

2022 Annual Report



KICTANet
The Power of Communities

Imprint

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About us

Guiding Philosophy: KICTANet guiding philosophy encourages synergies for ICT policy related activities and initiatives. Accordingly, 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.

Vision: Transforming communities through the power of ICTs.

Mission: Promote an enabling environment in the ICT sector that is robust, open, accessible, and rights-based through multistakeholderism.

Our core values:



Governance

KICTANet's multi-stakeholder membership is drawn from civil Society, ICT industry representatives, the technical ICT community, academia, government and media - working in the ICT sector in Kenya.

This consideration of multistakeholderism considers the general diversity of sectors and of expertise. Regular policy discussions happen on the multistakeholder list serve, that is run by the secretariat and allows diverse stakeholders to engage and dialogue on topical tech issues, and make recommendations on possible solutions.

Our leadership and structure comprise Trustees (Board) and a Secretariat. The Trustees oversee the overall conduct of the affairs of KICTANet including decision-making, policy direction, project management and fund-raising.

The secretariat is currently led and managed by the Chief Executive Officer, who leads an diverse team that implements the activities of KICTANet and reports to the Trustees on a regular basis

Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



Dear KICTANet Community,



I am pleased to present the KICTANet 2022 Annual Report of KICTANet. The report highlights the organization's work in Stakeholder engagement, capacity building, research, and policy advocacy.

In 2022, KICTANet executed its activities under five broad thematic areas, which are Tech and Democracy, Data Protection and Data Governance, Cyber Security and Cyber Hygiene, Gender in ICTs, and Access to ICTs for Marginalized Communities. The organization conducted various programs under each thematic area, including the Elections Mission program, KeSIG, and the Kenya Internet Governance Forum. KICTANet's work has accelerated the uptake of ICTs in the African region and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The organization has played a major advocacy role in the liberalization of the voice of the Internet and other processes such as the development of various ICT laws in Kenya, among them the Kenya Information & Communications Act 2013, Kenya Data Protection Act 2019, Kenya Computer Misuse & Cybercrimes Act 2018, Kenya ICT Policy 2006, Kenya ICT Policy 2019, and the Kenya Data Protection Policy 2019. I want to express my gratitude to the KICTANet team, volunteers, fellows, supporters, and partners for their dedication and passion in advancing the organization's cause. Your trust and support empower us to pursue our mission relentlessly.

Looking ahead, KICTANet is committed to addressing the complex and evolving challenges in the digital space and contributing to a digital world that respects individual freedoms, safeguards privacy, and fosters innovation. We call on all stakeholders, from governments to businesses, to civil society, and to individuals, to join us in this critical mission.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to digital rights. Together, we can shape a future where the digital landscape is open, free, and secure for all.
Sincerely,

***Ali Hussein Kassim,
Chair of the Board of Trustees, KICTANet***

Letter from the CEO



As we reflect on the past year, we are both humbled and energized by the progress we have made in championing ICT policy and regulation concerns, digital rights, and advocating for a more open, free, and secure digital world.

KICTANet was founded on the principles of catalyzing ICTs for reform in the ICT sector, and defending the fundamental rights that extend to the digital realm. KICTANet believes in the protection of privacy, the promotion of internet freedom, and promotes digital inclusivity, in order to transform communities through the power of ICTs. The activities of 2022 only reinforced the importance of our work.

Some of our key highlights:

Advocacy: We continued our tech advocacy efforts at local, national, and international levels. We collaborated with governments, tech companies, and civil society organizations to shape policies that uphold digital rights.

Research: Our research initiatives provided valuable insights into emerging digital threats and challenges. Our reports and publications have served as resources for policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.

Partnerships: We forged meaningful partnerships with like-minded organizations, strengthening our collective impact in the fight for digital rights.

Community Engagement: Our vibrant community of supporters, volunteers, and activists played an integral role in advancing our cause. Their dedication and passion continue to be a source of inspiration.

Looking ahead, the challenges in the tech space remain complex and evolving. We are committed to addressing these challenges head-on, but we cannot do it alone. We call on all stakeholders, from governments to businesses, to civil society, and to individuals, to join us in this critical mission.

I want to express my deep gratitude to our dedicated team at KICTANet, our volunteers, our fellows, our generous supporters, and our committed partners. Your trust and support empower us to pursue our mission relentlessly.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to digital rights. Together, we can shape a future where the digital landscape is open, free, and secure for all.

Grace Githaiga
CEO, KICTANet

Introduction

KICTANet is a multi-stakeholder platform for ICT policy and regulation. KICTANet was born 17 years ago as a loose network of professionals from different stakeholder groups who were interested in contributing to Kenya's first ICT policy.

After the policy was passed in 2006, the network remained a focal point for discussion of topical issues in the sector as they emerged. Over the years, KICTANet has become a space for input on ICT policy and related issues.

In 2010, Kenyans secured a new constitution that redefined the relationship between the state and the people. Among its major gains is that public participation is now among the nation's values and principles.

Accordingly, public organs, public officers, and state officers are required to consult the people when making decisions that affect them. The Constitution gives meaning to the work of KICTANet as a network and enhances its role as a space for multistakeholder discussions.

Nevertheless, with so many processes requiring public input, platforms for public participation must be better organised to allow for meaningful input. For this reason, KICTANet embarked on reorganising itself.

This involved creating the building blocks for an institution for ICT policy, research, advocacy, capacity building, and networking. However, it maintains the loose membership that enables anyone, new or old, to contribute to issues of interest at any given time.

This report gives a snapshot of the year that was and the areas that KICTANet is focusing on

to position itself at the heart of people-centered development in the ICT sector. It also contains what is envisioned for our country and region in the coming years and how we see KICTANet contributing to more human-centric policymaking.

▶ Introducing a new strategic plan

After every two years, a review of the evolution of Kenya's tech landscape and the impact of KICTANet programmatic work takes place, mainly to inform updates and changes necessary.

KICTANet continued to receive requests from stakeholders with one main one being the need to decentralise programs and conceptualise the new and emerging ICT concepts to the rural areas, in order to for technologies to improve the realities of the most marginalised.

Accordingly, we responded by spreading out our programs and building the capacity of more than 30 women community activists in Kakamega on digital security, and trained farmers in Nakuru and Laikipia counties on cyber hygiene and digital finance tools.

In addition, having increased the design of our engagements to hybrid as was the survival trend for organisations during COVID-19, we have also received calls to go beyond the borders of the continent. We heeded these calls and began working with our partners to strengthen digital resilience in the East African region through research and technical support.

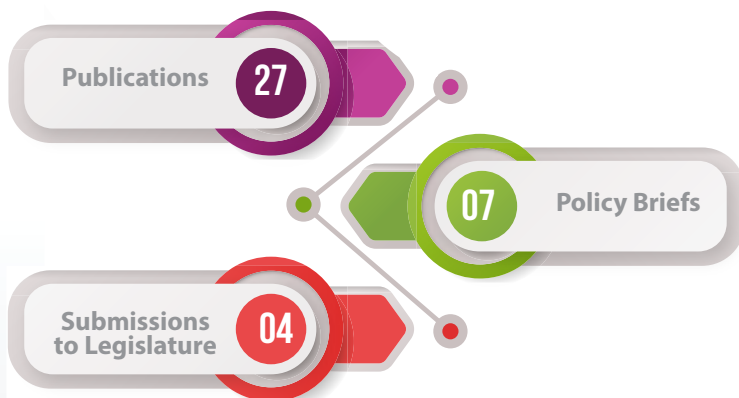
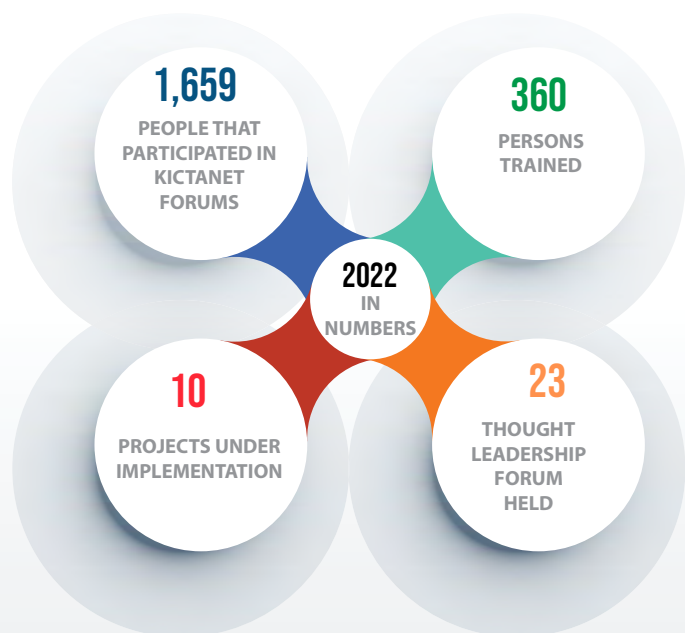
Our Kenya School of Internet Governance Program also attracts participants from Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. It is for this reason that we have rebranded to KICTANet with the abbreviations.

