



**Network of Technology and
Innovation Hubs Across
Africa**



AFRILABS

The role of tech hubs enabling startups by providing access to training and networking could be more important than raising money

Rebecca Enonchong

Board Chair, AfriLabs



Who We Are

AfriLabs, a network organization that supports over 200 Innovation Centers across 47 African countries, was founded in 2011 to build a community around the rapidly emerging technology hubs in Africa.

These 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.



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What We See

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

How We Are Getting There

By supporting 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.



Our Vision and Mission



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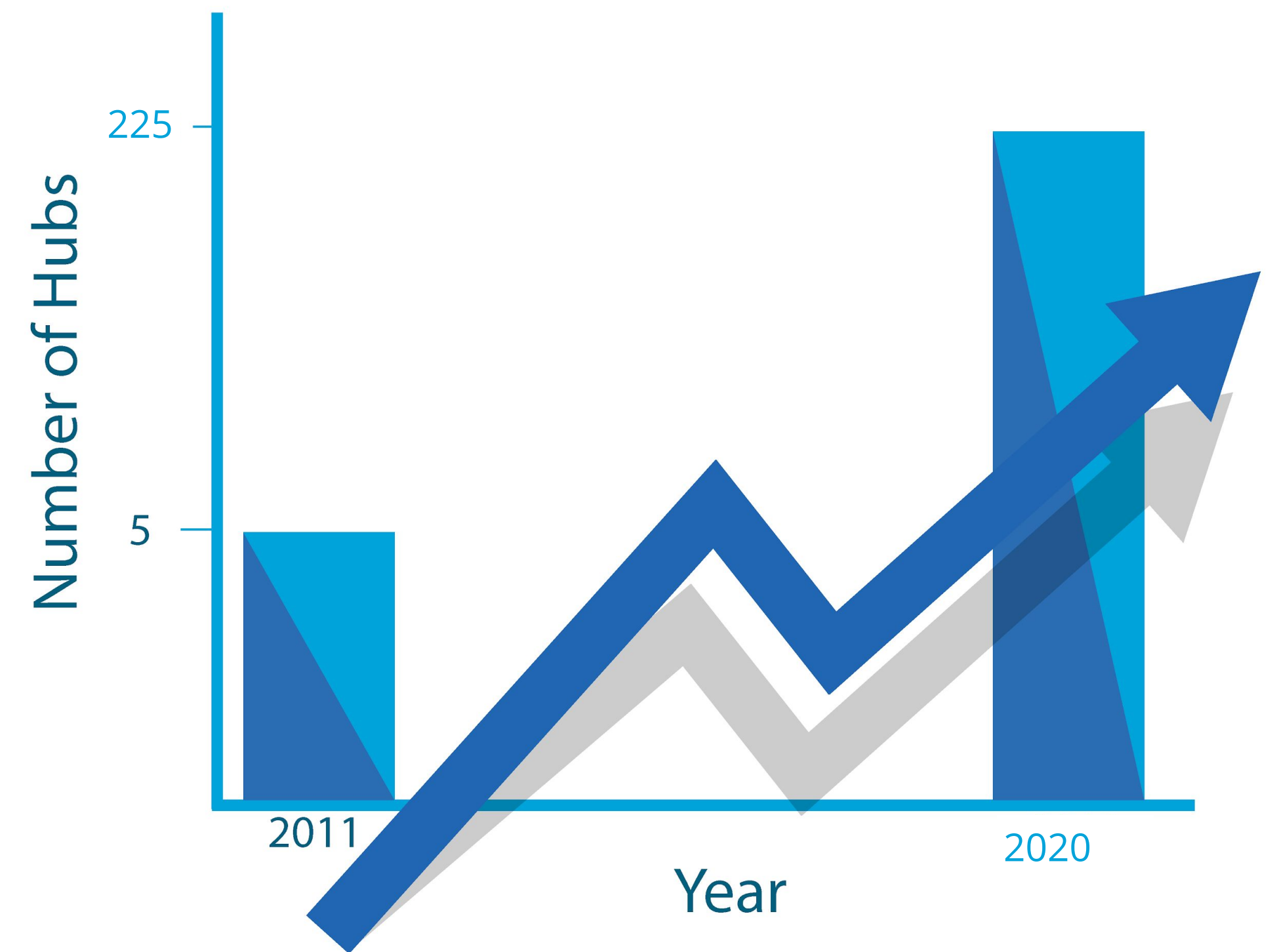
Our Community



