

An annual report of AfriLabs' impact

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## What AfriLabs is about

AfriLabs is a network organisation of over 400 innovation hubs across 52 African countries and the diaspora. We support these hubs by building the capacity of their managers and staff, promoting local and regional collaboration and providing access to funding for their projects and startups. These hubs in turn support startups across the continent who build relevant and scalable solutions, thereby improving the lives of everyone and the economy in Africa.



#### **OUR VISION**

A thriving innovation economy in Africa, driven by the power of our community.



#### **OUR MISSION**

To support innovation hubs and their communities to raise high-potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa. We achieve this through capacity building, financing, networking, policy advocacy, and providing insightful, reliable data.

# Building bridges for sustainable innovation support

Foreword by Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director, AfriLabs

Presenting the 2022 edition of our Annual Report Series, which showcases our progress and achievements in navigating the challenges and opportunities of Africa's rapidly evolving innovation landscape. Our main focus has been on fostering sustainable innovation ecosystems that promote economic growth and development. We firmly believe that innovation is essential for addressing Africa's challenges and creating a more prosperous continent.

The past year has been marked by growth and expansion for AfriLabs. We have welcomed new members and experienced continued growth in our community of innovation hubs. Our members remain committed to equipping entrepreneurs with the resources, skills, and networks needed to build sustainable businesses that solve Africa's challenges and create job opportunities.

We have accomplished significant milestones in the past year, including releasing our strategic document, "Building A Thriving Innovation Economy – Setting Africa up for Success" which outlines the necessary steps to make Africa a global leader in innovation. We remain committed to working towards this goal and have made significant progress.

We are proud to have organized the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering in Lusaka, Zambia, which brought together stakeholders from across the African innovation ecosystem to network, learn, and build partnerships.

Our member hubs have achieved significant successes, launching new incubation programmes and supporting startups in sectors such as fintech, healthtech, and agri-tech. We are proud to see the impact of our work on the African innovation ecosystem and the wider community.

We acknowledge the importance of building a growth-oriented culture,

diversifying our team, and prioritizing learning and development. We have made strides in these areas, including expanding our team to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion, introducing the AfriLabs Academy, and prioritizing learning and development opportunities for our team and community members.

AfriLabs as a key stakeholder continues to advocate for policies that support innovation and we are also proud of our recently launched policy pathways whitepaper. This document proposes a framework for creating an enabling policy environment in African countries.

In 2022, we continued to build partnerships, and fund hubs and startups through programmes such as the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP), Catalytic Africa, and the African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Program. We have also launched the African Union Civic Tech Fund, which supports African tech solutions that address social challenges.

Our events and initiatives have provided valuable platforms for collaboration and advocacy, connecting and supporting the African innovation ecosystem and providing critical insights, information, and stories.

Moving forward, we remain committed to building a community that becomes the backbone for Africa's digital economy, supporting our members and partners in fostering sustainable innovation ecosystems, and creating a more prosperous continent for all.

Executive Director, AfriLabs

Ama Fkeledo

## The AfriLabs Community:

## Developing Africa's innovation economy

AfriLabs as a network organisation exists because of our community of innovation hubs and in 2022, we experienced remarkable growth across the network. We grew in terms of our reach and also in the quality of the interventions of the hubs in the communities. Whenever we receive a new application from an African hub to join the network, it further confirms the importance of our work in supporting innovation across the continent by empowering innovation hubs.



"It is still day one at AfriLabs. This is not because we have not grown over the years but rather because we believe there's a lot more to accomplish. We welcome these new members to the AfriLabs network. I encourage them to connect with older members and get the collaboration ball rolling!"



#### AJIBOLA ODUKOYA

AfriLabs Chief Operating Officer.

"As an incubator supporting young Malagasy entrepreneurs in Tech, Zafy Tody is truly excited to be part of the AfriLabs network. We look forward to our incubated startups scaling their venture horizons across Africa, and gaining more business expertise and financial support."



"We are thankful for our admission into the AfriLabs network. This will help us rise higher and learn from other similar organizations on the continent. RiseUp Social Enterprise is Ethiopia's largest rural youth skills development organization and the second biggest hub in the country. We are creating an open ecosystem for young people to build a pathway to a better economy. We are fighting poverty and creating equality for the less privileged ones in our community – those affected by disasters and the impact of climate change. Thank you again for this opportunity. We are excited to work, partner and reach more with the Afril also community."



#### **USAMA MOHAMED**

Executive Director, RiseUp Social Enterprise, Ethiopia.



ANDRÉA ZAFITODY LI-SAI CHIMENTO

Founder, Zafy Tody, Madagascar.

## How we grew this year

The AfriLabs community is a growing network of communities. Each quarter, we admit new members to expand our impact towards achieving our vision to build a thriving innovation economy in Africa.

AfriLabs has grown its network to

400 hubs in 241 cities across 52 African countries over the past year.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the quarterly admission stats:



**Quarterly Admission Stats** 

## IN 2022

**AFRILABS ADDED** 

**NEW COUNTRY** MAURITANIA









**NEW HUBS** ADMITTED

**NEW HUBS** ADMITTED

NEW

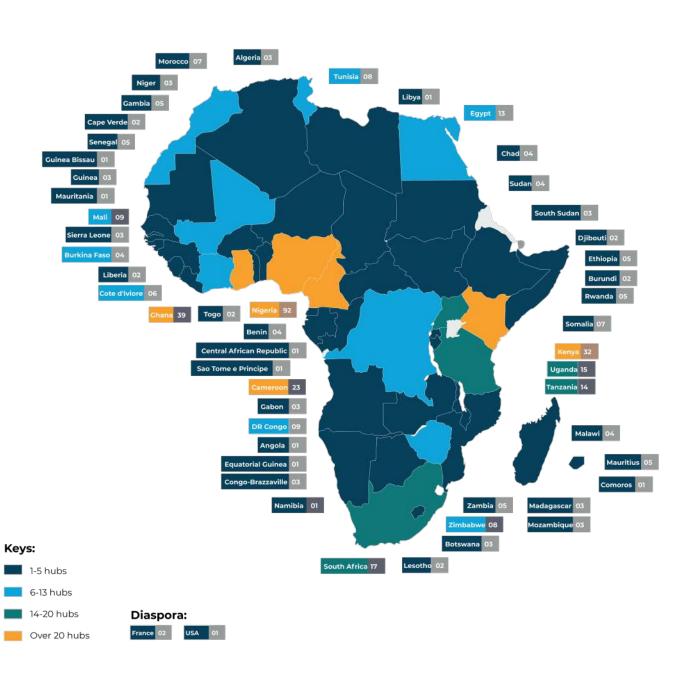
CITIES

NEW CITIES





# AFRILABS NETWORK MEMBERS ACROSS AFRICA





The 2022 AfriLabs Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, the 25th day of October 2022 at Ciela Resort, Lusaka, Zambia. The AGM commenced at exactly 9:00 hours GMT+2 with hub members in attendance physically and virtually.

This edition of the AGM featured deliberations on issues affecting the community and the secretariat, presentations by different teams and elections to a vacant board position (previously held by Takunda Chingonzo) and to select the location for the 2023 AGM and AfriLabs Annual Gathering. Below are members that ran for the available position:

- Franciscah Munanie Nzanga, Chief
   Operating Officer Villgro Africa, Kenya
- Maurice Cashinco, Managing Director Kumasi, Ghana
- Dr. Itoro Charles Emembolu, Director & Member Board of Trustees TechQuest STEM Academy, Nigeria
- Jayeola, Okuazun, General Manager,
   Ventures Park, Nigeria

Dr. Itoro Charles Emembolu won the majority and emerged as the new board member. 250STARTUPS, Rwanda also emerged top above CIPEM, Niger to co-host the 2024 AfriLabs Annual Gathering.





"I am excited about this opportunity to help steer AfriLabs and represent our interests on the board level. I hope to work with all the hubs and make African voices very loud."



#### DR. ITORO CHARLES EMEMBOLU

Director & Member Board of Trustees TechQuest STEM Academy, Nigeria.

### **Hubs Achievements**





#### STARTHUB AFRICA

In 2022, StartHub Africa made tremendous progress in both quality and numbers of entrepreneurs trained.



A total of **1058 innovators** were trained under various innovation programs, mentorships an capacity building workshops



A portfolio of **14 startups** with 4 of them signed in the year 2022



We issued out **\$8,500** in loans and investment to new startups



Over **400 students** trained through Ideathons and bootcamps conducted within Universities

## 2

#### LA PLAGE:



Yugo raised funds from Mo Angels and got a matching grant from Catalytic Africa.

YUGO, the best taxi application in Mauritius, reached 20k users - La Plage Factory Maurice Ltd (wordpress.com)



Over **\$3.8M** raised for startups





Summary for Afkar achievement



**2 (two) incubation programs** launched successfully for innovators in Tunisia and the diaspora in Europe



**450 fellows** were supported over 10 cohorts



**264 projects** showcased, with 54 of them financed



**8 innovation hubs** supported to launch their incubation program through Afkar's capacity building program



#### **ICEALEX**



117 startups across 14
different governorates supported
through IceAlex's
sector-specific incubator programs;
Ladies Startups
League, Startups of
Alex, and Safir Acceleration Program



We contributed to the economic development of our community through the creation of over 640 jobs with 55% held by females



Held the "Beyond Impact Showcase" ceremony, where our finalist startups presented their ideas and products to a captive audience of potential investors and partners. The event generated significant interest and offers for partnerships, further solidifying the impact and success of our incubator programs



Our Catalyzer Virtual Incubation Platform offers access to a global network of experts and resources to help entrepreneurs launch and scale their businesses. It also supports expanding our incubation programs to remote areas, locally or globally, as well as providing digital transformation services for Incubators and accelerators in Africa and beyond.





#### MZUZU E-HUB

Mzuzu E-Hub hosted the first ever MalawiUP! Startup Connect Week on 13th to 16th December 2022 in collaboration with Make IT in Africa bringing together ecosystem enablers, startups, policymakers, and development partners towards creating a collaborative and vibrant Malawian innovation ecosystem.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UkCQrfX1IjdEZJfvr6mzO1faqs54oyU0.



#### COM'WORK:



Com'Work launched the first edition of the "Project Diaspora" to support 10 entrepreneurs from the Comorian diaspora in their business creation process.



We developed a one-year incubation program for the CRDE (Rural Center for Economic Development) which is a local support structure for farmers in Comoros. Lastly, we supported several companies in fundraising for a total grant of 120,000 euros. Moinamkou Halidi, Com'Work



A total of **120,000Euros** raised as grant for several companies





#### MOUNTAIN HUB

Mountain Hub was selected among the 15 most vibrant Hubs in Africa for the Bootcamp of Accelerator Managers in Nairobi, Kenya by 500 Global and sponsored by Make-IT in Africa and GIZ. This was a result of our strategic pitching events called Pitch Friday held every Friday with a post-event follow-up; a program called Startup Mentor alongside our consistency with our Branding and Marketing. Simon Balemba Effansa, Mountain Hub

## 2

#### **AKEWA ACCELERATOR**



10 young mothers digital income-generating capacity developed through the Young Girl Digital Mother program.



