AI IN EURASIA

Making AI work for human development

Key directions, workstreams and organisational setup

**Innovation and Digital Team
UNDP RBEC**

KEY MESSAGES FROM HDR 2025

1 **Human development progress is decelerating at an alarming rate** ········▶ The rebound after COVID-19 has faded; the world may now be decades off track for a very high HDI world by 2030

2 **Inequality has increased for the fourth consecutive year** ········▶ Gaps between high- and low-HDI countries are widening; vulnerable regions face a squeeze of debt, automation, and trade tensions

3 **Despite slowing progress, people remain hopeful AI can improve their lives** ········▶ Two-thirds expect to use AI in health, education, or work within a year; most see it as productivity-enhancing rather than job-destroying

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025

UNDP

A matter of choice:
People and possibilities in the age of AI

KEY MESSAGES FROM HDR 2025

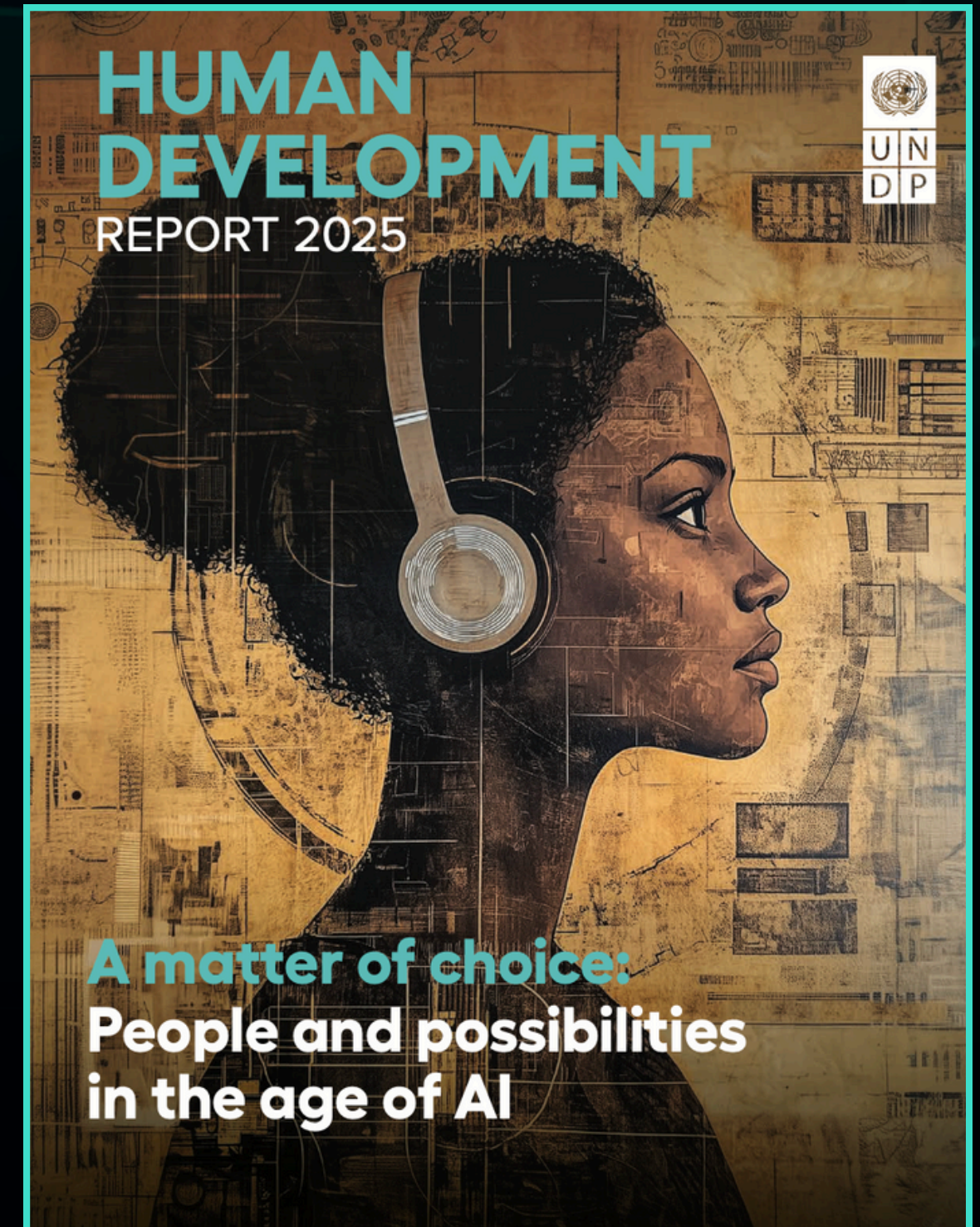**4** Leveraging **AI to meet people's expectations** is a choice the world can make ....▶ AI adoption is racing ahead, but outcomes depend on how we design, deploy, and govern it

