



DIGITAL RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

MOZAMBIQUE
COUNTRY REPORT

2024

Mozambique



Executive Summary

This report examines the evolving state of freedoms and access to information in Mozambique, focusing on the critical periods surrounding the 2024 Presidential elections. It is based on a qualitative methodology, primarily involving a desk review and similar reports related to the topic under research. This electoral cycle highlighted the fragility of press freedom and the challenges to digital rights, as political forces leveraged their power to suppress dissent and control narratives. For the first time since the country's inaugural elections in 1994, Mozambique experienced unprecedented internet restrictions during the electoral periods, significantly curtailing online freedoms. State influence over media outlets further undermined independent reporting, as government-aligned institutions produced favourable coverage, often under pressure. The legal framework for press freedom and access to information, though enshrined in the constitution and supported by relevant laws, is poorly enforced. Rising authoritarianism and restricted access to information have been exacerbated by incidents such as internet blackouts, assaults on journalists, and the targeting of media during political unrest. These events culminated in severe tensions following the general elections held on October 9, 2024. This report employs an index to assess the state of digital rights in Mozambique. It is a qualitative evaluation designed to highlight the various challenges the country faces in both offline and online spaces. With an index score of 21 points, this report underscores the urgent need for reforms to safeguard press freedom, ensure equitable access to information, and promote accountability. In the Mozambican context, this low rating reflects persistent challenges, including media restrictions, government interference, and limited transparency. The score also signals growing concerns over journalists' safety, digital surveillance, and the concentration of media ownership, all of which hinder a truly free and independent press. It underscores the importance of addressing systemic challenges within Mozambique's media landscape, advocating for stronger protections for journalists and a free, open, and resilient digital space.

2

DIGITAL
RIGHTS
AND
INCLUSION
IN AFRICA
REPORT

LONDA
2024



Introduction

3

DIGITAL
RIGHTS
AND
INCLUSION
IN AFRICA
REPORT

LONDA
2024

The overall state of freedom and access to information, both offline and online, in Mozambique was significantly influenced by the elections held in 2023 (municipal) and 2024 (presidential).¹⁰²⁸ Electoral periods have consistently demonstrated how freedoms are tested or undermined by political power. Mozambique's context was particularly challenging, not so much due to the persecution of journalists, but primarily because of the unprecedented internet restrictions which occurred for the first time in the country's history since the inaugural elections in 1994.¹⁰²⁹

State-run media outlets dominate the Mozambican media industry often producing favourable coverage of the government. However, some smaller independent publications provide valuable coverage. Journalists routinely face government pressure, harassment, and intimidation, which encourages self-censorship. The government has been known to retaliate against critical journalists, including cancelling public advertising contracts.¹⁰³⁰ In recent years, journalists and political pundits who appear on television programs have been attacked and kidnapped. Police regularly harass, assault, and detain journalists.¹⁰³¹

In general, journalistic freedom and independence are supposed to be guaranteed by the Constitution and by the law on the press and the right to information. However, the legislation is rarely applied, in an environment marked by growing authoritarianism and increasingly difficult to access information. Between stoned press vehicles, internet blackouts, and the journalists sprayed with tear gas, arrested, and threatened online, press freedom was gravely attacked alongside rising tensions in the aftermath of the general elections held on October 9, 2024.¹⁰³²

On November 15, 2024, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), a prominent Mozambican NGO, reported that the authorities on Wednesday detained two South African journalists that entered Mozambique to cover the demonstrations called by presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane against alleged fraudulent election results.¹⁰³³

1028 CSIS, Mozambique General Elections Point to Changing Political Dynamics <https://www.csis.org/analysis/mozambique-general-elections-point-changing-political-dynamics>, accessed on 14 January 2025.

1029 Human Rights Watch – Mozambique's Ruling Party Wins Elections Amid Nationwide Protests <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/10/24/mozambiques-ruling-party-wins-elections-amid-nationwide-protests>, accessed on 14 November 2024.

