



Nuru Trust Network

Illuminating Pathways,
Empowering Futures



#CodeforDemocracy
POLICY AND EVENT
REPORT



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

A Moment of Co-Creation: Unlocking Kenya's Democratic Potential

It is with immense pride that I present the results of the inaugural "Code for Democracy" Hackathon and Intergenerational Dialogue. The sheer scale of the interest we witnessed, with 72 guests attending, was a powerful testament to the collective commitment of Kenya's youth and stakeholders to democratic renewal.

We were truly humbled to see the passion and brilliance of young innovators who arrived ready to co-create the solutions our country needs. The prototypes developed, from combating misinformation to enhancing government transparency, are not merely theoretical concepts; they are actionable blueprints for a more inclusive future. They affirm that the youth are not just seeking a seat at the table; they are designing a more equitable table for all. Our event successfully bridged the gap between these technological innovations and the policymakers who can implement them.

We are deeply grateful to our distinguished panelists, partners, and every participant for making this conversation rigorous, constructive, and highly meaningful. As we transition from events to sustained impact, Nuru Trust Network is prioritizing the incubation of these prototypes and their integration into national policy frameworks. We look forward to working with our partners, stakeholders and our donor community to build the ecosystem needed to support and scale this young talent. The journey to a more transparent and inclusive Kenya is a shared one, and with the energy of this event, we have taken a massive leap forward.

-Mary-Yvonne Odudah



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GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Civic Tech	Technology, such as software, hardware, or digital platforms, designed to facilitate communication, collaboration, and action between citizens and government for the purpose of improving public services or strengthening democratic processes.
CMSEO-EA - Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organizations of East Africa.	An organization focused on supporting the growth and policy environment for small enterprises in the East Africa region.
Connectivity & Digital Divide	The gap between those who have reliable, affordable access to modern information and communication technology (ICT) and those who do not, often based on socio-economic or geographic factors.
Democratic Renewal	The process of modernizing, reforming, and strengthening democratic institutions, systems, and public participation to ensure they remain relevant, inclusive, and effective.
Hackathon	An event typically lasts several days, in which many people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming, often with a specific social goal or theme.
IEBC Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Kenya).	The constitutional body responsible for conducting and supervising elections and referendums in Kenya.
Inclusive Civic Tech Design Framework	A proposed set of principles and standards intended to ensure that all future technology solutions developed for civic engagement are accessible to, and representative of, diverse populations, including women, persons with disabilities, and rural youth.
Intergenerational Dialogue	A structured conversation designed to bring together individuals from different age groups (e.g., youth, elderly, and established leaders) to exchange perspectives, build understanding, and co-create solutions.
Mentorship	A relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced person, often providing technical expertise or career guidance.
M&E Framework	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. A formal system used to track project progress, measure results against set objectives, and assess the overall impact and efficiency of an initiative.
Misinformation	False or inaccurate information that is spread unintentionally.
Prototype	An initial, functional, and testable version of a product or design concept from which other forms are developed or refined.
Seed Funding	A specific amount of money is provided for an early-stage project or business to help it begin operations, often intended to cover initial operational costs until a stable revenue stream or further investment can be secured.
Stakeholders	Any individual, group, or organization that has an interest in or is affected by the outcomes of the project, including youth, government officials, civil society, and community members.
USSD platform	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data. A communications protocol used by GSM cellular telephones to communicate with the mobile network operator's computers, often used in Africa for low-tech, menu-driven services on basic phones.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Code for Democracy: A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue for Democratic Renewal in Kenya was launched on September 16, 2025, in Nairobi with resounding success, surpassing expectations and significantly advancing its mission to strengthen democratic systems by empowering youth as innovators and active participants in governance. The event drew 72 participants, underscoring strong stakeholder interest and creating a dynamic space for dialogue and collaboration.

At the heart of the initiative was a youth-led hackathon that produced five promising civic tech prototypes, including Ukweli Dial (to combat misinformation), WAZI DATA (to promote government transparency), and PeaceVerse (for digital peacebuilding). These solutions reflected the creativity and agency of young people co-creating tools to address pressing democratic challenges. A complementary Civic Inclusion and Intergenerational Dialogue session brought together youth, policymakers, and civil society leaders, bridging generational and institutional divides to ensure that the innovations were embedded within broader policy conversations.

