



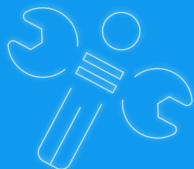
## EVIDENCE AND METHODS LAB

simplify visualise share measure

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

Theme: Innovating for Civic Engagement: Harnessing  
Technology, Collaboration, and Data to Drive Change.



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## FOREWORD: Reflections from our team leader

In an era where access to information is increasingly recognized as a fundamental right, Evidence and Methods Lab (EML) stands at the forefront of leveraging technology to empower citizens and foster positive social change. We believe that informed citizenry engagement is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy, and our mission is to make complex data accessible, engaging, and actionable for all. This past year has been a testament to EML's unwavering commitment to this core mission. We've witnessed remarkable achievements, launched innovative projects, and expanded our impact across Uganda and beyond. 2023 saw EML undertake several key initiatives that exemplify our dedication to transparency, accountability, and social justice. Our **"The Constitution Simplified"** project broke legal barriers, making the 1995 Constitution of Uganda accessible to teenagers and the general public through clear language and engaging visuals. Similarly, our animated depiction of the legislative process demystified lawmaking, fostering a deeper understanding of governance among citizens.

Recognizing the critical link between technology and justice, our Tech-Justice Project in Naguru parish, Nakawa division empowered the community to identify barriers to justice through interactive, gamified knowledge products. On a regional level, EML actively participated in the FIFAFrica23 dialogue on digital rights, highlighting the human rights implications of digital public services.

Our research efforts, particularly the insightful study **"Exploring Opportunities for Internet Usage in Service Delivery,"** provided valuable data on how technology and the Internet can enhance transparency and accountability within Uganda's government sectors. We are proud to have supported and trained young Ugandan innovators who developed cutting-edge solutions based on this research. EML's commitment to continuous improvement is reflected in the revamp of our office space and website. These upgrades foster a more productive work environment and provide a user-friendly platform for accessing our resources.

As we conclude our five-year strategic plan (2018-2023), we are filled with a sense of accomplishment and renewed purpose. Looking ahead, EML is excited to explore new frontiers in civic engagement and solidify our position as the leading data visualization organization in Africa. The conclusion offers a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and set empowering communities with the knowledge and tools they need to build a more just and equitable future.

Michael Richard Katagaya  
Team leader

Evidence and Methods Lab

## ABOUT US

As a civic tech organization dedicated to enhancing access to information, promoting accountability, and accumulating evidence-based practices, in 2023 we embarked on an expedition to further solidify our core work focused on transparency, accountability, and social justice; while revolving around a series of straightforward steps:



**Simplify:** We break down huge volumes of data and insights for public consumption.



**Visualize:** We turn data into creatively designed and repackaged formats that are palatable to different audiences.



**Share:** We disseminate our repackaged data and information using both physical and digital distribution channels.



**Measure:** We assess reach for purposes of ascertaining the impact of the work we are doing and shaping our future narrative.



## OUR WORK IN 2023

Throughout the year, we devoted our efforts to a variety of projects that closely align with our organizational mission which is to utilize technology to creatively disseminate information in user-friendly formats, and to become the leading data visualization civic tech initiative in Africa.

These initiatives are focused on promoting social justice, transparency, and accountability, and have made substantial contributions to improving service delivery, advancing societal justice and human rights, shaping policy, and fostering grassroots citizen engagement to advocate for social change. Let us take a look at the key projects that kept us busy in 2023:



**SOCIAL JUSTICE**



**TRANSPARENCY  
& ACCOUNTABILITY**

## THE CONSTITUTION SIMPLIFIED:

EML launched a significant initiative under the social justice thematic area, aiming to simplify the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The goal was to create a version that would be easily understood by Ugandan teenagers and the general public. This project aimed to promote civic education and empower citizens to engage more meaningfully with the fundamental principles of governance outlined in the Constitution.

The simplified constitution condensed the complex legal text into clear, concise language. It also incorporated relatable and engaging visuals to enhance comprehension. This accessible version aimed to bridge the gap between the intricacies of the constitution and the everyday lives of Ugandans. The initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of citizens' rights, responsibilities, and the framework for a just and equitable society.





## BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT

In an effort to improve public understanding of legislative processes, EML initiated a project to spotlight the laws enacted in the Ugandan Parliament in 2022. The objective was to provide Ugandans with insight into the legislative activities of their representatives over the past year.

As part of this project, [EML created an animated depiction of the lawmaking process](#). This comic animation was designed to educate viewers about the [steps involved](#) in passing laws in Uganda, aiming to both inform and entertain the general public.



## TECH- JUSTICE PROJECT

This year 2023 saw us kick-start a tech-driven justice project focusing on crime, starting with a pilot community engagement in Naguru parish, Nakawa division. The project aims to tackle challenges in accessing justice for crime by involving the community in identifying key barriers and creating practical solutions. The project brings a new approach to bridging the information gap in crime justice through interactive and fun gamified knowledge products.

The gathering included 88 community members, with youth aged between 17 to 35 years as the majority participants, the elderly aged between 50 to 60 years, seven local leaders, and a moderator, with a ratio of 55% to 45% female and male participants respectively.

To visually capture the essence of the discussion, an illustrator from EML unveiled three ideology art pieces that artistically represented the sentiments expressed by the community.







The community engagement in Naguru marks a significant milestone in the project, establishing the groundwork for a community-driven approach to combating crime and championing social justice.

Through effective collaboration with local stakeholders, engaging discussions, and artistic representation, Evidence and Methods Lab showcases its commitment to fostering change through innovative civic tech initiatives.

## FIFAFRICA 23

Evidence and Methods Lab (EML) participated in a panel session at FIFAFrica23 to discuss the human rights implications of digitalizing public services across security, health, and education sectors. [This discussion addressed the risks associated with technology in governance, specifically the introduction of digital IDs and their impacts on vulnerable groups.](#) We explored the roles of various stakeholders in public sector digital projects, aiming to identify strategies to address challenges through meaningful stakeholder engagement. This dialogue was pivotal for understanding the broader context of digital rights and governance in Africa.

## EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNET USAGE IN SERVICE DELIVERY.

Between November 2022 and May 2024, EML undertook an extensive research initiative to explore the potential of internet usage in enhancing service delivery and promoting transparency and accountability within Uganda's Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Conducted across 12 districts and multiple MDAs and Local Governments, data collection concluded in June 2024. The project is titled “[Exploring Opportunities for Internet Usage in Service Delivery and Enhancing Transparency and Accountability within Government Ministries, Departments, and Local Governments.](#)”

This action research was kick-started with an inception meeting and a full-day multistakeholder workshop attended by 35 participants representing various sectors, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector stakeholders. The primary purpose of the workshop was to gather diverse perspectives and expert input into the research tools and methodology.



It was during the inception meeting that the project was officially launched, paving the way to a 24-month-long research implementation period.

Being an action research, the project sought to incorporate the work being done by young Ugandans to make the research richer, more meaningful, and more impactful. To achieve this, a call for innovators with brilliant ideas on how the internet can be used to drive the provision of public services was made leading to an innovation hackathon and challenge that saw 8 innovators from across the country come together to transform their ideas into action.

The innovators from across Uganda who are pioneering solutions to address various societal challenges include Amanda Biwoye from Kampala, who has developed TruGaurd, an online land transaction platform to combat land grabbing and fraudulent deals. Edison Oryema operating in Buliisa and Hoima districts utilizes cyber activism to foster citizen awareness and engagement. Self-Sustain Uganda, based in Jinja district, aims to bridge the digital divide by providing affordable financing for infrastructure acquisition and offering cheaper cell phones on loan. Oscar Muheki's ULIS platform in Kampala enhances public service delivery transparency and accessibility. Douglas Onen's Eyebyorets eyeglass innovation provides vision



