FIRE

Fund for Internet Research & Education

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Project factsheet information

Project title	**Promoting and Monitoring Internet Freedoms in Africa**
Grant recipient	Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
Dates covered by this report	01 – 05 – 2013 / 30 -05 – 2014
Report submission date	30 – 05– 2014
Country where project was implemented	Uganda
Project leader name	Lillian Nalwoga – lillian@cipesa.org
Team members (list)	Wairagala Wakabi (wakabi@cipesa.org); Ashnah Kalemera (ashnah@cipesa.org); Juliet Nanfuka Nakiyini (juliet@cipesa.org)
Partner organizations	Citizen Lab, Hivos, ISOC – Uganda, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Unwanted Witness Uganda
Total budget approved	10,000 USD
Project summary	In 200 words, please describe your project.

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Project Summary

Africa's internet usage continues to grow steadily, with an estimated 19% of the population on the continent, currently using the net.[1] Increased availability of affordable marine fibre optic bandwidth, a rise in private sector investments, the popularity of social media and innovative applications, and increased use of the mobile phone to access the internet, are all enabling more people in Africa to get online. In turn, there are numerous purposes to which users in Africa are putting the internet - from mobile banking, to connecting with fellow citizens and with leaders, tracking corruption and poor service delivery, innovating for social good, and just about everything else.

The increasing usage of the internet, however, has in some countries attracted the attention of authorities, who are eager to provide caveats on the openness of the net and the range of freedoms which citizens and citizens' organisations enjoy online. The popularity of social media, the Wikileaks diplomatic cables saga and the Arab Spring uprisings have led many governments including those in Africa to recognise the power of online media. In a number of countries, there have already been curbs on internet rights, in what portends tougher times ahead for cyber security. Whereas the 2009 OpenNet Initiative studies on internet filtering in Sub-Saharan Africa concluded that Ethiopia was the only country in the region that imposed nationwide politically motivated internet filtering, the continued growth of the internet has seen authorities in other countries move to control its use.

The project monitors and promotes internet freedoms in a number of African countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Our work involves establishing the status of intermediary liability (legislative, policy, practice), and reporting on an ongoing basis about any changes there could be. Furthermore, we document and publicise internet rights violations; and review how current cyber security policies and legislations in selected African countries enhance, or undermine, internet freedom through a one-stop web platform for researchers and practitioners to access reports and news on internet rights violations in Africa.

Background and Justification

Africa's internet usage continues to grow steadily, with an estimated 19% of the population on the continent, currently using the net.[2] Increased availability of affordable marine fibre optic bandwidth, a rise in private sector investments, the popularity of social media and innovative applications, and increased use of the mobile phone to access the internet, are all enabling more people in Africa to get online. In turn, there are numerous purposes to which users in Africa are putting the internet - from mobile banking, to connecting with fellow citizens and with leaders, tracking corruption and poor service delivery, innovating for social good, and just about everything else.

The increasing usage of the internet, however, has in some countries attracted the attention of authorities, who are eager to provide caveats on the openness of the net and the range of freedoms which citizens and citizens' organisations enjoy online. The popularity of social media, the Wikileaks diplomatic cables saga and the Arab Spring uprisings have led many governments including those in Africa to recognise the power of

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[1] The World in 2014: ICT statistics and Figures: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx
[2] [Ibid 1](#)

online media. In a number of countries, there have already been curbs on internet rights, in what portends tougher times ahead for cyber security. Whereas the 2009 OpenNet Initiative studies on internet filtering in sub-Saharan Africa concluded that Ethiopia was the only country in the region that imposed nationwide politically motivated internet filtering,[3] the continued growth of the internet has seen authorities in other countries control its use.

For instance, Tanzanian web forum Jamiiforums which serves as a citizens' channel to debate key issues such as corruption has had its editors interrogated on numerous occasions over what government considered sensitive information. There have also been unconfirmed reports that the Tanzanian government was attempting to clone these forums to portray information that benefits it.[4] In Uganda, the communications regulator on April 14, 2011 instructed ISPs to block access to Facebook and Twitter for 24 hours "to eliminate the connection and sharing of information that incites the public." The request came in the heat of the 'walk to work' protests over rising fuel and food prices. Earlier, on February 26, 2011, government directed telecom companies to block text messages that could instigate hatred, violence and unrest during the election period.[5] Back in July 2010, Uganda charged an online journalist with publishing material online "with intent to defame the person of the President", and confiscated the journalist's laptop and phone. The case was still in courts of law as of April 2014.

