

PERFORMANCE MONITORING FOR ACTION

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) TECHNOLOGY ACCESS, ABUSE, AND COMPROMISED PRIVACY AMONG YOUTH

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## Why This Matters

- In today’s world, **young people are the most technologically connected generation yet**. Kenya, in particular, is known as a leader in mobile connectivity, including among youth.
- **Technology brings both advantages and risks for harm** – particularly when it is a tool of abuse or mistreatment, and when privacy is compromised.
- Cyber abuse is increasingly recognized as a form of violence, **yet the existing policy framework has not kept pace with technological developments** (1). Despite awareness of cyber abuse, there are gaps in understanding of the prevalence and most common forms of cyber abuse (2). This information is critical to guide prevention and response strategies.
- This analysis begins to **fill the gaps to understand the magnitude and nature of cyber abuse** and tech-related privacy threats.

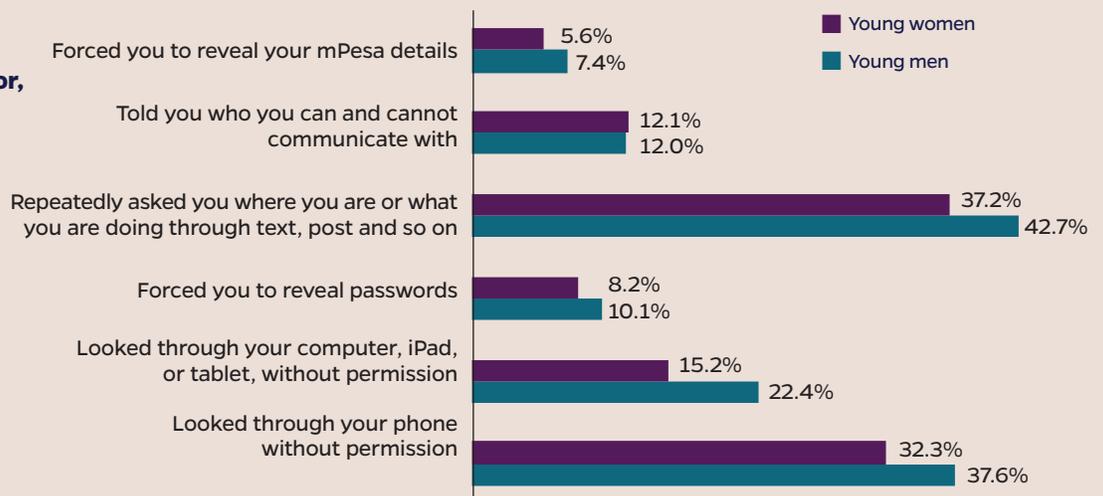
## Key Findings

**Figure 1: Percentage of any past-year technological abuse among young men and women, weighted**



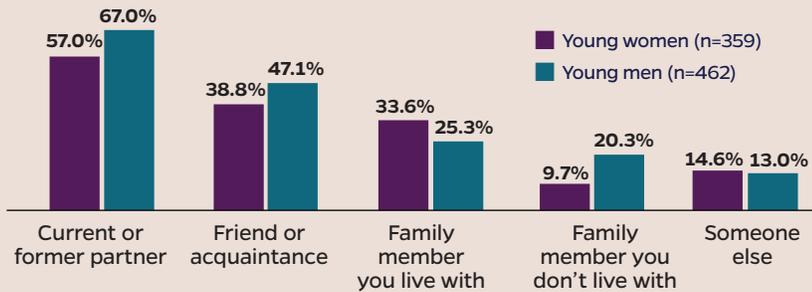
**Figure 2: Specific past-year technological abuse behavior, by gender, weighted**

Approximately 10% of young men and young women were asked to reveal their passwords and approximately 5% asked to reveal their mPesa details within the past year.



# Key Findings

**Figure 3: Reported perpetrator of past-year technological abuse, by gender, weighted**

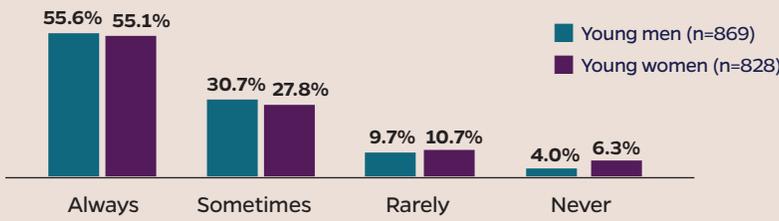


\* not mutually exclusive

“ [My partner] found me chatting then he asked me for some drinking water, so I had to put the phone down. **He took my phone and looked at the conversations I was having with people.** ”  
 -19-year-old female IDI participant.

