Machakos County from March 14-17, 2023. The Communications Authority of Kenya and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics are conducting the planned survey.



KICTANet contributed to developing online child safety and protection indicators and survey questions with stakeholders from The National KE-CIRT/CC, ChildLine, Safaricom PLC, the Kenya Film Classification Board, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Child Protection Unit, among other stakeholders.

Outlook for the Next Quarter

A short summary of the programs and events that KICTANet has lined up for the next quarter.

1. Tatua Digital Resilience Centre Launch: 25 April 2023
2. Digital Accessibility Report Launch: 18 May 2023
3. KeSIG: 6 June: 19 June 2023
4. Meta Privacy event with the Youth: 20 June 2023
5. Kenya IGF: 22 June 2023
6. Digital ID Workshop at Rightscon: June 2023
7. Training on Using Technology for Women's Public Participation Engagements: 19-20 June 2023
8. Film Screening of Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age: June, 2022.
9. Angaza Community Network Launch
10. Data protection and privacy podcasts
11. Policy brief: Access to the Internet and its impact on Kenyan Women's Engagement in Public Participation.



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