

# DATAFEST AFRICA 2025 LOGISTICS NOTE

## Welcome to DataFest Africa 2025 Reclaiming Our Data Futures

**Celebrating data and technology as forces for community empowerment and inclusive innovation across Africa**

Pollicy is proud to host the 6th edition of [DataFest Africa](#), taking place in Kampala, Uganda, on Thursday, 30th and Friday, 31st October 2025. DataFest Africa is a premier event that brings together diverse stakeholders, government, civil society, creatives, academics, the private sector, and grassroots innovators to explore how African communities can reclaim control over their digital and data futures and re-imagine new ways of data and technology ownership.

DataFest Africa 2025 focuses on shifting data power back to communities through ethical data use, governance, and homegrown technology to improve livelihoods, bolster local economies, and spark social change. Datafest Africa shall feature an Afrofeminist data museum, hands-on workshops, showcases of locally developed data products and digital tools, storytelling sessions, a wellness hub, and critical conversations on data justice, equity, and sustainability.

Join policymakers, artists, technologists, and citizens in a collaborative space to build people-centred data ecosystems, elevate digital rights, and co-create practical solutions for Africa's data futures. DataFest Africa 2025 is for builders, disruptors, and dreamers committed to a fair and inclusive digital Africa.

To prepare you for the DataFest Africa 2025 experience, please find some vital information regarding this event to help you plan and be confident about the measures to support your participation. Please read the following details carefully.

## Pre-Events

In the lead-up to the main event in Kampala, DataFest Africa 2025 will host two important pre-events to engage its communities and ignite conversations around data for social change:

- **Nairobi, Kenya – Wednesday, 15th October 2025**  
Partnering with The Aga Khan University's [Data Innovation Office](#), this pre-event will focus on regional data innovation, policy dialogues, and strengthening collaborations across East Africa. It will feature expert panels, interactive workshops, and showcases of data-driven initiatives that empower communities and support ethical data governance.
- **Lira, Uganda – Thursday, 23rd October 2025**  
In collaboration with [Amara Hub](#), this satellite pre-event hosted by Amara Hub creates space for underrepresented voices to shape the region's data future in alignment with the festival's objectives. Guided by the question 'How do we turn local data into local power?', the sessions will focus on practical, action-oriented reflections on building a data future that empowers and serves people at the grassroots.

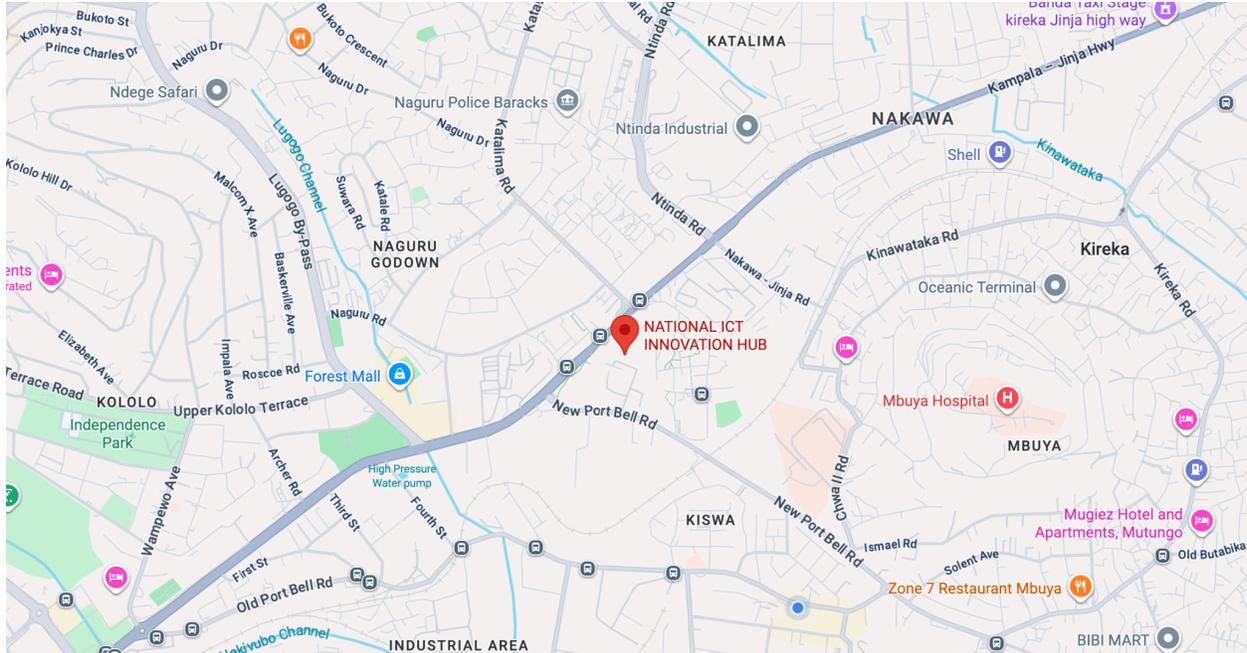
## Event Venue

DataFest Africa 2025 will be held at the [National ICT Innovation Hub](#) (NiiHub) in Nakawa, Kampala, Uganda. The Hub is located in Nakawa, approximately 6 kilometers east of Kampala's city center. The NiiHub is positioned next to Makerere University Business School, opposite Capital Shoppers Supermarket.



