

LONDA 2025

DIGITAL RIGHTS & INCLUSION IN AFRICA REPORT

Ethiopia

Country Report



PARADIGM
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Ethiopia

By Anonymous

Executive Summary

This report highlights recurring internet shutdowns that cause economic and social disruptions, as well as the enactment of Ethiopia's Personal Data Protection Proclamation amid concerns about enforcement. Recommendations stress the need for robust enforcement of digital rights laws, targeted interventions to bridge the digital gender gap, and alignment with international human rights standards to foster a more inclusive and equitable digital landscape.

Thematic areas include internet access and affordability, freedom of expression, gender-based digital violence, data protection, and regulatory frameworks. The report employs a desk research methodology, synthesising data from government, civil society, media, and topic-specific sources to provide a comprehensive analysis of the digital rights landscape in Ethiopia in 2024. In addition, this report uses Paradigm Initiative's (PIN's) The Score Index

to assess digital rights in Ethiopia. Key sources of information include government websites, which provide official data and policy documents essential for understanding the regulatory and institutional framework. Different reports from civil society organisations offer insights into this report, showing ground-level realities and challenges. Additionally, media articles serve as a rich repository of events, trends, and public opinion, further enriching the

report's analysis. Finally, websites relevant to the specific topics under investigation were thoroughly examined to gather supplementary information and contextual background.

By combining data from these diverse sources, the report's findings and recommendations are well-informed and also rooted in a robust evidentiary base, ensuring their reliability and relevance.



Introduction

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa, and as of 2025, the country's population is estimated at approximately 135.4 million.¹ In recent years, Ethiopia has faced a turbulent political and social landscape marked by conflict in different parts of the country. These challenges have significantly impacted the digital rights environment, contributing to recurring internet shutdowns, restrictions on freedom of expression, limited access to information, and patterns of online censorship. Since 2016, Ethiopia's digital rights landscape has undergone major shifts shaped by political transition, insecurity, and telecom sector reform. Internet governance for much of this period was defined by heavy state control, limited access, and frequent restrictions on online expression. Periodic shutdowns during protests and political unrest became a recurring feature, reinforcing

concerns about the use of connectivity restrictions as a tool for security and political management. At the same time, access remained largely urban-centred, with rural communities, women, and low-income groups facing structural exclusion from meaningful internet use.²

From 2018 onward, Ethiopia experienced some positive developments following the appointment of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D), including amendments to restrictive laws and a broader opening of civic space during the early reform period from 2018 - 2020.³ Digital engagement expanded, and the gradual modernisation of the communications sector accelerated. The establishment of the Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA) and the partial liberalisation of the telecom market marked important progress toward expanding infrastructure, competition, and service delivery. More

1. Population of Ethiopia: [https://www.populationpyramid.net/ethiopia/2025/BOCRA \(2025\)](https://www.populationpyramid.net/ethiopia/2025/BOCRA%20(2025)) [https://www.bocra.org.bw/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/BOCRA2025_ANNUAL_REPORT_\(WEB\)_compressed.pdf](https://www.bocra.org.bw/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/BOCRA2025_ANNUAL_REPORT_(WEB)_compressed.pdf) (accessed on 10 January 2026)
2. Country report for Ethiopia - Internet Society Pulse: <https://pulse.internetsociety.org/en/reports/ET/nectivity-2025-understanding-mobile-internet-use-in-low-and-middle-income-countries> (accessed on 09 January 2026)
3. Ethiopia: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report: <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ethiopia/freedom-world/2025>

recently, the adoption of a Personal Data Protection Proclamation in 2024 and the approval of a National AI Policy, alongside the establishment of institutions such as the AI Institute, and the development of an AI strategy, signal growing recognition of privacy, innovation, and emerging technology governance as national priorities.

