



Lizu Community Network

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025



# A WORD FROM THE TEAM LEAD

2025 marked a year of strategic consolidation for Lizu Community Network. As a young organization, our priority was not rapid expansion, but deepening relevance, trust, and effectiveness within the communities we serve.

Throughout the year, we witnessed how digital literacy, when paired with civic awareness and community organizing, can shift power dynamics at the local level. From ward-level dialogues in Chipata to regional digital rights forums, our work consistently emphasized accountability, inclusion, and community ownership.

We are deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, and community members whose collaboration often in the form of in-kind and pro bono support made our work possible. As we move forward, our focus is on strengthening systems, scaling impact responsibly, and positioning Lizu as a credible partner for inclusive digital governance initiatives in Eastern Province and beyond.

A stylized, handwritten signature in teal ink, consisting of a large 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

**MISHECK CHELEKA**  
TEAM LEAD

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Lizu Community Network is a youth-led, community-rooted organization advancing inclusive governance and sustainable development through digital innovation. In 2025, Lizu consolidated its grassroots presence in Chipata District while expanding its regional and digital footprint across Zambia and beyond.

During the reporting period, Lizu reached over 650 individuals directly through community dialogues, capacity-building trainings, digital literacy initiatives, regional forums, and virtual learning platforms. Our work focused on equipping young people, women, community advocates, and civil society actors with the digital skills, civic knowledge, and advocacy tools needed to participate meaningfully in governance processes and demand accountability.

## **Key achievements in 2025 included:**

1. Strengthened community-level social accountability, particularly around Constituency Development Fund (CDF) processes and local governance

2. Expanded digital literacy and digital safety awareness, including online gender-based violence and child protection
3. Enhanced technical and institutional capacity of youth movements and CSOs in digital advocacy, fact-checking, and information integrity
4. Elevated grassroots voices into national, regional, and continental digital rights and governance conversations

Lizu operated largely through member contributions, partnerships, and in-kind support, demonstrating strong community trust and cost-effective delivery. Organizational assessments conducted in 2025 positioned Lizu for targeted institutional strengthening and donor readiness in 2026.

As Lizu enters its next phase of growth, the organization seeks strategic partnerships and flexible funding to scale community-led digital governance initiatives, strengthen internal systems, and expand policy influence.



# WHO WE ARE

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Lizu Community Network is a registered non-governmental organization founded on 1 September 2023. We are a team of change-makers committed to advancing digital innovation for inclusive governance and sustainable development.

We work alongside marginalized and underserved communities to strengthen citizen agency through digital skills, civic education, and advocacy. Our community-led approach ensures that technology is not treated as an abstract solution, but as a practical tool for accountability, participation, and access to services.

## Our Mission

To empower underserved communities with digital skills and advocacy capacity to drive inclusive governance and sustainable development through community-led digital literacy training, advocacy initiatives, and innovative solutions tailored to local needs.

## Our Vision

A community empowered by digital innovation for inclusive governance and sustainable development.



# THEMATIC AREAS AND 2025 RESULTS

## 1. Community Engagement and Digital Literacy

Lizu focused on bridging the digital divide by providing practical digital literacy, civic education, and community dialogue across 11 wards in Chipata.

### 2025 Reach:

- Over 195 community members engaged through online and in-person digital literacy, safety, and accountability initiatives

### Results:

- Increased understanding of citizen rights, social accountability, and CDF processes
- Improved awareness of digital safety, online GBV, and child protection
- Stronger confidence to engage leaders and share information responsibly

## 2. Technical Capacity Strengthening

We strengthened the technical and institutional capacity of youth movements and CSOs to leverage digital tools for accountability and advocacy.

### 2025 Reach:

92 activists and CSO actors trained in digital advocacy, fact-checking, storytelling, and digital safety

### Results:

- Enhanced digital advocacy and verification skills
- Improved organizational digital resilience and governance practices
- Stronger cross-border collaboration against misinformation

## 3. Digital Advocacy and Policy Influence

Lizu elevated grassroots perspectives into policy and advocacy spaces through public dialogues, webinars, and regional forums.