1030 Reporters Without Borders – Mozambique <https://rsf.org/en/country/mozambique>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1031 Freedom House – Freedom in Mozambique <https://freedomhouse.org/country/mozambique/freedom-world/2024>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1032 Reporters Without Borders - Mozambique's journalists are trapped in post-election violence <https://rsf.org/en/mozambique-s-journalists-are-trapped-post-election-violence>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1033 AIM – South African journalists detained for covering demonstrations – CDD <https://aimnews.org/2024/11/15/south-african-journalists-detained-for-covering-demonstrations-cdd/>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

Internet access

In 2024, Mozambique had 7.96 million internet users.¹⁰³⁴ Mozambique's internet penetration rate stands at 23.2% of the overall population at the beginning of 2024. According to Kepios study, the number of internet users in Mozambique increased by 842,000 (+11.8%). For context, these user numbers show that 26.41 million individuals in Mozambique did not access the Internet at the start of 2024, implying that 76.8% of the population was offline at the start of the year.

The median mobile internet connection speed over cellular networks is 19.78 Mbps. In addition, the median fixed internet connection speed is 13.05 Mbps. According to Ookla's data, the median mobile internet connection speed in Mozambique improved by 0.65 Mbps (+3.4%) in the year leading up to the beginning of 2024. Meanwhile, Ookla's findings show that fixed internet connection speeds in Mozambique climbed by 6.76 Mbps (+107%) during the same period.¹⁰³⁵ According to DataReportal¹⁰³⁶ data, Mozambique has 3.20 million active social media user identities.

According to data revealed in Meta's advertising resources, Facebook had 3.20 million users in Mozambique in 2024. For more recent context, the same data shows that the number of Mozambican users that advertisers could target with Facebook advertising fell by 400,000 (-11.1%) in 2024. According to X (Twitter)'s advertising resources, the platform had 68.700 subscribers in Mozambique as of early 2024. This figure indicates that X's ad reach in Mozambique amounted to 0.2% of the total population at the time.¹⁰³⁷

However, in response to growing protests against the Election Commission's disputed election results, Mozambican authorities have imposed at least five curfew-style mobile internet shutdowns, the most recent in October 2024.¹⁰³⁸ The shutdowns in the country are part of a dangerous pattern that began in October 2023, when Mozambican authorities imposed a total internet blackout for at least three hours for the first time during municipal elections. PIN sent a letter to the Mozambique government with no response.¹⁰³⁹

Mobile data providers including Vodacom, Movitel, and TMcel acknowledged in a text message sent to customers on October 31 that "access to some social networks is temporarily restricted for reasons beyond our control." Cloudflare, a widely used US company that provides web security services and publishes data on internet disruptions, showed that four mobile and internet shutdowns have occurred between October and November 2024 in Mozambique. It said that mobile and internet connectivity was shut down beginning at approximately noon local time on October 25, and occurred on at least three other instances, on November 3, 4, and 5.¹⁰⁴⁰ In response, civil society organisations in Mozambique filed a complaint seeking redress for internet shutdown.¹⁰⁴¹

Freedom of expression

The Constitution of the Republic¹⁰⁴² and legislation guarantees freedom of expression, especially to the media. The 1991 Press Act governs the mass media, which covers print, broadcasting, and cinema. This law requires the mass media to register with the Information Office – GABINFO before commencing operations. Registration is not discretionary as it may be refused only if the applicant has not complied with the legal requirements and conditions. With respect to print media, the

1034 DataReportal – Digital in Mozambique <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-mozambique>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1035 Idem (n. 7)

1036 Idem (n. 2)

1037 As above.

1038 Paradigm Initiative – Press release: Net Rights Coalition Calls on Mozambique to Stop Restricting Mobile Internet Traffic <https://paradigmhq.org/press-release-net-rights-coalition-calls-on-mozambique-to-stop-restricting-mobile-internet-traffic/>, accessed on 9 November 2024.

1039 Idem (n. 23)

1040 Relief Web – Post-Election Internet Restrictions Hinder Rights <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/mozambique-post-election-internet-restrictions-hinder-rights>, accessed on 10 November 2024

1041 Pulse, Mozambican Civil Society files complaint seeking redress for Internet shutdown <https://pulse.internetsociety.org/blog/mozambican-civil-society-files-complaint-seeking-redress-for-internet-shutdown>, accessed on 10 January 2024

1042 Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique (English) https://cdn.accf-francophonie.org/2019/03/mozambique_const-en.pdf, accessed on 17 November 2024.

Press Act requires periodical publications to display a significant amount of information in every publication that is printed, including details about the identity of the owner, editor, directors, and printer as well as information about the publication's circulation.

Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic guarantees freedom of expression only to citizens, not to all persons, which is unique amongst SADC states.¹⁰⁴³ A more positive attribute of the provision is that it specifically discusses freedom of the press, with an unusual degree of detail about what freedom of the press entails, including “freedom of journalistic expression and creativity, access to sources of information, protection of independence and professional secrecy, and the right to establish newspapers, publications and other means of dissemination”.

According to Article 43, the Constitutional principles in respect of fundamental rights – which includes the right to freedom of expression – “shall be interpreted and integrated in harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights”.¹⁰⁴⁴ However, despite all these innovations, IPI recently concluded that independent journalism in Mozambique was facing considerable legal, political, and economic pressures as the country's hard-fought democratic gains of the past three decades come under increasing strain.¹⁰⁴⁵

On October 21, 2024, around 15 journalists covering a statement by Venancio Mondlane, the main presidential candidate opposing the ruling party, were targeted with tear gas.¹⁰⁴⁶ Five journalists, including Bruno Marrengula, a cameraman for the privately-owned television channel TV Gloria, were injured and transported to the central hospital in Maputo, the capital. Hit in the leg, the reporter suffered a fractured tibia. Ten days later, a journalist from Radio Mozambique was injured during a protest in Maputo after stones were thrown at his press vehicle.¹⁰⁴⁷ Journalists are also being targeted online: Ernesto Martinho, a reporter working for the privately-owned television channel TV Sucesso, has been threatened on social media, notably by state agents and employees.¹⁰⁴⁸

Data Protection and Privacy

In Mozambique, there is no specific legislation on data protection or privacy.¹⁰⁴⁹ However, there are other sources of law that impose some privacy obligations, including:

- The Civil Code (Decree-Law no. 47344, of November 25, 1966, in force in Mozambique through Edict no. 22869, dated September 4, 1967)
- The Penal Code (Law no. 24/2019, of December 24, as amended by Law no. 17/2020 of 23 December)
- The Labour Law (Law no. 23/2007, of August 1) and the new Labour Law (Law no. 13/2023, of 25 August)
- The Electronic Transactions Law (Law no. 3/2017, of January 9)
- The Regulations on Registration and Licensing of Intermediary Electronic Service Providers and Operators of Digital Platforms (Decree no. 59/2023, of 27 October); and Resolution no. 5/2019, of June 20, ratifies the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention))

In addition, the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique provides that all citizens are entitled to the protection of their private life and have the right to honor, good name, reputation, protection of their public image and privacy.¹⁰⁵⁰ Further, Article 71 of the Constitution identifies the need to

1043 Internews ‘Chapter 12 – Mozambique’ <https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ARISA-IEA-CHAPTER-12-Mozambique.pdf>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1044 Mozambique's 2004 Constitution (revised 2007), Article 43.

1045 IPI – Press Freedom in Mozambique <https://ipi.media/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/IPI-PRESS-FREEDOM-MISSION-MOZAMBIQUE-1.pdf>, accessed on 15 November 2024.

1046 Club of Mozambique – Venâncio Mondlane press briefing tear-gassed <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/cip-mozambique-elections-venancio-mondlane-press-briefing-tear-gassed-269216/>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1047 Reporters Without Borders - Mozambique's journalists are trapped in post-election violence <https://rsf.org/en/mozambique-s-journalists-are-trapped-post-election-violence>, accessed on 17 November 2024.

1048 As above.

1049 DLA Piper – Data protection laws of the world Mozambique <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=MZ>, accessed on 10 November 2024

1050 ALT Advisory – Factsheet Mozambique <https://dataprotection.africa/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Mozambique-Factsheet.pdf>, accessed on 11 November 2024.

legislate on access, generation, protection, and use of computerized personal data (either by public or private entities); however, implementing legislation has not yet been approved.

The Electronic Transactions Law¹⁰⁵¹ defines personal data as being any information in relation to a natural person which can be directly or indirectly identified by reference to an identification number or one or more factors. The Malabo Convention contains an indication of these factors: physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity. Decree 59/2023 requires the registration of Intermediate Electronic Services Providers and Operators of Digital Platforms. The Electronic Transactions Law defines the intermediate service provider as any person who, in representation of another, sends, receives, and stores data messages, and who provides network access services or provides services through a network.¹⁰⁵²

Any entity that performs such acts will qualify as an intermediate service provider and must be registered and licensed with Information and Communications Technology (INTIC). The registration requirement is applicable to Intermediate Electronic Services Providers and Operators of Digital Platforms that offer services to receivers based or located in Mozambique, regardless of where the providers are based. The Electronic Transactions Law requires the data processor to appoint someone responsible for compliance of the provisions related to electronic personal data protection.

