



**ISPACE**

**2022**

**ISPACE FOUNDATION**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**@ISPACEGH**

[www.ispacefoundation.com](http://www.ispacefoundation.com)

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# WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY



Welcome to iSpace Foundation.

We believe in the power of collaboration and the importance of developing an innovation community that has the ambition and the resources to create and support socially impactful startups.

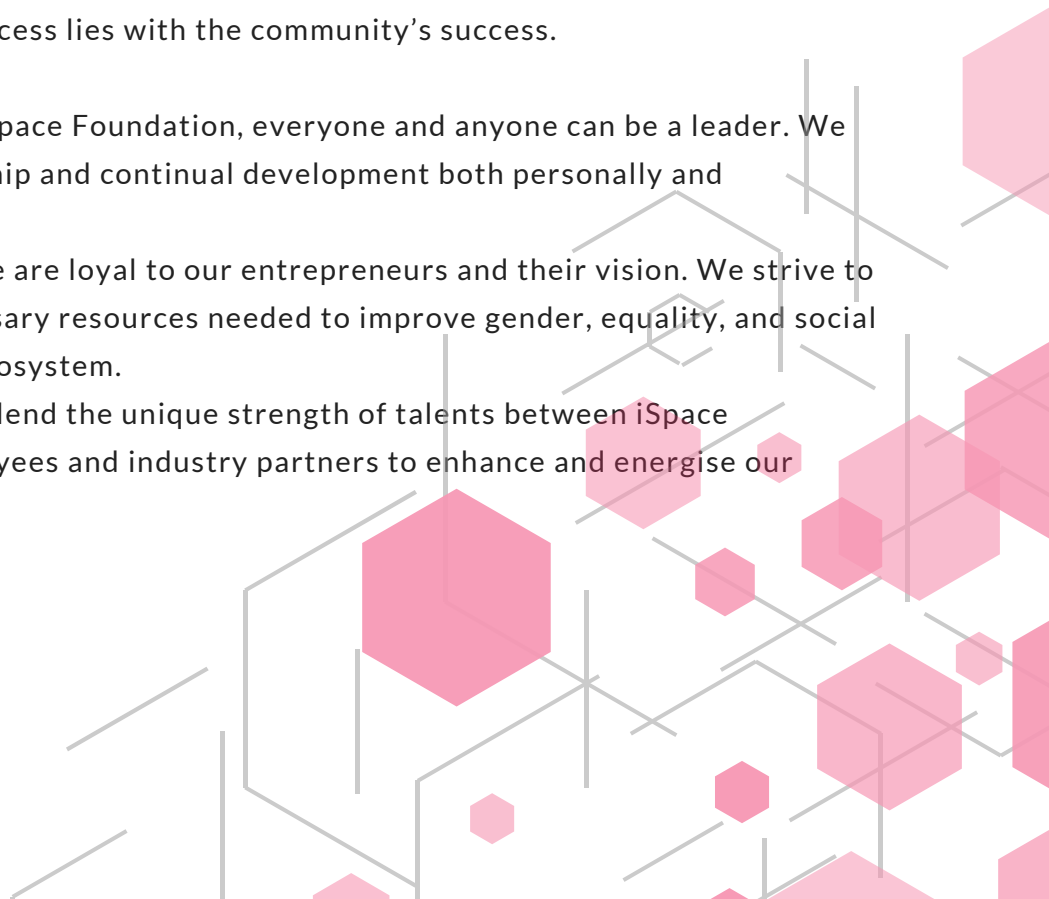
I am passionate about providing inspiring and safe spaces where everyone can learn, feel respected, and able to thrive.


Improving our community's experience and outcomes remains a top priority at iSpace. We recently increased our support services including our industry partnerships, organisational training, business and tech skills programs, and mentoring programs.

I truly believe our success lies with the community's success.

