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Digital Transformation Center Rwanda (DTC)

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The Digital Transformation Center is a Rwandan-German initiative aimed at developing impact-driven digital solutions in Africa. The center provides advisory services and training for government institutions and local tech companies, and a modern space conducive to boosting creativity and collaboration.

Presented by:

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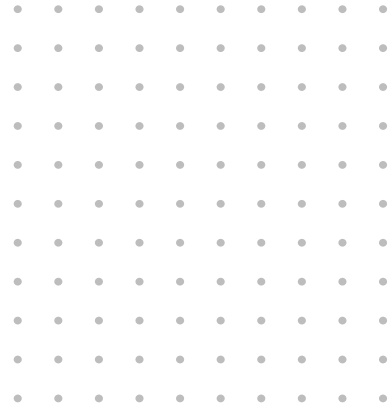
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Executive Summary

The Digital Transformation Center Rwanda (DTC) has emerged as a catalyst for Rwanda's digital transformation journey in 2024, spearheading initiatives that leverage technology for socio-economic development. Working closely with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), GIZ, and various stakeholders, DTC has driven programs that focus on innovation, digital literacy, and sustainability.

Key achievements include advancing AI-driven solutions for agriculture and climate adaptation, integrating robotics into education, and empowering marginalized groups through targeted digital literacy training. This report outlines our key programs, measurable impacts, partnerships, and strategic priorities, showcasing our commitment to fostering a digitally inclusive and sustainable future.

— — Introduction



Established in 2019, the Digital Transformation Center Rwanda is dedicated to fostering innovation, building capacity, and scaling impactful digital solutions across Rwanda and the region. In 2024, our focus was aligned with Rwanda's national priorities, addressing challenges in agriculture, disaster management, education, and urban mobility through emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and drones. Through strategic partnerships with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), the Government of Rwanda we have empowered communities to harness technology for socio-economic development.

Our mission is to deliver impact-driven digital solutions and empower communities to harness technology for socio-economic development. Our vision is to position Rwanda as a hub for digital innovation and a leader in Africa's digital transformation journey.

This report summarizes our achievements from January to December 2024, focusing on key programs, initiatives, partnerships, and outcomes. We also discuss the lessons learned, challenges faced, and future goals.



Our mission is to deliver impact-driven digital solutions and empower communities to harness technology for socio-economic development.

— Key Highlights - 2024

I. Strategic Partnerships & Ecosystem Engagement

DTC strengthened its partnerships with key stakeholders like MINICT, GIZ, Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA), Rwanda Internet Community and Technology Alliance (RICTA), National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA), Data Protection Office (DPO), and Rwanda Space Agency (RSA). These collaborations have catalyzed impactful initiatives in areas like disaster risk management, digital inclusion, smart mobility, and AI governance.