Since the 2005 disputed elections, the Ethiopian government has frequently restricted internet access.[67] In June 2012, Ethiopia proposed a law which effectively criminalises the use of Skype and other VoIP services like Google Talk unless they are offered by the monopolistic state-owned Ethio Telecom. Using VoIP services would be punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Authorities said these measures were necessary because of "national security concerns" and the need to protect the monopoly of Ethio Telecom – which has been accused of filtering citizens' internet access so as to suppress opposition blogs and other news outlets.[8] Moreover, in June 2012, award-winning Ethiopian journalist and blogger Eskinder Nega was convicted of "terrorist acts", "encouragement of terrorism", and "high treason" for allegedly attempting to spark an Arab spring-style revolt in the country. Many other journalists and human rights activists have been found guilty in absentia.[9]

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[3]OpenNet Initiative Sub Saharan Africa: http://opennet.net/research/regions/ssafrica

[4] Lillian Nalwoga, Tanzania Should Support Its Netizens, November 3, 2011, http://www.cipesa.org/icts-for-democracy/129-tanzania-should-support-its-netizens

[5] CIPESA, New Report Shows How ICT is Aiding Citizen Participation in Uganda, April 18, 2012; http://www.cipesa.org/news/1-latest-news/142-new-report-shows-how-ict-is-aiding-citizen-participation-in-uganda

[6]Barry Malone, "VOA Says Ethiopia Blocks Website as US Row Escalates," Reuters, March 29, 2010, http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE62S0KX20100329?rpc=401&feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&rpc=401&sp=true.

[7] Google Blocked in Ethiopia: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Google-Blocked-In-Ethiopia-53799.shtml

[8] Frederic Lardinois, Ethiopian Government Bans Skype, Google Talk And All Other VoIP Services, http://techcrunch.com/2012/06/14/ethiopian-government-bans-skype-google-talk-and-all-other-voip-services/

[9] David Smith, Blow to press freedom as Ethiopia convicts 24 of plotting rebellion, June 28, 2012, The Guardian.

According to the BBC, in June 2011 the Rwandan site Umuvugizi was blocked as its editor was sentenced in absentia to more than two years in jail for insulting president Paul Kagame in an opinion piece. And in Swaziland, SMS and the Facebook site were suspended during planned protest marches in April 2011.[10]

Internet intermediaries have also not been spared in these government crackdowns on internet freedoms. Sometimes they have been ordered to pull down internet content deemed to be hostile or critical to governments, thus curbing the rights to freedom of expression and opinion on the internet.

The project is aimed at monitoring and promoting internet freedoms, primarily in six East African states - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

Project objectives
- Examine how current cyber security policies and legislations in Africa enhance Internet Freedom and make recommendations on how they can be more supportive in promoting freedom of expression, human rights and access to information.
- Identify initiatives that are promoting open internet and using internet to promote wider freedoms
- Develop an online platform for researchers and practitioners to access reports and news on internet rights violations in Africa.
- Promote awareness of Online freedoms in Africa

Users and uses

Project beneficiaries include;
- Researchers especially in ICT policy and internet freedoms in Africa: these would have access to research materials on the status of online freedoms in a number of countries.
- Governments: information analyzing policies and how they impact on online freedoms and the reviews needed to make the policies and practices more supportive of online freedoms.
- Advocacy groups to include human rights defender: Information on what needs to be done by governments, ISPS and other stakeholders to uphold and promote internet rights
- Academia and media: these would have access to research materials on the status of online freedoms in a number of countries.
- Every day online users who need to know impact of the law in promoting their rights to access information, freedom of expression and association online.

