We Robotics
THE POWER OF LOCAL

Annual Report
2024

Content

FOREWORD

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share the progress we've made in transforming bold ideas into meaningful action. This past year was marked by intentional growth, collective learning, and a deepened commitment to local leadership.

At the heart of our strategy lies the continued strengthening of the Flying Labs Network. In 2024, we took an important step forward in shared stewardship by co-creating the Flying Labs Network Council, enabling greater participation and influence from local leaders in shaping the future of the Network. We also deepened collaboration in two key directions: horizontally, across our five geographic regions, and vertically, through the launch of new Sector Expertise Hubs focused on disaster response, climate action, agriculture, and other critical areas.

Through our Turning Data Into Action program, we supported local innovation with new microgrants, placing a greater emphasis on climate-focused initiatives. In addition, we expanded access to our growing body of knowledge through a multilingual platform, with resources now increasingly available in English, French, and Spanish, ensuring more equitable access to insights and tools across the Network.

To better showcase the work and impact of the Network, we invested in our storytelling and communications, introducing monthly updates,

refining our impact strategy, and expanding our online presence, including the launch of new websites for both WeRobotics and Flying Labs.

Beyond the Network, we continued to support systems innovation, publishing new learning reports and collaborating with like-minded organizations to adopt and adapt our Inclusive Networks Model. These efforts extend our belief that local experts must be at the forefront of development and technology solutions.

None of this would be possible without the tireless commitment of our WeRobotics team, Flying Labs colleagues, partners, and funders. Your support fuels our work and amplifies the power of local expertise every step of the way. We are deeply grateful.

As we look ahead, we do so with strong momentum, a clear vision, and a firm belief in the strength of collaboration. This Annual Report tells the story of 2024—its challenges, its learnings, and its impact. If anything you read here sparks interest or inspiration, we warmly invite you to connect with us at humans@werobotics.org.

With gratitude and determination,
Co-Pilots and Board of Directors

MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE

WeRobotics' mission is to amplify local expertise in the aid and development sectors by localizing emerging technologies using drones, data, and AI. Our vision is to create sustainable and resilient communities where local experts collaborate with global actors, leveraging responsible technology solutions. We aim to achieve this by empowering local communities and documenting their experiences to create a replicable model.

By championing the equitable use of emerging technologies and investing in local expertise, we unlock new ways of thinking and working, approaches that have long been overlooked or constrained by traditional systems. This shift not only drives greater social impact but also generates inclusive economic opportunities rooted in local knowledge and leadership. It is our Theory of Change articulates the long-term impact we strive to achieve:

"More sustainable and resilient local communities that are supported by local experts and actively collaborate with local, national, and global actors."

This vision guides all of our work, ensuring that innovation is not only inclusive, but also transformative and community-driven.

We are pleased to share how our strategic and operational activities throughout 2024 advanced the achievement of the three long-term outcomes of our organization.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Outcome #1: A dynamic and sustainable network of diverse local experts are designing, implementing, and leading drones, data, and AI tech solutions

FLYING LABS NETWORK GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY	**21** Flying Labs regional calls and retreats						
ENHANCED COLLABORATION WITHIN THE FLYING LABS NETWORK	**42** Sector Expertise Hubs and working group meetings						
FLYING LABS NETWORK GROWTH	**1** New Flying Labs joined in 2024, Costa Rica		**38** Flying Labs numbers in 2024		**271** Flying Labs local leaders in 2024		
FLYING LABS NETWORK CAPACITY STRENGTHENING	**8** Exclusive resources and tools	**29** Use cases and storymaps	**11** WeSupport sessions and internal coffee chats	**9** Webinars			
PREPARING FUTURE LOCAL EXPERTS	**28** Youth/STEM programs implemented	**661** Youth trained					

Outcome #2: Local expertise and locally-led technology initiatives are recognized and respected among national and international decision-makers and actors

EXPERIENCE SHARING	**7** Learning reports and contribution to external publications	**16** Participation in external conferences and working groups	**121** Blog posts and videos	**9** Webinars		
PARTNERSHIP	**300** WeRobotics and Flying Labs partners					
LOCAL SOLUTIONS	**75** Projects initiated and completed in 2024	**29** Professional training organized				

