

WOMEN OF UGANDA NETWORK (WOUGNET) FOURTH QUARTER 2024



October - December, 2024

Dear WOUGNET Community,

We are thrilled to highlight our milestones during the fourth quarter of 2024 (October to December). At Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), our unwavering commitment to promoting, supporting, and advocating for the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) among women and women's rights organisations remains steadfast. In this quarter, join us as we navigate key highlights, and celebrate the resilience in amplifying voices of the structurally silenced women and partnerships. Our goal is to drive sustainable development in Uganda by empowering women in both online and offline spaces. We invite you to delve into the insights and achievements of this quarter, and we look forward to your continued support.

Stay connected with us for real-time updates via our social media platforms as we continue our mission to create a better world for women and girls online and offline.

About us!

WOUGNET is a non-governmental organization in Uganda that resulted from a meeting with several women's organizations held in the year 2000. This meeting led to WOUGNET's establishment in May 2000. WOUGNET conducts research on the intersection of gender and technology, analyzes internet and ICT policies to ensure that they are gender inclusive, promotes equitable access to information, conducts capacity building on emerging tech and online safety and uses advocacy as a tool to challenge and shift oppressive patriarchal structures perpetuated online and offline.

Our Vision

We envision an inclusive and just society where women and girls are enabled to use ICTs for sustainable development.

Our Mission

WOUGNET's mission is to promote the use of ICTs by women and girls for gender equality and sustainable development. Our values

Teamwork, Gender sensitivity, Integrity, Excellence, Commitment, Passion and Inclusiveness.

Our Strategic Objectives

Key result areas for concentration by WOUGNET for the period 2021 – 2025 are:

- Gender and rights are integrated and enforced in government ICT policy processes and programs,
- Women and girls have access to relevant information in urban and rural areas,
- Communities are empowered to use ICTs and demand for their digital rights; and by 2025.
- WOUGNET is a strong, vibrant and sustainable center of Gender and ICT excellence in Africa.

Key Highlights of the Fourth Quarter (October-December) 2024

EVENTS, WEBINAR AND CONFERENCES

Exploring the intersection of gender and technology in Uganda

WOUGNET successfully conducted four regional workshops with a particular focus on exploring the intersection of gender and technology, targeting civil society organizations (CSOs) and key stakeholders. These workshops were held in Hoima, Kabale, and Fort Portal on 8th October 2024, and in Kampala on 11th October 2024. The workshops fostered a deeper understanding of the gendered challenges and opportunities within the technology sector. A total of 134 participants (96 females and 38 males) attended the workshops thus reflecting strong community interest and engagement from diverse sectors. The workshops were organized in strategic locations to enhance reach, with participants representing various regions including the Central, Albertine, Rwenzori, and Kabale areas, ensuring that insights gathered represented a wide geographical and contextual range.

Throughout the workshops, participants engaged in hands-on sessions, group discussions, and other sessions that unpacked critical issues such as gender concepts, the gender digital divide, online safety, and barriers to technology access and usage amongst women and girls. WOUGNET facilitated dialogues on how CSOs and stakeholders can collaboratively advocate for policies and practices that support gender equity in digital spaces. This achievement underscores WOUGNET's commitment to addressing the digital gender divide by creating a platform for CSOs and stakeholders to actively participate in shaping inclusive technology policies and practices that meet the needs of women and girls across Uganda.



Photo: Participants during workshops in Kabale and Kampala districts

Exploring the Role of Communication Rights in Promoting Digital and Social Justice



This year, WOUGNET was privileged to participate in the WACC project Partner's Forum which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 22-25 October 2024 and attended by representatives of 20 WACC project partners from different countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. This was an opportunity to engage in dialogue and collective advocacy planning while discussing the fundamental role of communication rights in promoting different dimensions of social justice: gender justice, climate justice, digital justice, migrants' rights.

