USAID/Uganda CSSA Supported CSO

Goes Digital

Bill Gates once said the Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow – but looking at the numbers, he is definitely wrong. The internet is the town square for the global village today.

A year-on-year comparison by Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) shows that 3 million new broadband subscriptions were recorded in Uganda between June 2020 and June 2021, a 16% year-on-year growth.

The nearly 22 million broadband subscriptions in the country translate into a broadband penetration of 1 internet connection for every 2 persons. By extension, that is equivalent to an active connection for every 1 of the 17 million adults aged 18 and above in Uganda.

This shows the critical importance of digital presence for civil society organizations (CSOs) that are trying to impact communities that literally exist online. At USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity (CSSA), we therefore take note of this vital fact when designing approaches to strengthen the organizational capacity of Ugandan CSOs.

Diocesan Development Services – North Karamoja (DDS-NK), one of the CSSA Supported CSOs, was recently supported to build an organizational website that is already changing their operations, how they interact with donors, the general public, and their various stakeholders.

"Before anything, the email created for the staff (hosted on the website) is much safer, official, and looks more professional", says Wilfred Luke Komakech, a Programme Manager with DDS-NK, who adds that their team members were initially using their personal emails for official work which affected confidentiality and made it hard for certain partners to trust them, since custom emails are today a form of identity in itself.

"We now look more legitimate to the community as a simple Google search can bring us up and connect us with people all over the world, including those who might have never heard about us before", he says.

Simon Peter Ijala, the organization's Executive Director says they are now able to apply for funding from certain donors who need a website as one the requirements for application.

"A donor recently sent a form for organizations with websites to fill. We are now up for such opportunities. We believe we will get more donors because of this website."

"Even with the regular donors, while making proposals, we no longer have to send heavy documents - just links to the pages that have all the information about us. We can now provide content to potential donors with just a few clicks."

"And very crucially, our transparency and accountability has been boosted, as we can now share reports, like quarterly reports, on the website for easy access by all our stakeholders", Petr adds.

"We thank CSSA for the support and for walking together with us".