Internet Society
Kenyan Chapter

aherinet
Connecting Communities

ACNKe
Association of Community Networks in Kenya

Report of the
SUMMIT OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS
held at CISS Akala Anchor Site
from 14th to 16th February 2024

Theme: Role of Community Networks in
Developing Kenya's Digital Economy

Contents

BACKGROUND

The Internet Society Kenya Chapter in partnership with the Association of Community Networks in Kenya (ACN Ke) convened the inaugural National Summit of Community Networks in Kenya to promote a sustainable, safe, and open community-centered connectivity for all Kenyans. The Summit was co-hosted by AHERI Community Network and Community Initiatives Support Services (CISS) which operates within Kisumu, Siaya and Homabay counties of Kenya. AHERI Community Network is a pioneer Community Networks in the country.

The summit was attended by Community Network operators, policymakers, regulators, donors, and other stakeholders to share experiences, learn from one another, and discuss ways to support and promote Community Network in Kenya.

The summit resulted in more cooperation and backing for Community Networks, which will be crucial in closing the digital divide and fostering access to ICTs in underserved areas. Partnerships between Community Network operators, civil society organizations, and governmental organizations will help achieving this by encouraging knowledge sharing and capacity building. Through financial assistance and incentives, the growth and expansion of Community Networks will be realized.

Community Networks are decentralized, community-owned, and community-operated communication infrastructures that provide accessible, dependable, and locally relevant connections. Insights into community networks, their benefits, and legal and policy frameworks are needed to support their growth and sustainability. Stakeholder collaboration is needed to promote and support the growth of Community Networks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the National Summit of Community Networks in Kenya owes a debt of gratitude to the unwavering support and collaboration from esteemed organizations and individuals.Special recognition is extended to Eng. John Tanui, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Information, Communications Technology, and Digital Economy, for endorsing and supporting the Community Networks Summit 2024.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Communications Authority of Kenya and the ICT Authority of Kenya for their invaluable support and guidance. Their commitment to advancing connectivity and digital inclusion in Kenya has been instrumental in the success of the summit.

We are grateful for the endorsement and sponsorship from the ISOC Foundation and support from the Internet Society Kenya Chapter. Their dedication to promoting an open, safe, and accessible internet has significantly contributed to the overarching goals of the summit.

We also acknowledge the immense support and participation by ISOC Uganda Chapter and Tarime Community Network Cooperative Society Ltd, Tanzania. Their participation has highlighted the importance of bringing together the East African community to collectively address the challenges and unlock opportunities for the advancement of community networks in the region.

The summit's achievements are a testament to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved, and we express our gratitude to each participant, contributor, and supporter. Moving forward, we remain committed to working together to realize the vision of sustainable and inclusive community-centered connectivity for all Kenyans.

MR. ROBERT OWINO
Director, Community Initiatives Support Services

I take this opportunity to welcome you all at Akala Anchor site on behalf of the CISS Board of Directors and the Community fraternity.

CISS was founded in 1992 and focuses on livelihood interventions in rural communities in Kisumu, Siaya and Homabay counties.

We have implemented various projects based on integrated approach to development where each project comprises different aspects. This approach has contributed to the ease of implementation adaption of digitalization.

One of the challenges in implementing digitalization is credibility which can be overcome by addressing the actual needs of the community using meaningful connectivity.

Community is Key

Our endeavor remains to transform the livelihoods of the communities we serve. We have seen the benefit of starting with the community from where they are, building on what they know and with what they have. Community Networks use technology but have the community as the defining aspect. You are welcome to interact with our colleagues at the various booths and presentations how Community Networks solve daily real issues of the diverse communities from Akala to Kilifi, from Kitengela to Kapenguria and through Laikipia.

Partnerships and collaboration

Community Networks being at the initial stage require a lot of commitment as the challenges are immense and can only be surmounted by interdependency. The Summit of Community Networks 2024 provides a platform to forge partnerships that build lasting partnerships. Indeed, there is sufficient room for all within the internet value chain. I urge the big telcos to embrace Community Networks as critical partners in supporting the last mile consumption of the products.

I appreciate the support offered by various government agencies, departments and ministries. I would like to mention Communication Authority, ICTA and the entire Ministry of ICT & Digital Economy. I also appreciate partnerships we have enjoyed with Basic Internet Foundation, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), African Center for Women, Information and Communication Technology (ACWICT), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Tropical Institute for Community Health (TICH) in Africa.