WOUGNET was privileged to participate in the WACC project Partner's Forum

This was especially relevant in the current context, marked by a new United Nations Global Digital Compact adopted in September of 2024 and the 20-year review World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS +20) in 2025. This Forum aimed at strengthening networks and alliances among WACC project partners, creating an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and best practices as well as identifying ways in which WACC partners can work together to promote both communication rights and social justice in the context of developments in the field of digital communication related to the Global Digital Compact (September 2024) and the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS +20) in 2025.



Bridging the Digital Divide: Exploring unique barriers and opportunities women face in digital spaces

WOUGNET conducted a comprehensive two-day training workshop for 20 Trainers of Trainees (TOTs) on October 28th and 29th, 2024, at the Fairway Hotel in Kampala. This workshop equipped 16 females and 4 males from the Central, Albertine, Rwenzori, and Southwestern regions with essential digital skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for and implement digital inclusion initiatives in their communities.



Photo: Trainers of Trainees during group discussions at the workshop in Kampala

The TOTs engaged in practical sessions that developed their capacity to bridge the gender digital divide by understanding and applying concepts related to digital literacy and the intersection of gender and technology. These sessions emphasized the ways gender and technology interact, particularly highlighting the unique barriers and opportunities women face in digital spaces.

A core component of the training was the discussion on Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV), an area of concern in the digital space that directly impacts women and girls. The workshop covered digital safety and security practices, helping TOTs understand how to protect themselves and others against OGBV, which included identifying and addressing online harassment risks. The workshop also covered best practices for community sensitization, empowering TOTs to carry out impactful outreach initiatives in their respective regions. By the end of the workshop, these TOTs were well-prepared to support and train other community members, promoting digital inclusion and gender equity through an informed, hands-on approach. This achievement marks a significant step in WOUGNET's ongoing efforts to foster a network of local advocates who can sustainably drive digital literacy and gender-sensitive technology practices within their communities.

Read some insights from the workshop:

<https://x.com/CERAIUg/status/1851293429206061200>

<https://x.com/WhitneyNakanja4/status/1851729755290103886>

<https://x.com/CommunitiesOrg/status/1851261942247170205>

Exploring the Impact of Gendered Disinformation on Africa's Electoral Landscape



Photo: Our Program Manager facilitating a session during MozFest in Zambia

WOUGNET moderated panel session "**Africa's Elections vs Gendered Disinformation: What is it for Women in Politics?**" at MozFest House Zambia on November 21, 2024. The session featured a distinguished panel of experts, including **Hon. Kampamba Mulenga, Cherie Abhiambo Oyier, Diana Karungi, Angela Minayo**, who shared critical insights on the growing threat of gendered disinformation across Africa's electoral landscape. During this engagement, panelists explored key themes such as the disproportionate online abuse faced by female politicians, journalists, and civil society actors, the role of AI in amplifying disinformation, and the effectiveness of national and international legal frameworks in addressing these challenges. Through engaging dialogue and thought-provoking questions, I facilitated a rich exchange of ideas on practical strategies, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and policy interventions needed to counter gendered disinformation. This engagement also fostered meaningful conversations on sustainable solutions to protect democratic processes across the continent.

WOUGNET's Participation in AWID 2024 and the Full Picture Campaign

WOUGNET actively participated in the AWID 2024 event, held in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing attention to important feminist digital inclusion work. As part of the conference, WOUGNET shared its contributions to combating gendered disinformation under the Our Voices, Our Futures initiative. This initiative was featured in the Feminist Tech Gardens, where WOUGNET highlighted its efforts alongside key partners such as Bebaak, Point of View, SMEX, and IM-Defensoras.

WOUGNET played a pivotal role in the launch of the Full Picture Campaign, which focuses on countering misinformation and disinformation through inclusive, community-driven strategies. The campaign's launch included engaging activities such as a Feminist Pub Quiz, Misinformation/Disinformation Bingo, and inspiring discussions from global partners. Through these engagements, WOUGNET emphasised the importance of feminist tech, gender equality, and the need for comprehensive digital rights protections.



