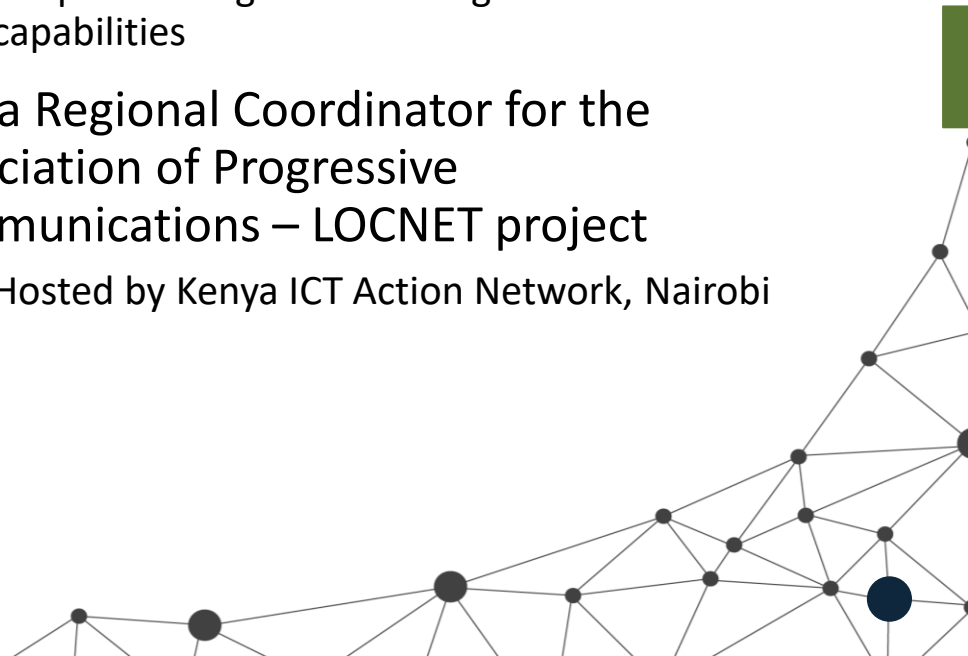


Josephine Miliza



- Co-Founder of TunapandaNET in Kibera, Nairobi
 - Community Network promoting access for all, adoption of digital technologies and ICT capabilities
- Africa Regional Coordinator for the Association of Progressive Communications – LOCNET project
 - Hosted by Kenya ICT Action Network, Nairobi





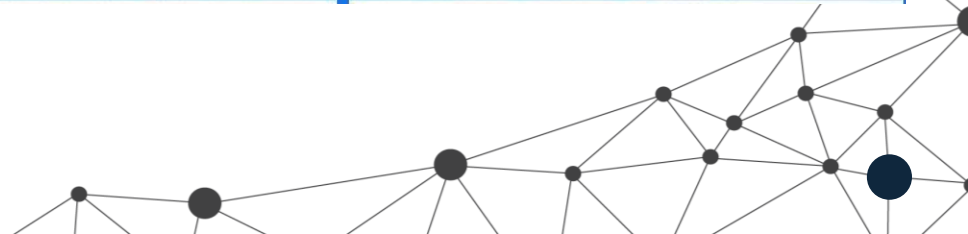
Keeping Communities in Kibera Online During The COVID-19 Pandemic

Lessons from TunapandaNET Community Network

**Presentation By
Josephine Miliza
Co-Founder TunapandaNET Community
Network**

TunapandaNET Community Network

- TunapandaNET is a low-cost community network championed by Tunapanda Institute whose goal is to build a digital ecosystem with the aim to address digital inequalities.
- The community network mainly focuses on providing connectivity, digital platforms and digital literacy training in education, health and commerce.
- TunapandaNET has over 30 hotspots within the community with each centre serving 50 - 500 users.



Building Connectivity Infrastructure as a COVID-19 Response



- Pre covid, the TunapandaNET network model requires that users congregate at a given location e.g. schools and community centres
- Areas within the community such as football grounds, community public spaces were identified and hotspots deployed
- TunapandaNET was able to connect 6 hotspots in zones targeting learners, teachers and youth with an average of 4,000 unique devices monthly.
- Additionally a community health centre was connected not only support their services and communication but also linked with its 3 branches within the community.



Community Participation in Creating Locally Relevant Digital Content as a COVID-19 Response



- Initial research conducted by Tunapanda in schools found that the schools are less likely to have resources to adapt and implement measures needed to continue education during school closures, including access to the internet, skills and lack of interactive digital educational content.
- TunapandaNET CN worked together with teachers, students and youth and local content creators in designing, creating, producing, and distributing 15 educational short videos.
- The videos produced were based on locally and nationally related themes such as school-based subjects, Health & Wellness, Talent-based content, and Child Online Protection.

Lessons & Recommendations

- COVID 19 has not only renewed the focus on universal access and universal service but also the importance of building local capacities as communities are the first respondents in times of a crisis or a disaster.
- With COVID 19 responses being largely online, the unconnected are excluded from not just access to the internet but much needed information and services that affect livelihoods, education and health.
- Community networks are about enabling local capacities- to provide access to the internet, enable localising of content and digital platforms to meet local needs and building local capacities so that people in the community are not just consumers but also active contributors to the internet ecosystem.
- Policy and regulatory frameworks that support community based connectivity models
- Collaboration with government agencies





Thank You!
Any questions?
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