- **Leadership** – At iSpace Foundation, everyone and anyone can be a leader. We believe in leadership and continual development both personally and professionally.
- **Commitment** – We are loyal to our entrepreneurs and their vision. We strive to provide the necessary resources needed to improve gender, equality, and social inclusion in our ecosystem.
- **Teamwork** – We blend the unique strength of talents between iSpace Foundation employees and industry partners to enhance and energise our efforts.

Regards,  
Josiah Eyison





# ABOUT ISPACE

## WHO WE ARE

iSpace Foundation is more than an innovation hub. We support the community by offering inclusive services to individuals and companies to foster skills development, job creation, and organisational capacity building for economic empowerment.

## VISION

To lead innovation through inclusive programmes that build the tech, business, and creative ecosystems for the startup community in Ghana.

## MISSION

To support the economic empowerment of local entrepreneurs and communities by providing resources that accelerate an enabling environment.

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FRONTIERING INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

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# FROM THE COMMUNITY

LESSONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

A Participant from the Gender Awareness Program



*"Life is not the same for everyone and so we need to be more considerate. Feedback from community members is very important because if we do not know about it we cannot fix it."*

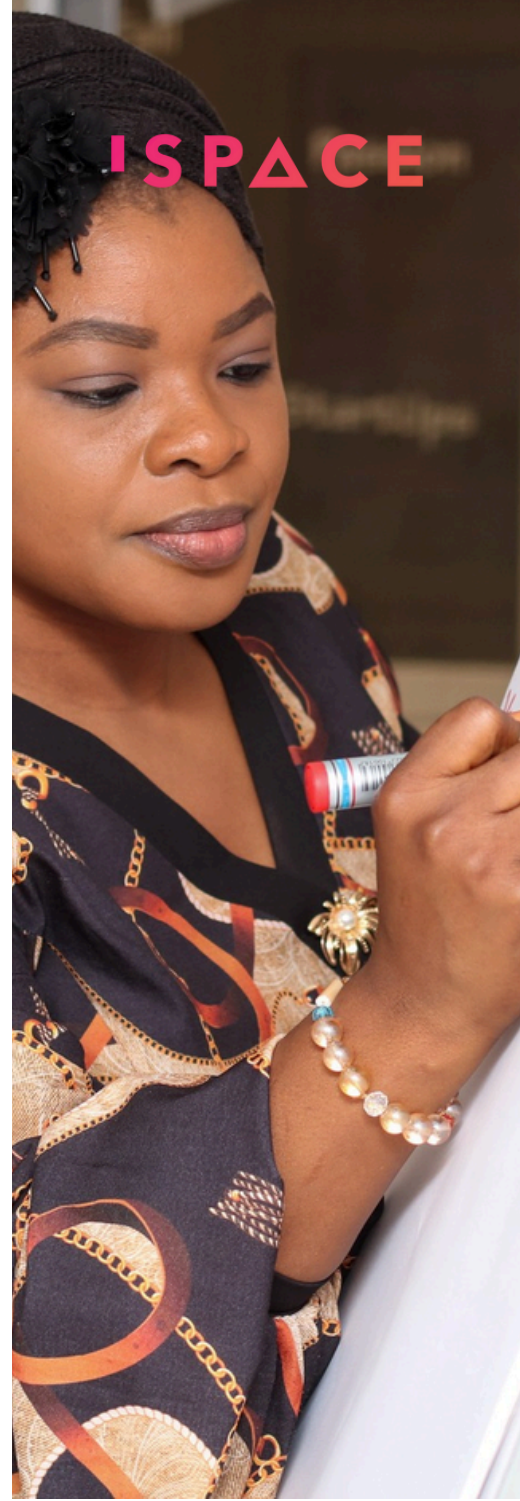
-Abigail Lebug, Duapa Workspace

A Participant from the Kotlin for Android Developers



*"The very first day we had the privilege of people telling us how the job is done in the real field, the kind of path we should take, and that not every noise out there is worth chasing after. "*