Photo: Our Executive Director and other attendees during one of the sessions

The event provided valuable opportunities for networking, sharing knowledge, and strengthening collaborations with other global organisations working towards digital justice and gender equity.

The discussions and collaborations provided essential insights into strategies for addressing online violence and enhancing digital safety and security. These key learnings included: Collaborative Approaches to Online Violence, and Feminist Tech Exchange: Investigating innovative tools, like security robots, for civil society organisations (CSOs) dedicated to online safety while integrating care and well-being in the efforts against online gender-based violence (OGBV), Workforce and Advocacy: Tackling the underrepresentation of women in tech, organizing domestic workers, and pushing for the use of feminist language in dialogues about online violence, mental health and Resourcing: highlighting the necessity for mental health toolkits, intersectional resourcing, and strategic investments to challenge prevailing norms, narratives, and laws that protect Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), legal Support and Digital Rights: Assessing legislative gaps, advocating for pro bono legal services for migrant workers, and emphasizing risk strategies in the digital realm and lastly TFGBV Research Gaps: Investigating the types, forms, and influences of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV), along with the identities and roles of influencers in these contexts.

As we work toward a feminist future, the discussions also highlighted the importance of healing after struggles, understanding what freedom looks like (and the discomfort that comes with it), and acknowledging that resourcing movements are not just about money but also about people, passion, and justice.

Ultimately, the AWID 2024 conference reinforced the need for strategic feminist resourcing to ensure that our collective efforts continue to shape a more inclusive and equitable digital future.

16 Days of Activism Workshop: From Awareness to Action: Taking steps to end OGBV.

On the 10th of December, 2025, WOUGNET organized a pivotal workshop, under the theme "From Awareness to Action: Taking Steps to End OGBV at Hilton Garden Inn, Kamwokya, Kampala." This event was held as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, bringing together various stakeholders to discuss and address the growing concern of Online Gender-Based Violence (OGBV). The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to gain critical insights into the manifestations of OGBV, its consequences, and the collaborative actions needed to combat it. Through engaging discussions and interactive sessions, the event aimed to bridge knowledge gaps and promote the inclusion of diverse voices in the fight against digital gender-based violence.



Photo: UP and DOWN - Participants during the 16 days of activism workshop



Consultation meeting with different stakeholders psycho-social, legal, and technical on the knowledge portal and relevant content



Photo: Discussion sessions during the consultation meeting

As part of our ongoing efforts under the Digital Rights for Girls and Women project, WOUGNET convened a consultation design meeting with key stakeholders, including psycho-social, legal, and technical experts, to collaboratively design the structure and content of the knowledge portal. The meeting attracted 24 participants (17 females and 7 males) reflecting our commitment to inclusive engagement. Participants emphasized the importance of a user-friendly portal design to ensure accessibility for women and girls with varying levels of digital literacy. They highlighted the need for the platform to support multiple local languages and provide clear, simple instructions for non-tech-savvy users.



Photo: Our Program Managers facilitating one of the Discussion sessions

Additionally, the consultation underscored the need for integrated support services within the portal, including psycho-social, legal, and technical assistance, to empower women and girls to navigate online spaces confidently and seek help when necessary. Stakeholders agreed on the critical role of partnerships, stressing the importance of collaborative efforts between civil society organizations, government bodies, and the private sector to ensure the portal's sustainability and broad reach. These insights will guide the development of a robust and accessible knowledge portal that addresses the unique challenges faced by women and girls in digital spaces.

