



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Preface by the Executive Director

At the beginning of 2017, Paradigm Initiative's expansion plan took us back to the drawing board. From the search for team members – with the right mix of relevant expertise, local knowledge and context appreciation – to teaming up with new partners and expanding our existing coalition, we were able to extend our digital rights work into the rest of Anglophone West Africa, East/Southern Africa and Francophone Africa. We also deepened our digital inclusion reach within Nigeria, with the introduction of resident programs in secondary schools and tertiary institutions across the country.

In addition to the hearty work put in by our team across offices in Aba, Abuja, Blantyre, Kano, Lagos (HQ and Ajegunle) and Yaounde, 2017 could not have happened without the huge support of our volunteers, partners and advisory board members – Prof. Pat Utomi, Dr. Jummai Umar-Ajijola, Dr. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Nick Jekogian and Dr. Seyi Adebayo-Olubi – who continue to advise, inspire and challenge us to do more.

It was a year that came with opportunities for our digital inclusion program as we expanded our LIFE training program beyond the Aba, Ajegunle and Kano centres and took the program into 5 secondary schools in Abia, Lagos and Kano state. The LIFE@School program graduates can now join their colleagues who benefit from the 10-week digital readiness program to start entrepreneurial activities or get internships/jobs early based on new skills acquired. Our Tertiary program also added 5 tertiary institutions while the 2017 Tertiary Forum was attended by students from 27 tertiary institutions from five of Nigeria's six zones.

In 2017, the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill was passed by the House of Representatives and while we know that a lot of work must now go towards completing the legislative process and implementing the landmark positive rights legislation, we wish to thank the sponsor, Hon. Chukwuemeka Ujam, for his dedication and sacrifice. To end the year, our bi-lingual (English and French) Digital Rights in Africa report, featuring 21 countries across Central, East, North, Southern and West Africa, was launched on December 19 at the 2017 Internet Governance Forum in Geneva. Our annual Internet Freedom Forum, which held in April 2017, was attended by stakeholders from 33 countries!



On behalf of the entire team at Paradigm Initiative, I thank all our partners for the continued support, and I invite you to read through this report to see what your support helped us accomplish in 2017. While our focus is on impact and not numbers, we are glad to see that more under-served youth are getting connected to improved livelihoods through our digital inclusion and digital rights programs.

'Gbenga Sesan

Executive Director



Mission

Improved livelihoods for under-served youth aged 12 to 28.



Who We Are

Paradigm Initiative is a pan-African social enterprise that builds an ICT-enabled support system and advocates digital rights in order to improve livelihoods for under-served youth.

Our programs include digital inclusion programs – such as the Life Skills. ICT. Financial Readiness. Entrepreneurship (LIFE) training program and Techtiary program – and a digital rights program that advocates for a conducive policy environment for digital innovation and expression.



Where We Are

Yaba Lagos (Headquarters)

Digital Rights

Abuja, Nigeria (Covering Anglophone Africa)

Blantyre, Malawi (Covering Southern and Eastern Africa)

Yaounde, Cameroon (Covering Francophone Africa)

