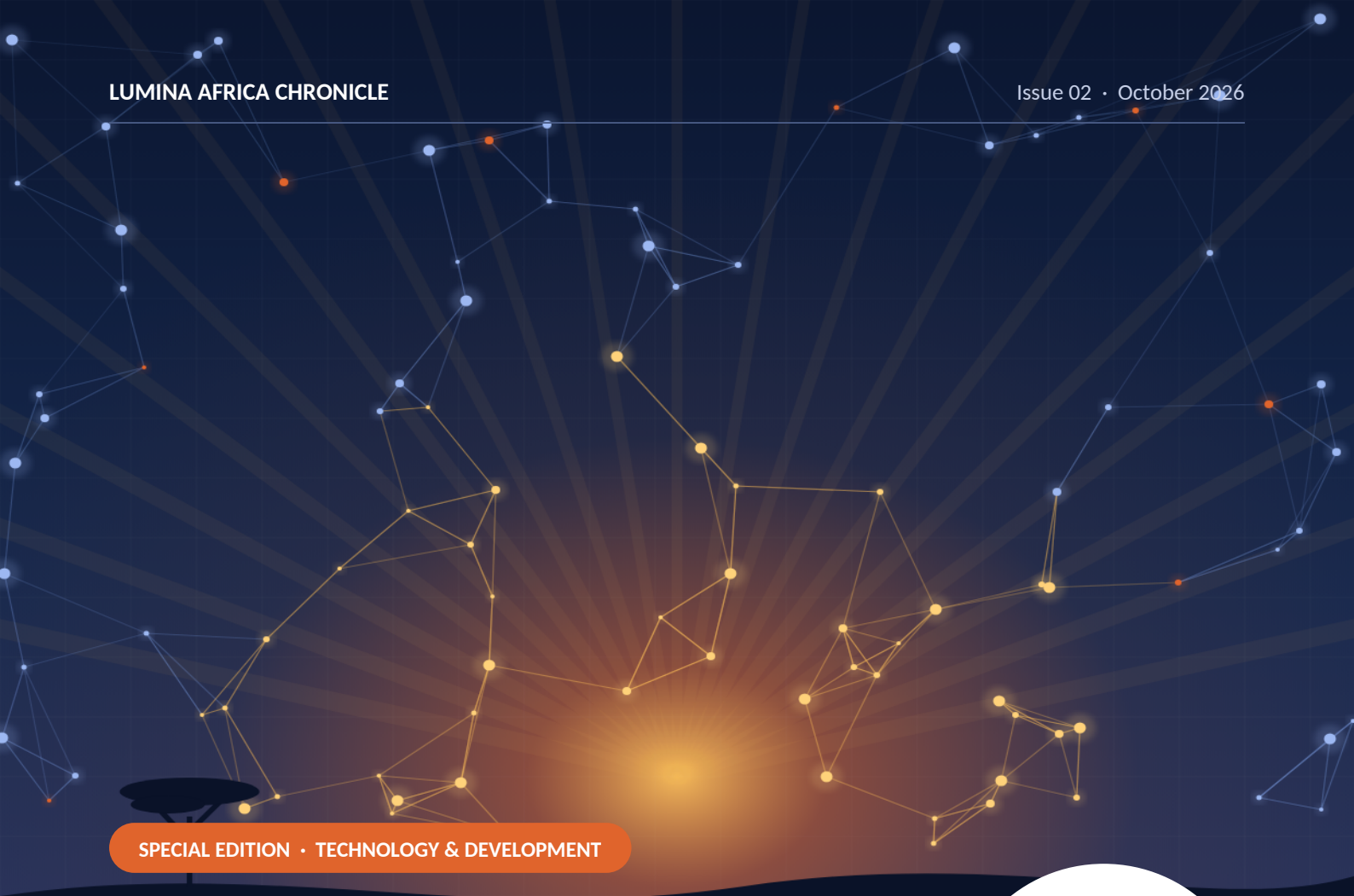
LUMINA AFRICA CHRONICLE

Issue 02 · October 2026



SPECIAL EDITION · TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

The Next Decade: AI, Technology and **Africa's Future**

How artificial intelligence and digital technology could reshape development across Africa and Uganda by 2036, and what young people can do about it.

- Where Africa stands: the numbers
- How AI will change work, farms, clinics and classrooms
- Uganda's road to 2036
- Five things that must be true
- Advice for young people · References

Igniting Light. Inspiring Change.

luminaafricafoundation.com · Gulu City, Northern Uganda

The decade that decides

Africa already holds more than a quarter of the world's young people. Whether they meet AI as a tool they shape or a wave that passes over them depends on choices made now.

