

2021 Annual Impact Report



MEET THE TEAM



Adeboye Adegoke
Senior Manager, Programs



Adesuyi Ajibade
Finance & Administrative
Manager



Amina Idris
Programs Officer



Aminata Ngom
Senior Officer, Programs



Angela Onyegbuna
Programs Officer



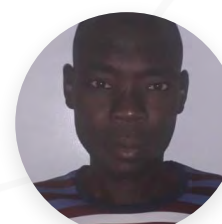
Bulanda Nkhowani
Senior Officer, Programs



Dodeye Ebri
Communications Assistant



Ekai Nabenyio
Programs Officer
(East Africa)



Ashiru Muhammad
Security Officer



'Gbenga Sesan
Executive Director



Ihueze Nwobilor
Programs Officer



Khadijah El-Usman
Programs Officer
(Anglophone West Africa)



Lilian Edike
Administrative Assistant



Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu
Chief Operating Officer



Odinakachi Nwafor
Program Assistant



Olayinka Taiwo
Senior Officer, Admin & I.T.



Oluwaseyi Adefemi
Senior Officer, Finance



Oyeniyi Kenneth
Communications Assistant



Oyindasola Ohanugo
Human Resource Manager



Rigobert Kenmogne
Programs Officer
(Francophone Africa)



Samuel Ojezele
Senior Officer, Monitoring, Evaluation,
Research and Learning



Sani Suleiman Sani
Programs Assistant



Thobekile Matimbe
Community Manager



Tosin Abolaji
Programs Manager



Valery Njiaba
Communications Officer

FROM THE COO's DESK

Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu
Chief Operating Officer

What an end to a successful 2021! A fantastic retreat where we worked together, making memories, learning, and importantly, having fun – many of us on the team meeting each other for the first time. There was so much to celebrate as we obtained observer status at the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and expanded into a new home in Senegal. With many milestones checked, one would not fathom the year we had just closed out.

Therefore, we are grateful for growth despite personal and professional challenges. In 2021, we learned and adopted new ways of getting things done, misstepping along the way but ultimately realigning. Most importantly, through the challenges, we identified focus areas and achieved steady improvement. As a result, we welcomed a Senior Officer to lead Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning and a Senior Officer to spearhead program implementation in Senegal.

With COVID-19 restrictions in our various locations at the start of the year, we continued to work from home but as they relaxed, we were able to resume physical activities. In Q2, Anglophone West Africa set the tone for a new normal of hybrid events hosting Data Protection workshops in Nigeria. Activities only increased in intensity and impact, with DRIF21 being held physically in 10 countries and attracting over 400 delegates. Our first-ever Festival in Senegal drew digital rights and inclusion activists from Francophone West Africa. We wrapped up the year with Stakeholder engagements on Digital ID, Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence in Eastern, Anglophone and Francophone West Africa.

The LIFE program graduated 312 students and expanded physically in Nigeria and Senegal. At the same time, Dufuna improved in quality as we added new tracks to the curriculum. It is always fulfilling to witness our alumni successfully establish themselves on the path to their goals. This year was no different as 22 were gainfully engaged after training.

With a focus on community building, we teamed up with partners to deepen our work in digital rights and inclusion across West, East and Southern Africa. We hosted sessions at various international fora, taking Ayeta and Digital Rights training to these workshops. RIPOTI launched in April, and so far, we have received 30 reports. We drafted a Digital Rights and Freedom Bill for Zambia and reached 479 people, including the judiciary and law enforcement, through our activities in Nigeria. Our successes in 2021 indeed underpinned the importance of collaboration.

Our fellowships also expanded as we completed three cohorts of the Digital Rights and Inclusion in Africa course with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and the Ghana Institute of Journalism. The Paradigm Initiative team values working with a mission-aligned community focused on impact and legacy. We are grateful for new and long-time partners who believe in our vision.

There is so much ground to break with our programs' strategy in the African digital arena, and as we celebrate our 15th year in 2022, we are focused on optimising operations to support program alignments and strengthening collaborations to deepen our work and ensure quality output.

The retreat was such a joy. It was amazing to finally have everyone together in one place this December - the memories of those costumes will last. We carry this spirit into 2022 and look forward with bright eyes (team joke) to having fun and celebrating each other, our partners and our successes.

We thank all our partners for their unwavering support even in uncertain times. We also thank the Paradigm Initiative board for their continued guidance. Finally, thank you to every team member for always showing up with passion and shining the light for each other. Once again, congratulations on a successful 2021, and wishing everyone a fulfilling 2022, individually and collectively!



Community Corner

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This year we are most grateful for collaborations with the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ) and for gaining an African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Observer Status.

The Net Rights Coalition (NRC) grew from a mailing list of 150 members to 206 members in 2021. Members come from 25 countries in Africa. Four learning calls were convened, with at least 25 members attending each learning call.