Digital Inclusion

AbaLIFE Centre, Aba, Nigeria

AjegunleLIFE Centre, Lagos, Nigeria

DakataLIFE Centre, Kano, Nigeria

Techtiary Clubs

Obafemi Awolowo University

University of Lagos

Hill College of Education

University of Ilorin

Adeyemi College of Education

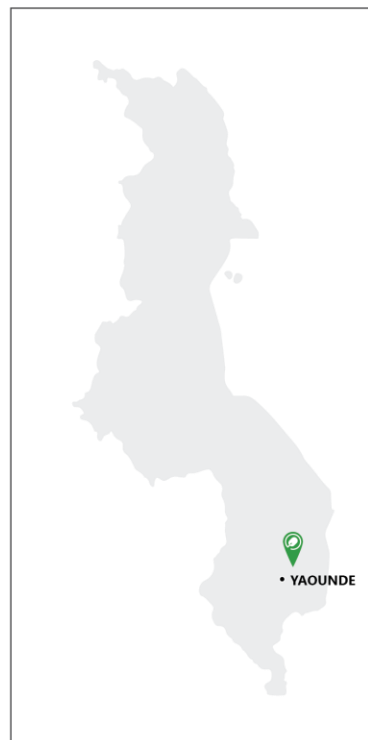
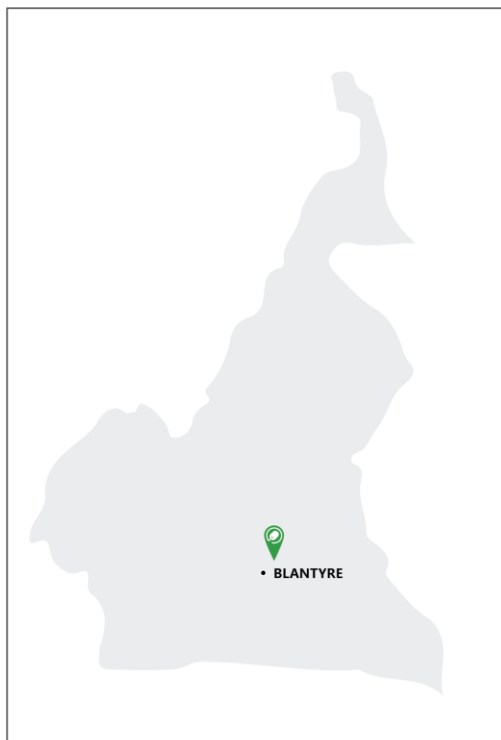
Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta

Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Lagos State College of Health

Yaba College of Technology

Federal University of Technology, Akure



Beneficiaries in Their Own Words



The training helped build my confidence in marketing my products to anyone especially when I'm on campus. I was able to design my business card and I also used the ICT skills to train other students on campus

– **Victoria Ajaka**



The LIFE program has made a very big difference in my life, because now I know how to write out a business plan, map market strategies and how to target the market for me to succeed as an entrepreneur. Now I know how to advertise and promote business through social media. The most interesting part of it all is that I can also design a website for business owners

.- **Favour Obiorah**



I have always had this craving to know more about software; I used to wonder how they are made, and how I can programme one. So I started looking for an institute around Ajegunle where I can learn how to programme. But the ones I saw were way too expensive. Then finally I found out about Paradigm Initiative (LIFE Program), while I was searching Google for an ICT institute that suits my budget. But to my surprise, I found out that the training at Paradigm Initiative is free.

*This training has really changed my way of thinking on the idea that there is no job in Nigeria or anywhere. I have realised that with my skills, I can get jobs and work from home or anywhere as a freelancer, and become an entrepreneur. I am now planning to study computer science in the university. - **Moses Oghene***

LIFE: Digital Inclusion Program Receives Boost

Towards improving its impact, a newly revised curriculum was introduced to Paradigm Initiative's LIFE program – our flagship digital inclusion program. The LIFE program, which focuses on Life, ICT, Financial Readiness & Entrepreneurial Skills, is designed to improve the livelihoods of youth in underserved youth across Nigeria and Africa. The curriculum allows students to learn more skills and spend more time practicing those skills.



The LIFE training also commenced the 10-weeks' (up from 8 weeks) at the resumption of this year (3 classes per year), focusing on Programming languages – HTML, CSS, MySQL, PHP, Java Scripts, Design tools and extensive classes on business development.

The LIFE program paid key attention to mobilization and program awareness in 2017. There was consistent engagement of community influencers, youth leaders, community leaders, religious centers, and school administrators throughout our centres in Ajegunle, Aba and Kano.

The programs' awareness activities continue to give our work visibility within the communities within which we work. And this has contributed to reaching

more unreached eligible young people in the community. Our communications efforts to local communities this year was different from what it used to be due to the programmatic changes identified earlier. For instance the program was better communicated as a '**Digital Readiness School**' rather than referred as a **computer school**.

