

LONDA 2025

DIGITAL RIGHTS & INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

Angola

Country Report



PARADIGM
INITIATIVE



LONDA 2025

DIGITAL RIGHTS & INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

Report produced and published by Paradigm Initiative
April 2026

This publication may be reproduced for non-commercial use in any form provided due credit is given to the publishers and the work is presented without any distortion.

Copyright ©2026 Paradigm Initiative

374 Borno Way, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.
media@paradigmhq.org
www.paradigmhq.org



Creative Commons Attribution-
NonCommercial-NoDerivatives
(CC BY-NC-ND) license

ISBN: 978-978-68-6631-4



Angola

Anonymous

Executive Summary

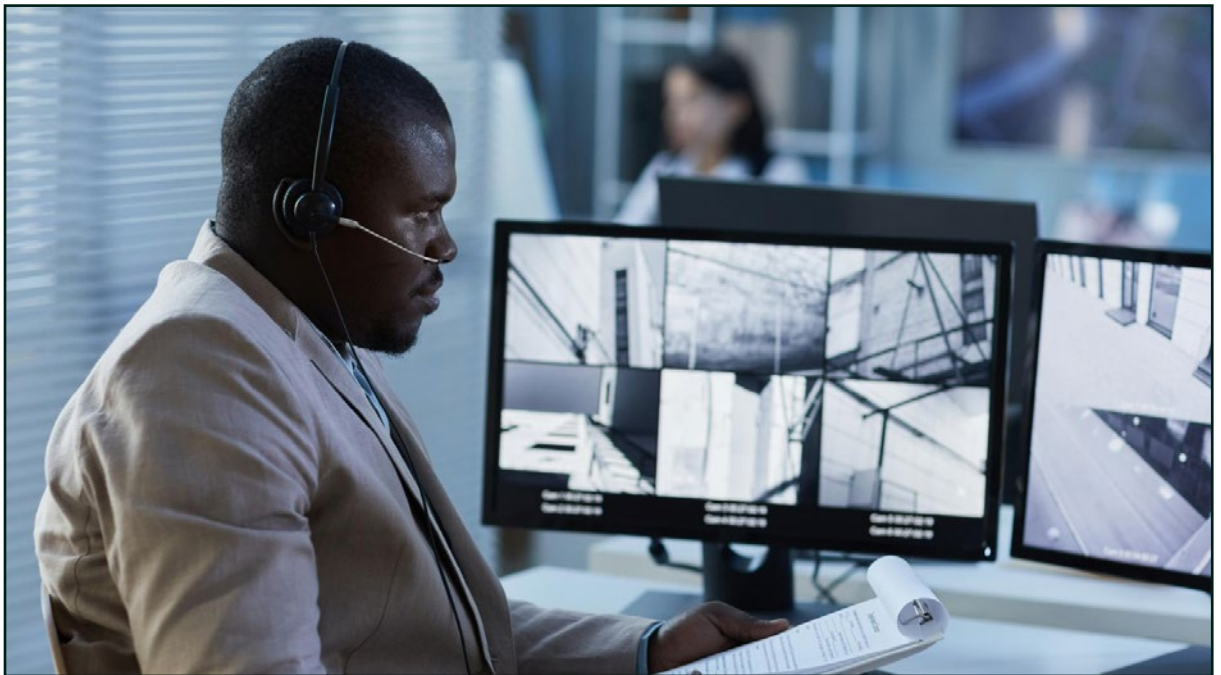
Angola's digital landscape in 2025 shows significant progress but also faces growing human rights risks. The expansion of digital infrastructure, including the establishment of the first virtual hearing room, the ongoing development of the National Data Centre, and connectivity improvements, demonstrates a commitment to digital transformation. However, these advances are weakened by restrictive laws, suspected shutdowns such as the July 2025 disruption

