

DRIF22 REPORT



Theme:

Towards a digitally inclusive and rights respecting Africa

Country Host:





Acknowledgments



This summary report acknowledges the great support of the collaborating virtual session hosts and in-person country partners who made DRIF22 a success. Through the unwavering backing of our funding partners, the story of impact is told. We value the great community that continues to contribute meaningfully to the state of digital rights and inclusion in Africa.

Background

The Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) is Paradigm Initiative's signature event hosted in collaboration with partners across Africa. It is an important platform where conversations on digital policy in Africa are shaped, policy directions debated and partnerships forged for action. The 9th edition of DRIF themed ***Towards a Digitally Inclusive Africa*** was a hybrid event which featured virtual events from 12th - 14th of April 2022 and in person sessions from April 20th to May 20th. In person sessions were hosted in 17 African countries featuring organisations, activists, academia, legislature and policymakers within the digital ecosystem. During DRIF22, discussions and debates were focused on issues plaguing the digital sphere in Africa including: data privacy, affordable internet, gender and ICTs, disability rights and ICT health surveillance during COVID-19 times and Internet shutdowns.



Number of virtual sessions: **13**



Number of in-person sessions: **17**

Summary of Proceedings



Paradigm Initiative (PIN) and partners hosted 511 participants at 13 virtual sessions for three days on Whova Platform from 12th - 14th April 2022. Our partners were Uhuru Tech Solution, Youth Hub Africa, Human Rights Journalists Network, BONews Service, Media Defence, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Community Voices Zimbabwe, Africa Media and Information Technology Initiative (AfriMITI), Mozilla Foundation, Uzalendo Afrika Initiative, NamTshuwe Digital, Africa Internet Rights Alliance.

The country in-person sessions kicked off on 20th of April in Namibia hosted by our country partner, Digital Foundation of Namibia. The session assembled stakeholders in the digital space to engage in matters relating to digital rights and inclusion, seek common solutions, map strategies, and educate the public. We were honored to have Emma Inamutila Theofelus, The Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology Namibia, who officiated the event.

On the 21st of April, PIN, Media Alliance of Zimbabwe, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zimbabwe and Digital Age Conversations collaborated in an intensive session interrogating Zimbabwe's digital rights and inclusion landscape and ways to shape a digital rights-respecting country. The session unpacked children's rights in the digital age, Internet access, and media freedoms, among other themes.

From Zimbabwe, DRIF22 berthed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the 22nd of April 2022. The Congolese Institute of Human Rights (ICDH) hosted the Democratic Republic of Congo's the in-person session attended by Mr. Prosper Ntetika Mbakala, the official representative of the Congolese Digital Minister. With a line up of insightful panelists, the highlight of the session was the great presentation by Kodjo Ndukuma Adjayi, a digital rights expert examining the deontological legal framework guiding digital rights in the DRC. The session also deepened the knowledge of different actors involved in the promotion and protection of digital rights on the fundamentals of digital rights.

Ghana was the first country to host the event for two days on 25 and 26 April 2022. The Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter and Inclusive Tech Group, presented interesting digital rights and inclusion sessions with a great emphasis on inclusivity for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and how to bridge the digital gap for PWDs and promote their digital rights through effective policy implementation.

After Ghana, PIN in collaboration with TecHer, Keeping It Real Foundation (KIR), Africa-China Reporting Project (ACRP), and Stand to End Rape Initiative (STER) hosted the second two-day DRIF22 in-person event in Nigeria from 27 to 28 April 2022. The session looked at freedom of expression and gender inequality among other thematic areas. The Nigerian session presented an opportunity to introduce Paradigm Initiative's LIFE Legacy program tracing PIN's 15 years. As one of PIN's pilot digital inclusion programs, the organisation is now scaling the carefully drafted program modules, resources, and technical know-how through partner organizations within the African continent to continue to carry on with the program's aims and objectives.

The first set of partners to work with PIN in the LIFE Legacy program in their respective locations/countries include but are not limited to; Mentor an African Child Initiative (MACI) in southwest Nigeria, Startup Kebbi (Kebbi) in northwest Nigeria, SureAid Development Initiative in southern Nigeria, Vision Alive Foundation in southeastern Nigeria, DigiCon Academy in Uganda, Koneta in South Sudan, and Asikana Network in Zambia.

