

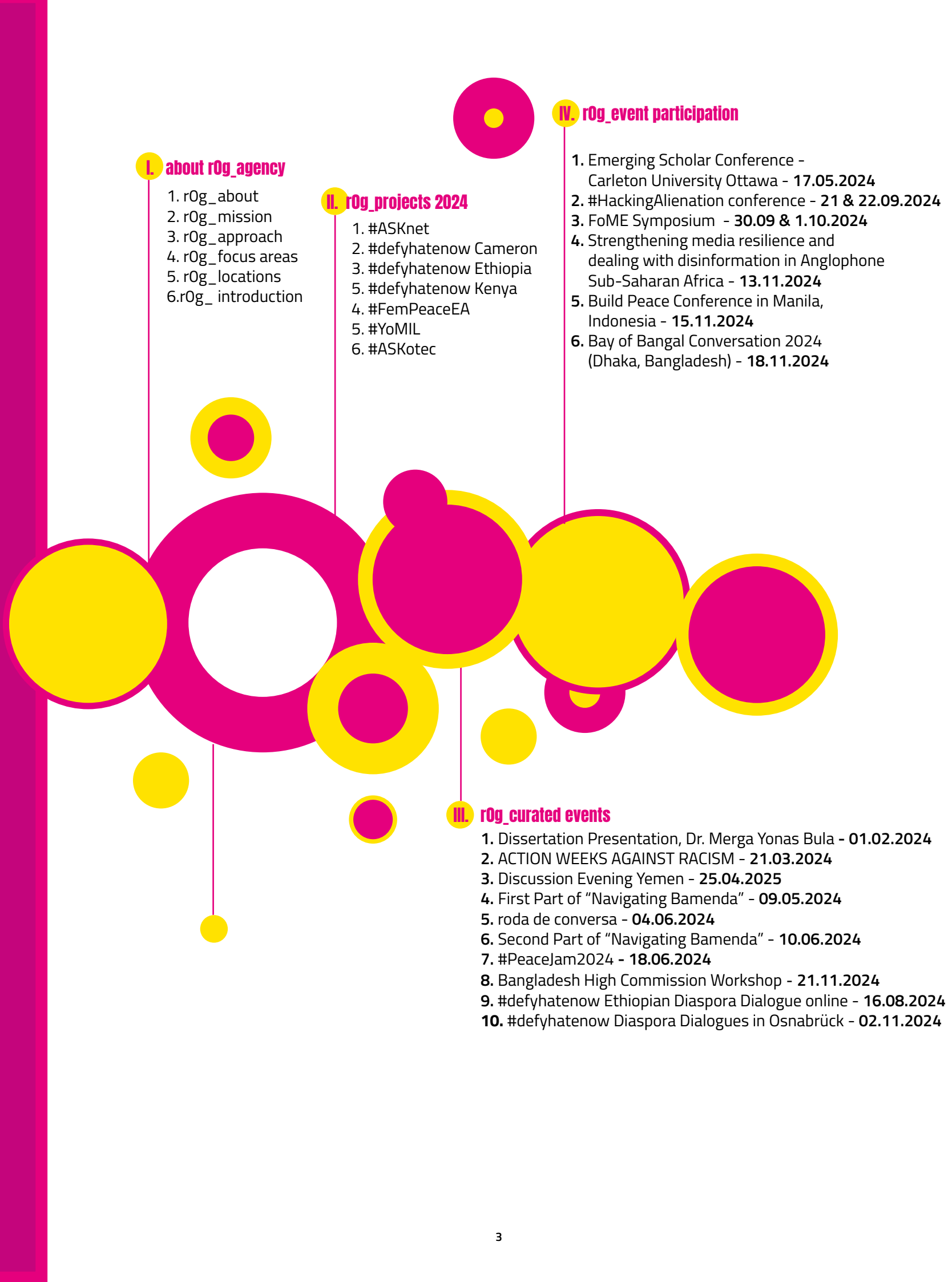
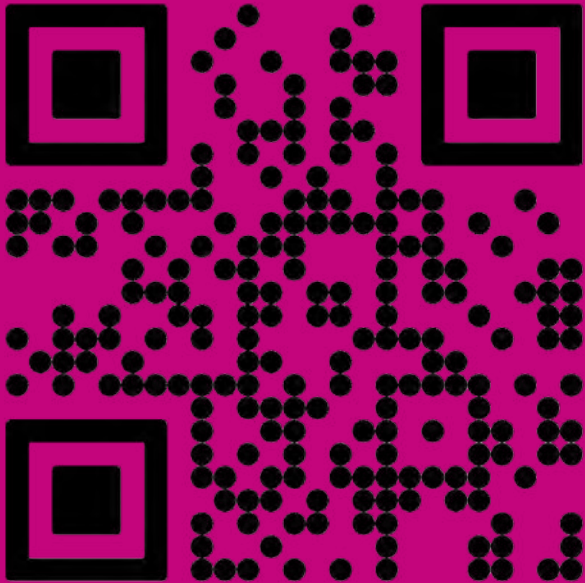


agency for open culture
& critical transformation

2024 annual report



<https://openculture.agency/>



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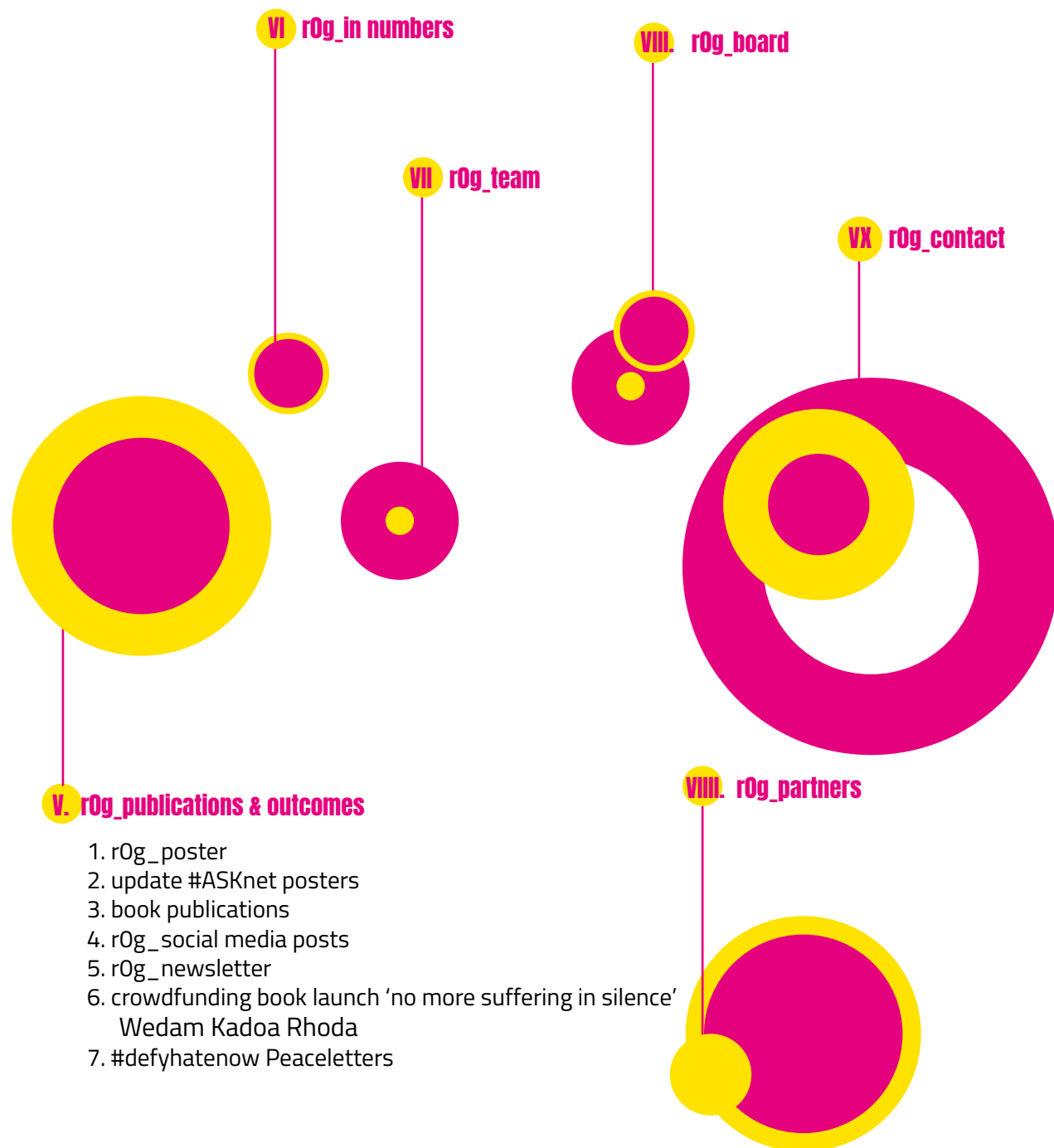
1. #ASKnet
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IV. r0g_event participation

1. Emerging Scholar Conference - Carleton University Ottawa - **17.05.2024**
2. #HackingAlienation conference - **21 & 22.09.2024**
3. FoME Symposium - **30.09 & 1.10.2024**
4. Strengthening media resilience and dealing with disinformation in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa - **13.11.2024**
5. Build Peace Conference in Manila, Indonesia - **15.11.2024**
6. Bay of Bangal Conversation 2024 (Dhaka, Bangladesh) - **18.11.2024**

III. r0g_curated events

1. Dissertation Presentation, Dr. Merga Yonas Bula - **01.02.2024**
2. ACTION WEEKS AGAINST RACISM - **21.03.2024**
3. Discussion Evening Yemen - **25.04.2025**
4. First Part of "Navigating Bamenda" - **09.05.2024**
5. roda de conversa - **04.06.2024**
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7. #PeaceJam2024 - **18.06.2024**
8. Bangladesh High Commission Workshop - **21.11.2024**
9. #defyhatenow Ethiopian Diaspora Dialogue online - **16.08.2024**
10. #defyhatenow Diaspora Dialogues in Osnabrück - **02.11.2024**





1. about

The **r0g_agency** is a Berlin-based nonprofit (gGmbH) founded in 2013 by Susanne Bellinghausen and Stephen Kovats. Over the past ten years, the scope of projects has grown to include projects and locations in Cameroon, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and The Gambia.

The **r0g_agency** sees it as their mission to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in order to help communities become self-sufficient and to create open access to skills and information in order to foster peacebuilding and empower people to speak out against hate speech, both online and offline.

In all programs and offices, the **r0g_agency** is committed to fostering and valuing diversity in all of its forms, promoting gender-equality, and creating an inclusive, affirmative work environment.

<https://openculture.agency/>



2. r0g_mission

The mission of r0g_agency is to promote the development of open, peaceful societies through open technology, open knowledge, and peacebuilding initiatives. But what does "open" mean? It means accessibility for everyone, free from barriers such as cost or social exclusion. For example, open knowledge ensures that information is freely available to all, regardless of their educational background. In open societies, individuals are more able to shape their lives, learning, and futures for the better.

3. r0g_approach

For all of our projects, the r0g_agency partners with local, grassroots organizations in order to ensure that programs are run locally. This approach is the most culturally responsible way to bring about lasting change and a more stable peace in regions facing tumult.



4. r0g_focus areas

open technology

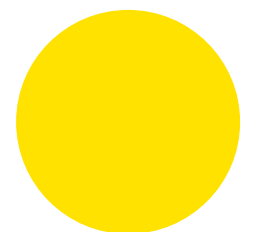
We develop open source software, open standards, and open hardware and make these readily accessible, because we believe that open tech plays an important role in fostering the peacebuilding process, innovation, and self-reliance.

open knowledge

Knowledge empowers people and communities by acting as the great equalizer. We create learning materials, field guides, documents, and posters that can be freely accessed, downloaded, used, and disseminated.

peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is an intervention that aims to prevent or counter violent conflict through activities that address root causes of violence and foster peaceful conflict resolutions, with the goal of creating a more stable social and political environment.



