

# Implement key Sustainable Development Goals Partner with GESCI





*"The Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative matches the power of ICT with educational need, and has the potential not only to improve education, but also to empower people, strengthen governance, open up new markets and galvanise our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals"*

Kofi Annan, Sec. Gen. UN 2003.

## GESCI's Vision

To be a global thought leader and expert organization in supporting the utilization of new technologies to transform learning and empower individuals and communities with competencies and skills for inclusive and sustainable development.

We envisage a world where the widespread use and integration of digital technologies will realise higher levels of equality and inclusiveness. It is a world where ICTs are efficiently used to support governments and communities to provide:

- Equitable access to high-quality quality education
- Integrated ICT competency skills for better teaching and learning
- Relevant ICT-based skills development for youth enterprise and employment
- Multi-level leadership competencies for Knowledge Society planning and development
- Literacy and numeracy skills in communities and in informal and crisis environment.

## GESCI's Mission

To work with governments and partners in providing strategic supports to develop and implement models of good ICT-based practice for high-quality education & training and to build effective leadership abilities in ICT and Knowledge Society development among Government officials across the Developing world.

We work to contribute towards building a Knowledge Society for All based on the principles of equal opportunities, inclusiveness, empowerment, accountability and sustainability.

We recognise that developing countries require strong and effective leadership skills and the underpinning knowledge base in order to realistically strategise for knowledge society development.



## How GESCI's work is contributing to the SDGs

GESCI's mandate is to assist governments in the socio-economic development of their countries through the widespread integration of digital technology for inclusive and sustainable knowledge society development

Its programs, focusing on the enhancement of education through ICTs, youth skills and employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and its leadership and strategy for knowledge society development address the following SDGs:

**SDG #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promote lifelong learning;**

**SDG #5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;**

**SDG #8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all;**

**SDG #17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

### A. ICT –enhanced education for inclusive Knowledge Society development

The inherent challenge for education systems is that of providing an effective education which can prepare all young people to participate in the knowledge-age workplaces, social environments and political spheres.

ICT integration provides new modalities for addressing shortcomings in system-wide educational provision to bring about greater access and quality, improved curriculum and pedagogy, technical and vocational training reform and teacher development. Technology use in education and training is not simply a vehicle for teaching 'ICT literacy', but a means to building higher-order skills in a digitised, networked and knowledge-based society and in the workplace.

The successful use and integration of ICTs will assist in putting education to work in ways that responds to national development needs and goals and will build the skills and capacities of young people and adults for work and employability in the 21st Century knowledge-based economies. This will require expertise, funding, access to technology, and human capacity development. Techno-centric solutions make little impact in transforming practice.



## African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI)

GESCI has developed the African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI), to implement a dynamic, effective, sustainable and replicable model of digital whole-school development in secondary schools that will lead to improved student 21st century skills development, learning outcomes and readiness for the knowledge economy and workplace. GESCI's Digital Schools of Distinction (GDSD) framework builds on a model developed for GESCI's successful Strengthening Innovation and Practice in secondary education (SIPSE) program in Kenya and Tanzania. Starting this year, ADSI will be rolled out to 140 schools in Kenya, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire and will reach out to 4200 teachers including 1400 teachers in science, technology English and, mathematics (STEM) and 210,000 students, including 70000 STEM students.

## Communities Learning

GESCI is customising its current models and frameworks to support community based and cross- generational learning programmes with a focus on literacy and numeracy initiatives using mobile and emerging technologies together with a new focus on addressing the urgent educational needs of refugee children living in camps.

GESCI's work in the area is contributing to

**SDG GOAL # 4:**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning.

## B. Youth skills and employment

The urgency to provide appropriate skills development opportunities has never been greater - skills that will enable young people to cope and adapt to the rapid changes in the world of work, to find work or create it as young entrepreneurs. GESCI has experience and ability to contribute towards solutions.

We are piloting strategies for skills development through the integration of ICTs in new models of skill training and enterprise which reflect the pervasiveness of ICT in commerce and the emerging job opportunities in new areas of employment.

GESCI's work in the area is contributing to:

**SDG GOAL #4.4 :** Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

**SDG #8 :** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all;

**GOAL # 8.6 :** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training



## C. Gender equality and empowerment of women

GESCI actively promotes and ensures the participation of women and girls across all its programmes. In particular, it recognises the strategic importance of inclusion in relation to the use and incorporation of technology in programmes to enable women's full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making in public life. GESCI believes that the empowerment of women is brought about through education and training – formal and informal – and that the benefits to the individual, the community and to society as a whole can be enormous

GESCI is developing leadership programs with recognized networks in Africa to build the capacity of women leaders to jump start girls' and women's participation in education and in particular in science and technology.

