

METHODS NOTE · Peer-reviewed · Published · Live dashboard figures

AU Health Strategy Alignment and Inequality in African Clinical Trials: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of ClinicalTrials.gov Data

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KEY WORDS Health; Clinical trials; research equity; health research; Africa; Uganda

Background

Alignment of clinical trials with African Union (AU) health priorities is critical for evidence-based policy, yet disparities in research investment may limit this alignment

Methods

This cross-sectional meta-research study analyzed 23,873 and 190,644 interventional trials from Africa and the United States respectively done during April 2026. AU Agenda 2063 priorities were mapped using registry metadata, and alignment assessed using the Jaccard similarity index. Inequality was measured using Shannon entropy and the Gini coefficient

Results

Africa contributed 3,515 aligned trials versus 159,433 in the United States (45-fold gap). Trial distribution was highly unequal (entropy 2.46; Gini 0.711), with concentration in a few countries. In Uganda, trial activity remains limited despite high disease burden

Conclusion

Structural financing and governance constraints drive unequal trial distribution and weak alignment with AU priorities, underscoring the need for equitable investment and strengthened research capacity

Interactive dashboard figures

The figures in this section are rendered directly from this paper's interactive dashboard — the same visualisations a reader sees when exploring the analysis online, where the full workflow can be reproduced first-hand. **Interactive dashboard:** <https://mahmood726-cyber.github.io/africa-e156-students/governance-justice/dashboards/au-health-strategy-alignment.html>

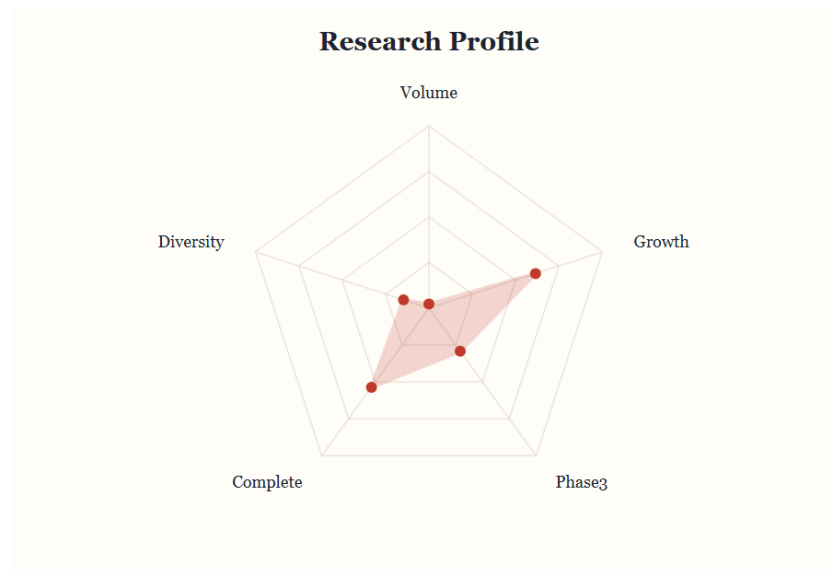


Figure 1. Research Profile Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

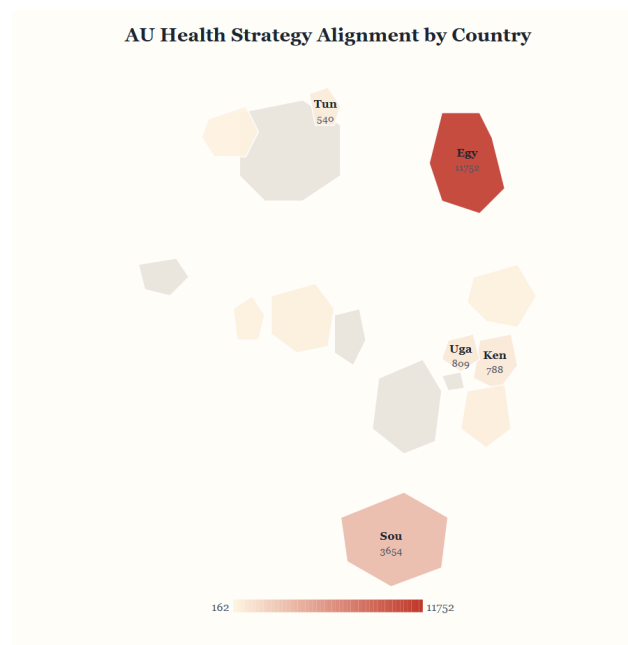


Figure 2. AU Health Strategy Alignment by Country Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