Development of an online entrepreneurship coaching program called "Green Accelerator" and the Akewa Accelerator web platform called "CINES Business & Digital school" offering certified training in E-learning mode





#### CIPMEN (CENTRE INCUBATEUR DES PME AU NIGER):

Several projects implemented by the hub include



#### **RE-AGIRE PROJECT:**

An initiative that established an ecosystem that promotes the development of micro-enterprises and SMEs in the Agadez region with a focus on youth. Training 1000 beneficiaries (including 300 women and 150 vulnerable people) in entrepreneurship, organizing 40 training sessions, supporting 75 project leaders (50 women) in pre-incubation, and supporting 15 entrepreneurs in incubation.



## THE IDEE BRIDGE PROJECT:

The IDEE Bridge Project aims to support the entrepreneurial initiatives of local youth by raising more than 60 million XOF for young enterprises, supporting 80 enterprises, hosting 50 training, accelerating one enterprise, and creating 317 jobs.



4500 ecosystem actors trained through over 400 training sessions in different regions.





Over 150 million XOF raised to support over 100 project leaders in pre-incubation, 178 companies in incubation, and 3 in the acceleration stage

# The AfriLabs Secretariat: Building the right culture for growth

Physically situated in Abuja, Nigeria, the AfriLabs secretariat is the engine room of the organisation. The team comprises professionals with diverse backgrounds and impactful years of experience planning and executing development projects in Africa. In the last year, AfriLabs' HR and Operations department has improved on their efforts to create a culture that encourages growth, happiness and diversity.

-66

The AfriLabs team is a true reflection of the endless possibilities of human capital in Africa. AfriLabs is a testament that the youth and women of Africa can and will continue to do great things on the global stage. The organisation is run by young people and it has a gender diversity of 75% prowomen with an average workforce age of 31.

The AfriLabs secretariat comprises 12 Heads of Departments led by the Executive Director that are self-motivated and possess a high level of accountability in leading the organs of the organisation.

With a staff strength of 40+ individuals, we have staff from Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Uganda who work with stakeholders across 52 African countries towards enabling a thriving innovation economy on the continent.

We are truly a Pan African Organisation led by African youth towards building an Africa that truly reflects the potential and aspirations of Africans.

AJIBOLA ODUKOYA

AfriLabs Chief Operating Officer.



At AfriLabs, we're committed to fostering a positive environment where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and grow.

We're constantly building and nurturing an inclusive culture that aligns with our vision and values, that empowers everyone to take ownership of their work and succeed in their roles.

Our goal is to create a diverse team that's inspired and motivated to reach their full potential.



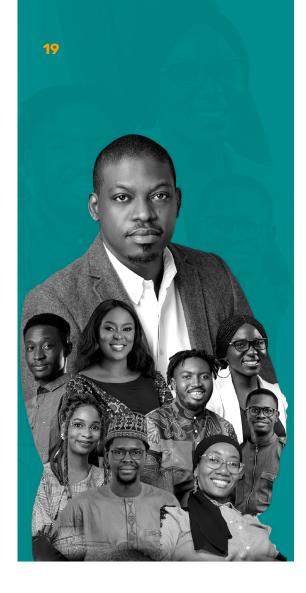
RAHEL CHUKWU

Director & Member Board of Trustees
TechQuest STEM Academy, Nigeria.

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## **Team Growth**

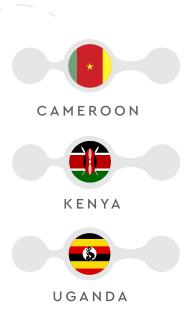
In the year in view, there has been tremendous numeric growth within the team. We have recorded new numbers of great talents across the various departments. The AfriLabs secretariat team currently stands at 37, excluding other consultants and short-term staff. AfriLabs has an organizational structure that speaks to the internal segregation of duties spread across 13 departments.



## Diversification of the Team

AfriLabs being a Pan African organization, we have recorded in-take of employees from other African countries holding notable positions. The language barrier and time zone differences have not been a challenge. Rather, it has stirred the team into proffering solutions and finding a way out.

The AfriLabs current team comprises professionals from seven (7) different African countries such as;















## **Learning and Development**

Through the AfriLabs Academy courses and the Knowledge Sharing Sessions tagged AfriLabs Eureka, the team has been able to build the team capacity. These sessions have fostered more collaboration among team members and improved the knowledge, and experience of the team about the African innovation ecosystem. The level of engagement and quality of content are indicators of the impact of these eureka sessions.

#### AFRILABS EUREKA: 8 SESSIONS IN 2022

#### **TOPICS:**

Changing our world through profound advocacy

Creating Impactful and Insightful Events that Challenge the Status Quo.

Financial Literacy as a Tool for Achieving Life's Goals

Design Thinking as a Strategy for Innovation

Knowledge Management as a Tool for Operational

structured communication and email etiquette training objectives

Why You Matter

Effective Leadership



## Improving the Organisation's Culture

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the nature of our work changed for the better as we adopted a hybrid work schedule. We have been able to leverage technology to deliver more efficiently. This has helped to improve employee satisfaction and productivity within the organization. We have introduced team bonding activities to connect and strengthen the relationship between team members. These include game nights, parties, and visits to recreational locations (e.g safaris) etc.









# Supporting the African Innovation Community through Partnership

We continued our efforts to build sustainable and impactful partnerships with diverse stakeholders in different sectors. We achieved a lot as an organisation in the last year and we have our partners to thank.

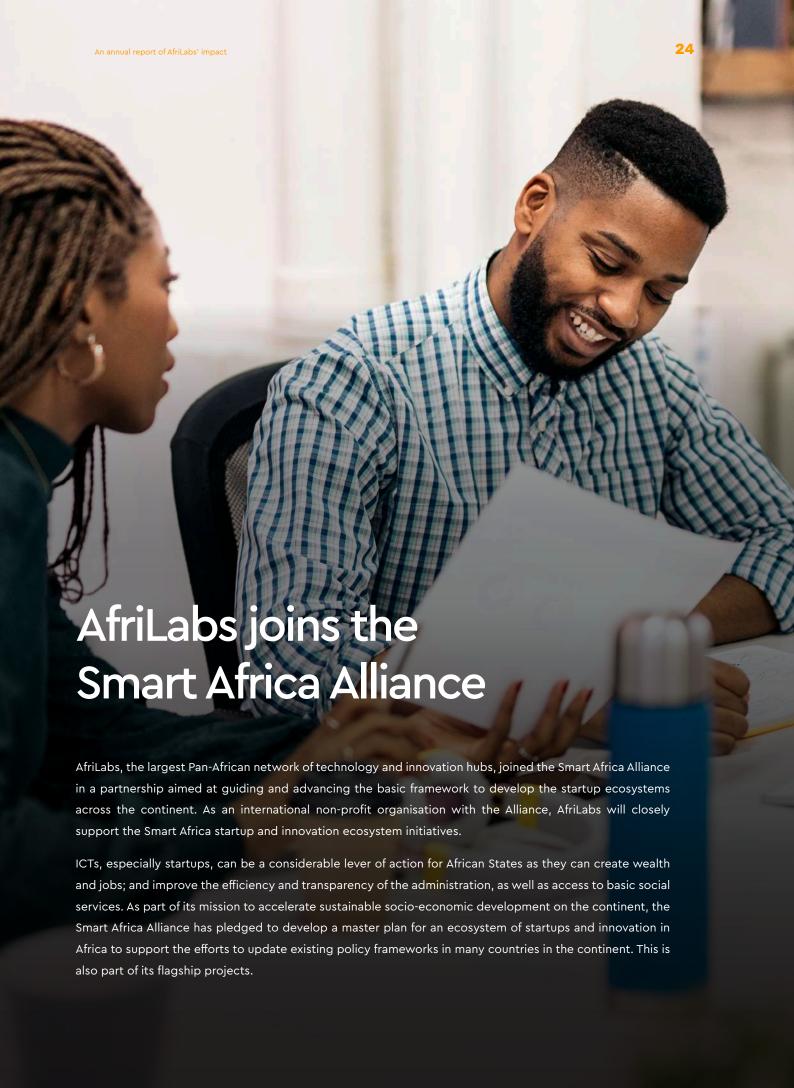
Here are the partnerships and collaborations we entered in 2022:

"The quality of partnerships we have gone into in the last year is a reflection of our determination to build bridges and rally the ecosystem together to scale impact across Africa. We appreciate the individuals and organisations that joined forces with us in 2022 and we look forward to shaking more hands across the table"



**FELISTA AKU** 

Partnerships Manager, AfriLabs.



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"Innovation and startup ecosystems form a key component of our vision to build a single digital market in Africa. Therefore, welcoming AfriLabs to the alliance is naturally aligned with our objectives and I have no doubt, the Pan-African network for innovation hubs will bring their expertise and experience to sustain our ambition"



## MR. LACINA KONÉ CEO/Director General, Smart Africa

Secretariat.



"Africabs remains committed to supporting the African innovation ecosystem and we are always happy to collaborate with organisations whose vision aligns with ours. Our community is at the heart of all we do. Thus, Africabs will continue to offer support, not only to startups – through their hubs which are our members – but also to other stakeholders of the ecosystem such as the Smart Africa Alliance".



#### ANNA EKELEDO

AfriLabs Executive Director.

# AfriLabs and Make-IT in Africa foster intra-Africa collaboration, connectivity and innovation at the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering

AfriLabs and Make-IT in Africa collaborated to support national innovation networks across Africa at the 2022 AAG. AfriLabs and Make-IT in Africa have worked together successfully since 2019 to support local partners in laying solid foundations for robust and resilient innovation ecosystems.

In the last decade, AfriLabs has provided a platform for dialogue amongst all stakeholders in the African innovation and technology ecosystem and beyond the continent. Among the ways in which this has been implemented are interventions to empower innovation hubs and support entrepreneurs, as well as collaborative efforts with pan-African institutions and governments in developing innovative policies, capacity-building programs, innovative financing models for entrepreneurs, and research and development.

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"Only collective action and joint investment can challenge the gaps, barriers and protectionism that stand in the way of African innovation. Make-IT in Africa is delighted to collaborate with partners like AfriLabs who believe in the power and work towards truly interconnected pan-African innovation ecosystems. With our support to this year's Gathering, we wish to underline the central role of women in strengthening environments where innovation can thrive – not only, but especially when it comes to leadership – and advocate for intra-Africa collaboration and connectivity that taps into the female powerhouse."



## Afreximbank, Meta and Others come together for the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering

Several top players in Africa's innovation ecosystem participated as partners at the 7th AfriLabs Annual Gathering (AAG), that took place in Lusaka, Zambia from the 26th to the 28th of October, 2022 with the theme, "Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation".