However, despite these reforms, persistent and in some cases, worsening challenges remain. Internet disruptions and targeted social media restrictions have continued during conflict and instability, undermining access to information and economic activity. The broader civic space has also shown signs of contraction. On December 25, 2024, the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO), the government agency responsible for regulating CSOs in Ethiopia, suspended two prominent human rights organisations, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCo) and the Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Center (EHRDC), along with the other previously suspended CSOs (CARD, LHR, AHRE) accusing them of engaging in activities deemed “not politically neutral”

and “acting against national interests.” The three-month suspension raised serious concerns about shrinking civic space and the increasing pressure on independent human rights actors.⁴ In 2025, Ethiopia’s digital rights environment remained characterised by both advancements and ongoing systemic challenges. While reforms aimed at increasing internet penetration and mobile coverage continue, barriers such as affordability, weak oversight, surveillance risks, and security-driven restrictions still limit Ethiopia’s compliance with regional and international human rights standards on freedom of expression, privacy, and digital inclusion.

Internet Access

Between July 2024 and June 2025 (one Ethiopian fiscal year), the State-owned telecom operator, Ethio Telecom, continued to expand its network and digital services. The company reported a total customer base of 83.2 million. Mobile and broadband coverage

4. Ethiopia: alarming rise in the cases of suspension of civil society organizations at the end of 2024: <https://srdefunders.org/ethiopia-alarming-rise-in-the-cases-of-suspension-of-civil-society-organizations-at-the-end-of-2024-joint-communication/>

expanded substantially, with 1,683 new mobile sites launched during the year, nearly half in rural areas, bringing mobile connectivity to an estimated 5.9 million new rural residents. 4G LTE service was extended to 512 new locations, increasing the total 4G-covered cities and districts to 936 and raising national 4G population coverage from 37.5% to 70.8%. The number of 5G-enabled cities rose from 10 to 26. Network capacity increased from 86.1 million to 104.8 million users, providing 99.4% population coverage and 86.5% geographic coverage nationwide.⁵

In addition to network expansion, Ethio Telecom's telebirr mobile payment platform strengthened digital financial inclusion. It reached 54.84 million users and processed over 2.38 trillion birr in transactions during the fiscal year, including 13.22 billion birr in microloans and 11.24 billion birr in digital savings.⁶

Mobile ownership in Ethiopia rose from 57% to 65% in 2025, reflecting progress in overall connectivity. However, the

mobile gender gap remains evident, with women still less likely to own or use mobile devices. The gap narrowed to 24% for general mobile ownership, but the disparity in smartphone access widened slightly; 42% of men own internet-enabled phones compared to only 24% of women. Beyond ownership, both men and women exhibit relatively low levels of daily mobile internet use, indicating that affordability, digital literacy, and socio-cultural barriers persist in limiting meaningful connectivity, particularly for women.⁷

Internet accessibility is also important for upholding the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),⁸ especially Article 19, which guarantees freedom of opinion and expression, and Article 27, which ensures cultural rights. The Internet provides a critical platform for exercising these rights by enabling the free exchange of information and participation in cultural activities. Furthermore, the Sustainable

5. Ethio Telecom. 2024/25 Fiscal Year Performance Report (released July 2025): <https://www.ethiotelecom.et/2024-25-fiscal-year-annual-performance-and-three-year-lead-growth-strategy-performance/>

6. Ethio Telecom. 2024/25 Fiscal Year Performance Report (released July 2025): <https://www.ethiotelecom.et/2024-25-fiscal-year-annual-performance-and-three-year-lead-growth-strategy-performance/>

7. GSMA– Mobile Gender Gap Report 2025: <https://www.gsma.com/gender-gap/>

8. Universal Declaration of Human Rights: https://www.ohchr.org/en/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf; Date accessed October 20, 2024

Development Goals (SDGs)⁹ emphasise the importance of internet access, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, highlighting the internet's role in achieving these global goals. Since 2016, no country in Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced as severe internet shutdowns as Ethiopia over the years.^{10,11} Since 2016, there have been at least 26 incidents of shutdowns in response to conflict, communal violence, and political turmoil.¹² There are no official records of internet shutdowns in 2025 in Ethiopia.

Freedom of Expression

The Ethiopian Constitution,¹³ under Article 29, asserts the Right of Thought, Opinion, and Expression, and Article 30 guarantees the Right of Assembly, Demonstration, and Petition as democratic rights. These rights align with Article 19 of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)¹⁴ and the African Charter,¹⁵ which focus on freedom of expression.