### 2025 Reach:

- 360+ participants engaged through public debates, webinars, bootcamps, and forums across multiple countries

### Results:

- Strengthened citizen-leader accountability and issue-based dialogue
- Increased visibility of marginalized voices in digital rights and governance discussions
- Expanded regional advocacy networks







# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

In 2025, Lizu undertook key institutional strengthening processes, including:

1. Organizational assessments by the Alliance for Community Action
2. Participation in capacity improvement initiatives by YAct-Amref Health Africa
3. Development of internal digital safety and ICT governance tools

These processes laid the foundation for improved accountability, donor readiness, and sustainable growth as we continue to invest in other internal controls and capacity gaps..



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Lizu Community Network operated primarily through member contributions and in-kind partnerships.

Estimated programmatic budget:

**ZMW 50,000**

Cash and in-kind resources mobilized

**APPROX. ZMW 20,000**

Documented direct expenditure

**ZMW 19,050**

Strengthening financial systems and valuation of in-kind contributions is a strategic priority for 2026.

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# CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC GAPS

As a growing, community-rooted organization, Lizu Community Network faced several structural and resource-related constraints in 2025. These did not undermine program delivery but limited the scale and consistency at which impact could be achieved.

Key challenges included:

1. Limited unrestricted funding, resulting in heavy reliance on in-kind and member contributions
2. Early-stage financial and monitoring systems, affecting comprehensive valuation of pro bono and partner support
3. Uneven digital access among target communities, requiring more time-intensive facilitation
4. Growing demand for Lizu's programming beyond current geographic and staffing capacity

To address these gaps, Lizu is prioritizing:

1. Strengthening financial management, documentation, and MEL systems
2. Securing flexible and core funding to stabilize operations and scale programs
3. Investing in staff and volunteer capacity development
4. Deepening strategic partnerships to extend reach without compromising community-led approaches



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# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

In 2026, Lizu aims to:

- Scale digital literacy and civic engagement across additional districts and provinces
- Deepen institutional capacity and financial systems
- Strengthen policy influence and research-driven advocacy
- Expand regional partnerships and donor engagement



# COLLABORATIONS AND SUPPORT

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Lizu Community Network worked in collaboration with the following partners and supporters:

1. ActionAid Zambia
2. Alliance for Community Action
3. Thomson Reuters Foundation
4. Activista Chipata
5. Internet Society Zambia
6. Youths in Action – Amref Health Africa;
7. TaxED
8. Kapata Ward Councillor, Cllr Mathews Kachali
9. Masupe Ward Councillor, Cllr Johnstone Silungwe
10. Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts (Eastern Province)
11. National Youth Development Council (Eastern Province)
12. Gender Division, Eastern Province
13. Digital Rights Foundation (Netherlands)
14. Zambia Police Service, Eastern Command
15. TechHer
16. Safecity
17. Red & Black Movement
18. BreezeFM Radio
19. Smooth FM Radio
20. Teen Health Zambia
21. Diakonia, Zambia



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# CONCLUSION

2025 demonstrated Lizu Community Network's potential as a credible, community-rooted actor in digital governance and civic engagement. With growing reach, trusted partnerships, and a clear strategic direction, Lizu is positioned to responsibly scale impact with the support of aligned funders and partners.

## Here are some of the Links to our Work:

1.<https://lizu.org/empowering-womens-savings-groups-in-mtaya-with-digital-safety-skills/>

2.<https://lizu.org/strengthening-accountability-through-fact-checking/>

3.<https://lizu.org/the-future-of-work-and-ai-in-africa-a-lizu-webinar-series-highlight/>

4.<https://lizu.org/nurturing-young-digital-citizens-a-day-at-cheshire-homes/>

5.<https://lizu.org/kwayedza-youth-community-and-lizu-community-network-partner-with-zambia-police/>





# INFORMATION. INNOVATION. TRANSFORMATION



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