In Zambia, on 29 April 2022, Mr. Kennedy Kalunga, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Media, Republic of Zambia, opened the Zambian DRIF22 in-person session. He highlighted the government's position and openness in forging concrete strategies to promote human rights online and at the same time called on the media to be more transparent and exercise self-regulation in his opening

remarks. Panel discussions spanned the Impact of Social Networking on the 2021 General Elections in Zambia and the role of the media in relaying balance and factual information and the infringement of freedom of expression. The event was organised by PIN.

The Angolan and Malawi DRIF22 sessions organised by our partners Mwana Pwo and Youth and Society were held respectively on the 5th of May, 2022.

In Angola, Alfredo Capitomolo presented on Digital Literacy and Internet Democratisation asserting the fact that connectivity in Angola remains a challenge and expensive though the country has a good mobile phone penetration. Internet accessibility can be increased in Angola by improving the digital skills of people, especially the youth while urging the government to provide the appropriate infrastructures.

Malawi held a high-level panel discussion, public lectures and a digital exhibition attended by the Honorable Minister of Information, Gospel Kazako, who emphasised the need for equal access so that those marginalised including the youth and women are not left behind. The session equally deepened strategic dialogue and accountability among key stakeholders on Internet access and interrogated the cost of being online in Malawi.

On 6 May 2022, PIN looked at the State of digital rights and inclusion in Cameroon in an engaging and interactive session where experts Avis Momeni, Secretary General of Protege QV, Sophie Ngassa of the Center for Youth Education and Economic Development, and participants delved into the aspects of press freedom, human rights, digital rights and inclusion in Cameroon citing some concrete examples in line with past and current events in the country.

On 10 May 2022, PIN's South Sudan partner, Koneta Hub brought together participants from different institutions, CSOs, media houses, universities and policymakers influential in their respective communities or institutions. The session unpacked the digital rights and inclusion challenges faced in South Sudan and Africa as a whole, while providing recommendations to forge the rights of online users. The Data Privacy Bill, Access to Information, CyberSecurity Bill and ICT Policies were examined by guest experts.

In Tanzania, on 11 May 2022, Zaina Foundation hosted DRIF22 under its national theme "Digital Rights and Inclusion for Sustainable Development in Tanzania" where discussions spanned through technology and people with disabilities and deliberated on the Electronic and Postal Communication Regulations of 2020 (EPOCA Regulations) with emphasis on online content amongst others.

On 12 May 2022 in Dakar, Senegal looked at how sustainable and neutral ICT institutions in the country are. Panelists presented a legal framework guiding digital rights in Senegal applauding the government's role in providing technological infrastructure for an inclusive and digital vibrant community. Despite these advancements, lapses are still witnessed in the area of inclusivity especially concerning people with disabilities.

Finally, on 19 May, in Kenya, PIN welcomed digital rights stakeholders in a session that spotlighted youth empowerment in digital leadership in Kenya. PIN's Executive Director 'Gbenga Sesan gave a road map on Kenya's strides in digitalisation citing the ingenious M-Pesa innovative solution but nonetheless in line with data protection to freedom of expression/association and surveillance. He urged that Kenya must retrace its steps to remind other countries of what's possible when the focus is on building.