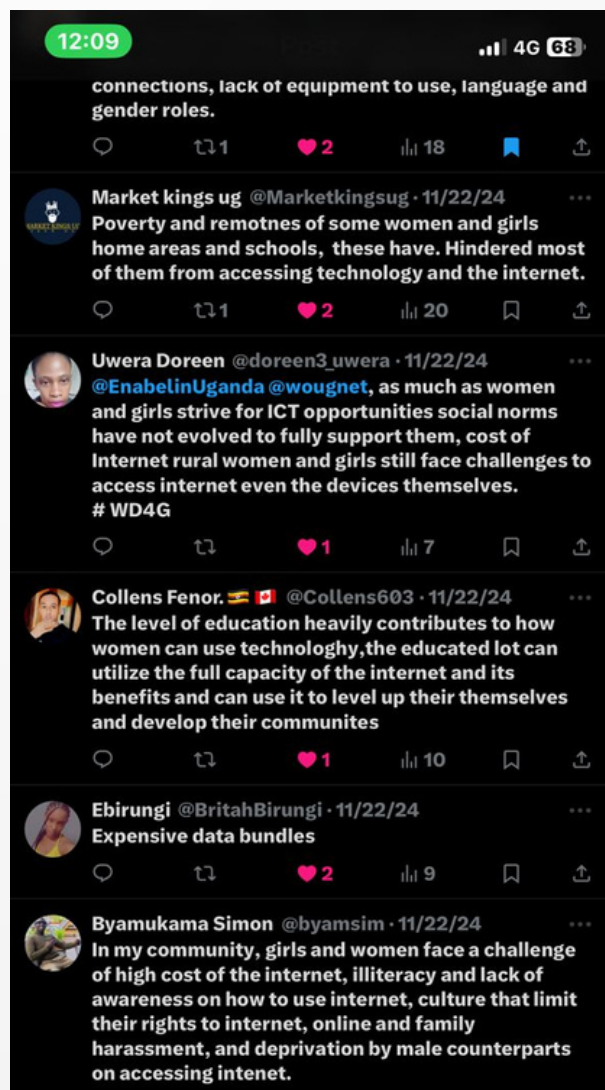
Integrating Gender in Technology Designs

Our Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy program participated in a Gender Justice (GeJusta) workshop organized by the School of Computing Makerere University on 8th November 2024 at Kolping House, Bwaise. WOUGNET in partnership with the School of Computing has been implementing a research project called Gender Justice that aims at integrating Gender in Technology designs to enable them to benefit both men and women. The project carried out research among Women WOUGNET beneficiaries to understand the needs of women and consider them when designing the technology innovations/applications. Two methodologies were adopted: the Gender analysis methodology and Co-design methodology. The research findings were used to guide and improve the two methodologies. The workshop held was used to disseminate the designed methodologies and gather feedback from the project beneficiaries. A Gender Justice Co- Design Tool Kit that provides guidance on what to consider when planning and designing gender- just co-design for community development was also shared during the engagement. This tool focuses on process planning and designing engagement tailored to the particular issue, process planning and designing engagement tailored to a particular community development issue.

