2020

Annual

IMPACT REPORT

PARADIGM
INITIATIVE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2,020 Reasons To Celebrate

2020 started with excitement that was nearly punctured by the commencement of COVID-19 lockdowns that introduced a lot of uncertainty to our lives, our work and everything we care about. I think it's fair to say that 2020 tested us but through it all, I celebrate the grit and immense contribution of Paradigm Initiative (PIN) team members to Digital Rights and Inclusion impact across Africa!

In 2020, we added more team members to fill new roles including Chief Operating Officer, Community Manager, Human Resource Manager, and Finance & Administrative Manager. There could have been many reasons to worry in a year filled with many heartbreaking stories all around us but because of the foundation laid by team members, our scores of combined years of experience showed up for us and now we have at least 2,020 reasons to celebrate the wins.

For the LIFE program, activities in Ogun, Bayelsa and Gombe set the tone for future expansion that will build our ongoing work in Abia, Kano and Lagos states in Nigeria. Work has already started in Senegal as we begin a process similar to what we started in a small cybercafé in Ajegunle 13 years ago! This year, the Dufuna program added Zambia to our Nigeria outreach and we have signed the MoU for Kenya!

The impact of our Digital Rights work was felt in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) as well as in Francophone Africa (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Niger, and Togo) and Southern Africa (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) not leaving out West Africa (Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).

The impact of our Digital Rights work was felt in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) as well as in Francophone Africa (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Niger, and Togo) and Southern Africa (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) not leaving out West Africa (Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).

New members joined the NetRights Africa Coalition from Egypt, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia! Our immediate past (four) media fellows produced 27 articles mostly about our work and we are excited about the March 2021 and August 2021 fellowship cycles that will see us working with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria to develop/deliver a six-week academic course that will benefit Fellows -- and some of our other beneficiaries.

In 2020, we established a Fellowship Advisory Committee to support the selection process for the Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF), and the Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL). We were also joined by four other experts serving as members of the Editorial Board of our annual Digital Rights and Inclusion report -- which will cover Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe for 2020!

When we released our short film, Training Day, on May 17, 2020, we had no idea it would get 351,258 YouTube views and 1,190,700 Facebook views in just over 6 months! We published research reports, policy briefs, and the Ayeta toolkit (in English, French and Swahili). We moved communications offline with newspaper adverts in Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and a four-week radio tour focused on the #SayNoToSocialMediaBill campaign, on radio stations in Nigeria's Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu, FCT, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto and Yobe states!

Thanks to partners like Ford Foundation, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Internet Society Foundation, Netherlands Embassy, Omidyar Network, Open Society Initiative for Western Africa, United States Agency for International Development, United States' Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and others, we delivered on most of our 2020 plans in spite of the pandemic, and are on track to present one of our most ambitious projects to date, Ripoti, at the 2021 Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum -- that will be held virtually and in-person (with strict COVID-19 guidelines) across Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Thanks to the hard work and contribution of our team, Board and partners in 2020, the Paradigm Initiative team has more than 2,020 rea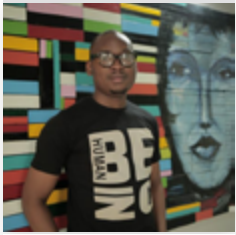sons to celebrate. We may have had to hold our annual planning retreat virtually, but the camaraderie grew as each session folded into the other, all week long. To everyone who supported our work to make 2020 an awesome year in spite of the pandemic, we say: Asante sana! E se! Dalu! Merci beaucoup! Nagode! Natotela! Siyabonga! Tatenda! Thank you!

'Gbenga Sesan

Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative

MEET THE **TEAM**

Adeboye Adegoke
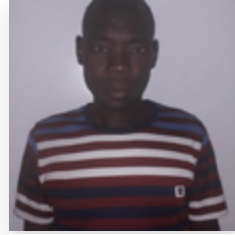Senior Program Manager

Adesuyi Ajibade
Finance & Administrative
Manager

Amina Idris
Program Assistant
(North West, Nigeria)

Angela Onyegbuna
Program Assistant
(South West, Nigeria)

Ashiru Muhammad
Security Officer

Bilikisu Muhammad
Office Assistant

Bulanda Nkhowani
Program Officer
(Southern Africa)

Dodeye Ebri
Communications Assistant

Ekai Nabenyo
Program Officer
(East Africa)

Favour Mesoma
Office Assistant

Gabreal Odunsi
Program Officer
(South West, Nigeria)

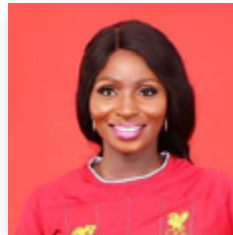**'Gbenga Sesan**
Executive Director

Ihueze Nwobilor
Program Officer
(South East/South, Nigeria)

James Ubong Udeme
Office Assistant

Khadijah El-Usman
Program Officer
(Anglophone West Africa)

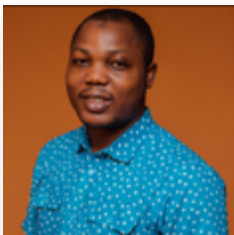**Lilian Edike**
Administrative and I.T.
Assistant

Ndubuisi Agbandu
Office Assistant

Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu
Chief Operating Officer

Odinakachi Nwafor
Program Assistant
(South East/South, Nigeria)

Olayinka Taiwo
Administrative & I.T. Officer
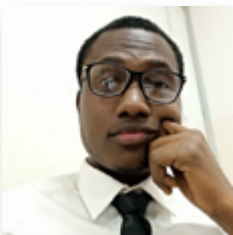
Oluwaseyi Adefemi
Finance Officer