LIFE Program Outcomes in 2017

The program recorded a number of outcomes from the beneficiaries of the program in 2017. Going forward, beneficiaries are expected to put acquired skills to practice by picking up jobs, start a business or pursue entrepreneurial dreams. Program staff kept track of beneficiaries through their monthly reports.

LIFE Digital Readiness Workshop with Intel She Will Connect



In 2017, the LIFE program continued to improve the lives of young girls living in underserved communities through Intel She Will Connect Program, four workshops (quarterly) were held across centers simultaneously to close the ICT gap and encourage young girls to embrace technology.



Town Hall meetings

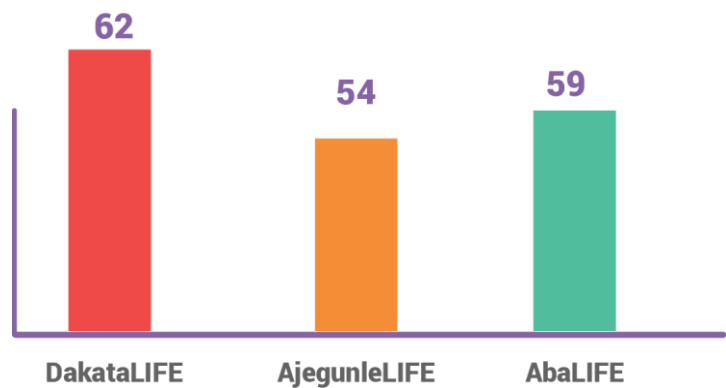
Town hall meetings are a mechanism that draws input for our programmes from the communities we serve. The three centres held their town hall meetings in the third quarter of 2017.



LIFE Alumni forum

Paradigm Initiative held her first LIFE Alumni Forum for the graduates of the AjegunleLIFE, AbaLIFE and DakataLIFE programmes.

The forum provides the opportunity for alumni to stay connected and to provide programmatic feedback. During the event, there was a break out session, where different groups of alumni discussed the challenges they encountered post training. Representatives from each group gave reports on the challenges and we discussed solutions and recommendations for the challenges. Attendance statistics for the meetings can be found below.



Community Development Project



As part of the effort to have a clean and dirt free environment, AjegunleLIFE team and students carried out a community development project, “Project PickThatTrash” at Idi-Ori Community, Ajegunle, Lagos.

Volunteer and Supports Growth in 2017



Volunteers are an important part of our LIFE program. In 2017, we had the largest sign-ups of volunteers. We had personnel from different spheres of life and profession who showed interest in being part of the LIFE program (see attendance statistics below). That has increased the quality of students’ outcomes. The website link to “volunteer for LIFE” program enhanced accessibility to the program. Everyone that signed up was contacted and followed up.



Volunteers' Appreciation Day

Paradigm Initiative's LIFE program is our flagship digital inclusion programme, and in 2017 our impact was felt across the communities we serve in Nigeria.

LIFE Program Rejuvenated

- 1** In 2017, Paradigm Initiative restructured LIFE, the 10-year old digital inclusion program and expanded it to enrich students' experience
- 2** The LIFE program duration increased by 25% (from 8 weeks to 10-weeks) training at the resumption of this year.
- 3** New courses introduced: HTML, CSS, MySQL, PHP & Design tools
- 4** The program emerges as a 'Digital Readiness School'
- 5** LIFE Goes to school: LIFE training classes are now available in 5 secondary schools


Expanding the reach of LIFE program



LIFE Centres	Applicants	Selected	Completed Training	Male	Female
AbaLIFE	151	105	97	42	55
AjgunleLIFE	147	60	57	24	33
DakataLIFE	213	105	94	55	39
Total	511	270	248	121	127