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Our Growing Numbers

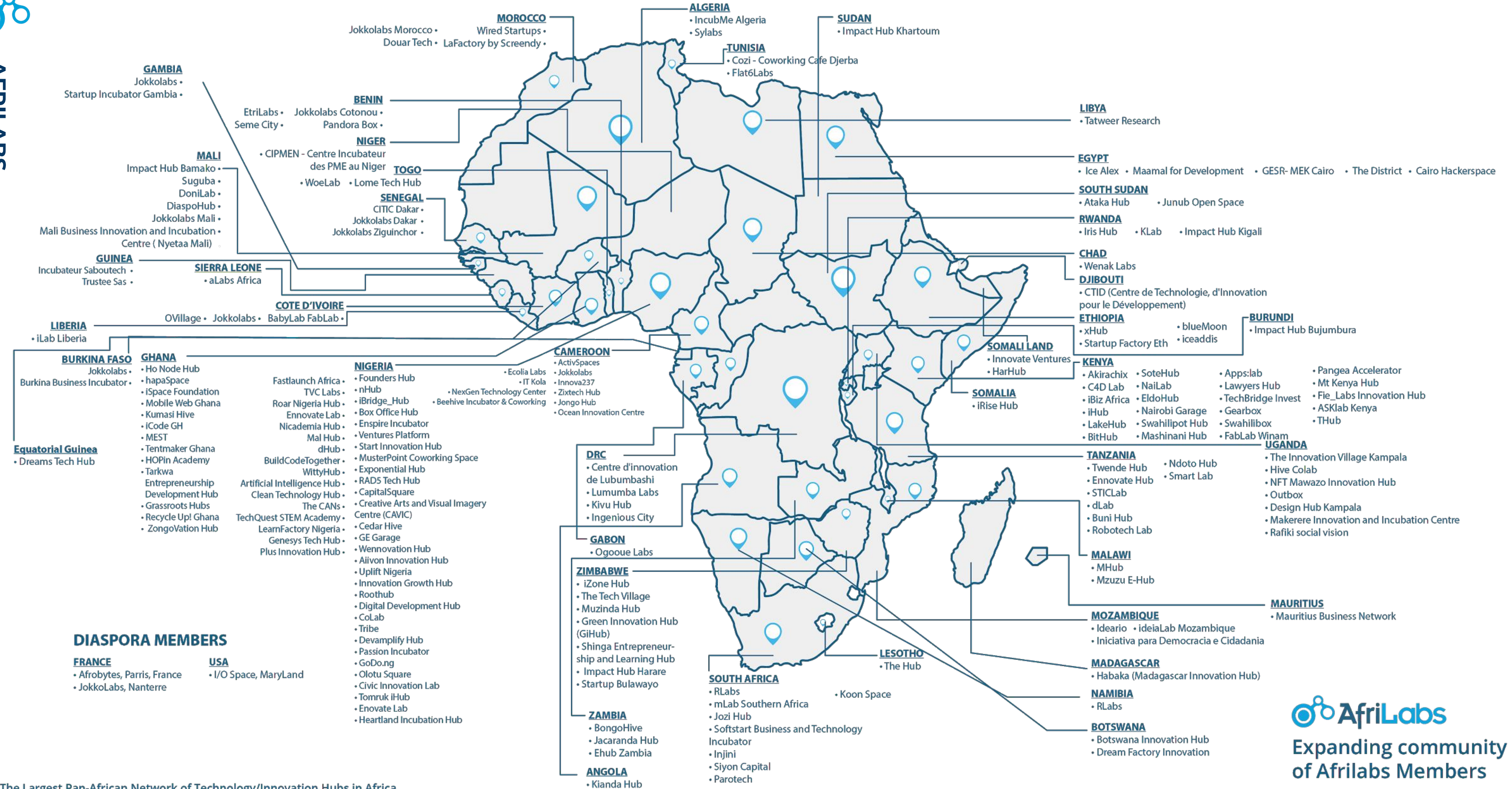
AfriLabs was founded in 2011 with 5 hubs from across 4 African countries. We have grown to 225 hubs across 47 African countries in 2020 with a larger community of over 1 million entrepreneurs, innovators and startups across Africa.





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AFRILABS NETWORK MEMBERS ACROSS AFRICA



The Largest Pan-African Network of Technology/Innovation Hubs in Africa

 **AfriLabs**
Expanding community
of Afrilabs Members



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How We Engage and Impact the AfriLabs Community

Capacity Building

Webinars, Workshops & Resources to increase Hub impact and sustainability

Events

Ecosystem events to convene, network and foster collaboration

Policy Advocacy

Support policy advocacy activities for innovation and entrepreneurship



Talent & Research

Provision of talent, research data and impact assessment through Academic Partnerships

Partnerships

Provision of partnerships, funding and technical support opportunities for hubs and startups



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Active Programmes and Partnerships



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1. AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP)



Training

- 30 Physical workshops in 15 convening African cities.
- Full Hub Management Certification Course in partnership with a major African University



Funding

- Capacity building awards (15,000 euros per selected hub)
- SDG and COVID-19 meetup grants (2,000 euros per selected hub)



Hubs Learning Week

- 12 Quarterly Hubs Learning Weeks - a series of peer to peer virtual capacity building webinars.



Certification

- Full Hub Management Certification Course in partnership with a major African University

This project is carried out thanks to AFD's support through the Digital Africa seed fund.



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Building Capacity in Tech Hubs

Over the years, AfriLabs has carried out research on African hub needs, capacity gaps and best practices. Based on these research, AfriLabs designs and runs a series of initiatives targeting hubs. These initiatives have now been updated and expanded into the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP), 2m euro capacity building project, being implemented thanks to Agence Française de Développement (AFD)'s support through the Digital Africa seed fund.

We are confident that strengthening hubs will have a multiplier effect and contribute to growing the African innovation ecosystem while increasing the percentage of successful and investment-ready startups on the continent.

Visit www.afrilabs-capacity.com for more information.

Key activities include:

- 30 Physical workshops in 15 convening African cities.
- 12 Quarterly Hubs Learning Weeks - a series of peer to peer virtual capacity building webinars
- Full Hub Management Certification Course in partnership with a major African University
- Hubs-in-Residence at AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2020 and 2021
- Toolkits on business development and investment management
- SDG meetup grants (2,000 euros per selected hub)
- Capacity building awards (15,000 euros per selected hub)
- Travel sponsorship for hubs in residence program, physical workshops, etc.



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Hubs Learning Week

The AfriLabs Hubs Learning Week is a series of capacity building virtual workshops that empower innovation and hub managers and staff with requisite and formal incubation management training and skills needed to start, operate and expand hubs/innovation centres in Africa. This activity is carried out under the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP) supported by the AFD through the Digital Africa seed fund.

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CAPACITY BUILDING
PROGRAMME (ACBP)

Powered by:  AFD  AfriLabs

2020 AfriLabs Hubs Learning Week

SERIES 1

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

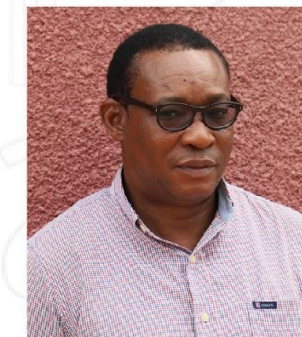
Facilitators



MIMSHACH OBIOHA
Executive Director of Ventures
Platform Foundation



MARA ZHANET MICHELO
Jacaranda Hub Founder &
Country Director



PONCELET ILELEJI
Lead at Jokkalabs Banjul



MODUPE ODUNYEMI
Founder of CapitalSquare
Workspace Solutions



ALFREDO CUANDA
Founder and CEO, IDEÁRIO
Hub

REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTP://BIT.LY/2020LEARNINGWEEK](http://bit.ly/2020learningweek)

11AM GMT DAILY

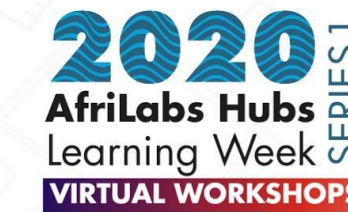
30 MARCH 2020 - 3 APRIL 2020

📍 WEBINAR JAM

COVID-19 and SDGs Meetup Grants

Each of the 12 Hubs Learning Weeks under the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP) will feature webinars focused on stakeholder management and ecosystem community engagement..

