



AFRILABS MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE



Content

Introduction

Why Join Us

How to Join the Network

AfriLabs Annual Gathering

FAQ


AfriLabs is a network organization of technology and innovation hubs founded to build a more reliable community around rapidly emerging tech hubs across Africa, by providing them with financial, mentoring, and networking opportunities as well as capacity-building resources. These innovation hubs serve as centres that provide support to African entrepreneurs, innovators, developers, and youth by providing physical co-working and dedicated office space, training, business, legal and financial support, helping to raise successful entrepreneurs that will create jobs and develop innovative solutions to African problems.

As a growing network, we provide support to over 200 innovation hubs to enable them to impact their communities of over a million entrepreneurs, innovators, and startups across Africa through our series of grants, awards, and partnerships.

What are Innovation Hubs?

According to AfriLabs and Briter Bridges ecosystem report, an innovation hub is a community and centre for learning, that nurtures innovative ideas and market disruption, and supports creative ways of solving problems through offering on-the-ground support across the entirety of the start-up lifecycle.

In line with our mission, which is to support innovation hubs and their communities to raise high potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa, AfriLabs seeks to encourage technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in all forms as well as, promoting the creation of African-made technology solutions. We believe in providing an environment characterized by open collaboration, technical innovation, and support for the technological community through capacity building, mentorship, and networking opportunities that will serve as building blocks for the next generation of thinkers and in turn, enable the actualization of our vision of a thriving innovation economy in Africa, driven by the power of our community.

A woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark top, is seated in a library. She is resting her chin on her hand and looking thoughtfully at the camera. The background is filled with bookshelves and a small fan is visible on a shelf behind her.

“How would I describe AfriLabs in 5 words: Purpose, network, capacity, collaboration; and finally empowerment. I have been a fully paid member of AfriLabs for the past year and a member of the network since 2018.

My experience thus far has been fulfilling and brings a sense of belonging and aligned purpose. The work AfriLabs has been doing across Africa is very instrumental in creating a clearly defined ecosystem framework and setting a standard for best practices that the country initiatives can emulate. Through AfriLabs I have been able to collaborate and network with several organizations across the continent and I am very confident that the collaboration will grow as we evolve and grow ourselves. AfriLabs has empowered me and my organization not only through the various grant opportunities but also by creating a platform where I can share my skills and market my organization's activities. I strongly believe AfriLabs is well placed and structured enough to bring all African tech and innovation startups together and to facilitate better policy development and implementation. I am a proud AfriLabber!”

Mara Zhanet Michelo, Founder and CEO, Jacaranda Hub.

Why Join Us

Unrestricted access to AfriPass:

The AfriPass enables members to access hub services and co-working space at a discounted rate across the continent with their unique masterpass subscription. It is a platform that seeks to connect hub staff to shared working and living spaces in any part of the continent of your/their choice. The AfriPass platform will have an integration of a location map and a hub booking service feature to allow seamless and direct booking access.

Unlimited access to AfriLabs Hub Capacity Building Programmes Resources:

You have access to all learning resources from the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme and also access to participate in the Full Hub Management Certification Course in partnership with Strathmore University, Kenya. You also have access to other educational materials from AfriLabs and its other partners.

Eligibility for the AfriLabs Capacity Building Program Grants of 2000 Euros and Awards of 15,000 Euros:

As part of the AfriLabs Capacity Building Program (supported by AFD through the Digital Africa Seed Fund), following the series of Hubs Learning Week which is a peer to peer learning session(s) focused on building the capacity of hub managers, you are eligible for the selection of awardees for the grants.

Unrestricted Entry to the Catalyst Program:

As part of the AfriLabs Capacity Building Program (supported by AFD through the Digital Africa Seed Fund), This programme (in partnership with ABAN) raises funds (debt or grant) from various institutional partners to add to a pool. This pool is a matching/co-investment fund to encourage investment in viable AfriLabs-affiliated startups by verified angel investors. For every matching, hubs also earn 10% of the investment fund to offer to follow on tracking and reporting support.

AfriLabs Endorsement and Support in Scaling Your Programmes:

AfriLabs would give its endorsement and support in engaging partners to scale your programme across Africa with other members of AfriLabs.

All Expense Paid Ecosystem Events:

From time to time AfriLabs is contacted by partners to send in a recommendation of hubs to benefit from ecosystem events with sponsored trips, and you stand an opportunity of priority consideration.

