



2022-2023 Results Report

Digital Rights for Girls and Women (D4GW)



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1 Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
D4D	Digital for Development
D4GW	Digital for Girls and Women
FIFAfrica	Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa
GoU	Government of Uganda
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISOC	Internet Society Chapter
IDP	Internally displaced persons
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoICT&NG	Ministry of ICT and National Guidance
NDP	National Development Plan
NITA-U	National Information Technology Authority Uganda
NTCs	National Teachers' Colleges
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SP/CONASUR	Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation
ToTs	Training of Trainers
ToC	Theorie of Change
UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
UIW	Uganda Innovation Week
UIGF	Uganda Internet Governance Forum
VR	Virtual Reality
VTIs	Vocational Training Institutes
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network

2 Summary of the intervention

2.1 Intervention form

Title of the intervention	Digital for Girls and Women
Code of the intervention	BEL 21007
Location	Belgium, Burkina Faso and Uganda
Total budget	2 250 000 €
Partner institution	Ministry of ICT & National Guidance (MoICT&NG) Ministry of Digital Economy Ministry of Digital Transition, Posts, and Electronic Communications (MTDPCE)
Start date of the Specific Agreement	10 of December 2021
Start date of the intervention/ Opening steering committee	
Expected end date of execution	09 of December 2024
End date of the Specific Agreement	10 of December 2024 (NCE requested: July 2025)
Target groups	People, in particular Girls and Women in Burkina Faso and Uganda; Belgian D4D Community; European member states of the D4D Hub, D4D Hub Sub-Saharan Africa partner countries
Impact¹	Equal opportunities for women and men to participate in and contribute to an inclusive digital rights-based digital transformation /economy.
Outcome	Outcome 1: Women are economically empowered through increased access and better use of digital technologies Outcome 2: People, especially women and girls, are empowered to claim their digital rights
Outputs	Output 1.1: Women have an increased access to digital technologies through a shared and adapted infrastructure

¹ Impact regards the general objective; outcomes regard the specific objective; output regards the expected result
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	Output 1.2: Women have the skills needed to participate in the digital and digitally enabled economy
	Output 1.3: The expertise of national stakeholders, and Belgian and international development actors to contribute to closing the gender divide in the digital and digitally enabled economy has been strengthened
	Output 1.4: The D4D Hub Africa has adopted and operationalised a joint approach to contribute to closing the digital gender gap in the digital and digitally enabled economy
	Output 2.1: Women and girls' (targeting both students and teachers) knowledge and understanding on their digital rights is enhanced
	Output 2.2: People in Burkina Faso and Uganda are aware of digital rights and understand gender specific issues
	Output 2.3: Women and girls have access to support services to assert their digital rights
	Output 2.4: The expertise of national, as well as of Belgian and international development actors to promote digital rights has been strengthened
	Output 2.5: The D4D Hub Africa has adopted and operationalised a joint approach to promote a human rights-based digital transformation
Year(s) covered by the report	2022– 2023 , the report covers the period 2022-2023 due to delay in the start of the project there have been no activities in 2021

2.2 Self-evaluation of performance

1.1.1 Relevance

	Performance
Relevance	A

The project's primary objective is to promote equal opportunities for women and men to actively participate and contribute to an inclusive, rights-based digital economy. This is achieved by improving access to technology and shared infrastructures, enhancing the digital skills and knowledge of women and girls to effectively and confidently use digital

technologies and navigate the digital world, and providing them with the necessary support to understand, claim, and assert their digital rights effectively. The second objective of the project is to strengthen Belgian and European development actor's skills in digital rights promotion and the closing of the digital gender divide.

This initiative is in line with the policies of the partner countries' governments, in both Uganda and Burkina Faso, as outlined in key documents such as Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP III), Digital Uganda Vision 2040, National ICT Policy 2022, the Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023 – 2027, and the Burkina Faso's national strategy for the development of the digital economy 2018-2027, the national cybersecurity strategy.

These governmental strategies emphasize leveraging emerging technologies to enhance economic competitiveness and improve citizens' lives, aligning perfectly with the project's objectives.

Furthermore, the project's strategic priorities are consistent with two of Uganda Vision 2040's key pillars: **a) fostering innovation and entrepreneurship and c) empowering through digital skills and literacy**. The project further aligns with pillar 3 of Burkina Faso's Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023-2027: **Pillar 4: Digital skilling**. The enablers that is consistent with our project focuses on **inclusion of marginalised groups, such as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the girl child**.

In Belgium the D4D Hub Africa branch Coordinator as well as the Gender and Digital expert, were hired in July and September respectively, both actively involved in the activities of the D4D Hub Secretariat, and to prepare activities in 2024.

The intervention directly impacts the lives of women and girls by raising awareness about the realities, threats, security issues, and rights concerning digital spaces, including privacy and data protection. The project emphasizes that human rights principles applicable offline must also extend to the digital realm. Ensuring freedom of expression and inclusivity in digital spaces benefits not only men, women, and girls but also marginalized groups, thereby leveraging the opportunities of digitalization for all.

Digital skills enable women and girls to use Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) tools, apply and utilize them for their own socio-economic empowerment. Digital skills can enable women to translate their businesses to online platforms, allowing them to market their enterprises and generate income that can transform their lives. Digital safety and security skills can enable women and girls to overcome abuses and other forms of online harassments against them, fostering a safe and secure online environment for women and girls.

The project will prioritize enhancing digital skills among women, girls, and students engaged in the local economy, enabling them to contribute participate effectively in the digital economy. This focus aims to improve their economic activities, employment prospects, and entrepreneurial abilities within the digital realm.

1.1.2 Effectiveness

	Performance
Effectiveness	B

The project faced significant delays in its implementation, attributed to several key factors:

Organisational considerations: The project underwent a management transition, moving from Belgium to Burkina Faso. The intricate internal procedures related to this transition caused delays in the transfer process, ultimately pushing back the start of the project. Additionally, the project timeline was adjusted to align with the EU-funded D4D Hub secretariat action, which faced delays in contracting due to the integration of new Team Europe partners

Further adjustments are also necessary to ensure that the project fulfils all three components effectively across the three regions and enhances coordination. The project team is currently working on a proposal to extend the project duration, update the HR set up and make minor budget adjustments, which will be formalized through an amendment to the agreement.

Strategic considerations: Establishment of the Digital for Development Hub in Brussels: This involved intricate financial arrangements (as the Africa branch of the D4D Hub relied on additional funding) and the process of assembling the team, both of which consumed a significant amount of time.

The combination of these considerations culminated in an overall delay of more than a year and three months for the project's timeline. Despite the initial delay in the project's start date, the implementation of activities has started and is currently progressing effectively by ensuring effective outreach, participation of locally anchored organisations and the effective selection of participants in the activities, as described below.

The project's intervention is centred around two key outcomes. Outcome 1 focuses on enhancing women's economic empowerment by improving their access to and utilization of digital technologies. Outcome 2 aims to empower individuals, particularly women and girls, to assert their digital rights. To accomplish these outcomes, the following interventions have been executed during the reporting period, directly contributing to the stated goals:

UGANDA - Launch of the digital for girls and women project in Central, North-Eastern, Albertine and Rwenzori regions.

To raise awareness about the project, regional launches were organised with the view of engaging various stakeholders including government, civil society, private sector, academia and technical communities about the project, its objectives, scope and intended impact. In the Central region of Uganda, the project was launched in Kampala on the 24th of August 2023 at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala. It was held during the Annual Summit of the '**Uganda Internet Governance Forum' (UIGF)** under the theme '**the internet we want: empowering Ugandans**'. The event attracted more than 115 participants - comprising industry experts, funding partners, civil society, private sector, technical communities and members of the academia. Enabel in Uganda was represented by the Resident Representative, Tom Vanneste who also officially launched the project. Ms. Shirley Nakyejwe, the Senior ICT Officer from the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & National Guidance (MoICT&NG) represented the Permanent Secretary MoICT&NG, Dr. Sarah Zawedde during the public lunch.

The project launch was preceded by a High-Level panel on the topic: **‘The Internet We Want - Empowering Ugandans’ providing an opportunity to receive high visibility**. The second Panel Discussion was geared towards highlighting the **role of Innovation Hubs as Centres of Excellence in advancing Digital Rights and Transformation in Uganda**. This is because the project utilises digital hubs and infrastructures in the pre-existing hubs, to build capacity of women and girls and hence, it was necessary to advance these discussions and raise awareness on the relevance of digital innovation hubs established by Enabel in Uganda. Key issues advanced were that business incubation centers and hubs are important centers of excellence for co-creation, generating ideas and solutions that positively impact on communities. Girls and women can tap from the benefits of these centers to improve on their skills, develop awareness on safety and security online and use digital technologies as tools of empowerment.

The regional launch in central region attracted over 115 participants out of which 65 were females and 50 males. In Northeastern Uganda, the launch was held at St. Daniel Comboni Vocational Training Institute, in Moroto Town. There were 43 participants with 36 females and 7 males. In the Albertine region, it was held at St Simon Vocational Training Institute, Hoima and attracted 32 participants of which 28 were females and 4 males. In Rwenzori region, the project was launched in Fort Portal at the St. Joseph Vocational Training Institute. The training attracted 32 participants of which 26 were females and 6 males.

Overall, key issues that emerged in Central, Albertine, Rwenzori and North-Eastern regional launches focused on challenges around limited access to ICT tools, devices and services, limited ICT skills amongst communities especially women and girls, income disparities especially against women and pervasive cultural biases and stereotypes that undermines women and girls’ progress to benefit from the opportunities of digitalization. Recommendations cited by participants in these regions revolves around need for ICT trainings and capacity building, ICT awareness raising, development and roll out of digital infrastructures to reach out to rural communities as well as deepening financial literacy programmes in under-served communities, particularly for women and girls.

Moreover, the project participated in two panel discussions, which further enhanced the visibility of the project and that of Enabel in Uganda to broader audience. The key session for which the project participated included on the topic:

Adapt or be left behind: Opportunities for the Ugandan Entrepreneurs in the Digital Economy. The Intervention Officer, Digital Rights Project participated as an expert panellist offering insights into the field of entrepreneurship and the empowerment of women and girls. The Intervention Officer in her submission outlined the objective and goals of the project and emphasised both the key aspects of economic empowerment and capacity building of girls and women, so that they can effectively participate in a digitally enabled society. This panel conversation is consistent with outcome one of the D4GW project which is to ensure women are economically empowered through increased access and better use of digital technologies.

BURKINA FASO - The project launch and Reflection Workshop, Tenkodogo & Ouagadougou

The launch of the project in Tenkodogo was combined with a workshop that brought together potential partners and beneficiaries. This two-day event provided a platform for participants to delve into the intricacies of the D4GW project, understand its core challenges, and explore ways to maximize its impact. The workshop facilitated a deeper understanding of the roles of each partner, identified potential obstacles, and encouraged collaborative problem-solving.