-Godfred Addai Amoako, Developer



## WHY TECHNOLOGY IS A KEY COMPONENT OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN INFORMAL SECTORS

### INSIGHTS: UPSKILL FOR TRADERS

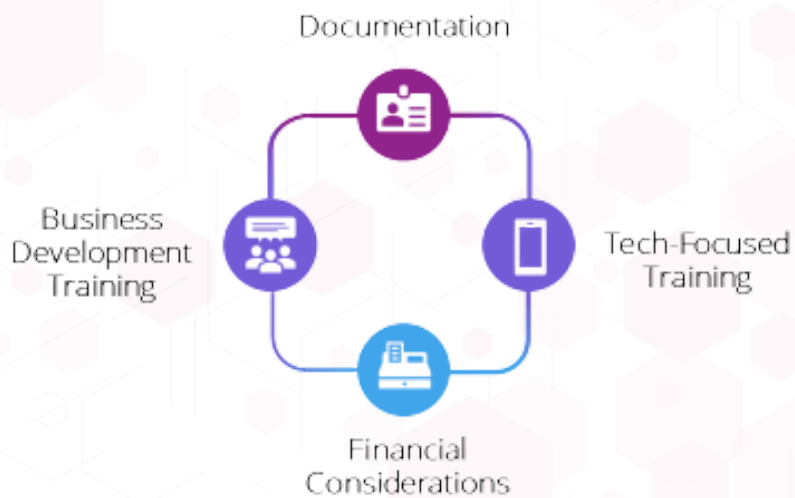
Read the full article on Medium: <https://medium.com/@ispace/why-technology-is-a-key-component-of-economic-empowerment-in-informal-sectors-12cde9a5e7c2>

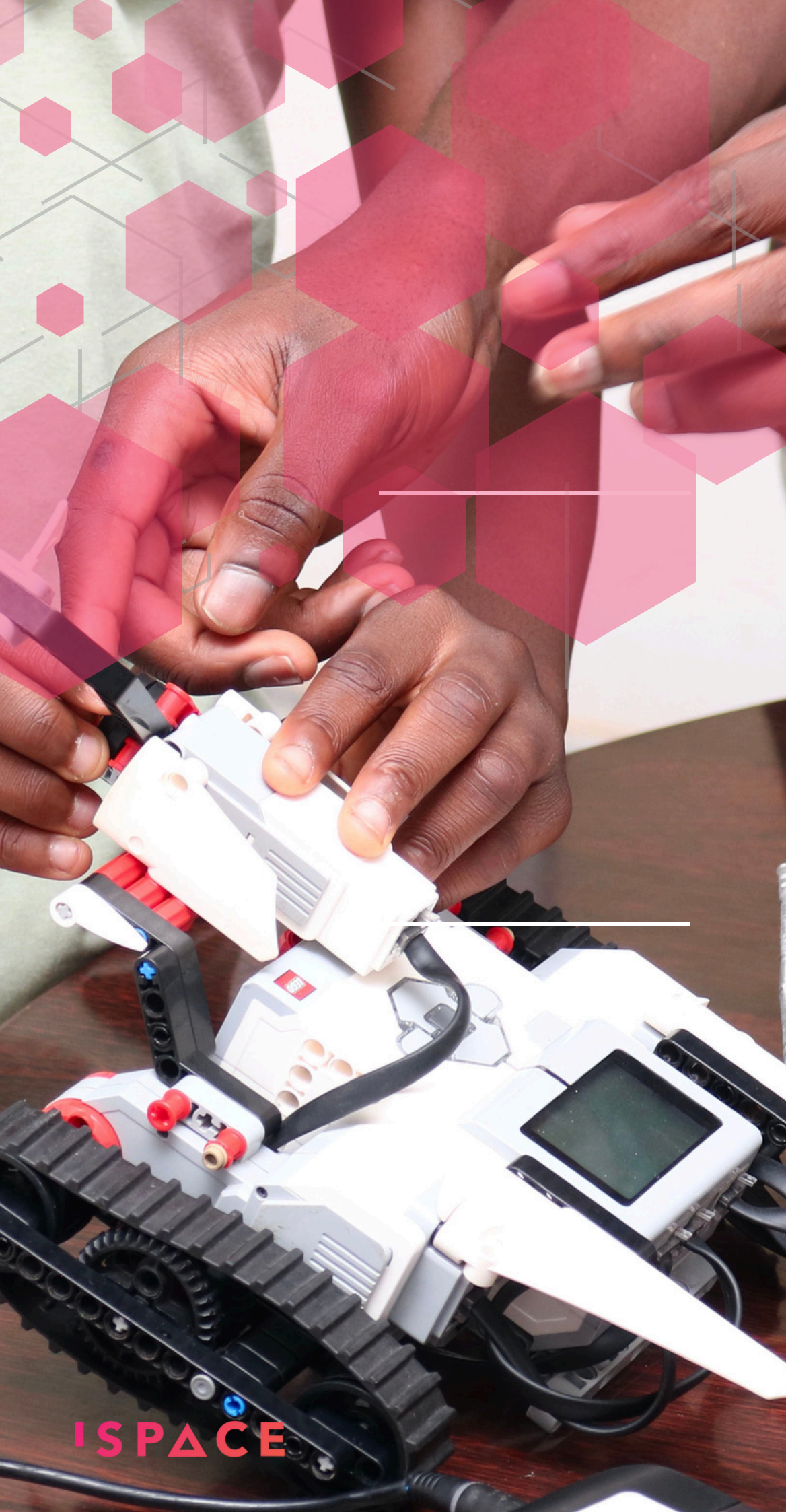
Informality can extend beyond employment into housing communities and education. Tech-based skills are transferable and can accelerate the development of other skills. By teaching traders, particularly women traders, tech-based skills, they can educate their children and increase the likelihood of their children gaining formal employment in the future due to the early introduction of tech-based, transferable skills. Traders and their families will also begin to understand and explore the difference between hardware and software and how to use both to generate more profit and learn additional practical skills.