These partners include Mozilla, GIZ Make-IT, Africa Union, GIZ-AU, International Trade Centre (ITC), Venture Capitalists for Africa (VC4A), Wylde International, Zanaco Plc., Flourish Ventures, Briter Bridges, Africa Business Heroes (ABH) and GIZ-PAU. Others include Agence Française de Developpement (AFD), Accelerated Growth for SMEs (AGS), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Intel, Emirates Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Liquid Intelligent Technologies, Meta (Facebook) and Brienze and Lloyds Aviation. The mass media was not left behind as TechCabal and Radio Phoenix also signed up as press partners.

distinguished and influential event in the African tech space. AfriLabs, which focuses on building a community and empowering tech founders and entrepreneurs across all of the rapidly emerging tech hubs in Africa, fits perfectly with the ideology of our new Africa-focused pre-seed investment program. We appreciate the role that institutions such as AfriLabs play in encouraging innovative solutions to boost Africa's burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit, and we are looking forward to partnering and helping accelerate AfriLabs' ongoing impact."

"We are thrilled to be sponsoring such a





"Africa's innovation ecosystem is at a critical stage of development and in order to facilitate the progression into the next stage, relevant stakeholders need to be deliberate and strategic with collaborative efforts within and across the continent. At AfriLabs, we are always delighted to work with new and existing partners in our commitment to enabling a thriving innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa, powered by our community."



#### **CHANDA KATONGO**

accelerating our digital drive".

Zanaco Plc Head Client Solutions, Marketing and Corporate Communications.

"Zanaco Plc is pleased to partner with AfriLabs at

this year's Annual Gathering. As an organisation

driving a digital first strategy, we believe that

partnerships such as this and our presence at

the Afrilabs Annual Gathering will support in



#### **ANNA EKELEDO**

AfriLabs Executive Director.

"ITC is excited to participate in the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering at Lusaka. Under the FastTrackTech Africa project, which now falls under ITC's new Switch ON initiative, ITC has done a lot of work supporting the tech entrepreneurship ecosystem in 7 Sub-saharan African countries – one of which is Zambia – over the past few years. In our work, we partner with and assist many business support organisations with a focus on tech hubs as they are the spill of the tech entrepreneurship ecosystems in Africa."



#### MILOU VAN BRUGGEN

Associate Programme Officer (JPO) – Tech Sector Development Africa, International Trade Centre – United Nations.



"Wylde International Itd is very glad to be here to participate in the AfriLabs Annual Gathering in Lusaka, Zambia. We are delighted to share with hubs across Africa a data backed process that they can use to achieve entrepreneurship support success. The process is called "SCALE" and has been used by organisations all over the world delivering growth to the enterprises connected to their hubs."



#### **CHRIS ODONGO**

CEO Wylde International.





"At Mozilla, our mission is to promote openness, innovation and opportunity on the web, ensuring that the Internet is a global public resource, open and accessible to all. We are excited to be part of the AfriLabs Gathering as we connect with startups, entrepreneurs, and other players within the tech ecosystem on the continent. Through one of our programmes, Lean Data Practices, we will be exploring privacy and good data management with the aim of boosting startup and entrepreneurs' capacity on security and data governance."



#### **ALICE MUNYUA**

Senior Director, Africa Innovation and public policy program, Mozilla.



# UNFPA in collaboration with AfriLabs launched its Incubation Programme to support ideas tackling FGM and Climate Change

Following the successful training at the UNFPA Climate and FGM HackLab (virtual bootcamps), 6 innovators were selected as winners in a follow-up pitch event and were invited to participate in the UNFPA Incubation Programme.

AfriLabs leveraged its existing pipeline of innovation hubs across the locations of the innovators to provide a robust and intensive 6-month incubation programme, which entailed capacity-building activities focused on product and business development of the selected innovations, and support with resources and opportunities to produce full-fledged viable and scalable innovations and solutions. The selected hubs provided incubation services to the UNFPA Climate and FGM HackLab top innovators via online and offline channels throughout the programme.

UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, under the flagship Safeguard Young People Programme, launched the Climate HackLab project in May 2021. The HackLab is a climate innovation project that aims to build climate resilience and generate innovative climate adaptation solutions led by young people, especially women and girls. The UNFPA FGM HackLab project aims to empower young people and offer them the opportunity to be game-changers and drivers of a sustainable green future. The project targets young innovators, especially women and girls, who have innovative solutions that will accelerate efforts toward UNFPA's goal of ending gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030.





## Intel and AfriLabs collaborate to support the African Deep Tech Startup Ecosystem

AfriLabs partnered with the global manufacturer of advanced integrated digital technology platforms, Intel to gain a deeper understanding of the African deep-tech startup ecosystem and identify pathways in which Intel can extend their support to deep tech startups on the continent.

The startup scene in Africa has experienced incredible growth in recent years, and this is partly a result of several significant interventions by stakeholders to enable entrepreneurship and innovation in local ecosystems. AfriLabs and Intel's collaboration hopes to sustainably build on the work done and set a framework for future interventions.

At the official partnership agreement signing ceremony on the 24th of May, 2022, Intel was represented by Maurits Tichelman, Vice President SMG & GM EMEA Territory, Intel (virtual), Dr Bienvenu AGBOKPONTO SOGLO, Director, Government Affairs Africa and EMEA CTO Liaison, Intel (onsite), Kate Hach, Head of Program, Intel Ignite's accelerator (virtual) and the Emerging Markets Director for Government and Education of Intel Corporation, Mr Sven Beckmann (virtual). Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director of AfriLabs, Daniel Chinagozi, Member of the AfriLabs Board, Ajibola Odukoya, AfriLabs COO, Nekesa Were, Director of Strategy, AfriLabs, Felista Aku, Partnerships Manager at AfriLabs and other members of the AfriLabs team represented the AfriLabs. A cross-section of high-level local and regional innovation ecosystem key players was also present.

As one of the interventions under this partnership, a hybrid workshop for deep-tech startups was held in Nigeria and Kenya and across Africa. The participants were introduced to Intel Ignite and Intel

#### OneAPI programs.

Also as part of this collaboration, AfriLabs and Intel in partnership with African Business Angel Network held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders on Early-Stage Deep-Tech Investing across Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

It was an interactive hybrid event involving a diverse group of early-stage investors in deep-tech who shared insights and learnings within the African context. The session provided a deep dive into the pillars of the transformation and the emergence of Deep Tech in Africa, and discussions focused on the importance and role of the Deep Tech sector in economic development. The sessions also interrogated the role early-stage funding plays in this sector.

In attendance across the 2-days event was Dr Bienvenu Agbokponto Soglo, Director, Government Affairs Africa and IGA CTO Liaison (PE), Intel Corporation, Nekesa Were, Director of Strategy AfriLabs, Snehar Shah, CEO, Moringa School, Tim Dagori, Board Member Association of Startup and SME Enablers of Kenya, Philip Thigo, Senior Director for Africa, Thunderbird School of Global Management, H.E. Thomas Wimmer, Acting Ambassador to Kenya, Federal Republic of Germany, Hon. Ms. Maureen Mbaka, Chief Administrative Secretary at Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya, Fadilah Tchoumba, Secretary-General, African Business Angel Network – and other top stakeholders.

A report has been prepared by Intel and AfriLabs alongside Briter Bridges on the state of the deeptech ecosystem in Africa. You can read it here.





"According to the World Bank, deep tech companies bring transformative technology from the lab to the market in addition to democratised research infrastructure. Increased available funding has led to the rise of deep-tech companies globally, including in emerging markets and Africa, Kenya to be specific should follow suit."



#### MS. MAUREEN MBAKA

Chief Administrative Secretary at the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya.

"As Intel looks ahead to the next decade, our ambitions and opportunities have never been greater to unleash the power of data and help advance integrated corporate responsibility strategies in which companies use collaborative models to drive increased value creation and societal impact."



#### DR BIENVENU AGBOKPONTO SOGLO

Director Government Affairs Africa & EMEA CTO Liaison, Intel.



"To give more impactful support to the startup ecosystem in Africa, we need to consider specialised capacity building. Different kinds of startups need different kinds of support, and the AfriLabs partnership with Intel explores learning more about how we could better support deep tech ventures. I am particularly excited about this collaboration and how it lays the foundation for deeper interactions between the ecosystem and big global tech players like Intel."



## AfriLabs and Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs, Kenya sign MoU to support grassroots hubs

AfriLabs and the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs (ACIH) have signed a comprehensive long-term partnership to co-create capacity-building interventions, foster rural innovations, and create training and mentorship programs for grassroots hubs in Africa.

It is common knowledge that most innovation support in Africa is focused on the continent's urban centres. This has slowed down the growth of the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems in peri-urban and rural areas. This partnership aims to address this gap and tap into the innovation potential outside the big cities.

The collaboration will co-create and implement capacity-building programs for AfriLabs and ACIH grassroots member hubs to support peri-urban and rural innovations. It will also support the creation of a more robust, more coordinated Pan-African ecosystem among the numerous technology and innovation hubs currently operating on the continent.

"Innovation takes place everywhere. The role of entrepreneur support organisations like AfriLabs and the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs in Kenya is to find, support and amplify these innovators to help them have maximum impact. AfriLabs is delighted to begin work with the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs in Kenya to ensure that our entrepreneur support hubs and the communities they serve, regardless of their geographical location, have an equal chance to thrive."





"What a milestone. When two visionary membership organisations like the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs and Afrilabs come together, it can only mean one thing, a plus for African startups and communities. Through this collaboration, we are looking forward to an inclusive innovation ecosystem in Africa, and becoming a source of prosperity for all, by strengthening grassroots hubs to foster rural and peri-urban innovations and strong links with technology and innovation hubs across the continent."



#### CHEPKEMOI MAGDALIN

Chairperson, Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs

## Our partners

### in 2022



















































































# Increasing the capacity of African hubs to support African startups

#### **AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme in 2022**

Funder: Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the Digital Africa seed fund

Partners: AfriLabs, African Business Angel Network (ABAN), Strathmore University, Kenya

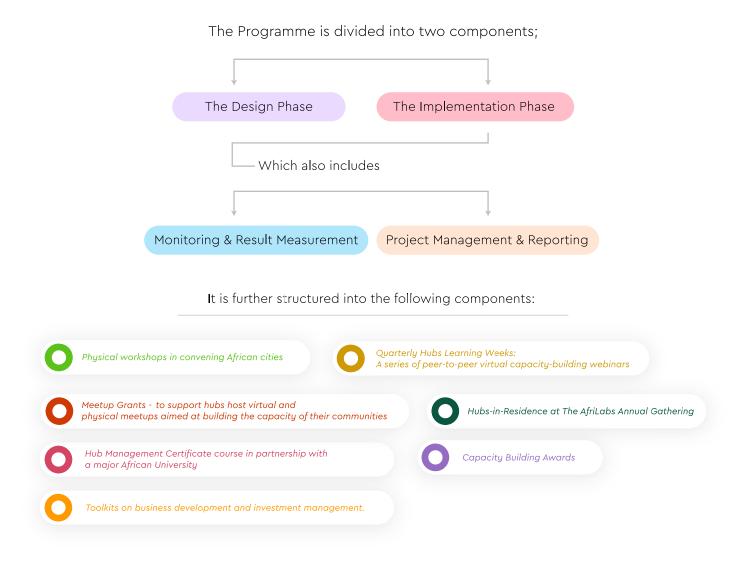
Innovation hubs are being equipped with the skills needed to improve their capacity to support the growing number of startups and MSMEs in their communities across Africa through the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP). Launched in 2019, the ACBP is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the Digital Africa seed fund.

The AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP) has achieved a great feat in the past 3 years of implementation. Looking back on the goals and impact we aimed for based on the needs assessment in 2019, I can say we exceeded them.

The program has had a positive impact on the management of hubs and startup support across the 54 African countries and diaspora. We cannot overstate the positive feedback we have received from hub managers, startup founders and other members of the African Innovation Ecosystem who have benefited from the programme activities such as Hub Learning Weeks, Physical Workshops, Hubs in Residence, Virtual Meetup Grants, Capacity Building Awards, and the AfriLabs Academy. These testimonials are proof of the program's effectiveness, and justification for the work put in by the team in ensuring the success of the programme.

Many thanks to the program's funder, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), for their support to the African Innovation Ecosystem. We encourage our partners and other organizations to capitalize on the program's impact and best practices to further contribute to the advancement of the African Innovation Ecosystem.





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## What we did this Year

#### **Quarterly Hubs Learning Week**

#### 19 Sessions Held

10 English, 4 French and 5 combined sessions) bringing the total number of sessions held so far to 72 sessions

(48 English, 19 French and 5 combined sessions)

## 42% of these individuals are female.

#### 549 unique participants

attended the Hubs Learning Week in 2022

#### **58 Countries Represented**

58 Countries were represented in the attendance; 52 African countries and 6 in the diaspora.



"The Sessions are very inspirational, to learn fundraising and marketing strategies from entrepreneurs who have survived the COVID-19 pandemic is very vital."





"Thanks AfriLabs for training hub managers with valuable skills and capacity"



**ABDIKADIR MOHAMED**RiyoHUB



"The content was rich enough for any hub at any stage. Listening to experts on different topics explaining in detail just made the week awesome."



NICK AZARIA MICHAEL Centre de Recherche et d'Expertise Scientifique

#### **Meetup Grants**

#### 24 Grants Awarded

24 grants worth 72,000 euros were awarded to 24 hubs

2400+ Startups/Innovators/ Entrepreneurs supported during the meetups

#### Over 3500 stakeholders

Over 3500 stakeholders (Innovators, SMEs, MSMEs, startups and other categories of business owners) have been reached by hubs before, during and after the implementing meetup grants sessions.

2428+ female participants engaged during the series

## Below is the country distribution of winners of the Meetup Grants so far:

|          | COUNTRY       | NUMBER |
|----------|---------------|--------|
|          | NIGERIA       | 5      |
| *        | GHANA         | 3      |
|          | BURKINA FASO' | 2      |
|          | MADAGASCAR    | 1      |
|          | TANZANIA      | 1      |
|          | ZAMBIA        | 1      |
| *        | SENEGAL       | 1      |
|          | GUINEA        | 1      |
|          | BOTSWANA      | 1      |
| <b>6</b> | UGANDA        | 1      |
| *        | CAMEROON      | 1      |
|          | ZIMBABWE      | 1      |
|          | SOMALIA       | 1      |
|          | KENYA         | 1      |
|          | TOTAL         | 21     |

## Regional Distribution of the winners so far:

| REGION          | NUMBER |
|-----------------|--------|
| WEST AFRICA     | 12     |
| EAST AFRICA     | 6      |
| SOUTHERN AFRICA | 2      |
| CENTRAL AFRICA  | 1      |
| TOTAL           | 21     |



At Nailab, we were honored to be selected as a partner in the AfriLabs Virtual Meetup Grant series 7 program in 2022. With a grant of 4,000 euros, we designed a virtual entrepreneurship capacity building and mentorship program that equipped 204 founders from East Africa with the tools they need to thrive in business. Our coaches, who were also successful business owners, brought real-life experience to the program, making it practical and engaging. We encouraged peer-to-peer learning and support, breaking down traditional classroom walls to create an open and dynamic learning environment. The program had a significant impact on the Nailab community, and we're grateful to AfriLabs for supporting this empowering initiative.



#### **Physical Workshops**

8

8 Physical workshops held in 7 cities and 5 regions of Africa

180+

Over 180 hubs attended the activity (80% are AfriLabs member hubs, 20% are Non-AfriLabs Members)

350+

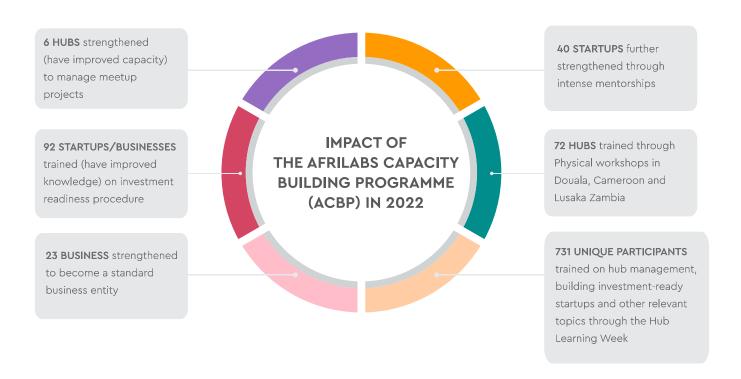
Over 350 stakeholders engaged through the AfriLabs Ecosystem Engagement including Hub Networks, Government, Private Funders, Development Agencies, Investors and Startups.

| CITIES REGIO             | N                |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ACCRA, GHANA             | WEST AFRICA      |
| NAIROBI, KENYA           | EAST AFRICA      |
| DAKAR, SENEGAL           | WEST AFRICA      |
| CAIRO, EGYPT             | NORTHEAST AFRICA |
| JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRI | SOUTHERN AFRICA  |
| DOUALA, CAMEROON         | CENTRAL AFRICA   |
| LUSAKA, ZAMBIA           | SOUTHERN AFRICA  |

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING AWARDS**

Some impact stories from the 2021 awards implemented in 2022 include

Over 30 startups financed 12 hubs funded through the 2021 through small funds to optimize CBA award performance in preparation Improved collaboration among Over 25 entrepreneurs supported hubs within the AfriLabs to be investment-ready through a community to implement comprehensive incubation projects/interventions (8 hubs programme collaboratively implementing CBA projects) Supports entrepreneur to open digital channels for their businesses and to build capacity through virtual training



#### **AFRILABS CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT - 2022 DATA**

#### **VIRTUAL MEETUP GRANTS**

In 2022 only, the following data were gathered from the VMG implementation

| VARIABLE                            | VALUE            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total number of Hubs awarded grants | 9                |
| Total number of countries           | 6 ( ) Nigeria: 2 |
| Total number of meetups conducted   | 89 meetups       |
| Total number of unique participants | 1549             |
| Total number of female participant  | 628 (41%)        |

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING AWARD**

In 2022 only, the following data were gathered from the CBA implementation

| VARIABLE                                    | VALUE              |  |  |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| Total number of Hubs awarded grants         | 17                 |  |  |
| Total number of countries                   | 12  (1) Nigeria: 4 |  |  |
| Total number of workshops conducted         | Over 85 workshops  |  |  |
| Total number of unique participants reached | 1554 individuals   |  |  |
| Total number of female participants reached | 1310 (84%) female  |  |  |
| Total number of startups trained            | 304                |  |  |

#### **166 Consultancy Opportunities**

Occupied by AfriLabs community members (Hubs and Individuals

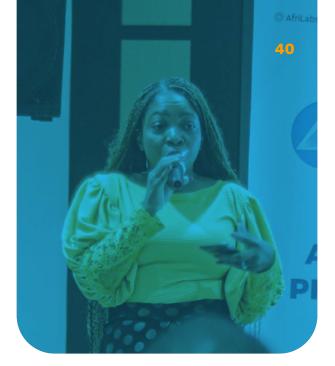
# Quotes from ACBP beneficiaries and other stakeholders

66

The lessons on visibility and fundraising have helped us to develop successful project proposals. Further the lessons on defining the business model and the products and services being offered has enabled Purple Innovation to have viable products and services and increase sales. As well as to offer relevant services mainly incubation to women-led businesses. Further, as a leader, I have gained insights on the flexible work culture required for people to thrive in a Hub and I am now more flexible and staff are somewhat more motivated.







-66

Through the ACBP activities, the hub has been able to develop and mapped out specific local and international stakeholders for our fundraising activities. Through the mentorship program, important steps were taken to improve project impact communications to project partners and the public. New connections in terms of relevant stakeholders were established.



-66

The lessons from ACBP activities have improved my approach to fundraising and hub management approach in a tremendous way. The lessons I learned from ACBP are amazing. It has changed the status quo in my overall strategy, process, and procedures.





Catalytic Africa is a matching fund by the African Business Angels Network (ABAN) and AfriLabs that aims to strengthen African startups, innovation hubs, and angel investors while delivering impact results to institutional funders. We co-invest with angel investors in innovative startups with matching funds in the form of a grant. Founded in 2021 at the AfriLabs Annual Gathering in Abuja, Nigeria, the programme raises funds from institutional partners to add to a pool. This pool serves as a matching or co-investment fund to encourage investment in viable startups.

#### The objectives of the fund include;

Increasing the investment made by angelinvestors in African start-ups

Fund African startups with innovative digital solutions & measurable impact

Strengthen African angel networks and innovation hubs

Presenting reliable ecosystem data, insights, and impact reporting for all stakeholders

#### In 2022, the project recorded remarkable progress and hit a milestone of 10 deals.

| 824 | Hubs and Startups registered on the platform | 16        | Transactions were started on the platform |
|-----|--|-----------|---|
| 132 | Angel Investors registered on the platform   | 10        | Deals were approved                       |
| 58  | Angel Networks registered on the platform    | 10        | Hubs participated                         |
| 30+ | Countries                                    | 79        | Angel Investors participated              |
|     |  | \$642,453 | disbursed as matching funds               |

