

**Title:** Is it possible to connect the unconnected/underserved communities to digital Opportunities through Broadband Internet? Is universal Internet access a human right? The case of Kigamboni Blue Community Network in Tanzania

**Theme:** Connecting All People and Safeguarding Human Rights

**Session Format:** U Shape or Round Table, 60 Minutes.

### **Description of the Session**

This proposal is inline with, the UN Secretary-General's proposed Global Digital Compact (GDC) and its first principle to "Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools"

GDC recognizes that Internet connectivity and access have become prerequisites for ensuring the livelihoods, safety and education of people the world over – and that Internet in schools provides crucial points of access, makes informational resources available to all students, and builds digital literacy from the earliest stages of life.

Tanzania has an estimated population of 60.61 million people as of April 2022 according to DataReportal (<https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-tanzania>). The latest telecoms statistics for Q3 2020 published by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) show that the estimated internet users reached 29.91 million in March 2022 and the Internet service penetration stood at 50%. This means that around 30 million Tanzanians are not online. These statistics are not far from where the Global Connectivity situation. The ITU's Global Connectivity Report says 2.9 billion people are still offline.

More than 90% of Tanzanians access the Internet through their mobile phones. Although mobile data prices are reasonably low, they remain **unaffordable for segments of the population that mostly reside in rural areas**, resulting in a large gap in Internet use between urban and rural areas. British technology research firm Cable estimates the average cost of one mobile gigabyte (1GB) in Tanzania to be USD 0.75, making the country the 32nd cheapest in the world, and the cheapest in East Africa.

The Digital Cooperation report also defines affordable Internet as the pricing of 1GB of mobile broadband data at 2% or less of an average monthly income. The average monthly income in Tanzania is USD 515.02, and although the price of USD 0.87 per 1GB is below what the Digital Cooperation Report recommends, the longevity of the data bundle depletes when a user by the 1GB per day depletes so fast as lightning strike! So despite the low pricing the users experiences do not appreciate this as affordable Internet. The pricing does not enable the majority low income citizens in urban and rural Tanzania have a **Meaningful Participation Online (MPO)**. Given the robustness of today online systems, applications, high powered servers and background "gorilla" applications and adverts, **affordable** and **meaningful** to broadband Internet is the bare minimum that can enable citizens participate meaningful in the digital economy now and in the future.

The Digital Cooperation Report, also says that 93% of the world's population live within physical reach of mobile broadband or Internet services; but only 53.6% only uses the Internet. The challenges of Internet connectivity in Tanzania are extremely close to other countries in the developing world. This workshop shall therefore raise key issues related to Internet Connectivity, Affordability and Meaningful access. It will give a practical example of how **Tanzania Digital Inclusion Program** (TADIP) has leveraged these statistics, cooperative driven association of community members, available fiber infrastructure; to work with **Kigamboni Blue Community Network(KBCNet)** to connect its members, schools, health center, local police station and other public institutions to broadband Internet.

Through this community arrangement members of the community are now accessing highly affordable and meaningful Broadband Internet(fiber) with unlimited data bundle per month. For example KBCNet has 120 members, the cost for each member is USD 0.72 for unlimited data per month at 100Mbs speed! The infrastructure has connected 120 members(number is growing), 5 schools, 4 smallest units of local government, a health center, and a local police station.

Connecting the communities to broadband Internet is the greatest undertaking in the digital era but having people online without safeguarding their fundamental online rights is work half done! The workshop organizer will thus engage two speakers who are the digital rights champions to expound on the digital rights as human rights- that online rights are human rights. They will also talk about affordable and meaningful Broadband Internet as a human right in the view that there should be equality in terms of accessing digital opportunity through the Internet which is global in nature.

This workshop will put forward one of the workable local solutions that has been successful tried and proven that it can connect community members to digital opportunities through broadband Internet. It make a good conversation for individuals and organizations present during the IGF 2022 in Ethiopia. They will learn about it, ask questions and followup questions for the purpose replicating the solution in the communities they come from. The organizer will be ready to share technical details and sustainable model used to achieve proof of concept of the solutions.

Our proposal is simple. We want to demonstrate to the world that with just little capacity, it is possible to connect the local community to broadband Internet both affordably and meaningfully.

### **Relationship between the proposal and SDG Targets**

Please review the list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>. Then select all that apply to your proposal from the corresponding list of codes below.

