CENTRE OF DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

Better analytics
Better solutions
Value unlocked for our clients
We are a global African firm with deep African roots, yet we are globally competitive. From our offices in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire, and our representation in India, Canada and the United Kingdom, Genesis has completed work in 95 countries globally.

The Centre of Digital Excellence (C0DE) team at Genesis co-creates value with our partners in Africa by harnessing opportunities in the digital economy. Our work is focused on three areas: digital work opportunities and their enablers, technology governance and ethics, and data-driven decision making. We collaborate with the other teams across Genesis to provide multi-disciplinary expertise on our projects. Some of the sector- and service-focused teams we collaborate with include:

Financial services | Agriculture | Health | Education | Social Protection
Climate Change | Behavioural Economics | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning | Gender
Competition and Regulatory Economics | Private Sector Development | Impact Assessments

The triangle of three forces
We have dedicated our work over the next decade to the three forces that we believe are reshaping our continent: the demographic transition (youth wave), climate change, and technology innovation. How we respond to these forces will determine our prospects as a region. Genesis helps countries, firms and organisations deliver solutions to the challenges and opportunities these forces present.
We work best when we work collaboratively. We are inspired by the people around us. This means we place the ultimate beneficiaries at the centre of our process, working closely with clients and trusted experts to create meaningful solutions.

We are motivated to solve complex challenges to create real change, ultimately creating a better world than what existed before. We are driven to make a meaningful and sustainable impact.

Digital transformation is a generation-defining revolution that can change Africa’s narrative. But it also comes with significant risk. We work to create responsible solutions that are awake to both the tremendous opportunities and unprecedented risks.

The digital economy is rewiring the way we live, work and interact. It speaks to familiar and frontier technologies, the ecosystem that enables participation and the structures which govern it. It’s an exciting space to work in.

The CENTRE OF DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

OUR PURPOSE

Co-creating value in Africa by harnessing opportunities in the digital economy

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OUR EXPERTISE

• We identify and enable work opportunities in the digital economy to connect young people to sources of income. We work across the enablers required to scale these opportunities inclusively: digital and financial inclusion, digital skills and capacity, inclusive tech-enabled business models and policy & regulation.

• We advise our clients on technology governance and ethics. We identify the biggest risks contributing to negative market, consumer and human rights outcomes as technology become mainstream, and advise on the best approaches to managing these risks responsibly without stifling innovation.

• We support organisations to improve data-driven decision making by employing human-centred design to offer a suite of tools that collect, analyse and dynamically visualise the information required to make decisions more quickly and effectively across an organisation.

OUR OFFER

▶ Market scoping and opportunity mapping
▶ Country and sector digital / 4IR strategies and readiness assessments
▶ Policy and programme design and evaluation
▶ Impact assessments and advisory
▶ Digital communication and data collection tools
▶ Big data analytics and visualisation
▶ Interactive decision-making dashboards
We have completed several national digital economy or 4IR strategies focused on digital work opportunities and their enablers.

**South Africa in the Digital Age**

We convened an urgent multi-stakeholder initiative to develop a forward-looking economic strategy for South Africa in the digital age with our partners GIBS business school and the Pathways for Prosperity Commission on Technology and Inclusive Growth at Oxford University. The strategy identifies the key areas of tech-enabled economic opportunity for creating work opportunities at scale for South Africans, and the imperatives for realising them.

The three areas of opportunity were globally traded services, labour-absorbing digital platforms, and creating South Africa as a frontier technology hub for the region. The imperatives identified were universal digital inclusion, human capital development, government support and innovative business. The strategy document set out the key actions required to realise these opportunities across each of the imperatives.

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**National 4IR strategy for Uganda**

We are technical advisors to the President's National Taskforce on the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Uganda. We worked with the Taskforce to develop a national 4IR strategy for the country. The strategy prioritises the opportunities for domesticating 4IR technology to solve Uganda’s development challenges. It then provides a set of actions to develop the enablers required for these opportunities to be realised – including 4IR connectivity, agile governance, an upskilled population, eGovernment, and resource mobilisation. Lastly, the strategy sets out delivery mechanisms for the strategy to be executed, including an internal government coordinating mechanism, ecosystem facilitation, and CSO coordination.

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**Digital Economy Strategy for Malawi**

We partnered with the Malawi National Planning Authority and Reserve Bank, along with our partners DIAL and Digital Pathways at Oxford University, to develop a forward-looking digital economic strategy for the country. The strategy identifies the key areas of opportunity in applying digital technology in Malawi to address the country’s development challenges, including promoting smallholder productivity and market orientation, expanding upstream and downstream capabilities of the agriculture value chain, digital enablement of the tourism and hospitality sector, and digital opportunities in the information & communication sector. The strategy then conducted a digital readiness assessment to identify gaps in Malawi’s ability to realise and scale these opportunities. This resulted in the formulation of a strategic action plan setting out which actions need to be taken, and by whom, for these opportunities to be realised and scaled inclusively.
OUR EXPERIENCE

We have provided landscaping, knowledge products and programme design services to address the changing requirements of technology governance and ethics across Africa.

Design scoping for the Africa Tech Policy Network

We partnered with the Omidyar Foundation who were considering the formation of an African Tech Policy Network. The Foundation needed to understand the most pressing tech governance issues in Africa and which stakeholders had a role to play in providing insight (research and analysis) or accountability (civil society organisations) through the network. Genesis conducted a scoping in several African countries to design a road map for the establishment of the Network that will coordinate the efforts of activists, CSOs and donors to ensure they can build expertise and improve the governance of digital ecosystems in Africa through evidence-based policy research.