5 The real danger of AI is **excluding those who would benefit the most** ....▶ Without action on access, affordability, and skills, AI risks worsening inequality and bypassing those most in need
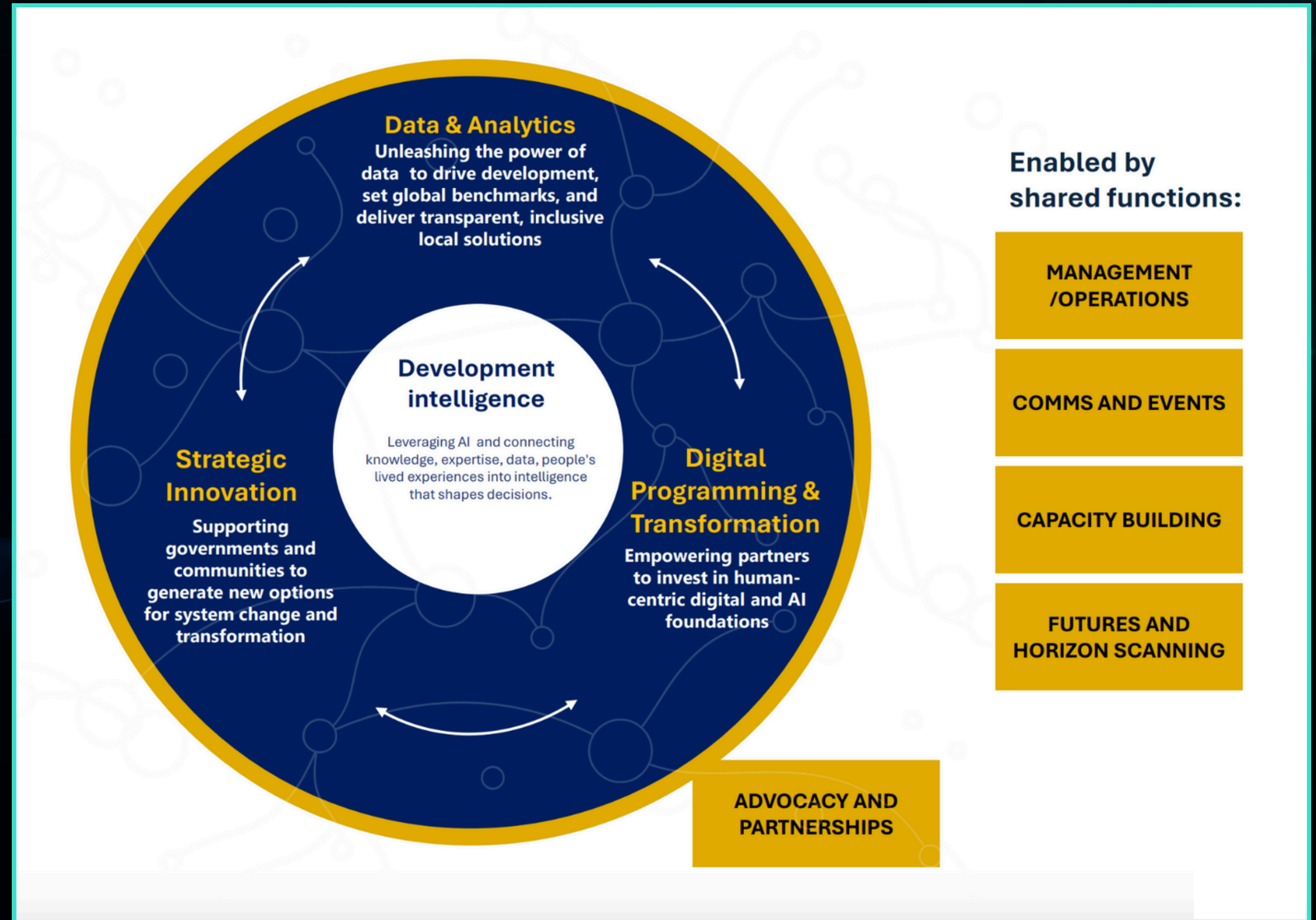
6 **Focus on people and possibilities** – investing in a shared future ....▶ The report calls for: (a) a complementarity economy (AI + people), (b) innovation with intent, and (c) investments in education, health, and agency

