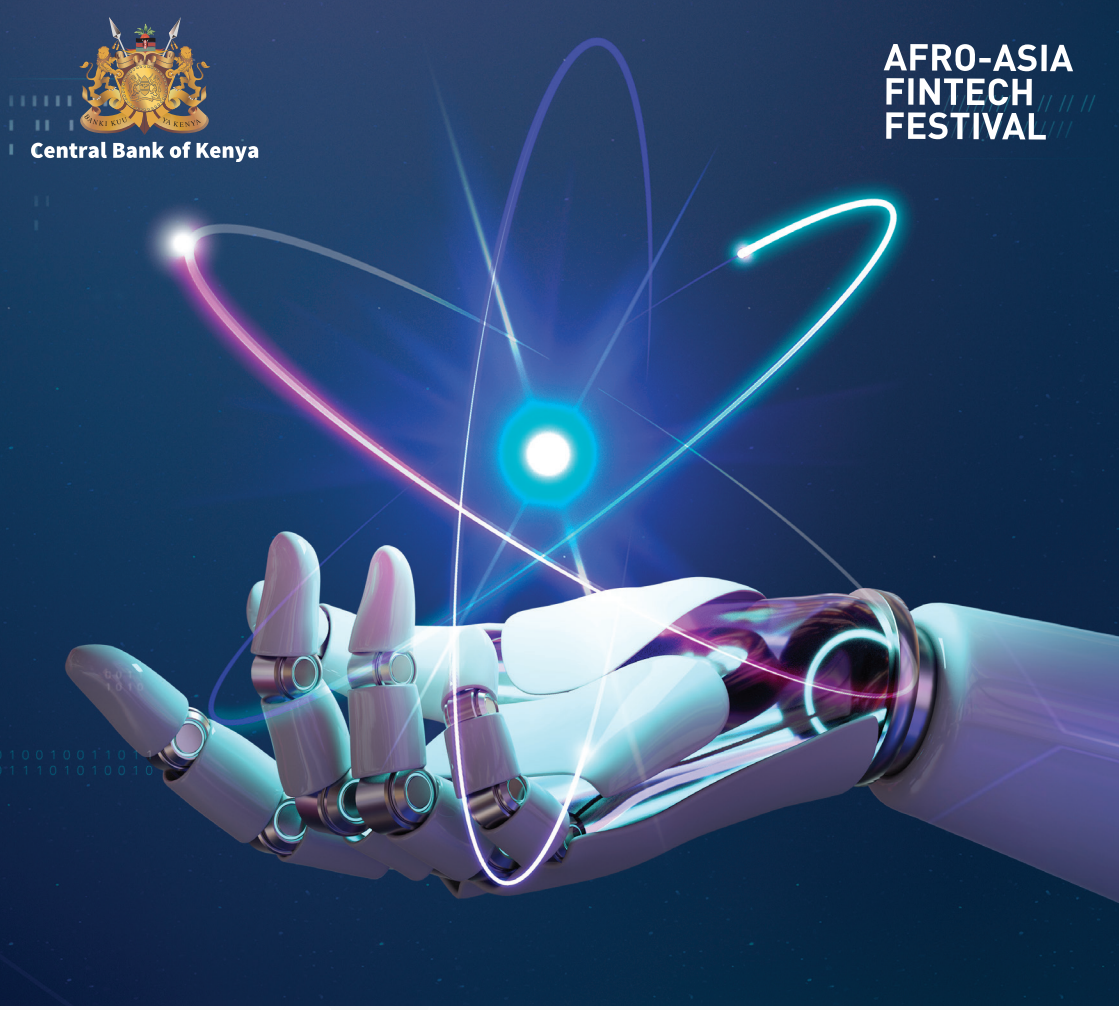
Central Bank of Kenya

AFRO-ASIA FINTECH FESTIVAL



CBK ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) HACKATHON, 2025

INFOPACK

1 ABOUT THE HACKATHON

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is hosting an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hackathon on October 14, 2025 - November 20, 2025. The theme for the AI Hackathon is ***Ethical and Responsible AI in the Financial Sector.*** The theme addresses the need to ensure that as institutions leverage AI and Machine Learning (ML) for the benefit of customers and efficient service delivery, they also prioritise ethical and responsible use of the technology. This is important, given that the use of AI has brought about concerns on biased data and models, explainability of ML models, data privacy, and governance issues.

