

# NEWSLETTER



We're thrilled to bring you this second edition of the IIDIA Newsletter, where we spotlight transformative stories at the intersection of financial inclusion, digital innovation, and gender empowerment. Since our inaugural issue, the momentum has only grown, more partnerships forged, more milestones achieved, and more communities uplifted through collaborative solutions.

This edition explores emerging insights from the field and celebrates milestones in inclusive digital innovations. Whether you're a partner, practitioner, or advocate for inclusive finance, these stories remind us that progress is possible when technology meets purpose.

**Now, let's dive in!**

**BUILDING  
ON  
MOMENTUM,  
DRIVING  
CHANGE**



## ★ Feature Story: Digital Transformation in Rural Burkina Faso

### WOMEN IN RURAL BURKINA FASO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCIAL REVOLUTION: **A LUX PROJECT** (Digital Group Credit Platform)



#### How Women's Savings Groups Are Pioneering Financial Inclusion

In Burkina Faso's rural regions, women's savings groups are rewriting the rules of economic participation with a revolutionary digital credit platform. Spearheaded by RCPB, CIF, and IIDIA, this initiative replaces cumbersome paper ledgers with an intuitive digital system, slashing administrative burdens and unlocking hours for income-generating activities. At its core? A community-first approach, where local facilitators bridge the digital divide through tailored training.

#### Why It Matters?

This isn't just about technology, it's about time, trust, and transformation. This intervention not only provides women with financial access but also the freedom to lead.

Ready to see how innovation meets impact? Explore the full story here: <https://shorturl.at/nIGND>

## ★ IIDiA Commemorates World Health Day 2025: Digital Solutions for Maternal and Newborn Health



On World Health Day, IIDiA joined the global call to action under the theme “Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures”, championing digital innovation to transform maternal and newborn health. From telemedicine in Rwanda (Babyl) to mobile education tools in South Africa (MomConnect), technology is breaking barriers to care.

We spotlight four game-changing approaches:

- Telemedicine for remote prenatal monitoring.
- Mobile apps delivering life-saving health information.
- Digital ID systems streamlining access to care (e.g., Côte d’Ivoire’s ONECI).
- Wearable devices like the Embrace Nest incubator for preterm infants.

At IIDiA, we see a future where no mother or child is left behind. These tools prove that localized digital solutions can turn survival into thriving, saving time, lives, and hope.

Find out more here: <https://shorturl.at/LrYLz>



## Spotlight: Ghana's Payment Interoperability – A Blueprint for Africa



Ghana has made history as Africa's only fully interoperable payments market, seamlessly linking mobile wallets, bank accounts, and merchant payments.

Key milestones:

- ✓ Mobile-to-Bank Transfers: No intermediaries needed (powered by GhIPSS since 2018)
- ✓ Universal QR Payments: One code works across all providers
- ✓ Cost Reduction: Lower fees boost SME adoption

This model proves that collaboration > competition in financial inclusion. With 75% of adults now using mobile money (KPMG 2024), Ghana offers a replicable playbook for:

- Governments crafting cashless policies
- Fintechs scaling cross-platform solutions
- Telcos expanding rural access

Read our blog on Africa's Payments Revolution here:  
<https://shorturl.at/ntveN>

## ✦ Breaking Barriers: Benin Launches West Africa's First Fon-Language AI



In a historic leap for digital sovereignty, IIDIA and Benin's ASIN, with support from the Gates Foundation have unveiled the Regional Innovation and Digital Technology Lab in Cotonou, with its flagship project: the first voice AI model for the Fon language.

This innovation tackles a critical exclusion factor, 85% of Benin's rural population speaks Fon but lacks native-language digital tools.

Three Life-Changing Use Cases:

- Locating emergency pharmacies

- Voice-based mobile money balance checks (partnering with Celtis)

- Simplified birth certificate procedures

Read Ambassador Adechoubou's full vision for linguistic inclusion here: <https://shorturl.at/9wXtz>

🎥 Watch the launch: [https://youtu.be/xJs\\_4qHDW4o](https://youtu.be/xJs_4qHDW4o)

## ★ Agents Are Building Financial Confidence in Underserved Communities!



True financial inclusion in West Africa goes beyond mere access to digital financial tools; it requires understanding, trust, and confidence to use these tools effectively, especially in rural and underserved areas. Agents, trusted community members such as local entrepreneurs and leaders, play a vital role as the human bridge between complex digital systems and everyday users.