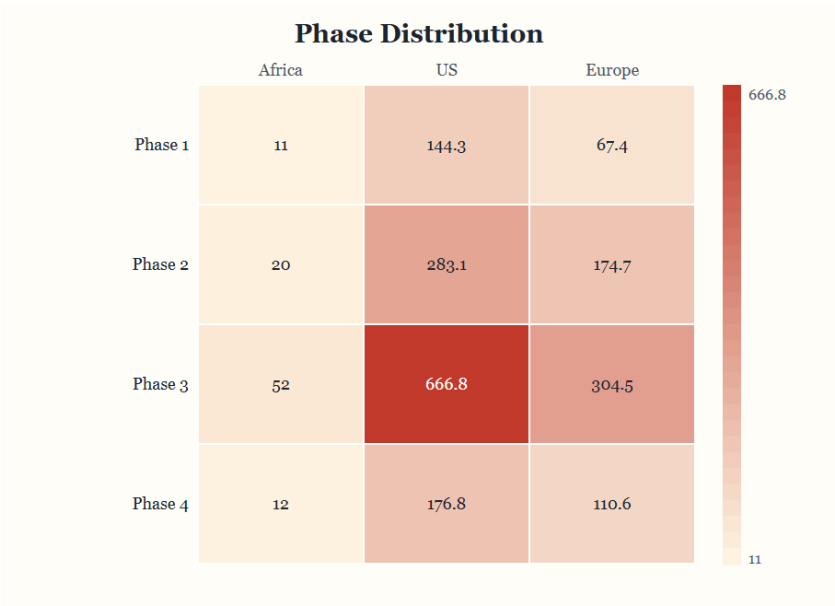


Figure 3. Phase Distribution Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

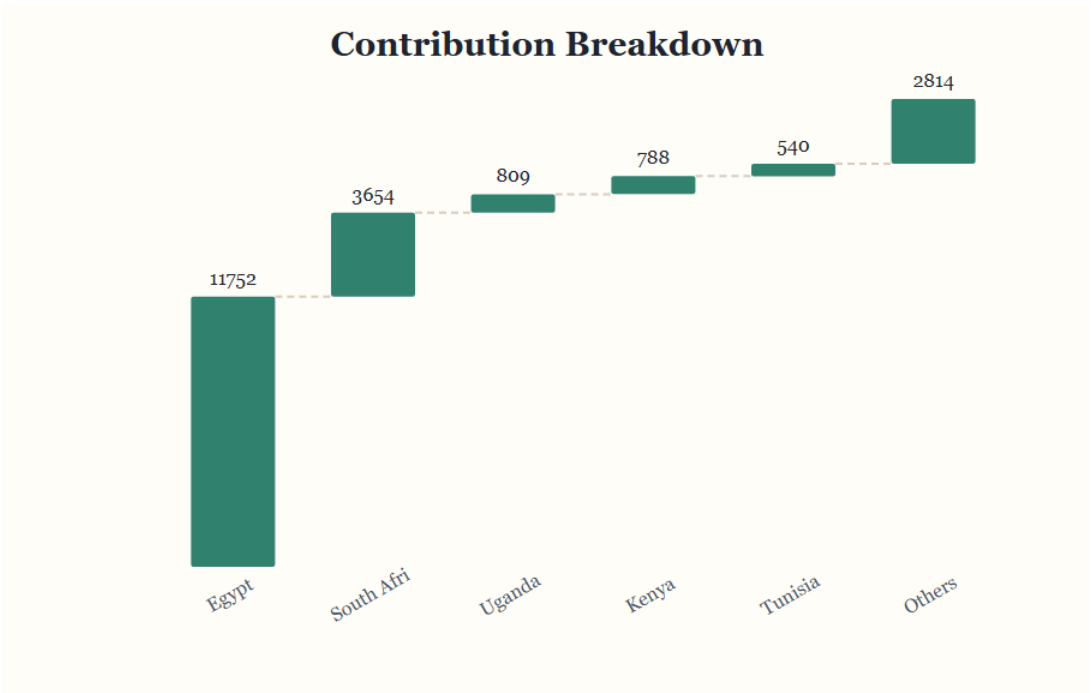


Figure 4. Contribution Breakdown Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