Outcome #3: Local experts, together with national and global actors of different contexts and sectors, are conceiving and implementing more sustainable localization and #ShiftThePower approaches based on and inspired by our lessons learned and Glocalization Network Models

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GLOCALIZATION NETWORK MODELS ADOPTION	**3** Adoption of our Glocalization Network Model	**1** Adoption of our Inclusive Networks Model
TRANSFER OF OPPORTUNITIES TO FLYING LABS	**149** Project, training and other opportunities transferred to Flying Labs	
LOCAL ECOSYSTEM FACILITATION	**87** Events participated and organized	**7943** Stakeholders engaged

Strategic and Operational Activities

Outcome #1

A dynamic and sustainable network of diverse local experts are designing, implementing, and leading drones, data, and AI tech solutions.
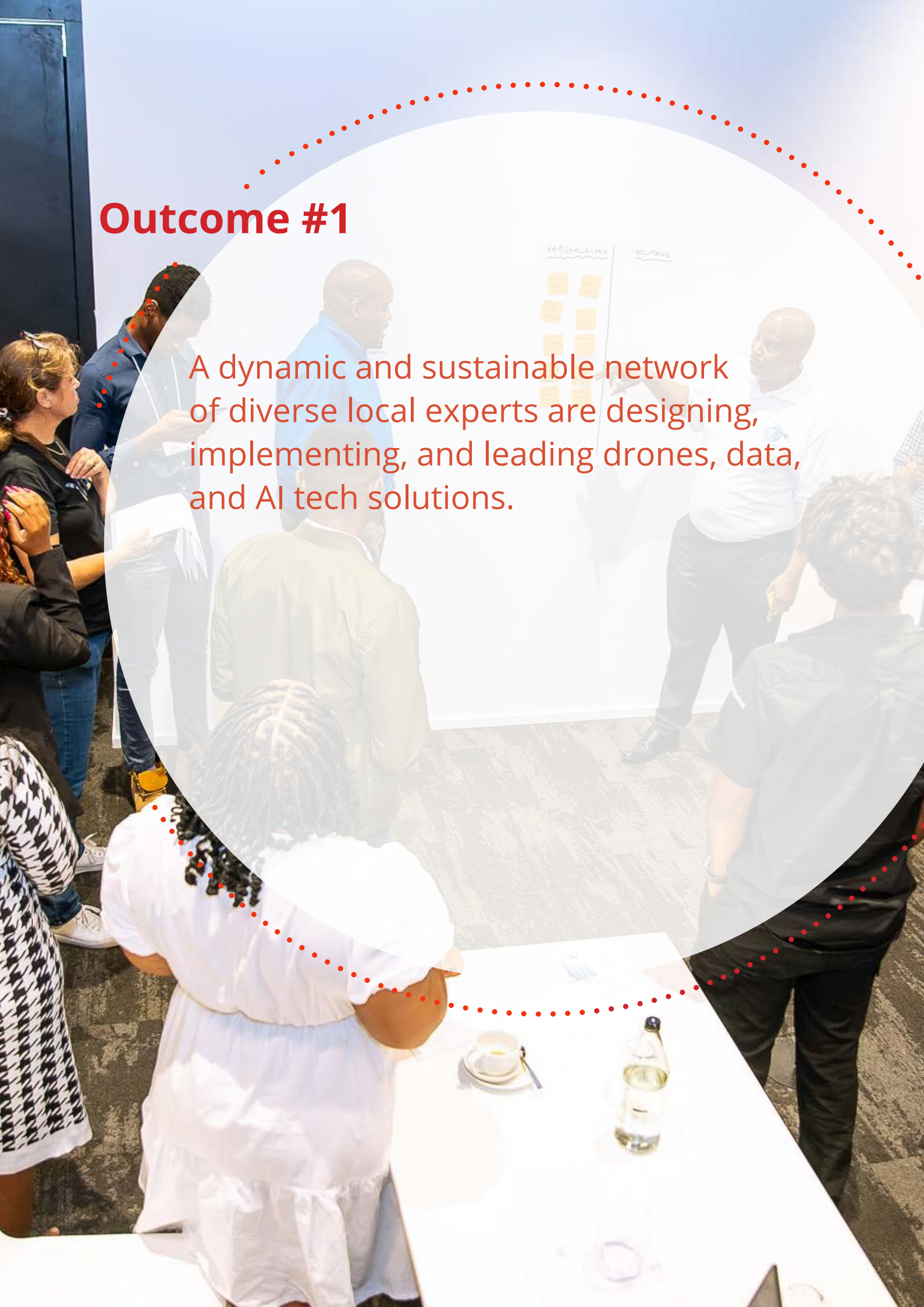
Our strategic activities and achievements contributing to outcome #1 in 2024