### **Describe how your proposal links with the SDG targets that you have just selected.**

SDGs Targets linked to our Proposal: 1.1,1.4, 4.3,4.4, 4.5 4.6, 5.b, 8, 9.c

1. Connecting the unconnected rural and underserved urban population is key to fast-track socio-economic development and especially. It shall progressive connect 8 million people over the next 10 years. This will help the connect the unconnected and underserved to digital opportunities and contribute eradicating extreme poverty. This on Goal 1 and Target 1 and 4: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day; and By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, **appropriate new technology** and financial services, including microfinance. Also Goal 9c: 9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020
2. Universal Digital Skills Education for youth and women. This objective aims to provide Digital Skills Education including lifelong learning through E-Adult Education. The Digital Education will be both offline and online through [www.tadep.tz](http://www.tadep.tz) portal. Targeting youth and women in this objective is inline with
3. E-Learning Digital Skills for Primary and Secondary Schools teachers. Over the next 10 years the program aims to provide E-learning Digital Skills to 100,000 teachers. This is an average of 5 teachers per 24,000 schools throughout the country. This engagement will empower primary and secondary schools teachers and make them ready for 22 Century Digital Style Classroom.
4. Creation of Women and Youth Innovation. The objective in this area is to create 500 Innovation Hubs, focusing on “telecom dark” areas. These Hubs will held youth access broadband Internet, work on their various innovative ideas and monetize them as way to reduce family level poverty. The hub will also provide Digital Entrepreneurship and Digital Marketing Skills. This will enable women MSMEs owners in Tanzania participate meaningful in the Global Digital Economy through broadband internet. What this means is that when you women entrepreneurs succeed families succeed and the issue of poverty alleviation/eradication is addressed as intended in Sustainable Development Goal One(1). The Digital Skills Education for Women and STEM Program for Girls aims to close Digital Gender Gap and thus addressing addressing Sustainable Development Goal Five(5).

### Names, Organizational Affiliations, Stakeholder and Speakers

No	Name	Organization Affiliation	Stakeholder Group, Region-D	Role
1	Justina Mashiba	Chief Executive Officer, Universal Communication Service Fund(UCSAF)	Government	Speaker
3	Zaituni Njovu	Chief Executive Officer, Zaina Foundation	Civil Society	Organizer
4	Nazar Nicholas	President, Internet Society Tanzania	Technical Community	Organizer/ Speaker
5	Pamela John	Managing Director Chanya Change Hub	Private Sector Civil Society	Online Moderator
6	Abubar Karsan	CEO, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs	Civil Society	Onsite Moderator
7	Dr. Ali Haji	Lecture, State University of	Academia	Speaker

## **Session Interaction and Participation in a Hybrid Meeting**

- 1) How will you facilitate interaction between onsite and online speakers and attendees?**
- 2) How will you design the session to ensure the best possible experience for online and onsite participants?**
- 3) Please note any complimentary online tools/platforms you plan to use to increase participation and interaction during the session.**

## **Answer to Questions 1,2 &3**

We have agreed that to have a dedicated Online Moderator and they will work hand in hand with the Onsite Moderator. This will bring in equal opportunity for speakers whether in the room or onsite. All participants of the session use zoom link and will be on queue – first come first serve. The Online moderator will pay a close attention to the online chat to ensure questions from participants reaches to onsite moderator for Intervention by the speakers. The session organization shall ensure the zoom links and calendar invite reminders for the session are propagated several times a day to the day of the sessions. Also reminders for the session are sent every 30 minutes in the 3 hours leading up to the session time.

## **Policy Questions**

The Workshop will address several key Policy: These include but not limited to

- 1. Infrastructure and Investment:** Are UN member states committed to invest in infrastructure in rural areas? Are they committed to roll out Internet services to areas that are unattractive to investors- the so called telecom dark areas? What are the is data showing this commitment if any? What are stakeholders doing on the
- 2. Digital Policy:** Do the UN Member States each have a Digital Policy Blue print? Do these policies address in clear terms the issue of Access and Connectivity as pre-requisite for citizenry equal participation to harness the opportunities that comes with the Global Digital Economy? What are the stakeholders other than government doing on the ground to compliment government effort to ensure access and connectivity to all?
- 3. Digital Cooperation Report:** Have the UN member states done a bear minimum for the report? For example have they adopted and institutionalized the hanging

fruits of the report? What are their plans for mid and long range adoption of the recommendations from the report? What are the stakeholders doing on the ground regarding this report.

4. **Digital Global Compact:** Does this compact make sense to the stakeholders? What concrete actions that are happening on the ground in response to Global Digital Compact?
5. **Spectrum Allocation/Management:** Spectrum is the meat in the bone when it comes to the issue of access and connectivity. But Spectrum cost is a huge roadblock for any community Internet Service provider? What is the Common Practice in Spectrum allocation in many countries? What do policies say? Do these policies allow Community Internet Service Provider such as Community Networks to use the spectrum at affordable price? Is there allocation spectrum for Is there a country with the a good Best Practice in terms of policy for spectrum allocation? What is this country?

### **Questions to that evolve around issues of inclusion and accessibility:**

Do People With Disabilities have tools that enable them to access Internet is the same way as other people do? Are online applications and tools accessibility compatible? Are UN Member states investing enough for digital inclusion in the area of accessibility? Are there data local that point to this direction? Are there policy direction(s) examples from the UN member states that clearly shows that is being done on the ground?

### **Tools for Participants and Speakers**

[1] Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

[https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap\\_for\\_Digital\\_Cooperation\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap_for_Digital_Cooperation_EN.pdf)

[2] Global Digital Compact <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact>

[3] Global Connectivity Report, <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/global-connectivity-report-2022/>

[4] Our Common Agenda <https://www.un.org/en/un75/common-agenda>

[5] Meaningful Connectivity – Rural Report, <https://a4ai.org/research/report/meaningful-connectivity-rural-report/>