

ANNUAL REPORT

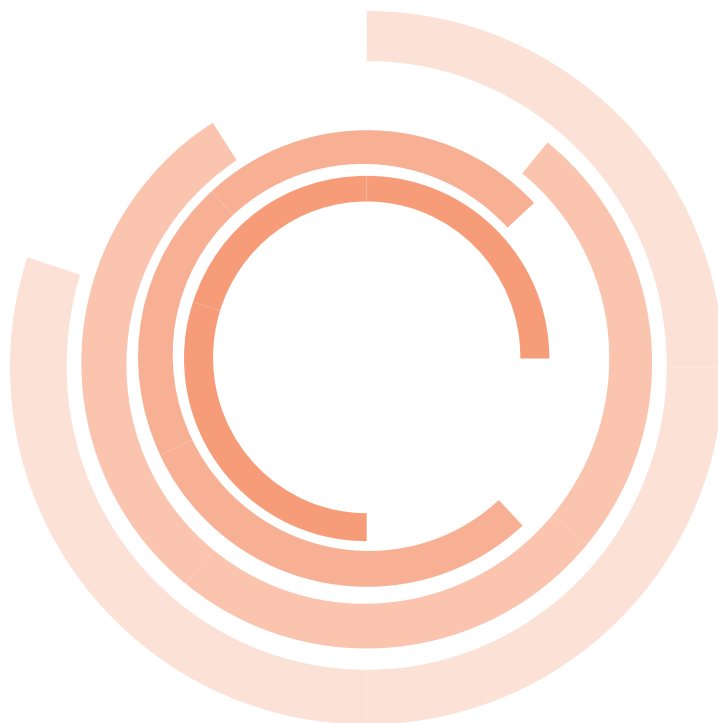
2014

Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)



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Message from the Board

The evolution of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use globally has been exponential. In May 2014, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reported that by the end of 2014, there would be almost 3 billion Internet users with two-thirds of them coming from the developing world. The ITU also reported that the number of mobile-broadband subscriptions would reach 2.3 billion globally with fifty-five per cent of these subscriptions expected to be in the developing world.

In many developing countries such as those that the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) works in, the innovative use of ICT has been paired with increasingly affordable tools such as mobile phones. The growing use of these tools has been followed with the development of platforms that enable citizens to utilise the tools in manners that support human rights advocacy, increase access to information and participation in governance processes including service delivery monitoring.

Since 2004, CIPESA has monitored and contributed to ICT policy dialogue and debates in the region. This has included the progression of ICT discussion from simply being about access to the internet to one that is about access that enables citizen participation in democratic processes, innovation and good governance, hence building a knowledge society. Parallel to this discussion has been contributing to the realisation of the freedom with which people can exercise their constitutional rights online without fear of castigation for expressing their opinions or voicing concerns online. As such, tracking incidents of human rights violations both online and offline has also formed part of our work since, on many occasions, these occur interchangeably.

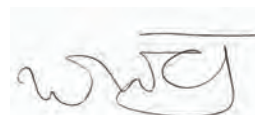
Through the iParticipate project as part of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa programme, we took a hands-on approach and connected policy to action. We have provided equipment and ICT training to grassroots centres and also directly engaged with community-based organisations on issues of ICT for community development and civic participation. Alongside this, we have maintained a keen eye on internet policy trends at both an international and regional level as the decisions made at these levels often have a direct impact on our work and the effective use of ICT.

As we progress towards meeting the demands of an increasing online population in the countries we work in, we maintain the premise that ICT tools and policy can be a key determinant in the economic, social and political development of many African countries. With issues such as access to information, internet freedom and e-governance gaining more ground in everyday lives, it is important that more people are made aware of all factors that may have long term impact on the effective use of ICT.

CIPESA's work is fuelled by the energy of a dedicated team based in Kampala, Uganda who collaboratively work with an extensive network of organisations and individuals to further the impact and use of ICT in Africa. We are grateful to our funding partners who also share in our successes and through whom we are able to initiate and implement our projects.