42

#### CATALYTIC AFRICA BENEFICIARY IN 2022

|                        | Cameroon  | Nigeria   | Botswana   | Tunisia   | Kenya   | South Africa  |
|------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|                        |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| Startup Name           | Bee SARL  | Yuave LTD/<br>Kasooko   | Vantage<br>Properties  | Freewi<br>Digital   | Duhqa   | Legal Fundi   |
| Sector                 | Tech-Mobility   | Tech-<br>Communications   | Tech-<br>Real Estate   | Digital<br>trade  | Fintech/<br>Financial<br>Services   | Legal<br>Tech   |
| Innovation<br>Hub      | ActivSpaces   | TVC Lab   | Botswana<br>digital &<br>Innovation Hub  | Collective<br>Lab   | Pangea<br>Trust   | Womhub  |
| Angel<br>Network       | Cameroon<br>Angels<br>Network   | South-South<br>East<br>Angels<br>Network  | Botswana<br>Angels<br>Network  | Bridging<br>Angels  | MO<br>Angels  | Jozi Angels<br>Investment   |
| Startup<br>Description | E-mobility<br>startup with<br>a focus on<br>ride hailing<br>and last mile<br>delivery<br>service. | Digitized third party communica- tions and customer engagement for business- es | Proptech<br>startup<br>focused on<br>real estate<br>data<br>analytics and<br>automated<br>property<br>valuations | E-Commerce<br>startup<br>offering<br>partners<br>access to<br>target<br>customers | Last mile end to end suppluchain and distribu- tion technolo- gy platform | E-platform to<br>bring the law<br>to people and<br>simplify the<br>legal process. |
| Catalyst<br>Matching   | 60,000  | 60,000  | 60,000   | 60,000  | 60,000  | 60,000  |
| Fund Status            | Approved  | Approved  | Approved   | Approved  | Approved  | Approved  |
| Logo                   | •   | 0   |  | <b>©</b>  |   | <b>&gt;</b>   |

|                        | Zambia  | Mauritius                              | Senegal  | DRC  | Sudan  |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
|                        | ·····   | ·····                                  |  |  |  |
| Startup Name           | RIVUUZ  | Yugo Limited                           | Niokobok   | Wenzemobile  | Khodorgy   |
| Sector                 | E-Commerce  | Mobility                               | E-commerce   | Agritech   | Agritech   |
| Innovation<br>Hub      | Bongohive   | La Plage<br>Factory                    | Jokkolabs<br>Senegal   | Ingenious<br>City  | Savannah<br>Innovation<br>Labs   |
| Angel<br>Network       | Zambia<br>Business<br>Angel<br>Network  | Mo Angels                              | Dakar<br>Network<br>Angels   | DRC<br>Impact<br>Angels  | Tera-B<br>Angels   |
| Startup<br>Description | Offers a<br>marketplace<br>that connects<br>customers to<br>experienced<br>and vetted<br>service<br>providers | E-mobility<br>ride hailing<br>platform | Marketplace where customers can buy and sell goods with a focus on Senega- lese diaspora offering support to families back home. | B2B food<br>marketplace<br>connecting<br>retailers with<br>smallholder<br>farmers. | Agritech<br>startup<br>focused<br>oneliminating<br>middlemen<br>and connect-<br>ing farmers<br>directly to<br>retialers and<br>consumers |
| Catalyst<br>Matching   | 60,000  | 60,000                                 | 60,000   | 46, 089  | 60,000   |
| Fund Status            | Approved  | Approved                               | Approved   | Approved   | Approved   |
| Logo                   |   |  | *  |  | <b>E</b>   |



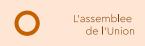
Funder: African Union and GIZ

Implementing Partner: AfriLabs

The African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Program aims to identify and deploy highly competent tech innovators from the African continent to units and organs within the African Union headquarters as resident fellows to understand the system within those units, identify data management challenges within the systems and solve the challenges identified by co-creating and building innovative tailor-made products and processes that improve data management processes and the overall work of the African Union.







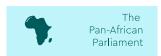


















#### The objectives of the African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Program are to;

Identify and deploy highly competent tech innovators from across the continent to units within the African Union headquarters as resident fellows.

Understand the systems and processes within the specified African Union units and identify data management challenges with the systems & processes.

Solve the identified challenges by co-creating and building innovative tailor-made digital products and processes that improve data management and the overall work of the African Union.

Ensure sustainability of the developed products and processes post the fellowship timeline, by strengthening the internal capacity of personnel within those units.



"The past months as an AU Digital and Tech Fellow have been nothing short of amazing! This unique experience has shaped my professional life through the tailored lessons offered by the fellowship, the practical skills gained on the job and people skills acquired. Most importantly, being an advocate for digital transformation at the African Union has proven that there is still a lot to be done as far as innovation is concerned, and I am confident that the fellows will make digitization possible. I am definitely looking forward to the last few months of the fellowship"



"I am empowered to develop an innovative service request platform for the AU which is at 90% completion. The last few months have been a blur of coding, end-to-end testing & catching up on my ever-growing to-do list but I am excited about the results"



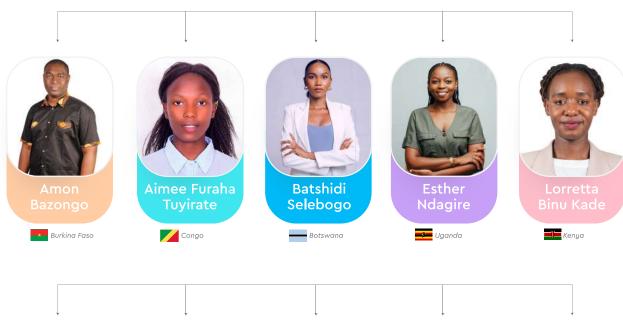
#### TEBALO THATHO,

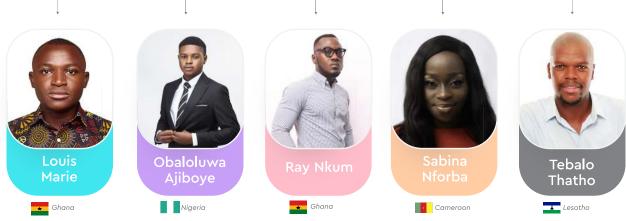
Fellow, Department of Information and Communications (DIC).

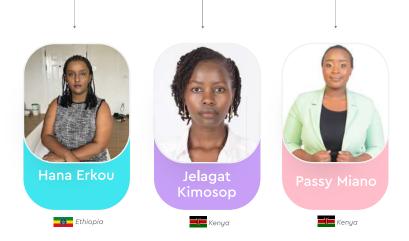




#### AFRICAN UNION FELLOWS











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## **African Union Civic Tech Fund**

Funder: African Union

Implementing Partner: AfriLabs

The African Union Civic Tech Fund supports initiatives, particularly those led by or relevant to youth, that strengthen citizen engagement through the innovative use of data and digital technologies, or, in other words, that can support targeted civic technology solutions. The objective is to demonstrate effective models of citizen participation, support the scalability of initiatives, and influence policy to support replicable and/or

scalable civic technology initiatives and transformative citizen-led actions across the African continent.

AfriLabs implemented a virtual accelerator program which trained 9 innovators across 6 African countries. The virtual accelerator training delivered content that aids collective thinking on how to scale up initiatives (civic technologies & digital tools).



Strengthened the capacity of 9 innovators to develop and scale up business initiatives through training





Developed 18 tailored modules for acceleration training

#### GENDER DEMOGRAPHY AND LOCATION DETAILS OF INNOVATORS

| S/N | NAME OF INNOVATOR                     | COUNTRY    |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 ( | Mambopay Limited                      | (B) UGANDA |
| 2   | Connected Development Initiative CODE | NIGERIA    |
| 3   | Legal Wallet Limited                  | MALAWI     |
| 4   | ElectHER Development Initiative       | NIGERIA    |
| 5   | Justice Code Foundation               | ZIMBABWE   |
| 6   | SimSim-Participation Citoyenne        | ★ MOROCCO  |
| 7   | For Equality Africa                   | MALAWI     |
| 8   | SEMA                                  | 6 UGANDA   |
| 9   | Amnesty International                 | MALI       |

#### **Quotes from facilitators and beneficiaries**

The trainings were well presented with content well thought of, prepared and facilitators demonstrated a deep understanding of the content and the Africa landscape. I really had an amazing experience"

66

The training was satisfactory, educational and helpful to our project especially the individual coaching sessions"

66

The training has been an eye opener for me. I have learnt new things which will help in mu work"



**RUFARO DONALD MAGUDURU**Justice Code Foundation

GRACIOUS CHIMBALANGA
For Equality





# Supporting Climate Change Adaptation Enterprises through the 2022 YouthAdapt Challenge

Funder: Global Centre for Adaptation (GCA), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

Implementing Partner: AfriLabs

Adaptation Solutions Youth Challenge (YouthADAPT Challenge) is an annual competition and awards program for youth-led enterprises (50% women-led) jointly organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Climate Investment Funds (CIF) as part of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program YouthADAPT Flagship Program. This challenge seeks to boost sustainable job creation through support for entrepreneurship and youth-led innovation in climate change adaptation and resilience across Africa. The 2022 edition was implemented by AfriLabs.

The competition, launched in 2021, provides seed funding of up to US\$100,000 for enterprises managed by youth under the age of 35 and owns climate change adaptation enterprise in Africa. The

winners will also go through a 12-month accelerator program to help them grow their businesses, deepen their impact, and scale up adaptation jobs.

66\_

"Young business leaders in Africa are bringing the innovation and action required to address the climate crisis. Through the AAAP, these young entrepreneurs have access to a global platform that will provide the tools, expertise, and finance required to break the barriers to scaling their solutions. I am proud to support and accelerate their success."

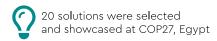


#### PATRICK VERKOOIJEN

CEO of the Global Centre for Adaptation (GCA).















66

"Agriculture is the future of Africa. As you know, that has been my gospel for many decades. The lowest bar is for Africa to feed itself. The high bar is for Africa to feed the world. Agriculture is a business. I encourage our young people to do three things: Create, Adapt and Prosper."



#### AKINWUNMI ADESINA

President of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

66

"We are pleased to be a partner on this program that seeks to provide support to youth-led climate adaptation enterprises through capacity building and funding. This aligns with AfriLabs' vision of building a thriving innovation economy. These innovators are a testament to the immense potential and resilience of young Africans."



#### NANKO MADU

Director of Programmes, AfriLabs

Male

Fisheries & Aquaculture Female

Agriculture

#### YOUTH ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE 2022: PROFILES OF WINNERS

Mpatsa Engineering IRIBA Water Group LTD **Ecobarter** Akatale On Cloud Company Limited Kaveto Tjatjara Yvette Ishimwe Ulaya Mwale Frank Mugisha Rita Idehai Namibia Rwanda Malawi Uganda Nigeria South East South East West Male Female Male Male Female Sanitation Water Supply Water Supply Livestock Sanitation & Sanitation Farmer Lifeline Agroexpert **Green Impact** West African Feeds **Technologies Technologies** Rose Noah Nassim Ilmane Esther Kimani Joyce Sikwese Moussa Diouf Ghana Algeria Kenya Malawi Senegal West North South West East Female Male Female Female Male Agriculture Agriculture Agriculture Livestock Agriculture Grocircular Baramoda CassVita LONO **Agro Services** Reham Yehia Pelkins Ajanoh Mmakwena Moesi Noel N'guessan Rebecca Andeshi Cameroon Botswana Cote d'Ivoire Nigeria Egypt North West South West West Female Male Female Male Female Agriculture Agriculture Agriculture Agriculture Agriculture **Kisumeo Organics** AgriTech Analytics Limited Robin Ndungu Maryanne Gichanga Anna Ngwenyi Mafor Kenya Cameroon Kenya East East West

Female

Agriculture





-66

"I found the incubation process highly useful and transformative enough to prepare and propel us into the highly competitive entrepreneurial ecosystem in Cameroon particularly and Africa in general."