The CBK AI Hackathon aims to build upon the activities of the Afro-Asia FinTech Festival, which was first organised by CBK and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in 2019, and thereafter as virtual editions in 2020 and 2021. The AAFF was launched to provide a platform for interaction and growth between fintechs in Africa and Asia. The previous two hackathons focused on pressing challenges for sustainability in 2019, and financial sector solutions to address issues arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020.

The CBK AI Hackathon will provide an opportunity for us to champion ethical and responsible use of AI, as the financial sector continues to innovate for efficient delivery of financial services.

Theme: Ethical and Responsible AI in the Financial Sector

2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Be of African nationality or for institutions, be incorporated in Africa.
- Potential participants from all backgrounds, genders, and geographies within Africa are welcome.
- There is no age restriction to participate attend the hackathon. In case you are under 18, your parents/legal guardian should contact the hackathon to request a waiver authorizing you to participate in the hackathon.
- Organizers and partners, as well as their staff and associates, are not eligible to participate in the hackathon. They may, however, assist and mentor teams during the coding/development phase.

3 APPLICATION TRACKS

Greenfield Track: This track targets individuals, startups and teams that are either newly formed (less than a year) or will be formed solely for the hackathon challenge. This also applies to solutions that will be developed during the Hackathon.

Brownfield Track: This track targets individuals, teams and companies that are established or that already have existing solutions prior to this challenge.

4 PROBLEM STATEMENT FOCUS AREAS

A. Governance and Compliance
B. Risk Management Frameworks
C. Incident Management and Reporting
D. General Awareness, Education, and Data Sharing
E. MSME Support
F. Resilience and Sustainable Development

5 PROBLEM STATEMENTS

A. Governance and Compliance

1. How can institutions establish effective data governance systems?
2. What solutions can demonstrate regulatory compliance in the design and deployment of AI systems?
3. How should institutions handle liability arising from AI driven decisions?
4. How can institutions ensure transparency, explainability, and fairness in AI models?
5. What strategies can support ethical AI and reduce bias?
6. How should financial institutions manage intellectual property and ownership of AI-generated content?
7. How can institutions manage risks and compliance with third- party AI vendors?
8. How can global financial institutions align their AI related solutions with varied global regulations?
9. What consumer redress mechanisms should address AI related effects?

B. Risk Management Frameworks

10. How can accountability frameworks clearly define ownership and responsibility for AI-driven decisions?
11. What risk strategies address bias and transparency in AI systems?
12. How can AI-powered tools help in reducing bias in credit risk assessment?
13. How can we train models on fair data identification to prevent bias in risk assessment?

C. Incident Management and Reporting

14. How can AI models be secured against cybersecurity risks?
15. How might institutions use AI to auto-detect and report system failures?

D. General Awareness, Education, and Data Sharing

16. How can we raise awareness about AI-driven financial services and counter misinformation?
17. What training solutions can be safe to users to navigate AI banking tools and minimize fraud?
18. How can AI enhance fraud detection and transaction monitoring?
19. How can we build an efficient AI-powered platform for onboarding, Know Your Customer (KYC), and customer support in the financial sector?
20. How can AI-powered banking tools help youth financial literacy and safe habits?
21. What strategies can support a sustainable AI talent pool and solutions for financial service providers?
22. How can governments use AI-driven financial data in driving economic policy?
23. What innovative AI-driven solutions can help prevent, detect and solve financial crime?

E. MSME Support

24. How can AI-powered tools help MSMEs record keeping and efficiency in financial management?
25. How can AI-driven data be of help to MSMEs in decision making?
26. How can we aggregate data from MSMEs and consumers to create AI-powered, personalized solutions?
27. How can we enable the informal sector players with digital and AI skills for sustainability?
28. How can we leverage AI analytics in identifying Vulnerable groups in the society?
29. How can we track economic data with AI to help guide investment decisions?
30. What AI-powered solutions can help introduce financial products and services tailored to underserved?

F. Resilience and Sustainable Development

31. How can we use AI to boost crisis resilience and enhance economic stability?
32. How can we use AI-driven finance to support sustainable development?