The project was officially introduced to major stakeholders in the Central East region, unveiling its content and objectives. Participants engaged in discussions to define their roles, anticipate challenges, and propose effective solutions to enhance project outcomes.

Carole Sanhouidi, Business Manager at "FemFaso," and Malick Tapsoba, D4GW Project's Entrepreneurship and Digital Attitude Expert, co-hosted a panel on "D4D Issues for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship." The insightful discussion prompted thoughtful questions from participants.

The discussion initially centered around grasping fundamental concepts. Participants delved into understanding key notions such as the distinction between digital literacy and digital entrepreneurship, the importance of women's inclusion in the digital sphere, and the challenges faced by women in digital entrepreneurship.

As the conversation progressed, there was a notable shift towards an exploration of Carole Sanhouidi's personal journey in the digital realm. Participants eagerly sought insights into her experiences, particularly the obstacles she encountered and how she navigated through them. Carole shared her strategy of seeking guidance from seasoned professionals, whose advice proved invaluable in overcoming various hurdles.

Towards the conclusion, the focus shifted to broader initiatives aimed at supporting female digital entrepreneurship at both governmental and donor levels. Panelists underscored the integral role of gender inclusivity in all donor-funded projects, including those implemented by Enabel. Jean Thieba YE, Gender Expert at Enabel in Tenkodogo, emphasized the organization's commitment to integrating gender considerations at every project phase. On the governmental front, the National Digital Development Strategy (SNDEN 2018-2027) reflects a concerted effort to address gender disparities in the digital landscape, endorsed by Dr. Aminata ZERBO/SABANE, the Minister spearheading the digital transition.

However, as an entrepreneur herself, Carole offered pragmatic advice to aspiring women in digital entrepreneurship. She emphasized the importance of self-reliance and resilience, drawing from her own journey where determination and personal savings paved the way for her successful venture despite initial career expectations in engineering.

Around one hundred attendees, spanning various backgrounds and professions, gathered with a common goal of harnessing digital initiatives for economic advancement in the Central East region. Additionally, approximately thirty institutional representatives attended the event in Ouagadougou. The diverse participant pool included students, academics, government officials from both the national and local levels, members of the local customary authority, defence and security personnel, civil society advocates, journalists, and private sector stakeholders. Each attendee sought to explore the potential opportunities offered by the project within their respective domains.

The launch events in both Tenkodogo and Ouagadougou were instrumental in garnering support and participation from a diverse array of stakeholders. The engagement, enthusiasm, and constructive discussions that ensued signify a promising start for the D4GW project in Burkina Faso.

UGANDA - Virtual Reality (VR) trainings in Albertine and North-Eastern region

Contributing to specific outcome one of increasing access through better use of technologies, the project conducted Virtual Reality trainings in the Albertine and North-Eastern regions of Uganda. Participants were drawn from different districts that make up these regions. Virtual Reality is an immersive computer-generated technology that gives users real-life experiences of objects and scenes virtually. The training inspires users,

improves their digital skills conceptualisation, attitudes and perceptions on how immersive technologies can be used to promote socio-economic development. The VR modules integrate lessons from Vocational Training Institutes, allowing students to learn digitally. The next set of VR trainings in Uganda is expected to include lessons on topics such as carpentry and joinery, motor vehicles repairs and metal fabrications just to mention but a few. The trainings were also intended to boost capacity of Digital Hub Managers so that they are better equipped to serve as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) for their respective regions and communities. The training in Northeastern Uganda attracted 43 participants out of which 36 were females and 7 males while in Fort Portal, the training reached out to 29 participants with 23 females and 6 male allies.

UGANDA - Digital Rights and Gender Awareness Capacity Building

This activity falls under outcome II of the action which is to ensure people, especially women and girls, are empowered to claim their digital rights. The aim of the capacity building on digital rights and gender is intended to raise awareness on the concept of human rights in the digital age but also increase the number of women and girls interested in accessing digital technologies. It's also aimed at ensuring safety, security and privacy of women and girls as they navigate the online world. This contributes to ensuring that women and girls understand concepts such as the rights to freedom of expression online, privacy and data protection online. The capacity building sessions are facilitated by the digital rights team in Uganda and the topics covered during the 2-day workshop centres on relevance of the internet, online gender-based violence and forms, experience sharing and online GBV mitigation measures, effects and consequences. Other sessions focus on understanding freedom of expression online – highlighting key principles of international law and domestic laws that are consistent with the rights to free expression. It also covers digital privacy and data protection online – where for instance, participants pair up and discusses privacy; the difference between what is private and public information and through group discussions, participants categorise information into what is 'private, collected and public'. The aim is to raise the consciousness of participants on the concept of data protection and privacy online, deepen their understanding as well as knowledge to protect themselves in the digital environment. The capacity building was conducted by Enabel and has so far taken place in Hoima attracting 32 participants, 30 females, 2 males and in Kabale with 40 participants with 4 males. All these participants are nominated by their organisations to participate in the trainings/workshops. Participants acknowledged their understanding on these concepts improved, shared experiences of what they considered previously digital rights violations, and committed to being aware of their own digital rights while asserting the rights of other users online. The sessions are facilitated through group discussions, presentations, scenario exercises and plenary.

UGANDA - Digital skills for women and girls trainings

The capacity building training is geared towards addressing outcome II which is to ensure people, especially women and girls, are empowered to claim their digital rights. The sessions particularly delved on the intersection of gender and technology, highlighted unique challenges and opportunities for women and girls in the digital realm. It also provided women and girls the knowledge to navigate online spaces, to protect their identities and effectively engage in digital conversations. The women and girls were able to identify gender-specific constraints that impedes their participation online and devise solutions to overcoming them. This training-built capacity so that women and girls can engage in privacy and data protection policy conversations as well as ICT decision making processes. The training increased understanding on intersection of gender and technology, enhanced women and girls' digital literacy and improved their knowledge and understanding on online safety and security. This training was co-organised by Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) – a local civil society organisation with expertise in capacity building on gender and ICTs and empowerment of women in the digital realm. The training

which took place in Albertine region – Fort Portal district, attracted 42 participants of which 33 were females and 9 males.

UGANDA - Human centred co-creation and design thinking workshop for developing the digital rights platform

A workshop on design thinking, an approach to co-creation was organised on the sidelines of the Uganda Innovation Week (UIW) – an annual gathering of digital start-ups and ecosystem players in Uganda. The workshop kicked off the collaborative design of a digital rights platform that can serve as a one stop resource and support service platform for reporting, tracing, and tackling tech facilitated GBV and other digital rights abuses. This is intended to improve the safety of online spaces, to provide educational resources, and provide referral to psycho-social, legal or technical services to ensure the digital rights of women and girls. This is premised on the hypothesis that the participation of women and girls in the digital and/or the online space today is hampered by tech-facilitated gender-based violence or other digital rights violations; and to navigate the terrain, women and girls must have their capacity built and should be provided with necessary tools, tactics, support services and digital skills to avert gender-based discrimination and violence online. Several recommendations were drawn by participants including the need to raise awareness in schools and higher institutions of learning on online gender-based violence and mitigation strategies, development of a digital rights-based platform aided by Artificial Intelligence chatbot to address, document and report online GBV, the need to strengthen collaboration and partnership with government and stakeholders in addressing online GBV just to mention but a few. The participants were drawn from multistakeholder groups of civil society, private sector, technical communities and academia including government. The event took place on the 24th of November 2023 at the Uganda National ICT Innovation Hub Hub. It attracted 28 participants with 16 females and 12 males.

BURKINA FASO - Selection of Centres for IT Equipment

In line with the strategic objectives outlined in the project document, we successfully initiated the call for applications aimed at selecting two centres to be equipped with essential IT infrastructure in order to create safe spaces for women and girls to access this equipment as well as connectivity, focusing primarily on computers and multifunction printers. The chosen centres will be connected to Internet and, if deemed necessary, integration with solar energy sources to ensure uninterrupted services during power outages.

The criteria for the center selection were meticulously designed, emphasizing the physical presence of the organization within the Central East region, its capacity to function as a hub both physically and organizationally, and its ability to sustain project achievements over time.

Leveraging our local knowledge and the call for applications, we selected the Collège Marie Reine in Tenkodogo and the Maison de la Femme de Tenkodogo. Each selected centre will receive the following IT equipment to enhance their digital capabilities, 20 desktop computers with Internet connectivity, 5 tablets, Inverters and extension cords.

Solar kits, if necessary

- **Collège Marie Reine is an** educational institution exclusively caters to the education of young girls. The establishment of a well-equipped computer room is poised to empower thousands of young girls with essential digital skills over the coming years.
- **Maison de la Femme de Tenkodogo** Functioning as a hub for women in the Central East region, this centre plays a pivotal role in supporting women on their journey towards economic and financial empowerment. The infusion of IT

equipment into this space will not only provide training opportunities for women but also elevate their economic activities through digital technology.

BURKINA FASO - Awareness Session: Digital Rights for Young Girls at Marie Reine College, Tenkodogo

Building on the selection of the Marie Reine College in Tenkodogo for and to prepare the learning activities on digital rights, a comprehensive awareness session on digital rights was conducted for the young girls of Marie Reine school in Tenkodogo. The session aimed to empower these young minds with crucial knowledge about their digital rights and responsibilities. The session covered a wide array of topics, fostering a holistic understanding of digital rights among the participants:

- **Introduction to Digital Rights:** Providing a foundational understanding of the concept of digital rights.
- **The Digital Divide and Its Impact:** Discussing the implications of the digital divide on access to opportunities and resources.
- **Benefits of Digital Inclusion:** Highlighting the positive outcomes associated with embracing digital inclusion.
- **Online Security:** Addressing key principles and practices for ensuring online security.
- **Online Privacy:** Exploring the importance of maintaining privacy in the digital landscape.
- **Cyberbullying and Online Harassment:** Shedding light on the prevalence of cyberbullying and strategies to combat online harassment.
- **Literacy and Digital Skills:** Emphasizing the significance of acquiring digital literacy skills for navigating the online world.
- **Legal Aspects of Digital Rights:** Providing insights into the legal dimensions of digital rights and responsibilities.

The session witnessed an enthusiastic participation of more than 300 young girls from Marie Reine College. The interactive nature of the presentation encouraged participants to actively engage and ask questions, fostering a dynamic learning environment.

This awareness session on digital rights served as a valuable platform to equip young girls with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. The engaged participation and inquiries reflected the significance of addressing these critical topics among the younger generation.