How we Do it

KICTANet's work is guided by four pillars:



Our Year in Numbers



Social Media



Our programmes in 2022

KICTANet executed its activities under 5 broad thematic areas:

1. Tech and Democracy.
2. Data Protection and Data Governance.
3. Digital Resilience, Cyber Security, and Cyber Capacity.
4. Strengthening Gender in ICTs.
5. ICT inclusion for the marginalised communities.

01. Tech and Democracy: Our Election Observation Mission

After every five years, Kenyans go to the ballot to exercise their rights and power to elect the president, the parliament, and local leaders. Elections as one key element in democracies, directly impact on quality of life by ensuring participatory governance where citizen concerns are heard.

A peaceful transition of power depends on public trust in the election bodies, and their ability to conduct free and fair elections with transparency. Failure of this may lead to violence where lives may be lost, and a plunge in the economy.

KICTANet's tech and democracy project commenced in 2013 with a small pool of KICTANet community members who volunteered to observe tech use in the polling stations where they were voting.

This tech observer mission documented the challenges and opportunities for tech and elections, which provided a basis to engage and work with elections bodies and government institutions in improving election processes.

Through partnerships, the program has grown in terms of election monitoring coverage, stakeholder engagement, development of tools to observe tech use in elections, and in providing technical knowledge to the judiciary during election petitions.

The project not only seeks to monitor the voting process but also to monitor and encourage information flows that are critical during the electioneering period, as well as efficacy in tech deployment.

▶ Observing tech use in elections management.

KICTANet, in partnership with AccessNow, deployed a 90-member tech observer mission that focused on the technology components of the general elections nationwide.

This included monitoring the preparedness of the elections body in case of any hiccups, observing tech efficiency, and how it enhanced accountability during the voting process, results transmission, and post-election processes.

The observers deployed were from 21 different counties spread across the country. These observers were bound by the [IEBC Code of Code of conduct](#), and KICTANet's core values.

Using the findings of what we observed, were able to provide technical assistance to the judiciary as friends of the court during the petition process.

This program also entailed creating public awareness through providing facts about the use of technology to conduct elections. The elections body is often challenged by misinformation around hacking, data manipulation, and unauthorized log-in.

KICTANet created awareness through panels in broadcast media programs and articles to dispel common misunderstandings and misinformation. This information also provided the journalists with the understanding of technology, which they needed during their reporting and investigations around the elections.

Together with AccessNow, and the [#KeepItOn campaign](#), we also trained observers on internet measurements ([OONI Probe](#)) and the use of VPNs and other tools in case of internet shutdowns ([TunnelBear](#), [Psiphon](#), and [Tor](#)).

KICTANet created awareness through panels in broadcast media programs and articles to dispel common misunderstandings and misinformation.

▶ Emerging Concerns about Social Media Use in the 2022 Elections

KICTANet partnered with Meta to convene a civil society roundtable to highlight emerging concerns on digital rights where it was crucial to pay attention in oversight. The roundtable focused on issues such as content moderation and efforts to prevent the spread of misinformation and hate speech.

These topics were critical to address during this period as social media platforms have gained traction, and there is a trend where politicians share their manifestos and misinformation. Some politicians even have “broadcast stations” on social media where they update their followers or supporters on their daily activities or have “live” events.

Popular spaces include Twitter, Facebook Live, YouTube, and WhatsApp. Some of these live events have a large audience. With data protection being relatively new in the Kenyan ICT ecosystem, there is little understanding among citizens and politicians regarding their data rights and responsibilities. Other engagements were with Twitter and TikTok.

▶ Offering assistance to the Elections Management Body

Months before the elections, we paid a courtesy call to Kenya’s elections management body, the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). During this meeting, we discussed the role of technology in the 2022 general election and beyond, and KICTANet offered collaboration to provide assistance to the IEBC in line with its mandate of delivering free, fair, and credible elections.

We also discussed the importance of the IEBC to open up more channels of meaningful tech observation by the civil society. Civil society engagement with the elections is critical in fostering public trust in the elections management institutions, when they act as neutral players in the process.

▶ Engagement with the European Union Election Observer Mission

During this period, the representatives from the KICTANet Observer Group met with members of the European Union Election Observer Mission (the EU EOM). The teams discussed their roles in the planned general election that took place on August 9, 2022.

The EU Team was taken through KICTANET’s work in the country’s elections. KICTANet Observation Group indicated that it would take a risk-based approach to its observation mission for the general election. To this end, KICTANet had developed a tool for information collection covering various aspects of the electoral process.

▶ Supporting Judicial process during the presidential Election Petitions

KICTANet Trustee was among ICT Experts enjoined In the 2022 Presidential Election Petition. It is undeniable that the 2022 presidential petition raised weighty IT issues.

What is also self-evident is that the judicial panel would need more than a little steering in matters of technology. To that end, John Walubengo, Trustee at KICTANet and project lead for the KICTANet Election Observer Mission., joined other IT experts: former Industrial Engineer Dr. Joseph Sevilla, the Director, iLabAfrica and iBizAfrica, and Martin Mirero, the CTO at Ajuja as Amici Curiae (Friends of the Court).

One KICTANet Trustee was among ICT Experts enjoined In the 2022 Presidential Election Petition.

KICTANet at the Annual Jurists Conference (AJC) 2022.

The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya) organised and hosted its Annual Jurists Conference (AJC) 2022 on the theme

Reflections on Electoral Democracy in Africa: Trends in Judicial Decisions, Challenges, and Lessons.

As the only accredited Election Technology Observer group that has observed the tech side

of the 2017 and recent 2022 Kenyan elections, we were invited to demystify electoral technology.

Mr. John Walubengo presented "*Election Technology: Are We Overcomplicating the Process?*"

His presentation also included a highlight of the interventions that technology has made in line with the Kriegler Report to deal with multiple voter registers, ghost voters, and results from manipulation.

The Annual Jurists Conference organised by the Kenyan Section of ICJ brings together members of the bench, the bar, and other participants from the African continent and worldwide to discuss various issues.

02. Data Protection and Data Governance

Data governance is a cornerstone for Kenya's development as we navigate the dual challenges of rapid growth and modernization. At its core, data governance goes beyond mere data management.

It offers a structured approach to optimizing the quality, security, usability, and reliability of data, ensuring it serves as a catalyst for a range of national goals while also protecting human rights. For us, a human centred approach to data governance is critical.

We emphasise on the protection of human rights, as well as fostering equality and improving lives through the growth of SMEs.

Recognising the fact that how we structure our data governance policies will determine how economic power will be distributed in the society, we took an approach of building awareness about human rights and business accountability, especially among the big cooperations.

We emphasise on the protection of human rights, as well as fostering equality and improving lives through the growth of SMEs .

The following are the engagement activities we did under this them:

▶ KICTANet Thought Leadership Series

KICTANet partnered with the UK Government's Digital Access Program, to host a roundtable meeting on privacy and data protection, with the theme: *"Prioritising Privacy: What Next for the ICT Sector?"*

Kenya's ICT sector continues to grow and evolve, with dynamic shifts being noted, especially with regard to the use of data.

Increasingly. The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a drastic increase in the collection and processing of personal data, not only for health purposes but also for travel purposes.

This activity was therefore timely in bringing stakeholders together to discuss data governance policies during the covid-facilitated rapid adoption of digitisation.

The right to privacy is coming under sharp focus, as technology continues to aid various cybersecurity threats that are connected to insecurity of personal data in the custody of service providers and intermediaries. The recorded episode of the discussions can be accessed on the KICTANet YouTube channel.

▶ KICTANet at the 13th Seminar on Privacy and Data Protection

At the 13th Seminar on Privacy and Data Protection organised by Data Privacy Brazil in São Paulo, KICTANet participated in a panel session; the perspectives on data protection from a global view. Our presentation highlighted our experiences from a decade of work on the local data protection scene in Kenya.