5. r0g_locations

Cameroon, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, The Gambia

6. introduction

Dear friends, colleagues, partners, supporters, and funders - thank you for making our work and projects a success in 2024! Each year is full of surprises, both positive and less so, with 2024 being no exception. A decade ago, at the beginning of 2014 we initiated **#defyhatenow** - an urgent call in the rapidly unravelling conflict that had begun to consume South Sudan less than a year and half after its independence. In 2024 we've seen the initiative active across Cameroon and Ethiopia, with focus on these countries' conflict zones - regions greatly affected by online incitement to violence and social media hate speech. When that initial call to #defyhatenow rang out in South Sudan there was little knowledge or awareness of the relationship between social media and conflict. Today it forms the forefront of our collective social and political environments - we have a lot to learn, also in Germany, about how to counter these threats from the experience of our on-site project colleagues, such as the **Civic Watch** team in Cameroon and the project team in Ethiopia! 2024 also marked a year in which considerable rOg_ energy has gone in supporting the development or strengthening of grassroots community networks. **#ASKnet**, the **Access to Skills and Knowledge network**, the **East Africa Feminist Peace network** as well to a certain extent the **#YoMIL - Young Women's Media and Information Literacy** initiative have been instrumental at enabling fragile civil society organisations to collaborate, often across borders. This strengthens both their ability to act effectively as well as more broadly sharing their message and experience. Additionally rOg_ has been looking to further its own sense of teamwork and community building. 2024 saw the foundation of GAPI - Global Action for Peacebuilding Initiative by our colleagues in Nairobi, as well as the formal establishment of our 'rOg_outpost' in Canada as a registered non-profit entity.

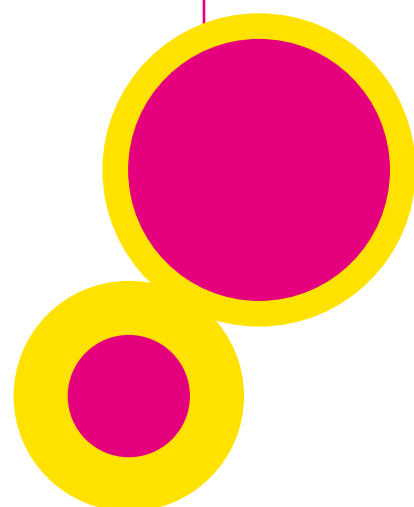
All these projects and initiatives only function, survive and thrive through the tireless input and energy of our great team members and partners - who are based in many regions and bring in their expertise from many backgrounds. We are proud of having such a team - or, in the spirit of the evolving direction of our work, a network of teams! Their resilience forms the backbone of where rOg_ moves in 2025, especially at the moment where major current initiatives wind down, and new ones - including a further development of the Migrant Network, now as the Migrant Media Action in Ghana and the Gambia, set to take off!

With greetings to all, and wishes for continued strength and success into the perpetual challenges this important work carries,

Stephen Kovats
Susanne Bellinghausen

photo credits: rOg team
CCBY4.0



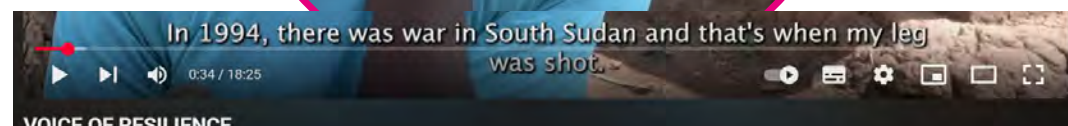


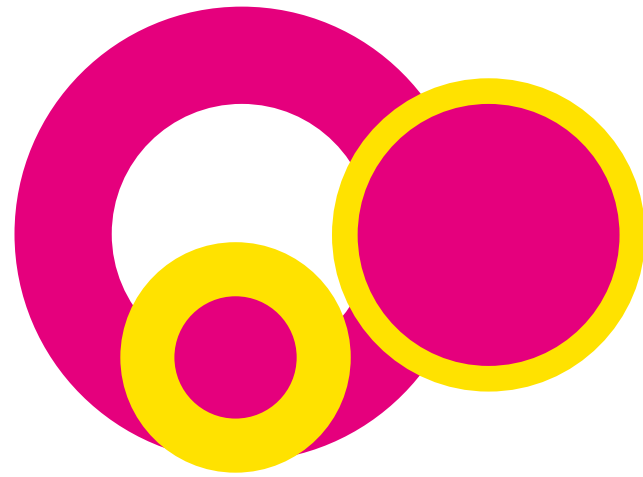
r0g_projects 2024

This chapter provides an overview of all of r0g_agency's projects in 2024, summarizing their diverse approaches and outcomes. It highlights a selection of key events, sessions, and publications that demonstrate the important work carried out by each project.

While this section offers only a snapshot, it reflects the commitment and impact of the teams involved, as well as the ongoing influence within the communities they serve. This summary also provides context for understanding the broader goals and future direction of r0g_agency's initiatives.

<https://asknet.community/>





#ASKnet - The Access to Skills & Knowledge network

As a formalised network, #ASKnet contributes to create an environment where the media plays a constructive role in fostering democracy, accountability, and public participation. Education about media literacy is crucial and involves helping individuals critically evaluate and understand the media they consume, discerning reliable information from misinformation.

In 2024 the network could welcome three new organisations:

KVA - Kiryandongo Video Advocates (Kiryandongo, Uganda)

NYIU -Nexus Youth Initiative (Adjumani, Uganda)

RRSA - Reliable Refugee Storytellers Association (Bidibidi, Uganda)

Now a total of twelve member organisations of #ASKnet addresses local community challenges, supports empowerment with knowledge and skills, inspires regional innovation and creativity, and engages peacebuilding and community empowerment among all members of society.

Focal points 2024 - collaborative network projects and prototyping

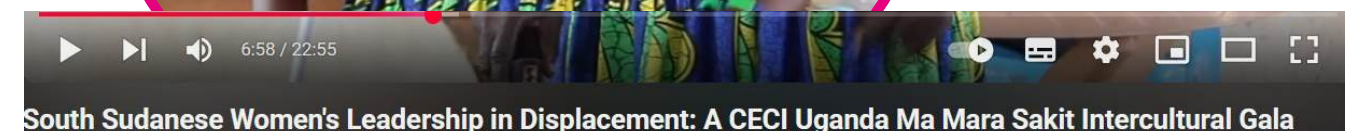
The network was focused on the central theme of 'building the network - strengthening the members' through project collaborations for media training and productions.

Working in distributed teams

General topics like Media, Art and Culture or Social Activism and Community Empowerment i.e. - intersections between traditional arts and contemporary culture, digital narratives and storytelling for peace building or mobile lab(s) for community outreach were represented in four main network projects in 2024 across South Sudan and Uganda, where the members of #ASKnet are operating.



Project "South Sudanese Women's Leadership in Displacement" by Community Empowerment For Creative Innovation (CECI) and Ma'Mara Sakit Village in Koboko, Uganda





South Sudanese Women's Leadership in Displacement: A CECI Uganda Ma Mara Sakit Intercultural Gala

ONLINE WEBINAR Series

TOPIC: E-Wastes: Repair as a Tool for Entrepreneurship

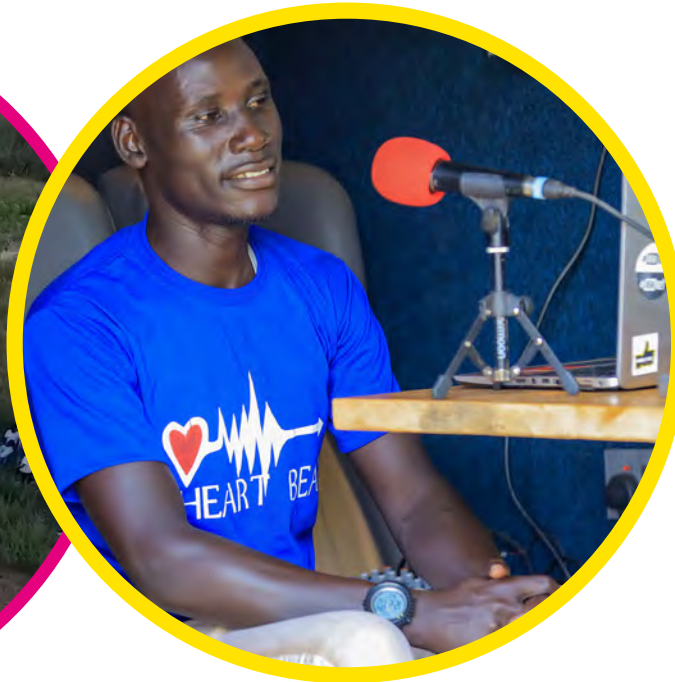
HOST	PANELIST	PANELIST
 Denaya Dennis Founder, Koneta Hub	 Mogga Emmanuel Repair Expert	 Maliamongu Richard Repair Trainer - CC4D, ARUA

ZOOM
Register here
<https://tinyurl.com/ecotech24>

THURSDAY
19th Dec, 2024 | 3:00pm

#ASKnet

Project “#EcoTech Revolution” by Koneta Hub and Community Creativity for Development (CC4D) in Juba and Yei, South Sudan and in Rhino Camp, Uganda



Project “#ASKnet Mobile Lab” by Platform Africa and Community Creativity for Development (CC4D) in Rhino Camp, Uganda

Project “Mentor Her” by Youth Empowerment Foundation (YEF) and Creative Innovation Center (CIC) in Rhino Camp and Pagarinya, Uganda



Prototyping cross-over collaboration

Under the title "Refugee Voices - Spotlight on Persons With Disabilities and Urban Refugees" a four way collaborative project was initiated between potential news members and associated organisations of #ASKnet.

The overall objective of this fourway collaboration was to explore multi location implementation and knowledge exchange. To test guided collaborative implementations and the success rate with independent associates.

A media training for People with Disability (PWD), a research exploring women's experiences in urban environments, a short documentary in Kiryandongo and a podcast series sharing audio narratives were looking at risks, success stories, and recommended actions for PWD's.

<https://asknet.community/>

photo credits: #ASKnet team
CCBY4.0



Introduction of the general project

The #defyhatenow initiative addresses hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation through community-driven and data-informed solutions. By promoting trust among stakeholders and mobilizing civic action, the initiative supports citizens in countering online-induced conflicts.

Focused on peace-oriented media and information literacy, #defyhatenow bridges knowledge gaps between technology users and non-users, creating a global network of online and offline peacebuilders. The initiative currently has active projects in Cameroon and Ethiopia.

<https://defyhatenow.org>

#DEFYHATENOW



#defyhatenow Cameroon 2024

#defyhatenow Cameroon works with local communities to address online and offline conflict. In partnership with Association Civic Watch, it engages youth, community leaders, and civil society through a media and information literacy framework, bridging the technology access gap.

By creating safe spaces for dialogue, #defyhatenow Cameroon addresses the complex issues surrounding the Anglophone crisis, involving both local communities and the diaspora, and aims to empower communities to promote respectful public discourse.

<https://defyhatenow.org/cameroon/>



2024 sample Activities:

The month of May 2024 started on a positive note, as our team held an outreach activity with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education – MINJEC. The morning flag hoisting ceremony usually marked by a sensitization on a particular topic is gaining greater interest among the staff.

Presided on Monday by 6, 2024 by Minister Mamouna Foutsou looked at ways to engage the officials in civic engagement as a means of peacebuilding. While Cameroon celebrates National Day on May 20, with military and civilian activities in different parts of the country, looking at ways individuals can also make a difference is important.

The brief interactive session created a space for sharing of experiences on how as citizens our actions towards one another can make them feel a sense of belonging and self-worth. Our team was represented by Dr Kinang Derick, Research & Admin Associate and Mbong Vera, Social Media Coordinator.

#defyhatenow project Ethiopia 2024

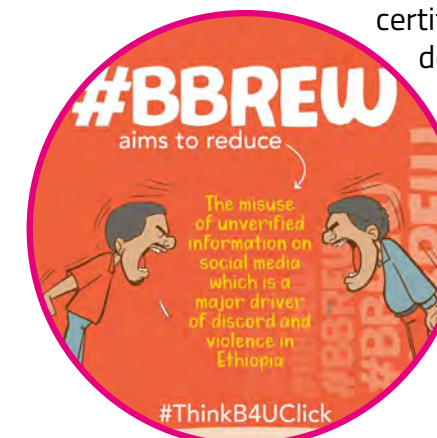
The Ethiopian project addresses misinformation and hate speech to strengthen democratic digital spaces in its unique sociopolitical landscape. The Africa Fact-checking Fellowship (#AFF-ETH) and other hate speech mitigation workshops empower community leaders, women, content creators, and journalists. It has also curated safe space networks to help marginalized populations discuss reducing gender-based violence and provide support. Using the Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide for peace practitioners and grassroots communities the project will engage local experts and stakeholders on the intersection of social media and social issues within Ethiopia to create a civil digital space.