This Summit would not have been possible without the partnership of ISOC Foundation, ISOC Kenya Chapter and Association of Community Networks in Kenya (ACN-Ke). We envision more partnerships and collaborations as we continue sharing in the coming days.

Innovation and Policy

Our experience and journey is a testament to the power of innovation and development of local capacities. I believe that the discussions in the next three days will identify key areas that stakeholders can focus on to develop solutions to our common challenges.

PROGRAM & OUTPUTS

The Community Networks Summit featured a dynamic and inclusive program, fostering engaging discussions and collaborative initiatives throughout its duration.

Participants had the opportunity to explore crucial topics through panel discussions.

The panel discussions were on:

- Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Community Networks
- Promoting Collaboration and Partnerships
- Exploring the Engagement and Investment aspects of community networks
- Understanding the socio-economic impact of these networks in underserved areas

The Summit also showcased various community networks, providing a platform for participants to engage in the innovative solutions being implemented and also to understand the journey and challenges the Community Networks have encountered.

Participants had the chance to enhance their knowledge and skills through specialized training sessions, including a training on Understanding the Domain Name System and a hands-on session on the deployment of community networks. A special highlight was the visit to Kijiji Yetu Community Network in Ugunja Siaya County.

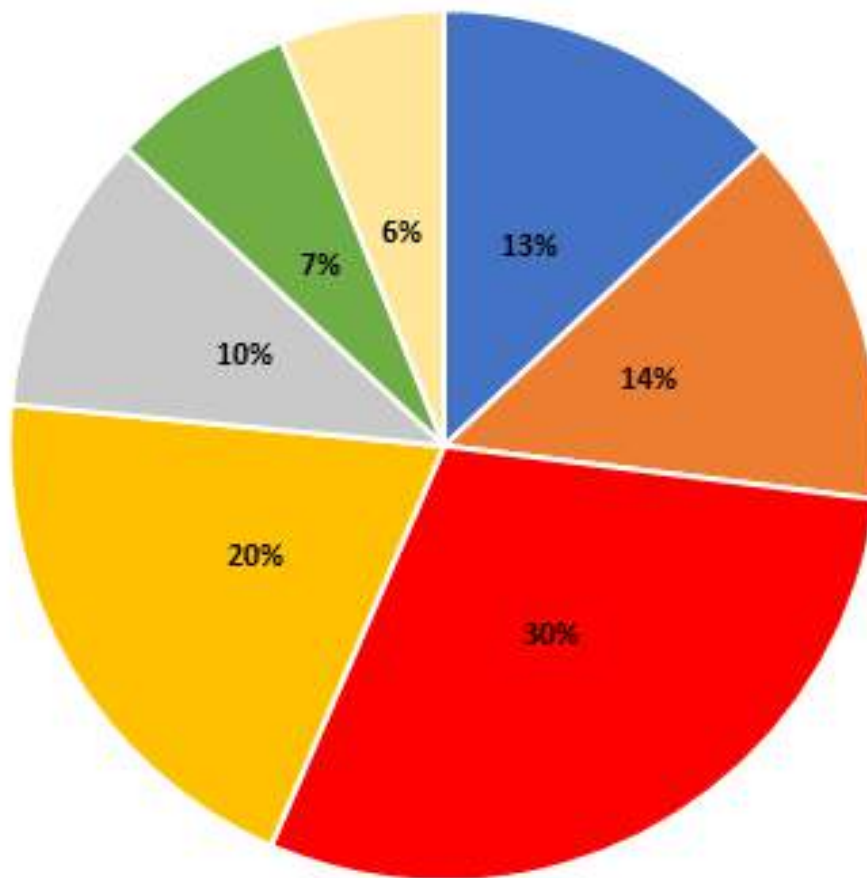The Summit had insightful addresses from distinguished speakers such as:

- Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti Chacha, Chairman AHERI Advisory Board
- Esther Mwiyeria Kioni, Senior Director, Training and eLearning - Internet Society Africa Regional Bureau
- Michael Odhiambo, Director Shared Services, ICT Authority
- Mohamed Haji, Director Frequency Spectrum Management, Communications Authority
- Eng. John Tanui, Principal Secretary, State Department for ICT and Digital Economy.

These activities collectively contributed to the success of the summit, fostering knowledge sharing, skill development, and meaningful collaborations.

