



The [Digital Economy for Africa \(DE4A\) Initiative](#) is working to ensure that every person, business, and government in Africa is digitally enabled by 2030. Achieving this digital transformation will take a collective commitment by all African countries, development partners and the private sector to massively scale up resources dedicated to building the foundations of a vibrant, inclusive and safe digital economy throughout the continent.



The time for digital growth is now

The Digital Economy for Africa initiative is helping to unlock new pathways for rapid economic growth, innovation, job creation and access to services which would have been unimaginable only a decade ago. [Watch now: Africa's Digital Transformation: Digital Economy as a Driver of Growth and Innovation](#)

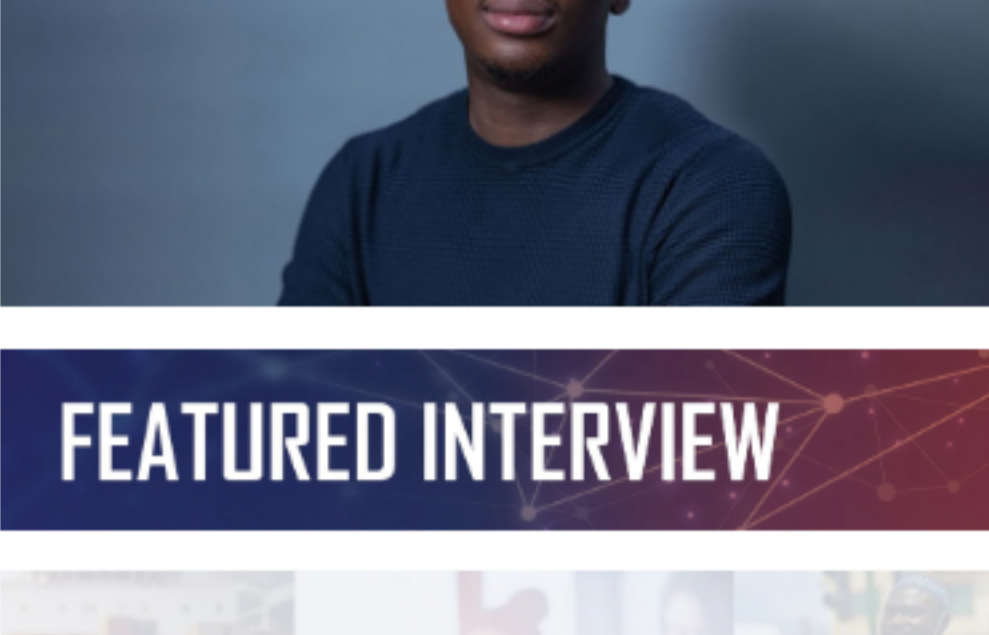
VOICES FROM THE FIELD

“SweepSouth” and “Paystack”

