the future project



THE REDEFINERS BLUEPRINT

Young Africans. Artificial Intelligence. Africa's Future.

Exploring a more inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive Africa by 2035.

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About The Future Project

The Future Project (TFP) is an organization committed to building empowered citizens across Africa through inclusive enterprise, leadership and active citizenship. With a strong focus on human capital development, TFP believes that Africa's growth depends on a generation of young people equipped with the skills, opportunities, and resources to thrive economically and contribute meaningfully to society.

Through its programmes and initiatives, TFP creates platforms that empower young Africans to develop their potential, participate actively in their communities and drive positive change. Its work is guided by the belief that empowered young people can influence better leadership, build sustainable enterprises and contribute to the social and economic development of the continent.

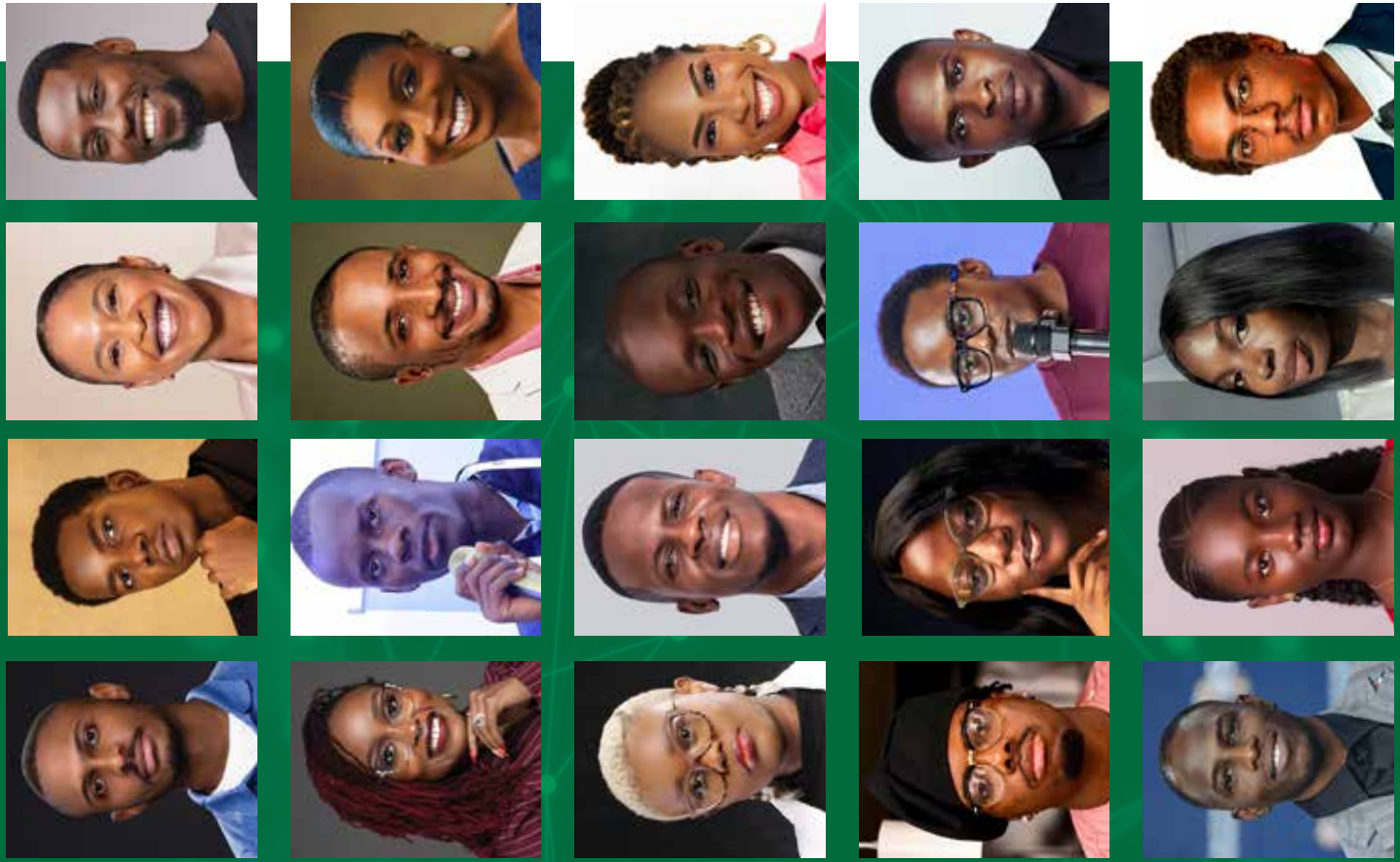
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About The Future Awards Africa

