African Startup Funding Organizations by Industry (145+ funding organizations)

AgriTech & Food Systems

Equity Investors

- **Naspers** - Africa's largest internet group with $3B+ invested globally. Focuses on marketplaces with network effects and proven unit economics in emerging markets
  - **Apply:** Direct outreach through their investment team or portfolio companies
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate strong network effects and proven unit economics with African market validation
- **TLcom Capital** - $71M Pan-African VC specializing in early-stage tech across Africa. Strong focus on AgriTech due to Africa's agriculture potential and marketplace model expertise
  - **Apply:** https://www.tlcom.co.uk/contact/
  - **Tip:** Show deep understanding of African agricultural markets and scalable technology solutions
- **Partech Africa** - €143M dedicated Africa fund targeting scalable tech solutions addressing African challenges, particularly B2B marketplaces
  - **Apply:** https://partechpartners.com/contact/
  - **Tip:** Focus on B2B solutions with clear African market traction and expansion potential
- **4DX Ventures** - South African early-stage VC focusing on data-driven startups in AgriTech for digitization opportunities
  - **Apply:** https://www.4dx.vc/contact
  - **Tip:** Present strong data analytics and measurable impact on agricultural productivity
- **Knife Capital** - South African VC with $50M+ under management, focuses on tech startups scalable across emerging markets
  - **Apply:** https://www.knifecap.com/contact/
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate scalability across multiple emerging markets, not just one country
- **Allan Gray Ventures** - Investment arm focusing on scalable agri-tech businesses with experienced teams
  - **Apply:** Direct contact through their investment team
  - **Tip:** Emphasize experienced management team and clear path to profitability
- **AngelHub Ventures** - South Africa's largest angel network with 200+ investors supporting early-stage agri-tech
  - **Apply:** https://angelhub.co.za/apply-for-funding/
  - **Tip:** Leverage local market knowledge and prepare for multiple angel investor meetings
- **Acumen Capital Partners** - Impact investment fund focusing on companies serving low-income populations in agriculture
  - **Apply:** https://acumen.org/contact/
  - **Tip:** Clearly articulate social impact metrics alongside financial projections
- **Ventures Platform** - Nigerian VC interested in agricultural value chain improvements
  - **Apply:** https://venturesplatform.com/contact/

- **Tip:** Focus on value chain efficiency improvements with measurable farmer impact
- **Future Africa** - Pan-African VC investing in agricultural logistics and food systems solutions
  - **Apply:** https://future.africa/apply
  - **Tip:** Emphasize mission-driven approach solving critical African food system challenges
- **GreenTec Capital Partners** - Pan-African VC focusing on AgriTech companies improving efficiency across value chains
  - **Apply:** https://www.greentec-capital.com/contact/
  - **Tip:** Show scalable technology solutions with clear ROI for agricultural value chain actors
- **Sahel Capital** - Nigerian investment firm focused exclusively on agribusiness and nutrition
  - **Apply:** https://www.sahelcapital.com/contact/
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate deep agribusiness expertise and nutrition impact focus
- **FMO (Dutch Development Bank)** - €5B+ institution investing in agricultural development companies
  - **Apply:** https://www.fmo.nl/contact
  - **Tip:** Align proposals with UN Sustainable Development Goals and show development impact

Loan Providers

- **Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)** - Provides debt financing for agricultural projects creating jobs and economic impact
- **Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)** - Offers patient capital for agri-processing and job creation
- **Kiva Microfunds** - $0-$15K loans supporting agricultural entrepreneurs with focus on financial inclusion
- **Root Capital** - $50K-$2M loans to agricultural businesses, specializing in supply chain financing for smallholder farmers
- **Bank of Industry (BOI) Nigeria** - Provides long-term financing to agribusiness companies creating jobs
- **Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN)** - Focuses on agricultural value addition and SME development
- **Accion Microfinance Bank** - Specializes in agricultural financing and supply chain finance
- **NIRSAL Microfinance Bank** - Provides risk-sharing agricultural loans and technical assistance

Grant Opportunities

- **USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub** - $113M program providing grants for agricultural productivity and market access
  - **Apply:** https://www.usaid.gov/southern-africa-trade-investment-hub
  - **Tip:** Focus on regional trade impact and measurable productivity improvements
- **Gates Foundation (Agricultural Development)** - $1B+ annual giving for smallholder farmer productivity technology
  - **Apply:** https://submit.gatesfoundation.org/ (by invitation or RFP only)
  - **Tip:** Focus on scalable solutions reaching millions of farmers cost-effectively - they typically invite proposals directly

