

# Digital Solutions for Sustainable Development (DSSD)

## The Challenge

With Rwanda steadily moving forward in the quest to become a knowledge-based economy by 2020, the increase in use of information and communication technology (ICT) is a prerequisite and remains a key enabler of such an ambition.

For the country to register more achievements in the ICT sector there is a need to promote the development of digital solutions and to strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities of the responsible key institutions: Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT) and its implementation agency Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA).

The Digital Solutions for Sustainable Development (DSSD) program is set up to support Rwanda's mission of becoming a knowledge and service-based economy and will primarily advise Rwandan institutions on the implementation of the Smart Rwanda Master Plan (2016-2020) and its priority projects.

Sector ministries are financially supported in the implementation of the developed solutions. In addition, cooperation with African organizations and networks like the Smart Africa Secretariat and the SDG Center for Africa allows the developed solutions to scale to other African countries. The center also acts as a bridge between German and European companies/research institutions and potential Rwandan partners.



Another core service of the DSSD program is to support the institutional and capacity development of MINICT, RISA and other partners through intensive capacity building, organizational development, business process optimization, and expert advice.

**THE OBJECTIVE:** Rwanda's capacities and systems to adopt a leading role in the implementation of SDG relevant smart solutions for Africa are strengthened.

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|-----------------------|--|
| Project name          | Digital Solutions for Sustainable Development (DSSD)                   |
| Commissioned by       | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Project region        | Rwanda   |
| Lead executing agency | GIZ  |
| Duration              | 07/2017 - 12/2020  |

## Our Approach

Digital solutions are developed in collaboration with the local and international private sector, research institutions and civil society with the support of the Digital Transformation Center (DigiCenter) as a project unit of DSSD.

| A: INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT  | B: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CENTER IN AFRICA  |
|--|---|
|  |  |
| <b>A1:</b> Improvement of the human resource and institutional capacities            | <b>B1:</b> Development of 14 SDG- relevant digital solutions through the Center       |
| <b>A2:</b> Studies and advice in new technologies and gender dimension               | <b>B2:</b> Upscaling of the digital solutions to other African countries              |
| <b>A3:</b> Support the development of ICT sector strategies to line ministries       | <b>B3:</b> Public private partnership with German and European companies              |





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## A: INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The institutional and capacity development is supported through:

- Organizational development and business process optimization in MINICT and RISA.
- Expert advice to inform policies, i.e. emerging tech.
- Building capacity to support development and implementation of line ministries' ICT strategies.
- Capacity development by providing training-on-the-job, mentorship and study visits.

## B: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CENTER IN AFRICA

The Digital Transformation Center will be a hybrid model aimed at:

- Developing impact driven digital solutions.
- Playing the role of test-bed and launch pad for German and European companies.
- Applying human centered design methods in developing local eco-system capacities.
- Replicating and scaling-up digital solutions at regional and continental level.
- A digital transformation fund will be setup involving a community challenge & project implementation.

## Our Impact

12 digital solutions are under development in partnership with the Digital Transformation Center and the local ecosystem. 5 solutions have been fully developed and are contributing to the overall objective.

The developed solutions have the following impacts:

- Local communities benefit from smart solutions, through inclusion and do-no-harm approach.
- The local digital eco-system is strengthened.

- A special emphasis is put on inclusion of women and youth.
- Solutions are sustainable and scalable.

The Digital Transformation Center was launched in May 2019: It is currently home to 5 startups and hosts weekly events, trainings, bootcamps and workshops that have brought together over 1,500 tech community members in Rwanda and outside in only the first 4 months.

Over 300 people have been trained in various areas like design & innovation process in a train the trainer approach, code + design, Internet of Things and Typo3 web development.

## Main Partners and Steering Structure

DSSD's main partners are the MINICT and RISA. Other partners include the Smart Africa Secretariat, Rwanda ICT Chamber, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and the National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA).



### DSSD PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

Decision making and strategic orientation body  
MINICT, RISA, NIRDA, ICT Chamber, Smart Africa, GIZ.

### DSSD PROGRAM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Monitoring, technical Committee  
MINICT, RISA, NIRDA, RDB, Smart Africa, ICT Chamber and GIZ.

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