During the research-based Upskill for Traders project, the project team helped traders between the ages of 35–55 learn how to use digital tools to share their products and services online and develop open lines of communication with their customer base. The team also helped traders register for courier services to strengthen their customer acquisition and customer service.

Beyond learning how to use digital tools and gain tech-based skills, Traders may need additional support including creating an e-mail address, lessons on choosing a username and how to reset passwords. In some cases, individuals may need guidance on registering for legal identification and bank accounts.

- Documentation**  
Some platforms and tools require a valid identification card
- Tech-Focused Training**  
Focus on security and relevant features first to maintain participation and engagement
- Financial Considerations**  
Consider avenues that will help increase revenue and profitability
- Business Development Training**  
Customer-focused and management training can be top priorities





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# PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

# GENDER AWARENESS PROGRAM

## Strategy + GESI = Inclusive Programs

GAP helped 22 organisations build GESI awareness and skills in community engagement strategies; 18 organisations were given financial resources to build new or existing programs using research and lessons.

### RESEARCH-BASED PROGRAMS



Innovation hub staff were guided through the process of creating programs within their communities then given funding to execute their projects. iSpace created case studies to share outcomes.



### ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING



GAP trained two innovation hub staff and a community member for each of the 22 participating hubs to analyse the existing practices and integrate GEDI/GESI principles at the organisational and program levels.



### NATIONAL IMPACT



This project supported more than 1,000 individuals across Ghana through direct services and awareness-raising through innovation hubs in Ghana.

# UNLOCKING WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY

## UWAT 2.0

Designed as an extension of UWAT, UWAT 2.0 was designed to give individuals professional and personal development. The program features six certifications through Google + Coursera and training in personal and business development including mental wellbeing.



