

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

REPORT 2025

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A matter of choice:

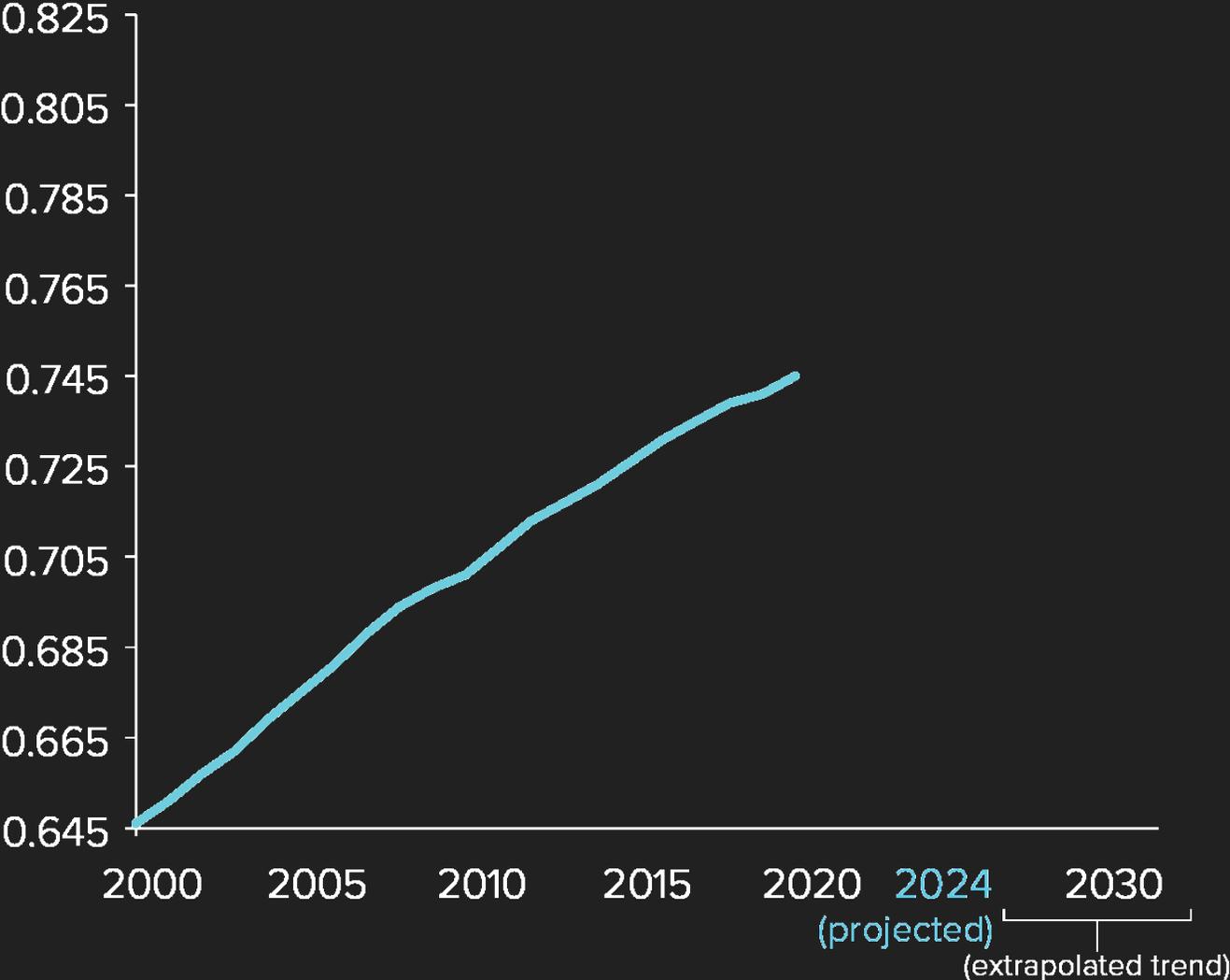
People and possibilities in the age of AI

Human development
is about the freedom to
live a life one values.
AI can support
that—if we make the
right choices.

