

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF 2024 ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CHALLENGES

Digital Systems Technology Hub (DS Tech Hub)

Reporting Year: 2024

Organizational Overview

Digital Systems Technology Hub (DS Tech Hub) is a forward-thinking organization committed to building resilience, capacity, and reintegration for refugees while promoting ICT-driven livelihood initiatives. The organization seeks to empower refugees through education, technology, and sustainable development.

1. ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Activity 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Peer Educator Training

- **Description:** DS Tech Hub partnered with the Knowledge Action Hub and the Young Leaders of the International AIDS Society to train refugees and host community members as peer educators in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).
 - **Duration:** January – June 2024.
 - **Outcome:** A total of 33 health students (refugees and hosts) were trained and certified as peer educators to promote SRH awareness and education within their communities.
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Activity 2: Value-Added ICT Training for Refugee Youths

- **Description:** Refugee youths were trained in advanced ICT skills to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial capabilities.
 - **Duration:** June – September 2024.
 - **Outcome:** 30 refugee youths (15 girls and 15 boys) gained skills such as web design, graphic design, and data management to help them secure opportunities in a digital economy.
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Activity 3: After-School Digital Literacy Training for Refugee Children

- **Description:** DS Tech Hub initiated an after-school program to teach digital literacy skills to refugee children in junior secondary schools.
 - **Duration:** October – December 2024.
 - **Outcome:** Dozens of refugee children were introduced to basic ICT tools and skills, enabling them to access digital resources for education.
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Activity 4: Mentorship and Technical Support for Emerging Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs)

- **Description:** The organization provided mentorship to emerging RLOs, helping them build capacity and technical expertise.
 - **Duration:** October – Present.
 - **Outcome:** 10 emerging RLOs were mentored, strengthening their ability to serve their communities effectively.
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2. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

Empowerment of Refugee and Host Community Health Educators:

- Certified 33 peer educators in SRH, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address critical health issues such as sexual health, contraception, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

ICT Skills Development for Refugee Youths:

- 30 refugee youths completed the Value-Added ICT program, with some participants securing internships and freelance opportunities.
- Notably, the program included an equal gender split, ensuring more women accessed STEM-related skills.

Increased Access to Digital Education for Refugee Children:

- Implemented an after-school digital literacy program, which introduced over 20 refugee children to essential computer skills.

Strengthening Refugee-Led Organizations:

- Provided mentorship and technical support to 10 emerging RLOs, enabling them to improve their organizational capacity and project implementation.
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3. CHALLENGES IN 2024

Power Supply Limitations:

- **Challenge:** Frequent power outages disrupted training sessions.
- **Proposed Solution:** Installation of a solar energy supply to ensure reliable power for training activities.

Inadequate Training Materials:

- **Challenge:** A shortage of laptops, reliable internet, and qualified trainers limited the scale of programs.
- **Proposed Solution:** Procurement of laptops, tablets, and a Star-link internet connection to facilitate learning.

Technical Barriers to Software Development:

- **Challenge:** Developing innovative software required consistent internet, power supply, and high-quality tools, which were unavailable.
- **Proposed Solution:** Partnerships and funding to procure necessary resources for software innovation.

Collaboration and Guidance Needs:

- **Challenge:** Limited collaboration with experienced organizations slowed the development of innovative solutions.
 - **Proposed Solution:** Build partnerships with tech organizations to provide mentorship in software development.
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4. IMPACT STORIES

Empowered Youth Advocates in SRH:

A 22-year-old refugee participant from the SRH peer educator program reported organizing workshops within her community to educate women on contraception and safe pregnancy practices.

ICT Empowerment for Employment:

A participant from the Value-Added ICT Training Program secured a part-time job as a graphic designer for a local NGO, using skills learned during the training.

Improved Digital Literacy for Refugee Children:

Refugee students from the after-school program demonstrated improved performance in their schoolwork due to their new computer skills.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Reliable infrastructure is critical to the success of training programs. Investing in solar energy and advanced ICT tools is necessary for program continuity.
 2. Collaboration with established organizations enhances the quality and reach of interventions. Building stronger networks with partners is a priority for future activities.
 3. A gender-inclusive approach significantly increases the impact of ICT and STEM programs among vulnerable populations.
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6. WAY FORWARD

To address the identified challenges and build on its achievements, DS Tech Hub proposes the following for 2025:

1. Expand ICT programs to reach more participants, particularly women and children.
 2. Secure funding for reliable power solutions (solar energy), training equipment (laptops, tablets, Star-link internet), and more trainers.
 3. Collaborate with stakeholders to implement innovative software solutions for refugee communities.
 4. Provide mentorship and technical support to more RLOs to enhance their impact.
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