Vincent Waiswa Bagiire
Chairperson, Board of Directors



Wairagala Wakabi
Executive Director

March 2015

About CIPESA

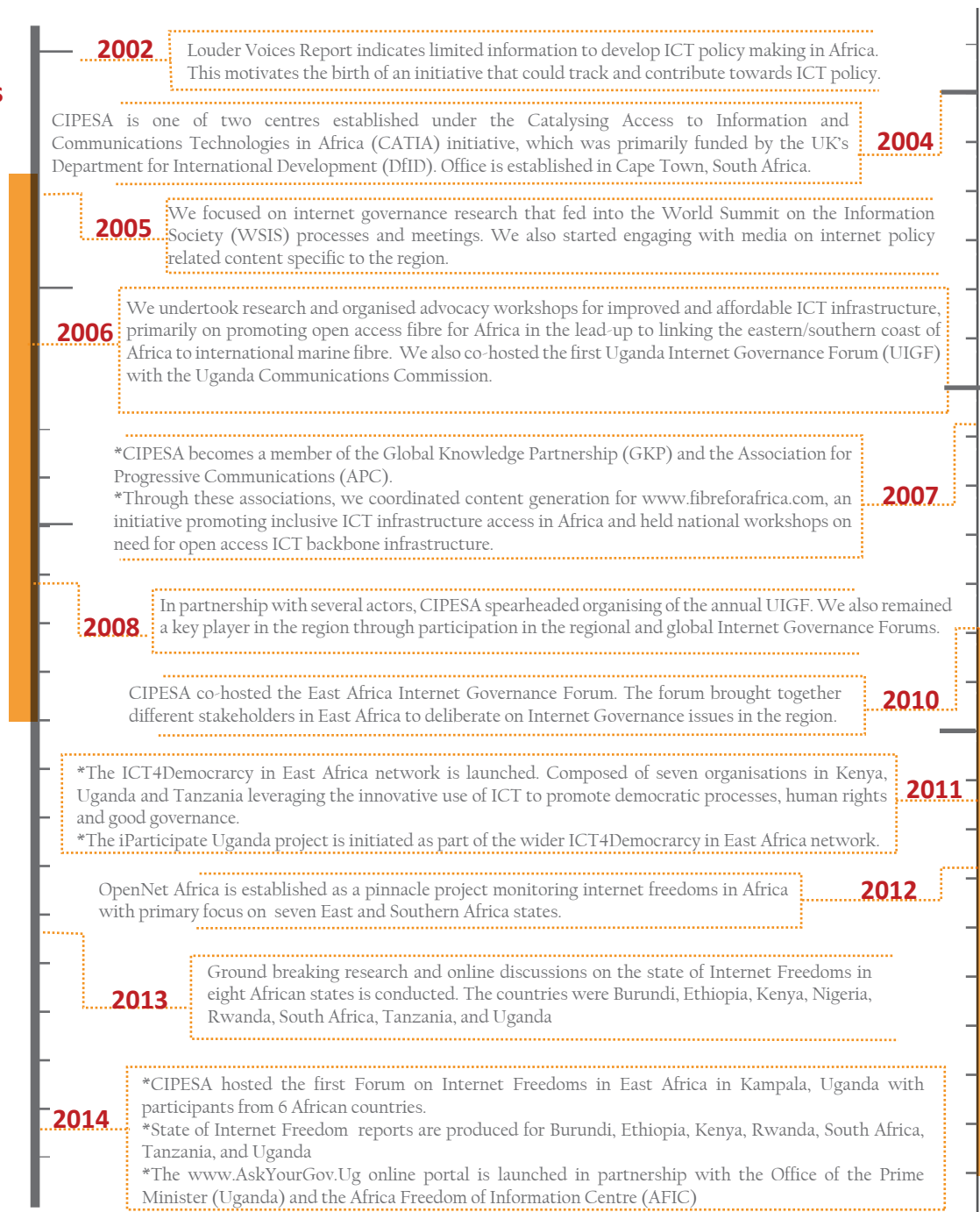
Since inception in 2004, CIPESA has been a leading centre for research into ICT policy and application in Africa. Our work is aimed at enabling decision makers in the region understand ICT policy issues in order to make informed decisions based on current research findings and trends, and for various stakeholders to better use ICT to improve livelihoods, engage in democratic processes, and promote citizen participation.

We currently approach our work through five different but interrelated thematic areas namely: Online Freedoms, Internet Governance, ICT for Democracy, Open Data and the Right to Information.

To-date, we have produced and published research, commentaries as well as briefs that have been widely circulated. These have facilitated dialogue and sparked debate amongst stakeholder groups including citizens, media, government, policy makers and academia.

Our membership to several African and international initiatives that promote ICT for the public good and improve the inclusiveness of the Information society includes the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the ICT for Democracy in East Africa Network, The Global Transparency and Accountability Community of Practice, and the Cyber Stewards Network.

Milestones over the years



CIPESA in 2014

Over the course of 2014, CIPESA engaged in a series of projects with various partners from within Africa and beyond. These projects are built around our thematic areas of promoting internet freedoms, citizen participation through the use of ICT, advancing the right to information, and promoting good governance and accountability using ICT.

OpenNet Africa



The OpenNet Africa project was initiated in December 2012 with a focus on monitoring and promoting internet freedoms in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. The project portal (www.opennetfrica.org), which was launched three months later in March 2013, has since served as a platform for increased awareness and documentation of issues such as online privacy, data protection, freedom of expression and unrestricted access to the internet. With an approach built on research and documentation of internet freedoms and governance trends and policies, the www.opennetfrica.org is set to become an internet freedom information repository unique to the region.