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[10] Karen Allen, African jitters over blogs and social media, BBC; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13786143

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Indicators

Please use the table below to share your project indicators…

Baseline	Indicators	Progress	Assessment	Course of action
Refers to the initial situation when the projects haven't started yet, and the results and effects are not visible over the beneficiary population.	*How do you measure project progress, linked to your objectives and the information reported on the Implementation and Dissemination sections of this report.*	*Refer to how the project has been advancing in achieving the indicator at the moment the report is presented.*	*Descriptions should be clear and ideally contain operational terms where needed. Please describe the quality dimensions.*	*What is the project team planning to do next is very important to document, specially if changes to the original plan have to be implemented for the success of the project.*
Internet freedoms are currently under siege in many parts of the world, including Africa, and there are signs that in future governments will be even keener to control internet rights. It becomes crucial to document repressive internet policies and actions, and to present best practices both from the world but also from Africa on how the internet is enabling the	The research materials, blog posts and briefing papers as well as other compilations made were widely distributed on our website and social media accounts. 84 tweets have been sent out via he @OpenNetAfrica Twitter account and attracted 27 followers, while the @cipesaug account, used for most of our internet freedoms engagements has a total of 747 tweets directly reaching 225 individuals. We also used Facebook to make up to 30	We conducted research on the state of internet freedoms in the selected countries, published media and policy briefs and participated in, and also convened forums promoting online freedoms.

In addition, the project has increased reporting and information availability on internet freedom violations in Africa, through - primarily - the OpenNet Africa portal and our social media engagements as seen in the tweet mentions received. | The project has been able to provide literature on the state of internet freedoms, where there was a grave lack of literature on the topic.

We have also been able to create dialogue and understanding on what constitutes online freedoms and the need to promote them from an African perspective by hosting and participating in workshops.

Postings from these forums | We shall continue to document and publicise online freedoms violations, including via the www.opennetafrica.org portal the threats to online freedoms, incidents of violations, new policy developments.

Plans are underway to seek more partners in the countries we are working with.

Funds permitting, we also intend to conduct a study on hate speech online. Host an annual Forum on Internet Freedoms in East Africa: |

enjoyment of a broad range of rights and freedoms. Besides, there is currently no centralised platform that acts as a focal point for information on African internet freedoms and cyber security. The intervention therefore provides access to research materials on internet freedom, legal regimes on internet openness or the lack of it, censorship incidents,	posts that directly reached 32 people.[11] Our research findings and dissemination activities received coverage both locally and internationally.[12] The online discussions and reports produced are estimated to have reached up to 100,000 people across the various mailing lists (in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and pan-African).	Further, we conducted exploratory research and published a report on The State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa, covering Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.[13] This research was the first of its kind covering a region in Africa, comparing legal regimes and threats to internet freedoms across in these countries, and drawing out the key emerging internet freedoms issues and recommendations to better advance online freedoms in East Africa. We also wrote blog posts,	have been widely picked by the media, shared on social media, our wesbites and third party websites across the continent and beyond. We received invitations to speak at events or to co-organise workshops. This was evidence that peers appreciated the work we are doing and also that our outreach in creating awareness about internet freedoms and digital safety was increasingly becoming effective. In the course of promoting internet freedom awareness,	This event would bring together select actors and potential actors in the internet freedoms arena to discuss internet freedoms threats and issues, and draw up joint and mutually beneficial action plans to be adopted as at the regional level The Forum would also act as part of Network-building, bringing on board more actors and offering them skills to use in their own work, to train others and to be multipliers of the online freedoms gospel. Conduct capacity building for different entities on online safety and responsible online behavior.

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[11] https://www.facebook.com/pages/Open-Net-Africa/146027042249077?ref=br_tf;

[12] See: Online freedom in East Africa requires amendments to current laws and openness from state agencies; http://www.oafrica.com/ict-policy/online-freedom-in-east-africa-requires-amendments-to-current-laws-and-openness-by-state-agencies/, Stringent laws stifling internet freedom – survey; http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Stringent-laws-stifling-internet-freedom---survey/-688334/2325210/-/bbie9cz/-/index.html; East Africa internet freedom: Governments faulted for imposing controls: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCmzGQNMRZI; Ugandans Denied Right to Expression, Privacy Over Mobile Phones and Internet – Lobby; http://allafrica.com/stories/201405231390.html; Launch Of The Internet Freedoms In East Africa 2014 Report; http://www.kictanet.or.ke/?p=19913; New laws in Uganda make internet providers more vulnerable to liability and state intervention; http://www.apc.org/en/news/new-laws-uganda-make-internet-providers-more-vulne; Report: State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa 2014; http://isoc-ny.org/p2/6682; The Daily Monitor, Government tapping phone calls illegally, say rights bodies, December 3, 2013, http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Government-tapping-phone-calls-illegally--say-rights-bodies/-/688334/2096244/-/142nai0/-/index.html; Video Footage; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O-TieP4P8Y&feature=youtu.be; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rKXQQjBxR4; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7frR97fhd8&feature=youtu.be; http://youtu.be/ODBb7rCZLIs;

