Convergence

Q2 AI IN AFRICA 2025
SUMMARY REPORT

JULY 2025

ABOUT US

At ConvergenceAI, we are dedicated to fostering the adoption of AI in Africa, mainly for economic growth and transformation through innovation, research and development, advising policies, and collaboration with key stakeholders. We aim to utilize AI as a catalyst for holistic growth and economic transformation on the continent.

This report was gathered through desk research of various African initiatives from April to June 2025, the year's second quarter (Q2).

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List of Abbreviations

AI – Artificial Intelligence

AU - African Union

DPI - Digital Public Infrastructure

G20 - Group of 20

HCOWA - Health Community of West Africa Association

ICT - Information Communication and Technology

IDF - International Diabetes Federation

KRA -Kenya Revenue Authority

LLM - Large Language Modes

MENA - Middle East and North Africa

NBC- National Broadcasting Comission

NGOs - Non Governmental Organizations

NLP - Natural Language Processing

SADC - Southern African Development Community

T2D - Type 2 Diabetes

TET - Tertiary Education Trust Fund

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

WHO - World Health Organization

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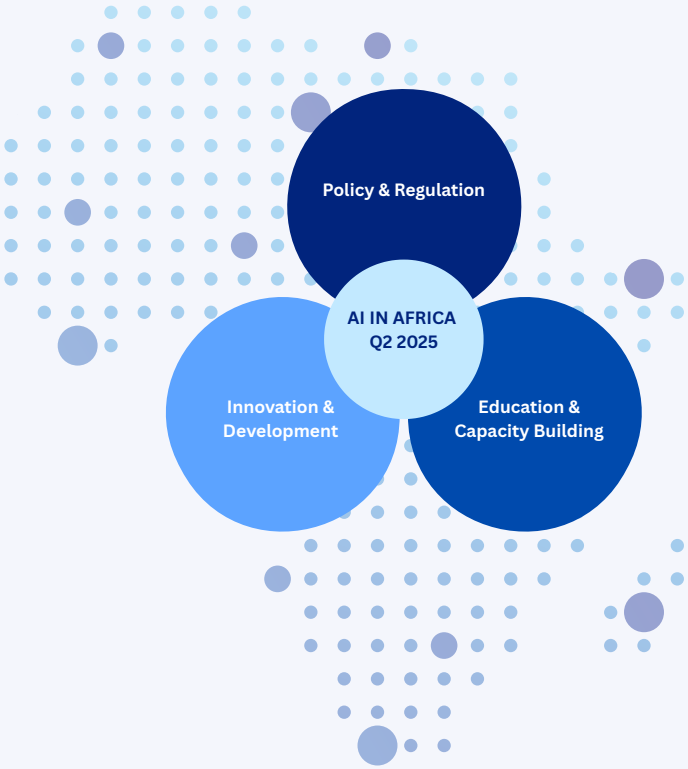
Executive Summary

Since the start of 2025, Africa has seen a significant increase in the development and use of Artificial Intelligence. In the first quarter, countries such as Kenya, Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, and Egypt made significant progress by launching their National AI Strategies. This momentum continued into the second quarter, with Kenya officially launching its National AI strategy and Lesotho introducing its AI policy. Meanwhile, Tanzania and Uganda shared plans to create their frameworks.



Regional and continental coordination has also strengthened. The African Union designated AI as a strategic priority during a high-level discussion in Addis Ababa, which brought together over 40 African countries to agree on the development of ethical, inclusive, and sovereign AI. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) expressed plans to incorporate AI-driven approaches into its governance systems. Across the continent, countries concentrated on developing sector-specific strategies, creating policies that address AI in ICT, linguistic equity in AI, AI in higher education, and AI in media and digital communications. These trends indicate that AI governance is expanding beyond national digital strategies to encompass various sectors and address unique local needs.

In addition to AI governance, the continent has also seen steady growth in AI innovation and application. Public and private organisations have explored the use of AI in critical areas, such as healthcare, public services, and education. For example, the World Health Organisation has increased its use of AI to forecast disease outbreaks and assist emergency response systems in countries such as Egypt and Senegal. Meanwhile, governments in Kenya, Rwanda, and Morocco started integrating AI into customs systems, legal research, and judicial case processing.

Africa's AI ecosystem has gained momentum from collaborations across sectors and increased investments in infrastructure. AI hubs and innovation centres were established in several countries, including Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, and Nigeria, in partnership with international organisations like Nvidia, the Gates Foundation, and UNDP. A noticeable growth in AI education and training supported these changes. Training programs sponsored by governments in Kenya and Nigeria, along with university-led AI coursework in Zambia, Ethiopia, and South Africa, are quickly becoming key elements of AI development in Africa.

Overall, the second quarter of 2025 demonstrates Africa's increasing involvement with AI, not just through strategic planning but also through implementation, infrastructure development, and institutional alignment. As more countries shift from planning to action, the emphasis will increasingly focus on implementing strategies, building talent pipelines, and ensuring that AI governance evolves in tandem with innovation.

The ConvergenceAI Corner

Revolutionizing Dietary Guidance: AI-Powered Dietary Recommendation Tool for Type 2 Diabetes(T2D) Management.

In Q2 2025, ConvergenceAI launched a focused research initiative to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be applied to address the growing challenge of dietary management for individuals living with Type 2 Diabetes (T2D).

