

E-Governance in Africa 2026: Digitalisation across sectors

Yearbook



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In two consecutive years, the HSE Center for African Studies published the handbooks on the progress of digital public services in Africa: E-Governance in **Africa 2024: Opportunities and Challenges** and

E-Governance in Africa 2025: Balancing globalization & self-reliance.

The handbooks, reviewed by Dr. Mactar Seck, Chief of Emerging Technologies, Innovation and Digital Transformation Section of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, provide an insight on the state of e-governance in Africa.



E-Governance in Africa 2026: Digitalisation Across Sectors serves as a handbook on the digital transformation of key economic and social sectors across African countries for public authorities, businesses, research centers, and development partners. The handbook examines how digitalisation is reshaping industries such as finance, identification systems, energy sector, education, agriculture, healthcare and justice, offering insights into both challenges and emerging solutions in African countries.



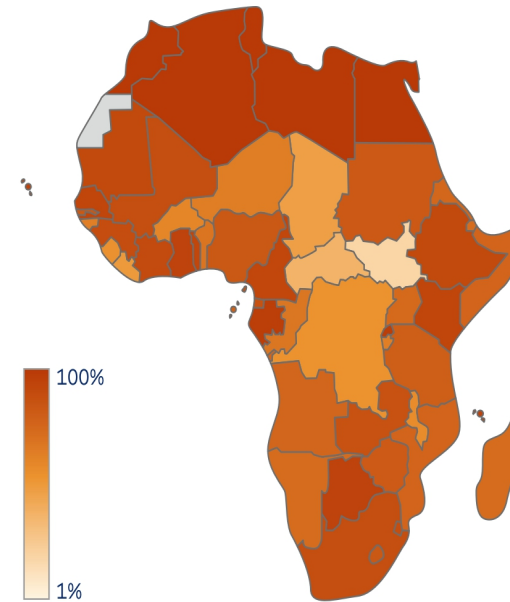
The concept of the sector-specific digitalisation

Digital transformation in Africa is gradually moving into a phase where, beyond improvements in connectivity, greater attention is being placed on the digitalization of key sectors of public administration and service delivery.

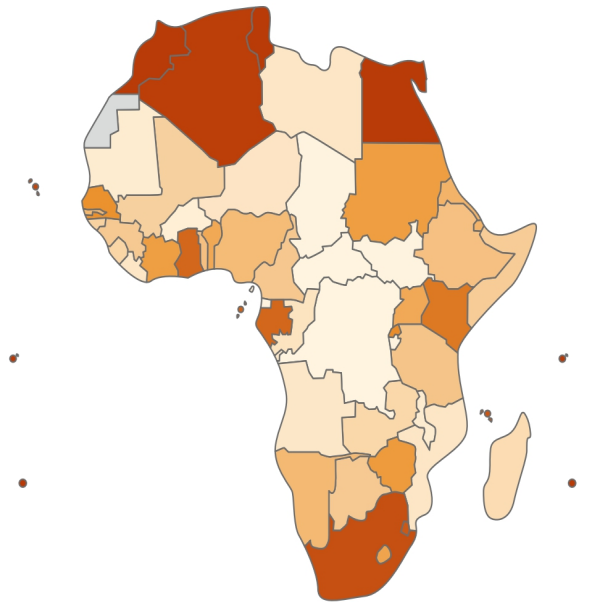
Across the continent, governments increasingly recognize that improvements in identity systems, education, agriculture, energy, public finance, justice, and healthcare are inseparable from the adoption of well-governed, interoperable technologies.

Sector-specific digitalization has thus become a critical pathway for strengthening state capacity, improving service delivery, and advancing inclusive development.

Electricity access rate in Africa 2024,
urban population (%)



Electricity access rate in Africa 2024,
rural population (%)



Source: prepared by the HSE University Center for African Studies based on Energy Sector Management Assistance Program data, UNSD and World Bank.

Sector-specific digitalisation



TaxTech and Domestic Resource Mobilisation: Digitalisation of Public Finances

Digitalisation is implemented in tax administration through electronic platforms for taxpayer registration, e-filing of returns, and online payments via banks or mobile money. Advanced solutions also include VAT automation and digital traceability systems for excisable goods.



Powering Governance: ICTs in Energy Sector Management

Digitalisation is applied across the energy value chain, from power generation and transmission planning using GIS to the deployment of smart grids and smart meters. It also encompasses integrated control centers (SCADA) for real-time monitoring and prepaid mobile payment platforms to improve the financial sustainability of utilities.



From Farm to Platform: Digital Tools for Resilient Agriculture

In agriculture, digital tools are implemented through resource allocation platforms for subsidised inputs, SMS-based advisory services, and IoT solutions for precision irrigation and soil care. Digital agromarketplaces and traceability systems link farmers directly to supply chains to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access.



