ZAINA FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

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Edition 02

Update about the state of digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania January - March 2023.

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Zaina Foundation in collaboration with partners continue advocate for civic space using technology to different groups of stakeholders include young activists, marginalized women and women journalists in Dar es salaam, Arusha, Dodoma, Pwani, Monduli, Simanjiro, Loliondo, Bagamoyo etc.
We thank government of Tanzania for signed a new law on Personal Data Protection Act of 2022
Zaina Foundation as champion on Rights to Privacy in Tanzania shall continue advocacy on this new act and raise awareness among women to understand and adopt this new law; its regulation will be published anytime for practices.

Since January 2023 Zaina Foundation continues to advocate for gender equality in Digital technology and Innovation, by promoting digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania in order to bridge the gender gap in innovation and technology. Through the implementation of different programs such as Digital Voice for young women activists, Digital safety training for women journalists, Localization and translation of secure communication tools and digital safety training for marginalized women in Tanzania are the efforts of bridging the gender gap in Technology and Innovation. From January to March of 2023 Zaina Foundation implemented its mission and vision in various activities:

ZAINA FOUNDATION

Digital Voice Project 03
Digital Safety training for women journalists 04
Localization and translation of OONI website 05
Digital Rights Meetup 06
Visited Kondo secondary school 07
Training to at -risk marginalized women of Bagamoyo Pwani 08
Participated in the Optima Network Measurement Training 08
Digital safety training for Marginalized Maasai women in Arusha region 09

1. Digital Voice Project

Facilitator during Digital Voice training

January 12-14, 2023 Zaina Foundation conducted Digital Voice training of young women activists at the University of Arusha with a total of fifty students who trained about digital rights and how civic space in Tanzania can be expanded by using technology among young women activists. ZF addressed the issue of Online Gender Based Violence and how it affected participation of young women in online platforms in Tanzania. Through this training ZF established the Digital Rights Club of University of Arusha which will be sustainable in advocating for digital rights and access to information using technology in a safe environment for young activists in Tanzania.

2. Digital Safety training for women journalists

Again in January, two days training for women Journalists of the Arusha region was conducted at Gran Melia Arusha. Fifteen participants get practical knowledge about digital safety and tool's practice. Device Hygiene, Online Safety, Mobile Safety, Encryptions, etc were among topics covered during this training.

Women journalists in Tanzania still face challenges of surveillance and loss of data during their work which lead to disappearance and death of women journalists like Blandina Sambu. This made women fear continuing working as journalists due to the unsafe environment. Most women journalists focus on reporting news like child education empowerment, economic empowerment, agricultural and livelihood of rural people and not reporting investigative reports on corruption, hunger, killing of women incidents (spouses) and political campaigns.

3. Localization and translation of OONI website

In collaboration with OONI, which is the Open Observatory for Network Interference, Zaina Foundation translated three documents into swahili language. These documents are parts of the OONI website. The first document we translated is frequently asked questions (FAQ), second document is OONI glossary and last document is risks. All these documents support the at-risk swahili community to use OONI in run tests and documenting data for advocacy and litigation strategies. Among the reasons for the digital divide in innovation and technology in Tanzania is the language barrier due to most of the digital tools, softwares and applications are designed with the use of English language which is not the language of majority of users at-risk in Sub Saharan Africa.

Commemoration of International women's day 2023

Zaina Foundation joined other women's stakeholders in the world on 8th of March to commemorate the International Women's Day (IWD) where women's social, economic, political and cultural achievements are recognized and celebrated. Theme of this year is DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality which aims to recognize and celebrate women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. Also the theme aims to explore the impact of digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities and spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV). Read more on our article here In the month of March, we conducted a series of activities towards celebrations of International Women's Day on March 8th as the theme of this year complies with what our organization is doing in advocating for gender equality in Digital technology and Innovation, by promoting digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania:

4. Digital Rights Meetup

On 1st March at Ramada Resort Hotel, Zaina Foundation led Women Meet up with the aim of exploring the reasons for gender gap in technology and Innovation. The meet up comprises twenty women with different experiences and skills who are journalists, activists, social media influencers, human rights defenders, entrepreneurs and technologists.

This was a very successful meeting where participants, apart from discussion, got a chance to understand the concepts of innovation and technology, challenges of the digital gender gap, its impact in social economic and providing measures on how to solve the challenges with relation to 21st Century skills.

5. Visited Kondo secondary school

Zaina Foundation team visited Kondo Secondary school to meet with 150 form four girls students for the purpose of increasing awareness on digital safety among future women's leaders. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness to young women to create safe space online and feminists internet in Tanzania

6. Training to at -risk marginalized women of Bagamoyo Pwani.

March 6, we visited rural women at Kiromo Village, Bagamoyo District, Pwani region, and met with twenty women who are farmers. Together with ZF team participants discussed the international Women Day theme and their status in digital engagement. Through the discussion it was found that there is very low engagement of rural women in digital technology as only four women had smartphones. They explained the importance of innovation and technology, also how they can benefit through internet and digital device use. They also shared different challenges that they face including lack of proper digital safety training including secure tools for safe communication.

7. Participated in the Optima Network Measurement Training

Zaina Foundation participated during four weeks of OPTIMA online training on Network Measurement prepared by Internews. In this training two Zaina Foundation staff managed to learn about network measurements and tools for measuring and documenting Shutdowns, We practiced all three tools including OONI, IODA and MLab why and how to measure internet shutdown, measuring network performance and internet outages, and measuring blocking of websites and applications. Also training involved detecting the blocking of websites.

8. Digital safety training for Marginalized Maasai women in Arusha region

Participants group photo during Digital safety training

Maasai women are among at-risk communities in Tanzania facing gender inequalities and gender violence many NGO not reach this community during capacity building and other physical social support due to fear and limited resources. Recently maasai women experience surveillance and tracking in communication due to ongoing relocation led to struggles on land and cattles.

Zaina Foundation conducted three days Digital Safety Training to support at-risk maasai women in the Arusha region to be aware of safe communication in order to support their families and advocacy activities.

9. Other Collaboration

Zaina Foundation participated in three different training events between January - March 2023. First on 9th February our organization participated in the inception meeting of the VOTE: Women cohort 11 programme of Pollicy organization held in Dar es salaam.

Second on 21st March we participated in research for the Health Data Governance Focus Group Discussion (FGD) of eight people to analyze the state of health data governance in Tanzania which was organized by TORODEV from Uganda.

Last participated in a consultative meeting for CSO's Women Directors on Development of Advocacy communication strategy which was prepared by WiLDAF Tanzania.

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