INNOVATOR	THE INNOVATION	DISTRICT
Amanda Biwoye	TruGaurd,	Kampala
Edison Oryema	Cyber Activism	Buliisa & Hoima
Oscar Muheki	ULIS platform	Kampala
Douglas Onen	Eyebyorets eyeglass	Kampala
Sandra Awili	Sharecard	Mukono
Rita Birabo	Equality Mission Uganda	Kampala
Richard Jakait	Self-sustain Uganda	Jinja
Peter Ongom & Abdi Saitoti	Women of Uganda Network(WOGNET)	Apac

to the blind through voice commands and deep learning algorithms. Additionally, the Women of Uganda Network has developed a mobile and web-based application for citizens to report service delivery issues, fostering civic engagement and transparency. Equality Mission Uganda facilitates online debates on various issues to empower citizens and advocate for their rights while Sandra Awili's Sharecard is a monitoring, evaluating, and learning software that has been tailored to boost the accountability of projects.

These innovators were engaged and trained on how to transform their ideas into actionable solutions that address key issues in the communities in which they operate. During the research, studies were made in the area of implementation to assess the situation on the ground, gain insights on people's perceptions in regards of using the internet to access public services and make recommendations on how Government MDAs and Local Governments can rely on the internet to enhance service delivery.

The project saw the development and publication of key knowledge products including a Research Report, policy briefs, blogs, and a documentary highlighting key research questions and findings. By harnessing digital tools and innovative approaches, these innovators are making significant strides toward creating a more equitable and transparent society. Their efforts underscore the importance of leveraging technology for social good and fostering collaboration to build a better future for all Ugandans.



## CITIZERO PROJECT - NATIONAL BUDGET AWARENESS

The Citizero project focused on transparency and accountability and is a continuation of the Omutuuzze II project that EML implemented. The project aims to foster widespread civic engagement, driving transparency in governance. It aimed to raise awareness and educate the population about Uganda's National Budget, public expenditure, and Auditor General's reports. As part of this project, a National Budget quiz was conducted to increase citizens' interest and understanding of the national budget, economy, and resource allocation processes. The quiz had an impressive 426 views, with 193 participants starting the quiz, 138 submissions being made, and an unwavering completion rate of 71.5%. The average time taken to complete the quiz was a mere 02:57, demonstrating the project's unrelenting commitment to citizen empowerment.

This online quiz encouraged the public to seek more information about the 2023/24 National Budget and set the stage for the reconfiguration of key information from the National Budget Speech.

Additionally, under the Citizero Project, EML published the third edition of the National Budget Booklet, analyzing the National Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022/23. This publication followed the previous editions covering FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22.



**QUIZ**  
**TEST YOUR**  
**KNOWLEDGE ON**  
**UGANDA'S BUDGET**



The quiz had an impressive  
**426 views,**  
with **193** participants  
starting the quiz,  
**138** SUBMISSIONS  
being made, and an  
unwavering completion rate of  
**71.5%.**



## REGIONAL EAST AFRICAN BUDGET BOOKLET

EML embarked on a journey of collating and visualizing the East Africa Regional Budget Booklet which is an informative resource that provides a detailed analysis of the financial budgets of East African countries. Designed to meet the needs of policymakers, researchers, and citizens at the grassroots level, this handbook details budget allocation, expenditure patterns, and resource mobilization in the region. **The booklet provides a detailed understanding of East Africa's economic landscape and enables the users to critically assess government expenditure, finances, and its impact on social well-being, regional integration, and sustainable development.**







## AMPLIFYING THE STATE OF NOISE POLLUTION IN ENTEBBE CITY.

In a working partnership with Sunbird AI, EML is working on a pilot project on amplifying the state of noise pollution in Entebbe. Sunbird AI, an organization that is leading the revolutionization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Uganda, aggregated data on noise pollution in Entebbe City using AI and machine learning technologies. [EML is employing its expertise in data visualization to make meaningful and interactive maps of the state of noise pollution in Entebbe based on this data.](#) This project aims to provide actionable insights to policymakers and the public, thereby fostering informed decision-making and promoting healthier urban environments.

