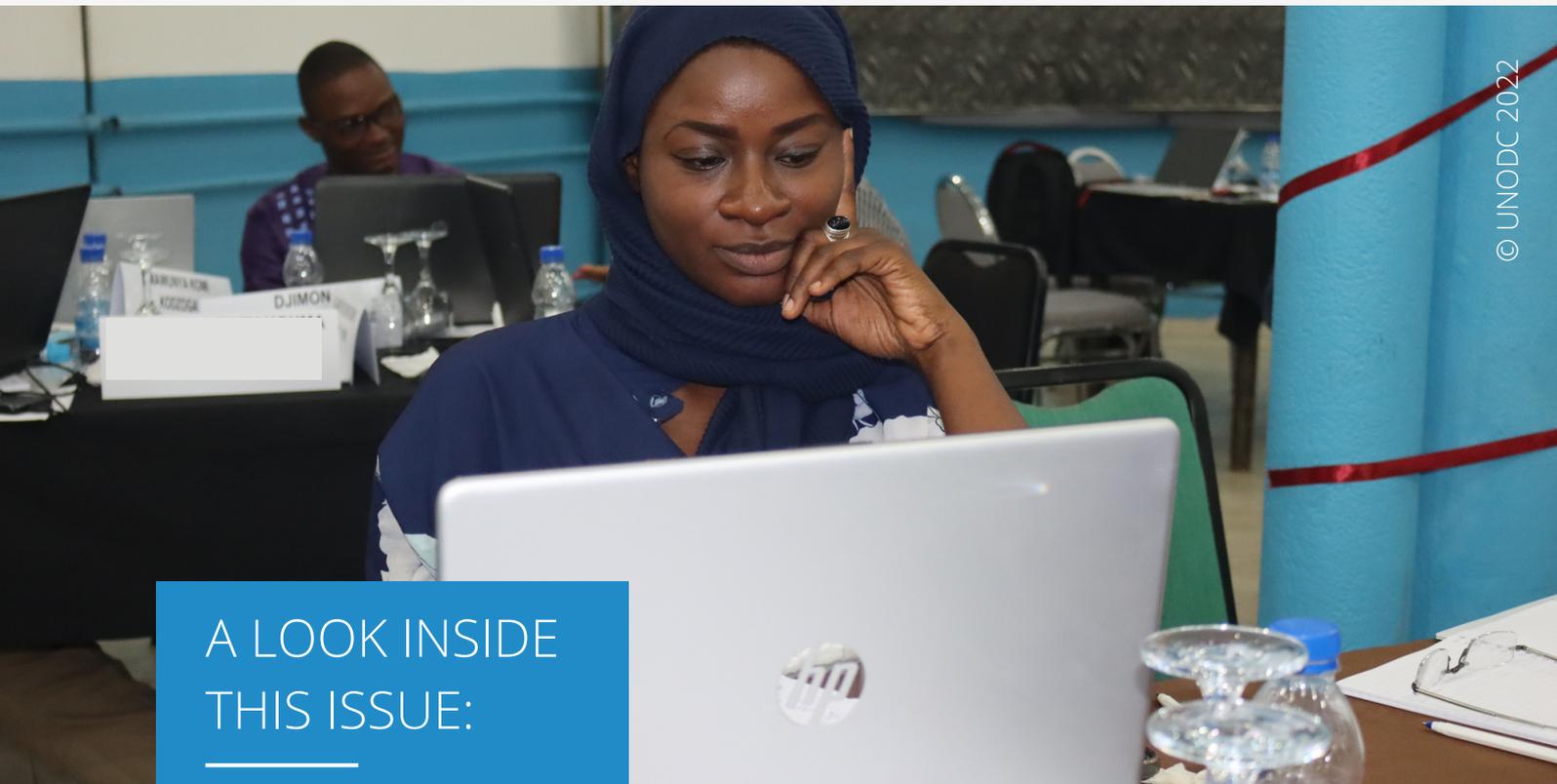


WOMEN IN CYBER

A Newsletter by the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime



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GENDER IN CYBERCRIME AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (SSR)

"UNODC's mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism". (for more information, see [UNODC Website](#)).

"Sixty per cent of the victims of trafficking in persons are women and children, of which most come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds. Migrant smugglers exploit the desperation of people fleeing from conflict, the impact of climate change and the lack of economic opportunities... Our interventions will pay special attention to human rights, protection of children,

gender equality , empowerment of women and youth" (UNODC strategy 2021-2025). The sector of cybersecurity, cybercrime and Information and communications technology (ICT) is male-dominated. For a comprehensive and inclusive response to drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism, an innovative approach based on human rights and women's economic empowerment is imperative within the security sector and all partners in the criminal justice chain.