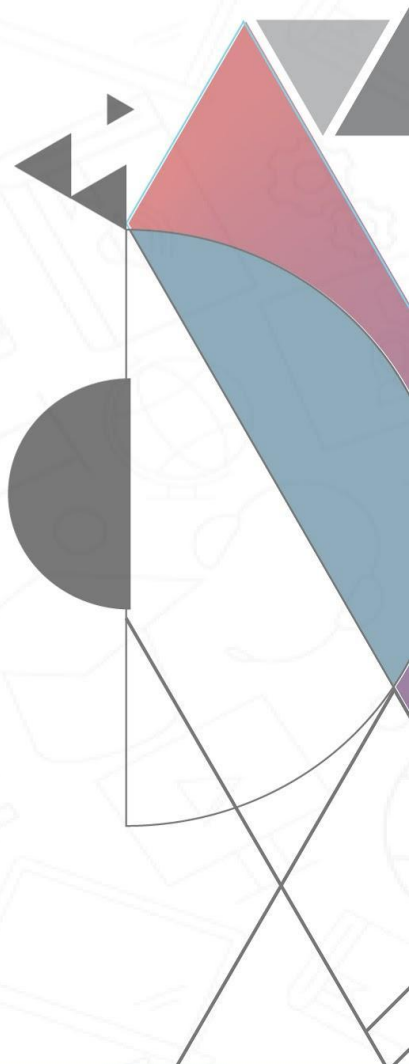
After these specific webinars, applications for submission of meetup ideas tailored to implementing the lessons learned from the webinars will be accepted and successful hubs will be awarded 2,000 euros each to execute the SDG Meetups in their respective cities. During the course of the ACBP, the top 36 submissions (one per city) across the 12 Learning Weeks will be granted 2,000 euros each to execute the SDG Meetups.



Powered by:  

Congrats to the
3 winners *of*

€ 2000 grant to host Virtual SDG and COVID-19 Meetups.

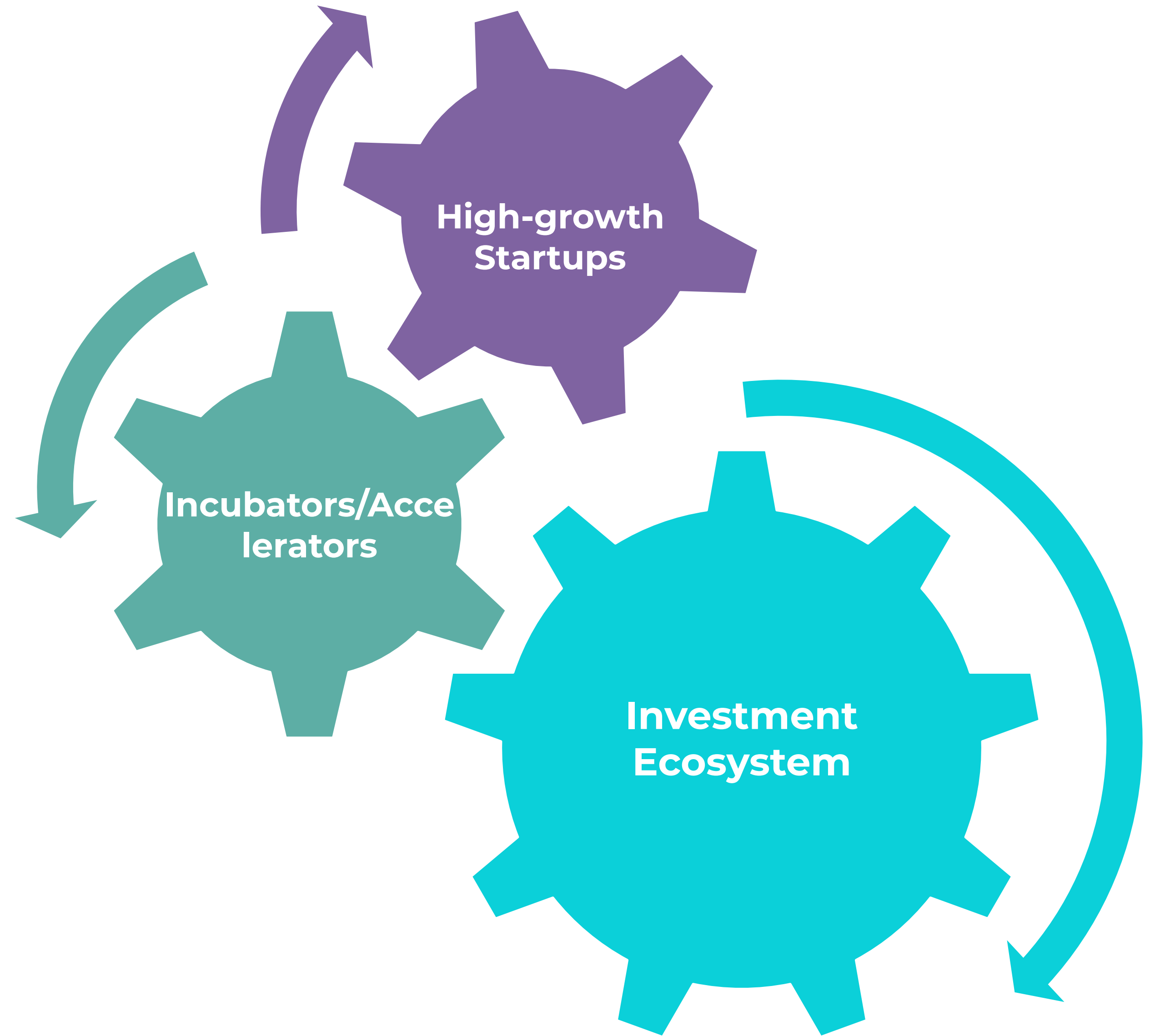




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2. Catalyst

Investing in high-growth startups while enhancing the capacity of the investment ecosystem.



In partnership with African
Business Angel Network

ABAN
african business angel network



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Funding for a more sustainable African Startup Ecosystem

The Catalyst Program is a cross-stakeholder initiative of AfriLabs in conjunction with (African Business Angels Network) ABAN that aims to strengthen entrepreneurs and startups, hubs and angel investors, while delivering impact results to institutional funders.

The Catalyst Program raises funds (debt or grant) from various institutional partners to add to a pool. This pool serves as a matching or co-investment fund to encourage investment in viable AfriLabs-affiliated startups by verified angel investors. The criteria for accessing fund from this pool are as follows.

- Affiliation with hubs that are members of the AfriLabs Network. These hubs will help to administer and track use/impact of the investments.
- Offer of investment from investors affiliated to angel networks that are members of ABAN.