Meet some of Africa’s tech entrepreneurs who are building the future

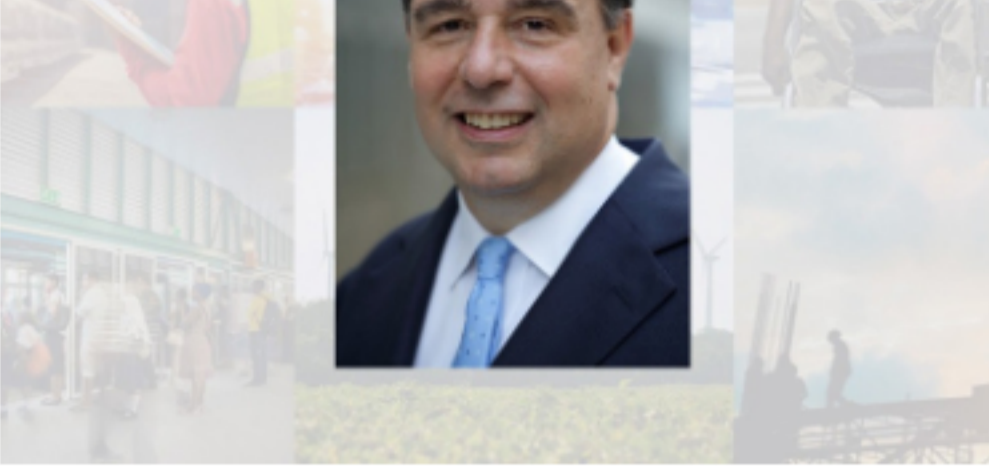


Back in 2012, Aisha Pandor, like many mothers, was feeling stressed out. She didn't need full-time help to manage her home in Cape Town, South Africa, but wasn't sure how to locate and hire reliable, skilled part-time help. After mulling over ways that technology could help play matchmaker, she left her firm to build SweepSouth, among Africa's first platforms for home cleaning services. Today, SweepSouth is one of the fastest-growing tech start-ups in South Africa and has expanded into Kenya. [More information](#)



Shola Akinlade was a young techie who hoped that somebody would find a way to digitize transactions and fix some of the challenges with digital payments. That “somebody” turned out to be Akinlade himself. His interest in creating an Africa-centric digital payment system led him to build Paystack, which has helped SMEs, merchants, larger businesses, fintechs and educational institutions go digital and scale their businesses. [More information](#)

FEATURED INTERVIEW



World Bank Infrastructure Vice President Riccardo Puliti

Riccardo Puliti leads the Bank's global efforts to build effective infrastructure in developing and emerging markets and supports the World Bank Group's strategic business priorities such as the climate change action plan. He oversees the Bank's critical work across energy and transport sectors, digital development, and efforts to provide access to renewable energy and low-carbon transportation and quality infrastructure services to communities through public-private partnerships. [More information](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON PROJECTS



Supporting the ICT sector in Somalia

Somalia's ICT sector – particularly mobile communications – is already one of the brightest spots in its economy. Thanks in part to support from a World Bank program there, market competition, equitable distribution and demand-driven efficiency have grown and transformed operating environments for both government and individual citizens. [Read more](#)

Better broadband networks in Burkina Faso

Since 2009, Burkina Faso has made significant infrastructure progress, with major hubs built in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. These “points of presence” have boosted access for internet service providers and everyday users. [Read more](#)

Keeping small retailers in Nigeria open during COVID-19

The global and domestic supply chains were completely disrupted by the pandemic, containment measures and lockdowns. TradeDepot, a rising star in Nigeria's growing digital economy, was there to bridge the supply chain gap. TradeDepot helped small business owners like Blessing Chibueze keep her shelves stocked during COVID-19. [Read more](#)

Faster digital growth, and more jobs in Ethiopia

Making digital services more affordable for everyone, with universal skills training, are the foundations of Ethiopia's digital strategy. This program is working to increase the inclusiveness and affordability of services and to boost job creation. [Read more](#)

Digital education on an island nation

In Cabo Verde, this World Bank program is supporting work on reforms that can help ensure that training activities and finance serve the labor market. [Read more](#)

IMPACT STORIES



Empowering youth through tech

Western and Central Africa have made great progress in access to education, yet too few young people can participate in skill development programs that can help them get jobs. This persistent gap needs to be addressed through policies and programs—sooner rather than later. [More information](#)



Optimizing vaccine delivery by boosting digital skills

Equipping community health workers with digital skills can increase the adoption of digital tools for registering and managing beneficiaries, improving communication, collaboration, data accuracy, and reporting adverse events. [More information](#)