The Future Awards Africa (TFAA) is an annual awards platform established by The Future Project (TFP) to celebrate and recognise exceptional young Africans making remarkable contributions across sectors such as business, technology, media, entertainment, education, and social impact. The platform spotlights young Africans who are challenging the status quo, driving innovation and creating meaningful change within their communities and beyond.

For nearly two decades, TFAA has provided a platform to recognise emerging leaders, amplify their stories and inspire the next generation of African changemakers. Through its awards and engagement platforms, TFAA continues to champion youth leadership, creativity, enterprise and the transformative role of young Africans in shaping the continent's future.

the future awards africa



The Redefiners Blueprint

The Redefiners Blueprint brings together the perspectives of young Africans on how AI, innovation and emerging technologies can shape Africa's future by 2035. It explores the opportunities, challenges and actions needed to turn ideas into solutions, drive growth across industries and build a more inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive Africa.

To shape this conversation, we asked young Africans across different sectors a central question:

How can Africa's AI generation build a more inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive economy by 2035?

Through their perspectives, the Blueprint captures the ideas, insights and possibilities of a generation ready to play a role in shaping Africa's future.



Tobi Oladimeji

Founder & CEO, Data Fellows Inc.



Tobi Oladimeji is a highly regarded global data strategist, artificial intelligence ecosystem builder, and tech entrepreneur. He is the Founder of Data Fellows, a massive global AI and data talent ecosystem supporting over 1,500+ professionals across more than 33 countries.

Focus Area: **AI Products & Talent Ecosystem**

Pull Quote: *Africa's greatest export is its people... That is how African talent becomes African-built solutions.*

Response:

Africa's greatest export is its people. By 2035, we need to build an ecosystem where talent is empowered to innovate, and where the builders creating opportunities for them receive sustained support. That is how African talent transforms into world-class, African-built solutions.

You can connect with Tobi via
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Caleb Jephuneh

Founder & CEO, BricksLabs AI



Caleb Jephunneh is an elite Kenyan tech entrepreneur, software engineer, international keynote speaker, and a prolific competitive builder. Famously known across the African tech ecosystem as a "hackathon legend," he has participated in 66 hackathons and won 39 of them, an extraordinary feat that catalyzed his early career and earned him widespread industry recognition. He is the Founder & CEO of Brick Labs AI and the creator of Therabot, an AI-driven digital health solution that has scaled to serve over 89,000 users worldwide

Focus Area: **AI Infrastructure & African Innovation**

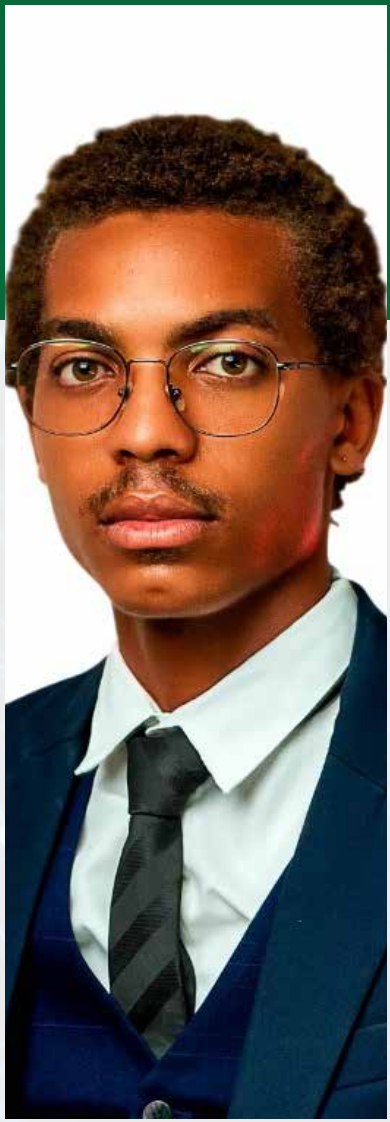
Pull Quote: *Africa must move from consuming AI to building it.*

Response:

Africa must move from consuming AI to building it. By 2035, we need bold entrepreneurs, practical AI education, patient capital, strong digital infrastructure, and policies that genuinely enable innovation. We must solve African problems at scale while building solutions for the global market.