UNDP'S NEW DIGITAL, AI & INNOVATION HUB

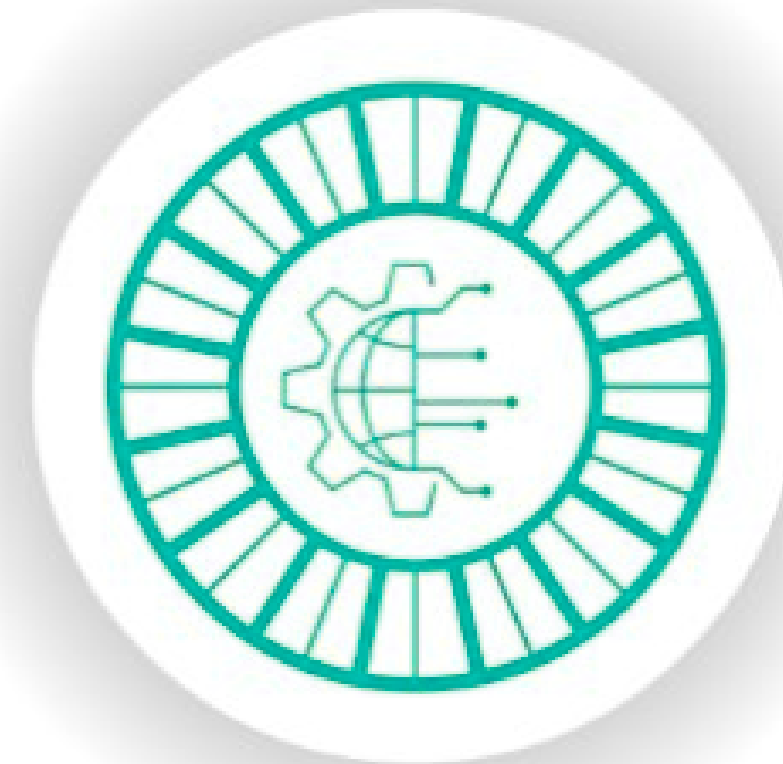Driving systemic shifts in countries to accelerate development

COUNTRY AI ENABLEMENT

AI SPRINT & THE COUNTRY AI ENABLEMENT PROGRAMME

- AI Sprint is UNDP's global initiative to accelerate responsible AI adoption across countries in all regions.

- Goal: Build AI capabilities and programs through trainings, strategy and policy support, and practical tools.

- As part of this, the Country AI Enablement Programme was launched in all regions.

- UNDP Country Offices were invited to express interest in areas where they want to deepen AI engagement.

- In RBEC, five key areas of support were identified, and countries have already been selected.

- Support will be rolled out starting now, continuing into early 2026.

Country AI Enablement

UNDP as the partner of choice for AI-enabled development

FIVE AREAS OF SUPPORT

AI STRATEGY

Support governments in drafting/advising AI strategies and roadmaps. Responsible-by-design, EU-aligned where relevant, and paired with quick wins to maintain momentum.

ASSESSMENT (AILA)

Practical, action-oriented baseline assessments through desk research, interviews, and validation workshops. Serves as an entry point for deeper work and implementation support.

