

April 28, 2025

SMART

Africa's Year of Education:

The Impact of EdTech & Ensuring Future-Proof ICT Investment

Ruben Cammaerts

Vice President, International
SMART Technologies

**Innovation
Africa 2025**

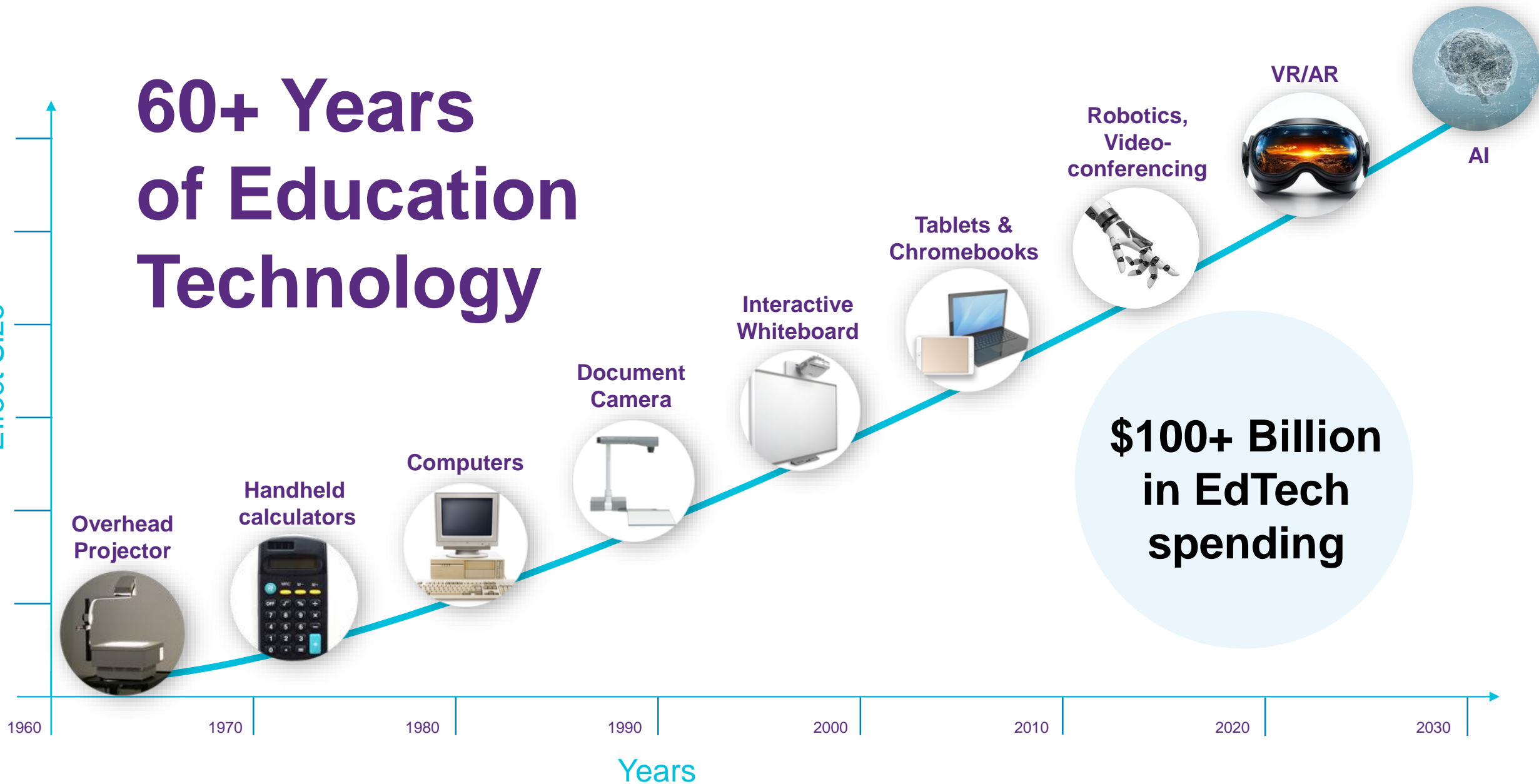
“EdTech must move beyond access—it must be sustainable, outcomes-focused, and locally aligned.”