The Challenge

Effective diabetes management relies heavily on diet, yet many people struggle to translate their blood sugar readings into clear, actionable food choices. While Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) and Random Blood Sugar (RBS) tests are commonly used to monitor glucose levels, these numbers often come without immediate or practical guidance, leaving patients uncertain about what meals support better control.

According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), over 537 million people worldwide were living with diabetes as of 2021. Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) accounts for 90–95% of all cases globally, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO). The burden is especially rising in low- and middle-income regions, Africa alone had an estimated 24 million cases in 2021, a number which is projected to rise by 129% to 55 million by 2045.

Despite these numbers, most dietary advice remains generic, often limited to "eat healthy" or "avoid sugar", with little consideration for current blood sugar levels. This gap between blood sugar monitoring and nutritional decision-making creates a major obstacle for self-managing Type 2 Diabetes effectively.

Bridging The Gap with AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a promising way to bridge the gap between blood sugar monitoring and informed dietary choices. While patients regularly receive Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) and Random Blood Sugar (RBS) readings, these numbers often come without guidance on what to eat next. AI can change that by analyzing these indicators in real time and translating them into personalized, data-driven food recommendations. By using machine learning techniques to map blood sugar levels to specific nutritional needs, AI empowers individuals to make smarter dietary decisions aligned with their glucose status. Instead of relying on generic advice, users can receive targeted, practical meal suggestions that support improved Type 2 Diabetes management.

Our Development Methodology

- Data Acquisition - Our dataset offers detailed nutritional profiles for an array of foods consumed, including nutrition content, macronutrients, and micronutrients. This ensures that our recommendations are both context-specific and nutritionally reliable.
- Data Preprocessing & Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) - We implement robust techniques to load and structure the dataset correctly. Through EDA, we assess distributions, identify missing values and outliers, and investigate the relationships between nutrients. This step is very crucial for validating data quality and shaping our understanding of the patterns that influence dietary planning. The cleaned data is then transformed to standardize units and handle any inconsistencies, preparing it for modeling and tailored analysis for diabetic nutrition.
- Logic Based Recommendation System - Our System interprets user-submitted blood glucose values, specifically Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) and Random Blood Sugar (RBS), and classifies them into categories such as low, normal, or high. Based on these categories, it suggests appropriate balanced food options that can help stabilize blood sugar.

User Feedback

To ensure continuous improvement and relevance, we have integrated a feedback loop into the live system. Users accessing the hosted platform will be able to test the tool and share their feedback directly, helping us refine the user experience, enhance recommendation accuracy, and guide our next phase of development. This direct engagement also supports transparency and inclusivity in tool design, ensuring we build a product that truly meets users' needs.

Click the button below to learn more.

Learn More

AI AROUND AFRICA

AI POLICY & REGULATION

Africa's approach to AI governance has been changing rapidly. It has shifted from scattered pilot frameworks to a more organised system of formal AI policies, strategies, and draft regulations. By the start of 2025, at least eight African countries had adopted national AI strategies. Rwanda and Ethiopia already had operational AI policies in place. In 2024, South Africa unveiled a draft AI policy, which is still under review by stakeholders before official adoption.

A greater focus on global best practices for responsible and ethical AI development has characterised this shift. Organisations like the Global Centre on AI Governance and CAIDP have observed Africa engaging more with AI risk frameworks, data protection standards, and inclusive policy design. The African Union and UNDP have also played significant roles in supporting policy development across the continent. They help guide governments with technical consultations and capacity-building initiatives. Countries are no longer just exploring AI through pilot projects; they are establishing governance through legislation, strategies, and dedicated AI offices.

Regional AI Governance Developments in Q2

As African countries continue to craft their national AI strategies, regional institutions are stepping in to provide cohesion, direction, and shared standards. The second quarter of 2025 marked essential milestones in regional AI governance. This reflects a growing recognition that cross-border collaboration is crucial for ensuring the ethical, secure, and inclusive deployment of AI across the continent.

1. Africa Declaration on AI

In early Q2 2025, the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence was officially adopted during the Africa AI Summit in Kigali, Rwanda. This landmark declaration brought together representatives from African governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and academia to create a unified vision for the ethical and inclusive development of AI in Africa. Endorsed by over a dozen countries, the declaration is one of the most thorough continental efforts to define what responsible AI should look like in the African context. It outlines a shared commitment to making sure that AI systems benefit the public, respect human rights, and reflect Africa's unique cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs.

A key part of the declaration is the demand for language and cultural inclusivity in AI tools and systems. It urges developers, companies, and governments to ensure that African languages and dialects are represented in large language models, speech recognition technologies, and generative AI platforms. The declaration also emphasises the need to bridge digital divides, advocating for investments in equitable infrastructure, data access, and AI education for historically underserved groups, including rural communities, women, and young people. From this perspective, AI is viewed not only as a technological innovation but also as a means for socio-economic uplift and cultural preservation.

Beyond its ethical perspective, the declaration also suggests clear priorities for implementation and governance. These priorities include protecting indigenous data, ensuring local ownership of AI infrastructure, and developing African-led standards for transparency, safety, and accountability in AI systems. It encourages states to work together on policymaking, invest in research and innovation ecosystems, and negotiate international partnerships from a position of fairness and digital sovereignty.

