

## Six companies receive the GovTech Innovation Challenge Award for digital solutions to modernize tax administration and improve resource mobilization in the Ghana Revenue Authority

On December 2, 2025, the World Bank GovTech Innovation Challenge, a pilot initiative by the World Bank, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in Switzerland (SECO) and Trust Valley and supported by the World Bank's Governance & Institutions Umbrella Program trust fund, announced six finalists chosen from 136 global applicants at its Innovation Award ceremony.

The six companies were selected following a global application process to develop Proof-of-Concept solutions for two specific challenges aimed at modernizing the Ghana Revenue Authority's (GRA) tax administration and improving its resource mobilization:

### Challenge 1: Informal Sector Income Tax Identification and Registration

- Chat Nation Tech (Kenya)
- The Digicoast (Ghana)
- Mezzanine Ware (South Africa)

### Challenge 2: E-Commerce Taxpayer Identification and VAT Compliance

- Kulana (Ghana)
- Staple AI (Singapore)
- Snapnet (Nigeria)

"In a moment of rapid technological change, collaboration between the public and private sectors to support innovation is ever more important," noted Arturo Herrera, Global Director for Governance Global Department at the World Bank. "The diversity and quality of proposals received demonstrate the potential of innovative GovTech solutions to transform tax administration in developing countries."

This program has provided us with valuable insights into how innovation can address our operational challenges," explained General Commissioner Anthony Kwasi Sarpong from GRA. "We are grateful to all participants who invested their time and expertise in developing solutions that will, we hope, enhance our capacity to serve the people of Ghana."

Prior to the award ceremony, the six companies and the GRA representatives participated in a four-day bootcamp to develop their proof-of-concept solutions. They also took part in capacity-building workshops, leveraging the Trust Valley's ecosystem and expertise to strengthen public-private collaboration.

"This program demonstrated how a Public Private Partnership platform, like the Trust Valley, can bridge the gap between technological innovation and governments," added Ambassador

Pietro Lazzeri, Head of the Economic Cooperation and Development Division at SECO. "This approach facilitates the exposure of innovation and technical solutions to governments."

"This program shows how GovTech innovation grows stronger when supported by a trusted ecosystem. By bringing companies, experts, and public institutions together, the Trust Valley helps build the capabilities and confidence needed to develop solutions that can support governments and improve citizens' lives well beyond this pilot," said Lennig Pedron, CEO of the Trust Valley.

The World Bank expects to share these solutions as global public goods, enabling governments around the world to benefit from the pilot initiative. By sharing these knowledge products, the impact of the program will reach beyond Ghana and support digital transformation efforts in various contexts worldwide.

The GovTech Innovation Challenge leverages private sector innovation to solve public sector challenges and strengthen the collaboration between the two sectors. Building on this pilot, the World Bank plans to expand this initiative to more countries in 2026.

### About the World Bank

The World Bank provides global financial products, technical assistance and resources, and innovative solutions for complex development challenges. The World Bank supports countries with policy advice, research, analysis, and technical assistance. The Governance Department supports GovTech and Public Sector Innovation: a whole-of-government approach to public sector modernization, focusing on citizen-centric services, universal accessibility, and digital transformation.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/govtech>

### About the G&I Umbrella Program

The World Bank's Governance and Institutions Umbrella Program (G&I) is a multi-donor trust fund established in 2022. It receives generous support from the [Federal Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Austria](#), [Global Affairs Canada](#), the [Chandler Foundation](#), the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia](#), the [European Union](#), the [Hewlett Foundation](#), the [MacArthur Foundation](#), the [Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea](#), the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#) (SIDA), the [Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs](#) (SECO), and the [United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#) (FCDO). To learn more, please visit [www.worldbank.org/giup](http://www.worldbank.org/giup).

### About the SECO

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is Switzerland's center of expertise for economic affairs, labor policy and foreign economic policy. It works to ensure sustainable economic growth by supporting global economic integration and promoting favorable economic conditions both domestically and internationally.

<https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/de/home.html>

## About Trust Valley

Trust Valley is a Swiss innovation ecosystem dedicated to digital trust and cybersecurity, based in the Lake Geneva region. It brings together 50+ academic institutions, private companies and public organizations to foster innovation, research and development in digital security, privacy and trust technologies. <https://trustvalley.swiss>

## Selected Companies

### Informal Sector Income Tax Identification and Registration

- Chat Nation Tech, Kenya, <https://chatnation.co.ke>
- The Digicoast, Ghana, <https://thedigicoast.org>
- Mezzanine Ware, South Africa, <https://mezzanineware.com>

### E-Commerce Taxpayer Identification and VAT compliance

- Kulana, Ghana, <https://www.kulana.academy>
- Staple AI, Singapore, <https://www.staple.ai>
- Snapnet, Nigeria, <https://snapnetsolutions.com>