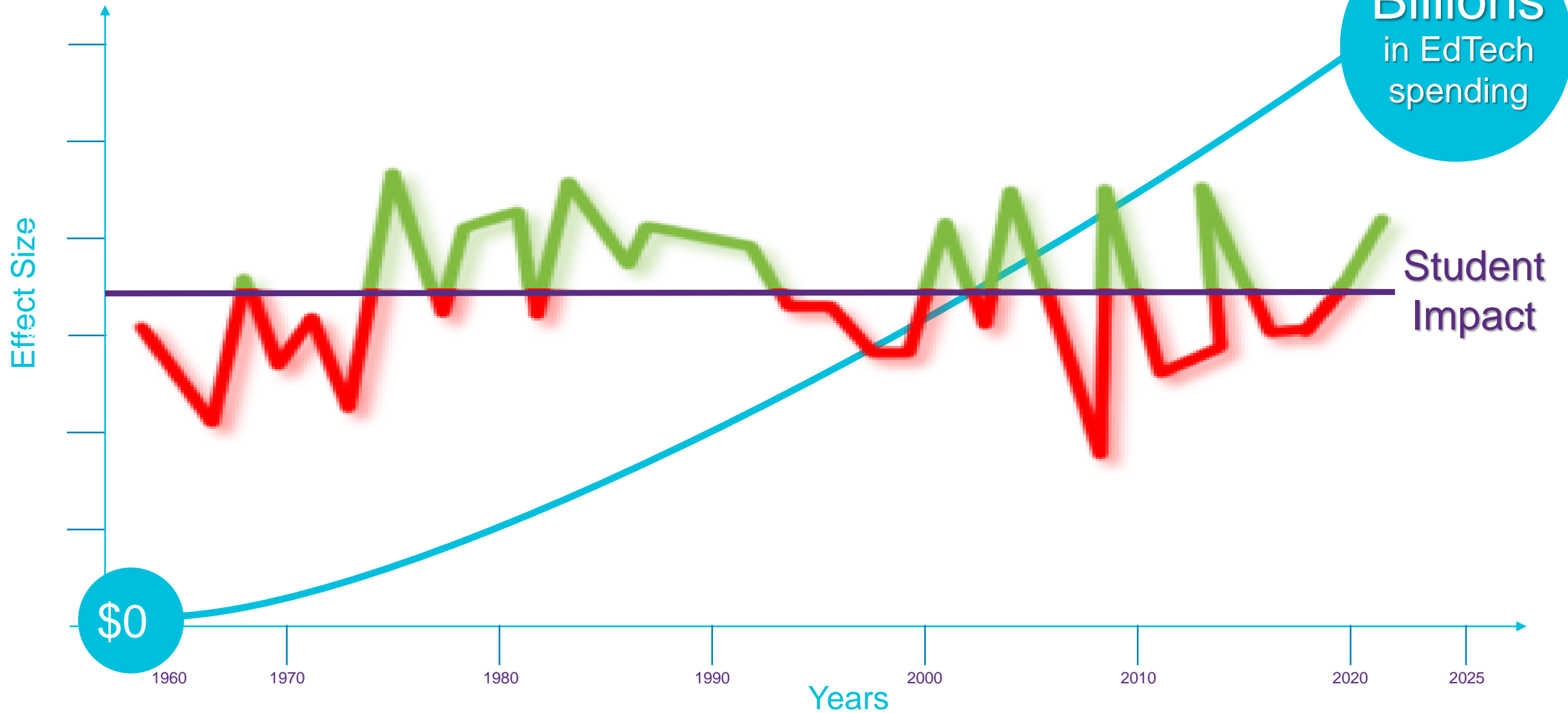
By 2030, education spending in Africa projected to triple to \$740 billion, and EdTech investments could grow to \$57 billion.

60+ Years of Education Technology

Effect Size




\$100 Billion. Are we seeing progress?










Unit Fractions

 = $\frac{1}{1}$

 = $\frac{1}{2}$

 = $\frac{1}{3}$

 = $\frac{1}{4}$

 = $\frac{1}{5}$



The formula for success

How to choose the right technology?



