Investing in girls to learn coding will help girls in Africa develop life-changing IT skills and build future careers as successful technology entrepreneurs. Not only will these girls acquire hard skills as budding IT programmers, designers and developers, but they will also gain the self-esteem and confidence needed to pursue a career in technology and, crucially, to bridge Tanzania’s current gender gap in ICT.

The project aims to provide 200 underprivileged young women in Tanzania, DRC and Kenya with the opportunity of accessing advanced IT & entrepreneurship training and the support ecosystem they need to successfully obtain formal employment, notably in ICT-related employment, or develop and launch IT-based (social) enterprises.

The online incubator will provide aspiring women entrepreneurs, initially in Tanzania, DRC and Kenya, with access to indispensable resources (support for business plans, crowdfunding, access to potential investors/funders and mentoring) to support the successful launch and scale-up of their IT-based enterprises. The program aims to support women along two pathways to sustainable employment, by enabling women to develop key IT and entrepreneurship skills and qualifications and benefit from a requisite support system: i) through their professional integration into the formal employment sector, or ii) through the creation of their own enterprises. The program also aims to boost women’s entrepreneurship and women in tech, by supporting young women in generating social entrepreneurial business concepts that harness ICTs to create positive social or economic change.

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**KEY OBJECTIVES**

1. Establish an online incubator to support women in launching their IT-based enterprises
2. Offer a year-long, high-quality, advanced IT (400 hours) & entrepreneurship (50 hours) training program for young women aged 17-24
3. To pilot an innovative, comprehensive women’s IT training and tech entrepreneurship incubation model that can be replicated and scaled up elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa