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## ENHANCE DIGITAL AWARENESS AND MONITORING INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN TANZANIA IN 2020



### Executive Summary

Zaina Foundation is not for Profit Organization based in Tanzania with the aim of Promote Digital Rights in Tanzania. We implement this through series of Digital Safety Training and workshop, advocacy through social media, publications of articles, flayers, simple guides, radios session and collaboration with local and international stakeholders during convenes in Tanzania to Raise Awareness on digital and accessibility of internet all the time.

Internet now-days became a major communication instruments that simplify the flow of information everyday whereby peoples are using social media to share information about daily events, processing and procedures

Tanzania communication Authority reports in 2017 show the massive rise of social media users to 23 million equally to 45 percent of all Tanzanians. The reports reflect the increase from 7.52 million who were the social media users reported on 2012 reports the 17 percent of all Tanzanians whereby the massive increase also seen in 2013 and 9.31million people became a social media user equal to 21 percent for all Tanzanians

This report is Zaina Foundation publication. It is written by Zaina Foundation team include Zaituni Njovu, Imani Henrick, Neema Ndemno, Alfred Mwahalende and Jamila Selemani.

## Introduction

In order to ensure the access of Internet, Zaina Foundation based on rising Awareness and Promote Digital Rights Zaina foundation launched a campaign famously on social media tweeter, facebook, Instagram with the hashtags #KeepItOnTz and #NalwakeInterneti for the aim of emphasizing the importance of accessibility of internet all the time in Tanzania with affordable price for the aim of simplifying the access of Information.



The access of social media simplified for the aim of widening the online community which bring risks and challenges online some women have been hacked, lost their account, and other online attacks.

## Challenges face women journalists in Tanzania

Women Journalist literally the person who create, write, edit, shoot videos, and disseminate information to the media outlet or the someone who deal with production, editing and dissemination of news specific for women.

Due to the evolution of technology women journalists face challenges during receive and share information because something they receive sensitive data and pass struggles during verifications of news.

They face these challenges in communications include hacking, physical attack, cyber bullying, face news, leakage of data, loss of data, virus attack, internet costs, communication with unsecure sources, internet shutdowns, lack of freedom of expression and association etc.

<sup>1</sup>The current Electronic and Post Communication Regulation 2020 (Online Contents) brought draconian laws and restrictions of online contents, raise taxes and limitations of Online TV and Radios. Moreover, is restriction on use of VPN and other circumvention tools.

This project funded by Access Now brought female journalists from Dar es salaam for 5 days TOT training at Serena Hotel Dar es salaam. Trainees interact with trainers during training methodology of this training were group discussion, lecture, self-study, presentation and skill share.

"The Internet companies must put affordable price for internet packages and bundles in order to allow all citizen to be able to access Internet to share information regardless of their economic status"

Apart from ensuring the rise of women awareness about Internet also the organization has been conducting different trainings to journalists which are aiming to increase their awareness on cyber security issues and policies and laws on to prosper online safe space.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.tcra.go.tz/document/The%20Electronic%20and%20Postal%20Communications%20\(Online%20Content\)%20Regulations,%202020](https://www.tcra.go.tz/document/The%20Electronic%20and%20Postal%20Communications%20(Online%20Content)%20Regulations,%202020)

"In 2020 We succeeded to meet 60 women journalists trained them about Digital Security best practice include Encryptions, Mobile security, Social Media engineering, Online Gender Based Violence, computer hygiene, secure communications, access to information, TOT tactics, Internet Shutdowns include social media blackout, circumvention tools and how to measure internet censorship hands on OONI, MLAB and how to document data during incidences of Internet shutdowns for 5 days.

### **Testimonies**

*"Today I realized no safety in using Technology, previously life in technology full of protection, something which is wrong, through this workshop I have learnt the importance of being safe through ensuring regular security update in social media accounts, to put my account privately and to restrict some of information which is not necessary to be viewed by everyone,"* Rahma Salum.

*"The Internet companies must put affordable price for internet packages and bundles in order to allow all citizen to be able to access Internet to share information regardless of their economic status"* Rayah

*Zaitun Njovu insisted that it is very important for journalists to understand means to secure their social media accounts, but also in the community, large number of smartphones owners are not aware on issues concerning Online Security. We must ensure Internet is the safe space for everyone.*



### **Conclusion**

Zaina Foundation aimed to help women journalists to be aware with Digital Security and to protect them from cyber challenges and cybercrimes. This organization continue to strengthen women on Digital Rights skills and Internet Shutdowns and reach more women from remote areas of Tanzania with collaboration of community leaders and other supporters.