Training / PD



Edtech Assessment Tool

Guiding Global ICT Strategy



25 EdTech capabilities

For Advancing OUTCOMES



Vision and Aligned Planning



Tech Integration



Professional Development

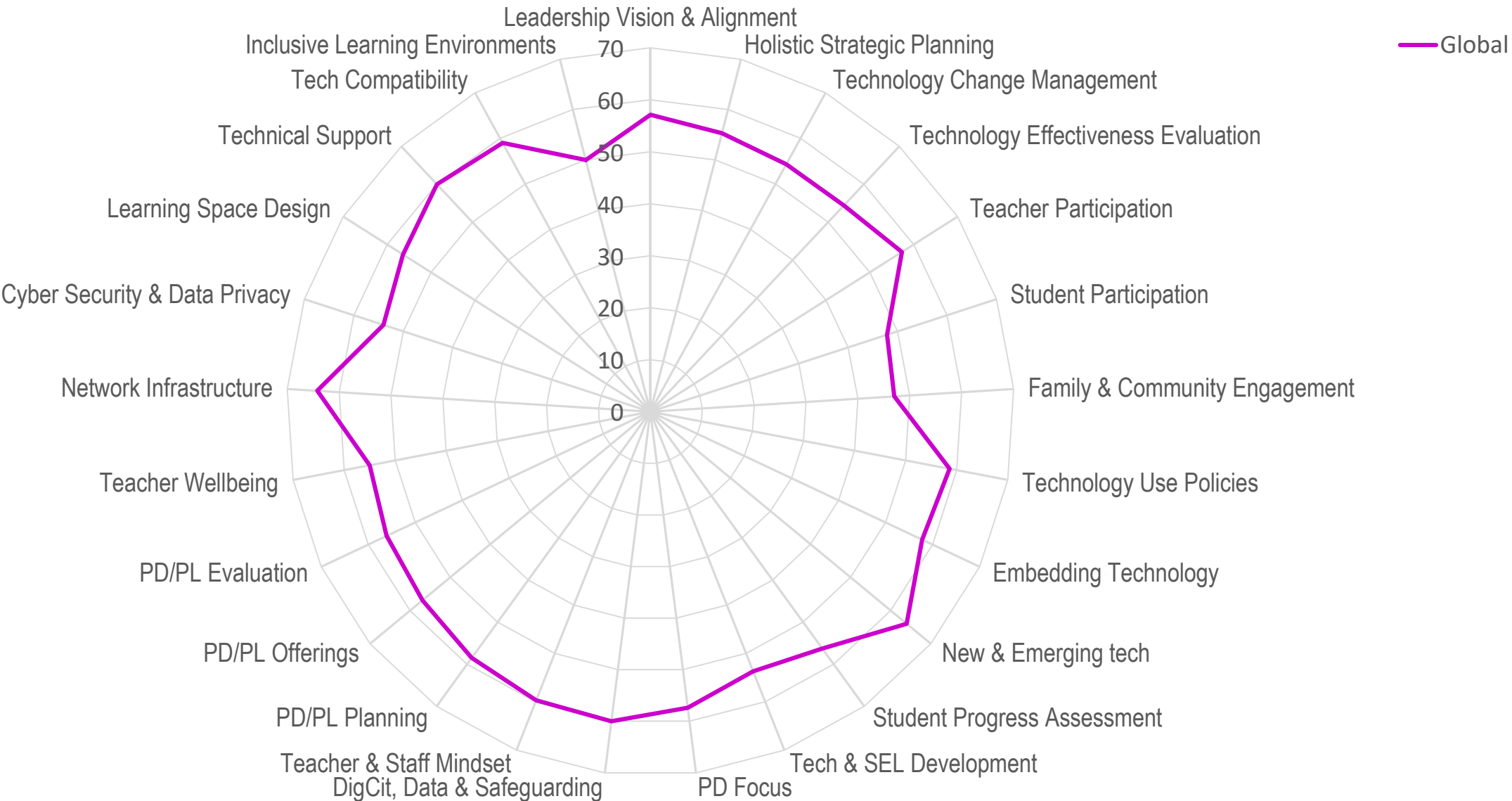


Infrastructure,
Data, and Spaces

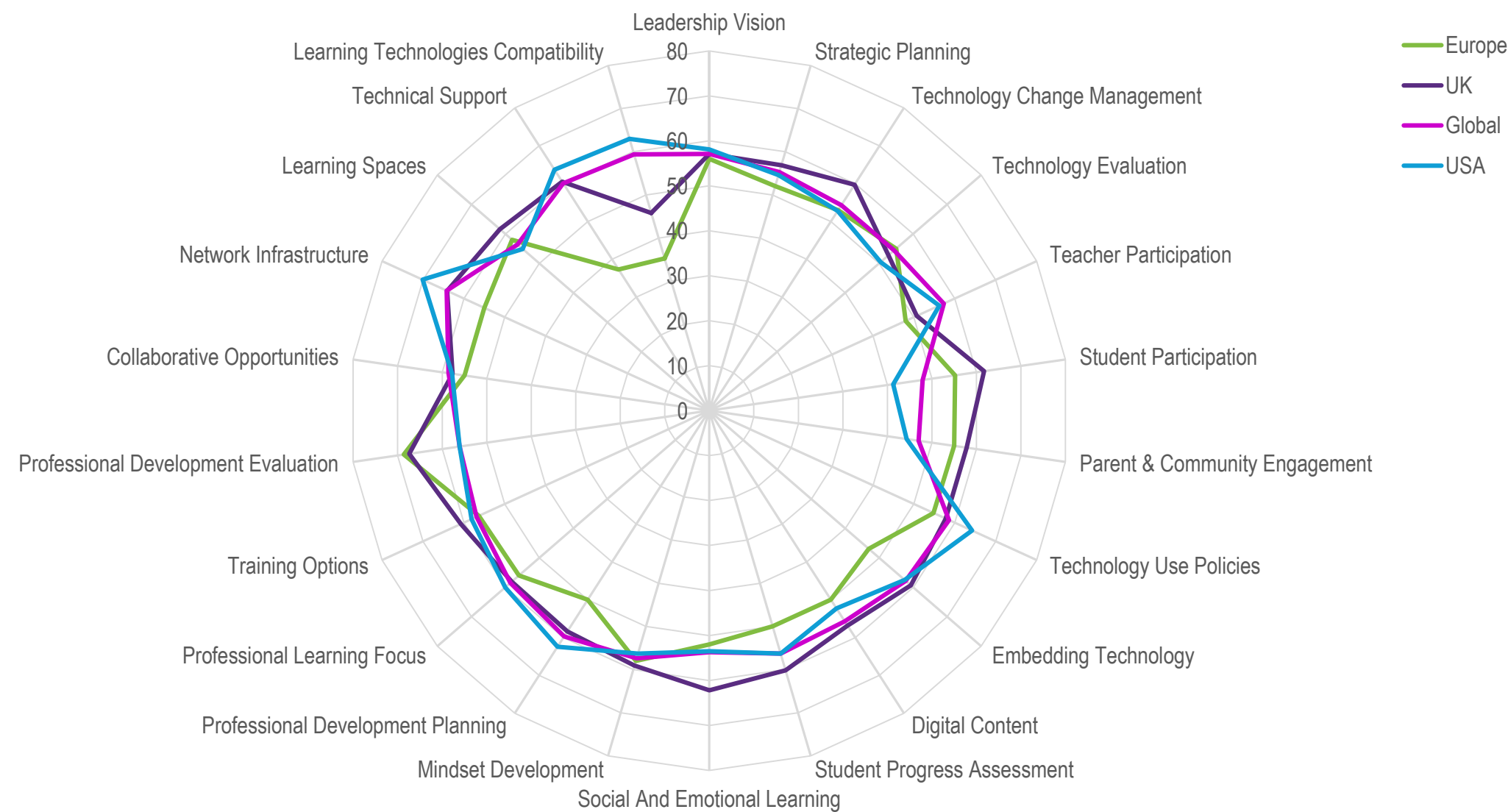
A practical guide
for your schools,
states, country.

Organizations that
follow these
practices get
better outcomes.