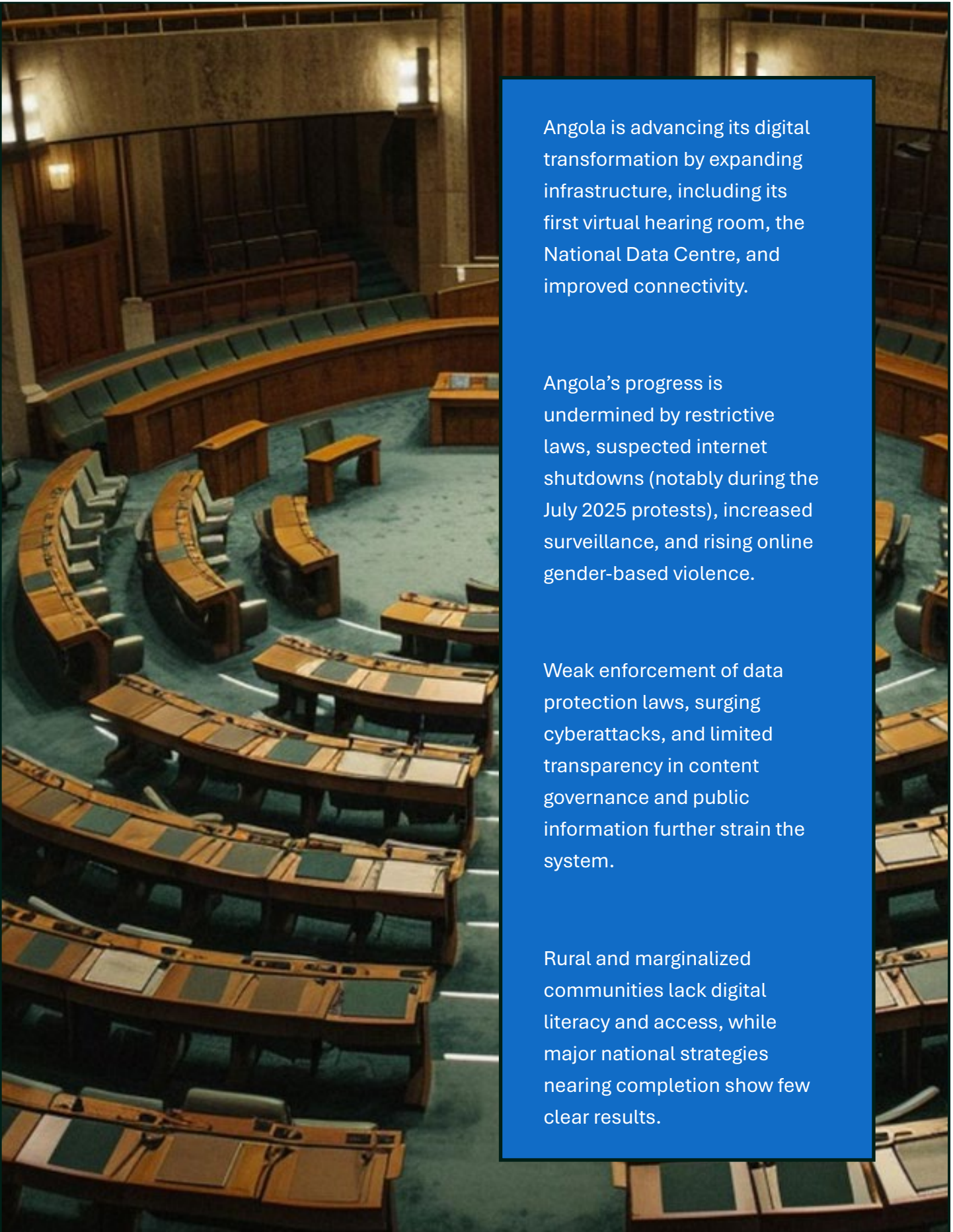
during nationwide protests, increased surveillance, harassment of online users, and rising online gender-based violence that is not reflected in national statistics. Despite the draft revision of the Data Protection Law, enforcement remains weak, cyberattacks are rapidly increasing, and transparency around content governance and public information remains limited. Rural and marginalised communities continue to face substantial barriers to digital literacy and access,

while major national strategies near completion show no clear outcomes.

To protect civic space and promote inclusive digital transformation, this report recommends that the Government should lower connectivity costs, ban shutdowns, reform laws that criminalise online expression, enhance data protection systems, and increase transparency in platform governance and management of the Universal Service Fund. Additional priorities include developing a rights-based AI framework, regulating biometric surveillance, and investing in community-led digital literacy. Civil society is encouraged to monitor violations, support survivors of tech-facilitated violence, strengthen

youth- and community-led advocacy, track public investments in connectivity, and bolster regional solidarity on digital rights. Collectively, these measures aim to ensure Angola's digital transition upholds justice, accountability, and equitable participation. The private sector should lower connectivity costs, expand rural access, and invest in inclusive digital literacy to reduce structural inequalities. At the same time, companies must strengthen transparency, resist unlawful shutdowns, safeguard data and AI systems, and address online gender-based violence to ensure Angola's digital transformation is rights-respecting and equitable.





Angola is advancing its digital transformation by expanding infrastructure, including its first virtual hearing room, the National Data Centre, and improved connectivity.

Angola's progress is undermined by restrictive laws, suspected internet shutdowns (notably during the July 2025 protests), increased surveillance, and rising online gender-based violence.

Weak enforcement of data protection laws, surging cyberattacks, and limited transparency in content governance and public information further strain the system.

Rural and marginalized communities lack digital literacy and access, while major national strategies nearing completion show few clear results.

