



Digital Transformation Centres for Digital Skills to attain Meaningful Connectivity

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Introduction

- q The Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), is an Agency under the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization, with a core mandate to efficiently and innovatively facilitate the provision of Universal Access to ICTs for Socio-Economic Development, focusing on unserved and underserved communities.
- q Since its inception, GIFEC has implemented several Innovative Programmes toward advancing its core mandate

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



VISION

To innovatively manage a Universal Access Fund collaboratively with stakeholders to achieve universal access through the use of ICTs in Ghana.



MISSION

To facilitate the provision of Universal Access to all persons through the use of affordable Information and Communications Technology for Socio-economic development.



VALUES

- Innovation
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Accountability

What Does Meaningful Connectivity Mean to GIFEC?



Ensuring that ***everyone, everywhere*** has access to ***affordable*** and ***reliable*** connectivity of ***sufficient quality*** that enables them to fully participate in the digital economy and society.



In addition, people must have the knowledge and skill to utilise the internet once it is made available to them

How GIFEC is Addressing Meaningful Connectivity



Rural Connectivity Programme



CyberLabs Programme



ICT Capacity Building Programme

ITU/DTC Initiative

UNESCO- ISWE Project

Girls in ICT

GIZ/DTC Project

How GIFEC is Addressing Meaningful Connectivity

ICT Capacity Building Programme

- Over 14,000 beneficiaries trained in digital skills

ITU-DTC



- Over 500 Beneficiaries trained in social media marketing

UNESCO -
ISEWE



- Over 8,000 basic schoolgirls trained in coding

GIICT



- 2,500 beneficiaries trained

GIZ-DTC





Spotlight on the DTC Project

- q Deliver **basic digital skills training** to enhance digital literacy and foster uptake of digital tools among those at the bottom of the social pyramid
- q Deliver **intermediate digital skills training** to provide users with job-ready skills, improve workplace efficiency and enhance chances of employability
- q Conduct **train-the-trainer programmes** to ensure scalability and self-sustainability in digital capacity development
- q Local content development

Objectives of the DTC Project



Contribute towards the goal of an inclusive digital society by ensuring that lack of digital skills is no longer a barrier to digital participation



Narrow the digital divide by developing digital skills for the most underprivileged groups



Improve the capacity of policymakers to design and implement digital transformation programmes



Improve livelihoods of citizens through the use of digital technologies and services

Target Beneficiaries – DTC Project



- q The project targets 17,300 Ghanaian citizens living in **rural and underserved communities**
- q 14,500 citizens trained so far (73% females)
- q Beneficiary categories include
 - q Small business owners (mostly women)
 - q Out of school youth without employment
 - q Persons with disability
 - q Students
 - q School dropouts
 - q Schoolteachers

How GIFEC is Addressing Meaningful Connectivity

Rural/Remote Connectivity

- ❑ The programme extends coverage of mobile telephone services to where access to such services are not available or available with limited connectivity, with existing licensed operators with proven unwillingness to expand their networks, due to commercial or other technological constraints.
- ❑ Provides Internet Points of Presence in underserved and unserved communities.





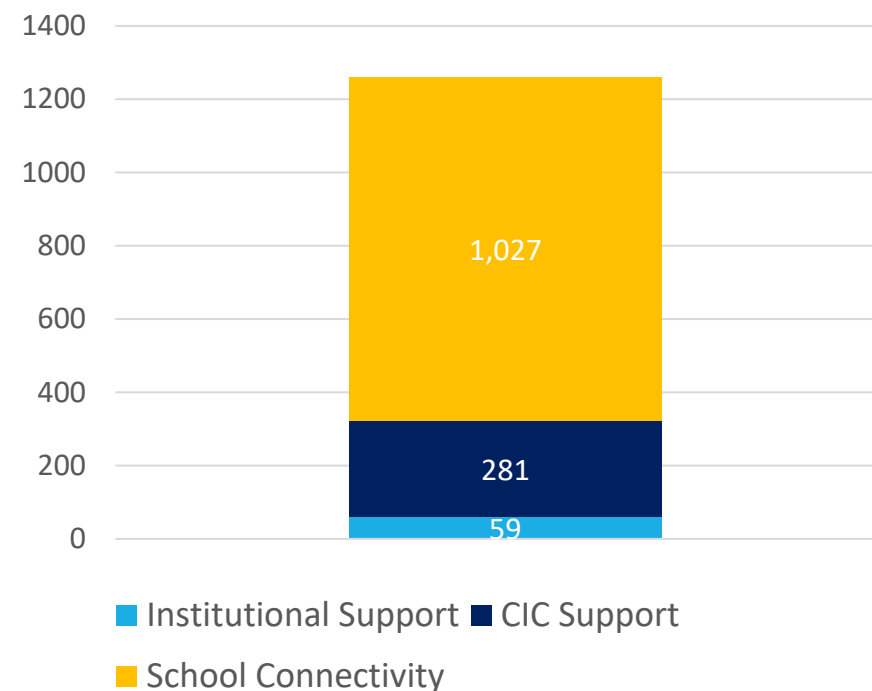
How GIFEC is Addressing Meaningful Connectivity



Cyberlabs Programme

- The Cyberlabs Programmes involves the provision of high-speed computers, printers, scanners, projectors and servers to Schools, Institutions and persons with disabilities .
- This project also involve the establishment of public access ICT Centers to provide community-wide access to full ICT services at publicly available locations in underserved and unserved communities.

2017 – TO-DATE
CYBERLABS SETUP (1,260)



Challenges to Meaningful Connectivity in Ghana

- ❑ Limited coverage of infrastructure
- ❑ Relative high cost of utilities
- ❑ Limited digital literacy and skills
- ❑ Limited suitable local content for digital skills
- ❑ Power outages often disrupts internet connectivity
- ❑ Increasing cyber security threats

Recommendations



Adopt more Public-Private Partnerships (PPs) in deploying the necessary communications infrastructure



Improve collaboration with key stakeholders, particularly the telcos and investors



Explore other funding sources



Explore innovations, new technologies and benchmark leading countries in the sector



Address policy and regulatory bottlenecks to improve rural connectivity and affordability



Thank You