ATTENDEES AND EXHIBITORS

COMMUNITY NETWORKS SUMMIT 2024 PARTICIPANTS		
AKALA	Community Members	15
CN	Aherinet	3
CN	Chep Kitale	2
CN	GONLINE AFRICA	2
CN	Kijiji Yeetu	2
CN	GIV	1
CN	TandaNet	3
CN	SERE Community Network	1
CN	Dunia Moja CN	1
CN	Alinet	1
GOVT	Ajira Digital	2
GOVT	Ministry of Interior / NGAO	14
GOVT	Siaya County Gov	3
GOVT	Communications Authority	6
GOVT	Ministry of ICT & Digital Econom	2
GOVT	ODPC	1
GOVT	Kenya Police	4
GOVT	ICT Authority	2
HOST	AHERI & CISS	21
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	KICTANet	2
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	Refhub	1
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	Optace Networks	2
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	ICANN	1
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	APC	1
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	Taara	1
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	Liquid Telcom	2
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	AFRALTI	1
INDUSTRY PLAYERS	Baicells	1
ISOC	ISOC Uganda Chapter	3
ISOC	Isoc Kenya Chapter	4
ISOC	Internet Society Foundation	1
NGO	Young Professionals for Develop	1
NGO	Dialogue	1
NGO	FODICO	1
NGO	UK DAP / FCDO	2
NGO	HELP NGO	2
NGO	ACWICT	2
NGO	TICH	1
TOTAL		116

COMMUNITY NETWORK SUMMIT 2024
ATTENDANCE

13% — COMMUNITY
14% — CN
30% — GOVT
20% — HOST
10% — INDUSTRY PLAYERS
7% — ISOC
6% — NGO

COMMUNITY NETWORK SUMMIT INSIGHTS

Mr. James Sirorei, Assistant Director at the State Department of ICT & Digital Economy, delivered a compelling speech on behalf of the Principal Secretary State Department for Information Communications Technology(ICT) & Digital Economy ,Engineer John Tanui .He noted the pivotal role of public networks in driving economic development. He also emphasized the transformative power of digital connectivity in unlocking opportunities and fostering inclusive growth across various sectors of the economy.

Mr. Sirorei stressed the importance of ensuring that no one is left behind in terms of digital connectivity, highlighting the need for equitable access to public networks. His remarks underscored the government's commitment to bridging the digital divide and creating an enabling environment where all citizens can leverage digital technologies to participate in the digital economy.

Mr. Sirorei's insights resonated strongly with summit participants, inspiring collective efforts to prioritize digital inclusion and ensure that the benefits of digital connectivity reach every corner of society.

MR. JAMES SIROREI
Assistant Director, State Department of Ict & Digital Economy

Mohamed Haji, the Director of Frequency Spectrum Management at the Communications Authority, advocated for the enhancement of the regulatory framework to support the growth of community networks.

Recognizing the pivotal role that community networks play in fostering connectivity and bridging digital divides, Mr. Haji emphasized the need for regulatory improvements to facilitate their expansion. In particular, he highlighted the importance of dedicating resources to the infrastructure for community networks. This allocation is expected to enhance the efficiency and capacity of community networks, providing better internet access to underserved and remote areas.

Moreover, Mr. Haji called for collaborative efforts and partnerships between governmental bodies, industry stakeholders, and local communities to ensure the success and sustainability of these networks. By fostering meaningful connectivity through these collaborations, the regulatory landscape can be transformed to better accommodate the evolving needs of a digitally connected society, ultimately promoting inclusivity and equal access to information and opportunities.

MR. MOHAMED HAJI
Director of Frequency Spectrum Management at the Communications Authority

M r. Michael Odhiambo, providing insights into the ICT Authority's functions and recent activities, shed light on the underutilization of the government's significant investment in fiber cable infrastructure, with only approximately 37% currently in use.

He emphasized the government's efforts to boost e-commerce by installing public Wi-Fi in marketplaces, recognizing the increasing demand for this essential service.

Mr. Odhiambo stressed on the importance of collaboration and support from the Association of Community Networks to maximize the utilization of existing fiber resources.

The call for partnership is geared towards enhancing connectivity in various community hubs, including schools, hospitals, and police stations, demonstrating a commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that the benefits of technological advancement reach all corners of society.

There is urgency of collective action to leverage existing infrastructure for the greater benefit of communities, fostering a more digitally inclusive and connected nation.