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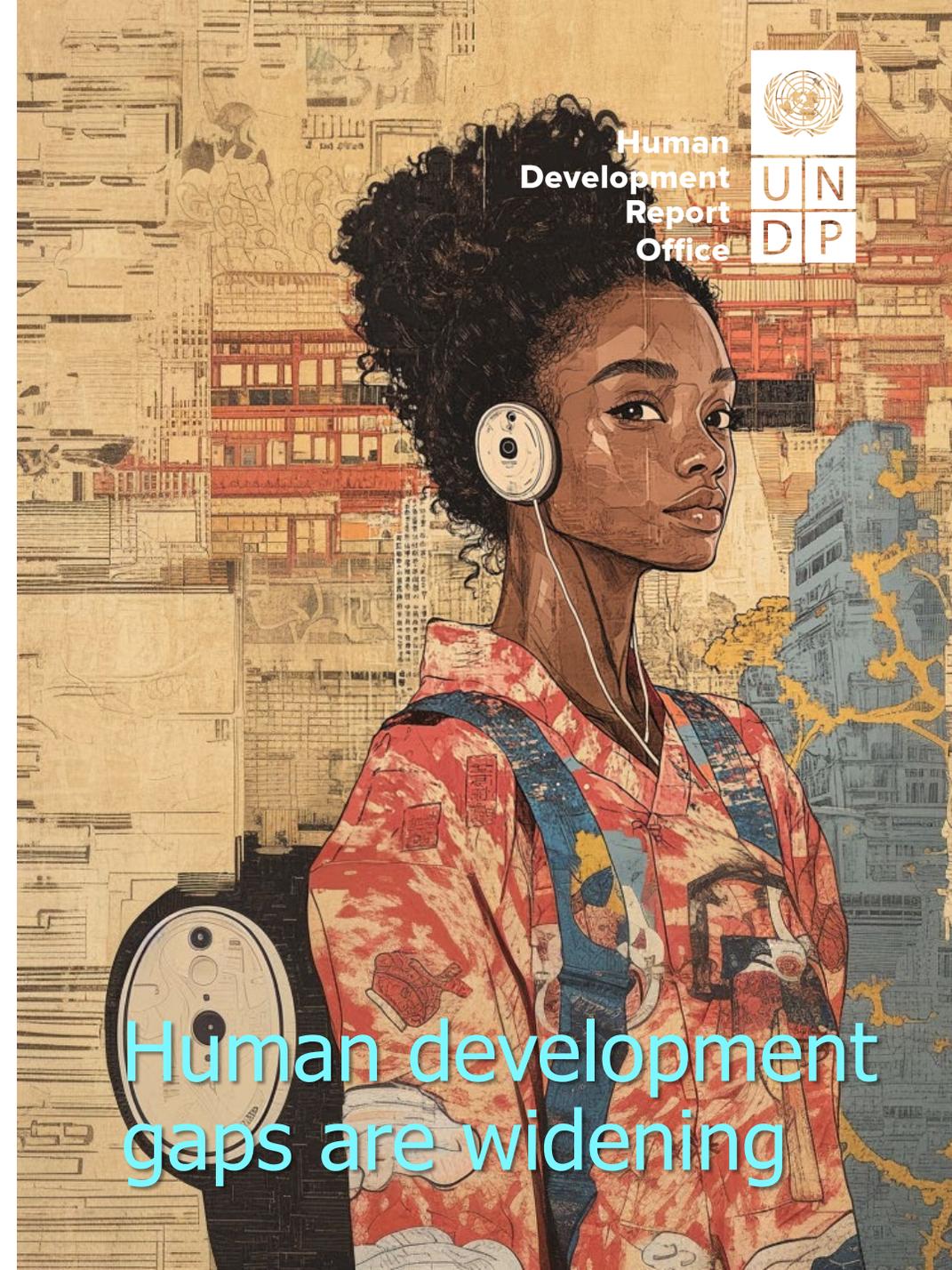
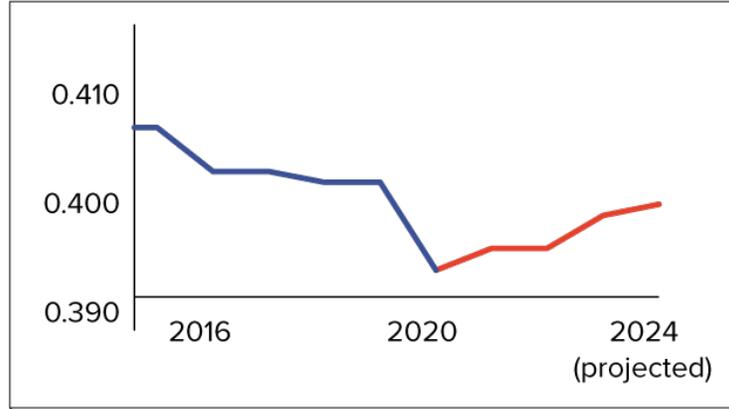
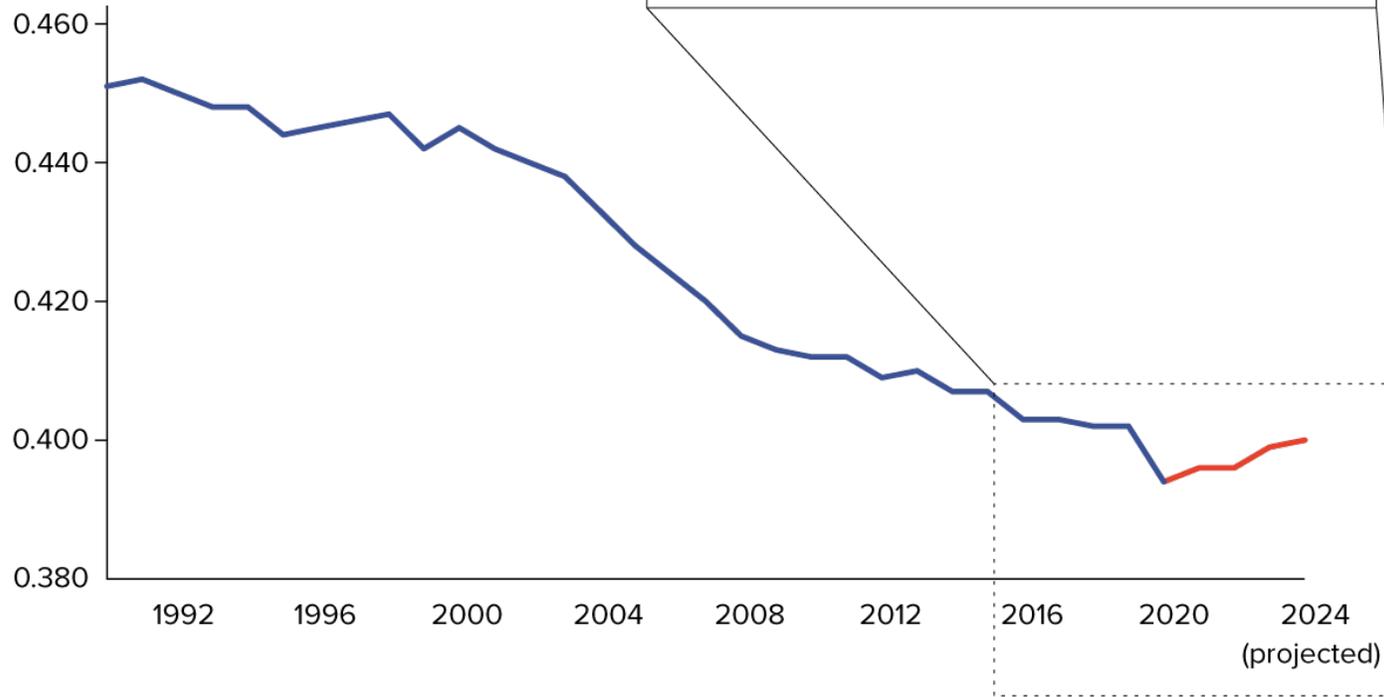


Global Human Development Index (HDI) values and trends, 1999–2030



Human development progress is slowing

Difference in HDI value between very high and low HDI countries



Human development gaps are widening

AI in the Eyes of the World: Insights from a Global Survey on AI and Human Development (GSAIHD)

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Survey Sample Size

Countries	Mode	Sample Size
Australia	CATI	1,001
Bangladesh	CATI	1,004
Brazil	CATI	1,001
China	CATI	1,008
Comoros	CATI	1,002
Egypt	CATI	1,020
Fiji	CATI	1,003
Germany	Web	1,000
Greece	CATI	1,000
India	CATI	1,030
Indonesia	CATI	1,030
Japan	CATI	1,029
Kyrgyzstan	CATI	1,003
Nigeria	CATI	1,000
Pakistan	CATI	1,006
Republic of Korea	CATI	1,008
Russian Federation	CATI	1,002
South Africa	CATI	1,034
Tunisia	CATI	1,026
Türkiye	CATI	1,002
United States	Web	1,005

- **Timeline:** November 2024 – January 2025
- **Commissioned by:** Human Development Report Office (HDRO) with Chief Digital Office (CDO)
- **Methodology:** Mixed methods with GeoPoll
 - CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) as primary method
 - CAWI (web-based surveys) in Germany & United States

AI in the Eyes of the World: Insights from a Global Survey on AI and Human Development (GSAIHD)

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<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/2025-global-survey-ai-and-human-development>



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2025 GLOBAL SURVEY ON AI AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Results and Insights

Understanding how individuals perceive AI's impact is crucial for shaping inclusive and effective policies. **UNDP conducted a global public opinion survey to provide data-driven insights and inform the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR)**, which highlights the role of people's choices in shaping AI.

The survey is one of the broadest of its kind, covering 21 countries, 36 languages, and representing 63% of the world's population. It captures diverse perspectives, ensuring representation across regions and Human Development Index (HDI) levels to reflect cultural, socioeconomic, and institutional contexts that shape global attitudes toward AI.