Media Report

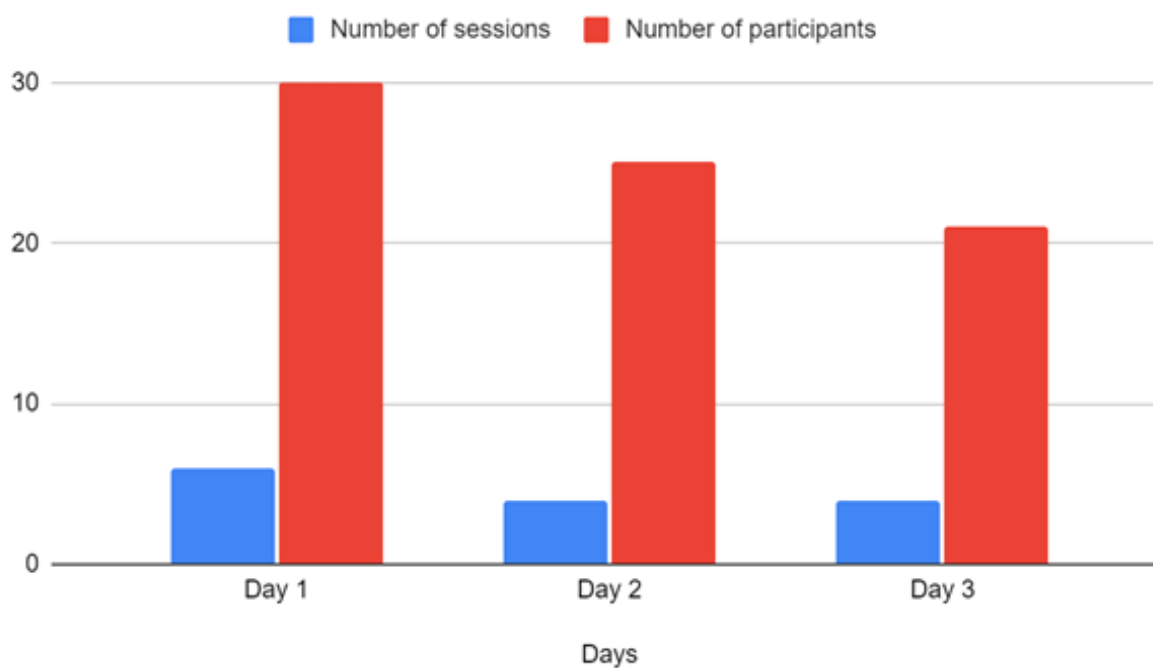


There were a total of 13 virtual sessions for three days with over 390 active participants out of the 511 registered delegates. The country sessions brought together over 600 participants in engaging sessions dissecting the state of digital rights and inclusion in Namibia, Zimbabwe, DRC, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Angola, and The Gambia, Malawi, Cameroon, South Sudan, Tanzania, Senegal, CAR, Ethiopia, Kenya.