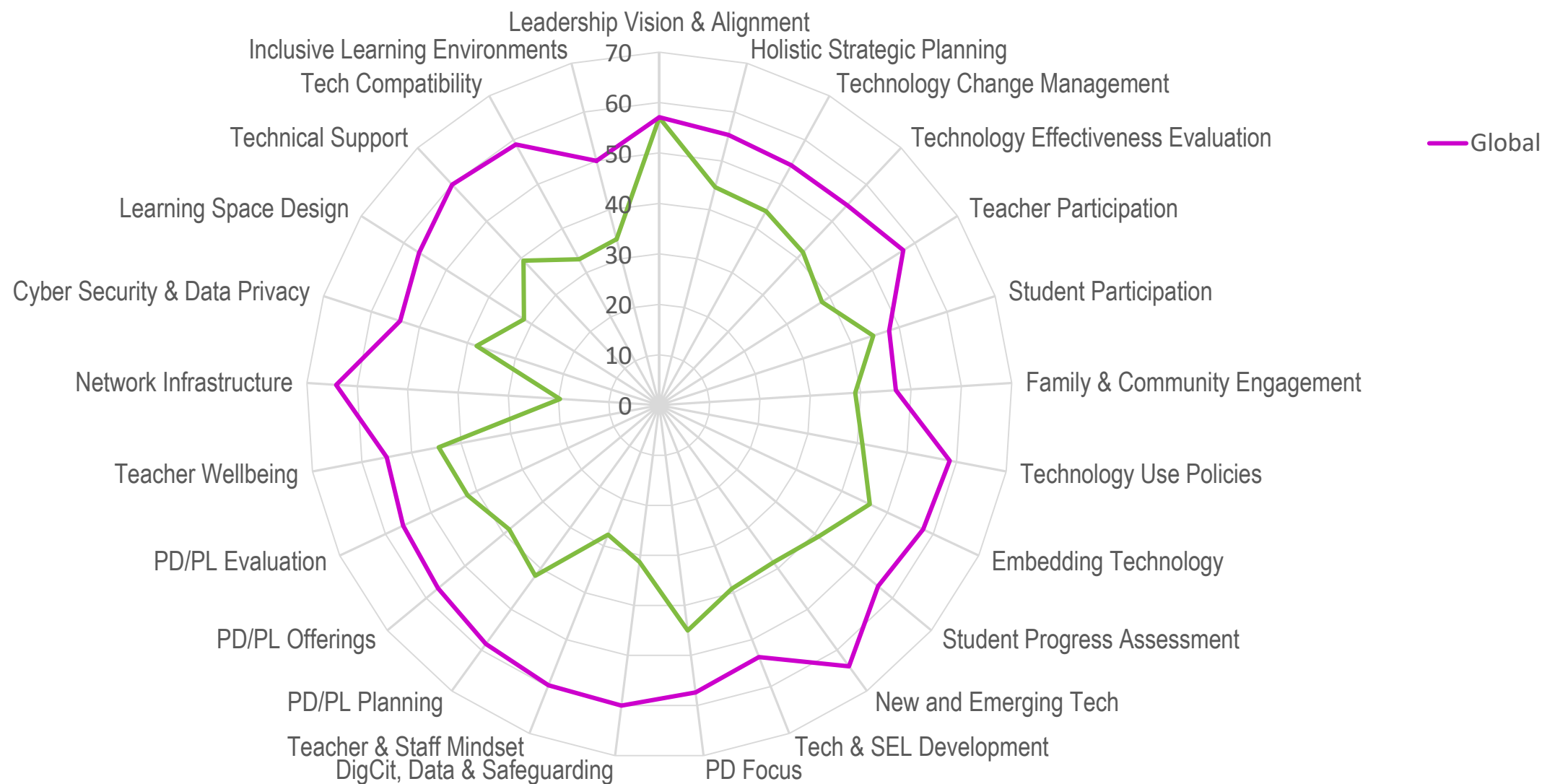
Capability Development – Global



Comparing Capability Development – Countries



Capability Development – This Cohort & Global Data



25 EdTech capabilities

for advancing outcomes

How can a technology investment better...

- Align to your vision and targeted outcomes?
- Integrate into your teaching and learning ecosystem?
- Empower educators to amplify teaching with technology?
- Provide access and equity for all students?

Vision and aligned planning

Examples

- Evaluation of Tech and **Implementation Effectiveness**
- **Student Participation** in Tech Planning

Tech integration

Examples

- Embedding Technology in **Teaching and Learning**
- New and **Emerging Tech**
- **Assessing** Student Progress

Professional Development

Examples

- Digital Responsibility, **Safeguarding**, and **Wellbeing**
- Teacher and Staff **Mindset**

Infrastructure, data, and spaces

Examples

- Network **Infrastructure**
- **Compatibility** of Learning Technologies
- **Inclusive Learning** Environments

What is the Responsibility of EdTech Leaders?