The initiative's visibility was amplified through digital campaigns and media coverage, positioning Nuru Trust Network as a credible regional leader in youth-driven democratic innovation. Despite its successes, the project faced challenges, particularly the limited time for prototype refinement and ensuring equitable participation of marginalized groups.

Looking ahead, sustainability will be pursued through a four-pronged strategy: establishing an incubation program for prototypes, engaging with the relevant stakeholders for policy integration, developing an Inclusive Civic Tech Design Framework, and building formal partnerships to secure consistent resources for young innovators.



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INTRODUCTION

Project Overview

The event brought together young innovators, policymakers, and civil society leaders. The primary activity was a hackathon where participants developed civic tech tools to address issues like misinformation, voter disengagement, and a lack of government transparency. In addition to the hackathon, the event featured intergenerational dialogue and expert panel discussions to bridge the gap between youth-led tech solutions and national policy conversations. The event was also a platform to increase awareness of youth-led democratic innovation in Kenya on September 16, 2025, at the YMCA, Nairobi Kenya. The overarching goal of the **"Code for Democracy"** initiative is to strengthen democratic systems by empowering Kenyan youth to become active innovators and participants.

Strategic Objectives

Objective 1:

Empower youth in underserved regions to design civic tech tools addressing democratic challenges.

Objective 2:

Facilitate intergenerational and cross-sector democratic dialogue to bridge civic tech and policy.

Objective 3:

Strengthen regional and global awareness of youth-led democratic innovation in Kenya.

Project Team:



Mary Yvonne Ododah
LEAD EVENT COORDINATOR



Juliet Mwangi
LOGISTICS AND
COMMUNICATION



Kevin Waigwa
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR



Gamaliel Munene
EVENT SUPPORT



Faith Muthoni
EVENT SUPPORT



Fred Kariuki
EVENT SUPPORT



Nick Njau
EVENT SUPPORT

Number of Participants:

We were humbled by the powerful interest generated, which resulted in an actual attendance of 72 esteemed guests. This high level of attendance was driven by the overwhelming interest from additional stakeholders and community members, whose spontaneous participation not only enriched the discussions but also significantly enhanced stakeholder engagement, networking, and the overall impact of the event.

Activities that took place:

Civic Tech Hackathon: Teams of young innovators created and presented prototypes for solutions.

Ukweli Dial: a USSD platform to combat electoral misinformation and hate speech.

WAZI DATA: a tool to make government data on public works, health, and education more accessible to rural communities.

PeaceVerse: a platform that uses WhatsApp, SMS, and voice tools to amplify youth voices in conflict-prone regions and counter misinformation.

KWELI: an inclusive platform that uses low-tech channels to collect citizen feedback on public services.

VoteWise Kenya: a gamified experience designed to make civic education simple and fun for young people.

Civic Inclusion and Intergenerational and Dialogue:

A session was held to connect young innovators with key stakeholders, including government and civil society representatives, to integrate tech solutions into national policy.

Digital and Media Engagement:

The event was livestreamed and branded digital content was produced to raise regional and global awareness of the youth-led innovations.



Keynote Speech:



THE
NATIONAL
HEROES
COUNCIL
HONOURING HEROES, HONOURING KENYA

KEY NOTE SPEECH BY DR. CHARLES WAMBIA, OGW, Cop. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL.

CODE FOR DEMOCRACY – YOUTH CIVIC TECH HACKATHON & INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE, KENYA.

16TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Distinguished guests, esteemed partners, brilliant young innovators, ladies and gentlemen,

Looking around this room, I see a generation ready not just to inherit democracy, but to reinvent it. And that is why this gathering is so important.

Democracy, like technology, is never static. It evolves, and here in Kenya it is renewed daily by the energy, resilience, and ingenuity of our young people.

In a biblical view of Democracy, Galatians 3:28 reminds us, in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one.” Democracy reflects this truth by giving every citizen a voice, regardless of gender, status, or background.

Democracy is not only a western idea but it also connects with African and other traditional cultural values. For instance, in many African communities, elders sat under a tree to discuss important issues until they reached consensus. Everyone had the chance to speak, and wisdom guided decisions.

As we mark the International Democracy Day, let us first recognize the invaluable support of our partners; The Global Democracy Coalition and the steadfast commitment of our government institutions that continue to champion civic participation, transparency, and innovation. This collaboration reflects a timeless truth that democracy is strongest when it is built together.