These investors are encouraged to invest because their investment is doubled/matched and hubs help to track/monitor their investment.

The success of this initiative will lead to:

- More African startups that are better funded and are better monitored
- Hubs that are able to attract and retain quality startups and a viable hub sustainability model
- Angel investors who are able to invest in a larger portfolio, de-risked significantly by the monitoring and reporting from the hubs
- Better visibility, transparency and objective impact reporting for the funders.
- Overall stronger, more sustainable African startup ecosystem.



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3. The Global EdTech Hub

EdTechHub



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Meet the EdTech Hub

The EdTech Hub is a collaboration between the Overseas Development Institute, Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, Results for Development, Open Development and Education, Brink, Jigsaw Consult, BRAC, AfriLabs, and eLearning Africa.

Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) - *formerly DFID*, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The EdTech Hub seeks to help improve education technology in developing countries. AfriLabs is a regional partner of The EdTech Hub.

The EdTech Hub aims to accelerate progress toward ending the global learning crisis by increasing the use of evidence to inform decision-making about education technology.

The EdTech Hub will synthesize existing evidence, conduct new research, support innovations to scale, and provide advisory support to governments and other country partners.

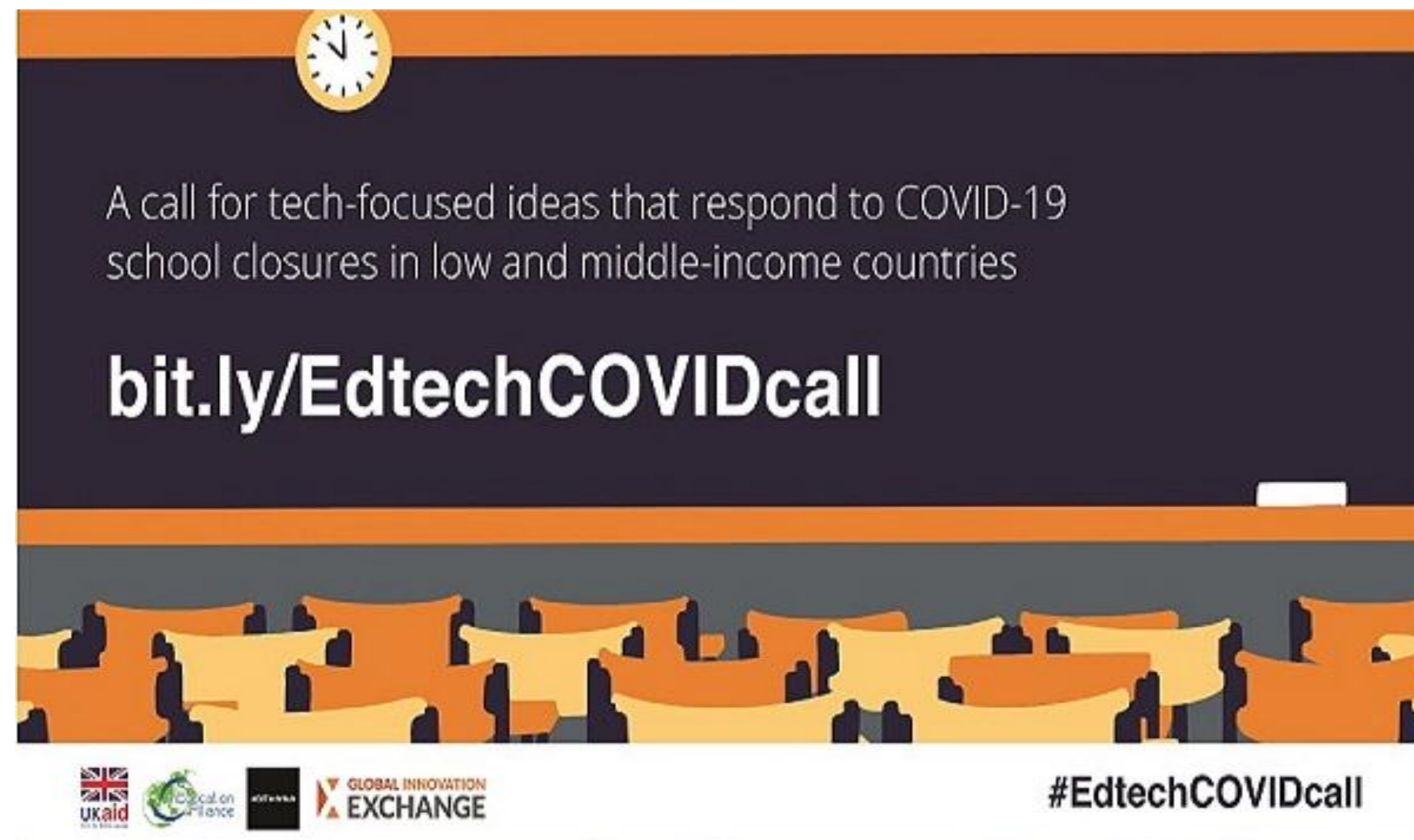


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EDTech COVID Call

As part of the EDEtech Hub, we launched a call for tech-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low- and middle-income countries.

Selected applicants were invited to virtual EdTech Pitch Days with a global network of potential funders, support in adapting and scaling in response to COVID-19, and connections for onward collaboration and funding.





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4. Rapid Analysis of Innovation Response (RAIR) to COVID-19 Pandemic (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa)





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Understanding the impact of COVID-19

AfriLabs in partnership with the KTN Global Alliance are working on a rapid analysis of challenges, impact and innovation response to COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, with a focus on Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The aim of the analysis is to inform an intending support from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) - *formerly DFID* and the KTN Global Alliance to innovation systems in Africa to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to provide lessons and best practices to strengthen the innovation response to future crises. This analysis is to be completed in July.

KTN Global Alliance  AfriLabs

Have your say in the rapid analysis of innovation responses to the **COVID-19** pandemic in Africa.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with your input:

<http://bit.ly/KTNAfriLabsSurvey> 



Innovate UK





5. COVIDaction



Supporting Innovative Responses to the impact of COVID-19

COVIDaction, a partnership between Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) - *formerly DFID* Frontier Technology Hub, Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub), UCL Institute of Healthcare Engineering will be working to build a technology and innovation pipeline to support action related to the COVID pandemic, with a focus on Africa.





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6. Project Rollo



Rollo

Future of African SMEs

Supported by the UNDP and Africa Union.