Introduction

Digital transformation in Angola is reshaping governance, public services, and civic participation, driven by increased investment in broadband expansion, e-government tools, and emerging technologies¹. Yet this progress occurs within a constrained digital rights environment characterised by restrictive legal reforms, rising cybersecurity threats, and ongoing gaps in privacy protections. While efforts to modernise the data protection framework suggest heightened attention to rights risks, implementation capacity and transparency remain limited. Parallel concerns, such as the expansion of surveillance technologies, opaque interactions with global platforms, and widespread online gender-based violence, emphasise the need for stronger safeguards. As digitalisation advances, rural and marginalised communities continue to face barriers

related to affordability, infrastructure, and digital literacy. This report examines these dynamics across seven thematic areas to provide a comprehensive overview of Angola's digital rights landscape in 2025.

Internet Access

Angola has made progress, albeit unevenly, in expanding connectivity. The country recorded 17.2 million internet users at the start of 2025, representing 44.8% of the total population, an increase of approximately 3.1% in user numbers since January 2024². There has been no change in the overall penetration rate. This can be attributed to population growth outpacing digital inclusion. Mobile networks remain the dominant access mode, with most

1. Transformative Legal Experts, *White Paper on Information and Communication Technologies 2023-2027: Strategic Vision for ICTs in Angola*, Available at https://www.plmj.com/xms/files/07_Guias_e_Manuais/2025/Colab_-_Livro_branco_-_TIC_EN.pdf#:~:text=In%20order%20for%20the%20digital%20transformation%20in%20Angola%20to%20enable%20the&text=on%20improving%20public%20services%20and%20promoting%20digital%20interaction%20between%20citizens%20and%20the. accessed November 18, 2025
2. Kemp, S (2025), *Digital 2025: Angola*, Available at *Digital 2025: Angola — DataReportal – Global Digital Insights* accessed November 18, 2025

users connecting via smartphones and mobile broadband.

High prices remain a significant access barrier. The 2024 Londa report highlighted that mobile data consumption accounted for up to 9.5% of average income amongst multidimensionally poor individuals³. The percentage was far above the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's broadband advocacy target of 2%⁴. Although the nominal cost of mobile data in Angola appears relatively low in 2025 at approximately US\$1.01 per 1GB⁵, affordability cannot be assessed solely by price but rather relative to purchasing power. In the country, widespread economic vulnerability significantly constrains effective access. With approximately 42.5% of the population living below US\$3 per day⁶, a substantial share of households face severe income constraints. Consequently, while headline data prices may appear affordable relative to national

averages, they remain inaccessible to a large proportion of the population due to persistent poverty and income inequality.

Thus, the issue in Angola is not solely the nominal price of mobile data, but rather the structural economic precarity that reduces real affordability. The continued high percentage of people living below the poverty line underscores the gap between theoretical affordability benchmarks and lived economic realities.

Geographical inequalities continue. Urban centres like Luanda, Benguela, and Huíla benefit from stronger cellular networks and public Wi-Fi initiatives supported by the Universal Service Fund (FADCOM). Meanwhile, remote provinces still experience weak signals, limited tower coverage, and frequent power outages. The National Broadband Plan (2016–2025) and the Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2025) have not yet been fully implemented,

3. Paradigm Initiative (2024), Digital Rights and Inclusion in Africa Report, Available at <https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Londa-2024-2.pdf> accessed November 18, 2025
4. For more information on the broadband advocacy target, see <https://www.broadbandcommission.org/advocacy-targets/2-affordability/>
5. Bestbroadbanddeals (2025), The cost of 1GB of mobile data in 237 countries, Available at <https://bestbroadbanddeals.co.uk/mobiles/worldwide-data-pricing/> accessed November 18, 2025.
6. World Bank (2025), Macro Poverty Outlook: Angola, Available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2fefc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-ago.pdf> accessed 15 November 2025.

and there is limited public information on progress, budgets, or rural deployment. Nevertheless, the government indicated in 2025 its aim to reach network coverage targets of 93% (3G), 32% (4G), and 21% (5G) by 2027 through projects such as Connecta Angola, Angola Online, and Ngola Digital⁷.

While satellite initiatives such as Angosat-2 have been presented as tools to enhance national coverage and e-government services, they have not yet translated into affordable, reliable broadband for most marginalised communities. For women, young people, people with disabilities and rural communities, connectivity is still mediated by shared devices, cyber-café's or public wi-fi spots, often with limited privacy and safety.

Freedom of Expression

The environment for freedom of expression, particularly online, remains

fragile and contradictory. In January 2025, the release of social media influencer Neth Nahara and four other government critics, all imprisoned for peaceful expression and protest, represents a significant victory for human rights defenders and digital rights campaigners⁸. Nehara was arrested in 2023 for 'outrage against the state, its symbols, and bodies' after posting a TikTok video criticising President João Lourenço.

