

Artificial Intelligence for Development

The Artificial Intelligence for Development (AI4D) programme aims to foster safe, inclusive and responsible AI ecosystems that empower people and accelerate progress on challenges in international development.





AI4D supports responsible AI ecosystems where experts in developing countries are enabled to develop their own solutions to development challenges and mitigate AI risks through safe, inclusive, rights-based and sustainable AI applications and policies.

Launched initially as 'AI4D Africa' in 2020, the first phase of the programme laid a solid foundation by supporting responsible AI policies, multidisciplinary research, and innovative projects across the African continent. Building on this success, AI4D entered its second phase in 2024, with a broadened scope that now spans Africa and Asia, supported by a partnership between the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and additional funding from Swedish SIDA and USAID.






AI4D seeks to contribute to two critical outcomes :

1. Shaping Policy : Establishing responsible AI policies and regulations that minimize harm and promote inclusivity, ethics, sustainability, and human rights.
2. Scaling Innovation : Supporting and expanding impactful AI applications that address key development challenges, such as gender inequality and environmental sustainability.

AI4D is structured around four interconnected pillars :

AI Policy and Governance	AI Fundamentals Skills, Data & Compute	Innovation	Scaling
 <p>Advancing responsible AI policies and regulations that reflect local realities and priorities, ensuring responsible and inclusive development, and use of AI.</p>	 <p>Strengthening skills and expertise through multidisciplinary research labs in public universities, targeted training programs, and key infrastructure support, such as support for the development of contextually-relevant datasets.</p>	 <p>Supporting AI solutions that address critical development challenges in priority sectors such as health, gender equality, education, climate change adaptation, and agriculture.</p>	 <p>Appropriately scaling responsible AI innovations that have a demonstrated development impact in priority sectors.</p>

AI4D is underpinned by five cross-cutting priorities :

<p style="text-align: center;">Southern Leadership</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>AI4D empowers partners in developing countries to lead programme activities, through global and regional civil society research networks, universities, regional innovation grantmaking organizations, government partnerships, and funding local innovators.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Research and Evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We take an evidence-based approach to supporting responsible and inclusive AI policymaking, innovation, and scaling, ensuring research into the opportunities and risks presented by AI in developing country contexts is informing the global evidence base.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsible AI</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We define 'responsible AI' as AI that is safe, inclusive, rights-based, ethical, and sustainable. These values underpin all activities of the programme and are shared by all partners.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gender, Disability and Inclusion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>AI4D will ensure that the needs and perspectives of women, people with disabilities, and other diverse communities are included throughout the AI lifecycle, that they are empowered and represented in decision-making, and that the risks stemming from bias in AI are understood and mitigated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Global partnerships</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>AI4D focuses on impact and empowerment by collaborating with governments, funders, and multilaterals. Alongside core funders—FCDO, IDRC, Sida, and USAID—we partner with the Gates Foundation, GiZ, Australia and others through the AI4D Funders Collaborative.</p>
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AI4D vision for development :