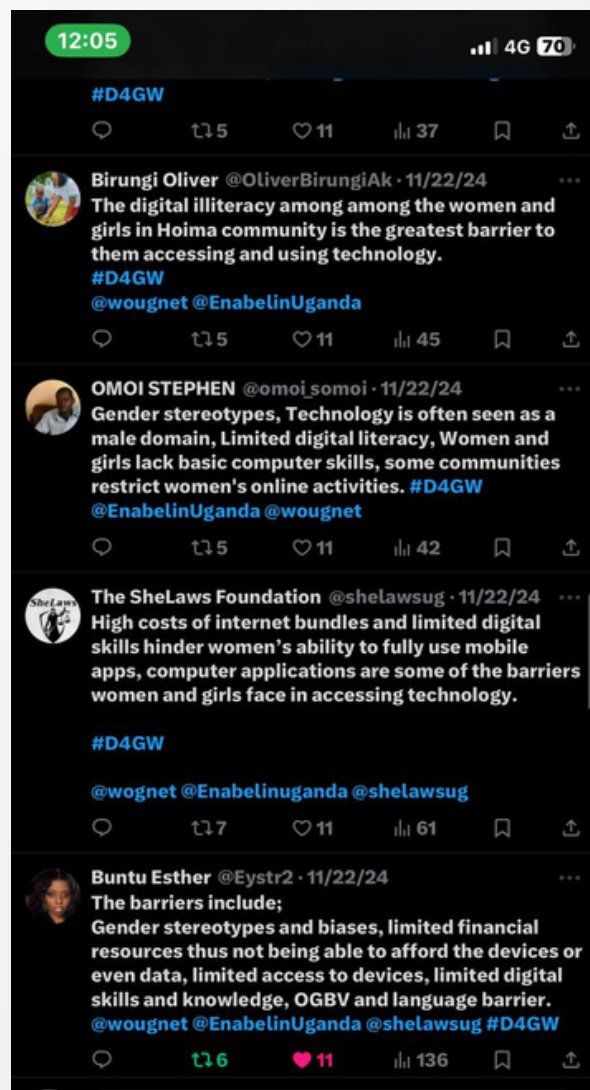


Photo: Our program manager for Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy program and other participants after receiving their certificates of completion

Promoting Equitable Digital Access: Addressing Systemic Challenges in Gender and Technology



*Photo:
Screenshots of
some replies
from
participants of
the X Chat*



On the 22nd of November 2024, WOUGNET successfully conducted an X-Chat session focusing on the intersection of gender and technology. This interactive dialogue brought together participants from civil society organizations, technology experts, gender advocates, and community stakeholders to discuss the barriers women and girls face in accessing and utilizing digital tools. The session highlighted critical issues such as the gender digital divide, online gender-based violence (OGBV), and the lack of inclusive digital policies. Through panel discussions and Q&A segments, participants explored actionable strategies to promote equitable digital access, enhance digital literacy, and create safer online spaces. This X-Chat provided a platform for collaborative exchange of ideas and contributed to building momentum toward addressing systemic challenges in the gender and technology landscape, aligning with the objectives of our ongoing workshop series. A total of 50(38F:12M) participants took part in this Xchat. Follow the conversation [here](#)

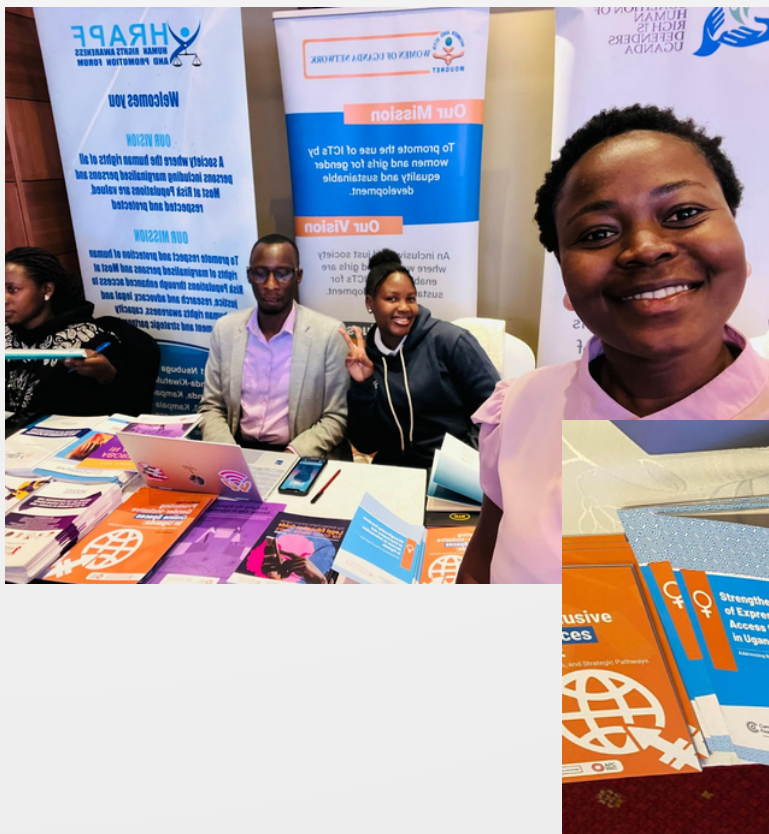
Rejuvenating Human Rights in Uganda

In commemoration of the International Human Rights Day 2024, WOUGNET participated in a book exhibition by Chapter Four Uganda under the theme “Our rights, our future, right now”. This event brought together human rights defenders, civil society organizations, policymakers, and activists to reflect on the progress and challenges in the fight for human rights in Uganda and beyond.