Beyond the Londa 2024 Ethiopia report,¹⁶ the detention of journalists and activists continued into 2025. In 2025, restrictions on media freedom intensified across

9. Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

10. Addis Standard news: <https://addisstandard.com/ethiopia-tops-sub-saharan-africa-in-economic-losses-from-internet-shutdowns-new-study/>; Date accessed Feb 6, 2025

11. The 5 Longest & Costliest Internet Shutdowns Recorded In Africa: <https://weetracker.com/2025/11/03/longest-internet-shutdowns-africa/>

12. Access Now: Shrinking Democracy, Growing Violence, May 2024, 2023-KIO-Report.pdf; Date accessed October 26, 2024

13. Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 1995, <https://www.fsc.gov.et/Digital-Law-Library/Federal-Laws/ArtMID/1179/ArticleID/152/Constitution-of-the-Federal-Democratic-Republic-of-Ethiopia-Proclamation-no-11995-%E1%8B%A8%E1%8A%A2%E1%89%B5%E1%8B%AE%E1%8C%B5%E1%8B%AB-%E1%8D%8C%E1%8B%B4%E1%88%AB%E1%88%8B%E1%8B%8A-%E1%8B%B2%E1%88%9E%E1%8A%AD%E1%88%AB%E1%88%B2%E1%8B%AB%E1%8B%8A-%E1%88%AA%E1%8D%90%E1%89%A5%E1%88%8A%E1%8A%AD-%E1%88%95%E1%8C%88-%E1%88%98%E1%8A%95%E1%8C%8D%E1%88%A5%E1%89%B5-%E1%8A%A0%E1%8B%8B%E1%8C%85-%E1%89%81-11987>; Date accessed October 28, 2025

14. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>; Date accessed October 28, 2024

15. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981, <https://achpr.au.int/en/charter/african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights/>; Date accessed October 28, 2025

16. Londa report, 2024: <https://paradigmhq.org/londa-24/>; Date accessed on October 6 2025

several regions. In September 2025, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) announced a "zero tolerance" stance against media outlets it accused of promoting division and serving the interests of "enemies," sparking alarm among journalists and media owners. Media professionals in the region described the rhetoric as an alarming escalation against press freedom and independent reporting.¹⁷

Beyond the Tigray region, journalists faced a series of detentions and harassment throughout the year. In Addis Ababa, three Sheger FM 102.1 journalists, Tigist Zerihun, Mintamir Tsegaw, and Eshete Assefa, were arrested after the station aired a report on health workers, despite complying with an Ethiopian Media Authority order to remove the broadcast. While Eshete was released the same day, the 2 journalists were released after more than 20 days in detention.¹⁸ Additional incidents include the August 5

detention of Somali Regional TV journalist Khadar Mohamed Ismail, who remains held without charge; the incommunicado detention of radio host Abdulsemed Mohammed until his release on August 22; and the abduction of The Reporter's senior editor, Yonas Amare, who was held for eight days by masked men before being freed.¹⁹

The clampdown reflects a broader pattern of intimidation observed in 2025. In March, 7 Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (EBS) journalists were charged with terrorism after airing allegations of sexual violence by government soldiers.²⁰ In April, Addis Ababa police raided the offices of Addis Standard, a private news station, seizing equipment that the outlet later claimed had been returned with surveillance software installed. In June, Tesfalem Woldeyes, editor-in-chief of Ethiopia Insider, was detained on accusations of "disseminating false information" and later released on bail

17. Londa report, 2024: <https://paradigmhq.org/londa-24/>; Date accessed on October 6 2025

18. Sheger FM journalists released after more than 20 days in detention: <https://addisstandard.com/news-sheger-fm-journalists-released-after-more-than-20-days-in-detention/>

19. HRW: Surge in Arrests of Journalists, Media Workers: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/22/ethiopia-surge-in-arrests-of-journalists-media-workers>

20. Ethiopian Media Authority suspends EBS TV program over "false information", "misleading the public": <https://addisstandard.com/ethiopian-media-authority-suspends-ebs-tv-program-over-false-information-misleading-the-public/>

21. IFJ: Journalist released after six days in custody: <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/article/ethiopia-journalist-released-after-six-days-in-custody>

after 6 days in custody.²¹

Some of these actions followed the April 17 amendments to the 2021 media law, which transferred key regulatory powers to the Prime Minister–appointed Director General of the Ethiopian Media Authority, reducing the role of civil society and professional associations in media oversight. Additionally, non-governmental organisations advocating for media freedom have faced increasing pressure, including surveillance, suspension, and intimidation of activists.²²

Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV) remains a significant issue in Ethiopia, forcing women to withdraw from public spaces and limiting their participation in public life, both online and offline. Numerous women have recounted experiences of physical assaults, detention, and having to flee the country following threats of TFGBV.^{23, 24} Women and girls are

subjected to more hate speech, including gendered stereotypes and mockery, than men and boys.²⁵

In 2025, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TGBV) continued to escalate, with feminist activists facing some of the most severe attacks. One of the most alarming cases involved Yordanos “Jordin” Bezabih, a feminist advocate and co-founder of Setaset Power. After her laptop was stolen, her private accounts were hacked, and intimate photos, videos, and voice recordings were leaked online. The material was then used to create deepfake content accompanied by coordinated calls for violence against her.²⁶

Jordin’s case reflects a broader trend of targeted online violence against women who speak publicly about gender equality. In the past year, another feminist figure, Lella “Emama Fishka” Misikir,

22. HRW: Proposed Legal Changes Threaten Civil Society: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/29/ethiopia-proposed-legal-changes-threaten-civil-society>

23. France 24, ‘Normalised and invisible’: online abuse targets Ethiopian women: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240529-normalised-and-invisible-online-abuse-targets-ethiopian-women>; Date accessed January 19, 2025

24. GenderIT, Technology Facilitate Violence: The Fourth Battlefield Amid the Escalation in Ethiopia, <https://genderit.org/feminist-talk/technology-facilitate-violence-fourth-battlefield-amid-escalation-ethiopia/>; Date accessed January 9, 2025

25. The Centre for Information Resilience (CIR), Research on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Ethiopia Summary Document, May 2024, https://www.info-res.org/_files/ugd/587f01_849a90c2a17d4526b0fc69b-049b8946a.pdf; Date accessed October 30, 2024

26. Amnesty International: Ethiopia WHRDs targeted with digital violence: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/02/ethiopia-woman-human-rights-defender-targeted-with-digital-violence/>

also left Ethiopia after facing sustained death threats and online abuse. In both instances, attackers framed feminism as a threat to religious and cultural norms, often linking it to fabricated claims about promoting same-sex relationships.²⁷ These narratives have fuelled digital harassment campaigns that silence women's voices and push them out of public life both online and offline.²⁸

In Ethiopia, the LGBTQIA+ community endures significant challenges, including institutionalised persecution and societal violence. Even minor nonconformities, such as wearing skinny jeans or having colored hair, can lead to false perceptions of being gay, resulting in social ostracisation and physical violence. Many individuals face doxxing, where their identities are exposed online through disinformation rumours, leading to home invasions and assaults, forcing some to flee for their safety^{29,30}.

Data Protection and

Privacy

In April 2024, the House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia ratified the Personal Data Protection Proclamation, 2024.³¹ Despite this legislative milestone, several human rights and media institutions raised concerns regarding the appointment of the Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA) as the regulatory body responsible for overseeing data protection, but it may lack the necessary independence and expertise to effectively enforce the new regulations.

ECA conducted awareness creation sessions in 2025 with different entities, such as Telecom service providers and the National ID Ethiopia.

27. The Continent: https://www.thecontinent.org/_files/ugd/287178_8f2ba983303e42faa70d0f49a9ad7212.pdf?index=true

28. Digital gender-based violence is putting Ethiopian women under siege <https://www.geeska.com/en/digital-gender-based-violence-putting-ethiopian-women-under-siege>

29. Sifter Newsletter: <https://sifter.substack.com/p/how-many-salaries-can-you-afford?r=38rapq&triedRedirect=true> November, 12, 2024; Date accessed November 14, 2024

30. Sifter Newsletter: <https://sifter.substack.com/p/how-many-salaries-can-you-afford?r=38rapq&triedRedirect=true> November, 12, 2024; Date accessed November 14, 2024

31. Fana Broadcasting Corporate, House endorses personal data protection bill, April 4, 2024, <https://www.fanabc.com/english/amp/house-endorses-personal-data-protection-bill/> ; Date accessed October 27, 2024