The law does not generally restrict cross-border transfers of personal information. The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique imposes restrictions on disclosures of personal information to third parties unless prior consent from the data subject is obtained. Although there is a prohibition against the transfer of personal data to a non-member state under the AU Convention, this prohibition does not apply if said state ensures adequate level of protection of the privacy freedoms and fundamental rights of the data subject.

The AU Convention also requires that consent be sought from the national protection authority before the data controller may transfer the data to a third country. Currently, INTIC does not have such powers so the principle of consent of the data subject and the transfer of data to a country with an adequate data protection framework would apply. Notwithstanding, parties may approach INTIC for further guidance on this matter.

Censorship and content moderation

There are no requests for content takedowns. There is no evidence of transparency reports¹⁰⁵³ indicating that Mozambique has such practice.

From October 29 onward, OONI Explorer, a project that monitors internet censorship, recorded a potential blocking of social media platforms and messaging apps such as Facebook Messenger, Telegram, and WhatsApp¹⁰⁵⁴. Mozambique's communications regulatory body, the National Communications Institute of Mozambique (INCM), vaguely addressed the issue, without providing any detailed information, including the legal framework to justify the restrictions.¹⁰⁵⁵

Access to information

Mozambique introduced the Right to Information Law (LEDI) in 2014 (Act No. 34/2014)¹⁰⁵⁶ – a sign of government commitment to the opening of organisations holding information of public interest. It goes without saying that making information available is an important indicator of the consolidation of democracy and good governance. The commitment of public authorities to the implementation of LEDI therefore entails the need to strengthen democratic principles.

1051 Electronic Transactions Law <https://www.cga.co.mz/en/moz/publication/electronic-transactions-in-the-mozambican-legal-system>, accessed on 11 November 2024.

1052 CIPESA – Digital Rights in Mozambique <https://cipesa.org/wp-content/files/Submission-to-the-38th-session-of-the-Universal-Periodic-Review-Mozambique.pdf>, accessed on 9 November 2024.

1053 See Meta, Tik tok and Google

1054 Access Now #KeepItOn: authorities in Mozambique must stop normalizing internet shutdowns during protests <https://www.accessnow.org/press-release/keepit-on-authorities-in-mozambique/>, accessed on 10 November 2024

1055 AfricTivistes calls on the government to restore access to social networks ! <https://africtivistes.com/en/mozambique-africtivistes-calls-on-the-government-to-restore-access-to-social-networks/>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

1056 Article 19 – Mozambique: Draft Right to Information Law <https://www.article19.org/resources/mozambique-draft-right-information-law/>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

The law is intended to make it easier for citizens to access information held by public bodies. However, there are some limitations to the law, including exemptions for state secrets and the private affairs of citizens. The right to freedom of information is part of the right to freedom of expression in the Mozambican Constitution. The right to information includes the right to access information of public interest from a variety of sources. The right to information grants whistleblowers the right to share information that is critical to the public interest. The Constitution restricts the recording and handling of information that is individually identifiable, such as political, philosophical, or religious beliefs.

AI and Emerging Technologies

There are no specific projects or government initiatives related to artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in Mozambique. Some sources¹⁰⁵⁷ indicated that such technologies have been applied in different sectors in the case of Mozambique. The recent contemporary advances in computational power, along with ‘big data’ has allowed for a widespread and pervasive use of these digital technologies in every sphere of human life – notably also in humanitarian contexts. AI, quite rapidly, is reshaping the humanitarian sector with projects such as Project Jetson by UNHCR, AI supported mapping for an emergency response in Mozambique, AI chatbots for displaced populations, and others.