MR. MICHAEL ODHIAMBO
Director Shared Services ICT Authority

Mr. Wandera provided a comprehensive overview of the Data Protection Framework in Kenya, shedding light on the mandate and functions of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), as well as the key provisions of the Data Protection Act, 2019. The presentation delved into the details of registration processes, procedures for handling complaints, enforcement mechanisms, and protocols for data transfer.

Looking towards the future, Mr. Wandera emphasized the importance for a collaborative and cooperative relationship between the ODPC and various stakeholders. This collaborative effort aims to cultivate a strong culture of data privacy in the Kenyan landscape. He underscored the importance of knowledge and experiential sharing, proposing regular training sessions as a means to enhance understanding and compliance with the Data Protection Act.

This sparked considerable interest among the participants who recognized the significance of Mr. Wandera's insights and expressed a keen interest in forging partnerships with the ODPC to ensure adherence to the Data Protection Act, 2019. Recognizing the importance of knowledge-sharing the participants welcomed Mr. Wandera's proposal for regular training sessions to enhance understanding and compliance with data protection regulations.

Mr. Wandera highlighted the need for ongoing dialogue and relationship-building with diverse stakeholders to promote adherence to the Act and ensure a harmonious integration of data protection principles into business practices and operations. This forward-looking approach emphasizes the collaborative commitment to upholding data privacy standards in Kenya. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC)

MR. EDMOND WANDERA
Office Of The Data Protection Commissioner
Head - Kisumu Regional Office

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY NETWORK SUMMIT

MR. BARRACK OTIENO,

Chairman Association of Community Networks in Kenya the deployment of the hotspot at Akala Market

During the Community Network Summit, an exciting milestone was achieved with the deployment of a Hotspot at Akala Market.

This initiative marks a significant stride towards fostering digital inclusion and supporting e-commerce within the market.

The introduction of public Wi-Fi is intended to empower local businesses, vendors, and shoppers by providing them with reliable internet access.

This deployment aligns with the broader objectives of community networks, ensuring that the underserved areas are equipped with the tools to thrive in the digital age.

The public WiFi at Akala Market not only enhances connectivity but also serves as a testament to the collaborative efforts and technological advancements highlighted at the summit.

It demonstrates the tangible impact of community network initiatives on grassroots economic development and sets a positive precedent for similar endeavors in other local markets.

Participants being taken through the process of deploying a Hot Spot In Akala, Gem Sub-County.

The Summit brought together various stakeholders from government, civil society academia, private sector and the digital value chain contributing to great conversations and networking for partnerships.

The dynamic exchanges and collaborations cultivated during the summit underscored the collective commitment to driving positive change and innovation in the digital landscape. As stakeholders converged, they contributed to meaningful discussions and laid the groundwork for future collaboration, ultimately working towards a shared vision of advancing digital inclusion and connectivity.

DOTRILLA OSIMBO Program lead Tandanet Community Network and VICTORIA ODUOR CEO Aherinet Community Network presenting on Successful Community Networks in Kenya.

Panel Discussion on Collaboration and Partnerships

THE PANELISTS
(Left to Right)

Mohamed Haji Director - Frequency Spectrum Management, Communications Authority of Kenya

Charles Juma - Digital Access Programme Manager and Adviser, UKAID

Innocent Adriko – Internet Society, Uganda Chapter

Mr. Edmond Wandera – Regional Head Office of the data protection commissioner, Kisumu

The panel discussion on Collaboration and Partnerships served as a key moment for stakeholders to discuss the importance of collective action in advancing community-driven initiatives.

Emphasizing the significance of cooperation and mutual support, the panelists illustrated practical strategies for fostering meaningful partnerships, sharing resources, and increasing impact.

Through insightful exchanges and shared experiences, the discussion inspired attendees to cultivate strong networks grounded in solidarity and shared goals within the Community Networks space.

Panel Discussion on Strengthening Technical Capacities of Community Network Operators

THE PANELISTS
(Left to Right)

Eng. Alphonce Odhiambo President - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter

Reuben Wazwa – Optace Networks

Jacob Streijffer - Logistics Director - Help. NGO

Byron Otieno - Liquid Intelligent Technologies/Telrad Networks

Benson Kusina - Technical Program Manager, Taara

The panelists facilitated a lively discussion aimed at equipping operators with the technical knowledge and resources needed to strengthen community networks and bridge the digital divide in Kenya.