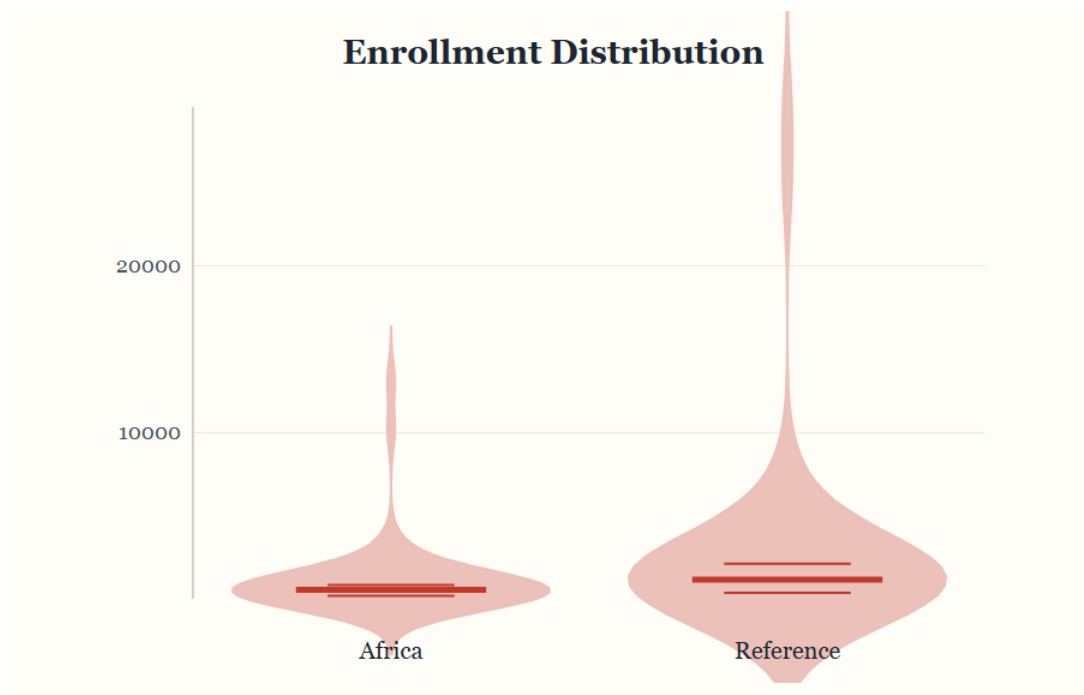


Figure 5. Enrollment Distribution Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

