ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

**'Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future:
Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa"**

organized by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the
Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-AFR P2C Roundtables and
it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), Ministry of
Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana

FOCAL POINT: Abena Nyamesem, Head, Sustainability and Partnership,
abena.nyamesem@gifec.gov.gh, +233-24452-3351

**TITLE: Bridging the Digital Divide from the Bottom of the Pyramid: GIFEC's Digital
Transformation Centres Project (DTC)**

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Introduction

In an increasingly digital world, access to basic digital skills and technology is vital for individual
empowerment and economic development. Regrettably, many rural, unserved, and underserved
communities, including marginalised groups such as women, girls, and persons living with
disabilities, often lack access to these essential resources. Recognising this digital divide, the ITU
initiated the DTC Project, a collaborative effort with NORAD and Cisco. GIFEC is one of the 13
participating network of institutions within a global DTC initiative. The Project is currently being
implemented across Ghana in 151 Community ICT Centres (CICs).

This project seeks to boost digital competencies to enable the bridging of the digital divide by
providing basic digital skills and access to technology in rural and underserved communities in
Ghana.

Project Objectives

1. **Digital Skills Training**: The project aims to empower individuals in rural and underserved
   communities with basic digital skills. This includes training in computer literacy,
   entrepreneurship, digital entrepreneurship, internet usage, and digital applications.

2. **Infrastructure Development**: GIFEC, in collaboration with Cisco, is working to establish
   and equip digital transformation centers in remote areas. These centers provide access to
   computers, internet connectivity, and other digital resources.

3. **Inclusivity**: Special attention is given to marginalised groups, such as women, girls, and
   persons with disabilities, to ensure that they have equal opportunities to acquire digital
   skills and participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

4. **Economic Empowerment**: By providing digital skills and access to technology, the project
   aims to empower individuals to take advantage of online opportunities, for instance in
   entrepreneurship (starting or strengthening existing vocations), e-commerce, or accessing
   government services.

5. **Community Engagement**: The project fosters community engagement by involving District/Municipal Assemblies, local leaders and residents in the planning and implementation of digital transformation centers. This ensures that the centers are tailored to the specific needs of each community.

Impact

1. Rural and marginalised communities are gaining access to the digital world, empowering them with new opportunities for education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

   - A total of 14,600 individuals have received training in basic digital skills. In 2023, 4,411 citizens were trained.

   - Established 17 coding clubs with 580 club members. The 2nd cohort, which concluded in June 2023, trained 315 students.

   - The 3rd Cohort of coding clubs began on September 4, 2023, with 30 clubs set to train 680 students.

   - A total of 209 trainers were trained for both coding clubs and citizen training, with 30 trainers trained in 2023.

2. The project actively promotes gender inclusivity by encouraging women and girls to participate in digital skills training, helping to close the gender digital divide.

   - A total of 14,600 individuals trained in basic digital skills consisting of 68% women and XX % of persons living with disabilities

   - A total of 17 coding clubs formed in basic and second cycle schools with 580 club members consisting of 98% girls

3. Specialised training and equipment are provided to ensure that PwDs can fully participate in the digital economy, fostering greater independence and opportunities.

4. The project contributes to local economic growth, enabling communities to participate in the digital marketplace.

GIFEC's DTC Project is a proof of how public and private partnerships can bridge the digital divide and promote inclusivity in the digital era. As the project continues to expand, it holds the promise of a brighter and more digitally inclusive future for all.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Ghana

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

☒ 2021

☒ 2022

☒ 2023

☐ 2024

☐ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ **AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa.**

☐ AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies

☐ AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and protection of personal data

☐ AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☐ Affordable connectivity

☐ **Digital transformation**

☐ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

☐ **Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development**

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

☐ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

☐ International telecommunication numbering resources

☐ **Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services**

☐ Digital applications

☐ Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

☐ C2: Information and communication infrastructure

☐ C3: Access to information and knowledge

☒ **C4: Capacity building**

☐ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

☐ C6: Enabling environment

☐ C7: ICT applications

☐ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

☐ C9: Media

□ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society

□ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

□ SDG 1: No Poverty

□ SDG 2: Zero Hunger

□ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being

☒ **SDG 4: Quality Education**

□ SDG 5: Gender Equality

□ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

□ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

□ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

□ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☒ **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

□ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

□ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

□ SDG 13: Climate Action

□ SDG 14: Life Below Water

□ SDG 15: Life on Land

□ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

□ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs