

TECH2EMPOWER RWANDA 2022

AMPLIFYING THE WORK OF WOMEN LEADERS AND
SUPPORTING GIRLS' EDUCATION



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In September 2022, WAKE relaunched Tech2Empower international programs after pivoting to online work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rwanda was an ideal place for this thanks to our ongoing relationships with incredible partners in Kigali. The WAKE team brought 20 Tech2Empower Advisors together with spent a week collaborating with women-led social enterprises working to empower victims of gender-based violence and advancing girls' education and leadership. We are proud to share with you our key takeaways from Tech2Empower Rwanda.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1 VIRTUAL COLLABORATION CREATES LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

Nearly three years of virtual work during the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us to leverage tech tools to connect activists and entrepreneurs across the globe. Combining in-person and virtual program elements, we expanded the scope of projects undertaken and deepened impact for our social entrepreneur partners.



2 LOCAL PARTNERS, LOCAL IMPACT

WAKE partnered with Impact Hub Kigali to design and deliver Tech2Empower Rwanda. Local partners bring cultural context, connections and expertise essential to the creation of a meaningful and program.

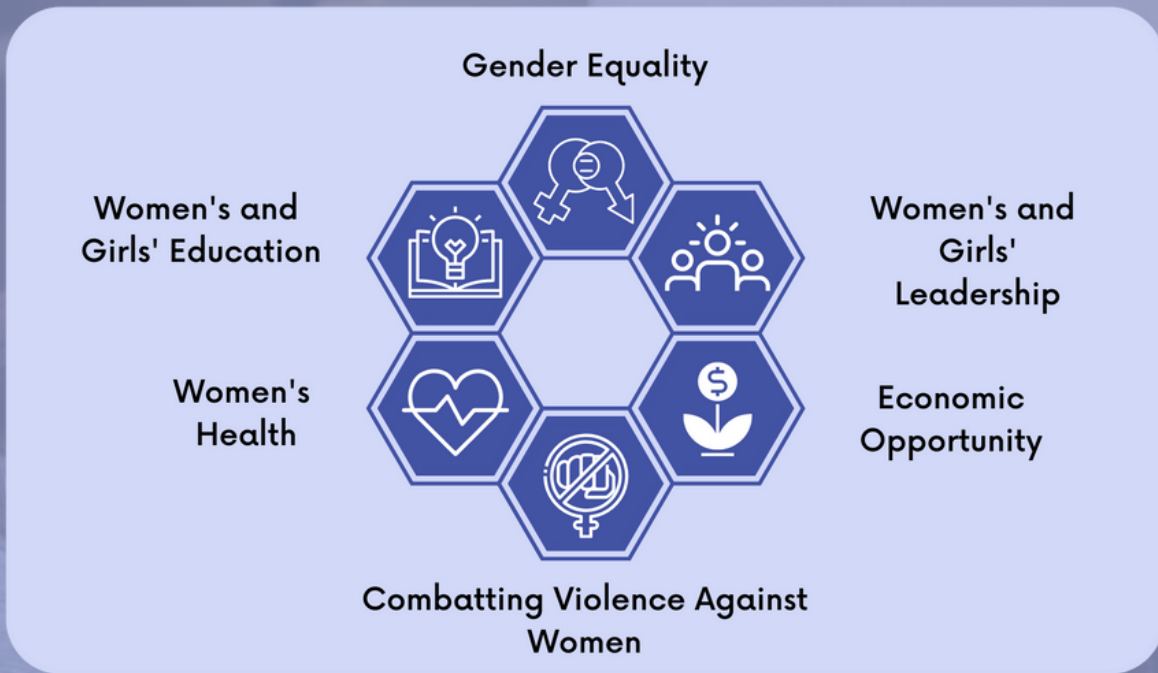


3 CENTERING DEEPER CONNECTIONS

Cross-cultural community-building is core to our programs and our mission. Through collaboration, team members from diverse communities gain new perspectives and deeper understanding of the lasting impact of colonialism and oppression and identify new opportunities to unite as allies fighting for a just, equitable, anti-racist future. We help teams create a framework for strong connections, mutual empowerment and understanding all of which leads to individuals unifying as a team to work cohesively as a team toward a shared project goal.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PRIMARY FOCUS AREAS:



85

Girls from 4 secondary schools participated in Tech2Empower Day for Girls.

6

Impact Projects by Rwandan women-led social enterprises and Tech2Empower Advisors.



“Empower Rwanda was so delighted to participate in Tech2Empower Rwanda through which it was professionally empowered and widened its partnership base. The selected team of Advisors is incredible and has supported in the design of the organizational Documentation and M&E System that provides timely data/information which will be used in evidence-based advocacy for the rights of the most vulnerable girls & women who are victims of Gender-Based Violence including Rape & Defilement. Thank You, WAKE for this invaluable opportunity to participate and benefit from Tech2Empower Rwanda whose results are impactful to Empower Rwanda's Vision and it's Rights Holders!”

