YOUTH AI SURVEY 2026

WORK, STUDY & LEISURE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ANGOLA

COUNTRY POLICY BRIEF

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This policy brief presents country-specific findings from the Youth AI Survey 2026, a multi-country study examining how young people aged 18–35 use, experience, and think about artificial intelligence. Conducted globally by Restless Development, the University of Cambridge Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence, and Makerere University, the survey collected 1,864 responses from young people, primarily in Africa and South Asia, with the United Kingdom serving as a high-income country comparator.

This brief is intended for national government, in-country NGO partners, international funders, technology companies, and youth organisations working in Angola. It draws on 165 Angola-specific responses, collected between 4–22 March 2026 from respondents aged 18-34, to surface actionable findings and recommendations within the Angolan context.

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1. INTRODUCTION & COUNTRY CONTEXT

Country Context

Angola is home to an estimated 39 million people and has one of the youngest populations in Africa with a median age of around 17 years (UNFPA 2025). An estimated 76.8% of the population is under 35 (DataReportal, 2026). Internet penetration reached 44.8% by early 2026, representing 17.6 million users, up from 39.3% a year earlier (DataReportal, 2026). However, access remains uneven: Luanda enjoys strong mobile and broadband coverage while connectivity in provinces such as Bié, Moxico, Lunda Sul and Cuando Cubango remains inconsistent.

The country's AI governance is at an early but accelerating stage. The Ministry of Telecommunications, Information Technologies and Social Communication (MINTTICS) has tabled a comprehensive draft AI Law, among the most ambitious in Africa, with a risk-based approach, mandatory content watermarking, and extraterritorial reach, alongside a draft amendment to the Data Protection Act adding a dedicated AI chapter; both remain pending enactment as of mid-2026. Angola launched a UNESCO-backed Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in 2025 to evaluate its institutional and technical preparedness. Preliminary results presented in June 2026 showed that the country is 50,9% effectively prepared, 32,7% partially prepared, and 16% not prepared (Angola Press Agency 2026). However, the country currently ranks 141st of 193 countries globally on Oxford Insights' 2025 Government AI Readiness Index (score 27.09/100). Digital transformation is anchored by the National Development Plan (PDN) 2023–2027 and its ICT White Paper, which prioritise AI, IoT, big data, and blockchain, as well as a new Startup Law (enacted in March 2026) that creates tax incentives for early-stage tech ventures.

The research matters because Angola's regulatory window is still open. The 165 young Angolans, aged 18-35, surveyed from the 4th to the 22nd of March 2026, provide rare ground-level evidence at precisely the moment the country's first dedicated AI statute is being finalised, offering policymakers a direct link between the law now being written and the lived realities of the young people it will govern.

> *The future of AI depends on us: the better we use this technology, the more benefits it will bring to society.*
>
> Original Portuguese: "O futuro com IA depende de nós: Quanto melhor usarmos essa tecnologia, mais benefícios ela trará para a sociedade."

21-YEAR-OLD FEMALE, PRIMARY-LEVEL EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, URBAN ANGOLA

2. ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

Angola's 165 respondents are largely young, urban, and student-heavy relative to the wider 11-country sample. More than half (56.4%) are aged 18-23, the largest single age band, with a further 33.7% aged 24-29 and just 9.8% aged 30-35. Females make up 55.5% of respondents, slightly above males (43.9%). Location skews heavily urban: 84.8% live in urban areas, closely matching the report's overall Figure 2 benchmark, compared with 11.0% rural and 4.3% peri-urban.

Educational attainment is relatively high: 51.8% have completed high school, and a further 26.2% hold a bachelor's degree or above. Primary activity is dominated by studying (49.1%), with substantial shares seeking work (24.8%) and volunteering (17.6%), reflecting both the sample's youth and Angola's broader youth unemployment challenge.

165 Total respondents	**55.5%** Females	**84.8%** Urban dwellers
56.4% Aged 18-23 (largest group)	**26.2%** Bachelor's degree or above	**49.1%** Currently studying

3. HOW YOUNG PEOPLE IN ANGOLA USE AI

41.0% of Angola respondents use AI daily	**11-COUNTRY BENCHMARK** 11-country survey average: 64.4% use AI daily

Angola sits among the lowest-frequency-use countries in the 11-country sample: 41.0% of respondents use AI daily, well below the 64.4% survey average, with a further 19.9% using it weekly and 9.3% monthly or less. The report's cross-country analysis flags Angola, alongside India, as a country where AI is "used less", and this Angola-specific data confirms that pattern directly rather than by inference.

