Assessing Infrastructure Capacity for AI Development

Disclosure Statement: Thank you for participating in this survey.

This survey should take approximately 8–10 minutes to complete. Your responses should reflect your recent experience with AI-related projects.

This research is led by the Global Center on AI Governance (GCG) and forms part of an ongoing study into how infrastructure capacities influence AI innovation. We are particularly interested in your insights on the availability, affordability, and reliability of AI/ML infrastructure and how these affect AI development across regions. Data into barriers AI innovators and users face in LMICs are currently scarce, so your response is important.

Data Privacy Policy: Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and confidential, and no personally identifiable information will be retained. The data gathered will be used solely for research purposes, in compliance with GDPR regulations, ensuring your privacy and confidentiality are protected.

Consent to Participate & Publish: The findings will contribute to a peer-reviewed article about AI infrastructure in LMICs, supporting the development of more tailored, evidence-based policy recommendations.

By submitting a completed survey, following a review of the above disclosure, you consent to participate in this study and signify your agreement to the publication of its findings.

Thank you for contributing to this important work!

1. 1. What is your country of residence/work?

2. 2. What is your primary role?

3. 3. What sector(s) do you primarily work in?

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Agriculture & Climate Adaptation
- [ ] Healthcare
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Financial Services
- [ ] Logistics & Supply Chain
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Other: _____

Internet Accessibility and Affordability

4. 4. How would you describe internet speed in your country for AI research, development & deployment?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Very Slow
- ◯ Slow
- ◯ Moderate
- ◯ Fast
- ◯ Very Fast

5. 5. How would you describe internet affordability for AI research, development & deployment?

   Mark only one oval.

   - Very Expensive – Costs are prohibitive
   - Expensive – Costly, limits AI work
   - Moderate – Costs are noticeable
   - Affordable – Costs are reasonable & manageable
   - Very Affordable – No cost issues

6. 6. How would you describe the reliability of internet access for AI research and development in your country?

   Mark only one oval.

   - Very Unreliable – Frequent disruptions, unusable for AI work
   - Unreliable – Regular interruptions affecting productivity
   - Moderately Reliable – Occasional issues but mostly usable
   - Reliable – Stable connection with minimal disruptions
   - Very Reliable – Consistently strong and dependable connection

Electricity Accessibility and Affordability

7. 7. How reliable is the access to public electricity supply for AI research, development & deployment in your country?

   Mark only one oval.

   - Very Poor – Frequent, prolonged outages
   - Poor – Unstable, major disruptions
   - Fair – Occasional outages, manageable
   - Good – Mostly reliable, minor issues
   - Excellent – Highly reliable, no major disruptions

8. 8. How would you describe the affordability of public electricity supply for AI research, development & deployment in your country?

   Mark only one oval.

   - Very Expensive – Cost is a major barrier to AI work
   - Expensive – High cost, limits AI development
   - Moderate – Reasonably priced but with some constraints
   - Affordable – Generally affordable for AI tasks
   - Very Affordable – Low cost, not a barrier to AI work

9. 9. Do AI practitioners or innovators in your country rely on alternative or auxiliary electricity sources?

   Mark only one oval.

   - Yes
   - No

10. 10. If yes to the previous question, how affordable is the cost of alternative or auxiliary electricity generation for AI research and development in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Expensive – Prohibitive, major financial burden
- Expensive – High cost, difficult to sustain
- Moderate – Manageable cost, requires budgeting
- Affordable – Reasonably priced
- Very Affordable – Low cost, not a barrier to AI work

Computing Accessibility and Affordability

11. 11. How accessible are computing hardware devices (e.g., computers, edge & IoT devices, networking & storage hardware, supercomputers, GPUs, AI servers) needed for AI research and development in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Not Accessible – Extremely difficult to obtain
- Limited Accessibility – Available but costly or restricted
- Moderately Accessible – Obtainable with some challenges
- Easily Accessible – Generally available with few barriers
- Widely Accessible – Readily available and affordable

12. 12. How would you describe the cost of access to hardware AI computing resources in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Very Expensive – Major barrier to access
- ◯ Expensive – Limits widespread use
- ◯ Moderate – Manageable but restrictive
- ◯ Affordable – Generally accessible
- ◯ Very Affordable – Easy to access, low cost

13. 13. Which of the following best describes how innovators and AI practitioners in your country primarily access computing resources? (Select all that apply)

Mark only one oval per row.

