

How internet is bridging Uganda's digital divide

I am reminded of an interaction I had within Nakivale refugee camp. We stopped by a rolex stand and spoke with some young gentlemen deeply engrossed in a video while sharing a smartphone. When we asked if they knew about the internet hotspot recently set up in the area, with enthusiasm, they responded saying it is

"kyakabi!" The reason was cost saving as compared to the alternatives; its unlimited data use and ease.

I probed deeper to ask what they use it for, and they said, "to learn new ways of making rolexes and also to catchup with trends on TikTok!"

My colleague immediately ordered a rolex and it was good. This got me thinking, if the internet creates opportunity for a rolex maker on a shared device, what transformative power does the internet truly have on the communities?



TIMOTHY MUGENYI

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The writer is the head of partnerships and community impact at Roke Telkom