



Annual Report 2025

GCT Exchange · Twelve months of applied AI research across nine African countries

Letter from the Director

Twenty-twenty-five was the year our network proved a thesis it had been quietly working toward since founding: that African researchers, given pooled compute and the patience to do applied work properly, can ship models that are genuinely useful in the places they were built for. We released five papers, four datasets, and four model families this year. More importantly, two of those models are running today in clinics, on farms, and in extension offices.

This report covers what we shipped, where the money went, who is on the team, and what we got wrong. We publish all three every year, in roughly that order of pride.

— Dr. Amina Mukamana, Director

By the numbers

Active researchers	37
Countries with active hubs or fellows	9
Papers published	5
Open datasets released	4
Open model families released	4
Field deployments started	6
Total revenue	\$4.2M
Program spend	82%
Reserves	9 months

Programs

Languages.

Our Languages program shipped kinya-asr-base, the first open Kinyarwanda speech recognizer to run usefully on low-end Android devices, along with the 1,200-hour KinyaSpeech corpus. Lead: Dr. Amina Mukamana (Kigali). Eight active fellows.

Agriculture.

The Agriculture program closed the first phase of its cassava disease detection work with a 14MB on-device classifier deployed across two cooperatives in the Ashanti region. Lead: Prof. Kofi Boateng (Accra). Six active fellows. Next phase extends to East African cultivars.



Health.

The Health program piloted antenatal risk stratification across three district hospitals in Nairobi County. The model intentionally returns 'unsure' on 18% of cases — a design choice we discuss at length in the program's annual program note. Lead: Dr. Lerato Ndlovu (Nairobi). Five active fellows.

Climate.

The Climate program released SahelClim-30 and a 10-day drought forecasting benchmark used by regional partners in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Lead: Dr. Ibrahim Traoré (Bamako, visiting Accra). Four active fellows.



Financials

	FY24	FY25	Δ
Revenue	\$2.8M	\$4.2M	+50%
Program spend	78%	82%	+4pp
Operations	15%	12%	-3pp
Fundraising	7%	6%	-1pp
Reserves (months)	6	9	+3

Funding came from a mix of unrestricted philanthropy (62%), public research grants (24%), and individual donations (14%). No single funder accounts for more than 18% of revenue. Audited financials are available on request.

What we got wrong

Three things, briefly. (1) We over-scoped the v0.3 Kinyarwanda model and lost a quarter fixing tone handling that should have been in scope from the start. (2) Our health pilot began without a documented escalation protocol for 'unsure' returns; we wrote one in month three but should have shipped one in month zero. (3) We under-paid two contract engineers relative to our published bands for one quarter before catching it in audit. We've issued back-pay and adjusted our hiring checklist.

People

Thirty-seven researchers spent at least three months with the network this year, across fellowships, residencies, and core staff. Twenty-four are women. Thirty-one are based on the African continent year-round. Detailed demographics, including disability and language background, are reported in the appendix.

Looking ahead — 2026

Three things we're committing to publicly: (a) the first end-to-end open Amharic ASR with field validation; (b) extension of the cassava classifier to East African cultivars with a Tanzanian co-PI; (c) a public pre-registered evaluation of our antenatal model against the WHO PIERS baseline. We expect to be wrong about at least one of these by December.

Thank you

To every researcher, fellow, community reviewer, clinician, agronomist, funder, and individual donor who made 2025 possible — thank you. We're trying to be worth your trust.