

Data Privacy in Africa: The Risks to the Unconnected People

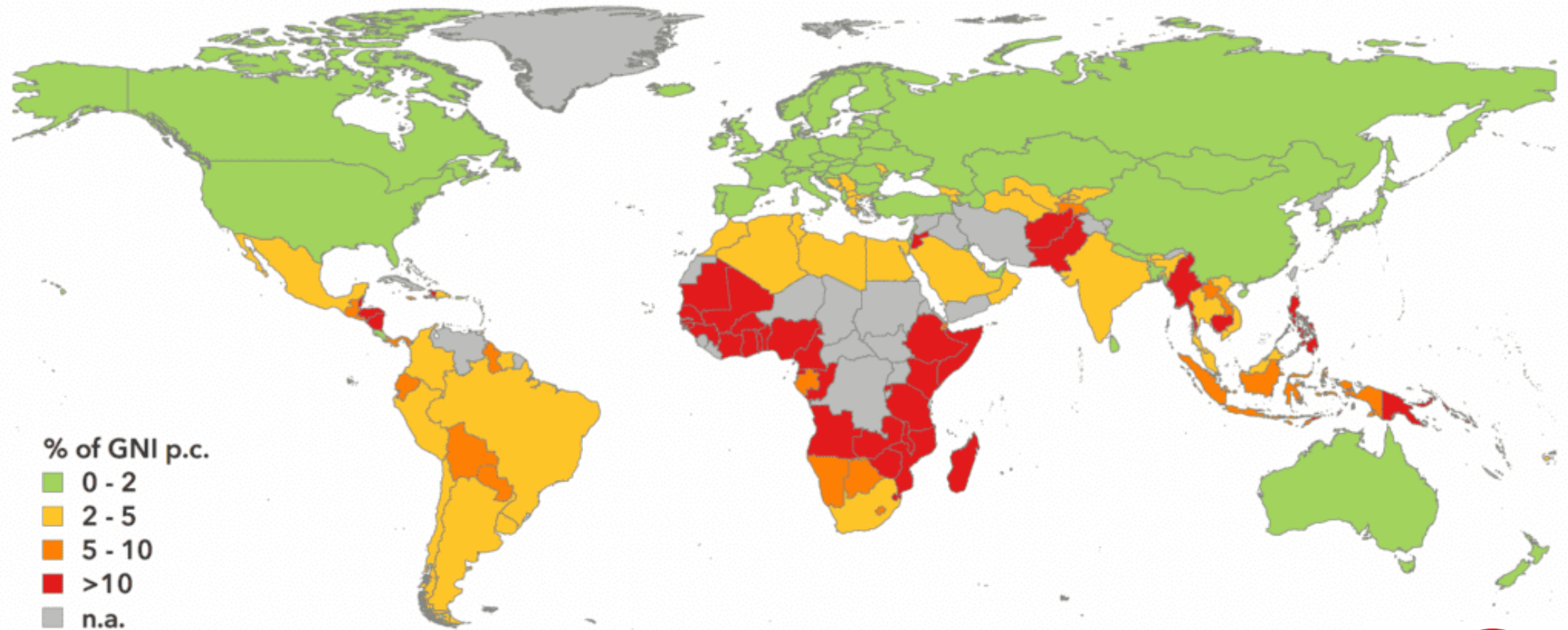
An Examination of Vulnerabilities and Strategies for Protection in
Malawi

Understanding Data Privacy in Africa

- Data has become the new Gold
- Africa remains the largest UNCONNECTED Continent; 1.2bn
- 50% female population
- 60% live in rural areas
- Two-thirds of global mobile money transactions are driven by users in sub-Saharan Africa – 580m users
- 13m in Malawi : 1



Current State of Digital Connectivity



- 37% of Africans are connected to the internet

Exploring the Digital Divide

- - Urban vs. Rural Access
 - Covid19
 - Access to Energy
- - Economic disparities impacting connectivity.
 - Uneven opportunities



Risks Faced by the Unconnected

- - Lack of digital privacy.
- - Increased susceptibility to fraud.
- - Limited access to information and services.



Implications of Being Unconnected



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How Data is Collected from the Unconnected

- Voluntary vs. involuntary data submission.



**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
2023 NATIONAL ICT SURVEY
REPORT IN MALAWI**

BICC, Lilongwe Thursday, 18th April 2024 09:00am

LIVE on MBC, Mibowo, Times and Zodiak

Legal Frameworks and Their Gaps

- Communications Act of 2016 - outdated
- Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act 2016 - outdated
- Data Protection Act 2023 – non-operational
- Malabo convention – Unsigned
- AU convention – Unsigned
- Budapest Convention - Unsigned

- Regulations.
- Enforcement



Impact of International Data Protection Laws

- - Influence of GDPR and its applicability in Africa.
- - The role of the African Union's Malabo Convention.



Shortcomings in Protecting the Unconnected

- Lack of Local Enforcement
- Relevance to Local Context
- Access to legal remedies
- Digital Inclusion



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Policy Recommendations: Data Protection

- Amendment of the Communications Act of 2016
- Amendment of the Electronic Transaction and Cyber Security Act 2016
- Operationalize Data Protection Act 2023
 - Develop Data Protection Regulations
 - Staff compliment
 - Public awareness
- Digital Laws:
 - Cyber Security Bill
 - Cyber Crimes Bill
 - Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bill
 - Sim Card Regulation 2.0 2024
- Child online Protection Policy
- National Digitalization Policy



Empowering Communities and NGOs

- Digital Ambassadors
- Review of Public School Curricula
 - Digital Citizenship
 - Computer Programming
- Connect A School Project
- Public Wifi spots - YathuYathu



Moving Forward

- Digital Laws
- Digital Identity
- Data Protection Awareness
- International Conventions



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- **THANK YOU**