



Quarterly News Letter

April-June 2026



To Empower Rwandan Youth to Reach their Full Potential.





Dear Partners, Fellows, Supporters, and Friends of TICO,

Welcome to the second edition of the TICO Rwanda Quarterly Newsletter for April–June 2026.

Over the past three months, TICO has continued to strengthen its commitment to empowering young people through innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership, and community engagement. This quarter has been marked by meaningful partnerships, capacity-building opportunities, and strategic engagements that position our organization to expand its impact across Rwanda.

We have invested in strengthening safeguarding practices, advancing youth employment conversations, promoting early childhood development, and building new partnerships that will support the implementation of the Entrepreneurial Design Fellowship (EDF) Cohort 4 and other youth-focused initiatives.

These achievements would not have been possible without the continued support of our partners, mentors, volunteers, and the many young people who believe in our mission. Together, we are creating opportunities that enable youth to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers within their communities.

As we move into the next quarter, we remain committed to building inclusive partnerships, supporting youth-led innovation, and contributing to Rwanda's sustainable development agenda.

Thank you for being part of this mission.



Egide Habinshuti
Executive Director

STRENGTHENING PSEAH FRAMEWORKS



Creating safe, respectful, and inclusive environments is essential to building stronger organizations and empowering communities. Demonstrating this commitment, TICO Rwanda proudly joined 17 youth-led organizations in the inaugural Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy Capacity Building Training, organized by the Youth Advocates Network in partnership with UNICEF Rwanda.



The training enhanced participants' understanding of safeguarding principles, accountability mechanisms, and organizational protection systems. Through practical learning and collaborative discussions, youth organizations were equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to strengthen their safeguarding frameworks and foster safe, inclusive spaces for staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries.



At TICO, safeguarding is more than a policy, it is a core organizational value that guides our work with young people and communities. The insights and practical approaches gained through this training will continue to strengthen our internal policies, reinforce our commitment to accountability, and ensure that every young person engages in environments that are safe, respectful, and empowering.

As we continue championing youth development and organizational excellence, TICO remains committed to embedding safeguarding practices across all our programs, ensuring protection, dignity, and inclusion remain at the heart of everything we do.



REFLECTIONS ON LABOUR DAY 2026

Empowering Youth Through Skills Development and Inclusive Employment Opportunities

TICO Rwanda joined the Labour Day 2026 celebrations organized by the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, reflecting its commitment to youth empowerment and workforce readiness. The event emphasized the importance of equipping young people with the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in Rwanda's changing labour market while recognizing the vital role of workers in building an inclusive and resilient society.



During an opening remarks, Hon. Christine Nkulikiyinka, Minister of Public Service and Labour, emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping Rwanda's future economic development. She highlighted the importance of equipping young people with market-relevant skills and called for stronger collaboration, institutional accountability, and urgent action to ensure that meaningful employment opportunities are accessible to all Rwandans, regardless of background, gender, or location.

These reflections strongly align with TICO Rwanda's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and inclusive development. Through its programs and initiatives, TICO Rwanda continues to address skills gaps by supporting young people with practical knowledge, personal development opportunities, and future-ready competencies that enhance their ability to participate effectively in the workforce.



Hon. Minister Christine Nkulikiyinka

As Rwanda continues advancing toward a dynamic labour market, TICO Rwanda remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that empower young people, strengthen workforce readiness, and contribute to a more resilient and inclusive future for all.



Strengthening Families and Communities

Advancing Early Childhood Development : Promoting Positive Parenting and Gender-Transformative Approaches for Stronger Families



Strong families and supportive communities are the foundation of children's growth and development. As part of its commitment to inclusive community development, TICO Rwanda participated in an Early Childhood Development (ECD) training in Musanze, focused on strengthening parenting education and promoting approaches that support the holistic development of children.

The training was conducted under the broader project titled "Strengthening the Parenting Education Programme through ECD Centers: Transforming Gender Norms through Edutainment and Men's Engagement." It provided an important platform for participants to explore practical approaches to early childhood development, positive parenting, and the role of families in creating nurturing environments where children can thrive. Throughout the five-day engagement, the TICO team explored how positive parenting practices and the active involvement of fathers can transform family relationships and contribute to healthier child development outcomes.



Because when parents grow, children flourish and communities rise.

Moving forward, TICO Rwanda remains committed to translating ECD knowledge into meaningful grassroots action by supporting gender-transformative parenting approaches and ensuring that every child grows within a safe, supportive, and empowering environment.



Strategic Partnerships & The Future of Innovation



Innovation and strategic partnerships continue to play a vital role in creating opportunities for young people and shaping the future of entrepreneurship in Rwanda. As part of its commitment to youth empowerment and skills development, TICO Rwanda continues to strengthen collaborations that support the growth of young innovators and the expansion of technology-driven solutions.

The discussion highlighted the importance of building strong partnerships that enable young Rwandans to access practical learning opportunities, connect with global networks, and develop innovative solutions that respond to real community challenges. Particular attention was given to strengthening support for initiatives such as the Entrepreneurial Design Fellowship (EDF) Cohort 4 and emerging innovation tools, including the IKIREZI AI chatbot, designed to enhance access to knowledge and opportunities for young people.