SKILLS & CAPABILITIES

Build baseline understanding of AI concepts, governance, and trust & safety. Combine online Training-of-Trainers for all COs with in-person adaptation in select countries. Provides sustainable capacity building for governments.

LANGUAGE & DATA

Develop an AI Language Playbook codifying technical standards, best practices, and reusable frameworks for under-resourced languages. Shared through regional convenings and workshops.

TRUST & SAFETY

Regional track to embed responsible-by-design safeguards. Starts with mapping of the context followed by a regional session. Based on results, a capacity-building offer will be developed.

FIVE AREAS OF SUPPORT

1. AI STRATEGY

- Support governments in designing or refining national AI strategies and roadmaps.

- Ensure approaches are responsible-by-design, embedding governance, privacy, safety, and inclusion from the start.

- Align with EU and international standards where relevant to strengthen policy coherence.

- Combine long-term strategy drafting with quick wins that governments can implement immediately to build momentum.

FIVE AREAS OF SUPPORT

2. ASSESSMENT (AILA)

- Conduct practical, action-oriented assessments of the AI landscape.

- Use a mix of desk research, surveys, interviews, and validation workshops to establish a baseline.

- Provide governments with a clear snapshot of current capacity and gaps.

- Position the AILA as a phase one entry point, leading to more in-depth implementation support in 2026.

3. SKILLS & CAPABILITIES

- Build a baseline understanding of AI concepts, governance, trust & safety, and public sector applications.

- Deliver a Training-of-Trainers model online so all COs can adapt and replicate training for government officials.

- Run in-person deep dives in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Ukraine to tailor the training to national contexts.

- Support teams in developing locally relevant capacity-building plans and facilitate peer exchange across the cohort.

FIVE AREAS OF SUPPORT

4.   LANGUAGE & DATA

- Build on the Local Language Accelerator to strengthen AI readiness in under-resourced languages.

- Develop an AI Language Playbook that codifies technical standards, best practices, and reusable frameworks.

- Focus on enabling inclusive data and language systems that reflect local needs.

- Share results regionally through convenings, workshops, and knowledge exchanges to help other COs scope similar interventions.

FIVE AREAS OF SUPPORT

5. TRUST & SAFETY

- Regional track to embed responsible-by-design safeguards across all AI activities.

- Mapping of 10–15 countries using desk research, surveys, and interviews.

