Standard Cover Sheet

Project No.:	
Country Office	Ethiopia Office: The liaison to AUC and ECA
Thematic Areas:	Relevant SDGs the project is contributing to:
Project Title:	Closing the Digital Gender Gap in Africa: Equipping Young Girls with Digital Literacy, CODING and Personal Development Skills
Project Objectives:	- **Promote and support** the young girls' entry into the sector of ICT and coding. - **Encourage** leadership and confidence in young African girls. - **Create** national attention on girls, ICT and coding through media - **Collect** good practice developing and scaling up AGCCI - **Inspire and Advise** policymakers and legislators to mainstream ICT, gender and coding into national curricula. - **Encourage** and **Support N**ational ownership and Customisation of AGCCI - **Update** the virtual space to discuss gender, ICT and coding
Project Duration:	November 2021- October 2023 (TBC)
Expected Start Date:	24 months
Geographical Coverage:	Regional : Burundi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania
Target beneficiaries:	Young African Girls in secondary school between 17-25 years
Total Budget ($):	1.2 million Euros
Funding Source:	Government of Belgium
Implementing organization:	UN Women
Implementing Partners:	AU Member States
Collaborative Partners:	African Union Commission, ITU, UNECA, private sectors and CSOs
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Signature	Date:

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

African Union's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) declare "an enabling environment for STI development on the African continent" is one of the pillars for achieving the vision for Agenda 2063.[1] AU through STISA hopes to raise Africa's role in global research, technology development and transfer, innovation and knowledge production.

STISA has the following priorities that AGCCI can use to its advantage:
- Improving Science, Technology & Innovation readiness in Africa in terms of infrastructure, professional and technical competence, and entrepreneurial capacity. This will aid in sustaining the interest of the participants by having electricity and Internet access to continue working on their projects.
- Implementing specific policies and programmes in science, technology and innovation that address societal needs in a holistic and sustainable way. This will ease getting support from governments in implementation of AGCCI.

Prioritizing education in ICT is necessary to foster a culture of scientific interest, inquiry, invention and achievement that would support the AU's ambitious goals for this century, A trained and highly skilled class of technologists and scientists across the continent will not only lead in achieving an African renaissance but will also provide the knowledge base to sustain it. UNESCO's "The Gender Gap in Science" report cites that globally, only 28.4 per cent of people engaged in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics STEM careers are women and in Sub Saharan Africa only an average of 30.0 per cent are women. It is important that girls learn to CODE. Teaching girls to CODE is needed to close the gender gap in the tech world, and the overall gender digital divide.[2]

2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

AGCCI 2018-23 is part of the **UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-21, OEEF Output 3** where it is formulated that *"UN Women will explore partnerships to support efforts to reduce the digital divide between women and men in partnership with African Union and other partners, focused on: 1) Awareness raising; 2) Affordable access for women and girls through the development and implementation of inclusive policies and investment; 3) Supporting skills for women and girls to become both ICT users and developers; and 4) Added-value services to ensure that women and girls can leverage ICTs for empowerment."*

AGCCI is also one of the tools to boost achievement of the agenda 2030, especially **SDG 5 on gender equality** aiming to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, **SDG 4** aiming to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; **SDG 8** focusing on full and productive employment and decent work for all and its Target 8.2 says: "Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

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[1] AU's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024)
[2] http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/fs34-women-in-science-2015-en.pdf

Regarding ICT, AU's Agenda 2063 states that Africa should be "a continent on equal footing with the rest of the world as an information society, an integrated e-economy where every government, business and citizen has access to reliable and affordable ICT services. and providing access to ICT to children in schools…"[3]

AGCCI CODING camp participants upon completion of the programme will acquire new skills in ICT and programming. In addition, through the online platform they will have the ability to continuously update their skills, connect with a supportive online community to share ideas and opportunities. Moreover, they will have skills, confidence, and the resolve to tackle barriers, overcome gender stereotypes and challenge institutional cultural practices and social norms that keep them away from JOBS, and from pursuing higher education. It's also important to stress that Africa member states will increase awareness on the impact that mainstreaming gender, coding and ITC in national curricula would have on their development.

This project is a contribution to the entire AGCCI programme which was kicked of in 2018 and the first phase concluded in 2019. It adopts a results-based management (RBM) approach and is informed by UN Women's Global Strategic Plan and the Africa Regional Strategy among others and the regional strategic plan. In addition, the results framework of this programme draws from UN Women's approach of Flagship Initiative. This project is a part of the second phase adjusted based on lessons learned from phase one.

3. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Five Africa member states (Burundi, Mali, Mozambique Niger and Tanzania,) were selected among the 10 priority countries based on agreed criteria including:

- ✓ Commitment to Girls Education
- ✓ Country leadership on Girls Education
- ✓ Geography and language balance
- ✓ Country of interest for the donor
- ✓ Non covered by ECA programme (complementarity)
- ✓ Un women country presence for ownership and sustainability

The 5 additional countries including Senegal, Rwanda, DRC will be covered in terms of training of trainers, media campaign and the online platform. The two remaining countries are to be confirmed soon by AUC and member states.

4. BENEFICIARIES

Based on the target and beneficiaries of the entire phase 2 programme, the contribution of this initiative supported by the Government of Belgium will targets the following:

 A minimum of 60 trainers who will lead the coding camps in the 10 priority countries. This will allow UN women and partners to organize only one regional camp for training of trainers as an opportunity to officially launch phase 2.

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[3] http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf

✓ A minimum of 500 African young girls from 5 countries aged 17-20 and /or from secondary school to participate in 10 the national coding camps.

✓ Thousands of girls among the population to be reached by the media campaigns,

✓ 10 countries to be reached by the mainstreaming component.

5. GOALS

This project contributes to the Goal of the entire AGCCI programme: More women across Africa work in and create Jobs in the sector of ICT and coding. For this to happen, two areas are targeted: Bridging the technological divide by providing tangible programmes to increase women's access to modern technology and Empowerment through access to Education and Employment providing young girls and women with pathways to contribute and participate in material ways to Africa's innovation, industrialization, and growth by mastering ICT.

6. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The following are the specific Objectives of the proposed project:

- **Promote and support** the young girls' entry into the sector of ICT and coding.
- **Encourage** leadership and confidence in young African girls.
- **Create** national attention on girls, ICT and coding through media
- **Collect** good practice developing and scaling up AGCCI
- **Inspire and Advise** policymakers and legislators to mainstream ICT, gender and coding into national curricula.
- **Encourage** and **Support N**ational ownership and Customisation of AGCCI
- **Update** the virtual space to discuss gender, ICT and coding

7. PROJECT EXPECTED RESULTS.

7.1. Programme Outcomes/Outputs/Activities

Outcome 1: **Young girls are accessing educations and careers within CODING and ICT**

Output 1.1: Young girls have increased skills in digital literacy, coding, and personal development through Coding Camps across Africa

Activity 1.1.1 Conduct one regional Training of Trainers (ToT) for 50 trainers from 10 countries
Activity 1.1.2 Host 10 national coding camps in 5 priority African country (2 per country)
Activity 1.1.3 Purchase 500 computers/ tablets for 500 girls that will take part in national coding camps during the 1st quarter of 2022

Output 1.2: Young girls and women are inspired by media to choose education and career within coding and ICT

Activity 1.2.1. Implementation of 10 media campaign in 5 countries to raise awareness of AGCCI stakeholders and beneficiaries on the project in collaboration with media bureau and using role models among others as ambassadors

Outcome 2: Ministries of Education and Ministries of ICT in all countries across Africa have mainstreamed ICT, gender and coding into the national curricula

<u>**Output 2.1**</u>: Relevant ministries have the capacity (tools) to mainstream gender, coding and ICT into the national curricula.

Activity 2.1.1. Develop and distribute specific tools manual on how to mainstream gender, coding, and ICT in national curricula.
Activity 2.1.2. Coordinate multi-country (20 countries) training and dialogue platforms to promote exchange of promising practices and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming in education curricula as well as ICT and Coding initiatives

Output 2.2: Secondary and high schools include education and career options within ICT and coding in their career advice to girl students.

Activity 2.2.1.   Conduct a situation analysis of the existing curriculum to identify coding needs gap and collect, analyze and report gender-specific data and statistics
Activity 2.2.2 Analyze the existing ICT and coding curriculum in selected countries and develop baseline and needs report
Activity 2.2.3: Develop a model gender responsive ICT and Gender curriculum
Activity 2.2.4 Conduct a desk review to document lessons learned of the AGCCI and disseminate in 4 AU languages

Outcome 3: Young girls and women seek employment through connections with key actors in the ICT sector.

<u>**Output 3.1**</u>: Girls who have participated in the Coding Camps are able to access e-modules and are aware of available opportunities in tech clubs, tech companies and CSOs working within ICT and Coding sectors

Activity 3.1.1. Revitalize e-learning platforms to ensure it is user friendly for the girls to stay connected and can develop together and support each other across borders promoting regional integration

8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project will be implemented in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the relevant African union member states, ITU, ECA and other partners including the Belgium Embassy in Addis Ababa. The AGCCI steering committee (PSC) which facilitates strategy setting, programme guidance to the Programme Team, and monitor execution and progress of the programme, will be revised to include the Belgium Embassy as representative of the donor community and the representative of the AUC Department of Human resources, Science, and technology (AUC-HRST).

A small Programme Team will be put in place including a Programme Specialist (UN Women), the Project coordinator and the IT Specialist (AUC-HRST) as well as the Programme associate (UN Women). This team will be supported by part time Youth Volunteers who will be hired to support organising CODING Camps at Regional and Country levels accordingly.

9. DURATION

The project has a duration of 24 months starting in November 2021 and concluded End October 2023.

10. BUDGET

The total programme budget for the 4 years (2018 – 2022) is US$ 6 Million with initial commitment of US$1,6 Million secured from Government of Denmark. This leaves a total of US$ 4,4 Million still to be mobilised among which **US$ 1,3 million is promised by the Belgium Government**

11. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Member states in collaboration with UN women offices will identify the trainers and the girls and take care of required facilities for national camps, mobilize domestic resources including from country-based donors to sustain this initiative.
African Union Commission will provide Political and technical directions and guidance as well as supporting advocacy for national ownership of the programme. AUC will also support resource mobilization for additional funding to close the funding GAP of phase 2.
Implementing partners: UN Women, ITU, ECA and AUC
Donors (The government of Belgium) will provide funding support to the AGCCI and support the advocacy and resource mobilisation for additional funding.
Private Sector including philanthropies, Tech and other companies, Media, and International organizations will promote job access, provide mentors and needed equipment when among others.

12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In line with UN Women's evaluation policy, this 2-year initiative will be evaluated through a final evaluation which will be carried out during the last four months of the project. Findings and recommendations from the evaluation will inform UN Women strategic planning, as well as a potential next phase of the initiative or otherwise any future programming in related issues.

The evaluation will be managed by monitoring and evaluation independent consultant supported by the Monitoring and Evaluation manager in the regional office. It will follow a participatory approach that includes the multiple stakeholders involved in the implementation of the initiative. The evaluation criteria to be used include relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, inclusiveness, participation, equality, non-discrimination, and social transformation.

13. REPORTING

The reporting on this two-year project will follow UN women regulations

Narrative reports:
An annual status report of Project progress and the latest available approved budget will be submitted within six (6) months after each annual reporting period (by end of June 2022 for the period covering November and December 2021) and by end of June 2023 for the period covering january 2022 to December 2022. A final report summarizing Project activities and the results of those activities will be

submitted within six (6) months of the date of operational completion or termination of the Project (by end of April 2024 as the closing date will be end of October 2023).

Financial reports
An annual certified financial statement as of 31 December will be submitted by 30 June of the following year (same dates as above). A provisional financial data will be submitted with the final narrative report, while a final certified financial statement will be submitted by 30 June of the year following the financial completion of the Project (end of June 2024).

14. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

A communication consultant will be hired to support the communication strategy aiming to Create a strong, engaging and active digital presence to reach a wide audience, and reinforce the AGCCI brand and image. The consultant will Design a coherent and branded message that communicates the objective of AGCCI online, television and radio taking into consideration cultural contexts of each country. The AUC, UN women and the Belgium logo will be used on all branding tools and documents related to this project.

15. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

This project will promote its sustainability through different interventions and activities including: i) **Mainstreaming of national curricula** With a successful integration and implementation, the national education systems will sustain and enhance the impact of the programme further past the lifetime of the initiative itself; ii) **National media campaigns using** role models from different sectors and targeting tech companies and tech clubs to make them aware of AGCCI and the benefits of involving more women and girls in their businesses; iii) an **Online platform to support the girls coding ideas,** their confidence and leadership among other and to facilitate access to mentoring from trained instructors; iv) **Access to technology as the girls will be given** a laptop or tablet to continue practice and keep an eye on relevant and timely information through internet. Additionally, partnering with AUC will allow AGCCI to explore ways to tap into the Pan African University, which is working to revitalize technology and innovation by positioning ICT education at the centre of the continent's development agenda.

Annexes:

i)   Result Framework
ii)   AGCCI-Second Phase Budget-part 1 (Belgium)
iii)   Implementation Plan