An ever-changing socio-political landscape necessitates initiatives like OpenNet Africa as human rights violations remain rife in the region. Marginalised groups, opposition party members, bloggers and mainstream media have fallen victim to various attacks and abuses for expressing critical opinion – increasingly - online.

In 2014, incidents of infringements on free speech were rampant. For instance, in Kenya, arrests of blogger Robert Alai for “undermining” Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta; Allan Wadi for “hate speech” following negative comments on Facebook about the president; and journalist Abraham Mutai who was charged with “misuse of a licensed communication platform to cause anxiety” were documented.

Article 19 of the Kenya Cyber-Crime and Computer Related Offences Bill 2014 provides for incredibly broad speech offences that could have a devastating effect for freedom of expression online in Kenya.

Kenya topped Africa with the most requests for user information from Google - making eight demands in the second half of 2013. Although the number of requests was low by global standards, it remains indicative of a growing government interest in citizens' activities online.

The arrest and detention of six bloggers in Ethiopia on unclear grounds but related to criticising the government reflected a harsher stance on freedom of expression on social media.



The cases in both Kenya and Ethiopia were based upon the use of ICT in a manner that was deemed unlawful.

Ethiopia has one of the lowest ICT use rates in Africa and unlike other countries in the region, does not have a liberal telecommunications sector. Kenya, however, seen as a progressive country remains wedged between one of the highest internet usage rates – more than 50% internet penetration – and an increasingly restrictive legal framework.

In the course of the year, social media was a primary tool used to share stories commemorating 20 years of the Rwanda genocide. Rwandan President Paul Kagame also remains one of the most followed African presidents on social media with over 800,000 followers on Twitter as of February 2015.

Towards the end of 2013, CIPESA's OpenNet Africa partnered with Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) to conduct online discussions on the State of Internet Freedoms in Africa. For four weeks between November and December, a new topic was introduced to select mailing lists

following which responses were gathered and analysed.

Mailing Lists Used for Online Discussions on Internet Freedoms in Africa

- Association for Progressive Communications (APC) African Internet Governance
- Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet)
- Information Network (I-Network) Uganda
- Naija IT Professionals
- West African IGF
- Freedom of Information (FOI) Coalition (Nigeria)

In March 2014, the online discussions report was published and included emerging themes such as the declaration of access to the internet as a human right which anticipates an ‘always on’ knowledge society and the development of an African Cyber Security Framework. The report also called for greater interaction between internet rights activists in building a robust, open and accessible internet and for governments to respect user privacy and to not restrict the use of the internet under the guise of national security.

CIPESA, through the OpenNet Africa initiative, further explored the State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa by conducting in-depth research and analysis of existing legal frameworks that influence and impact upon internet freedoms in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. This resulted in the publishing of national reports for each country and an overall summary report on East Africa.

The findings of the research were disseminated at the first Forum on Internet Freedom which was hosted on May 23 in Kampala, Uganda. Present at the forum were 85 participants representing human rights and media activists, law enforcement agencies, policy makers, regulatory bodies, the private sector and academia.

In attendance were speakers from Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (Tanzania), Internet Society (Uganda Chapter), Kenya Human Rights Commission, Article 19 Kenya, Unwanted Witness (Uganda), National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITA), Uganda Police Force, Parliament of Uganda, the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), Internet Society (Burundi Chapter), Great Lakes Voice (Rwanda), African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs, and the Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network, amongst many others.

“If we have so many citizens going online, and doing a multiplicity of activities related to livelihoods, to the economy, to security and stability, it becomes necessary to make rules and regulations that govern the online space,” Vincent Bagiire, Chairman ICT Parliamentary Committee, Uganda.

Key outcomes of the research and recommendations that emerged during the Internet Freedoms Forum have helped us plan our activities for 2015. These included the creation of more opportunities for direct engagement between government officials and civil society to advance freedom of expression online, including through progressive laws and policies. Also recommended was the need for increased awareness and capacity building on online safety and security especially amongst human rights defenders, bloggers, media and minority groups.

To this end, assessment of surveillance, circumvention and encryption techniques in the region are areas that the OpenNet Africa project seeks to further explore in 2015. This would also support dedicated efforts toward digital security skills development and online ethics training for users including citizens, journalists and human rights defenders. There is also a need for civil society to further raise awareness amongst law enforcement agencies on the various facets of internet freedoms.

Country reports and the State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa 2014 report can be found on both the CIPESA website www.cipesa.org/resources and the OpenNet Africa website www.opennetafrica.org.



