



Prior to delivering training through Microsoft Community Training, ACWICT reached on average 4,000 students at one time. Now with a learning platform that supports access to digital education even in environments with intermittent or no internet connectivity, ACWICT expects to reach at least 500,000 students in the next 2 years.

“A Bridge to Skilling” – The African Center for Women Information and Communications Technology pivots towards virtual learning to bring hope to young women and youth

Amid an unprecedented pandemic, how do you deliver onsite instruction while also adhering to social-distancing mandates? Constantine Obuya, executive director of The African Center for Women Information and Communications Technology (ACWICT), wrestled with this question at the start of the COVID-19 crisis. In a time of extraordinary stress and uncertainty, nothing was more important to Obuya and her team than maintaining connection with learners and continuing the development of their digital skills.

ACWICT is a Kenya-based organization dedicated to providing young women and youth with skills for employability. Through access to technology and training, ACWICT has touched the lives of more than 100,000 beneficiaries in their journey towards sustainable socio-economic development.

Like most organizations that provide in-person training, the pandemic required ACWICT to completely rethink their engagement model. To ensure that women and young girls would not fall behind, ACWICT implemented Microsoft Teams for virtual learning. By implementing Teams, ACWICT was able to successfully reach 2,000 women between the ages of 18–34 resulting in a job linkage rate of 60%. However, Teams was just the beginning of ACWICT’s training delivery transformation.

Following the Teams rollout, ACWICT set their sights on communities without a reliable internet connection. How could ACWICT ensure equal access to digital employability skills and mentorship even in low bandwidth environments? To support populations in urban informal settlements and rural areas, ACWICT implemented Microsoft Community Training (MCT) with Microsoft Partner, Wipfli. MCT is a platform designed for places with intermittent or no internet connectivity. MCT’s capabilities for offline learning cuts down the cost of internet and bandwidth—often a roadblock for learners and mentees.

When skills-based training can be delivered on low bandwidth or while offline, the goal of re-employment or new employment is accessible to an entire nation as opposed to a select few communities. ACWICT’s evolution towards virtual learning provided a bridge to skilling and a path from education to employment.



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This platform has provided them with a bridge to skilling at a time when these women needed it most, when they had nothing else to hold on to and when most of these young women were almost facing despair. It gave them hope in the middle of a global pandemic, when hope was so hard to come by.

– Constantine Obuya

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