

## Project Name: Youth Delivering Digital Skills at Scale

**Organization(s):** Digital Opportunity Trust

**Dates of Implementation:** 2017-ongoing

**Countries:** Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire

**Partner(s):** Digital Opportunity Trust, Rwanda Ministry of ICT and Innovation, World Economic Forum Internet for All initiative, ITU EQUALS Coalition, Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Digital Economy and Tele postal Services

**Funder(s):** Current/past: Global Affairs Canada, GIZ, Government of Rwanda, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mozilla Foundation

**Website:** <http://dotrust.org>

**Project description:** DOT's Digital Skills at Scale model is implemented as a multi-stakeholder initiative that provides digital skills and soft skills trainings that accelerate digital inclusion, close the gender digital divide and create new opportunities for youth to be employed as digital leaders who train large numbers of people in peri-urban and rural communities. The model uses blended e-learning approaches and is based on partnerships with regional governments, digital hubs, and networks of local youth organizations that position youth as leaders of community and digital transformation in order to support employment and economic growth.

DOT's innovative cross-sectoral approach leverages the expertise of multiple stakeholders. This includes policy and partnership-building support from the World Economic Forum and ITU's EQUALS Coalition; local implementation of the model in Rwanda and Côte d'Ivoire which includes scale, localization, and implementation support from the Rwandan government and Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; a gender-equality framework created by The Web Foundation; and Mozilla Foundation's peer-to-peer Digital Clubs model.

**Target Population:** Unemployed and underemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 29 with a passion for community change, who each impact hundreds of community members by providing digital and soft skills training in rural and urban areas. To address equal representation of both genders, the ratio of youth deployed is 50:50 young women and men.

### Results to-Date and/or Target Results:

In Rwanda, DOT is working alongside the Rwandan government to implement the Digital Skills at Scale model as the *Digital Ambassador Program*, which is spreading digital skills and growing digital literacy throughout the country — with youth at the center. Through this implementation of the model in Rwanda:

- **110 youth have trained 40,000** citizens to use digital tools and services in Rwanda.
- **75%** of participants improved their ability to use ICTs, including fintech and e-government services – leading to impacts on livelihood and economic productivity.
- **87%** of participants saw gains in their household income as a result of their new digital skills.
- Efforts to bridge the gender digital divide through promoting digital skills and enhancing the social and economic inclusion of women has improved capacities to create sustain women-led businesses.
- Youth have acquired full-time employment because of their participation in the program and are acting as “intrapreneurs” —using digital to innovate within traditional wage-earning sectors.

Discussions are in progress with the Rwandan government to structure future program phases under a public-private partnership model.

DOT has also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Digital Economy to design an adaptation of the Digital Skills at Scale model based on best practices learned in Rwanda. There is additional interest in localized adaptations of the Digital Skills at Scale model in South Africa, Cameroon and Kenya. DOT continues to explore opportunities to implement its Digital Skills at Scale model, which has proven replicable and scalable, with government and funding partners.

### Interesting Features & Innovations:

-Blended digital and experiential learning: Youth are deployed to rural and peri-urban communities as agents of change rather than beneficiaries, to train fellow youth, driving community transformation while gaining important employability and entrepreneurship skills.

-Triple Impact. This project builds digital skills in communities, increases employability of youth and bridges the gender digital divide by placing young women at the center of digital transformation.

-Cross-sectoral approach leverages the expertise of multiple stakeholders.

-Addresses digital gender divide.