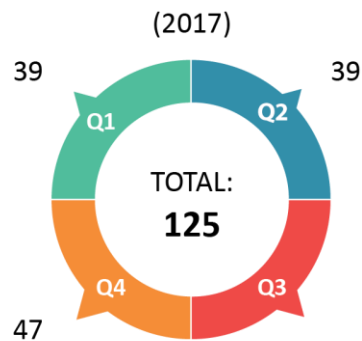
Life @School



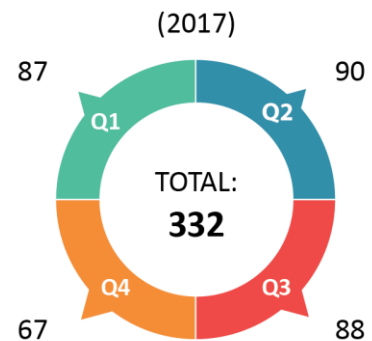
Location	Schools	Students in Training
Aba	• CKC College	BOYS 7 15 GIRLS 8
	• New World Secondary School	10 25 15
Ajgunle	• Umbrella High School -	7 18 11
	• El Leonora College	20
Dakata	• AL-fjir Science College	11 18 7
		TOTAL 96 STUDENTS

Connecting Girls to ICT Opportunities

In conjunction with Intel She Will Connect initiative, we held a series of 2-day workshops for young girls in underserved communities.



Intel She Will Connect



Digital Readiness Workshop

Program Outcome in 2017

2017 participants are already putting their skills to use:



Internships

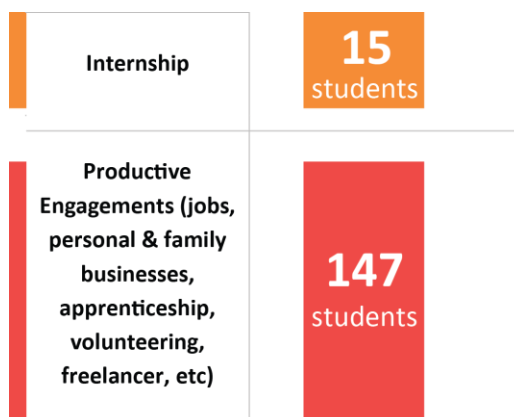
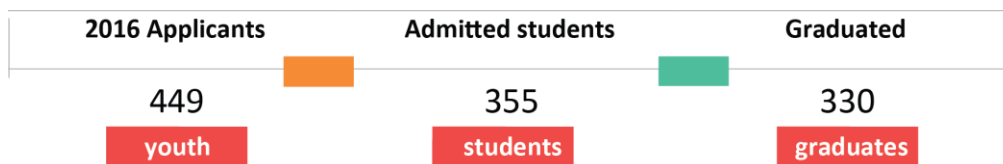


Entrepreneurial activities



Jobs

Program Outcome in 2016



Internship Organisations:

LIFE alumni got internship placement at organisations such as those listed below:



Inside Edge

O. James



UKTI



“I have learnt how to make research online. And I have also learnt to avoid using the internet in negative ways that could be harmful” - Akinyede Precious from Lin-Daves College.



“Usually when I see a computer all that comes to my mind is playing games with it. But now I have learnt more useful ways to use the computer” - Deborah Akassa from Lin-Daves College.



“I have learnt that I can use the internet to do creative stuffs like, learning a new skill and job search” - Ndeanaeto Chidera from Rock Foundation Model College.

