Zaina Foundation Newsletter
- July - September, 2023

Digital Rights and Inclusion Highlights from Zaina
Foundation from the period of July-September, 2023

Zaina Foundation is a forefront organization in Tanzania focused on creating safe spaces online for women in Tanzania. Through advocacy projects on Promote Internet Freedom, Expanding civic space by using technology, Awareness on digital security, localization and translation of open source tools and research on the state of digital rights in Tanzania.

Contents

1. Digital Rights Champion Project

On 26th and 27th July 2023 Zaina Foundation visited Jangwani Beach Primary school and Kondo Secondary School. These two schools are among 10 schools which are in the first phase of Digital Rights Clubs program in the country.

In collaboration with the schools' management and Zaina Foundation team successfully managed to train them about the use of technology in education (EduTech), trained them on how to use learning tools in their class and the importance of safety and security while using technology and the internet.

Purpose of this project is to create digital rights champions in Tanzania who may support advocacy work including policy reform and advocacy for internet shutdown in Tanzania i.e network measurement and advocacy in community among young activists.

2. Awareness on Digital Security to Women Journalists - Zanzibar

Zaina Foundation delivered digital safety training for women journalists in Zanzibar who work in the Radio stations, Television, newspaper, blog both from public and private media to equip them with skills and knowledge to protect their digital assets and navigate online space securely. Threats among journalists increased in Tanzania as the country prepared for upcoming elections in 2024 and 2025. Women Journalists remain a key medium of information dissemination in Tanzania especially during sensitive times like election and political gatherings when citizens need to access information.

Zaina Foundation has implemented this project since 2020 and this project succeeded in Tanzania as we trained 300 women journalists in more than 20 regions in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. Access to Information is a right to all Tanzanians according to the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977. Women journalists are still at risk in Tanzania due to existing indicators i.e ongoing hacking of emails, phones, increase of Online Gender Based Violence incidence (OGBV), intimidation from Authority, shrinking of democracy and existing draconian laws/regulations. Zaina Foundation we continue to aid women journalists on safety skills and support them with the best tools to make sure women journalists continue with their work online and offline without fear

3. Internet Shutdown Training to at-risk women organizations in Tanzania

The Internet is a vital resource and infrastructure in this technological era, its importance is increasing fast as technology grows. Shutting down the Internet will automatically disturb human life economically, culturally and socially. The Internet is the key infrastructure to any democratic country. In the modern world most work is done by using internet connections from graphic design, e-commerce and even learning depends on the internet. Tanzania is one of the fastest growing countries in technology and use of Artificial Intelligence is highly adopted in industries and hospitals. Yet Internet Shutdown is the key challenge to all these technological developments.

Access to information is restricted in most African countries during elections. In Tanzania we have seen some indicators of Internet shutdown as the country prepares for upcoming elections in 2024 for local government and 2025 for presidential and members of parliament. We have seen adoptions of new laws like Personal Data protection Act, 2023 and amended Electronic and Post Online Contents Regulations, 2022. The issue of Internet freedom and rights to Privacy is still in dilemma and currently the Tanzania Communication Regulations Authority released a Public Notice letter on ban use of VPN in Tanzania. This letter still emphasized use of any software to access restricted contents is illegal in Tanzania and punishment for this is a penalty of not less than 5 million Tanzanian shillings or imprisonment not less than 12 months or both. VPN helps Activists, HRDS, and other people to access the internet anonymously and in privacy conditions.

Zaina Foundation in collaborations with International Partners we continue support Tanzania community predict, prepare, prevent, and respond to any form of Internet Shutdowns in Tanzania by educate Civil Society organizations under Tanzania Digital Rights Coalition Members include which include 35 Civil Society Organizations from both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.   As we prepare for upcoming elections in Tanzania ZF implements a   project; advocates for Internet Shutdown in Tanzania include conducting simulation internet shutdown training, network measurement training and connecting the Tanzania community with circumvention tools team.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

DECLARATION OF USE OF VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN)

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is a regulatory body established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act No. 12 of 2003 for regulation of electronic and postal communication services in Tanzania.