You can connect with Caleb via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/caleb-jephunneh-a96aa81b0/*

Emanuel Pinheiro



Angolan Marketing Specialist & AI Education Facilitator

Emanuel Pinheiro is a highly prominent Angolan digital marketing strategist, enterprise workflow consultant, and a leading Lusophone Artificial Intelligence (AI) content creator.

Focus Area: **Practical AI Education & Localized Business Solutions**

Pull Quote: *AI should not be seen only as a tool, but as an opportunity to create businesses, jobs, and solutions to our own problems.*

Response:

To build a sustainable economy by 2035, Africa must shift from merely consuming AI to using it to create local businesses and jobs. We need practical AI education designed by Africans for Africans, alongside tools tailored to specific regional challenges like agriculture. Making AI accessible to students, small businesses, and communities outside major cities will empower African youth to build our own solutions rather than waiting for others to solve our problems.

You can connect with Emanuel via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/emanuelpinheiro?utm_source=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=member_ios*

Bonaventure Ogeto

Founder & CEO, Mctaba Labs



A Nairobi-based software engineer and founder of Mctaba Labs, building AI-powered API architectures, localized language models, and developer training programs tailored specifically for African markets.

Focus Area: **Engineering Education & Localized Digital Products**

Pull Quote: *Africa does not have an AI problem. It has a builder problem.*

Response:

Africa does not have an AI problem; it has a builder problem. To build a globally competitive economy by 2035, we need a generation that builds instead of waiting—empowering young people to ship real products using local context like M-Pesa, regional languages, and offline connectivity as defaults. When we prioritize practical builders and take pride in localized innovation, the world will be studying how Africa transformed.

You can connect with Bonaventure via *https://mctaba.com*

Nana Abrafi Opoku Philipa

AI/Tech Creator & AI Safety Advocate



Nana Abrafi is a rising Ghanaian AI and tech creator, digital marketing strategist, corporate event emcee, and political scientist. Combining her background in political studies from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with digital innovation, she has carved out a distinct niche by simplifying AI tools, digital well-being, and tech automation workflows for African businesses and young creators.

Focus Area: **AI Literacy & Digital Governance**

Pull Quote: *Success shouldn't be measured by how many people use AI, but by how many African problems we solve.*

Response:

Africa must treat AI literacy as vital economic infrastructure across all sectors. To build a competitive economy by 2035, governments need to empower local startups, fund localized datasets, and support cross-border collaboration for African-built solutions to scale.

You can connect with Nana via *https://linktr.ee/naoabrafi*

Chibuzor Nwachukwu

AI Ethics, Policy & Governance Researcher and Engineer, Mission To SCALE



Chibuzor Nwachukwu is an AI ethics, policy & governance researcher, and engineer exploring how emerging technologies reshape people, institutions, and society. His work focuses on responsible innovation, human agency, and overlooked problems, particularly across Africa.

Focus Area: **Responsible Innovation, Human Agency & AI Governance**

Pull Quote: *To compete by 2035, we need to build around our own realities—this generation should not try to become a cheaper Silicon Valley.*

Response:

Africa must move from consuming AI to building solutions rooted in local realities. To compete globally by 2035, governments must strengthen power, connectivity, and digital infrastructure, while innovators tackle uniquely African challenges, including language preservation. Rather than imitate Silicon Valley, Africa must harness AI to deliver affordable, scalable, and transformative solutions.

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Nandisa Ngubelanga

Digital Transformation Lead, Innohance Digital



Nandisa Ngubelanga is a South African Microsoft-certified AI Transformation Leader, Agile Scrum Master, Agile Scrum Master, and the CEO of Innohance Digital.

