

Report on Digital Security Awareness to Marginalized Maasai Women in Tanzania



Group Photo during Digital Security Training in Longido - Arusha

Table of Contents:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Key Findings
4. Threats
5. Recommendations
6. Conclusion

Executive Summary

This digital security report aims to assess and address the digital security concerns faced by Maasai women in Tanzania. With the increasing use of digital technologies, it is crucial to ensure the safety and privacy of Maasai women as they navigate the digital landscape in relation to mitigation of climate change in Tanzania. Maasai is the pastoralists community that lives in the Northern part of Tanzania in Regions including Arusha and Manyara. Main economic activity of the Maasai community is animal keeping (Pastoralists) They keep cattles including cows, goats, sheep, and donkeys. This report covers the key digital key findings, threats, and recommended actions to enhance digital security.

Introduction

The Maasai community in Tanzania has witnessed a surge in digital technology adoption, with more Maasai women engaging in online activities. However, this also exposes them to various digital security risks and threats. This report provides an overview of the digital security landscape for Maasai women. Majority of Maasai women use digital devices especially smartphones and the internet to access information online about mitigation of climate change, economic connections and tourism activities. Maasai women in Tanzania 90% do pastoralism but for 10% they do other economic activities on a small scale like mining, tourism, farming, etc. Marginalized Maasai women face challenges in accessing information online due to the impacts of climate change migration, Surveillance, Censorship, and other Digital Threats.

[Zaina Foundation](#) the only organization in Tanzania which promote digital rights and inclusion, this month October, 2023 conducted two days training, educated 20 maasai women on digital security focused on Device Hygiene, Password and Password Management, Online Safety, Secure Communication, Mobile Safety, Tools practice for secure communication online especially those tools translated by [Zaina Foundation](#) into Swahili language including, Signal Mobile app, Psiphon, Tor tools, OONI Probe and Explorer. Aim of this training is to educate the at-risk maasai community on secure access and use of technology in a safer environment. Through [Zaina Foundation](#) maasai women can access information online without fear and defamation regarding mitigation on impacts of climate change, access information regarding democracy for decision making especially during this sensitive period when Tanzania prepares for presidential election in 2025. 99% of Maasai women access information online using smartphones.



In this report [Zaina Foundation](#) shared key findings, Threats and Recommendation for implementations on potential opportunity regarding awareness on Digital Security, Internet Shutdown, Network Measurement and Tools Practice.

Key Findings

- Lack of Digital Security Skills: Many Maasai women lack adequate digital literacy skills, making them vulnerable to online scams, phishing, and misinformation.
- Privacy Concerns: Personal information, particularly related to financial transactions, is often shared without proper encryption or protection, leading to potential data breaches.
- Online Harassment and Cyberbullying: Maasai women often face online harassment and cyberbullying, especially on social media platforms, causing emotional distress and loss of trust.
- Limited Access to Secure Networks: Limited access to secure networks leaves Maasai women vulnerable to data interception and hacking on unsecured Wi-Fi networks and shared hot spots with their spouse.
- Lack of Legal Awareness: Maasai women often lack knowledge about their legal rights regarding online privacy and data protection in Tanzania. They do not have access to gender desks and feel intimidation to report Online Genders Based Violence to Police.
- Impact of Climate Change including drought, soil erosion, lack of pastures, massive death of cattles and climate change migration. The Maasai community is still suffering on how they can use digital rights to mitigate impacts of climate change in their area.



Threats

- Phishing Attacks: Maasai women are susceptible to phishing attacks, with fraudsters attempting to steal sensitive information through deceptive emails or websites.
- Online Harassment: Social media platforms have become hotspots for online harassment, affecting the mental and emotional well-being of Maasai women.
- Data Theft: Without proper data protection measures, there's a risk of personal data theft, leading to financial losses and privacy violations.



- Identity Theft: Identity theft is a growing concern, with fraudsters impersonating Maasai women online for fraudulent activities.
- Malware and Viruses: Lack of cybersecurity awareness can lead to the inadvertent download of malware or viruses, compromising digital devices and data.

Recommendations

Digital Security Programs: Implement digital safety programs to empower Maasai women with the skills and tools to navigate the digital world safely. In this training At risk maasai women can learn more on Secure Online Platforms: Encourage the use of secure online platforms and educate Maasai women about the importance of strong, unique passwords. Online Safety Workshops: Conduct workshops on online safety, including how to identify and report online harassment. Secure Wi-Fi Usage: Promote the use of secure Wi-Fi networks and educate Maasai women on the dangers of public Wi-Fi and Legal Awareness: Provide information on legal rights and avenues for recourse in case of online privacy violations.

Conclusion

Digital security is a growing concern for Maasai women in Tanzania as they increasingly engage in digital activities. This report outlines the digital security landscape, key findings, threats, and recommendations to ensure a safer digital environment for Maasai women. By empowering them with knowledge and secure practices, we can help protect their digital presence and mitigate impacts of climate change in their areas.

Please send us your feedback and comments regarding this report to info@zainafoundationtz.org