We collaborated to deliver digital rights training online to youths in Malawi through Youth and Society and partnered with NamTshuwe Digital in Namibia to research online gender-based violence in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

PIN joined in over ten open letters and press releases with several coalitions: Net Rights Coalition (NRC), KeepItOn Coalition, African Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA), Global Encryption Coalition and Digital Cooperation Coalition and commemorated the Safer Internet Day, International Day of Education, International Day on Universal Access to Information, World Press Freedom Day, International Girls in ICT, Global Encryption Day & Human Rights Day. We also engaged with the office of the UN Tech Envoy's Office on the role of CSOs, submitted a brief on Disinformation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion, and are currently working on our Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Shadow Report to the UN Human Rights Council with MISA Zimbabwe and CIPESA.



The **Net Rights Coalition (NRC)** grew

from
150
members

to
206
members

25 countries
in Africa. | **4** Learning
Calls

Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF21)



10
Countries

31 Sessions
16 In-person 15 Virtual

445
Attendees
across
42 Countries

1042
Media Mentions
with a reach of
>2,000,000

The 8th edition of the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum held from April 12 - 30, 2021, virtually and physically in 10 countries - Cameroon, Chad, Namibia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Four hundred forty-five attendees across 42 countries engaged in robust conversations on digital rights and inclusion in Africa. The forum commenced with a keynote address delivered by PIN's Executive Director, who welcomed the attendees to the hybrid multi-country digital festival.

DRIF21 attracted diverse members of civil society, the technical community, academia, government, and the private sector for shared engagements. In-country sessions were hosted in partnership with the Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organisations (CEHRO), Conseil des Panafricanistes du Tchad, Digital Foundation of Namibia, Digital Human Rights Lab, Digital Shelter, Internet Society Chad Chapter, Koneta Initiative, and Zaina Foundation.

On the agenda were sessions unpacking digital inclusion for marginalised

communities, innovations in assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, strategies for tackling internet disruptions in Africa, and promotion of media freedom through litigation and advocacy. Rich discussions on digital health for children, artificial intelligence, digital identity, digital security, building networks, and communities of practice in digital rights work kept the DRIF21 community engaged throughout the forum.

Impactful sessions were hosted by new DRIF hosts such as Digital Age Conversations and Africa Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA), while regular partners like Facebook and CIPESA engaged participants on diverse issues such as content moderation and advancing digital rights advocacy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The forum provided a platform for networking and formulation of solutions for improving the digital ecosystem. Key delegates like the European Ambassador to Namibia, and the Minister of Communications and Technology in Somalia, H.E Abdi Sheikh Ahmed, gave opening remarks at DRIF21.



PIN Festival Senegal

We celebrated the first-ever annual Paradigm Initiative festival in the Terangas nation. Over four days, a mix of insightful activities such as the official opening of PIN's office in Thies, the launching of our annual boxset, an exclusive premiere of the French version of Focus – a short film and a 2-day intensive digital rights academy were delivered.

Day one of the festival at Thies saw the local community benefiting from an ultra-modern office with up-to-date ICT equipment making it PIN's first training centre outside Nigeria. The training centre will play a significant role in ICT capacity building amongst the youth in Thies and its environs. It will go a long way to expand PIN's digital inclusion programs within the country and the region.

Delegates and digital rights actors from Senegal participated in an exhilarating

session. We premiered the French version of Focus and launched the 2020 boxset. It contains research outputs, reports, and toolkits from the year preceding the festival.

The festival culminated in a Digital Rights Academy, an intensive training workshop for over 20 local delegates who received hands-on training and coaching from key leaders and actors in the digital field. The workshop served as an eye-opener for the delegates to understand digital rights issues such as internet shutdowns, digital rights violations, the ecosystem, and how to best handle and take action. Group assignments, presentations, and interactive questions and answer sessions characterised the two-day workshop. Delegates expressed their utmost satisfaction and promised to use the knowledge acquired to increase digital rights activism in their respective areas.



Londa Comes to Life in Focus



On October 14 2021, human and digital rights actors, stakeholders, partners and crew members gathered at the Lekki Filmhouse Cinema, Lekki, Lagos, for the premiere of Focus.

Focus portrays the real-life cost of apathy to the actions of elected officials who exploit policies and employ illegal tools to constrict civic spaces and crackdown on free speech. The short film dramatises Paradigm Initiative's Londa 2020 report, which documents the subversive actions governments took across Africa, limiting speech and suspending access to digital platforms central to citizen mobilisation and expression.

