

Airtel Africa Foundation

Annual Report 2025/2026

Contributing to a thriving
and inclusive Africa



Mission

The Airtel Africa Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Airtel Africa, operating across 14 markets. Its mission is to transform lives and communities by advancing inclusive development across four strategic pillars, Financial Inclusion, Education, Environmental Sustainability and Digital Inclusion (FEED).

Table of contents

Message from the Chair	3
Executive Summary	4
About the Foundation	5
FY26 Programmes	6
Results spotlight	8
Partnerships	11
Country Highlights	13
Looking Ahead	15

Cover photo: Student engagement in Uganda



Message from the Chair



Segun Ogunsanya
Chair

“

Having moved decisively from establishment into execution, we strengthened our programmes across education, digital inclusion, financial empowerment and environmental protection.

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Across Africa, opportunity remains unevenly distributed.

While talent and ambition are abundant, too many children and young people continue to face barriers to quality education, digital access, skills and economic participation. The Airtel Africa Foundation was established to help dismantle those barriers.

This reporting period (FY26) marked a year of consolidation and delivery for the Foundation. Having moved decisively from establishment into execution, we strengthened our programmes across education, digital inclusion, financial empowerment and environmental protection.

We did so by combining Airtel Africa's continental reach and technical capabilities with trusted partnerships, most notably our flagship collaboration with UNICEF, and by working closely with governments and local institutions.

Education remained our largest area of investment. Through the Airtel Africa–UNICEF partnership, we connected thousands of schools to the internet, expanded access to zero-rated digital learning platforms and supported teachers and learners to use technology meaningfully. In parallel, our School Adoption Programme progressed from concept to implementation, improving physical learning environments while embedding digital tools and teacher support. The Airtel Africa Fellowship continued to scale, supporting a new generation of African technologists through full scholarships and structured career pathways.

Importantly, the reporting period was also a year in which the Foundation strengthened its governance, monitoring and operating models. We sharpened our focus on outcomes rather than activities, and on long-term systemic change rather than short-term delivery. This discipline positions the Foundation well as it enters its next phase of growth.

As Africa's demographics continue to evolve, the urgency of investing in education, skills and inclusion cannot be overstated. Looking ahead, we will continue to scale what works, deepen partnerships and focus relentlessly on outcomes that expand opportunity for those furthest from it.

Executive Summary

The Airtel Africa Foundation operates across 14 African markets to advance inclusive development through four strategic pillars: Education, Digital Inclusion, Financial Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability (FEED).

3,200+

Schools connected

30,000+

Youth trained

250+

Scholarships awarded

Image: Airtel Africa CEO, Sunil Taldar and the Foundation's Chair (Segun Ogunsanya) at the launch of the Foundation's 2030 strategic plan



The reporting period (April 2025 – March 2026) marked the Foundation's first full year of scaled delivery, with a strong focus on operational consolidation, programme expansion and performance discipline.

During the year, the Foundation committed \$6.2 million to priority interventions and leveraged Airtel Africa's infrastructure and partnerships to deliver impact at scale. Education remained the largest investment area. Through the Airtel Africa–UNICEF partnership, 1,028 schools were connected in this reporting period, bringing the cumulative total to 3,296 schools across 13 countries. These connected schools supported over 2 million learners and 38,868 teachers, while 64 zero-rated digital learning platforms enabled more than 11 million users to access educational content without data costs.

Progress was also made in strengthening learning environments and talent pathways. The School Adoption Programme, which integrated infrastructure improvements with digital access and teacher support, delivered 7 schools fully renovated and 43 undergoing upgrades. The Airtel Africa Tech Fellowship awarded 257 full scholarships, expanding access to STEM education and building a pipeline of high-potential African technologists. In parallel, 30,530 youth and women were trained through digital skills initiatives delivered with national, multilateral and private-sector partners.

Early-stage financial inclusion programmes reached 2,450 participants, with enterprise start-up support provided to 510 beneficiaries, while environmental sustainability activities were embedded within selected education and infrastructure projects.

Looking ahead to the next operational year (April 2026–March 2027), the Foundation will prioritize scaling proven interventions, strengthening systems change and sharpening monitoring and evaluation. Key ambitions include expanding school adoption to 85 schools, growing the Tech Fellowship to 600+ scholarships, supporting 5,000+ connected schools, and extending digital skills and financial inclusion programmes to reach more underserved communities across Africa.

