

# ComTech Chronicle

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## Top News

### Launch of ComTech Think Space:

We launched ComTech Think Space program, which is a collaborative platform to explore, share, and create AI and tech-based solutions to empower local communities.

### Advancing Flood Resilience through Community-Driven Innovation:

The C-FLOW Project has officially moved into its implementation phase. Led by Dr. Lawrence Mdegela, the project integrates community knowledge with technical solutions to create a robust Early Warning System (EWS) for the Kikuletwa sub-catchment.

## The CLeMI Workshops

ComTech Alliance, in partnership with WWF Tanzania and UC Davis, successfully conducted a transformative three-day community outreach program in a Tanzanian pastoral community from September 16-18, 2025.

Over 200 participants, with special focus on women and youth, engaged in intensive sessions exploring Adaptive Leadership methodologies. The program was designed to address critical community challenges including: Sustainable livelihood development, Market access and economic opportunities and Climate risk management and adaptation.

### Methodology:

Through innovative participatory exercises and collaborative workshops, participants developed both technical and adaptive solutions to their most pressing challenges.



## ComTech Think Space

# Bridging the Digital Gap

## Continuity of the ComTech Scholars program

The ComTech Scholars Program continues to empower youth through structured digital skills training and mentorship. The program has maintained strong engagement, supporting students in developing practical and innovative solutions to real-world challenges. The program involves Meru and Fikiria kwanza Sec. Schools.



### Onboarding of Meru secondary school

ComTech Alliance proudly announces onboard of a second cohort to its Scholars Program on January 2026. Our onboarding process is inclusive to all students with interest in Computing. We then apply approaches to equally boost students enthusiasm and later we will have a defined number of who will engage in the one year curriculum.



### Launch of the Think Space program

We're excited to announce the launch of our ComTech Think Space Program! at our Arusha Office which was held on January 23, 2026. The ComTech Think Space is a collaborative platform to explore, share, and create AI and tech-based solutions to empower local communities.

The think space program is one of the key focus products in our organization with the mentorship course as the main activity aiming to provide structured mentorship opportunities for youth to enhance their skills, knowledge, and career growth within the Technology industry.



## A Story of Opportunity through our ComTech Scholars

At ComTech Alliance, the design of the ComTech Scholars program is grounded in real community data. Our story from Meru Secondary School illustrates why its delivery model matters.

Out of 25 students who willingly participated in our survey, 84% already have access to a smartphone or computer at home, and 72% can access the internet at various occasions. However, only 68% have both, revealing a gap: access to a device at home does not guarantee meaningful digital participation. Even more telling, only 32% of students reported basic awareness to coding skills, despite high device access.

This disconnect highlights the need for a structured, hands-on digital skills training, rather than assuming exposure leads to competence.

Encouragingly, 96% of students believe that digital skills are key to their future, and 80% are already assume technology will address community challenges. Additionally, 92% are willing to share knowledge gained through the program, showing strong peer-learning potential within the school and beyond.

The program therefore adopts a blended, student-centered learning approach: combining foundational training, practical application, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. This ensures that students not only gain skills but also become local change agents.

A powerful reflection of this impact is seen in figure 1.