A case for new support models

African Entrepreneurship Ecosystem have grown fast in the last decade in many industries. However, the support system models for small businesses have always been inspired and developed from outside the continent. Support systems like coworking spaces, incubators, hackathons, and accelerators normally address and fit only formal businesses that have a different level of maturity, different macro and micro-economics and different market outlooks and different investments needs. For the last few years, we noticed that African businesses need a new model that respects the local context, level of maturity, background and local education, growth of business, and response to local risk and crises. This was clear when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affected Small African Businesses and the ecosystem shutdown.

Project Rollo is a capacity building program dedicated to supporting Medium and Small African Enterprises facing challenges to survive after the COVID-19 outbreak and to provide evidence-based policy guidance on the most impactful stimulus packages and the creation of new support models using evidence-based data gathered through the innovative Rollo21 simulation model on MSMEs.



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Past Projects



2011-2018

- Virtual Incubation across East Africa - InfoDev (2013)
- Digital Job Challenge to identify enterprises that create digital jobs - Rockefeller (2014)
- Crowdfunding Bootcamps in South Africa & Kenya - 1% Club (2015)
- Tech Hubs and Social Innovation in Africa - Open Society Initiative for West Africa (2015)
- Microsoft training for entrepreneurs in Ghana and Nigeria on the use of Microsoft Azure and BizSpark - Microsoft4Afrika (2016 and 2017)
- Facebook Innovation Challenge to engage innovation labs and developers in its Internet.org - Facebook (2016 and 2017)
- ICT4SI West Africa Workshop to provide a platform for cross sector collaboration across various sectors - SPIDER (2017)
- YAS Activation Program to promote the YAS! (Youth for Africa and SDGs) portal - UNDP (2018)
- Capacity Building Webinars informing innovation hubs in AfriLabs network about clients's products or services that are of benefits - IBM, Amazon and World Bank (2018)
- The Next Economy Project, a 3 year programme aimed at training and inspiring 4200 youths in Mali, Nigeria and Somalia through capacity building and events - 1%Club (2016-2018)



2019-Date

- AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme (ACBP) - Development phase with AFD, Digital Africa, Afric’Innov, Strathmore University and ABAN
- The Global EdTech Hub with The University of Cambridge, The Overseas Development Institute, Results for Development, Brink, Jigsaw, Open Development and Education, INJINI, e-Learning Africa and BRAC.
- The Catalyst, a programme to support the African startup ecosystem while addressing the various gaps associated with funding for startups. Development phase with ABAN.
- Hub Academy, an initiative which aims to provide a learning platform to AfriLabs member hubs, so that, they may offer training and upskilling support to their communities. Development phase with Liquid Telecoms.
- Open Database, an Open Data platform for the African entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem linked to Pan-African, regional and national economic goals and development agendas such as the SDG and Agenda 2063 goals, and is optimised for further supporting economic and development growth in Africa. Development phase with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).



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Ecosystem Insights



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AfriLabs-Briter Bridges Innovation Ecosystem Report

In 2019, AfriLabs and Briter Bridges conducted a quantitative and qualitative study of a hundred hubs in Africa. The study gives insights into the role of tech hubs in the African Innovation/Startup Ecosystem. Read full report [here](#).

BUILDING A CONDUCTIVE SETTING FOR INNOVATORS TO THRIVE

A QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF A HUNDRED HUBS ACROSS AFRICA

October 2019

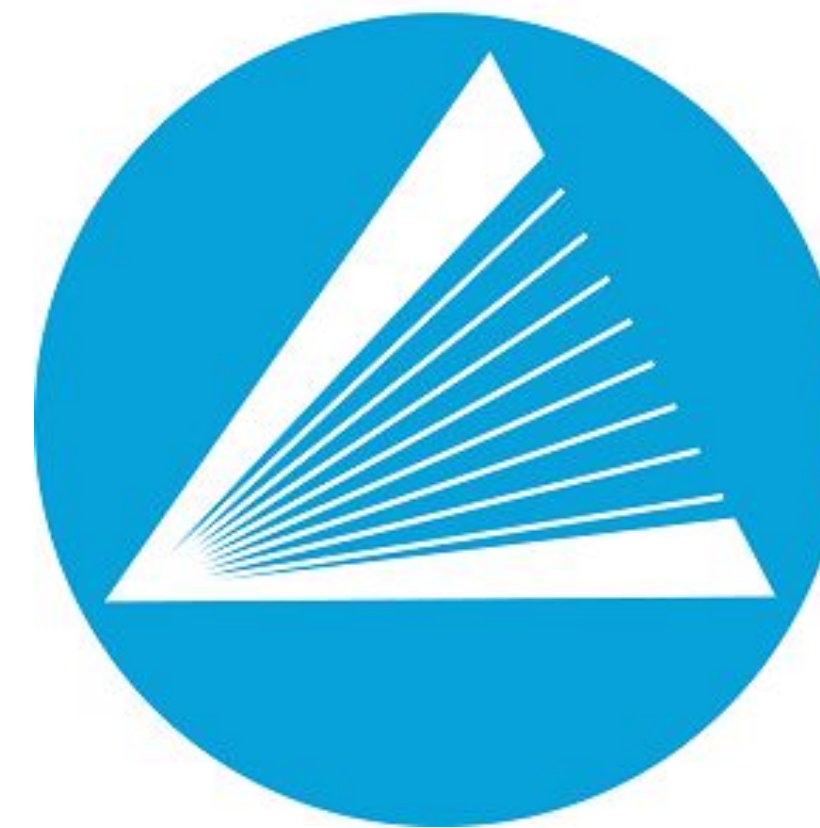
BY AFRILABS AND BRITER BRIDGES



AfriLabs Capacity Building Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was carried out to ascertain the specific needs of ESOs, entrepreneurs and investors in order to better target support and interventions on the AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme. The outcome of the assessment revealed trends and insights on issues bordering the success of ESOs, entrepreneurs, and investors in the African ecosystem as well as recommendations on how to change the narrative moving forward.

To be published on www.afrilabs-capacity.com in October, 2020.



**AFRILABS
CAPACITY
BUILDING
PROGRAMME**



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AfriLabs and Djembe Consultants Insights Report on Building a Resilient Innovative Africa in a COVID-19 World

AfriLabs and Djembe Consultants developed a report on the future of African innovation amidst a backdrop of a global pandemic. The Report is themed 'Building a Resilient Innovative Africa' in line with the focus of the 5th AfriLabs Virtual Annual Gathering from October 12 to 14, 2020.