**SAKAH NSAIDZEDZE** 

66

"Starting this journey as a startup business owner has been both exciting and challenging. The incubation programme was an incredible learning experience for me and my team. In a span of 6 weeks, we were able to transform our business idea into a social enterprise that is aimed at making veterinary services accessible to animal owners through telemedicine.

We've made great progress in our product design, branding, and pitch deck creation. Also, attending the Afrilabs Annual Gathering in Lusaka, Zambia, was an opportunity to network and learn from other entrepreneurs. We are now focused on building our MVP and website, and we are excited to launch in April. We believe that with the right team, vision, and execution, we can make a significant impact in the veterinary industry and beyond."



YVONNE OGAH

Nigeria



# Projects Executed By AfriLabs in 2022 (By Sector)



Green Tech/ Renewable Energy/Smart Cities

| Smart Cities | Innovation | Programme. Afri-Plastics Challenge Long-Term Joint Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (LEAP-RE) International Development Research Centre-Centre for Research and Development Innovation (IDRC – CRDI) Empowering African Youth and Women Green Social Entrepreneurs Frugal Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Water 4.0 in Africa Project (FIUWA)



Climate change

Youth Adapt Francophone Accelerator Youth Adapt Challenge



African Union Civic Tech Fund (AUCTF) Virtual Accelerator Training

Civil Society and Media
Strengthened Together and
Advancing in New Direction
(CSM STAND)



AU Digital and Innovation Fellowship Program (AU Tech) Africa Mradi Powering Local Innovation African European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIHB) | Mozilla | Africa The World Food Programme (WFP) Impact Investing Agricultural Progress Measurement project



AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP)

Catalytic Africa

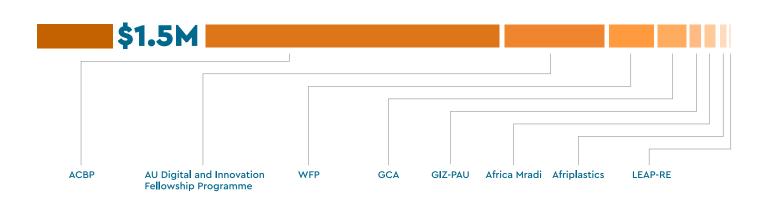
EdTech Hub

German Agency for International Cooperation, Pan African University (GIZ PAU) Incubation Programme

Youth Agency Marketplace (YOMA)

# AfriLabs has implemented 19 different programmes in the past 12 months which have had some direct impact

AfriLabs Project Funds In The Past 12 Years





166 Jobs and consultancy oportunities occupied by community members (Facilitators, mentors, and subject experts)

Over 400,000 Euros grant distribution and Startup investment in the past 12 months



Capacity building, learning opportunities & Organizational development.

**52 FACILITATORS** engaged on the AfriLabs capacity building programme

40 FACILITATORS engaged on the Afriplastics, AUCTF SCIP & AUTECH

41 MENTORS engaged on ACBP, AUTECH, Afriplastics & AUCTF

8 SUBJECT experts engaged on ACBP & UNDESA

13 Tech Innovators engaged on AUTECH

12 Hubs engaged on the UNFPA, SCIP and FIUWA

24 GRANTS WORTH 228,000 EUROS disbursed on the AfriLabs capacity building programmes

180,000 EUROS INVESTED INTO 2 STARTUPS on the Catalytic Africa Project.

OVER 900 INNOVATORS trained through the VMG and CBA programmes (ACBP)

82 INNOVATORS trained on Afriplastics, AUCTF, AUTECH, UNFPA and UNDESA

96 HUBS trained at the ACBP physical workshop (Douala, Cairo and Dakar)

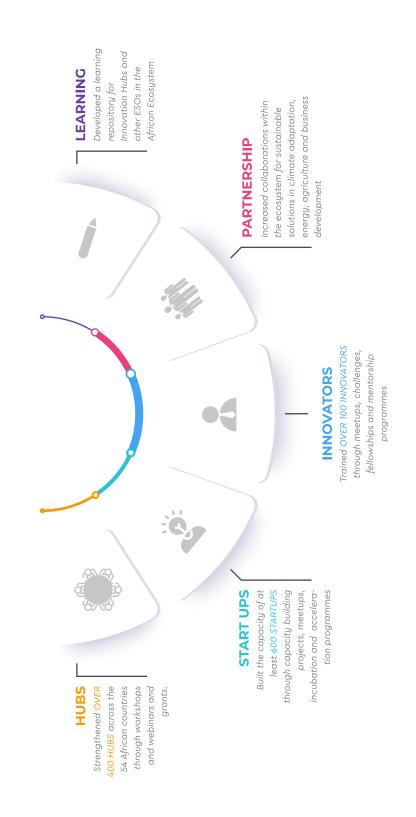
7 HUBS trained on AUCTF project

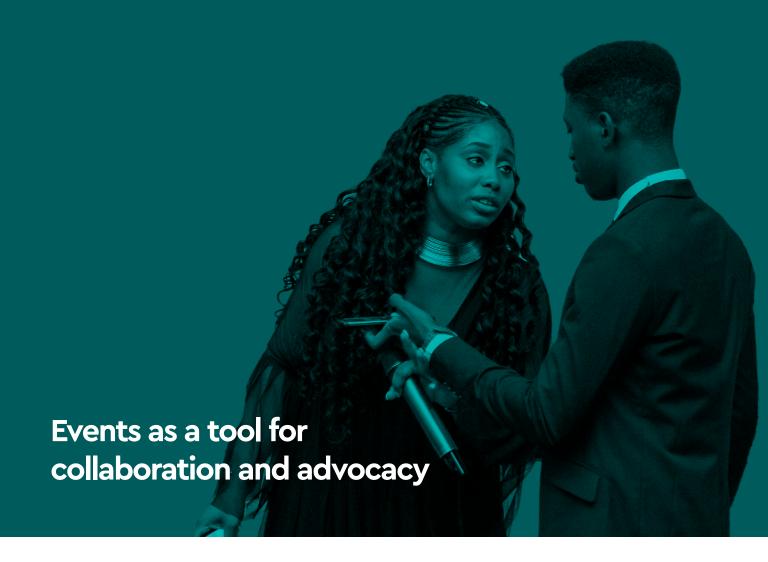
1200 INDIVIDUALS benefitted through the hub Learning Weeks series 6–8

192 INDIVIDUAL certified through the AfriLabs Academy

Improved operations of 10 AU ORGANS through deployed Tech Innovators

AfriLabs has implemented **19 different programmes** in the past **12 months** which have had some direct impact





Since the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, events across the world took new forms, leveraging digital and virtual innovations to recreate physical experiences. However, in 2022, we saw more on-site meetups as the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions ended, and the world returned to almost hundred percent normalcy.

AfriLabs organised more events and physical activities in the last year, compared to 2020 and 2021. This helped bring the community together, encouraged collaboration and knowledge sharing. We also had a couple of virtual events too that provided platforms for insightful dialogues on topics that affect the innovation economy in Africa and drive change in the same ecosystem.