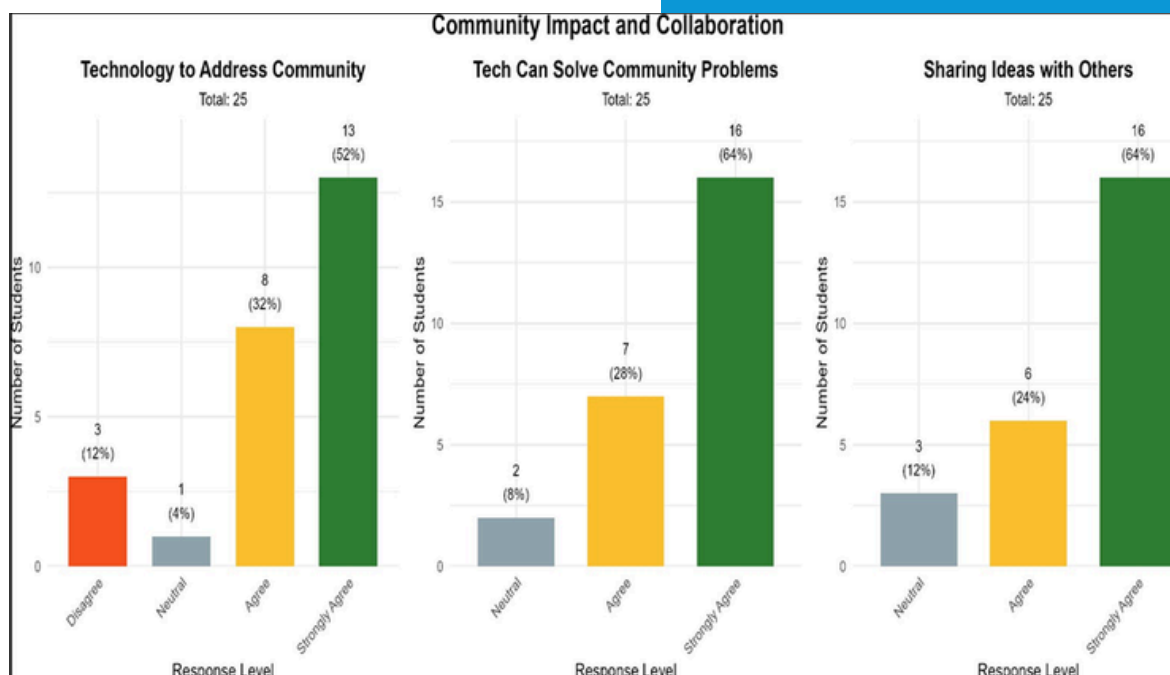


Fig 1: Some results from our onboarding survey that shows scholars' readiness and opportunities they anticipate

With 92% believing technology can solve community problems, the program is not just about digital literacy, it is about empowering youth to drive local innovation. Through targeted curriculum and inclusive delivery, ComTech Scholars transforms access into capability, and capability into local impact.



## Strategic representation and engagement

Dr. Elizabeth Makauki represented ComTech Alliance on a panel during the launch of the Renewed Women Voices Leadership (RWVL) Program by Msichana Initiative, held at Whitesands Hotel as part of International Women's Day 2026 celebrations.

As Partnerships & Resource Mobilization Manager, Dr. Elizabeth highlighted opportunities for collaboration to advance digital technology and skills for youth and girls from rural communities.

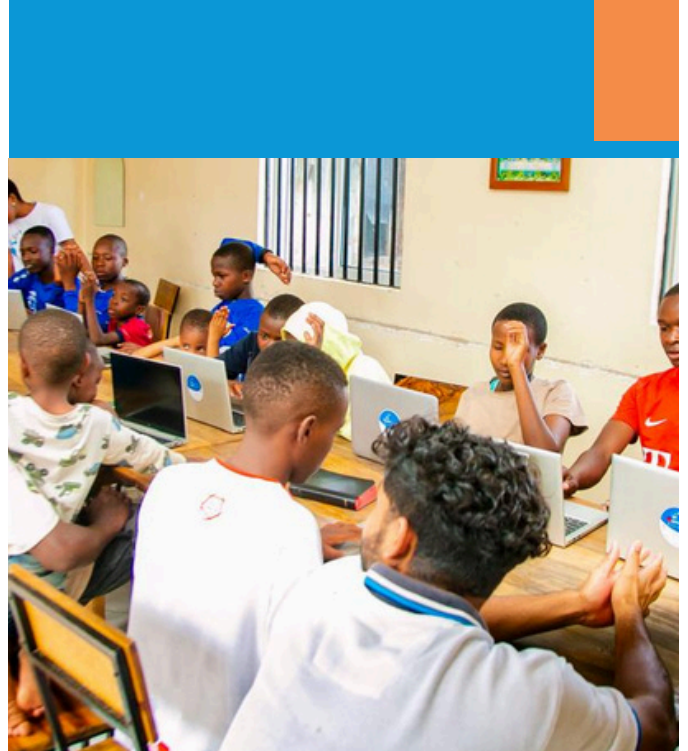
Together with partners including Cuso International and Women Fund Tanzania Trust, we continue opening doors for inclusive innovation and stronger feminist leadership across Tanzania.