Access is just the first step; learn why empowering agents with knowledge and skills is key to true inclusion. Support continuous training and community-driven learning today.

Explore the article for insights: <https://shorturl.at/fj6in>



## ★ World Youth Skills Day: Closing the Digital Divide and Building an AI-Ready Workforce

### WORLD YOUTH SKILL DAY: 10 YEARS OF YOUTH SKILL & NEW DIGITAL FRONTIER



The world marked the 10th anniversary of World Youth Skills Day on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the focus sharpens on a critical mission: equipping young people with the digital and artificial intelligence (AI) skills essential for success in a rapidly transforming global economy.

The 2025 theme, **“Youth Empowerment through AI and Digital Skills,”** captures both the promise of innovation and the stark reality of a persistent digital divide, one that risks leaving millions of African youth on the sidelines of the digital revolution.

At IIDiA, we are proving that inclusive AI development is possible when global innovation meets local realities.

A typical example is found in Benin, where a voice AI project in the Fon language, a first for West Africa, demonstrates how linguistic inclusion can unlock digital participation for millions. IIDiA exemplifies the pan-African collaboration needed to bridge the divide by co-creating solutions with communities rather than imposing foreign models.

Explore the full article for insights: <https://shorturl.at/7WQYv>

## ★ IIDiA and Tazama Join Forces to Tackle Fraud and Expand Financial Inclusion in Africa



This partnership, part of the Inclusive Payment Systems Project funded by the Gates Foundation—aims to empower financial institutions, regulators, and governments to combat **fraud and foster trust across digital financial ecosystems.**

Tazama, offering real-time insights into transaction-level activities, will enable early detection and rapid response to fraud and scam attempts across national and institution payment platforms, equipping countries and financial institutions like banks and mobile money operators with critical infrastructure to protect users and strengthen trust in digital finance.

IIDiA will lead the regional rollout of Tazama's tools across Africa. Leveraging its pan-African policy expertise, research network, and partnerships with governments and central banks, IIDiA will ensure that Tazama's tools are localized, scalable, and aligned with national digital transformation agendas.

Read the full Press Release on our partnership:  
<https://shorturl.at/174Ex>

## ★ Throwback: Highlights from the Mojaloop Foundation Community Meeting!



In April 2025, IIDIA participated in the 27th Mojaloop Foundation Community Meeting held in Accra, Ghana. We witnessed three days of knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation focused on building scalable, interoperable payment systems.

The event featured insightful panels, technical demos, and breakout sessions exploring key topics such as cross-border settlements, new platform releases, and strategies to lower transaction costs in illiquid currency markets. Attendees included regulators, fintechs, mobile money operators, and NGOs, all united in advancing inclusive digital finance.

We shared engaging social media moments from the event, including:

- Video snippets capturing lively discussions and demos
- Quote cards featuring key participants' insights on the future of digital payments and financial inclusion.

Relive the energy and ideas that are shaping Africa's payments revolution here: <https://shorturl.at/3qkYb>

# ★ Together, We Are Building a Brighter Digital Future for Africa

At IIDiA, we are driven by the belief that the digital economy can be a powerful force for good. Through our initiatives, partnerships, and advocacy, we are working tirelessly to ensure that every African can thrive in the digital age. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Stay tuned for more updates, stories, and insights in our next edition!

Warm regards,  
The IIDiA Team



## Quick Links:

- Explore full article on World Youth Skills Day:  
<https://shorturl.at/7WQYv>
- Tazama joins forces with IIDiA to combat Fraud and Expand Financial Inclusion in Africa:  
<https://shorturl.at/174Ex>
- Read the full article on Agents Building Financial Confidence in Underserved Communities! :  
<https://shorturl.at/fj6in>
- See our Ambassador Adechoubou's Speech as Benin Launched West Africa's First Fon-Language AI  
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- Find out more here on Digital Solutions for Maternal and Newborn Health here:  
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## Stay Connected:

We Want to Hear from You!

Have a story to share or feedback on our newsletter? Reach out to us at [ [contact@iidia.org](mailto:contact@iidia.org) ].

Together, Let's Build a Digital Africa That Works for Everyone!

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