PURSUANT to regulation 16(2) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2020, a person shall not render, possess or distribute technology, program, application or any other related thing that allows or helps users to have access to prohibited content, and;

PURSUANT to regulation 19(b) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2020, in carrying out its functions of regulating online content, TCRA has powers to take action against non-compliance to the Regulations including disabling access to prohibited content, and;

WHEREAS recently, TCRA has observed enormous access to prohibited content through the use of Virtual Private Network (VPN) contrary to the Regulations;

NOW THEREFORE, TCRA requires the general public, individuals, and companies who, by nature of their undertakings, the use of VPN is indispensable, to declare their VPN and all relevant information including IP address to the Authority by, or before 30th October, 2023 via https://www.tcra.go.tz/vpn-details-form.

TCRA will proceed to take regulatory actions against unauthorized use of VPN including disabling access to such VPN.

TCRA further reminds the general public that rendering, possessing or distributing technology, program, application or any other related thing that allows or helps users to have access to prohibited content is an offence punishable upon conviction, to a fine of not less than five million Tanzania shillings or imprisonment for a term of not less than twelve months or both.

ISSUED BY
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13th October, 2023

4. Zaina Foundation at Forum on Internet freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica23)

Zaina Foundation participated in the 10 edition of the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa which was held in Dar es salaam, Tanzania from 27th -29th September 2023 which was organized by CIPESA in collaboration with Tanzania Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology. Zaina Foundation participated in the pre-event called Tor Training from 25-26 ahead to #FIFA23 Tor Project is an official Zaina Foundation partner since 2019 both organizations collaborate to promote internet freedom in Tanzania and uncover information control in Tanzania. Tor Project has tools which support activists to browse the internet securely and bypass censorship during network disruptions. Zaina Foundation is in the process of establishing Tor relay and contributing to run relay tests from Tanzania. Other topics covered during Tor Training. Other partners who joined this training were.introduction to Tor and Onion Services, Tor Bridges, Snowflakes tool, Pluggable Transports etc. Open Observatory for Network Interference and Localization Lab.

Zaina Foundation had a panel on Coalition and Movement Building in the Fight against Internet Shutdowns in Africa, which was represented by the Zaina Foundation's Executive Director and other representatives from Access Now, and CIPE. This panel deep dived into the importance of having collective force on fights against internet shutdown in Africa. Zaina Foundation as an umbrella organization in Tanzania supports Digital Rights Coalition members in Tanzania to advocate for Internet shutdown in Tanzania on law/policy reform, push the government to stop shutdown and educate the community on Internet shutdown and participate in direct network measurement to document data for advocacy and litigation processes. The Digital Rights Coalition in Tanzania was established in 2019 and coalition members prepared a community and succeeded and reduced impacts of Internet shutdown during the 2020 election in Tanzania.

5. Media Advocacy on Ending Online Gender Based Violence

We continue to amplify voices through media advocacy on raising awareness to reshape society towards Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV) by offering prevention strategies, support services and legal services for victims. We participated in the radio program of Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) called Amka na TBC to address GBV issues in Tanzania.
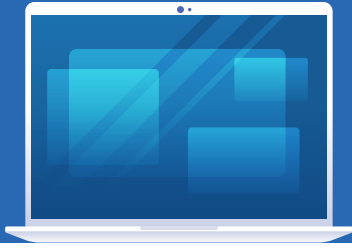
6. Collaborations

Zaina Foundation continue collaboration with WildAf, Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders, Tanzania Young Behavioural Change Organization, Tanzania Coalition Against Child Labour, Haki Maendeleo, Internet Society Tanzania Chapter (ISOC), Global Peace Foundation Tanzania, National Council of NGO Forum, Foundation for Civil Society, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), CIPESA, USAID, Malala Fund, ICCAO and Malala Fund.

Zaina Foundation thanks all our partners and supports for their ongoing support to the implementations of its mission and vision in Tanzania. Online Hashtag; #DigitalRightstz , #KeepItOnTZ , #BeOnline

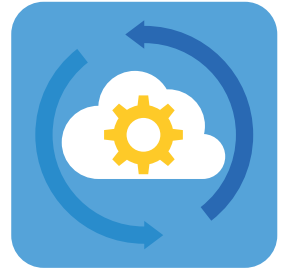# PROTECT AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

PROTECT ALL YOUR DEVICES

AVOID PHISHING AND SPAMS

KEEP SOFTWARE UPDATED

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION PRIVATE

KEEP OUT

CHOOSE STRONG PASSWORD

VISIT ONLY TRUSTED WEBSITES

WWW.