Mozambique faces several barriers to the full adoption and implementation of AI. One of the most significant obstacles is the lack of information and communication technology infrastructure, especially in sectors that depend intensively on advanced technology. In parallel, there is a pressing need to train qualified human resources in data science, programming, and other AI-related disciplines in order to fully exploit its potential. In addition to these weaknesses, recognised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, there is a lack of regulation that responds to contemporary challenges.¹⁰⁵⁸ Recent research has shown how AI could assist in forecasting cyclones and addressing climate change-related challenges affecting Mozambique, potentially providing predictive capabilities for cyclones and reducing human rights impacts.¹⁰⁵⁹

Recently, the Mozambican Fintech Association, raised concerns¹⁰⁶⁰, particularly in the financial sector, about restrictions on the use of cloud technologies for data processing, due to regulations that require data to be localised within the country. This limits access to and efficient use of cloud infrastructures. The Association argued that more open policies could facilitate integration with cloud databases, preventing companies from having to develop complex and expensive architectures individually. There is no known national project promoting AI or emerging technologies at government level – the field is still minimally explored in Mozambique.

Digital Inclusion

On September 18, 2024, Mozambique’s National Communications Institute (INCM) called for a greater contribution to the Universal Service Fund (USF), to extend the provision of telecommunications infrastructure and services to rural areas and disadvantaged social strata.¹⁰⁶¹ The amount of USF funding is not available, and there are no consolidated reports on the country. ‘As a rule, telecoms service operators must contribute 1% of their gross revenue to the FSAU to be eligible for resources from this account intended to finance telecoms projects and infrastructure in rural, peri-urban, remote and underserved areas,’ Euclides dos Santos, from the INCM’s Regulatory Division.¹⁰⁶²

In Mozambique, people with disabilities (PWD) are routinely marginalised and discriminated against, particularly in rural areas. They often lack full access to education, health care, information, and employment. In addition to practical barriers, prejudice and stigmatization make it even more

¹⁰⁵⁷ Relief Web – AI and Emerging Tech for Humanitarian Action: Opportunities and Challenges <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/ai-and-emerging-tech-humanitarian-action-opportunities-and-challenges>, accessed on 10 November 2024

¹⁰⁵⁸ 360 – AI in Mozambique <https://360mozambique.com/innovation/ai/artificial-intelligence-are-we-ready-to-grow/>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Idem above (n. 31)

¹⁰⁶⁰ Idem. (n. 13)

¹⁰⁶¹ Agence Ecofin – Le Mozambique veut réformer le fonctionnement de son fonds d’accès universel <https://www.agenceecofin.com/telecom/2009-121726-le-mozambique-veut-reformer-le-fonctionnement-de-son-fonds-d-acces-universel>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

¹⁰⁶² Club of Mozambique – More operators to pay for access to telecom infrastructure-266651/, accessed on 5 November 2024.

difficult for Mozambicans with disabilities to maximize their contribution to society. TV Surdo, a local NGO promoting the inclusion of PWD and advocating for their rights, focuses on using inclusive media content to accomplish this.¹⁰⁶³

In a pioneering data-driven investigation¹⁰⁶⁴, the Mozambican Disabled Person's Organisation Forum (FAMOD) has teamed up with UK-based non-profit Data4Change to run automated accessibility testing on 90 of the most important and useful websites in Mozambique. The result is a publicly available dataset of 722,053 instances of accessibility 'violations'. Each violation represents a barrier preventing someone with a visual, hearing, physical or cognitive impairment from fully engaging with the web page.

The investigation revealed that just five types of accessibility violations accounted for nearly 90% of all the violations found. These top five violations were low colour contrast (37%), lack of landmarks to identify regions of a page (33%), links that aren't made apparent (11%), no descriptive text for interactive elements (3%) and no 'alt text' for images (2%). The violations were defined according to international standards for web accessibility as described under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 and 2.1 (WCAG 2.0 and 2.1).

¹⁰⁶³ USAID – TV SURDO: Improving Inclusive Information and Advocacy <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/documents/tv-surdo-improving-inclusive-information-and-advocacy>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

¹⁰⁶⁴ CIPESA – Investigation Finds More than 700,000 Barriers Limiting Website Accessibility in Mozambique <https://cipesa.org/2021/03/investigation-finds-more-than-700000-barriers-limiting-website-accessibility-in-mozambique/>, accessed on 5 November 2024.