2. AI as a Strategic Priority for Africa - African Union

During a High-Level Dialogue in Addis Ababa in May 2025, the African Union (AU) officially declared AI a strategic priority for the continent. This marked a significant shift in how AI is perceived in Africa's policy landscape. AI is now seen as a foundational element of the AU's long-term digital transformation strategy, rather than a niche issue. The declaration was based on a vision for inclusive growth, ethical technological progress, and the goal of African-led innovation. It confirmed the AU's plan to build institutional capacity and enhance coordination among member states so that AI policies align with the continent's socio-economic development goals.

Central to the declaration are commitments to ethical AI development, data sovereignty, and investment in digital infrastructure, especially in computing power, localised data systems, and interoperable platforms. The AU also called for uniform governance approaches, indicating its readiness to lead the development of Africa-wide benchmarks and guidelines for the responsible use of AI.

3. SADC Model AI Policy and Regulatory Framework

At the sub-regional level, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) began developing a Model AI Policy and Regulatory Framework to guide its 16 member states. This framework aims to support countries, particularly those without existing AI policies, in building national governance systems that are ethical, inclusive, and legally sound. It outlines foundational elements for rights-based AI legislation, institutional oversight, and protections against algorithmic bias, discrimination, and misuse. By providing this regional framework, SADC helps member states prevent policy fragmentation and accelerate the development of coherent AI strategies.

In addition to offering legislative guidance, the framework also promotes regulatory consistency across borders. This is crucial for facilitating cross-border data flows, fostering collaborative innovation, and enabling unified responses to AI risks. It also encourages capacity building through shared technical resources, regional policy labs, and knowledge exchanges among legal and academic institutions. As more member states formalise their AI governance structures, the SADC Model Framework is expected to serve as both a catalyst and a benchmark, ensuring that AI adoption in the region reflects shared African values while being flexible enough to meet national development goals.

National AI Governance Initiatives

Africa started 2025 with a strong momentum in national AI governance. In the first quarter of 2025, several countries launched or updated their AI strategies. Egypt introduced its second edition of the National AI Strategy 2025-2030 in January. Namibia released its national AI strategy in the first quarter, focusing on the ethical use of AI and legislative readiness. Côte d'Ivoire completed its National AI Roadmap during the same quarter. Kenya, which published a draft strategy in Q1, was set for a formal launch in Q2.

The pace of new strategy launches slowed in Q2, but significant progress continued. Kenya officially launched its National AI Strategy. Meanwhile, Lesotho validated and adopted its first National AI Policy between May and June 2025 through extensive workshops with ministers and stakeholders.

Lesotho National AI Policy

Lesotho took a significant step in Q2 2025 by finalising its first-ever National AI Policy. This marks a substantial step toward the structured integration of AI in governance and society. Led by the Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MICSTI), the policy was shaped through workshops in January and officially validated during ministerial roundtables in May and June.

The policy is aligned with continental AI goals and aims to use AI as a tool for socio-economic development. It focuses on three main areas: expanding broadband and shared infrastructure, establishing robust data management and governance, and promoting the ethical use of AI across sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and manufacturing. It commits to protecting privacy, preventing bias, and ensuring that algorithms are transparent and explainable. The policy also encourages partnerships among government, academia, industry, and civil society to create an inclusive ecosystem that maximises AI's benefits for all Basotho.

Sector-Specific AI Regulation Initiatives

As AI adoption grows across Africa, countries are shifting beyond broad national strategies to implement regulations tailored to specific sectors. These initiatives reflect a more profound understanding that AI needs to be governed in ways that suit the unique challenges and opportunities in each area, including healthcare, education, media, and information and communication technology (ICT).

Healthcare

Senegal

Senegal is one of the African countries that incorporates AI into its healthcare policy at a structural level. In Q2 2025, the country updated its Digital Health Strategy to officially incorporate AI into public health infrastructure. It focuses on diagnostics, predictive analytics, and patient data management. The revised policy sets clear ethical standards for AI-powered systems used in disease surveillance, remote diagnostics, and clinical support tools. Notably, the strategy requires human oversight in all critical medical decisions and mandates informed consent from patients when AI tools are involved. It also emphasises data protection, urging compliance with both national privacy laws and international best practices. Senegal's updated strategy aligns with the World Health Organisation's guidance on AI in healthcare. It positions the country to scale innovations while maintaining public trust and ethical boundaries.

Education

Mauritius

Mauritius, in partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning, the Higher Education Commission, launched a comprehensive set of AI governance guidelines for universities and technical institutions in May 2025. The policy provides a framework for integrating AI into teaching, learning, and administration. It emphasises safeguarding academic integrity and student data. The guidelines cover the responsible use of generative AI in assignments, automation of student assessments, and ethical use of AI for institutional analytics. The policy also promotes transparency and accountability by requiring institutions to set up oversight mechanisms. Beyond compliance, Mauritius invests in building capacity by reviewing over 80 blended learning programs to incorporate AI-related content, and trains both students and faculty on using AI in academic settings.

Zambia

Zambia's Higher Education Authority launched a comprehensive policy framework aimed at integrating generative AI into the country's higher education system. This framework targets three pilot universities and outlines national guidelines for building institutional capacity, ensuring the ethical deployment of AI, and leveraging AI to enhance academic productivity. It requires structured training for faculty on prompt engineering, critical evaluation of AI-generated content, and best practices for preventing misuse.