Oyeniyi Kenneth
Communications Assistant

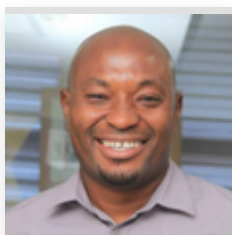**Oyindasola Ohanugo**
Human Resource Manager

Rigobert Kenmogne
Program Officer
(Francophone Africa)

Sani Suleiman Sani
Program Assistant
(North West, Nigeria)

Thobekile Matimbe
Community Manager

Tosin Abolaji
Program Manager

Valery Njiaba
Communications Officer

Who We Are

Paradigm Initiative works to connect underserved young Africans with digital opportunities, and ensures protection of their rights, through our regional offices in Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Through the PIN flagship LIFE (Life skills, ICT skills, Financial literacy and Entrepreneurship) program, we reach underserved youth across Nigeria from our training centres in Abia, Kano and Lagos states, along with in-school programs operating in 15 schools across the three states. The LIFE program has also started its journey in Senegal.

As part of our capacity building program, we teamed up with Dufuna, to establish a training program for ambitious and disciplined Africans for advanced digital skills. Through a six-month software engineering bootcamp that teaches HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, Algorithms & Data Structures, Version Control, Dependency Management, Debugging and Employability, we equip our scholars to become highly-employable technology professionals.
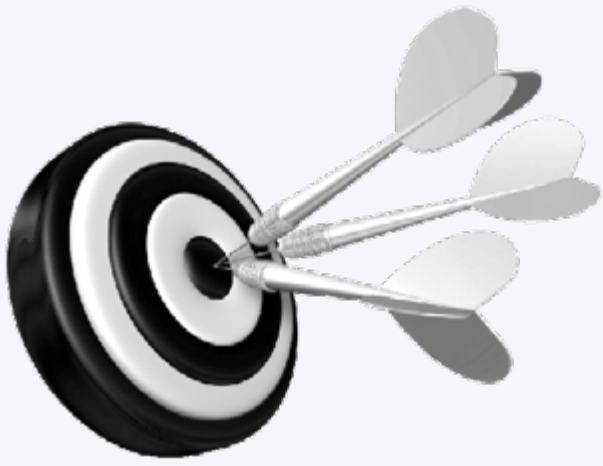
PIN's digital rights advocacy program is focused on the development of public policy for internet freedom in Africa. Our digital rights advocacy efforts include media campaigns, coalition building, capacity building, research, report writing, hosting the annual bi-lingual pan-African Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum and promotion of Digital Rights and Freedom legislation. PIN has, over the past decade, worked to advance Internet freedom in Africa and implemented large multi-country programs and managed funding from organizations such as the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Google.org, the Netherlands Embassy, Omidyar Networks and the Open Society Initiative for Western Africa.

In 2014, PIN started NetRights Nigeria coalition to work on a Digital Rights and Freedom Bill for Nigeria. The coalition has grown into an Africa-wide group, NetRights Africa, that works together to respond to challenges, co-author statements on incidents and work together on emerging issues. NetRights hosts monthly calls and has physical meetings on the sidelines of the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum, and any other major event where many members are present. PIN has shared our ongoing coalition building experience with organizations across Africa – in Cameroon, in the Francophone Africa region in general, and in the East/Southern African region where legislators started a new coalition, the Coalition of Parliamentarians for Digital Rights, following our October 2019 training.

Our Digital Rights Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF) is a four-month program designed to immerse selected journalists in digital rights and digital inclusion advocacy intervention efforts in Africa. Selected journalists work with Paradigm Initiative on various projects and contribute to improving media coverage of relevant issues. Each year since the inaugural fellowship in 2018, Paradigm Initiative has selected a group of diverse and accomplished journalists from a competitive applicant pool to partake in the fellowship program. So far, eight journalists from Benin/France, Ghana/Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Nigeria and Tanzania have benefited from this robust and transformative experience.

PIN's Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL) has a mission to host innovative learning around digital rights and inclusion in Africa, and serve as a space for both practice and reflection, aimed to involve and connect different stakeholders and create dialogue amongst researchers, social innovators, policymakers and actors, the private sector, as well as civil society. As a lighthouse for digital rights and inclusion advocacy in Africa, learning activities will take place at the lab in order to evolve new thinking on digital rights and inclusion strategy for Africa. DRILL offers space for big thinking, evaluation of digital rights and digital inclusion programs, and future-proofing ecosystem activities.

Mission

"Paradigm Initiative works to connect underserved young Africans with digital opportunities, and ensures protection of their rights."

Community Updates (Our Communities)

2020 Annual IMPACT REPORT

Despite the pandemic, our Community thrived with PIN's engagement on various platforms by reaching out to networks and interacting with different stakeholders. Some of these interactions included participating in the West Africa Internet Governance Forum, RightsCon Community, and the Internet Governance Forum where digital inclusion, enhanced collaboration with civil society and other human rights actors, global trends and solutions for addressing concerns pertaining to the legal, political, social and technical issues of the internet were discussed respectively.

PIN received applications for its annual Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL) and bi-annual Digital Rights and Digital Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF) programs which are set to embed professionals within the digital ecosystem.

We joined the rest of the world in commemorating international days of observances like the International Youth Day where the call was made for African States to empower youths to engage by ensuring access to the internet and relevant skills. Youths who have been trained through the Life Skills, ICTs, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship (LIFE) training program and are currently harnessing their skills to make their communities better were also celebrated.

Other celebrations included the International Day for Universal Access to Information where PIN released a statement calling on African States to respect and promote access to information, International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and the International Human Rights Day.

PIN joined the #EndSARS campaign in Nigeria, calling on the government to ensure stable, open access to the internet and digital communication channels throughout the nation while demanding the notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) to face justice for their alleged brutality and a total reform focused on upholding human rights. We also partnered with TunnelBear to give out VPN access to the #EndSars protesters, while creating awareness on digital security.

We also joined 64 other organizations in a press release calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the Iwacu journalists in Burundi who were convicted on charges against state security for their reportage.

Despite the pandemic, our community thrived with PIN's engagement on various platforms by reaching out to networks and in interacting with different Stakeholders.

Update from our Media Fellows

Paradigm Initiative Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellows had their fellowship with weekly webinars exploring emerging issues related to Digital Rights and Inclusion on the continent. The fellows had the opportunity to discuss issues such as hate speech and African languages with the Facebook team from the EMEA office. The fellows also had an en-counter with Maxence Melo, a celebrated media mogul and digital rights activist from Tanzania.

They explored topics such as the rise of digital rights violations in Zimbabwe and Nigeria, the elections in Tanzania and the recent data protection legislations across the continent. As a reminder, the five-month fellowship is designed to immerse outstanding mid-career journalists in digital rights and digital inclusion advocacy and intervention efforts in Africa. Some of the fellows shared their thoughts in several publications below:

- Data privacy: Why you must care about who has your information
- Nigeria: Media parade and fundamental human right
- Zimbabwe govt's digital "warfare": harassing social media voices
- Kill Switch: Will Tanzania #KeepItOn during the upcoming election?
- How NBC amended code will affect digital innovation
- COVID-19 : Intimidation, harassment, detention of journalists surge in Nigeria
- Partenariat Facebook - Autorité de protection des données personnelles au Bénin : « Lorsque vous n'avez pas les moyens de vous imposer, vous tentez de coopérer. »
- Digitalisation des services numériques au Bénin : Quid de la souveraineté ?
- Numérisation des services publics au Bénin: quid de l'accessibilité ?
- « Sur Internet, nous devons affronter le privilège des langues dominantes »
- La Haute Autorité de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication du Bénin : régulateur ou censeur ?

The Parliamentary Coalition for Digital Rights hosted an interactive strategy session at RightsCon 2020 where they drafted a strategy for enhanced collaboration with civil society and other human rights actors.

Digital Rights

Together with other civil society organizations, human rights defenders, activists and individuals from around the world, we joined in calling on Facebook to take action to stop its services from being used to incite violence, propagate hatred, and advance discrimination in Ethiopia.

The Parliamentary Coalition for Digital Rights hosted an interactive strategy session at RightsCon 2020 where they drafted a strategy for enhanced collaboration with civil society and other human rights actors. PIN joined hands with other activists and human rights defenders to call an end to the ongoing arrests and detentions of journalists in Zimbabwe, including the deteriorating state of media freedoms in the country.

The Net Rights coalition reflected on the state of digital rights in Africa and came up with priorities for digital rights protection in 2021. Paradigm Initiative team members participated in sessions with the Global Encryption Coalition and Africa Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA) on 29 and 30 September 2020 respectively to discuss the work of the coalitions as well as to launch AIRA. In the GE session, PIN's Community Manager had an opportunity to introduce the Net Rights Coalition (NRC) and to provide a platform for NRC members to reflect on encryption in Africa. Weekly community updates on emerging issues were sent out and members of the NRC were mobilized to support advocacy responses to emerging digital rights violations.

Anglophone West Africa

In 2020, PIN championed critical policy interventions such as campaigns leading the advocacy for the Independent Media Commission (IMC) Act 2020 which repealed the 1965 Public Order Act (POA) that criminalized libel and sedition in Sierra Leone, and increment of fine with regards to Nigeria's Hate Speech bill.

We held two stakeholder meetings to review the draft Data Protection bill 2020 in Nigeria. The two webinars helped us to coordinate a civil society response to the draft bill. We submitted a memo to the legal reform and regulatory committee of the Nigerian government working on the bill. Some of our key recommendations to the committee were on the independence of the Data Protection Commission, the composition of its governing board and the inclusion of the National Rights Commission and more civil society actors on the Board.

We launched a new report on Digital Rights and Privacy in Nigeria. The report which explores the state of digital rights and privacy in Nigeria details the political and policy environment, practices, and stakeholders around digital rights and privacy in Nigeria. Building on previous annual reports in Nigeria and Africa by Paradigm Initiative, it recommends a review of certain regulations by Nigeria's Communications Commission (NCC) to include judicial and public accountability in order to address the potential for abuse and abuses occasioned by the politics of regime preservation. Other recommendations in the report include a call for the passage of the Digital Rights and Freedom bill and the Data Protection bill, the repeal and re-enactment of the Cybercrimes Act 2015, and a public education campaign to raise the awareness of citizens on data protection.

Francophone Africa

Paradigm Initiative published a declaration calling on the Beninese government to respect its commitments, followed by an open letter signed by several civil society organizations. Indeed, a press release signed on July 7, 2020 by the High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC) of Benin announces the "suspension without delay" of several online news sites in the country. The government had deferred that decision thanks to actions by Paradigm Initiative and other digital rights actors who spoke out against the prospect of digital rights violations by the government in its attempt to censor online media.

In July 2020, only the inhabitants of N'djamena, the capital of Chad, had access to the Internet although it was limited. To access social networks, the peripheral inhabitants of N'djamena had to resort to VPNs. The rest of the country experienced internet disruptions until August 25, 2020 without access to social networks. Faced with these recurring violations, PIN involved civil society organizations in discussions on respect for digital rights. Several statements and press articles have been published to urge the government to respect digital rights.

Facebook announced a VAT of 19.25% due on all advertising made in Cameroon from October 1, 2020. According to Facebook, this tax obeys the provisions of the 2019-2020 finance law in Cameroon. This decision to tax online businesses in Cameroon came in the context of Covid-19 and had a negative impact on the income of businesses in the country. As part of these actions deemed likely to violate digital rights at the local level, Paradigm Initiative issued a statement calling for government attention to honor commitments.

