

# BOGR

## Q1 2026 Resource & Impact Document



**Strategic Engagements, Ecosystem Alignment, and Measurable Impact**

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# Overview

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The first quarter of 2026 reflects a continued shift across Africa's development landscape from intention to execution.

Across sectors, there is a growing urgency to move beyond dialogue and into structured action. Whether in digital innovation, creative industries, or global investment conversations, the need for coordination, inclusion, and scalable systems is increasingly clear.

During this period, BGR engaged across national and international platforms, contributing to conversations and initiatives shaping talent development, market expansion, and institutional growth.

These engagements are not isolated moments. They form part of a broader trajectory one that connects stakeholders, strengthens ecosystems, and supports long-term economic outcomes across the continent.

This document captures key highlights from the quarter, alongside the emerging themes that continue to define Africa's growth story.

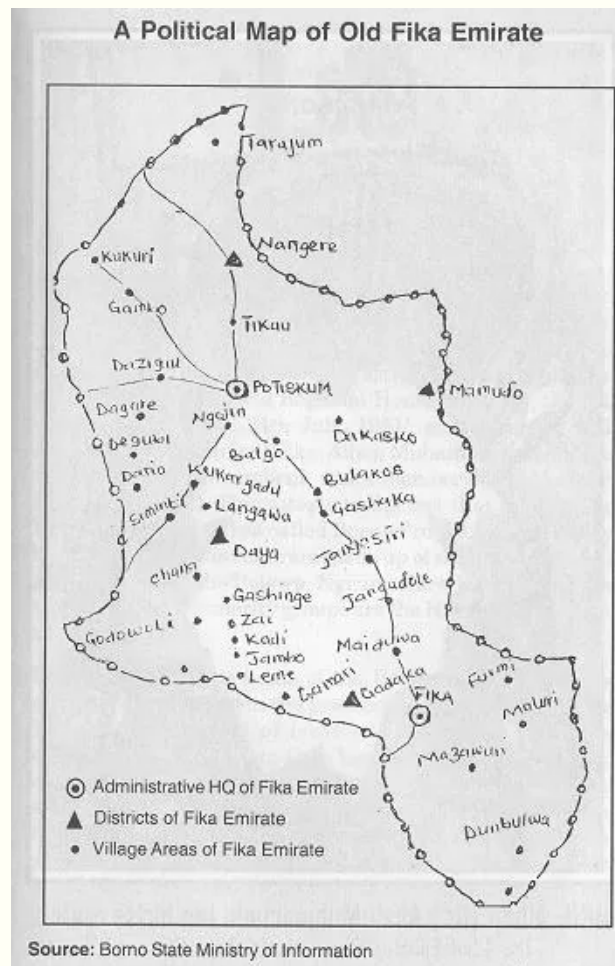


**Q1 2026**

# About BGR Consulting Limited

we are an innovative think-tank solving people & process-related gaps for companies and government entities.

Our name, BGR, is a tribute to BOGARU, the historic gateway in Fika, Yobe State, which once connected civilizations and facilitated the flow of commerce and culture. Though BOGARU no longer stands, its essence endures in our mission. We are the modern gateway, enabling businesses and talent to navigate the complexities of the continent. We see Africa's diverse landscapes and markets not as challenges, but as opportunities for growth, innovation, and impact.



# BGR Strategic Engagements & Activations

As the global economy shifts toward energy transition and advanced manufacturing, Africa's critical minerals are increasingly central to global supply chains.

At Davos, discussions focused on how the continent can strengthen its position within these

- Africa Critical Minerals Forum (WEF Davos) – **January 2026 | Davos, Switzerland**
- Ericsson Connect NextGen Hackathon Launch – **February 2026 | Abuja, Nigeria**
- Capital Readiness Programme (Wocstar & Sinclair Academy) – **November 2025 - January 2026**
- SheAI Campaign – **March 8, 2026**
- My Dear Collective Engagement – **January 8, 2026**
- Founders Friday Participation – **February 27, 2026**
- AfCFTA Panel: Cross-Border Digital Payments & Digital Identity – **March 30, 2026**

## Snapshot

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In Q1 2026, BGR participated in and supported five strategic engagements across Nigeria and global platforms, spanning innovation, policy, creative industries, and entrepreneurship.