BURKINA FASO - Capacity Building Plan and Nation-wide Campaign Plan on Digital Rights

A private company was engaged to engage with potential beneficiaries, facilitating a needs assessment to determine their capacity-building requirements. Subsequently, an action plan was developed based on the identified needs and insights gleaned from their own experiences. This plan aims to empower women and girls in the Central East region, leveraging the transformative potential of digital technology for their economic empowerment. It is a comprehensive roadmap outlining the strategic implementation of outcome I for the D4GW project in Burkina Faso. The deliverables aim to guide the project's direction, ensuring its alignment with the unique needs and opportunities within the Central East region. Indeed, the Central East region boasts significant agricultural potential, notably exemplified by the presence of the Bagré growth pole, situated approximately 45 kilometres from Tenkodogo. This area represents a unique initiative

within Burkina Faso, encompassing over 21,000 hectares of cultivable land designated as a growth pole by the government, in collaboration with donor support. Within the Bagré region, various products, particularly cereal crops and fish, are marketed by women at both local and national levels. Hence, the primary objective of the training initiative is to empower these women to leverage digital tools, enabling them not only to enhance the marketing of their products but also to expand their customer base by targeting regional and international markets.

The nation-wide campaign plan on digital rights is also available, aiming to raise awareness and promote a culture of responsible digital engagement.

In Burkina Faso, following the provision of computers, internet connectivity, and the development of capacity-building plans for the centers, there is an imperative to accelerate the implementation of these programs to ensure their impact.

BELGIUM / D4D HUB - Transformative and intersectional approach to placing women and girls' rights at the heart of digital development by 2025 for D4D hub

This document presents the strategy through which the D4D Hub will promote gender equality and women's empowerment at the horizon 2025. A declination from the European Commission “Gender Action Plan III” or “GAP III”, the strategy has for primary objective to ingrain a gender transformative approach to equality and women’s empowerment into the design and implementation of D4D hub policies, processes and work streams and programmes. It further aims to increase the representation of marginalised voices and intersectionality to support the integration of diverse gender perspectives in programming and intervention.

CONCLUSIONS

With regard to building on the expertise developed in the countries to support the work of the D4D Hub on narrowing the digital gender divide and promoting digital rights, there is room for improvement by strengthening the externalisation of knowledge developed in the field and enhancing coordination between the D4D Hub and field offices. This will be addressed by slightly revising the HR set up when requesting the NCE.

1.1.3 Efficiency

	Performance
Efficiency	C

The project began by assembling teams to oversee operations in Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Brussels. The recruitment process followed Enabel's Human Resource guidelines, and team members officially joined the organization on the following respective dates: June 1st, 2023, for the Uganda team members; April and July 2023 for Burkina Faso team members; and September 2023 for Brussels team members. Implementation activities started promptly, including internal review meetings with team members in Uganda and Burkina Faso, where the Intervention Manager is based (according to new HR set up which will be formalized in a proposed amendment). Additionally, the project developed promotional materials like T-shirts, banners, and artworks to increase visibility among different stakeholder groups.

Taking into account the initial implementation delay, further compiled because of the need for the Africa branch coordinator to also Coordinate the AU-EU D4D Hub project (50% of her time) and the IM in Burkina to contribute to the implementation of the bilateral portfolio (50% of her time), steps were taken to enhance project efficiency. Instead of two experts on digital rights and the gender divide, a total of three experts were recruited to also have dedicated expertise on the topic of entrepreneurship and digital skills (cf. SO I). Nevertheless, due to the initial delays and limited availability of project staff due to other half time engagements, a no cost extension will be requested to ensure that the project will be able to deliver on all outputs by mid-2025.

To ensure that efficiency is increased, a new full-time IM will be recruited and more intense coordination between the countries will be piloted. There will also be a closer follow-up and support provision for the project by the Brussels office where needed.

1.1.4 Potential sustainability

	Performance
Potential sustainability	A

Sustainability of the project is particularly hinged in the long run, on the opportunities for multi-stakeholder involvement and engagement. The project believes in collaborating with well-established local organisations and involving them as co-organisers and facilitators on events, and activities for which they both have a common purpose and is intended to contribute to the project overall goal. To ensure sustainability of the achievements, each country has adapted its approach to its specific realities.

In Uganda, the ecosystem is more developed and offers opportunities to strengthen the capacities of organizations already working on the digital gender divide. The project minimises the use of consultants as much as possible and rather involves local organisations to ensure ownership. Financially, this approach has also been very efficient as it means that more resources are re-directed to directly touch the lives of the ordinary women and girls in the communities and project location.

The project has strong institutional support from the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance (MoICT&NG). Through the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, the project was launched and graced by a representative delegated by the Permanent Secretary. Some project activities that align with project goals and objectives have been co-organised and or supported by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance. This is an effective way of pooling resources and putting it to best use, leveraging on multi-stakeholder collaboration, institutional ownership and partnerships which is crucial for long term project sustainability.

For example, the project partnered with the Internet Society Uganda (ISOC) Chapter in August 2023 to organise the Uganda Internet Governance Forum (UIGF). The Forum is a platform for multistakeholder groups and government interested in shaping the future of internet and digital governance in Uganda. It was during this event, that the project launched in Central region. This attracted a lot of visibility which featured on Television, Radios and Print publications including social media platforms such as Twitter (now X). This is another example of leveraging on multistakeholder partnerships and collaboration to contribute to the project goals and objective, which is a sustainability model for the intervention in long run.

In Burkina Faso, the sustainability of the project's initiatives has been ensured through the following approaches:

1. **Skills Transfer:** Recognizing the nascent state of Burkina Faso's digital ecosystem, local expertise for supporting project activities is limited. Consequently, the project collaborates with qualified external consultants. These consultants impart their knowledge to local stakeholders, ensuring sustainability. We prioritize local beneficiaries who exhibit a desire to contribute to their community's development and already work with women and girls.

2. **Institutional Integration:** Local support is crucial for project success. Therefore, we have forged partnerships with various local actors, including traditional chiefdoms, youth and women's associations, and educational institutions. Centers selected for project activities are deeply embedded within their respective communities and possess administrative and financial autonomy. This autonomy enables them to adapt to evolving circumstances, ensuring sustained access to digital equipment.

3. **Building upon Past Achievements:** The project leverages existing infrastructure and resources, notably those established by Enabel's Entrepreneurship and Paas-Panga interventions. By aligning with the Innovation Center initiated by Enabel, the project not only reinforces past accomplishments but also diversifies its capacity-building efforts. This strategic integration ensures continuity and enhances the project's impact.

4. **Political Endorsement:** The government of Burkina Faso, particularly the Ministry of Digital Transition, Posts, and Electronic Communications (MTDPCE), closely monitors the D4GW project's progress. Collaborative efforts are underway to align project activities with governmental initiatives, particularly those focused on digital inclusion for women and girls. Enabel's recognition during Digital Week 2023 underscores governmental support for narrowing the gender digital divide, thus boosting the visibility and credibility of the project.

All the above, are great mechanisms for enhancing project visibility, deepening D4D expertise on digital rights and gender digital divide, promoting and fostering collaboration and partnership that are crucial for long term project sustainability.

1.1.5 Conclusions

Implementing a project in a multi-country dynamic offers an opportunity for mutual reinforcement of stakeholders while facilitating the sharing of good practices, nevertheless such an approach requires an equally strong investment in coordination as in realising activities on the ground.

Based on the results of what have been achieved in Uganda and Burkina Faso for the reporting period, it's important to derive significant conclusions that can help drive forward the project with the same efficiency and sustainability in all countries and enhance efficiency to ensure the delivery of all results within the revised deadline requested in the no cost extension. These conclusions are as discussed below:

Creating, developing and strengthening collaboration and partnership with local stakeholder groups, such as civil society, private sector and government with the same mission and objectives aligned to the intervention is necessary and crucial for complementarity, synergistic relationship and potential for long term project sustainability.

During the reporting period, informal collaborations were made with the Uganda Internet Society (ISOC) to co-organize the Uganda Internet Governance Forum – an annual multi-stakeholder gathering to discuss the future of internet governance and ICT policy in Uganda. It was a successful collaboration that saw the launch of the digital rights project in the Central region. Further collaboration was also developed in support of the Uganda Innovation Week – an annual gathering of digital start-up ecosystem players in Uganda, supported by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives, National Information Technology Authority Uganda and many other stakeholders passionate about the industry. Another collaboration for Gender and ICT training was developed with the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) – an NGO that specialises in capacity building of women and ICTs as tools of empowerment.

In Burkina Faso, robust collaboration with local stakeholders serves as the foundation for the success of the D4GW project, aimed at transforming designated centers into vibrant hubs. This collaboration begins with the identification of local actors whose objectives align with those of the project. By engaging such stakeholders, we not only ensure the comfort of the project beneficiaries but also establish a local anchor crucial for sustainability.

At the political level, the Ministry responsible for digital transition, alongside key players in the digital sphere and advocates for women's empowerment, are deeply engaged in the decision-making process. Furthermore, regional authorities, particularly the Directorate overseeing women's issues, actively support beneficiaries in managing the digital hubs established in their communities. This comprehensive involvement at both local and political levels underscores the project's commitment to fostering lasting change and empowerment within Burkina Faso.

Leveraging on existing digital tools and ICT infrastructures of Enabel is critical for enhancing sustainability and efficient use of resources

The Digital Innovation Hubs established in Vocational Training Institutes (VTIs) and National Teachers Training Colleges (NTCs) equipped with computers, internet connectivity, VR sets and ICDL licenses has enabled the project activities to be conducted in those locations. For instance, all capacity building events across all the project locations are conducted in the Digital Innovation Hubs previously set up by Enabel. This has ensued continuity in the use of these resources and ICT infrastructures and thus very critical in ensuring long term sustainability.

In Burkina Faso, our project draws upon the successes of the Paas-Panga and Entrepreneurship initiative, particularly in establishing and reinvigorating the Innov Center, a technological innovation hub. This project benefits from a robust partnership between the Innov Center and various satellite hubs, fostering a culture of knowledge exchange and resource sharing. Notably, this collaboration enables access to specialized equipment such as 3D printers and drones, enhancing the capabilities and offerings of both the Innov Center and its affiliated hubs.

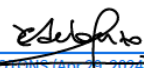
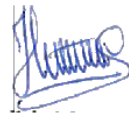
Deepening Digital for Development (D4D) expertise at local, national and international level is crucial for advancing expertise in digital rights and digital gender.

The project has amplified project visibility beyond Uganda and Burkina. The activities delivered in the field allow Enabel to speak with expertise and experience on these topics, and liaise with the broader international community working on these critical issues. Enhancing visibility and amplifying call for more participation of women in ICT Policy and decision-making processes is more critical than ever in today's digital age.

The project has significantly increased its visibility, highlighting the crucial role of empowering women and girls as vital contributors to the digital economy. This enhanced visibility has been captured through local television, audio and video channels, print publications, and various social media platforms, as well as during regional conferences and events. This concerted effort plays a pivotal role in mobilizing stakeholders and emphasizing the significance of involving women and girls in building an inclusive digital rights-based economy.

Capacity building on digitalisation – digital skills, digital security and safety, digital rights, digital entrepreneurship and social media for development is crucial to narrow the gender divide.

