

Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED) in Ghana

Digital Transformation Center (DTC)

The Challenge

Digital technologies are changing traditional business models and pathways to development, holding a number of advantages including better access to services, such as health and education as well as increased transparency and effectiveness. The digital economy in Ghana has grown steadily over the last years and in 2017, has been contributing 3.6 percent to the overall GDP, becoming one of the best performing sectors in the country's economy, according to the Ghana Digital Economy Diagnostic by the World Bank. But not all Ghanaians are benefitting equally. Only a few Ghanaians have the digital skills to take advantage of digital services and to participate in the digital economy. This is particularly true for women and girls: Less than 20% of them have access to the internet in Ghana. Women face many barriers, including lack of know-how, high costs of internet access, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content.

About the Digital Transformation Center

The Digital Transformation Center in Ghana is part of a pan-African network of flagship projects that the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is building to support the transformation process on the African continent.

The goal of the Digital Transformation Center Ghana is to improve the preconditions for using digital transformation for more employment and entrepreneurship, specifically in rural areas. This means equipping young people with the digital skills they need to thrive in the 21st century and making sure everyone is on board. This also means supporting digital innovation in rural areas. What is lacking are not ideas and innovations, but the various means to realise these and scale them up: trainings, mentoring support and networks.

The Digital Transformation Center in Ghana also hosts the #eSkills4Girls initiative, which aims to promote digital skills and employment for girls and women, FAIR Forward - Artificial Intelligence for all, which aims to promote a framework for the application of artificial intelligence, and the tech entrepreneurship initiative Make-IT in Africa.

Project name	Sustainable Economic Development in Ghana (PSED)
Component	Digital Transformation Center (DTC)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Ghana
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Finance
Duration	2020 - 2022

Our Approach

- Developing digital platforms, skills, and entrepreneurship in rural areas through a network of already existing decentralised Community ICT Centres (CICs) and innovation hubs.
- Supporting the existing structures to provide digital skills trainings, access to locally relevant digital content and access to e-government services, with a focus on disadvantaged groups.
- Support the digital innovation agenda of the Ghanaian government, considering the special needs of women, young people and people with disabilities.
- Supporting capacity building on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.





Core Working Areas

Access to Digital Technologies in Rural Areas

In line with the government of Ghana's goal to bridge the urban-rural divide by expanding digital services to rural and under-served communities, the DTC Ghana aims to support the established network of Community ICT Centres and innovation hubs to enable rural communities to effectively access and use the internet and its related services.

Digital Inclusion of Women and Girls (#eSkills4Girls)

#eSkills4Girls is an initiative started under the German G20 presidency with the aim of tackling the existing gender digital divide in low income and developing countries. In Ghana, #eSkills4Girls empowers rural women and girls through digital skills trainings, enhances the productivity in women-based businesses through digital tools and supports training providers in streamlining training models for digital skills in the informal sector.

Emerging Technologies (FAIR Forward - AI for All)

Artificial Intelligence has endless potential to bring solutions to the many challenges facing African countries today. The German Development Cooperation initiative "FAIR Forward – Artificial Intelligence for All" focuses on building new skills through specific training opportunities and breaking down the barriers to an open, inclusive and sustainable approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Tech Entrepreneurship (Make-IT in Africa)

The "Tech-Entrepreneurship Initiative Make-IT in Africa" promotes digital innovation for sustainable and inclusive development in sub-Saharan Africa. In close collaboration with more than 20 corporate and financing partners, social enterprises, hubs and networks, 'Make-IT in Africa' supports an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs in the digital sector.

Digital Policies

Ensuring a safe online environment where citizens feel secure in engaging is a top priority of the Ghana government. Strong policies and laws around data protection and digital investment create an enabling environment for a digital economy, which benefits everyone. The Digital Transformation Center supports by facilitating exchange, multistakeholder approaches, research and policy advice.

Support to Digitalisation in Different Sectors

The Digital Transformation Center Ghana is facilitating digital skills development across all sectors of the economy that use technology. This is to help ensure synergies with digital approaches in other areas, support the digitalization of traditional economic sectors and to support the Ghanaian digital economy to be able to provide services in the field of digital innovation.

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