



DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AMPLIFIED

DIGITAL ACTION LAB PROGRESS
Digital Action Lab unveils impactful projects! See how participants are driving change in their communities.

REGIONAL CO-DESIGN MEETINGS
Over 330 participants joined co-design meetings across 6 regions (MENA, CEE, LAC, South Asia, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa) from March to May 2024.

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE HUB
The Global Knowledge Hub Community has launched! The platform will come next and offer valuable, information, tools, and knowledge products. Stay tuned for more in future newsletters!

WELCOME TO DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AMPLIFIED!

Welcome to the second issue of Digital Democracy Amplified! Over the past three months, we've witnessed incredible progress in our journey to enable civil society organisations through the Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI). This issue provides a detailed look at the advancements within the Digital Action Lab (DAL) and the outcomes of our regional co-design workshops, where diverse voices collaborated to create effective solutions for promoting inclusive democracy. We are excited to share these stories and the impactful work being done to harness digital tools for civic engagement.



FROM IDEAS TO ACTION: DIGITAL LAB PARTICIPANTS DELIVER

The Digital Action Lab has been making impressive strides since the in-person co-design event held in March in Nairobi, Kenya. From April through June, participants focused on crafting their proposals for the DAL grant. Supported by our technical partner, **Democracia en Red**, each organisation received tailored advice on leveraging technology to promote inclusive democracy and civic space in their respective local contexts.

"Our target group or the people must be at the centre of everything we work towards and must be engaged in the transformation process."
Christopher Lubasi from Development360

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KEY PROJECTS

The Digital Action Lab's first cohort has designed innovative projects to tackle real-world challenges in their communities.

- **Fundación Ninas de Luz, Colombia:** Aims to educate children and adolescents on politics and democracy using theatrical and digital programmes, fostering civic responsibility and active participation.
- **Fundacion Vayalo, Venezuela:** Developing a digital solution to collect, process, and analyse community data to inform decision-makers and improve civic participation.
- **Advokc Foundation, Nigeria:** Creating a web application to track promises made by elected officials, enhancing political accountability.

- **Keiyo Women Trust, Kenya:** Empowering indigenous women's participation in governance through digital engagement initiatives.
- **Development360, Zambia:** Establishing a digital governance hub and a leadership academy to build young leaders who uphold democratic values.
- **Civics Public Foundation, Kyrgyzstan:** Developing an educational platform to empower Kyrgyz-speaking individuals on human rights and democracy.
- **Freedom Studio, Nepal:** Creating a digital platform for grassroots social movements to foster civic space and mobilise communities.
- **The Socio-Economic Justice Initiative (MAAN), Lebanon:** Building a secure digital sanctuary for activists to promote resilient grassroots movements.

Habib Sheidu from Advokc said: "I particularly liked the part about the emphasis on the need to spur creativity and innovation in members of the team as the organisation is only as good as the members of the team."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE DIGITAL ACTION LAB

In the upcoming months, the Digital Action Lab will continue with group sessions and individual mentoring. Participants have already started implementing their projects, and we are eager to see the outcomes. An Achievement Summit is planned to showcase the impact and results of the first DAL Cohort.

[Learn more about the Digital Action Lab!](#)

REGIONAL CO-DESIGN MEETINGS: A CONFLUENCE OF IDEAS

From March to May 2024, the Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI) held six co-design workshops across regions including the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. These sessions, both virtual and in-person, brought together **over 330 participants** from diverse community groups and civil society actors.

These co-design sessions enabled local civil society actors to develop **12 prototypes**, including six financial and six non-financial support mechanisms, designed to enhance organisational capacities such as operations, communications, and digital security. These prototypes are now set for phased implementation in the next stages of the DDI project.

Feedback from the co-design sessions highlighted the need for **flexible funding** mechanisms and stronger capacities in using **civic tech for advocacy** and **knowledge sharing**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial prototypes focus on building organisational capacities by providing funds for overhead costs and other indirect expenses often not covered by major grants. This flexibility is crucial for enhancing the operational capacities of local organisations.

NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Non-financial prototypes address the risks of intimidation and the need for improved digital resilience. These prototypes build digital capacities and create networks for sharing knowledge on digital security and advocacy, aligning with [CIVICUS Monitor 2023](#) findings on increased government intimidation and shrinking civic space.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the upcoming months, we have exciting plans to launch the **Regional Support Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean**. This initiative will support local civil society actors in their efforts to promote inclusive democracy and civic space. Additionally, we will be producing two research products, each focusing on different regions. These products will provide valuable insights and data to support local CSOs in their advocacy work and efforts to strengthen democratic practices. We will also keep you updated with the latest DAL activities and developments within the Global Knowledge Hub.

Thank you for being part of the DDI journey, and we look forward to sharing more progress with you soon.

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