BRIDGING THE GAP: CENTRAL AFRICA'S JOURNEY TO AI EMPOWERMENT

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AISHA

Aïsha, 10 years old, lives in a small village in Chad.

Her days are filled with chores, helping her family, and playing with friends.

Aïsha loves learning, but the village school lacks resources

CHLOE

Chloe, 10 years old, lives in a suburban town in the US.

Chloe has access to a computer, the internet, and a wealth of online resources.

She uses them for schoolwork, research, and connecting with others.

REALITY

Aisha

- Aisha didn't finish her education
- Books and educational resources were very expensive
- She wanted a laptop but she couldn't afford it so she let go of her dream

Chloe

- Chloe is excelling in science classes.
- She uses online resources to explore her future career options.
- The internet empowers her to pursue her dreams.

WHAT'S NEW?

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

THE AI LANDSCAPE AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing various sectors globally.

Africa: Most deficient Internet Infrastructure

Central Africa: faces significant challenges in accessing and harnessing this transformative technology.

Key Point: Limited internet infrastructure acts as a major barrier.

CHAD

- Chad, encompassing a substantial 1,284,000 square kilometers, exemplifies the challenge.
- Chad's internet penetration rate stood at **22.5 percent** of the total population at the start of 2024.
- For perspective, **14.38 million** people in Chad did ***not*** use the internet at the start of 2024, suggesting that **77.5 percent** of the population remained offline at the beginning of the year. (Data Portal, **DIGITAL 2024: CHAD).**
- Recent trans-Saharan fiber optic cable (Backbone project) initiatives are a positive step, but are they enough?

INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

- Disparities in internet protocol distribution, like limited IPv4 allocation, further restrict access in Central Africa. (Central Africa has the region's lowest IPv4 resource allocation, overall population of 155,948,855 over 1,404,160 IPv4, AFRINIC).

- CHAD: 28,972 IPv4 allocated which is 0.0009%. Thus make CHAD the 200th country in IP allocation by 2023 according to IP2location's Internet IP Address 2024 Report

- This translates to high internet costs and limited connectivity, particularly in rural areas.

A CALL TO ACTION

How can Central Africa bridge the digital divide and unlock its AI potential?

- We need collaborative efforts to:
  - Invest in infrastructure development.
  - Advocate for equitable internet protocol distribution.
  - Implement capacity-building programs for AI literacy and application.

THANK YOU!
MURAKOZE!