Delegates at the Forum on Internet Freedoms in East Africa held in Kampala, Uganda, May 2014

The ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network



Promoting the symbiotic relationship between democracy and ICT is at the core of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network. The project has since 2011 reached millions of East Africans through print, online and broadcast media initiatives tackling issues such as corruption, service delivery, respect for human rights, and civic engagement in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The implementation partners in the network are: The Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), Transparency International Uganda (TIU), iHub Research (Kenya), the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG, Tanzania), and Toro Development Network (ToroDev). CIPESA is both a partner and the regional network coordinator.

Each partner has approached the use of ICT in a unique manner including through the use of mobile messaging (short message services), FM radio, social media like Facebook, blogs and Twitter, toll free call centres, crowd sourcing platforms such as Ushahidi and at the core of these is direct community engagement.

ICT4Democracy in East Africa Partners' activity

CIPESA (Network regional coordinator)

The 'iParticipate Uganda' project aims to catalyse the use of ICTs in citizens' engagement and participation in governance. The project builds the capacity of media, public officials, citizens and other duty bearers in the use of ICT for democracy, provides support to three grassroots ICT access centres and researches the ICT knowledge, practices and attitudes of citizens in Uganda. CIPESA is also undertaking an analysis of ICT legal and regulatory frameworks in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

CHRAGG

CHRAGG has implemented a Short Messaging Services (SMS) platform in Tanzania for citizens to utilise their mobile phones to lodge reports of human rights violations. The project has targeted women and youth in its campaign which is also increasing awareness of human rights in the country. The campaign to popularise the SMS system includes radio talk shows, prime time TV and radio jingles, distribution of flyers, TV adverts as well as visual and performance acts through dance troupes.

TIU

A toll free call centre forms the foundation of TIU's Lira, northern Uganda-based project. Voluntary Accountability Committees (VACs) are playing the key role of monitoring health service delivery at health centres in remote areas in Lira and Oyam districts. The project empowers citizens to demand social accountability of health workers in the region. TIU verifies reports of health service delivery challenges received at the call centre from VACs and the public through field visits before raising them with the respective authorities for remedial action.

WOUGNET

Northern Uganda is the focus area of this project which empowers the local communities in five districts (Apac, Kole, Oyam, Gulu and Amuru) to monitor good governance and service delivery through the use of radio stations, digital cameras, mobile phones, Facebook, Twitter, blogs and the crowd sourcing platform Ushahidi. The project primarily targets women in Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and women groups.

iHub Research

iHub Research is exploring the interaction between governments and citizens through ICT tools in support of civic participation, service delivery, transparency, accountability and access to information. The insights are being sought in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania through a series of field studies, focus group discussions, surveys, interactions with developers and literature reviews. The results of this work are expected to aid the implementation of initiatives that use ICT to monitor public services delivery, fight corruption and improve public sector transparency.

KHRC

The mentoring of grassroots based Human Rights Networks (HURINETS) in Kenya is key to KHRC's project. The organisation has partnered with 10 HURINETS to increase their capacities to effectively use ICT tools such as crowdmaps, blogs, Twitter and Facebook in their advocacy work and to increase their role in promoting human rights.

ToroDev

Working with 15 rural advocacy forums and the Rwenzori Journalists Forum, ToroDev is motivating citizen activism in Western Uganda in pursuit of transparency and accountability monitoring. Local FM radio stations are used as hubs for information and knowledge sharing sourced through the internet (social media) and mobile phones (SMS) during which there is active engagement with local leaders and advocacy forum members on critical community issues.

The key feature of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network is the direct collaboration of various stakeholders including grassroots based organisations, local governments and communities, policy makers, voluntary social accountability committees (VSACs), academia, the tech community, civil society organisations and media. As such, unique opportunities for dialogue between citizens and duty bearers, citizens and the media, as well as the media and duty bearers, all through the direct and indirect use of various ICT tools in both rural and urban settings have been made possible.

Country	Population	Mobile Penetration	Internet use	ICT4Democracy in East Africa project ICT supported platforms
Kenya	46 Million	79.2%	54.8%	SMS, Crowdmap
Tanzania	51 Million	68%	19%	SMS
Uganda	35 Million	53%	23%	SMS, Toll free call centre, Crowdmap

To-date, the project has reached over 20 million people through television, radio, newsletters, social media and SMS campaigns carried out in the participating countries. These efforts were part of the unique approaches developed by each of the network partners to make citizens more actively involved in the use of ICT as a tool to promote access to and disseminate information for improved government openness and better service delivery. Social media has also helped drive awareness of projects online, with each of the partners continuously expanding their online audience.



ICT4Democracy in East Africa is promoting the use of accessible tools such as SMS to increase public participation in improved human rights and service delivery monitoring

Activity highlights across the three countries in 2014



Citizen Monitoring and Reporting

In western **Uganda's** Rwenzori region, citizens' participation on radio talk shows on governance issues through SMS, call ins and social media grew from **304** in June 2014 to **4,835** by Nov 2014.