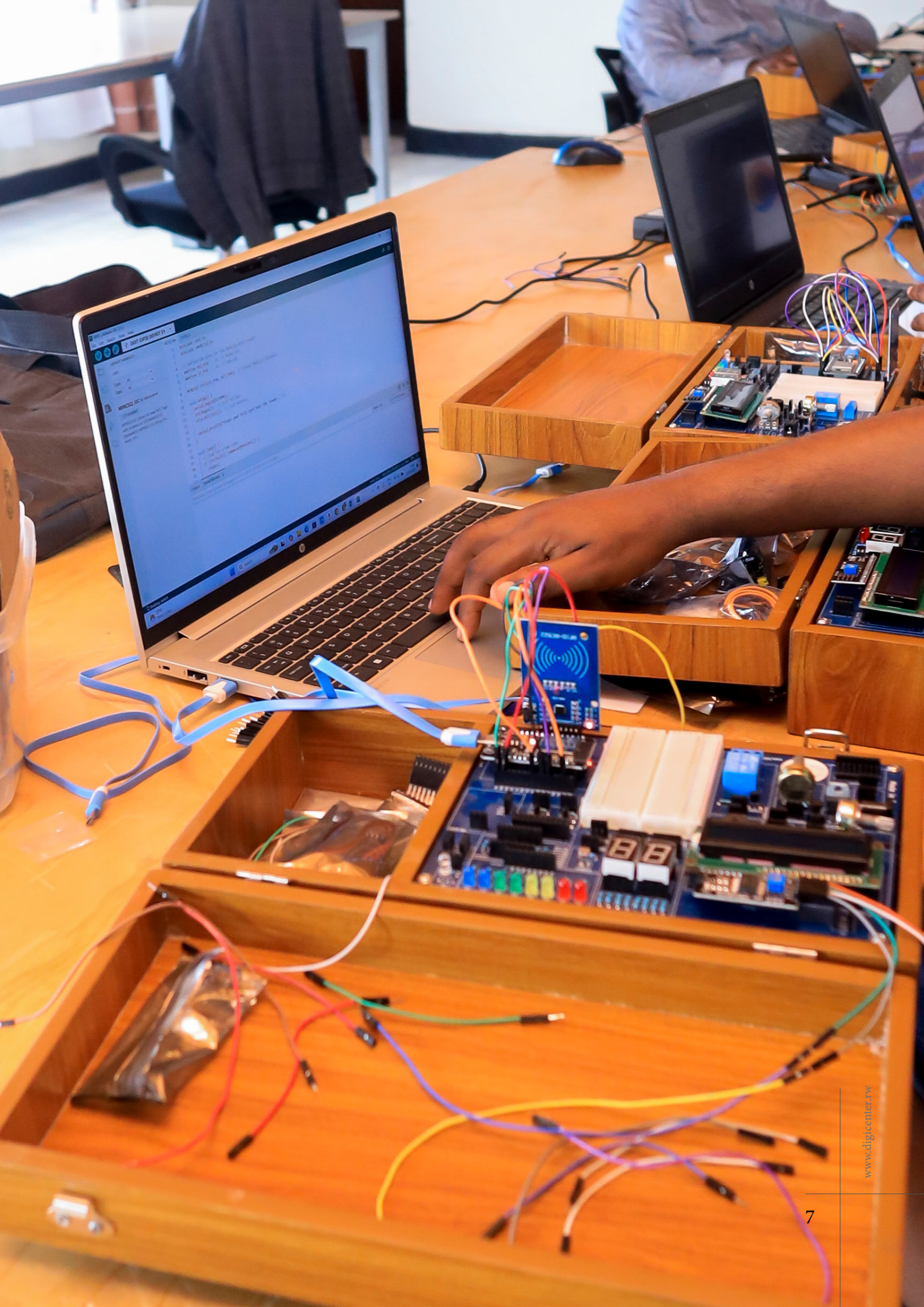
Strategic initiatives, such as the Smart City Hub and Founders Friday, provided a platform for innovation and dialogue on urban solutions.

II. Capacity Building & Digital Literacy

- DTC rolled out several transformative programs:
- The National Robotics Program introduced robotics into 26 schools, impacting over 5,000 students.
- Digital Literacy for People with Disabilities trained 1,200 individuals, enabling them to access and utilize digital tools.
- Apple Accredited Training Centers for Education (AATCE) were launched in five institutions to provide world-class digital skills.

III. AI & Innovation for Climate Action

- Through initiatives like the AI for Climate Action (Innovate Africa Challenge), DTC facilitated AI-driven solutions for climate adaptation, agriculture, and disaster risk management. The year saw multiple successful solutions developed by young innovators, which are now being piloted for wider implementation.
- The Responsible AI Office (RAIO) helped shape the AI governance landscape in Rwanda, working on policy frameworks and ethical guidelines for AI development.



1. Achieving Strategic Goals

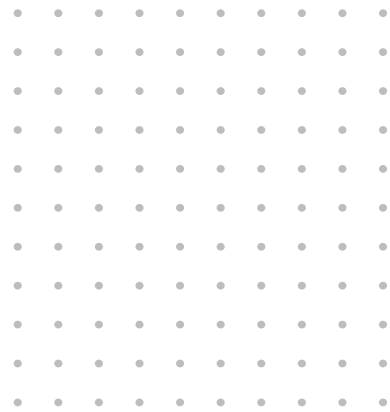
1.1. Digital Transformation for Development

This year, DTC took significant steps towards enabling digital transformation across several sectors. One of the primary objectives for 2024 was to foster AI-driven solutions that could address critical national and international challenges, such as climate change and urban mobility.

- **AI for Climate Action:** The Innovate Africa Challenge was launched to encourage AI-based solutions that address climate change in Africa. The challenge attracted a wide range of talented individuals and startups, and many top teams developed solutions for agriculture, disaster management, and resource forecasting. The Innovate Africa Challenge attracted over 50 innovators, resulting in 10 AI solutions for agriculture and climate adaptation. These solutions are being piloted in disaster-prone regions to enhance early warning systems and optimize resource management.
- **Smart Mobility Solutions:** the Smart Mobility Lab engaged both public and private sector stakeholders to address urban mobility challenges in Kigali. Through a series of workshops, collaborations, and a hackathon, innovative transportation solutions were developed that focused on sustainable urban mobility and clean energy solutions.

Key Achievements





1.2. Building the Digital Literacy Ecosystem

DTC has focused heavily on improving digital literacy, targeting marginalized groups and the education sector. These efforts aim to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all Rwandans, regardless of ability or background, can participate in the digital economy.