At a broader level, addressing cultural and societal beliefs and stereotypes that hinder the progress of women and girls in the online sphere is crucial for their active participation and empowerment through digital platforms. It is imperative for the government to tackle the wider societal challenges that obstruct women and girls' advancement online, and stakeholders can complement these efforts. This collaborative approach ensures that digitalization and its positive impacts benefit and empower women and girls, particularly those in underserved communities.

National execution officer	Intervention Manager Enabel
Moses OWINI (Uganda)  Malick TAPSOBA (Burkina)  Cristina DE LORENZO BROTONS  Cristina DE LORENZO BROTONS (Apr 24, 2024 14:06 GMT+2)	Marie Judith SOMDA (Burkina Faso) 

3 Monitoring of results

3.1 Evolution of the context

3.1.1 General and institutional context

In Uganda the context has evolved positively. The development of the Digital Transformation Roadmap was a remarkable event during the reporting period that has a positive consequence on project implementation. This is because the aspirations established in the roadmap are all consistent with the interventions' goals and objectives. The roadmap seeks to capitalize on emerging technologies to enhance economic competitiveness of the Ugandan economy and improve lives of its citizens.

The roadmap is meant to realise the aspirations espoused in the Uganda digital vision 2040 and in fact, carries forward some of its strategic priorities. For instance, the Uganda Vision 2040 has three key pillars identified that are consistent with the project. These pillars include **a) fostering innovation and entrepreneurship b) promoting cybersecurity, data protection and privacy, and c) empowerment through digital skills and literacy**. The digital rights project is currently building capacity in 4 regions in Uganda and the first phase of our intervention focused on digital rights capacity building on topics such as freedom of expression online, privacy and data protection, digital skilling and awareness raising on the intersection of gender and digitalisation.

To emphasize, the Digital Transformation roadmap 2023-2027 is equally anchored on the project goal and objectives particularly Pillars 3, 4 and 5. The following pillars of the digital transformation roadmap aligns with our project intervention. **Pillar 3** focuses on Cybersecurity, data protection and privacy and one of the enablers of this pillar that is

consistent with the project is **raising public cybersecurity awareness**. This has been done in our capacity building on gender and digital rights and topics that we discuss revolves around digital security, online safety and data protection in the digital realm. The topics also delves at national, regional and international instruments that guarantees the rights to privacy and data protection. The events are facilitated through scenario exercises, plenary discussions and presentations, allowing participants to dissect and discuss these concepts and issues in greater detail.

Pillar 4 of the Digital Transformation Road map focuses on digital skilling. The enablers that is consistent with our project focuses on **inclusion of marginalised groups, such as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the girl child**. The empowerment of the girl child and marginalised groups such as PWDs are central to our intervention.

Pillar 5 focuses on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Enablers here include **mindset change**. In the 3rd quarter of the intervention, the focus will be on skilling small, micro and medium women entrepreneurs in Uganda with the tools necessary to boost their businesses.

Moreover, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), virtual reality, block chain, robotics, drones and Internet of things have started to revolutionise the digital landscape in Uganda. Uganda's 4th Industrial Revolution strategy highlights the importance of emerging technologies for transforming the Ugandan society.

The use of Artificial Intelligence in Uganda's agricultural sector like drones and sensors have optimised yields for farmers and improved agricultural productivity. Also in the health sector, the use of biometrics, machine learning, deep learning and statistical modelling have been used to address clinical problems.

In manufacturing, transportation, and energy sectors; beyond business analytics and operational effectiveness and efficiency, AI will be used to capture, store and analyse personal data and information of users. These developments in the context of AI will require critical analysis on the governance framework and institutional capacity of government, so that the policies and regulations developed by government are consistent with national laws such as the constitution of Uganda, regional and international legal instruments especially article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the rights to privacy and data protection. It will also mean that at country level, the intervention should focus at ensuring that the policies developed by government on AI are human rights respecting, and that civil society organisations including women, participate in an inclusive process that is critical in shaping the governance of artificial intelligence in Uganda.

The above developments will positively influence project implementation. However, we note that in order to attain the project outcomes, there is need for sufficient timeframe for doing so. We note that the late start of the project could derail effective implementation. Its therefore, necessary to have discussions on no cost implementation.

In Burkina Faso, the digital landscape, has witnessed significant developments and challenges during the reporting period, which have both positively and negatively influenced the implementation of the D4GW project.

Evolution of General Context: Since the preceding year, the general context in Burkina Faso has evolved notably. The ongoing security crisis has exacerbated existing gender inequalities, especially in digital access. This crisis has resulted in a substantial increase in internally displaced persons (IDPs), with figures from SP/CONASUR indicating over two million IDPs as of March 31, 2023, including 23% women and 58.5% children. This situation has deepened the digital divide, particularly affecting women and children.

Opportunities: Despite these challenges, opportunities have arisen. The government's National Digital Development Strategy (SN@DEN) 2018-2027 reflects a commitment to addressing the digital divide. The D4GW project aligns with this strategy and has the potential to contribute significantly to the socio-economic resilience of local populations, particularly in areas hosting IDPs. Furthermore, the existing groundwork laid by the 2019-2023 portfolio through Paas-panga and entrepreneurship interventions provides a solid foundation for the D4GW project. The project's alignment with the actions planned in the 2023-2027 portfolio to support socio-economic resilience and access to basic social services also represents a strategic opportunity for amplifying its impact.

Constraints: However, major constraints have impeded the change process. The deepening digital divide due to the security crisis and the resultant humanitarian crisis pose significant challenges. The surge in vulnerable groups, particularly among women and children, has widened the gap in digital access, complicating the project's implementation. Ensuring that interventions reach these groups amidst such challenges requires innovative and targeted approaches.

Considering these factors, the D4GW project is at a critical juncture where its actions need to be strategically focused. It is imperative to identify and implement actions that mitigate the effects of the ongoing crisis and leverage existing frameworks to enhance digital access for women and children. The project's success hinges on its responsiveness to these evolving dynamics and its ability to address the specific needs of the most affected groups.

3.1.2 Management context

The current collaborative initiative by the project and external stakeholders is based on mutual interest. No formal letters of understanding or operational agreement have been signed, in the meantime, are ongoing with the ministry of Digital Transition Posts and Electronical Communications in Burkina Faso to set up a technical committee. However, co-organising activities, participating and contributing towards the success of a particular event, is only attained based on mutual interest and the desire to contribute to the intervention's project goal and objectives.

Burkina Faso project regulations don't require a joint decree or steering committee since the funding comes from Enabel's "Global Partners" program, not bilateral Belgium-Burkina Faso cooperation. The ministry recommends internal Enabel formalization and a technical committee for project implementation.

3.1.2.1 Partnership modalities

In Burkina Faso, during the reporting period, several key contracts and agreements were concluded to ensure the effective implementation and maximization of the D4GW project's impact. These agreements are integral to driving the targeted changes and achieving desired results in promoting digital rights and skills among women and young girls.

Communication and Capacity Building Plan

A pivotal contract was established with BIMADES firm for developing a comprehensive communication plan for change and a capacity-building plan. This plan focuses on IT skills and digital entrepreneurship, aligning with Enabel's strategy of designing solutions with beneficiaries. The timely completion of this contract is crucial for implementing impactful actions on the ground.

This partnership plays a significant role in enhancing awareness about digital rights and improving the digital skills of our target beneficiaries, thereby contributing significantly to the project's objectives.

Establishment of Digital Hubs

To facilitate digital technology access for women, we have partnered with specific institutions to create digital hubs. The selected partners, Marie Reine College of Tenkodogo

and the Maison de la Femme de Tenkodogo, will host these hubs. The hubs will be equipped with computer equipment, an internet connection provided by Moov Africa, and a solar system to ensure energy autonomy. The recruitment process for a Solar System Firm is ongoing.

These hubs are vital for providing women and young girls with the necessary digital infrastructure and environment to access and benefit from digital technologies.

The agreements and partnerships established during this period are expected to contribute substantially to the project's goals. They are designed to address specific needs in digital literacy and access, which are important for achieving the targeted outcomes of empowering women and young girls through digital technologies.

As we move forward, these partnerships will be critical in driving the changes needed to achieve the overarching goals of the D4GW project.

3.1.2.2 Operational modalities

Burkina Faso:

In line with the project and program regulations in Burkina Faso, the D4GW project team has undertaken a series of administrative procedures to ensure compliance and effective implementation.

Identification of Technical Supervisory Ministry: The Ministry in charge of Digital Transition of Burkina Faso has been identified as the technical supervisory ministry for the project. This identification was formalized through an initial meeting with the minister, during which the project was presented and discussions about formalization were initiated.

Technical committee will be set up: After careful consideration of the various formalization options, the decision was made to set up a more streamlined technical committee. This committee structure is less administratively burdensome and is expected to be more effective for the operational needs of the project.

The next step involves engaging with key technical actors within the public administration, particularly the General Directorate of Studies and Planning. The purpose of this engagement is to assess the feasibility and to finalize the implementation of our chosen operational modality. This technical committee is planned to be completed by mid-February 2024. This timeline aligns with the project's implementation schedule and allows for adequate preparation and coordination.

The chosen operational modality of a technical committee, as opposed to a full steering committee, is deemed appropriate considering the expected results of the project. This approach is expected to provide a more agile and responsive operational framework, which is essential for the dynamic nature of digital projects. However, operational challenges such as coordination among various technical actors and ensuring efficient decision-making processes within the less formal structure of a technical committee must be carefully managed. These challenges will be a primary focus in the upcoming year to ensure the smooth operation and success of the D4GW project.

3.2 Performance of outcome



3.2.1 Progress of indicators

Outcome: 1. Women are economically empowered through increased access and better use of digital technologies 2. People, especially women and girls, are empowered to claim their digital rights					
Progress indicators/markers ²	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
1. Number of women making use of digital technologies for their economic activities 2. Number of women economically empowered (based on income generation) that have increased their income using digital technologies 3. Number of women with access to digital technologies for their work 4. Number of women-led businesses being digitally enhanced 5. Number of women who are working in a digital job (entrepreneurial or employee) after the trainings	0	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	
1. Number of people (gender- and age-disaggregated) feeling more safe and secure in the digital space (GSMA measure) (access to support platform, knowledge, understanding) 2. Number of people (gender-disaggregated) women active in	0	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	

the baseline is equal to 0 because we do not have similar data from Enabel nor from beneficiaries) at the time of writing the report, certain indicators cannot be provided. a data collection mechanism will be put in place in collaboration with the MEL team.

digital rights events / movements/ organizations					
3. Number of people reporting digital rights issues on the online platform (month per month)					

3.2.2 Analysis of progress made

For both outcomes 1 and 2 and both countries, no data on the progress of these indicators has been gathered yet due to the delayed start of the project. The focus of the intervention in the period will be to identify small or micro and medium women entrepreneurs, and design digital entrepreneurial skills and capacity enhancements, to enable them to improve on their businesses.