The policy also supports the creation of localised generative AI tools intended to assist with academic tasks, such as research, curriculum development, and student learning. These tools are being developed in partnership with private sector stakeholders and local tech hubs. The initiative strikes a balance between innovation and regulation, promoting responsible AI use while safeguarding academic integrity and data privacy. Early feedback from pilot institutions indicates a notable increase in research engagement and a stronger readiness to scale AI solutions across the sector.

Media and Communications

Nigeria

In Q2, Nigeria started laying the groundwork for regulating AI in the media and communications sector. This acknowledges the growing influence of generative AI tools in content creation, broadcasting, and public information. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) began drafting new regulatory guidelines in the second quarter of 2025, with a specific focus on AI-generated media. These guidelines aim to reduce misinformation, address the threat of deepfakes, and ensure AI-generated content meets national broadcasting standards. The policy is expected to require disclosure of AI-generated audio and video and impose penalties for misleading use of synthetic media. Additionally, Nigeria is revising its Communications Law to reflect the broader impact of AI on telecommunications, digital journalism, and governance of digital infrastructure. These reforms come as Nigeria seeks to strike a balance between the promise of innovation and the need to maintain public trust, uphold the truth in journalism, and ensure national information security.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Rwanda

Rwanda has integrated AI into its ICT policy as a key part of its digital transformation efforts. Under its Digital Acceleration Strategy, the Ministry of ICT and Innovation positions AI as an essential driver of smart public services, e-governance, and tech-enabled entrepreneurship. The policy prioritises creating AI infrastructure, including cloud services and open data platforms. It also encourages public-private partnerships to support AI research and development. Rwanda's ICT roadmap outlines plans to integrate AI into government service delivery, including document processing, tax administration, and digital ID systems. It promotes support for startups and researchers to develop local AI solutions. Ethical AI development is a central theme, with commitments to transparency, open innovation, and equal digital access.

Linguistic & Cultural Inclusion

South Africa

South Africa is taking a crucial leadership role by prioritising linguistic equity in its national AI governance approach. As chair of the G20 in 2025, the country is using its global platform to address the exclusion of African languages from mainstream AI models, especially in voice assistants, translation tools, and large language models. In response, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies has issued a policy directive encouraging the inclusion of Indigenous languages in AI development. The aim is to ensure that AI systems reflect South Africa's linguistic diversity and are accessible to all citizens, not just those who speak dominant global languages. The draft guidelines call for government support for datasets in local languages, incentives for AI developers to create inclusive tools, and measures to prevent cultural erasure through the mitigation of algorithmic bias.

Other AI Governance Initiatives that took place in Q2

Beyond formal national strategies and sector-specific regulations, several African countries also introduced innovative governance methods to guide AI adoption at different government levels. These actions show a growing commitment to incorporating AI oversight into legal and regulatory frameworks.

In Q2 2025, Rwanda issued a formal call for collaborative AI governance. It urged regional institutions, private sector actors, civil society organisations, and research institutions to work together in creating responsible AI ecosystems. The Ministry of ICT and Innovation stressed that no single stakeholder can govern AI effectively on its own. As part of this effort, Rwanda proposed creating a multi-stakeholder AI advisory forum. This forum would provide ongoing guidance on emerging ethical, technical, and societal challenges related to the deployment of AI.

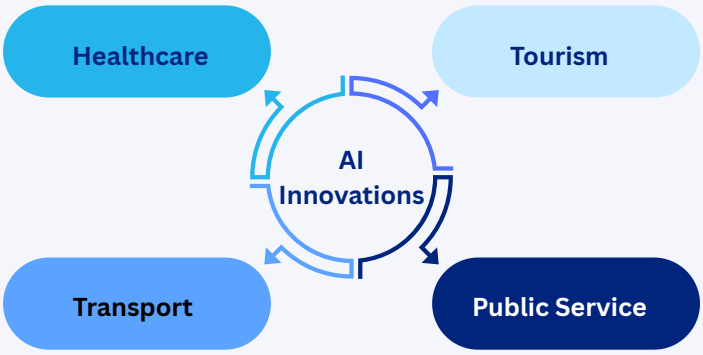
In a significant local initiative, the Lagos State Government announced plans to develop localised AI guidelines. These guidelines will direct the ethical development and use of AI technologies within the state.

As Nigeria's economic and innovation hub, Lagos aims to lead in innovative governance, fintech, and digital identity systems, many of which rely on AI. The guidelines, currently being drafted, seek to establish basic ethical standards, data management protocols, and transparency mechanisms for state agencies and private sector partners.

Additionally, Mozambique also made a crucial move towards institutionalising AI governance by forming a National AI Monitoring Commission in Q2 2025. The commission is responsible for overseeing the development, deployment, and auditing of AI systems in both the public and private sectors.

Lastly, Mauritius improved its AI governance structure by establishing a dedicated AI Office under the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication, and Innovation. This office oversees digital regulation related to AI, including monitoring compliance with data protection standards, evaluating AI systems used in government services, and supporting the development of AI-focused legislation.

AI INNOVATIONS & DEVELOPMENTS



In the second quarter of 2025, Africa demonstrated its growing capacity to leverage AI in addressing real-world challenges across key sectors. Countries on the continent are transitioning from merely formulating policies to actually implementing them. AI systems are being tested or implemented in public health, tourism, transportation, legal systems, and digital governance. These innovations demonstrate how AI is being tailored for African contexts, utilising local data, addressing regional issues, and enhancing service delivery in both cities and rural areas.