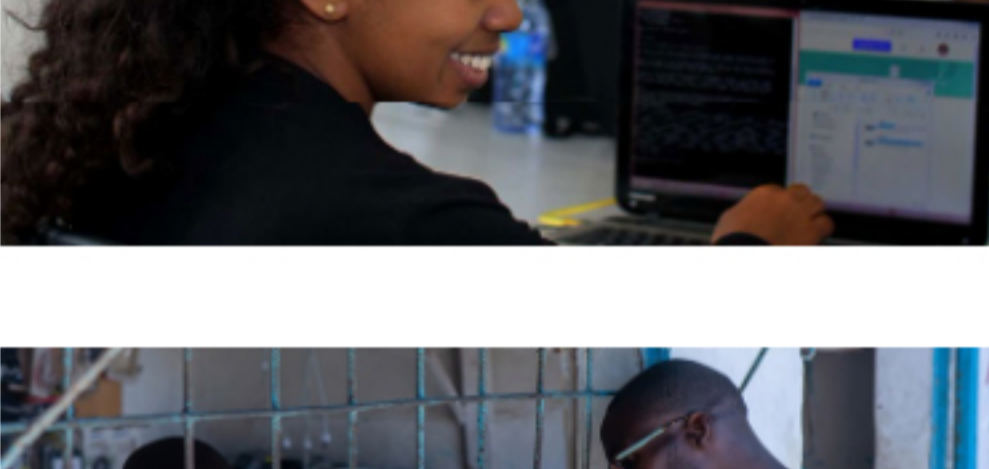
How connectivity is innovating health services

The use of online medical solutions and other online tools has boomed during COVID-19, as the medical community needed to explore digital substitutes for high-risk personal interactions. But not all countries have had the same chances to take advantage of frontier innovation. [More information](#)



In Ethiopia, women are reprogramming careers

Semhal Tekleab is only 20 years old, but she's already pursuing a career developing apps for phones. She never wanted to do anything else. “The future is mobile,” she explains, matter of factly. [More information](#)



Fintech is transforming Africa's financial services sector

One of the great challenges of sending and receiving money has long been the hefty fees that go along with sending cash. To help make digital payments more accessible, IFC recently co-invested with Partech Partners in an innovative mobile money operator called Wave, which has found a niche in the mobile money business market. [More information](#)

KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Building digital foundations

This methodological guidebook provides information that can help countries prepare digital skills action plans for higher education and technical and vocational education and training. [Read more](#)



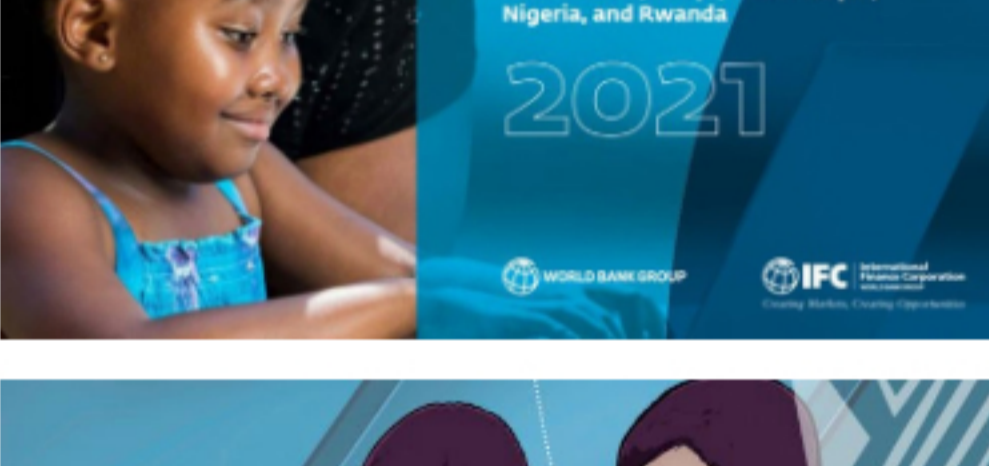
From access to coding: boosting skills for all

This IFC and World Bank study focuses on Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Rwanda, and how better investments in digital technology support wellbeing. [Read more](#)