[13] See: http://www.cipesa.org/2014/05/launch-of-the-internet-freedoms-in-east-africa-2014-report/)

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African initiatives that are promoting internet rights, and policy advocacy materials that promote internet freedoms.		released both policy and media briefs around key developments on internet freedom concerns in Uganda[14] and the region.[15] We have created partnerships with CSOs in the region – the Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN, www.pinigeria.org), under which we held we conducted discussions on the state of online internet freedoms in Africa.[16] Key issues emerging from this report were discussed at the first ever, "Forum on Internet Freedoms in East Africa." This forum brought together ICT thought leaders, government officials, media and human rights activists from six African countries to discuss the key online freedom concerns in	we have sought partnerships with organisations across Africa dealing in promoting human rights, access to information and freedom of expression.	Advocate for legal and policy reforms in order to provide greater protection for online freedoms; and analyse upcoming laws for compliance with freedom of expression.

[14] See Uganda brief here:http://opennetafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/researchandpubs/How%20Recently%20Enacted%20Laws%20Undermine%20Ugandan%20Citizens'%20Rights.pdf.

[15] 15Opennet Africa- Incident Reports; http://opennetafrica.org/incidentsnews/blog-posts/, http://opennetafrica.org/incidentsnews/press-releases/,

[16] See report here and annex: http://opennetafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/researchandpubs/Report%20of%20Online%20Discussion%20on%20The%20State%20of%20Internet%20Freedom%20in%20Africa.pdf

		East Africa. The meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda.[17] Other partnerships formed include that with Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and Unwanted Witness Uganda, who we will undertake periodical research on online privacy and freedom of expression and also issue joint statements, policy briefs, among others, while building on a network for civil society activists in this area. This feeds into our advocacy that targets civil society and policy makers. Developed an online portal www.opennetafrica.org and populated it with up to 5 original research reports as well as upwards of 20 secondary research reports and incident reports We are also administering a Twitter account @OpenNetAfrica and the project facebook page.		

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[17]A programme for the Forum is annexed to this report and can also be accessed at: http://www.cipesa.org/?wpfb_dl=77

Project implementation: understanding the chain that leads to results

We created partnerships with CSOs in the region including the Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN, www.pinigeria.org), Kenya Human Rights Commission (www.khrc.or.ke) and the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) with whom we conducted online discussions and joint workshops on the state of online internet freedoms in Africa. Key issues emerging from these activities were discussed at the first ever, "Forum on Internet Freedoms in East Africa." This forum brought together ICT thought leaders, government officials, media and human rights activists from six African countries was held in Kampala, Uganda. The partnerships are aimed at building a network for civil society activists in this area. This feeds into our advocacy that targets civil society and policy makers.

In reaching out to the Project beneficiaries – human rights activists, bloggers and citizen journalists, we organised capacity building events which were aimed at empowering them to stay safe online in the line of their work. In the course of our interaction with these groups we encouraged responsible reporting in line with limitations from the laws. The beneficiaries actively participate in identifying the agenda for the awareness raising/ training events. In Uganda, this was done in partnership with the Internet Society – Uganda, the Human Rights Journalists Network and Unwanted Witness, where we hosted a forum to create awareness for Internet Freedoms in the country as well as advocate for progressive policies.

Also in order to gather evidence on state surveillance and censorship, we undertook technical audit tests on over 1,400 websites for evidence of website blocking in Ethiopia and Uganda between July and December 2013, using rTurtle Software. This was done in partnership with the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto. Since the beginning of 2014, pilot testing has been ongoing in Uganda using Raspbery Pi, another technical tool developed by the Citizen Lab.