An Offline Large Language Model is the equivalent of having a teacher that has **65 Million books**



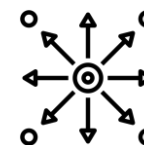
5 billion people can use online LLMs, but **3.1 billion without internet are left out**



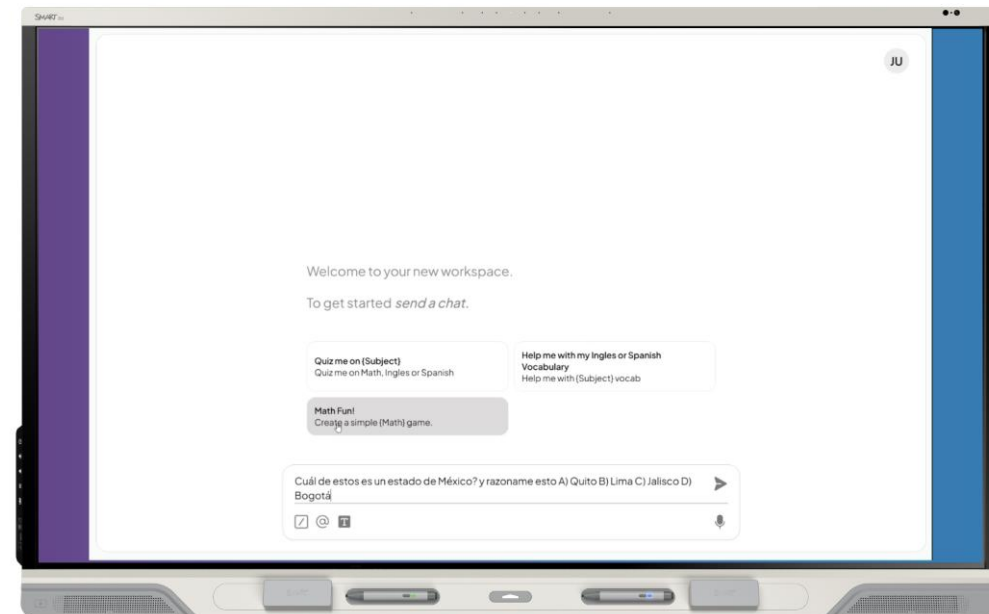
Offline LLMs bring this technology to rural and under-connected areas



LLMs can be trained with Ministry of Education materials, like textbooks and regional content, to meet local curriculum standards



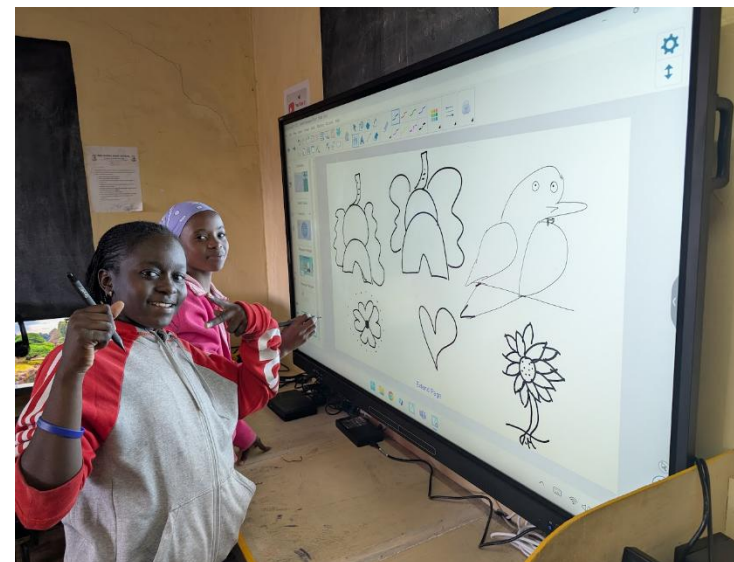
The key is distribution - **getting it everywhere** - which is the focus of **SMART and N50**