Focus Area: **Digital Maturity, Skills Development & Agile Methodologies**

Pull Quote: *The real work is building the digital maturity around AI use: stronger processes, better data, greater digital skills, and responsible adoption.*

Response:

Before Africa can speak about an AI-powered 2035, we must build digital maturity, strengthening processes, data systems, and practical skills alongside infrastructure investment. Inclusion becomes practical when we empower people, businesses, and institutions to become digitally capable rather than merely connected. By 2035, success must mean building African solutions and intellectual property, enabling more Africans to participate globally in the value being created.

You can connect with Nandisa via *www.innodigital.online*

Nyandia Gachago ACIM

Founder & CEO, MintyLime Agency & Minty Academy



A Kenyan digital marketing, PR, and communications strategist who leverages AI tools, predictive analytics, and neuromarketing data to optimize brand storytelling and audience engagement across East Africa.

Focus Area: **AI Marketing, Brand Strategy & Ecosystem Value Retention**

Pull Quote: *Africa does not have a creativity problem. The challenge is converting that creativity into scalable businesses and enduring industries.*

Response:

Africa's AI future is an economic and political question of access, ownership, and value retention. We must convert local creativity into scalable businesses through affordable infrastructure, protective policies, and patient African capital. By 2035, progress must be measured by the companies, infrastructure, and intellectual property Africans build, scale, and retain locally.

You can connect with Nyandia via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/nyandia-gachago-acim-7647b420/*

Gideon Uwem

Cultural Architect, Program Lead at Gamr Africa & CEO of Novatrax



Gideon Uwem is a cultural architect and gaming ecosystem builder (Program Lead at Gamr Africa, CEO of Novatrax) who creates programs and products that turn African talent and creativity into high-impact opportunities.

Focus Area: **Creative Economy, Gaming Ecosystems & African Cultural Innovation**

Pull Quote: *Afrobeats, Nollywood, and our games are not just culture; they are proof of concept—African creators have already shown the world wants what we make.*

Response:

Africans must move from consuming AI to building and owning the industries it creates. By pairing AI with local cultural context, domain expertise, and creativity, Africa can transform access into ownership. Building on the global success of Afrobeats, Nollywood, and gaming, AI is the next tool to scale African innovation globally on our own terms.

You can connect with Gideon via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/gideon-uwem/*

Nurain Takuma

Founder, Titans Academy & Media Strategist



A Nigeria media strategist, Entrepreneur, Mentor for young men through content creation that has over time grown into a community of more than 600,000 people across multiple platforms and the Founder of Titans Academy, a personal development initiative dedicated to helping young men build confidence, discipline, leadership, and strong values that prepare them for success in both this life and the next.

Focus Area: **Creative Economy, Personal Growth & Youth Mentorship**

Pull Quote: *Curiosity to learn and an open mind are the beginnings of growth—we must focus on society and others over selfish interests.*

Response:

Building a sustainable and globally competitive economy requires a fundamental commitment to continuous learning and open-mindedness. Growth begins when we move past selfish interests and redirect our focus toward social impact, community upliftment, and collective progress.

You can connect with Nurain via *https://www.nuraintakuma.com/*

Dr Kelechi Okoro

Founder of Heal for Africa Initiative, Plan am Well Solutions,and Health Konekt Africa. Gates Foundation Goalkeeper and WHO FIDES influencer.



Dr. Kelechi Okoro ("The Healthertainer") is a medical doctor, health communicator, and social impact leader bridging health, media, technology, and policy. She advocates for health equity and community wellness through storytelling and her platforms: Heal For Africa, Plan am well, and Health Konekt Africa..

Focus Area: **Society and Public Innovation (Health & Tech Inclusion)**

Pull Quote: *African should not simply be consumers of AI. We should be purposeful builders, responsible innovators and global contributors, using technology with both intelligence and heart*

Response:

By 2035, Africa must build an inclusive AI ecosystem—backed by affordable connectivity, local data, responsible governance, and practical digital literacy—that empowers people to create rather than just consume.

Beyond technology, success depends on building a purpose-driven, empathetic generation of innovators who design solutions focused on real-world impact and community benefit.

