



The ReCIPE Project launch report at Fairway Hotel, Kampala– 15 August 2024

Attendees:

- 9 Oxfam Uganda staff
- 5 Center for Constitutional Governance project staff
- 11 CSO participants
- 3 innovators
- 4 Government officials
- 6 Media representatives (Civic Space TV)
- 3 legal actors

Introduction to the ReCIPE Project

The Recentering the Civic Internet through Partner Engagement (ReCIPE) Digital Rights Project, supported by the European Union and implemented by Oxfam in Uganda and the Center for Constitutional Governance for a span of years with overall aim to safeguard and promote digital rights in the evolving technological landscape. Its scope includes advocacy, research, capacity building, and policy development to ensure equitable access to and use of digital technologies.

The primary objective is to create a sustainable framework that protects individual digital rights and enhances digital literacy across diverse communities. The ReCIPE project represents a critical step in promoting digital rights and literacy in Uganda. By investing in the digital capacity of CCG's staff, partners, and other key stakeholders, and by advocating for equitable access to digital technologies, the project aims to bridge the digital divide and empower marginalized communities. This initiative aligns with CCG's broader mission to advance human rights and equality in the digital age.

Event Objectives

- Provide comprehensive information about the project, including its goals, and scope. This will ensure that all participants have a thorough understanding of the project's purpose and its importance in promoting digital rights and literacy.



- Outline the specific deliverables of the project, such as policy advocacy initiatives, capacity-building programs, and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Engage with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and other government entities to align the project with national digital strategies and policies.
- Create platforms for networking and collaboration among participants, fostering a community of practice that can continue to work together on digital rights and literacy initiatives beyond the project's duration.

Agenda and Activities

08:30am-09:00am: Arrival, registration and networking

Participants registered and engaged in networking, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and anticipation for the day's discussions.

09:00 am - 09:20 am: Opening Remarks

Representative from Oxfam welcomed guests and emphasized the importance of digital rights in contemporary civic engagement.

09:20 AM - 10: AM: Overview of Oxfam's digital rights work in Uganda

The Head of Civic Engagement Oxfam Uganda elaborated its digital rights work, which focuses on supporting local NGOs, activists, and journalists to operate freely and safely. The organization advocates for digital rights and strives to ensure that all Ugandans have access to affordable and secure internet services.

10:00 am -10:20 am: Overview of the ReCIPE project in Uganda

A representative from Oxfam Uganda gave an overview of the ReCIPE project, including its objectives, strategy and expected impact on Uganda's digital rights landscape.

10:20 am – 10: 40 am: CCG's digital rights work in Uganda

The Head of Programs highlighted CCG's digital work, which includes establishing Civic Space TV, creating a video promoting digital rights, civic space handbook, hosting young feminists and youth voices on various platforms,



mobilizing community leaders, and partnering with organizations to advocate for digital rights through policy development, crisis measures and support for digital inclusion and infrastructure.

10:40 am – 11:00 am: CCG’s official remarks

The Executive Director of CCG gave remarks and pointed out that by addressing the digital divide and focusing on inclusivity, the ReCIPE project can ensure that marginalized and underserved communities have a voice in the digital rights discourse.

11: 00 am – 11:35 am: Participants’ reflections on the challenges & opportunities ahead of the project

The following reflections were made during the event;

- Limited awareness about digital rights among many stakeholders and community members hinders effective advocacy, highlighting the need for comprehensive education and awareness campaigns.
- Insufficient digital infrastructure and significant resource constraints threaten the scale and effectiveness of our digital rights initiatives, making it crucial to address these gaps.
- The substantial digital divide between urban and rural areas in Uganda, marked by disparities in internet access and digital literacy limit the effectiveness of our initiatives, necessitating targeted interventions.
- Influencing policy reforms and advocating for better digital rights protections through engagement with policymakers and stakeholders is crucial for driving systemic change and creating a supportive environment for digital rights.
- Building capacity and providing training for stakeholders and community members is essential to enhance advocacy efforts and empower individuals by strengthening their skills and knowledge in digital rights.

11:35 am- 12:0 pm: Remarks by the Country Director Oxfam Uganda



The Country Director of Oxfam Uganda highlighted that the ReCIPE project presents an excellent opportunity to build strong partnerships among diverse stakeholders. Collaborative efforts can amplify our impact and leverage each partner's unique strengths and resources.

12:20 pm:-12:30 pm: Event Summary

CCG's Head of Programs made a recap of key discussions, takeaways and action points from the day

12:30 pm-01:05: Key Note speaker

The Minister of ICT recognized the crucial role of tech companies, CSOs, academic institutions, NGOs, and grassroots organizations in digital transformation. He encouraged all stakeholders to stay engaged, share their insights and help shape a digital environment aligned with shared values. He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting digital transformation

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM: Closing Remarks

The E.D CCG gave closing remarks with expression of gratitude to all participants, speakers, and partners for their contributions and support.

Key Highlights

- The event attracted a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, technology experts, legal actors, media and innovators
- Participants' reflections on the challenges & opportunities ahead of the project demonstrated a shared commitment to advancing digital rights and civic engagement.
- Some attendees highlighted the need for further education on digital rights and their practical implications.
- Discussions revealed the need for additional resources to effectively address the challenges identified and support project activities.

Recommendations

- Develop targeted training sessions to increase awareness and understanding of digital rights among stakeholders.
- Pursue additional funding and resources to support project goals and address identified challenges.



- Maintain and strengthen partnerships to ensure ongoing support and effective implementation of the project.

Conclusion

The launch event for the ReCIPE project was a pivotal moment in advancing digital rights in Uganda. The engagement from diverse stakeholders and insightful discussions set a positive trajectory for the project. Continued collaboration, education and resource mobilization will be essential to achieving the project's objectives and fostering a more inclusive and rights-respecting digital environment in Uganda.

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