This includes KICTANet being at the center of ICT stakeholder engagement during the development of the Kenya Data Protection Act and our active engagement with the government and the public on the Huduma bill and the Kenya Information and Communications Act. Such presentations are important in KICTANet's work, as they foster mechanisms through which experiences from Africa form part of global policy dialogues.

The network also learns of best practices from other Global South organisations to enrich its own expertise.

The Kenya Data Protection Podcast

At KICTANet, we recognise the fact that the realisation of the intended objectives of any policy relies on public understanding of its provisions, as well as the understanding of the role of the implementors by public servants.

We produced a podcast series on the Kenya 2019 Data Protection Act to sensitise Kenyans on its provisions, as well as to create debates and common understandings among stakeholders on the subject of data protection.

The [podcast](#) has attracted a wide network of stakeholders reaching more than 1319 by the end of 2022.

Knowledge Products on data governance

Publications on data governance include:

- Wanawake na Data - Vibonzo
- Guidebook on Data Protection and Privacy from a Gender Perspective
- Data Protection and Privacy. A Gender Perspective
- Personal Data & Elections 2022

03. Cyber Security and Cyber Hygiene

In our annual review of the digital landscape in Kenya, we underscore the paramount importance of cybersecurity as a cornerstone of our nation's socio-economic development.

The rapid expansion of Kenya's digital economy, characterized by innovative platforms such as M-Pesa, has revolutionized the way financial transactions are conducted to the micro levels, thereby elevating the need for stringent cybersecurity measures.

This transformation, while beneficial, brings forth significant risks, especially in safeguarding the financial data and online transactions of millions of Kenyans.

As the government escalates its efforts towards the digitization of public services, our organization recognizes the increased susceptibility to cyber threats that could jeopardize sensitive citizen data and disrupt crucial public services.

Hence, our advocacy for robust cybersecurity protocols is not just about defense against potential digital threats but is fundamentally intertwined with maintaining national security, fostering public confidence, and ensuring the economic vitality of our nation.

KICTANet's strategic approach in enhancing cybersecurity in the country involves the following: Engaging with the public for behaviour change that foster cyberhygiene in their daily lives; strengthening digital resilience among civil societies in East Africa amidst the rise of digital authoritarianism; and engaging with the government to provide feedback on various cybersecurity policies and regulations.

Cyberhygiene

▶ **ToT cyber hygiene training for farmers in Laikipia, Nanyuki and Nyahururu counties**

Recognising agriculture as the backbone of the Kenyan economy, KICTANet, in collaboration with the Association of Women in ICT (ACWICT),

conducted two cyber hygiene training for farmers and community level trainers based in Nanyuki, Kaikipia and Nyahururu counties.

The training had 110 participants, targeting farmers and community-level trainers who lead various initiatives in their communities.

It targeted both both business and personal aspects of cybersecurity, which for farmers in these counties seem to be intertwined.

▶ **KICTANet at the Cybersecurity Conference Convened by the Regulator**

With KICTANet being a member of the KE-CIRT, the network will continue the dissemination of the cybersecurity risks faced by society and mitigation measures that can be taken.

KICTANet highlighted the work it has done with UKAid, the Communication Authority (CA), the Information Communication Technology Authority (ICTA), the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK), and the African Centre for Women in ICT (ACWICT) in training marginalized communities on cyber hygiene.

▶ **Commemorating Global Encryption Day**

October 20 is usually set aside by the Global Encryption Coalition to mark Global Encryption Day. To mark this day, KICTANet participated in a workshop organised by Oasis Mathare in conjunction with Kijiji Yetu, Light Mtaani, and the Global Encryption Coalition in Mathare.

The event aligned with the goals of KICTANet's Community Networks Program, which fosters the emergence and growth of community-based connectivity initiatives.

Global Encryption Day celebrates the role of encryption in ensuring online safety. The organisers emphasised the need to use strong encryption, a drive that even we at KICTANet undertake to ensure a safe and secure cyberspace.

KICTANet gave an overview of the KICTANet Cyber Hygiene Awareness Program.

Overall, the KICTANet team lobbied for cyber hygiene and inclusivity.

Cybernorms

KICTANet at the Third Substantive Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Security

Cybernorms represent the evolving set of behaviors, practices, and ethical standards that govern activities in cyberspace. As digital technologies continue to permeate every aspect of modern life, the establishment and understanding of cybernorms have become crucial for ensuring a safe, stable, and equitable digital environment.

One of the primary areas where cybernorms are critical is in the realm of international relations and national security. In recent years, the world has witnessed an increase in state-sponsored cyber attacks, digital espionage, and the use of cyber tools in geopolitical strategies.

In response, there has been a growing call for the development of international cybernorms that can provide a framework for responsible state behavior in cyberspace. Such norms would help prevent conflicts, foster cooperation, and ensure a collective defense against common cyber threats.

At the forefront of these efforts are international bodies like the UN, which has been instrumental in facilitating discussions on cybernorms, particularly through its Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Information Security, and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG).

KICTANet, acting as civil society organisation, is actively engaging in the OEWG. In 2022, we during the Third Substantive Session of the OEWG on Security and the Use of Information and Communications Technologies, we presented this [statement](#).

Cybersecurity Capacity-Building (CCB) Roundtable Meeting

In partnership with Global Partners Digital (GPD), we hosted a Cybersecurity Capacity-Building (CCB) roundtable meeting. Over 60 stakeholders representing government, civil society, technical community, the legal fraternity, academia, media, and internet users attended the event.

As we continue to expand cross border trade and international relations, cyber threats become more complicated. Kenya's cybersecurity posture, as with any other country will increasingly rely on the country to protect its own assets and people from within, and its ability to form cooperations and partnerships to tackle cyberthreats at a global level.

Participating in the development of global cybernorms is therefore crucial in ensuring that global policies are also effective to Kenya's development priorities and societal values.

Domain Name Security and Stability

KICTANet remains an active member of the Africa Regional At Large (AfRAL), within (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) ICANN. We recognise the importance both global internet and national internet addressing as critical public internet infrastructure that drive digital commerce and e governance.

Our approach to Domain Name Security (DNS) therefore encourages active participation of Kenya and the government in the uptake of domains for their online identity, security and public trust.

KICTANet has also been KENIC's long term partner and retains an active board membership within the institution. In 2022, we participated on the panel on legislation and governance in the Internet ecosystem, emerging trends in cyber legislation, and Internet governance.

In our presentation, we urged the KeNIC registry to use its resources prudently to continue being among the best-run registries in Africa. KICTANet

also urged KeNIC to partner with registrars and other partners to automate the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC).

Currently, only 56 domains have DNSSEC out of about 100,000 domains. We stressed on the importance of a well run national domain registry in preventing capital flight, and in building capacity.

Strengthening Civil Society to build resilience against digital authoritarianism

▶ Tatua Digital Resilience Centre

In 2022, we set up the [Tatua Digital Resilience Center](#) to assist social justice organizations (SJO) in East Africa to enhance their digital resilience, quickly respond to and recover from digital threats, and harness the power of technology to enable them to achieve their mission.

The Centre was designed to work with social justice organisations within the region to help with their cyber security needs, as well as identify technological advancements the organisations can deploy to continue operating even under difficult circumstances and environments.

The centre is part of a wider network of resilience hubs in the world under the Weaving Resilience initiative.

The other resilience hubs in East Africa include the Financial Resilience Hub, Wellness Hub, and Protection Hub. The Center offers the following services:

Training

- Training of SJOs boards and leadership on digital resilience, risks, and opportunities;
- Participation and contribution of AIRA members and community.

Assessments & Incident response

- Conducting digital resilience assessments, risk assessments, and audits;

- Provision of cyber incidence and emergency response.

Select Resources from the Tatua Digital Resilience Hub

Our resources and advocacy campaigns have targeted users both in their individual roles and organisational roles.

The comic strips we developed aim to promote the integration of cyber hygiene and cybersecurity practices in every day individual life and organisational operations.

1. Introduction to Cyber Hygiene Comic Strip

In this [comic](#), Tatua Support takes us through an introduction to cyber hygiene. Cyber hygiene is the set of practices and steps that users of computers and other devices routinely take to improve their online security and maintain system health.