Kenya is a youthful nation: over 60% of our people are under 35. That is not a challenge but an opportunity. This demographic dividend means that the innovations shaping our democracy must be forged with and by young people. Their creativity and determination are essential for trust, accountability, and resilient institutions.

This is the spirit of Code for Democracy. This hackathon is not about technology for its own sake, but about building tools that expand access to information, combat disinformation, and ensure no voice is left unheard whether that is a young woman in a rural county, a youth living with disability, or a historically excluded community.

Yes, democracy may sometimes move deliberately, while technology races ahead. But when these two forces come together and when civic participation meets digital innovation, the outcome is transformative. We create systems that are more inclusive, more transparent, and more responsive to the needs of citizens.

Let me emphasize this: the ideas born in this room will not remain on paper. They will be piloted, tested and supported through partnerships with county governments, grassroots organizations, and the private sector. In this way, they demonstrate that youth innovation is not simply a promise for tomorrow, it is a contribution for today.

To the young people in this room: your voices matter, your solutions matter, and your government is listening. You are democracy's present, not just its future. Democracy is not a gift handed down. It is a responsibility we share built by the sacrifices of past heroes and renewed now by you. You are the new heroes of this journey.

So, I challenge all of us policymakers, civil society, and partners to go beyond applause and commit to scaling these solutions. And I challenge you, our young innovators, to lead boldly.

Together, across generations, we will not only safeguard democracy we will reimagine it, strengthen it, and make it more inclusive than ever before.

In conclusion democracy is both Biblical because it reflects equality, justice and accountability; and cultural because our traditions valued dialogue and inclusiveness.

As youth you are the guardians of this precious gift.

Thank you.

Panelist Insights:



Mr. Richard Muteti

Confederation of Micro & Small
Enterprises Organizations of East Africa
(CMSEO-EA)

Mr. Muteti emphasized that the youth had already proven their creativity and capacity to generate innovative solutions. What remained missing, he argued, was a predictable and supportive ecosystem that could take these ideas seriously, provide consistent resources, and help scale them into governance systems. He stressed that unless institutions such as the IEBC and Ministry of ICT established clear frameworks for nurturing youth innovation, the cycle of pilot projects collapsing after initial excitement would continue, wasting potential and weakening democratic renewal.



Ms. Immaculate Amoiti

WETEC Kenya

Ms. Amoiti reminded the audience that innovation without inclusivity was a hollow exercise. She noted that too many civic tech tools had been designed without the voices of women, persons with disabilities, or marginalized rural communities, and as a result, they reproduced the very exclusions they were meant to solve. She called for accessibility to be a guiding principle from the beginning, not an afterthought, and urged policymakers to institutionalize standards that required inclusive design in all civic tech funded or adopted by the state.



Mr. David Momanyi

Horn of Africa Youth Network

Mr. Momanyi pointed out that peacebuilding in the digital age could not remain at the level of slogans and campaigns. He noted that young people had already shown their capacity to use technology to confront misinformation, mediate conflicts, and create dialogue in divided communities. What was needed now, he argued, was structured support for youth-led platforms that could scale these approaches across borders. He stressed that digital peacebuilding required investment, recognition, and integration into national and regional policy frameworks.

Ms. Ouma challenged institutions to move beyond symbolic gestures of youth engagement. She noted that young people had been clear: they did not simply want a seat at the table; they wanted to co-create the table itself. According to Ms. Ouma, too many processes had treated youth participation as temporary or tokenistic, offering visibility without power. She argued that for Kenya's democracy to thrive, institutions must structurally embed youth voices in decision-making, from advisory boards to oversight committees, with real influence over policies and outcomes.



Ms. Diana Ouma

Youth for SDGs Kenya



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Impact, Learning, and Next Steps

The Code for Democracy initiative advanced its objectives by convening youth innovators, policymakers, civil society leaders, and grassroots actors in a dynamic space for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and co-creation. Attendance surpassed expectations, with high levels of participation both in-person and online, underscoring the demand for youth-led democratic innovation. The hackathon produced five civic tech prototypes—including Ukweli Dial (misinformation response), WAZI DATA (government transparency), and PeaceVerse (digital peacebuilding), that directly addressed pressing governance challenges. Importantly, these innovations were embedded in intergenerational dialogue, ensuring alignment with broader policy conversations and reinforcing inclusivity, ownership, and collective action.