The following medium-term outcomes guide our daily work to contribute to this long-term outcome:

- A strong and sustainable network of local experts across the globe that lead applications of emerging technologies
- A larger and more diverse future local STEM workforce to lead emerging tech solutions

Flying Labs Network governance and sustainability: To guarantee the Network's long-term sustainability and continued growth, with a key focus on qualitative growth, we have put a strong focus throughout the year on the following activities.

Launch of Flying Labs Network Council: In early 2024, we convened two online co-creation sessions with over 20 Flying Labs colleagues to design the foundational elements of the Flying Labs Network Council. These inclusive workshops culminated in a community-driven process: an open call for regional representation, followed by internal elections across each region. This transparent and participatory approach led to the formation of a 9-member Council tasked with co-stewarding the Network's strategic direction. The Council's establishment marks a strategic shift toward shared leadership and deeper local influence. It empowers Flying Labs to play a more active and continuous role in decision-making, ensuring that their voices, perspectives, and evolving priorities are meaningfully represented at the core of the Network's strategy.

While Flying Labs have traditionally contributed to governance through regional and global retreats, the Council now serves as a permanent and structured channel for engagement between Flying Labs and the WeRobotics team. Council members are also playing a critical role in strengthening the connection between regional initiatives and global strategy.

Since its formation, the Council has convened twice in 2024. Although still in its early stages, it has already demonstrated its value by guiding key operational discussions, most notably, refining the annual license fee process and supporting the values-based offboarding of Flying Labs. These early contributions underscore the Council's potential to drive thoughtful, collaborative decision-making and sustain the Network's integrity as it continues to grow.

Evolution of the Flying Labs Global Model self-evaluation to better measure Flying Labs sustainability and growth: Launched in 2020 through two co-creation sessions with Flying Labs members, the Flying Labs Global Model serves as a foundational framework for reflective growth and continuous learning across the Network. At the core of the model is a self-evaluation process conducted during each Flying Lab's license renewal, enabling Labs to assess their strengths, identify areas for improvement, and align with the Network's evolving values and priorities.

As the Network continues to evolve, so too does the self-evaluation framework, ensuring it remains responsive to new insights, emerging needs, and local contexts. In 2024, we revised key evaluation criteria to better capture qualitative dimensions of growth, such as leadership development, ethical engagement, and community impact.

A total of 36 Flying Labs completed the updated self-evaluation in 2024. The resulting network-wide benchmarks revealed encouraging progress, with notable growth in areas such as Expertise, Impact, and Ethics, affirming the Flying Labs' commitment to sustained excellence and locally led innovation.

Flying Labs Network growth: In 2024, we prioritized qualitative over quantitative growth, focusing on deepening collaboration, knowledge exchange, and sustained engagement. Rather than expanding the number of labs, our efforts centered on strengthening the foundations of the Network by fostering peer learning, aligning values, and reinforcing shared commitments.

Since 2016, a total of 44 Flying Labs have joined the Network. As of 2024, 38 Flying Labs remain active, with 68% (26 Labs) sustaining their involvement for five years or more, a testament to the Network's long-term value and relevance. At the same time, six Flying Labs have exited over the past nine years, including three in 2024. These transitions reflect thoughtful stewardship, ensuring the Network remains aligned with its core values and responsive to evolving local and global contexts. Exits typically resulted from shifting local priorities, misalignment with the Network's values, or broader socio-economic challenges.

This focus on resilience, relevance, and depth of engagement continuously shaped our growth strategy, reinforcing the Flying Labs Network as a dynamic, value-driven community of local experts.

