



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

**3-5 October 2023
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: IPSDI-Burundi

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TITLE: Digital inclusion within rural areas in Burundi

Adoption of digital inclusion as a tool to improve study and learning conditions at the agri-food technology high school for girls in IPSDI schools / pilot project to be started in Muzinda agri-food tech high school of girls

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Burundian girls and women also play an 80% role in the development of their homes and the Burundian community, but they are not more motivated in STEM. Currently, educational and socio-economic projects for girls/women in rural areas call for digital inclusion and the use of digital skills and tools that are more likely to help them track and explore diverse digital opportunities while strengthening their effectiveness in the development of digital skills and socio-economic resilience.

IPSDI-Burundi is a non-governmental organization that promotes inclusive education for young rural girls and economically empowers women. Founded in 2011, our mission is based on coordinating efforts and opportunities for vulnerable communities towards sustainable development. This response to our philosophy which is to “work with vulnerable people to find lasting solutions to their fundamental problems”. Both contribute to promoting our vision of “an autonomous society in which everyone has the opportunity to enjoy their rights and contribute to sustainable development”.

IPSDI-Burundi has built an agri-food technology boarding school for girls. We have set up a small ICT library of 15 computers, connected to a private Internet server. We are purchasing a set of books online where a local computer (one of 15 computers) is used as a server containing 13,000 books on food technology.

Unfortunately, the online library is not optimally used and students find it difficult to use it due to poor internet connection and the high cost of dedicated broadband internet being big barriers, as well as the lack of digital skills.

IPSDI Burundi as part of the Government of Burundi-ITU-EIF project via Ministry of ICT :

In collaboration with EQUALS, GSMA, W4 et Verison, diverse training sessions have been organized by IPSDI-Burundi from 2021 - 2023:

- Training on basic digital skills;
- Online Mentorship;





- Children /Girls Online Protection and Cybersecurity;
- Web development;
- E-commerce;
- Digital entrepreneurship.

In May 2023, IPSDI Burundi welcomed the Director of BDT accompanied by His Excellency Minister of ICT during his visit to Burundi which gave more visibility to IPSDI BURUNDI with national UN agencies, notably UNDP BURUNDI, with whom the collaboration process began after the Visit , IPSDI officially signed an MoU with Ministry of ICT

The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve the quality of education and associated services has become an integral part of educational projects in developing countries in general and in poor countries like Burundi in particular.

This project targets a pilot school of 250 students (girls only) located in the west of Burundi, province of Bubanza. Project beneficiaries will receive basic digital skills and online Child/Girl Protection (COP). This project will also respond to the SDGs (SDGs 1, 4.5, 9.16, and 17) and the Burundi Strategic Plan (2018-2027) in terms of gender equality and digital integration. It will also have a great impact on the digital inclusion of girls/women from rural areas (students from Muzinda Agro-Food Technologies girls' high school from 30 different communes) because they will be equipped with digital skills and will equip their school with digital technologies. infrastructure with high-speed Internet and ICT tools.

With these digital skills, beneficiaries (teachers and students) will be able to strengthen their skills, restructure their study and learning strategies, explore digital opportunities for their future adventure in self-employment, or maximize their chances of accessing formal employment in Burundi and in regional workplaces

We take this opportunity to call for any type of support: both technical assistance and financial assistance are most welcomed

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Burundi

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

2026 and 2027 have been added according to the IPSDI action plan.

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

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