- **Mastercard Foundation** - $25B foundation funding agricultural initiatives creating youth employment
    - **Apply:** https://mastercardfdn.org/partnerships/
    - **Tip:** Emphasize youth employment creation and skills development in agricultural value chains
- **AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)** - $1B+ invested in agricultural transformation
    - **Apply:** https://agra.org/partnerships/
    - **Tip:** Demonstrate market-based solutions directly benefiting smallholder farmers
- **USAID Nigeria** - $500M+ annual program supporting agricultural productivity improvements
    - **Apply:** https://www.usaid.gov/nigeria
    - **Tip:** Show alignment with Nigerian government agricultural priorities and food security goals
- **Tony Elumelu Foundation** - $5K grants for early-stage agricultural entrepreneurs
    - **Apply:** https://www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/apply
    - **Tip:** Apply early - highly competitive with thousands of applications; focus on job creation impact
- **World Bank Nigeria Agribusiness/SME Investment Program** - Multi-billion dollar agricultural value chain development
    - **Apply:** Through World Bank country office Nigeria
    - **Tip:** Partner with local implementing organizations and demonstrate government alignment

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CleanTech & Renewable Energy

Equity Investors

- **CRE Venture Capital** - Nigerian VC focused exclusively on clean energy investments
- **Partech Africa** - Strong cleantech portfolio, invests in energy companies leveraging technology
- **All On** - $75M Shell-founded energy access accelerator with innovative business models
- **CrossBoundary Energy** - Specialized investor in distributed commercial and industrial solar across Africa
- **Energy Impact Partners** - Global energy innovation platform with $2B+ under management
- **Endgame Capital** - Climate-focused VC investing in environmental challenge solutions
- **Novastar Ventures** - $200M+ East African VC focused on cleantech companies with regional scale potential
- **DOB Equity** - €300M+ impact investor focusing on climate solutions
- **Persistent Energy Capital** - Climate tech VC focused on carbon emission reduction companies
- **Blue Haven Initiative** - Impact investor in circular economy and clean energy companies
- **Katapult** - Norwegian impact accelerator focusing on UN Sustainable Development Goals

Loan Providers

- **African Development Bank (AfDB)** - $6B+ annual energy investments, provides project finance for renewable energy
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** - Strong renewable energy focus, debt financing for scalable clean energy
- **FMO** - €1B+ annual climate investments, specializes in renewable energy in developing countries
- **DEG (German Development Finance)** - €2B+ portfolio focusing on renewable energy access
- **PROPARCO (French Development Finance)** - Debt financing for energy companies contributing to African energy security
- **Development Bank of Ethiopia** - Financing for manufacturing companies using clean energy
- **Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD)** - Supports companies contributing to environmental sustainability

Grant Opportunities

- **USAID Power Africa** - $7B+ initiative providing grants for distributed solar solutions
- **Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)** - AfDB's $95M facility for renewable energy development
- **Climate Investment Funds** - Multilateral climate finance facility for renewable energy in developing countries
- **Green Climate Fund** - $10B+ climate finance facility for climate mitigation projects
- **World Bank Energy Access Program** - Global initiative providing grants for energy access solutions
- **UNIDO (Circular Economy programs)** - Grants for companies developing circular economy solutions
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** - $22B+ environmental financing for climate solutions
- **Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA)** - National fund supporting green growth companies

FinTech & Digital Banking

Equity Investors

- **SBI Investment** - Japanese VC with $3B+ under management, strong fintech focus globally
- **Target Global** - European VC with $2B+ focusing on emerging market fintechs
- **Entrée Capital** - International VC focusing on fintech and enterprise software
- **SoftBank Vision Fund** - World's largest tech fund investing in late-stage digital banks
- **Valar Ventures** - Peter Thiel-backed VC focusing on fintech disruption globally
- **Quona Capital** - $300M+ fintech-focused impact investor serving underbanked populations
- **Omidyar Network** - $1.5B+ impact investor focusing on financial inclusion
- **Flourish Ventures** - Fintech-focused VC expanding financial access globally
- **MSA Capital** - Emerging markets VC with strong fintech focus
- **Orange Digital Ventures** - Corporate VC leveraging telecom infrastructure for financial services
- **Chinook Capital** - Nigeria-based seed fund backing scalable digital platforms
- **Flutterwave Capital** - Fintech ecosystem investment for African B2B tools
- **Launch Africa Ventures** - Active investor in pan-African B2B and fintech platforms
- **Kepple Africa Ventures** - Invests in African startups focused on growth and fintech
- **Oui Capital** - Early-stage VC supporting African entrepreneurs with fintech products
- **EchoVC** - Focused on high-growth, underserved markets in Africa
- **Aruwa Capital** - VC firm funding early-stage fintech, healthtech, and cleantech, focusing on women-led startups