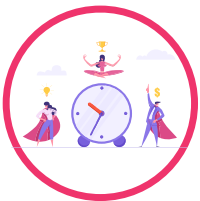
### TECHNICAL TRAINING

Six professional certificates are available to help individuals gain technical and industry-specific skills in self-paced, online courses.



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COACHING

The program schedule includes business development training designed to help individuals navigate the local market.



### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops that target personal growth help individuals succeed in the technical and business development activities to gain the certificate and build additional skills as an employee or an entrepreneur.



## AFRIQUE CREATIF

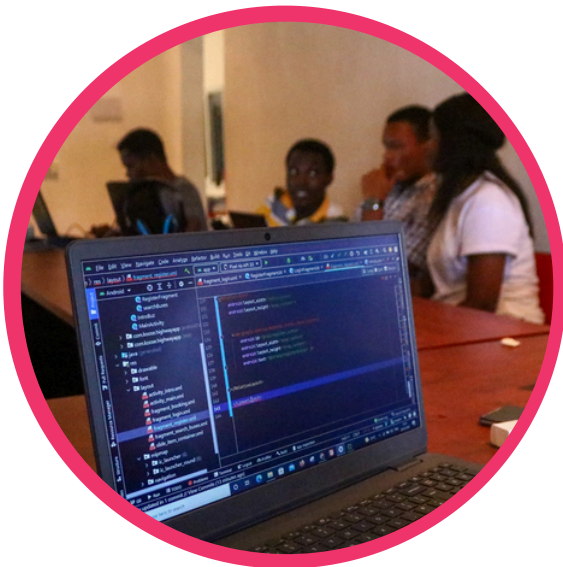
### Investment for Creative Sector Startups

A multiphase investment readiness program tailored for startups in the creative sector to prepare to pitch their business, gain investment, get access to creative and business mentors, and join a group of other entrepreneurs from across Africa. The investment helps startups accelerate their operations to prepare for another round of investment and resources.

## KOTLIN FOR APP DEVELOPMENT

### Android App Development

Through hands-on lessons, supporting online lessons, real-world projects, and group study sessions, developers learned how to build apps using Kotlin. This program connects developers with entrepreneurs to create solutions for Ghana-based start-ups and gives developers access to sponsorships for the Associate Android Developer certification.



## BUSINESS BASICS

### Professional Development for Entry-Mid Career Women

By combining technical and soft skills, 51 women built skills and confidence using Microsoft Office and Google Workspace apps, give presentations, and navigate networking events. In class lessons, hands-on projects, and group discussions accelerate each participant's ability to advance to the next level in their career.



## PHOENIX KIDS

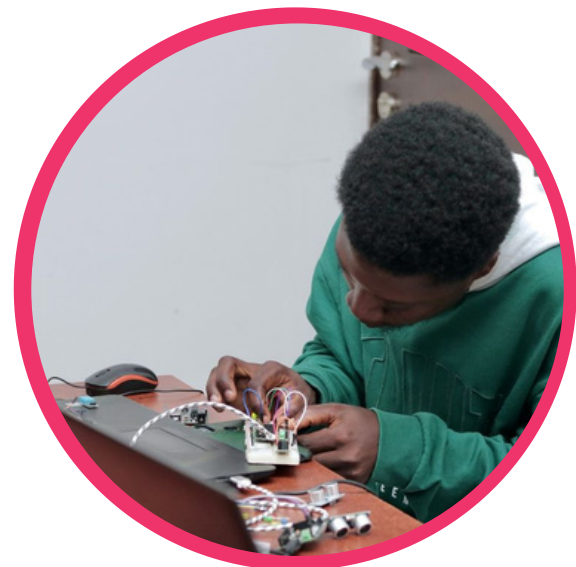
### Robotics, Web Development, and Creative Arts

iSpace Foundation has engaged more than 2,500 children in urban and rural areas of Ghana through the Eden Labs program. Eden Labs leads private courses after school and on weekends and partners with schools to integrate the hands-on STEM activities into lesson plans and academic schedules for children between the ages of 8 to 18. This program includes game development using SCRATCH programming language, EV3 robotics development, and creative arts using Photoshop and painting.