One of the key highlights of the event was an exhibition by the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), showcasing a variety of publications on digital rights, gender equality, and online safety. These resources sparked important discussions on the intersection of technology and human rights, emphasizing the need for inclusive digital spaces that empower women and marginalized communities. WOUGNET’s exhibition highlighted the importance of bridging the digital divide and ensuring online safety for all, especially women and girls.

Speakers and participants highlighted the increasing restrictions on freedom of expression and association, calling for stronger policies that uphold fundamental rights and protect vulnerable communities.

In case you missed getting any of our publications on that day, you can access them on our website [here](https://www.wougnet.org).



Caption: The WOUGNET team with some of the publications at the Human Rights Convention

WOUGNET Receives Prestigious Award from the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development



Photo: WOUGNET's award for championing the women in ICT agenda in Uganda from the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development

Women of Uganda Network was honored with a prestigious award from the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, recognizing its significant contributions to promoting women's participation in digital spaces and accessing Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Uganda, and commitment to bridging the gender digital divide and empowering women through digital literacy programs, advocacy campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives.

The ministry's recognition highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering an inclusive digital environment. As Uganda continues its digital transformation, WOUGNET remains at the forefront, advocating for policies that promote gender-responsive ICT usage and creating safe online spaces for women.

This award served as a testament to WOUGNET's dedication and impact, further motivating the organization to continue its mission of promoting the use of ICTs by women and girls for gender equality and sustainable development.

Moving forward, WOUGNET aims to expand its initiatives, strengthen partnerships, and enhance advocacy efforts to ensure that all women in Uganda can fully participate in digital and technological spaces.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Promoting Digital Citizenship in Uganda: Digital Well-being Fair at the International School of Uganda

In our continued efforts to create safe and inclusive digital spaces, WOUGNET provided capacity building through the digital security wellbeing workshop training for students at the International School of Uganda to effectively integrate ICTs in their wellbeing program. The capacity building took place on 2nd and 23rd October, 2024 with the topics:

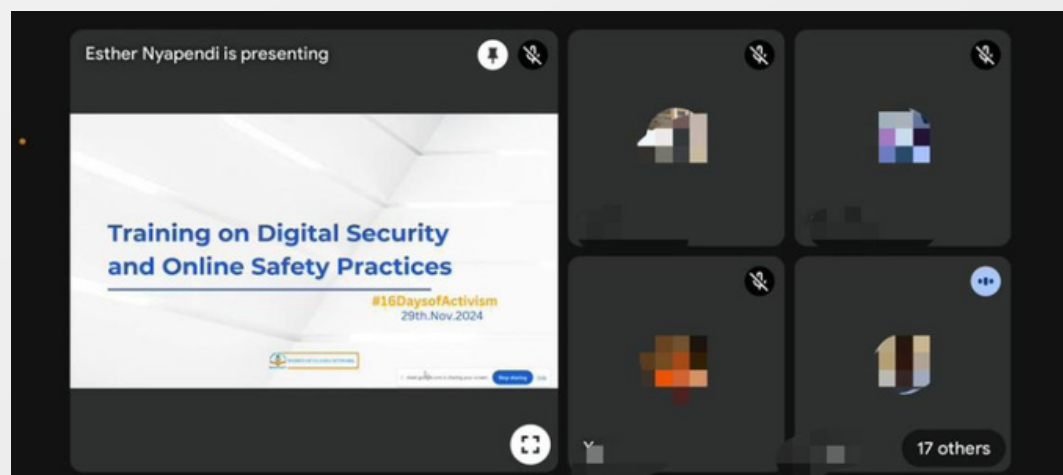
Exploring Digital Wellbeing and Digital Citizenship respectively. Two workshops conducted on integrating ICTs in digital wellbeing. These workshops Increased awareness and skills among students regarding safe digital practices contributing to a more digitally secure youth cohort.