## FROM IDEA TO IMPACT: A STEP-BY-STEP MANUAL TO ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS IN UGANDA.

EML provided support to other organizations by utilizing its expertise in creating visually appealing and repackaged messages for diverse audiences. One such organization was CivSource Africa (CSA), which aims to refine the practice of philanthropy and the footprint of civil society for effective civic engagement. To this end, CSA developed a manual on the registration and operation of Community Foundations in Uganda titled [“From Idea to Impact: A step-by-step manual to establishing Community Foundations in Uganda”](#). The manual provides a guide for the registration, licensing, reporting, filing of tax returns, and other compliance obligations that Community Foundations are required to meet by law. Evidence and Methods Lab, with its expertise, designed an informative and interactive version of this manual in an infographic format. The simplified and visualized aspects of this manual enable the user to easily navigate through the processes outlined in the manual.

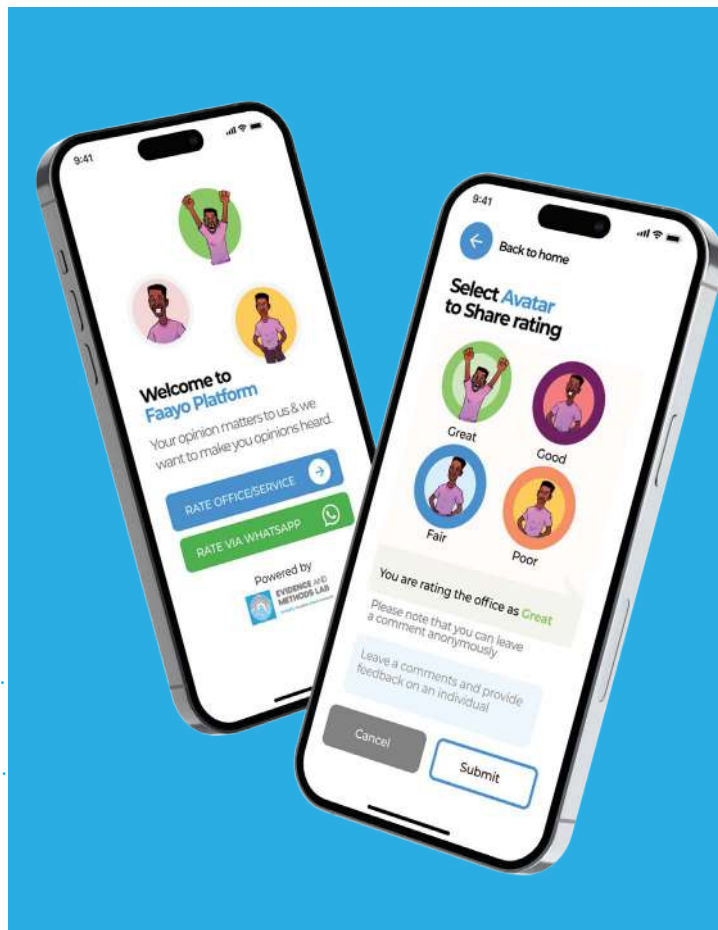
## FAAYO PLATFORM

In 2023, EML took a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability with the launch of the Faayo Platform in August 2023. **Faayo is an online platform that enables citizens to actively assess the services provided by public institutions.**

**It is accessible through [WhatsApp Messenger Chatbot](#) and on the web, providing citizens with a user-friendly channel to offer feedback on government services.** The platform is easy to navigate through, with the simple steps explained in the next sentences, one can express their sentiments using Faayo.

A user can access the platform through its [website or WhatsApp](#), select the specific government office they have interacted with, follow prompts to input location details and rate the service received using a simple scale of great, good, fair, or poor. The user can then type any other additional comments for more detailed feedback and thereafter opt to share their rating on social media platforms like Twitter or Facebook. **The user then reviews their rating for accuracy and submits. The platform then records this data, aggregating it to identify trends and areas for improvement, before it is shared to the participating institution for further action.**

Ultimately, by facilitating direct citizen participation and feedback, the Faayo Platform plays a vital role in promoting transparency and accountability within the Ugandan governance system.