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Please use the table below to report about project implementation…

Input	Project activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Timeline	Status	Assessment
Financial, human and material resources	*Actions taken, work performed*	*Result and/or deliverable produced as a direct result of the project activity* *Outputs are under direct control of the project team*	*Likely or achieved short and medium term effects.* *Focus on the changes facilitated by the project for its beneficiaries* *Outcomes tend to be under the influence of the project team but not under direct control*	*Dates were the listed activity was developed*	*Indicate when the activity started, on-going or completed*	*Assessment indicating how the activity has been conducted* *Describe technologies implemented, methods and techniques used and any challenges that have been identified*
FIRE, Citizen Lab, Hivos funding, CIPESA staff CIPESA partners Independent researchers	Desk research on how current cyber security policies and legislations in Africa enhance Internet Freedom and make recommendations on how they can be more supportive in promoting freedom of expression, human rights and access to information. Data Collection and analysis, regional legal frameworks/policy analysis, chart initiatives, proposed/changes in laws,	5 country reports detailing state on internet, legal and regulatory frameworks supporting or curtailing internet freedoms and internet freedom violation incidents. Regional report on the state of Internet freedoms in East Africa	Increased awareness on internet rights for users in the selected countries Increased reporting on Internet freedom violations in Africa Increased awareness of policy implications about Internet Freedoms in Africa Documented repressive internet policies and actions in Africa and the rest of the world	May 2013	Completed	We sought in-country researchers to assist in undertaking country assessments. Undertook technical audit tests on over 1,400 websites for evidence of website blocking in Ethiopia and Uganda between July and December 2013, using rTurtle Software. Also deployed Raspbery Pi in Uganda to continue testing for evidence of online surveillance and website blocking.

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	literature reviews					
FIRE, Citizen Lab, Hivos funding, CIPESA staff CIPESA partners	Writing and publishing briefing papers	Incident reports Briefing papers Regional internet freedom analysis reports		July 2013	Completed	CIPESA team mapped and wrote briefing media and policy papers, and documented incident reports on internet freedom violations in Africa. These can be accessed on the opennetafrica.org website
FIRE, Citizen Lab, Hivos funding, CIPESA staff CIPESA partners	Design and implementation of web portal;	Developed the opennetafrica.org portal- a one stop portal for internet freedom informaton in Africa.		June 2013	Completed	CIPESA contracted a web developer to develop the opennetafrica.org website. The site, which runs on Wordpress theme platform was launched on November 21, 2013.
	Website maintenance	Maintenance reports and reviews		November 2013	Ongoing	
	Dissemination workshop - Comments and feedback on project work	Launch of web portal and awareness creation workshop		November 28, 2013	Completed	CIPESA partnered with Unwanted Witness in Uganda and ISOC- Uganda to launch the portal
FIRE, Citizen Lab, Hivos funding, CIPESA CIPESA partners	Documentation, Dissemination and Publicity	Twitter post @opennetafrica Facebook posts Presentations @ ICT forums Blog posts, news articles – these can be accessed on the CIPESA website - http://www.cipesa.org/tag/opennet-africa/		June 2013	Completed	All current incident reports and key project findings are being shared on the created social media platforms – twitter and Facebook, mailing list serves and the online portal

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Project outputs, communication and dissemination activities
Please use the table below to report about project dissemination…

Project outputs	*Status*	*Assessment*	*Dissemination efforts*
Output No. 1 (use the same names as per the listed outputs in the table above, see Project implementation)	*Please select the option that better describes the status into the development of this output:* - *Work in progress* - *Completed.* *Please indicate date.* - *Not started.* *Please clarify, why?* - *Not completed.* *Please clarify, why?*	*Descriptions should be clear and ideally contain operational terms where needed. Please describe the quality dimensions.*	*Please specify what dissemination efforts were made, with special attention to those intending to reach target groups by gender, age, ethnic and socio-economic profiles to impact marginalized and disadvantaged groups.*
Country reports.	Completed	Reports were finalised and uploaded on the website.	Blog articles have been extracted to accompany the reports and these can currently be accessed on the Opennetafrica portal
Blog posts, news briefs, policy briefs	Completed	We have written numerous blog articles, policy and media briefs especially among others - on government actions on accessing online user data and state of current laws in	These postings have been shared on the created twitter and facebook pages, Open Net Africa website, CIPESA website, different ICT list serves and also