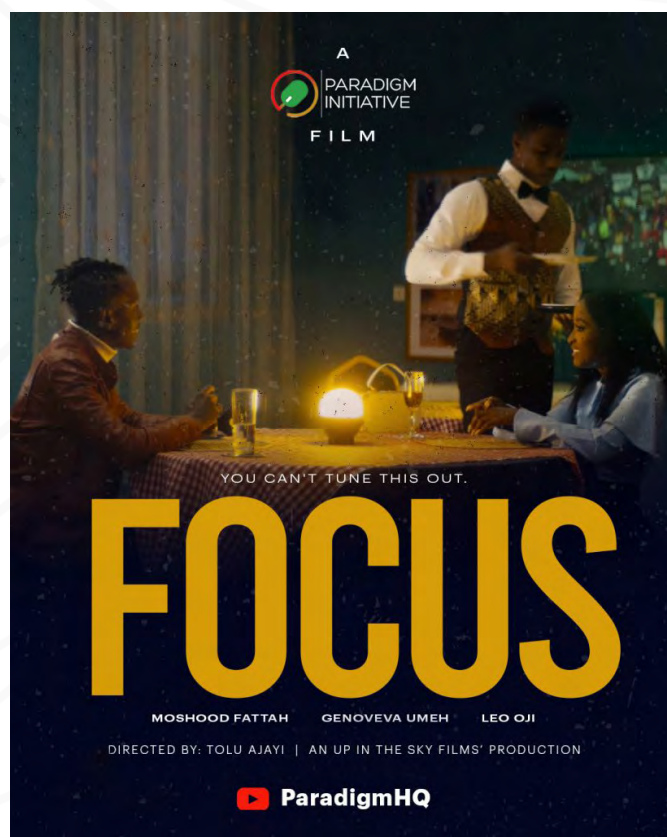
The worldwide release on October 20 coincided with the 1st anniversary of the Nigerian government's violent quelling of the nationwide 'END SARS' protests refocusing attention on the state of online freedoms in Nigeria and the power of citizens to mobilise freely. Twitter, the service that played a central role in how young Nigerians were able to mobilise and coordinate actions for the protest, remains inaccessible in Nigeria following a suspension enforced by the government

since June.

Focus also alerts citizens to identify and take collective actions against the government's subtle but increasingly desperate and broad-ranging plots to slip through policies and other restrictive measures to limit online freedoms and censor speech.

With the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and the United States Department of State, FOCUS continues Paradigm Initiative's efforts to mainstream topical issues using the medium of storytelling as a vehicle of social transformation.

The short film is available for free viewing on PIN's YouTube channel '@ParadigmHQ', in English, French and Swahili to cater to audiences from different parts of Africa.



Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF)

On Thursday, July 1, 2021, Paradigm Initiative bade farewell to the Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellowship (DRIMF) fellows after 4 months of intensive and active training. The virtual ceremony was organized to applaud the fellows on a job well done during the four months of the fellowship with PIN and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and to wish them well in their future endeavours.

Four fellows were opportune to be part of the 4th edition of DRIMF; Patience Shawarira a Communications and Research Specialist from Zimbabwe, Lukman Mahami Adams an emerging media and development communications personnel from Ghana, Molly Wasonga a trained and practising journalist from Kenya, and Emsie Erastus an ICT researcher and communications personnel from Namibia. Together, the fellows published a total of 14 articles, worked on a research project each, and took classes and recorded podcasts with the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

In September, we welcomed the 2nd cohort of fellows for the Digital Rights and Inclusion Media Fellows (DRIMF) in a virtual opening ceremony put together by PIN and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. Over the next four months, the four media professionals will work with Paradigm Initiative on various projects and contribute to improving public understanding of digital rights and inclusion issues in Africa.

The fellows are; Ruth Atim, a Journalist and Co-founder of The Gender Tech Initiative, Uganda. Jean Pierre, a Journalist and part-time researcher from Rwanda. Laida K. Chongo, a Communicator and Women's Rights Advocate from Zambia and Imani Henrick Luvanga, a Media Personality and Digital Rights Advocate from Tanzania.

Some of their articles can be found below:

- [Algorithmic Apartheid African Lives Matter in Responsible AI Discourse](#) by Emsie Erastus
- [The Politics of Twitter Hashtags](#) in Ghana by Lukman Adams
- [The Internet, An Emerging Battlefield for Human Rights?](#) By Molly Wasonga
- [Access to information during the Covid 19 pandemic](#): A case study of Zimbabwe by Patience Shawarira
- [Countries lost USD 1 Trillion in GDP because of Digital Gender Divide](#) by Jean Pierre
- [Continued Facebook Shutdown Inconveniencing Ugandans](#) by Ruth Atim
- [The Need to Act Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities](#) by Laida K. Chongo
- [Access To The Internet: A Basic Right That Should Be Implemented](#) by Imani Henrick

PIN Fellowships

10 New Fellows | **32** New Articles | **2** Research Projects



Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL)

PIN receives applications for its Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL) once a year. The successful applicants work full time with Paradigm Initiative team members for 9 months. This year we had Kofi Yeboah, a digital rights actor with years of advocacy around social media and privacy and Silver Francis Oonyu, a researcher on the learning difficulties of blind children in Uganda.



Digital Rights Regional Updates:



Digital Rights in Southern Africa

Paradigm Initiative hosted a diverse group of civil society and media organisations to explore the introduction of an alternative civil society-led Digital Rights and Freedom Bill. The convening highlighted the status of digital rights in Zambia, the importance of pro-rights ICT policy, and the status of internet freedoms and ICT laws and culminated in charting a way forward for Zambia's Digital Rights and Freedom Bill agenda, including a scoping of key local digital rights issues for consideration for the bill and mapping of digital rights and media organisations that will champion the initiative.

PIN participated in the annual Lusaka Internet Meet-up organised by Bloggers of Zambia joining other stakeholders in conversations on the impact of online content regulation, combating cybercrime in Zambia, digital financial inclusion in Zambia, and the status of Zambian women's voices online, amongst other topics. The Lusaka Internet Meet-Up has become a critical multi-stakeholder policy forum for discussions on internet governance, digital rights, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion, amongst other thematic areas.