Sector-oriented collaboration: In response to the growing interest among Flying Labs for deeper, domain-specific collaboration, we launched Sector Expertise Hubs in 2024, focusing on Disaster and Climate Resilience, Agriculture, and Drone Policy. This strategic shift toward vertical engagement builds on years of peer-driven momentum, reflecting Flying Labs' consistent drive to exchange knowledge and co-create solutions beyond geographic boundaries.

These hubs serve as dedicated spaces for ongoing collaboration, co-learning, and influence, enabling Flying Labs to connect not only regionally but also through shared areas of expertise. The model leverages the Network's cross-regional strengths, positioning local experts as thought leaders within and beyond their national contexts.

Early milestones include joint learning resources, collaborative project proposals, and the co-hosting of international conferences. More than

an operational tool, the Sector Expertise Hubs represent a strategic evolution in our engagement model—amplifying sectoral leadership within the Network and reinforcing its role as a bridge between local knowledge and global systems.

Flying Labs Network capacity strengthening: The continuous strengthening of local capacity across the Flying Labs Network remains a key priority. In 2024, we significantly expanded WeShare, our internal knowledge platform, which now offers 150 curated resources, all of which are internally available to Flying Labs. We've curated an additional 290 resources for the public. These materials support peer learning, technical excellence, and local innovation. As part of our ongoing localization efforts, we also partnered with Beluga Linguistics on a pro bono basis to translate essential resources into other languages represented in the Network. Using the Crowdin translation tool, over 62 key documents were translated into French and Spanish, improving accessibility across the Network's geographic regions.

To foster more interactive knowledge exchange, we organized 20 sharing events in 2024, including technical sessions under the WeSupport banner, thematic webinars, and informal Coffee Chats designed to facilitate cross-regional learning and storytelling among Flying Labs colleagues. In addition, WeRobotics launched a new round of Turning Data into Action (TDIA) microgrants in 2024, with a targeted focus on climate-related challenges. Four Flying Labs implemented learning projects through this round, receiving not only financial support but also tailored coaching in data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring & evaluation (M&E).

These microgrants represent a strategic mechanism for pairing practical implementation with sustained capacity development. The ripple effects of these initiatives are documented in our evolving library of impact stories.

Furthermore, WeRobotics and two Flying Labs were selected to participate in TechToTheRescue's AI Changemakers Bootcamp, a global initiative exploring the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence for social good in 2024. This

opportunity allowed participating Flying Labs to build critical understanding of AI tools, design methodologies, and ethical considerations for AI deployment in development contexts. In addition to technical learning, the program fostered meaningful connections with nonprofit organizations around the world, enriching the experience and reinforcing the Network's commitment to innovation with integrity.

In collaboration with Kenya Flying Labs and with generous support from the Eurofins Foundation, we concluded the Tuhamasishe STEM Program in 2024 . This initiative is part of our broader Youth Robotics and STEM Sheroes efforts, which aim to cultivate a resilient and diverse pipeline of local talent. Led by Flying Labs instructors who serve as relatable role models, these programs deliver hands-on learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to children, youth, and young adults. Beyond technical skills, they also foster creativity, confidence, and the aspiration to lead in their own communities.

Outcome #2

Local expertise and locally-led technology initiatives are recognized and respected among national and international decision-makers and actors.

Our strategic activities and achievements contributing to outcome #2 in 2024

The following medium-term outcomes guide our daily work to contribute to this long-term outcome:

- Greater recognition of local experts on a local and global level and inclusion of their expertise and experiences through changing the narrative and the systems supporting them
- An increased number of locally-led, ethical, and sustainable applications of drone, data, AI technologies for climate, disaster, health, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and more

Featured in WIPO's 2024 Global Innovation Index: WeRobotics was honored to be featured in the 2024 Global Innovation Index report, led by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. The report, which highlights innovative approaches to systems change, profiled WeRobotics alongside 14 other leading social enterprises, with Senegal Flying Labs showcased as one of the 15 global use cases. This recognition reflects the growing international acknowledgment of the Flying Labs model as a catalyst for inclusive, locally led innovation. The report was officially launched in September 2024 during a high-level global convening hosted by WIPO in Geneva.

