Alfor Teachers' Education: Scaling Support

Education Shaping Futures, Addis Ababa, Nov 3, 2025
Martin De Simone

1. Innovation is needed. "Business as usual" can't solve the problem.

8,000

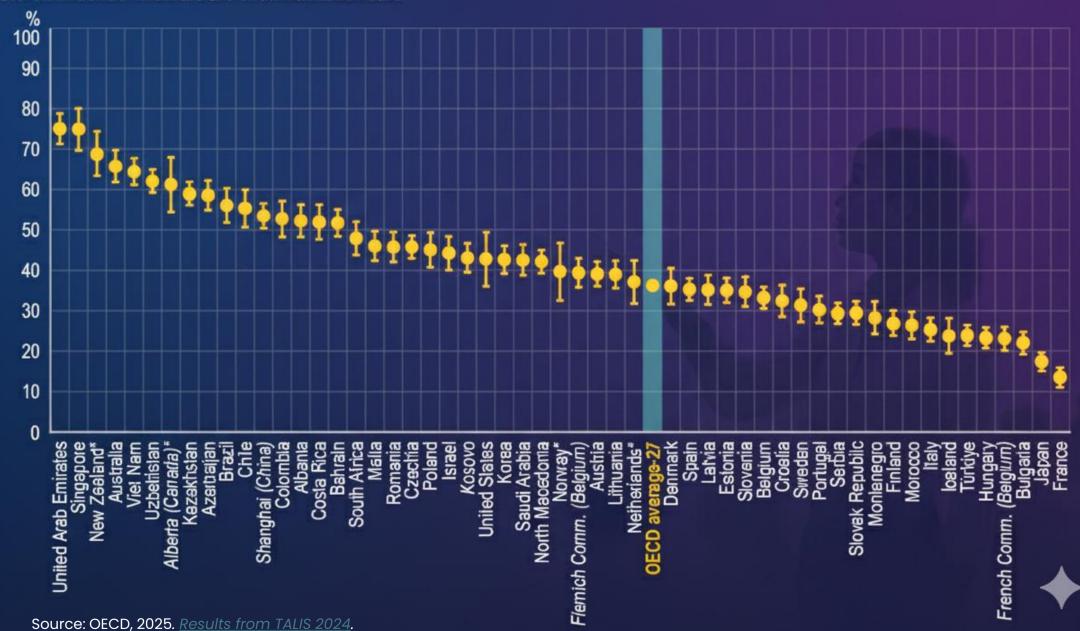
new qualified teachers needed every day in Sub-Saharan Africa

of primary teachers reach a basic threshold of pedagogical knowledge

2. Teachers are already using AI, with or without support.

Percentage of lower secondary teachers who report using AI in the last year

95% Confidence intervals are shown as error bars



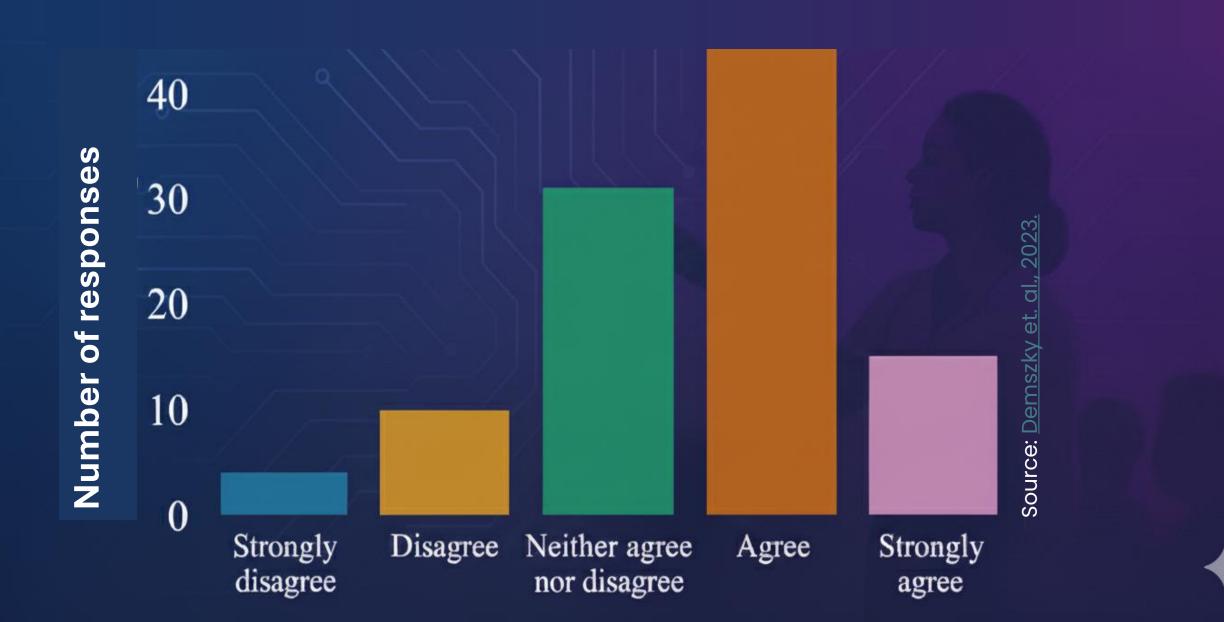
3. There are clear use cases for Al in teacher training

