



BOOSTING DECENT JOBS AND ENHANCING SKILLS FOR YOUTH IN AFRICA'S **DIGITAL ECONOMY**

The programme in brief

The programme enables more young Africans to access decent work in the digital economy, through an iterative cycle of country-specific action, collaborating for impact, and understanding what works.

African youth are the future, and the future is digital

363 million young people live in Africa today. By 2050, that number will double.

These young people are bright, full of ideas and potential. As the continent's most important source of human capital, they are, quite literally, the future. They deserve decent jobs and the opportunity to fulfil their potential in Africa's growing digital economy.

Currently, however, **it is difficult for many young Africans to gain the skills or find the support they need to succeed. Job creation in the private sector is often insufficient, and decent entrepreneurial opportunities are hard to find.** And then there's the pandemic, which disrupted learning and hit young workers especially hard.

COVID-19 also underscored the growing importance of digital technologies to Africa's economic future and building back better. It has made clear that **Africa's digital transformation presents new possibilities for decent and resilient jobs for youth.**



A programme to give opportunities to youth, unlocking their potential

Young Africans with access to digital skills, markets, networks, finance, information, and representation can change the world, both benefiting from and contributing to their countries' digital transformation and long-term development. They are key to achieving Agenda 2063 and the United Nations' SDGs.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - in support of the African Union (AU) and under the umbrella of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth - are implementing **a programme to empower African youth, ensuring they benefit from new opportunities in the digital economy and steer it forward** with their energy and creativity.

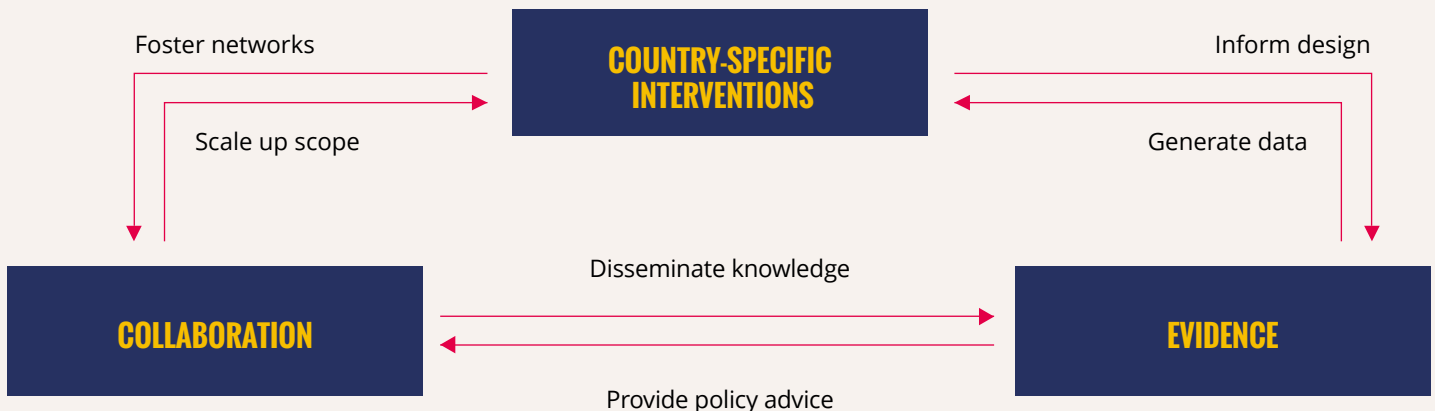
The programme has youth engagement at its core, and is based on the principles of inclusion, participation, and respect for human rights. It was developed alongside young people, governments, educators and digital economy partners in the public and private sectors.

OUR GOAL:

We aim to enable more young Africans to access decent work in the digital economy.

That means using an iterative cycle to:

- Implement country-specific interventions that
 - Create decent jobs
 - Strengthen digital skills
 - Improve employment services
- Generate new evidence for data-driven action
- Establish partnerships and networks for impact





Three key parts of our country-specific approach

- **Job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities in the digital economy.** To boost labour demand, the programme promotes pro-employment policies and collaborates with governments, workers, and employers in “first digital jobs” interventions. These activities will link young entrepreneurs to value chains and strengthen the work quality of digital jobs.
- **Investments in youth digital skills.** The programme supports young people to acquire the skills needed to thrive in the digital economy. This includes designing, piloting and scaling-up digital skills interventions.
- **Preparing public and private employment services for the digital era.** The programme enables employment service providers to adapt to and pilot new technologies and digital platforms.

Evidence to understand what works

Improved diagnostic tools and data collection produces new evidence about boosting employment and skills development for youth. We also invite stakeholders to participate in national, regional, and continental events to share knowledge and discuss opportunities.