Paradigm Initiative deployed its elections toolkit and addressed a partial Internet Shutdown in Zambia during polling day on August 12 2021. The partial internet shutdown lasted until August 14 2021. Internet users witnessed blocked social media messaging apps- Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger.

According to Netblocks and OONI, network measurements confirm that social media was blocked during this period. The three mobile networks showed a significant drop in service, indicating that they had been throttled. The partial internet shutdown followed a statement by the then chief government spokesperson warning that the Internet would be shut if citizens failed to use cyberspace correctly during the election period. This was the second Internet shutdown witnessed in the region as it followed the shutdown in Swaziland in June/July 2021.

We reviewed and provided comments on the draft Communications (Subscriber Identity Module and Mobile Device Registration) Regulations of 2021, which seek to provide a regulatory framework for the mandatory registration of SIM Cards and mobile devices in Lesotho. The framework further seeks to document and provide a database of subscriber information.

We attended a Malawi inception meeting for the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill. Following the completion of the Ranking Digital Rights Report and Policy brief on Advancing Digital Rights in Angola, the Digital Rights Academy and a media conference were organised to discuss findings from the policy brief. The Academy's objective is to raise awareness and increase knowledge of digital rights and internet policy and enhance the capacity of stakeholders to foster human rights-respecting legislation in their respective countries. It targets civil society actors, media and academia.

We hosted a session on Open Data Rights at the Open Data Day 2021 event and participated at RightsCon, Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF), Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

Digital Rights in Anglophone West Africa

In 2021, we fostered partnerships between Civil Society Organisations to ensure digital rights are respected in the region. The CSOs include Cyrilla, Citizens Gavel and Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative, Web Foundation, Ministry of Education (Nigeria), United Nations, ID4D CSO Consultation, Burness and Viable Knowledge Masters.

Convenings were also held to discuss violations and find recommendations. These convenings were with; MIZA Zimbabwe on Content Moderation and Shrinking of the civic space with PLAC NG, a Virtual Workshop with Policymakers, and an In-Person Workshop in collaboration with TechHer NG.

Paradigm Initiative requested transparency reports from Telecommunications companies such as MTN, GLOBACOM, AIRTEL, and ETISALAT, following the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) under Pillar II and III for businesses to make a public commitment to respect human rights, carry out human rights due diligence, and provide the necessary and proportionate remedy when human rights are at stake. Although our letters were received and acknowledged, no further communication or commitment has been received from the telcos. A press statement on the website shutdown of People's Gazette was published as a means of solidarity and as it was a violation of digital rights. We will continue to pursue these engagements to ensure that business and human rights are

respected in the tech sector.

PIN hosted two data protection workshops in Kano and Lagos, Nigeria, for Civil Society, individuals, the press, and members of academia, where we highlighted the need for data protection in the era of digitisation, the volume and frequency of data collection, and the high risk it poses without a requisite data protection law. Along with partner organisations, we collectively called for the passing of the long-overdue legislation on data protection.

In June of 2021, the Nigerian government announced a suspension of Twitter operations in Nigeria. This suspension can be viewed as a partial Internet shutdown that has led to the abuse of many rights, including the rights to freedom of expression and access to information. Following the ban, Paradigm Initiative, in collaboration with seven other individuals and organisations, instituted an action in the ECOWAS court opposing the legality of the ban. We also filed a fundamental Rights Action in the Federal High Court in Abuja on the Nigerian Twitter ban as a brazen abuse of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom to associate and assemble, and access to information. The matter is fixed for a hearing on January 17 2022.

Additionally, we educated the public on ways to access the Internet during a shutdown using circumvention tools such as VPN,

6

Major Projects

20

Events

13

Court Matters

3

FOI Freedom of Information
Requests

which has allowed more people to access Twitter. We also put out a statement and wrote an open letter to the government collaborating with other organisations. We continue to have educational media engagements and debates on the matter.

We hosted government authorities at two-day round table workshops in Kano and Lagos on June 2nd and 9th to discuss the stakes of digital identity in the country, allowing them to explain their processes and safeguards for more accurate public accountability. With the Internet and technology increasingly integrated into our everyday lives, more governments seek to create unique digital identities for their citizenry. The two-day event brought together experts within the digital ecosystem in an interactive exchange session. It ended with the socialisation of the hashtag #PassDataProtectionBill.

To create public awareness of the IMEI policy, we engaged with a directive requiring mobile IMEI numbers from telecom providers, which has serious privacy and security implications. We sent freedom of information requests to the National Communications Commission (NCC) and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy on the policy's legality and the impact of these policies' potential human rights breaches. We also held a Twitter Spaces conversation on the policy, educating the public on its possible effects.

A Press Conference to mark the 100th Day of the Twitter Ban in Nigeria was organised in partnership with Enough is Enough (EiE)

Nigeria, Media Rights Agenda (MRA), and Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP). The press conference featured a panel that comprised 'Gbenga Sesan, PIN's Executive Director, 'Yemi Adamolekun, EiE Nigeria's Executive Director, and Ayode Longe, MRA's Program Director. They unanimously called on the Federal Government to refrain from actions that put Nigeria among the nations that constantly violate human rights and infringe on its citizens' fundamental and socio-economic rights guaranteed by their constitution.