- **National Robotics Program:** Over 452 robotics kits were distributed to 26 schools, with training sessions held for 33 teachers to integrate these kits into the classroom. This initiative provided hands-on experience to over 5,000 students, preparing them for careers in tech.
- **Digital Literacy for People with Disabilities:** The program reached over 1,200 people with disabilities, enabling them to use digital tools and access information. The training will be expanded next year to include more specialized content to further enhance digital inclusion.
- **Apple Labs:** The establishment of Apple Accredited Training Centers for Education (AATCE) in five institutions will provide students with world-class tech skills, positioning Rwanda as a hub for tech talent in East Africa.

Key Achievements

5,000 | Students benefited from robotics kits and training.

5 | AATCEs (Apple labs) launched in major Rwandan institutions.

1,200 | people with disabilities received digital literacy training.



DTC has focused heavily on improving digital literacy, targeting marginalized groups and the education sector.

2. Partnerships and Ecosystem Engagement

2.1. Strengthening Collaborations

A critical component of DTC's success in 2024 was its partnerships with public and private entities, NGOs, and international organizations.

- **Founders Friday & Smart City Hub:** These platforms brought together over 16 startups, entrepreneurs, and innovators to engage in dialogue about smart city solutions. The Smart City Hub facilitated discussions on urban solutions and helped promote Kigali as a growing smart city.
- **Responsible AI Office (RAIO):** The RAIO continued to contribute to the development of AI policies, collaborating with MINICT and international experts to establish ethical AI frameworks. One of the key achievements was the publication of the AI Playbook, which provides guidelines for AI development and governance.

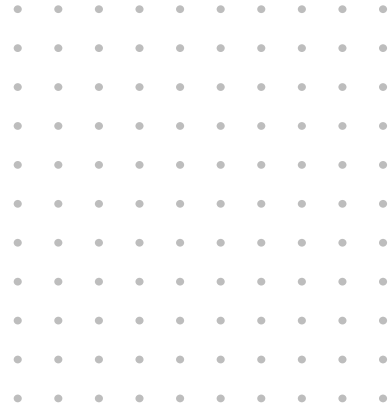
Key Achievements

16+ | startups showcased their urban solutions.

AI | Playbook launched, shaping AI governance landscape.

3 | strategic partnerships formed in AI and smart mobility.

— 3. Key Outcomes and Impact



3.1. Results from Digital Innovation Programs

The impact of DTC's programs was substantial in 2024. Initiatives like the National Robotics Program and AI for Climate Action demonstrated the transformative potential of technology to solve real-world problems.

- **AI Solutions for Disaster Risk Management:** DTC partnered with MINEMA and RSA to integrate AI into disaster management efforts, creating early warning systems for floods and landslides, which are now being tested in flood-prone regions.
- **Smart Mobility:** The Smart Mobility Hackathon resulted in innovative solutions for Kigali's transport infrastructure, with a focus on e-mobility and sustainable transportation systems.
- **AI for Agriculture:** The Innovate Africa Challenge produced AI solutions that address key challenges like crop disease detection and efficient resource use in farming, which are now being piloted in rural areas. One AI solution for crop disease detection was implemented by one of the start-ups that participated in the challenge. The solution was piloted in 15 counties in Kenya benefiting over 2,000 farmers.

Key Metrics

10+ | AI solutions deployed for agriculture and disaster management.

3 | Smart Mobility projects now in pilot stages.



Initiatives like the National Robotics Program and AI for Climate Action demonstrated the transformative potential of technology to solve real-world problems.

4. Looking Ahead to 2025

As DTC moves into 2025, we remain committed to deepening our impact in the areas of AI, digital literacy, and innovation. Key goals for the upcoming year include:

- Scaling AI solutions for agriculture, urban mobility, and climate action.
- Expanding digital literacy programs to reach 5,000 individuals with disabilities.
- Growing the Apple Labs initiative and integrating it into 10 more educational institutions across the country.
- Foster regional collaboration to replicate successful programs across East Africa.

Our future is shaped by the collaborative partnerships we continue to build and the innovations we foster. We look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders to drive Rwanda's digital transformation forward in the years to come.



— Conclusion

2024 has been a year of growth and transformation for the Digital Transformation Center Rwanda. From our capacity-building programs to our strategic partnerships, we have made significant strides in advancing Rwanda's digital future. Through our innovative programs and initiatives, we are laying the groundwork for a digitally inclusive and sustainable Rwanda.

The Impact of our programs in 2024 has shown that digital solutions are key to addressing the challenges faced by our society. As we look to the future, DTC will continue to be at the forefront of driving digital transformation, ensuring that no one is left behind as Rwanda moves toward a more inclusive, tech-driven economy.



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