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People expect AI to be part of their lives

HDI group

Actual use of AI
in the past month

Expected use of AI
in one year

Expected increase in use

Low and medium

14.4

66.1

High

23.6

68.9

Very high

19.0

45.9

0

20

40

60

80

Share of population (%)

Source: GSAIHD

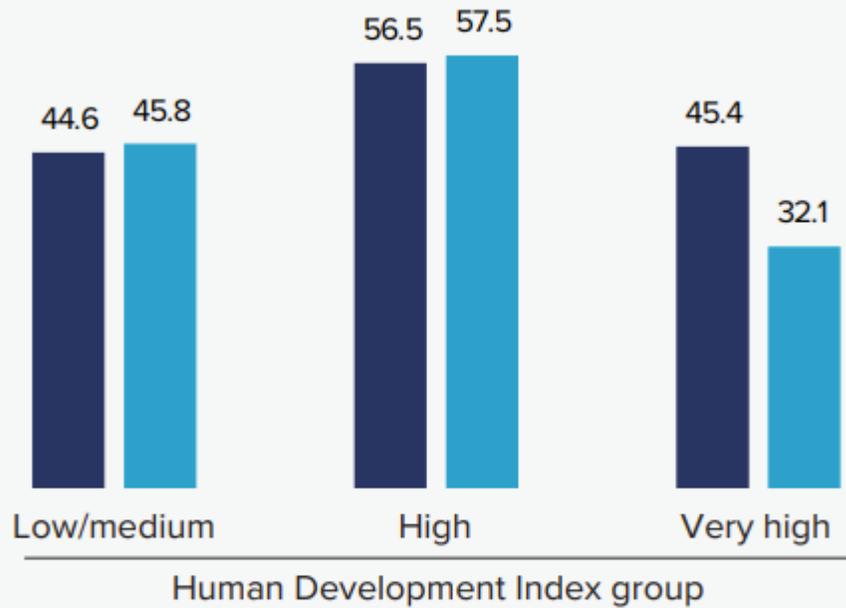
AI is different: it is not just a **tool**

Feature	Digital tools	AI agents
Predictability	Consistent and predictable	Often unpredictable
Transparency	Easy to understand and explain	Opaque, difficult to interpret
Behaviour	Static, unchanged unless updated	Dynamic, evolves over time
Role	Passive, user-driven	Active, can act autonomously

AI is different: "AI-agenticity" and human agency

Sense of agency: now versus in an AI-defined future.

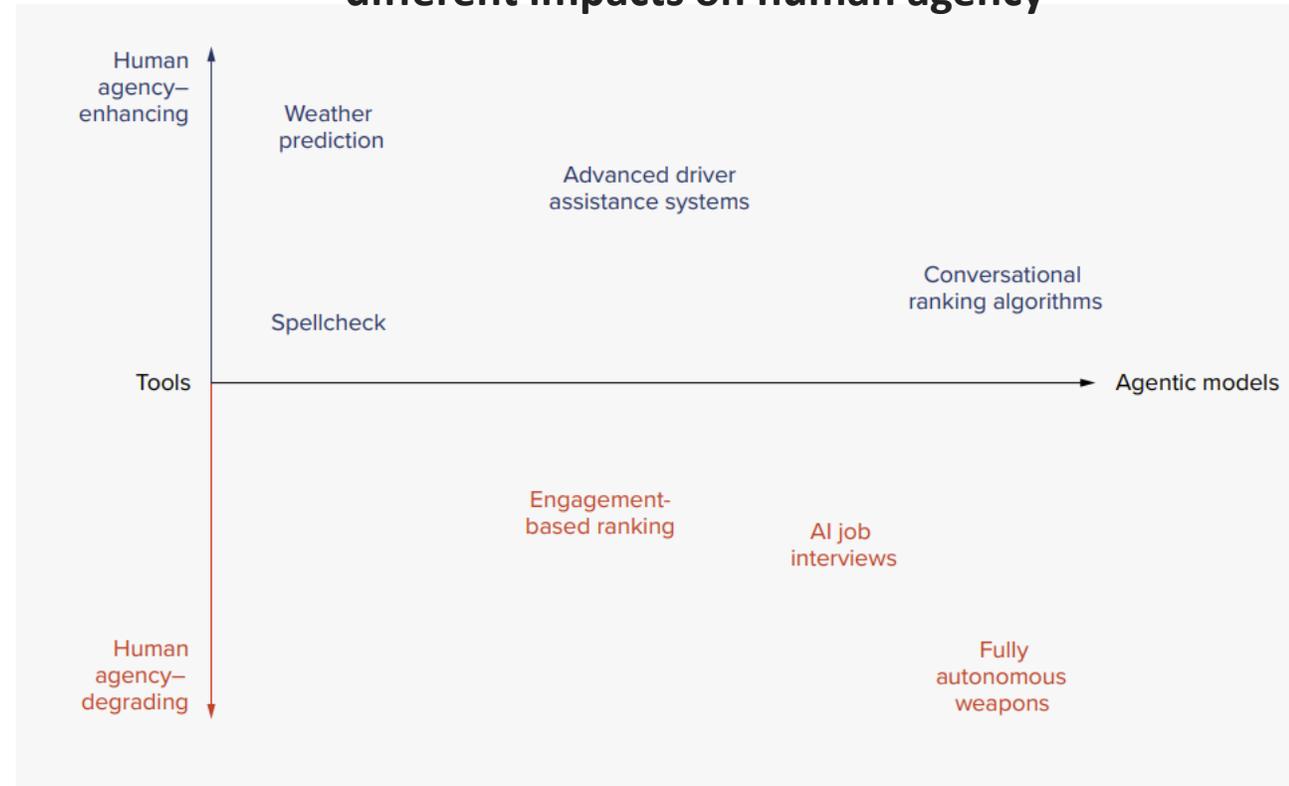
(% of population)



- High current control over own life today
- High expected control over own life in five years, as AI evolves