They provided valuable perspectives on the importance of local leadership and collaboration in building sustainable networks and shared practical experiences and strategies for addressing technical challenges in network deployment and management. Insights were offered from the private sector on leveraging technological innovations to support community networks. The panelists also showcased a diverse array of technologies available for the enhancement of community networks.

Panel Discussion on Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Community Networks

THE PANELISTS
(Left to Right)

Risper Arose – Secretary, Association of Community Networks in Kenya
June Okal - Senior Manager & Stakeholder Engagement, Africa ICANN
Michael Kahindi - Project Design and Delivery Consultant, UK Digital Access Program (DAP)
Josephine Miliza - Africa Policy Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
Mwendwa Kivuva - Trustee, Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) (virtual)
Dr. John Tarus - Vice President, Internet Society Kenya Chapter (virtual)

The panelists facilitated a lively discussion aimed at equipping operators with the technical knowledge and resources needed to strengthen community networks and bridge the digital divide in Kenya. They provided valuable perspectives on the importance of local leadership and collaboration in building sustainable networks and shared practical experiences and strategies for addressing technical challenges in network deployment and management.

Insights were offered from the private sector on leveraging technological innovations to support community networks. The panelists also showcased a diverse array of technologies available for the enhancement of community networks.

The Panel Discussion on the Socio-economic Impact of Community Networks in Underserved Areas

THE PANELISTS
(Left to Right)

Prof. John Ogone - Board of Directors member, Africa Higher Education Research Institute (AHERI)

Robert Owino - Director Community Initiatives Support Services (CISS)

Hawi Rapudo - Secretary General Internet Society, Kenya Chapter and Community Network Projects

Constantine Obuya - Executive Director, African Centre for Women, Information and Communications Technology (ACWICT)

Risper Arose - Strategy and Partnership Lead, Tanda Community Network

James Nguo - Executive Director, Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)

Barrack Otieno – Chairman Association of Community Networks in Kenya

This panel discussion focused on exploring the socio-economic impact of community networks in underserved areas.The discussion highlighted tangible examples where community networks have empowered individuals and communities, fostering economic opportunities, enhancing access to education and healthcare, and strengthening social cohesion. Panelists emphasized the transformative potential of these networks in driving inclusive development and narrowing the digital divide.

The discussion served as a platform to exchange best practices, identify challenges, and strategize collaborative efforts to maximize the socio-economic benefits of community networks in underserved regions of Kenya and beyond.

Pictorial

Eng. Alphonce Odhiambo, President Internet Society, Kenya Chapter moderating the panel Strengthening Technical Capacities of Community Network Operators

Mr. Nsiko Gamisi Chairperson for Tarime Community Network Cooperative Society Ltd, Tanzania speaking on the importance of knowledge sharing especially on the legislation of Community Networks.

From Left to Right:Mr. Hawi Rapudo -Secretary General Internet Society Kenya Chapter, Prof. Margaret Kaseje – CEO Tropical Institute of Community Health (TICH) in Africa , Mr. Robert Owino – Director Community Initiatives Support Services (CISS).

Reuben Wazwa from Optace Networks explains the use cases and applications of the FTP-300 to Byron Otieno, Sales Manager - Wholesale & Public Sector at Liquid Intelligent Technologies.

From Left to RighReuben Wazwa – Optace Networks **Jacob Streijffert** – Logistics Director - Help. NGO, **Esther Mwiyeria Kioni**– Senior Director, Training and eLearning - Internet Society Africa Regional Bureau, **Byron Otieno -** Liquid Intelligent Technologies/ Telrad Networks, **Josephine Miliza -** Africa Policy Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), **Benson Kusina -** Technical Program Manager, Taara, **Eng. Alphonce Odhiambo** President - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter

EXHIBITORS

AFRICA HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AHERI

CISS

KIJIJI YEETU

LIQUID
INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES

OPTACE NETWORKS

Community Initiatives Support Services (CISS) showcased the impactful activities under the FOSEMA project, demonstrating their commitment to holistic community development.

Their engagement with farmers involves providing essential resources such as beehives, fostering sustainable agricultural practices, promoting agroecological techniques for enhanced productivity and environmental sustainability.

They do this through the distribution of sorghum, indigenous leafy vegetables, tree seedlings and energy-saving cooking stoves. In line to digital inclusion, CISS has implemented digital literacy training programs for communities, empowering individuals with the skills needed to navigate the digital landscape effectively.