### National ICT Innovation Hub (NiiHub)

The facility is easily accessible by car or taxi from major points in Kampala, including Entebbe International Airport, which is about a 40-minute drive depending on traffic conditions.



View the [National ICT Innovation Hub](#) on Google Maps.

## Visa Information

Participants travelling to Uganda for DataFest Africa 2025 must obtain a visa prior to travel unless exempt. Uganda offers an electronic visa (e-Visa) system accessible via: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>.

### Visa Types:

- Single-entry tourist or business visas (valid up to 3 months)
- Multiple-entry visas (valid for 6 months or longer)
- East Africa Tourist Visa (valid for Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda for 90 days)

### Application Requirements:

- Valid passport with a minimum of 6 months' validity beyond the intended stay
- Recent passport-sized photo
- Yellow Fever vaccination certificate (mandatory)
- Completed the visa application form online (<https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>)
- Proof of accommodation and travel itinerary
- Invitation letter from Pollicy (available upon request) via [events@pollicy.org](mailto:events@pollicy.org)
- Additional documents may be required for business or official visits

**Visa Fees:** Generally around USD 100, varying by visa type.

**Visa Exemptions:** Certain East African Community (EAC) and COMESA member country nationals may enter Uganda visa-free. Confirm eligibility on the official immigration website.

### Important Notes:

- Print your e-Visa approval letter and carry it along with your passport and vaccination

- certificate for entry.
- Visa approval does not guarantee entry; final admission is at the discretion of immigration officials.

**Invitation Letters:** Participants needing an invitation letter for visa purposes should email [events@pollicy.org](mailto:events@pollicy.org) with their full name, passport number, nationality, and travel dates.

All participants are advised to apply for their visa well in advance, ideally, 3-4 weeks before their trip to avoid delays.

## Travel Vaccinations

Uganda is a Yellow Fever-endemic country, and proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is mandatory for all travelers aged 1 year and above entering Uganda. You must present an official International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP), commonly known as the Yellow Card, upon arrival. Failure to provide this certificate may result in denial of entry or mandatory vaccination upon arrival, which could cause delays.

The Yellow Fever vaccine should be administered at least 10 days before travel to Uganda, as this is the period needed for the vaccine to become effective. The vaccine provides lifelong immunity for most people.

In addition to Yellow Fever, travelers are advised (though not mandatory) to consider vaccinations for other diseases prevalent in Uganda or recommended by health authorities, including: Typhoid, Hepatitis A and B, Polio, Rabies, and Meningitis. Malaria is also common in many regions of Uganda. Travelers should take preventive measures like using insect repellent and taking antimalarial medication.

For your safety and compliance, ensure that your vaccinations are up to date before traveling. The Yellow Fever vaccine is only available at authorized vaccination centers, so please plan accordingly.

## Airport Transfers

**Local Transport to/from Home Country Airports:** International participants are responsible for arranging and covering their own local transportation to and from airports in their home countries.

**Transport to/from Entebbe International Airport (Uganda):** Participants are advised to arrange their own transportation from Entebbe International Airport to the event venue or to pre-booked accommodation.

**Getting Around Uganda from Entebbe Airport:** Various cab and ride-hailing services, such as Uber, Bolt, and SafeBoda with SafeCar, operate reliably within Kampala and from the airport. These offer convenient and affordable ways to get around compared to traditional taxis. If you are unsure about your transportation options upon arrival, please ask for assistance at the airport information desk.

**Departure Tips:** For your departure flight, it is recommended to leave for Entebbe International Airport at least four hours before your scheduled flight time to allow ample time for check-in and security procedures.

## Accommodation

We recommend booking your accommodation in advance. Below are some recommended affordable hotels close to the venue: Please mention “DataFest2025” or “Pollicy” to access discounted rates at all hotels.

