

#GirlsInICTDay2025



Story of A Girl breaking social barriers through ICT

At **Rwanda Coding Academy (RCA)**,
through its partnership with **KOICA***,
Vanessa found her path in
programming and embedded systems,
with her sights set on a future in
automation engineering.

*RCA Capacity Development Project (2021-2025/\$7.1 Million)



UWASE Seminega Vanessa

RCA | Senior | Future Automation Engineer

D A T A L E A K



What activities have you participated in as part of KOICA projects?

I participated in **RCA's annual hackathon and KOICA-linked ideation & prototyping workshop**, which strengthened my technical and problem-solving skills through real-world, hands-on challenges.



How has it helped enhance your ICT skills or support other girls in tech?

The hackathons improved my technical skills and teamwork. I've mentored younger girls, guided group work, and helped students from other schools with embedded systems. Through Girls Who Code, I supported peers in web and mobile development while exploring machine learning.

A woman wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a black top, a white bucket hat, and a necklace is standing in a field of green plants. She is holding a small, round, silver camera in her right hand and a box of Imou Bullet 2 cameras in her left hand. The box is orange and white, with the Imou logo and 'Bullet 2' text. The background is a blurred field of green plants.

What's your biggest achievement since improving your ICT skills?

As an embedded systems engineer and mobile developer, I helped **build a solution to automate, monitor, and secure Rwandan farms.** I worked closely with farmers in my hometown to ensure real impact.

Though implementation had challenges, it was fulfilling. Recently, my team joined an Incubator, and our startup, Novars, secured an investment.

Seeing our solution move closer to helping those who truly need it has been my biggest milestone.

What does “inclusive digital transformation” mean to you?



Using technology to break down economic, social, and geographic barriers. **So everyone can benefit.**

At Novars, I learned that even great tech fails without **accessibility**—farmers liked our automation idea, but adoption was the real challenge. **Innovation must be usable by all.**



To support this, I focus on:

- Bridging the automation gap
- Empowering youth
- Driving sustainability by protecting the environment and including the underserved.



What are your goals, and how will you use ICT skills to achieve them?

I aim to make **tech accessible and practical for local communities** by developing affordable automation solutions tailored to Rwanda's small-scale manufacturing challenges.

Beyond building tech, I want to **empower people to use it confidently** by offering training and mentorship, helping the next generation become creators, not just users, of technology. Through this, **I hope to support a future where communities shape tech to meet their needs.**



*To the girl who is told, "This isn't for you,"
To the girl who sees no mentors in the room,
To the girl who questions if she belongs*

*The absence of a path
does not mean you cannot carve one.
The world may not yet be built for you,
But that is why you are here; to build it anew.
Your voice, your vision, your hands on the keys
are shaping a future history has yet to dream.*

*So keep coding. Keep learning. Keep rising.
Let doubt be your gasoline. Let failure be proof that you are
pushing beyond what they imagined.
You are the first, but never the last.*

*UWASE Seminega Vanessa,
Senior of Rwanda Coding Academy*



Inkuru ya KOICA ,

meaning 'Story of KOICA' in Kinyarwanda,
aims to showcase how KOICA together with partners
contribute to building a more sustainable world
by addressing the five interconnected global priorities;
People, Peace, Prosperity, Planet, and Partnership.

Stay tuned as we explore **KOICA's endeavours in 5Ps**
creating lasting impact worldwide.

Together, we are building a future that leaves no one behind.



Story of

KOICA