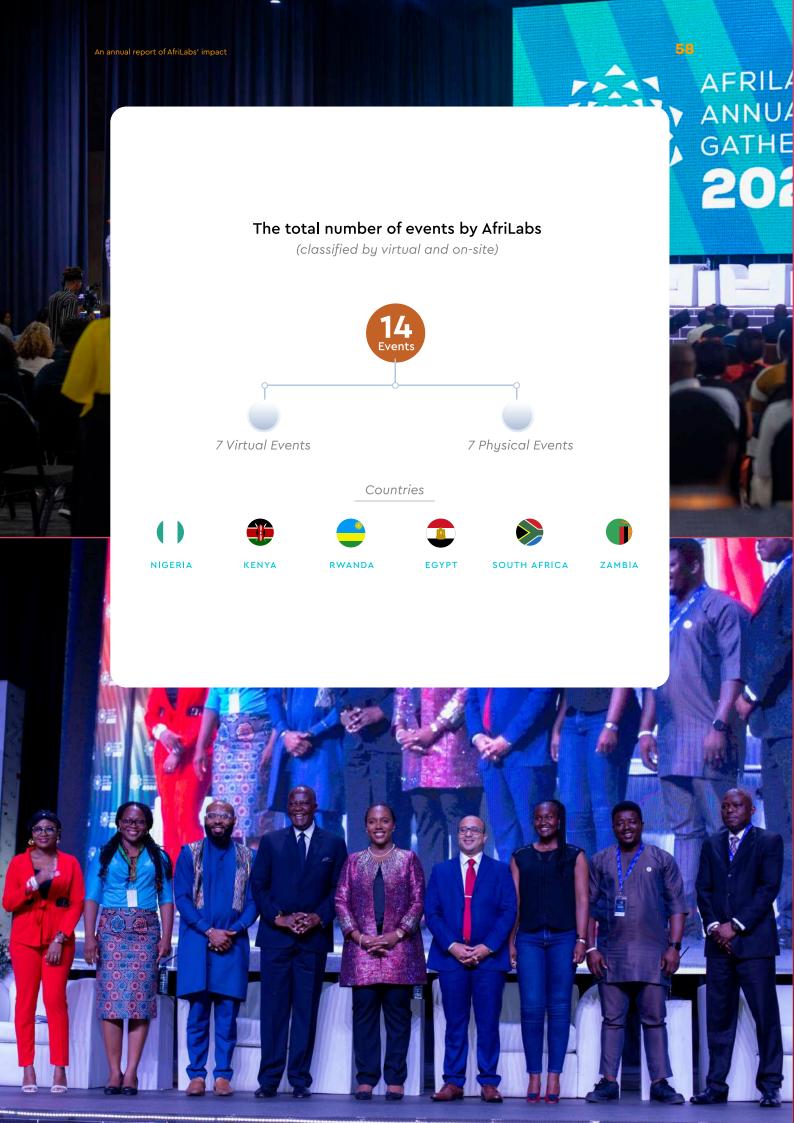


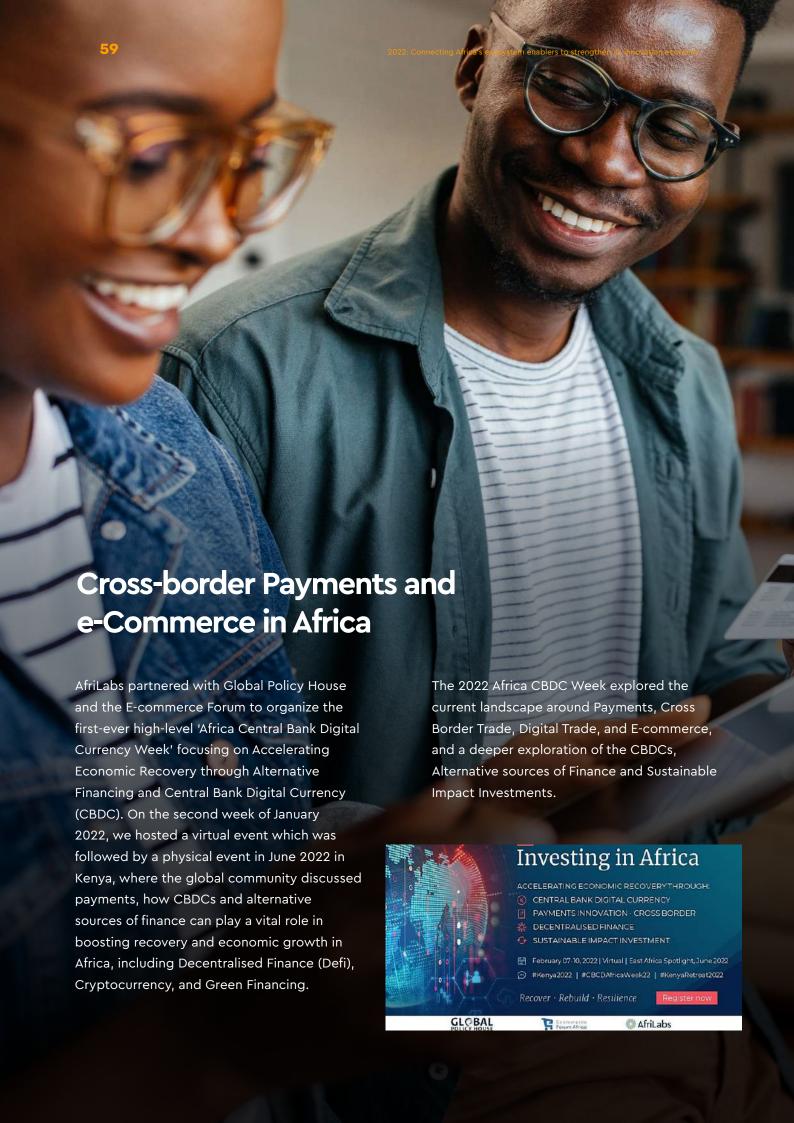
"In the last year, AfriLabs events have shifted from opportunities not only to convene the African technology and Innovation ecosystem but an avenue to build African Instituions through collaboration, stakeholder engagement, policy advocacy and Government engagement turning our events to become focal points for change in Africa."



#### JENNIFER OKEKE-OJIUDU

Senior Ecosystem Events Manager, AfriLabs





#### **AfriLabs Candid Conversations**

In 2020, AfriLabs launched the Candid Conversation series to allow the African Innovation Ecosystem stakeholders to have honest, open, and frank discussions on their first-hand experiences, perspectives, best practices, and challenges.

The AfriLabs Candid Conversation III was held on the 6th of May 2022, with the theme "Sexual Harassment; A Fight for change", the session was hosted by Nekesa Were and Moderated by Grace Oluchi and Kenechukwu Chukwu. It featured thought leaders such as Franciscah Nzanga, Yousif Yahya, Simunza S. Muyangana, Toun Tunde-Anjous and Itoro Emembolu. Hundreds of participants joined via Twitter Spaces and this edition was eye-opening.



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"A startup or an ecosystem culture that's going to fight sexual harassment has to encourage people to speak up. The rules and the bylaws that are in place by ventures are very important. Everybody has to read the rules in the handbook and also get one-on-one sessions with executives to learn and ask any questions that they have about anything that they see that stands out in the handbook. The handbook should be recreated each year with everybody on board with it. So then people feel a sense of ownership as they themselves have written this and have defined each and every single word."





"It must not necessarily be the person who is a victim of sexual harassment that speaks out. Since we promote a culture of transparency and a healthy work environment, we should encourage people to also speak out on behalf of others if they notice any kind of harassment."



KENECHUKWU OSAKWE
Former Member Service Manager, AfriLabs

"When it comes to creating a safe space for the organisation it goes beyond having just policies. While you can have very well-written and clear anti-sexual harassment policies and procedures if the organisational culture is off/wrong then the policy won't be effective. It is important for organisations to be able to match their policies and processes with the proper culture that speaks to a sense of zero tolerance for any form of harassment."



**FRANCISCAH NZANGA**Director Of Operations at Villgro Africa



#### **Lean Data Practices**

### to Future-Proof your Business

Mozilla in partnership with AfriLabs hosted a webinar themed "Lean Data Practices to Future proof Your Business" on the 22nd of June 2022. It featured speakers such as Professor Elijah Bitange Ndemo, Mercy Mutindi, Meshack Masibo and Noemie Hailu.



5.6

"It is very critical that we discuss the management of data going forward. We must start collecting our own data and use our own method of collection to validate them."



#### PROF. BITANGE NDEMO

Professor of Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences,

University of Nairobi, Kenya.



"It is really important for entrepreneurs, business owners, and managers to be aware of the data management obligations they have."



#### MERCY MUTINDI

Information Privacy Manager and an Advocate of the Court of Kenya.

# Zayed Sustainability Prize Roadshow

AfriLabs partnered with Djembe consultants and 250 Startups in Rwanda to host the Zayed Sustainability Prize roadshow. The Zayed Sustainability Prize is the UAE's pioneering global award for recognizing excellence in sustainability. It was hosted in Kigali, Rwanda in collaboration with AFriLabs and 250Startups on the 27th of June 2022.



#### **Pre-AAG** session:

# The Role of Innovation Hubs in the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa

This project was an AfriLabs Annual Gathering online build-up event, held on the 3rd of October, 2022. The webinar session was moderated by Jennifer Okeke-Ojiudu and the Panellists included; Mara Zhanet Michelo, Stephen Muraga and Lukonga Lindunda. The discussions explored the dynamic purposes of Innovation Hubs in the African context, especially from the perspective of the Zambian Ecosystem.





# **Building Intra-Africa Collaborations**

# at the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering is AfriLabs' flagship event that provides a unique opportunity for tech hubs within the AfriLabs network and other stakeholders of the African technology and innovation ecosystem (such as corporates, development agencies, academia, and investors) to convene, network, learn and share knowledge.

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2022 themed, "Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation" held from the 26th-28th of October 2022 at the Ciêla Resort, Lusaka, Zambia in collaboration with AfriLabs member huAbs consisting of Bongo Hive, Jacaranda Hub, NyamukAfrika and W.E.A.C.

The Gathering, which was the 7th edition of the event aimed at facilitating and fostering collaborations as well as innovations between African countries. It promoted conversations around the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) thereby highlighting the impact and need for a unified economy in Africa which will stimulate the emerging market economy of African nations.

The event had exciting and intriguing discussions through various panels and

workshops led by ecosystem support organisations consisting of GIZ Make-IT, Wylde International, Intel, Mozilla, International Trade Centre (ITC), and AfriLabs member hubs. There were also mainstage presentations from other partners such as Briter Bridges, the African Union under the AU Tech Fellowship and a fireside chat by Afreximbank. Through these activities, the Gathering proved to be a great opportunity for AfriLabs' partners to gain excellent visibility within Africa's innovation ecosystem.

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2022 also saw the launch of several initiatives such as AfriLabs Connect, Kubatana by AfriLabs Magazine Issue 2, AfriLabs policy pathways, Intel Deep Tech Report and the Pan-African Agri-Tech Consortium (P.A.A.C)



"We are here to drive collaboration across Africa but we need grassroot organizations and governments to come together to build an ecosystem".











# Beautiful memories from the Gathering include;

The AfriLabs Annual Gala themed "The African MetGala; Ultra Glam Africa" which took place on the 26th of October 2022 in partnership with the Ministry of Technology and Science, Zambia. It was aimed at showcasing the rich culture within the AfriLabs Network which consists of 400 technology and innovation hubs across 52 African countries. In line with AfriLabs tradition, the Annual Gala was a chance for our attendees to network, and enjoy local sights and sounds. The 2022 Gala dress code was an Haute Couture, ultra-glamorous African Attire.

AfriLabs also hosted its partners at a dinner to round up the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering. An intimate dinner to appreciate our partners' work with the organisation, receive feedback from their experiences working with AfriLabs and get recommendations that could be leveraged to better serve the ecosystem.

Dinner and Cocktail events hosted by the following hubs and organizations: VC4A, Madica, Bongo Hive, W.A.E.C.

The activities on the last day of the Gathering included a tour of the Zambian technology and innovation ecosystem where members of our community such as Bongo Hive, NyamukAfrica and W.A.E.C were visited. Zanaco was also visited during this tour.





# Initiatives Launched and Featured During the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2022

#### **AfriLabs Connect**

the pioneer ecosystem engagement platform that brings together the largest community of innovation enablers in Africa, ensuring synergy in the ecosystem.

#### **AfriLabs Academy**

is an initiative of AfriLabs and implemented under the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme designed to equip African Hub managers and staff with the training and management skills needed to improve their ability and capacity to support the growing number of startups and MSMEs in their communities.

#### Catalytic Africa

a matching fund by AfriLabs and African Business Angels Network (ABAN) aiming to strengthen African startups, innovation hubs and angel investors while delivering impact results to institutional funders.

#### Kubatana Magazine Issue 2

In the last half of 2021, AfriLabs created an Annual Magazine named Kubatana which means 'togetherness' in the Shona language of Zimbabwe. This is a comprehensive compilation of the latest developments from the AfriLabs community, other African innovation leaders, organisations, ecosystem stories in Africa and the Diaspora.

#### **AfriLabs Policy Pathways**

AfriLabs launched an innovation policy pathways document to advise African governments and other

stakeholders on the best approach to creating an enabling environment for innovation.

#### **Intel Deep Tech Report**

The report launched at the AAG 2022 exploring startups, corporates, investors, events, and hubs across the African deep-tech ecosystem. AfriLabs signed a partnership agreement in May 2022 with Intel Corporation.

#### PAAC

Pan African Agritech Consortium led by Zixtech HUB with 8 founding members. PAAC was unveiled during the AfriLabs Agritech Workshop in Lusaka to bring structure and shared values to Agritech in Africa.

#### Mozilla Lean Data Practices

Lean data practices (or LDP) are flexible frameworks for advancing privacy, security, and innovation within organisations of various sizes and across various industries. Mozilla is excited to bring the LDP learnings to Africa hoping to reach more people through their self-paced LDP courses.

#### Becoming a Private Pilot in 120 days

Braniz and Lloyds Aviation in association with AfriLabs provides aviation training programmes digitally and physically through its partnership with Newcastle Aerodrome and other partners in the aviation industry to bridge the technical and talent gap in the aviation industry in Africa promoting the spirit of the AAG22 Theme "Intra-Africa Connectivity, Collaboration and Innovation"

#### Madica platform launch

Flourish Ventures, a global venture capital firm investing in mission-driven fintech entrepreneurs, announced the launch of affiliate Madica, a structured investment program for pre-seed stage technology companies in Africa. Over the next three years, Madica seeks to back 25–30 African entrepreneurs with up to \$200,000 each, coupled with multi-year programmatic support.

#### **AfriLabs Partners Dinner**

AfriLabs hosted its pioneer partners at a dinner to round up the 2022 AfriLabs Annual Gathering. An intimate dinner to appreciate our partners' work with the organisation, receive feedback from their experiences working with AfriLabs and get recommendations that could be leveraged to better serve the ecosystem.



"Ubuntu is why we are here, collaboration will reduce your weakness; learn from others and open doors of opportunities".