Priority Access at the AfriLabs Annual Gathering:

To attend the major ecosystem event, you get priority consideration for flight sponsorship (if available) to the Gathering and also a paid accommodation for the duration of the Gathering.

Opportunity to be an AfriLabs subcontractor/implementation partner:

For all projects and programmes with partners, you stand the opportunity to be contacted upon meeting set criteria to be an implementing partner/subcontractor. This also gives you the opportunity to work with AfriLabs as part of a consortium to bid for projects as well as use the AfriLabs profile as a listed ecosystem partner for projects. Terms will apply on a case-by-case basis. Over the past year, AfriLabs has contracted & subcontracted over 70 jobs to AfriLabs member hubs.

Click on [the link](#) to view more benefits to be accessed as a member.

How to Join the Network

Entry Criteria:

As a network, we have set down criteria we highly adhere to and we ensure interested applicants ensure they meet the set criteria below;

- Be located in Africa.
- Be registered as a legal entity.
- Being in operation for at least six (6) months prior to your application.
- Have a physical and accessible workspace.
- Run an incubation and/or acceleration program geared towards startups.
- Maintain a focus on at least one or more of the following; technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- Be willing to pay a membership fee of \$500 per annum

Submit an Application:

Ensure to fill out the application form by clicking on the [link](#).
For more information, send an email to lekwot@afrilabs.com

Application Assessment:

Once your application is received, the Member Services Department will contact you via email in due time to schedule an appointment to enable them to assess your application.

Application Review:

After a brief assessment of your application, the member hubs around your vicinity, as well as the AfriLabs board members, will review your application (if approved).

Payment of Membership Fee:

You are expected to pay your membership fee on or before entry into the network once you receive payment approval from the Member Services Department.

It is that simple!

However, we encourage you to exercise patience as the admission procedures will take about a month or two, based on our admission calendar.



"I joined the AfriLabs community in 2017 as one of the first Tech Hubs of the French-speaking area. An incredible experience started for us from that moment on. I remember the first one was when Kenechukwu Chukwu connected me with this South African organization "Innovation Edge" and we received an invitation to travel to Cape Town and participate in a big conference: "THINK FUTURE: exploring & co-creating actions around the critical and necessary ingredients needed by today's children to succeed in tomorrow's world". It gave me the opportunity to connect with impressive and inspiring people with whom I am still in touch and with whom I am still working on some projects".

Yves Cedric Ntsama, Founder and CEO, Ecolia Labs

"Douar Tech was one of the first Moroccan hubs to join the AfriLabs Alliance. We're grateful to bring a North African contribution to this collective effort to bring together the creative and entrepreneurial communities of the continent. Besides getting connected to peers from other hubs of the continent, bringing along projects to work on together, we are happy to participate in various programs the Alliance is setting up for the purpose of sharing knowledge and opportunities."

Hanae BEZAD, Founder, Douar Tech



AfriLabs Annual Gathering

The need to foster collaboration and networking amongst not just members of the network but also other stakeholders in the ecosystem gave birth to the AfriLabs Annual Gathering.

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering which was introduced on the continent in 2016, serves as a platform that provides unique opportunities for all stakeholders in the African ecosystem like local innovators, corporate, investors, academia, and developmental agencies to convene (in different countries per gathering), share knowledge around a common theme and build partnerships. The event also brings together all members of the network, providing an opportunity

for networking and collaboration between members and other stakeholders. To read more about past Gatherings, please visit <http://afrilabs-gathering.com>.

A day before the commencement of the Annual Gathering, the AfriLabs Annual General Meeting is held. This meeting is strictly for members and avails the AfriLabs community to make informed decisions for the next year that would affect the general operations of the Secretariat and network at large. The meeting always ends with a soiree where community members get to network with each other.

Standard Membership Fee:

\$500

**Access to Capacity Building Resources, Grants,
and Awards, Catalyst Funds, Annual Gathering,
Mentoring, and Networking opportunities**

“With a presence in almost all African countries and the continuous expansion of the AfriLabs community, we assure you that by joining the network you will experience tremendous growth as a hub, both in capacity and having the right networks”.

Kenechukwu .C. Chukwu, Member Services Manager, AfriLabs.



FAQ

Can I join the AfriLabs network even though I am part of another network?

Absolutely! You can join the AfriLabs network to explore more opportunities as long as you meet the admission criteria.

Who do I contact when I experience challenges with my application?

If you experience any difficulty applying via the form, please send an email to lekwot@afrilabs.com.

How long will it take to process my application?

Great question! It takes one to two (1 to 2) months to process applications.