AI Applications and Innovations in Specific Sectors

Healthcare

In West Africa, the Health Community of West Africa Association (HCOWA) has partnered with global medical imaging companies to enhance diagnostic accuracy through the use of AI. This initiative, launched in March 2025 during a regional symposium in Accra, aims to roll out AI imaging tools, including real-time interpretation of X-rays and CT scans, in hospitals across Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and other countries. These tools help reduce diagnostic delays and support frontline health workers in making clinical decisions. Alongside hardware deployment, the project involves intensive training for local radiologists and technicians to ensure ongoing success.

In a key step for disease prevention, Namibia's Ministry of Health has launched AI-powered digital X-ray analysis systems to support early detection of tuberculosis. Introduced on World TB Day (March 24, 2025), this system can automatically identify TB-related issues in chest scans, improving speed and accuracy in clinics with limited resources. Initially tested in the Omusati region, this initiative is part of Namibia's broader plan to integrate AI into national health services, particularly in rural communities that lack resources.

In Q2 2025, Tanzania started a pilot AI triage system in major hospitals to improve patient flow in emergency departments. This system processes real-time patient data, such as vital signs, symptoms, and risk indicators, and categorises patients by urgency. This innovation has already demonstrated promise in reducing overcrowding, enhancing emergency care efficiency, and supporting clinicians by providing rapid preliminary diagnoses. If it proves successful, the system will expand to regional hospitals with support from the government and donors.

Senegal has also made significant progress in promoting local AI innovation in the health sector. Through a new initiative led by its national innovation agency, the government is backing health tech startups that utilise AI for diagnostics, patient monitoring, and remote care. These startups receive technical mentorship, access to national health data, and opportunities to pilot AI tools in public hospitals. This initiative positions Senegal as a leading innovator in AI-driven healthcare entrepreneurship.

In Q2 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO) broadened its use of AI predictive tools to foresee and manage cholera outbreaks in vulnerable regions of Africa, including Senegal, Egypt, and parts of East Africa. By combining historical epidemiological data, real-time climate patterns, sanitation indicators, and population mobility trends, these machine learning models enable the WHO to predict potential hotspots weeks in advance. This timely information allows for targeted vaccine distribution, rapid mobilisation of medical supplies, and proactive community education campaigns. The system has already helped prevent two possible outbreaks in West Africa and has been noted as a model for future epidemic prevention efforts across the Global South.

WHO expanded its AI emergency response systems to Egypt and Senegal. These systems use AI to improve logistics planning for quick medical deployment, especially in response to health events driven by climate change and spikes in communicable diseases. In Egypt, AI-supported emergency dashboards aid in coordinating mobile clinic placements and ambulance dispatch in high-risk areas. In Senegal, similar systems are being integrated into the national emergency health platform to ensure data-driven decisions during public health crises. These expansions showcase WHO's ongoing commitment to help African countries use AI for faster and smarter emergency responses.

To complement its operational tools, WHO also released an AI Hazard Governance Toolkit aimed at strengthening the policy and regulatory skills of African health ministries. Published in Q2 2025, the toolkit offers structured guidance on how governments can identify, evaluate, and reduce risks tied to AI health solutions. It includes templates for risk classification, model audits, data ethics reviews, and health system integration protocols. Designed mainly for low- and middle-income countries, the toolkit provides a practical approach to developing national safeguards for health-related AI deployments. Ministries in countries like Rwanda, Senegal, and Namibia have already started using the toolkit in their national digital health strategies.

Governance and Public Service Delivery

AI is rapidly becoming a crucial component of Africa's governance transformation, with countries utilising machine learning models and automation tools to enhance public service delivery, streamline judicial processes, and improve customs systems. These innovations are not only increasing operational efficiency but also laying the foundation for smarter, citizen-focused governance. The second quarter of 2025 saw a surge of government-backed AI projects reflecting a shift from policy ambitions to actual implementation.

As the chair of the G20 in 2025, South Africa became a global advocate for digital equity through its focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Its agenda, revealed during the April 2025 G20 Digital Economy Working Group session, encourages the use of AI to strengthen essential digital government platforms, including identity verification, public benefits distribution, and civic registration. South Africa emphasised the importance of transparency, algorithmic fairness, and privacy principles in DPI frameworks. The G20 initiative also supports the adoption of interoperable AI systems across African government platforms to ensure inclusive access to public services and reduce digital fragmentation on the continent.

In a notable advancement in legal technology, Rwanda tested a new AI-based legal research application in Q2 2025. This tool enables users, particularly judges, lawyers, and law students, to search, summarise, and cross-reference legal texts, statutes, and court rulings in both English and Kinyarwanda. The app uses natural language processing (NLP) to simplify complex legal terms and automates citation building, enhancing the efficiency of legal research. Currently used in Kigali's High Court, the app promotes judicial transparency and aligns with Rwanda's broader goal of digitalising public legal services.