From Paper to Pixels: Transforming Identity Verification in Africa

Identity lifecycle, applying technology to biometric data capture, storage, and the issuance of secure digital credentials like smartcards or mobile IDs. These digital ID systems serve as a gateway for social and economic inclusion, enabling access to financial services, healthcare, and legal recognition.

Sector-specific digitalisation



Justice on the Cloud: Digitalisation of Courts and Legal Service

The justice sector implements digitalisation through Electronic Case Management Systems (ECMS), e-filing portals, and virtual hearing technologies to improve procedural transparency and judicial autonomy. Other spheres include automated translation for court proceedings and the pilot use of blockchain to ensure the integrity of land and judicial records.



Education for IT, IT for Education

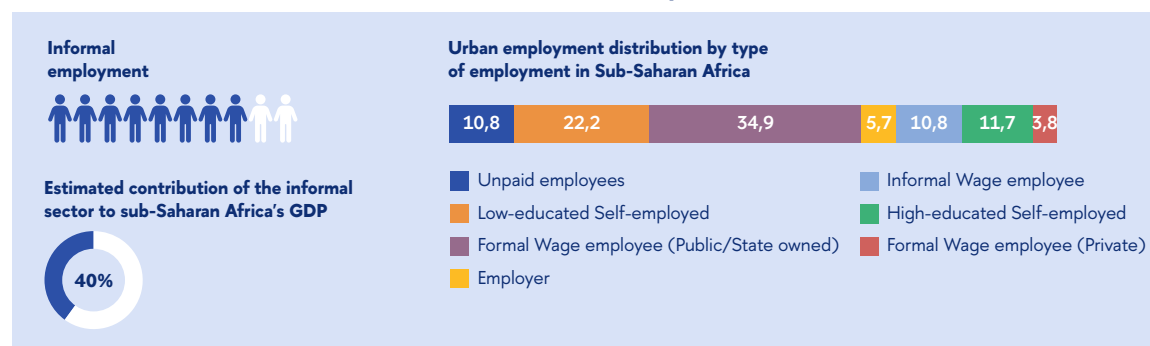
Digitalisation in education involves the use of Learning Management Systems (LMS), cloud-based digital libraries, and "Smart Classrooms" equipped with multimedia tools. Implementation also focuses on digitizing education data (EMIS) and providing vocational training to address the continent's critical shortage of high-technology skills.



Healing with Data: Digital Transformation of African Healthcare Systems

Healthcare digitalisation is implemented through Electronic Health Records (EHR), telemedicine platforms, and AI-assisted diagnostics to extend specialist care to remote communities. Digital logistics systems (eLMIS) and drone delivery are used to manage medical supply chains and ensure the availability of essential medicines.

The informal economy in Africa



Source: prepared by Intexpertise LLC based on the data from ILO, World Bank and IMF.

Risks and challenges

Digitalization cannot substitute for governance; it must reinforce it. Effective e-governance requires ministries and agencies with clear mandates, skilled personnel, stable legal frameworks, and coordination mechanisms that transcend departmental silos.

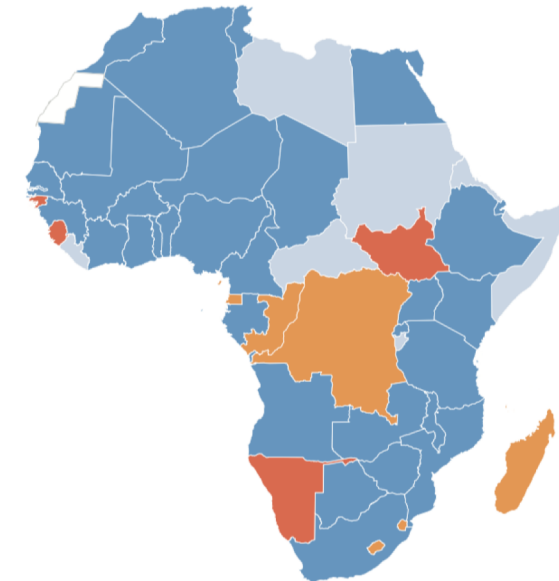
To further enhance the impact of digital initiatives, it is recommended that stakeholders complement broad connectivity efforts with a targeted focus on sector-specific digitalisation.

By integrating digital tools directly into core areas of public administration, such as finance, identification, and healthcare, governments can more effectively translate technical foundations into tangible improvements in service delivery.

Progress requires a systemic approach: not only the adoption of new technologies, but also adequate financing, effective regulation, skilled personnel, robust cybersecurity, reliable energy sector, and public trust

Data protection laws in Africa, 2025

- Have both law and data protection agency
- Have law but no data protection agency
- Draft law under consideration
- No data protection policy



Source: prepared by the HSE University Center for African Studies based on the open sources data.

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