

Concept Note:

Regional Exchange for GenerationDigital! beneficiaries in Francophone Africa on Educational Technology

Date: 8–10 July 2026

Venue: NSA Hotel, Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire

Format: Hybrid (to be confirmed)

Language: French

Background and Rationale

The Strategic Plan of the Global Campaign for Education (2023–2027) highlights the crucial role of digital technologies in expanding access to education and ensuring the continuity of learning, particularly for marginalised learners, including those affected by emergencies or disabilities. In this context, educational technology (EdTech) represents a major opportunity to improve learning outcomes and reduce educational inequalities in Africa, notably by facilitating access to high-quality educational content in remote areas. However, it is essential that its roll-out forms part of a rights-based approach, ensuring that technology complements rather than replaces the presence and central role of the teacher.

Despite this potential, the development of EdTech continues to face significant challenges, such as poor internet connectivity, energy instability, inadequate digital infrastructure, the presence of tech-sceptics amongst education stakeholders, and a lack of digital skills among teachers and learners. Added to this is the high cost of internet access, which often exceeds the affordability threshold of 2 per cent of average monthly income recommended by UNESCO, thereby constituting a major barrier to equitable and inclusive adoption.

It is against this backdrop that this regional workshop has been organised, building on the EdTech initiatives and campaigns led by the Global Campaign for Education over the past six years. Designed as a forum for exchange and learning amongst French-speaking countries involved in implementing GenerationDigital! projects, this meeting follows on from the regional meeting of

held in Johannesburg in November 2025, which highlighted the need to strengthen mechanisms for sharing experiences and mutual learning.

This end-of-programme workshop therefore aims to capitalise on the achievements and experiences gained from the implementation of the EdTech programme, carried out in collaboration with the national education coalitions of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia between 2025 and 2026. The meeting will thus offer an in-depth look at the programme's achievements over the past 24 months.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop aims to consolidate the results achieved, highlight national initiatives, identify best practices and the challenges encountered, draw key lessons, and formulate policy recommendations and advocacy strategies to guide future interventions.

The specific objectives are structured around three key areas:

1. Exchange of knowledge and evidence-based practices

- To facilitate a structured exchange of experiences and lessons learnt from initiatives led by the Francophone National Coalitions for Education (CNE).
- To share and analyse best practices in digital education initiatives, aligned with a lifelong learning framework (from early childhood to adult learning).
- Sharing experiences of monitoring the implementation of the African Union's (AU) African Digital Education Strategy at national level.
- To facilitate discussions on emerging trends in EdTech, with a focus on the ethical implications, pedagogical applications and societal impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) in education.

2. Analysis of challenges and improvement of practices

- To take stock of the current state of digital and distance education, identifying gaps, challenges and opportunities: to examine the main challenges associated with the roll-out of EdTech: connectivity, digital skills and costs.
- Promote evidence-based approaches tailored to national contexts.
- Develop concrete, evidence-based policy recommendations for national and regional stakeholders.

3. Advocacy and strengthening of partnerships

- Identify policy recommendations on the integration of technology into education within the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2026–2035 to inform advocacy.
- Foster strategic partnerships between governments, international organisations, private companies and educational institutions in the EdTech sector.
- Facilitate collaboration between National Education Councils (NECs) and youth/student organisations to enable them to contribute actively to the design and implementation of EdTech solutions.

Expected outcomes of the workshop

This workshop will help to capitalise on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the EdTech programme, whilst strengthening peer learning and the advocacy capacities of participants, particularly on issues related to educational technologies. The following outcomes are expected:

- Experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of the EdTech programme are documented, shared and capitalised upon amongst the participating coalitions;
- Relevant best practices and innovations in EdTech are identified and disseminated, contributing to the improvement of future interventions;
- The main challenges associated with the roll-out of EdTech are critically analysed, with proposed solutions tailored to national contexts;
- Evidence-based policy recommendations and advocacy strategies are formulated to promote equitable, inclusive and innovative education;
- Strategic partnerships are consolidated or initiated to support the implementation of sustainable EdTech initiatives;
- A strengthened framework for exchange and mutual learning is established among participants at regional level.

Target participants

The event will bring together around 30 participants, including officials who will take part in the opening ceremony and panel discussions. The criteria for selecting

participants by country must take into account gender, involvement in programme implementation, and leadership within the coalition. It is desirable to include young people, women and/or beneficiaries in the various delegations.

- **GenerationDigital beneficiaries:** Coalitions: Cameroon (3 participants), Côte d'Ivoire (6 participants: host country), Senegal (3 participants), and Tunisia (3 participants).
- **Other French-speaking national coalitions** (2 participants per country): Benin, Togo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar.
- **Global Campaign for Education:** 2 participants
- **ANCEFA:** 1 participant
- **External speakers:** 6 speakers. Representatives of international organisations (AU, UNESCO), representatives of the host country's national education and technology authorities, academics and researchers in educational technology at the opening ceremony and/or panel discussions.
- **Moderation team:** 2 participants

Total: 28 participants and 6 external speakers, depending on the sessions

Logistical details

- **Venue:** Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire,
- **Date:** 8–10 July 2026
- **Arrivals:** 7 July
- **Departures:** 11 July
- **Working language:** French.

Workshop format

The conference will adopt a diverse varied to maximise exchange and learning:

- Official opening ceremony (covered by the media).
- Panel discussions
- Interactive workshops.
- Exhibitions of EdTech solutions.
- Networking sessions.
- Exchange visits to organisations in the host country that have benefited from the programme