Despite this positive development, the National Security Law and Anti-Vandalism Law, both enacted in 2024, provide authorities with broad discretion to interfere with media and telecommunications, restrict content, and criminalise protest activity that disrupts public services, including digital services. Article 36 of the National Security Law authorises the government to prohibit broadcasts and "disrupt telecommunications services" in vaguely defined exceptional circumstances, enabling

7. GlobalValidity (2025), Angola: National Strategy Expands Internet Access and Digital Inclusion, Available at <https://globalvalidity.com/angola-national-strategy-expands-internet-access-and-digital-inclusion/> accessed November 18, 2025

8. Amnesty International (2025), Angola: Five government critics released after more than a year of arbitrary imprisonment, Available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/01/angola-five-government-critics-released-after-more-than-a-year-of-arbitrary-imprisonment/>, accessed November 18, 2025

disproportionate restrictions on online expression and information flows⁹.

On July 19 2025, between 12:45 and 15:45 UTC, Angola experienced an internet disruption with the largest mobile network provider, UNITEL, recording a 95% drop in traffic¹⁰. While UNITEL attributed the outage to public road works, civil society organisations argued that the government directed the shutdowns due to nationwide protests over rising fuel prices and school fees, which were met with heavy police repression¹².

This episode confirms long-standing fears that the government would use 2024 laws to justify shutdowns and deepen digital repression. In response, civil society organisations, including OMUNGA, Friends of Angola, Upange, FORDU and ALDA, condemned the shutdown and called on the Attorney General's Office to investigate it¹³. However, the Attorney General's Office has not investigated the shutdown.

Beyond formal laws, self-censorship persists. Journalists, bloggers, and social media users report being monitored by



It is no coincidence that the internet shut down on the day of the protests. The government obviously shut it down yet feigned ignorance.

Key Informant A

-
9. Freedom House (2025), Freedom on the Net 2025: Angola, Available at Angola: Freedom on the Net 2025 Country Report | Freedom House, accessed November 18, 2025
 10. Belson, D (2025), Online Outages: Q3 2025 Internet Disruption Summary, Available at <https://blog.cloudflare.com/q3-2025-internet-disruption-summary/>, accessed November 18, 2025
 11. Unitel Angola (2025), Available at <https://x.com/unitelao/status/1946644209370358120> accessed November 18, 2025
 12. Lusa (2025), Angola: Internet Cut for Saturday Protests, anti-democratic, dictatorial- NGOs, Available at <https://www.aman-alliance.org/Home/ContentDetail/92713>, accessed November 18, 2025
 13. As above.

the National Information Services Agency (SINS) and facing harassment and threats for critical content¹⁴.



Neth Nahara’s case is an example of why we self-censor. What you say online has grave implications for your physical safety.

Key Informant A

Online gender-based violence (OGBV) remains a critical and insufficiently addressed issue in Angola. The 2024 Londa report indicated that nearly 60% of women politicians have experienced various forms of online harassment, highlighting how digital spaces are increasingly becoming extensions of offline patriarchal violence. However, national

policies and data systems have not kept up with this growing threat. The country’s 2024 Multi-Indicator Health Survey (released in 2025) included statistics on physical, sexual, and emotional violence but completely omitted OGBV, reflecting a persistent gap in national acknowledgement and measurement. This lack of official statistics reflects a broader policy oversight that leaves survivors without protection, redress, or visibility, thereby reinforcing digital impunity and undermining national response mechanisms.

International indexes also reflect constraints related to freedom of expression. Freedom House’s ‘Freedom on the Net’ 2025 report describes Angola’s internet as “Partly Free”, noting increased legal restrictions, surveillance, and intimidation¹⁵. Projections based on Reporters Without Borders (RSF) data place Angola at 100th out of 180 countries in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index—slightly better than 2024 (104th), but still indicative of structural constraints on independent media¹⁶.

14. Key Informant interview with a member of civil society on the 14th of November 2025

15. Freedom House (2025), Freedom on the Net 2025: Angola, Available at Angola: Freedom on the Net 2025 Country Report | Freedom House, accessed November 18, 2025

16. ESCWA (2025), ISPAR Index Simulator for Policymakers: Angola, Available at ISPAR | Simulator accessed November 18, 2025

Data Protection and Privacy

The Protection of Personal Data Law (Law 22/21) remains the backbone of the country's data protection framework. However, the law is still in the early stages of implementation. The data protection authority's capacity, resourcing, and visibility remain limited, and there is little public information on enforcement actions, sanctions, or guidance issued to state agencies and private companies. On March 17 2025, the Government of Angola released a draft revision of the Personal Data Protection Law for public consultation, signalling its intention to modernise the legal framework in line with rapid digitalisation and the need to balance innovation, security, and citizens' rights¹⁷. The proposal introduces more precise definitions for key concepts, including pseudonymisation, anonymisation, genetic data, and

biometric data. It designates "special data" to include sensitive information related to belief systems, organisational membership, private life, origin, health, sexual life, sexual orientation, and biometric and genetic identifiers¹⁸.