Key achievements included exceptional engagement through interactive panels, strengthened cross-sector networks, amplified visibility of Nuru Trust's mission, and a genuine spirit of co-creation where participants left with actionable insights rather than abstract theory. Digital engagement and media coverage extended the initiative's reach, positioning it as a credible example of youth-driven democratic renewal in Kenya and beyond.

Challenges were present but offered valuable lessons such as:

- Limited prototype development time restricted refinement; this will be addressed through post-event incubation.
- Gaps in equitable participation of women, persons with disabilities, and rural youth highlighted the need for stronger inclusive design standards, which will be embedded from the outset in future editions.
- Resource constraints underscored the necessity of predictable funding streams and policy integration, while connectivity issues reaffirmed the importance of offline-first and hybrid models for inclusion.

To sustain momentum, the next phase prioritizes:

- (1) Prototype Incubation through mentorship, seed funding, and pathways for uptake by government and civil society;
- (2) Policy Integration with the IEBC, Ministry of ICT, and parliamentary committees to test youth innovations ahead of the 2027 elections;
- (3) Inclusive Standards via a co-created Civic Tech Design Framework that reflects Kenya's diversity;
- (4) Partnership Development with private sector and institutional actors to anchor youth innovations in broader ecosystems;
- (5) Monitoring & Evaluation to track progress and measure impact; and
- (6) Regional Scaling to replicate the model across East Africa, building a Pan-African network of youth civic tech innovators.

Appendices

A: Visuals:

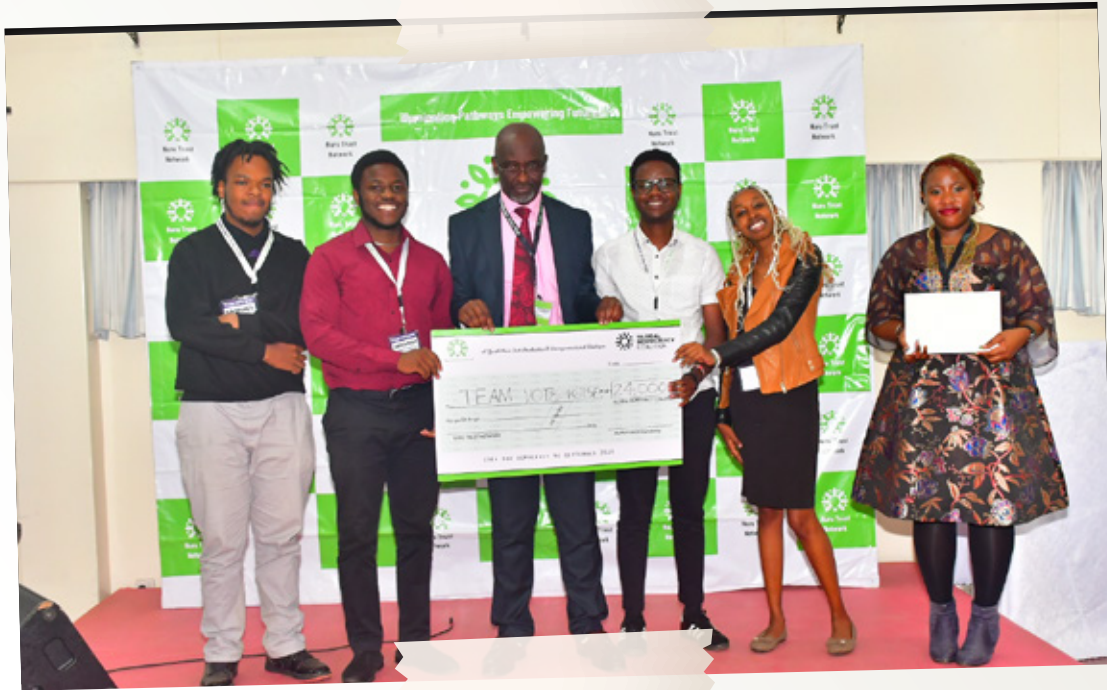


Group photo with the Chief guest, panellists and the participants.