Rwanda also took steps to automate judicial administration with an AI court assistance system. Tested in Kigali's High Council of Justice, this system automates drafting court notices, assists clerks in managing caseloads, and provides predictive support in bail and sentencing decisions based on past cases. Officials report faster case turnaround times and more uniform procedures in routine judicial tasks. This initiative supports Rwanda's broader e-justice reforms and aligns with its national digital governance goals.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) introduced an AI cargo screening system in Q2 2025 to enhance the detection of contraband and high-risk goods entering the country. Integrated at major border points and seaports, this AI model analyses scanner images and shipment data to flag anomalies in real-time, streamlining customs clearance and boosting national security. KRA reports that the initial implementation has reduced manual inspections by over 30%, enabling agents to focus on high-risk cargo while accelerating processing for legitimate trade.

Kenya is also pushing for broader AI integration across public administration. In April 2025, the Office of the President announced a roadmap called "Towards an AI-Driven Public Service." This strategy outlines plans to implement AI in core government functions, including service chatbots, citizen feedback analysis, digital document classification, and policy impact simulations. Pilot projects are already running in the Ministry of Lands (for processing title deeds) and the Ministry of Health (for public health trend analysis). This initiative demonstrates Kenya's commitment to becoming a regional leader in adopting AI in government, in line with its recent launch of a national AI strategy.

Additionally, Kenya and Slovenia signed an agreement to co-develop AI tools for modernising the public sector. The partnership focuses on creating AI-enhanced e-governance platforms, including intelligent chatbots for citizen inquiries, automating service requests, and utilising AI to monitor government service delivery. This collaboration also covers knowledge sharing on digital identity, cybersecurity, and ethical AI design, marking Kenya's entry into international tech diplomacy on AI governance.

Tourism

In Q2 2025, Egypt's Ministry of Tourism formed a partnership with Google to use AI tools that enhance the country's tourism experience. The initiative includes creating smart visitor platforms that provide personalised travel suggestions, optimise tourist routes using real-time data, and offer multilingual support via generative AI. These systems are being piloted at key heritage sites, such as the Pyramids of Giza and the Egyptian Museum, where tourists can access immediate historical information and AR-guided tours in multiple languages. The AI systems also help local vendors and tour operators by providing insights into demand forecasting and marketing tools. Egypt's collaboration with Google highlights the growing trend of using advanced technologies to modernise tourism infrastructure and improve visitor engagement.

Transport and Mobility

Morocco's Ministry of Transport announced an AI-based transport modernisation program aimed at improving urban mobility in Casablanca and Rabat. This initiative includes deploying AI traffic management systems that analyse real-time congestion data, traffic signal patterns, and commuter behaviours to optimise route timings and reduce delays. Additionally, predictive analytics are used to anticipate peak traffic hours and enhance public bus and tram scheduling. Pilot projects also feature AI-supported ticketing systems and smart bus stops equipped with facial recognition technology for enhanced safety and accessibility for differently-abled commuters. These upgrades are part of Morocco's broader strategy to develop smart cities and modernise its transport infrastructure using data-driven solutions.

AI Hubs and Innovation Centres

In Q2 2025, there was a notable increase in the launch of AI hubs, innovation centres, and research labs, many developed in partnership with global technology companies and development organisations. These centres play a crucial role in developing local AI talent, creating homegrown solutions, and establishing Africa's presence in the global AI landscape.

Morocco is emerging as a regional leader in AI capacity building. The country announced plans to create national data centres to meet the growing need for AI computing resources. These facilities will be essential for local AI model training and cloud services across North Africa. At the same time, Morocco collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish an International AI Centre, focusing on climate analytics, public sector innovation, and cross-border AI policy research. Located in Rabat, the centre will host fellowships, hackathons, and pilot projects while also providing technical support to governments in the MENA region. Together, these efforts reflect Morocco's goal to be a hub for both AI infrastructure and policy leadership on the continent.

Ghana has positioned itself at the crossroads of AI development and digital security. In Q2 2025, the government launched a Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Centre equipped with AI tools for detecting digital threats, automating investigations, and analysing forensic data. Additionally, Ghana has introduced a new National AI Innovation Hub to support startups, enhance AI education, and encourage collaboration between academia and industry.

The hub will focus on addressing local challenges in agriculture, health, and education by leveraging applied AI, while providing accelerator programs, research grants, and developer boot camps. These two institutions illustrate Ghana's strategic approach to building both technical skills and ethical safeguards for responsible AI growth.

Kenya is set to host a Regional AI Centre to serve East Africa with research, training, and incubation programs. Supported by the government and international partners, the centre is expected to open in late 2025 and will feature data science labs, training academies, and co-working spaces for AI startups. Its main goals include encouraging regional collaboration, developing African datasets for local model training, and promoting private-sector innovation in line with Kenya's national AI strategy. This initiative complements Kenya's broader efforts to establish itself as a digital and innovation hub in East Africa.

In Q2 2025, Rwanda strengthened its AI innovation infrastructure by joining forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch a multi-sector AI Innovation Hub in Kigali. The hub will concentrate on health, education, and agriculture by supporting AI-based research, entrepreneurship, and policy design. It will also offer grant funding for early-stage startups and collaborate with universities on curriculum development in machine learning and responsible AI. This project aligns with Rwanda's national vision of becoming a leading innovation ecosystem and will play a crucial role in shaping ethical and scalable AI solutions throughout the continent.

In Q2 2025, Nigeria launched a bold AI Scaling Hub to help startups and scaling ventures focusing on machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision. Situated in Lagos, the hub offers computing resources, mentorship, and access to funding for AI innovators addressing challenges in media, fintech, health, and agriculture. It also serves as a link between academia and industry by hosting technical workshops and applied research programs in collaboration with Nigerian universities. The hub aims to make a significant contribution to Africa's growing involvement in AI product development.