1. The Athena Hotel.  
Contact Email: [denis@theathenahotelug.com](mailto:denis@theathenahotelug.com)
2. Dolphin Suites.  
Contact Email: [gm@dolphinsuites.co.ug](mailto:gm@dolphinsuites.co.ug)
3. Rosettes Boutique Hotel.  
Contact Email: [reservations@rosettes.co.ug](mailto:reservations@rosettes.co.ug)
4. Royal Suites Hotel.  
Contact Email: [royal@royalsuites.co.ug](mailto:royal@royalsuites.co.ug)

All these hotels are approximately 5 minutes from the event venue, accessible via ride-hailing services like Uber, Bolt, or local taxis.

If you have any questions or would like assistance in finding suitable accommodations, please contact Doreen via [doreen@pollicy.org](mailto:doreen@pollicy.org) or call +256753017960. We are committed to ensuring your stay in Kampala is comfortable and convenient throughout the conference.

## Local Currency

The official currency of Uganda is the Ugandan Shilling (UGX). As of mid-2025, the exchange rate averages around 3,580 UGX to 1 USD. Foreign currencies can be exchanged at the Entebbe International Airport, major banks, authorized forex bureaus, and hotels in Kampala. Most ATMs in Kampala accept major credit and debit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, and American Express. While US dollars and Euros are sometimes accepted for payment, it is advisable to use Ugandan Shillings for most transactions for ease and to get better exchange rates.

## General Information

### Travel Medical Insurance

All participants are strongly encouraged to obtain travel medical insurance covering the entire period from departure in their home country to their return. Please remember to carry any personal medications you may need during your trip.

### Water and Health

It is advisable to drink bottled water only and avoid consuming tap water to reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses while in Uganda.

### Weather and What to Pack

October in Kampala marks the tail end of the rainy season, featuring warm and humid weather with intermittent showers. Daytime temperatures generally hover around 26–28°C (79–82°F), while nighttime temperatures average about 17–19°C (63–66°F). Expect occasional rain, so packing a light raincoat or umbrella is advisable. Light, breathable clothing is recommended for

daytime activities, but it is also wise to bring a few warmer layers for cooler evenings and air-conditioned indoor spaces.

### **Communication**

Local SIM cards are widely available from major providers such as MTN Uganda and Airtel Uganda. Registration requires a valid identification, such as your passport. Purchasing a SIM card can help reduce roaming charges and provide dependable internet access.

### **Internet**

Wireless internet (Wi-Fi) will be available at the conference venue and most recommended hotels. Additional internet access can be obtained via data plans on locally purchased SIM cards, which may incur extra fees.

### **Electricity and Electrical Outlets**

Uganda uses Type G electrical outlets (the same as the UK) with a standard voltage of 240V at 50Hz. Travelers from countries with different plug types will need an appropriate adapter to use their electronic devices safely.

### **Dietary Needs**

Ugandan cuisine features a variety of staple foods, including matooke (steamed green bananas), beans, rice, meat, and root vegetables. Should you have any specific dietary restrictions or preferences, please inform the organizers so appropriate arrangements can be made.

## **Registration, Check-In, and On-site Guidelines**

Registration and check-in for DataFest Africa 2025 will begin on Thursday, 30th October at 08:00 EAT outside the main auditorium at the National ICT Innovation Hub.

Please remember to bring:

- A valid identification document required to facilitate a smooth registration process.
- Your registration confirmation email or ticket for verification.

Access to the venue will be limited to confirmed participants only. Please ensure your registration is complete and confirmed before arriving at the venue. Please register via <https://shorturl.at/Ofei2>

### **Onsite Rules**

1. Single-use plastics are prohibited at the venue. Attendees are encouraged to use the disposable water glasses provided by the organisers.
2. Parking spaces are limited. Participants who intend to drive are encouraged to plan ahead for parking arrangements.
3. The venue offers various facilities to enhance your experience, including: Complimentary Wi-Fi access and Designated restrooms

### **Code of Conduct and Privacy Policy**

All participants are expected to adhere to the [DataFest Africa Code of Conduct](#), which ensures a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for everyone.

Please also review the [DataFest Africa Privacy Policy](#) to understand how your personal data will be handled and protected throughout the event.

## **Accessibility Information**

Pollicy is committed to ensuring an inclusive and accessible experience for all participants. If you have any specific accessibility needs or require accommodations, please contact our Operations guru Doreen well in advance at via [doreen@pollicy.org](mailto:doreen@pollicy.org) or call +256753017960. Our team will work with you to make the necessary arrangements so your participation is comfortable and accommodating.

## **Emergency Contact Information**

For any emergencies during the event, again, please contact Doreen on +256753017960 (available via cellphone, WhatsApp, and Signal), or email [doreen@pollicy.org](mailto:doreen@pollicy.org), who will be available to provide prompt assistance and address urgent concerns.

For further support and coordination, you may also join the DataFest Africa [Signal group](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to DataFest Africa 2025.