The Winning Team: #TeamKweli

Appendices



The hackathon runner up: Team #VoteWise



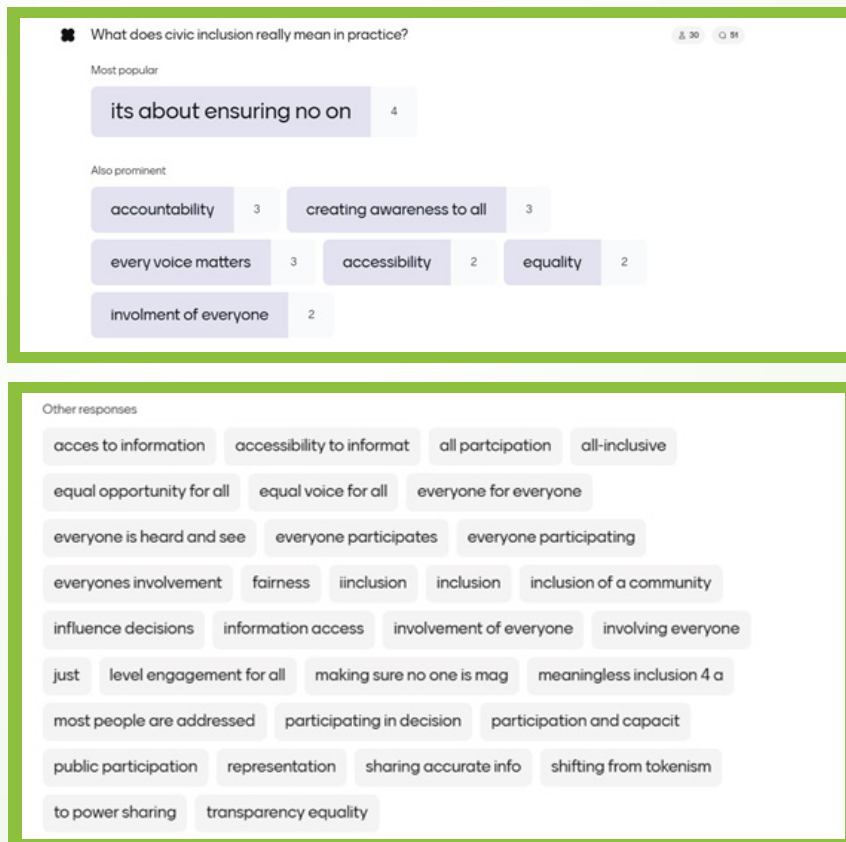
Nuru Trust Network Leadership and Board Advisors

For more event photos, please see this link.

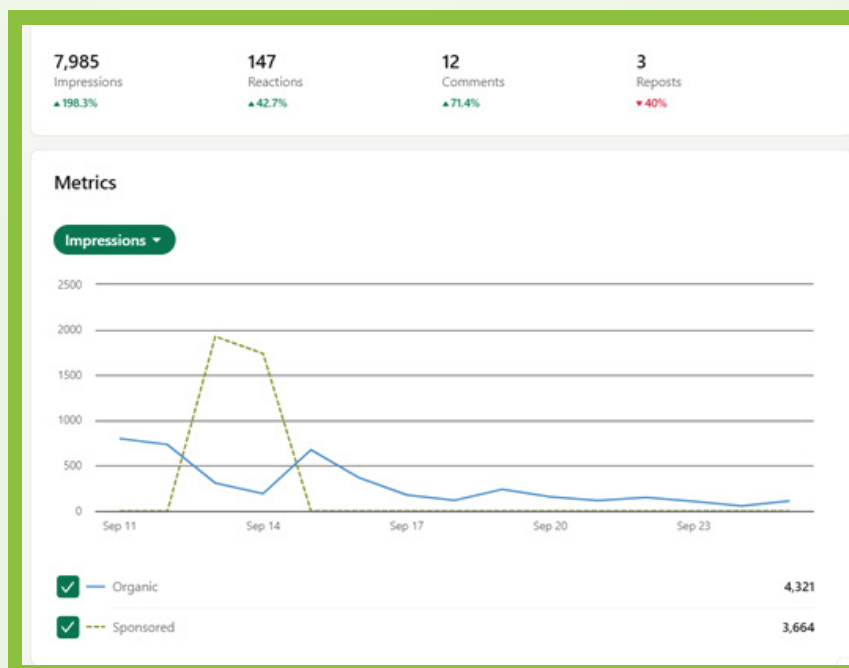
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CU-3Z_3EWwpWzPovuCsmN8g57QFTPlmi

