Call for concept notes: Socio-economic impacts of artificial intelligence in Africa

This call supports research that explores how AI is reshaping labour markets, productivity, and inequality across Africa, supporting policy makers to ensure that AI works for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

We invite concept notes that explore the socio-economic impacts of AI in African LMICs, with a focus on differential impacts, inequality, and marginalised populations. Projects should address key knowledge gaps and generate evidence to guide responsible AI policies.

Responsible AI is safe, inclusive, rights-based, ethical, and sustainable AI.

Research should align with one or more of the following themes:
- Labour and Livelihoods: How AI is transforming labour markets and employment, especially for youth and informal workers.
- Productivity and Economic Transformation: The role of AI in reshaping sectors and supporting inclusive growth.
- Poverty and Inequality: Risks of exclusion and unequal benefit distribution across demographic groups.
- Global Inequality and AI Colonialism: Power imbalances in AI development and strategies for local innovation.

Through this call, AI4D will award up to four grants of up to CAD1 million per project. Projects must be completed within 36 months, including all research and reporting activities. Only short-listed teams will be asked to submit full research proposals for review and funding consideration. Selected projects are anticipated to begin on 1 January 2026.

Eligibility

Applicants must be legally registered organisations based in African low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with relevant expertise and institutional capacity. Proposals and team expertise must align with the call's themes. Teams need to meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the call.

More details

For more information, please consult the detailed [Call for Concept Notes](#).

If you have any questions about this call, please contact the AI4D team at ai4dafrica@idrc.ca **before 8 September 2025 at 11:59 EDT**.

Following the launch of the call for proposals, IDRC will organise an information session to address any queries from potential applicants. This will take place on **27 August 2025 from 08:00 to 09:00** EDT. Click [here](#) to join the session.

Deadline: Wednesday 17 September 2025 – 23:59 ET

Apply [here](#)