Cyber hygiene can be compared to personal hygiene practices to maintain good health and well-being, as cyber hygiene practices and precautions are taken by users to ensure the safety, security, and protection of data while maintaining the proper functioning of devices to protect them from outside attacks.

2. Lela Family Tutorial Comic Strip

In this comic, Lela takes her family through cyber hygiene tips for your devices, access to devices and services, social media and messaging, connectivity, and keeping your money safe online. This comic page has reached a wide network of stakeholders, with over 1,426 total visits in the year.

3. Cyber hygiene for social media

In this comic, Tatua Support takes us through the challenges of cyber hygiene in social media and messaging applications.

04. Gender in ICTs

Technology and the internet offer opportunities for human development and inclusion. However, these rewards are not distributed equally along gender lines.

Womens' use of digital technologies and their participation in online spaces is often hindered by lower digital literacy, cultural norms, gender based violence and lack of awareness on cybersecurity. As a result of these barriers, women often find themselves on the fringes of critical domains such as internet governance and the economic sphere.

Their underrepresentation in elective leadership and limited access to digital resources hinder their capacity to harness the internet's boundless potential for economic empowerment.

To rectify these gender disparities and ensure that the internet becomes a powerful instrument for equitable economic development in Kenya, in 2017 we embarked on a broad program to strengthen womens' use of ICTs and their active participation in digital domains:

We trained women journalists, activists and politicians in cybersecurity, online branding and campaigns; developed policy briefs that we used to engage policy makers to develop laws that discourage gender based violence; and we engaged in behaviour change campaigns targeting the public to set new norms that discouraged Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV). We conducted the following activities in 2022 under this program:

▶ Digital security training for women in politics

2022 being an elections year, we continued with digital security trainings for active women in politics. The trainings were of the DW Akademie women@web regional project with partners across four East African countries.

Thirty-one women, who had vied for various political posts, benefited from this training. They were taken through cybersecurity modules in regard to online campaigning. The training

covered topics such as: a basic understanding of technology, password management, and handling online trolls.

The women@web project was established in 2018 with organizational partners from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda, and is supported by the DW Akademie.

▶ A masterclass on gender and data

KICTANet, in collaboration with Unwanted Witnesses, conducted a masterclass on "Utilising data while safeguarding women's safety online" during the 4th Privacy Symposium in Africa. The activity was part of the DW Akademie's women@web project, which aims to ensure women's safety online in the region.

▶ Building a community of practice on privacy and data protection for women

KICTANet hosted three interactive discussions as part of the Strengthening Women's Safety Online: Digital Security and Data Protection Training and Awareness Raising for Women in Kenya. The aim of the meeting was to launch the [Data Protection Policy Brief](#) and the Community of Practice Digital Enquirer Kit. The workshop was guided by the findings and recommendations of a KICTANet policy brief on women's data protection.

In attendance were men and women in civic engagement, human rights organizations, women from tech backgrounds, and representatives from social media companies.

Meta representatives gave a presentation on how women can control their data and postings on the Meta platform when engaging their audience. ipated in this event.

▶ Women's Digital Security Training of Trainers

In partnership with GIZ, we also conducted a trainers' training on digital security for women. The training focused on building the digital security training capacity of 20 women, aged 18 to 34, drawn from civil society organizations.

The training came at a time when cybersecurity has continued to be a growing concern especially with the increased dependency on digital technologies by citizens and organizations.

The effects of these attacks have adversely affected the resilience of media and social justice organizations, limiting the impact of their work.

Although cybersecurity affects both men and women, there are clear distinctions in the patterns of attacks and how some of these attacks affect women differently, and more severely. Women are more likely to experience harm, such as gender-based violence and societal bias, as they engage online.

As a result, some have shied away from digital spaces, thereby losing income and opportunities for engagement.

Digital Storytelling and Content Creation Training for Kenyan Women Politicians

KICTANet partnered with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) to deliver the first of a series of feminist tech exchanges on digital storytelling and content creation for women in politics.

The initiative is part of the APC's Our Voices, Our Futures (OVOF) project. The project aims to build the capacities of feminist movements and actors to engage in policy and lawmaking, advance gender equality, and demand their rights.

The first of the intensive one-day training workshops saw at least twenty-five women

politicians trained in storytelling to increase their political participation through effective digital skills.

The training seeks to empower women in politics to play an active role in politics by encouraging them to utilise the available social media platforms to have an active presence online.

KICTANet recognised that women's political participation is affected by many factors, and the need to increase women's participation in all aspects of the political process. KICTANet has continued to use its convening power to bring together diverse groups and perspectives.

Gender Internet Governance Exchange Workshop (GIGX) for structurally silenced communities

KICTANet, in partnership with APC's Our Voices, Our Future (OVOF) project, hosted a two-day Gender Internet Governance Exchange (GIGX) Workshop for structurally silenced communities.

In attendance were groups from the LGBTQ community, people living with disabilities, and community network advocates at grassroots levels.

Ms. Judy Okite, the founder of the Association for Accessibility and Equality. Participants were taken through the internet governance definitions in the policymaking process, history of internet governance, the actors, and the main issue baskets for regulation. Participants were through six critical lessons on internet governance actors, and the history of the internet, from its inception to its evolution.

The basics of internet design principles, internet governance, the private sector and regulation, and the national and transnational organisations' role in governing the internet.

Feminist Tech Exchange on Digital Security Workshop (FTX) For Structurally Silenced Communities

Still under the OVOF project, a one-day feminist tech exchange on digital security (FTX) workshop for structurally silenced communities was held.

KICTANet partnered with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) to deliver the first of a series of feminist tech exchanges on digital storytelling and content creation for women in politics.

In attendance were participants drawn from the LGBTQ communities, people living with disabilities, and community network advocates at grassroots levels.

The communication team at KICTANet ran a social media campaign across its platforms with a presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and its website through blogs. The hashtags for the event were #OurVoicesOurFuture and #FTX.

▶ **Training for trainers on Women's Data Protection and Privacy**

KICTANet hosted a Training of Trainers on Women's Data Protection and Privacy. This training workshop was a partnership with the Digital Transformation Centre Kenya, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the EU delegation to Kenya.

The workshop was attended by women from the private sector, civil society organisations, the media, and gender activists.

Focus was made on how women are systematically ignored in a world built mainly for and by men, and on how gender impacts data protection and privacy policies. In addition, the situational analysis of data, women, and the legal provisions was highlighted.

KICTANet shared how women can use the criminal justice system to get recourse for data privacy violations against them such as non-consensual pornography. "Privacy is a civil law issue, but it also has criminal dimensions related to breaches of privacy through sharing intimate images."

▶ **Community of Practice on Module 5 of the Digital Enquirer Kit on Online Gender-Based Violence**

Following the first community of practice engagement on we convened another round of participants as part of the module's dissemination and localization. This was a full-day event with a special focus on the Digital Enquirer Kit modules and group exercises on OGBV in module 5.

The meeting was aimed at bringing together twenty-five activists, representatives of CSOs working on digital rights, human rights defenders,

and other opinion shapers who influence conversations both online and offline, to enhance partnerships, share knowledge, and identify emerging best practices.

KICTANet developed the module in partnership with the German development agency GIZ and the University of the West Indies on a free learning app named Attingi.

▶ **Community of practice on OGBV and women's data protection and privacy in Kakamega and Kisumu.**

We conducted two-day community of practice workshops in Kisumu and Kakamega with 40 participants drawn from community organisations, human rights defenders, feminists, activists, and journalists.

It joined the international world celebrations for tolerance by raising awareness about the Digital Enquirer Kit (DEK), an e-learning module designed for human rights defenders, journalists, and activists around the world who are curious to tackle misinformation and learn how to navigate the Internet safely.

KICTANet shared findings from its policy brief on data protection and privacy from a gender perspective.

These findings showed that Kenya's current data protection legal and policy regime has gender biases that jeopardise women's data protection. In addition to physicality bias, the other three biases are business efficacy bias, executive fiat in public governance, and gender-neutral business legislation.

▶ **Community of practice for Women Journalists in Bungoma**

KICTANet, in partnership with the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IWARN), organized a one-day workshop for female journalists from Bungoma County to enhance their capacity and knowledge.

We took the participants through the DEK module, focusing on the target audience, types, advice, and techniques to help them distinguish between hate

speech and free speech in OGBV. This workshop brought together a total of fifteen participants drawn from Bungoma County.

