

# Boosting decent jobs and enhancing skills for youth in Africa's digital economy



Programme overview | 14 October 2020 |



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Under the aegis of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the **ILO** and **ITU**, with the support of the **AU**, have together initiated a **programme with continental reach to create decent employment and enhance skills for youth in Africa's digital economy**.

The aim of the programme is to empower Africa's youth and ensure they benefit from the new opportunities in the digital economy, and that their energy and creativity is directed to the advantage of expanding, digitally-enabled industries and opportunities.

The programme recognizes and contributes to:

Global level	Continental & regional level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Agenda 2063</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overarching objective of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Call for Action adopted by the 2012 International Labour Conference</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ouagadougou +10</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UN Youth Strategy: Youth 2030</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WTDC-17 outcomes</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SMART Africa Alliance</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>African Girls can Code Initiative 2018-2021</li></ul>

# The opportunity

by **2050**



573 million youth in Africa,  
nearly 1/3 of all youth  
globally



Still the youngest population  
in the world



18 million jobs need to be  
created per year over the next  
30 years to absorb new labour  
market entrants

# Partner countries

- Côte d'Ivoire
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa



# Country-specific interventions

**Labour demand:** job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities in the digital economy

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The programme will promote proemployment policies and collaborate with governments, workers and employers in:

- The implementation of “first digital jobs” interventions
- Linking young entrepreneurs to value chains in urban and rural settings
- Strengthening job quality in the informal economy
- Facilitating the transition of youth to the formal economy

**Labour supply:** investments in youth digital skills

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The programme will :

- Support governments to develop policies that strengthen the supply of demand-driven skills in the digital economy
- Improve the quality and focus of skills development interventions for youth
- Design and deliver digital skills development interventions that target different youth groups with through partnerships

**Labour intermediation:** preparing public and private employment services for the digital era

The programme will enable employment services to adapt to and pilot new technologies and digital platforms, in order to understand what the changing needs are for specific skills and identify opportunities for youth in the digital economy.

# The programme

Increase the number of young Africans in target countries able to access decent work in the digital economy, through an iterative cycle of programme implementation, partnership development and understanding what works

## PARTNERSHIPS:

establish networks, innovate and foster collaboration among key stakeholders to create an enabling policy environment for sustainable digital transformation



Disseminate knowledge



Provide policy advice



## DATA, DIAGNOSTICS AND RESEARCH:

generate new evidence about what works best in boosting decent employment and enhancing skills for young people in Africa's digital economy



## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS:

implement innovative and tailored interventions to boost job creation, strengthen skills and facilitate labour intermediation in the digital economy



Generate evidence



Inform design



Foster networks



Scale-up scope

Job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities in the digital economy

Investments in youth digital skills

Preparing public and private employment services for the digital era

# Evidence to understand what works and collaboration to scale

- New evidence will be generated through improved diagnostic tools and data collection.
- National, regional and continental fora will be held to disseminate lessons learned, share knowledge and discuss opportunities to boost youth skills development and employment.
- Innovative and inclusive partnerships will be created to enhance the programme's impact and advocate for taking a comprehensive approach.
- Synergies with existing initiatives at the country and regional level will be sought out and capitalized upon.
- Campaigns to promote and protect the rights and responsibilities of young people working in the digital economy will be launched
- Young women and other vulnerable or marginalized youth will be incentivized to participate in digital skills development activities.

# Added value of the programme

## ITU & ILO's expertise & networks

- Combined expertise on employment and building digital capacity
- Support to COVID-19 response (youth employment and digital skills development)
- Extensive networks (governments, training providers, social partners, academia, the private sector, civil society, multilateral institutions and development banks)
- Leverage existing initiatives and partnerships

## Systems-level approach & generation of new evidence

- Interconnected intervention areas for maximum effect
- New diagnostic tools, data, and impact evaluations
- Dissemination of knowledge and best practices across the region to enable replicability and economies of scale in other contexts and across sectors

## Tailored to context

- Integrate with each country's own plans and priorities
- Extensive country analyses of the digital economy (labour intensity and potential for youth employment; digital skills demand, supply and gaps; youth-led business opportunities and enablers; efficacy of public employment services)
- Results widely shared in country

## Focus on young people

- Rights-based, inclusive and participatory approach
- Skills development for different groups of young people
- Campaign to promote and protect the rights and responsibilities of young people working in the digital economy



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