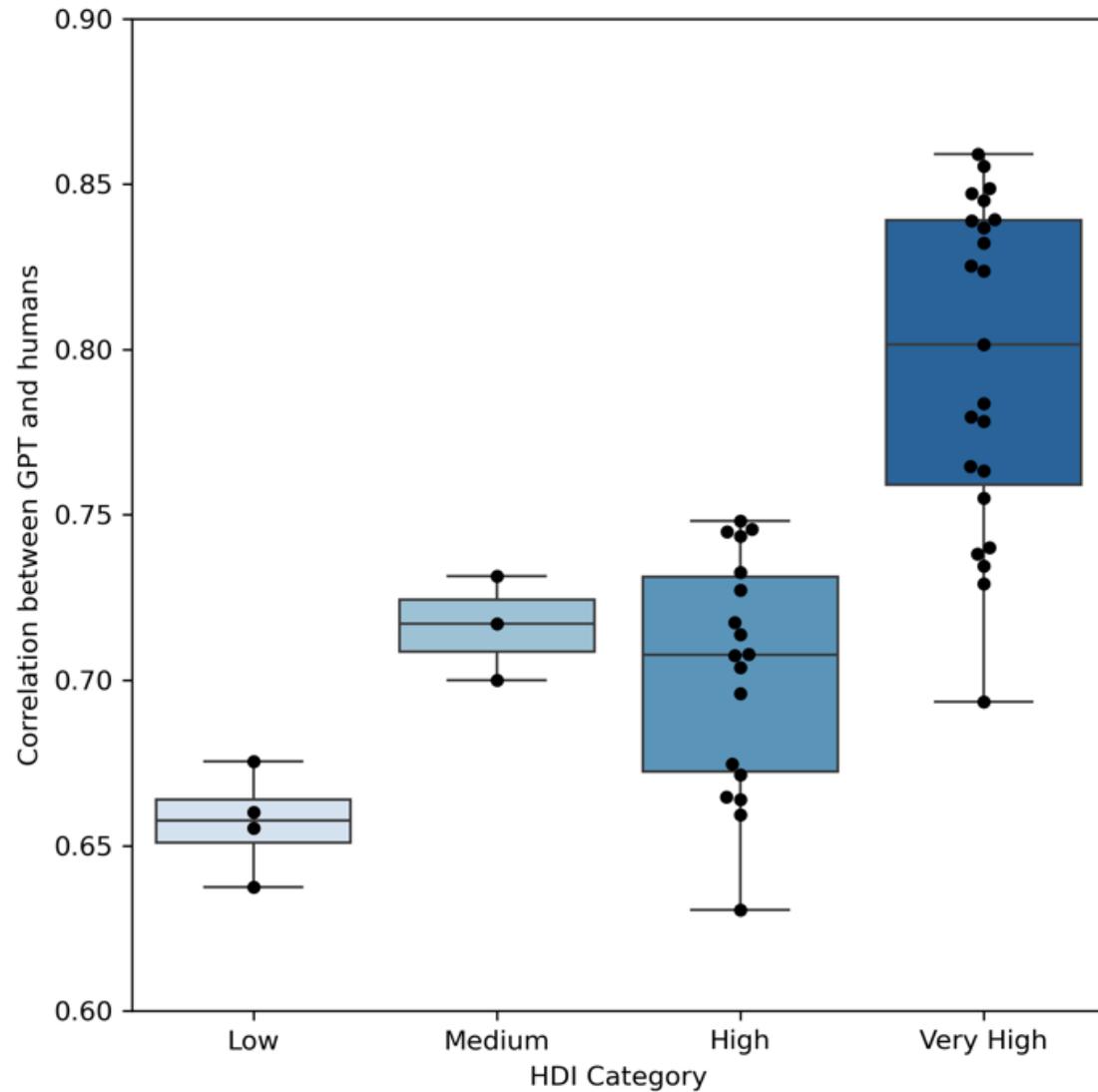
Source: GSAIHD

AI with greater "agenticity" can have different impacts on human agency



Source: Human Development Report Office.

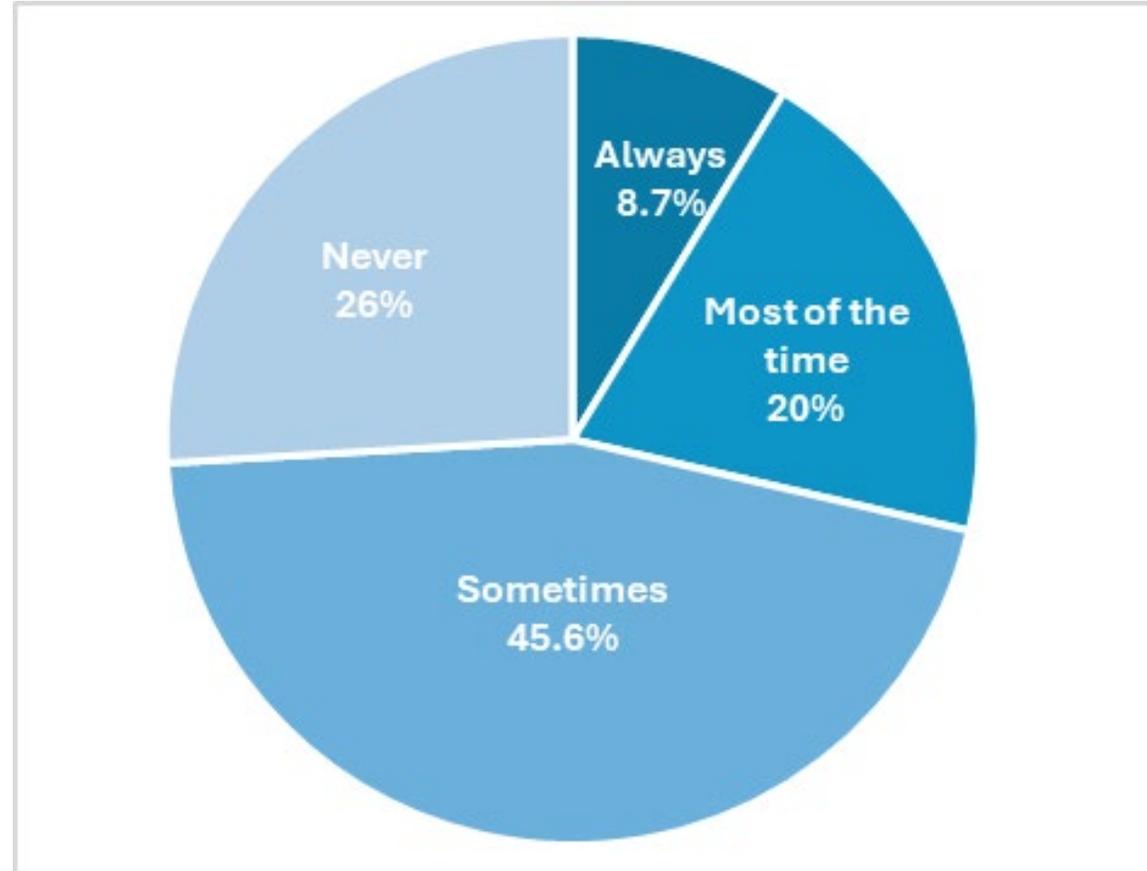
Most AI systems represent the values of developed countries



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Whose Voice Does AI Reflect?
Who's In, Who's Out?

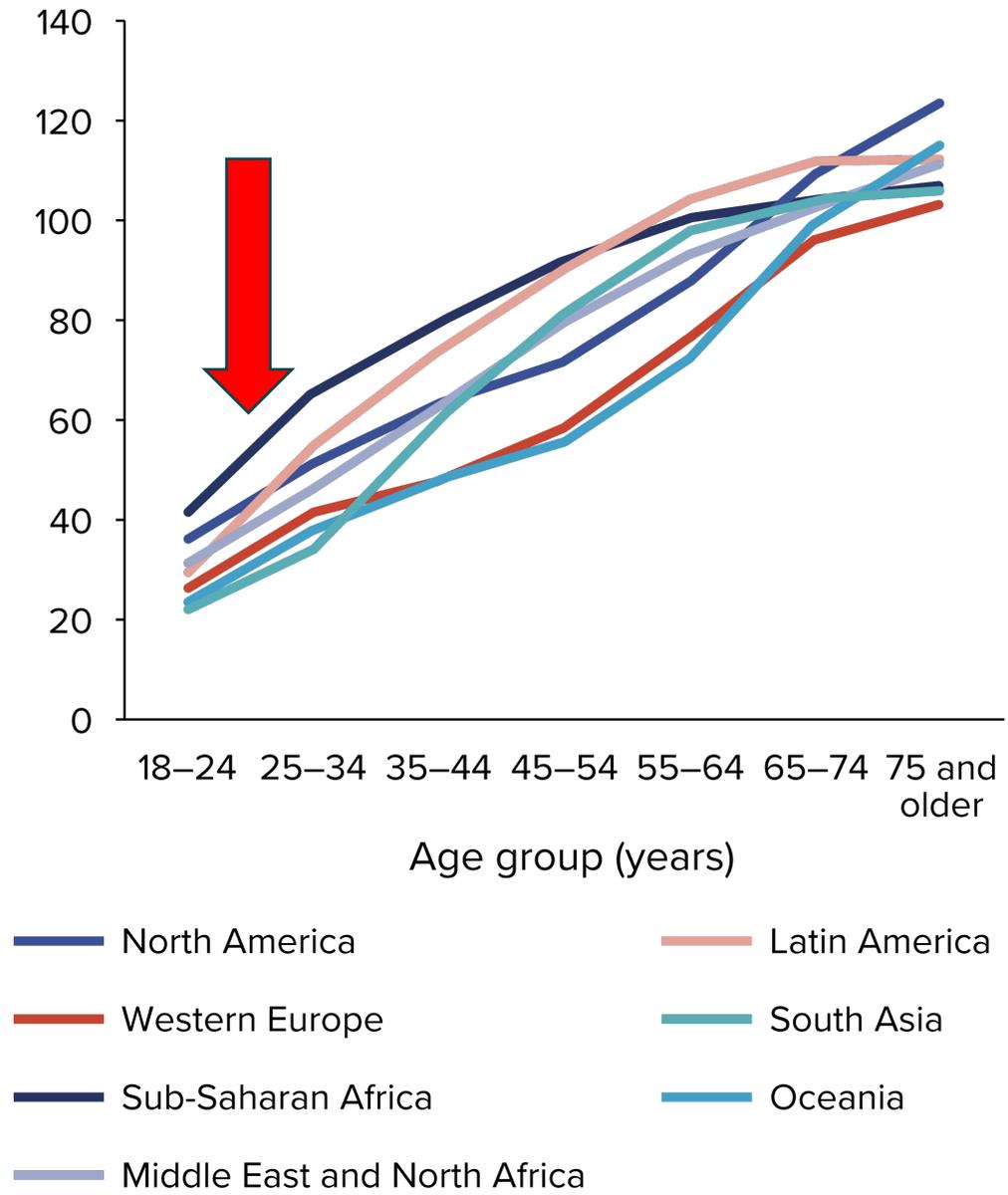
Do AI Tools Speak Like Locals? **Perceived Cultural Alignment by Language**



Source: GSAIHD



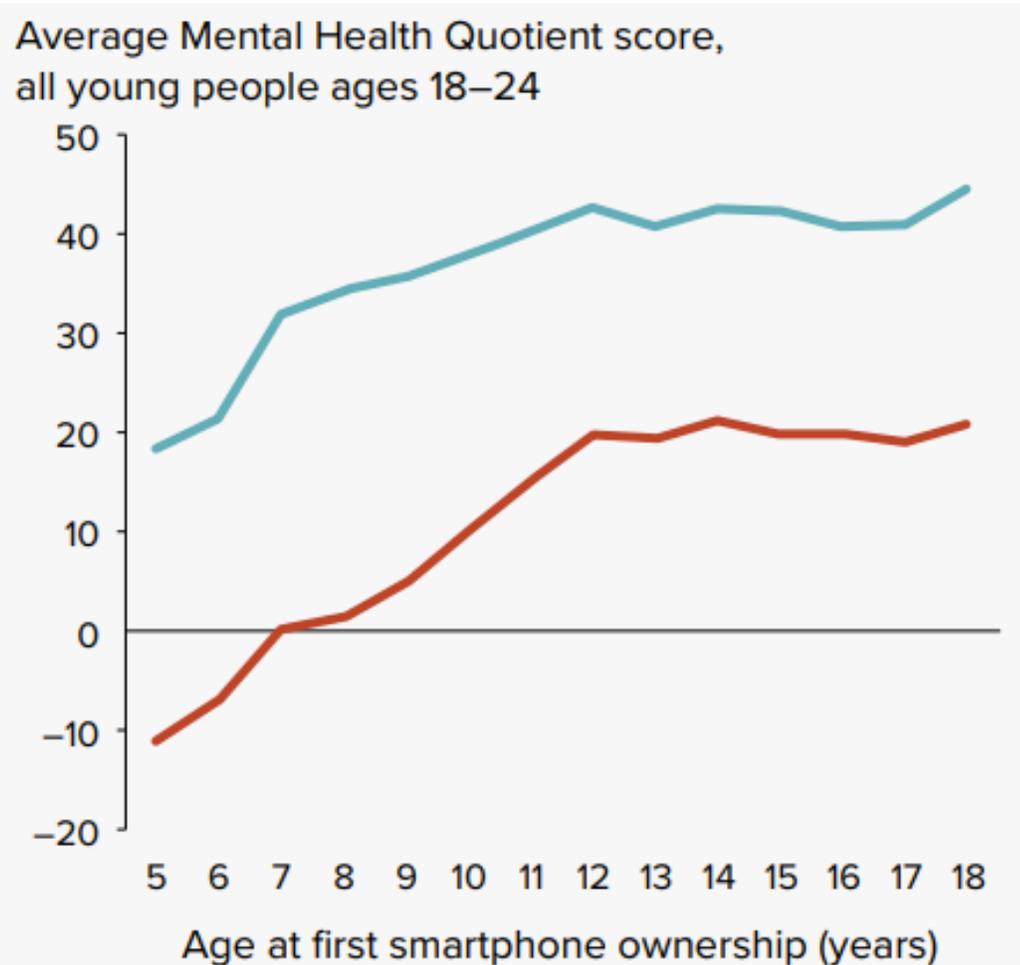
Average Mental Health Quotient score



New Challenges:

- Decline in wellbeing of young people

The earlier the exposure to smartphones, the lower the level of mental health

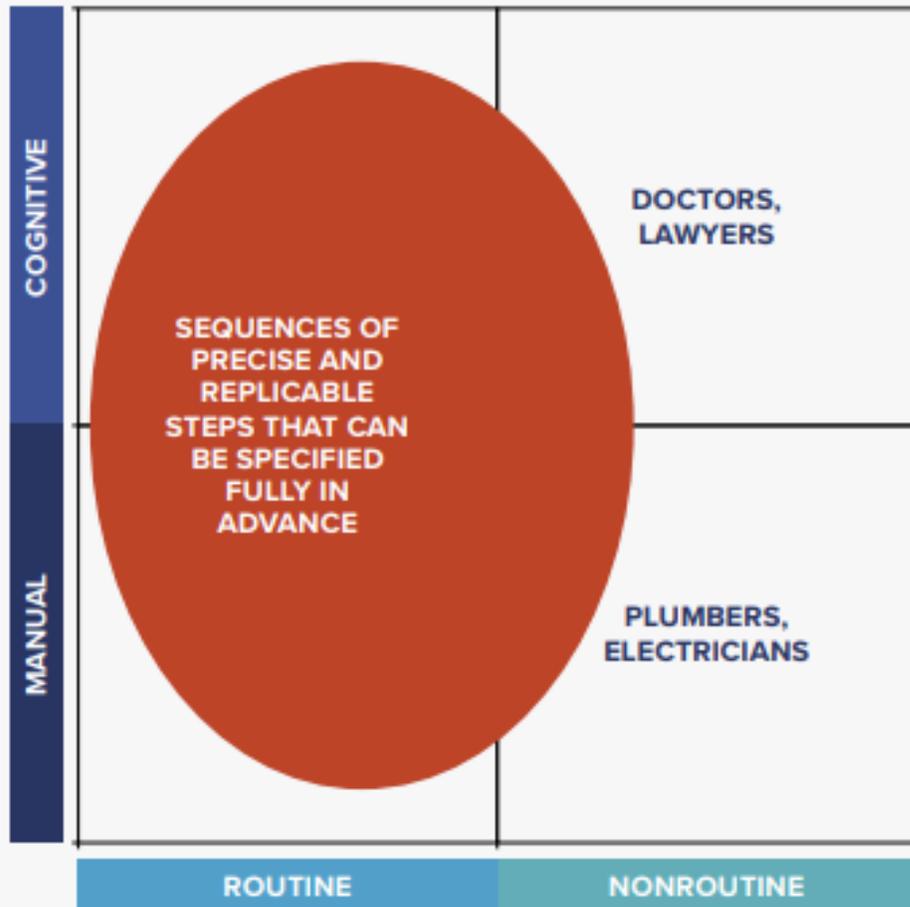


Source: Thiagarajan, Newson and Swaminathan 2025.



