

Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition”

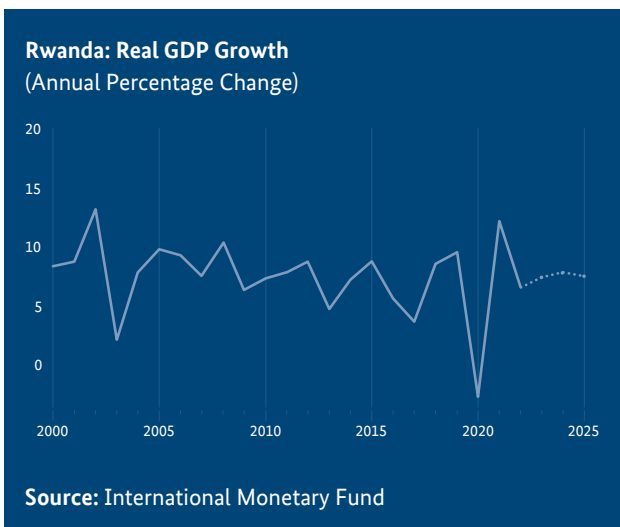
Creating jobs and growth in Rwanda

Setting the course for economic growth

Rwanda maintains one of the highest growth rates in Africa. In 2023, economic growth reached 6.2 per cent according to the International Monetary Fund. For 2024, growth is projected to reach 7 per cent.

Rwanda proved to be an increasingly attractive location for business and investment in the region. The country ranked second highest of all African countries in the Ease of Doing Business Index. Since joining the East African Community (EAC) in 2007, foreign direct investments almost quadrupled between 2008 and 2022. These numbers illustrate that Rwanda is strongly focused on the ambitious targets it set out in its National Strategy for Transformation.

Between 2017 and 2024, the Rwandan government plans to create 1,500,000 jobs in the country. As of June 2023, 1,138,872 jobs were already created. The Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” supports this endeavour.



Project name	Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition”: Job Partnership and SME Promotion in Rwanda
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Republic of Rwanda
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	06/2019-06/2025

Creating good jobs and improving working conditions

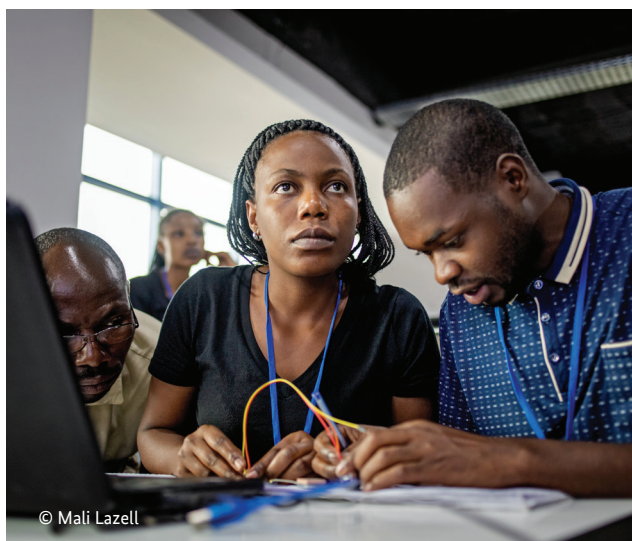
As one of several organisations, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing the Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under the brand Invest for Jobs, the Special Initiative **collaborates with the private sector to support them in creating good jobs and improving working conditions and social protection in Rwanda.**

Promoting investment

The Special Initiative supports the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in building and strengthening **partnerships with African and European companies** that are seeking to expand business and investment in the Rwandan market. By jointly **identifying and reducing existing barriers to their investment plans**, the Special Initiative provides demand-oriented services that assist companies across all sectors to stimulate growth, foreign investment and create jobs.

Example: According to RDB, **the global business services (GBS) sector offers a high potential for investment in Rwanda.**

To realise this, the Special Initiative works together with international and local companies to build needed skills, create jobs and further develop the sector. So far, 1,400 trainees graduated from training measures in the areas of software development, business process outsourcing and IT services. Of these, 370 found good employment afterwards. In addition, the Special Initiative supported the creation of the **GBS Growth Initiative**. The GBS Growth Initiative serves as a support desk for GBS investors, both new and established, by fostering collaboration within the ecosystem. This holistic approach aims to propel Rwanda to the forefront of the GBS industry, driving economic growth and creating high-quality jobs.



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Elevating local companies

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Rwanda's economy. Their continued growth offers major potential for the prosperity of the country and increasing employment opportunities, especially for young people and women. In joint projects, the Special Initiative promotes these enterprises by training staff members or new candidates, increasing product quality or certification as well as advising on general business and financial expertise. Ultimately, these measures **enhance the competitiveness of SMEs** and extend their reach beyond the markets they currently serve, which in turn creates new jobs.

Example: The Special Initiative supports IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative in training Rwandan SMEs and farmer cooperatives in horticulture value chains. Local agribusinesses and smallholder farmers are **empowered to tap into global export markets and grow their businesses**. Since the project started in May 2021, 17 international companies signed sales contracts with the Rwandan SMEs and 2,378 people participated in training measures to improve their skills. The value of the horticulture produce the cooperatives sold to the SMEs increased five-fold and, in turn, the total SME export volume increased from an average of 25 to 44 metric tonnes per week. As a result, 501 people came into new good employment, 300 of them are women and 217 youths.

Establishing a hub for pharmaceutical and biotechnological manufacturing

The Government of Rwanda seeks to **develop the pharmaceutical and biotechnological sector in Rwanda**. To this end, the Special Initiative provides companies with **networking and matchmaking, promoting investments and thus creating jobs** in the sector. At the same time, the sector requires the right talent. In Rwanda, such specialised skills are scarce. The Special Initiative therefore supports Rwanda's Ministry of Education as well as public and private educational institutions and companies to offer specialised courses to train suitable candidates for current and future investors.

Example: Together with the Ministry of Education, the University of Rwanda and the social enterprise UVU Bio, the Special Initiative supports the establishment of the **Rwanda Bioeconomy Skills Development and Acceleration Centre**. The centre offers young founders from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector the opportunity to research their own business ideas in a shared laboratory space and accelerate them to market maturity with the help of a mentoring and business support programme.

Please get in touch!

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On behalf of
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Cooperation and Development (BMZ)