Angola remains among the countries most affected by cyberattacks¹⁹. Organisations experienced an average of 3,648 attempted breaches per week in 2025²⁰. Despite the existence of the National Cybersecurity Strategy (2021–2030) and the Cybercrime Law, the speed and complexity of cyber threats continue to surpass institutional preparedness. Gaps in enforcement, limited technical capacity, and weak cross-sector coordination mean the country's cybersecurity infrastructure continues to struggle to provide sufficient protection for citizens, public institutions, and essential services.

17. 360 Mozambique (2025), Angola launches Public Consultation on fake news and Cybersecurity Laws, Available at <https://360mozambique.com/world/angola/angola-launches-public-consultation-on-fake-news-and-cybersecurity-laws/> accessed November 18, 2025

18. 360 Mozambique (2025), Angola launches Public Consultation on fake news and Cybersecurity Laws, Available at <https://360mozambique.com/world/angola/angola-launches-public-consultation-on-fake-news-and-cybersecurity-laws/> accessed November 18, 2025

19. Interpol (2025), Interpol Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report 2025 4th Edition

20. Tredger (2025), Cyber Attackers zero in on Africa's Education Sector, Available at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202510010028.html>, accessed November 18, 2025

The deployment of smart city technologies and facial recognition cameras in Luanda continues to raise serious concerns about mass surveillance without clear safeguards. Civil society organisations warn that the government could use these tools to monitor protesters, human rights defenders, and political opponents if not subject to robust, transparent oversight mechanisms that adhere to human rights standards.

Censorship and

Content Moderation

Angola's interactions with global platforms such as Meta (Facebook, Instagram), Google (YouTube), and TikTok continue to shape the digital information ecosystem. Previous transparency reports showed Angolan

authorities requesting the removal or geo-blocking of content, often for alleged defamation, incitement, or "false news", with a significant share linked to political speech. The 2024 Londa Report reported 12 takedown requests from the Angolan government to Meta, 25 to TikTok, and 15 to YouTube²¹. 2025 saw a reduction in the number of cases, according to available data. Meta reported 19 total takedown requests²², Google reported one²³ while Wikimedia and TikTok reported none. At the national level, the National Communications Institute (INACOM) does not publish regular statistics on content takedown requests, site-blocking orders, or other forms of state-mandated moderation, which weakens transparency and accountability.

In practice, the opacity from INACOM means Angolans have limited visibility into when and why content is removed, or accounts are restricted, and whether

21. Paradigm Initiative (2024), Digital Rights and Inclusion in Africa Report, Available at <https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Londa-2024-2.pdf> accessed November 18, 2025.

22. Meta (2025), Angola Country Report, Available at <https://transparency.meta.com/reports/government-data-requests/country/AO/> accessed 20 January 2026

23. Google (2025), Transparency Report: Google removal requests by the numbers: Angola, Available at https://transparencyreport.google.com/government-removals/government-requests/AO?hl=en&lu=country_request_amount&country_request_amount=period:2025H1 accessed 20 January 2026

such actions adhere to international human rights standards on necessity and proportionality.

Access to Information

The Angolan Constitution recognises the right to access information, but the legal framework remains fragmented and poorly enforced. The main instruments are the Data Protection Law (Law 22/11 – an older framework still referenced in some practices) and the Law on Access to Administrative Documents (Law 11/02), which allows citizens to request information from public authorities. Both instruments offer limited sanctions for non-compliance.

In practice, bureaucratic hurdles, broad exceptions, and a culture of secrecy limit meaningful access to state-held information, especially regarding public spending, security, telecoms regulation, and the Universal Service Fund.

As highlighted in the Londa 2024 report, digital literacy gaps intersect with these legal barriers. UNESCO estimates that more than a quarter of the population remains digitally illiterate, with rural communities, older people, women, and people with disabilities disproportionately excluded. This makes it harder for communities to navigate online portals, e-government platforms, or data dashboards, even when information is nominally available.