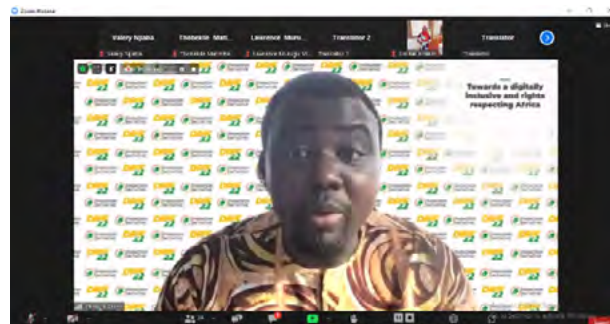
VIRTUAL SESSIONS: 12-14 of April 2022

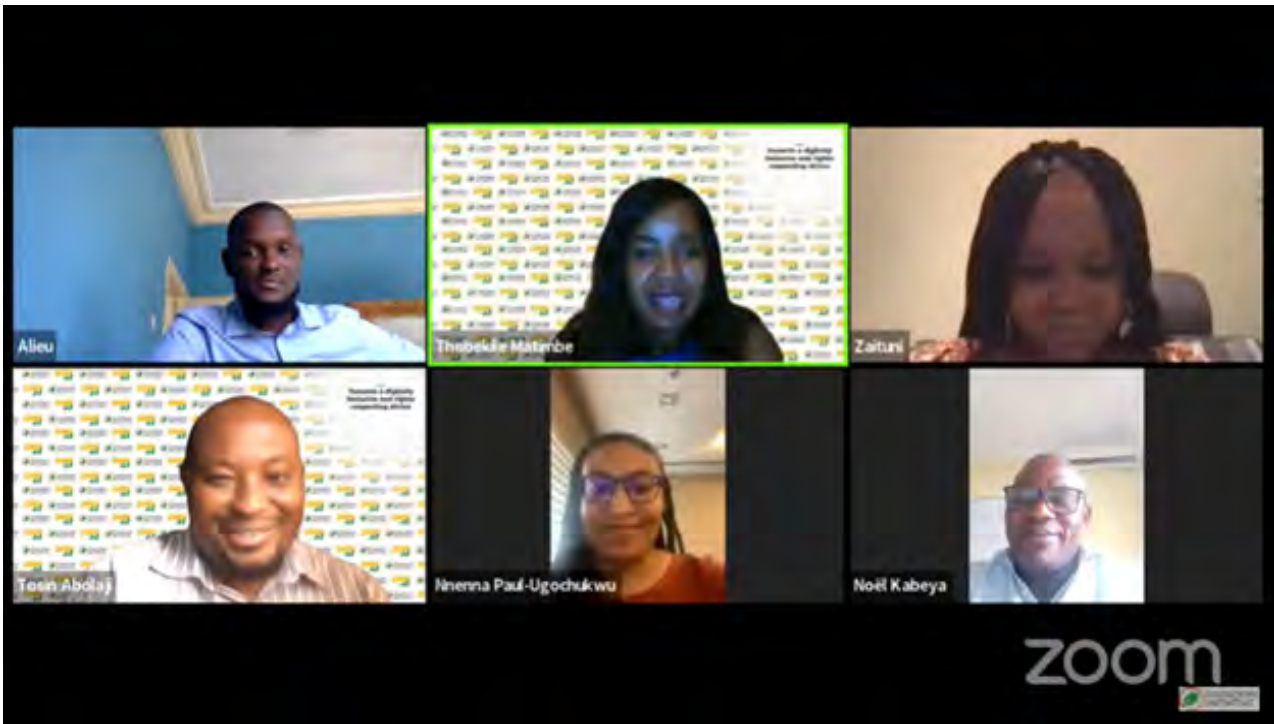
Zoom Statistics

Number of sessions and Number of participants

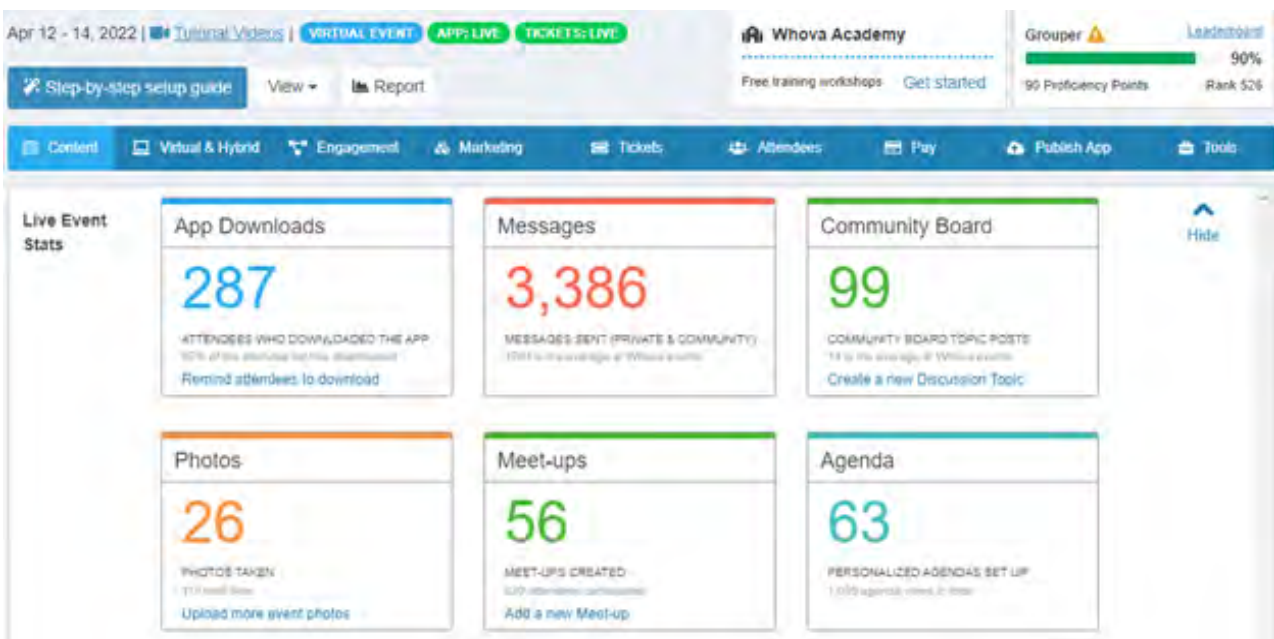


Picture Snippets





Whova Statistics













Virtual Online Streaming Statistics - YouTube

In April, we had a total of 3000 views and gained 69+ subscribers. Important to note is that Focus - English and Training Day formed part of the viewing list but nonetheless the majority of videos were the DRIF22 virtual and in-person sessions.