Collaboration to sustain and scale up results

We foster inclusive partnerships to enhance our impact, linking up with existing initiatives at the country and regional levels. Look out for campaigns that promote young people's rights and incentivize young women and vulnerable/marginalized youth to participate in our activities. We engage and collaborate with young people through youth-led organizations and networks on the continent, like SDG youth networks and Generation Connect Youth Groups

Where we're doing the work

The programme is continental in scope, starting in six partner countries. Partner countries are selected based on national development priorities to advance decent jobs for youth, the availability of labour market information on the digital economy, and regional representation of the partner organizations. **Our first focus countries are: Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa.**

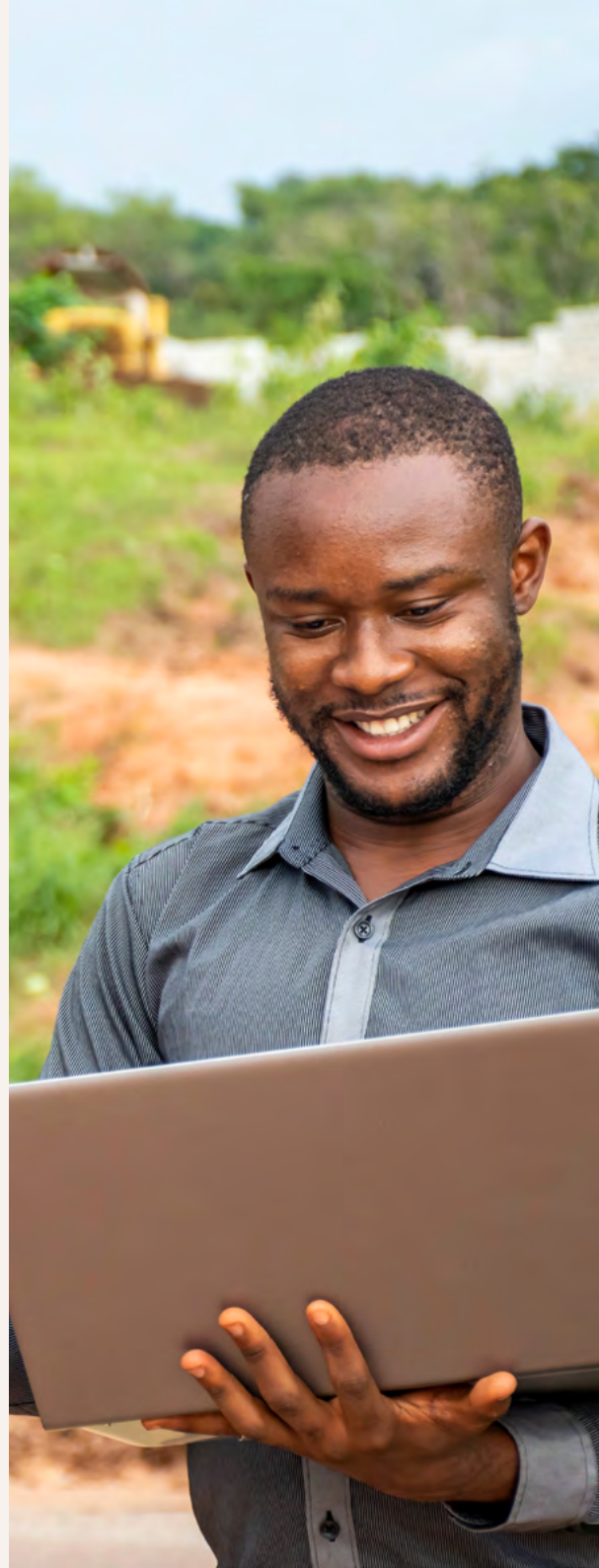
Join our mission, your way

The ILO, ITU, and AU welcome stakeholders to support programme implementation at the continent and country levels, including governments, social partners, youth and civil society organizations, the United Nations system and other multilateral and regional organizations, private sector entities, foundations, and academia.

We look forward to establishing long-term partnerships to mobilize resources for programme implementation.

Here are two concrete ways to support the programme:

- **Financial and/or technical support** for the implementation of innovative and tailored interventions in the selected countries.
- **Engage public and private partners to establish partnerships and networks,** which will attract additional investments.



Founding partners

The programme seeks to be a catalyst, building on existing initiatives. It will leverage the unique comparative advantages of an ILO/ITU/AU partnership, drawing on the combined technical expertise, convening power and voice to advocate for decent jobs and skills for youth in Africa's digital economy. The programme also leverages the networks and resources of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth.

The ILO is leading in the areas of youth employment analysis and data collection. It will draw from its expertise in employment and labour markets, its authority on labour standards, and its connections with governments and workers' and employers' organizations.

Supporting countries throughout their digital transformation journeys is at the heart of ITU's work on the continent. In collaboration with partners, **ITU is leading the delivery of digital capacity development and training and promoting digital skills for all,** with a special focus on marginalized populations.

As a champion of digital development and youth employment in Africa, **the AU plays a key role in convening member states to share knowledge, forge partnerships, and scale up what works.**





International
Labour
Organization



African
Union



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Join the programme to scale up action
and impact for youth.

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