

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges in
Emerging and Developing African Countries.*

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Book of Proceedings

Editors

Prof. Dr. Hasan Vergil

Prof. Dr. Muhittin Kaplan

Assist. Prof. Dr. Asad Ul Islam Khan

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bekirođlu

Assist. Prof. Dr. Arab Dahir Hasan

Ayuba Napari, PhD

Mohammed Muntaka Abdul Rahman, PhD

Mahat Maalim Ibrahim, PhD

Res. Asst. Abdülkadir Kömü

Res. Asst. Enes Cebe



**ISTANBUL CONFERENCE
ON ECONOMICS AND
SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025**

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges
in Emerging and Developing African Countries*

24-26 September 2025

Book of Proceedings

**ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS
AND SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025**
**Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges
in Emerging and Developing African Countries**

Prof. Dr. Hasan Vergil - Prof. Dr. Muhittin Kaplan
Assist. Prof. Dr. Asad Ul Islam Khan - Assist. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bekirođlu
Assist. Prof. Dr. Arab Dahir Hasan - Ayuba Napari, PhD
Mohammed Muntaka Abdul Rahman, PhD - Mahat Maalim Ibrahim, PhD
Res. Asst. Abdülkadir Kömü - Res. Asst. Enes Cebe

Copy Editor

Şeyma Kılıç

ISBN

978-625-93023-8-6

1st Edition

İstanbul - 2026

IHU Press

155

Executive Editor

Savaş Cihangir Tali

Publishing Director

Ayşenur Alper

Design

IHU Press

Cover Design

IHU Press

Layout

Muhammed Muttaki Topcu

**Imprinting
and Binding**

Milba Matbaacılık
Certificate No: 77090

Istanbul Conference on Economics and Society (ISTCES) 2025 : pathways to inclusive growth : overcoming challenges in emerging and developing African countries / Hasan Vergil, Muhittin Kaplan, Asad Ul Islam Khan, Ayman Bekirođlu, Arab Dahir Hasan, Ayuba Napari, Mohammed Muntaka Abdul Rahman, Mahat Maalim Ibrahim, Abdülkadir Kömü, Enes Cebe ; copy editor Şeyma Kılıç. -- First edition -- Istanbul : Ibn Haldun University Press, 2026.

352 s. ; 24 cm. -- (IHU Press ; 155.).

Bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-625-93023-8-6.

1. Economic development_Africa. 2. Inclusive growth_Africa. 3. Africa_Economic conditions.

HC800

330.96

© All rights reserved. Except for excerpts cited in a review or similar published discussion of this publication, no part of this work may be any means whatever including electronic without prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE
ON ECONOMICS AND
SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges
in Emerging and Developing African Countries*

24-26 September 2025

Book of Proceedings

Editors

Prof. Dr. Hasan Vergil

Prof. Dr. Muhittin Kaplan

Assist. Prof. Dr. Asad Ul Islam Khan

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bekirođlu

Assist. Prof. Dr. Arab Dahir Hasan

Ayuba Napari, PhD

Mohammed Muntaka Abdul Rahman, PhD

Mahat Maalim Ibrahim, PhD

Res. Asst. Abdülkadir Kömü

Res. Asst. Enes Cebe



IBN HALDUN
UNIVERSITY PRESS



8.

From Aid to Autonomy: Rethinking Structural Dependency in Sustainable African Digital Development

Keita Blama¹

Abdul-Baaki Alidu²

The rapid digitalisation of governance systems across Africa has been propelled in large part by foreign aid and donor-driven initiatives. However, recent global aid cuts exacerbated by shifting geopolitical priorities, economic crises, and post-pandemic retrenchment have disrupted these efforts, revealing deep structural vulnerabilities in many African states, particularly at the local government level. This paper thus comparatively examines how the withdrawal of USAID support affects specific digitalisation projects/programmes in different African countries, with a specific focus on the USAID Ubora Mashinani program (Kenya) and Governance for Local Development (GoLD) / GoLD+(Senegal). Framed through the lenses of dependency theory and world-systems theory, the study situates the donor-recipient relationship within a broader historical and economic structure that reinforces technological dependence and peripheral positioning in the global digital economy. By analysing empirical cases in sub-Saharan Africa, the paper explores the cascading effects of aid cuts on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). Ultimately, the paper argues that Africa's digital future must be reimagined through regional and locally supported strategies that reduce reliance on external actors and build resilient institutions from the ground up.

Keywords: African Digitalisation, Aid Dependency, USAID, Sustainable Development, Donor Relations

1 School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ibn Haldun University, Türkiye & Faculty of Social Sciences, Tampere University, Finland. keitaabraham6@gmail.com

2 Faculty of Management and Business, Tampere University, Finland. aliduabdulbaaqi@gmail.com