	Not Used	Rarely Used	Sometimes Used	Often Used	Primarily Source
Global providers (AWS, Google Cloud, Alibaba Cloud, Oracle Cloud etc.)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Local providers (regional cloud services)	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
A mix of global and local providers	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
On-premises infrastructure	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

14. 14. How would you describe the cost of access to cloud services/resources (Virtual machines or other cloud-based resources) in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Expensive – Major barrier to access
- Expensive – Limits widespread use
- Moderate – Manageable but restrictive
- Affordable – Generally accessible
- Very Affordable – Easy to access, low cost

Data Accessibility and Quality

15. 15. How would you describe the accessibility of the training data required for AI development in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Easily Accessible – Readily available without restrictions
- Accessible – Available with minimal restrictions
- Partially Accessible – Some limitations on access
- Difficult to Access – Significant restrictions or delays
- Not Accessible – Unable to obtain required data

16. 16. What is the most significant data-related challenge/constraint impacting AI development in your country? (Select all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Poor data quality
- [ ] Lack of sufficient data
- [ ] Data privacy and security concerns
- [ ] Lack of labeled or annotated data
- [ ] Data fragmentation across multiple sources
- [ ] Legal and regulatory restrictions
- [ ] High cost of data collection or acquisition
- [ ] Technical challenges in data storage and management
- [ ] Bias or lack of diversity in available data
- [ ] None – there are no data-related challenges
- [ ] Other: _____

17. 17. How would you describe the quality of the data AI researchers, innovators & practitioners have access to in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ High Quality – Complete, accurate, and up-to-date
- ◯ Good Quality – Generally reliable with minor gaps
- ◯ Moderate Quality – Some issues with accuracy or completeness
- ◯ Low Quality – Significant quality concerns affecting usability
- ◯ Very Poor Quality – Data unusable due to inaccuracies or gaps

18. 18. How would you assess the overall AI innovation ecosystem in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Very Weak – Minimal AI activity, no support structures
- ◯ Weak – Limited AI initiatives, major barriers
- ◯ Moderate – Growing AI ecosystem with some challenges
- ◯ Strong – Well-developed ecosystem with good support and resources
- ◯ Very Strong – Thriving with robust innovation and investment

Political Economy & AI Infrastructure

19. 19. Are you aware of any interventions or investments in AI in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

20. 20. If yes, who were the key sources of these interventions or investments? (Select all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Government
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Educational/Research Institutions
- ☐ NGOs/Civil Society
- ☐ International organizations and intergovernmental entities
- ☐ Other: _____

21. 21. In what form did these interventions or investments occur? (Select all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Public-private partnerships
- [ ] Government grants or subsidies
- [ ] Equity investment
- [ ] Loan or credit schemes
- [ ] Technical assistance or capacity building
- [ ] Other: _____

22. 22. Which of the following actors currently has the most influence in supporting AI projects, startups, or initiatives in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Government
- ◯ Private sector
- ◯ Educational/Research Institutions
- ◯ NGOs/Civil Society/Local Initiatives
- ◯ International organizations are intergovernmental entities
- ◯ Reglious Organization
- ◯ Equal influence across sectors
- ◯ No significant actors or funding sources

23. 23. How would you describe the accessibility of funding for AI startups and research initiatives in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Inaccessible – Extremely difficult to access any funding
- Inaccessible – Limited options with high barriers
- Moderately Accessible – Some opportunities, but competitive or restricted
- Accessible – Generally available with manageable requirements
- Very Accessible – Readily available and well-supported

24. 24. Is there a national AI policy or strategy guiding AI development in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Currently in development

25. 25. If yes to the previous question, how would you assess the effectiveness of the national AI policy or strategy in supporting AI development in your country?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Ineffective – No visible impact or progress
- Ineffective – Minimal impact, with major gaps
- Moderately Effective – Some positive impact, but many challenges remain
- Effective – Significant positive impact with minor challenges
- Very Effective – Clear success in advancing AI development

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