

Thinking... 5 sec

Sure! Here's some need-to-know information about how IREX safely uses AI to maximize its impact.



1 Achieving IREX's Mission with Responsible AI

IREX has a long history of using technology to advance its mission of a just, prosperous, and inclusive world. Emerging artificial intelligence (AI) tools promise enormous gains in efficiency, productivity, and impact, but they also introduce new risks and potential harms.

This fact sheet outlines IREX's approach to adopting AI responsibly, mindfully, and proactively. It showcases applications in IREX programs and looks ahead to how IREX is preparing for future trends.

What is Responsible AI, and how does IREX decide where and how to use it?



Responsible AI (RAI) focuses on developing and using AI safely, fairly, and ethically, respecting human rights and minimizing harm. For IREX, RAI builds on decades of digital development experience, prioritizing sustainability, local ownership, soft skills, digital hygiene, and participatory design methods to ensure that AI tools are safe, equitable, and aligned with human values.

2 Four Levers That Influence How IREX Evaluates and Uses AI Tools:

USE CASES

IREX staff are encouraged to adopt AI tools only when practical and relevant to specific projects, tasks, or job functions. Beginning with a specific use case provides staff with context and constraints to guide their AI use.

PARTNERSHIPS

When a use case requires more advanced tooling than off-the-shelf AI products like ChatGPT, IREX leans into thoughtful partnerships with local AI tech providers to pair their digital expertise with IREX's technical subject matter know-how.

RESPONSIBLE ADOPTION

Building on its commitment to sound digital development practices, IREX follows Responsible AI principles when evaluating and integrating AI tools.

ADAPTATION

Recognizing the speed at which AI tools and techniques evolve, IREX constantly scans for emerging trends in AI that could inform how and where IREX uses the technology to advance its mission.

Share some more examples.



Okay, I've got some concrete examples on the next page. I also added some information about enablers.



3 From Principle to Practice: AI at IREX

Building digital literacy among Kenya's youth

Through IREX's Digital ESE program, youth researchers used off-the-shelf technologies to build a custom AI bot on top of a vast amount of de-identified interview data to generate realistic scenario-based learning activities that fed into their curriculum's design.

Analyzing the strength of information systems

In the Dominican Republic, IREX partnered with a local AI developer to reimagine its Media Content Analysis Tool (MCAT) using AI, enabling a review of over 25,000 articles in under three days—far more efficient than the MCAT's typical manual analysis would have taken.

Designing a responsive curriculum for young leaders

IREX used AI to analyze 20 million words from applications to its highly competitive programs, resulting in tailored ideas for a responsive curriculum that took hours instead of over 360 days to complete.

Helping youth become digital citizens in Latin America

Through the CREDIBLE program, IREX worked with Omdena to enhance AI literacy among youth in Colombia and the Dominican Republic. Participants developed an AI tool to identify misleading social media content on migration, educating users while building technical AI skills among young developers.

Supporting pragmatic AI visioning in Jordan's education system

Together with Development Gateway, IREX is supporting organizational AI readiness with the Ministry of Education, in order to inform a fit-for-purpose AI strategy.

4 Enablers That Make These Use Cases Possible

AI POLICY

IREX developed an AI policy and circulated it among staff. In keeping with best practices, this policy struck a balance between encouraging genuine exploration of AI tools and providing safety guardrails to minimize risks of harm.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Long-standing investments in data culture, management, and use have ensured that IREX teams can securely find and access the right material to share with AI tools for context and analysis.

AI LITERACY

IREX has familiarized staff with key AI tools, opportunities, risks, and mitigations—like AI hygiene strategies—through a series of capacity-building efforts that help teams evaluate and use AI tools safely.

The dynamic landscape of AI, while presenting novel challenges, also offers unprecedented opportunities to amplify IREX's mission. By leaning into our partnership with Development Gateway, experts at technology systems, responsible data, and governance, IREX will remain proactive yet

mindful, continually adapt its approach, and prioritize responsible adoption rooted in decades of digital development experience. This recipe will ensure that IREX is well-positioned to harness AI's transformative power to build a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world.