In the run-up to elections in Côte d'Ivoire, Paradigm Initiative also expressed its concern about the risk of violations of digital rights and freedoms on the Internet in the context of the elections of October 31, 2020. The National Human Rights Council (NHRC), a public body in Côte d'Ivoire, had also expressed concerns about "serious threats to social peace" and called for dialogue in a statement. These calls were launched in a context of fear among internet users.

In a press statement on June 25, 2020, Paradigm Initiative welcomed the decision of the sub-regional court (ECOWAS) which ruled that the restrictions on internet access, which took place from September 5 to 10 and again from September 19 as of September 21, 2017, were illegal and infringed the applicants' right to freedom of expression. Paradigm Initiative greatly contributed to this landmark decision of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice. The court ordered the Togolese government to pay two million CFA francs to the plaintiffs as compensation and to take all necessary measures to guarantee the implementation of the guarantees relating to the right to freedom of expression of the Togolese people.

The Togolese National Assembly also adopted a law on the biometric identification of natural persons in Togo. This law as indicated in its first article aims to establish a secure and reliable methodology to obtain, store and update data on the identity of registered natural persons. Article 5 specifies that the information be made available to the candidate during registration, namely the way in which the data concerning him will be used in the event of authentication and the existence of a right of access to the data as well as the terms of this access. A Paradigm statement pointed out the risks of digital rights violation and called for civil society oversight action.

In April 2020, PIN published an article on the risks of digital rights violations during the Covid-19 crisis in Francophone Africa. This production has been used by several other organizations as an advocacy tool against digital rights violations in times of health crisis.

Alongside these direct interventions through press releases, press statements, open or collective letters, PIN participated in several online and physical activities and conferences in the region, particularly the local and regional IGFs in 2020.

East Africa

In East Africa, advocacy workshops were held to address existing and evolving challenges that threaten the digital ecosystem within the region. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Counterpart International, PIN organized a three-day virtual Digital Policy Workshop for Tanzania Digital Rights Stakeholders where discussions focused on the basic concepts of digital rights and the existing policy, legal and institutional framework in Tanzania. It also specifically examined the country's Cybercrimes Act and the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (EPOCA). The workshop culminated in the drafting of a Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2020 for Tanzania and it had over 70 participants in attendance.

A one-day Civil Society and Media Forum that brought together members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media fraternity (both print and audio-visual) in Tanzania was also held. The Civil Society and Media Forum, as part of PIN's IFPA project in Tanzania with support from Counterpart International, was a continuation of the discussions on the digital rights landscape in Tanzania and the need for a re-examination of the already existing digital rights laws and the formulation of the evidently much needed Digital Rights and Freedoms Bill, 2020 for Tanzania.

We believe that by bringing together the media and digital rights specific CSOs to discuss this critical issue, the Parliament of Tanzania will, in the very near future, be able to take this conversation forward and subsequently put in place a robust legal framework to protect digital rights for the benefit of all citizens of Tanzania as comparative experiences from Kenya, Nigeria and other African countries were considered as the most relevant learning contexts.

PIN participated in the 2020 Arusha Women School of Internet Governance where our Program Officer, East Africa addressed the need for an active citizenry for the respect of digital and other human rights in Tanzania. He also challenged the audience to take lead and champion for the much-needed enactment of the Digital Rights and Freedoms Bill, 2020 into law.

In October 2020, we responded to the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) public notice restricting bulk messaging and bulk voice calling services in the country.

We consolidated our efforts with the RightsCon Community to call on Facebook to take action to stop its services from being used to incite violence, propagate hatred, and advance discrimination in Ethiopia.

Southern Africa

Paradigm Initiative joined 19 other Civil Society Organizations advocating for digital rights in Zambia to draft a position paper on the proposed cyber laws in the country. The two-month-long exercise culminated into dissemination events where the position paper and recommendations were presented to the ICT Ministry and regulator, Broadcasting Ministry, Justice Ministry, Judiciary, Parliamentarians and other stakeholders.

In October, our Southern Africa office held its second virtual Tech Policy Reading Party where the Africa Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information were reviewed. The reading parties seek to review and analyze policy and legal documents that are pertinent to digital rights work in order to identify gaps and measures that can form future advocacy points and interventions. In addition, the reading parties offer participants an opportunity for knowledge exchanges and a chance to become familiar with the documents. In 2021, Paradigm Initiative plans to expand these sessions into quarterly continent wide events that will incorporate key resource persons to offer expert opinions.

A case study on 'Digital Activism and the Right to Online Free Speech and Assembly' was published based on the experiences of a prominent Zimbabwean activist Evan Mawarire. The case study explores issues of digital activism and online freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Following the announcement by the Lesotho Communications Authority over the proposed Internet Broadcasting Regulations, Paradigm Initiative issued a press statement and formally submitted comments conveying its position on the matter to the regulator. The proposed internet rules intend to regulate content distributed over internet networks and will require users with over 100 followers or internet profiles with posts that are accessible to over 100 users to formally register with the authority.

Research and Publications

Paradigm Initiative released two country reports exploring the digital landscape in two Southern African countries, Zambia and Lesotho.

Digital Rights in Zambia: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

This report was produced with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and technical assistance from Bloggers of Zambia. The authors of the report agreed that national security and personal online security must be prioritized in Zambia, however, they recommended that all proposed internet laws in Zambia should incorporate and recognize the interplay of human rights in the digital space. Aside from reaping the economic potential of digital tools, Zambia needs to acknowledge the political, social, and cultural benefits, while also recognizing the psychological and human rights threats that such tools and technologies may pose.

