



Protect. Empower. Ensure Safety.



DEFENDERS PROTECTION INITIATIVE (DPI)

Empowering and safeguarding Human Rights Defenders to promote peace, rule of law, and democracy securely.

Uganda | Regional Reach Across Africa

MISSION

To strengthen the safety, resilience, and operational capacity of human rights defenders and civil society actors through integrated protection systems.

Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI) is a Ugandan non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights, democracy, peace, good governance and the rule of law through protection, capacity building, advocacy and security support for Human Rights Defenders and marginalised communities.

- **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and marginalised communities**
- **Civil Society Organizations**
- **Journalists**
- **Women Leaders**

About DPI

WE OPERATE AT THE INTERSECTION OF:

- Security
- Digital Safety
- Human Rights
- Compliance
- Advocacy
- Mental Wellness
- Community Protection

**"WE BUILD SAFER ENVIRONMENTS
FOR DEFENDERS OPERATING IN
HIGH-RISK CONTEXTS."**



WHY THIS MATTERS

EMERGING THREATS INCLUDE:

- AI-powered misinformation
- Sophisticated cyber attacks
- Digital surveillance
- Online violence
- Regulatory restrictions
- Financial scrutiny

WITHOUT INTERVENTION:

- Civic space shrinks
- Defenders become isolated
- Organizations face operational risks
- Communities lose representation

**AFRICA'S CIVIC
SPACE IS CHANGING**

***"Protection today
determines civic freedom
tomorrow."***

THE CHALLENGE

THE PROTECTION GAP IS GROWING

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FACE:

- Digital attacks & surveillance
- Online harassment & TFGVBV
- Physical threats & arbitrary arrests
- Compliance and financial restrictions
- Land and environmental conflicts
- Burnout and trauma
- Regulatory pressure
- Disinformation campaigns

**"THE THREATS ARE
EVOLVING FASTER THAN
PROTECTION SYSTEMS."**



**MOST
ORGANIZATIONS
LACK**

- **X Risk Assessment Systems**
- **X Incident Response Plans**
- **X Security Protocols**
- **X Compliance Support**
- **X Mental Health Structures**

OUR SOLUTION

Integrated Protection
Systems

**DPI provides comprehensive
protection through:**



1. Prevention
2. Protection
3. Resilience
4. Collaboration
5. Advocacy



*"Protection is not a
service. It is an
ecosystem."*

**Our model addresses risks
before, during, and after
incidents.**

OUR MODEL ADDRESSES RISKS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER INCIDENTS.

HOW WE WORK

Collaborative Protection Model



DPI operates through:

- Specialized Working Groups
- Trusted Networks
- Regional Partnerships
- Community-Based Protection Systems

Benefits

- ✓ Rapid Response
- ✓ Collective Protection
- ✓ Regional Support
- ✓ Knowledge Sharing
- ✓ Community Ownership

"Security becomes stronger when built collectively."



WHAT WE DO

Core Areas of Work

"One organization. Multiple layers of protection."

Security Advisory

AML/CTF Compliance

Digital Security & TFGBV

Research

Land & Environmental Protection

Mental Health & Wellness

Regulatory Compliance

Risk Assessments

Physical Security

PROTECTION NETWORKS

SPECIALIZED WORKING GROUPS

Digital Security Alliance

- Emergency digital response
- Cybersecurity support
- Secure communications
- Capacity building

NPO FATF Working Group

- AML/CTF compliance
- Risk mitigation
- Financial protection

Security Working Group

- Legal referrals
- Medical support
- Mental health services
- Emergency coordination

Land and Environment Defenders Taskforce

- Defender protection
- Community support
- Environmental justice

OUR APPROACH

Integrated Security
Framework

PREVENTION

Training, preparedness, awareness

PROTECTION

Emergency response and security systems

RESILIENCE

Mental wellness and long-term recovery

COLLABORATION

Partnerships and collective action

ADVOCACY

Policy influence and civic space protection

*"We move beyond
reaction toward
sustainable resilience."*

IMPACT & REACH

(2013–2025)

THROUGH TRAININGS, BOOTCAMPs, FELLOWSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS, ADVISORY SUPPORT, AND PROTECTION NETWORKS, DPI CONTRIBUTES TO:

- ✓ Stronger digital security practices
- ✓ Better organizational preparedness
- ✓ Improved compliance awareness
- ✓ Enhanced incident response
- ✓ Increased defender resilience
- ✓ Safer civic engagement



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2019–2025)

300+

Organizations
trained in
digital security

200+

Organizations
receiving
advisory
support

800+

HRDs trained in
personal safety
& security

200+

HRDs &
activists
supported
through clinics
Reached

200+

Rapid response
interventions
provided

800+

COVID-19 relief
beneficiaries
reached

INVESTMENT & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

PARTNER WITH DPI



FUNDING AREAS

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Emergency response support
- Digital security programmes
- Protection networks
- Capacity building
- Land and Environment Defenders Taskforce
- Research and advocacy

- Increased HRD protection coverage
- Stronger emergency response systems
- Expanded regional protection networks
- Improved digital resilience

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Donors & Foundations
- CSOs
- Embassies
- Development Partners
- Technology Organizations
- Academic Institutions
- Regional Networks

Our awesome partners & donors





**DPI IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING
PROTECTION SYSTEMS ACROSS AFRICA
THROUGH SECURITY, RESILIENCE,
COLLABORATION, AND INNOVATION.**

**Building Safer Spaces for Those
Defending Rights**

Let's build safer communities
together.

**PROTECT.
EMPOWER.
ENSURE SAFETY.**

READY TO PARTNER WITH US?

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