Furthermore, peace initiatives aim to create harmonious and resilient communities, fostering unity and understanding among diverse populations.

Through the FOSEMA project, CISS continues to make significant strides in improving livelihoods, promoting environmental stewardship, and building a foundation for sustainable development in the communities.

CISS showcasing energy saving cooking stoves

CISS Showcasing Fosema Project Interventions In Apiculture (Bee Keeping)

Kijiji Yetu Community Network stands at the forefront of fostering dialogue, building communities of practice, and leveraging digital transformation for the sustainable development of local villages across various counties in Kenya.

The establishment of the Community Network has empowered individuals to collaborate, share expertise, and collectively address local challenges.

As a key exhibitor, Optace Kenya showcased cutting-edge technology solutions designed to propel connectivity and digital access in communities across Kenya.

Optace Kenya spotlighted their commitment to optimizing network performance, infrastructure development, and tailored strategies for community network enhancement.

Live demonstrations allowed participants to witness the reliability and cost-effectiveness of our community network solutions firsthand.

T he Africa Higher Education Research Institute (AHERI) showcased the benefits of research and innovation in developing local solutions.

As a research institute committed to advancing education and research in Africa, they showcased their dedication to leveraging higher education and facilitated discussions on the role of academic institutions in driving technological advancements and digital literacy within local communities.

Based on the AHERIs motto "Ideas to Action" they pioneered the establishment of Community Networks in Kenya through aherinet.

L iquid Intelligent Technologies showcased their innovative contributions at the Community Networks Summit. As a leading technology and telecommunications solutions provider, their focus has been on empowering communities through enhanced connectivity, digital solutions, and sustainable infrastructure.

Participants had the opportunity to explore Liquid's comprehensive range of services, including advanced networking solutions, cloud services, and data center offerings. They shared insights on the latest advancements in network technologies,

BUDGET

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Partner	Amount (Kes)	Particulars	Cost (Kes)
Community Initiatives Support Services	770,000	Main Hall, Exhibition, Holding room, & labour	609,600
Africa Higher Education Research Institute	986,000	Restaurant & Meals	567,000
Communication Authority of Kenya	150,000	Livestreaming & photography	300,000
Internet Society Kenya	350,000	Venue upgrade & repairs	970,000
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers	150,000	Transport & Accommodation	260,000
Liquid Technologies	150,000		
Africa Center for Women, Information & Communications Technology	150,000		
	2,706,000		2,706,000

WAY FORWARD AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

The discussions of the Summit revolved around building an ecosystem that fosters Community Networks' emergence and growth, ultimately bridging the digital divide and fostering a thriving Kenyan digital economy.

The summit emphasized that community networks are not merely technological innovations but holistic solutions aligned with community values and interests. By prioritizing meaningful connectivity, these networks empower communities to shape their digital futures.

Significant Milestones in Kenya's Community Networks

A notable achievement highlighted at the summit was the acquisition of the Community Networks Service Provider license in Kenya. Additionally, the formation and registration of the Association of Community Networks in Kenya mark a significant step towards fostering collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders to support digital inclusion efforts.

Addressing Affordability and Sustainability

Lowering internet costs and developing sustainable cost models emerged as crucial priorities during the summit. Efforts to streamline licensing processes and address spectrum limitations were also identified as essential steps towards enhancing the viability of community networks.

Collaborative Solutions for Success

The summit emphasized the need for collaborative solutions to address challenges such as funding, technical expertise, and community ownership. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of leveraging partnerships to bridge the content gap and foster capacity development across different stages of community network development.

Addressing Infrastructure Challenges

Access to affordable backhaul infrastructure emerged as a key challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure the long-term viability of community networks. Participants stressed the importance of prioritizing infrastructure development to support the expansion and sustainability of these networks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY NETWORKS

1.   Strengthening Branding and Trust

Participants emphasized the importance of enhancing the branding and reputation of Community Networks (CNs) to build trust among stakeholders. By establishing a strong brand identity, CNs can foster credibility and confidence among users and partners alike.

2.   Demonstrating Value Proposition to Stakeholders

The summit highlighted the need for CNs to demonstrate their potential partnerships and value proposition to stakeholders, including government entities. By showcasing their contributions and alignment with government goals, CNs can effectively address critical needs and gather support from key stakeholders.