Lesotho Digital Rights Landscape

This report produced by Rose Matlhohonolofatso Moremoholo, Paradigm Initiative Digital Rights and Inclusion Fellow 2019 and Bulanda Nkhowani, Paradigm Initiative's Digital Rights Program Officer for Southern Africa, explores the digital rights landscape in Lesotho, a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa. According to the authors of the report, Lesotho has limited legal frameworks to address matters of computer crimes, electronic transitions, personal data protection and cybersecurity.

The authors also recommended that there is a need to engage a broad range of stakeholders from civil society, private sector, technical community, media, etc. in the legislative process to capture everyone's interests and ensure creation of holistic internet laws that take into account every stakeholder's unique needs and concerns.

Workshops & Trainings

1 Paradigm Initiative joined CIPESA in hosting FIFAfrica from September 28 - 30 2020..

2 There was also a Project Design Training organised by Paradigm Initiative.

3 In October 2020, PIN partnered with local stakeholders in Zambia to host the second Zambia Internet Governance Forum. The virtual forum attracted wide interest from stakeholders from across the country and was held under the theme; Cybersecurity and Digital Rights During Humanitarian Times: The Case of COVID-19 in Zambia.

4 Tech Policy Reading Party: Africa Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

Key Digital Rights Highlights 2020

PIN led efforts in the East African region to establish a working coalition of digital rights partners.

IFPA Project Implementation in Tanzania

Privacy Symposium

Stakeholders Mapping: Database of Digital Rights Organizations in East Africa

The RightsCon 2020, FIFA 2020

East Africa Digital Rights Coalition

Research and Monitoring Digital Rights occurrences/ violations in East Africa

Digital Rights Academy

Arusha Women School of Internet Governance

Kenya Internet Governance Forum

Digital Inclusion: Dufuna's Expansion into East Africa/ Kenya

> RIPOTI will allow listed stakeholders and others to support efforts addressing digital rights violations in Africa through a collaborative approach.

Ripoti

CYBER BULLYING

ONLINE GENDER VIOLENCE

INTERNET CENSORSHIP

ILLEGAL ACCESS TO USERS INFORMATION

For many years, Paradigm Initiative actively documented cases of Digital Rights violations and offered litigation support to victims. Many of these reports have been presented in our annual Digital Rights in Africa report and we have supported journalists who have shown interest in writing about these violations with vital information over the years. PIN and her partners have also built advocacy campaigns around many of these violations.

In 2020, we began to rethink our approach to this important work. What used to be occasional events, occurring once in a month and sometimes bi-monthly spiked to an almost everyday occurrence. At some point, we were getting overwhelmed by the number of violations we had to monitor and/or intervene on from time to time. It became clear to us that our interventions needed to be strategic, communal, and systematic. This desire to create a communal, strategic, and systemic response to these many incidents of digital rights violations explains why we have been working to build RIPOTI.
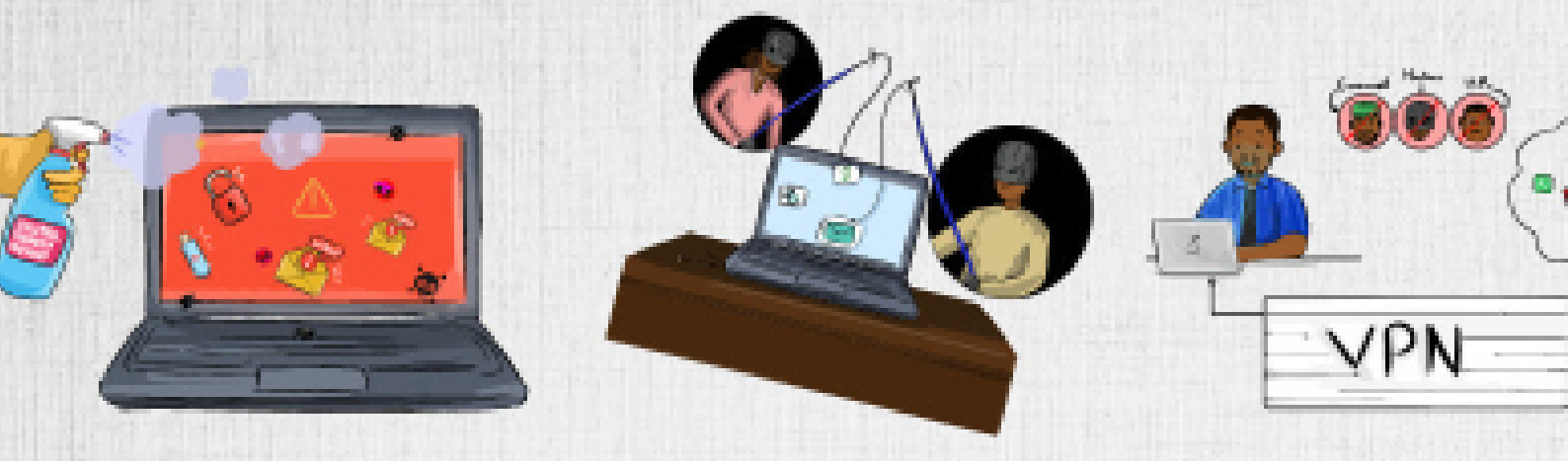
RIPOTI is a Swahili word, which means "report". It was conceived to make it easy for individuals, organisations, and others to report cases of digital rights violations they experience, witness, or that are reported to them. RIPOTI will allow for a community response to these violations as we will be working with a community of advocacy organisations, human rights organisations, digital rights organisations,

researchers, strategic litigation lawyers, National Human Rights Institutions, and other relevant actors and stakeholders to document, respond and address these violations including getting justice for the victims where required. We will document, verify, process violations reported via RIPOTI and assign, for a resolution, to the most suitable and willing organisations for addressing the violations and in other cases, collaborate with others including coalitions in our responses.