The Score Index

Londa 2025 Key Indicators	ACHPR Declaration	Score	Justification
Internet Shutdowns	P38(2)	1	The Internet was recently (2024) shut down in Mozambique. This was the first time the government officially acknowledged the act.
Inexistent laws, policies and other measures to promote universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet	P37	3	Mozambique has an access to information law that is primarily applied to offline access. The Constitution of the Republic also includes provisions, but with less emphasis on Internet access.
False News Criminalisation	P22(2)	2	In 2023 the government passed an unclear law criminalising false information about terrorism. This law is generally applied to prevent the spread of fake news related to the conflict, but media outlets fear it could be used to restrict access to information about the conflict entirely.
Sedition Legislation	P22(2)	2	The penal code includes provisions that criminalize individuals who use traditional or digital means to insult authorities, including the President of the Republic. There are no recorded cases in 2024, but during COVID-19, the penal code was used to arrest internet users.
Arbitrary Arrests and Harassments of the Media, HRDs and Citizens	P20(1) & (2)	1	During the 2024 elections, there were several cases of citizens being detained for protesting or organising mobilisations virtually.
Data Protection Legislation	P42(1)	1	Mozambique does not have any data protection law. The first draft has been under discussion since then, but there is no clear timeline for its final approval.
States interfere and require the removal of online content by internet intermediaries	P38 and P39(4)	4	There are no reported cases related to such incidents.
Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41	1	The government of Mozambique delegated the regulatory authority to supervise all communications. During the 2024 elections, some journalists were asked by politicians to provide their materials or delete images related to the elections.

Failure by the government to proactively disclose and disseminate information through digital technologies	P29(3)	2	The government of Mozambique passed an Access to Information law in 2014. However, the law is not clearly applied to the digital space, failing to address how information can be easily accessed through digital technologies.
AI and Emerging Technologies national strategies	P39(6)	1	Mozambique is still at a very early stage in terms of discussions or initiatives in this area.
Adoption of specific child laws, policies and measures promoting children's digital safety and privacy online	P37(5)	3	The general law applies only to child pornography, but there are clear provisions related to children's digital safety.
Digital Inclusion	P37(3)	2	Little has been done in this area, except for some civil society initiatives
TOTAL		23	

Conclusion

The 2024 elections revealed just how fragile freedoms and access to information are in Mozambique. The first ever election related restrictions, along with the government's tight grip on the media and intimidation of journalists, showed how easily these freedoms can be undermined. While the Constitution and laws promise press freedom and the right to information, these rights are rarely upheld. The combination of rising authoritarianism and the targeting of journalists during a time when reliable information was crucial has damaged trust in the media and weakened democracy. To move forward, Mozambique needs to take real steps to protect press freedom and ensure everyone has fair access to information, both online and offline. This means less government interference in the media, stronger protection for journalists, and clear rules for the government to prevent internet blackouts during key events like elections. These changes are not just about protecting rights but also about rebuilding trust, allowing open debates, and ensuring that citizens can participate fully in the country's political and social life.

Recommendations

Government should:

- Strengthen Legal Protections for Press and Digital Rights.
- Ensure the enforcement of constitutional guarantees for press freedom and access to information and introduce
- Stop actions such as harassment or intimidation of journalists and internet shutdowns especially during protests and election times.
- Promote Media Pluralism and Independence by halting state partisan influence over media outlets, fostering fair competition.
- Provide equal access to public advertising funds, and supporting the development of independent journalism.
- Enact a data protection law in line with children online safety policies on indicator 11 under the index.

Academia should:

- Research and monitor media freedom: Conduct in-depth studies on the state of press freedom and digital rights, highlighting challenges and providing evidence-based recommendations for reform.
- Educate future journalists and advocates: Develop training programs and curricula that prepare students to navigate and uphold ethical journalism and digital rights in restrictive environments.

Civil Society and Media should:

- Advocate for press freedom and internet access: Organise campaigns and partnerships to pressure the government to respect media independence and prevent internet shutdowns, especially during elections.
- Strengthen journalistic solidarity and safety measures: Establish support networks, legal aid services, and training programs to protect journalists from harassment and ensure their safety, both online and offline.

Private Sector should:

- Promote reliable internet infrastructure and accessibility: Encourage investment in resilient and affordable Internet services to prevent disruptions during critical periods, such as elections, and ensure equitable access to digital platforms in Mozambique.
- Support independent media through funding and advertising: Establish partnerships or advertising initiatives that prioritise independent media outlets, providing them with financial stability and reducing their reliance on government-aligned funding sources.
- Combat misinformation through ethical practices: Develop corporate policies to address misinformation by collaborating with fact-checkers and civil society organisations, while promoting transparency, data protection, and accountability in digital platforms.