Loan Providers

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** - Strong financial inclusion focus, debt financing for fintech
- **Development Bank of Nigeria** - Wholesale bank supporting financial sector development
- **African Development Bank** - Supporting financial sector modernization and innovation
- **FMO** - Dedicated financial inclusion programs for fintech companies
- **PROPARCO** - Focus on financial services in French-speaking Africa

Grant Opportunities

- **Gates Foundation (Financial Inclusion)** - Major funder of global financial inclusion initiatives
- **Mastercard Foundation** - Focus on financial inclusion and youth economic participation
- **UNCDF (Financial inclusion)** - UN agency promoting financial inclusion in least developed countries
- **World Bank Financial Inclusion programs** - Universal financial access initiative
- **Central Bank of Nigeria Development Finance** - Regulatory sandbox support for fintech innovation
- **FINCA Ventures Prize** - $400,000 annual competition for early-stage fintech and climate-smart agriculture startups
- **AFD Digital Challenge** (Agence Française de Développement) - €20,000–€50,000 for African digital inclusion startups
- **GSMA Innovation Fund** - Up to £250K in grants for mobile money & fintech solutions

- **Google for Startups – Black Founders Fund Africa** - $50K–$100K equity-free + Google Cloud credits
- **UNCDF Fintech Innovation Hub** - Grant and mentorship for inclusive digital finance in Africa
- **Women in Tech Africa Grant (AWIEF)** - For women-led fintechs; $20K–$100K
- **Africa Fintech Foundry** - Offers mentorship, technical support, and potential funding
- **USAID Development Innovation Ventures** - Tiered funding for innovative financial inclusion products

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EdTech & Human Capital Development

Equity Investors

- **Ventures Platform** - Nigerian VC with strong focus on education and human capital development
- **Future Africa** - Mission-driven VC investing in education companies democratizing access
- **TLcom Capital** - Pan-African VC with education sector portfolio companies
- **Learn Capital** - Global EdTech-focused VC with $500M+ under management
- **GSV Ventures** - $180M+ EdTech-focused VC investing globally in educational technology
- **Owl Ventures** - World's largest EdTech VC with $2B+ under management

Loan Providers

- **Development Bank of Nigeria** - Focus on human capital development and job creation
- **Bank of Industry Nigeria** - Financing for service sector companies creating jobs
- **Kiva Microfunds** - Small loans to early-stage education companies with social impact

Grant Opportunities

- **Mastercard Foundation** - $25B foundation with focus on education and youth employment in Africa
- **Gates Foundation (Education)** - $5B+ invested in global education initiatives
- **USAID Nigeria Education** - Bilateral program using technology to transform education
- **World Bank Nigeria Skills Development Program** - Supporting skills development and employability
- **African Development Bank Education initiatives** - Human capital development focus
- **Google.org Education grants** - Technology solutions for educational equity and outcomes

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Accelerators & Global Programs