B) Online Engagement

Mentimeter:



Social Media Metrics:



YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7Rx6G1H_vM&t=165s

KBC TV Coverage: https://youtu.be/984tYxWYds?si=LJ_Kulm7QKP6IL60

Content Engagement LinkedIn:

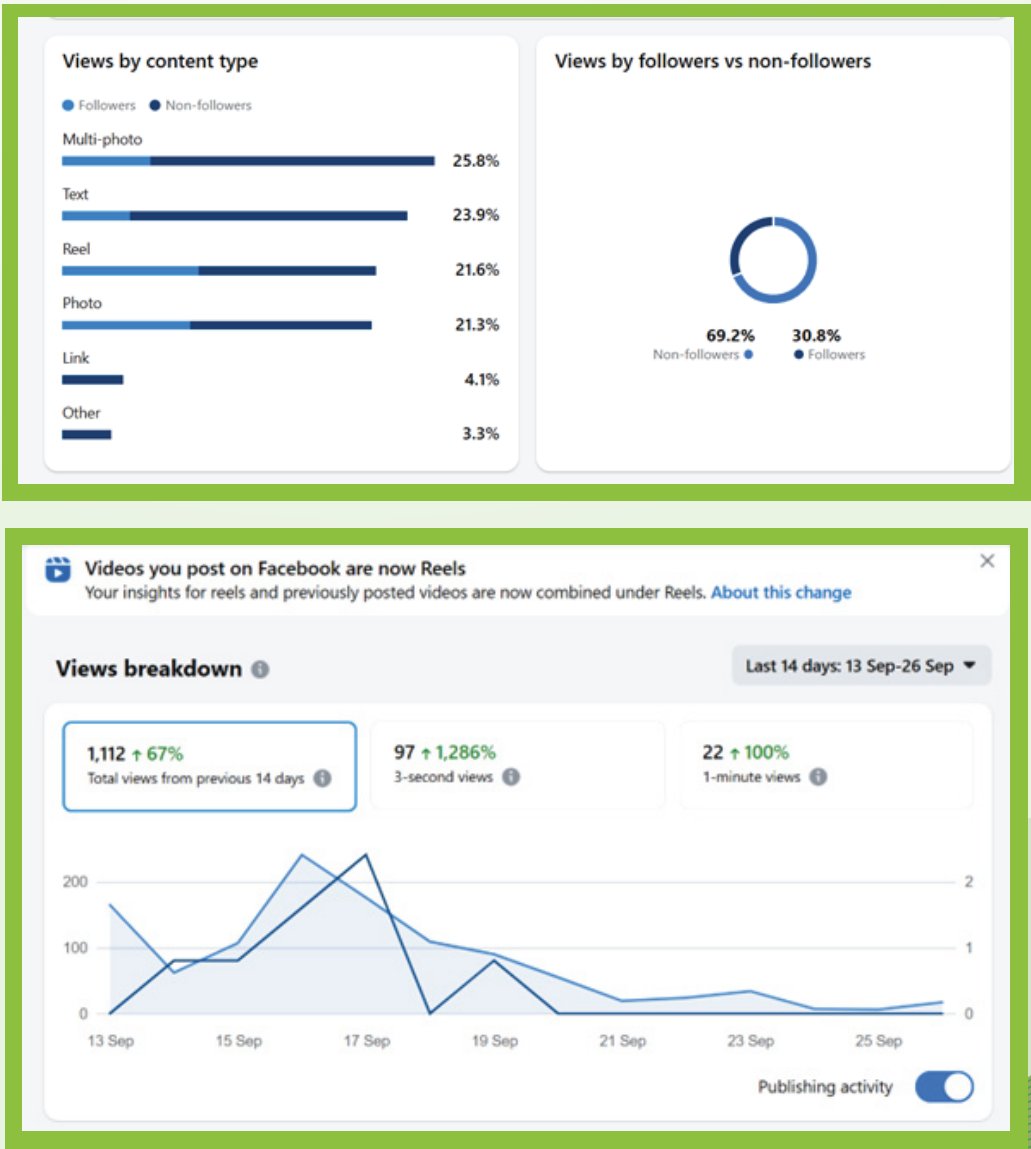
Content engagement

Time range: Sep 12, 2025 - Sep 26, 2025

Show: 10

Post title	Post type	Audience	Impressions	Views	Clicks	CTR	Reactions
What an incredible journey it's been! 🌟 #CodeForDemocracy may have wrapped up, but the... Posted by NTN - Nuru Trust Network Kenya 9/19/2025 Get up to 87,000 more video views by boosting this post. Boost	Video	All followers	264	110	7	2.65%	
Yesterday was nothing short of historic. A defining moment for our journey. On... Posted by Mary Yvonne Ododah 9/17/2025 This post type can't be boosted. Boost	Image	All followers	-	-	-	-	
Starting now! We are live with our coalition partner Nuru Trust Network, for Code for Democracy: A You... Posted by Mary Yvonne Ododah 9/17/2025 This post type can't be boosted. Boost	Image	All followers	-	-	-	-	
HAPPY INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY! The wait is over! We're thrilled to introduce the Hackathon... Posted by NTN - Nuru Trust Network Kenya 9/15/2025 This post type can't be boosted. Boost	Image	All followers	904	-	186	20.58%	
IDO 2025 #CodeForDemocracyKE Posted by Kevin Waigwa 9/13/2025 Sponsored from 9/13/2025 to 9/14/2025. View results	Article	All followers	3,875	-	37	0.95%	

FaceBook Stats:



C) Event Agenda

 Agenda @ The YMCA  GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION	
Code for Democracy <i>A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue for Democratic Renewal in Kenya</i>	
TUESDAY 16.09.2025 13:30 - 16:45	
13:15 - 13:30	ARRIVAL AND NETWORKING
13:30 - 13:40	EVENT OPENING: WELCOME AND NATIONAL ANTHEM
13:40 - 13:45	WELCOME ADDRESS - MARY YVONNE ODODAH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NURU TRUST NETWORK
13:45 - 13:50	PARTNER REMARKS - ELISENDA BUXO GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION COORDINATOR