RIPOTI will allow listed stakeholders and others to support efforts addressing digital rights violations in Africa through a collaborative approach.

Prior to the public presentation of RIPOTI during the 2021 Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum in April, we are engaging the digital rights community to enlist organizations to the platform as collaborators, for the deployment and implementation of RIPOTI. We will also be engaging in a massive public campaign to help citizens understand and embrace the platform.

We hope that you and/or your organization are willing to collaborate with us on RIPOTI at https://ripoti.africa. If you are enrolling on behalf of your organization, please ensure you have the approval of the leadership of your organization to do so. We can't wait to work with you to create and deploy a platform that will connect victims of digital rights violations with justice!

Ayeta

As we keep advocating for digital rights and inclusion in Africa, we can't overemphasize the need for affordable, reliable and safe internet for all. PIN continues to work to ensure rights and freedom of internet users are protected. Even in the face of internet shutdowns and restrictions, young people top the chart of internet users as many innovative economic endeavors are championed by youths. For these young people, we work to ensure online safety!

To this end, Paradigm Initiative launched the AYETA Toolkit in December 2020. The toolkit contains digital security tips that can protect young people, civil society advocates and other persons in the digital rights ecosystem from online harm. Ayeta also contains digital hygiene practices that safeguard user information, how to access secure VPNs, tips to stay protected from cyberbullying, how to be digitally secured during protests and how to telecommute effectively and safely.
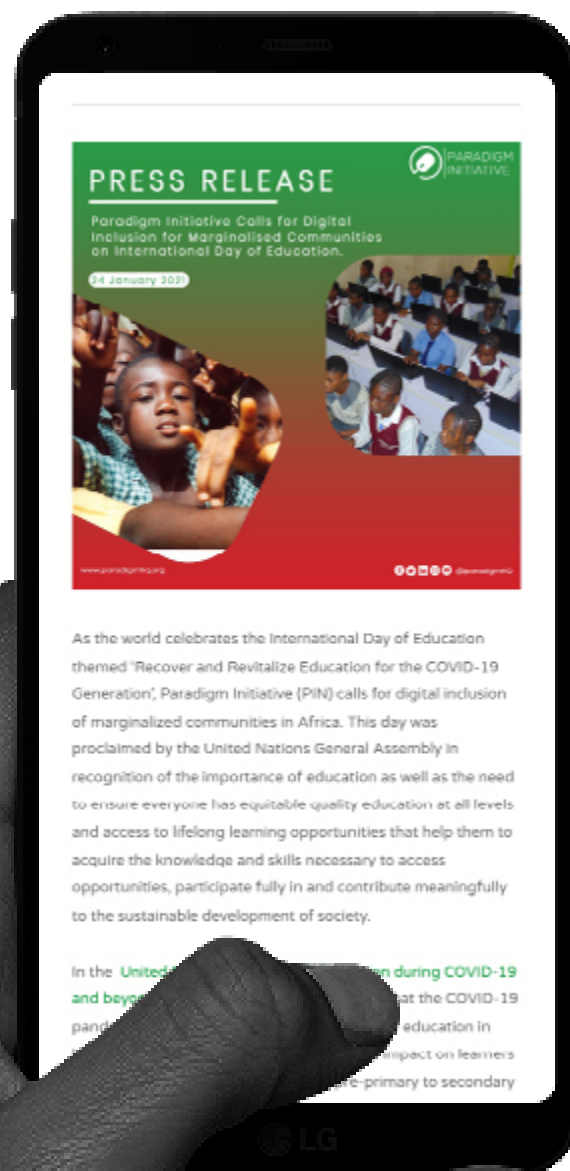
We believe in a world where everyone (young people, parents, educators, policy makers, stakeholders) will gradually become actors in securing a better online experience. We invite you to download the Ayeta toolkit (available in English, French and Swahili) from www.ayeta.africa and play a game while on the website.

> We believe in a world where everyone (young people, parents, educators, policy makers, stakeholders) will gradually become actors in securing a better online experience

Digital Inclusion

"As we continue to face and live with the challenges of the global pandemic, our post-Covid-19 approach for our Digital Inclusion programs gains momentum across Nigeria and Africa.

We have fully moved our Digital Inclusion interventions online to a wider audience as we remain committed to bridging the digital gap among young people in Africa"
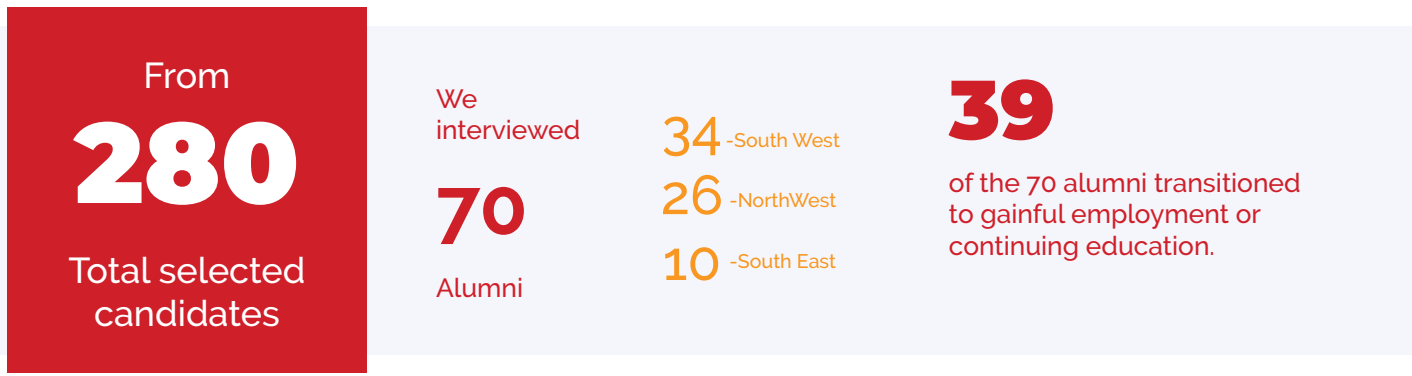
LIFE

