

Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovation Made in Africa

The use of African-driven digital solutions will bring an impactful transformation in the field of agriculture and climate.

The challenge

African partners are increasingly seeking homegrown solutions within Africa, especially in the field of digitalisation and data-driven endeavours. The potential of data-centric, digital solutions, exemplified by civilian drone applications for environmental purposes or interactive language models catering to local languages, holds significant promise for expediting socio-ecological and economic transformations across the continent. Nevertheless, the predominant force behind innovations in the digital and data sector remains non-African entities, introducing the looming threat of new economic dependencies. This situation heightens the risk of externally crafted solutions that may not align with the nuanced contexts of African societies.

The overarching issue is the insufficient integration of data-centric digital solutions developed in Africa to suit African contexts. A dearth of collaborative, transnational efforts in innovation development, coupled with a lack of cooperative support for implementing these innovations, exacerbates the challenge. This deficit includes bolstering competencies through cross-border collaboration, enhancing market access, and refining structural framework conditions. Consequently, the primary objective of this project is clear: to fortify the application of data-centric digital innovations proudly labelled as "Made in Africa" within the framework of triangular cooperation in East and West Africa.

Our approach

The project "Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovation Made in Africa" involves partners from Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, and Germany. In the Triangular Cooperation each partner with a different role: a main partner, contributing primarily in terms of knowledge and expertise; a beneficiary partner, deriving substantial benefits from both financial support and knowledge transfer; and a supporting partner, facilitating exchange processes through moderation, networking, and the provision of financial resources.

These roles can change over the course of the co-operation, depending on the topic.

Project name	Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovation Made in Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany
Duration	01.01.2024 – 31.12.2026

The module provides for interlinked activities at all three impact levels - person, organisation, and society. The focus here is on the societal level, particularly the design of sustainable, cooperative triangular relationships with the aim of creating framework conditions for the application of data-orientated digital innovations, e.g., regulation of drone flights, capacities for data analysis and the use of digital data. Strengthening application-oriented





Kathrin Damian kathrin.damian@giz.de

cooperation between public, private sector and civil society actors from various selected African countries will help to strengthen sustainable structures for transnational innovation in Africa on organizational level, with Germany providing advice and acts as a learning partner. At individual level, the focus is on capacity building in the selected use cases, strengthen the necessary skills locally and promote cooperation around data-oriented training between the participating countries. Especially the participation of women and vulnerable groups in the training programs is a key focus of the project.

The benefits of civil drones

The benefit of using drones in agricultural are for example accurately mapping of production area, providing elevation data that enables producers to identify any field abnormalities; or the ability to determine drainage patterns and wet/dry patches, which enable more effective watering. With drone technology, farmers can adopt integrated pest management strategies that specifically target harmful pests while preserving beneficial insects. This contributes to biodiversity conservation and fosters a more balanced and resilient ecosystem.



The benefits of triangular cooperation

Triangular cooperation projects have a demonstrable impact at project level, but especially at partnership level. The potential for further triangular cooperation projects in Africa is extremely high, on the one hand structurally through institutions such as the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (Rwanda Development Cooperation Agency) and Smart Africa, but also through the growing digital economy in Africa. The rise of start-ups and the increased use of mobile technologies are helping to make Africa a major player in the global digital economy.

Through triangular cooperation, resilient alliances, networks, and partnerships will be build and the knowledge generated can be used sustainable.

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Triangular cooperation for digital innovations made
in Africa
Dag Hammarskjöld Weg 1
65760 Eschborn, Germany
www.giz.de

Photo credits

Photographer Nicole Celikkesen

Text

Kathrin Damian

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

As of

February 2024