About the Foundation

Mission

The Airtel Africa Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Airtel Africa, operating across 14 markets. Its mission is to transform lives and communities by advancing inclusive development across four strategic pillars, Financial Inclusion, Education, Environmental Sustainability and Digital Inclusion (FEED).

Vision

The Foundation's vision is to contribute to a thriving and inclusive Africa, with particular focus on underserved communities and populations furthest from opportunity.



Governance

The Foundation operates independently and is governed by a Council which oversees its strategy and approves the annual budget alongside the guardian. Financial oversight is provided by the guardian who is the chief financial officer (CFO) of Airtel Africa. The Council members are Airtel Africa UK Limited and Bharti Airtel International (the Netherlands) (BAIN).

The Council has delegated most of the day-to-day activities to the Airtel Africa Charitable Foundation Committee, chaired by Olusegun Ogunsanya. The committee is responsible for programme delivery, funding allocation and ensuring clear accountability across all operations.

Where programmes are delivered in alliance with partners, the Foundation maintains clear roles and responsibilities for each partnership with ongoing oversight to monitor progress, share learnings and optimise impact.

FY26 programmes and spotlights

The Airtel Africa Foundation operates across the 14 markets of Airtel Africa, promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth. Programmes focus on expanding access to education, strengthening digital capabilities and improving economic opportunity in communities where barriers to learning, connectivity and financial inclusion remain significant.

Image: Students accessing zero-rated learning platforms in Malawi



Education

Education remains the Foundation's largest investment area. Programmes focus on access, quality and outcomes, combining digital connectivity, physical learning environments and human capital development.

Key education initiatives in FY26 included:

- School connectivity and zero-rated learning platforms delivered with UNICEF
- The Airtel Africa Tech Fellowship
- School adoption, renovation and transformation programmes

“

Being selected as an Airtel Africa Foundation (AAF) Fellow means more than just financial support to me. Coming from a modest background, this scholarship has lifted a major burden off my shoulders and allowed me to focus fully on building my future in technology.

”

Abdullah Abdulgafar Amuda
Computer Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University

11m+

Learners reached via zero-rated educational platforms

64

Educational Platforms zero-rated

Image: Scholarship award ceremony in DRC

FY26 programmes & spotlights (continued)



Financial inclusion

Across Africa, millions of people, particularly women and those in rural communities, remain excluded from formal financial systems. Without access to savings, credit or digital money services, they cannot fully participate in the economy or build resilience against shocks.

Financial inclusion programmes in this reporting period focused on foundational literacy and early enterprise support, particularly for women and youth.

Activities included:

- Community-level financial literacy workshops
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship training pilots
- Initial start-up support for selected participants

2,450

Entrepreneurs trained across 2 countries

510

Awarded enterprise grants

Image: Participants at the Empower Her initiative in Abuja, Nigeria



Digital inclusion

The Foundation's digital inclusion programme aims to equip young Africans, particularly women and underserved communities, with in-demand digital skills.

Initiatives during this reporting period included:

- Support for national digital skills programmes and applied learning centres
- Technology training for youth and young women through partner-led programmes
- Expansion of digital communities and hubs offering connectivity and training

Image: Cross section of some participants from one state at the nextGen tech training programme in Nigeria

Environmental sustainability

Environmental initiatives remain an emerging but important pillar. In this reporting period, these focused primarily on integrating sustainability considerations into education infrastructure projects and piloting environmental activities in selected markets.

“

With the training received from the facilitators especially on the Business Model Canvas, where we were taught how to identify our key actors, market sponsors, and properly keep business records I truly believe this is a beautiful intervention for women who put food on the table through agriculture. This initiative has given us clearer structure and direction in managing our businesses.

”

Asonye Chinasa
President, Ogbonge Women Association

Results spotlight

257

scholarships awarded across 5 countries

Airtel Africa tech fellowship – Uganda

In 2025/26, in Uganda, after a rigorous selection process that attracted over 300 applications, 20 high-achieving students were awarded fully funded, four-year scholarships, representing a total investment of more than 3.85 billion Ugandan schillings (equiv. \$1m).

