



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**State Department For Technical, Vocational**  
**Education and Training**

**THE WEEKLY TVET TRANSFORMATION BRIEF**

**Skills | Innovation | Employability | Sustainable Development**

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*A knowledge-sharing platform of the State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) dedicated to advancing dialogue on skills development, innovation, employability, and sustainable development.*

**EDITORIAL INSIGHT.**

**The United Nations, TVET and the Future of Skills Development**

"We are better together."

This simple but powerful message captures one of the most important lessons from this week's engagements in the TVET sector. Achieving sustainable development requires collective action, shared responsibility, and inclusive participation. No institution, government agency, development partner, or community can transform society in isolation.

The visit by the 80th President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Annalena Baerbock, accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Dr. Esther Muoria, CBS, and the Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, to PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute highlighted an emerging reality. Skills development is no longer solely an education issue. It is an economic issue, a social issue, and increasingly, a diplomatic issue.

As governments worldwide face growing fiscal pressures, the demand for skills remains high. The future of work, the digital economy, climate adaptation, and industrial transformation all require a workforce equipped with relevant competencies. This calls for new models of collaboration between governments, development partners, industry, and training institutions.

The United Nations system provides an important platform for such collaboration. Through its convening power, the UN helps mobilize resources, partnerships, and expertise that complement national investments in skills development. This approach reflects the principle of leaving no one behind while ensuring that investments in human capital contribute directly to sustainable development.

The testimonies shared by beneficiaries of the DigiKen Programme demonstrated the transformative potential of digital skills. Beyond improving digital literacy, these skills open pathways to employment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and social inclusion.

The beautifully crafted handbags presented to the visiting delegation provided another important lesson. Products developed within TVET institutions have the potential to reach wider markets when supported by digital platforms, branding, and entrepreneurship skills. Such opportunities demonstrate why Income Generating Activities and Business Development Units are becoming increasingly important within TVET institutions.

Skills alone are not enough. Skills must be connected to production, innovation, markets, and value chains. That is where transformation truly begins.



A shared commitment to digital transformation: H.E. Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, joins representatives from government, development partners, and the TVET sector at PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute during the DigiKen Skills Development Tour. The visit underscored the growing importance of digital skills in empowering youth, promoting inclusion, and supporting sustainable development.

## THIS WEEK IN TVET

### **Better Together: Lessons from the Visit of the 80th President of the United Nations General Assembly**

The State Department for TVET and PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute had the honour of hosting the 80th President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Annalena Baerbock.

The visit focused on the role of digital skills in advancing inclusion and accelerating sustainable development. Discussions highlighted the importance of ensuring that all citizens, including persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations, have access to opportunities created by the digital economy.

The President emphasized that technical institutions can serve as hubs for innovation and gateways to wider economic ecosystems. Her message resonated strongly with Kenya's commitment to digital transformation and the Digital Superhighway agenda.

The Principal Secretary for TVET, Dr. Esther Muoria, reaffirmed the commitment of the TVET sector to supporting the country's digital transformation journey through skills development and talent nurturing. The Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, underscored the significance of digital connectivity as a foundation for expanding opportunities across the country.

Most importantly, testimonies from DigiKen beneficiaries illustrated how digital skills are already transforming lives and creating new possibilities for employment, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion.



A symbol of sustainability and innovation: H.E. Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, participates in a tree-planting exercise at PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute during the DigiKen event. The occasion reinforced the role of digital skills and green action in empowering young people to contribute to sustainable development.

## Research, Innovation and Sustainable Development

This week also saw stakeholders gather at Rift Valley Technical Training Institute to discuss the role of research, innovation, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation in technical education.

As economies continue to evolve, research will play a critical role in ensuring that TVET remains responsive to changing labour market demands. Emerging technologies, green industries, and digital platforms are creating new opportunities while also redefining existing occupations.

Speaking during the conference, the Principal Secretary for TVET emphasized that research should not remain on institutional shelves. Instead, research findings should inform policy, guide investment decisions, and support innovation within the skills development ecosystem.

The conference reinforced the importance of positioning TVET institutions as centres of knowledge creation, innovation, and practical problem-solving for sustainable development.



"Research should not be buried on our shelves. It should be shared, discussed, and translated into practical innovations that improve training, inform decision-making, strengthen skills development, and contribute to sustainable development. The future of TVET depends on our ability to turn knowledge into impact."

— Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET

## IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

### Digital Skills and Inclusion: Leaving No One Behind

"I can now use my phone, communicate through WhatsApp, and perform many digital tasks that I could not do before."

These were the words of Amani Ali, a beneficiary of the DigiKen Programme from Kilifi.

For many people, digital skills represent more than technical competencies. They create access to information, services, social networks, employment opportunities, and personal empowerment.

Amani explained that the programme has also enabled him to explore his musical talents by recording songs and engaging with wider audiences through digital platforms.

His story demonstrates how digital inclusion can unlock human potential and strengthen social participation. It also illustrates the importance of partnerships between government, development partners, and communities in ensuring that digital opportunities reach those who need them most.

Investments in digital skills are therefore investments in social inclusion, economic resilience, and national development.



Amani Ali, a visually impaired participant, shares his experience of how digital skills are breaking barriers and creating new opportunities for inclusion, learning, and personal growth during the DigiKen event at PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute, Nairobi.

## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

### Expanding Apiculture Ecosystems for Skills Development and Institutional Sustainability

Kenya possesses significant untapped potential in the apiculture sector. Estimates indicate that the country can produce up to 100,000 metric tonnes of honey and 10,000 metric tonnes of beeswax annually.

This presents an important opportunity for TVET institutions.

Apiculture offers practical pathways for skills development in agriculture, agribusiness, environmental conservation, product development, packaging, marketing, and entrepreneurship. It also aligns closely with the government's efforts to strengthen Income Generating Activities within TVET institutions.

As institutions continue exploring sustainable business models, there is a need to systematically map opportunities across agricultural value chains and identify areas where training, production, and enterprise development can be integrated.

The future of TVET sustainability may well depend on the ability of institutions to transform training facilities into productive ecosystems that generate both learning opportunities and income.



Exploring Sustainable Enterprise Opportunities: Director Zipporah Meso and Mr. Shadrack Agaki meet with Savannah Honey CEO Mr. Kyal Mutua to discuss the integration of apiculture into TVET Income Generating Activities. The engagement focused on strengthening institutional sustainability, enhancing practical training, and creating pathways for youth enterprise development through the beekeeping value chain.

## **FROM THE FIELD**

### **Voices from the Skills Development Ecosystem**

"Did you know that Kenya imports more than 50 percent of the honey consumed locally?"

This observation by Savannah Honey Chief Executive Officer Kyalo Mutua during discussions with the Income Generating Activities and Sustainability Division highlights the scale of opportunity available within Kenya's apiculture sector.

The gap between local demand and domestic production presents opportunities for training institutions to contribute to national food systems, enterprise development, and youth employment while strengthening institutional sustainability.

## **WEEKLY REFLECTION**

As digital skills become increasingly accessible within TVET institutions and among young people, how can government, industry, development partners, and training institutions work together to build ecosystems that transform digital competencies into sustainable jobs, enterprises, and inclusive economic growth?