Education is the dominant use case, cited by 63.0% of Angola respondents, above the survey pattern, and reinforced by the fact that 58.2% report having used AI specifically for learning new skills and 46.1% for academic support. Social media use is close behind at 48.5%. Despite this heavy educational engagement, only 13.9% report earning income directly through AI, almost exactly matching the 14% 11-country average: the gap between learning/use and direct income generation is as pronounced in Angola as anywhere else in the sample.

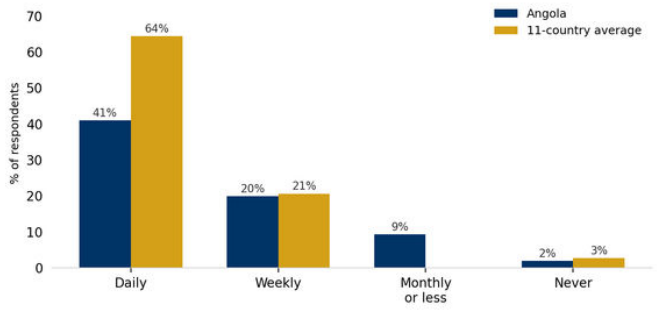

Figure A. Frequency of AI use, Angola vs. 11-country average.

Key Findings: AI Use Patterns

- **Primary use:** Education is the most common AI use in Angola at 63.0%, ahead of social media (48.5%). Learning-specific use (58.2%) and academic support (46.1%) confirm that Angolan youth engage with AI primarily as a study and skills tool.
- **Income gap:** Despite widespread educational engagement, only 13.9% of respondents in Angola report earning income directly through AI, essentially matching the 14% survey average. The gap between learning/use and direct income generation remains as wide in Angola as elsewhere.
- **Rural lag:** 22.2% of rural respondents have never used AI, compared to 4.3% of urban respondents, a meaningful gap, though the rural sub-sample is small (n=18) and this figure should be read as indicative rather than definitive. Notably, among rural respondents who use AI, daily use rates (38.9%) are close to the urban rate (38.5%): the divide in Angola is less about frequency of use once online and more about whether young people get online for AI purposes at all.
- **Gender gap:** The largest gender gap in Angola is in education-related use, where 76.4% of males report using AI for this purpose compared to 52.7% of females, a 23.7-percentage-point gap. A similar pattern holds specifically for "learning new skills" (66.7% males vs 52.7% females, a 14 pp gap). Females report higher use of social media (53.8% vs 43.1% for males) and of social media for work-related purposes (24.2% vs 19.4%).

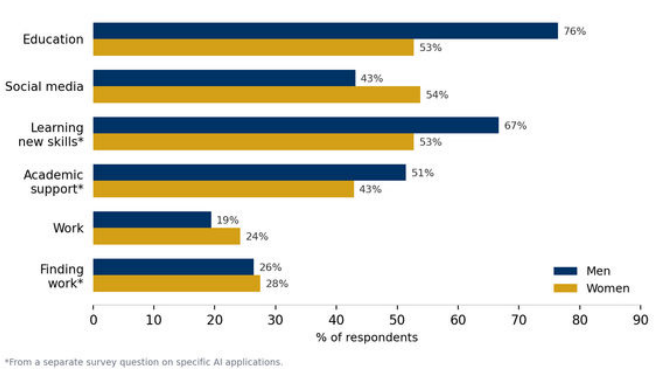

Figure B. Top AI uses in Angola, by gender.

> *Because it helps me find employment.*
> Original Portuguese: "Pk ela me ajuda a encontrar emprego."
>
> 24-YEAR-OLD FEMALE, VOLUNTEER, URBAN ANGOLA

4. WHO BENEFITS, WHO DOESN'T?

Barriers to AI Access

60.6% cite high data costs as a barrier	**49.7%** cite fear of scams	**46.1%** cite weak connectivity

Angola's access barriers are dominated by cost and trust rather than raw infrastructure. High data costs are the single most-cited barrier (60.6%), ahead of weak connectivity (46.1%) and low digital skills (24.8%). Notably, 49.7% of respondents cite fear of scams as a barrier, nearly matching the share citing weak connectivity, and a signal that trust and safety concerns constrain AI adoption almost as much as technical access does.