Getting up to speed with better broadband

Broadband connectivity is a critical enabler for modernizing higher education institutions (HEIs) in their mission of teaching, research, and community outreach. This report offers a roadmap for connecting all African HEIs to high-speed internet. [Read more](#)



Handling the digital payment boom in MENA

This report discusses strengthening the provision of payment services in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as an essential step to integrate their economies into the world of 'digital finance and digital economy' and to support economic development. [Read more](#)



Narrowing the digital divide can foster inclusion and create jobs

Research from Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania is showing how digital technologies are unlocking new pathways for rapid economic growth, innovation, job creation and access to services in Africa. [Read more](#)

DIGITAL ECONOMY COUNTRY DIAGNOSTICS

Country Diagnostics provide a snapshot of the state of the digital economy in a given country for each of the five pillars of the DE4A initiative (digital infrastructure, digital public platforms, digital financial services, digital businesses, and digital skills). New countries are added frequently. [Learn more](#)



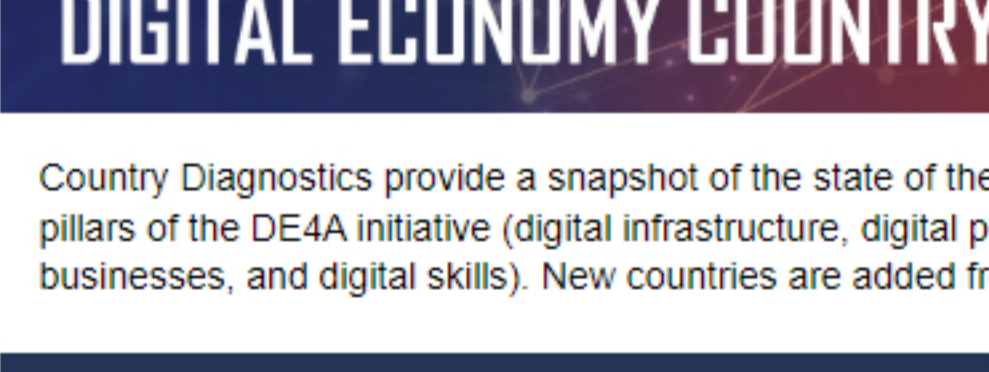
A snapshot of Burundi's digital needs

The diagnostic for Burundi maps the strengths of the country's digital ecosystem, as well as the weaknesses, to help spur future opportunity. [Read more](#)



What does Egypt need for its digital future?

This assessment is based on research and comprehensive interviews with a wide variety of digital stakeholders. [Read more](#)



The Gambia assesses the digital journey ahead

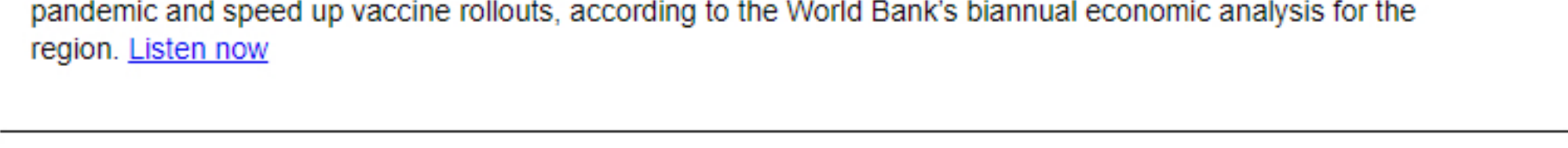
This assessment is based on research and comprehensive interviews with a wide variety of digital stakeholders. [Read more](#) and [watch the video](#)

MULTIMEDIA



Africa's Pulse: COVID-19 and the future of work in Africa

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to have contracted by 2.0% in 2020, closer to the lower bound of the forecast in April 2020, and prospects for recovery are strengthening amid actions to contain new waves of the pandemic and speed up vaccine rollouts, according to the World Bank's biannual economic analysis for the region. [Listen now](#)



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