The Universal Service Fund is treated as a ‘private matter’. Information is not published on how much there is and what the resources are used for. It is only mentioned sometimes in newspaper articles as contributing to increased internet access

Key Informant A

AI and Emerging

Technologies

Artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies are consistently transforming Angola's financial sector, telecommunications landscape, and public administration. A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the Ombudsperson's Office's first virtual hearing room in Talatona, Luanda, developed in collaboration with UNDP²⁴. This innovation enables citizens to lodge and track complaints more effectively, enhances the protection of their rights, and expands access to justice through digital channels. As of 2025, the initiative was in the early stages of a nationwide rollout, with 24 municipalities across 12 provinces poised to benefit²⁵. This marks a significant step toward a more responsive and technology-driven public service system.

Further progress has been made on the ongoing construction of the National Data Centre, which is designed to integrate and streamline all public services. By the end of 2025, the facility had reached 75% completion, marking a significant step toward a centralised digital infrastructure for the country²⁶. Once operational, the centre is expected to significantly enhance the efficiency, interoperability, and reliability of public service delivery, reducing bureaucratic delays and improving citizens' access to essential services.

Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion remains a key challenge. Fundo de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento das Comunicações (FADCOM), the Angolan Universal Service Fund, aims to support connectivity projects in underserved areas and free public Wi-Fi initiatives. While officials report using it to build

24. Carreira, I. (2025). Digital Justice as a Foundation for Inclusive Development, Available at <https://www.undp.org/angola/blog/digital-justice-foundation-inclusive-development> accessed November 18, 2025
25. Carreira, I. (2025). Digital Justice as a Foundation for Inclusive Development, Available at <https://www.undp.org/angola/blog/digital-justice-foundation-inclusive-development> accessed November 18, 2025
26. Kassouwi, I.K (2025), Angola nears completion of National Data Centre, set for 2026 Launch, Available at <https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-digital/1411-50505-angola-nears-completion-of-national-data-center-set-for-2026-launch> accessed November 18, 2025

towers and expand coverage, financial allocations, project selection criteria, and impact evaluations are not proactively disclosed, which limits public oversight and transparency.

Between 2022 and 2025, the government recorded more than seven million instances of free internet access²⁷. In addition, as part of its digital expansion agenda, the government had established 260 free public internet access points and 174 digital classrooms nationwide by 2025, aiming to widen connectivity and strengthen digital learning opportunities²⁸. One of the beneficiary institutions, Escola de Deficientes Visuais do Golf 1 in Luanda, supports students with visual disabilities, underscoring a strong commitment to inclusive education²⁹. While these investments represent meaningful progress, their concentration in urban centres risks reinforcing existing geographic and social inequalities. Young people with disabilities living in rural and peri-urban areas, particularly those

from low-income households, remain disproportionately excluded from digital infrastructure, assistive technologies, and accessible learning environments. As a result, digital inclusion efforts, though promising, may unintentionally deepen marginalisation for young people experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination linked to disability, poverty, and rural residence.

The National Broadband Plan (2016–2025) and the Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2025) set ambitious targets for fibre expansion, mobile coverage, and digital literacy. With both frameworks nearing their final year, implementation gaps remain especially pronounced in rural communities, peri-urban informal settlements, and areas affected by conflict or economic marginalisation. Mobile and broadband coverage are exceptionally high in Luanda, yet rural communities in provinces such as Bie, Moxico, and Cuando Cubango face inconsistent connectivity.

27. Figueredo, K. (2025). Angola regista mais de sete milhoes de acessos a internet gratuita nos ultimos tres anos, Available at <https://www.menosfios.com/angola-regista-mais-de-sete-milhoes-de-acessos-a-internet-gratuita-nos-ultimos-tres-anos/>, accessed November 23, 2025

28. Adelino, S. (2025). Governo fala em inclusao digital apos lancamento de 260 pontos de internet gratis e 174 salas digitais pelo pais, Available at <https://angorussia.com/tech/governo-fala-em-inclusao-digital-apos-lancamento-de-260-pontos-de-internet-gratis-e-174-salas-digitais-pelo-pais/> accessed 18 November 2025

29. As above.

Although Angola has expanded digital infrastructure and connectivity in recent years, progress in access has not been matched by a comprehensive framework to safeguard children in online spaces. Existing legislation offers only partial protection. Lei 25/12 (Law on the Protection and Integral Development of Children) mandates that families, schools, communities, and the State prioritise the best interests of the child. The Código Penal de Angola criminalises online harassment, exploitation, and the dissemination of harmful content, while Lei 22/11 regulates the processing

of personal data. However, these laws were not specifically designed to address the growing risks children face in digital environments, such as cyberbullying, online grooming, technology-facilitated sexual exploitation, data profiling, and exposure to harmful content. The lack of dedicated child online protection legislation, clear enforcement mechanisms, and child-centred digital literacy programmes creates substantial gaps between legal protections and the real experiences of children navigating increasingly digital spaces.

