



AI 10 BILLION

Orchestrating Africa's AI productivity

US\$1 TRILLION

additional GDP for Africa by 2035 from AI-enabled pathways

58%

of the gains lie in five priority productive sectors

300 MILLION+

young Africans entering working age within ten years

25 MILLION

jobs from US\$1 billion a year orchestrated over a decade

Source: Africa's AI Productivity Gain, 2025 (AfDB)

Africa faces a strategic choice. Artificial intelligence (AI) can raise productivity, lower the cost of public services and open new markets for African firms. Developed and deployed safely and inclusively, it could generate up to US\$1 trillion in additional GDP by 2035, close to one-third of the continent's current output. This opportunity rests on Africa's demographic advantage, its growing digital capacity and a strong momentum for sectoral reform.

Productivity is the measure that matters. It is where AI turns into trustworthy local value and agency. When African firms, workers and institutions apply AI to their own productive challenges, they build capabilities, own the solutions that emerge, and shape the terms on which they take part in the global AI economy. Some 58 percent of the projected gains lie in five priority productive sectors: agriculture and food systems, wholesale and retail, manufacturing and industry, finance, and health. These gains reach small- and medium-sized enterprises adopting new technology as well as large firms partnering with global AI leaders. Built on well-governed data and designed with energy awareness, AI also enables smarter services that lower costs for governments and businesses alike.

Orchestration is how productivity is achieved. In every country, AI depends on many layers working together: energy, connectivity, data centres, digital public infrastructure (DPI), data, skills and the applications people use. Capital for each layer already exists across governments, development finance institutions (DFI) and private investors. Orchestration aligns that capital behind a shared focus on productivity, so that infrastructure is sized to real demand, public foundations enable private investment, and together they deliver economic and development transformation.

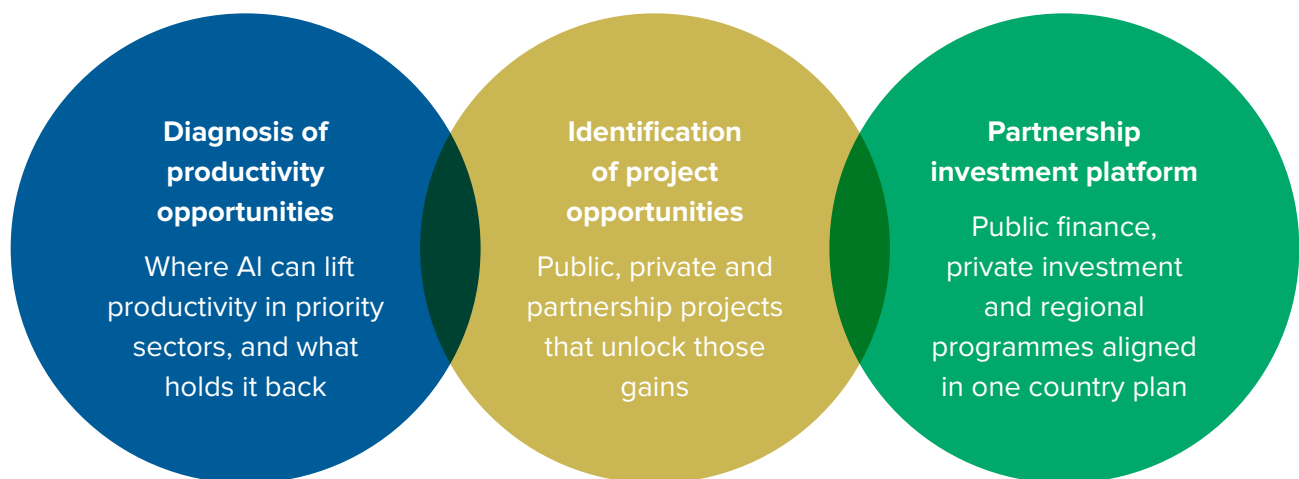
Productive sectors, in turn, build stronger digital markets that respond to Africa's three great dividends: continental integration, a young and growing workforce, and employment, as AI-enabled sectors create jobs at scale and help formalize work. With the right skills, foundational digital and data infrastructure, and a trusted environment, Africa's numbers become its greatest advantage.