In **Kenya**, **1,691** reports of misuse of state resources, human rights violations, and poor service delivery were received over the toll-free SMS system.

In **Tanzania**, the human rights system capacity enhancement and public education campaigns led to a rise in human rights violations reported via SMS from **864** in 2013 to **4,271** in 2014.



Dialogue and Interactivity

ICT platforms utilised in the project such as the toll free call centre, crowd-mapping platform, interactive radio, Twitter, Facebook and SMS were complimented by community dialogues that drew in **12,000** participants.

Using various social media tools, we directly reached **27,669** individuals, enabling citizens to express themselves on numerous issues around democratic governance, accountable and efficient public services delivery.

Awareness Raising

We reached more than **20** million people through TV and radio jingles and interactive talk shows with messages on protecting human rights and promoting democratic governance.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material including stickers, newsletters and posters with messages on human rights, good governance and service delivery monitoring reached an audience of **250,000** including local leaders, human rights networks, MPs, ordinary citizens and the media.

Capacity building

A total of **2,683** citizen journalists, rural monitors or Voluntary Social Accountability Committees (VSAC) members and media were trained in using ICT to monitor public services delivery and give voice to marginalised communities to demand accountability from duty bearers.

40 local leaders were trained on the use of ICT for information sharing and citizen engagement.



Research

Ground-breaking research in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda has mapped tools being used in enhancing freedom of expression and citizens' participation in governance processes. It has identified ways in which ICT for democracy projects can be tailored to boost citizen participation and responsiveness by duty bearers.



Gender equality

Participation in partners' project activities by women was **43%**. Youth constituted **26%** and male **57%**



Learning and knowledge exchange

The project featured at **12** national, regional and international events, with project staff making presentations as panellists and submitting research papers.



These highlights have been achieved under challenging circumstances such as difficulty reaching remote locations, an increasingly dynamic technology landscape, network and physical infrastructure limitations, community apathy in some areas, and in some cases restrictive legal frameworks.

A full report on the activities of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network can be found on the ICT4Democracy website in the Resources section

iParticipate Uganda

The iParticipate Uganda initiative is CIPESA's project component under the ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network. It promotes the use of ICT to facilitate better delivery of government services to citizens. It also pursues access to information and increased interactions between citizens and public officials. The project is being implemented in partnership with three grassroots partners, namely the Busoga Rural Open Source and Development Initiative (BROSDI) in Eastern Uganda, the Northern Uganda Media Club (NUMEC) and eSociety Resource Centre Kasese in Western Uganda.

With support from CIPESA, each grassroots partner is tackling citizen participation through ICT in ways that encourage meaningful interactions that contribute towards service delivery monitoring and democratic processes.

To-date, the project has reached over 1.6 million listeners in Northern Uganda through Mega FM. With the facilitation of NUMEC, the radio station aired talk shows and pre-recorded community debates on the status of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) in the region. The debates brought the concerns of the local community to duty bearers on a public platform that encouraged greater awareness among the community and put increased responsibility on duty bearers. The project also trained 12 local journalists on the use of ICT as a tool to report service delivery failures and to engage with duty bearers. Additionally, a total of 20 journalists (including those who previously receiving training) participated in a specialised workshop on the use of geocoding methods and data collection as a tool to build and research stories specific to the region. A dissemination workshop detailing the work of NUMEC on PRDP was held in November which saw 20 participants in attendance including officials, teachers, civil society leaders and journalists.


Through logistical, technical and capacity support from CIPESA, the eSociety Resource Centre Kasese has provided free access to ICT services for an average 250 users per month. Over the course of the year, workshops have been offered to the media, district officials and regular users of the resource centre on topics including citizen journalism, geocoding methodology and data collection. CIPESA supports the centre by providing computer equipment, internet subscription, centre maintenance, mentoring and subsidising the cost of an ICT training officer.

Meanwhile, BROSDI has trained staff at the Mayuge District Education Department on the use of ICT, including skills on content development for the district website for improved education service delivery. Insights received during training complemented the development of a Situation Analysis Report on the education sector in Mayuge District. The report identified gaps in the relationships between educators, the department and parents. It included recommendations on bridging this gap through inclusive decision making processes that entail better ICT use, increased transparency and a shift away from "information hoarding".



Mayuge District Education Department Staff undergo training on the use of ICT at the Busoga Rural Open Source and Development Initiative (BROSDI)

Grassroots partners approach

 **Active districts**
Mayuge

 **Project Reach**

Use of SMS to reach local leaders, community members and duty bearers in the education department

Training of members of the Education Department on the effective use of ICT to improve their online presence but also to engage better with central government and community members

T-shirts printed as a marketing and awareness tool

Development of an e-governance guide for the Education Department in Mayuge District



Busoga Rural Open Source and Development Initiative


Platforms used

Blog: <https://visualizemayuge.wordpress.com>



Project focus

At BROSDI, the centre is sending out weekly informative short messages (SMS) to 77 key community members (religious leaders, local CBOS and women group leaders) on prevailing service delivery issues in the education sector. Meanwhile, BROSDI is working with Mayuge district officials to utilise the district website to improve information provision and education services delivery.