Conclusion

Angola's digital transformation is experiencing a moment of both possibility and risk. The country is investing in modern infrastructure, new justice mechanisms, and updated legal frameworks, signalling a commitment to harnessing technology for governance and development. The launch of virtual hearing rooms, progress on the National Data Centre, and expansion of connectivity initiatives demonstrate the

potential for digital tools to expand access to services, strengthen accountability, and improve public administration.

However, this progress is counterbalanced by restrictive laws, opaque regulatory practices, systemic surveillance risks, and persistent patterns of repression. The events of July 2025, the increasing use of broad security legislation, and rising online gender-based violence highlight the

ongoing fragility of freedom of expression and digital safety. Implementing the new data-protection reforms, building cybersecurity capacity, and ensuring transparent, rights-based oversight over emerging technologies will be essential to prevent the digital ecosystem from becoming a site of exclusion and control. For Angola's digital transition to be inclusive and rights-affirming, stronger safeguards, public transparency, and meaningful community participation are required. This includes protecting civic space online, addressing gendered and intersectional harms, ensuring accountability for shutdowns and

content restrictions, reforming access-to-information systems, and bridging the digital divide affecting rural and marginalised groups.

Angola stands at a crossroads. With deliberate, human-centred governance and strengthened institutional accountability, digital transformation can advance equity, dignity, and participation. Without such measures, it risks deepening inequalities and entrenching new forms of digital repression. The task ahead is to ensure that digitalisation becomes a tool for justice and liberation—not surveillance and silencing.

Recommendations

The Government should:

1. Reduce the cost of connectivity
 - Implement tax relief or targeted subsidies for low-income users and community networks.
 - Review spectrum and licensing policies to encourage competition and lower consumer prices.
2. Prohibit internet shutdowns and disproportionate disruptions
 - Publicly commit to upholding Prin-

article 38 of the ACHPR Declaration (no shutdowns), and amend the National Security and Anti-Vandalism Laws to remove provisions that allow broad telecoms disruption in “exceptional circumstances”.

3. Reform laws that criminalise online expression
 - Repeal or significantly amend Penal Code provisions on “false news”, “outrage against state institutions” and related offences to prevent their misuse against journalists, activists, and content creators.
4. Strengthen data protection and privacy
 - Fully operationalise the data protection authority with adequate budget, independence and enforcement powers.
 - Adopt clear rules on the use of CCTV, facial recognition and other biometric systems, ensuring strict necessity, proportionality and independent oversight.
5. Increase transparency in content governance
 - Mandate INACOM to publish periodic reports on site blocking, content takedown orders, and collaboration with platforms, disaggregated by legal basis and topic.
6. Open up the Universal Service

Fund and digital strategies

- Publish annual FADCOM (USF) reports (revenues, allocations, project locations, implementers, and impact).
 - Issue a public review of the National Broadband Plan and Digital Transformation Strategy as they end in 2025, co-creating the next strategy with communities, youth groups, women’s rights organisations and people with disabilities.
7. Regulate AI and emerging technologies in line with human rights
 - Develop and adopt a national AI framework aligned with regional standards to address discrimination, transparency, accountability, and redress.
 - Prohibit AI applications that pose unacceptable risks, such as real-time biometric tracking of protesters.
 8. Invest in inclusive digital literacy
 - Integrate digital literacy, including online safety, gender-based violence prevention, and critical information skills, into primary and secondary curricula and non-formal youth programmes.
 - Fund community-led digital literacy in rural areas, led by youth, women’s and disability organisations.

Civil Society Organisations should:



1. Monitor and document digital rights violations
 - Continue to document shutdowns, blocking, arrests, online violence, and data breaches, feeding evidence into regional mechanisms (ACHPR, UPR, UN Special Procedures) and initiatives like Londa.
2. Strengthen community-led and youth-led advocacy
 - Support youth collectives, feminist groups and disability organisations to engage regulators, parliament and regional bodies on digital policy, shutdowns, AI regulation and data protection.
3. Track the Universal Service Fund and public investments
 - Collaborate with budget-tracking and transparency organisations to monitor USF revenues and expenditures, and advocate for participatory governance of connectivity projects.
4. Support survivors of online and tech-facilitated violence
 - Provide legal, psychosocial and digital security support to women, LGBTQI+ communities, human rights defenders, journalists and youth facing online harassment and surveillance.
5. Build cross-border solidarity
 - Engage with regional coalitions to situate Angola's experience within broader continental struggles against shutdowns, censorship and surveillance.

Private Sector should:



1. Lower connectivity costs and reduce exclusion
 - Adopt affordable pricing models for low-income users, including education-focused bundles.
- Expand rural infrastructure beyond commercially profitable areas through transparent public-private partnerships, and prioritise underserved provinces in tower deploy-







ment, broadband expansion, and service reliability.