In Uganda, the initial stage of the project focused on the digital rights objective. In 2024 an increased effort will be made to provide digital skills training for the empowerment of women, leveraging the train the trainer model to ensure maximum outreach. The implementation of the online (already designed through a participatory workshop during the reporting period) is currently planned under procurement in the first quarter of 2024.

In Burkina Faso, the economic empowerment of women through digital technology is a multi-faceted process, integrating both access to digital tools and awareness of digital rights.

The initial phase focused on improving women's access to digital tools, particularly targeting women and young girls from the Central East region. Two centres have been chosen for this purpose and are now fully equipped with the necessary IT tools. This step establishes the groundwork for our beneficiaries to embark on their digital journey. Once access is established, the next critical stage is to conduct training programs in basic digital literacy and digital entrepreneurship. These programs are designed to equip our beneficiaries with the essential skills needed to leverage digital technology in their professional lives. We already have developed a capacity building and a communication plan based on beneficiaries needs.

The final stage in this process involves enabling the beneficiaries to apply their digital skills in their professions. This application is vital for effectively integrating digital technology into their economic activities. Currently, we are gearing up to begin the capacity-building process in digital skills and entrepreneurship. By the end of 2024, we aim to have 150 women actively using digital technology in their economic activities and to have raised digital rights awareness among at least 500 people.

This comprehensive approach, combining the enhancement of digital tool access, skill development, practical application, and digital rights awareness, encapsulates our strategy towards achieving tangible results in the economic empowerment of women through digital technology.

3.3 Performance of output 1.1 (Outcome I)



3.3.1 Progress of indicators

Output 1.1: Women have an increased access to digital technologies through a shared and adapted infrastructure					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of women accessing making use of the connected shared space during the intervention	0	-	76		
Number of new digital tools introduced to women	0	-	4		
Number of women using the digital tools for their economic activity	0	-	59		

3.3.2 State of progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ³	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
Uganda				
1 Digital literacy and skills for entrepreneurs in innovation hubs		X		
2 Advanced digital skills training for employment in the digital economy		X		
3 Support action-research to identify best practices		X		
4 Organise workshops with women in NTCs and TVIs on digital rights		X		
5 Nation-wide communication campaign in Uganda		X		

6 Develop a one-stop services digital rights platform		X		
7 Support action-research to identify best practices		X		
Burkina Faso				
1 Procurement and distribution of digital equipment for Women's and Girls' promotion centres in the Central East Region		X		
2 Establishment of Internet Connectivity for Beneficiaries Receiving IT Equipment Support		X		
3 Implementation and enhancement of Solar-Powered Systems for computer room			X	
Belgium				
Recruitment of Digital Gender expert			x	
Recruitment of Coordinator D4D Hub Africa			x	
Draft of a Gender Strategy			x	

3.3.3 Analysis of progress made

In [Uganda](#), the activities planned are all being executed accordingly. There are sub activities under the main activities that have been conducted. For instance, digital rights training encompassing freedom of expression online, privacy and data protection online, access to internet all falls under digital skilling.

Other activities aimed at advancing skills and employment is planned for the second quarter of the year and is intended to primarily focus on micro and medium women entrepreneurs. Capacity building in entrepreneurship will be tailored based on their interests and the unique needs and skill level of the entrepreneurs. All activities so far undertaken have led to the realisation of the expected output.

The key challenges that have been identified is the limited utilisation of digital hubs which are equipped with computers and internet services, for which communities in where the project is implemented can continue to utilise, to learn and apply the skills gained overtime.

However, the opportunities available is for the leadership of the digital hubs who are willing to raise awareness about the hub and popularise it, so that many community members can continue to use it to bolster their skills and apply the knowledge learned.

In [Burkina Faso](#), the project's component focusing on establishing digital access spaces for women and girls has made substantial progress, approximately 85% of this component has been executed, with the remaining tasks being the installation of solar energy systems and the official launch of the digital hubs.

Equipment of spaces: The procurement and distribution of computer equipment have been successfully completed. Both selected centres, Collège Marie Reine and Maison de la Femme, are now equipped with 20 desktop computers, 5 tablets, a video projector, a multifunction printer, and necessary accessories each. Internet connection was established in both centres in January 2024, enabling online access for the beneficiaries. A significant milestone was the symbolic handover of the equipment on January 23, 2024, at a ceremony held at Collège Marie Reine.

The tender process for the installation of solar systems is underway. We are currently evaluating technical and financial proposals to select the most suitable provider. The installation of solar systems and the training of beneficiaries are scheduled to be completed by the third week of February.

The establishment of these centres provides a significant opportunity for enhancing digital literacy and access among women and girls in the region.

However, the delays in the solar system installation process have slightly impeded the full operationalization of the centres.

Effective collaboration with partners like Moov Africa and responsive procurement processes have facilitated smooth implementation. The time required for the tendering process for solar system installation has posed a challenge.

In conclusion, while we have made significant strides towards establishing these digital access spaces, the completion of the solar system installation remains crucial for achieving 100% operational capacity. This final step will fully realize the anticipated output of creating robust digital hubs for women and girls in the region.

3.4 Performance of output 1.2 (Outcome I)



3.4.1 Progress of indicators

Output 1.2: Women have the skills needed to participate in the digital and digitally enabled economy					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of women who have completed digital literacy trainings	0	-	152		
Number of women who have completed digital skills trainings	0	-	59		
Number of digital tools introduced to women and girls in trainings	0	-	4		

Measured or interview-based shown skills improvements of women and girls after completing trainings	o	-	o		
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3.4.2 State of progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ⁴	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
Uganda				
Virtual reality trainings for women and girls in Innovation Hubs	X			
Digital safety and security trainings		X		
Advanced social media trainings for women entrepreneurs		X		
ICDL training courses for women and girls		X		
Digital entrepreneurship and skills training		X		
Burkina Faso				
1 Recruit a firm to develop a training program in the digital field and a communication plan for the promotion of digital rights for women in the Central East region.			x	
2 Recruitment of firms for the implementation of the training plan on basic IT skills			x	
3 Organize training sessions for the implementation of the basic computer skills training plan		x		
4 Recruitment of a firm for the implementation of the digital entrepreneurship training plan for women			x	
5 Organize training sessions for the implementation of the digital entrepreneurship training plan for women		x		

3.4.3 Analysis of progress made

In [Uganda](#), virtual reality trainings have been conducted in two project locations already attracting 72 participants out of which 59 are women and girls.

All the other sub activities planned under the output will be executed during the year.

In [Burkina Faso](#), the capacity building component, crucial for equipping beneficiaries with basic IT skills and digital entrepreneurship, has progressed as follows:

Development and Validation of Capacity Building Plan: A comprehensive capacity building plan was developed by BIMADES firm. This plan was subsequently reviewed and validated by the project team during a dedicated session held on January 17, 2024, at the Enabel premises.

Selection of Training Providers: preparation for the call for tenders to select appropriate firms for conducting the training is underway. The launch of this tender is expected by January 31, 2024, with firm selection anticipated by the end of February 2024. Following the selection of the training providers, the organization of the training sessions is planned for the beginning of March 2024.

The development of a robust capacity building plan sets a clear direction for the training sessions, ensuring focused and effective learning outcomes. Delays in the firm selection process have slightly set back the timeline. To mitigate delays, proactive actions such as anticipating the selection of participants and organizing preliminary awareness sessions and basic IT skills training in February 2024 have been planned. This proactive approach is expected to keep the project on track despite initial delays.

In summary, while the capacity building component is slightly behind schedule due to the extended selection process of training providers, proactive measures are being implemented to maintain momentum. The commitment to initiating preliminary training and awareness sessions demonstrates adaptability and dedication to ensuring the successful achievement of this component's goals.

3.5 Performance of output 1.3 (Outcome I)



3.5.1 Progress of indicators

Output 1.3: The expertise of national stakeholders, and Belgian and international development actors to contribute to closing the gender divide in the digital and digitally enabled economy has been strengthened

Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target

Number of knowledge products and/or capitalisation documents created made openly available	o		o		
Optimization of the knowledge sharing platform D4D Access, where knowledge products/capitalization documents will be shared and consulted	o		o		
Number of participants in events / trainings/ online webinars organised	o		o		
Study on closing the gender digital divide for the digital economy	o		o		

3.5.2 state of the progress of the main activities

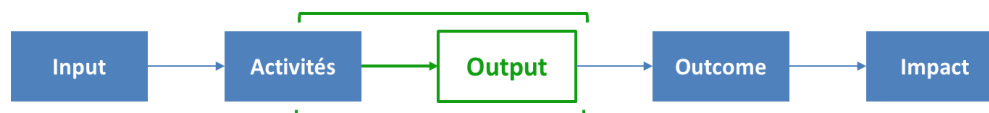
State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ⁵	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
Support action-research to identify best practices			x	
Identify lessons learned and develop knowledge products			x	
Gender & digital expertise staff (Brussels)		x		

3.5.3 Analysis of progress made

A Gender and Digital expert were recruited in September 2023, starting to work on the D4D Hub Gender & digital rights Working Group (WG), as well as the Digital skills Working Group under Enabel's lead. Playing a key role supporting exchanges and proposing contents to be addressed and discussed by the D4D Hub members at the WG meetings.

Coordination exchanges with the other components of the D4GW project (in Uganda and Burkina) were made, to seek for complementarities and synergies, planning activities to be conducted in 2024.

3.6 Performance of output 1.4 (Outcome I)



3.6.1 Progress of indicators

Output 1.4 : The D4D Hub Africa has adopted and operationalised a joint approach to contribute to closing the digital gender gap in the digital and digitally enabled economy

Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of joint strategies / approaches developed and / or adopted	0		0		
Number of D4D Hub Africa projects supported with expertise support provided to European and African partners	0				
Number of side events and annual events and dialogues in which the gender advisory board has participated	0				

3.6.2 State of the progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ⁶	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
D4D Hub / Africa branch Coordinator (Brussels)		x		
Facilitate collaboration and coordination of EU and African dev. actors			x	
Provide expertise to support D4D Hub partners			x	
Establish a gender advisory board				x

3.6.3 Analysis of progress made

Recruitment of the Africa branch Coordinator was materialised by July 2023, starting to work on the preliminary steps to have collaborative platforms with EU and African development actors, notably starting with prior coordination among EU development actors, as a 1st step, in 2023.

The creation of a Gender Advisory board was exchanged among the leads of the D4D Hub Africa branch, with the agreement to include it in the Workplan 2024 of the Africa branch, covering Sub-Saharan Africa. The possibility to also extend it to Northern Africa is a matter that needs to be addressed in 2024 with the D4D Hub members responsible for the Neighbouring branch.

The bulk of activities will actually start in 2024. 2023 has served to prepare and plan how to better approach them, also taking into account the NCE.