At the academic forefront, Makerere University in Uganda expanded its AI Lab, turning it into a regional centre of excellence for AI research. The lab focuses on socially impactful AI, including applications in health diagnostics, wildlife conservation, and disaster prediction. With new funding secured in Q2 2025, the lab is scaling its student research programs, acquiring high-performance computing resources, and publishing open-access datasets from Africa. Makerere's AI Lab is also part of broader initiatives to strengthen academic AI talent pipelines throughout East Africa.

South Africa made headlines in Q2 2025 with the launch of a multinational AI investment hub, partnering with international players from Europe and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), specifically Dubai. This initiative seeks to attract venture capital to African AI startups while promoting ethical and commercially viable AI systems. The hub will be located in Cape Town and will act as a launchpad for scaling companies across the continent. It will also feature a policy lab and data ethics council to assist startups in meeting responsible AI development standards from the beginning.

Additionally, Cassava Technologies, in collaboration with NVIDIA, announced the establishment of a Pan-African AI Factory in South Africa. With infrastructure planned across several African cities, especially in Southern and West Africa, the factory will offer computing capacity, developer tools, and LLM optimisation services suited for African languages and datasets. This initiative aims to bridge the infrastructure gap in AI development while empowering African developers to create independent and inclusive AI systems.

AI Education & Capacity Building

In Q2, there was increasing awareness that developing a strong AI ecosystem needs human skills. As a result, there was a continued rise in AI education, training, and institutional development programs. These initiatives are preparing the next generation of African AI engineers and researchers. They also equip public officials, educators, and ordinary citizens with the skills to navigate and shape an AI-driven future.

From national government programs focused on digital skill improvement to innovative research centres in universities, AI education in Africa is becoming more localised, inclusive, and driven by innovation. Many countries are adjusting their training efforts to meet socio-economic needs, such as enhancing public services, increasing youth employability, or developing new AI-powered industries.

AI Training & Public Programs

Kenya - Public Sector AI Competency Initiative

In Q2 2025, the Government of Kenya launched a thorough AI training initiative for public sector employees. The aim is to equip civil servants across various ministries, county administrations, and regulatory bodies with crucial skills for adopting and overseeing AI. Developed in collaboration between the Ministry of ICT and the Kenya School of Government, the program comprises modules centred on AI ethics, algorithm accountability, and data-driven decision-making. It also features hands-on workshops where civil servants learn to create small-scale AI prototypes to streamline processes like ID verification, license renewals, and resource allocation. The first group of 300 officers includes representatives from finance, land administration, and digital identity agencies, with plans to expand the initiative nationwide based on demand and its proven impact.

Nigeria - Large-Scale Digital and AI LiteracyCampaign

Nigeria's layered digital skills initiative received a significant boost in Q2 2025 through two programs aimed at both citizens and youth. First, the Federal Ministry of Communications, in partnership with local tech startups, launched a national AI literacy campaign. This campaign is available through community centres and mobile learning units that travel to underprivileged areas. It provides basic modules on machine learning, AI ethics, and low-code tools for simple automation tasks. At the same time, the Smart Nigeria Youth Initiative added AI modules, including natural language processing, data visualisation, and AI ethics, to its digital skills training for young people aged 15 to 25. Sessions are offered through an online platform and in-person bootcamps in Lagos, Abuja, and Kano. The initiative has already enrolled over 5,000 students in its first month and aims to reach 50,000 by the end of the third quarter. These efforts reflect Nigeria's vision for a digitally enabled citizenry and a talent pipeline that can support AI-driven economic growth.

Ghana - AI Education Reskilling Scheme

In May 2025, Ghana launched an AI training program for educators, led by the Ministry of Education with support from local and international educational NGOs. This initiative targets secondary and tertiary teachers, aiming to equip them with skills to incorporate AI-aware curricula into their classes. Trainers cover AI basics, prompt engineering, and AI-assisted teaching methods while guiding teachers on the ethical use of AI for lesson planning, evaluation, and personalised student support. The cohort includes over 500 teachers from public schools in urban and rural areas. Participants receive certificates and ongoing mentorship in curriculum development, educational technology integration, and classroom robotics. Through this initiative, Ghana aims not only to enhance AI understanding among students but also to transform teaching practices and educational outcomes nationwide.

Rwanda - AI Training Programs for Legal Professionals

Rwanda held its first AI training program for legal professionals in Q2 2025, organised by the Rwanda Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice with support from a leading legal-tech NGO. The program included workshops on the ethical use of AI tools for evidence analysis, e-filing systems, legal research automation, and multilingual document processing in Kinyarwanda and English. Judges, prosecutors, and defence attorneys discussed issues like algorithmic bias, AI in judicial support, and data protection in legal contexts. The training also introduced secure AI platforms that aid in efficient case management, e-signatures, and legal search engines. More than 150 legal professionals participated, paving the way for Rwanda to establish legal AI education and set best practices for judicial innovation in Africa.