▶ **Our participation at the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission of Human and People's Rights.**

KICTANet representatives attended the side events before the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul, Gambia. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is established under Article 30 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Its mandate includes the interpretation, protection, and research of legal issues related to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

KICTANet attended sessions covering a wide range of issues under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, namely human rights concerns in the African Free Trade Area, the impact of internet shutdowns in Africa, and making an impact with the African Commission with Digital Rights NGOs.

▶ **Champions speak: Here's how to beat gender-based violence**

The Gender Program Officer, Angela Minayo, was featured in the local newspaper for her work as a gender champion. "We are in the digital age, and we have seen women trolled online for their choice of dress, political stance, and being in the public eye.

While the attacks might appear random, the trolls target women and sexual minorities based on the social construct of what it means to be a man or a woman".

To address this, there is need for multi-stakeholder policy interventions between social media users, tech companies, app developers, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organisations.

Survivors are also encouraged to first document the online gender-based violence (OGBV) content by taking screenshots so that they can be used as evidence of abuse in court.

Thereafter, security agencies and the judiciary should hold perpetrators accountable. The article was published in the [Daily Nation Newspaper](#).

Resources under the Gender Program

A safer Web for Women

KICTANet developed a [comic strip](#) for a safer web for women. In the story of three differently-aged, differently-shaped, and differently-employed women, we see what violence can look like online, how the seemingly harmless can actually contribute to it, and what we can all do to prevent it and create a safer space for women online.

As a society, we are only as strong as our least powerful person, and we can only hope for a better tomorrow if we stop disempowering them through our actions both online and offline. This comic strip has attracted a total of 151,240 views as of December 2022.

A self-paced MOOC: Online Gender based Violence

With support from GIZ, KICTANet developed a guideline on Online Gender Based Violence, which is part of the the Digital Enquirer Kit and which is hosted on [atingi.com](#).

05. Access to ICTs for marginalized communities

Community Networks

This year marked a significant advancement in bridging the digital divide in Africa through the proliferation of community networks and alternative internet access strategies.

These grassroots initiatives, born out of necessity in regions where traditional internet infrastructure is sparse or non-existent, have demonstrated remarkable success. Our efforts have been focused on supporting and coordinating community networks in Africa to provide more effective alternative strategies for connectivity.

To support their work, we have also worked with regulators to develop supporting policies for community networks. In addition, KICTANet is now managing a community network in Mathare. While utilizing technologies such as long-range Wi-Fi connections and affordable wireless equipment, we have facilitated essential connectivity that has been instrumental in enhancing educational, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

More importantly, these initiatives have empowered communities by promoting digital literacy and providing access to a wealth of global information.

The success of these networks is not just in their technical achievements, but in fostering community resilience, self-sufficiency, and a sense of ownership over local connectivity solutions. Here are some of the activities we have conducted under this program:

▶ **The Kenya National School of Community Networks convened at AheriNet in Kisumu**

KICTANet conducted two Kenya National School of Community Networks in 2022. 21 participants from seven community networks were trained on network infrastructure and services, policy and regulation, and sustainability. The initiative is part of "Supporting Community-Led Approaches to Addressing the Digital Divide," which aims to bring upcoming community networks together through

the leadership of a peer community network to facilitate training and mentorship.

▶ **KICTANet Partners with ITU for Effective Connectivity and Broader Digital Inclusion**

The UK's Digital Access Programme Partners met at Strathmore University for a partners open day facilitated by KICTANet, and organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the UK's Digital Access Programme (DAP) partners in Kenya, themed "Partnering for effective connectivity and broader digital inclusion."

KICTANet, through government agencies led by the ICT Authority, together with the Communications Authority of Kenya, the Kenya Film Classification Board, and the Ministry of ICT and Youth Affairs, produced a cyber hygiene curriculum and information, education, and communication materials aimed at enhancing people's contributions to the digital economy in a safe and secure way.

The cost of internet access was raised during the forum, with the consensus that digital inclusion is not just about the physical infrastructure of development but also depends on how investments are coordinated with each other and complemented by supportive policy measures that address local needs.

▶ **Community Networks at the 2022 Africa Internet Governance Forum in Malawi**

Community networks discussions dominated the conversation on affordable access at the 2022 Africa Internet Governance Forum, which took place in Lilongwe, Malawi. KICTANet through its Africa Regional Coordinator, moderated a panel session on "towards an enabling policy and regulatory framework for community networks in Africa" and hosted a capacity-building lightning talk themed "Building capacity towards sustainability of community networks".

▶ **KICTANet at the ITU-APC-CITAD workshop in Abuja, Nigeria**

The International Telecommunications Union, the Association for Progressive Communication, and the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) organised a three-day workshop on last-mile connectivity and community networks in Abuja to support bridging the gap.

The joint workshop was held under the theme “Technology Options, Policy, and Regulatory Support for Digital Inclusion in Nigeria.” It provided stakeholders with a platform to learn, explore issues, and put forward recommendations for affordable access to communication, with a focus on new trends, technologies, business models, and regulations that could contribute to deploying, managing, and scaling last-mile connectivity and community networks.

The workshop brought together thirty three stakeholders, including community network organisations, telecommunication experts, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, and civil society practitioners engaged in digital inclusion projects. The Local Networks (LocNet) initiative’s regional coordinator at KICTANet was among the speakers.

▶ **Bridging the Gender Digital Divide at the Grassroots Through Last Mile Connectivity**

KICTANet hosted a session on “Bridging the Gender Digital Divide at the Grassroots Through Last Mile Connectivity.”

The focus of the session was to unpack the multi-layered issues around equitable participation of women in the digital ecosystem and how community networks at the last mile are helping bridge this gap.

The Africa Regional Coordinator at KICTANet continues to support the community network movement in facilitating women’s empowerment through the promotion of equitable access and participation in the digital ecosystem.

▶ **Community of Practice (CoP) workshops**

This was a follow-up to the national school training and was facilitated by the national exchange funds from the Association of Progressive Communications (APC).

TunapandaNet deployed capacity-building workshops centered around Communities of Practice (CoP), which are sustainability, network, infrastructure, and local content creation.

The sustainability workshop took place in Laikipia, hosted by Ngarua Maarifa centre, and the Networks and Infrastructure CoP workshop was hosted by Dunia Moja in Kilifi.

▶ **Africa Community Networks Women Get Together 2022**

The Africa Community Networks women get together themed Gender Agenda 23 event organised by KICTANet through the Africa Regional Coordinator was held virtually as a 3-day workshop.

The workshop brought together nine participants, all women, from six community networks in Africa; Zenzeleni, TunapandaNet, the Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Mamaila, BOSCO Uganda, and the Center for Youth and Development.

The agenda of the workshop was to discuss the work done so far in the Local Networks (LocNet) initiative regarding gender over the first phase and help LocNet set the agenda for 2023 with the needs and visions of the community in mind.

The participants’ contributions from their experiences under LocNet will help LocNet further its work in tailoring programs to empower women within community networks.

▶ **Global efforts to enhance the impacts of community networks**

KICTANet through the Africa Regional Coordinator and the Africa Policy Coordinator, accompanied the APC team and peers from the schools in Zenzeleni (South Africa), TunapandaNet (Kenya), CITAD (Nigeria), Common Room (Indonesia),

and PSA (Brazil) for the 2022 IGF in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The community networks presented their experiences with the national schools in a session themed “lessons learned from capacity building in the global south”

A sharing session was held later in the year, where exchanges with representatives from all five national schools supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) under the LocNet project.

It involved a discussion on the overall functions of the school Meso organizations and their specific functions under LocNet.

The peers then presented timelines of the schools, their reflections, best practices, and visions for the school going forward. The session closed with documentation of the top 2 things the peers would like to do collectively and areas of support required; Knowledge and learning exchanges, Documentation, and content creation.

International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

As part of the commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information, KICTANet engaged in an open forum discussion under the year’s IDUAI theme:

Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance, and Access to Information. We highlighted the importance of ensuring accessibility, where focus should be on creating awareness, identifying access limits, and promoting the conversation about ICT accessibility for people with disabilities.

The event was organised by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) in partnership with the Katiba Institute and Transparency International Kenya.

UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators

KICTANet, in collaboration with UNESCO, conducted a review of the national assessment of Kenya using the ROAM-X indicators framework.

The framework is a unique and powerful resource that has been developed through an extensive process of research, consultation, and analysis. The Kenya national assessment measured all six categories of indicators, but with a focus on the 109 core indicators on Internet accessibility.