Photo: Our Technical Support Officer facilitating one of the digital wellbeing sessions at ISU

Community Networks: Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Uganda

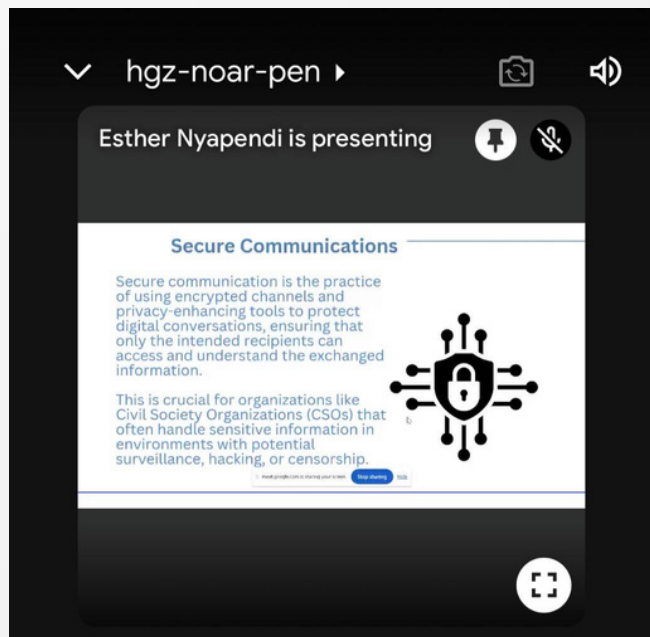
Access to the internet is recognized as a basic human right, yet in Uganda, factors like the high cost of mobile internet, inadequate infrastructure, and geographical challenges have created significant barriers, particularly in rural areas where household incomes are low, and digital literacy is limited.



In an effort to strengthen digital connectivity in rural Uganda, WOUGNET with support World Association for Christian Communications conducted a digital security training and an X Chat for women and girls under the "Strengthening of Women's Access to Enhanced Rural Broadband Connectivity for a Prosperous and Knowledge-Based Digital Economy". The digital literacy training and X Chat included a dedicated gender session that effectively raised awareness about gender digital inclusion and digital rights in rural communities, increased digital literacy skills, empowerment and economic opportunities for women and girls in rural communities i.e.35 (15 males and 20 females). These skills play a critical role in enabling them to easily navigate the internet and other digital technologies.

Follow the X chat conversation [here](#)

Caption: Screenshots from one of the virtual sessions on digital security



Upholding Our Mission: Advancing Social Justice and Gender Equality

Throughout the fourth quarter, we remained steadfast in our commitment to harnessing ICT for social justice and gender equality. Our endeavours ranged from hosting workshops on data protection and privacy to advocating for women's rights in the digital sphere, resulting in tangible positive change.

We are proud to have engaged with a diverse array of stakeholders, including policymakers, civil society organisations, academia, and the media, in our advocacy efforts to protect women's digital rights. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, we have advocated for policies that safeguard women's online safety and empower them in the digital space.

Amidst challenges, we have adapted our strategies, forged new partnerships, and demonstrated resilience. Looking ahead to the new year, we are filled with optimism and determination to expand our advocacy efforts and organise capacity-building programs and initiatives to further enhance our impact on society.

Women of Uganda Network(WOUGNET)

Plot 67, Bukasa Road, Namuwongo

P.O. Box 138387, Kampala (Uganda)

 +256 394823109

 info@wougnet.org

 <https://www.wougnet.org>

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