The Report will cover trends and opportunities in technology and enterprise, the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the framing of a regional policy discussion around African innovation – crucial dialogues in the quest towards realizing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the region-wide socio-economic objectives set out in the African Union Agenda 2063 in the post-COVID economy. Download the report [here](#).



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AfriLabs and Mozilla Roundtables With African Innovation Ecosystem Stakeholders

Mozilla and AfriLabs will be launching exploratory research in the form of round table discussions to better understand the ecosystem, explore and identify new product ideas that solve real-life issues. The discussions will be hosted as part of Mozilla's efforts to reinvest within the African tech ecosystem and support local innovators with scalable ideas that have the potential to impact across the continent. Read more about the initiative [here](#).

Information from these roundtables are to be published in 2020.



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Events



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1. AfriLabs Annual Gathering In Africa

[The AfriLabs Annual Gathering](#) provides a unique opportunity for hubs in the AfriLabs network and other stakeholders in the African tech ecosystem to convene, network, share knowledge around a common theme and build partnerships.

The Annual Gathering was held in Ghana in 2016, in Egypt in 2017, in Tanzania in 2018 and in Ethiopia in 2019 which brought together over 500 key stakeholders of the African technology, innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem from the public and private sectors, to network and share knowledge.

[The 5th Afrilabs Annual Gathering](#) to be held on 12th to 14th October 2020, will become the first virtual edition of the Afrilabs Annual Gathering. Our decision is informed by advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), as well as leading global and local health authorities.





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2019 AfriLabs Annual Gathering

The 4th Edition of the AfriLabs Annual Gathering held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26-28 October 2019. In partnership with the Africa Union, the Gathering focused on connecting players of the African innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, which includes hubs, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, academia, venture capitalists, development agencies, investors, governments as well as business development organisations, creatives amongst others. Over 350 leaders and decision makers of these stakeholder groups were present and new initiatives for the African Tech Ecosystem were launched. They include the Catalyst, AfriLabs Capacity Building Programme and EdTech Hub.



THE AFRILABS
ANNUAL GATHERING 2020



BUILDING A
**RESILIENT
INNOVATIVE
AFRICA**

NOW VIRTUAL

12TH - 14TH OCT 2020



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2. Virtual Dialogue Series

These are online panel sessions where leaders of the technology and innovation ecosystem in Africa share their knowledge and experience with the community on how African hubs can strengthen their resilience and adapt to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An Online Panel Session



A CANDID CONVERSATION:
HOW CAN HUBS SURMOUNT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?



Moderator
Nekesa Were
Board Member, AfriLabs

Panelists



Kudzai Mubaiwa
Strategy Lead, iZone Hub
Harare Zimbabwe



Khalid Mohamed Ali
Co-Founder/Chair Person,
Impact Hub Khartoum Sudan



Kola Aina
Founding Partner, Ventures
Platform Abuja Nigeria



Fatoumata Niang Niox
Executive Director, Jokkolabs
Dakar Senegal

Register here:
bit.ly/AfriLabsPanelSession

22nd of April 2020 at 11:00 GMT

Powered by: 



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Influencing Policy Across Africa



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AfriLabs supports its community members to partner with national governments, regional bodies and local & international non-governmental policy advocates to seed policies that help nurture the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Niger.

OIIE

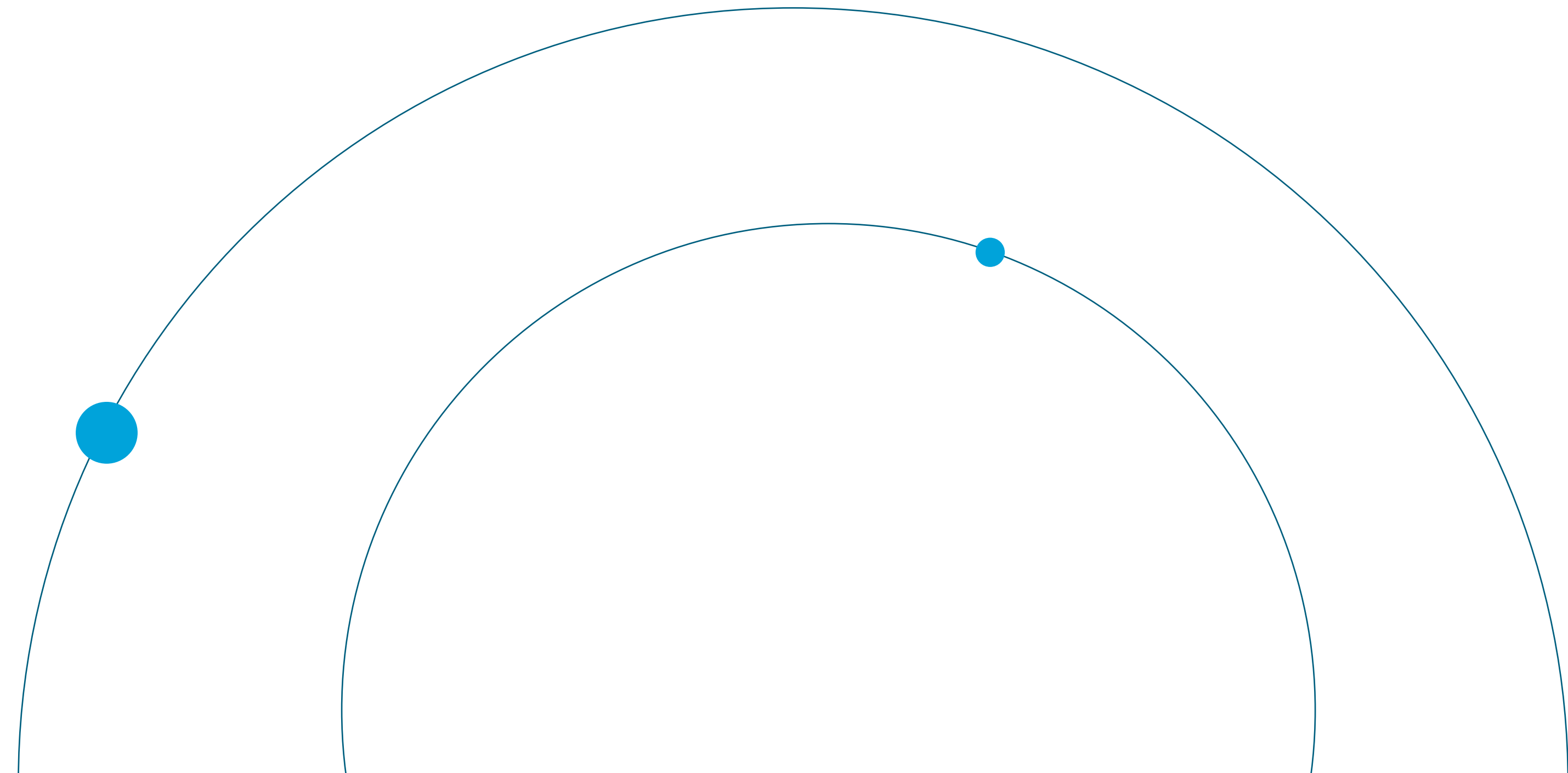
- Office of ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**I4POLICY
Foundation**