 **Active districts**
Gulu, Nwoya and Amuru

 **Reach**

Mega FM talk shows with an audience reach of over 1.6 million listeners.

Community debates which provided a platform for direct engagements between duty bearers and community members

An increasingly aware community capable of demanding accountability on service delivery and PRDP.

Two video recordings of community debates, two 15 minute documentary videos capturing the service delivery challenges under PRDP which were shared at a project dissemination meeting held in November 2014.



Northern Uganda Media Club

Platforms used

Blog: www.numec.ug/blog.php
Twitter: @NUMEC_Media
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthernUgandaMediaClub



Project focus

Document service delivery failures as a result of aid cuts by Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) donors.

Build the capacity of journalists to use ICTs to monitor services delivery and to engage with leaders and duty bearers.

Generate public debate around PRDP on ICT platforms and by extension on traditional media like radio to further reach

eSociety Resource Centre Kasese

eSociety Resource Centre Kasese

 **Active districts**
Kasese

 **Project Reach**

Provision of a facility that community members can utilise to learn and improve upon ICT skills. A trainer is available to support this.

Up-skilling young adults and local leaders in electronic governance.

Empowered district officials on dissemination of information through the district blog



Platforms used

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/nokasesesplit/
The District website: www.kasese.go.ug
District discussion group: <https://dgroups.org/iicd/kasese>
E-library for district e-resources: <https://elibrary.kasese.go.ug>
As well as a District news portal <https://kasesenews.blogspot.com/>



Project focus

The Centre acts as a one-stop point for local government officials and community members to access various tools and services. These are all aimed at enhancing citizens' competence in monitoring government services, promoting accountability, civic participation and good governance in Kasese District.

As part of its iParticipate Uganda project, CIPESA has provided to the centre equipment and connectivity support. In addition, we jointly conducted research and citizen journalism training.

Open Data and Right to Information in East Africa

Access to information empowers citizens to make informed decisions when engaging with duty bearers and the state. With changing laws, the increased use of ICT and the digitisation of content, there is hope that more government-held information will become readily available in the public domain. However, there remains a lot to be done with regards to encouraging more citizens to request information and for the implementation by state actors of legal provisions on the right to information.

In Tanzania, despite the government developing initiatives such as www.opengov.go.tz meant to support access to information, transparency and open data, the country does not have a law to guarantee citizens access to public information. CIPESA's study of the laws, policies and practices of access to information in Tanzania revealed that Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) sporadically released some degree of information but did not consistently update this information.

In Uganda, the Access to Information (ATI) Act was passed in 2005 and provided a legal foundation for citizens to make requests for public information held by the state. The regulations for the law were, however, only issued in 2011. Limited awareness and access, as well as skepticism have hampered implementation of the ATI Act in Uganda. As such, towards the end of 2014, we embarked on an exploratory exercise to understand the perceptions of citizens and public officials on advancing the right to information through ICT in Uganda.

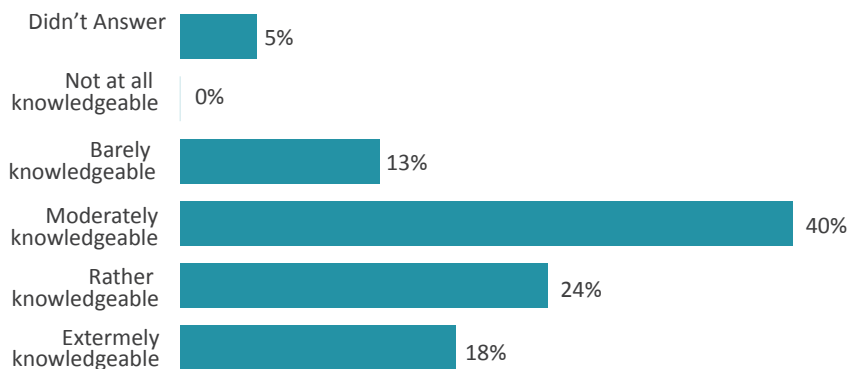
This exploratory research was conducted amongst a random selection of 235 respondents from 10 districts including Gulu and Lira (Northern region), Iganga, Mayuge, Mbale (Eastern region), Kasese, Kabarole (Western region), Mpigi and Masaka (Central region) and the capital Kampala. The results found that there was a low level of ATI awareness amongst citizens, and, among journalists, an even lower level of utilising the law to request information.