Egypt & Microsoft - AI Workforce Upskilling Partnership

In partnership with Microsoft, Egypt’s Ministry of Communications and Information Technology started a national AI workforce development program in Q2 2025. This multi-phase initiative offers structured online and blended courses that cover data analysis, Azure-based model development, ethical AI design, and the use of low-code AI tools. Targeting mid-career professionals and recent graduates, the program aims to build a workforce ready for digital roles to support Egypt's expanding ICT and smart industry goals. Initial cohorts of up to 1,200 participants are being trained in major tech hubs in Cairo and Alexandria. Successful participants gain access to Microsoft’s AI certification programs and internship opportunities with tech companies involved in the program. This initiative highlights the government's efforts to create a competitive AI job market and address the skills gap in emerging technologies.

AI Advancements in Higher Education

In Q2 2025, the University of Pretoria partnered with MultiChoice to launch a new AI Research Lab focused on media intelligence. The lab aims to advance research in content recommendation systems, audience analytics, and generative media tools. It also provides a space for AI startups, giving postgraduate students access to mentorship, seed funding, and industry-level computing resources.

At the same time, the University of Durban made significant changes to its curriculum by including AI ethics, computational thinking, and generative AI in its business, humanities, and computer science programs. These reforms prepare students for AI-driven economies, ensuring they acquire both technical skills and an ethical understanding. The university also launched “AI Outreach Clinics” to assist local schools and small businesses in utilising AI tools responsibly. These clinics offer free advisory services, demonstrations, and training sessions, connecting academia with the broader community.

Morocco announced plans to establish a dedicated AI university by 2026, aiming to become a center for AI training, research, and graduate education on the continent. The new university will provide Master's and PhD programs in machine learning, computer vision, AI law, and AI for development. It will also welcome international researchers and students to promote knowledge sharing and skills development across Francophone, Anglophone, and Lusophone Africa. With discussions ongoing about partnerships with various European and Middle Eastern universities, this initiative shows Morocco's commitment to fostering academic excellence in technology.

In Q2 2025, the University of Zanzibar launched an AI e-Campus, offering diploma and certificate programs in data analytics, AI fundamentals, and model deployment. Targeting learners in Tanzania's semi-rural areas, the e-Campus combines online modules with local study hubs in remote locations. It also features AI mentorship clinics for young professionals and agricultural workers, enabling them to learn and implement AI solutions. This project is among the most inclusive models of AI education in East Africa, expanding access to digital learning and enhancing community-level AI literacy.

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET) in Nigeria increased its grant allocations in Q2 2025 to support the integration of AI into university programs. Funds were designated for building AI labs, enhancing faculty expertise in machine learning, and adding courses on AI ethics, governance, and regulation. Scholarship programs were created for AI postgraduate research, and universities were encouraged to establish partnerships with industry to connect academic learning to real-world applications. This initiative aims to develop an AI-ready workforce and establish Nigeria's universities as leaders in innovation and the responsible use of AI.

Q3 2025 Outlook

As we look to Q3 2025, Africa's AI ecosystem is set for steady growth, tighter regulatory frameworks, and faster innovation. Countries like Uganda, Tanzania, and South Africa, which started drafting their AI strategies in Q1 and Q2, are expected to finalise or launch formal plans. These policy changes are likely to introduce regulatory guidelines for sector-specific AI use, particularly in healthcare, education, and justice systems.

Q3 should also see an increase in AI startup incubation and public-private partnerships. Regional AI hubs in Kenya, Ghana, and Rwanda are expanding their operations. These centres will likely help attract funding, draw in international partners, and boost local AI entrepreneurship. Regarding capacity building, we anticipate a surge in Pan-African collaborations focused on creating multilingual datasets, enhancing gender-inclusive AI programs, and promoting responsible AI standards that align with continental priorities.

In governance, more discussions between countries are anticipated through platforms like the African Union's AI Policy Roundtable and SADC's regulatory harmonisation forum. There is also a growing push for AI diplomacy, with countries such as South Africa and Morocco utilising international platforms to influence global standards from an African perspective.

However, challenges persist. Many countries still lack the legal framework, institutional support, and research funding necessary to fully realise their AI goals. Bridging these gaps will need a stronger ecosystem approach. Governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector must come together to share values and invest in Africa’s long-term AI future.

Conclusion

Africa’s AI journey in 2025 is unfolding with significant depth, determination, and direction. The second quarter of the year showed growing maturity in how governments, institutions, and innovators view AI, not just as a new technology, but as a means for systemic change. With the rise of new national strategies, sector-specific policies, and regional governance frameworks, the continent is shaping a more unified and intentional AI ecosystem. Countries like Kenya and Lesotho have enacted essential policies, while institutions across Africa have launched training programs and research initiatives that ground AI development in ethical, inclusive, and locally relevant foundations.

Beyond governance, the continent saw vibrant growth in AI applications in healthcare, education, transportation, and public services. AI is now being tested in legal systems, customs checks, epidemic response, and university courses. Innovation hubs, from Ghana to Rwanda, are starting to link global tech resources with local talent, indicating Africa's readiness to both adopt and create leading-edge AI solutions. The increasing emphasis on linguistic fairness, data protection, and regional infrastructure shows that African leaders are planning for the long haul. They are focusing not only on technology adoption but also on shaping digital independence and social equity through the use of AI.

The continent is developing its model of responsible AI that emphasises human rights, development goals, and community-based innovation. While issues with infrastructure, funding, and institutional preparedness continue, the momentum is clear. Africa is entering the global AI conversation with clarity, courage, and a strong vision for a future where technology supports and empowers every citizen.

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