In May, Paradigm Initiative's short films, Focus and Training Day topped the charts for most viewed videos, but DRIF22 sessions also had a significant number of views given that they ranked 3rd on the video list.



Video	New viewers	New viewers who returned ↓	Views
Top performing videos			
1  DRIF22 In-Person Session - Namibia	141	15 10.6%	135
2  DRIF 22 In-Person Session - Ghana Day 1	89	13 14.6%	47
3  DRIF22: Virtual Opening Session and Keynote Address ...	96	10 10.4%	146
4  DRIF 22 In-Person Session Ethiopia	58	9 15.5%	39
5  DRIF22 In-Person Session - Democratic Republic of Congo	91	5 5.5%	64
Average performing videos			
Bottom performing videos			
1  DRIF 22 In-Person Session - Malawi Part 2	5	0 0%	5
2  DRIF22 In-Person Session - Zimbabwe Part 2	6	0 0%	2
3  DRIF22: Building open voice data corpus for underrepresented...	3	0 0%	4
4  DRIF22 Day2: Session 3 - The Media and Digital rights, a...	7	0 0%	10
5  DRIF22 In-Person Session - Namibia Part 2	22	0 0%	9

Media Relations

PIN collaborated with African Press Organization (APO) for a successful hybrid Press Conference on 20 May 2022, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The press release was distributed on 376 websites as presented in this [report](#).

Social Media Reach



Facebook

Months	New Followers/Subscribers	Reach	Comments	Shares/Retweets	Engagements
March 2022	95 (New) 26 (Net)	790,646	29	38	17,646
April 2022	134 (numbers gotten from paid, unfollows, and organic follows) 14 (Net Follows)	69,649	58	89	8,562
May 2022	165 (New) 55 (Net)	50,967	39	61	7,041

Twitter

Months	Followers/Subscribers	New Followers/Subscribers	Reach	Likes	Shares/Retweets	Mentions	No. of Tweets	Link Clicks
March 2022	18,855	55	63,200	438	245	352	90	127
April 2022	19,015	70	60,300	621	337	567	91	161
May 2022	19,024	9	52,900	559	274	346	87	136

Instagram

Months	Followers/Subscribers	New Followers/Subscribers	Reach	Engagements
March 2022	5,198	1	1,643	293
April 2022	5,196	3	4,551	1,840
May 2022	5,205	9	1,071	81

LinkedIn

Months	Followers/Subscribers	New Followers/Subscribers	Reach/Post Impressions	Reactions	Page Views
March 2022	1664	40	12,900	377	583
April 2022	1,879	92	*	423	593
May 2022	1,885	63	8,300	132	318

Geography



The chart below shows the countries where the DRIF22 audience stemmed from. The top 5 countries were; Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, and Congo-Kinshasa. We also had attendees from the United Kingdom and the United States.



Geography	Views ↓	Watch time (hours)	Average view duration
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	6,404	658.4	6:10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nigeria	557 8.7%	65.7 10.0%	7:04
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ghana	236 3.7%	42.7 6.5%	10:50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Namibia	236 3.7%	73.5 11.2%	18:41
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenya	139 2.2%	18.0 2.7%	7:46
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congo - Kinshasa	119 1.9%	13.5 2.1%	6:47
<input type="checkbox"/> Somalia	65 1.0%	3.7 0.6%	3:25
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia	60 0.9%	15.0 2.3%	15:01
<input type="checkbox"/> Zimbabwe	53 0.8%	4.2 0.6%	4:43
<input type="checkbox"/> South Sudan	47 0.7%	7.1 1.1%	9:02
<input type="checkbox"/> Cameroon	39 0.6%	5.9 0.9%	9:05
<input type="checkbox"/> Tanzania	26 0.4%	1.4 0.2%	3:19
<input type="checkbox"/> Zambia	24 0.4%	8.3 1.3%	20:40
<input type="checkbox"/> Uganda	16 0.3%	0.9 0.1%	3:13
<input type="checkbox"/> United States	13 0.2%	0.6 0.1%	2:33
<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom	11 0.2%	0.1 0.0%	0:35
<input type="checkbox"/> Morocco	11 0.2%	0.1 0.0%	0:30
<input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia	11 0.2%	0.1 0.0%	0:36
<input type="checkbox"/> South Africa	11 0.2%	0.3 0.0%	1:26
<input type="checkbox"/> Senegal	10 0.2%	2.8 0.4%	16:44