2024 Activities:

Online and Semi-Offline Safe Spaces for Women

The #EmpowerHer initiative used online and hybrid sessions to engage women in discussions on Media Information and Literacy (MIL), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), mental health, and cybersecurity. As part of the project's information support group, alongside the #AFF fellowship, these platforms supported the collection and dissemination of data related to hate speech, online sexual abuse, and gendered misinformation. Through 27 sessions, engaging 69 participants and certifying 34 in-person attendees, the initiative provided skills development to help women navigate digital spaces and advocate for their communities. The program focused on leadership, trust-building, and dialogue, building networks and working to strengthen women's participation and influence in digital and physical spaces. The project established a foundation for local data collection, analysis, and response through network building, training, and knowledge transfer.



The Pan African University Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAUGHSS) successfully hosted a landmark two-day strategic discussion on "Cultivating a Culture of Peace" on November 28-29, 2024, at the University of Yaounde II campus in Soa, Cameroon.

The event, co-organized in partnership with Civic Watch through the #defyhatenow initiative, brought together diverse stakeholders including UN agencies, diplomatic missions, government representatives, civil society organizations, academia, and students from across Africa to address pressing challenges to peace in the continent.

A significant highlight of the event was its focus on youth involvement in peacebuilding. Ngala Desmond Ngala, #defyhatenow Country Project Manager and Founder of Civic Watch emphasized that young people are often excluded from peace dialogue tables despite being affected by conflicts daily. He noted that organizing this strategic discussion with university professors, experts, and young African scholars aimed to gather expertise and experiences from different African countries. The project is made possible through funding of the German Federal Foreign Office with Civic Watch as the local implementing partner.

photo credits:
#defyhatenow
Cameroon team
CCBY4.0



Africa Fact Checking Fellowship Ethiopia (#AFFEthiopia)

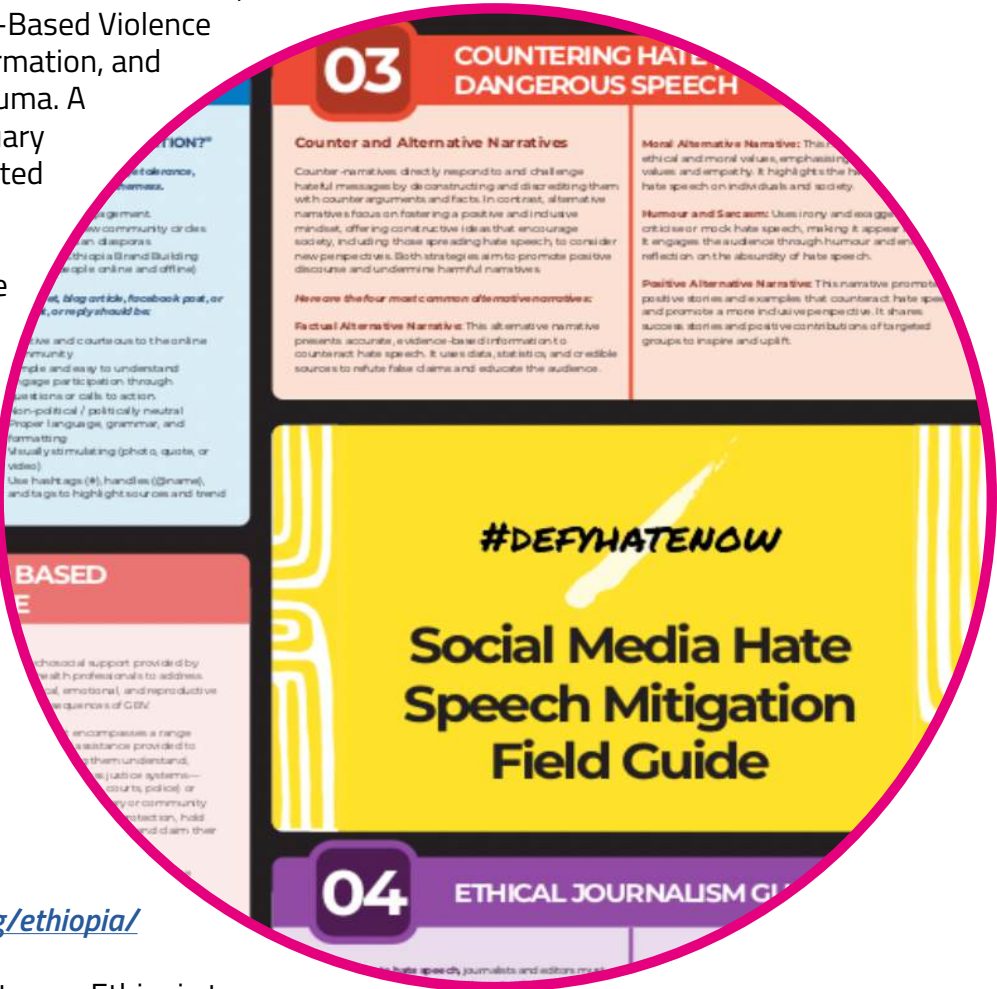
The #AFF-ETH program launched its first cohort in the Oromia region in June 2024, initiating a series of three cohorts strategically designed to empower citizens in the Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions, areas significantly impacted by ongoing conflict and social media mis/disinformation campaigns. Through blended online and in-person training, 15 fellows from diverse backgrounds within Oromia were equipped with essential fact-checking and advocacy skills, enabling them to contribute to the project's information support group and increase community resilience against mis/disinformation.

During the fellowship, they actively engaged with communities, hosting roundtable discussions on disinformation and AI-generated gendered misinformation, forming a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) club in a high school, and providing fact-checking training at Rift Valley University. These initiatives fostered crucial information literacy and critical thinking, empowering citizens to identify and debunk false information, and contributing to a more informed and equitable information ecosystem in Ethiopia, within a context of heightened information manipulation.



Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide Development

The #defyhatenow_Ethiopia project is developing the Ethiopia Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide Version 2.0, a resource for local grassroots communities and peace practitioners to address hate speech. The guide focuses on the intersection of social media and societal issues within Ethiopia, covering themes such as Identity and Conflict, Media and Information Disorder, Art for Peacebuilding, Gender-Based Violence and Gendered Misinformation, and Mental Health and Trauma. A workshop held on January 18–19, 2024, contributed to the development process, emphasizing practical and adaptable content, incorporating local perspectives and knowledge, to support efforts in mitigating hate speech and promoting responsible digital engagement.



<https://defyhatenow.org/ethiopia/>

photo credits: #defyhatenow Ethiopia team
CCBY4.0

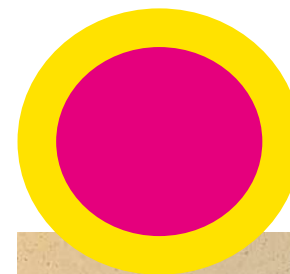




#defyhatenow Kenya 2024

Global Action for Peace-Building Initiative (GAPI), the local implementing partner for the #defyhatenow initiative in Kenya, was officially registered as an NGO under the Kenyan Non-Governmental Organizations Co-ordination Act. GAPI focuses on peace-building and community resilience by collaborating with stakeholders to promote dialogue, social cohesion, and conflict resolution. Through advocacy and collaborations with civil society, government agencies and international partners, the organisation lends a voice to countering online incitement to violence, climate-related conflicts, and ideological tensions.

#DEFYHATENOW
Kenya



#FemPeaceEA



FemPeaceEA 2024

East Africa Feminist Peace Network

UGANDA - KENYA - ETHIOPIA - SOUTH SUDAN

The FemPeaceEA project is dedicated to empowering feminist women- and youth-led grassroots organizations across East Africa specifically in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda to strengthen their full and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes.

The project focuses on building the capacity of feminist women and youth-led grassroots organizations to address critical challenges in peacebuilding, including digital safety, gender-based violence, and collective care, while fostering cross-border collaboration and sustainability for feminist movements.

FemPeaceEA aims to support 20 grassroots feminist organizations. To date, 8 women-led organizations have joined the network, representing a wide range of focus areas including economic empowerment, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), women's rights, sex workers' rights, environmental justice, LBQ rights, disability inclusion, SRHR, peace mediation, and conflict transformation.

The first cohort in 2024 brought together participants from Uganda and Ethiopia for an in-person workshop, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration among representatives of selected organizations. The workshop covered key areas including feminist leadership, peacebuilding, digital safety and security, digital advocacy, and storytelling. These sessions were embedded within a feminist self and collective care framework. In addition to skill-building, the gathering provided participants with a valuable opportunity to network, build solidarity, and strengthen cross-border feminist alliances.

FemPeaceEA was initiated by Blen Gebrehiwot Desta at r0g_agency (Germany) in collaboration with Hive Colab (Uganda) as the implementing partner. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

photo credits: FemPeaceEA team
CCBY4.0

FemPeaceEA
EAST AFRICA FEMINIST PEACE NETWORK

In 2023, **r0g_agency** launched the East Africa Feminist Peace Network -FemPeaceEA, initiated by an African feminist, Blen Gebrehiwot Desta. The **FemPeaceEA** project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of women-led and youth-led grassroots feminist organizations in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. **FemPeaceEA** supports the collaborations and coalitions between grassroots feminist organizations across borders to collectively shape and build gender-responsive, inclusive, and transformative feminist sustainable peace.



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#YoMIL 2024 The Gambia

Young Women's Media Information Literacy is promoting the inclusion of young women in the media sector in The Gambia

The project focuses on developing a free, diverse and independent media landscape in The Gambia, where women contribute equally and confidently to strengthening democracy. #YoMIL aims to eliminate media censorship for young women and overcome gender-based discrimination through media and information literacy training across all regions and the creation of a 'Young Women's Media Guide'. The guide will support civil society organisations and interact at different levels by introducing media and information literacy and providing practical ways for women to gain a foothold or grow in the media sector in The Gambia. It will be complemented by an offline app that will allow users to access the guide digitally.

In collaboration with MAJaC, this initiative equips participants with essential media literacy skills, strengthening their role in the digital landscape.

<https://yomil.org>

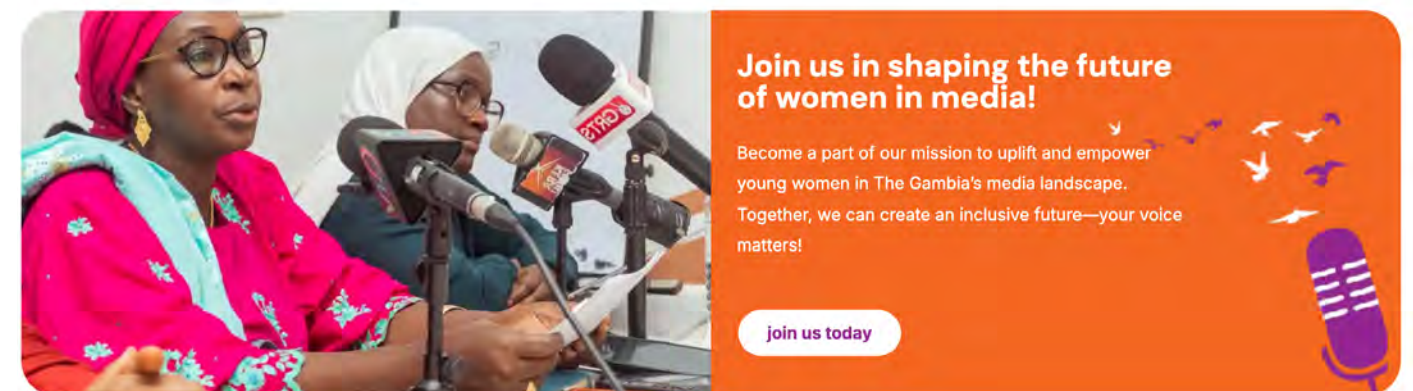


Sample activities 2024:

October 9th: The launch of the Young Women's Media Info Literacy (**#YoMIL**) project in The Gambia marked an exciting step toward empowering young women in the media. In collaboration with MAJaC, this initiative equips participants with essential media literacy skills, strengthening their role in the digital landscape.

November 22nd: The second regional sprint of the #YoMIL project successfully trained 40 young women media workers in The Gambia's Central River Region. Over three days, participants gained valuable insights into media ethics, digital literacy, and research techniques, fostering a stronger and more informed media community.

The project is made possible through funding of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with MajAC as the local administrative partner.



November 22nd: The second regional sprint of the #YoMIL project successfully trained 40 young women media workers in The Gambia's Central River Region. Over three days, participants gained valuable insights into media ethics, digital literacy, and research techniques, fostering a stronger and more informed media community.

The project is made possible through funding of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with MaJAC as the local administrative partner.

photo credits: #YoMIL team
CCBY4.0



#YoMIL media campaign



"share the opportunity with colleagues. Let's lead and distinguish ourselves from others, let's serve as the ambassadors of YOMIL. In all the spaces we find ourselves; let's make change. There is exploitation, harassment in workplaces but let's keep challenging ourselves to do better".