## LAUNCH OF THE UGANDA ONLINE EXHIBITION REPORTS

Recognizing the evolving nature of activism in Uganda, EML identified a significant opportunity to contribute to this movement by collecting data and converting it into actionable reports, capturing the viewpoints of Ugandans engaged in online activism. This new approach of using the internet and online campaigns to foster citizen engagement, demanding for accountability and holding authorities responsible was spearheaded by activists in Uganda who included [Dr. Jimmy Spire Ssentongo](#), [Agather Atuhaire](#), and [Godwin Toko](#). The 2023 online exhibitions, as they came to be called, focused on four pertinent issues affecting the ordinary Ugandan including the road infrastructure and pothole situation in Kampala, the health sector, the NGO space and the Security sector.



Guided by the theme [“Amplifying Public Discourse for Change”](#)

EML compiled the data and engagements that arose during these exhibitions using different technologies including social media analytics tools and compiled what transpired during the exhibitions into reports. EML launched the exhibition reports that had been developed in an event under the theme [“Charting the Path to Accountability in Uganda”](#).

This only-invite event that took place on August 9th, 2023 saw participants from civil society, Kampala Capital City Authority, Ministry of Health, and the media converge into one room to deliberate on the issues that had been raised during the exhibition, share lessons learned and forge a way forward that would address the concerns of Ugandans. These reports are accessible at: <https://evidenceandmethodslab.org/transparency-and-accountability/>

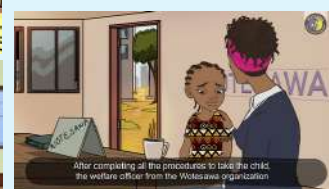




## WOTESAWA MERL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT & VISUALIZATION

EML collaborated with [VoteSawa](#), a Tanzanian organization that advocates for the rights of domestic workers and fights against human trafficking, especially child trafficking in laying out the WoteSawa strategic plan and created an animation for digital and offline engagement. The animation explains how to access services offered by WoteSawa a move aimed at utilizing visuals for civic engagement.

In 2023, we challenged ourselves to venture into new spaces and try out what we had never done before, through this adventure, we found ourselves achieving a lot in these new exciting spaces.





## EML ANIMATIONS

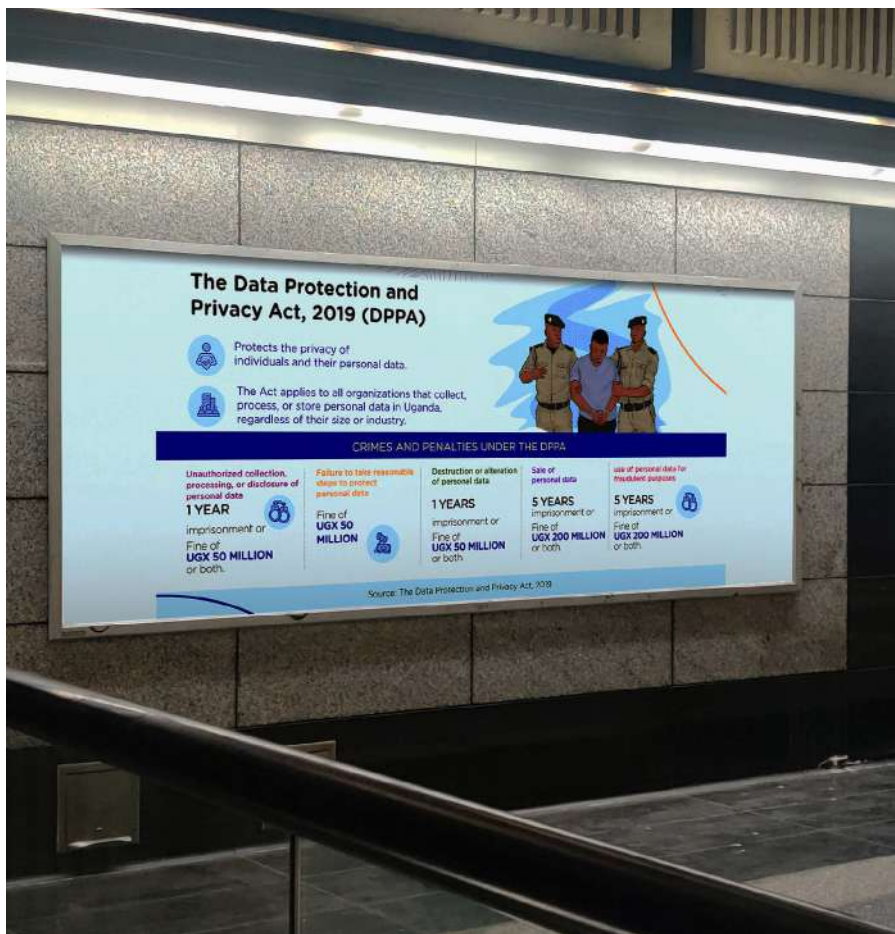
EML is constantly exploring innovative approaches to present data in a visually captivating manner, with the ultimate goal of capturing the audience's attention and fostering deeper engagement.