The comprehensive package covers tuition, accommodation and stipend. It provides each student with a laptop, data packages and access to a formal mentorship programme with industry leaders

This holistic support removes financial barriers and provides the guidance needed for academic and career success. The 20 fellows, all from disadvantaged backgrounds, are now pursuing degrees in technology fields. Beyond individual transformation, the programme is directly addressing Uganda's tech skills gap by creating a pipeline of highly skilled professionals who will contribute to the nation's digital economy.

The foundation launched the "Airtel Africa Tech Fellowship" programme to support young Africans from disadvantaged backgrounds pursue higher education in STEM, as part of the Foundation's broader goal of increasing proportion of African youth with advanced Tech skills. The fellowship utilises targeted investment in youth capabilities, expanded access to education and strengthened pathways to meaningful employment to cultivate a new generation of tech leaders. As of 31 March 2026, the Foundation has launched 257 scholarships across Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, the DRC, Uganda.

Image: Some scholarship recipients at the award ceremony in Uganda



Results spotlight (continued)



Championing ICT for girls – Airtel Fursa Lab, Tanzania

At just 17 years old, Tupokigwe Gwamaka Simon is already demonstrating how access to digital skills can redefine opportunities for girls in technology. A 2025 graduate of Kijitonyama Secondary School, Tupokigwe's journey reflects the transformative impact of the Airtel Fursa Lab, a flagship collaboration between Airtel Tanzania, Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi), and COSTECH.

Introduced at her school in 2017, the Airtel Fursa Lab has become a hub for innovation, practical learning and entrepreneurship. Under the school's philosophy of "Change education to money," students use ICT not only for research, but to design solutions to real-world challenges – from smart irrigation systems and solar-powered cookers to assistive technologies for learners with disabilities.

Inspired by early exposure to ICT, Tupokigwe contested and won the head girl position in her first year, using her platform to encourage more girls to study computer science. With mentorship from Ms. Rukia Butenge, Kijitonyama's Computer Science teacher, she refined her skills in coding, project design and pitching, going on to win national ICT competitions, including SmartGirls challenges in 2025.

Her success extended beyond school. Tupokigwe now serves as a UNICEF digital inclusion ambassador, advocating for girls' participation in technology at a national level. Her story illustrates how mentorship and infrastructure support can fuel aspirations and unlock the next generation of Tech leadership across the continent.

In 2025, 1,616 people were trained through the Airtel Fursa Lab, including 1,259 females. Project beneficiaries, mix of students and small entrepreneurs, received ICT training, with participation by women steadily increasing across technical disciplines. Since inception, the programme has reached over 4,000 beneficiaries, with women making up the majority of entrepreneurs supported.

Led by committed educators and open to surrounding communities at no cost, the Airtel Fursa Lab continues to build inclusive digital ecosystems. By combining early exposure to ICT, hands-on innovation and strong mentorship, the programme is helping close gender gaps in technology while nurturing Tanzania's next generation of digital talent.

38,868

Teachers Reached across 13 countries

Image: Students presenting their projects at an ICT competition in Tanzania

Results spotlight (continued)

Transforming learning environments – Zambia

In December 2025, the Airtel Africa Foundation broke ground on a \$0.5m investment to upgrade five schools across five provinces in Zambia. Simultaneous groundbreaking ceremonies in Mongu, Chipata, Mufulira, Solwezi and Mansa marked the start of construction and refurbishment under the School Adoption programme.

The project, delivered in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Zambia Open Community Schools, provides modern, safe learning spaces for thousands of students. This project combines modern classrooms with digital tools, creating better learning spaces for students.

The School Adoption programme focuses on transforming learning environments through infrastructure development and systems strengthening. With a budget of approx. \$3m in 2025/26, the Foundation approved renovation of more than 50 schools.

Image: Photos of some schools before and after renovation under the school adoption programme in Zambia



50

Schools adopted across 10 countries

Airtel Africa Tech for her programme

In 2025/26, the Foundation launched the 'Tech for her' programme, a free, five-week online training programme that equips young women with high-demand digital skills. The programme, launched in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia focuses on areas like cybersecurity, data analytics and Linux administration preparing participants for tech-related job opportunities globally.

