



**WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION**

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE

REPORT CARD



NIGERIA

**Measuring Progress,
Driving Action**

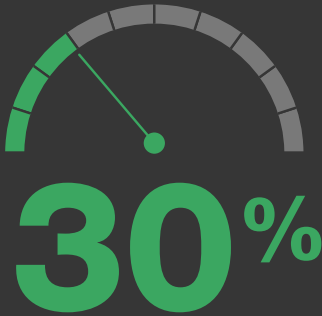


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OVERALL SCORE:



INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT



SCORE: 2

Just 36% of poor women in Lagos use the Internet. Only 10% of women Internet users had ever searched for information on sexual and reproductive health online, while 19% have looked for a job using online portals.

AFFORDABILITY



SCORE: 5

67% of women in Lagos reported being unable to afford a 1GB data plan. The recent abolition of a regulatory minimum on data prices has led to dramatic cost reductions, although a proposed 9% tax on data, if approved, could reverse much of that progress.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION



SCORE: 2

The Government has launched initiatives such as 'Smart-Woman Nigeria' and the 'Digital Girls' Clubs' in secondary schools, but education is not explicitly addressed in the 2012 national ICT policy. There is no data on the number of schools connected to the Internet.



SCORE: **3**

Information about women's health, rights and other services that promote women's well-being is lacking online. Most websites are in English, and many women with limited education are unlikely to benefit. Just 2% of women have access to mobile financial services.



SCORE: **3**

The Cybercrime Act criminalises cyberstalking but not harassment or other violence against women online. Women say that police rarely pursue charges of online harassment. Nigeria lacks a data protection framework. However, the Digital Rights and Freedoms bill now in the legislature would guarantee privacy rights.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

- 1 SET GENDER TARGETS FOR THE NATIONAL ICT POLICY.** Update the Nigerian National ICT Policy to prioritise access for women and girls, with measurable and time-bound targets. Based on this, design specific interventions or programmes (with adequate budget) encouraging increased access, training and use of the Internet for the specific groups of women and girls currently most likely to lack Internet access.
- 2 IMPROVE INTERNET ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.** Government should work towards a target of 1GB of mobile data priced at 2% or less of average monthly income, as recommended by the Alliance for Affordable Internet - of which Nigeria is a member.
- 3 INTEGRATE DIGITAL SKILLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULA.** Education policy should make the teaching of basic ICT skills compulsory at the primary school level to spark interest in ICT among young girls.
- 4 PROVIDE RELEVANT CONTENT AND SERVICES ONLINE.** Government must prioritise wide online availability of local language information about women's health, rights and services that empower women.
- 5 PASS THE NIGERIA DIGITAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOM BILL.** Protect the rights and privacy of both female and male users of digital platforms by passing the Nigeria Digital Rights and Freedom Bill into law, to encourage optimum online participation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030.

Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our [Women's Rights Online research](#) shows that in

many communities, women are 50% less likely than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

The Web Foundation and partners have prepared these gender audits to help countries assess what they need to do to overcome the gender digital divide. Paradigm Initiative Nigeria has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

We based our scores on 14 simple indicators for which reliable empirical evidence exists, and grading was done in the second quarter of 2016. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.



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