To achieve this goal, EML embarked on a new initiative – the creation of animated informative videos that not only entertain the viewers but are also informative. These animated videos serve as a compelling medium to convey complex information in a visually appealing and engaging way. These videos are accessible at <https://evidenceandmethodslab.org/videos/>



## DIGITAL SECURITY EXPO 2023:

In the ever-evolving digital landscape, the 2023 Digital Security Expo organized by Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI) shaped the narrative of the future of innovation in Uganda and the opportunities that can be explored in this regard for innovation and collaboration. EML had the honor of being among the exhibitors showcasing its digital initiatives, particularly the Faayo platform, a digital feedback tool designed to enhance citizen interaction and engagement with public service-providing institutions. The Expo, under the theme “**Protecting the future of technology: Innovation and regulatory adherence**” fostered knowledge exchange and collaboration, enabling attendees to stay ahead of evolving threats in the digital space and strengthen safety mechanisms. By actively engaging in such events, EML positions itself as a leader, demonstrating how technology can be a powerful tool for positive change and societal progress.





## DATAFEST 2023

Organized by Pollicy, the DataFest 2023 themed “No gender equality without data equality” focused on leveraging data to combat gender bias in AI and promote a more equitable Africa.

EML took part in this dynamic gathering of data enthusiasts, researchers, and changemakers who through engaging discussions and collaborative workshops deliberated on the connection between data justice and societal advancements. EML’s active engagement in these transformative dialogues is pivotal in shaping a more just and equitable African landscape.



## ISOC INNOVATORS' TRAINING

As part of the action research study on Internet Usage in Service Delivery and Enhancing Transparency and Accountability within Government Ministries, Departments, and Local Governments, **we were able to walk the innovative journey of eight young inquisitive and problem-solving minds that are crafting solutions to address the needs of the people in their communities.** Facilitated by our **Isaac Musoke**, a MERL specialist and lead researcher in the project, the innovators were taken through a series of trainings on ideation, project implementation, project management, and evaluation. Through these trainings, the innovators have been able to translate their ideas into action by executing the work plans they developed in their different areas of operation across the country.

## OFFICE RENOVATION

Recognizing the importance of a conducive work environment, EML undertook the initiative to give the office space a face uplift. Being a workspace that deals largely with creatives, this endeavor goes beyond aesthetics; **we saw it fit to create a space that gives the users a feel of freshness, motivation, and inspiration to explore their creative power in a bid to enhance productivity and output.**

## EML WEBSITE REVAMP

EML's new website has undergone a complete redesign, featuring a modern and user-friendly interface that allows a user to navigate it seamlessly. **The updated website now has an overall outlook of who we are and updates on the work we are doing giving a user a centralized platform to access resources, collaborate on projects, and stay informed about our latest activities.** We are confident that this modern and user-friendly platform will serve as a gateway to our work, enabling individuals and organizations to participate in informed decision-making and contribute to a more just and transparent society.