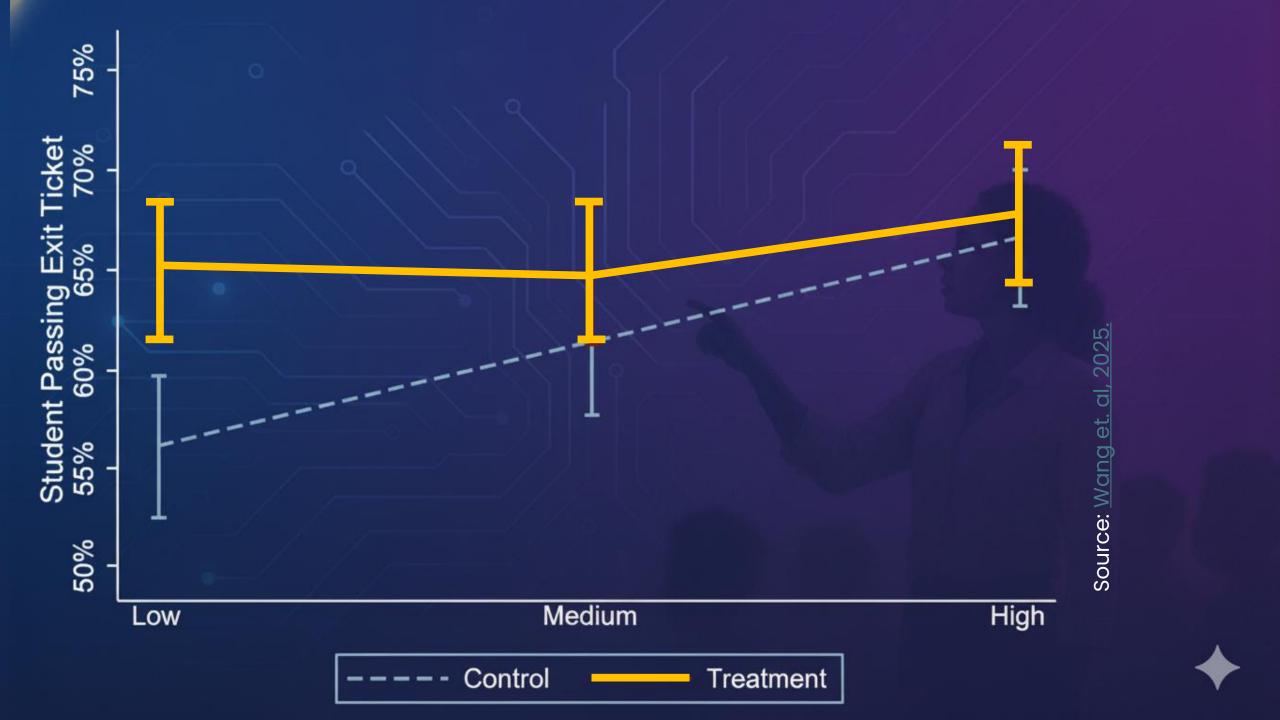
Teacher coaching

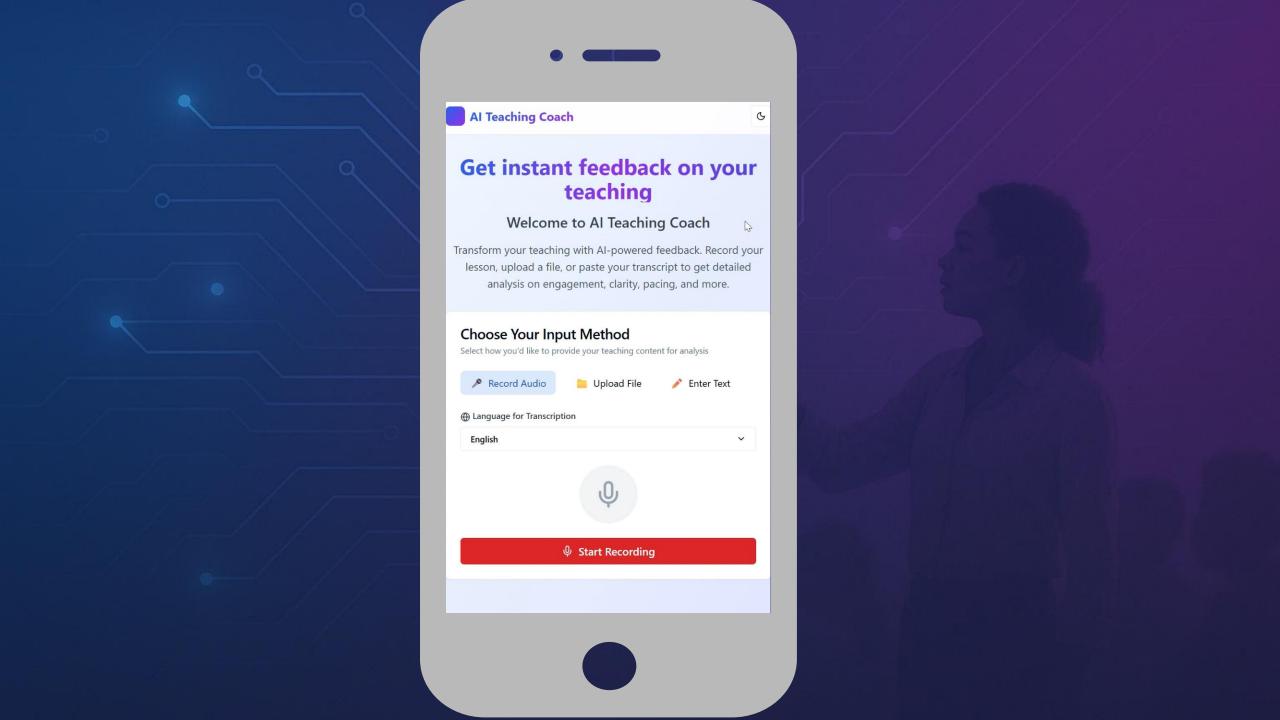
Consistently large and positive effects on instruction and achievement (Kraft et. al, 2018).