This review follows an assessment which led to the development of a national assessment report on the internet universality indicators (IUI), assessing the national internet environment and evaluated policies that align with UNESCO’s ROAM principles.

The report was developed by a team of researchers and influenced greatly by input from a multi-stakeholder advisory board (MAB) with expertise in the internet sector in Kenya.

Later, KICTANet in partnership with UNESCO convened a validation meeting, where stakeholders representing government, civil society, the technical community, the legal fraternity, academia, media, and Internet users gave expert insight and input to the drafted national assessment report to ensure Kenya’s internet environment is represented exhaustively and comprehensively.

The research output can be found on the [UNESCO website](#) and the [KICTANet website](#), with the ISBN 978-92-3-100408-7.

KICTANet Flagship Events



KICTANet has other programs that aligned with the four key pillars namely:

1. **Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KeIGF)**
2. **Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG).**

Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KeIGF)

KICTANet has convened the Kenya IGF every successive year since 2008 in partnership with industry stakeholders, and this year commemorates the 17th edition.

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KeIGF) is an annual meeting that brings together various stakeholder groups to dialogue on ICT and Internet policy.

While the discussions yield soft policy outcomes, the Kenya Internet Governance Forum is a knowledge-sharing platform that informs and inspires policy actors in both the public and private sectors.

The national forum also feeds into the regional and global Internet governance forums through a chain of reporting and representation to the

regional and global Internet governance forums to ensure bottom-up Internet policy development processes, and a strong link between global Internet policies and the national one.

▶ The KeIGF 2022

This year's global IGF theme was 'Resilient Internet for a Shared, Sustainable, and Common Future.' The Kenya IGF theme is aligned with the global IGF theme and responded to the local context, including the the August 2022 general election.

▶ The 2022 Kenya Youth IGF

Kenya Youth IGF is a youth-led structure to develop the capacity for coordinating, mobilising, and advocating for meaningful inclusion and engagement of young people in the Kenya IGF in partnership with industry stakeholders to address key Internet issues.

Following the success of the 2021 last year's edition, the 2022 Kenya YouthIGF aimed at providing an interactive discussion platform for organised youth participation from all stakeholder groups to bring up their ideas and concerns.

The forum creates opportunities for networking, collaboration, and long-term partnerships between key stakeholders and the community.

The theme for the Kenya Youth IGF was “Resilient Internet for a Sustainable and Common Future for the Youth.” The Kenya Youth IGF attracted seventy participants who joined virtually.

▶ **Engagement in the Use of Meta Platforms**

KICTANet and Meta hosted an interactive thought leadership roundtable for stakeholders to highlight emerging concerns arising from the use of Meta’s platforms in Kenya.

There has been widespread concern over how Meta collects and processes personal data and whether the company has sufficient safeguards to guard against data breaches and violations of the right to privacy.

In Kenya, concerns over data breaches such as the Cambridge Analytica scandal and increased cases of psychological profiling, surveillance, and targeted advertising remain.

The objective of the roundtable series was to provide platforms for dialogue and engagement on the concerns and challenges arising from the use of Meta’s platforms in Kenya and to identify priority actions, potential solutions, and best practices moving forward.

The roundtable brought together forty stakeholders, including business, academia, technical community, digital rights activists, representatives of civil society organisations working on digital rights, human rights defenders, and other opinion-shapers who influence conversations both online and offline, to enhance partnerships, the sharing of knowledge, and emerging best practices.

▶ **Disinformation Pathways Report**

KICTANet, in partnership with the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), conducted two research projects on data governance and disinformation pathways. During the Kenya Internet Governance Forum (IGF) week, the two organisations held a workshop to disseminate a report on disinformation in Kenya’s

political sphere: actors, pathways, and effects.

The research was part of a regional study conducted by CIPESA, that explored the nature, perpetrators, and effects of misinformation in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, and Kenya.

Through this exercise, KICTANet also aimed at mapping out areas for further research and collaboration.

Taking conversations from the national level to regional and Global IGFs

▶ **The 11th edition of AfIGF in Malawi**

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Republic of Malawi and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), organised the 11th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF 2022) in Lilongwe, Malawi, under the theme “Digital Inclusion and Trust in Africa.”

The forum brought together high-level officials, dignitaries, and participants drawn from the African Union Commission, member states, UN organisations, the private sector, academia, and civil society to discuss digitalization.

KICTANet was part of two sessions that revolved around an in-depth look at the first Open-Ended working group (OEWG) and its outcomes. It also focused on African priorities for capacity building in international cybersecurity.

▶ **The 2022 Global IGF in Addis Ababa**

The government of Ethiopia hosted as a hybrid event, the 17th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Addis Ababa, under the overarching theme “Resilient Internet for a Shared Sustainable and Common Future.”

The program was guided by five themes supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and drawn from the Global Digital Compact in the UN Secretary-General’s Our Common

Agenda report.

KICTANet participated the following panels:

- a) Gender and the machines
- b) Our accessibility program
- c) Hosting a global community of CSOs on digital IDs
- d) UNESCOIUI: ROAM Approaches.
- e) Connecting schools, connecting the future of labour, connecting AfricalGF.
- f) Cybernorms: implementing global cybernorms.
- g) Open Forum on Technology and Human Rights Due Diligence at the UN
- h) Declaration for the Future of the Internet.

Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG)

The Kenya School of Internet Governance is an introductory course covering technical, economic, legal, and contemporary social issues brought about by the Internet and how they affect Kenyan decision-making.

It aims to build a critical mass of individuals advocating for Internet rights and freedoms by equipping the participants with the skills needed to participate meaningfully in local, regional, and global policy discourse. The selection process for both faculty and students since inception has required that participation be inclusive.

The criteria for selection include affirmative action for persons from marginalised groups such as counties, persons with disabilities, state and

non-state actors, diverse professionals drawn from various multi-stakeholder groups, female candidates, geographical representation, those from low-income and rural areas, and LGBTQI+. using internet governance, after the training as has been demonstrated by previous cohorts.

The learning journey entails candidates application, selection process, induction, access to the KeSIG e-learning platform, two weeks of self-paced study with the help of proctors; student online interaction on the e-learning platform discussion forum, and also through WhatsApp, with the last three days of engagement with industry practitioners, an online exam on the last day, participation at the Kenya IGF issuance of certificates of completion to participants, and blogs published by students. KeSIG has trained over 350 new voices on internet governance..

The seventh edition of Kenya School of Internet Governance 2022 Fellows

The 7th KeSIG edition was held virtually in 2022. This is an introductory course covering technical, economic, legal, and contemporary social issues brought about by the Internet and how they affect Kenyans in their decision-making.

The program aims to build a critical mass of individuals advocating for Internet rights and freedoms by equipping the participants with the skills needed to participate meaningfully in local, regional, and global policy discourse.

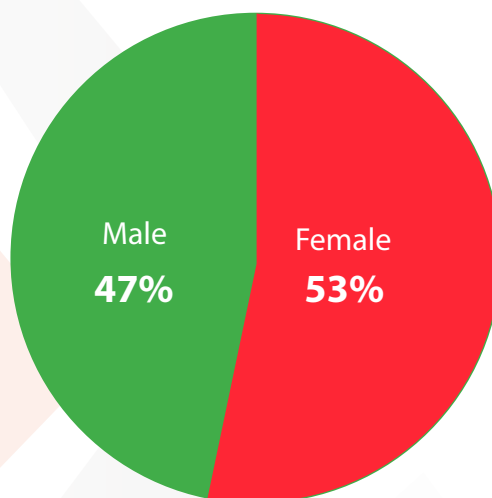
It KeSIG 2022 was taught using a combination of the KICTANet developed e-learning platform and online interaction through video seminars. Several industrial leaders, policy practitioners, and implementers had a chance to interact with the students.