You can connect with Dr Kelechi via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/healthertainer*

Abdellahi DIOP

Founder & Board President
Open Community



Abdellahi Diop, known as "Ash" or "The Techie MBA," is a Mauritanian founder, data, and project practitioner. He is the founder of Open Community, a youth-focused initiative making technology and digital tools more accessible to young Africans. His work focuses on technology, AI, innovation, and entrepreneurship, with a strong emphasis on practical solutions.

Focus Area : **AI and Digital Features**

Pull Quote: *I believe AI is one of the biggest levers Africa has catch up, compete and create its own place in the global economy*

Response:

2035 is coming fast, and AI is Africa's best tool to compete globally—provided we move from consuming technology to building skills, products, and sustainable systems. To achieve this, universities must turn R&D into globally competitive startups, prepare for frontiers like quantum computing, and ensure innovation reaches rural communities and people with disabilities to create lasting impact.

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Maryam Dan-Habu Eje

Legal Counsel, Foundation Chambers



Maryam Eje is a Nigerian maritime, commercial, energy, and regulatory lawyer (Counsel at Foundation Chambers), Secretary of the NBA-SBL Maritime Law Committee, Executive Director of Olivehill Development Initiative, and a dedicated advocate and mentor.

Focus Area: **Research & Development**

Pull Quote: *The goal should evolve from having more Africans using Ai by 2035 to having more Africans building it, researching it, owning it and exporting it*

Response:

Building Africa's AI generation relies on curiosity, knowledge, and structure. We must understand local community needs, shift from consuming imported tech to producing locally relevant data and research, and build supportive ecosystems—complete with sustained R&D funding, university-industry collaboration, and reliable policies. By 2035, the goal is for Africans to research, build, own, and export AI globally.

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Abraham Oguche

Tech Educator, Content Creator, & Digital Story Teller



Abraham Oguche, known online as BrahamTech, is a Nigerian tech educator, content creator, and digital storyteller building one of Africa's most engaged tech audiences across TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. With a combined following of over half a million, he simplifies tech, gadgets, AI, and digital skills for everyday people, and is on a mission to foster digital literacy across Africa, one video at a time.

Focus Area : **Digital Empowerment, Grassroots inclusion & Ai Ethics**

Pull Quote: *Inclusion means reaching them, not waiting for them to reach us.*

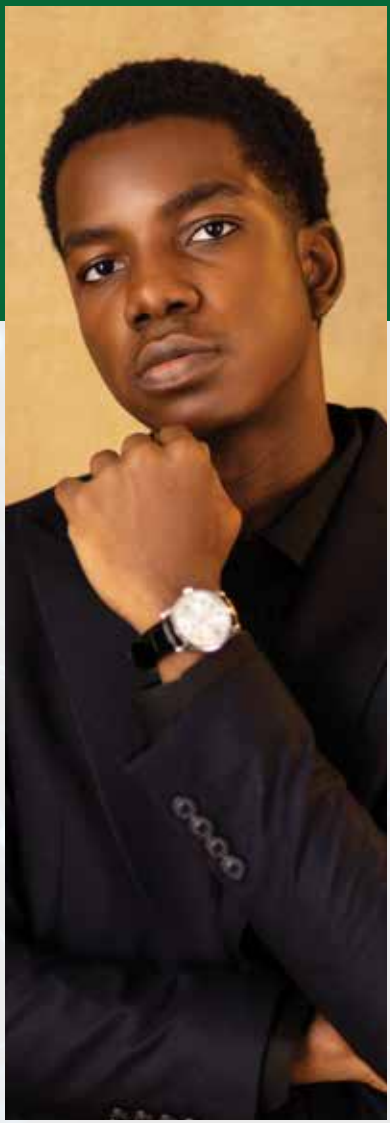
Response:

Empowering people through accessible digital training—especially for remote and undereducated communities—is essential to Africa's AI transition. Closing skill and infrastructure gaps requires proactive inclusion backed by ethical AI policies to ensure growth remains fair, sustainable, and globally competitive. Ultimately, the future economy is a people project before a technology project.

You can connect with via
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Dayo Adedeji

Founder & CEO of Dynasty Africa, a leading full-service creative and marketing agency.



Dayo Adedeji is the Founder and CEO of Dynasty Africa, a creative and marketing agency founded in 2021. The agency has worked with brands like TikTok, inDrive and Temu, and became the first African agency to win a Cannes Dolphin Award. He was named to the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list in 2026.

