



SHE CODES FOR CHANGE

Abella Bateyunga, Founder
of She Codes for Change

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMALE CODERS

She Codes for Change empowers young girls and women with ICT skills and basic coding

The dominance of the Tanzanian ICT sector by men is reflective of institutional initiatives that have long encouraged boys to take part in science, technology, engineering, arts/design and mathematics (STEAM), and in information communications technology (ICT). With limited opportunities for girls to take STEAM subjects at school and few female role models to aspire to, building a generation of women innovators in Tanzania is still very much in its infancy.

HDIF is working to address this issue by challenging innovators to design with

greater involvement from women and girls, placing their needs at the heart of what they do and making them central actors in the creation, use and scale-up of their work.

Abella Bateyunga, a long-term partner of HDIF, believes that for technology to be truly recognised as a force for positive change, a more gender inclusive approach to STEAM and ICT education is needed. Her response has been to set up 'She Codes for Change' (SCC), a Tanzanian tech mentorship project which aims to close the gender gap in the technology

"We should think of computers and all tech media related tools as a platform to providing solutions to our surrounding communities. Now, who wouldn't want to be one of the change makers?"

Abella Bateyunga

sector by educating, inspiring and equipping high school girls with the skills and tools they need to compete on a more equal footing with men in the tech job market.

Abella and her team nurture young girls' interest in STEAM subjects during the early stages of their career choices by providing them with four weeks of intensive instruction in computer gaming, web app development and an introduction to electronics and app making. Since its launch in 2016, SCC has trained 428 girls and 32 teachers across Tanzania.

Moving forward, SCC plans to start Girls in ICT clubs in schools and provide them with essential equipment. The programme also plans to build ICT hubs to encourage out of school learning in a practical space that is open to all girls. SCC also want to contribute to policies that bridge the gender digital divide in Tanzania by focusing on improving women's access to technology, increasing the number of women in ICT and making STEAM and ICT an obvious and attractive choice of career for girls as well as boys.

HDIF and She Codes for Change

She Codes for Change was a partner in HDIF's Innovation Week in 2017, an occasion that involved 16 partners and 18 events. During this annual week, HDIF brings together organisations from across the ecosystem to explore innovation and its role in creating positive impact in human development in Tanzania. She Codes for Change ran a creative digital literacy and storytelling workshop focused on empowering girls to share their own stories of the challenges they face in the areas of health, education, and WASH, while teaching them how to create stop animation videos.

"We need to keep pushing until ICT is an integral part of every school's curriculum and ICT facilities are accessible to push the kids' interest as far as they want to take it. Only then can we say we are running a well-oiled machine."

Abella Bateyunga

About HDIF

The **Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF)** is a £39m United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) innovation programme in Tanzania managed by a Palladium-led consortium with KPMG, Newcastle University (EG West Centre), Loughborough University (WEDC), and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

HDIF seeks to accelerate the experimentation, commercialisation, and diffusion of innovations in health, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

PO Box 76724 | Plot 436 Block 11 | TCRS Building,
2nd Floor Mwai Kibaki Road / Kiko Avenue
Mikocheni Area | Dar es Salaam | Tanzania
East Africa

Email: info@hdif-tz.org

Phone / Fax: +255 22 270 1542

 www.hdif-tz.org

 [@HDIFtz](https://twitter.com/HDIFtz)

 www.facebook.com/HDIF-Tanzania

 www.linkedin.com/company/hdif-tanzania



Funded by



Managed by