3.7 Performance of output 2.1⁷(Outcome II)



3.7.1 Progress of indicators

Output 2.1: Women and girls' (targeting both students and teachers) knowledge and understanding on their digital rights is enhanced					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of women and girls who have attended the training on digital rights	0	-	60		
% of girls reporting a higher understanding of their rights after the training	0	-	90%		
Number of women using digital right tools after the training	0	-	-		
Number of gender-specific digital rights issues identified	0	-	15		

3.7.2 State of progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ⁸	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
1 Digital rights and gender awareness workshops	X			
2 Intersection of gender and technology trainings		X		
3 Advanced trainings on freedom of expression online	X			
4 Advanced trainings on Privacy, data protection online		X		
5 Trainings on Disinformation, misinformation and fake news online		X		
Burkina Faso				
1 Recruit a firm to implement the digital rights training plan for education stakeholders			X	
2 Organize training sessions on digital rights for education stakeholders		X		
3 Organize discussion workshops, focus groups and competitions on digital rights		X		

3.7.3 Analysis of progress made

In Uganda, some of the above activities have been executed. For instance, most of the digital rights and gender awareness workshops have been conducted, except in few locations. Other activities, for instance the intersection between gender and technology training has also started in some project locations but continues to other areas. The rest of the remaining activities will be executed during the year 2024.

In Burkina Faso, the project's component focusing on enhancing the understanding of digital rights among education stakeholders has in progressed.

The process of recruiting a firm to implement the digital rights training plan is currently in progress is expected to be finalized by the end of February and then the training sessions will begin.

- **Expected Outcome:** Enhanced understanding and application of digital rights among education stakeholders.

The completion rate for this component is estimated at 5%, as the terms of reference for recruitment are the only aspect currently in progress.

While the capacity building component on digital rights for education stakeholders is in its early stages with a progression rate of 5%, strategic measures are being implemented to accelerate progress. The initiation of awareness sessions in February 2024, alongside the finalization of the firm recruitment process, are critical steps in ensuring the successful realization of this component's objectives

3.8 Performance of output 2.2 (OUTCOME II) 9



3.8.1 Progress of indicators

Output 2.2: People in Burkina Faso and Uganda are aware of digital rights and understand gender specific issues					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of people reached through communication campaigns conducted	0	0	0	5000	10000

3.8.2 State of progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ¹⁰	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
1 Recruit a communications firm for the implementation of the national communications plan on digital rights			X	
2 Acquire goodies on digital rights			X	

Analysis of progress made

In Uganda, communication campaigns and development of a one stop digital rights platform is expected to be executed by a grantee. This grantee was pre-identified in the project document. A process to undertake an organisational assessment for the partner is underway. This cooperation is expected to strengthen the sustainability of the project. In Burkina Faso, the project's component focusing on a national communication campaign to raise awareness of digital rights is progressing as outlined below, the process for recruiting a communications firm to implement the national communication plan on digital rights is underway. The recruitment is expected to be finalized by the end of February 2024. The acquisition of promotional goodies related to digital rights is currently delayed. This is primarily due to logistical constraints, particularly the lack of adequate storage space. As a result, the project team is considering a phased acquisition approach, aligning with the schedule of campaign activities.

Execution Rate and Project Schedule:

- **Execution Status:** The execution rate for this component currently stands at 0%. However, the project remains on schedule overall, with key activities in the pipeline.

In summary, while the communication campaign component on digital rights has not yet commenced in terms of execution, critical preparatory steps are underway, and the project remains on track overall. The recruitment of a communications firm and the revised strategy for acquiring promotional materials are key to advancing this component and achieving its objectives within the project timeline.

3.9 Performance of output 2.3 (OUTCOME II)¹¹



3.9.1 Progress of indicators

Output 2.3: Women and girls have access to support services to assert their digital rights					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of women and girls benefiting accessing from digital rights support services	0	-	0		
Number of CSOs digital rights support services enhanced after the trainings provided	0	-	0		
Number of women and girls accessing and participating in online platforms for their digital rights	0	-	0		

3.9.2 State of progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ¹²	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed ¹³	Seriously delayed ¹⁴
1 A human centred design thinking workshop		X		
2 Hiring of consultant to develop and online digital rights platform		X		
3 Capacity building on the usage of the online digital rights platform by women and girls		X		
4 Awareness raising, information and communication materials on the digital rights' online platform		X		
Burkina Faso				

¹³ The activities are delayed; corrective measures must be taken.

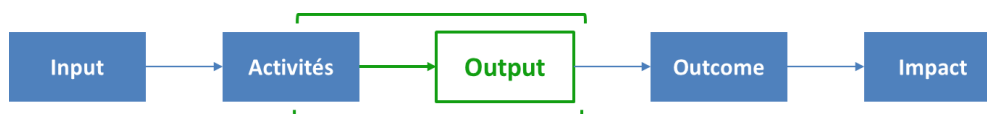
¹⁴ The activities are more than 6 months behind schedule. Major corrective measures are required.

1 Recruit a firm to implement the training plan on digital rights for civil society actors			x	
2 Organize training sessions on digital rights for civil society actors		x		

3.9.3 Analysis of progress made

These activities are planned throughout the year of 2024

3.10 Performance of output 2.4 (OUTCOME II)



3.10.1 Progress of indicators

Output 2.4: The expertise of national, as well as of Belgian and international development actors to promote digital rights has been strengthened					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of knowledge products and/or capitalisation products created made openly available	0		0		
Optimization of the knowledge sharing platform D4D Access, where knowledge products/capitalization documents will be shared and consulted	0		0		
Number of action research action grants awarded (in Uganda and Burkina Faso) and reports	0		0		

Number of participants in trainings events / online webinars organised	0		0		
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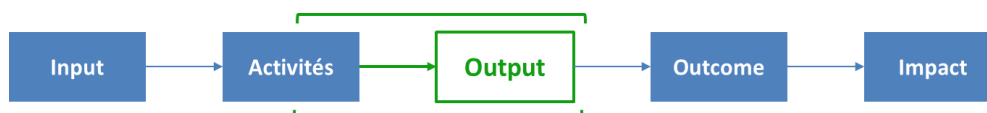
3.10.2 State of the progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ¹⁵	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
Support action-research to identify best practices BF				
Identify lessons learned and develop knowledge products BEL				x
Expertise staff BF/UG				
Expertise staff BF/UG				

3.10.3 Analysis of progress made

The activities will actually start in 2024. 2023 has served to prepare and plan how to better approach them, also taking into account the NCE.

3.11 Performance of output 2.5 (OUTCOME II)



3.11.1 Progress of indicators

Output 2.5: The D4D Hub Africa has adopted and operationalised a joint approach to promote a human rights-based digital transformation					
Indicators	Base value	Value preceding year	Value reporting year	Target reporting year	Final target
Number of joint approaches developed and adopted	0		0		

Number of D4D Hub Africa projects supported with expertise	0		0		
Number of events and dialogues in which the gender advisory board has participated	0		0		
Number of side events and annual events organized by the gender advisory board	0		0		

3.11.2 State of the progress of the main activities

State of progress of the <u>main</u> activities ¹⁶	State of progress The activities are:			
	Ahead of time	Within deadline	Delayed	Seriously delayed
D4D Hub / Coordinator Africa branch				
Facilitate collaboration and coordination of EU and African dev. actors				
Provide expertise to support D4D Hub partners				
Establish a gender advisory board				

3.11.3 Analysis of progress made

The activities will actually start in 2024. 2023 has served to prepare and plan how to better approach them, also taking into account the NCE.

4 Budget monitoring

Output	Budget	Expenses			Balance	Execution rate
		Actuals	Commitments	Total		
A01	65.000	42.130	20.356	62.486	2.514	96%
A02	285.000	81.554		81.554	203.446	29%
A03	316.000	37.381		37.381	278.619	12%
A04	192.371	17.262		17.262	175.109	9%
B01	120.000			0	120.000	0%
B02	140.000	2.629		2.629	137.371	2%
B03	140.000	8.659		8.659	131.341	6%
B04	212.800	30.430		30.430	182.370	14%
B05	192.371	17.469		17.469	174.902	9%
Z01	359.280	90.212	3.773	93.985	265.295	26%
Z02	8.750	2.802	3.548	6.350	2.400	73%
Z03	40.800	19.531		19.531	21.269	48%
Z04	28.500			0	28.500	0%
Z05	1.932			0	1.932	0%
TOTAL	2.102.804	350.060	27.678	377.737	1.725.067	18%

5 Risks and Issues

Identification of risks			Risks analysis		
Risk description	Period of identification	Risk category	Likelihood	Potential impact	Total
Delay on implementation period	2023	medium	high	Quality of deliverables	

Risk mitigation			Follow-up of risks	
Action(s)	Resp.	Deadline	Progress	Status
Preparation and signature of an amendment to formalise certain corrective measures (HR set-up, results framework, implementation period)	Management team	May 2024	the amendment is being prepared and most of the elements have been finalised. The content still needs to be validated before being presented to the steering committee.	in the process of being finalised
Recruitment of the staff according to the new HR setup	Management Team	July 2023	The minimum staff has been recruited for the implementation of the project. All the staff members are experimented with a good knowledge of Enabel's procedures and good experience with the project stakeholders	Done

strategic planning of activities to be executed within the new deadlines with the same quality	Experts in the implementing countries	Feb 2024	The activities have been planned to be implemented in the new timeframe of the project	In progress
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6 Synergies and complementarities

6.1 With other interventions of the Portfolio

In Uganda, the Digital Innovation Officers of the country portfolio continue to support the project based on their professional expertise as trainers.

The different projects under the new portfolio, especially those with prior responsibility for setting up the digital innovation hubs across the project locations continue to support activities and events organised in these project locations.

A new Financial Controller has been specifically assigned by the Finance Manager in Uganda, and this is expected to speed up execution of financial obligations under the project hence contributing to fast tracking implementation.

In Burkina Faso, the D4GW project in Burkina Faso effectively builds upon and complements the previous Paas-Panga and Entrepreneurship interventions, leveraging their achievements in capacity building in the digital and entrepreneurship domains to empower women. This foundation has not only made the region's ecosystem more receptive to new initiatives but has also familiarized it with Enabel's mode of intervention, facilitating the implementation of D4GW activities.

Key Synergies with the 2023-2027 bilateral Portfolio:

Socio-Economic Resilience: Both the new portfolio and the D4GW project focus on building the socio-economic resilience of local populations. While the portfolio addresses resilience in the face of various crises, including the ongoing security and humanitarian crises, D4GW specifically empowers women and girls in the Center East region to use digital technology to enhance their socio-economic activities.

Reducing Inequalities: The new portfolio's goal of reducing inequalities through improved access to basic social services like health and education aligns with D4GW's objective of addressing the digital divide. By focusing on women and girls in rural areas, D4GW complements the portfolio's broader inequality reduction efforts.