AI 10 Billion orchestrates existing capital towards productivity

Development finance institutions, governments and private investors already hold substantial capital and project operations in the many layers that AI depends on: energy, connectivity, data centres, digital public infrastructure, data, skills and the applications people use. AI 10 Billion aligns this capital around a common goal through coordinated, programme-level design of a portfolio of projects. Our analysis shows that orchestrating *\$1 billion a year towards AI for Africa over the next decade (\$10 billion in total)* can contribute to more productive sectors, 25 million jobs and the estimated \$1 trillion uplift in GDP.

HOW AI 10 BILLION WORKS

AI 10 Billion intervenes at three high-leverage moments in each country: diagnosing productivity opportunities, identifying and preparing projects, and convening a partnership investment platform. It works flexibly and iteratively, engaging each country at whatever stage it has reached, and building on the investments, strategies and partnerships already in place. From that starting point, it orchestrates capital and prepares public and private investments for financing by AfDB, other multilateral development banks and private investors.



Diagnosis of productivity opportunities: one country analysis

Governments, development finance institutions and the private sector each hold budgets and project plans for digital investment. AI 10 Billion brings them together through a single country analysis that runs from the foundations of AI, through sectoral use cases, to financeable projects. Every investment is designed for the environment it will operate in, and sized to the demand it will serve.



Macro level: the foundations.

AI readiness across data, compute, trust, financing and skills, together with the energy and connectivity that power them. The focus is on affordability and energy awareness: lowering the cost of access comes first, and compute is right-sized to demand, power costs and the utilization of existing data centres.



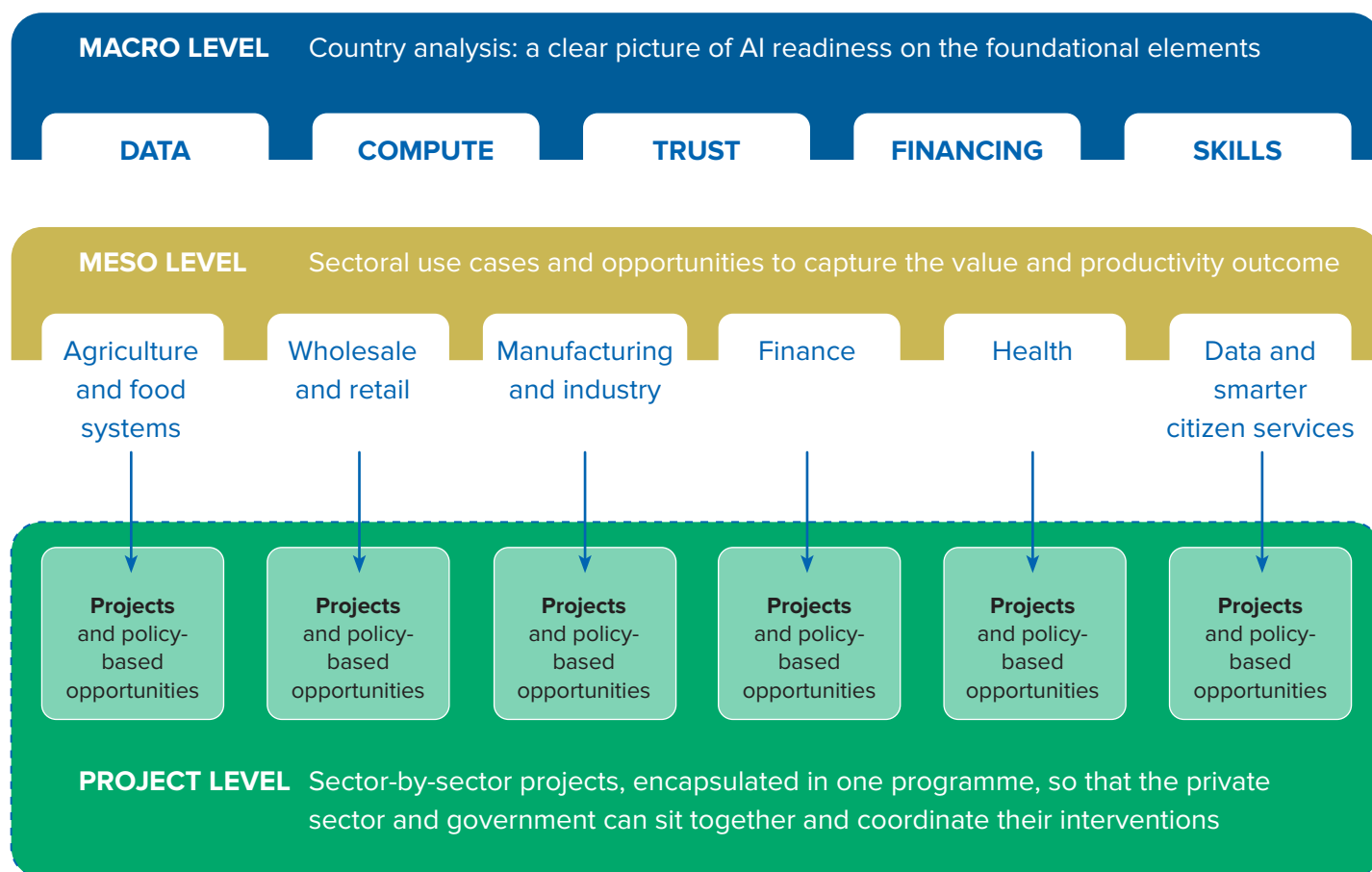
Meso level: the sectors.