3.   Developing Sustainable Models

A key priority identified at the summit was the development of sustainable models for CNs, including exploring social enterprise initiatives. By ensuring both social and financial sustainability, CNs can secure their long-term viability and effectiveness in serving communities.

4.   Raising Awareness and Building Partnerships
Participants emphasized the importance of raising awareness about CNs and building partnerships through collaborations with various stakeholders. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and outreach efforts were highlighted as effective strategies for building relationships and expanding support networks.

5.   Impact on Healthcare, Education, and Socio-economic Empowerment
The summit underscored the significant potential of strengthened Community Networks to improve outcomes in healthcare access, educational opportunities, and socio-economic empowerment. By leveraging their infrastructure and resources, Community Networks can play a crucial role in addressing pressing societal challenges and promoting inclusive development.

6.   Creating Platforms for Discussions
Participants stressed the importance of creating platforms for internal and external discussions on emerging issues related to Community Networks. These platforms can facilitate dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders, enabling Community Networks to adapt and respond effectively to evolving needs and challenges

ANNEXES

PROGRAMME COMMUNITY NETWORK SUMMIT 2024
COMMUNITY NETWORK SUMMIT MEDIA LINK

MEDIA LINKS

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yH_FL6xA-cstDT_5o0a1FjVizo-8sFcq

NATIONAL SUMMIT OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN KENYA 2024 MEDIA COVERAGE	
DELIVERABLES	**LINKS**
KTN Team Live link plus a packaged story KBC Live link plus a packaged story	https://youtu.be/0_eid4Auwv4?si=48YIvRNLcu4OcFlW
Tv47 Packaged story	https://youtu.be/fdomzvrLrZE?si=9Zb-4IOlfAX7novH
Citizen Crew/Ramogi Tv Live link plus a packaged story	https://youtu.be/iIr9hTTazo8?si=ez-vCr9AHyfoOmLm https://youtu.be/AhYie9szkS0?si=AF1Y2pZSlYo8yFRA
Standard News Paper	https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/farmkenya/article/2001490354/state-steps-up-bid-to-boost-digital-literacy

	PROGRAM			
DAY 1 **Wednesday - 14/02/2024**				
TIME (EAT)	**SESSION**	**THEME**	**SPEAKERS**	**MODERATOR/MC**
8:30 am	**Arrival of Guests**			
9:00 am – **9:15 am**	**Welcome Address**	**Setting the tone for the Summit**	**Hawi Rapudo** Secretary General - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter	**Barrack Otieno** Chairman - Association of Community Networks in Kenya
9:15 am – **10:00 am**	**Opening Remarks**	**Role of Community Networks in developing Kenya's Digital Economy**	**Robert Owino** Director - Community Initiatives Support Services **Eng. Alphonce Odhiambo** President - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter **County Commissioner Siaya County/** **County Government representatives**	
10:00 am – 10:30 am		**HEALTH BREAK**		
10:30 am – **12:30 pm**	**Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion**	**Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Community Networks**	**June Okal** Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, Africa ICANN **Dr. John Tarus** Vice President - Internet Society Kenya Chapter **Josephine Miliza** Africa Policy Coordinator - Association for Progressive Communications (APC) **Mwendwa Kivuva** Trustee - Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) **Charles Juma** Digital Access Programme Manager and Adviser UKAID	**Risper Arose** Secretary - Association of Community Networks in Kenya

			Dennis Sonoiya Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK)	
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Paper Presentation		Nicodemus Nyakundi ICT Accessibility and Equality Fellow KICTANet	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm		**LUNCH BREAK**		
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Showcase	**Successful Community Network Projects in Kenya**	**COMMUNITY NETWORKS** **Twahir Hussein Kassim** Dunia Moja Community Network **Risper Arose** Tanda Community Network **MaryAnne Njuguna** Lanet Umoja Community Network **Victoria Oduor** AHERINET **Hawi Rapudo** Kijiji Yeetu **Blaise Amani** Global Innovation Valley (GIV) Community Network **Alphonce Odhiambo** Nyatike Community Network **Paul Kilongi** Athi Community Network **Mwendwa Kivuva** Angaza Community Network **James Nguo** Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) **Abwao Donatus** Siaya Community Library **Irene Misoi** Sere Community Network	**Tabitha Wangeci** Internet Society Kenya Chapter