- Ensure that digital inclusion efforts explicitly reach women, young people, persons with disabilities, and rural communities who remain structurally excluded.
2. Commit to non-participation in internet shutdowns and unlawful restrictions
 - Publicly commit to respecting freedom of expression and resisting disproportionate government directives to disrupt services.
 - Increase transparency by publishing information on government requests to restrict content or access, and ensure that any compliance is guided by the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality under international human rights standards.
 3. Strengthen data protection and cybersecurity practice
 - Implement privacy-by-design standards across digital products and services, conduct human rights impact assessments for high-risk technologies, and ensure timely disclosure of data breaches.
 - Invest in robust cybersecurity systems and cross-sector coordination to address the growing volume of cyberattacks affecting public and private institutions.
 4. Improve transparency in content moderation and platform governance
 - Publish accessible information on content takedown requests, account restrictions, and appeal mechanisms affecting users in Angola.
 - Ensure moderation systems are culturally and linguistically responsive, and protect political speech, civic activism, and journalistic expression from disproportionate removal.
 5. Address online gender-based violence and digital harms
 - Develop responsive reporting and redress systems for survivors of online harassment, non-consensual image sharing, doxxing, and hate speech.
 6. Increase transparency in public-private partnerships and connectivity funds
 - Disclose information on contracts, funding allocations, and infrastructure projects supported through public mechanisms, such as the FADCOM (Universal Service Fund).
 - Engage communities in participatory consultation processes to ensure connectivity investments respond to local needs and reduce geographic inequalities.









The Score Index

Angola, 2025

1 = Totally non-compliant; 2 = Mildly compliant; 3 = Moderately compliant;
4 = Considerably compliant; 5 = Fully compliant

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
Internet Shutdowns	P38(2)			Although there were no confirmed shutdowns in 2024, in July 2025, reports from civil society and network measurement organisations documented a nationwide internet blackout during protests over fuel prices, marking a serious regression and demonstrating that shutdowns are now part of the state's response toolkit. Civil society organisations raised concerns, calling on the Attorney General's office to investigate, but there was no judicial pronouncement.
2. Laws and measures for universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access	P37			Laws and strategies (National Broadband Plan, Digital Transformation Strategy, FADCOM (USF) framework) exist, but implementation, transparency, and affordability remain limited. Rural communities, women, youth and PWDs remain significantly underserved
3. False News Criminalisation	P22(2)			Penal Code provisions on "fake news" and related offences remain overly broad and open to misuse against media and activists, despite limited evidence of reform in 2024–2025.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
4. Sedition Legislation	P22(2)			Offences such as “outrage against the state, its symbols and bodies” continue to exist and were used to prosecute Neth Nahara and others. While those individuals were pardoned and released, the underlying provisions remain in force.
5. Arbitrary Arrests and Harassment of Media, HRDs and Citizens	P20(1) & (2)			The release of Neth Nahara and four activists in January 2025 is a positive step, but arrests, intimidation, and violent dispersal of protests, particularly in July 2025, indicate ongoing risks for those exercising digital and offline expression.
6. Data Protection Legislation	P42			Angola has a modern data protection law, but enforcement, institutional capacity and oversight of surveillance technologies remain weak. No significant legislative backsliding occurred in 2024–2025, but implementation gaps persist
7. State interference and content removal via intermediaries	P38 & P39(4)			The state continues to request the removal or restriction of political content from platforms; lack of transparency from INACOM and limited public data from platforms hamper oversight.
8. Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41			Legal data-protection safeguards exist, but the expansion of security powers, facial recognition and smart-city surveillance without strong oversight raises significant risks of unlawful intrusion.

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
9. Failure to proactively disclose information on digital technologies	P29(3)			Some sectoral information is available, but there is no systematic disclosure of USF spending, shutdown decisions, or surveillance/AI deployments.
10. AI and Emerging Technologies National Strategies	P39(6)			Discussions on AI ethics are underway, but no dedicated AI law or strategy exists; regulations have not kept pace with the deployment of AI in finance, surveillance, and public services.
11. Children's Digital Safety and Privacy Online	P37(5)			Children's rights are protected through general child protection laws, but there is no specific framework on children's digital safety, online privacy, or platform accountability.
12. Digital Inclusion	P37(3)			Free Wi-Fi initiatives in parts of Luanda and USF-supported projects offer partial inclusion, but high costs, rural exclusion and limited accessibility for PWDs remain significant barriers.

Total (out of 60):	2024: 31	2025 29
--------------------	-------------	--------------------------



374 Borno Way, Yaba 101245, Lagos, Nigeria.
www.paradigmhq.org