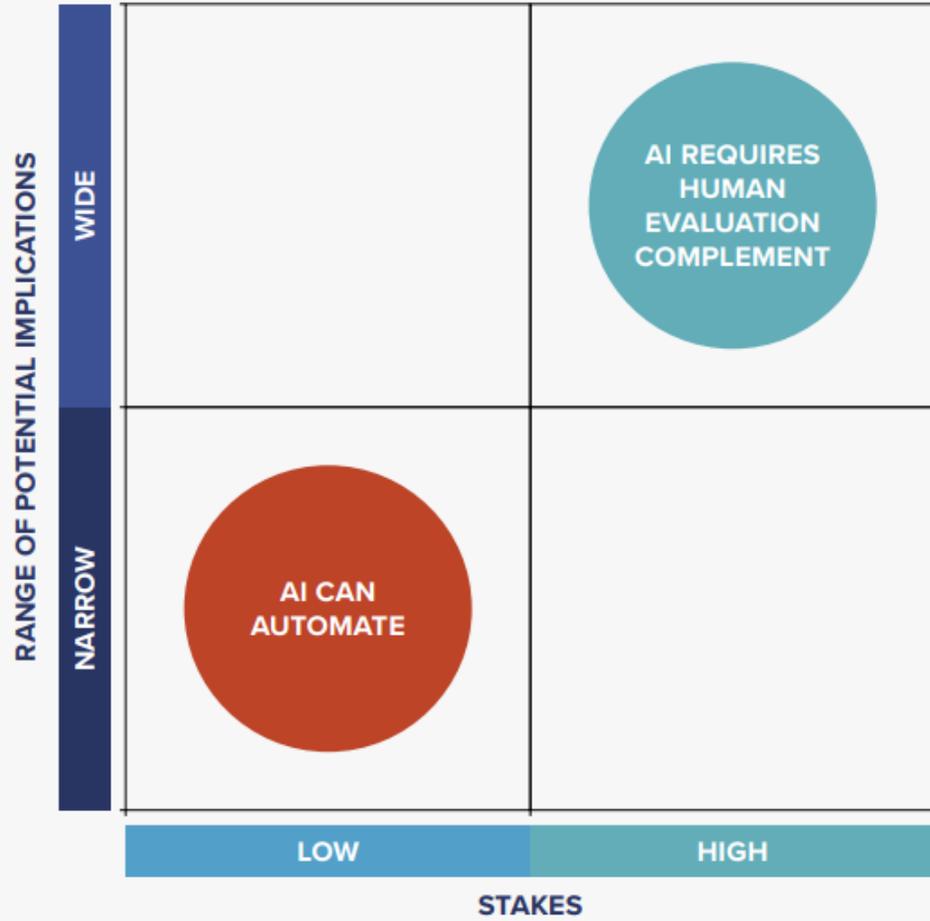
- New Challenges:
- Decline in wellbeing of young people
 - Active/opaque role of smartphones

AI is different: it's not about **routine/non-routine** tasks



With the traditional representation of technology (to take care of routine tasks), humans' roles are cornered.

AI is different: it's about **complementing** humans

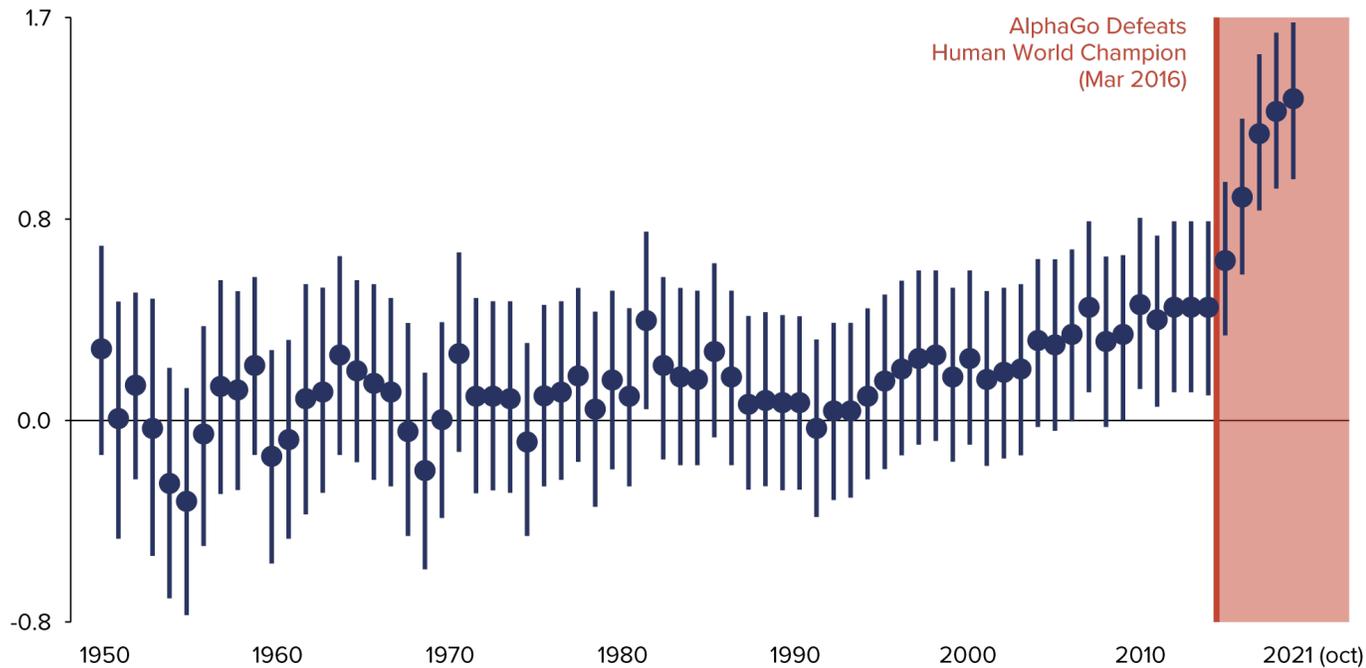


Humans should have a role in tasks with “high stakes” (that we value) and “wide implications” (have a reason to value).