- A partner community of AfriLabs with shared members

NIIEV

- National ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policy





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i4Policy Foundation

AfriLabs as part of its policy advocacy drive supports the [i4Policy's foundation](#) which is a not-for-profit organization that supports public policy co-creation and multi-stakeholder dialogues at scale. The Foundation developed an iterative policy-making process (the Innovation for Policy process) to support participatory policy co-creation.

The Foundation has also developed online technology to enable civic engagement at scale that have been deployed in partnership with national Governments to support policy reforms (Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda) and at continental level to co-create regional visions on Digital Transformation and on Covid-19 response & recovery.

AfriLabs has been a key partner of i4Policy, as strategic advisor and member of the i4Policy task force.



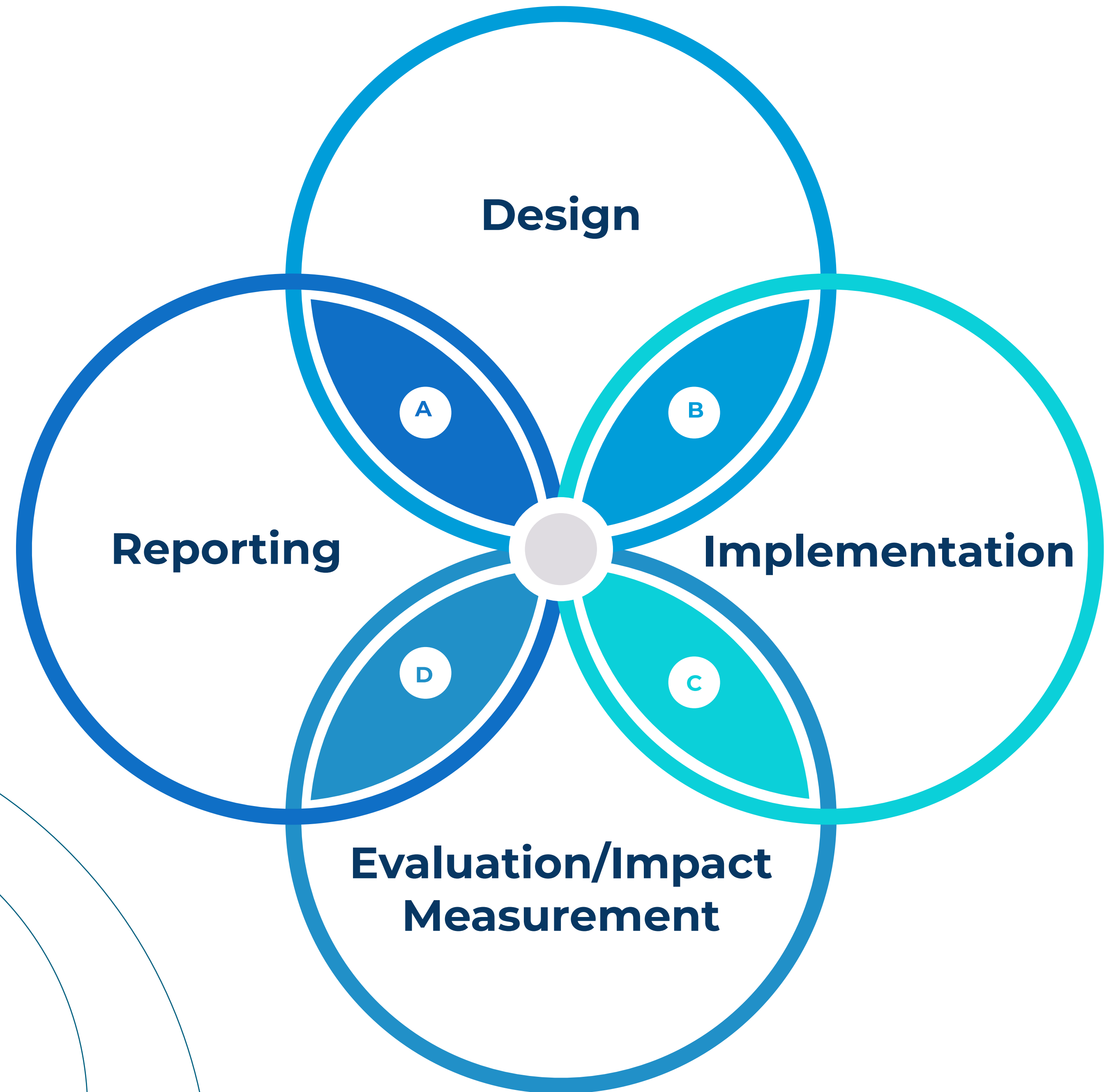


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Clients & Partners – Our Approach



We help organizations and governments design and implement ecosystem initiatives, research, and programs across Africa





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We interact with clients and partners via our consulting arm. AfriLabs Consulting deploys world-class Affiliate Consultants sourced from across our network of African innovation and technology organizations to deliver expert knowledge and services to organizations looking to gain valuable insights, craft strategies or deliver projects on a country, regional and global scale, in key sectors. Our involvement in the consulting value chain guarantees access to verified talents only and compliance with project quality and timeline.

Furthermore, clients gain access to exclusive discounts across supporting services and facilities offered by us and partner organizations.

We cover key sectors of the African and global economy like Agriculture, Education, Finance, ICT, Energy etc. We have the capacity to deliver on key technology, entrepreneurship and research projects in line with clients' sector-specific and general requests.