Digital Rights

Protecting Digital Rights in Africa

2017 is quite an eventful year for the Digital Rights program as it is the year Paradigm Initiative commenced its expansion program to the rest of Africa. The pan-African efforts were made for meaningful interventions in Ghana, Cameroon, DR Congo, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia in addition to ongoing efforts in Nigeria. We advocated against digital rights violations and for better and freer online space in several African countries. Our new offices focusing on Francophone Africa and Southern & Eastern Africa respectively helped diversify our advocacy efforts that were hitherto focused on Anglophone West Africa



We released the first Africa-facing Policy brief “Upholding Digital Rights in Africa” in Q1 2017 and another, “Internet Freedom as the new Press Freedom: An African perspective” in Q3. There was a massive increase in publications of articles, reports, and press statements in 2017, thanks to the newly created communication unit of the organisation which supported and helped facilitate this. The year also witnessed increased coalition activities with the expansion of the NetRightsNG coalition which is now NetRights Africa coalition and addressing issues affecting African countries. Also, there is an increased use of litigation in our advocacy work. The following cases featured prominently this year;

1. PIN vs Ministry of Science and Technology, hearing adjourned due to counter-Affidavit filed by defendants
2. PIN, EIE, MRA vs NASS on Cybercrime Bill Appeal was filed and the case has now been scheduled for hearing on March 3, 2018
3. PIN vs NASS on the #NGOBill. Case was filed and now scheduled for hearing on November 29 and the case was heard and has now been adjourned to **March 2018**.

Looking forward, it is expected that we will have increased interventions and program activities in other African countries as from 2018. Given the ongoing conversations with local partners in Gambia for example, we would do a lot more around policy review and involvement in the ongoing constitution review process. The same trend is envisaged to follow planned workshops in Liberia and Sierra Leone building on the prospects offered by the planned workshop and the NetRights Africa Coalition.



● In 2017, Magoyi hosted a number of events in furtherance of her objectives in the year 2017 ●

#IFF2017

INTERNET FREEDOM FORUM

It was a gathering for conversation on issues touching Internet Freedom in Africa

📍 Sheraton Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria. 📅 April 25th-27th, 2017.



There were **168 participants**
(excluding staff, volunteers, partners
and delegate who registered on-site)



33 Countries
were represented



1 Legislator,
1 Government Minister
2 African Telecoms Regulator



31% of delegates identified as female while
69% identified as male



91% stated that they strongly agree
(**71%**) or agree (**20%**) that the event met their expectations



100% rated the overall IFF 2017
experience as excellent (**58%**) or good (**42%**)



92% strongly agree (**82%**) or agree
(**10%**) that the content was well organized and easy to follow

98% said they strongly agree (**66%**) or agree (**32%**) that IFF 2017 opened them to new issues as it relates to Internet Freedom globally

Topics discussed include: 'Net Neutrality and Open Internet in Nigeria', 'The Role of Public Access in Affordability: Asia Perspective', and '2017 Affordability Report: Nigeria Highlights'

Internet Policy Trainings

Internet Policy Training, Banjul, Gambia



July 11-13 2017

Magoyi worked with stakeholders from Gambia
Representation from Civil Societies, Media, Government,
Gambian
Internet Society and Gambia Press Union.
We recorded enthusiasm not just in discussing policy
issues but in committing to continued participation

Internet Policy Training, Abuja, Nigeria



Phase One: May 31 2017.
Phase Two: August 24 2017

Organized by Paradigm Initiative in collaboration with
the Federal Ministry of Justice
Aimed at apprising law enforcement agents on the
provisions of the Cybercrime Act 2015 and the human
rights concerns around the Law
In the 2nd phase, there were 26 Senior Officers from
the Nigerian Police force spread across 26 states and
3 Senior officers of the Nigerian State Secret services

Roundtable on Digital Engagement and Rights

A collaboration with the Presidency Office of Digital Engagement



Venue: New State House Auditorium, Abuja



Date: July 20 2017



Theme: Improving Government's Approach to Digital Engagement & Rights
37 participants representing civil society, security agencies, government offices and political aides.

Digital Rights Workshop

📍 Port Harcourt Nigeria

Theme: 'The State of Digital Rights in Nigeria – Implications for the Niger Delta'

First of its kind in Port Harcourt

Organized in collaboration with TechcultureNG and
Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND)

Participants: media, civil society and political functionaries.