In partnership with Global Partners Digital (GPD), a stakeholder Artificial Intelligence (AI) roundtable convening was organised in Nigeria to understand and identify existing policies and draft recommendations for an AI rights-respecting policy. The virtual stakeholders convening was held in two phases: identifying the existing policy and organisations and presenting findings from the policy brief Towards A Rights-Respecting Artificial Intelligence Policy for Nigeria.

On media appearances, among the 11, we were featured on a Tech4Rights interview, recorded an episode of the Adapt Podcast (produced by Internews), and spoke on data protection regulatory impact assessment in Nigeria. Through our events in Anglophone West Africa, we reached 479 persons, completed 6 Major Projects, and held 20 events. There are 13 ongoing court matters and 3 Freedom of Information (FoI) requests.

Digital Rights in Eastern Africa

To start the year in Eastern Africa, an article on Uganda Digital Rights Post-Mortem in light of the happenings during the Uganda general elections in January 2021 was developed.

The Ministry of ICT and the Office of the Data Commissioner published a Draft Data Protection Regulations, and Paradigm Initiative participated in these public consultation forums on Data Protection Regulations together with our partners at Lawyers Hub.

Attended by the Cabinet Secretary for ICT and the Data Commissioner, the public participation forums dissected the following sets of regulations:

- i. Data Protection (Enforcement and Compliance) Regulations, 2021.
- ii. Data Protection (Registration of Data Controllers and Data Processors) Regulations, 2021.
- iii. Data Protection General Regulations, 2021.

The 2021 Tanzania Stakeholders Convening on Digital Rights Legislation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, was held from June 29 - to June 30, 2021. Paradigm Initiative is leading efforts to champion a Digital Rights and Freedoms Bill in Tanzania. These efforts began in 2020, and we hope that with the country's new political administration and stakeholders' support, the Bill will see the light of day soon.

As a Pan-African digital rights organisation,

we have been at the forefront of promoting collaborations between governments and civil society in Africa. We believe that so much is possible when citizens, civil society, and government work together in shaping the future through policy interventions that support innovation and protect the people, such as the Tanzania Digital Rights and Freedoms Bill, 2021.

Paradigm Initiative partnered with the Zaina Foundation to implement the SIFCA (Strengthening Internet Freedom Capacity in Africa) Project in Tanzania. Through this partnership, Zaina Foundation, as a local country partner, will conduct stakeholder engagements and policy discussions as we forge ahead with implementing the SIFCA Project.

The 2021 Somalia Stakeholders Convening on Digital Rights Legislation was convened with Digital Shelter, a DRIF21 country partner. The meeting discussed the state of digital rights in Somalia generally, providing a bird's-eye view of the digital rights situation in Somalia.

The Arusha Women School of Internet Governance is an annual event organised in Arusha, Tanzania, to discuss the state of digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. PIN participated in the forum and during which our East Africa Program Officer spoke on the topic Online Security: Unpacking Paradigm Initiative's AYETA Digital Security Toolkit.

In response to the Internet shutdown that was

orchestrated by the government of South Sudan for 15 hours on August 30 2021, and which negatively impacted citizens' access to the Internet, a press statement was drafted and sent out as a response to the violation where we condemned the act and urged for the respect of human rights. In South Sudan, we are also finetuning the Data Protection Bill, which is currently being considered for submission to the Council of Ministers.

As part of our plan to understand the full impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its technologies on human rights, we organised a virtual stakeholder consultative forum to discuss human rights and AI in the Kenyan context. The forum was well attended by over 60 stakeholders who contributed their knowledge of how AI can be understood and how specific policies should be in place to ensure that privacy and human rights are generally respected.

Paradigm Initiative conducted a meeting with Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP), intending to kick-start a partnership

between our two organisations in our work in East Africa. The meeting was convened by Christine Mulenke, DDPs East Africa Programme Officer, and the discussions were driven by DDP's CEO based in Lagos, Nigeria. We expect to conclude these discussions soon and formalise our partnership in the Eastern Africa region.

Other partnerships established during the year in the region are with Mzalendo Africa Initiative, HIVOS East Africa and Amnesty International.

Digital Rights in Francophone Africa

We witnessed a relatively low violation of digital rights within francophone Africa, thanks to the advocacy of civil society. Our core activities in the region were media campaigns, training, and workshops in focus countries.

As part of DRIF21, a country session was organised in Cameroon on April 23, 2021. The session benefited from the participation of several stakeholders in the country with discussions on the Internet regulation in times of crisis. The participants in the work-in session formulated recommendations.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a strategic country for PIN projects as a country with a problematic record of internet shutdowns. The country is monitored through two projects, the SIFCA (Strengthening Internet Freedom Capacity in Africa) project and the Greater Internet Freedom (GIF) project. For GIF, a media parley to present findings from the policy brief “Restoring DRC’s Democratic Ideals Through Internet Freedom” was organised.

We also monitored Chad through the SIFCA project and, in April 2021, hosted a country session for DRIF21. The country session was organised by a local partner, COPAT and ISOC. Upcoming activities in the country will be implemented with the support of local partners. In the Central African Republic, we worked within the framework of the GIF project. Our country partner, Association des Blogueurs de la Centrafrique, continues to coordinate locally in the lead up to planned activities. Together, we organised a media

parley with a policy brief, Internet Freedom in the Central African Republic (CAR), published.