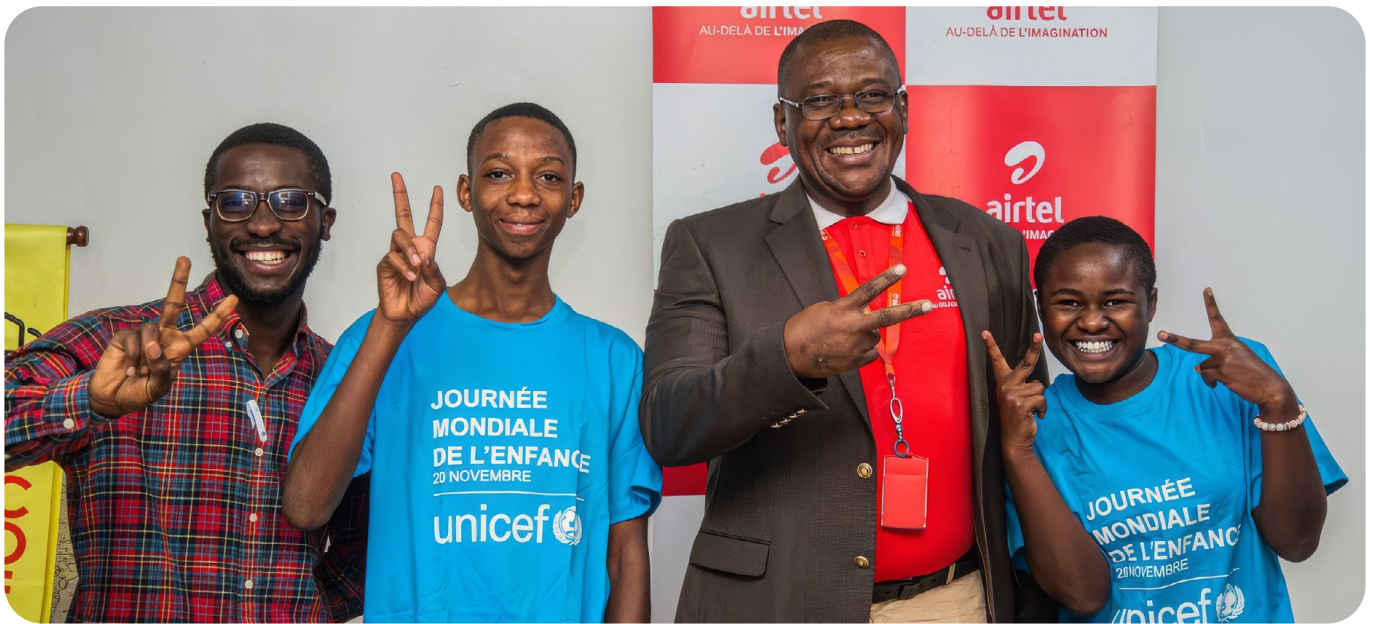
The programme intentionally reserves 30% of seats for women in rural areas and 40% for applicants from low-income households. The first cohort aim to train three hundred young women aged 18 to 35.

In addition to this focused programme, the foundation prioritizes female participation across all youth skilling programming, and cumulatively reached 8,497 women with advanced digital skills training in this reporting period.

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The foundation...
...cumulatively reached 8,497 women with advanced digital skills training in this reporting period.

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Partnerships

Partnerships are central to how The Airtel Africa Foundation creates lasting impact. By working with governments, multilateral organisations, academic institutions and local partners, the Foundation combines connectivity, scale and market presence with specialist expertise to address complex social challenges. Collaboration enables it to extend its reach, deepen impact and ensure the programmes are sustainable over the long term.

Many of the issues the Foundation aims to address, including digital exclusion, gaps in learning outcomes and limited financial access, require collective action. Partnerships help to reach communities that would otherwise be hard to serve, bring together technical knowledge and ensure that the programmes align with national and regional development priorities.

Airtel-UNICEF Partnership

The \$57m five-year partnership with UNICEF, launched in 2021, remains one of the most significant digital learning collaborations on the continent. It demonstrates how combining digital infrastructure with UNICEF's education expertise drives systemic change.

In 2025/26, through the work of the Foundation and UNICEF, 1,028 schools were connected to the internet in 13 markets. This builds on the partnership's cumulative achievement of connecting nearly 3,296 schools to date. In addition, 12 new educational platforms were zero rated, with a total of 64 platforms are zero-rated across thirteen countries as of 31 March 2026. This ensures that million more learners can access learning resources without data costs. More than 38,000 teachers have also been supported to date in utilizing digital tools and resources.