#### PAUL MBUA

Founder and CEO, Zixtech Hub



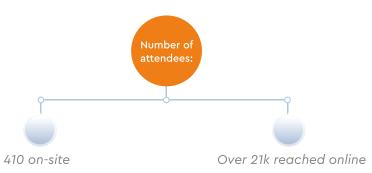
"AfriLabs has truly become an institution of innovation in Africa. Our value proposition has become even stronger".



#### TAKUNDA CHINGONZO

Former Board Member, AfriLabs

#### AFRILABS ANNUAL GATHERING 2022 REACH



#### From 41 countries all over the world,

where all regions in Africa where duly represented.

#### SECTORS/STAKEHOLDER GROUPS REPRESENTED



Corporates

Development Agencies



Government Officials



Entrepreneurs



Hub Managers



Investors



# **AfriLabs Academy:**

### First ever E-Learning platform for Innovation Enablers in Africa

Innovation hubs in Africa are key structures in enabling tech and entrepreneurship which provide scalable solutions to Africa's core economic and social problems. However, some of these hubs require support to help them function at full capacity. In 2020, AfriLabs under the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme undertook a Needs Assessment to identify the needs of Enterprise Support Organisations (ESOs) and innovation hubs across Africa.

The AfriLabs Academy is a knowledge repository for Innovation hubs and Entrepreneurial Support Organisations (ESOs) across Africa and has been specially designed to equip African



"The Needs Assessment report established a need for a comprehensive harmonized ESOs curriculum framework that addresses the skills and business development gaps as well as their financial sustainability. The AfriLabs Academy addresses the skills and knowledge gap"



hubs with the needed skills and training to support African startups and MSMEs in their communities.

The Academy is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the Digital Africa seed fund. The content on the platform

was designed by experts across the African Innovation ecosystem. Some contributions were made by the African Business Angel Network (ABAN) and this entire content was reviewed, ratified and certified by Strathmore University, Kenya.

#### The AfriLabs Academy Courses Are Divided into 4 Categories



#### **Common Modules**

**CM1** –Innovatin Ecosystem Lifecycle

CM2 -Innovation Hub Lifecycle

CM3 - Developing a Hub Business Plan

**CM4** - Management of innovation Hubs



#### Early Stage Hub Modules

EM1 - Supporting Successful Ventures

**EM2** - Product development

**EM3** –Fundraising for early stage Ventures



#### Growth Stage Hub Modules

- **G1** –Business Model Evolution Growth and Expansion
- **G2** Validation of Product Market Fit
- **G3** Sustainable Business Partnership
- **G4** Global Entrepreneurship Landscape
- **G5** –Fundraising for Growth Stage Ventures



#### Scale Up Stage Hub Modules

- **\$1** -Business Expansion for Scale up Ventures
- **\$2** Product Evolution
- **\$3** Corporate Structures
- **S4** Fundraising for Scale Up Ventures
- **\$5** Establishing and Executing Exit Strategies

"The AfriLabs Academy focuses on the realities and challenges of African hubs and startups, and its modules were developed by Africans and are very practical for the African Innovation Ecosystem. This is aligned with AfriLabs' mission in building the capacity of hubs across the continent."

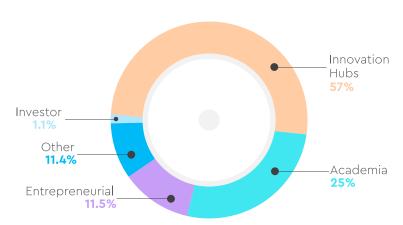
# MOETAZ HELMY Board Chair, AfriLabs

"The AfriLabs Academy is a reflection of our commitment to making better entrepreneurs for tomorrow. This is exciting because it tells us that together as a community, we can really achieve a lot together. There was a lot of effort put in, to make sure the content was not just educational but also very interactive."

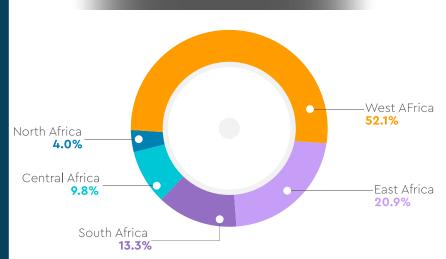
# REBECCA ENONCHONG former Board Chair of AfriLabs

#### **ACADEMY LEARNERS USERS PERSON**

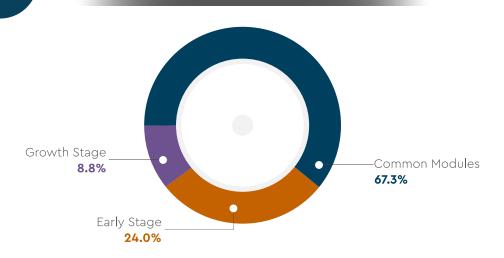
July - February 2023

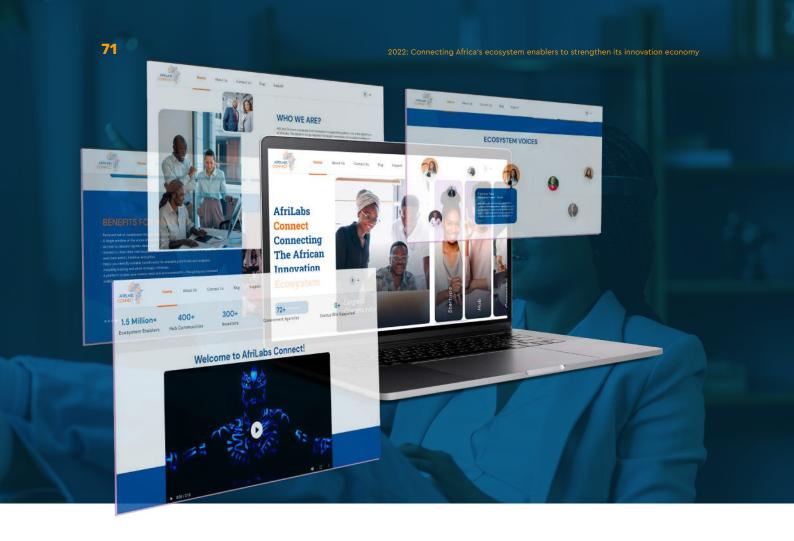


#### **REGIONAL SPREAD**



#### **CERTIFICATES PER MODULES**





# **Connecting the African Innovation Ecosystem**

## on AfriLabs Connect

AfriLabs has launched a digital ecosystem engagement platform – called AfriLabs Connect – to empower the African innovation ecosystem to thrive, accelerate and transform the world. It was unveiled to stakeholders during the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2022. AfriLabs Connect is the digital face of AfriLabs and brings together the largest community of innovation enablers in Africa.

Founded to be the solution to the challenges of manually operating the vast AfriLabs network, AfriLabs Connect unites all the stakeholders of the African innovation, technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem digitally to connect, collect, share, collaborate, measure, meet Key Performance Indicators individually and collectively on the web. It provides support



"Catalyzing economic growth, development, and transformation through innovation is at the core of AfriLabs' mission. With the launch of AfriLabs Connect, we are excited to bring the largest community of African innovation enablers together digitally to empower them to accelerate and transform the world."



#### AJIBOLA ODUKOYA

Chief Operating Officer, AfriLabs

and positions with the African technology, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem as catalyzers for economic growth, development, and transformation while providing easy

access to opportunities. It intends to build upon lessons learned by AfriLabs over the years and leverage the unique competitive advantages that each stakeholder group has to offer in order to build a more vibrant pan-African ecosystem.

The platform links startups, hubs, investors, academia, development agencies, corporate organisations, governments and the like on a one-stop domain. By presenting a single window of the entire African Innovation Ecosystem, AfriLabs Connect helps to reduce the risk of investment by providing clean data that becomes the foundation to analyse, interpret and plan the next best action, initiative and policy.

There are benefits to joining this platform. From improved brand visibility across the ecosystem to unparalleled access to viable opportunities for growth, among others, the platform provides a

vast array of advantages to every stakeholder in the ecosystem.

In the short time since its launch, hundreds have signed up. Join them by signing up here: www. africonnect.net.

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"Technology can be used as tool to enable ease of achieving ones goal, We at AfriLabs are leveraging on this tool to improve the innovation ecosystem in Africa by creating a digital platform that brings all Innovation stakeholder under one roof for the purpose of collaboration and creating a more thriving innovation economy in Africa"





Stakeholder Types

# **Telling Our Stories**

## through Kubatana Magazine by AfriLabs

After the successful distribution of physical and digital versions of Issue 1 of Kubatana Magazine by AfriLabs, we launched a second issue during the AfriLabs Annual Gala at Lusaka, Zambia.

The Kubatana by AfriLabs magazine tells real-life stories of the struggles, aspirations, inspirations and achievements of a vibrant community of innovators, investors, hubs and other stakeholders in the innovation economy across the African continent.



It documents the strides and impact of Africans who are solving Africa's problems. The magazine aggregates the narratives of members of the African innovation ecosystem, reveals the challenges we face in our search for solutions, and amplifies the impact that we accomplish through the power of our togetherness.

#### Kubatana Issue 1 & 2

(Jan 2022 - December 2022)



Reads:

**32.1**k



Unique readers (online):

1.4k



Physical prints shared:

**501** 



"Kubatana by AfriLabs Magazine is more than just a publication; it's a powerful vehicle for documenting and amplifying the voices of Africa's innovation ecosystem, showcasing the struggles and successes of a community that is committed to solving Africa's challenges together."





"At AfriLabs, we believe in the power of togetherness to drive innovation and progress in Africa. That's why we're thrilled to launch Kubatana, our annual magazine highlighting the incredible work of ecosystem builders across the continent. Through guest articles, interviews, and innovation space showcases, Kubatana showcases the latest developments in the African innovation landscape and celebrates the achievements of our community."



# 2023: Building a community that fuels Africa's digital economy

Closing note by Moetaz Helmy, Board Chair, AfriLabs

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am thrilled to share with you our vision for the future. As we continue to build a community that fuels Africa's digital economy, we are more determined than ever to lead the way in shaping the tech ecosystem on the continent.

The African tech scene is rapidly evolving, and the opportunities for growth and innovation are endless. However, to fully realize this potential, we must focus on building a strong foundation for the future. This means investing in our people, infrastructure, and policies that support innovation and entrepreneurship.

At AfriLabs, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of innovation leaders. We will continue to provide training, mentorship, and resources to our member organizations to ensure they have the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the digital age.

We will also work closely with policymakers and other stakeholders to create an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. This includes advocating for policies that support the growth of the tech ecosystem, promoting collaboration among key players, and leveraging partnerships to increase access to capital and resources.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of Africa's digital economy. We believe that by building a strong community of innovators, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders, we can unlock the full potential of Africa's tech ecosystem and drive sustainable economic growth across the continent.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work towards this vision.

Sincerely,

Moday felmy Board Chair, Afrilabs





#### An annual report of AfriLabs' impact

2022: Connecting Africa's ecosystem enablers to strengthen its innovation economy

www.afrilabs.com