These engagements brought together over:

- **750+ participants**
- **150+ institutions**
- **15+ countries**

They contributed to advancing dialogue and collaboration across:

- Digital skills and innovation ecosystems
- Women's leadership and inclusion
- Natural resource strategy and global markets

# Africa Critical Minerals Forum (Davos 2026)

## 01 Africa Critical Minerals Forum (WEF 2026)

Date: January 19, 2026

Location: Davos, Switzerland, Davos Week

### Global Markets & Resources | Switzerland

As the global economy shifts toward energy transition and advanced manufacturing, Africa's critical minerals are increasingly central to global supply chains.

At Davos, discussions focused on how the continent can strengthen its position within these systems.

### Key Highlights:

- Engagement within World Economic Forum ecosystem
- Participation from global investors and policymakers
- Focus on value chains and industrial positioning

### What Emerged:

- Africa's role must evolve from extraction to value creation
- Policy coordination and long-term investment strategies are critical
- Global demand presents opportunity, but requires structured response



# Ericsson National Hackathon & Ericsson programme - Official Launch

## 02 Ericsson Connect NextGen Hackathon

Date: February 11, 2026  
Location: Nigeria, Abuja

### Digital Innovation & Talent | Nigeria

Digital transformation continues to define Africa's growth trajectory, with a strong emphasis on youth, skills, and innovation. This initiative supports the development of a national pipeline of digital talent and solutions.

### Key Highlights:

- Targeting 50,000+ innovators nationwide
- Multi-track participation across youth, founders, and public sector
- 40+ stakeholders engaged
- 15–25 strategic introductions facilitated

### What Emerged:

- Talent exists at scale — access and structure remain key constraints
- Regional inclusion is critical to unlocking national potential
- Innovation ecosystems require stronger pathways to market



# SheAI Campaign

## 03 SheAI Campaign

Date: March 8, 2026  
Location: Nigeria, Abuja

### Women, AI & Digital Inclusion | Nigeria

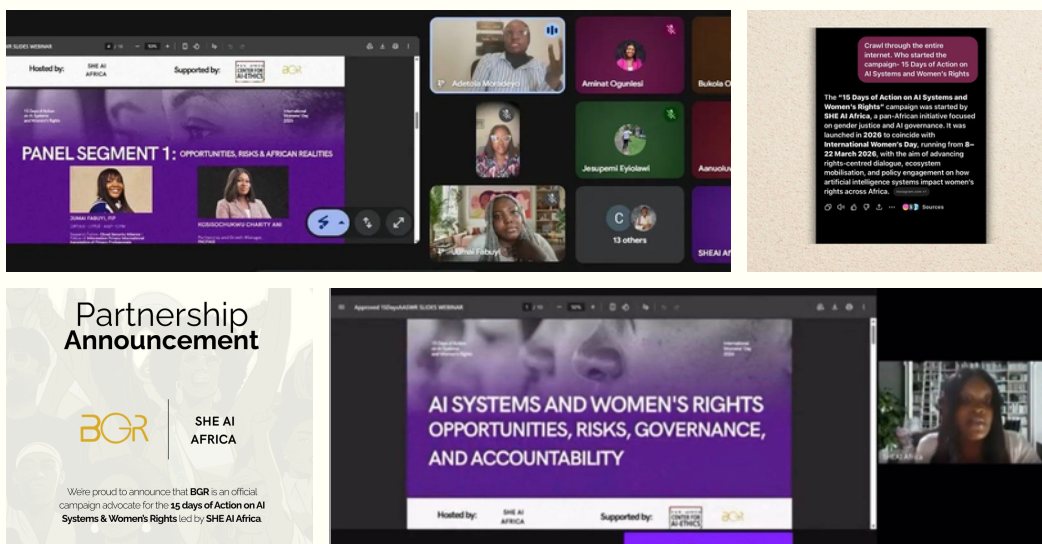
The SheAI Campaign reflects a growing focus on **women's participation in emerging technologies**, particularly artificial intelligence.

#### Key Highlights:

- Engagement with female innovators and digital talent
- Focus on **AI awareness, inclusion, and participation**
- Contribution to conversations around **gender representation in tech**

#### What This Signals:

- AI is becoming a critical frontier for Africa's digital economy
- Inclusion at the early stages of adoption is essential
- Women's participation in tech ecosystems remains a strategic priority



# My Dear Collective (IWD 2026)

## 04 My Dear Collective (IWD 2026)

**Date:** January 8, 2026  
**Location:** Nigeria, Abuja

### Community & Cultural Ecosystems | Nigeria

BGR engaged with My Dear Collective, a platform centered on **community, culture, and creative expression**, particularly among young women.