Focus Area: **Contextual Product Building, Intellectual Property & Creative Originality**

Pull Quote: *The real measure of Africa's Ai progress will be what we originate rather than adopt*

Response:

Africa's AI success will depend on originating original solutions rather than adopting foreign ones. While AI accelerates speed and scale, deep understanding of local culture and context remains irreplaceable. By 2035, progress will be measured by our confidence to experiment and build homegrown products, IP, and businesses around problems we know best.

You can connect with Dayo via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/dayo-adedeji-023a43214/*

Baraka Martin Nicodemus

Founder Miwani Janja



Baraka Nicodemus Martin is a Tanzanian Electrical & Electronics Engineer and co-founder of Miwani Janja. He builds affordable AI-powered smart glasses to enhance independence, privacy, and information access for blind individuals.

Focus Area: **Infrastructure, Local Datasets & Compute Sovereignty**

Pull Quote: *By supporting African researchers, universities and startups to collect local data and build their own solutions, Africa can create AI that includes more people.*

Response:

Africa needs fundamental infrastructure, reliable internet, electricity, data centers, and computing power to enable local talent to build real solutions. We must also invest in collecting local datasets for regional languages and unique African contexts; otherwise, we remain reliant on foreign tools that don't fit our needs. Funding native R&D and startups will ensure inclusive, globally competitive AI by 2035.

You can connect with Baraka via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/barakamartin2000*

Ifeoluwa Olowu Oluwaseun

Visual Artist And Entrepreneur



Ifeoluwa Oluwaseun Olowu is an internationally recognized visual artist and entrepreneur pioneering augmented reality to blend digital and physical art. Known for his debut collection "Colored Reality," he has exhibited across Europe and Africa, earning a nomination for the Global Arts Prize and winning an arts prize in Casablanca.

Focus Area: **Creative Tech, Digital Infrastructure & Cultural Preservation (or simply Creative Tech & Digital Infrastructure)**

Pull Quote: *"Our greatest advantage is not simply access to AI, but our ability to use it to solve meaningful problems, create opportunities, and tell our own stories on the global stage."*

Response:

By 2035, Africa must shift from tech consumers to creators, using AI to preserve culture, expand storytelling, and solve real-world problems. Achieving this requires accessible digital infrastructure, practical skills, cross-sector partnerships, and strong protections for original human creativity and intellectual property."

You can connect with Ifeoluwa via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/ife-olowu-a6ab65140/*

Anita Oseni Temitope

Creative Director, Dianny Media House



I am Anita Temitope Oseni. A creative professional with experience in writing, voice-over, video editing, graphic design, and communications. I am passionate about storytelling, digital creativity, and using media to share ideas, connect with people, and create meaningful impact.

Focus Area: **Media Storytelling & Inclusive AI Skill Building**

Pull Quote: *AI is a powerful tool: when used correctly, gives us more room to explore ideas and create our own solutions to African problems*.

Response:

Empowering young Africans requires access to the right tools, practical training, and growth opportunities. AI serves as a powerful multiplier to save time and expand creative reach globally, but it must be applied to local challenges without displacing emerging talent. By 2035, the goal is for youth to leverage AI to create jobs, scale businesses, and share authentic African stories on the world stage.

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Lois Ugbe

Founder (Aviv Technologies & Aviv Academy), Convener of The BIG Conference, and Business Consultant, Entrepreneur & Tech Educator.



Lois Ugbe is a business consultant, entrepreneur, and tech educator passionate about helping people turn ideas into sustainable businesses. As the founder of Aviv Technologies and Aviv Academy, she has delivered digital solutions to businesses and trained over 3,000 people across 15 countries. She also convenes The BIG Conference.

Focus Area: **Inclusive AI Skill Building & Grassroots Empowerment (or simply Youth Empowerment & Digital Inclusion)**

Pull Quote: *The real opportunity is not just in teaching people how to use AI, but in helping them turn that knowledge into jobs, businesses, and solutions that improve lives.*

Response:

Africa's AI growth depends on shifting youth from tech users to active builders. Overcoming barriers like funding, training, and poor connectivity requires investment in practical AI education, affordable tools, and localized innovation. By 2035, inclusion must extend beyond big cities so youth can turn skills into jobs, enterprises, and global solutions.