AI can adapt to people

AI can make us more productive and more creative

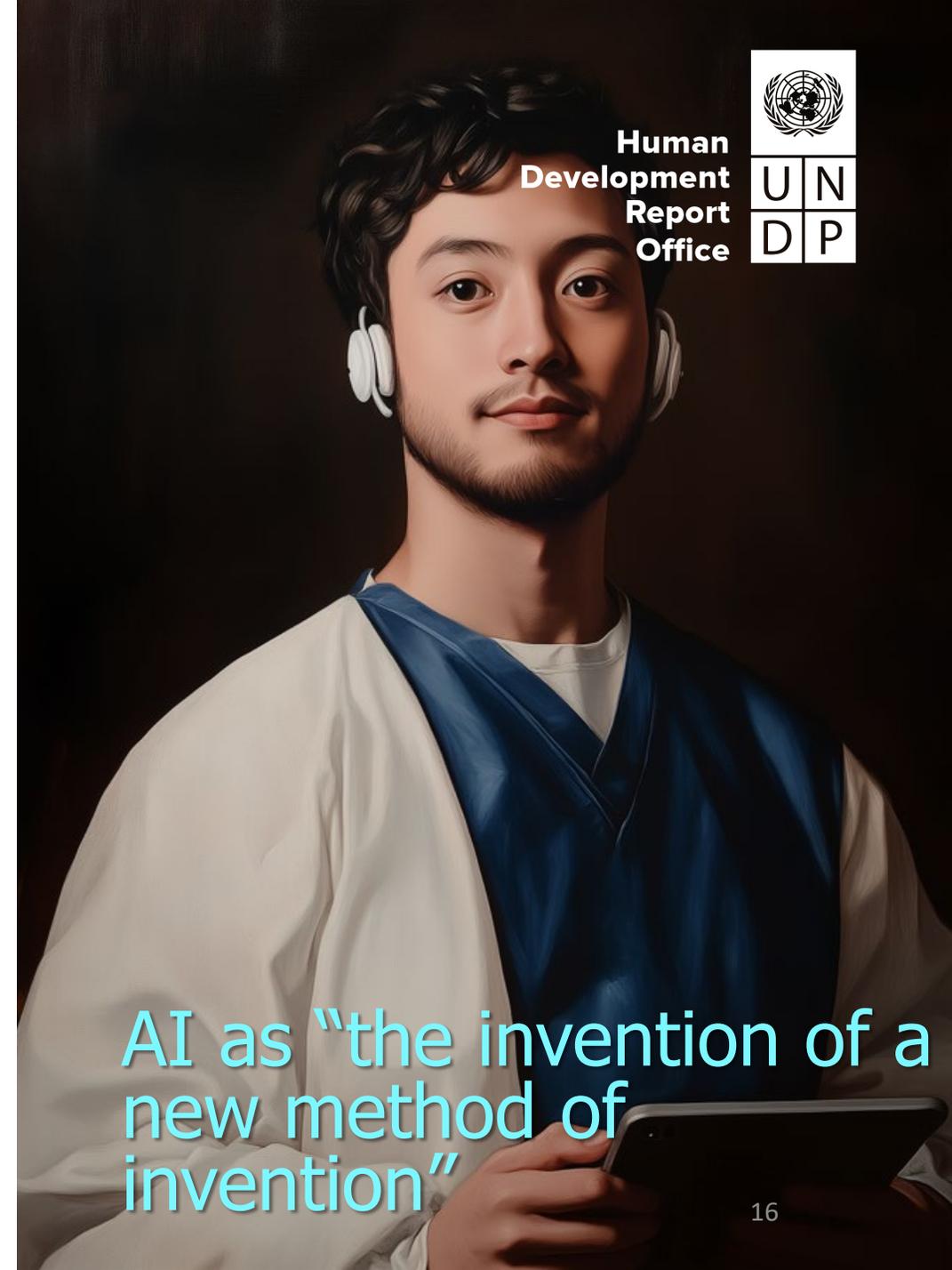
Median decision quality index on human Go players



Source: Shin and others 2023.



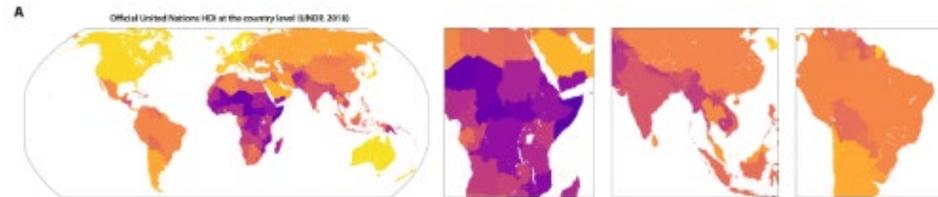
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AI as "the invention of a new method of invention"

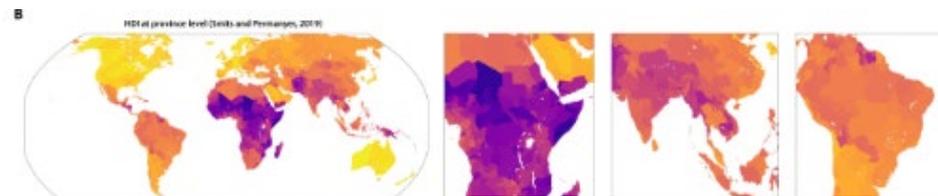
Estimating HDI using AI and satellite data