Conflict Prevention and Digital Rights: Both initiatives integrate conflict-sensitive approaches. The D4GW project extends this by promoting peaceful digital cohabitation and educating populations about digital rights, thus contributing to overall peace and stability in the region.

Effects on the Change Process:

- **Enhanced Impact:** The synergy between the D4GW project and the new portfolio amplifies the impact of both, leading to more comprehensive development outcomes, especially in terms of women's empowerment and digital inclusivity.
- **Strategic Consistency:** This complementarity ensures strategic consistency within the sector, aligning with the broader objectives of the country's development framework.
- **Evolution of Strategies:** As the new portfolio is in its initial phase, these synergies are expected to evolve and become more pronounced, particularly from the second half of 2024.

In conclusion, the D4GW project and the 2023-2027 portfolio demonstrate significant complementarity, each reinforcing the other's efforts towards socio-economic resilience, inequality reduction, and conflict prevention in Burkina Faso. This strategic alignment not only strengthens the individual interventions but also contributes to a coherent and impactful country portfolio.

6.2 With third-party assignments

In Burkina Faso, as of the current reporting period, specific details regarding third-party donor interventions that directly complement the D4GW project in Burkina Faso are not fully visible. However, considering the widespread focus on gender mainstreaming across various international donors, it is reasonable to anticipate inherent synergies with our initiatives.

Potential Areas of Synergy:

- **Gender Mainstreaming:** Many EU member states and other international donors prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment in their development agendas. It is highly likely that their interventions, particularly in sectors such as health, education, and economic development, align with the gender-focused aspects of the D4GW project.
- **Health Sector:** Given the EU's and other donors' significant investments in health, particularly reproductive health, there is potential for synergies with aspects of the D4GW project that address women's health and digital health initiatives.
- **Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment:** Interventions by other donors in the domain of entrepreneurship, especially those targeting women and youth, can complement the capacity-building efforts of the D4GW project, creating a more robust ecosystem for economic development.

The complementarity between third-party interventions and the D4GW project can lead to a more significant collective impact, particularly in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Burkina Faso. As details of these interventions become clearer, there will be opportunities for shared learning and adopting best practices, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the D4GW project. Synergies with third-party interventions may lead to more efficient use of resources, avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing the reach and impact of development initiatives.

As we gain more visibility on the actions of other donors, this section of the report will be updated to reflect specific synergies and contributions of these interventions to the D4GW project and the broader governmental cooperation intervention in Burkina Faso.

6.3 Other synergies and complementarities

In Uganda, synergy has been established with the D4D Hub Africa especially in contributing to deepening understanding on digital rights and digital gender divide at regional level. For instance, in 2023 session proposals were submitted together with the D4D Hub Africa to have discussions tailored at strengthening African participation and priorities in digital and cyber governance processes. This discussion took place during the annual summit of the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2023 held from the 26- 28 of September in Dar-e-Salaam, Tanzania.

Developing Cross-Country Synergies:

Expert Collaboration: We are fostering collaboration between project experts across countries. This involves participating in joint activities and exchanging expertise between the Burkina Faso and Uganda teams, enhancing the quality and impact of our interventions.

International Conferences: A key platform for synergy is through international conferences. For instance, joint participation is planned for the upcoming conference on digital rights in Accra, Ghana, from April 23 to 25, 2024. This will be an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and showcasing our work on a larger stage.

Shared Session Submissions: Our team members, including Moses Owiny from the Uganda team and Malick (Digitalization Expert from Burkina), along with Cristina from D4D Hub Brussels, have collaboratively submitted a session for the conference. This demonstrates our commitment to cross-learning and leveraging diverse experiences within the project framework.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Enhanced Learning: By sharing experiences and insights between the Burkina Faso and Uganda projects, we aim to enrich the implementation strategies and outcomes of the D4GW project.

Increased Visibility: Participation in international events like the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa, the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum in Accra 2024 which provides an avenue for raising the profile of our interventions and drawing valuable insights from global best practices.

Future Synergy Development:

Going forward, we will continue to explore and develop synergies with other Belgian actors and international partners. Our goal is to leverage these collaborations to enhance the effectiveness and reach of the D4GW project, contributing to a broader impact in the digital empowerment domain.

7 Transversal themes

7.1 Environment and climate change

Environment and climate change measures are taken internally during implementation. For instance, the project minimises on use of printed materials and instead uses digital formats, as part of the efforts to reduce waste and preserve the environment.

We also promote sustainable energy use, renewable energy by implementation of standalone photovoltaic systems in digital spaces for rural women in Burkina Faso. This action mitigates electricity breakdowns and promotes aligning with environmental and climate change considerations. While ensuring continuous digital learning, the project learned the importance of integrating sustainable energy solutions in digital infrastructure development.

7.2 Gender

Gender is key component of the intervention. At country level, the focus is on women and girls. This is not to neglect the men and boys, the project directly addresses the gender digital divide, ensuring women's participation in the digital economy. The male are important allies in fighting gender-based discrimination, biases and stereotypes. The interventions strive to have representations at their meetings to a ratio of 7:30 in favour of women.

7.3 Digitisation

Digitalisation is key to the empowerment of women and girls, men and boys. Closing the gender digital divide based on constraints that hinders women's progress and participation in an inclusive digital rights-based economy of Uganda and Burkina Faso is at the core of our intervention. Capacity building in digital literacy, digital skills and digital rights as well as on digital entrepreneurship, among others will form very key part of our implementation.

8 Lessons learned

We learned that partnership and multistakeholder collaboration with like-minded civil society and other stakeholder groups is crucial in advancing an inclusive digital rights-based economy where

women and girls are effectively contributing and participating in it. Strategic collaborations on joint activities, co-organising events is a prudent means of utilising scarce resources, leveraging on different expertise and skills set to achieve project outcomes and goals.

Strengthening visibility and outreach is a great strategy to amplify the voices of women and girls, but also to elicit them to take advantage of the opportunities provided by digitalisation to learn new things, empower themselves positively.

Utilising existing ICT infrastructures across regional locations is a good strategy of reducing wastage of resources, leveraging on previous work done and ensuring sustainability of development initiatives and approaches.

8.1 The successes

Opportunities for both formal and informal collaboration with civil society networks, governments, academia and members of the technical community ensures project ownership and sustainability. Each of the stakeholder in the digital ecosystem has something to positively contribute to closing the digital gender gap. Working with them in a respectful and harmonious manner strengthens and deepens relations among stakeholders that is crucial for advancing development work, empowering communities into self-sustaining citizenry.

The active engagement of local actors around digitalization for women's empowerment and digital rights underscores the importance of this issue and constitutes an important lever for a certain impact of the project.

Successfully transforming two centers into digital hubs in the Central East region in Burkina Faso demonstrates the effectiveness of targeting key infrastructures for the dissemination of digital skills.

8.2 The Challenges

- The project teams have a significant challenge to take up, delivering quality results and demonstrating the changes induced despite a significant delay in starting the project.
- One of the challenges in Burkina Faso, is the institutional or organizational weakness of some partners in fulfilling their role as digital hubs. The D4GW project is actively supporting these partners to strengthen their organizational and institutional capacities. This support is essential for ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the digital hubs.
- with the deterioration of security in certain parts of Burkina Faso, one of the challenges is to succeed in maintaining the interest of the populations et authorities about digital rights while other humanitarian priorities are emerging.

8.3 Strategic learning questions

N/A

8.4 Summary of lessons learned

Lessons learned	Target group
<i>Partnership and collaboration amongst stakeholder groups is key</i>	<i>Civil society and other external stakeholders</i>
<i>Strengthening outreaches and visibility is a clarion call to amplify voices of women in closing the gender digital gap</i>	<i>Project team</i>
<i>Utilising existing infrastructures to conduct events, minimises wastage of resources, supports synergistic relationship, complementarity and project sustainability</i>	<i>Project Team and Stakeholders</i>

9 Steering

9.1 Changes made to the intervention

During the reporting period, the D4GW project underwent significant changes to align better with the evolving context and to enhance the efficiency of its implementation. These changes are expected to impact the achievement of the project's objectives and targeted outcomes. The key changes include:

The Ministry of Digital Transition, Posts, and Electronic Communications (MTDPCE) has been proposed as the technical supervisory ministry for the D4GW project in Burkina Faso and for Uganda, it is the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance (MoICT&NG).

This choice is based on the relevance of these ministries mandate to the project's focus areas, especially regarding digital transformation and women's empowerment in the digital space.

Aligning with MTDPCE and MoICT&NG is anticipated to facilitate smoother collaboration, efficient policy integration, and stronger support for project activities, thereby enhancing the project's effectiveness in achieving its digital transformation goals.

In Burkina Faso, the project team agreed with the ministry in charge of the digital economy decided to establish a technical project monitoring committee. The technical committee is expected to allow for more flexible and responsive project management, enabling quicker decision-making and adaptation to the evolving project needs. This approach is likely to contribute to more effective monitoring and implementation of project activities.

These actions are significant as they lay the groundwork for a robust and effective implementation of the D4GW project, ensuring that it is well-positioned to achieve its objectives and make a meaningful impact in the realm of digital empowerment for women and girls.

In terms of human resources, some changes have been made within the team. From now on, instead of the country teams, it is the Brussels team which will intervene on the D4D Hub, which provides more coherence and efficiency.

9.2 Decisions taken by the Steering and monitoring committee

the project steering committee has not yet met so no decisions have been taken

9.3 Considered strategic reorientations

Given the significant delay in starting the project, it is important to consider measures to make up for the delay but also to mitigate the impact of this delay in achieving the results and objectives of the D4GW project. Strategically, this will involve submitting a request for an amendment to the donor in this case the DGD to request a certain number of modifications. The proposed modifications concern the duration in order to fulfil the delay in starting the project, also a budgetary adjustment to supply the lines which require it to achieve the objectives of the project

9.4 Recommendations

In order to ensure proper execution of the project we suggest the following recommendations:

- **Budget revision:**

- Requesting a budgetary revision to align with actual expenditures. Notably, certain staff salaries were not fully utilized, necessitating a plan to reallocate these funds either towards project activities or operational expenses.
- The budgetary revision will also address the transfer of specific activities from Belgium to Burkina Faso. Given that the project's Management and Implementation (MI) is based in Burkina Faso, certain capitalization or closure activities initially planned in Belgium will now be carried out by the MI in Burkina Faso.

- **Project Duration Extension:**

- Proposing an extension of the project duration due to delays of over a year, as detailed in the report. Extending the execution deadline until July 2025 is crucial to meeting the project's objectives, allowing for the implementation of closure activities. This extension will resolve disparities in employment contracts among project teams, where contracts in Uganda extend until May 2025 while those in Burkina expire by the end of 2024. Harmonizing these contracts is essential for the project's secure implementation.

- **Indicator Revision:**

- Recommending a revision of indicators to ensure they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). Certain indicators pose challenges in data collection due to complexity, while others require reformulation to accurately measure project progress and outcomes.