Launch of the New Flying Labs Website: On September 25, 2024, a silent launch of the redesigned Flying Labs (FL) website was held, granting early access to Flying Labs for feedback ahead of the public launch on October 28. The new site features an improved interface, better accessibility, and alignment with the Network's decentralized model. In collaboration with technical partners, content was migrated and refreshed, including blogs and multimedia. Each FL now has an enhanced profile page, and a new "Success Stories" section highlights locally led impact through storymaps, videos, and more— supporting the visibility and global recognition of local expertise.

Improving WeRobotics and Flying Labs M&E Framework: As part of our collective efforts to better capture and share WeRobotics and Flying Labs' activities, outcomes, and impact, we have implemented several changes to our M&E framework in 2024. These include:

Evolution of our data collection methodology from Flying Labs, complementing our quantitative approach with the "Most Significant Change" story-based evaluation technique to gain an in-depth understanding of our work impact. Discover a curated selection of our impact stories on our Impact page

Launch of "Impact Week" initiative to support Flying Labs in their M&E efforts as well as publication of internal impact newsletters "Impact Wire" to motivate Flying Labs to regularly share details about their activities and adapt more M&E culture in the long term.

M&E strategy support to TDIA micro-grantees to strengthen their M&E capacity and the development of various M&E resources and tools with Flying Labs on our internal knowledge sharing platform.

Increasing the visibility of the Flying Labs Network through external conferences and events: In 2024, WeRobotics and Flying Labs members continued their active participation in prominent international conferences and collaborative events, further highlighting the impactful work and sharing of best practices within the global Flying Labs Network.

Conferences contributed to and attended

2024 Disaster Management Conference: Together with South Africa Flying Labs in the lead and Esri and WeRobotics in a support role, we co-organized our first-ever regional Disaster Management Conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa. This flagship event brought together 100+ actors from 12 countries from Southern Africa and beyond, including national disaster response authorities, government agencies, local non-profit organizations and industry leaders. 8 Flying Labs, of the Southern African region and/or our DRM Sector Expertise Hub joined also.

Forbes 30 Over 50 Summit – Abu Dhabi, UAE: WeRobotics was invited to the 2024 summit following the selection of our co-founder to the Forbes 50 Over 50 list, celebrating leadership in innovation and social impact.

ICT4D Conference – Accra, Ghana: In partnership with Senegal and Burkina Faso Flying Labs, WeRobotics proposed a session on how to sustainably and responsibly localize technologies at this leading conference on digital development, sharing lessons from our work on community-centered technology applications.

Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Annual Convening - Oxford: WeRobotics shared insights on ecosystem building and systems orchestration, reinforcing our role in advancing locally driven, globally connected social innovation models.

United Nations MSME Day – Global Keynote: WeRobotics was invited to deliver a keynote address highlighting the critical role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in driving innovation and inclusive technology solutions.

Esri's GIS for Good Conference – Geneva, Switzerland: Our active participation in this event strengthened our strategic partnership with Esri, showcasing ongoing collaboration on GIS-based solutions to address humanitarian and development challenges.

Skoll World Forum – Oxford, United Kingdom: In addition to participating in the main Forum, WeRobotics co-hosted a side event with HOT (Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team) on inclusive technology and network-building strategies in the humanitarian space.

Catalysing Change Week – Catalyst 2030: WeRobotics led an interactive session sharing experiences from applying the Network Diagnostic Tool within the Flying Labs Network, contributing to the global conversation on network performance and localization.

Selection of projects and activities
led by Flying Labs in 2024:

Flying Labs initiated and completed 75 projects. For example, 24 projects focused on disaster and climate resilience, 20 on agriculture, and the remaining 31 on topics such as urban development, drone regulations, and health. Flying Labs organized 29 professional trainings, equipping over 235 local professionals with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to apply drones, data, and AI, and include them in workflows. Training focuses included drone piloting and certification, drone data acquisition, processing, and analyses (including using AI for data analysis) for various sector expertise. In addition, many Flying Labs dedicate their expertise towards inspiring and training the future workforce, often with a strong focus on gender balance. 661 youth were trained through 28 STEM/youth hands-on training programs.

