

Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition”

Creating jobs and growth in Rwanda

Setting the course for economic growth

Rwanda remains one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. According to the International Monetary Fund, the country's economy expanded by 7 per cent in 2024.

Rwanda continues to position itself as a prime destination for business and investment in the region. The 2024 World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) report, which assesses the business and investment climate of 50 economies, recognised Rwanda as one of the top-performing countries globally, ranking 3rd in operational efficiency, 8th in public services and 17th in regulatory frameworks. **Additionally, foreign direct investment (FDI) has seen remarkable growth.** According to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, FDI inflows rose by 44.3 per cent in 2023, reaching 716.5 million USD – demonstrating the country's strong appeal to investors and its commitment to economic transformation.

Rwanda remains focused on achieving the ambitious targets outlined in its National Strategy for Transformation. **The government aims to create 250.000 jobs annually across the country.** The Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” supports this endeavour.

Rwanda: Real GDP Growth
(Annual Percentage Change)



Source: International Monetary Fund

Project name	Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition”: Job Partnerships and SME Promotion in Rwanda
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	06/2019 – 04/2027

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 private sector companies to support them in creating decent jobs and improving working conditions and social protection in Rwanda.**

Promoting investment

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

Implemented by



Example: According to RDB, the **global business services (GBS) sector, including Business Process Outsourcing and IT Offshoring, holds significant potential for investment and job creation in Rwanda.** To drive growth in the sector, the Special Initiative worked together with RDB, Harambee and the Mastercard Foundation to create the **GBS Growth Initiative**, a business association with the mandate to promote investment, build talents and skills, and provide sector advocacy. As of December 2024, 38 companies invested in the Rwandan GBS sector, with over 3,500 jobs created, 48 per cent of these for women. 1,500 of these jobs were created in 2024 alone, reflecting a 73 per cent year on year job growth. 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 is crucial for the country's prosperity and the creation of more employment opportunities, especially for women and young people. In joint projects, the Special Initiative supports these enterprises by training staff members or new candidates, improving product quality, assisting with certifications, and advising on general business and financial expertise. These measures **enhance the competitiveness of SMEs**, enabling them to expand into new markets and generate job opportunities across the country.

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 partner companies, and 4,765 people participated in training measures to improve their skills. The value of the horticulture produce sold by SMEs increased five-fold, while the total SME export volume increased from an average of 25 to 47 metric tonnes per week. As a result, 1,131 people came into new good employment, of which 577 women and 635 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 promotes investments in this sector through providing companies with **networking and matchmaking opportunities.** With new investments in the sector, Rwanda requires the right talent. 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 that meet the industry's needs.

Example: Together with the Ministry of Education, the University of Rwanda and the social enterprise UVU Bio, the Special Initiative launched the **Rwanda Bioeconomy Hub.** The hub consists of a state-of-the-art open access laboratory, the first of its kind in East Africa, that was officially inaugurated in September 2024. The hub offers entrepreneurs in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector the opportunity to turn their innovative ideas into business solutions and accelerate them to market maturity with the help of a mentoring and business support programmes.

Please get in touch!

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On behalf of
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