Policy and Systems Change Enabled by the Partnership

Beyond programme delivery, the Airtel Africa–UNICEF partnership achieved several policy and system-level outcomes that strengthen sustainability:

- Zambia adopted an Education Sector Digitalization Strategy (2025–2026), establishing a phased national roadmap for digital education.
- Gabon enacted Ordinance No. 007/2025, legally embedding digital education within the national education framework and reinforcing long-term commitment to connected schools.
- Republic of the Congo developed a Digital Pedagogy Roadmap,
- Uganda advanced Digital Education Standards and Guidelines.
- Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania strengthened alignment with UNICEF–ITU Giga connectivity definitions, improving data transparency and supporting sustainable procurement and financing models.

Partnerships (continued)



Empowering young innovators – Zambia

The Airtel Africa Foundation partnered with Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) as platinum sponsor of the ZICTA Innovation Programme, bringing together 100 young Zambian innovators to share their ideas and turn them into real businesses. This follows six years of Airtel Zambia's collaboration with ZICTA.

In 2025/26, the top innovator was Siphwe Sowi Munsaka with her project 'KOLOS0', an innovative learning assessment platform designed to tackle Africa's foundational literacy and numeracy crisis by providing reliable, real-time learning data to teachers and parents.

The top ten winners each received cash prizes to help start their projects, including a mentorship to turn their ideas into reality. By creating platforms where ideas can grow and businesses can emerge, Airtel Africa Foundation is investing in the next generation of problem-solvers who will build a smarter, more connected Zambia.

Image: Participant being awarded at the ZICTA innovation programme

Nextgen by Airtel – Nigeria

In 2025, Airtel Nigeria deepened its commitment to digital inclusion through the 'NextGen by Airtel' and '3MTT (three million technical talent) fellowship', launched in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy.

Delivered through 45 applied learning centres nationwide, the initiative equips participants with practical skills in high-demand fields including software engineering, product design, data analytics and digital marketing. Participants also benefit from masterclasses, hackathons and innovation challenges that strengthen creativity, collaboration and workplace readiness.

The partnership has trained over 25,000 young tech talents across 46 local government areas, spanning all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

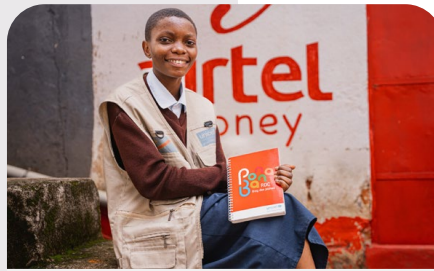
Connecting digital transformation centers – Rwanda

In October 2025, the Airtel Africa Foundation joined forces with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA) and Cisco Systems through the Digital Transformation Centres (DTC) programme in Rwanda. This partnership aims to bridge the digital divide by providing free internet connectivity and digital skills training to underserved communities. The Foundation, through Airtel Rwanda, is equipping youth centers with routers, wi-fi and data packages at no cost, ensuring efficient rollout of training. Aligned with Rwanda's national 'Connect Rwanda' programme, this initiative aims to provide students, entrepreneurs and community members with the tools and training to participate in the digital economy, turning a connected classroom into a launchpad for opportunity.

Representatives from ITU, RISA, Airtel Africa and Airtel Africa Foundation at the partnership launch in Rwanda



Country highlights



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- School connectivity: 48 schools connected; 52,377 learners and 1029 teachers
- School adoption: 5 schools undergoing renovation
- Tech Fellowship: 100 scholarships awarded



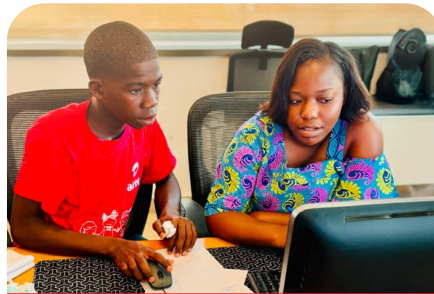
Madagascar

- School connectivity: 86 schools connected; 51,931 learners and 1,845 teachers reached
- Zero-rated platforms: 10 platforms
- Humanitarian response: 2,200 essential kits donated during cyclones crisis



Chad

- School connectivity: 21 schools connected; 9,705 learners and 280 teachers reached; 3 learning platforms zero-rated with over 1.8million users
- School Adoption: Renovation of 2 schools ongoing
- Financial inclusion: 500 people trained; 200 beneficiaries received start-up support