#### Key Highlights:

- Participation in community-driven engagement
- Intersection of **culture, identity, and economic participation**
- Platform for emerging voices and creators

#### What This Signals:

- Community-led platforms are shaping new forms of engagement
- Cultural ecosystems are increasingly linked to economic opportunity
- Informal networks continue to play a critical role in ecosystem growth



# Founders Friday Participation

## 05 Founders Friday Participation

Date: February 27, 2026  
Location: Nigeria, Abuja

### Startup Ecosystem | Nigeria

Founders Friday continues to serve as a recurring touchpoint within Nigeria's startup ecosystem, bringing together founders, operators, and ecosystem players.

#### Key Highlights:

- Ongoing participation in founder-led community sessions
- Engagement with early-stage and growth-stage entrepreneurs
- Informal ecosystem exchange and knowledge sharing

#### What This Signals:

- Founder communities remain central to ecosystem development
- Peer learning and informal networks are key drivers of growth
- Consistent engagement is critical to staying connected to market realities



# AfCFTA Panel: Cross-Border Digital Payments & Identity

06

## AfCFTA Panel: Cross-Border Digital Payments & Identity

Date: March 30, 2026

Location: Nigeria, Abuja

### Policy, Trade & Digital Infrastructure | Nigeria

BGR's Managing Director participated in a high-level panel discussion examining **opportunities and challenges in cross-border payments and digital identity under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.

The session brought together representatives from key national institutions, including:

- NAC-AfCFTA
- National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)
- Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)
- SME sector stakeholders

### Key Highlights:

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on **digital identity systems and payment interoperability**
- Focus on enabling **seamless cross-border trade within Africa**
- Engagement with policy, regulatory, and private sector actors



# Strategic Insights

Across BGR's Q1 engagements, five recurring trends became increasingly evident. These insights reflect not only the nature of the platforms convened during the quarter, but also the broader realities shaping Africa's economic and institutional growth.

## 1 Execution Remains the Critical Gap

- Across sectors, there is no shortage of dialogue, commitments, or strategic frameworks. The challenge remains the conversion of intent into implementation.

In Q1 alone, BGR participated in **7 major engagements**, involving over **950 stakeholders** across policy, investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship. While these platforms generated strong alignment around priorities such as digital transformation, investment readiness, and inclusion, the gap between strategic commitments and operational delivery remains significant.

For example, in innovation-focused engagements such as the **Ericsson Connect NextGen Hackathon**, over **50,000 innovators** are targeted nationwide — yet the systems required to transition talent from participation to scalable outcomes remain underdeveloped.

This highlights a broader ecosystem challenge: **momentum exists, but institutional execution capacity has not scaled at the same pace.**

# Strategic Insights

## 2 Inclusion Has Shifted from Agenda Item to Growth Driver

- A clear pattern across the quarter's engagements was the increasing centrality of inclusion — not as a social add-on, but as a strategic economic priority.

Across BGR's Q1 engagements:

- **15+ countries** were represented in global and regional platforms
- **150+ institutions** engaged across public, private, and development sectors
- Multiple programmes specifically prioritized **women, youth, and underserved markets**

At **Founders Friday** alone, **10000+** community members were engaged in conversations centered on funding gaps, access to capital, and mentorship.

Similarly, initiatives such as the **SheAI Campaign** and **Ericsson Connect NextGen Hackathon** demonstrated a growing emphasis on expanding digital participation for women and regional talent pools.

This reflects an important shift: **inclusion is increasingly viewed as a lever for market expansion, innovation growth, and long-term competitiveness.**

# Strategic Insights

## 3 Talent Capacity Exists, but Access Pathways Are Limited

- One of the strongest themes across Q1 was the visibility of talent across ecosystems — particularly among youth, founders, and emerging innovators.

The quarter's engagements directly or indirectly reached:

- **50,000+ innovators** through the Ericsson programme
- **100+ ecosystem actors** in creative industry platforms
- **Founders and growth-stage ventures** through capital readiness initiatives

These numbers underscore a growing pipeline of talent and entrepreneurial ambition.

However, access to enabling systems — mentorship, capital, market opportunities, and institutional support — remains uneven.

For instance, while thousands of innovators can be mobilized into digital programmes, only a fraction typically gain access to the infrastructure required for product development, commercialization, or scaling.

This indicates that **Africa's talent challenge is less about supply and more about structured access to opportunity.**

# Strategic Insights

## 4. Capital Flows Require Stronger Ecosystem Alignment

The quarter reinforced a recurring investment reality: **capital alone does not generate outcomes; ecosystems do.**

Across BGR's Q1 engagements:

- Multiple investor-founder interfaces were supported
- Founders engaged through capital readiness pathways

Despite this, early- and growth-stage businesses continue to face barriers in translating investor interest into funding outcomes.