KeSIG 2022 received a total of 340 applications, from all locations in Kenya, and several countries in Africa. A total of 118 applicants were chosen for the 2022 class. The following is a breakdown of stakeholders who participated in KeSIG:

Stakeholder Group	Count	Percentage
Civil Society	14	12%
Academia	23	19%
Private Sector	53	45%
Public Sector	20	17%
Media	8	7%
All Students	118	100.0%

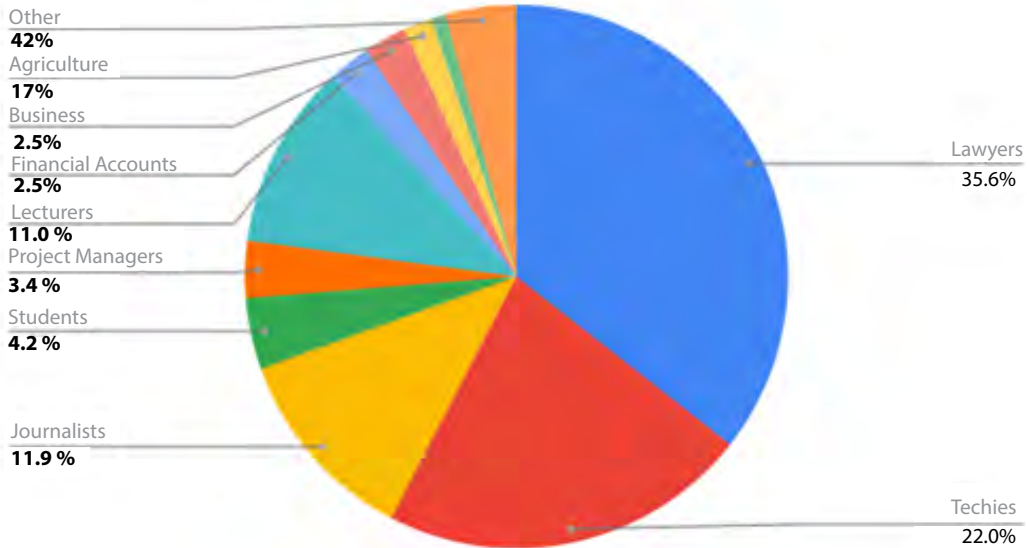
Kenya School of Internet Governance 2022 Participation by stakeholder groups

▶ Kenya School of Internet Governance 2022 Participation by gender



Gender Participation at KESIG 2022

Professional Distribution



▶ The 10th edition of AfriSIG in Malawi

KICTANet participated in several conferences and activities organised by the African School of Internet Governance (AfriSIG) in Malawi. The 10th edition of AfriSIG was held from July 16–18, 2022, focusing on international cybersecurity.

KICTANet participated in two sessions that focused on an in-depth look at the first Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) and its outcomes; and also African priorities for capacity building in international cybersecurity.

KICTANet Public Engagement

Public engagement and community-led policy development are the core of KICTANET's work. Our engagement strategy has primarily focused on amplifying the collective Kenyan voice.

By organizing community forums and leveraging digital platforms, we have effectively transformed individual narratives into a powerful, unified call for policy change.

These initiatives not only raise awareness to support policy implementation by stakeholders, but also drive a participatory approach to policy formulation, making our influence more resonant and impactful.

In 2022, we continued using the mailing list as our main engagement platform to drive discussions on tech policy in the country.

With the continued emergence of new technologies, we have also increased our engagement in other digital platforms as a way of connecting policies with the realities of Kenyan's interacting in these platforms.

Here are the platforms we use for public engagement:

▶ KICTANet Mailing List

In 2022, KICTANet continued running its [Mailing List](#) where different discussion threads on different ICT topics took place. In this platform, we drive structured conversations on specific topics; including policy documents in development, and emerging issues in the Kenyan tech regulatory space.

We also provide updates on policy developments and KICTANet community events.

▶ Take on Tech Program

Take on Tech is a weekly show that airs 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. The aim of this show is to educate Kenyans both in both rural and urban areas on technology and regulatory issues.

It simplifies technology and regulation to promote the participation of the wider public in tech policy development and implementation.

This includes educating the public on digital rights. KICTANet collaborates with the National Broadcaster in production of this program.

There are over 60 episodes of the program on the KICTANet youtube platform

▶ Podcasts

In response to the demand for increased awareness of data protection regulations in Kenya, the AU-EU D4D Hub launched the "Data Protectors Podcast".

This podcast series, produced by Kenyan think tank KICTANET and the Digital Transformation Center Kenya in collaboration with the Nairobi Legal Hackers network, explores the impact of Kenya's Data Protection Act (DPA) and the European Union's General Data Protection Act (GDPR) on businesses and individuals.


The podcast aims to enhance compliance among small businesses and data processors, shedding light on the rights and obligations of data subjects, controllers, and processors.

Experts from Kenya and Europe discuss various aspects of data protection, offering insights, lessons learned, and opportunities arising from these regulations.

▶ KICTANET Twitter Spaces

Over the past year, KICTANet has also included Twitter Spaces as a key platform for public engagement, significantly enhancing our policy influence.

This approach has enabled us to host live, interactive discussions on crucial societal



issues, drawing in diverse participants including policymakers, experts, and the general public. These digital dialogues have not only raised awareness but have also shaped our policy recommendations, thanks to valuable insights and feedback from a broad audience.

Among the spaces we held this year were on government website accessibility with people with disabilities(PWDs).

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, KICTANet is committed to forging a successful path based on the achievements and lessons learned from the 2022 annual report.

Building upon our accomplishments and addressing the challenges identified, we will focus

on several key areas that encourage synergies for ICT policy related activities and initiatives that adopt an open, accessible, human rights based approach that is characterized by multi-stakeholder participation.

First, we recognize the importance of embracing innovation. We will foster a culture of creativity and experimentation, encouraging our employees to think outside the box and explore new ideas.

Through strategic partnerships and collaborations, we will tap into external expertise and leverage Multi-stakeholder model to drive reforms in the ICT sector anchored on our four pillars of Policy Advocacy, Capacity Building, Research, and Stakeholder Engagement

Publications in 2022

Policy Briefs

▶ **Guidebook on Data Protection and Privacy from a Gender Perspective**

The guidebook breaks down data protection principles under the Kenya Data Protection Act, 2019 and other irrelevant policies in simple and fun language. Each chapter has exercises to assess your understanding and a takeaway section with a chapter summary.

The guidebook targets women, women human rights defenders, data protection practitioners, and gender experts working at the intersection of gender and technology.

The guidebook will offer a reference point for users, especially those without a legal background, to deepen their knowledge and understanding about data protection and the gendered impact of data protection on women and spur conversations about data protection aspects that often go overlooked.

▶ **This publication has a total of 427 downloads as of December 2022.**

Data Protection and Privacy A Gender Perspective Women's online participation presents data protection issues such as lack of agency and control over data, consent in unequal power dynamic contexts, loss of privacy, discrimination, online gender-based violence targeting women, and bias that is compounded when age, class, and gender intersect.

Kenya has been lauded for having a digitally connected and active citizenry, and indeed, providing the requisite infrastructure, and an enabling environment for digitization has been a policy priority advanced by the government through the ICT Ministry.

However, digitization and wide scale online access are only one side of the coin. The other side is exposure to violations of privacy, bias, and online violence, which could be suffered by anyone, but

women are particularly vulnerable. Women and young girls are harmed differently than other citizens by these violations, an issue not properly addressed by existing policies and laws. This policy brief has a total of 3731 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Data protection and digital identity in Kenya**

Kenya's Data Protection Act came into effect in November 2019, but soon thereafter, in January 2020, the High Court, in the Nubian Rights Forum Case, declared that the legislation was, in the absence of regulations and institutions necessary for its implementation, still deficient in providing adequate safeguards for the protection of personal data.

At the heart of this pivotal litigation was the state's collection of personal data for the purposes of establishing an integrated identity system and issuing digital identity cards.

The High Court excluded DNA and GPS information from the data that could be legitimately collected from citizens, saying it was too invasive to privacy and unnecessary for the intended purpose of civil registration and the issuance of identity documents.

In addition, the court directed the state to put in place adequate measures for safeguarding personal data legitimately collected to advance the state's policy objectives. This policy brief has a total of 832 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Policy review towards citizen cyber hygiene in Kenya**

In recent years, as more business, government, and civil applications have been accessed through the Internet and private networks, the issue of cybersecurity has become a major concern.

Every year, financial losses, as well as reputational and social embarrassment, are experienced as a result of antisocial and criminal activity in cyberspace.

Therefore, it has become necessary for both corporates and governments to invest in securing infrastructure, networks, systems, and users, as well as create policies and laws to mitigate the risks posed by the use of technology. This policy brief has a total of 703 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Personal Data & Elections 2022**

This brief assesses how the implementation of the Data Protection Act, 2019, will impact the upcoming 2022 Kenyan elections.