GESCI's work in the area is contributing to

- SDG GOAL #5 :** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDGGOAL#5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- SDGGOAI#5.b:** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology,

## D. Leadership and Strategy for Knowledge Society Development

Sweeping technologically - driven change is taking place in developing countries with the roll-out of internet infrastructure and the high take-up rate and use of mobile telephony. Future leaders must be equipped to bring about change in their countries and to proactively deal with the imperatives and requirements of the knowledge age. To do so, they must develop new mindsets and skills capable of developing innovative solutions to new and old problems. In short, knowledge society development requires effective and enlightened planning by government officials who possess not only modern leadership abilities, but also an underpinning knowledge of the key drivers of 21st century social and economic development – ICT, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

In response to this critical need GESCI developed its leadership capacity building programme, the African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development Programme, in partnership with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland and the African Union Commission (AUC). It aims to facilitate collaborative capacity building to address different aspects and policies related to ICTs and Knowledge Societies and to build the capacities of current and potential future African leaders to acquire, assimilate, transform and exploit the benefits of ICT and knowledge in developing dynamic policies and strategies for knowledge society development in their countries. The programme emphasises change management, strategic planning, policy formulation and policy coherence, programme implementation and evaluation and building strategic partnerships



to address the key developmental issues facing the continent. Regarded as a flagship initiative by the African Union Commission, this programme has successfully run in 16 African countries to date. In response to this critical need GESCI developed its leadership capacity building programme, the African Leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development Programme, in partnership with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland and the African Union Commission (AUC). It aims to facilitate collaborative capacity building to address different aspects and policies related to ICTs and Knowledge Societies and to build the capacities of current and potential future African leaders to acquire, assimilate, transform and exploit the benefits of ICT and knowledge in developing dynamic policies and strategies for knowledge society development in their countries. The programme emphasises change management, strategic planning, policy formulation and policy coherence, programme implementation and evaluation and building strategic partnerships to address the key developmental issues facing the continent. Regarded as a flagship initiative by the African Union Commission, this programme has successfully run in 16

GESCI's work in the area is contributing to achieving

#### **SDG GOAL #17**

**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.**

and in particular the Technology and Capacity Building elements

#### **SDG GOAL #17.6**

**Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.**

#### **SDG GOAL #17.8**

**Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology**

#### **Capacity –Building:**

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals.

### **Our expertise**

Our track record lies in our deep understanding of the roles that leadership, technology, pedagogy and innovation play in the cultivation of knowledge societies. Our trustworthiness comes from our adherence to independent and impartial perspectives in our advice and guidance. We have international staff drawn from education, ICT, STI, e-learning, communications and project management experts supporting our programmes and projects in 16 African Countries to date.

## GESCI's addresses partner needs by:

- Continuing to deepen its vision and strategy for holistic approaches to ICT use and integration that is system-wide and system-deep and in line with SDG goals;
- Assisting countries to develop implementation strategies that are rooted in national plans and aspirations towards Knowledge Society development;
- Implementing projects that integrate ICT in their education systems which encompasses end-to-end processes for curriculum review for improving and enhancing content and pedagogy through technology integration, for teacher development based on ICT teacher competency standards
- Developing and implementing technology-based strategies for skills-to-employment solutions to youth employment?

## The competitive advantages of GESCI are:

1. GESCI can deliver products and services more efficiently than other similar international organisations, and in a more relevant manner than other private sector entities (conclusion of GESCI Independent External Evaluation, 2012);
2. GESCI develops its organisational capacity for continuous innovation – the process by which an idea that is new to an organisation gives rise to a new set of activities, such as new technologies, new managerial processes, new products, or new services.
3. GESCI is sensitive to the changing needs and priorities of governments. Our flexibility and adaptability are our key strengths.

## Our current programmes

### African leadership in ICT and Knowledge Society Development (ALICT)



ALICT is the first innovative action learning, collaborative applied course for public sector leaders in Africa that focuses on policy coherence and futures thinking to address cross-sectoral sustainable knowledge society development. To date, over 500 participants have successfully graduated from the course. A vibrant alumni network is now in place.

### African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI)



ADSI is a comprehensive program to implement digital whole-school development in secondary schools to transform secondary schools into digital schools of distinction. It is designed specifically to build secondary - level student 21st century skills and teachers' innovative practice in a way that is responsive to the needs of the market place and to the emerging knowledge economies and societies. ADSI will reach out to 140 schools in Kenya, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire, 4200 teachers including 1400 teachers in science, technology English and, mathematics (STEM) and 210,000 students, including 70,000 STEM students.

### African Knowledge Exchange – Creative Media Venture



New technology-driven skills are required for the growing knowledge-based industries and services and the new media products and services. AKE is a knowledge partnership, established by GESCI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, to identify new technology-driven training scenarios and a model which facilitated industry-standard digital media skills and entrepreneurial abilities that lead on to small enterprise creation in the cultural industries arena in the context of a "Living Lab" dynamic.

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