13:50 - 14:00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS - DR. CHARLES WAMBIA, OGW NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL OF KENYA
14:00 - 14:05	GROUP PHOTO
14:05 - 14:35	TEAM PRESENTATIONS
14:35 - 14:55	Q&A FROM JUDGES AND THE FLOOR
5 MIN HEALTH BREAK	
PANEL DISCUSSION: CIVIC INCLUSION CLAUDIA MASAH, COMESA DANIEL IBERI, AFROBAROMETER DAVID MOMANYI, HORN OF AFRICA YOUTH NETWORK	
15:00 - 15:45	
PANEL DISCUSSION: INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE DIANA OUMA, YOUTH FOR SDGS KENYA IMMACULATE AMOIT, WETEC KENYA RICHARD MUTETI OGW, HSC, CMSEO-EA	
15:45 - 16:30	
16:30 - 16:40	AWARDING THE WINNING TEAM
16:40 - 16:45	CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS KEVIN WAIGWA, NURU TRUST NETWORK
<i>The End-</i> 	

Keynote Speaker:

Code for Democracy – Keynote Speaker



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GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION



Dr. Charles O. Wambia, OGW:
Governance and Policy Specialist



Panellists/Judges:

Code for Democracy Panelists



Mr. Richard Muteti:
Policy Advocate
and MSME
Champion



Code for Democracy Panelist



Ms. Immaculate Amoiti:
Human Rights
Defender and
Justice Advocate



Code for Democracy Panelist



Ms. Diana Ouma:
Policy and
Advocacy
Specialist



Code for Democracy Panelists



Mr. David Momanyi:
Governance and
Policy Specialist



Registration Sheet

CODE FOR DEMOCRACY EVENT GUEST LIST			
16th September 2025			
No	Name	Organisation	Email
1	Charles Wambua	National Heroes Council of Kenya	charles.wambua@heroes.go.ke ✓
2	Claudia Masah	COMESA	claudia@comesa.int ✓
3	Daniel Buri	Alfredsonomiser	danielburi@gmail.com ✓
4	David Mwangi	The House of Africa Youth Network	david@houseofafricayouthnetwork.org ✓
5	Diana Ouma	Youth for SDGs Kenya	diana@youthfordevelopment.org ✓
6	Immaculate Anoth	Africa Women Leaders Network - WITOC	director@witeloc.org ✓
7	Richard Mutet	CMISO-BA	rmutet@gmail.com ✓
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9	Alfred Waweru	International Potato Centre	alfredwaweru@gmail.com ✓
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23	Eric Biogen - Media	KBC	biogen@kbc.co.ke ✓

