

distribution chain.”
Mr Edward Baliddawa was recognised

awarded the Journalism
ment Award for his outstanding courage

Women and tech: Our next growth engine

Uganda stands at a pivotal moment in its economic journey. With one of the youngest populations in the world and a rapidly expanding digital ecosystem, the question is no longer whether technology will shape our future but who will shape that future through technology.

In the recent past, in the various financial literacy initiatives that we have had across various universities in Kampala, I have met many young Ugandan women entrepreneurs who are building digital platforms to connect their businesses directly to urban markets. What strikes me is not just the ingenuity of their ideas, but their ambition to scale beyond Uganda, into the region, and eventually across Africa.

For years, the conversation around women in the economy has centred on inclusion, getting more women into the workforce, improving access to finance, and supporting entrepreneurship. These remain critical however; inclusion alone is not enough.

Technology is fundamentally reshaping how value is created; from fintech and e-commerce to agri-tech and health innovation, the most scalable opportunities for growth are increasingly digital. If women are not actively participating in building and leading these solutions, we risk widening not closing the economic gap.

Programmes for women in tech should therefore be about more than skills development. They should be about positioning women at the centre of high-growth sectors, where they can create businesses that scale

When women thrive in technology, economies don't just grow, they transform.

Margaret Kigozi
Tech



beyond borders, attract investment and generate meaningful employment.

This is critical because when women succeed in technology, the impact extends far beyond individual achievement.

Women-led businesses tend to reinvest back in their families and communities. In a digital context, this creates a multiplier effect where one innovation can transform entire value chains, from smallholder farmers accessing markets to informal traders digitising their businesses.

In Uganda, where SMEs form the backbone of the economy, empowering women with digital tools and platforms significantly accelerates productivity and resilience. It is not just about building apps; it is about solving real problems improving financial inclusion, enhancing access to services, and unlocking new markets.

Despite the immense benefits however, the pathway is not without its challenges. Women in technology often face a combination of structural and social barriers that

range from limited access to funding, underrepresentation in STEM fields, as well as fewer opportunities to scale their ideas. There is also a less visible but equally important barrier: confidence.

Our commitment should therefore be anchored in a broader ambition to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity. Supporting women in tech is a natural extension of this purpose because diverse economies are more resilient, more innovative, and ultimately more successful.

Uganda's digital future is being built today. The question is whether it will be inclusive by design or unequal by default.

Empowering women to use technology as a pathway to economic growth is one of the most powerful choices we can make as a country. It requires bold action from corporates, governments, and development partners alike. We all need to join hands in creating safe spaces for innovation, embedding gender-intentional policies, and actively investing in women-led solutions are no longer optional, they are economic imperatives.

Real transformation will come when we collectively commit to ensuring that women are not just participants in the digital economy but leaders, innovators, and architects of it.

Because when women thrive in technology, economies don't just grow, they transform.

Ms Margaret Kigozi, Head Corporate Affairs,
Brand and Marketing Standard Chartered Bank.