



ICANN | NEXTGEN



Tech4SDGs

UNLOCKING THE DIGITAL POTENTIAL OF AFRICA

**A Youth Perspective on ICANN's Role in
Bridging the Digital Divide**





THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

39%

Internet Penetration
Rate

61%

Of the population remained offline

600 MILLION

People in Africa are offline

Source: ITU

The digital divide is a significant barrier to Africa's progress. Millions lack basic internet access, hindering economic growth and educational opportunities. Young people, the continent's future, are particularly affected

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET FOR AFRICAN YOUTH



Education and empowerment

The internet provides access to educational resources, online courses, and knowledge sharing platforms, empowering young Africans.



Entrepreneurship and job creation

The digital economy offers vast opportunities for young people to start businesses, find jobs, and connect with global markets



Innovation and social change

The internet fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and social change movements driven by young Africans.

ICANN- ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

DNS plays a critical role in directing internet traffic, ensuring users reach the intended websites. CANN can promote policies that:



Increase affordability of domain names, particularly through initiatives focused on regional domain name registries.



Support the development of local internet infrastructure in Africa through partnerships with governments and NGOs.



Encourage the use of multilingual domain names (IDNs) to cater to the continent's diverse linguistic landscape.



CASE STUDY- TECH4SDGS

Harnessing Technology to Address the SDGs



Academy

Provides and equip individuals with essential digital literacy and skills needed to thrive in the digital age



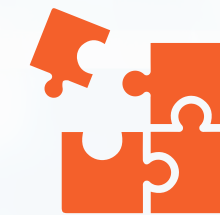
Impact Lab

Fosters technology-driven solutions for social and environmental challenges, encouraging innovation among young people.



Digital Mobile Labs

Bring digital education and resources to remote and underserved areas, ensuring that no one is left behind.



Policy Advocacy

Aims to influence policies that promote digital inclusion and internet governance.

IMPACT

45%

Webinar attendance reflects a gender distribution of 45% female and 55% male participants.



60%

Around 60%, fell within the 19-24 age bracket



81%

Female representation during the International Womens Day



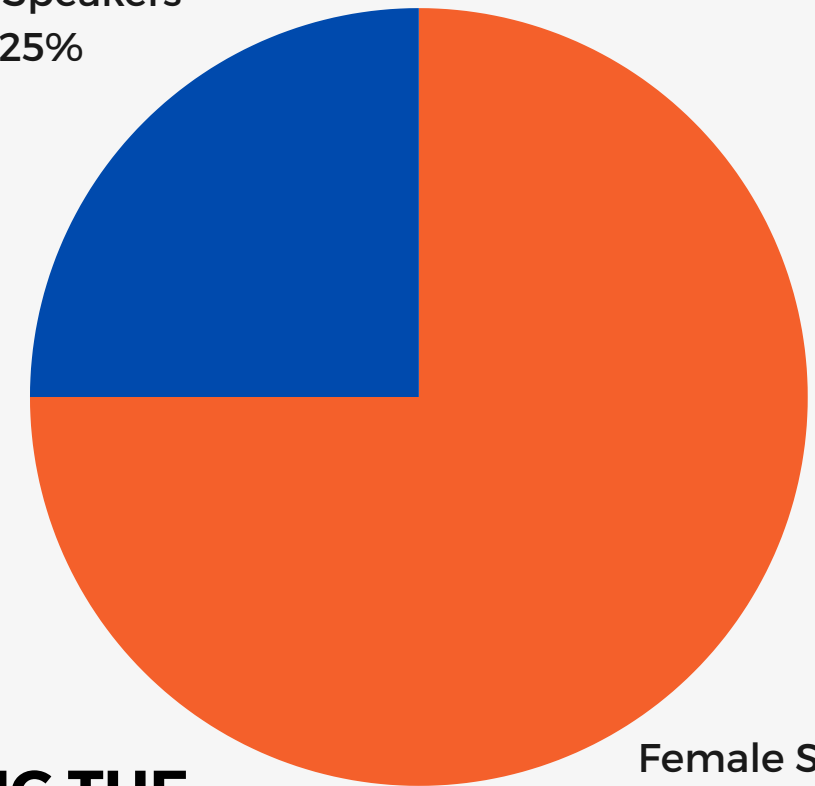
250+

**PARTICIPANTS
REACHED**

15

**GIRLS TRAINED
ON DIGITAL
RIGHTS AND
ONLINE SAFETY**

Male Speakers
25%



Female Speakers
75%

**DURING THE
IWD 2024**

ONE (1)

stakeholder consultation on digital rights,
online harassment and cyberbullying

TARGET SDGS

SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10 AND SDG 17

A CALL TO ACTION FOR ICANN

Empowering Africa's Digital Future

Building Skills and Access

Partner with African governments, civil society, and young entrepreneurs to create initiatives that expand internet access and equip Africans with digital literacy skills.

Investing in Africa's Talent

Fund programs that train young Africans in cybersecurity, web development, and digital marketing, preparing them to thrive in the digital economy.

Policy Advocacy to Bridge the Divide

Advocate for policies that make internet affordable and accessible for all Africans, ensuring everyone can participate in the digital revolution.

Launch NEXTGen & Fellowship Grant

Launch an ICANN NextGen and Fellowship Grant program to support young Africans' endeavors and initiatives that contribute to ICANN's mission and vision.

PRESENTER

Abdou Karim Badjie

University of The Gambia

NextGEN80 Participant



 +220 3030013/2020013

 www.tech4sdgs.org

 akbaadjie@gmail.com

Alongside a passionate and experienced team with expertise in technology, education, and development, with a deep understanding of the Gambian context.

THANK YOU