A similar exercise was conducted amongst public officials from whom citizens would make requests, to gauge their responsiveness and attitudes towards ATI. It involved 62 officials from over 30 MDAs in Uganda. Although some were skeptic, the majority were positive on the role that ICT could play in promoting information provision and access in the public domain.

In similarity to Tanzania, a shared outcome from both Ugandan citizens and public officials assessments was the appreciation of the combined use of ICT and non-ICT-based tools to promote access to information.

Knowledge of Uganda's Access to Information Act

The majority of officials surveyed were knowledgeable about Uganda's Access to Information law, with 40% indicating moderate knowledge of the law while 24% were rather knowledgeable and 18% extremely knowledgeable.



How would you rate your knowledge of Uganda's Access to Information law?

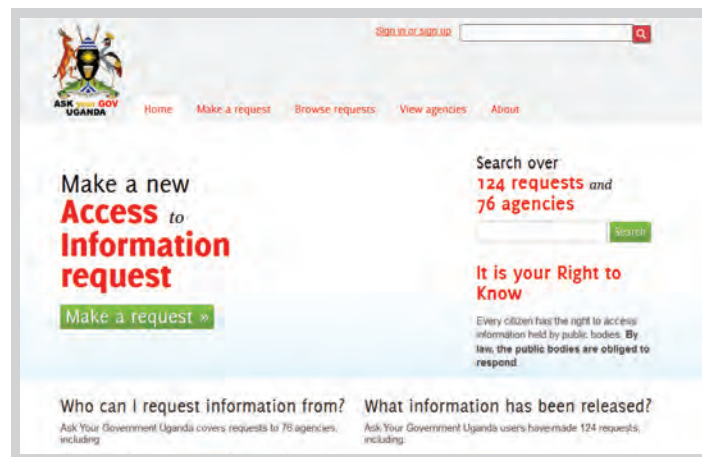
Extracted from: *CIPESA ICT Policy Briefing Series 2015 - Ugandan Public Officials' Perceptions of Using ICT to Advance the Right to Information*

Our in-depth research reports on access to information in Uganda and Tanzania are available on our website in the Resources section.

In August 2014, we launched the online portal www.AskYourGov.ug (AYG) in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC). This initiative helps both citizens and the state to exercise the right to information as demanders and suppliers of information respectively.

Since the launch of the portal, we have conducted right to information capacity building training amongst journalists in Kampala and in Hoima, located in oil-rich Western Uganda. During these sessions, journalists have shared their frustrations and challenges to accessing information from public servants who are often either unwilling to part with information for fear of reprimand, ignorant of the law or have general mistrust of the media.

However, as more journalists are equipped to make reference to the ATI as well as utilise public platforms such as AYG, we aim to see a change in attitude amongst both media and public servants. To achieve this, we also conducted a training and sensitization workshop amongst government information officers – the key gate keepers of public information held by the state. This served to ensure increased responsiveness to information requests made by the public.



A screen grab of the www.askyourgov.ug portal

Initiatives such as AYG could also support the growing Open Data movement whose success depends on availability of government-held data. Making sense of data from government sources is very important, as is adding value to it. To strengthen our capacity in this field, CIPESA hosted an AidData Fellow, who also trained our iParticipate Uganda partners – NUMEC and eSociety Kasese - on the use and value of geospatial analysis tool ArcGIS in combining geographical information with a range of additional information such as population numbers, funding dedicated to a particular area and infrastructure to visually represent information in an accessible manner.



Training on the use of geospatial analysis tool ArcGIS at e-Society Resource Centre Kasese

Internet Governance

We value the role that internet plays in development and inclusivity. Over the past eight years, we have played an active role in stirring debate around different internet governance issues. Internet governance applies to all facets of our work as the global coordination of standards, practice, legislation and development form parameters that we aim to pursue and maintain locally as well.

In our base country, Uganda, we have tracked the progress of internet governance since 2006 when the first Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held. In keeping the multi-stakeholder model that has become synonymous with the IGF, in Uganda this has seen increased interaction between the government and NGOs, academia, private sector, and interested individuals. We have contributed towards briefing papers analysing the various policies and frameworks that impact upon the Ugandan and African internet governance landscape.

In December 2014, we provided feedback on Uganda's Draft Data Protection and Privacy Bill 2014 that was open for public comment. We highlighted key articles that needed further attention by the drafters in order for the bill to progressively protect user data and privacy.

We have hosted and co-hosted national and regional IGFs and participated in the global Internet Governance Forum. Our Policy Officer, Lillian Nalwoga, has also served on the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for two years from 2012 to 2014.

The 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis, Tunisia recommended the establishment of National Internet Governance Forums (NIGFs) in all ITU Member States. This led to the 2006 development of a global forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue now known as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and was first held in Athens (Greece).