Africa is young. Africa now holds 28% of the world's young people, up from 10% in 1950, and its median age is about 19 [1]. That is a workforce, a market and a source of ideas arriving at the exact moment AI is changing what work means.

The economic prize is large, and conditional. PwC's 2025 analysis suggests AI could raise Africa's GDP by up to 4.9 percentage points by 2035 [2]. The African Development Bank puts the upside at up to US$1 trillion of additional GDP by 2035, if AI is developed and deployed inclusively [3]. Both are scenarios, not promises.

The obstacle is not mostly towers. In Sub-Saharan Africa the network already reaches most people. The gap that matters is use: about 66% of people live within mobile broadband coverage but do not use mobile internet, because of handset cost, low awareness, thin digital skills and safety worries [4].

That is where a community organisation in Gulu can matter. The next decade will be decided less in data centres than in classrooms, hubs and homes, by who learns to use these tools first.

28%
of the world's young people live in Africa (2026). [1]

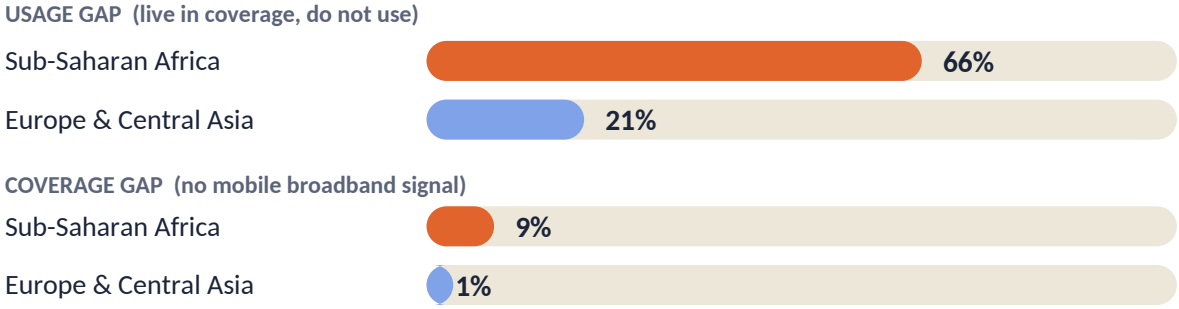
66%
usage gap in Sub-Saharan Africa: covered, yet offline. [4]

4.9 pts
possible AI boost to Africa's GDP by 2035. [2]

+78M
net new jobs worldwide by 2030 (170M created, 92M displaced). [6]

INFOGRAPHIC · COVERED, BUT NOT CONNECTED

Share of people not using mobile internet



Source: GSMA State of Mobile Internet Connectivity (2025 data) [4]. Share of population.

INFOGRAPHIC · THE PRICE OF A FIRST SMARTPHONE

Entry-level internet device as a share of monthly income



Source: GSMA, Sub-Saharan Africa [4]. 100% means a full month of income.

OUR VIEW

AI reaches young people through affordable devices, skills and trusted places to learn.

What AI will change, and what it will not

Four areas where the next ten years will be felt

AI is a general-purpose technology, like electricity or the mobile phone: its benefits show up wherever people have the power, data, skills and trust to use it. The African Union's Continental AI Strategy names the same foundations: skills and talent, quality data, computing infrastructure, governance and investment [5].

A Agriculture

Phone-photo crop-disease checks, weather and market advice by SMS or voice. East African studies show promise, but evidence from real smallholder farms is still thin, and cost, digital skills and infrastructure remain the barriers [7].

Watch: advice in local languages, offline.

H Health

Triage support, image reading and stock forecasting can stretch scarce clinicians. Our view: the earliest gains will come from tools that help community health workers, not tools that try to replace them.

Watch: clinical safety and data privacy.

E Education

Patient AI tutors and offline learning apps can give each pupil personalised practice. They only help where a child can reach a device and a teacher guides the use. The AU strategy lists AI skills in schools and colleges as an action area [5].

Watch: teacher training, not just devices.

M Money

Sub-Saharan Africa has 1.1 billion registered mobile money accounts, over two-thirds of the global total, and East Africa supplied 32% of new accounts in 2024 [8]. Our view: that transaction trail makes fraud detection and fair credit scoring the next AI layer.

Watch: consumer protection and bias.

INFOGRAPHIC · JOBS BY 2030, GLOBAL EMPLOYER SURVEY



Source: World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2025 [6]. Covers all labour-market change, not AI alone; figures are global employer expectations, not an African forecast.

From roadmap to reality

Uganda has a plan. The Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023/24 to 2027/28 sets four priorities: government systems, public service delivery, citizen engagement and GovTech enablers. Its long-run target, under Digital Uganda Vision 2040, is 90% of households connected and 90% of citizens using e-services [9].