## IOT TALENT PROGRAM

### IoT, Big Data, and AI Training

In partnership with WaziHub and HUBiQuitous, Eden Labs supports individuals through an intensive bootcamp to learn basic electronics, electricals, and programming of hardware and software. The program culminates with a project to solve a problem in their community using the lessons learned within teams. This program targets ecosystem strengthening through direct training, institutional capacity building, and open-source resources.



## SOCIAL IMPACT

### EDSnaps Leadership Development

iSpace collaborates with Girls Education Initiative Ghana and EDSnaps to support girls between the ages of 13 to 15 years old in the EDSnaps CLO Leadership Program. The design thinking program builds leadership, social impact, business, and soft skills through projects that address community needs in the cocoa industry.



## HOW CAN INNOVATION HUBS LEVERAGE TECHNIQUES TO CREATE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS?

INSIGHTS: GENDER AWARENESS PROGRAM

Read the full article on Medium: <https://ispace.medium.com/how-can-innovation-hubs-leverage-techniques-to-create-equitable-and-inclusive-programs-c59cc92e148a>

Innovation hubs in Ghana are at the forefront of community development and social impact through their work supporting entrepreneurs and the growth of innovative ideas and technologies that address local pain points. In turn, many innovation hubs offer ongoing entrepreneurship training, mentorship, access to funding, and technical skills training to fill the knowledge gaps identified in earlier research and raise the bar for the Ghanaian entrepreneurship ecosystem to work towards meeting international standards.

The program supported 63 individuals, which included 2 hub staff and 1 community member from 22 hubs from across Ghana, in the first cohort and 18 out of the 22 hubs received financial support. During the first cohort, iSpace also collaborated with the program participants, specialists, and representatives from organisations with mandates to support entrepreneurship and development in Ghana including RISA, UKAID, Ghana Hubs Network, Crossroads International, Ghana Startup Network, and Kekeli Foundation to design a GEDI charter with supplementary resources designed during the program.

Space Foundation launched the Gender Awareness Program in December 2021 to give innovation hubs a combination of tools, training, mentorship, and funding to build their management structures and to develop and implement programs that integrate gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations.

### How Innovation Hubs Can Prioritise Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Within Their Management Structures and Program Design

#### 1. Focus on creating policies and practices

- a. Establish a baseline and monitor changes over time to adapt their methodology and techniques.
- b. Analyse practices, policies, and information collected by their hubs and gain an understanding of policies, practices, and metrics that support increased diversity and inclusion.

#### 2. Develop a business case to drive the strategy

- a. Define the need and methodology for the strategy by focusing on the business case that includes gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion to learn about how to define and create safe spaces, discuss the effects on employee satisfaction and retention, and the effects on the bottom line to increase value for money

#### 3. Prioritise excellence and innovation to drive the strategy

- a. Raise the importance of excellence and innovation to promote gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion while exploring tools and resources that are best fits for their development

*February 2023*

**ISPACE WILL  
CELEBRATE 10 YEARS  
SUPPORTING THE  
ECOSYSTEM**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**@ISPACEGH**

# HOW YOU CAN JOIN

The iSpace community is a global network of individuals who believe in pioneering innovation and creating inclusive, impactful startups and spaces.

You can join us to build empowered ecosystems by becoming a

**Community Member | Mentor | Partner | Advocate**

## CONTACT US

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The background of the page is a complex, abstract pattern. It features numerous pink hexagons of varying sizes and shades, from light pink to a vibrant magenta. These hexagons are interconnected by a network of thin, grey, angular lines that form a grid-like structure. The overall effect is a dynamic, geometric composition that suggests a network or a digital landscape.

**ISPACE**

**Supporting Entrepreneurship,  
Technology, and Creative  
Sectors Since 2013**