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Deborah Akinwumi

Deputy to the Director of Operations at Servelead Humanitarian Initiative (SHI).



Deborah Akinwumi is the Deputy to the Director of Operations at Servelead Humanitarian Initiative (SHI), leading initiatives in youth empowerment, educational access, and community development.

Focus Area: **Society and Public Innovation (Education, Youth & Community Development)**

Pull Quote: *Africa's success will depend on how effectively we transform our youthful population into innovators and use technology to create opportunities, improve lives, and drive shared prosperity.*

Response:

By 2035, Africa must move from tech consumption to homegrown innovation, turning its youth into creators who solve local challenges. Supporting organizations like Servelead Humanitarian Initiative (SHI) in expanding AI education and infrastructure bridges the digital divide—ensuring underserved communities, young entrepreneurs, and cultural data are responsibly supported for shared prosperity.

You can connect with Deborah via *https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborah-akinwumi-/?isSelfProfile=false*

The Future Is Ours to Build

Africa's future is not something we should wait for; it is something we must build.

Over the next decade, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies could transform how we learn, work, do business, deliver healthcare and solve long-standing challenges. With the right investments in infrastructure, skills, research and innovation, Africa can move beyond adopting solutions developed elsewhere to building technologies that respond to our realities, address our needs and compete globally.

Across the continent, there are already glimpses of this future. In South Africa, Lelapa AI is developing language technologies designed around African languages and contexts, helping address the underrepresentation of African languages in artificial intelligence. In Kenya, Amini is building environmental data infrastructure to address critical information gaps affecting agriculture, climate resilience and decision-making. In Ghana, Yemaachi Biotechnology is advancing cancer research through genomics and data science, contributing to scientific knowledge that better reflects African populations.

These examples represent different dimensions of Africa's innovation potential: technologies that reflect our identities, data systems that respond to our environmental realities, and scientific research that addresses our health challenges. They demonstrate that African innovators are not simply preparing to use the technologies of tomorrow. They are already working to shape them.

But technology alone will not define our progress. What matters is whether innovation creates meaningful opportunities, enables young Africans to build thriving businesses, generates decent work and advances inclusive, sustainable growth. Promising ideas need more than talented founders. They require investment, research infrastructure, relevant skills, supportive policies, reliable digital infrastructure and access to markets. Without these enabling conditions, promising innovations may struggle to move beyond prototypes, early-stage ventures or isolated successes.

This is why the systems surrounding innovation matter as much as the ideas themselves. Governments must create enabling policy environments and invest in public infrastructure. Businesses must be willing to adopt new solutions, build partnerships and open pathways to markets.

The Future Is Ours to Build

Investors must recognise the potential of African innovators and provide capital suited to their growth. Universities and research institutions must strengthen the connections between knowledge, technology and enterprise. Development institutions must help address structural barriers, while young Africans must continue to build, experiment, collaborate and challenge conventional assumptions about what is possible.

This ambition aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision of a prosperous, integrated Africa and the opportunities for continental trade and enterprise offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Realising that ambition will require collaboration across borders, investment in African talent and innovation ecosystems, and systems that enable promising ideas to grow into sustainable businesses and solutions that can compete across African and global markets.

This is the challenge at the heart of Redefiners 2035. The young Africans building businesses, developing technologies, creating culture and solving social challenges today are not merely preparing for the future. They are helping to shape it. Their experiences, ambitions and insights offer an important starting point for understanding what Africa's next generation needs to build and scale. Their success, however, will depend on whether the institutions around them are prepared to match their ambition with action.

By 2035, Africa's success should not be measured only by the technologies it adopts, but by what it creates, the opportunities it expands, the jobs and enterprises it sustains, and the problems it solves for its people and the world. The ambition is not simply to produce more innovators. It is to build an economy in which African talent can thrive, homegrown solutions can scale and technological progress translates into broader prosperity.

The future is not guaranteed. It will be shaped by the choices we make, the systems we build and the people we empower today.

This is the time to act with the urgency, imagination and collective ambition required to build that future.