#ASKotec Achievements 2024

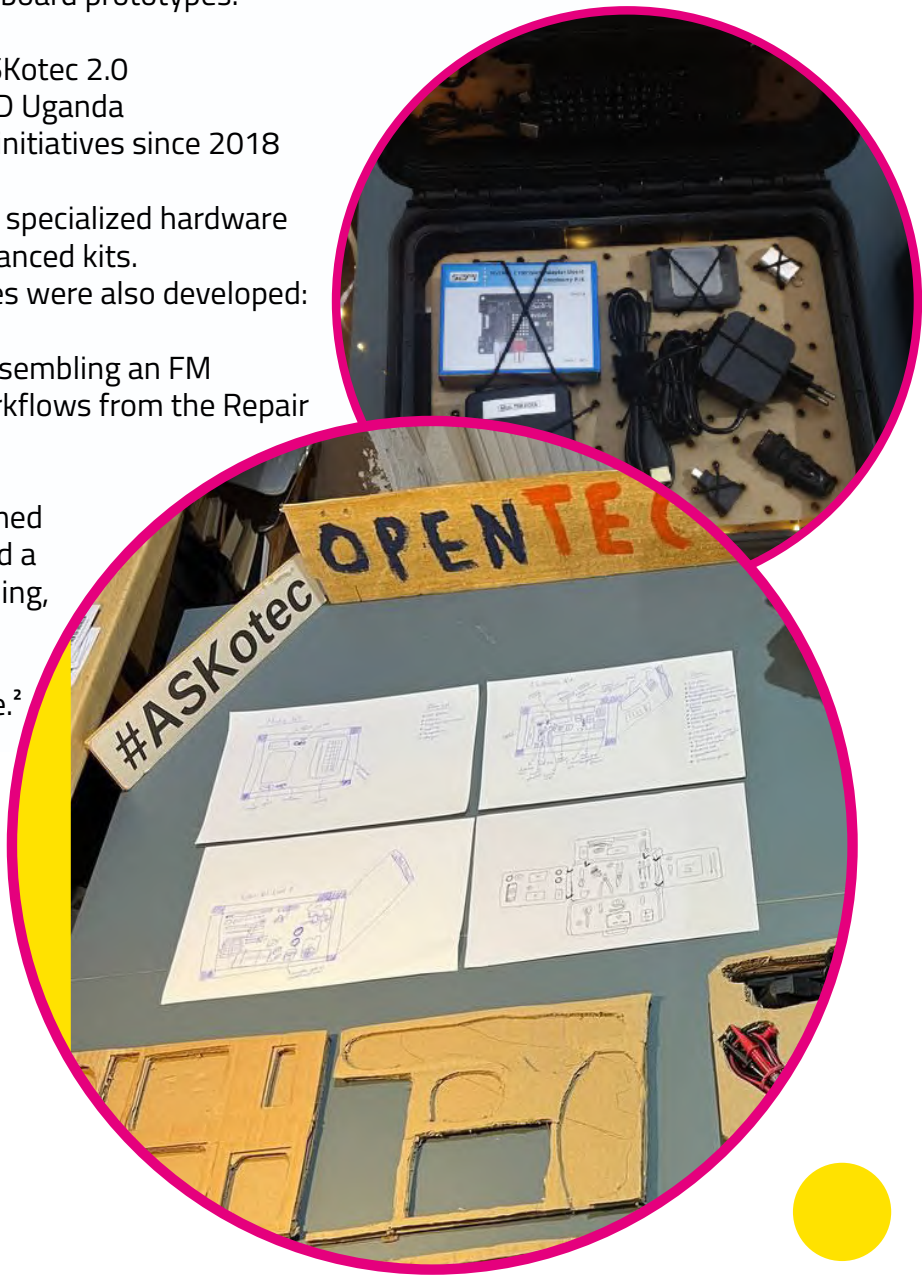
In 2024, the #ASKotec project expanded its open hardware and open learning ecosystem through new modular designs, advanced media kits, educational resources, and collaborative community repair innovations. The central development of the year was the introduction of #ASKotec-Modules, a compact A4-sized system enabling lightweight, adaptable, and locally scalable training activities. These modules form a more flexible alternative to the larger #ASKotec 2.0 kit and are openly documented for replication and community contribution.¹ A key milestone was the creation of the Repair Kit, the first proof-of-concept module assembled from layered cardboard prototypes.

Its design drew from:

- essential tools of the original #ASKotec 2.0
- practitioner experience from CC4D Uganda
- insights from Community Repair initiatives since 2018

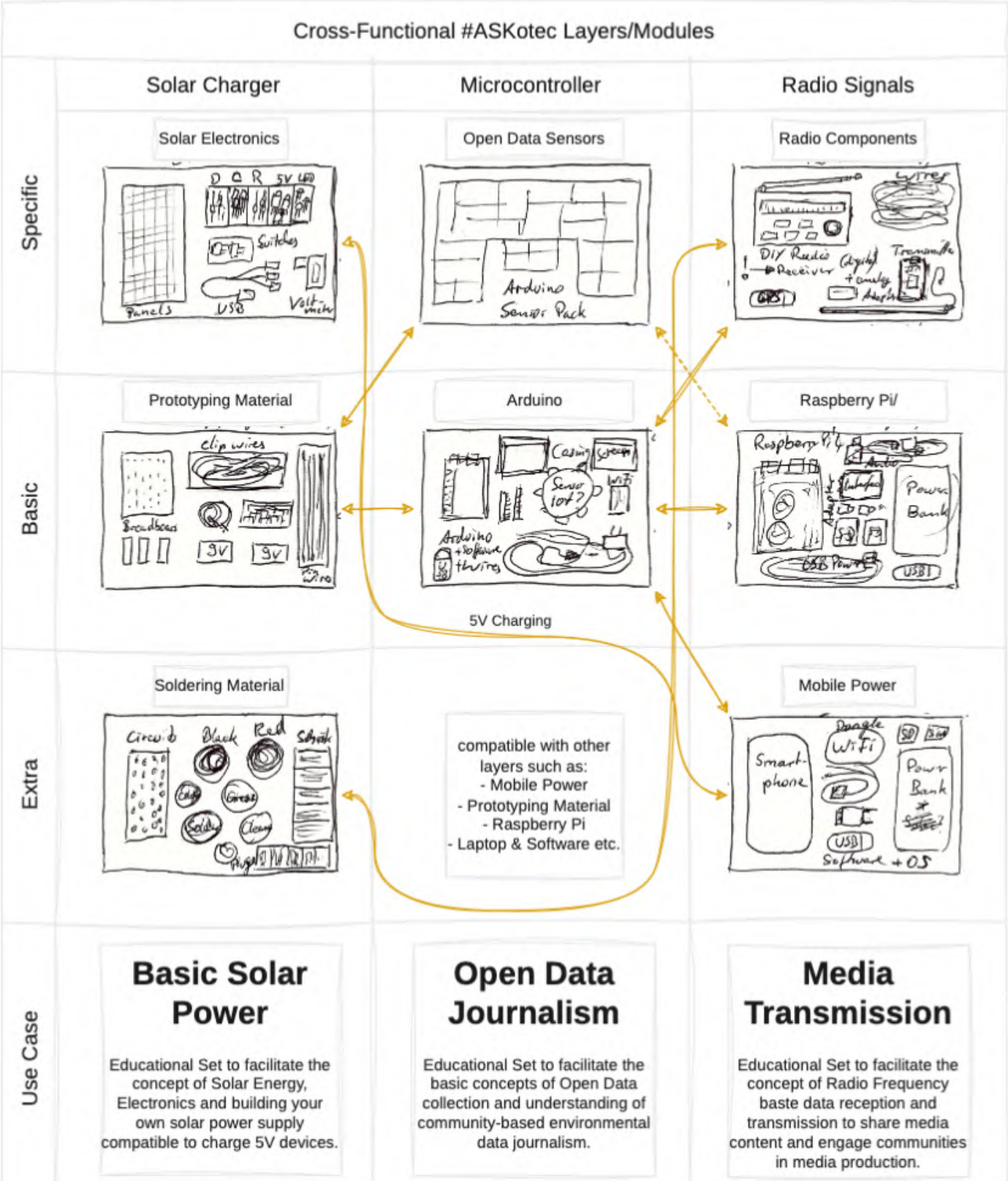
This prototype set the foundation for specialized hardware and soldering tools used in more advanced kits. Two thematic media-focused modules were also developed:

- Radio DIY** – a hands-on kit for assembling an FM receiver, expanding the soldering workflows from the Repair Kit
- Multimedia Hub** – a newly designed digital media workstation built around a Raspberry Pi 5, enabling audio recording, editing, and multimedia storytelling. Documentation for this concept was shared openly for feedback and reuse.²



Conceptual Design of modular and portable Media Production

A Conceptual design of community-oriented DIY media and electronic products for educational purposes
Following the principles of a modular #ASKotec (Access to Skills and Knowledge - open tech emergency case)





The project further strengthened its educational portfolio with the release of two new Open Educational Resource (OER) modules on the [ASKnet training platform](https://askotec.openculture.agency).³ Their openly licensed learning materials are maintained and developed collaboratively in the ASKnet Community GitHub repository.⁴ A major community-oriented innovation was the co-design of COREMO – Community Repair Mobile, a bicycle-trailer-based mobile workshop created together with Adam Abdulmalik, a long-time peer from the 2015 #peacehackcamp. This prototype supports outreach using #ASKotec 1.5 tools and enables mobile repair activities in rural and peri-urban areas. The full build instructions were published on Wikifab for global reuse.⁵

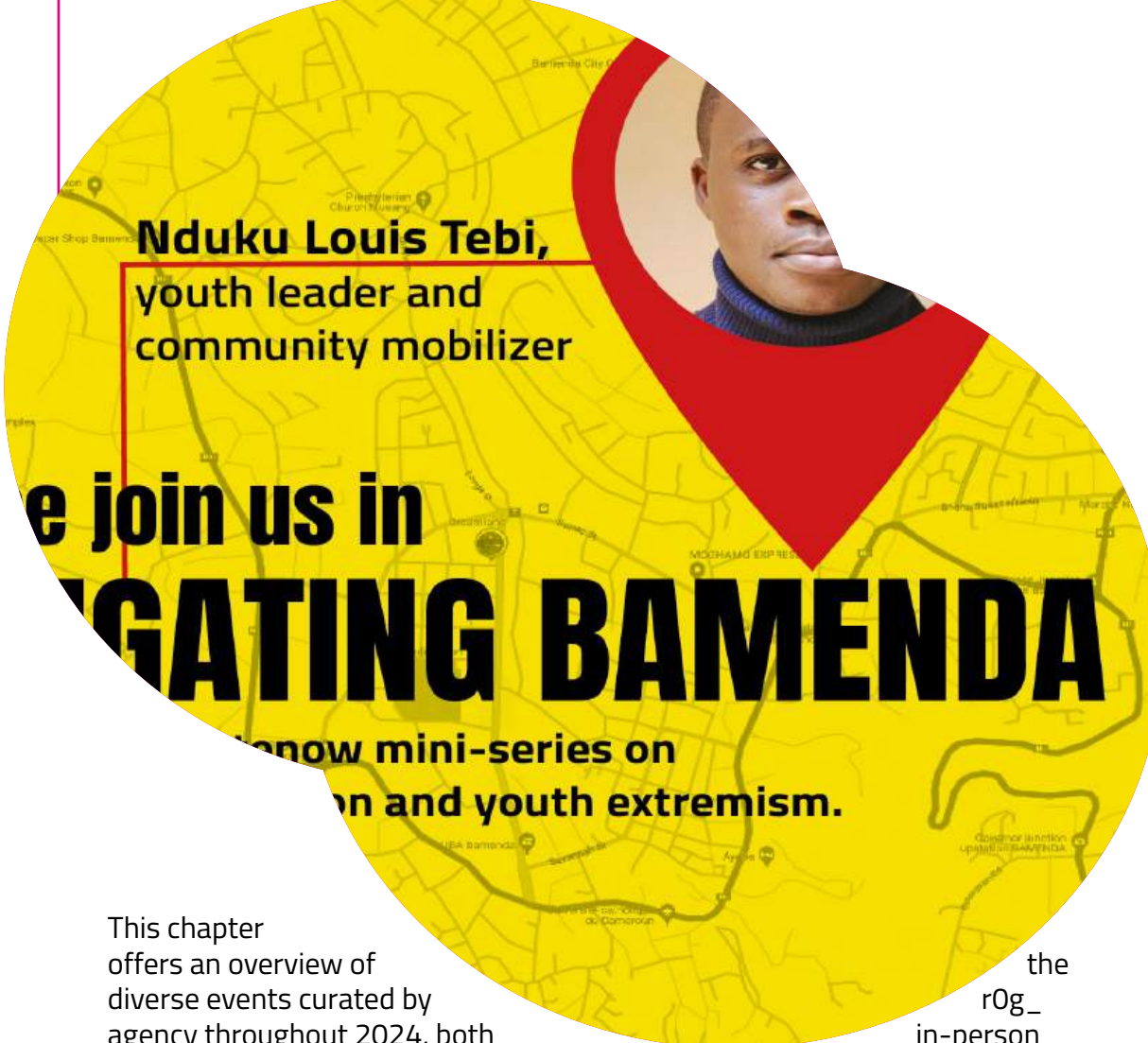
Throughout 2024, the #ASKotec ecosystem continued to grow through community-driven hardware development, open learning materials, and peer collaboration—maintaining all resources transparently through its public project portal.⁶

photo credits: Timm Wille & Adam Abdulmalik
CCBY4.0

#ASKotec related links:

<https://askotec.openculture.agency>
<https://github.com/opencultureagency/ASKotec-Modules>
<https://github.com/ASKnetCommunity/Training>
<https://github.com/opencultureagency/ASKotec-Modules/commits/main/>
<https://training.asknet.community/>
https://wikifab.org/wiki/COREMO_TRAILER_-_Community_Repair_Mobile





This chapter offers an overview of diverse events curated by the rOg_ agency throughout 2024, both in-person and online. These events brought together experts, activists, and community members to engage in discussions, workshops, and dialogues. YoMIL 2024 Young Women's Media Information Literacy is promoting the inclusion of young women in the media sector in The Gambia.