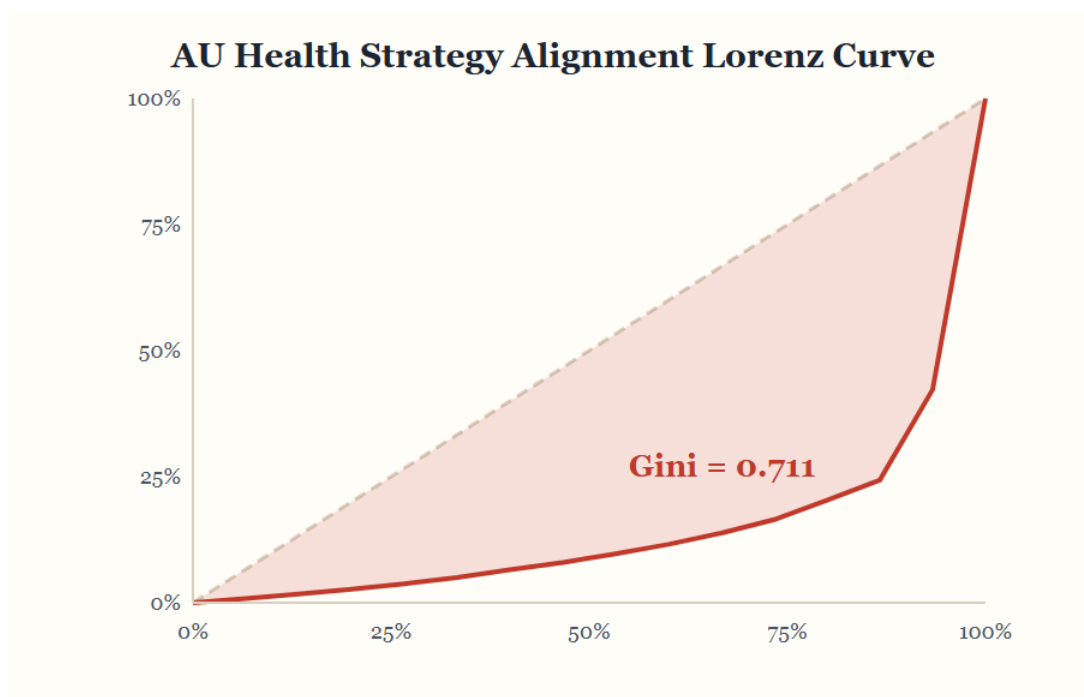


Figure 6. AU Health Strategy Alignment Lorenz Curve Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

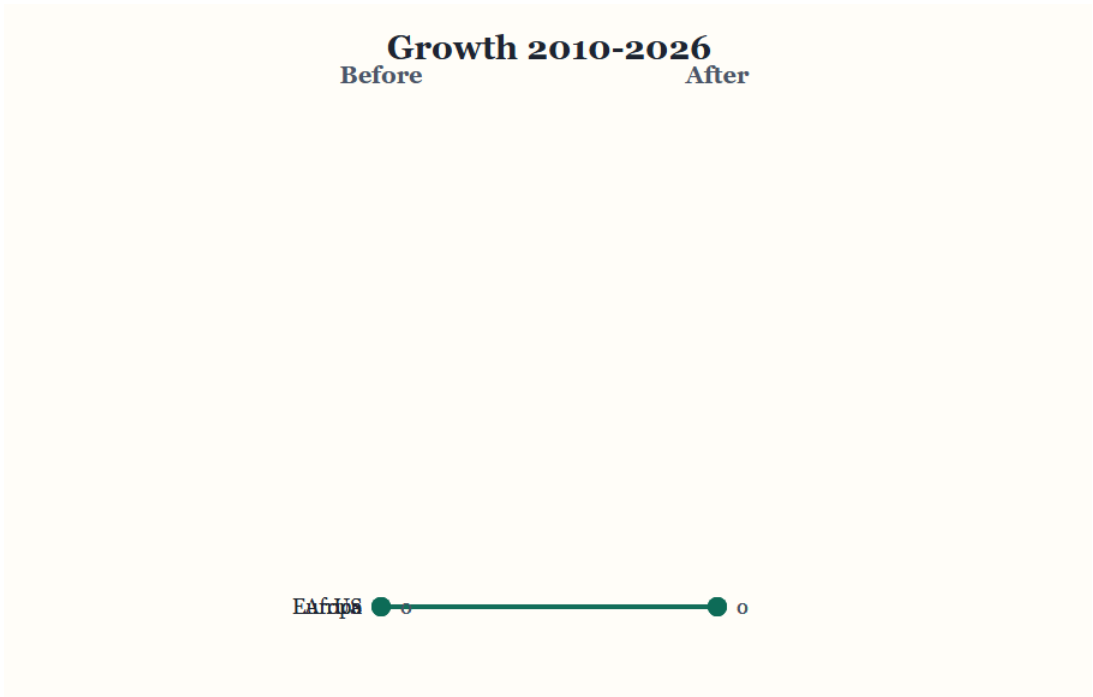


Figure 7. Growth 2010-2026 Rendered directly from the article's live interactive dashboard.

HOW TO CITE

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