SADC innovation scoping

We partnered with FinMark Trust to conduct a scoping of the innovation ecosystem in five SADC countries. This included creating an analytical framework for assessing the development of an innovation ecosystem, and then diagnosing each country’s progress using the framework. The framework included digital access, human capital, policy & regulation, innovation drivers, and constructing ecosystems. The work assisted FinMark Trust to develop its programme of support activities in each market to growth the innovation ecosystem.

Developing the ‘Africa Leading the 4IR’ playbook

We partnered with the UN Development Program’s Resilience Hub in Nairobi to develop an interactive online tool for building the capacity of heads of government, policymakers and civil society to manage the 4IR transition. We adopted a human-centered design approach to identify the chief learning requirements and functionalities for these stakeholders, and then designed an interactive online knowledge product to address these learning needs. The product includes a series of case studies demonstrating the impact that 4IR tech applications are having on solving development challenges in Africa, and exploring the fundamentals that must be in place to unlock these opportunities responsibly and to manage the risks inherent in 4IR applications. The playbook has a particular focus on providing policymakers and regulatory authorities with practical case studies, recommendations and tools for adopting an agile approach to technology governance.
OUR EXPERIENCE

We are increasingly working with big tech companies and others in the private sector to help them understand and improve the impact of their tech-enabled business models.

**Impact assessment of Meta on small business in Africa**

We worked with Meta (Facebook) to understand how the digital economy and social media contribute towards realising three key economic development opportunities in Africa. The study focused on the impact of the Meta’s apps, namely Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook Messenger, on small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) in eight African countries. *We surveyed 4,020 SMBs, conducted focus-group discussions and triangulated development research* to create a narrative on the role that Meta's family of apps play in allowing small businesses in Africa to find customers, conduct marketing and advertising, sourcing suppliers and accessing training and knowledge.

**Assessing Airbnb’s contribution to tourism in South Africa**

As a disruptor, Airbnb often faces push back from established segments of the tourism and hospitality market as well as from policymakers and regulators. *Airbnb commissioned Genesis to assess the positive contribution made by Airbnb at a national level, and especially in improving inclusivity in the economy.* We measured their impact in four ways: overall contribution to GDP, lowering barriers to hosting, promoting increased domestic tourism and putting previously untraveled locations on the map. The report was used by Airbnb to engage regulators and local communities.

**What is the value of Amazon in South Africa?**

Amazon first entered South African in 2004 and has since expanded to a number of entities, including Amazon Web Services (AWS), the Amazon Development Centre and Amazon Data Services. Amazon SA contracted *Genesis to develop their social, economic and environmental impact framework, and critically assesses the company’s impact in South Africa from 2004 to 2021.* The project included critical analysis of the company’s positive impact achievements and areas of improvement. The report provides the foundations for a forward-looking impact strategy.
The South African government is in the process of developing a series of sector-focused masterplans as part of a comprehensive approach to economic development. The levels of coordination required for successful formulation and implementation of the masterplans represent a significant challenge. A fundamental enabler of this coordination is monitoring and reporting data on the implementation of the masterplans, including tracking tasks, challenges, KPIs and escalating blockages to implementation.

Genesis Analytics made use of design-thinking methodology to develop an online dashboard that monitors and visualises sector masterplans throughout their implementation lifecycle. The result is a web-accessible dashboard that makes use of user-friendly visualisations in PowerBI. The dashboards enable individual masterplan groups to monitor their implementation progress and aggregates the progress into a master dashboard to give decision-makers a view of their progress. The dashboard tool enables individual masterplan implementation groups as well as decision-makers to prioritise interventions and target their economic development efforts where they are most required.

OUR EXPERIENCE

We have developed a suite of digital tools to assist with the collection, analysis and visualisation of data to help organisations improve decision making

**Whatsapp chatbot for the Solidarity Fund’s GBV funding drive**

We partnered with the Solidarity Fund, established by the President in South Africa, on their gender-based violence (GBV) funding call. The Fund identified GBV as a critical area for action during the pandemic, and wanted to provide funding support to community-based organisations (CBOs) which prevent GBV or support its victims. However, many of these CBOs do not have access to stable internet connections or computers to apply for the funding using a web channel. We leveraged our in-house chatbot to set up an automated information portal and funding application channel that required extremely low data and only a smartphone to be used, making the funding application process far more accessible and inclusive among the Fund’s target beneficiaries.

**Developing online tool to track national masterplans**

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**COVID-19 vaccine data analytics and tracker**

Genesis is providing technical assistance to the South African National Department of Health (NDOH) for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. As part of this work, we have developed a dashboard to monitor and visualise the programme’s progress over time. This has involved establishing and managing a large database, defining programmatic indicators, and building user-friendly visualisations in PowerBI that reveal patterns in vaccination. Genesis used an iterative, agile development process for this project. This allows us to incorporate stakeholder feedback in real-time, so that the dashboard serves a wide range of users.
GENESIS HAS WORKED IN 95 COUNTRIES GLOBALLY

NORTH AMERICA
Canada, United States of America

CENTRAL AMERICA
Jamaica, Mexico

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina, Colombia, Peru

EUROPE
Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Kosovo, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom

ASIA & MIDDLE EAST
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam

AFRICA
Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

A Global African Consultancy

Where we have worked ▲ Where we have offices ● Where we have staff

G:ENESIS
25 YEARS OF UNLOCKING VALUE
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