The project focuses on developing a free, diverse and independent media landscape in The Gambia, where women contribute equally and confidently to strengthening democracy. #YoMIL aims to eliminate media censorship for young women and overcome gender-based discrimination through media and information literacy training across all regions and the creation of a 'Young Women's Media Guide'. The guide will support civil society organisations and interact at different levels by introducing media and information literacy and providing practical ways for women to gain a foothold or grow in the media sector in The Gambia. It will be complemented by an offline app that will allow users to access the guide digitally.

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1. Dissertation Presentation - February 2nd 2024,

Dr. Merga Yonas Bula presented key insights from his PhD research on the impact of the public digital space on the African diaspora at the rOg agency Berlin office. He explored how diaspora communities use social media, blogs, podcasts, and online forums to shape identities, challenge stereotypes, and combat misinformation.

Guest speaker Ali Reza Hussani (Communications for Social Change - EC4SC, University of Leipzig) contributed to the discussion, examining the diaspora's role in peacemaking - or peace-breaking - through digital engagement.



2. ACTION WEEKS AGAINST RACISM

- **March 21st 2024** As part of the

"Aktionswochen gegen Rassismus Charlottenburg - Wilmersdorf",

which took place from March 15 to April 15,

rOg_ agency organized a workshop on anti-black racism. The workshop

aimed at participants who are not affected by racism and teach them more about anti-black racism.

The workshop was made possible by the support of Partnerschaft für Demokratie.



3. Discussion Evening Yemen - April 25th 2024

rOg_agency hosted an evening discussion titled "Yemen: From the Arab Spring to International Proxy War" at the Open Culture Office in Berlin. Moderated by PhD anthropologist Jonas Ecke, the event featured insights from Berlin-based Yemeni activists Mohamed Al-Thawr, Reem Jarhum, and Feda Alkashi, who shared their perspectives on Yemen's transition from the Arab Spring to the ongoing international conflict.

The discussion was held under the Chatham House Rule and complemented the photo exhibition "Yemen: 'Arabia Felix' in the Crossfire of Geopolitics" by Jonas Ecke. This event created a valuable space for dialogue and reflection on one of the world's most pressing humanitarian crises.



5. "roda de conversa" June 4th 2024

On June 4th, 2024, the Open Culture Office hosted a round-table discussion titled "Decolonising City-Making Through Cooperation, Care, and Trust-Building," promoted by Laura Sobral. Participants from around the globe explored actionable strategies for advancing decolonial practices in urban development. The concept of the "right to the city" emerged as a key theme, emphasizing that urban spaces should be governed by their residents rather than market




Please join us in NAVIGATING BAMENDA
a two-part #defyhatenow mini-series on countering disinformation and youth extremism.

Part 1
Thursday
May 9th
6 pm
Nduku Louis Tebi

4. May 9th 2024 First Part of "Navigating Bamenda":
a two-part #defyhatenow series at rOg_agency's OPEN CULTURE OFFICE in Berlin-Charlottenburg, featuring two remarkable activists from Cameroon's conflict-torn North West Region. Once hailed as Cameroon's 'City of the Future,' Bamenda now grapples with the aftermath of a decade-long separatist insurgency. Host @ndukulouistebe, a youth leader and recipient of the 2024 Young Global Changers Recoupling Award, is dedicated to rehabilitating former youth combatants and reshaping the narrative of conflict in Cameroon's North West Region.
<https://openculture.agency/navigating-bamenda/>

Nduku Louis Tebi,
youth leader and community mobilizer



Please join us in NAVIGATING BAMENDA
a two-part #defyhatenow mini-series on countering disinformation and youth extremism.

Part 2
Friday
June 10th
6 pm
Mbhuh Stella

6. June 10th 2024 Second Part of "Navigating Bamenda" #DefyHateNow
series at our Berlin office, featuring Cameroonian journalist Mbuh Stella. During the event, Stella shared her deep connection to Bamenda, emphasizing its resilience and vibrant agricultural economy despite the ongoing conflict. She reminded us that even in conflict zones, life continues, and communities remain strong, saying "Bamenda is the best carrot producer in Cameroon. There's a vibrant agricultural economy in Bamenda; though on its knees, it's still alive. People don't stop living even in conflict zones."
<https://openculture.agency/navigating-bamenda/>

Mbhuh Stella
conflict journalist and fact checker

7. #PeaceJam2024 June 18, 2024

#InclusivePeace: Strengthening Ability in Peacebuilding

On June 18th, 2024, the #defyhatenow #PeaceJam2024 took place online, focusing on the theme "#InclusivePeace: Strengthening Ability in Peacebuilding." In conjunction with the United Nations International Day for Countering Hate Speech, the event highlighted the voices of individuals and communities traditionally excluded from peacebuilding discussions. The session aimed to recognize the disproportionate burden of conflict and hate speech faced by marginalized groups, while advocating for their inclusion in developing solutions to these critical issues.

<https://defyhatenow.org/peacejam2024/>



8. November 21th 2024 Bangladesh High Commission Workshop

rOg_agency's Stephen Kovats led a discussion with students, journalists, and civil society members on combating #disinformation on social media at the High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh. Drawing on lessons from the #defyhatenow initiative, the session focused on strategies to counter misinformation and disinformation for transformative and peaceful communities.



9. August 16th 2024 #defyHatenow Ethiopia Diaspora Dialogues:

In an online dialogue, Ethiopian diaspora communities came together to counter hate speech and misinformation while fostering understanding and unity. Through engaging discussions and cultural exchanges, participants explored strategies for conflict transformation and the dangers of online hate.

10. November 2nd #defyHatenow Cameroon Diaspora Dialogues in Osnabrück:

The 4th edition of the #defyhatenow Diaspora Dialogue took place in Osnabrück on Saturday, bringing together members of the Cameroonian diaspora in Germany. The first panel discussion, "Navigating Social Spaces: A Quest for Belonging," focused on social integration, countering hate speech, and the unique contributions of the diaspora community. The second panel, "The Cameroonian Diaspora as a Vector of Peace and Counter-Hate Speech: A Possibility?" explored how the diaspora can play a key role in fostering peace and combating hate speech.

<https://openculture.agency/news/>

photo credits: rOg team
CCBY4.0





Emerging
Scholar

#Hacking
Alienation

FoME
Symposium

chapter 4

IV. r0g_event participation

Strengthening
Media

Build Peace
Conference

Bangladesh
Conference

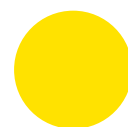


This chapter provides an overview of r0g_agency's participation in key events throughout 2024, where we engaged with global communities, academics, and activists on pressing issues.

These events, held across various locations including Berlin, Ottawa, Manila, and beyond, saw r0g_agency collaborating with partners, sharing expertise, and contributing to important conversations on topics such as media literacy, disinformation, and peacebuilding.

While the following section focuses on our involvement in these diverse events, it highlights r0g_agency's ongoing commitment to fostering global dialogue and supporting the development of solutions that promote open culture and critical transformation.

1. **Emerging Scholar Conference - Carleton University Ottawa - 17.05.2024**
2. **#HackingAlienation conference - 21 & 22.09.2024**
3. **FoME Symposium - 30.09 & 1.10.2024**
4. **Strengthening media resilience & dealing with disinformation in Anglophone sub-Saharan Africa - 13.11.2024**
5. **Build Peace Conference in Manila, Indonesia - 15.11.2024**
6. **Bangladesh Conference - 18.11.2024**



1. May 17h 2024 Emerging Scholar Conference - Carleton University Ottawa:

The first-ever Emerging Scholar Conference by the Institute of African Studies (IAS) @ Carleton University was held on May 17th in Ottawa, Canada. This event aimed to develop an engaged intellectual community among undergraduate students, graduate students, emerging scholars, and community scholars in the fields of African Studies, African Diasporic and Migration Studies, and Black Studies.

r0g_agency's Chike Stf Nwoke and Kendi Gikunda were among the scholars who participated and presented at the conference.

2. September 21st-22nd 2024 Collaboration on the #HackingAlienation conference in Berlin:

r0g_agency collaborated with Disruption Network Lab and SyriaUntold for the #HackingAlienation conference held in Berlin on September 21st-22nd. The event brought together experts and activists to explore the pivotal role of media and technology in raising awareness and building community among migrants and refugees. A key panel featured speakers Moro Yapha, Stella Nyanzi, and Nyima Jadama, moderated by Mo R. of Tactical Tech. The discussions focused on the challenges migrants face in Germany, Europe, and beyond, and highlighted how media and self-advocacy can shift narratives from being defined as 'migrants' to becoming active, empowered citizens. We extend our thanks to all speakers, attendees, and partners for making this event a success.

<https://www.disruptionlab.org/>



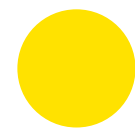
3. September 30 – October 2024 FoME Symposium at the Erich-Brost Institute Media Assistance: Mind the Gap! A critical review of common practices and strategies

In these turbulent times, when the challenges facing the sector are growing, there sometimes seems to be a widening gap between media assistance and the actual development of the media in developing and transition countries. Sometimes spectacular setbacks have wiped out years of effort. Building on the work of the working group launched last year to develop avenues for improvement, Symposium 2024 will be organised around four themes identified as cross-cutting issues for much-needed reform of the sector:

At the FoME Symposium in Dortmund, rOg_agency and icebauhaus led a workshop titled "Undoing Game of Thrones" moderated by rOg_agency's Stephen Kovats and Defyhatenow_EA's Marina Modi.

Unlike the power struggles in the series, this workshop focused on dismantling barriers across cultures, conflicts, and skills training. Through rapid game co-creation, participants discussed real-world challenges using examples from hate speech mitigation, conflict stabilization, and irregular migration. The result was a creative experience with tools that participants could take back and apply in their own quests for positive change.