From September 22 to 23, 2021, Paradigm Initiative, with the support of OSIWA, organised a two-day workshop on digital rights and freedoms on the Internet. These activities were part of the annual digital rights workshops called the Digital Rights Academy. The two-day workshop was held at the Fleur de Lys hotel in Dakar, Senegal and brought together 20 participants from regions of Senegal and several experts. The workshop topics included Digital Security, Digital Rights 101, Press Freedoms and Internet Freedom, Digital Rights in Times of Crisis, Coalition Building, etc. The workshop also provided participants with practical exercises on building a program of rights and freedoms on the Internet in Senegal.

In a partnership with Global Partners Digital (GPD), a hybrid stakeholder Artificial Intelligence roundtable convening was organised in Senegal to understand and identify existing policies and draft recommendations for an AI rights-respecting policy in the country.

Other activities carried out in Francophone Africa included; Stakeholder Relations in Francophone Africa, IG Process Engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad and the Central African Republic, a proposal session for RightsCon 2021 and an election/violation watch for digital rights violations in Senegal, Mali, Sao-Tome and Burkina Faso.



Digital Inclusion

Paradigm Initiative joined the World Benchmarking Alliance, a movement representing organisations working at global, regional, and local levels to shape the private sector's contributions to achieving the SDGs - Partnerships for the Goals. We will be working with other organisations to tackle issues around digital inclusion.

The Inclusion team organised a virtual workshop on July 10 2021, titled "Positioning yourself for global opportunities". An alumnus, Wisdom Kalu, and his colleagues from Ashesi University Ghana facilitated the workshop, which had 21 participants joining from 10 locations across Africa. Participants were drawn from Oyo, Abia, Osun, Ogun, Lagos, Kano and Kaduna states in Nigeria, while others joined from Cameroon, Tanzania and Ghana. The workshop exposed the participants to the dos and don'ts of searching and applying for global opportunities.

The team also participated in the West Africa Internet Governance Forum, organising a virtual workshop session titled "Bridging the digital divide for an inclusive digital economy" on July 29 2021. The session had three great voices in the digital Inclusion space in Africa as panellists - Denaya Denis from South Sudan, Dr Millicent Agangiba from Ghana and Nashilongo Gervasius from Namibia. Ninety-six participants identified and discussed solutions to the digital divide in Africa.

We also collaborated with SmartAid and the department of International studies to hold a 2-day Digital Awareness workshop at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria campus. Participants were shown how to use Google productivity and collaboration tools and their importance. They learnt about data protection and the challenges of data protection advocacy in Nigeria as well as how to protect themselves online. The workshop rounded up with a session on financial literacy.

In 2021, a focus group of 15 LIFE alumni was convened to evaluate the Virtual LIFE Training Curriculum – five from each of the three regions in Nigeria. The feedback report formed the basis of the new LIFE Legacy curriculum.

Our annual Echoes from LIFE magazine was published in August 2021, catching up with alumni of the LIFE program and reporting on how they are applying the skills and knowledge learnt from the community to better their communities. The magazine is available [here](#).

Alumni & Volunteer Engagement

06 LIFE Alumni
Post-training engagement

01 International
Scholarship

80 LIFE Volunteers
in Nigeria

93 Volunteers sign-ups for
Senegal Intervention

Six LIFE alumni acquired post-training engagements this year. Four as volunteer facilitators for Women in technology (Wtec), one as an intern at Mentor an African Child Initiative (MACI), and one as a summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) camp facilitator. We also supported alumni with their international scholarship applications and other post-training activities. Two others started their businesses, and one gained permanent employment. Wisdom Kalu was selected as a member of the Open Society University Network (OSUN) grant selection committee.

Eighty volunteers signed up for our LIFE Program in Nigeria, while we received 93 volunteer applications for our Senegal intervention.

Regional Updates

In the South West, we led partnership conversations with Women Impact Nigeria (WIN) and signed an MOU with Edugrant and Mentor an African Child Initiative (MACI). We worked on a career gaming app development plan for SACSAN Foundation and attended a National Business and Human Rights Roundtable (NBH2R) steering committee. We also took part in the West Africa Internet Governance Forum and met with the Global Rights to update on activities, projects, and the government stand concerning the National Action Plan. We held strategic meetings with DigiTrybe-Oyo and GoGlobal Hub - Ekiti in view of expansions.

For South-South/South East, the digital inclusion team hosted, moderated and compiled a report during a session at the West Africa Internet Governance Forum with the theme “Bridging the digital divide for an inclusive digital economy”.

In the Northwest, talks with Mighty Care foundation, SmartAid, Lumilab, and the Center for Islamic research were held to discuss the progress of the LIFE program, and in a workshop with CITAD, the team presented a talk on the ‘Importance of Digital Literacy for the Girl Child.’ We were also featured on Jallah Radio and Tambari TV.