Disaster & Climate Resilience

- Togo Flying Labs advocated for sustainable forest management practices through the use of drones and drone data - blog post
- Jamaica Flying Labs and Haiti Flying Labs co-organized a project on the use of drones in humanitarian operations in Haiti - blog post
- Costa Rica Flying Labs collaborated with the Forest Guardians Association and local organizations to bring a geospatial data-driven approach to their monitoring activities of rivers and mangroves, which are essential for the region's biodiversity and environmental balance - Storymap
- Namibia Flying Labs leveraged drone and data technology to assess land degradation in the Zambezi region, thus guiding environmental restoration efforts - blog post

Agriculture

- Colombia Flying Labs explored sustainable innovations for healthier harvest - blog post
- Ghana Flying Labs showed how drones and data can support high-standard, sustainable agricultural practices - blog post

Health

- Nepal Flying Labs developed a GIS-based decision support tool to assist in the design of medical cargo drone intervention programs - blog post
- Philippines Flying Labs embarked on a project to test the delivery of vital supplies using a cargo drone from Linking Drones - use case

Development

- Senegal Flying Labs leveraged drone technology to estimate mining waste reserves and explore its potential uses, thus reducing its accumulation - blog post
- Nigeria Flying Labs supported safety training services with aerial mapping solutions - blog post

STEM/Youth

- Through Zimbabwe Flying Labs' Drone Club, students from local schools are built confidence, creativity, and a sense of possibility for the future - blog post
- Kenya Flying Labs sparked an enduring interest in STEM careers among young learners through their Tuhamasishe STEM program - blog post

Outcome #3

Local experts, together with national and global actors of different contexts and sectors, are conceiving and implementing more sustainable localization and #ShiftThePower approaches based on and inspired by our lessons learned and Glocalization Networks model.

Our strategic activities and achievements contributing to outcome #3 in 2024

The following medium-term outcomes guide our ongoing efforts toward achieving this long-term impact:

- Increased awareness and adoption of our bottom-up localization model by local, national, and global actors, contributing to broader systems change through locally led approaches.

- Stronger cross-sector collaboration and connectivity among local, national, and global stakeholders to implement drone, data, and AI solutions, and to co-create inclusive, context-driven policies and regulatory frameworks.
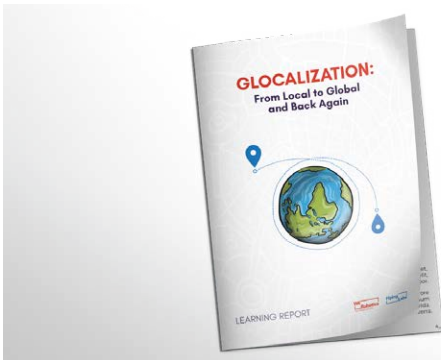
Glocalization public learning report: Deeply committed to learning and knowledge exchange, we started out the year with the publication of the 2nd learning report of our model. The report shares our first-hand learnings on why adopting the local-global-local directionality for localization is not only effective but necessary. In the report, we demonstrate our full-circle approach, beginning at the local level with local experts driving the agenda, globalizing local knowledge through the Inclusive Networks model, and then channeling it back to the local level in the form of replicable use cases, webinars, learning sessions, and south-to-south collaborations. We invite you to [download and explore the full report](#) and join us in our ongoing efforts to expand the impact of glocalization.

Adoption of our Glocalization Networks Model by other organizations: As part of our ongoing commitment to advancing localization, WeRobotics facilitated strategic 3-day workshops for 2 organizations. The first workshop in April 2024 with Ciber Voluntarios, a highly successful and well-established Spanish non-profit organization, to adopt our Glocalization model to guide their expansion into Latin America. The second workshop in September 2024 with Urban

Better, a new social impact organization with plans to scale their city-based hubs globally. These collaborations mark the second and third adoptions of our model, providing valuable insights into how it can be tailored and implemented across diverse organizational contexts. First strides have been made in 2024, also with Aiducation, a Swiss non-profit organization, to prepare for their model adoption in 2025.