Uganda followed suit and in October 2006 the first UIGF was held in Kampala, hosted by Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) and CIPESA.



CIPESA participated at the 2014 Internet Governance Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey

Pictorial Highlights from 2014



NUMEC journalists captured stories on service delivery failure in northern Uganda



CIPESA's Ashnah Kalemera presents during the inaugural Forum on Internet Freedom



Speakers and delegates mingle during the Forum on Internet Freedom



Attendees at the Paradigm Initiative Nigeria Internet Freedoms Forum



Participants engage in a discussion on freedom for creative and cultural expression in Tanzania hosted by Artwatch Africa



A group discussion on ICT perceptions in rural communities in Mayuge District



Open Data discussions and the role it can play in poverty eradication



NUMEC members engage with CIPESA's AidData fellow on the use of GeoSpatial analysis in journalism



Group discussion in Mbale District on ICT use and perceptions



Uganda communication officers at a workshop on the use of www.AskYourGov.ug information portal

Looking ahead to 2015

Over the course of our existence, we have endeavored to tailor our work plans in accordance with findings from research conducted and the socio-economic and political landscape of the countries we focus on. In 2015, we will be tracking the build up to the Tanzania elections in October, the 2016 elections in Uganda and the role that ICT plays in the processes related to civic education, access to information and free and fair electoral periods. We will also continue to advocate and document internet rights issues in our focus countries including Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The training of human rights defenders, journalists, minority, vulnerable groups and women on internet freedoms and on digital security will form a key pillar in our OpenNet Africa initiative. We will also re-assess the state of internet freedom in the focus countries we work in (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Ethiopia, South Africa) centred on citizens' knowledge and perceptions of internet freedom and the effect of information controls on the online behaviours and freedom of expression for citizens, journalists and human rights defenders.

The OpenNet Africa initiative will also embark upon partnering with technology and innovation institutions to undertake an exercise that will see the generation of empirical understanding of the online safety and security technologies landscape in the focus countries. This will see us generating ideas for localisation of tools suited to the needs of at-risk groups in the region.

Today, the impact of ICT use can be felt even in some remote communities through the relationships we have with grassroots organisations. We have seen this in the ICT4Democracy in East Africa project which has empowered more citizens through the use of ICT to demand accountability and better service delivery. The replication of such projects is one that we are keen on pursuing and in so doing we hope to grow a critical mass of ICT skilled citizens capable of exercising their democratic rights.

In the area of leveraging Open Data and the Right to Information to Promote Service Delivery, we will continue to leverage digital technologies to advance the Right to Information (RTI) in East Africa – Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda relying on the growing usage of ICT by citizens and public officials in these countries, and complementary non-ICT means. The ICT tools will be used to stimulate greater citizens' engagement in RTI initiatives, including by making more information requests; increasing citizens' access to information through repackaging and republishing information via new and traditional media channels; engaging public officials to more proactively avail information; and promoting media coverage and reporting on RTI and ICT. The findings from the RTI research conducted in 2014 will also help in guiding the avenues and interactions that we pursue this year on furthering ICT and citizen participation.

The information of immediate interest to our work will be that which affects the rights and livelihoods of individuals. An overarching goal will hence be for access to information to support social accountability and government transparency through improved service delivery and greater citizens' voice in governance processes.

Analysis of ICT policy trends, related literature and its resultant dissemination will remain ongoing. Our policy reports contain unique content compiled in collaboration with leading researchers from the region and internationally.

In 2015, we will be sharing our findings on how citizens and public officials utilise the Right to Information law in Uganda and Tanzania. We will continue producing briefing papers on emerging topical issues in the region related to ICT policy and use. Monitoring the progress of legal developments such as the Data and Privacy protection Bill, 2014 in Uganda, the Security Law (Amendment) 2014 Act in Kenya, the Right to Information Bill and Media Services Bill in Tanzania and the development of other laws and policies in the region that have the potential to impact upon internet freedoms and access to information form part of ICT Policy reports to be released during the course of the year.

We will also continue building partnerships with CSOs, the media and government on the active implementation of project objectives through conducting awareness raising workshops and capacity building sessions.

We will further be pursuing new partnerships as we continue to promote the inclusive and effective use of ICT in Africa. By increasing our network of partners to include more players in the tech community, academia, civil society, government and private sector we seek to have an even bigger impact in the thematic areas that we work in but more importantly in the everyday lives of citizens.

Finally, we are excited to re-launch our websites, www.cipesa.org, www.ict4democracy.org and www.opennetafrica.org, all of which will contain even more information and resources with advanced interactivity features.

CIPESA Team

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 Dr. Peter Mwesige
 Esther Nakazzi
 Wairagala Wakabi

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We are grateful for the ongoing support from a network of consultants located in the region and beyond.

Partners



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