Life Skills, ICTs, Financial literacy and Entrepreneurship (LIFE) training program

Paradigm Initiative's Life Skills, ICTs, Financial literacy and Entrepreneurship (LIFE) training program launched its first ever virtual training in July in response to the pandemic.
The training program received over 1600 applications from across Nigeria and Africa. The selection process admitted 280 candidates to the program. These young men and women are expected to apply the knowledge and skills to their everyday endeavors, connect to opportunities in the digital economy and eventually improve their livelihoods. Even with setbacks to planned activities in 2020, we were able to record impactful progress by the program alumni:

From
280
Total selected candidates

We interviewed
70
Alumni

34 -South West
26 -NorthWest
10 -South East

39
of the 70 alumni transitioned to gainful employment or continuing education.

Fatima Muhammad Saleh

"I heard about the program from the CEO of StartUp Kano, Ahmad Bature. I joined the program because I needed the skills the training offers. Before joining the program, I knew a little about computers, most especially Graphic design and PowerPoint. I also had the privilege to own a smartphone that allows me to navigate around social media and push my Henna design business. The most exciting and important part of the training for me was graphic design, excel and word press. I learnt how to advertise my business on social media. Since joining the program, I have used my smart phone differently, I now use it more productively. My business is doing fine due to the new knowledge acquired from the training."

Chima David

Chima heard about the LIFE program from a friend who according to him talked about the training with much excitement. This piqued his interest and led him to visit our Aba Digital Inclusion centre to register.
Chima, currently works with Vision Alive Hub as the Chief Graphic Designer. He is quite excited about the amount of money he earns from the organisation he works with.
Aside from his current job, Chima David is the Executive Director of 'Sketchbuk', a design company he founded in 2018. With the company, Chima offers Business Branding, Graphic Designing, Training and Freelancing.

Asma'u Mu'azu

"After my secondary school, I attended vocational training where I learnt how to make handbags. I have been making the bags for some time but I later realized that I was not making profit. This was because I didn't know how to run my business properly. My sister advised me to join the Dakata LIFE program at Paradigm Initiative. I joined the 2017 C class where I learnt how to operate the computer. I really liked the graphic design classes because I learnt how to design logos and letterheads. The part of the training that really helped me in running my business was the Build Your Business (BYB) entrepreneurship classes."

Whitney Tony

Four years after graduation from secondary school, Whitney Tony worked in order to support her family financially. However, almost all of her salary could only cover transportation and feeding. This made her join the Ajegunle LIFE program in order to gain the right skills to pursue new opportunities. After the program Whitney got a job that paid her twice more than her previous job. Presently Whitney runs two jobs as a digital marketer for The **Choice Sanitary Wares LTD** and **Deluxe catering and event school.**

Onyedikachi Ottih

Onyedikachi Ottih was persuaded by her younger sister to enrol on the digital inclusion training program. It took her over 12 months to be convinced.
In 2018, she decided to enrol. She was selected to participate in the 2018 batch B. After the first week of the training programme, she decided to take the training seriously. Her interest in content writing grew more!
Today, Onyedikachi is currently working in an organization where she applies all she learned from the training program.

Saheed Daniel Oluwadamilare

Saheed Daniel Oluwadamilare joined the Ajegunle LIFE program fresh out of secondary school. He had a passion for photography but had neither the means nor direction to develop this skill.. At the LIFE program, he developed graphics designing skills and was assisted in securing an internship position at **Tworld Studio**, where he works presently.

Dufuna

Beneficiaries

40

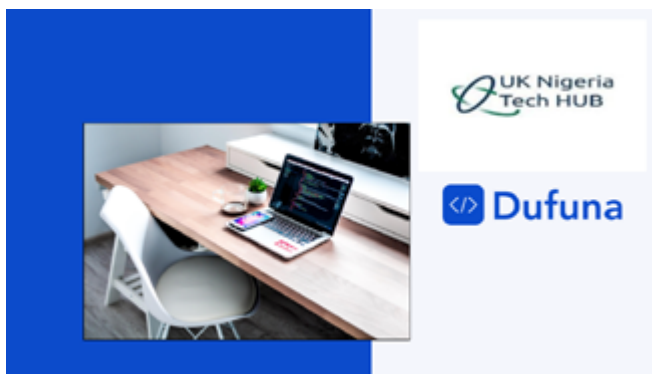Beneficiaries

40

Survey
Respondents

52:48

Female: Male Beneficiary
Ratio

Our Dufuna CodeCamp that trains ambitious young Africans to become software engineers also launched its Dufuna App in July. The newly developed Web and Mobile Application, a response to the global pandemic, accommodates the entire training program from start to finish and allows participants to learn at their pace. With the App, our Dufuna Program expanded its CodeCamp to Zambia. We had 42 scholars participate in the July cohort and learn Introduction to Software Development Methodology & Process Design, Git & Version Control, HTML, HTML Forms, CSS, Programming languages, JavaScript, DOM Manipulation, Web Servers, Databases, Object Oriented Programming, Algorithms & Data Structures, JavaScript Framework- React, Dependency Injection, Debugging, Employability, Software Development Process and Cross-Browser Development.