- Development of a capacity-building offer (such as workshops, a hackathon, or online training) responding to the shared concern as per the government officials.
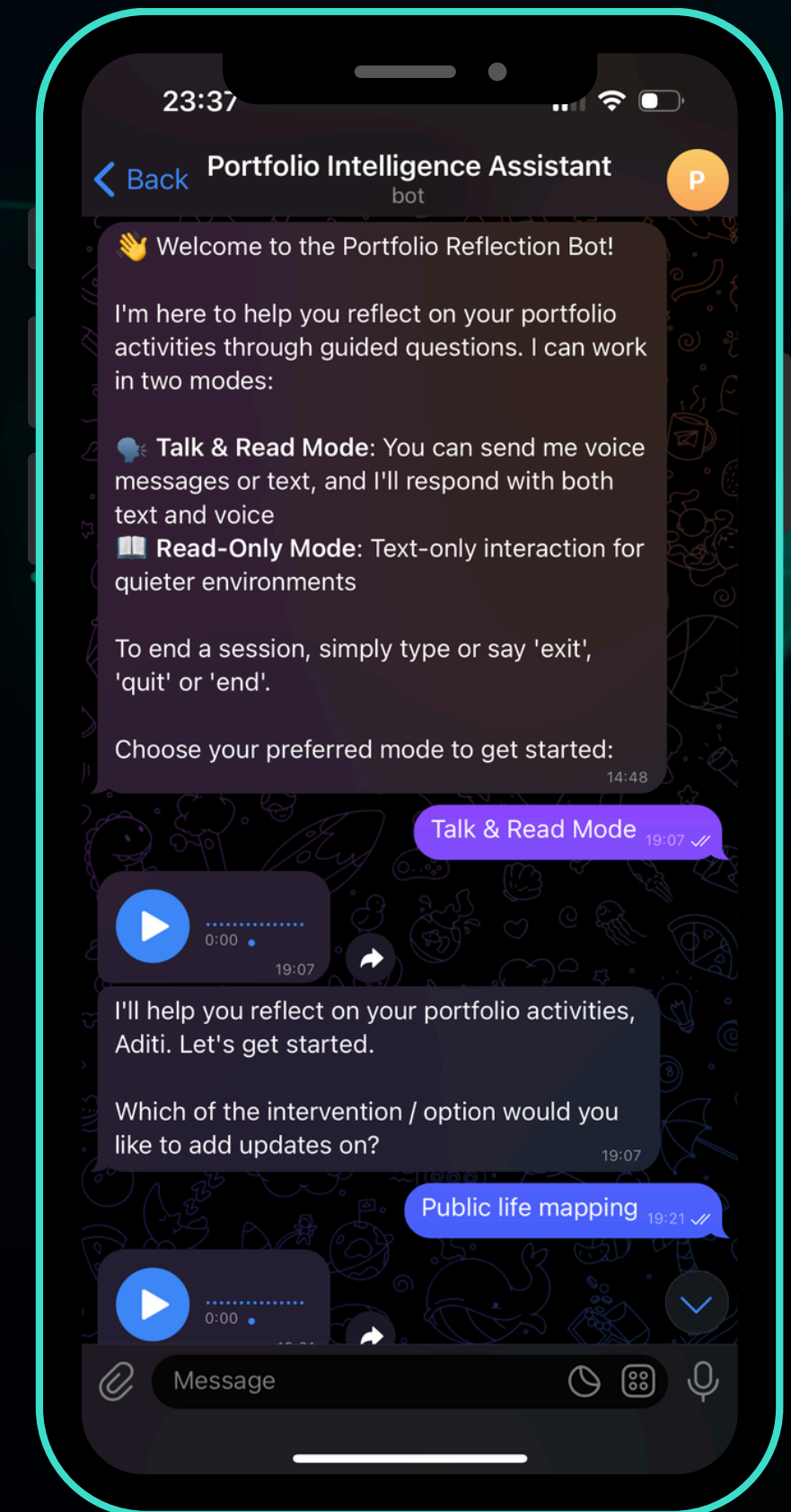
AI DRIVEN PRODUCTS

AI DRIVEN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

PORTFOLIO INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANT (PIA)

- A conversational learning tool that helps portfolio teams capture, organize, and reflect on what they're learning while work is happening.

- Works through Telegram, enabling real-time updates in any format and language.

- Uses guided prompts to push teams beyond surface-level reporting, capturing insights, tensions, and reflections.

- Designed for UNDP COs, local municipalities, and partner institutions, ensuring everyone contributes to shared learning.

- Supports the full learning journey: logging reflections, surfacing patterns with AI clustering, and guiding sensemaking sessions.

- Builds institutional memory, turning fragmented updates into actionable insights.

AI DRIVEN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

FORESIGHT AI

- Helps governments and partners explore possible futures by turning scenarios into AI-generated stories, visuals, and videos.

- Makes foresight more engaging and accessible, moving beyond text and abstract data to immersive, emotional experiences.

- Processes involves a mix of AI tools: Claude (narratives), Midjourney (visuals), RunwayML (videos), and ElevenLabs (voice).

- Cuts foresight process time by up to ten times faster, while making outputs easier to understand and relate to.