Angola's data suggest a layered picture: cost- and scam-related distrust rank above connectivity as the barriers respondents report most frequently. This matters for programming: a connectivity-only intervention (e.g., public Wi-Fi) would leave the two largest reported barriers largely unaddressed.

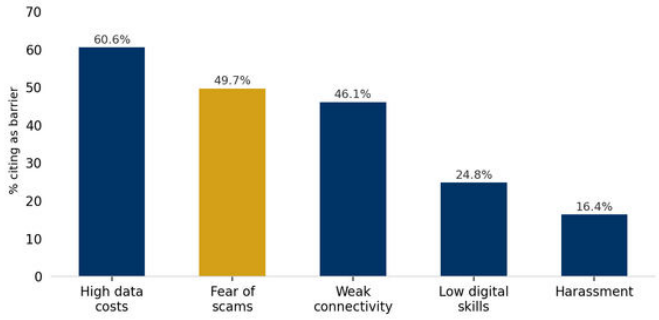

Figure C. Barriers to AI access, Angola.

Gender Gaps in AI Knowledge & Economic Impact

10.1pp Angola average: 26.8% of males vs. 16.7% of females report 'a lot' of AI knowledge (10.1 pp gap)	**11-COUNTRY BENCHMARK** Survey average: 38% of males vs. 23% of females report 'a lot' of AI knowledge (15pp gap)

Angola's confidence gender gap is narrower than the survey average: 26.8% of males report 'a lot' of AI knowledge versus 16.7% of females, a 10.1-percentage-point gap compared to the 15-point gap seen across the full 11-country dataset. However, females in Angola report a higher share of high-income/employment impact from AI than males (31% of females vs 22% of males report 'high impact'), a reversal of the pattern seen in most other countries in the sample and one worth further qualitative investigation.

Language remains a significant access dimension. Almost all respondents (95.2%) currently use AI in Portuguese, yet only 72.7% say Portuguese is what they would actually want to use; sizeable minorities would prefer English (25.5%), French (21.2%), or even Spanish (19.4%), pointing to real latent demand for multilingual tooling. Cultural fit is a related concern: 71.2% feel AI tools reflect their language and culture, but 28.8% do not, with open-text responses raising both linguistic gaps (requests for Kikongo, Umbundu, and Chokwe-language content) and a broader sense that AI systems are trained on and privilege non-African contexts.

> *There needs to be more research into stronger cultural integration; AI often seems to draw on or provide little information connected to my cultural and social context. It presents more consolidated information from other regions, to the detriment of my own.*
>
> Original Portuguese: "Deve haver mais investigação para a integração cultural mais forte, muitas vezes a IA parece obter ou fornecer poucas informações ligadas ao meu contexto cultural e social. Apresenta informações mais consolidadas de outras regiões em detrimento da minha."

30-YEAR-OLD MALE, FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE, PERI-URBAN ANGOLA

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S AI CONCERNS

Across the full 11-country dataset, daily AI users are the most concerned about AI risks. Daily users express the highest concern across all five domains, with the largest gap in data ownership (58% of daily users express high concern vs. 37% of non-users, a 21-percentage point gap). In Angola, this pattern holds and is amplified: 50.9% of daily users express high concern about data ownership, compared to just 21.1% of infrequent/never users, a 29.8-percentage-point gap, wider than the global average.

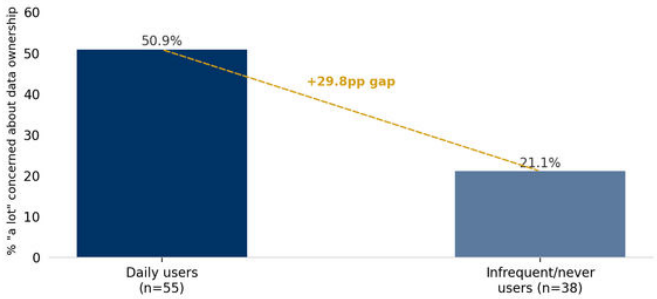

Figure E. Data-ownership concern by frequency of AI use, Angola.