**N50 EDTECH
EQUITY
INITIATIVE** POWERED BY
SMART®

Nairobi, Kenya- The Excellence School

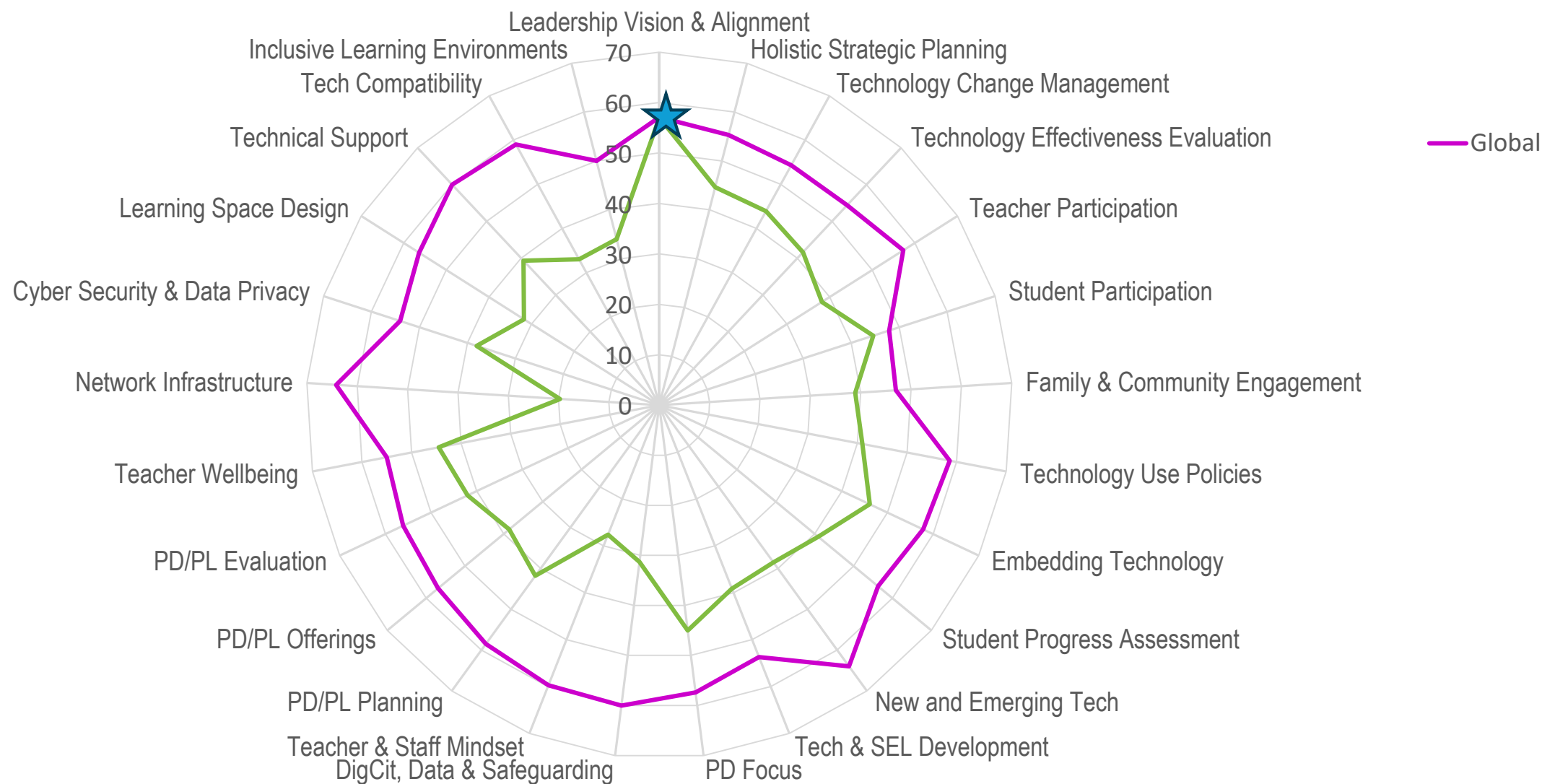




SMART®

Next Steps and Opportunities

Capability Development – This Cohort & Global Data



Call to Action: Participate in the EdTech Assessment Tool

ICT Planning with purpose to drive outcomes



WHY

- **Evaluate** your digital tools ecosystem
- **Maximize** tech impact on learning outcomes
- **Align** mission, vision and strategy

HOW

- **Research-backed** - Aligned with OECD, UNESCO, World Bank
- **Comprehensive** report with actionable insights
- **Data** for strategic ICT decisions

WHAT

- 20-minute **Survey**
- **Informs** ICT strategy for digital transformation
- Highlight **focus areas** for maximum impact