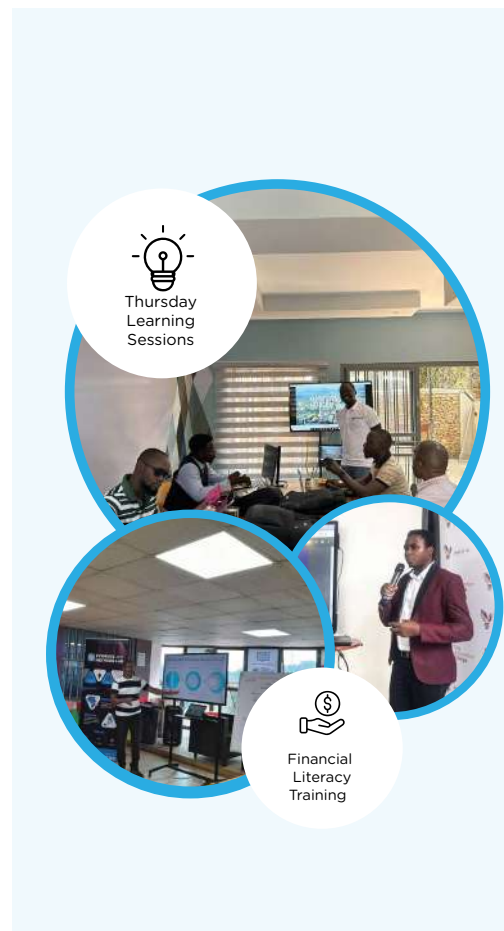


## THURSDAY LEARNING SESSION

We embraced an initiative that builds the team through sharing and learning from each other. Commonly referred to as **“The Thursday Learning Sessions”**, team members get an opportunity to present to the rest of the team on topics that are of interest, these range from sports, nutrition, law, technology, art, nutrition, and anything else that a member feels compelled to share. Two hours of the Thursday afternoons at EML have been dedicated to this cause. Having begun with presentations by team members internally, in 2023 we had a switch in the usual mode of conducting these sessions by opening our gates to external guests. We have been privileged to have guests from the civil society space, banking sector, activists, media personalities. Some of the guests that shared with us include **Ojok Okello from Okere City, Tawanda Maguri from Digital Society of Africa, Agather Atuhaire from Agora, Peter Mwesige from ACME, Sandra Awilli from Sharecard, Jordan Tumwesigye from Global Rights Alert and Tony Natif, an activist.**

## FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAININGS

As part of our commitment to strengthening the capabilities of our team, EML organized two comprehensive training sessions on financial literacy in 2023. These sessions aimed to equip team members with the essential knowledge and skills to manage their finances effectively, make informed financial decisions, and navigate the complexities of the financial world. We had a session on financial literacy moderated by **Mr. James Kisenyi a financial expert from Stanbic Bank Uganda and one on investments by Ms. Daphine Ashemeire an investments consultant from UAP Old Mutual.**





## SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

As a data-driven civic tech organization that largely uses digital platforms and channels to disseminate our work, it is important to keep track of our reach for purposes of measuring impact. Reaching our audience effectively through engaging visuals and animations is essential. We explored various social media platforms, focusing on Twitter and Facebook.

Our 2023 social media statistics are hinged on two major digital platforms that we largely use to share our work – X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook. **While Twitter impressions dipped by 11.27% in comparison to 2022, engagement rose by 20.93%, indicating deeper connections with our followers.** This positive trend is also noted on our **Facebook channel, where post engagement went up by 34.33% despite a 20.65% decline in reach and impressions skyrocketed from 0 to 4,498**, suggesting broader visibility despite reaching a smaller audience. These findings paint a picture of evolving social media dynamics. Although reach seems to fluctuate, we remain committed to refining our strategies to reach a wider audience while fostering meaningful connections through data-driven insights.





## LOOKING AHEAD

As our five-year strategic plan (2018-2023) came to an end this year, we spent a significant portion of 2023 reflecting on our achievements to date and envisioning our future path for the next five years.

We are currently in the [process of finalizing a new strategic plan that will shape our course of work](#) as we strive to bring our vision of being the leading data visualization organization in Africa.

We are full of [enthusiasm and excitement to embark on this new phase of our growth as an organization as we shall be delving deep into new approaches that will foster civic engagement](#) and propel change in the communities in which we shall be working.





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