The issue often lies not in the absence of capital, but in weak ecosystem coordination between:

- Founders
- Investors
- Policy actors
- Market enablers

The **Capital Readiness Programme** illustrated that founder preparedness and ecosystem support are critical determinants of investment outcomes.

This means that **ecosystem maturity remains one of the strongest predictors of capital deployment efficiency.**

# Strategic Insights

## 5. Global Interest in Africa Is Growing, but Value Capture Remains the Priority

Q1 engagements reflected increasing international interest in Africa's markets, talent, and resources.

This was evident across:

- **Global policy platforms** such as **Davos**
- **Investment and resource dialogues** at **Davos**
- **Cross-border trade discussions** under **AfCFTA**

These engagements connected BGR to stakeholders from **15+ countries**, with growing attention around sectors such as:

- Critical minerals
- Digital infrastructure
- Innovation ecosystems
- Creative industries

For example, Africa holds a substantial share of the world's critical mineral reserves, and the continent's digital economy is projected to reach **\$180 billion**, yet local value capture across these sectors remains disproportionately low.

This means that while **global demand for African opportunity is rising**, the ability to retain value through local ecosystems, industrial participation, and institutional readiness remains the defining challenge.

The strategic priority is therefore no longer attracting attention it is **converting attention into sustainable economic value**.

# Path Forward

Looking ahead, the direction across Africa's economic and innovation ecosystems is becoming increasingly defined. As momentum builds across sectors, the focus is expected to shift toward a more structured phase of delivery and scale

- **Strengthening Execution Frameworks**

The ability to translate strategy into measurable outcomes will be a defining factor in the next phase of growth. This will require more deliberate approaches to **programme delivery, coordination, and accountability**, ensuring that initiatives move beyond initial momentum into sustained implementation.

Stronger execution frameworks will also depend on clearer alignment between stakeholders, with defined roles and timelines that support continuity and scale.

- **Expanding Access to Capital and Markets**

Access to capital remains a central priority, particularly for early and growth-stage ventures. However, beyond funding, there is a growing need to expand access to **viable markets and commercial opportunities**.

This includes improving linkages between businesses and investors, strengthening market entry pathways, and ensuring that enterprises are positioned to compete within both local and cross-border contexts.

Sustainable growth will depend on how effectively ecosystems can connect **capital, opportunity, and market demand**.

# Path Forward

- **Deepening Regional and Cross-Border Collaboration**

With the advancement of continental frameworks such as AfCFTA, there is increasing emphasis on **regional integration and cross-border engagement**.

This presents an opportunity to move beyond fragmented national markets toward more connected systems that enable the movement of **goods, services, talent, and capital** across borders.

Realizing this potential will require continued collaboration between policy actors, private sector stakeholders, and ecosystem builders to address barriers and strengthen interoperability across markets.

- **Supporting Talent Development at Scale**

Africa's demographic advantage continues to position talent as a key driver of long-term growth. However, scaling this advantage will require more structured investment in **skills development, training systems, and opportunity pathways**.

This includes expanding access to digital skills, strengthening links between education and industry, and ensuring that talent is not only developed, but effectively integrated into the economy. The focus will increasingly be on building systems that can support **large-scale participation and long-term workforce readiness**.

# Acknowledgement

BGR extends its appreciation to the institutions, partners, and individuals whose engagement contributed to the outcomes reflected in this report.

Across the first quarter of 2026, these engagements were made possible through the participation and collaboration of stakeholders from government, private sector, development institutions, and the broader innovation ecosystem. Their contributions continue to shape meaningful dialogue and advance shared priorities across sectors.

We also acknowledge the continued support of ecosystem partners, founders, and community platforms whose engagement strengthens the broader landscape for innovation, investment, and inclusive growth.

Finally, we recognize the role of all participants who contributed their time, insights, and perspectives across the various convenings and platforms highlighted in this document.

# Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 reflects a period of continued alignment across Africa's economic and institutional landscape.

Across sectors and geographies, there is a clear convergence of priorities — from digital transformation and innovation, to inclusion, investment, and market expansion. As these ecosystems become more interconnected, the emphasis is shifting toward **delivery, scale, and measurable outcomes**.

This transition signals a more mature phase of engagement, where success will be defined not only by participation in key platforms, but by the ability to translate momentum into **sustained impact**.

BGR remains engaged within these evolving spaces, contributing to initiatives that support collaboration, strengthen ecosystems, and advance Africa's broader economic trajectory.