



**Digital
Transformation
Centres**



**Digital Transformation Centers Initiative
Partnership with Global Telecommunication Sector
“Digital Equity for All”**

(Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.)

Strategist, researchers, and leaders unanimously agree that the **lack of digital skills** is the greatest barrier to digital inclusion, especially in developing countries and underserved communities. Globally, **2.7 billion** people are still **unconnected**¹, while **67 per cent of youth lack digital skills**².

Furthermore, there is widespread agreement that digitalisation **speeds up development, helps economic growth, brings people closer together and enables better use of resources**. But many countries are struggling to invest in digital skills, innovation and digital technologies, because they can't afford to finance it.

**4 in 10 people have no access to
broadband or a computer**



**3 in 10 people do not have a
smartphone**



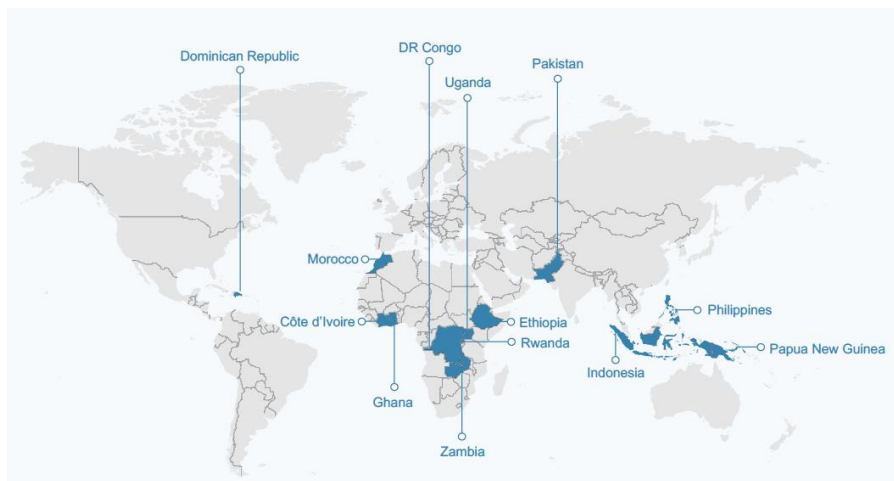
ITU and Cisco launched the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) Initiative to **boost digital skills** among **underserved groups** and in **rural communities**, and make sure that lack of knowledge and skills is not a barrier to participation in the digital economy.

Importantly, the Initiative aims to **support progress** towards the following **SDGs** by 2030:



DTCs are **national institutions** that commit to engage as active partners in the Initiative. They are **part of a global network** of local institutions selected to strengthen digital capacities of citizens, in particular in rural and underserved communities. DTCs focus on delivering and scaling of **basic and intermediate digital skills training** to citizens.

To date, there are **13 DTCs** operational across Africa, the Americas, Arab States, and the Asia-Pacific region.



ITU and Cisco are reaching out to the global telecommunication sector community, to join us to maximize impact and expand the DTC initiative globally. By working together, we can scale **the DTC activities** and **reach a larger number of people** for greater impact. Telco companies are essential partners when it comes to connectivity, equipment for training centres, provision of facilities, logistics for training delivery and program management.



Digital Transformation Centre Workshop, 30 May to 1 June 2023

Where: Centre de Conférences de Varembe (CCV), opposite the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG):
Rue de Varembe 9-11, 1202 Geneva Switzerland ([See the location on the Map](#))

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together selected telecommunication companies to identify joint projects and modalities of support to the DTCs, and to develop a global engagement framework to partner with Digital Transformation Centers nationally and globally. More specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Present an overview of the DTC initiative and its successful implementation in 13 countries.
- Learn from you about your company's digital skills initiatives.
- Explore how each organization can contribute and expand its CSR reach by joining the DTC initiative and making a stronger impact on the communities.
- Identify joint projects and develop concrete areas of partnership between your company and the DTC initiative.
- Together develop a global engagement framework for telecommunication companies to partner with DTCs on the ground and/or globally.

Your and your organization's participation in the workshop is an affirmation that the **lack of digital skills** is the greatest barrier to digital inclusion, especially in developing countries and underserved communities.

Benefits of partnering with the DTC initiative, amongst other, include the following:

- **Global partnership:** Be recognised as partner of a UN-driven global digital skills initiative that is positively impacting the lives of thousands of people from underserved communities and taking them forward into the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- **United Nation's SDGs:** Be part of a global digital skills initiative that aims to **support progress towards** United Nation's **SDG 4, 8, 10 and 17**.
- **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and social responsibility:** As a responsible corporate citizen, we have a responsibility to contribute to the development of the communities we serve. Providing support for digital skills development in underserved communities is a way to give back and help bridge the digital divide.
- **Customer base expansion:** Supporting digital skills development in underserved communities can help expand your customer base. By helping people in these communities acquire digital skills, we create new customers who will be able to use your products and services.

- Market opportunity: There is a growing market for digital products and services in underserved communities. By supporting digital skills development, you can tap into this market and create new business opportunities.
- Economic benefits: Providing support for digital skills development in underserved communities helps create jobs and boost economic growth. Digital skills are in high demand in today's economy, and by helping people acquire these skills, you can contribute to the creation of a more skilled workforce.
- Innovation: supporting digital skills development in underserved communities can also help spur innovation. People in underserved communities often face unique challenges that can inspire innovative solutions. By providing these communities with the tools and skills they need to innovate, we can help create new products and services that benefit everyone.
- Overall, supporting digital skills development in underserved communities is a win-win for both you and the communities you serve. It helps create new business opportunities, expands the customer base, and contributes to the development of a more skilled and innovative workforce.

Additional information on the DTC initiative can be found here:

<https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/digital-transformation-centres-initiative>

Notes:

¹ - <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2022-09-16-Internet-surge-slows.aspx>

² - <https://skillsclock.io/>