Dufuna

16 Dufuna Scholars
Secured Scholarship

36 Dufuna-Fem
Graduates

01 Dufuna Codecamp
Graduate

Dufuna maintained its partnerships with Swahilipot Hub in Kenya, BongoHive Consult in Zambia, Makerere Innovation and Incubation Centre (MIIC) in Uganda, and Mzuzu E-Hub in Malawi while a partnership with the National Financial Literacy Association in South Africa is being explored.

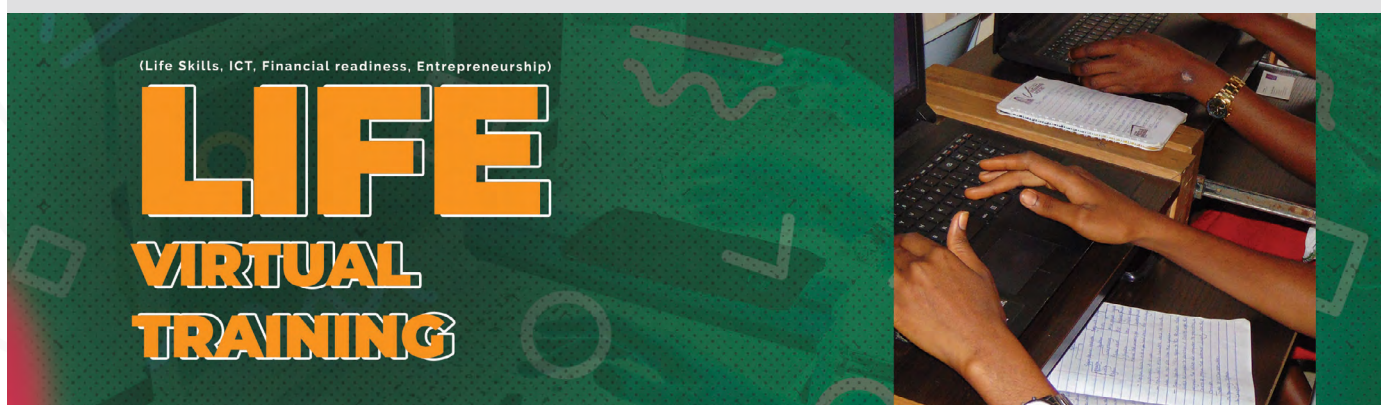
16 Dufuna scholars secured internships, contract roles, and full-time employment. We had contract placements for Product Design and Code Camp students with 4 Small Medium-Sized companies and successfully trained 39 students in the Dufuna Design School in June. From our Codecamps, we graduated 36 students from Dufuna-Fem, a female-focused program that encourages and trains women who want to pursue a career in tech. The Codecamp by UK-Nigeria Tech Hub graduated 15 students, and the Dufuna Codecamp program graduated one student.

Virtual LIFE program

227 Youths Trained
Virtually

across

19 Countries



In 2021, a total of 227 youths from across Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan, Gambia, Lesotho, Cameroon, Tanzania, Mali, Ghana, Cabo Verde, Lesotho, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Mauritius, Liberia, Senegal, and the Benin Republic and Zimbabwe were trained virtually in the LIFE program.

The two cohorts held during the year had participants mastering skills in MS word and Google workspaces, graphic design, emotional intelligence, digital marketing and entrepreneurial skills.

LIFE PROGRAM

(Life Skills, ICT, Financial readiness, Entrepreneurship)

Expansion

PIN is now in Senegal!



Paradigm Initiative began implementing the two-year Life Skills, ICTs, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship (LIFE) training project in Senegal. Funded by the Internet Society Foundation, the project aims to bridge the digital divide among young people at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid in Senegal by exposing them to the benefits of internet access and empowering them to participate in the digital economy to improve their livelihoods and those of their families. This implementation of the LIFE program was an opportunity for Paradigm Initiative to establish itself in Senegal and to serve as a base for Francophone West Africa in 2021.

To achieve this, we welcomed a new Senior Program Officer, and in partnership with Internet Society (ISOC), activities for the implementation of the LIFE program in Thies, Senegal kicked off. In the first seven weeks of training, 20 students were immersed in digital skills like; MS word and its applications, graphic design, social media management and entrepreneurial skills.

Paradigm Initiative, in partnership with Kebbi Innovation and Tech Hub, set out to advance Digital Inclusion in the state and across the region. A major aim of the partnership was to close the digital skills gap among young people in the state, and in 8 weeks, 32 persons were trained and immersed in digital skills.

Following our partnership with Youth and Women Empowerment Centre (YOWEC) in Rivers State, Nigeria, we successfully organised a 2-day digital readiness workshop in the state in preparation for the 10-week LIFE training, which commenced on October 4, and through it, 33 (28 male and five female) persons successfully completed their projects and received their certificates from PIN and the partner organisation. We are looking forward to expanding to Bayelsa State in Nigeria, where collaboration conversations continue with Leap Africa, Koneta Hub, Digicon Academy, Digital Foundation, World Benchmarking Alliance, Eduplana and TechHer.

Communications and Administration

2000

Media Mentions

1.1 Million
Youtube Views

1.4 Million engaged
on Facebook

Together with external agencies in 2021, we accumulated 2,000 media mentions from articles, events, workshops and interviews with notable mentions in agencies like CNBC Africa, Bloomberg, and Thomson Reuters. These articles were picked up and distributed in English, French, Swahili, Portuguese, Mandarin and Spanish.