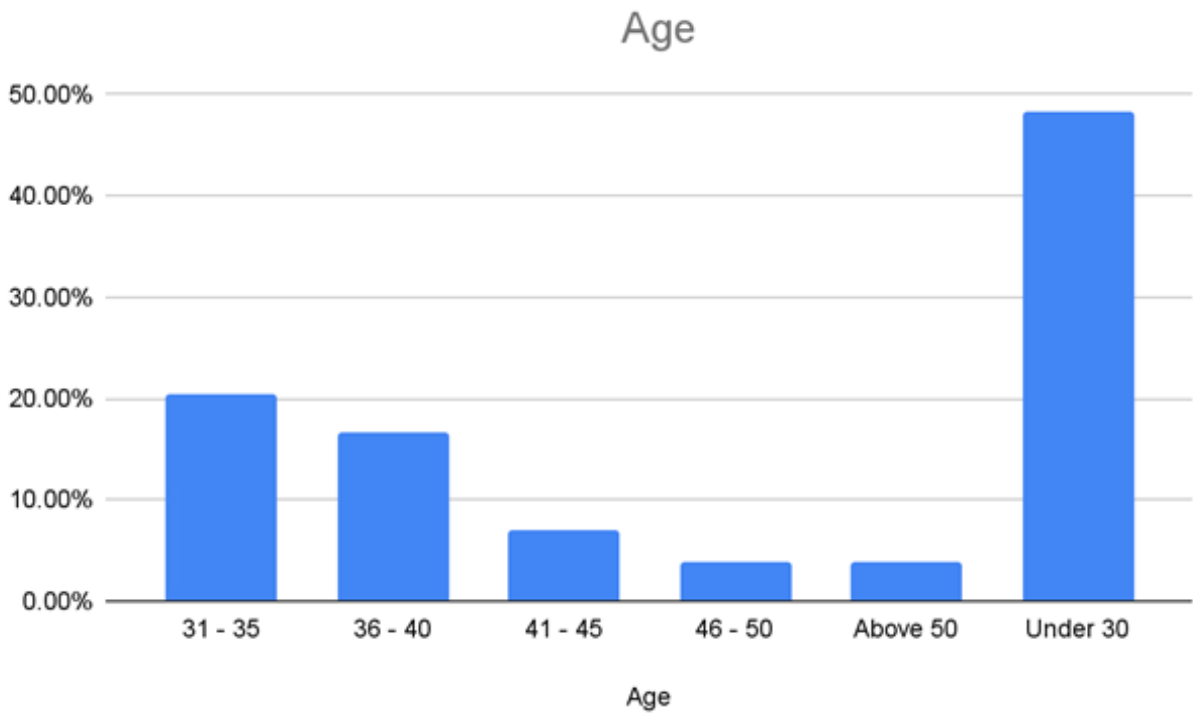
Gender



Over the two months of the forum, we have had a total of 5000+ views on YouTube and 103 new subscribers.

Age

DRIF22 participants represented Media, Civil Society, Independent Researchers, Academia, Government Agencies, Technologists, Regional/International, etc. 50% of the participants were youth under the age of 30.



Impact



DRIF2 was a hybrid event. The virtual sessions were hosted on Whova platform and 511 attendees registered for the event. The In-person events had 876 attendees from 17 African countries (Namibia, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Cameroon, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, The Gambia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Ghana.). In total, we had 1387 attendees (both virtual and physical) for DRIF22.

	Country	Number of Participants
1	Angola	59
2	Cameroon	32
3	CAR	44
4	DRC	25
5	Ethiopia	31
6	Gambia	44
7	Ghana	84
8	Kenya	49
9	Malawi	66
10	Namibia	35
11	Nigeria	176
12	Senegal	33
13	Somalia	48
14	South Sudan	42
15	Tanzania	30
16	Zambia	25
17	Zimbabwe	53
	Total	876