To strengthen and connect the fight against cybercrime to the UNOV/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality & the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021), one of the key goals in Africa is to encourage regional cooperation and adopt national strategies for more women in the security sector.

"This strategy seeks to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women are integral parts of all aspects of the work of

UNOV/UNODC in making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism and ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space" (UNOV/UNODC gender strategy).

The S/RES/1325. Security Council Resolution on women and peace and security, "reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts". (United Nations, Office of the special adviser on Gender Issues and advancement of women). If the digital divide between men and women partly explains the low presence of women in cybersecurity and , the reform of the security sector through a gender lens is crucial. Indeed, bridges must be built between technical national agencies, the judiciary and the police for a coordination of state stakeholders in the criminal chain. Law enforcement is one of the weakest links in the integration of women in the fight against cybercrime in Africa.

GOOD RESULTS FROM OCRC BENIN IN CYBERCRIME AND THE GENDER GAP

The Central Office for the Repression of Cybercrime of Benin-OCRC, was created in May 2013. This structure is placed under the authority of the Central Director of the Judicial Police and has national jurisdiction. The OCRC ensures that preventive measures are taken against cybercrime and carries out, in accordance with the code of criminal procedure, investigations into offences targeting or using computer systems as well as modes of processing, storage and communication of information. The Office also provides technical assistance to other security services during ongoing investigations requiring its technical skills or expertise (see the 2013 decree for more information).

During the working session with the Senior Police Commissioner of the OCRC in April 2022, it was noted that the Office handles an average of 70 cybercrime cases per week. On average, 40 cybercriminals are referred to the prosecutor's office every month. The financial damage is enormous, as is the situation worldwide. In 2021, 2831 cases of cybercrime were recorded and 980 people were referred to the prosecutor's office, of which 956 were men and 24 women.

"National law enforcement services in Benin are provided by the Republican Police (DGPR), responsible for national security, law and order, and the protection of people and property. The DGPR comprises a national criminal police force called the DPJ, which investigates serious organized crime, terrorism and transnational crime". (for more, see Interpol Benin).



Women and children are the first victims. There is also a new phenomenon that places a minority of women among the criminals but the good results of the OCRC are encouraging. The only issue is the absence of women among its staff and as a result, there is no gender-sensitive approach. Authorities have committed to remedy this situation by recruiting women police officers and increasing capacity building training for inclusive governance within the Office. The challenges faced by OCRC are the same across the board for women in ICT in many countries in Africa and worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY PROJECTS BY WITIN IN NIGERIA



Women in Technology in Nigeria (WITIN) is a leading Community of Women in Tech, a registered non-profit organization and association, dedicated to the advancement of women and girls. WITIN fosters opportunities in tech; promotes tech leadership, digital skills and entrepreneurship initiatives and advocates gender equity reforms for women and girls. Since 2002, WITIN has helped women and girls to bridge the leaky pipeline in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths). WITIN has emerged as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2022 champion, a prestigious

global recognition of efforts and great works via WomenPride.Africa. For more information on WITIN, visit their website wit.ng.

Upcoming events

- **Cyber Diva Bootcamp**

22 June 2022: "Building effective women's empowerment strategies in Cybercrime"

- **Africa Digital Forensics Challenge**

May 29 - June 27 2022

UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime launched the 2nd edition of the the Africa Digital Forensics capture the flag challenge. The challenge which will run from May 29 to June 27, 2022, will see digital forensics amateurs and experts alike battle to be crowned the top digital forensics expert on the African continent. This year, 21% of registered participants are women and the competition is aligned with innovative strategies for female leadership in cyber for Africa.



The poster for the Africa Digital Forensics Challenge 2022 features a dark blue background with a glowing map of Africa on the right side. At the top, the UNODC logo and 'CYBERCRIME' are displayed. The text '2ND EDITION' is positioned above the main title 'AFRICA DIGITAL FORENSICS CHALLENGE', which is followed by 'CAPTURE THE FLAG'. Below this, the competition dates 'MAY 29 - JUNE 27, 2022' and '00:00 UTC' are listed. A list of investigation categories includes Darkweb, Cryptocurrency, Android Phone, and iPhone. A 'REGISTER NOW' button is at the bottom, with a note that registration ends on May 26.

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
CYBERCRIME

2ND EDITION

AFRICA DIGITAL FORENSICS CHALLENGE
CAPTURE THE FLAG

COMPETITION RUNS FROM MAY 29 - JUNE 27, 2022
00:00 UTC

DARKWEB INVESTIGATION

CRYPTOCURRENCY INVESTIGATION

ANDROID PHONE INVESTIGATION

IPHONE INVESTIGATION

- Open to Cyber professionals in Africa
- New digital forensic tasks released every week
- Digital badges for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners

REGISTER NOW
Registration ends May 26