Concern is female-dominant across all five domains measured: mental health and wellbeing, data ownership, working conditions for AI data workers, the power of AI companies, and environmental impact, placing Angola alongside the UK, India, and Zimbabwe, and in contrast to the male-dominant reversal seen in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. The gap is widest on mental health (53.7% of females vs. 31.4% of males express 'a lot' of concern, a 22.3pp gap), environmental impact (52.0% vs. 37.5%, 14.5pp), and narrowest on data ownership (41.2% vs. 35.0%, 6.2pp).

Mental-health concern among Angolan females shows a genuinely bimodal pattern: 42.9% report being concerned 'a lot' while 30.5% report 'not at all', with a comparatively thin middle ground (26.6% 'a little'). This is not a moderate, evenly-distributed level of concern; it is a population polarised between high anxiety and low anxiety, which single-average reporting would obscure.

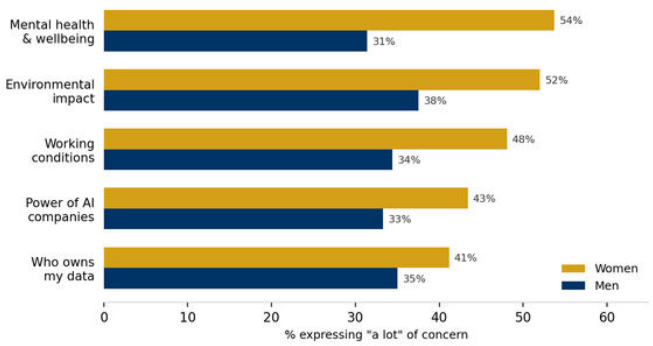

Figure F. Level of concern across five AI domains, Angola, by gender.

Misinformation & Safety

69.8% concerned about AI misinformation	**85.8%** say safety concerns affect their AI use	**67.9%** want stronger laws on AI

Angola respondents report notably high concern about AI-generated misinformation: 69.8% are concerned, and a further 9.9% are sometimes concerned, above the 64% 11-country average. Safety concerns are widespread in their practical effect: 64.8% say safety concerns limit their AI use outright, and a further 21.0% say they do so sometimes. Together, 85.8% of respondents report some safety-driven constraint on their use. Demand for regulation is strong and close to the survey norm: 67.9% want stronger laws on AI, nearly identical to the 11-country average of 64%.

What Would Make AI Safer?

Angolan respondents rank stronger laws (67.9%) and better reporting systems (50.9%) as the top two measures that would make AI safer, both above the eleven-country averages (64% and 45%, respectively), while digital literacy training (37.0% vs. 57% average) and community awareness campaigns (26.7% vs. 48% average) rank well below. But a respondent-level cross-tab shows this is not a clean regulatory-vs-educational trade-off: people who select stronger laws pick 3.0 safety options on average (vs. 1.3 for everyone else), and only 14.3% chose it as their sole answer, the highest 'stands alone' rate of any option, but still a minority. The two least-popular options function almost entirely as add-ons for a small, maximalist, reform-minded bloc: supporters of 'AI design that considers females' (20.6% overall) select 4.5 options on average and 82% of them also want stronger laws. In other words, Angola's ranking reflects a majority with one clear regulatory priority, layered with a smaller group that wants comprehensive reform across every front.

The strongest predictor of wanting stronger laws is not gender, age or location; it is lived experience of AI risk. Among respondents who say safety concerns actively limit their AI use, 78.1% want stronger laws, against 39.1% of those unaffected, a 39-point gap, comfortably the largest split in this question. Two further nuances complicate a simple story: despite females reporting higher concern than males across every domain in Section 5, it is males who are markedly more likely to want better reporting systems specifically (59.7% vs. 45.1%, a 14.6pp gap); concern and demand for this particular fix diverge by gender. And demand for digital literacy training rises sharply with age (32.6% of 18-23-year-olds vs. 56.2% of 30-35-year-olds), suggesting the skills gap is felt most by slightly older respondents who may have missed formal digital education, not by the youngest, most digitally native cohort.