The starting line is low. The roadmap puts internet penetration at around 43% and ranks Uganda 77th of 79 countries on the Global Connectivity Index [9]. Its figures may be dated, so check the latest data before quoting them.

The AI rules are still being written. Uganda has launched a five-year national data strategy as groundwork for a national AI strategy, after finding it holds data for only 36% of the indicators in its National Development Plan, with a goal of 80% [10]. Good AI needs good local data.

For Northern Uganda the question is practical: after decades of conflict and a slow return of services, will the region get hubs, devices and skills early, or watch the next decade arrive from far away?



Pupils at Lacekocot Primary School, Gulu. The next decade's skills start in rooms like these.

INFOGRAPHIC · THE ROAD TO 2036 AND BEYOND (milestones, not to scale)

2026
Today
Uganda is drafting its national AI strategy [10]

2027
Checkpoints
AU strategy midterm review [5]; Uganda roadmap runs to 2027/28 [9]

2030
Jobs horizon
WEF: 170M jobs created, 92M displaced worldwide [6]

2035
Economic horizon
PwC: up to +4.9 pts GDP [2]; AfDB: up to $1T [3]

2040
Vision 2040
Uganda targets 90% of households connected [9]

WHAT LUMINA AFRICA IS DOING

Our digital inclusion project aims to set up ICT hubs in Northern Uganda that train at least 500 young people in digital literacy, entrepreneurship and safe internet use. It is a goal we are working towards, not a result already reached. The skills it builds are the ones this issue says the next decade will reward.

Five things that must be true

1. **Connection becomes use**
   Cut the cost of a first device and teach people why and how to go online. Coverage alone has not closed the gap [4].

2. **Women and girls go first**
   The mobile internet gender gap in Sub-Saharan Africa narrowed to 29% in 2024, yet about 205 million women remain unconnected [4].

3. **Tools speak local languages**
   Voice, SMS and offline-first design reach farmers, traders and learners who will never use an English-only app. Our view.

4. **Data and rules are trustworthy**
   Strong data protection and national data strategies protect people and give AI something fair to learn from [5][10].

5. **Skills outrun fear**
   Training in schools, hubs and workplaces matters more than any single gadget. The AU strategy makes AI skills and talent a core action area [5].

ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Learn to ask AI good questions, then check its answers against two other sources.
- Build one real project: a small business tool, a farm record sheet, a community survey.
- Protect your data and your friends' data. Never share ID numbers or photos casually.
- Stay curious about the basics: reading, numbers, clear writing. AI rewards them.
- Learn together. Join a hub, a club or a class and teach someone else.

REFERENCES

[1] Pew Research Center (19 May 2026), "5 facts about Africa's population growth", using UN World Population Prospects 2024. pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/05/19/5-facts-about-africas-population-growth

[2] PwC (April 2025), "Value in Motion". pwc.co.za/en/press-room/value-in-motion.html

[3] African Development Bank (2025), "Africa's AI Productivity Gain: Pathways to Labour Efficiency, Economic Growth and Inclusive Transformation". afdb.org/en/documents/africas-ai-productivity-gain-pathways-labour-efficiency-economic-growth-and-inclusive-transformation

[4] GSMA, State of Mobile Internet Connectivity: Sub-Saharan Africa (2025 data). gsma.com/solutions-and-impact/connectivity-for-good/mobile-for-development/blog/despite-improvements-sub-saharan-africa-has-the-widest-usage-and-coverage-gaps-worldwide

[5] African Union (July 2024), Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy. au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-_Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf

[6] World Economic Forum (2025), Future of Jobs Report 2025, as summarised at weforum.org/stories/education-and-skills/workforce-transformation-ai-jobs

[7] "Artificial Intelligence in East African Agriculture: A Systematic Review" (2025), PMC. pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC13277772

[8] GSMA (2025), State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money, as reported by Forbes Africa (9 April 2025). forbesafrica.com/current-affairs/2025/04/09/sub-saharan-africa-dominates-global-mobile-money-landscape-with-1-1-billion-accounts-new-report-finds

[9] Republic of Uganda, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023/24 to 2027/28. ict.go.ug/site/documents/Digital%20Transformation%20Roadmap.pdf

[10] iAfrica, "Uganda Launches Five-Year Data Strategy as Groundwork for National AI Plan". iafrica.com/uganda-launches-five-year-data-strategy-as-groundwork-for-national-ai-plan

Figures are as reported in these sources and were checked in October 2026. Projections are scenarios that depend on policy, investment and skills, not forecasts of what will happen.