Do I access all the mentioned benefits once I become a member?

Definitely! The benefits are all yours once you have subscribed to the membership package.

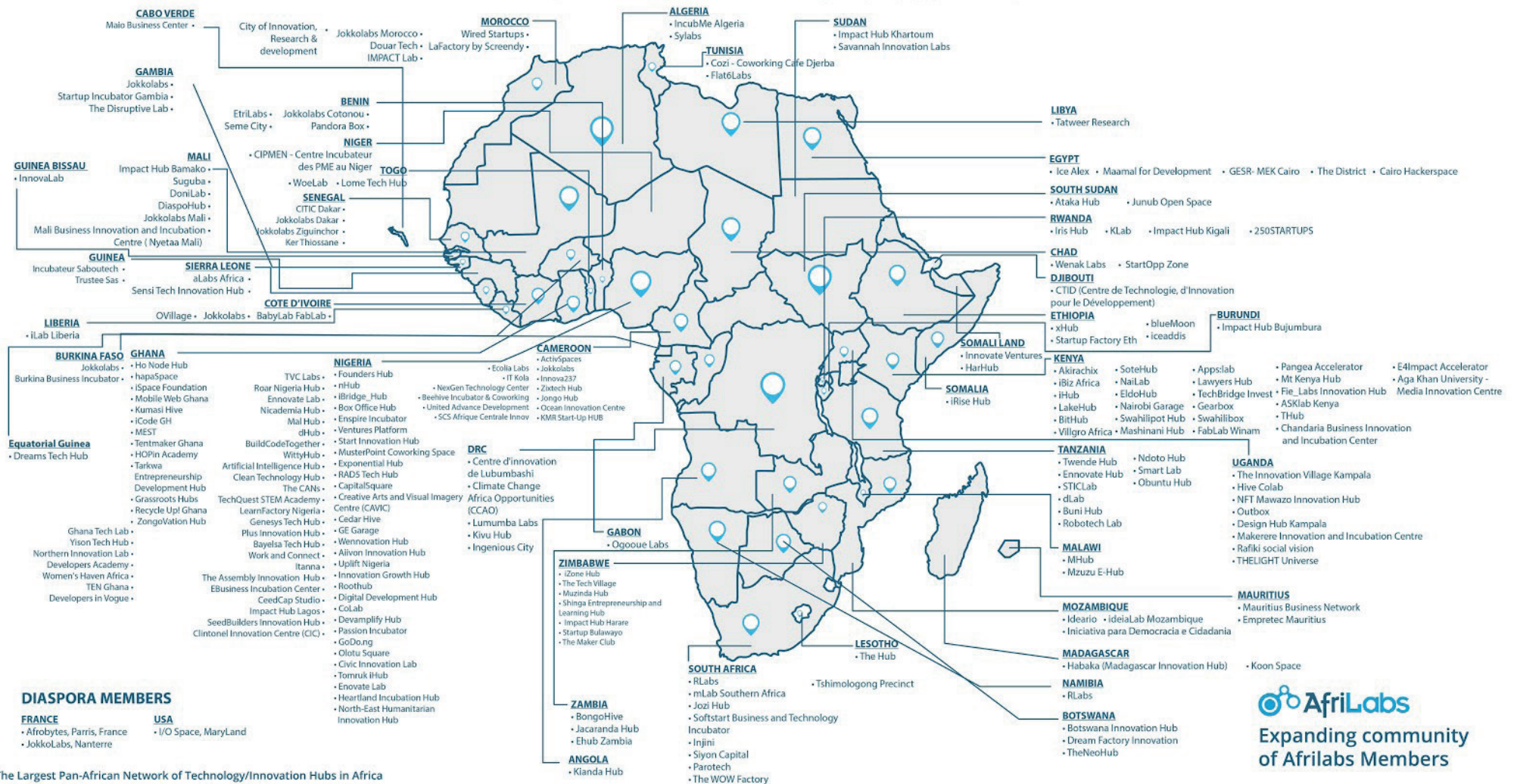
How much is the membership fee?

The membership fee is \$500 per annum.

Can payment be made in installment?

Yes! You are allowed to make the payment in 2 installments that is, you can make a payment of \$250 twice a year.

AFRILABS NETWORK MEMBERS ACROSS AFRICA



 **AfriLabs**
Expanding community
of AfriLabs Members



17 Inuwa Wada Crescent, Utako, Abuja - Nigeria.

Facebook: @afrilabs Instagram: @afrilabsnetwork Twitter: @ AfriLabs