CAA Framework: In 2024, we continued to deepen our commitment to locally-led and inclusive drone regulation through strategic collaborations with Flying Labs and national Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs). In partnership with Kenya Flying Labs and the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), we replicated the framework created in 2023 with Deloitte D2i and Namibia Flying Labs in the format of a learning project. The goal of the project focused on informing the improvement of drone regulations with locally-relevant data, co-created with the actors of the Kenyan drone ecosystem. We facilitated a series of co-creation workshops that brought together a wide diversity of Kenyan drone operators and other actors of the ecosystem. Data on current

and future drone use as well as challenges was collected, and ideal future states and solutions were co-created and then summarized in an extensive report for KCAA. A landscape analysis and a contextual analysis added additional value to the report that was then shared with KCAA. In addition to the data and insights shared, the co-creation approach enabled open dialogue between regulators, drone professionals, and community organizations, offering a practical and participatory approach to regulatory review. Read more about our reflections from the Kenya workshops here.

Building on this successful approach, we concluded 2024 by signing a formal agreement with the Togolese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC-Togo) to launch a similar co-creation process in Togo in early 2025, in close collaboration with Togo Flying Labs. This marks a significant step toward expanding our model for regulation co-creation in West Africa. The Togo project will serve as a key priority for early 2025, aiming to adapt and localize drone regulations that enable safe, inclusive, and responsible drone operations. More on the Togo engagement can be found here.

To publicly share our approach, we published a White Paper together with Namibia Flying Labs and Deloitte D2i in spring 2024. Read the White Paper.

Partnerships (WeRobotics and Flying Labs): Flying Labs receive the support of both organizational and technology partners, which has continuously strengthened our ecosystem. In 2024, we continued to seek new partnerships and nurture existing ones through extensive collaboration with organizations, technology companies, and international organizations.

For instance, we secured new partnerships with Beluga Linguistics, Crowdin and ProZ Pro Bono to advance our Spanish and French translation efforts to increase access to resources for the Flying Labs. We engaged several potential organizational partnerships in conversations and invited potential technology partnerships through webinars to the Flying Labs.

Collaboration with local, national, and global actors: In 2024, Flying Labs experienced a continued rise in collaboration requests from both national and international partners. A total of 149 opportunities were directly shared with Flying Labs in their respective countries, underscoring growing recognition of their trusted local expertise and capacity to lead impactful, technology-driven initiatives. This momentum reflects not only the credibility Flying Labs have built over the years but also the increasing global shift toward more inclusive and locally led partnerships. Flying Labs also took part in over 87 events, including conferences, innovation challenges, policy roundtables, and community knowledge exchanges, reaching close to 8,000 external stakeholders across sectors.

Below is a selection of collaborations between Flying Labs and national and international partners:

Brazil Flying Labs collaborated with the Forest Foundation to map the Atlantic Forest, raising awareness among community members about forest preservation and showcasing the role of drone technology in conservation efforts. Storymap and use case.

Namibia Flying Labs, in partnership with GIZ, mapped the Brendan Simbwaye A Informal Settlement as part of the Inclusive Sustainable Urban Development II project. Blog post

Ghana Flying Labs conducted topographical surveys in Sawla and Lawra to support Ghana's National Water Policy. These efforts helped assess infrastructure investments needed to enhance water access in underserved small towns. Blog post

Kenya Flying Labs partnered with World Vision Kenya on an integrated climate resilience initiative, combining mitigation, adaptation, and response strategies across Narok and Kajiado counties. Use case.

Dominican Republic Flying Labs, in collaboration with the Drone Innovation Center, Las Americas Institute of Technology, and Santo Domingo Cyber Park, delivered an Advanced Drone Pilot Course to equip students with professional-level skills aligned with global industry standards. Blog post

Zimbabwe Flying Labs teamed up with Petra College to lead engaging drone and aviation sessions for Grade 5–7 students from four schools in Bulawayo, supporting their goal to inspire 10,000 young learners by 2026. Discover more.

Philippines Flying Labs collaborated with Linking Drones to test the delivery of essential supplies using cargo drones across remote oceanic and mountainous areas, demonstrating the potential for drone logistics in challenging terrains. Explore the project.

Costa Rica Flying Labs worked with Asociación Guardianes del Bosque to use drone technology for environmental monitoring, empowering local communities to protect and manage fragile ecosystems. Read the story.

Organizational Achievements
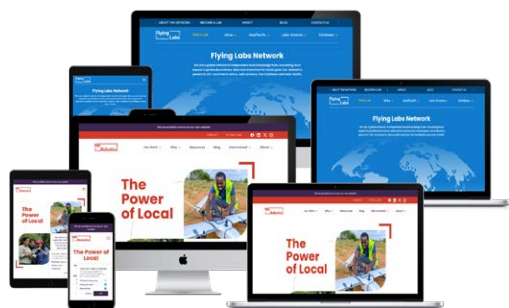
In addition to our strategic and operational achievements, we implemented a number of underlying organizational improvements in 2024.