Global Accelerators Accepting African Startups

- **Y Combinator** - Accepts African startups (e.g., Paystack, Flutterwave); $500K SAFE
  - **Apply:** https://www.ycombinator.com/apply
  - **Tip:** Next deadline: August 4, 2025 at 8pm PT for Fall 2025 batch. Focus on clear, matter-of-fact product description and strong week-over-week growth metrics
- **Techstars Africa Accelerator** - Offers mentorship + $120K investment
  - **Apply:** https://www.techstars.com/accelerators
  - **Tip:** Emphasize coachability and openness to mentorship - Techstars values founders who actively seek and implement feedback
- **500 Global** - Actively invests in mobile-first platforms with strong markets
  - **Apply:** https://500.co/apply/
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate strong mobile-first strategy and large addressable market in emerging economies
- **Village Capital** - Focuses on financial inclusion and alternative credit infrastructure
  - **Apply:** https://vilcap.com/apply/
  - **Tip:** Show measurable impact on financial inclusion with peer-selected cohort model approach
- **Catalyst Fund (by BFA Global)** - Fintech accelerator for inclusive financial innovation
  - **Apply:** https://www.catalystfund.vc/apply
  - **Tip:** Focus on inclusive fintech solutions with clear path to serving underbanked populations
- **Seedstars** - Focus on emerging market startups (fintech + payments are top areas)
  - **Apply:** https://www.seedstars.com/apply/
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate local market leadership with potential for emerging market expansion
- **Flat6Labs** - Strong early-stage investor with fintech focus in MENA & Africa
  - **Apply:** https://www.flat6labs.com/apply/
  - **Tip:** Show strong technical team and validated business model in target market
- **Google for Startups Accelerator: Africa** - Three-month hybrid accelerator for Seed to Series A tech startups using AI
  - **Apply:** https://startup.google.com/accelerator/africa/
  - **Tip:** Must be using AI/ML in your solution and be based in Africa - focus on AI impact and technical implementation
- **Accelerate Africa** - Future Africa's program with potential $250K-$500K pre-seed/seed investment
  - **Apply:** https://future.africa/accelerate
  - **Tip:** Emphasize mission-driven approach to solving African problems with technology
- **Injini EdTech Accelerator** - R100,000 initial grant with up to R1,000,000 equity-free funding
  - **Apply:** https://www.injini.org/apply/
  - **Tip:** Must be EdTech focused - show measurable learning outcomes and scalability across African markets

Strategic Corporate Programs

- **MTN Fintech / MoMo Accelerator** - MTN-backed initiatives funding mobile money infrastructure
  - **Apply:** Contact MTN Group directly or through local MTN subsidiaries
  - **Tip:** Show integration potential with MTN's mobile money ecosystem and customer base
- **Mastercard Start Path Emerging Markets** - Support and funding for African fintech startups
  - **Apply:** https://startpath.mastercard.com/
  - **Tip:** Focus on solutions that complement Mastercard's payment infrastructure and reach underserved populations
- **Visa Everywhere Initiative** - Annual prize for startups in payments/FX/remittance
  - **Apply:** https://everywhere.visa.com/
  - **Tip:** Applications typically open Q2 annually - focus on innovative payment solutions with global scalability
- **AWS Startup Credits + Activate** - Up to $100K in cloud infrastructure credits
  - **Apply:** https://aws.amazon.com/activate/
  - **Tip:** Apply through qualifying accelerators or investors for maximum credits - focus on high-growth potential
- **Stripe Atlas + Stripe Climate Grants** - Partner perks + potential eco-fintech grants
  - **Apply:** https://stripe.com/atlas (for Atlas), climate grants by application
  - **Tip:** Atlas helps with US incorporation; climate grants focus on carbon removal and climate solutions
- **All On (Shell Foundation)** - $75M energy access accelerator for Nigerian energy companies
  - **Apply:** https://allon.ng/apply/
  - **Tip:** Must be Nigeria-focused energy access solutions with clear business model and scale potential

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Additional Grant & Competition Programs

Major Grant Competitions

- **Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme** - Up to $100 million for young African entrepreneurs (up to 18 years old, businesses up to 3 years old)
  - **Apply:** https://www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/apply
  - **Tip:** Applications typically open January-March annually; focus on job creation and economic impact across Africa
- **Anzisha Prize** - Supporting young African entrepreneurs with resources and pitch competitions
  - **Apply:** https://www.anzishaprize.org/apply/
  - **Tip:** Must be 15-22 years old; focus on innovative solutions to African challenges with measurable social impact
- **Innovate UK – Global Innovation Fund** - Non-dilutive capital for scalable emerging tech
  - **Apply:** https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/
  - **Tip:** Must have UK connection or partnership; focus on innovative technology with global scaling potential
- **Digital Tech Summit (DTS) 2025** - Competition with "Most Promising African Startup" category and media coverage
  - **Apply:** Check DTS website for annual application periods
  - **Tip:** Great for visibility and networking - prepare compelling pitch for media and investor exposure
- **Deep Tech Competition** - $50,000 in cash prizes for cutting-edge technology startups
  - **Apply:** Various deep tech competitions globally - search for current opportunities
  - **Tip:** Focus on breakthrough technology with strong IP and technical differentiation