A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue

CODE FOR DEMOCRACY EVENT GUEST LIST			
16th September 2025			
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25	KBC Media 3	KBC	biogen@kbc.co.ke ✓
26	Eric Mwachia	Computer Science	ngangene541@gmail.com ✓
27	Eric Mwangi	Nura Trust Network	eric@nuratrust.africa ✓
28	Eva Mwangi	Nura Trust Network	evamwangi411@gmail.com ✓
29	Faith Muthoni	Kenya Environmental Conservation (KEC)	faithm4007@gmail.com ✓
30	Faith Serele	Kenya Environmental Conservation (KEC)	faithm4007@gmail.com ✓
31	Fenton Kinyanjui	CKT Change Connect and Transform Initiative (CKT)	fentonkinyanjui@gmail.com ✓
32	First Aid	St. Johns Ambulance	info@stjohnsambulance.com ✓
33	Freddie Karuki	Nura Trust Network	ask@nuratrust.africa ✓
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50	Leonard Retch	O.R.P.P	1760101@orpp.or.ke ✓

A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue

CODE FOR DEMOCRACY EVENT GUEST LIST			
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54	Martha Mwangi	Nairobi Maternal Club (YMCA)	marthamwangi@gmail.com ✓
55	Margie Aducci	Office of the Women's Rights Advisor - O.P.	margieaducci@gmail.com ✓
56	Mawanya Kariuki	Nairobi Creative Africa Investment Ltd	mawanya@nairobicreativeafrica.co.ke ✓
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60	Michael Nyandak	Hospitality	mmichie@gmail.com ✓
61	Michael Oti Ruyani	Indigenous Friends of the Mass Appeal	mmichie@gmail.com ✓
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63	Mwanga Bagenja	Master's - Commerce	mb113803@students.uva.nl ✓
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67	Peter Mwangi	The Angellom Foundation	thangellom@gmail.com ✓
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77	Virginia Kilonga	FIDA Kenya	virginia@fidakenya.org ✓

A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue

CODE FOR DEMOCRACY EVENT GUEST LIST			
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99	John Mwangi	MBI	johnmwangi@gmail.com ✓
100	John Mwangi	MBI	johnmwangi@gmail.com ✓

A Youth Civic Tech Hackathon & Intergenerational Dialogue

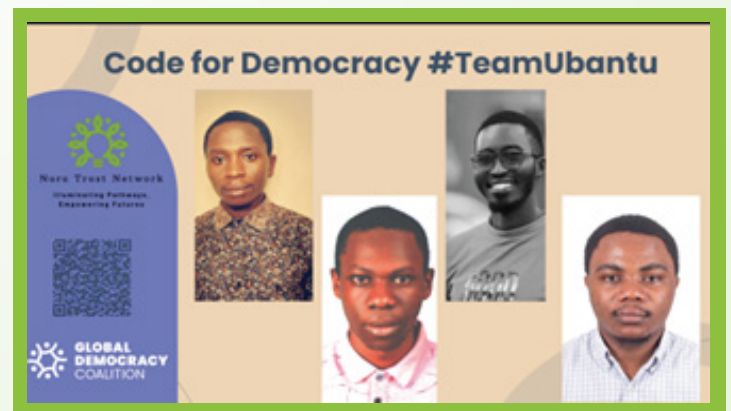
Hackathon Judges Matrix:

Hackathon Judges Matrix		
Criteria	Description	Score (1-5)
Innovation & Creativity	Is the idea original, fresh, and creative in addressing the problem?	
Impact on Democracy	Does it directly strengthen participation, inclusion, accountability, or trust?	
Feasibility	Can this realistically be implemented with available resources/skills?	
Inclusivity by Design	Does it intentionally serve marginalized groups (youth, women, PWDs, rural)?	
Scalability	Can the solution grow beyond a small pilot and adapt to different contexts?	
Presentation & Clarity	Did the team clearly explain the problem, solution, and value?	
Total	/30	

Hackathon Reports:

Reports Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SIPIJQIUGK2P9IC-bD3TeqMZWdofzNys>





Nuru Trust Network

Illuminating Pathways,
Empowering Futures