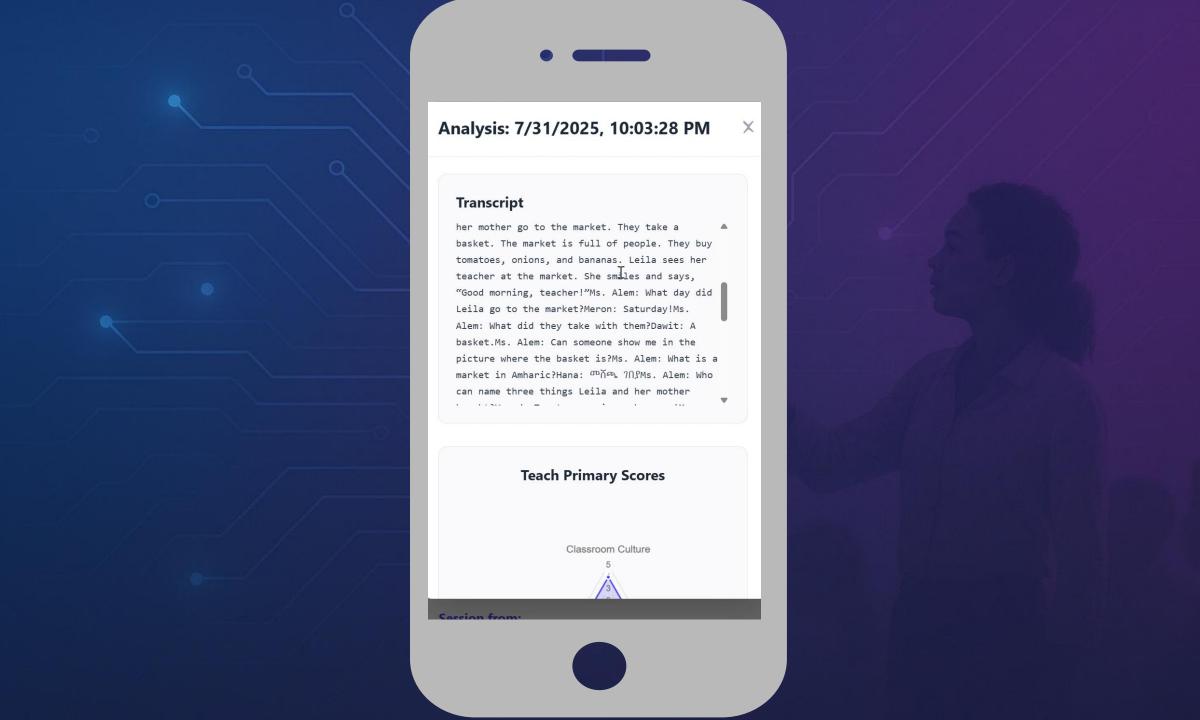
But implementation at scale is not possible

The feedback has helped me become a better teacher.









Al can also support preservice training

- Al microteaching coach
- Simulation classroom for core practices
- Al-driven adaptive learning for teachers





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The best teacher education and professional development ensures:



"I have concerns because it [AI] does not allow the learner or the person who is seeking to make personal efforts... It kills our reflection in the search for something." - teacher with 20 years of experience "It's going to make us a lot lazy, because right now, for the lessons, we are obliged to do research on the subject you teach every day [...] But if all you have to do is take a device or a phone, you tap clean, everything comes out and [...] you haven't had the chance to master what came out" - teacher with 5 years of experience

"It automatically gives you the answer without knowing the path here." - teacher with 2 years of experience

"Artificial intelligence, in this case, it leads us to intellectual laziness, it kills creativity. You become a simple consumer. We no longer make an effort as she said, the others have produced, we consume and we use this and we repeat the same thing at the level of the children. In the end, then, we cease to be intellectuals, executives, we just become executors, thoughtless agents." - teacher with 26 years of experience

The best teacher education and professional development ensures:



Is Al a realistic solution to foster these?