In 2021, we moved PIN's online presence to a new location by changing our interface to be more friendly with easy navigation. Our website had a new feel to it as units, programs and events were grouped, and our flagship event DRIF also got its online location at drif.paradigmhq.org where all information on the past DRIF and the next one is available to our community.

In our efforts to continue with our Digital Security awareness, we engaged with the public at several events, including the Digital Rights Academy and the Teens Can Code Conference, to educate and inform them on the measures needed to stay safe online using our Ayeta Toolkit as the focal point for interpretation.

Major Launches and Publications, Collaborations



Report Digital Violations Through Ripoti

RIPOTI, a groundbreaking new platform for the protection of the digital rights of all African citizens, was launched on April 30 during the closing session of the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum 2021. Ripoti allows citizens across Africa to report violations of their digital rights and then connects them with experts who can help them seek justice.

Despite the Internet being a critical space for economic activity, access to emergency services, the exercise of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, there are growing instances of cyberbullying, online gender violence, internet censorship, and the illegal accessing of internet users' information, a trend emboldened by health surveillance during the pandemic.

[RIPOTI](#) is a Swahili word that means “report.” The platform was conceived as an easy way for individuals, organisations, and others to report cases of digital rights violations that they experience, witness, or that are reported to them. RIPOTI allows for a community response to these cases and is available in both English and French.

AYETA: Your Digital Rights Toolkit

Developed as a 2020 Stanford Digital Civil Society Fellowship project, with additional support from the Netherlands Human Rights Fund, the Ayeta toolkit is designed with the overarching aim of addressing the growing need to safeguard digital rights defenders, journalists, whistleblowers, and others working with sensitive information in the global South.

The [Ayeta](#) toolkit provides digital security tips, and measures to be taken against potential threats and includes detailed information

about digital security actors. Ayeta features a calendar of relevant digital rights events in Africa, links to resources such as digital security case studies from selected African countries, model policy briefs, media releases, and model coalition statements. Additionally, Ayeta has incorporated the element of gamification as an opportunity to lower the learning curve.

Compendium on Health Surveillance Stories in Africa

Covering ten countries, [the Compendium on Health Surveillance Stories in Africa](#) reports human interest case studies on the impacts of COVID-19 health surveillance on privacy, freedom of expression and access to information.

Policy Brief: Towards an Inclusive National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Nigeria

Human rights violations cut across all business activities including tech businesses; therefore, limiting the scope of the Nigeria National Action Plan to exclude the tech sector would be detrimental and counterproductive to the implementation of the UNGPs. With the current global digital transformation and an unprecedented pandemic, guaranteeing human rights for everyone is of great importance now and in the future.

This policy brief '[Towards an Inclusive National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Nigeria](#)' discusses Nigeria ICT Sector and Human Rights, including the tech sector in the National Action Plan and how in doing so, the government offers an opportunity for the state to work in partnership with non-state actors and stakeholders in promoting protection and respect for human rights.



Digital SafeTea

On Monday, July 19 2021, Pollicy and Paradigm Initiative launched a new platform, ‘Digital SafeTea.’ Digital SafeTea is an interactive fiction game built on information from [Ayeta](#), a proactive toolkit for African digital rights actors. Digital SafeTea, a portmanteau of ‘digital safety’ and ‘tea’, is based on the story of three characters – Aisha, Goitse and Dami, representing different archetypes of African women.

Digital SafeTea comes at an opportune time as conversations on women’s safety in digital spaces take place worldwide. As more people get online for work and studies, [women and girls worldwide experienced a surge of violence and abuse online](#). In addition, women and girls often do not know where to turn for information on keeping themselves safe from such attacks.

As players step into the world of these three characters, they are faced with digital threats like [zoom bombing](#), impersonation, and even Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images (NCII), which is often referred to as ‘revenge porn’. Once presented with a scenario, players are nudged to pick their response to the threat from available choices as a way for them to get to the next stage of the game. Weaving through the maze of threats, they are presented with lessons on how to navigate such threats in real life and directed to sites and toolkits where they can get further learning on their desired topic.

Paradigm Initiative and the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) Launch Media Market Ratings (Nigeria) Report

Since the invention of the web, how we live our lives online—and off—has changed in countless ways, including how news is funded, produced, consumed and shared. The infodemic laid bare

by COVID-19 conspiracy theories shows that disinformation costs people’s lives. Websites masquerading as news outlets are driving and profiting financially from the situation.

The findings in this report ‘[Media Market Risk Ratings: Nigeria](#)’ are based on the three pillars that were manually reviewed: Content, Operations, and Context. More than four-fifths of the sites in the sample assessed had a medium risk rating, five domains were classified with a high disinformation-risk rating, and most sites in the Nigerian sample provide neutral and unbiased content.

PIN’s Financial Statement for 2020

We published our annual audited Financial Statement for 2020. The report depicts the transparent, consistent and appropriate application of our Financial Policies and Procedures, in line with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. It can be found [here](#).

Our programs, publications and activities in 2021 had a combined reach of

24,616,135

across media mentions, **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube**. We collaborated with **22 organisations** in sending out open letters and press releases and gained an African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) Observer Status.