For TICO Rwanda, this engagement represents a significant step toward expanding the impact of its innovation programs. The organization is encouraged by the High Commissioner's support and shared commitment to advancing youth-led innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based solutions.



TICO Rwanda had the privilege of engaging with **H.E. Mridu Chandra, High Commissioner of India to Rwanda**, in a high-level discussion focused on scaling TICO's flagship initiatives and exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration in youth empowerment, digital entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence (AI) innovation, and advanced skills development.



Collaborating with the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD)

TICO Rwanda continues to build collaborations that strengthen opportunities for youth-led innovation and enterprise development as a part of its commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs and Turning innovative ideas into sustainable solutions that requires strong partnerships, strategic support, and access to the right resources.

We had the pleasure of engaging with **Innocent Gatete, Director of Strategic Projects Implementation at the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD)**, in a valuable discussion focused on exploring potential areas of collaboration and strengthening support systems for young innovators.



During the meeting, TICO Rwanda shared insights into its flagship Entrepreneurial Design Fellowship (EDF) Program, including preparations for the upcoming EDF Cohort 4. Discussions explored the current landscape of youth entrepreneurship, Rwanda's innovation ecosystem, and opportunities to strengthen pathways that support young people from the early stages of idea development to the implementation of practical and sustainable community-based solutions.



The engagement highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in creating an enabling environment where young entrepreneurs can access mentorship, resources, and opportunities needed to transform innovative ideas into impactful ventures.

Discussions centered on fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and skills development among young people.



TICO Rwanda greatly appreciates the valuable guidance, insights, and constructive feedback shared by Director Gatete, which will contribute to strengthening the future impact and sustainability of the EDF program.

Mr. Gatete offered valuable insights and recommendations drawn from BRD's experience in supporting Rwanda's development priorities.

Expanding Reach with ICU Rwanda

Strong partnerships play a vital role in driving sustainable solutions, fostering innovation, and creating greater opportunities for communities. TICO Rwanda builds strategic collaborations with like-minded organizations that share its vision of creating meaningful and lasting impact. In line with its commitment to youth empowerment and inclusive development. As part of these efforts, TICO Rwanda engaged with Mr. Serafino Marco, ICU Rwanda Representative, and his team to explore opportunities for collaboration and alignment, particularly in preparation for the upcoming Entrepreneurial Design Fellowship (EDF) Cohort 4. The discussion focused on identifying areas of mutual cooperation, leveraging shared expertise, and strengthening joint efforts to empower young entrepreneurs and support impactful community-driven initiatives.

For TICO, this partnership marks a significant opportunity to strengthen collaboration, broaden its impact, and advance initiatives that foster inclusion, innovation, and sustainable community development. Through collective efforts, organizations can build stronger support systems that equip young people with the skills, resources, and opportunities needed to turn innovative ideas into practical solutions for real-world challenges. As we continue to engage with ICU Rwanda and other strategic partners, it remains committed to advancing youth empowerment, nurturing innovation ecosystems, and contributing to the creation of an inclusive future where young people are empowered to lead meaningful and lasting transformation.



Further updates on EDF Cohort 4 and potential collaborative initiatives will be shared through TICO's communication channels as discussions progress.

Forward-Looking Synergy with Germany Sparkassenstiftung



Creating meaningful opportunities for young people requires strong partnerships, shared commitment, and innovative approaches. As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen youth entrepreneurship and expand pathways for innovation, TICO Rwanda held a strategic engagement with Germany Sparkassenstiftung Eastern Africa at their Kigali office.

The discussion brought together shared perspectives on advancing youth empowerment, financial entrepreneurship, grassroots innovation, and sustainable enterprise development.



For us, this engagement marks the beginning of a promising collaboration aimed at developing scalable initiatives that provide young innovators with the skills, resources, mentorship, and networks necessary to turn their ideas into impactful solutions. The organization is inspired by the opportunities ahead and remains committed to transforming this shared vision into meaningful programs that generate sustainable and lasting impact within communities.

TICO remains dedicated to strengthening strategic partnerships that promote inclusion, expand economic opportunities, and empower young people to lead transformative change.



APPRECIATION



As we conclude another inspiring quarter, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of our Activities. To our partners, mentors, facilitators, supporters, fellows, and the wider community, thank you for believing in our vision of empowering young entrepreneurs to create innovative, sustainable, and impactful businesses.

Your continued support, collaboration, and commitment have been instrumental in helping us nurture entrepreneurial talent, strengthen local enterprises, and inspire positive change within our communities. Every mentorship session, partnership, training, and shared success story reminds us that meaningful impact is achieved through collective effort.

As we prepare for the next EDF cohort and other activities, we remain committed to equipping young entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, networks, and opportunities they need to transform their ideas into thriving ventures. We are excited about the journey ahead and grateful to have you walking alongside us.

Thank you for being an important part of our journey.