Impact



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Over 50% Annual Growth of Member Hubs Size & Capacity

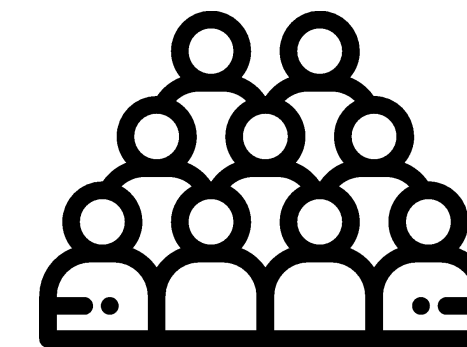
1 million+ large community of hubs and startups in the African Tech Ecosystem

- reached and engaged in AfriLabs programmes and activities

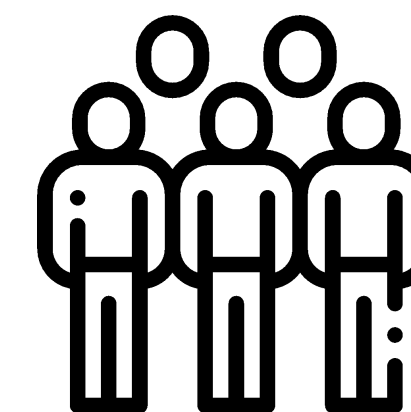
225 member hubs and 3 national networks

- Collaborating across all sectors on innovation projects and activities as part of the AfriLabs network

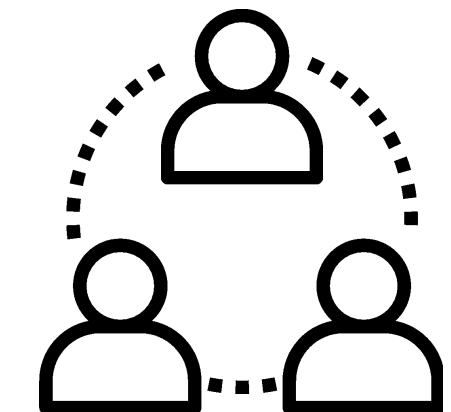
Influencing policy in 5 African countries



1 million+ large community of hubs



225 member hubs



3 National Network



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Meet the AfriLabs Team and Board



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Secretariat Team



ANNA EKELEDO
Executive Director



TEMITOPE ISEDOWO
Director of Programmes



NEKESA WERE
Director of Strategy



NANKO MADU
Senior Programmes Manager



JENNIFER OKEKE-OJIUDU
Events Officer



KENECHUKWU OSAKWE
Member Services Coordinator



AFRILABS

Secretariat Team



VICTORIA ALOZIE
Finance Officer



RAHEL CHUKWU
Operations and Francophone
Engagement Officer



OMONE TESSY OKOLO
Executive Assistant to the
Executive Director



PATRICK ASHU
Programmes Officer



FARIDA UMAR
Monitoring and Evaluation
Officer



JOSHUA OMENA .A.
Communications Lead



AFRILABS

Secretariat Team



ANNA LEKWOT
Member Services Associate



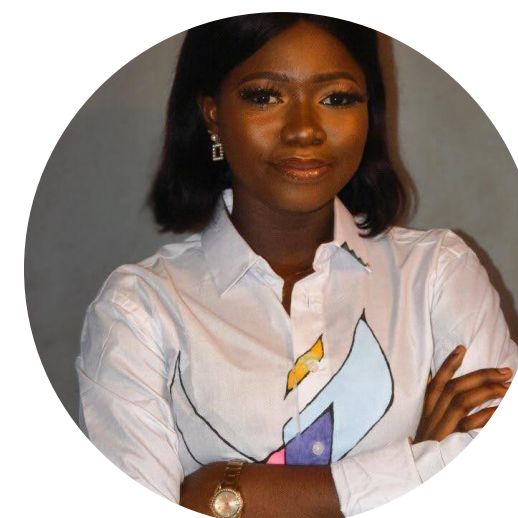
PASE TEMITOPE
Events Associate



SARAH ETIM
Communications Associate



TAIYE SALAMI
Programmes Associate



FUNMILAYO CAULCRICK
Programmes Associate



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Our Board

Board Chairperson



REBECCA ENONCHONG

ActivSpaces
AppsTech



ANNA EKELEDO

Executive Director
AfriLabs

Board of Directors



MOETAZ HELMY

Co-Founder of kmt house



NEKESA WERE

Board Member, Creatives
Garage



KUDZAI M. MUBAIWA

Founder of iZone Hub



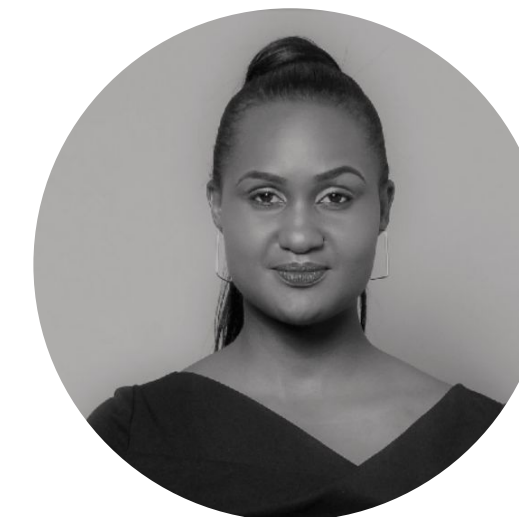
FATOUMATA NIANG NIOX

Executive Director of Jokkolabs
Dakar



DANIEL CHINAGOZI

Founder and CEO of Innovation
Growth Hub



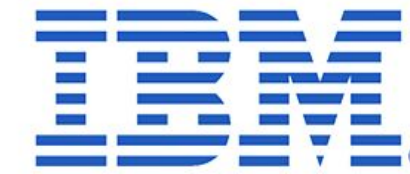
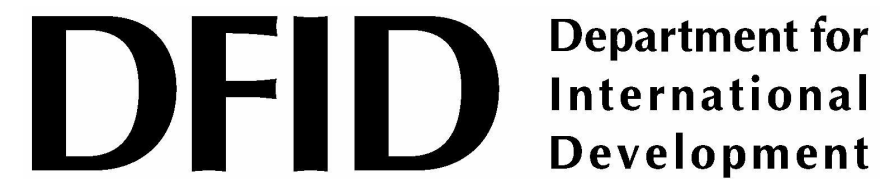
LINDA KWAMBOKA

Entrepreneur in-residence at
Strathmore University and
Manager at iBizAfrica



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Supporters & Partners





If you would like to support our work or partner to build
the African entrepreneurial, technology and innovation
ecosystem,

Contact us;

Anna Ekeledo
secretariat@afrilabs.com