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		Uganda and how they impart online freedom.	shared on other third party website in the region and beyond.
Awareness creation/dissemination workshop, workshop report	Completed	Project has been promoted at different ICT Policy events in Uganda and Africa. Also a dissemination workshop was held in 2013 during the launch of the portal and also at the State of Internet Freedom Forum in East Africa. Please see indicators table to read more about the output and their indicators	Project briefs and a regional report were printed and disseminated at these forums.
Online portal	Completed	An online portal www.opennetafrica.org has been developed and remains fully active	Invitations were sent out to key human rights defender in Uganda, citizen journalists and bloggers, government representatives and CSO representatives to attend the launch of the portal and other project meetings Also the portal is regularly updated with incident reports and other content emerging from the region/ continent.

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Project outcomes

- Increased awareness on internet rights for users in the selected countries
- Increased reporting on Internet freedom violations in Africa
- Increased awareness of policy implications about Internet Freedoms in Africa
- Documented repressive internet policies and actions in Africa

Project management and sustainability

Currently, the project is managed by CIPESA in partnership with ISOC – Uganda. As stated earlier, we also partnered with PIN and KHRC. These partnerships will further assist us in our advocacy activities in the partners' countries. For instance, in Kenya, the KHRC partnership is meant to advocate for better internet rights policies while the PIN partnership targets West Africa.

In terms of new administrative skills, we have been able to contract an IT technical support personnel to administer the website as well as manage the social media platforms. Additionally, our administrative staff has been empowered to use new media for reporting and documentation.

Impact

Although it's hard to measure the project impact in such a short time span (one year), we can say that we have achieved more than we had anticipated. We can rightly say that we have been able to create awareness on a topic that had not been widely researched or talked about in the region and spatial literature. The opennetafrica.org portal created has provided documentation on internet violations in Africa, state of internet freedom including policies and practices affecting internet freedoms on the selected countries.

Also as seen in the indicators section, impact has been felt in the number of mentions in media and third party posting of content produced by the project. This has been witnessed mainly via the blogs written, social media engagements, policy and media briefs released.

Overall Assessment

The project has been the first of its kind to provide a one stop centralised portal to document internet freedom violations, provide access to researched materials on the state of internet freedoms including policy and practices affecting the same. From the project findings, a couple of enacted laws in East Africa between 2009 and 2014 provide for the interception of communications, regulation of content, place responsibility on internet intermediaries to monitor users and to block or take down content. Governments have also come out to monitor/survey what citizens are doing online.

Even with these curtails, mobile phone and internet users continued to grow in all countries covered. However, the absence of data protection and privacy laws means that governments and other third party entities can easily misuse or manipulate user data. This is even made worse by the mandatory registration of mobile SIM card and national identity registration exercises. The project also discovered a scarcity of literature on internet freedoms in the region, shortage of actors, and inadequate skills and knowledge levels among online users including, journalists, bloggers, government entities and human rights defenders. Thus the need to continuously engage these actors by creating awareness and developing their skills in safety and online ethics is paramount. Besides, there is need to continue documenting internet freedom violations in the region and Africa as a whole. Overall, promoting internet freedoms requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving all actors as each has a role to play in creating a safer, secure, open and free internet.

Recommendations

In order to promote a safe, secure and free internet, recommendations captured beyond the project reporting time include;

- There is need to continue to creating awareness about internet freedoms, review new policy developments and documenting and publishing violation incidents mainly via the www.opennetafrica.org portal, as the one-stop resource on online freedoms in Africa.
- Need to conduct a study on work on hate speech online mainly in East Africa. This study would seek to identify strategies to eliminate hate speech online while instilling online ethical behavior among online uses.
- Host an annual Forum on Internet Freedoms in East Africa: This event would bring together actors in the internet freedoms arena to discuss internet freedoms threats and issues, and draw up joint and mutually beneficial action plans to be adopted as at the regional level.
- Conduct capacity building for different entities on online safety and responsible online behavior.
- Advocate for legal and policy reforms in order to provide greater protection for online freedoms; and analyse upcoming laws for compliance with freedom of expression

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