At the recently held FoME Symposium in Dortmund, rOg_agency and icebauhaus led a workshop titled "Undoing Game of Thrones" moderated by rOg_agency's Stephen Kovats and Defyhatenow_EA's Marina Modi. Unlike the power struggles in the series, this workshop focused on dismantling barriers across cultures, conflicts, and skills training. Through rapid game co-creation, participants discussed real-world challenges using examples from hate speech mitigation, conflict stabilization, and irregular migration. #openculture #migration <https://fome.info/>



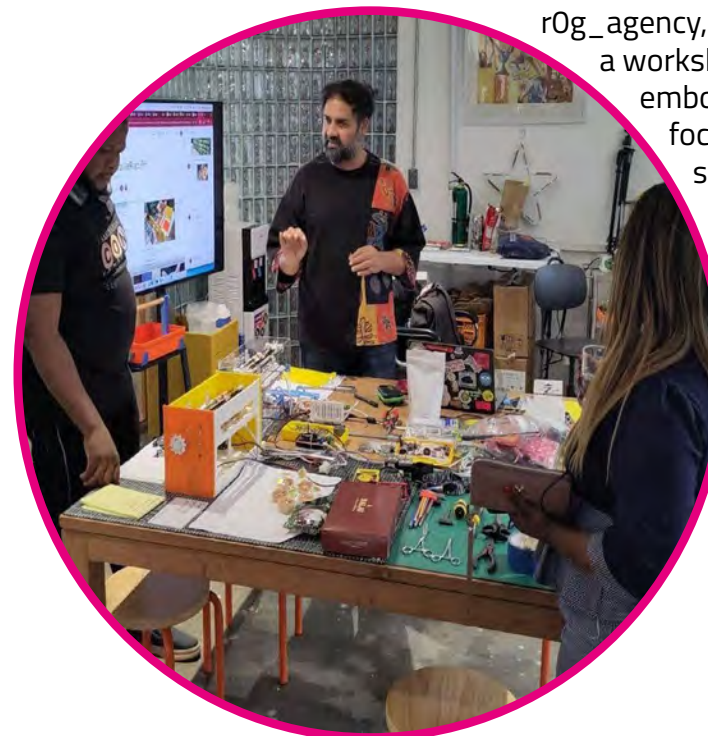
4. November 13th 2024 Strengthening media: resilience

and dealing with disinformation in Anglophone sub-Saharan Africa
As part of the Goethe-Institut organising an information trip to Germany for 18 guests from English speaking sub saharan Africa on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office, the guests visited the rOg office on the 13th of November. Topic was 'Strengthening media resilience and dealing with disinformation in Anglophone sub-Saharan Africa'. The topics to be covered:
Dealing with disinformation and the role of social media
Media literacy and digital resilience
Freedom of the press and quality journalism
Fact checking opportunities and risks of digital tools and AI.



5. November 15th 2024 Build Peace Conference in Manila, Philippines:

At the 2024 Build Peace Conference in Manila, Philippines, rOg_agency, in collaboration with MOLD Makerspace, led a workshop on BrailleRap, an open-source, DIY braille embosser. This session, held on November 15th, focused on the role of innovative technology in supporting inclusive peacebuilding by making information more accessible to those with visual impairments. The workshop was part of the conference's theme, "Pushing Frontiers, From the Ground Up." rOg_agency extends its gratitude to MOLD Makerspace, Jay Fajardo, Saad Chinoy, and the DefyHateNow Cameroon community for their contributions to this impactful session.



6. November 18th 2024 Bangladesh Conference:

On November 18th, 2024, Stephen Kovats from r0g_agency participated in the "Bay of Bengal Conversation on Freedom of the Press vs Weaponized Information," hosted by the High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh. The event brought together experts, including Biswas Baral, editor of the Kathmandu Post, and representatives from the UNDP and the Embassy of the Netherlands, to discuss the challenges of disinformation on social media. Stephen contributed to the dialogue by highlighting the importance of credible journalism and freedom of information for fostering inclusive and peaceful governance, emphasizing r0g_agency's commitment to combating disinformation through initiatives like #defyhatenow.



<https://openculture.agency/news/>

photo credits: r0g team
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Gender-Based Violence

A Community Guide to Understanding and Discussing GBV

In 2024, r0g_agency and its programs produced and updated different learning material, guides and posters.

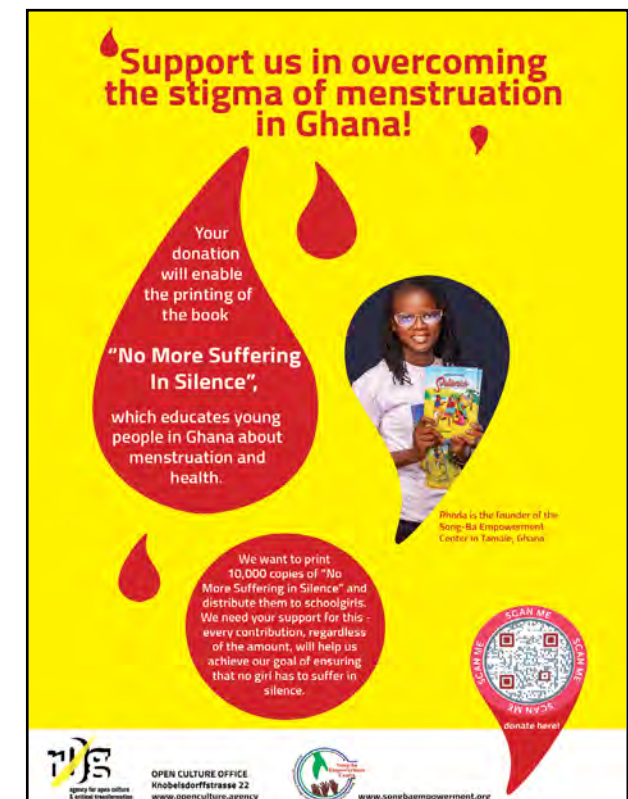
1. r0g_poster
2. update #ASKnet posters
3. book publications
4. r0g_social media posts
5. r0g_newsletter
6. book launch 'no more suffering in silence' Rhoda Wedam
7. #defyhatenow Peaceletters

<https://openculture.agency/outcomes/>

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1. r0g_EVENT POSTERS



DECOLONISING CITY-MAKING THROUGH COOPERATION, CARE, AND TRUST-BUILDING

dialogue session

4.30PM, TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2024

OPEN CULTURE OFFICE
Knobelsdorffstr. 22
14209 Berlin - Neukölln
info@openkulture.agency

what are
actionable strategies
for advancing decolonial
practices in everyday
city-making?

Decolonising
Development

cost
European Cooperation
in Science and Technology

iGJS
International Gender
Justice Studies
a center for research and
action

gig
Global
Innovation
Gathering

A young woman with short dark hair, wearing a red polo shirt and a patterned scarf, stands outdoors holding a black protest sign. The sign has white text that reads "BREAK THE SILENCE" and "#DEFYHATENOW" with a yellow diagonal line through the hashtag. In the top left corner of the image, there is a QR code. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

#defyhatenow

CAMEROON DIASPORA DIALOGUES 4th Edition

*The Cameroonian Diaspora as Vector of Peace
and Counter-Hate Speech: A Possibility?*

November 2nd 2024

4:25pm - 5:25pm CEST Berlin / 3:25pm - 4:25pm WAT Cameroon

Julie Tiemang-Nataga
Educator, speaker, author, founder of the association Zusammen Bewegen e.V. and founder of the publishing house Renaissance Afrik.

Contini Kentack
Founder & Chair of 3 E's 4 Africa and Young Global Changer Ambassador for Africa.

Valérie Wiblan
Moderator

Henriette Ndioki
Educator and mediator.

Virgine Kamche
Co-founder Afrika Netzwerk Bremen
e.V. Specialist Promoter for Migration,
Diaspora and development Policy.

Sponsored by:

Partners:

What is Open Hardware?

Introduction

Open Hardware (OH) or "Open Source Hardware (OSH)" is a term for tangible artifacts — machines, devices and other physical things — whose design has been released to the public in such a way that anyone can make, modify, distribute, and use those things.^[1]

The general benefits of open source methods and open tech innovation are:

- Access to knowledge and product designs
- Fast and distributed exchange of skills and knowledge
- Accelerated innovation due to collaborative development
- Low development costs and more expertise
- Easy adaptation and customization

When do you need to be Open Tech?

When do you need to be Open Tech? When do you need to be Open Tech? When do you need to be Open Tech?

Learn More

Learn More about Open Tech. Learn More about Open Tech. Learn More about Open Tech.

Open Source Hardware, Linux and open hardware

Open Source Hardware, Linux and open hardware. Open Source Hardware, Linux and open hardware.

Hardware

Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware. Hardware.

Software

Software. Software. Software. Software. Software. Software. Software. Software. Software. Software.

Open Tech Skills

Open Tech Skills

Experiences: Improvements: Motivational Skills

Creativity: Made Test Skills: Knowledge: Good Learning: Hopeful: Time Management Skills: Social Skills: Million: Commitment: Handson Skills: Explanation Skills: Technical Skills: Creativity: Hand Skills:

Open Tech Linux Software Installation

Open Tech Linux Software Installation

Open Tech Linux Software Installation

Open Hardware Process - Documentation Principles

Open Hardware Process - Documentation Principles

Open Hardware Process - Documentation Principles

Open Hardware Process - Documentation Principles

Open Process Documentation - Open Tech Guide

Open Process Documentation - Open Tech Guide

Open Process Documentation - Open Tech Guide

Open Process Documentation - Open Tech Guide

EXPLORE! IF YOU FIND AN ERROR - CHECK THE RESOURCES, FIX IT, MODIFY IT AND KEEP DOING GREAT STUFF!

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Resources

Resources

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Resources

WRAPUP

WRAPUP

WRAPUP

WRAPUP

3. BOOK PUBLICATIONS

#ROSHOP #ASKnet building in Pagirinya Refugee Settlement
Published in Driving Design Vol.2

Profile of the new #ASKnet building in Pagirinya Refugee Settlement in Uganda
(p.252-257) in the Driving Design Vol.2 by
Design Platform.