Our Process

1

AI-Enhanced Scenario Crafting

2

Intelligent Script Generation

3

Multi-Future Video Creation

4

Video-Driven Foresight Workshop

Use Cases

Strategic Planning
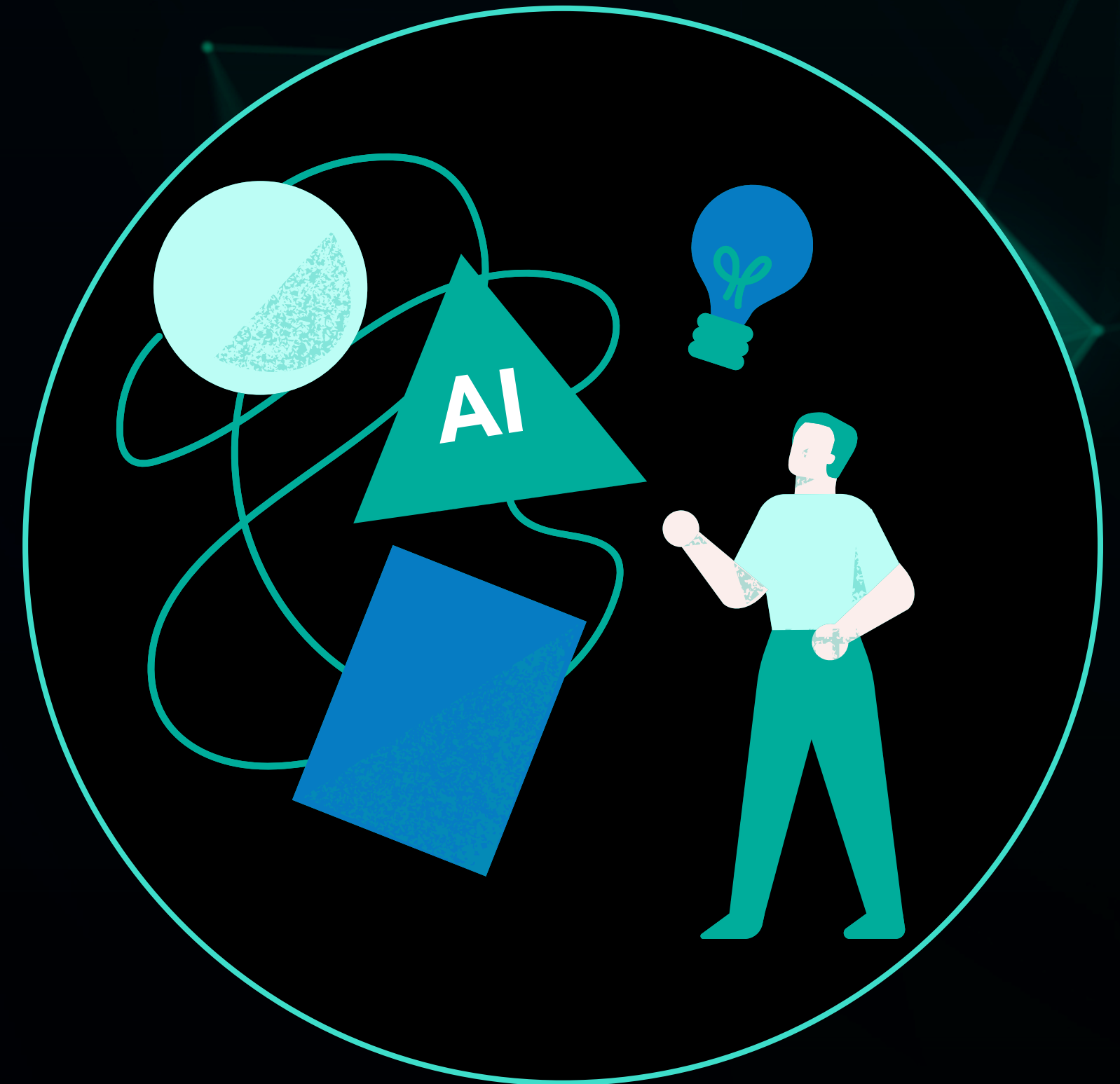
Policy Development

Innovation

AI DRIVEN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

GEN AI INCUBATOR

- A lightweight unit within RBEC Innovation to help teams integrate AI solutions into real workflows and programming.

- Addresses the implementation gap: colleagues understand AI's importance but struggle with where and how to start.

- Guides teams through a four-stage approach: Selection, Scoping & Discovery, Prototyping, Integration.

- Builds on UNDP prototypes like PIA, Portfolio GPT, and Foresight AI, showing how targeted investments deliver efficiency and insights.

- Retains learning inside UNDP, avoiding dependency on external consultancies.

CONTACT US

Connect with our team to share your AI & digital work

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