Sectoral use cases, including data and smarter citizen services. The analysis reflects how African businesses work, with AI embedded in everyday processes, and uses digital public infrastructure to anchor demand across sectors.



Project level: the portfolio.

The diagnosis translates into a portfolio of public and private projects and policy-based operations. Smaller pockets of demand are aggregated into commitments large enough to finance.



Identification and preparation of projects: climbing the productivity ladder

From the diagnosis, AI 10 Billion helps governments design public projects and policy-based operations, and points the private sector to the investment opportunities it can take forward. Programme delivery then strengthens technical, operational and financial readiness concurrently across the portfolio, so that each project rises up the ladder to the standard required for a financing decision.

1	IDENTIFY	The most promising portfolios of projects are selected from the country analysis, and the constraints holding back each one are diagnosed including across foundations those use cases depend on: compute, data, skills, trust and capital.
2	PREPARE	AI 10 Billion specialists work with public and private sponsors to close the remaining gaps, from demand evidence and feasibility to financial and legal structuring and safeguards, to the standard diverse lenders and investors require.
3	INVEST	Each prepared project is referred through the partnership investment platform to the financier best placed to support it.

Partnership investment platform

In each country, AfDB and UNDP establish a partnership investment platform that brings government, the private sector, development finance institutions and regional economic communities around a shared country investment plan. Governments align budget allocations, DFI loans, grants and guarantees to unlock the foundational constraints that require public action. Private investors, operators and technology partners co-invest in the opportunities they can lead and contribute in-kind resources such as compute, tools and expertise. Regional economic communities shape multi-country programmes. Through the platform, public finance, private investment and regional programmes move together to unlock productivity.

AI 10 BILLION PLATFORM FOR PARTNERS

Governments	A bird's-eye view from project to impact across the AI ecosystem; demand- and market-driven AI strategies; financing plans that unlock productivity in priority sectors; and data architecture that makes DPI and e-government data ready for public and private services and sectoral use.
Private sector	A clear view of how investments sit within the wider ecosystem, and of the opportunities for dialogue, co-investment, financing and vertical integration.
DFIs and development partners	Clear, bankable projects to finance, and visibility of how each contribution complements the investments of others.
Small and medium enterprises	Targeted strategies that reach the firms at the heart of African markets and help them capture productivity gains.
Regional economic communities	A platform for regional programmes that require multi-country investment.

\$10 million for 2026–2027 will establish the programme delivery platform for AI productivity orchestration and project structuring across countries.

Sustainability. Projects that reach financial close pay a success fee, which is reinvested in preparing the next projects in the pipeline.

Institutional home. The platform is jointly housed by AfDB and UNDP, bringing it closer to governments, investors and the private sector.

Partnership. AfDB and UNDP invite governments, development finance institutions, private investors and philanthropies to join the initiative as it grows.