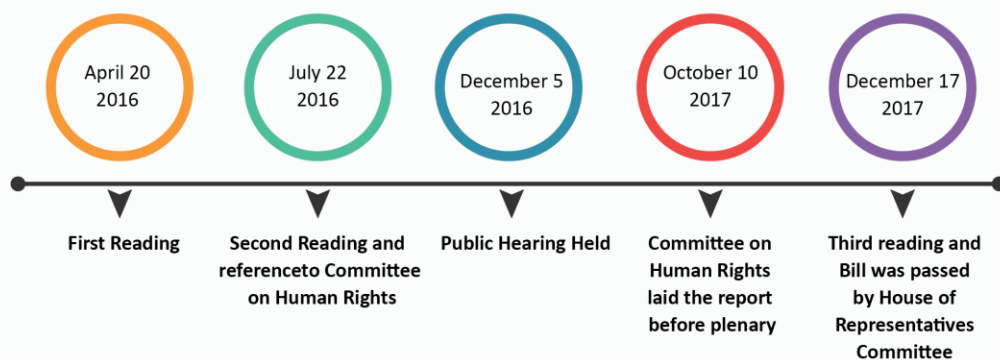
It was an in-depth training on the culture of control online, data privacy,
internet shutdowns, surveillance and interception, women access
and the use of internet for empowerment.

The Journey of Digital Rights and Freedom Bill

Seeks to guarantee human rights online

Originated from the Internet Freedom Forum in 2014
A civil society coalition led by Paradigm Initiative produced the draft bill

Sponsor at the House of Representatives: Hon Chukwuemeka Ujam,
Vice Chairman House Committee on Telecommunication



Next Steps

Q1, 2018 - Senate and House of Representatives to constitute a conference committee,
so the Senate can adopt the Bill for concurrence

Q2, 2018 - Presidential Assent

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN DIGITAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY



PARADIGM
INITIATIVE



Unveiled a
Pan-African Identity



Held 5th
Internet Freedom Forum



Became First African
CSO to Join Global
Network Initiative



Hosted two
side-sessions
at RightsCon
in Belgium



Contributed to
Coalition Efforts e.g
KeepItOn and
WhistleBlower Coalitions



Hosted Internet
Policy Trainings
in The Gambia
and Nigeria



Led Campaign Against
Internet Shutdown
and Right Violations
in Togo, Cameroon, etc.



Pushed successfully for
the passage of the
Digital Rights
and Freedom Bill by
the Nigeria's House
of Representatives



Published the
Digital Rights
in Africa
2017 Report

Techtiary: Supporting Student Techies to Greatness

- In 2017, five tertiary institutions joined Techtiary clubs, taking the number to 10. The new schools are the University of Lagos; Hill College of Education, Agwanga, Nasarawa; University of Ilorin; Adeyemi College of Education and Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta.
- Four boot-camps were held across the Techtiary clubs. The Techtiary club process plan was created with input from the Techtiary club coordinators.
- One of the Techtiary Angel Investment Scheme beneficiaries launched the first version of her application called “Mobbi-check” on Google playstore, it can be accessed via <http://bit.ly/mobbicheck>.
- This year Techtiary Forum was attended by one hundred and seventy students from 27 tertiary institutions across 5 geo-political zones.



Techtiary Angel Investment Scheme



Brenda Okoro started working on her Techtiary project in 2012 as 100 level student at Obafemi Awolowo University. Her Techtiary project (Mobbi-check) was completed on November 25th. Mobbi-check first version was uploaded on Google play store on November 26th. Mobbi-check application can be access via <http://bit.ly/mobbicheck>. She is currently working on improving the UI design.

Mobbi-check is an app that allows patients to quickly access medical personnel in real time for first aid tips, especially in the event of emergencies. Also, allows users to locate the nearest hospital to them, and establish potential life-saving communication before the patient arrives the hospital.