A guarantee of better AI safety in the future.

Original Portuguese: “Garantia de uma melhor segurança das IA futuramente.”

23-YEAR-OLD MALE, SEEKING WORK, URBAN ANGOLA

6. EMPLOYMENT, FUTURES & SENTIMENT

62.3%
of Angola respondents expect AI to have a positive impact on education & learning in the next 5 years

11-COUNTRY BENCHMARK
11-country average: 71% expect positive impact on education

On income, Angola sits mid-pack in the 11-country sample: 14% are 'very worried' and 28% 'a little worried' about their income sources being affected by AI, with 19% optimistic and 15% not sure. This is markedly less anxious than Nigeria (36% very worried) or Kenya (34%), but more anxious than Uganda (13% very worried, 24% optimistic), placing Angola closer to the survey's cautious-middle than to either its most pessimistic or most optimistic members.

Five-year expectations are mixed and domain-specific. Angolan respondents are notably optimistic about education (62.3% expect improvement, only 11.0% expect it to worsen) and moderately positive about employment (46.1% better vs 29.2% worse) and mental well-being (37.3% better vs 23.3% worse). Online safety is the clear outlier: 39.7% expect it to worsen against 37.6% who expect improvement- the only domain where negative expectations outweigh positive ones.

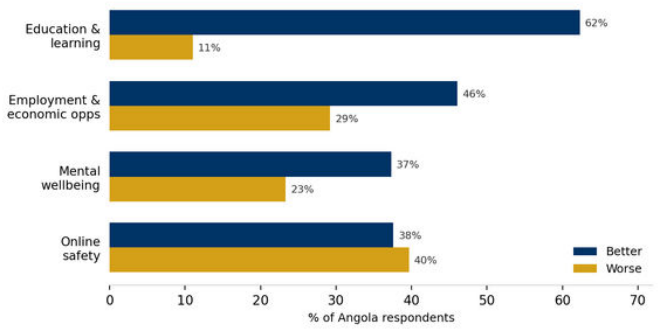

Figure G. Five-year expectations, Angola (% better vs. % worse).

On overall workplace sentiment, Angola sits in the 'mildly negative or neutral' cluster alongside Zimbabwe and India, more cautious than Tanzania, Zambia, and Uganda, whose respondents show strong optimism about AI's leapfrogging potential for employment, but far less pessimistic than the United Kingdom, where sentiment towards AI and work is starkly negative. This positions Angola in the middle of the leapfrog-vs-displacement spectrum: young Angolans see real promise in AI, particularly for education, but do not yet report the confident optimism found in some of the survey's other African contexts.

I actually feel that we are dealing with a utilitarian extension of AI- another, fully modernised chapter in the story of humanity. My real concern is that it will replace people in even the simplest tasks, including thinking itself. Given the scale of investment driving its evolution, I think it could end up having a negative impact on people.

Original Portuguese: "Na verdade sinto que se trata de uma sequência utilitária da IA, é mais um capítulo da história da humanidade totalmente modernizado, a grande preocupação surge no sentido de sentir uma substituição humana nas tarefas mais simples, desde o pensar. Penso que com a grande força e investida que se tem direcionado para a sua constante evolução, poderá impactar negativamente em humanos."

30-YEAR-OLD MALE, FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE, PERI-URBAN ANGOLA

7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Three findings define Angola's AI story. First, use lags: at 40% daily use against a 64% survey average, young Angolans, despite being younger and more urban than the wider sample, are not yet AI's heaviest users, held back principally by data costs and a striking, above-average fear of scams. Second, concern is real but distinctively shaped: Angola shows the strongest version of the survey's central argument (heavier users are more concerned, especially about data ownership), a consistently female-dominant concern pattern shared with the UK, India and Zimbabwe, and a safety-limits-use effect nearly a third stronger than the eleven-country average. Third, Angolan youth are not simply choosing regulation over education: a majority holds one clear, largely standalone priority, stronger AI laws, driven less by demographics than by lived experience of safety concerns limiting their AI use (a 39-point gap between affected and unaffected respondents). A smaller, highly engaged minority wants comprehensive reform across every front, including the literacy and awareness measures that rank lower in the topline numbers mainly because fewer people treat them as a stand-alone demand rather than because they are unwanted.