Sector-Specific Grant Programs

- **Circular Economy Venture Building Program** - Six-month program supporting startups in Agritech, food waste, textiles, and AI
  - **Apply:** Search for current circular economy accelerators and programs
  - **Tip:** Demonstrate clear circular economy model with environmental and economic benefits
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture Grants** - Various programs supporting agricultural innovation and climate resilience
  - **Apply:** Multiple sources - CGIAR, World Bank, regional development banks
  - **Tip:** Show climate adaptation/mitigation impact with scalable agricultural technology solutions
- **Women-Led Innovation Programs** - Multiple grants specifically targeting women entrepreneurs in climate and fintech
  - **Apply:** Various sources including All Raise, Female Founders Fund, etc.
  - **Tip:** Network with other women founders and emphasize diversity impact alongside business metrics

Platform & Marketplace Businesses

Equity Investors

- **Naspers** - Expertise in marketplace and platform businesses with network effects
- **4DX Ventures** - Data-driven focus on platforms with strong unit economics
- **Knife Capital** - Marketplace platforms expanding across Africa and emerging markets
- **Allan Gray Ventures** - Tech businesses with sustainable competitive advantages
- **AngelHub Ventures** - Early-stage platforms with expansion potential
- **Newtown Partners** - Early-stage tech companies building defensible market positions

Loan Providers

- **Development Bank of Southern Africa** - Financing companies creating employment in service sectors
- **Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)** - Service companies creating jobs and economic value
- **Business Partners Limited** - SME financier for companies with growth potential

Grant Opportunities

- **Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA)** - Government grants for job creation companies
- **Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC)** - Grants for economic transformation
- **Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)** - Support for technology innovation companies

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Pan-African Multi-Sector Investors

Major VCs Active Across All Sectors

- **Partech Africa** - €143M dedicated Africa fund with deep continental expertise
- **TLcom Capital** - $71M TIDE Africa fund focusing on early-stage African tech companies
- **Norrsken22** - $205M Pan-African fund from Swedish impact investor
- **Cathay AfricInvest Innovation Fund** - China-Africa trade and technology transfer focus
- **4DX Ventures** - Data-driven investment across sectors with regional expansion potential
- **Future Africa** - Mission-driven focus on solving Africa's biggest challenges across sectors

Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** - World Bank's private sector arm with $100B+ commitment
- **African Development Bank (AfDB)** - Continental development bank with $30B+ portfolio
- **FMO (Netherlands)** - €5B+ Dutch development bank for sustainable development
- **DEG (Germany)** - €9B+ portfolio for sustainable economic development
- **PROPARCO (France)** - €12B+ portfolio focusing on francophone countries
- **CDC Group (UK)** - £6B+ UK development finance institution

Major Grant Providers

- **Mastercard Foundation** - $25B+ foundation focused on financial inclusion and youth opportunity
- **Gates Foundation** - $70B+ foundation across health, agriculture, financial services, and gender equity
- **USAID** - Country and regional programs supporting democratic governance and economic growth
- **DFID/FCDO** - UK development programs focusing on economic development and poverty reduction
- **European Development Fund** - EU development cooperation supporting regional integration
- **World Bank Group** - Multilateral institution with programs across all sectors

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Funding Strategy by Stage

Pre-Seed ($400K - $1M)

Best Sources: Angel investors, accelerators, government grants

- Local angel networks provide sector expertise and market knowledge
- Accelerators (Techstars, 500 Startups, MEST) offer structured programs
- Government SME funds support job creation with grants and concessional financing

Seed ($1M - $3M)

Best Sources: Local VCs, impact investors, DFI equity arms

- Country-specific VCs with deep local market knowledge
- Impact investors focusing on measurable social and environmental impact
- IFC equity investments for economic development contribution

Series A ($5M - $20M)

Best Sources: Pan-African VCs, international VCs, large DFIs

- Pan-African VCs with regional expansion expertise
- International VCs with global scaling capabilities
- Large DFI investments with patient capital and development requirements

Series B+ ($20M+)

Best Sources: International VCs, private equity, strategic investors

- Global VCs with Africa focus and international networks
- Pan-African private equity with operational improvement expertise
- Strategic corporate investors offering industry expertise and acquisition potential