## Training session at huruma orphanage

ComTech Alliance, in partnership with Saver Charitable Foundation, conducted a computer training session for children on March 28, 2026 at Huruma Orphanage, as part of a joint effort to promote digital literacy and empower young minds.

The session introduced children to basic computer skills, providing them with an opportunity to interact with technology in a practical and engaging way. The initiative aims at bridging the digital divide by ensuring that children from underserved communities gain access to essential digital knowledge.

Moving forward, the organizations plan to continue collaborating on similar initiatives aimed at equipping young people with relevant skills for the future.



## Capacity building program for young innovators

ComTech Alliance conducted a capacity building program, in a capacity-building program for young innovators held in Arusha, bringing together 162 youth from various regions across Tanzania, including Mwanza, Kigoma, Tabora, Singida, Turiani, Ngorongoro, and Arusha.

The training focused on entrepreneurship, life skills, and innovation, with ComTech contributing sessions on creativity, innovation, and prototyping. These sessions aimed to equip participants with practical skills to develop solutions addressing real-world community challenges.



The program was organized by Compassion International Tanzania as part of preparations for the Innovation and Practical Skills Festival, that took place at Corridor Springs Hotel Arusha Tanzania on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

During the event, participants developed and showcased innovative solutions such as assistive smart glasses for visually impaired individuals, rainfall prediction systems, safety alert systems, and automated water pumping technologies.

This initiative reflects ComTech Alliance's commitment to empowering youth with hands-on skills and fostering a culture of innovation and problem-solving.





## Advancing Flood Resilience through Community-Driven Innovation

The C-FLOW Project (Community-Driven Multi-Tier Flood Early Warning System) has officially moved into its implementation phase, marked by a series of high-level preparatory and community engagement milestones. Led by Dr. Lawrence Mdegela (Principal Investigator and Grant Recipient), the project team conducted intensive preparatory sessions to align on the project's core mission: integrating community knowledge with technical solutions to create a robust Early Warning System (EWS).

The project hosted a comprehensive Inception Meeting bringing together approximately 90 representatives from the Wards, Villages, and various community groups in the Kikuletwa sub-catchment. The events featured key contributions from several high-level stakeholders:

The Director of the Pangani Basin opened the meeting, emphasizing the need for a united objective regarding river floods and local preparedness.

A representative from the Pangani Basin highlighted how the C-FLOW project complements ongoing national efforts at the community level. Dr. Mdegela introduced the project's delivery timelines and expectations, while the ComTech Alliance detailed the "why" behind the project's community-centric approach.

A central highlight of the inception phase was the execution of nine Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), each consisting of eight participants to ensure deep and inclusive dialogue. These groups were composed of basin officials, local leaders, and community influencers.

The primary purpose of these discussions was to:

- Collect preliminary opinions for the co-creation of the EWS.
- Understand historical flood patterns and current community experiences.
- Identify indigenous knowledge and traditional signs used by the community to predict flooding.
- Determine preferred communication channels for receiving alerts, such as SMS, radio, or local leaders.

The community engagement concluded with the development of a participatory plan for upcoming household baseline surveys. These surveys, owned and guided by local leaders, will target households across six villages to gather further data on flood exposure, mobile phone access, and trust in early warning technologies. By involving the community from the outset, C-FLOW ensures that the resulting warning system is not just technologically sound, but locally trusted and maintained by the communities within the Kikuletwa sub-catchment.



## Our Impact:

- Communities 11
- Children at Orphanage Center 28
- Youth Reached 215
- Schools 03
- AI-Driven Community Solutions 03



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