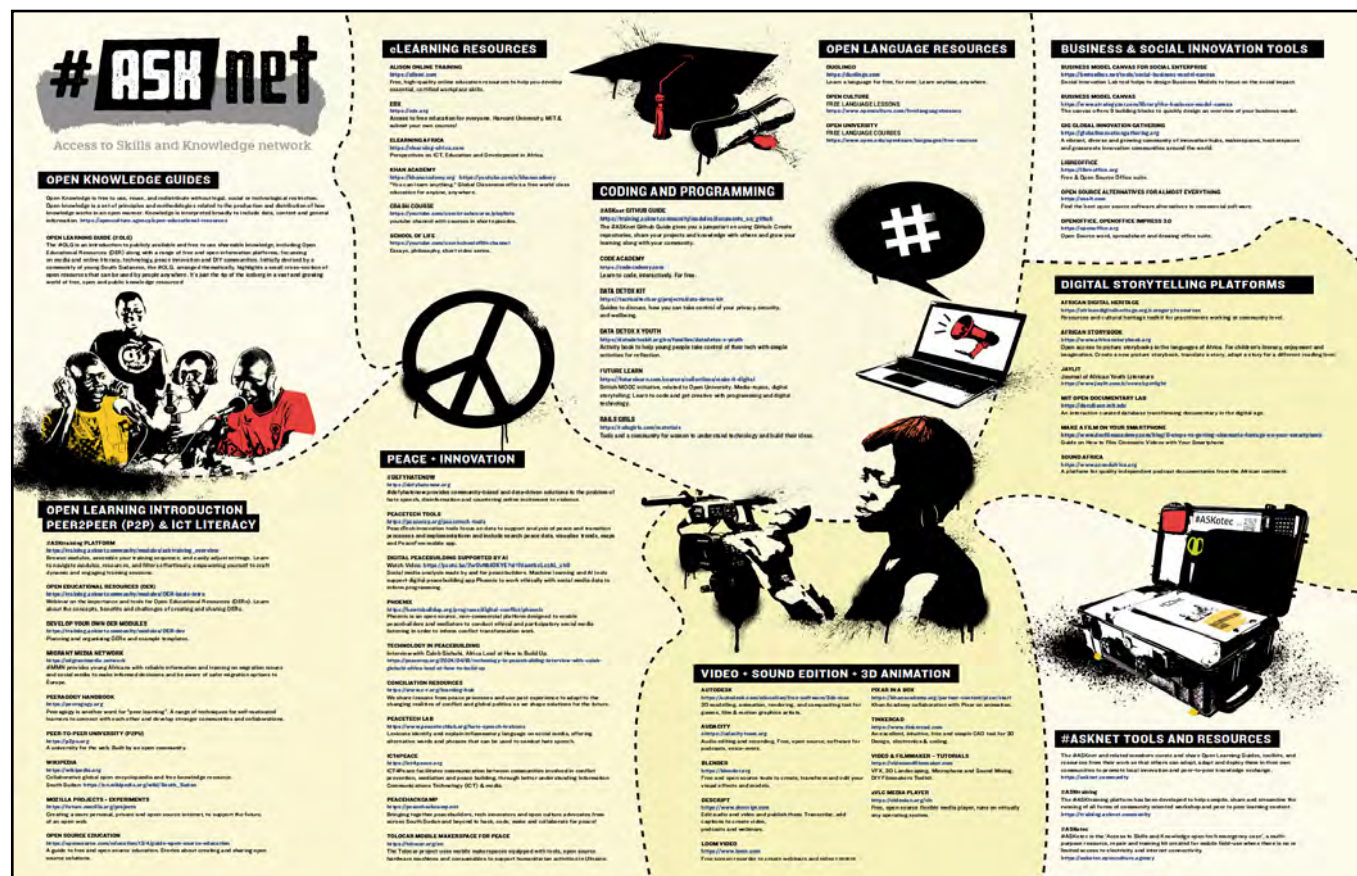
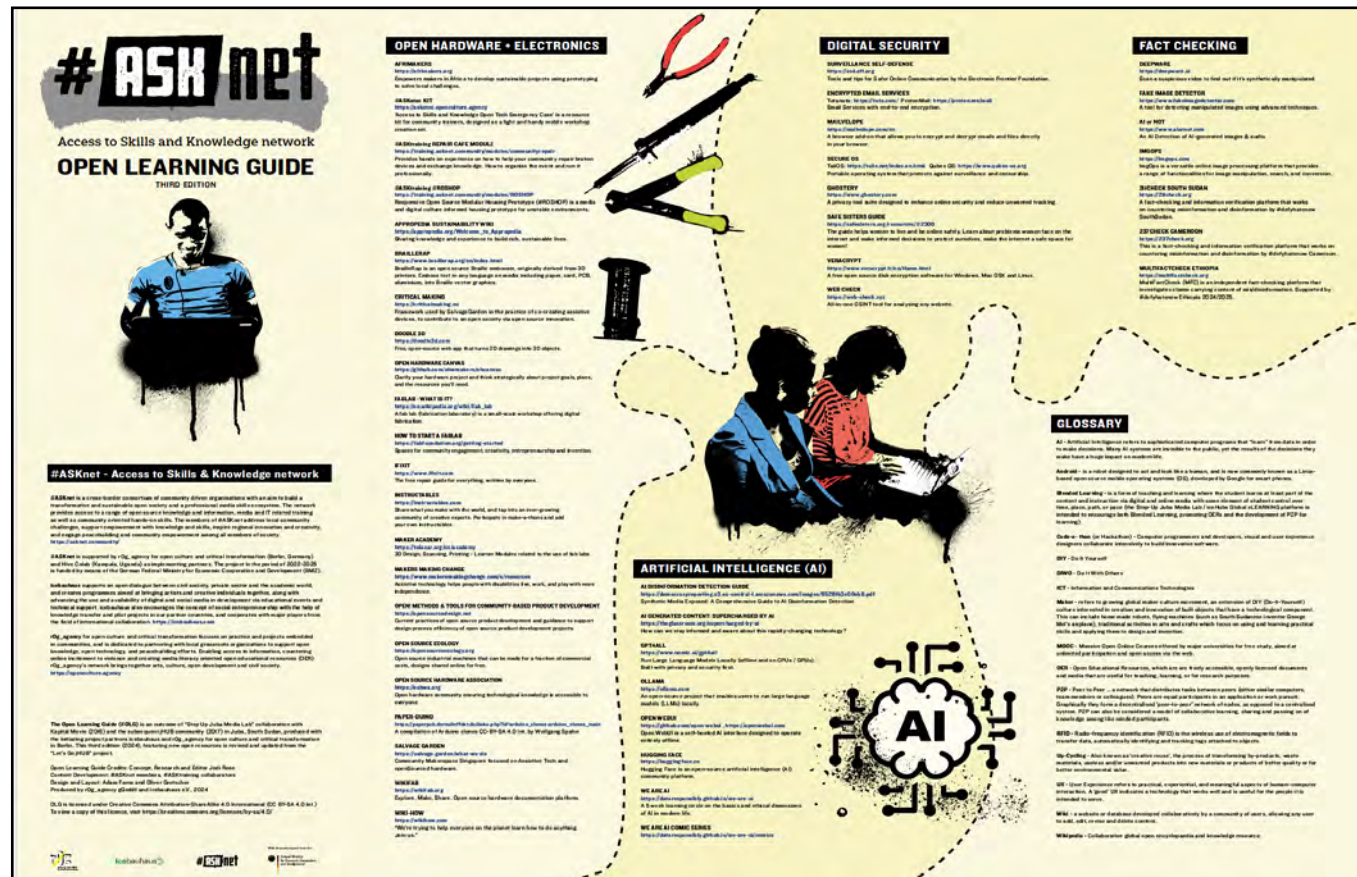
In 2023, rOg_agency's Caroline Patrick spent three weeks in Adjumani, Northern Uganda, documenting the #ROSHOP project, a media-inspired modular housing prototype designed for post-conflict environments. The prototype, built in the Pagirinya Refugee Settlement, was managed by

#ASKnet hub member [The Youth Empowerment Foundation](#) - Yef-ADJUMANI, with

collaboration from teams in Canada and Germany. What makes [#ROSHOP](#) unique is its sustainability and cultural relevance. constructed using vernacular architecture, incorporating local materials and indigenous techniques. The process also emphasizes a collaborative approach and knowledge sharing through open-source digital technologies like GitHub. You can now read a profile of the project in the second edition of Driving Design.

Download the book for free:

<https://distributeddesign.eu/reso.../driving-design-book-ii/>



Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is divided into categories to show the many ways it can take. But it is important to note that one category of violence will often include many different types of violence.

Rape is included primarily as **sexual violence** in the list. Rape also includes elements of **physical violence** (being hit or restrained) and **psychological violence** (both during and after the trauma).

Gender-based violence exists along a continuum from more minor forms, such as name-calling, to the most extreme form of GBV: femicide.

Women website states, "gender related killings (femicide) are the most brutal and extreme form of a continuum of violence against women and girls. They are interconnected and overlapping forms. Defined as the intentional killing with a gender-related motivation, femicide is rooted in stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards women, and unequal power relations between women and men, and social norms."

Gender-based violence is particularly troubling not only for the way it humanizes way societies often talk about violence against women and girls. Instead, we see it as deeply rooted in inequality and the power they take or do not take, and the threat of death.

Gender-based violence is committed by individuals or intimate partners that are that will them. It is more



The illustration shows a woman's face and upper body in profile, looking down. Her skin is a light purple color. She has dark, curly hair and is wearing a yellow headband. Her face is marked with various text elements: "INTIMIDATION" is written vertically on her forehead, "THE ACTION" is written vertically on her cheek, and "IDEA" is written vertically on her chin. Her neck and upper chest are also marked with text: "BULLY" is written vertically on her neck, "INTIMIDATION" is written horizontally on her upper chest, "DISCRIMINATION" is written horizontally on her lower chest, and "IDEA" is written vertically on her lower chest. She is wearing a black top. The background is a solid purple color.

committed
to intimate
relationships that
will them.
are

<https://defyhatenow.org/cameroon/gbv-guide/>

<https://github.com/opencultureagency>

#Inspire

"We are seeing a positive shift, both nationally and internationally, in attitudes toward women's empowerment. I anticipate these trends will persist, creating significant impact and empowering women to play crucial roles in their communities."

57

"We are seeing a positive shift, both nationally and internationally, in attitudes toward women's empowerment. I anticipate these trends will persist, creating significant impact in empowering women to play crucial roles in their communities."

5. r0g_newsletter

We as the r0g_agency send out regular newsletters in order to share updates about our work and events.

We as the r0g_agency send out regular newsletters in order to share updates about our work and events.
r0g_newsletter sign up here: <https://openculture.agency>



r0g_newsletter: autumn 2024



colleagues,
with updates on our different projects and activities.
introduces, amongst others, two projects –
that focus on women in media and feminism.

snapshot of our work please feel free to
contact us via email or visit our website and social media

6. crowdfunding book launch

"No More Suffering in Silence" by Wedam Kadoa Rhoda

On May 24th, r0g_agency supported the launch of "No More Suffering in Silence," a crucial initiative by **Wedam Kadoa Rhoda** aimed at addressing the lack of menstrual education and access to sanitary products that affects 1 in 10 girls across Africa, causing them to miss school. Through this project, Rhoda is working to provide menstrual education to young people in her community in Ghana. Donations were collected to fund the printing of copies of her book, which will be distributed to schoolchildren, ensuring they have access to important knowledge and resources.

<https://openculture.agency/support-girls-in-ghana-end-stigma-around-periods/>



7. #defyhatenow_peaceletters 2024

As part of the #defyhatenow initiative we produce an annual activity report and a monthly peaceletter. For more information please visit:

peaceletter: <https://dfyhatenow.org/cameroon/peaceletters/github.com/opencultureagency>

#defyhatenow #PeaceLetter

Monthly Bilingual Publication

Publication Mensuelle Bilingue

N° 07/ July 2024

N° 07 / juillet 2024

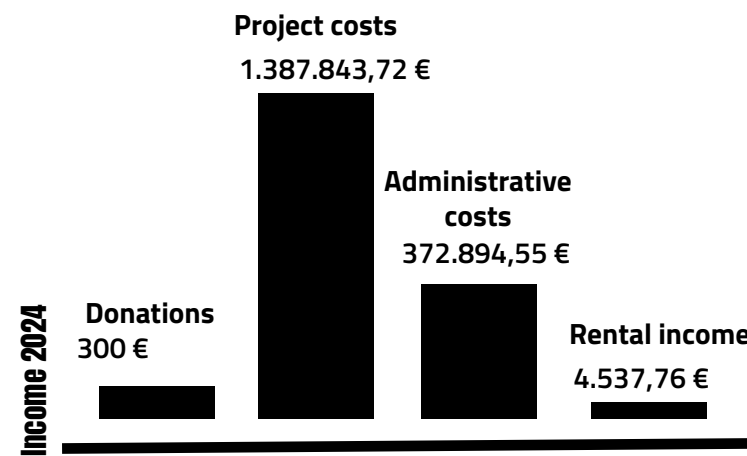
/aounde: Germany Ambassador Hosts #defyhatenow Team

#PeaceJam2024:

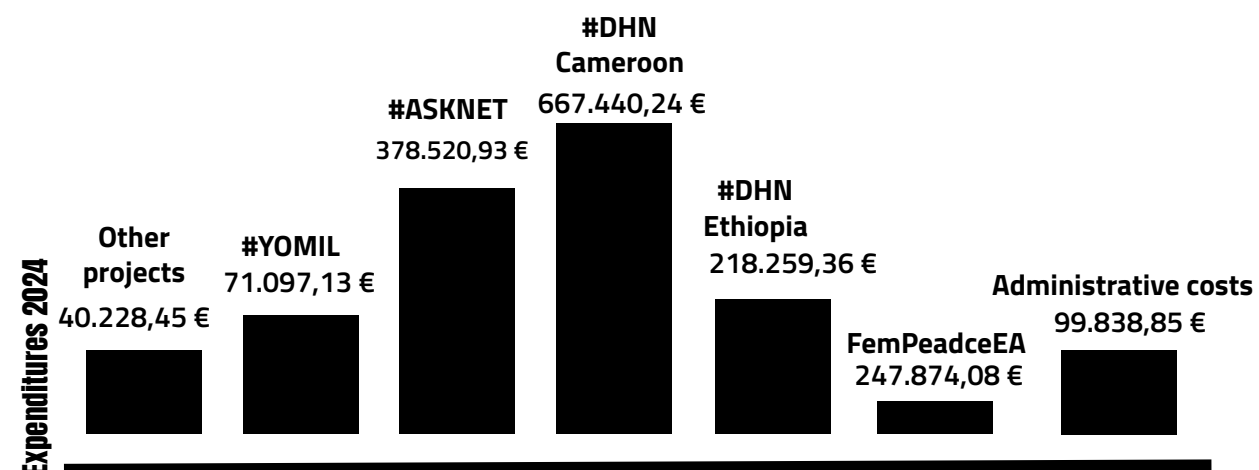
Peace: Strengthening ability in pe

chapter 6

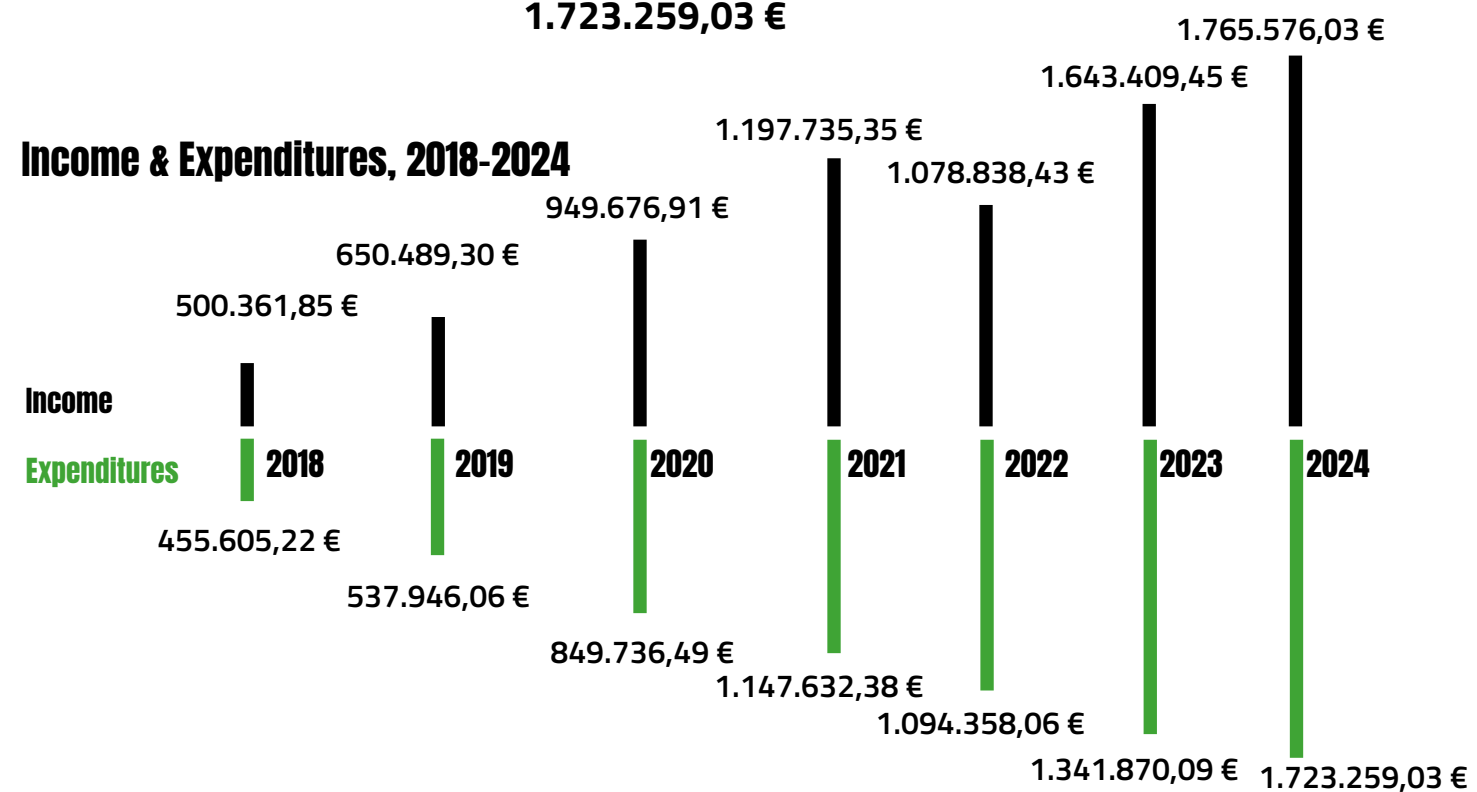
VI. r0g in numbers



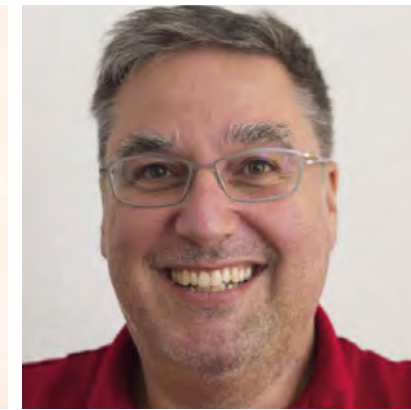
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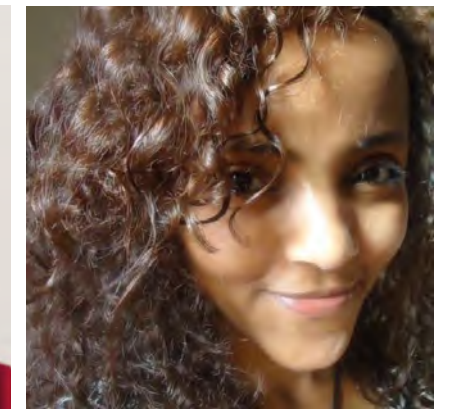
1.723.259,03 €



Susanne Bellinghausen
Founding co-Director



Stephen Kovats
Founding co-Director



Blen Desta
FemPeaceEA Project Lead

VII. r0g_team



Valentien Vasilev
Project Associate



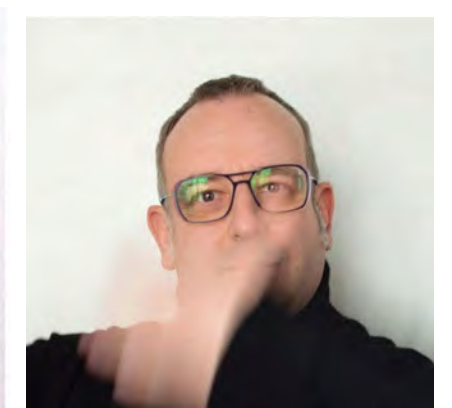
Merga Yona Bula
Media Analyst



Heike Bluthardt
Graphic Designer



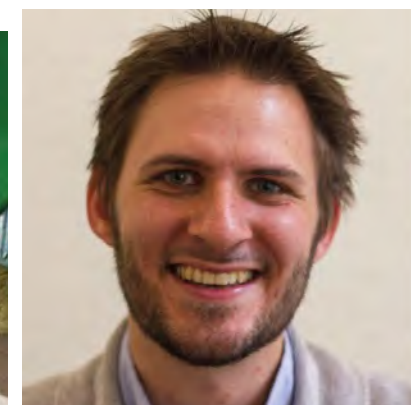
Barbara Bichlmeier
Financial Administrator



Tiemo Ehmke
#ASKnet Lead Project Manager



Caroline Patrick
Program Associate



Timm Wille
Open Tec Advisor
63



Njoki Kariuki
Social Media Coordinator



Cosmas Kombat
Program Associate



Seda Seusing
Project Associate



Daniel King'ori
Web Developer



Kendi Gikunda
Educational Resources Lead



Ngala Desmond Ngala
Project manager



Nyima Jadama
#YoMIL Program Lead



Yara Abbass
#Asknet documentation



Saad Chinoy



Rosebell Kagumire

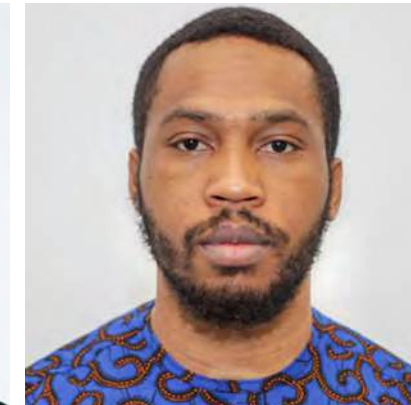


Dr. John Fass

VIII. r0g_strategic advisory board



Anne Doose



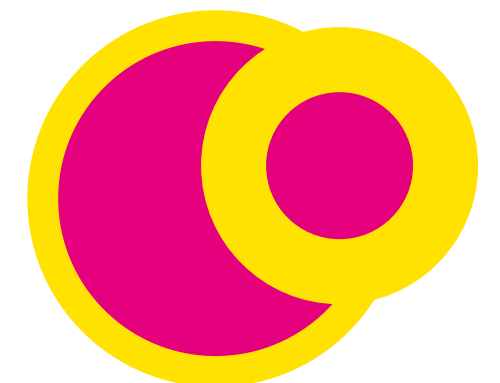
Chikezirim Nwoke



Kudzai M. Mubaiwa

We would like to thank our r0g_strategic advisory board (StAB) for their continued help and support.

<https://openculture.agency/strategic-advisory-board/>



VIII. r0g_partners

AA / GFFO - German Federal Foreign Office (Germany)
Rain Forest Center for Policy (Cameroon)
Andariya (Sudan / South Sudan / Uganda)
ASAU - Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism (Canada)
Association Civic Watch (Cameroon)
ATAKAHUB (#ASKnet - South Sudan)
BENGO / Engagement Global gGmbH (Germany)
BMZ - Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Germany)
CC4D - Community Creativity for Development (#ASKnet - Uganda)
CECI - Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation (#ASKnet - Uganda)
CIC - Creative Innovation Center (#ASKnet - Uganda)
DarSudan e.V.
DEFYHATENOW South Sudan (South Sudan)
Disruption Network Lab e.V. (Germany)
EU - European Union
FoME - Forum Medien und Entwicklung (Germany)
gig - global innovation gathering e.V. (Germany)
GoGirlsICT (#ASKnet - South Sudan)
High Commission of Canada , Dhaka (Bangladesch)
HiveColab (Uganda)
icebauhaus e.V. (Germany)
JUNUBOS (#ASKnet - South Sudan)
Koneta Hub (#ASKnet - South Sudan)
Konnetktiv Kollektiv GmbH (Germany)
Ma'Mara Sakit (#ASKnet - South Sudan)
OFF Biennale (Hungary)
Open Source Ecology Germany e.V. (Germany)
Partnerschaft für Demokratie (Germany)
PPE - Positive Peace Ethiopia (Ethiopia)
PlatformAfrica (#ASKnet - Uganda)
YEF - Youth Empowerment Foundation (#ASKnet - Uganda)

#defyhatenow CAMEROON 2024 regional partners

Cameroon Association of Media Professionals- CAMP
Cameroon Community Media Network- CCMN
Civic Lens
Common Action for Gender Development- COMAGEND
#237 Check
D2R Transformers
Dance 4 Development
Draufsicht Cameroon
Eduk-Media
Insight 244

Johnson Ebigwe Production
Leap Girl Africa
Local Youth Corner Cameroon- LOYOC
LYANB
Meta
Ministry of Communication/Mincom
Ministry of Youth and Civic Education- MINJEC
Minsante/ Ministry of Health Cameroon
Moki Charity Cameroon- MOHCAM
Mother of Hope Cameroon- MOHCAM
National Commission for The Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism-NCPBM
Fulbe Students Development Association- FUSDA
Rainforest Center for Policy Research- RCPR
Reach Out Cameroon
Sisters Speak 237
Smart Click Africa
Straw Academy-SAC
Student and Youth Empowerment Forum- SYEF
Syndicat National Des Journalistes Du Cameroun/ Cameroon Journalists Trade Union
Sustainable Action for The Emancipation of Vulnerable People- SAEVP
The Guardian Post Daily
The Society for the Promotion of Initiative in Sustainable Development and
Union De Presse Francophone- UPF
VisArt Culture
Warefare-SOPISDEW
Women in Communication- WIN
Women Peace Builders Network- WOPEN
Young African Women Congress- YAWC NETWORK



Credits

credits go to all team members of #defyhatenow Cameroon, #defyhatenow Ethiopia, the #ASKnet team & network, the FemPeaceEA team and network, the #YoMIL team and all rOg team members.

Design by bloodrood, Heike Bluthardt

VX. rOg_contact

agency for open culture and critical transformation gGmbH
Knobelsdorffstr. 22
14059 Berlin

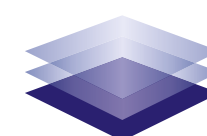
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https://www.instagram.com/open_culture_agency/
<https://twitter.com/intertwilight>

Handelskammerregistrierung:
gGmbH/ HRB 153001
<https://openculture.agency>

Transparency and openness are important to us. That is why we joined the Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft in 2021. We are committed to making information about rOg_agency available to the public and keeping it up to date.

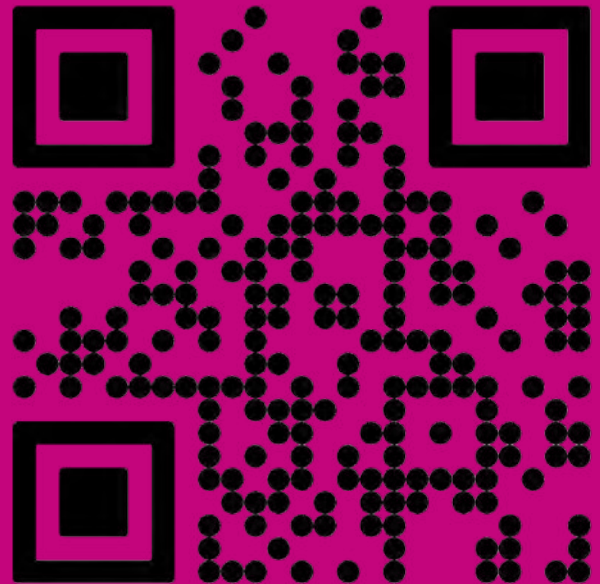
<https://openculture.agency/initiative-transparente-zivilgesellschaft/>



Initiative
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