Digital Inclusion

Ethiotelecom announced a comprehensive strategy for the 2024/25 fiscal year, focusing on significantly enhancing telecom coverage and capacity. The plan includes constructing 1,298 new mobile sites, expanding 4G service to 500 additional cities, and introducing 5G service to 15 more cities. To bridge the digital divide, 331 rural connectivity solutions and 165 mobile network sites will be established, totaling 496 sites, to improve network coverage in 1,000 rural kebeles. Ethio Telecom aims to increase its subscriber base by six per cent, targeting 83 million customers, and boost revenue by 74.7% to 163.7 billion birr by the end of the fiscal year.³²

In 2023, Ethiopia enacted the Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation No. 1284/2023³³. The National Identity (ID) Program (NIDP) is responsible for implementing this foundational national

identification system. The program issues a 12-digit unique identifier, known as the Fayda ID, to all residents of Ethiopia. This ID serves as a tool for service delivery and Know Your Customer (KYC) processes in both the public and private sectors. The NIDP ensures the quality of its enrollment through biometrics and authentication services, aiming to register 90 million residents by 2028.³⁴ Exclusion of service for people without a national ID is announced by various service providers. For instance, Ethio Djibouti Railway SC has announced the launch of its online booking platform for public passenger transport services, starting in February 2025, where all travel bookings will now require Fayda, the national ID³⁵. Additionally, beginning January 1, Ethiopians must present a Fayda national digital ID to open a bank account at branches in the capital, and banks nationwide must comply with Fayda standards by January 2026, while

32. Ethiotelecom press statement: <https://www.ethiotelecom.et/%E1%8B%A8%E1%8A%A2%E1%89%B5%E1%8B%AE-%E1%89%B4%E1%88%8C%E1%8A%AE%E1%88%9D-%E1%8B%A82017-%E1%89%A0%E1%8C%80%E1%89%B5-%E1%8B%93%E1%88%98%E1%89%B5-%E1%8A%A0%E1%88%98%E1%89%B3%E1%8B%8A-%E1%8B%A8%E1%89%A2/?lang=am> ; Date accessed February 6, 2025
33. Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation (2023) https://ethiodata.et/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Ethiopian-Digital-Identification-Proclamation-No.-1284_2023-1.pdf, Date accessed November 03, 2024
34. <https://id.gov.et/worldbank>
35. Birrmetrics News: <https://birrmetrics.com/ethio-djibouti-railway-launches-passenger-service-requires-national-id/>

those in major cities face an earlier deadline of July 1, 2025.³⁶

Ethio telecom has launched high-speed 4G LTE mobile services across 93 cities nationwide, substantially extending digital connectivity infrastructure across

Ethiopia's diverse geography³⁷. The Universal Service Fund (USF) is soon to be implemented³⁸, yet the Ethiopian Communications Authority enacted the universal access and service framework in 2022

Conclusion

Ethiopia's policy efforts, data protection proclamation, AI policy, regulatory frameworks and private sector activity are setting the stage for a modern digital economy. Yet the gains are shadowed by shrinking civic space, uneven implementation capacity, uncertain USF transparency, and lingering risks from surveillance technologies and weak oversight mechanisms. If Ethiopia strengthens institutional oversight, ensures transparent USF management, operationalises the data protection law

with an independent regulator, embeds human rights safeguards in AI and cybersecurity policies, and invests in affordability and accessibility programs, the trajectory can shift towards inclusive, rights-respecting digital transformation

36. Capital Market Ethiopia, National Bank of Ethiopia Mandates National ID for Banking, <https://www.capitalmarketethiopia.com/national-id-must-for-banking-ethiopia/> ; Date accessed January 10, 2025

37. <https://ethicalbusiness.africa/2025/12/16/ethio-telecom-expands-4g-coverage-to-93-cities-in-nationwide-connectivity-push/>

38. Universal Service Funds in Africa, GSMA, October 2023 <https://www.gsma.com/about-us/regions/sub-saharan-africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/USF-Africa.pdf>; date accessed on January 8, 2025

Recommendations

The Government:

- Prioritise the protection of digital rights by ceasing the use of internet shutdowns during conflicts, which undermine freedoms of expression and access to information. It should adopt transparent policies regarding internet governance.
- Though Ethio-Telecom is implementing different initiatives to curtail internet accessibility of rural and women communities, authorities should implement subsidy programs for smartphones and internet access targeting women and marginalised groups. This should be coupled with digital literacy campaigns to empower women and address socio-cultural barriers.
- Review and amend laws like the Hate Speech and Disinformation Prevention Proclamation of 2020 to ensure they align with international human rights standards.
- End arbitrary detentions of journalists and activists and provide robust protections for free speech.
- Establish an independent and adequately resourced data protection authority to oversee compliance with the Personal Data Protection Proclamation of 2024, investigate violations, and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Expedite the operationalisation of the USF through policy to expand connectivity in underserved areas, ensuring equitable access to digital services for all.
- Proactively disclose information on policies affecting digital rights and technologies, fostering public understanding and participation in digital governance.

Civil Society Organisations should:



- Civil society organisations should focus on litigation and advocacy to challenge internet shutdowns, freedom of expression violations, and weak data protection measures.
- Produce evidence-based research to support their campaigns.
- Form coalitions at the local level and join regional and international coalitions to amplify advocacy efforts, access resources, and promote accountability for digital rights violations.
- Civil society should advocate for the establishment of an independent Personal Data Protection Commission to ensure the impartial enforcement of data protection laws.

The Private Sector should:











- Telecommunications and social media companies should partner with stakeholders to enhance digital literacy, particularly in underserved regions, while ensuring safe online spaces through effective content moderation in local languages.
- Telecommunications operators should actively contribute to the USF and work towards expanding coverage to unconnected regions.
- Telecommunications companies should let service seekers know the reason for internet shutdowns.

The Score Index









Ethiopia, 2025

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

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
Internet Shutdowns	P38(2)			Though there was no OFFICIAL internet shutdown in Ethiopia, the government needs to be transparent regarding who shuts down the internet and for what purpose
Inexistent laws, policies and other measures to promote universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet	P37			Minimal reforms are needed in terms of law around AI, data protection law, and USF
False News Criminalisation	P22(2)			Journalists were detained and charged under Ethiopia's hate speech and disinformation law. Authorities accused many journalists of false news.
Sedition Legislation	P22(2)			Ethiopia does not have a specific sedition law; however, provisions within the Criminal Code, and Hate Speech

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2024 Score	2025 Justification
				and Disinformation Proclamation function as de facto restrictions on speech. These laws contain broadly defined offences that have, in practice, been used to regulate dissent and on-line expression.
Arbitrary Arrests and Harassments of the Media, HRDs and Citizens	P20(1) & (2)			Different media personnel and HRDs, were imprisoned arbitrarily
Data Protection Legislation.	P42			The proclamation was enacted in 2024, though there are limitations in the proclamation's implementation because of the capacity of regulatory body.
States interfere and require the removal of online content by internet intermediaries	P38 and P39(4)			TikTok received 2 requests from January to June 2025 from Ethiopia government and Meta has also received a request and stated it in its transparency report.
Invasion of Privacy of Communications	P41			HRDs and HROs staff, as well as media institutions, were targeted, and their office and devices were confiscated. ³⁹

39. <https://addisstandard.com/cpj-warns-of-sensitive-data-misuse-amid-polices-continued-seizure-of-multiple-electronic-devices-confiscated-in-raid-on-addis-standard/>

Indicator	ACHPR Principle	2024 Score	2025 Score	2025 Justification
Failure by the government to proactively disclose and disseminate information digital technologies	P29(3)			Citizens were unaware when internet shutdowns happened and who imposed them.
AI and Emerging Technologies national strategies	P39(6)			The state is using emerging technologies and AI for different purposes, including establishing an AI institution and introducing the plan for the AI University. Yet proclamation that is guiding it is missing.
Adoption of specific child laws, policies and measures promoting children’s digital safety and privacy online	P37(5)			Though there are no specific laws to promote children’s digital safety, the data protection proclamation gives greater emphasis to children’s data privacy
Digital Inclusion	P37(3)			State-owned telecom company, Ethio-telecom, has expanded unconnected regions to promote digital inclusion.
Total (out of 60):	2024: 21	<p>2025</p> <p>26</p>		



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