Dufuna's 2020 Product Management School, sponsored by UK-Nigeria Tech Hub graduated 40 beneficiaries from her Product Management course. A recent impact survey of the beneficiaries carried out after the course recorded that 47.6% of

beneficiaries have changed jobs after the course (school) and 42.9% of them have not changed jobs after the course while 9.5% are still in the same company.

The survey also pointed to the impact of the course on beneficiaries' career and

on the job. Over 58.3% of beneficiaries said the course is extremely helpful, while 41.7% mentioned that the course is very helpful to their job and career. The survey also captured job categories, giving us a better view of specific job areas that beneficiaries ventured into. For instance, 4.8% of the beneficiaries picked up jobs in Engineering, another 4.8% went into Consulting, 19.0% - Operation,

19.0% became Founders, 42.9% - Product Development while we recorded 9.5% for others.

Despite the challenges of the year, we recorded some wins. Our Inclusion team got support from the Internet Society Foundation's SCILLS (Strengthen Communities Improving Lives and Livelihoods) program to replicate and expand our LIFE program to under-served communities in Senegal. We also secured a partnership with The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (AHK) for our Dufuna, fully-sponsored program targeted at women only with an interest in starting a career as Developers. Successful applicants will be equipped with the skills to develop mobile and web applications..

The support from ISOC Foundation will equip over 200 youth living in under-served communities in Senegal with demand-driven digital literacy and entrepreneurship skills and connect them to internships, online work or entrepreneurial ventures with a high

Some Quotes

"The course Provided me with the Knowledge to function better at work

From user story to journey mapping. I have applied most of the things I learnt at the course at work.

Heck, I still go back to my notes and the slides."

Taiwo
-Wecyclers

"The course impacted my career decisions positively and transitioning from a Project manager to a Product Manager few months later was so seamless.

I'm glad I got to attend the training"

Ayo
-FormPlus

"I have been able to use the product management techniques acquired from the course to drive product delivery in the teams I would work with."

Deborah
-Mint Digital Bank

"I have been able to really think through user problems and Identify the root causes"

Tobi
-Paystack

possibility of earning sustainable income. Paradigm Initiative will be working with ISOC Foundation on this project for the next two years.

We also collaborated with Microsoft, as it launched its Global Skilling Initiative to help 25 million people worldwide acquire the digital skills needed in a COVID-19 economy. PIN helped move this initiative to its networks and communities that could benefit from the offerings. The initiative provides free access to content on LinkedIn Learning, Microsoft Learn, and the GitHub Learning Lab, and it couples these with Microsoft Certifications and LinkedIn job seeking tools. This is a comprehensive technology initiative that builds on data and digital technology.

The LIFE team leveraged on the opportunity presented by the pandemic to build a Web and Mobile App for distance learning with full participation online. The application was built by the program alumni (beneficiaries) and will be fully launched in 2021. Participants of the LIFE virtual training using Google classroom in 2020 were connected to mentors for further learning and to improve in areas where they faced challenges.

With our partnership and collaboration with the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO), we organized capacity building webinars for over 200 NGOs in Nigeria on Proposal Writing, Building Reserves and Building Donor Relationships & Collaboration. ACT Foundation, one of Nigeria's leading grant making organizations, and also 'Gbenga Sesan were speakers at the webinars..

This partnership also introduced us to more organizations whose mission work aligns with ours leading to ongoing collaborations. The LIFE team worked with Mentor, an African Child Initiative (MACI), Bayelsa TechHub and SureAid Development Initiative to deliver a two-day Digital Readiness Workshop in Bayelsa, Gombe, and Ogun States respectively. The new partnerships and the 2-day workshops have expanded our LIFE program's

operation into new regions in Nigeria, the North-East and the South-South. Other local partners were engaged within the regions to carry out collaborative projects, while the team hosted a series of virtual workshops to keep the program's alumni updated with current trends in the ecosystem.

We published articles and blogs in the course of the year to shed light on our processes and offered recommendations that would be useful and insightful for readers especially organizations in the Digital Inclusion ecosystem.

COMMUNICATIONS

The year 2020 was essentially focused on the branding of Paradigm Initiative and its various programs to expand the scope of the organization, facilitate outreach activities, and to ensure all available media platforms were well leveraged to communicate our vision, efforts and various messages to the public.

The communications team supported the production and publication of the 2019 Digital Rights in Africa Report, the 2019 Impact Report (in English & French), Training Day: The 2019 Digital Rights in Africa Report Short Film, three Policy Briefs (Nigeria and Tanzania) as well as the conception and dissemination of COVID-19 radio spots in four countries-Nigeria, Togo, Cameroon and Zambia amongst other press releases to community members and blog posts on our website.

A campaign for the 2020 Safer Internet Day was launched successfully, a press conference in Lagos was organized by the communications team and PIN supported media institutions in their reportage during hearing of the social media bill in Nigeria.

During publicity for DRIF20, the communications team formed a partnership with 57 media houses to promote the visibility of the event.

The 2019 Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF) selection process was concluded and four applicants were shortlisted to join the fellowship namely; Sinatou Saka (RFI/France 24), Alfa Shaban (Africanews), Abisola Olasupo (Guardian), Khalifa Said (Africa is a country).

In 2020, we collaborated with 930 media houses. This engagement massively supported our various programs and publications and there were a total of 148 media mentions in three months.

Other support from the communications team in 2020 included; PIN's participation at the RightsCon, #FIFAfrica, the AIRA coalition to disseminate a Press Release for the repeal of injurious provisions of the Cybercrime Act (in Nigeria and Kenya) to the UN Special Rapporteur and the AU Special Rapporteur, regional workshops and webinars.

PARADIGM INITIATIVE