



**Training Report on: Face-to-Face Training on Digital Rights and Emerging Technologies in Uganda held on 11 February 2025 at Arch Apartments, Ntinda, Kampala, Uganda**

**Background**

The rapid growth of the internet and emerging technologies has significantly transformed the way people live, work, and interact in Uganda. However, this rapid technological advancement has also raised concerns regarding digital rights, online safety, and the responsible use of technology. These concerns are particularly pertinent in a country where access to the internet and digital tools continues to expand, while awareness and understanding of the risks and responsibilities associated with these technologies lag behind.

In response to these challenges, the "Recenter the Civic Internet Through Partner Engagement" project, implemented by Oxfam Uganda and the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), aimed to address these concerns through a comprehensive face-to-face training. The training focused on promoting digital rights, ensuring online safety, and encouraging the responsible use of emerging technologies.

**Objective of the Training**

The primary objective of the training was to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to promote and protect digital rights, online safety, and the responsible use of emerging technologies in Uganda.

**Specific Objectives:**

1. To enhance participants' understanding of digital rights, online safety, and emerging technologies.
2. To equip participants with practical skills on how to promote and protect digital rights, online safety, and the responsible use of emerging technologies.



3. To provide a platform for participants to share experiences, challenges, and best practices on digital rights and emerging technologies.

### **Target Group**

The training was attended by the following number and categories of participants;

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (19)
- Civic Activists and Human Rights Defenders (8)
- Communities and Civil Society Representatives/Members (6)
- Tech Companies (3)
- Government Authorities (2)
- Media (5)

This broad representation allowed for a multi-faceted approach, with varying perspectives and expertise contributing to the discussion.

### **Training Methodology**

The training employed a participatory and interactive approach, incorporating the following methods:

1. Facilitators provided foundational knowledge and insights on digital rights and emerging technologies.
2. Participants engaged in discussions on key issues, challenges, and best practices related to digital rights, fostering knowledge exchange.
3. Real-life scenarios and case studies were presented, helping participants analyze challenges and formulate solutions in the context of Uganda.
4. Hands-on exercises allowed participants to practice concepts and strategies related to online safety and digital rights in real-world settings.

### **Training Topics**

The following key topics were covered during the training:

1. Overview of Emerging Technologies and Civic Engagement
2. Africa and Emerging Technologies: Opportunities and Threats.
3. Uganda's Digital Agency and 4th Industrial Technologies



4. Digital Literacy and Civic Internet: Drivers and Trends
5. Digital Literacy and Safety in Civic Internet Use
6. Digital Ethics and the Civic Internet

### **Facilitators**

- **Dr. Tolit Charles Atiya:** A digital rights and security expert
- **Judith Atim:** Head of Programs, Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), with extensive experience in civic rights and digital engagement.

### **Training outcomes**

The training achieved the following outcomes:

1. Participants gained a deeper understanding of digital rights, online safety, and emerging technologies, as well as the potential implications for Uganda's political, social, and economic landscape.
2. Participants were equipped with practical tools and skills to promote and protect digital rights and online safety, as well as effectively engage with emerging technologies.
3. The training facilitated networking opportunities and collaborations among civil society groups, tech companies, and government representatives, enhancing the collective capacity to address digital rights issues.
4. The training laid the foundation for increased advocacy on digital rights, online safety, and the responsible use of emerging technologies in Uganda.

### **Challenges Encountered**

Technical issues as such livestream on Civic Space TV failed due to malfunctioned speakers and wiring system

Time was limited to cover all the topics extensively

Poor internet in the training hall

### **Recommendations**



- Offer continued engagement after the training, such as follow-up to ensure participants can implement their learnings and remain up-to-date on evolving digital rights issues
- Policymakers should work to create or strengthen existing laws that protect digital rights, focusing on privacy protection, freedom of expression, and online security.
- Participants should actively apply the digital rights knowledge gained in their organizations, communities, or workplaces, promoting awareness and advocating for responsible technology use.
- Each participant should lead by example in their personal and professional use of technology, prioritizing online safety, ethical digital engagement, and responsible data practices, while encouraging others to do the same

**In conclusion,** the face-to-face training on Digital rights and emerging technologies proved to be a highly valuable initiative for participants from diverse backgrounds. The training empowered attendees with the knowledge and practical tools needed to navigate the challenges posed by emerging technologies, ensuring they could actively advocate for digital rights and online safety in Uganda. By providing a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration and skill-building, the training successfully contributed to strengthening Uganda's ability to address digital rights issues, enhance online safety and promote the responsible use of technology. The networking and insights gained from this session are expected to play a crucial role in future advocacy efforts and initiatives aimed at safeguarding digital rights in Uganda, paving the way for a more inclusive, secure, and ethical digital environment.

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