Martins Olajide also started working on his Techtiary project at 100 level in 2012. His Techtiary project which he called “MARS” was accepted as his final year academic project. The first stage of project “MARS” has been completed, this stage focuses on voice and age sampling. He developed this website (www.howold.i.ng) to accept voice and age samples from prospective users. He has been able to get “tester” users via social media platforms, OAU campus and friends in his neighbourhood. Paradigm Initiative provided the shared hosting for him to focus on the innovative solution he is developing. The completed “MARS” solution will be a REST API. In the meantime to test if the process will work, he has developed the Speech to Age Recognition System which is in form of a REST API to allow different

applications and users from various platforms (Mobile phone, Laptop, Smart TV etc). After his studies at the Obafemi Awolowo University, he joined Konga, an e-commerce enterprise, as a Software Engineer where he aims to gain on the job skills that will guide him through the final stage of project “MARS”.

Techtiary Forum

The 2017 Techtiary Forum was held on November 28th and 29th at ECWA Multipurpose hall, Yaba with the theme: Geek Entrepreneur – Beyond Coding.

21 students from 11 tertiary institutions across 3 geo-political zones compete for the 2017 1million Taiwo Bankole Ogunyemi Prize. The winner of the 2017 Taiwo Bankole prize is a member of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Techtiary club, she presented an ICT product called “extraclass.ng”. ExtraClass.ng an intelligent and educational technology platform that helps learners find expert tutors near them. The platform also provides a wide range of preparatory test questions & answers to help the learner’s master subjects and skills on the go.

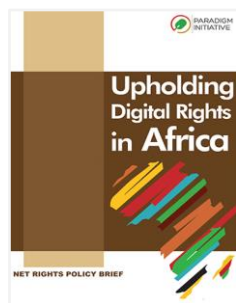


Communicating Digital Rights and Inclusion Messages in a Developing Continent

The Communications Unit of Paradigm Initiative was created in June 2017 as a successor to the old Digital Media and Research Units. The main idea behind the creation is to expand the scope of the organisation's communication efforts and ensure all available media platforms- traditional and online- are well leveraged to communicate our vision, efforts and various messages to the public. The newly created unit set for itself the following objectives which it has been faithfully pursuing: to ensure Paradigm Initiative's stories and messages are communicated to the public in the most appropriate context; and ensure the issues of digital rights and inclusion are adequately and constructively covered in the media in a way that enables excellent awareness of these issues among the peoples of Africa.

Throughout 2017, the Unit led advocacy and public outreach efforts of the organisation. For instance, in conjunction with the Digital Rights team and our partners in various countries, we produced the landmark 2017 Digital Rights in Africa, which covered twenty-one countries in Africa and was launched at the 2017 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva. Two separate, well-attended events were organised at IGF to mark the release of the report and discuss its content. A special lightning talk was organised. The report, the second in the series, provides invaluable insights and resources on digital rights violations and pushback from citizens on the African continent.

Also, **we** have ensured the regular production of policy briefs which are a cornerstone of our policy interrogation and intervention. We produced four policy briefs, all listed below:



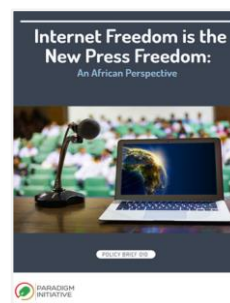
1. Upholding Digital Rights in Africa



2. Broadband Access in Nigeria



3. Status of Surveillance in Nigeria



4. Internet Freedom is the New Press Freedom in Africa

Besides producing these rich and aesthetically pleasing briefs, we also worked with media partners to garner media coverage for our content. In 2017, we garnered 186 media mentions or features. We also took our digital rights and inclusion gospel to radio and television shows. The focus of the new Communications team is to expand our media strategy to cover traditional media and this focus is already paying off with an increase in media attention to our work.

In Numbers

4

Policy Briefs

4

Quarterly Newsletters

71

Articles Published

1

Digital Rights in Africa Report

12

Monthly Blog

61

Design/Infographics Shared

186

Media Mentions/Features