The importance of this law is that, unlike previous elections, the 2022 election will be the first to be held with a comprehensive data protection law in place. This policy brief has received a total of 751 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **A study paper on human-centred cybersecurity: Kenyan Fintech sector**

This study maps the cybersecurity landscape in Kenya, with a focus on the financial sector, and advocates for a human-centric approach to cybersecurity.

It also provides the Kenyan country context in terms of legislation, stakeholders, and the financial sector, noting the increased access, use, and adoption of ICTs in the country, which were facilitating digital payments in the country, and whose value continued to grow as e-commerce became mainstream.

This policy brief has received a total of 918 downloads as of December 2022.

Reports

▶ **2022 KICTANet preliminary election observation report**

This report presents a summary of the key findings of KICTANet's election observation mission during Kenya's general election held on August 9, 2022.

During the election, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) cleared 16,098 candidates to compete for six main elective positions across the country's 291 constituencies in 47 counties. KICTANet observed elections in

various polling stations in 21 counties, focusing on technology aspects.

This report has received a total of 728 downloads as of December 2022

▶ **Pre-election Observations Report on Kenya's August 2022 Election**

This pre-election report documents our findings on the state of elections technology preparedness and use with regard to the situation prior to the August 9 election, focusing on the progressive steps taken so far; highlighting the potential risks and challenges towards the election; and making some recommendations.

This report has received a total of 1852 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Talk to the IEBC 2022**

This is a report on discussion on the role of technology in the upcoming elections and beyond, and how KICTANet can collaborate with the IEBC in line with its mandate of delivering free, fair, and credible elections. This report has received a total of 411 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Disinformation in Kenya's Political Sphere: Actors, Pathways, Effects.**

This study assesses disinformation in Kenya's political sphere. Disinformation is already in full display at national and grassroots levels, as politicians who have a heterogeneous electorate divided along ideological, ethnic, economic, and demographic lines. This report has received a total of 800 downloads as of December 2022.

▶ **Kenya Digital Readiness: A Journey towards a Human-Centered Digitalization**

The study reviews the current status of digital governance in Kenya and provides ideas for better supporting the key areas related to the achievement of strategic objectives.

The report is based on desk research and interviews conducted with more than a dozen Kenyan stakeholders from the public sector, business sector, academia, and civil society organisations. This report has received a total of 1639 downloads

as of December 2022.

KICTANet Site Visit to Konza Technopolis

This is a report on: KICTANET community visit the Konza Technopolis site to assess the progress made and contribute ideas that would fast-track realisation of the Techno City. On Friday, 25th June 2021, a section of KICTANet members made a maiden visit to the Konza Technopolis Development Authority located in Makueni County. This report has received a total of 296 downloads as of December 2022.

Submissions

Memorandum on the Huduma Bill 2021

KICTANet developed and submitted a memorandum on The Huduma Bill 2021 as part of a coalition of Kenyan civil society organisations with expertise in issues of identification, civil registration, nationality rights, data protection and privacy, minority rights, children's rights, human rights, and other related issues.

The Huduma Bill is proposing the largest set of changes to the legal framework governing Kenya's identification system since before independence.

If enacted, the Huduma Bill would become the single law anchoring birth and death registration, issuance of identification cards, issuance of passports, and governance of the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS, also referred to as Huduma Namba). As such, the draft legislation, system design, and all other decision points around NIIMS must be considered very carefully, comprehensively, and transparently. This submission has received a total 450 downloads as of Jan 2022

Submission on New USF Strategic Plan 2022-2026

KICTANet, the Association for Progressive Communication (APC), AHERINet Community Network, TunapandaNET Community Network, Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN), Athi Community Network, Dunia Moja Network, and Lanet Umoja Community Network collaborated

to submit a joint commentary on the draft new USF strategic plan, USF principles & guidelines, and the USF operating manual for the period 2022-2026.

The commentary focused on the amplification of digital inequalities, widening social and economic gaps between the connected and unconnected. It emphasized the need for a platform fostering local capacities, creation, and distribution of locally relevant content.

Additionally, the submission advocated aligning the USF strategy with recommendations from the 2021 Access Gap report and the Licensing and Spectrum Sharing Framework for Community Networks. This report has received a total 287 of May 2022.

Joint Memorandum on Draft KICA Regulations, 2022

KICTANet, accessnow, ARTICLE19, Strathmore University jointly submitted a memorandum on the Kenya Information and Communications (Broadcasting) Regulations, 2022; the Kenya Information and Communications (Registration of Telecommunications Service Subscribers) Regulations, 2022; the Kenya Information and Communications (Access and Infrastructure Sharing) regulations; and, the Kenya Information and Communications (Interconnection) Regulations 2022. This submission has received a total of 446 downloads as of June 2022.

Joint Memorandum on Huduma Bill, 2021

KICTANet and ARTICLE 19 jointly submitted a memorandum in response to proposed amendments to the Huduma Bill 2021. This bill suggests significant changes to Kenya's identification system, potentially becoming the primary law for birth and death registration, ID card issuance, passport issuance, and governance of the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS or Huduma Namba). Therefore, careful consideration, comprehensive analysis, and

transparency are crucial for all aspects of the draft legislation, system design, and decision points related to NIIMS. This submission has received a total of 269 downloads as of July 2022.

to ensure conformity with the constitution. This submission has received a total of 346 downloads as of September 2022.

▶ **Joint Memorandum on The Proposed Co-Regulation Framework**

KICTANet and ARTICLE 19 presented this joint memorandum in response to the call by the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB). We proposed that the Co-regulation Framework and the Guidelines be abolished pending meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement, evidence-based research from Kenya, and legislative amendments

Programmes & funders

A vote of thanks to

1. **Africa Internet Rights Alliance** - Ford Foundation
2. **Women and ICT strengthening program** - GIZ
3. **Cyber Capacity Building** - Global Partners Digital
4. **Cyber Hygiene** - FCDO
5. **Universality Indicators** - UNESCO
6. **KICTANet Observer Mission** - Access Now
7. **Impact Grant** - APC
8. **Organization Support** - Ford Foundation
9. **Data Accountability, Protection and Transparency** - Internews
10. **Support to IGF 2022** - Open Society Foundation
11. **Disinformation** - CIPESA
12. **Women at Web** - DW

2022 in Pictures



L-R Mr John Walubengo, ICT Expert and Trustee at KICTANet, Ms Julie Matheka, Program Manager ICJ Kenya and Mr Mahat Somane, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya during "The Place of Technology in elections" panel discussion at the 2022 Annual Jurist Conference.



Ms Grace Githaiga, CEO leads the KICTANet team in engaging with the IECB led by its Chairperson Mr Wafula Chebukati on the use of ICTs for a Smooth and Credible Election Process in 2022.



Dr. Ololade Shyllon, Head of Privacy Policy, Africa, Middle East and Turkey at Meta engaging with Mr Victor Kapiyo, Trustee KICTANet during the 2022 KelGF Week.



Ms Grace Githaiga and Mr John Walubengo sharing their expertise and insights during the IECB National Election Conference 2022, held on the 11th And 12th July 2022 at the Kenyatta National Conference Centre.



Group photo of participants after the conclusion of Training of Trainers on Women's Data Protection and Privacy workshop supported by GIZ



Participants during a Digital Security Training of Trainers for Women training on safeguarding data privacy to reduce women's vulnerability to cybersecurity.



UKAids's Digital Access Programme partners at Strathmore University for an open day facilitated by KICTANet in collaboration with International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



Ms Mercy Ndegwa, Public Policy Director, East & Horn of Africa, Meta Platforms Inc and Ms Grace Githaiga, CEO KICTANet, during a high c-level panel discussion on what an internet for a shared, sustainable and common future means during the IGF 2022 in Nairobi.



Neema Masista, conducting a training session for female journalists in Bungoma County on the Digital Enquirer Kit.



Group photo of participants during the Kenya IGF Week workshop on Women's Data Protection and politics.



KICTANet at The Forum for Internet Freedom in Africa hosted by Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa in Lilongwe. They presented our statement on Open Ended Working Group on Security and the Use of ICTs



I-R: Harry Hare, Chairman & Content Director dx⁵, Jack Ngare Technical Director in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Google, Raimo Reiman, Representative, Estonia government, Phillip Irode, ICT Authority, Salome Egger, GIZ Digital Transformation Centre Kenya, Ms Grace Githaiga, CEO KICTANet during the launch of the results of the Kenya Digital Readiness Study focusing on topics relevant to a functional e-governance system.

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