Gabon

- School connectivity: 123 schools connected; 119,240 learners and 2,408 teachers reached
- Zero-rated platforms: 5 learning platforms
- School Adoption: Renovation of 2 schools ongoing



Malawi

- School connectivity: 31 schools connected; 9000 learners and 918 teachers reached
- School adoption: 10 schools undergoing renovation
- Tech Fellowship: 25 candidates in final selection stage
- Humanitarian response: 2,000 households and 10 primary schools across Blantyre Rural and Chikwawa District



Congo Brazzaville

- School connectivity: 41 schools connected; 14,674 learners and 354 teachers reached
- Zero-rated platforms: 3 learning platforms



Kenya

- School connectivity: 241 schools connected; 155,996 learners and 4,611 teachers reached
- Tech training: 100 women trained
- Zero-rated platforms: 4 learning platforms

Country highlights (continued)



Niger

- School connectivity: 35 schools connected; 2,550 learners and 98 teachers reached
- School Adoption: 2 schools fully renovated
- Financial Inclusion: entrepreneurship training for 500 women



Rwanda

- School connectivity: 301 schools connected cumulatively; 11 zero-rated platforms, with 183,911 learners reached
- Digital hub: 8 Digital Transformation centers supported in collaboration with ITU and RISA



Uganda

- School connectivity: 246 schools connected; 86,100 learners and 3,945 teachers reached
- School adoption: 10 schools undergoing renovation
- Digital hubs: 14 digital communities in partnership with ATC
- Tech Fellowship: 20 scholarships awarded
- Tech training: 100 women trained



Nigeria

- School connectivity: 1,225 schools connected cumulatively; 947,670 learners and 18,417 teachers reached; 1 learning platform zero-rated with over 6.7million platform users
- School adoption: 10 schools undergoing renovation
- Tech Fellowship: 75 scholarships awarded; 27 candidates in final selection
- Tech Training: 29,166, including 8,849 females
- Financial inclusion: 2,050 people trained; 300 beneficiaries received start-up support



Seychelles

- School Adoption: Set-up of IT hubs ongoing in 2 schools



Tanzania

- School connectivity: 534 schools connected; 301,719 learners and 699 teachers reached; 3 learning platforms zero-rated with over 1.7million users
- School adoption: 2 schools undergoing renovation
- Tech Fellowship: 10 scholarships awarded
- Digital learning hubs: 1 Airtel Fursa lab renovated
- Tech training: 1,616 women and youth trained via Fursa Labs



Zambia

- School connectivity: 300 schools connected; 292,000 learners and 5,189 teachers reached
- School adoption: 5 schools fully renovated
- Tech training: 200 women and youth(100 each) trained. 10 given start-up support

Looking ahead



AAF 2030 Commitment

Are we on Track?

Transform Access to Quality Education

Improve access to inclusive, high-quality education and digital learning resources for 10 million children and youth across Africa, with a focus on underserved and marginalized communities.

Build Africa's Digital Skills Base

Equip 1 million African youth and entrepreneurs with foundational to advanced digital and IT skills, enabling employability, innovation, and participation in the digital economy.

Advance Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

Empower 100,000 individuals with financial literacy, business, and entrepreneurship skills, while supporting at least 1,000 early-career entrepreneurs and innovators with mentorship, tools, and access to growth opportunities.

Champion Environmental Sustainability

Champion environmental stewardship across Africa by promoting climate-smart initiatives, innovative digital solutions for sustainability, and community-led conservation efforts, contributing to climate resilience and inclusive green growth.

Key Performance Indicators

April '26-March '27

School Adoption Programme:

- Expansion of infrastructure upgrades, teacher CPD and co-curricular STEM programming
- 80+ adopted schools by March 2027

Airtel Africa Tech Fellowship:

- Continued scale-up of full scholarships, mentorship and career pathways
- 600+ scholarships by March 2027

School Connectivity:

- Deepening meaningful connectivity through free internet access, zero-rated platforms and capacity building
- 5,000+ connected schools by March 2027

Digital Inclusion & Youth Skilling:

- Expansion of innovation hubs, IT centres and professional training
- 70+ digital communities supported by March 2027

Financial Inclusion:

- Scaling literacy and enterprise support
- 3,500 entrepreneurs supported by March 2027

Environmental Sustainability

- Support community-led conservation efforts across 5 operating countries



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