TIME (EAT)	SESSION	THEME	SPEAKERS	MODERATOR/MC
DAY 2 **Thursday - 15/02/2024**				
8:30 am	**Arrival of Guests**			
9:00 - 9:15	**Presentation**	**Data Protection**	**Anne Nyokabi Nganga** Office of Data Protection (ODPC)	**Barrack Otieno** Chairman - Association of Community Networks in Kenya
9:15 am - 10:00 am	**Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion**	**Collaboration and Partnerships**	**Mike Odhiambo** Director - Shared Services ICT Authority of Kenya **Dr. Kennedy Ronoh** Internet Society Kenya Chapter **Mohamed Haji** Director - Frequency Spectrum Management, Communications Authority of Kenya **Risper Arose** Strategy and Partnership Lead - Tanda Community Network **Steve Song** Founder - Village Telco/ Board Rhizomatica **Fred Ong'aro** Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK)	**Barrack Otieno** Chairman - Association of Community Networks in Kenya
10:00 am -10:30 am		**HEALTH BREAK**		
10:30 am - 1:00 pm	**Workshop**	**Strengthening Technical Capacities of Community Network Operators** **Theory and Demonstrations**	**Facilitator:** **Eng. Alphonce Odhiambo** President - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter **Benson Kusina** Technical Program Manager, Taara	**Hawi Rapudo** Secretary General - Internet Society Kenya Chapter

		Conducting Techno Feasibility Studies Choosing the right Equipment Establishing Point to point links Establishing Point to Multipoint links Deployment of Community Networks Backhaul	**Johan Crause** Senior Vice President Sales Global - Liquid Intelligent Technologies/Telrad Networks **Hanafi Kaka** Regional Marketing Lead - East and Central Africa, Optace Networks **Jacob Streijffert,** Logistics Director - Help.NGO	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm			**LUNCH BREAK**	
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Training**	**Understanding the Domain Name System**	**Simon Mayoye** Technical Engagement Specialist ICANN	**Hawi Rapudo** - Secretary General Internet Society Kenya Chapter
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	**Networking Session** **Optional Visit to Kijiji Yeetu Centre, Ugunja**	**Community Networks Engagement and Investment**	**Taara** **Liquid Intelligent Technologies** **Help.NGO** **Optace Networks** **Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science & Technology (e-Learning Center)** **Hawi Rapudo** Secretary General Internet Society Kenya Chapter	

DAY 3

Agenda & Program:

National Summit of Community Networks in Kenya
Theme: "Role of Community Networks in developing Kenya's Digital Economy"

DAY 3 Friday - 16/02/2024				
TIME (EAT)	**SESSION**	**THEME**	**SPEAKERS**	**MODERATOR/MC**
8:30 am	**Arrival of Guests**			
9:15 am – 10:00 am	**KeynoteAddress**	**Importance of Community Networks for Connectivity in Underserved Areas** **Emphasizing the significance of community networks**	**Prof Chacha Nyaigotti Chacha** Chairman – AHERI Advisory **Michael Odhiambo** Director - Shared Services ICT Authority **Mohamed Haji** Director - Frequency Spectrum Management Communications Authority **Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui, MBS** - Principal Secretary, State Department for Information Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Economy	**Robert Owino** Director - CommunityInitiatives Support Services

Time	Type	Topic	Participants	Moderator/Speaker
10:00 am – 11:00 am	**Panel Discussion**	**Socio-economic Impact of Community Networks in Underserved Areas**	**Robert Owino** Director - Community Initiatives Support Services (CISS) **Hawi Rapudo** Secretary General - Internet Society, Kenya Chapter and Community Network Projects **Constantine Obuya** Executive Director - African Centre For Women, Information and Communications Technology (ACWICT) **Risper Arose** Strategy and Partnership Lead, Tanda Community Network **James Nguo** Executive Director - Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)	**Prof John Ogone** Board of Directors member - Africa Higher Education Research Institute (AHERI)
11:00 am -11:15 am		**HEALTH BREAK**		
11:15 am – 12:00 noon	**Discussion**	**Emerging Issues**	**Association of Community Networks in Kenya**	**Barrack Otieno** Chairman - Association of Community Networks in Kenya **Eng. Mulongo** VISCAR Industrial Capacity
12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm	**Workshop**	**Building partnerships and collaboration**	**Association of Community Networks in Kenya**	**Irene Misoi** Sere Community Network

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