Taken together, this points toward a policy agenda anchored in cost and trust, with regulation as the clearest majority demand and skills-building targeted rather than blanket: digital literacy training is wanted far more by older respondents (56.2% of 30-35-year-olds vs. 32.6% of 18-23-year-olds) and by those whose safety concerns only partially limit their AI use, than by the youth population as a whole. Angola's own policy momentum, the draft AI Law before the National Assembly, the PDN 2023-2027's designation of AI as a strategic technology, and the UNESCO-backed AI Readiness Assessment give the government and its partners a genuine, near-term opportunity to embed these more precise priorities before frameworks are finalised.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

- Fast-track finalisation of the draft AI Law and its parallel Data Protection Act amendment, ensuring the National Assembly's youth consultation process actively reaches the 63.6% of young Angolans whose safety concerns already limit their AI use; this group, not age, gender or location, is the strongest predictor of the 67.9% overall demand for stronger laws.
- Use the PDN 2023-2027 and the UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment (RAM) findings to prioritise affordable data access alongside infrastructure investment; cost (60.6%) is Angolan youth's top-cited barrier.
- Resource the new AI competent authority and Data Protection Agency with dedicated reporting and redress mechanisms for scams and misinformation, the second and third most-cited barriers to youth AI use.
- Commission local-language and Portuguese-first AI literacy content, recognising that while 95.2% of young Angolans already use AI in Portuguese, a substantial minority want expanded English, French and local-language options.

FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

- Invest in Portuguese-language model quality and localisation for the Angolan and wider Portuguese-speaking African market, rather than treating Portuguese as an afterthought to English-first development.
- Design fraud- and scam-detection features specifically for markets where fear of scams (49.7%) rivals other barriers, an unusually high share compared with most other surveyed countries.
- Publish clear, accessible data-governance and provenance information; young Angolans' concern about data ownership is the sharpest example of one of the survey's key findings, meaning your most active users are also your most sceptical.
- Engage constructively with Angola's draft AI Law rather than treating its extraterritorial provisions purely as a compliance risk; early, good-faith engagement can shape a workable regulatory relationship.

FOR ALL SECTORS (GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, FUNDERS, ACADEMIA)

- Prioritise research and programming that addresses trust and safety, not only access- 63.6% of young Angolans say safety concerns actively limit their AI use, well above the 47% survey average.
- Fund further research into the bimodal pattern of mental-health concern among young Angolan females, and into the reversed gender gap in reported economic impact, both distinctive and under-explored findings from this round.
- Support cost-reduction interventions (data pricing, public Wi-Fi, subsidised devices) as a precondition for digital-skills programming, since skills gaps rank below cost and connectivity as barriers in Angola.
- Ensure any AI-in-education or AI-in-employment programming responds to Angola's below-average optimism on both fronts (55.2% and 43.0% respectively expect improvement, versus 71% and 50% survey-wide).

FOR RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT & NGO PARTNERS

- Target Portuguese-first AI literacy and safety modules by age and experience rather than treating digital literacy as a lower overall priority: demand rises to 56.2% among 30-35-year-olds and peaks among respondents whose safety concerns only partially limit their AI use, a more specific, reachable audience than a general youth digital-literacy campaign would target.
- Position young Angolan females as co-designers of AI safety and reporting tools, given their disproportionate concern across all five domains and their distinctive, reversed economic-impact profile.
- Convene structured youth input into Angola's AI Law process and UNESCO RAM implementation, translating this survey's findings into a direct advocacy channel while the legislative window remains open.
- Extend future rounds of data collection to rural and peri-urban Angola, where current samples (n=18 and n=7, respectively) are too small to draw firm conclusions despite striking preliminary patterns.

> *The future of AI depends on us: the better we use this technology, the more benefits it will bring to society.*
>
> Original (Portuguese): "O futuro com IA depende de nós: Quanto melhor usarmos essa tecnologia, mais benefícios ela trará para a sociedade."

FEMALE, PRIMARY-LEVEL EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, AGED 21, URBAN ANGOLA

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