We launched new websites for WeRobotics and the Flying Labs Network, respectively. These platforms have enhanced modern designs, intuitive navigation, enhanced performance, and improved accessibility, with a strong focus on better accessibility for low-bandwidth environments.

We worked with Pro Bono partners to finalize documentation and information necessary for completing the Flying Lab and WeRobotics trademark renewal application, including proof of current use and evidence of continued ownership.

Sonja Betschart
53 | Cofounder-Co-Head, WeRobotics | Switzerland
LISTS
Photo: WeRobotics
Forbes

Our co-founder, Sonja Betschart, received two prestigious accolades in 2024: she was named to the Forbes 50 Over 50 List in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and was honored with the Global Leadership Award by Women in Tech® Europe. Sonja attributed these awards to the collective efforts of her colleagues at WeRobotics and Flying Labs.

From September 9-13, our team, made up of 12 people from 6 continents, gathered in Switzerland for an in-person team retreat. As a fully remote team working across time zones, this was an incredible opportunity to finally come together face-to-face.

Jonathan Makuwira   Adriana Espinel   Lorenzo Martelletti

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We welcomed three exceptional individuals, Adriana Espinel Sánchez, Prof. Jonathan Makuwira, and Lorenzo Martelletti to our Board of Directors, implementing a newly developed onboarding process. They bring a wealth of experience, a diversity of skills, and a shared commitment to our mission of amplifying the Power of Local.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As we enter 2025, we do so with renewed ambition and a clear, actionable strategy, grounded in nine years of agile growth, collaborative learning, and bold experimentation. This momentum has been made possible by the unwavering dedication of our colleagues across the WeRobotics team and the Flying Labs Network throughout 2023 and 2024.

The year ahead will be shaped by bold ideas and strategic goals that reflect our continued commitment to advancing inclusive innovation, collaborative leadership, and sustainable impact across the Global South.

While we remain intentional in our priorities, we are equally committed to remaining agile, ready to embrace new, mission-aligned opportunities that further amplify the Power of Local. Our key focus areas for 2025 include:

Flying Labs Network: Stewardship of the Flying Labs Network remains our highest priority. In 2025, we will further deepen regional collaboration, strengthen governance through the Flying Labs Network Council, and enhance overall operational efficiency. New initiatives will include the launch of a sustainability support program, the development of localized resources, the rollout of a refreshed communications strategy, and the coordination of a global retreat to reconnect and realign our global community.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Solutions Platform: Following a successful pilot in 2024, our open-source DRM Solutions Platform will be officially launched in 2025, supported by secured funding. We will also co-host two regional DRM conferences and expand our Turning Data Into Action (TDIA) microgrants to strengthen local resilience to climate and disaster risks across the Global South.

CAA Framework – Drone and AI Governance: Building on successful co-creation processes in Kenya and the upcoming launch in Togo, our Drone Regulations Engagement Framework will be scaled to new contexts in 2025. We will also begin exploring how the framework can be adapted to support ethical and inclusive AI governance, contributing to regulatory approaches that center local expertise and context.

Scaling the Glocalization Model: We will continue to scale and refine our glocalization model in collaboration with new organizational partners. By supporting the adaptation and replication of this model, we aim to accelerate community-led, systems-level change in sectors beyond drones and data.

Disaster Management Convenings – Africa & Caribbean: We are proud to host two major convenings in Africa and the Caribbean, designed to spotlight local leadership in disaster management and catalyze innovative, context-driven resilience strategies.

Throughout 2025, we will remain committed to open learning and transparent engagement. We invite you to follow our journey through our blog and impact stories, where we will regularly share milestones, reflections, and learnings. We will publish a series of learning reports, white papers, and case studies, and continue sharing our work through conferences, blog posts, webinars, videos, and collaborative events.

With gratitude, determination, and shared purpose, we look forward to what lies ahead— and to continuing this journey with you.

www.werobotics.org   www.flyinglabs.org