- Olivia Kabatesi, Director of **Empower Rwanda**



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Impact Challenge for Women-Led Social Enterprises

The Impact Challenge matched Tech2Empower Advisors and local, women-led social enterprises to collaborate on projects identified by the Rwandans as critical to enhancing their work. Teams partnered for two days in Kigali followed by four weeks of virtual work.

Teams developed a strong culture of collaboration, connection, and mutual empowerment.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TECH2EMPOWER IMPACT CHALLENGE PROJECTS

Generation Rise's team developed **cloud-based systems to access trainings and collect programmatic data in rural areas**. By accessing and personalizing these tools, Generation Rise will streamline their data collection processes and also empower program alumni, parents, and teachers in rural districts to access program documents to facilitate leadership trainings for young women.



Rwanda Women's Network's team **strengthened their communications strategy and online storytelling**. They renewed their website and repackaged content to tell powerful stories and communicate their impact, making it easier for donors and stakeholders to learn about their mission, work, and impact.

Kosmotive's team established a **system for supply chain management** for their EcoPad production to increase women's access to menstrual health and hygiene products in Rwanda.



Resonate's team **strengthened and streamlined internal administrative and operational systems** to use cost effective online tools. As a result, their team has the resources to operate efficiently and work towards expanding their leadership workshops to women and girls across East Africa.

Impanuro Girls' Initiative's team **strengthened their fundraising strategy** by identifying strategic partners, streamlining their monitoring and evaluation processes, and improving financial reporting. The implementation of this project will enable IGI to raise more funds to serve their community in a sustainable way and expand their programs to reach more women.



Empower Rwanda's team created a system for streamlined data collection to support their work with evidence-based advocacy. They also created a communications plan, crafting key messages to different audiences so that they can strategically communicate their work and impact in empowering women and youth to create sustainable change for them, their families, and their communities.

“The Tech2Empower Program has been one of the best opportunities for our organization to learn and make progress towards increasing our digital reach. We couldn't have done this without the support of WAKE and the Advisors we were paired with.”

- Sharon Bideri, Communications and Advocacy Officer at **Rwanda Women’s Network**



100%
of Impact Challenge social entrepreneurs stated their organization's needs were prioritized during the program.



100%
of Impact Challenge social entrepreneurs stated that they felt empowered to lead the group's discussion around what is best for their organization.



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Tech2Empower Day for Girls

Girls' education and empowerment is a central focus of our programming. In Kigali, Tech2Empower Day for Girls was a vibrant day filled with learning, empowerment, and exploration. Along with our host partner, African Leadership University, we welcomed 85 girls from Gashora Girls Academy, Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, FAWE Girls' School, and Maranyundo Girls School. Students participated in learning opportunities including mentoring circles on tech and leadership, Google's #IamRemarkable, and a keynote speech on moonshot thinking and tech in Africa. The event built girls' self-esteem, broadens their horizons, and created intercultural connections.

"This workshop has really helped me get in touch with my future, get in touch with my plans, and know that in the future, I can really do what I want. I am powerful like others. I don't have to undermine myself or what I am capable of. I am capable of doing whatever I want in my life and I can achieve it as all others have done."

- Ineza Brights, **FAWE Girls' School**



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Advisor Community

Our Tech2Empower Advisor community unites around a shared desire to co-design solutions with and for women and girls across the globe.

100%

of participants believe that Tech2Empower Rwanda gave them an opportunity to use their professional skills in a new way and for the greater good.

100%

of participants stated that Tech2Empower Rwanda developed their cross-cultural competencies, understanding, and adaptability.

100%

of participants said that Tech2Empower Rwanda provided new knowledge and better understanding of girls' education and entrepreneurship in Rwanda.



“Tech2Empower was an amazing opportunity to engage with women-led startups, social enterprises, and young female leaders in Rwanda. I learned so much from the other women I met and formed lasting relationships through work on very impactful projects and inspiring enterprise missions. It's great to experience in real-time how investing in women-led businesses multiplies impact for everyone in communities around the world.”
- Sonia Hernandez, **Waymo**

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Working Alongside Tech Entrepreneurs

WAKE had the privilege of partnering with kLab, an incubator for IT entrepreneurs in Kigali, to host a Tech & Networking event with a group of tech start-up founders. We held a “speed geek” activity during which the founders practiced their pitches and engaged in lively Q&A with our Tech2Empower Advisors. This event was a great opportunity for women with shared passions to connect and learn from each other.



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Help us amplify the work of women's rights and social justice leaders and their organizations. For more information, please visit our website: www.wakeinternational.org