Recommendations	Actor	Deadline
Organize internal capitalisation to learn from all the process	Project Manager	Q2, 2025
Extend the duration of the project to allow the implementation of activities and the capitalization to be completed	DGD, Enabel Bruxelles	Q2,2024
Request the budget revision to align with the actual realities of the project	DGD, Enabel Bruxeles	Q2,2024
Request the indicator revision to ensure they are SMART	DGD, Enabel Bruxeles	Q2,2024
Stay abreast of the latest developments in the digital sector and be prepared to integrate relevant emerging technologies and practices into the project activities.	Project team	ASAP

10 Annexes

10.1 Quality criteria

For each of the criteria (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectivity and Potential sustainability) several sub-criteria and statements regarding the latter have been formulated. By choosing the formulation that best corresponds to your intervention (add an 'X' to select a formulation) you can calculate the total score applicable to that specific criterion (see infra for calculation instructions).

1. RELEVANCE: The extent to which the intervention is in line with local and national policies and priorities as well as with the expectations of the beneficiaries.				
Do as follows to calculate the total score for this quality criterion: At least one 'A', no 'C' or 'D' = A; two 'B's = B; at least one 'C, no 'D' = C; at least one 'D' = D				
Appraisal of RELEVANCE: Total score	A	B	C	D
1.1 1.1.1. What is the current degree of relevance of the intervention?				
...	A	Clearly still anchored in national policies and the Belgian strategy, meets the commitments on aid effectiveness, extremely relevant for the needs of the target group.		
...	B	Still embedded in national policies and the Belgian strategy (even though not always explicitly so), relatively compatible with the commitments on aid effectiveness, relevant for the needs of the target group.		
...	C	A few questions on consistency with national policies and the Belgian strategy, aid effectiveness or relevance.		
...	D	Contradictions with national policies and the Belgian strategy, the commitments on aid effectiveness; doubts arise as to the relevance vis-à-vis the needs. Major changes are required.		
1.2 Is the intervention logic as currently designed still the good one?				
	A	Clear and well-structured intervention logic; vertical logic of objectives is achievable and coherent; appropriate indicators; risks and hypotheses clearly identified and managed; intervention exit strategy in place (if applicable).		
	B	Appropriate intervention logic even though it could need certain improvement in terms of hierarchy of objectives, indicators, risks and hypotheses.		
	C	Problems pertaining to the intervention logic could affect performance of an intervention and its capacity to control and evaluate progress; improvements required.		
	D	The intervention logic is faulty and requires an in-depth review for the intervention to possibly come to a good end.		

2. EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE: A measure of how economically resources of the intervention (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted in results.				
Do as follows to calculate the total score for this quality criterion: At least two 'A's, no 'C' or 'D' = A; two 'B's = B, no 'C' or 'D' = B; at least one 'C, no 'D' = C; at least one 'D' = D				
Appraisal of the EFFICIENCY: Total score	A	B	C	D
2.1 To what extent have the inputs (finances, HR, goods & equipment) been managed correctly?				
	A	All inputs are available in time and within budget limits.		
	B	Most inputs are available within reasonable time and do not require considerable budgetary adjustments. Yet, there is still a certain margin for improvement possible.		
	C	The availability and use of inputs pose problems that must be resolved, otherwise the results could be at risk.		
	D	The availability and management of the inputs is seriously lacking and threaten the achievement of the results. Considerable changes are required.		
2.2 To what extent has the implementation of activities been managed correctly?				
	A	Activities are implemented within timeframe.		
	B	Most activities are on schedule. Certain activities are delayed, but this has no impact on the delivery of outputs.		
	C	The activities are delayed. Corrective measures are required to allow delivery with not too much delay.		
	D	The activities are seriously behind schedule. Outputs can only be delivered if major changes are made to planning.		
2.3 To what extent are the outputs correctly achieved?				
	A	All outputs have been and will most likely be delivered on time and in good quality, which will contribute to the planned outcomes.		
	B	The outputs are and will most likely be delivered on time, but a certain margin for improvement is possible in terms of quality, coverage and timing.		
	C	Certain outputs will not be delivered on time or in good quality. Adjustments are required.		
	D	The quality and delivery of the outputs most likely include and will include serious shortcomings. Considerable adjustments are required to guarantee at least that the key outputs are delivered on time.		

3. EFFECTIVENESS TO DATE: Extent to which the outcome (specific objective) is achieved as planned at the end of year N				
Do as follows to calculate the total score for this quality criterion: At least one 'A', no 'C' or 'D' = A; two 'B's = B; at least one 'C', no 'D' = C; at least one 'D' = D				
Appraisal of EFFECTIVENESS: Total score	A	B	C	D
3.1 At the current stage of implementation, how likely is the outcome to be realised?				
A	It is very likely that the outcome will be fully achieved in terms of quality and coverage. Negative results (if any) have been mitigated.			
B	The outcome will be achieved with a few minor restrictions; the negative effects (if any) have not had much of an impact.			
C	The outcome will be achieved only partially, among other things due to the negative effects to which the management was not able to fully adapt. Corrective measures should be taken to improve the likelihood of achieving the outcome.			
D	The intervention will not achieve its outcome, unless significant fundamental measures are taken.			
3.2 Are the activities and outputs adapted (where applicable) in view of achieving the outcome?				
A	The intervention succeeds to adapt its strategies/activities and outputs in function of the evolving external circumstances in view of achieving the outcome. Risks and hypotheses are managed proactively.			
B	The intervention succeeds rather well to adapt its strategies in function of the evolving external circumstances in view of achieving the outcome. Risk management is rather passive.			
C	The project has not fully succeeded to adapt its strategies in function of the evolving external circumstances in an appropriate way or on time. Risk management is rather static. A major change to the strategies seems necessary to guarantee the intervention can achieve its outcome.			
D	The intervention has not succeeded to react to the evolving external circumstances; risk management was not up to par. Considerable changes are required to achieve the outcome.			

4. POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY: The degree of likelihood to maintain and reproduce the benefits of an intervention in the long run (beyond the implementation period of the intervention).				
Do as follows to calculate the total score for this quality criterion: At least three 'A's, no 'C' or 'D' = A; maximum two 'C's, no 'D' = B; at least three 'C's, no 'D' = C; at least one 'D' = D				
Appraisal of POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY: Total score	A	B	C	D
4.1 Financial/economic sustainability?				

A	Financial/economic sustainability is potentially very good: Costs related to services and maintenance are covered or reasonable; external factors will have no incidence whatsoever on it.
B	Financial/economic sustainability will most likely be good, but problems may arise in particular due to the evolution of external economic factors.
C	The problems must be dealt with concerning financial sustainability either in terms of institutional costs or in relation to the target groups, or else in terms of the evolution of the economic context.
D	Financial/economic sustainability is very questionable, unless major changes are made.
4.2 What is the degree of ownership of the intervention by the target groups and will it prevail after the external assistance ends?	
A	The Steering Committee and other relevant local instances are strongly involved at all stages of execution and they are committed to continue to produce and use the results.
B	Implementation is strongly based on the Steering Committee and other relevant local instances, which are also, to a certain extent, involved in the decision-making process. The likelihood that sustainability is achieved is good, but a certain margin for improvement is possible.
C	The intervention mainly relies on punctual arrangements and on the Steering Committee and other relevant local instances to guarantee sustainability. The continuity of results is not guaranteed. Corrective measures are required.
D	The intervention fully depends on punctual instances that offer no perspective whatsoever for sustainability. Fundamental changes are required to guarantee sustainability.
4.3 What is the level of policy support delivered and the degree of interaction between the intervention and the policy level?	
A	The intervention receives full policy and institutional support and this support will continue.
B	The intervention has, in general, received policy and institutional support for implementation, or at least has not been hindered in the matter and this support is most likely to be continued.
C	The sustainability of the intervention is limited due to the absence of policy support. Corrective measures are required.
D	Policies have been and will most likely be in contradiction with the intervention. Fundamental changes seem required to guarantee sustainability of the intervention.
4.4 To what degree does the intervention contribute to institutional and management capacity?	
A	The intervention is integrated in the institutions and has contributed to improved institutional and management capacity (even though it is not an explicit objective).
B	The management of the intervention is well integrated in the institutions and has contributed in a certain way to capacity development. Additional expertise may seem to be required. Improvement is possible in view of guaranteeing sustainability.
C	The intervention relies too much on punctual instances rather than on institutions; capacity development has failed to fully guarantee sustainability. Corrective measures are required.

D

The intervention relies on punctual instances and a transfer of competencies to existing institutions, which is to guarantee sustainability, is not likely unless fundamental changes are made.

10.2 Updated Logical framework and/or Theory of Change

Include the updated Logical framework and/or the Theory of Change if it has been profoundly changed over the past 12 months. Profound changes must be understood as: Changes to the formulation of results, new indicators, adapted or dropped indicators.

10.3 Monitoring of change management processes forms (optional)

Monitoring forms to be used for ongoing reflection or for an explicit research-action approach used by the intervention (See Content management guide).

Title Output 1
What is the assumption (1 phrase) leading to the intermediate outcome?
Is the Theory of Change (model, principles, values) underlying the assumption developed in an explicit manner? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Major changes made to the ToC during the year? If so, which ones? (Adapted ToC may be attached.)
Which are the major decisions taken in the year to realise the change on the basis of the assumption and which is their justification? ☐ Decision 1 : ☐ Justification Decision 1: ☐ Decision 2: ☐ Justification Decision 2:
Were there any opportunities in the context (specifically related to the result) that have facilitated the change process and the achievement of the intermediate outcome?
Were there any major constraints in the context (specifically related to the result) that have negatively influenced the change process and the achievement of the intermediate outcome?
Has the (research-action) change process been documented? ☐ No. ☐ Yes If yes, under which form?
Has the documented change process been communicated in any way? ☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, under which form?

10.4 Summary of MoRe Results

Results or indicators of the logical framework changed during the last 12 months?	
Report of the Baseline registered in PIT?	
MTR Planning (registered report)	mm/yyyy (estimate)
ETR Planning (registered report)	mm/yyyy (estimate)
Backstopping missions since 01/01/2012	

10.5 ‘Budget versus Actuals (y – m)’ Report

Deliver the ‘Budget versus Actuals (y – m)’ Report. » (It may be simply attached to this document and must not be part of the Report as such.)

10.6 Resources in terms of communication

In this optional Annex interventions should list all available materials (articles, books, videos, etc.) regarding the effects of the intervention on the beneficiaries, including studies, knowledge-building reports or (scientific) publications. The use of materials with client-centred approaches (‘story telling’) is greatly appreciated. Also indicate which documents or publications are related to strategic learning.

ⁱ Alex Mirugwe (2023) Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in the Ugandan Health Sector: A review of literature
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370073027_Adoption_of_Artificial_Intelligence_in_the_Ugandan_Health_Sector_a_review_of_Literature