

# TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS



## 2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

*Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs  
– Digital development, partnerships and funding*

6-7 October 2020, 12:00 – 15:00 CAR (Virtual meeting)

with preparatory break-out sessions on 5 October 2020 (12:00 – 13:30 CAT time)

### CONTRIBUTION BY

**Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications(GIFEC), Ghana**

**TITLE: Capacity Building**

**EXPECTED DURATION OF PRESENTATION:** [5 minutes]

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❖ **Africa Regional Initiatives:** [Select the Regional Initiative(s) relevant for your contribution]

[No] AFR Regional initiative 1 – Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa

[No] AFR Regional initiative 2 – Promotion of emerging broadband technologies

[No] AFR Regional initiative 3 – Building trust and security in the use of telecommunications/  
information and communication technology

[Yes] AFR Regional initiative 4 – Strengthening human and institutional capacity building

[No] AFR Regional initiative 5 – Management and monitoring of the radio-frequency spectrum and  
transition to digital broadcasting

❖ **Related ITU development thematic:** [Select the thematic area(s) relevant for your  
contribution]

[No] Networks and digital infrastructure

[No] Cybersecurity

[No] Emergency telecommunications

[No] Environment

[No] Digital policy and regulation

[Yes] Capacity development

[No] Digital services and applications

[No] Digital inclusion

[No] Digital innovation ecosystems

[No] Statistics and data for evidence-based decision making



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❖ **Year(s) of implementation:** [Select the year(s) for which your action/project/initiative is relevant]

[No] 2018	[No] 2019	[Yes] 2020	[Yes] 2021	[Yes] 2022
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❖ **COVID-19 response related initiative:** [Please indicate if your action/project/initiative is relevant for COVID-19 response]

[Yes] COVID-19 response related initiative

### Background [max 300 words]

The Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) is a Universal Access and Service Fund Agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Communications. The main object of the Fund is to facilitate access and use of ICTs in un-served and underserved communities in Ghana. GIFEC is collaborating with ITU, CISCO and the Norwegian Government to implement the Digital Transformation Center (DTC) initiative, a programme designed by ITU to support countries develop digital skills mainly at the basic and intermediate levels and particularly in the underserved communities.

Pursuant to this, GIFEC has conceived the following modules including ICT support for Teachers, training for women and girls, youth, students, and the marginalised in the communities such as head porters, school dropouts and school leavers, as the main drivers towards the realization of the DTC programme in Ghana. The main objective of this intervention is to expand the digital capabilities and benefits of ICTs to the marginalised population particularly in the un-served and underserved communities in Ghana.

This project seeks to rely on the established Community ICT Centres (CICs), largely set up by GIFEC to bring ICTs within reach of rural areas and other privileged groups, as a potential vehicle in delivering the digital skills training programme.

A total of fourteen thousand, seven hundred have been selected, over a three (3) year period as beneficiaries to participate in the DTC programme.

GIFEC seeks to partner the Ministry of Education, the Metropolitan, Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) and other organised groups such as the Association of hair dressers and beauticians, head potters among others as local partners for the programme.

### Proposal [max 400 words]

The lack of digital skills has gained a lot of currency in recent times. This unpleasant situation has been globally acknowledged and espoused heavily by International Telecommunication Regulators such as International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other key stakeholders within the industry.

In Ghana, the situation has worsened over the years. A lot more attention with overwhelming consideration have focused largely on ICT deployments and infrastructural developments with less attention being paid to equipping the population with the requisite digital skills. This horrendous development has left a chunk of the population disadvantaged and unable to fully partake in the evolving digital economy. Indeed, Ghana's ICT for Accelerated Development Policy (ICT4AD) Policy, principal ICT document which represents Ghana's vision in the information age, also identifies the huge shortage of digital skills as one of the factors inhibiting the growth of the ICT sector. It underscores the important contribution of digital skills as a critical component required



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for the development and support of ICT applications and systems within the public and private sector and among the marginalised population in the un-served and underserved communities in Ghana.

Also key to mention that, the advent of COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation with exposed inequalities in the Information and Communication Industry.

Notwithstanding these positive headways been pursued by the government, not much effort have been devoted over the years aimed at bridging the existing digital skills gap, train and equip the population with the requisite digital skills to partake in the digital economy.

The Government of Ghana is embarking on an ambiguous digitalization agenda with majority of its sectors going digital. Major sectors of the economy including Passport, issuance of Ghana Card, Digital Property and Addressing System among others have remained beneficiaries of the on-going digitization agenda. This development has propelled the Government through to initiate concrete steps and actions aimed at equipping the population especially the marginalised in the communities to partake fully in the digital economy.

Conscious effort through effective partnership arrangement are being made by the government through its agencies like GIFEC to advance digital skills education programme among the general populace.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE CONTRIBUTION BY 15 SEPTEMBER TO [ITU-RO-AFRICA@ITU.INT](mailto:ITU-RO-AFRICA@ITU.INT)**