**Current or former partners were the most frequent perpetrators for both young men (67.0%) and young women (57.0%)**

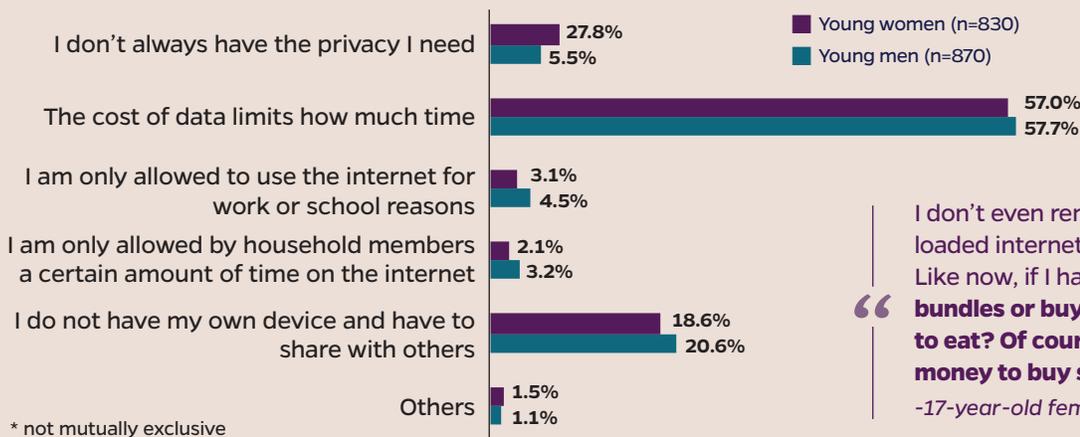
**Figure 4: Frequency of safe access to internet, by gender, weighted**



“ I lock myself in a room when I use the phone, maybe when I am on Facebook chatting with someone. At night, he investigates my phone. That’s the biggest challenge for me... **a few days ago he hacked my Facebook account.** ”  
 -17-year-old female IDI participant.

**Just under half of young men (44.4%) and young women (44.9%) report not always having safe access to the internet.**

**Figure 5: Limitations on accessing internet among young men and women, weighted**



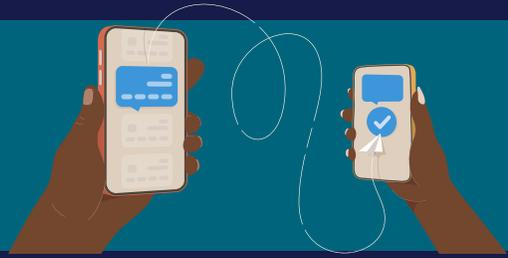
\* not mutually exclusive

“ I don't even remember the last time I loaded internet bundles on my phone. Like now, if I have Ksh. 20, **will I buy bundles or buy my child something to eat? Of course, I'll give her the money to buy something to eat.** ”  
 -17-year-old female IDI participant.

**Internet access limitations centered around data costs for both genders.**

## Key Takeaways

**Technological abuse is pervasive for young people in Nairobi, with partners as the primary perpetrators.**



## Action Steps

- **Expand gender-based violence policy guidelines to include technological abuse**, given that abuse is pervasive, and partners are the primary perpetrators.
- Violence-related supports must include digital privacy features, given that phones and devices are not always confidential.
- **Enhance security to protect against privacy invasions** that could have detrimental impacts on young people's livelihoods (i.e., surrounding mPesa details).
- Future research should **seek to understand the severity and impact of technological abuse**.

## Methods

Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) Agile is a longitudinal cohort of adolescents and youth ages 15-24 in Nairobi, Kenya initially recruited via respondent-driven sampling from June-August 2019 (n=690 young men, n=664 young women). From 2020-21, fully remote follow-up data collection was conducted with the cohort to track changes in contraceptive dynamics and assess the gendered impact of COVID-19 (survey rounds at 12-month follow-up from August-October 2020, and 18-month follow-up from April-May 2021 [n=586 young men, n=591 young women]), accompanied by qualitative methods, including focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews (IDIs) with youth and relevant stakeholders.

From June to August 2023, data collection with the Nairobi youth cohort (now ages 19-28) was conducted (n=551 young men, n=550 young women), and with replenishment sampling for youth ages 15-19 to account for attrition and cohort aging (n=320 young men, n=281 young women). Data collection was in-person, computer-assisted as in the initial wave, with a remote option. These data track and compare contraceptive use and behaviors, gender-related norms and attitudes, and gender-based violence (GBV) experiences and sources of support.

Accompanying qualitative methods included in-depth interviews with youth ages 15-29, sampled purposively based on demographics (n=30, male n=15 and female n=15).

## References

1. UN WOMEN. Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology facilitated violence against women and girls (VAWG). Published online 2022. [https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/10/accelerating-efforts-to-tackle-online-and-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls#:~:text=Violence against women and girls \(VAWG\) in digital contexts is,to services and social activities.](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/10/accelerating-efforts-to-tackle-online-and-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls#:~:text=Violence against women and girls (VAWG) in digital contexts is,to services and social activities.)
2. Rogers MM, Fisher C, Ali P, Allmark P, Fontes L. Technology-Facilitated Abuse in Intimate Relationships: A Scoping Review. *Trauma, Violence, Abus.* 2022;0(0):1-17. doi:10.1177/15248380221090218

## Suggested Citation

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