Country



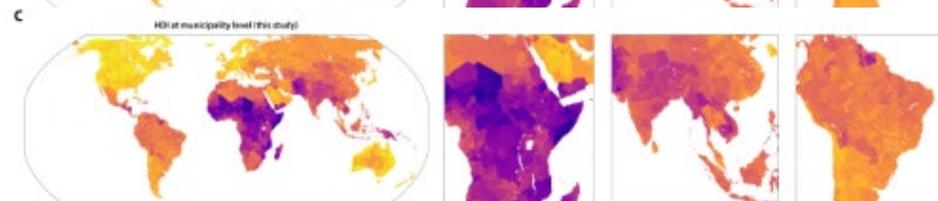
N=191

Province



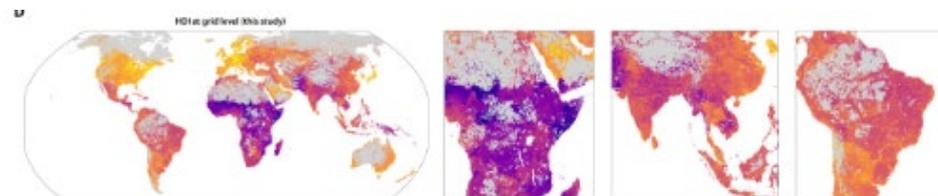
N=1,765

Municipality

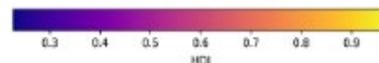


N=61,591

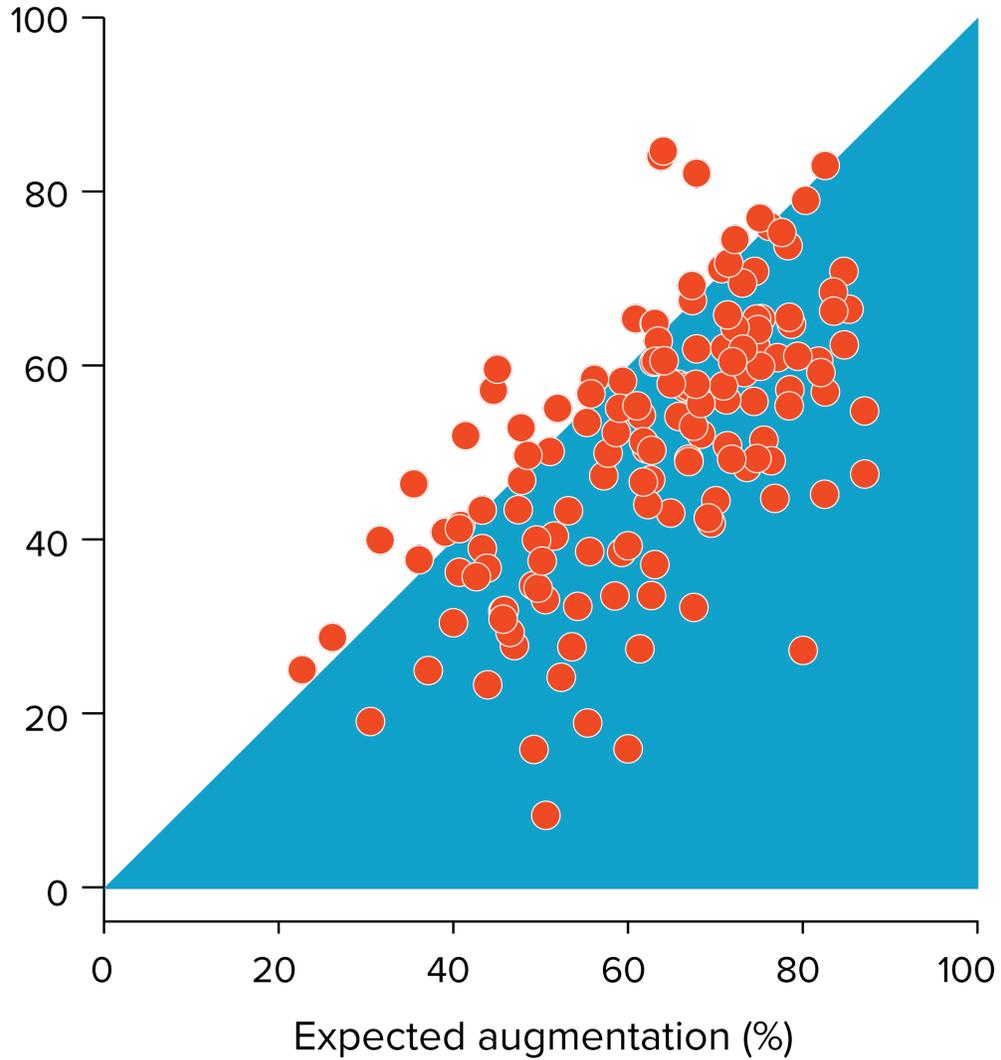
0.1 x 0.1 degrees



N=806,361



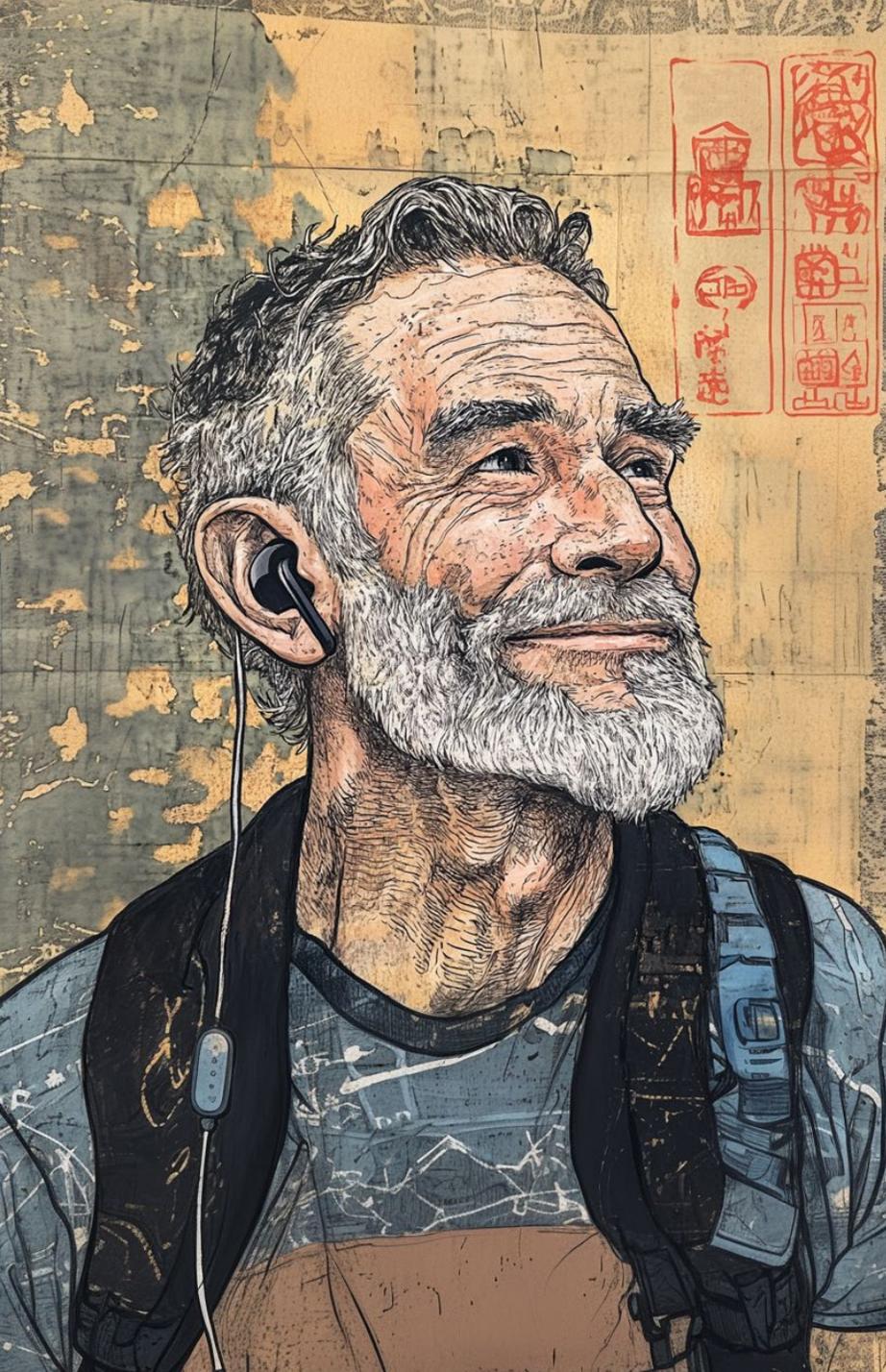
Expected automation (%)



Note: Based on pooled data for 21 countries from the UNDP Survey on AI and Human Development.



AI is expected to
augment more

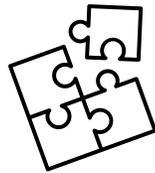


A matter of choice



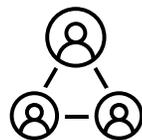
Building a Complementarity Economy

Policymakers should shape the future, not trying to guess how humans will be replaced by AI, but to see the potential of what humans can do with AI.



Innovation with Intent

AI should be harnessed to accelerate science and technological innovation—not by automating creative processes but by augmenting them.



Investing in capabilities that count

AI's flexibility and adaptability should be leveraged to personalize education and healthcare in different contexts, while attending to risks and concerns related to bias, privacy, affordability, and equity.

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