



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



# Introduction

Innovation is the driver of productivity, value creation, wealth distribution and is essential for sustainable growth and economic development. However, innovation does not happen in a vacuum, but requires connections among key stakeholders, which is one of the focus of AfriLabs.

AfriLabs aims to support the development of the African technology and innovation ecosystem through knowledge sharing, policy advocacy, collaboration, capacity building as well as programs and events.







# Who we are

AfriLabs, a network organization that supports over 150 Innovation Centers across 40 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.





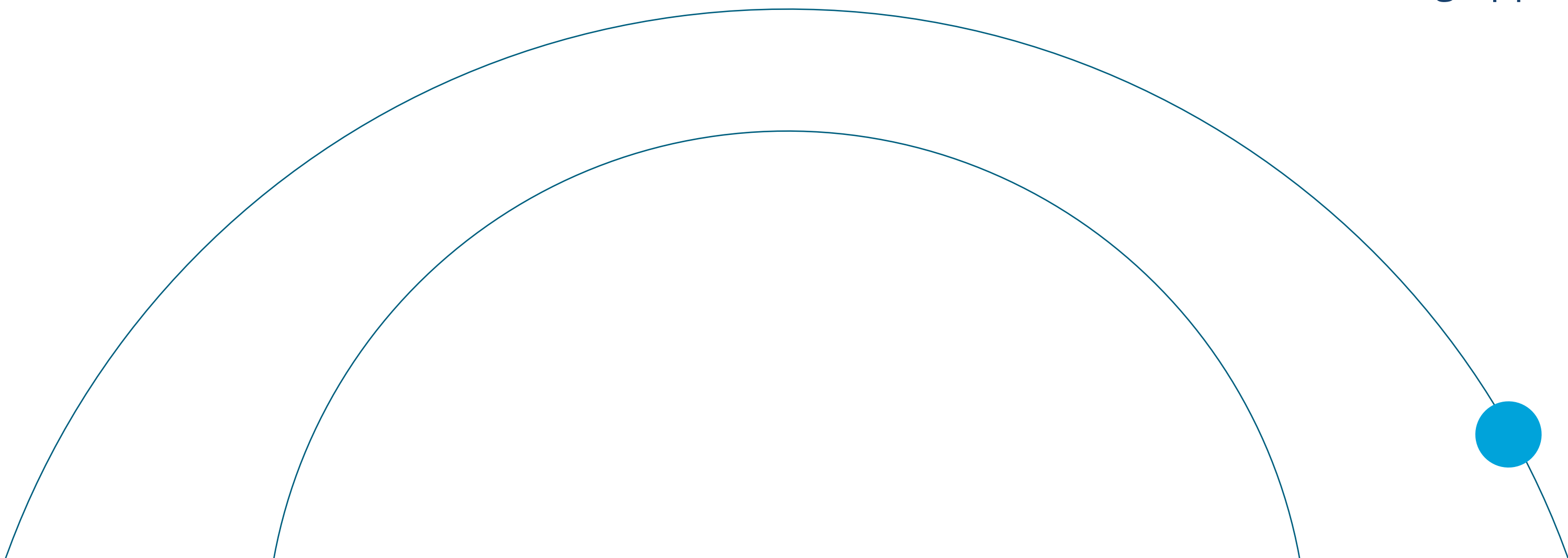
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# Vision

Our vision is an African continent characterised by open collaboration, African made solutions and jobs for all driven by technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

# Mission

Our mission is to support the growth of technology hubs and their communities to raise high potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa, by providing capacity building resources, financing, mentoring and networking opportunities to our network.

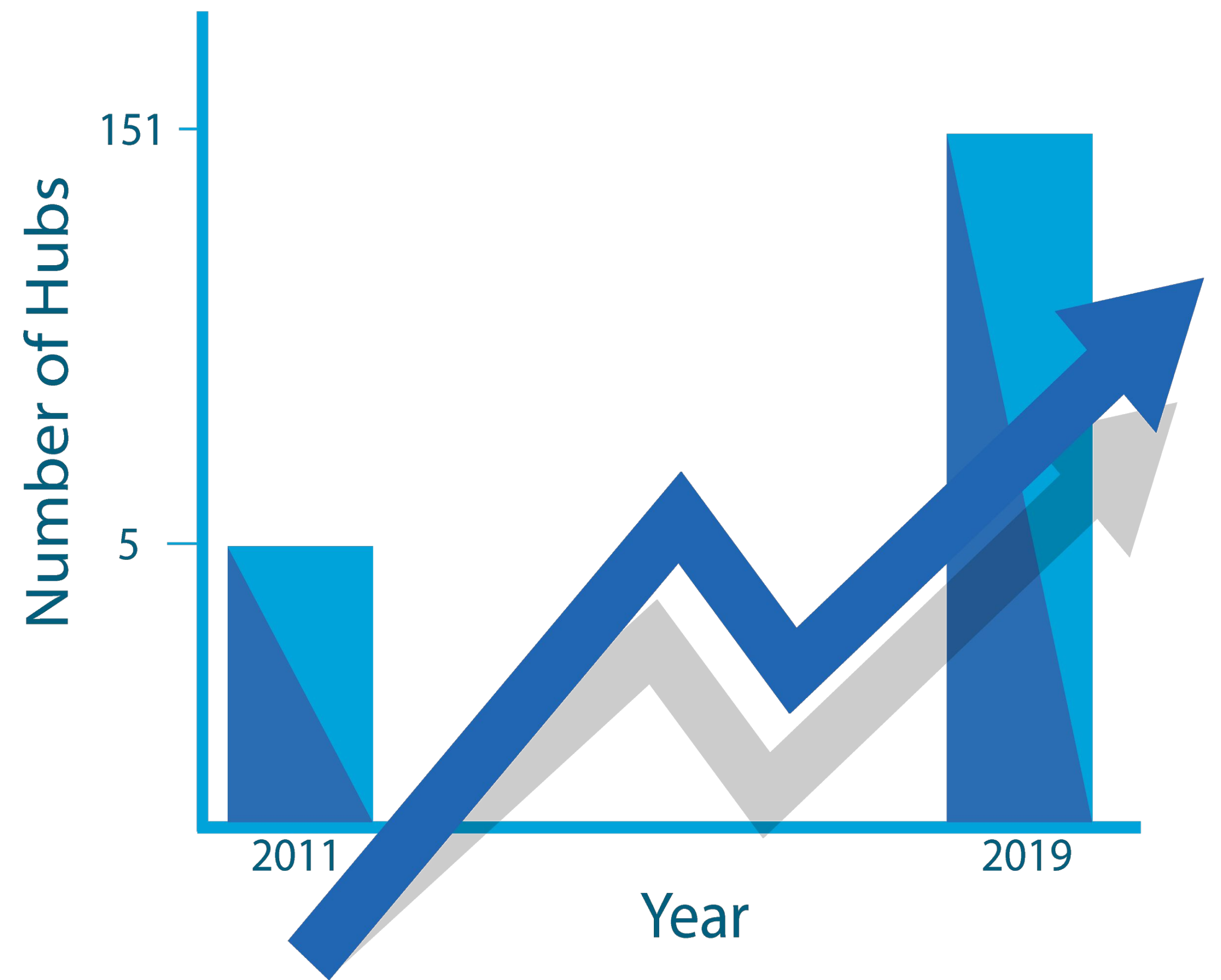




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# Our Number

AfriLabs was founded in 2011 with 5 hubs from across four African countries. It has grown to over 150 hubs across 40 African countries in 2019.

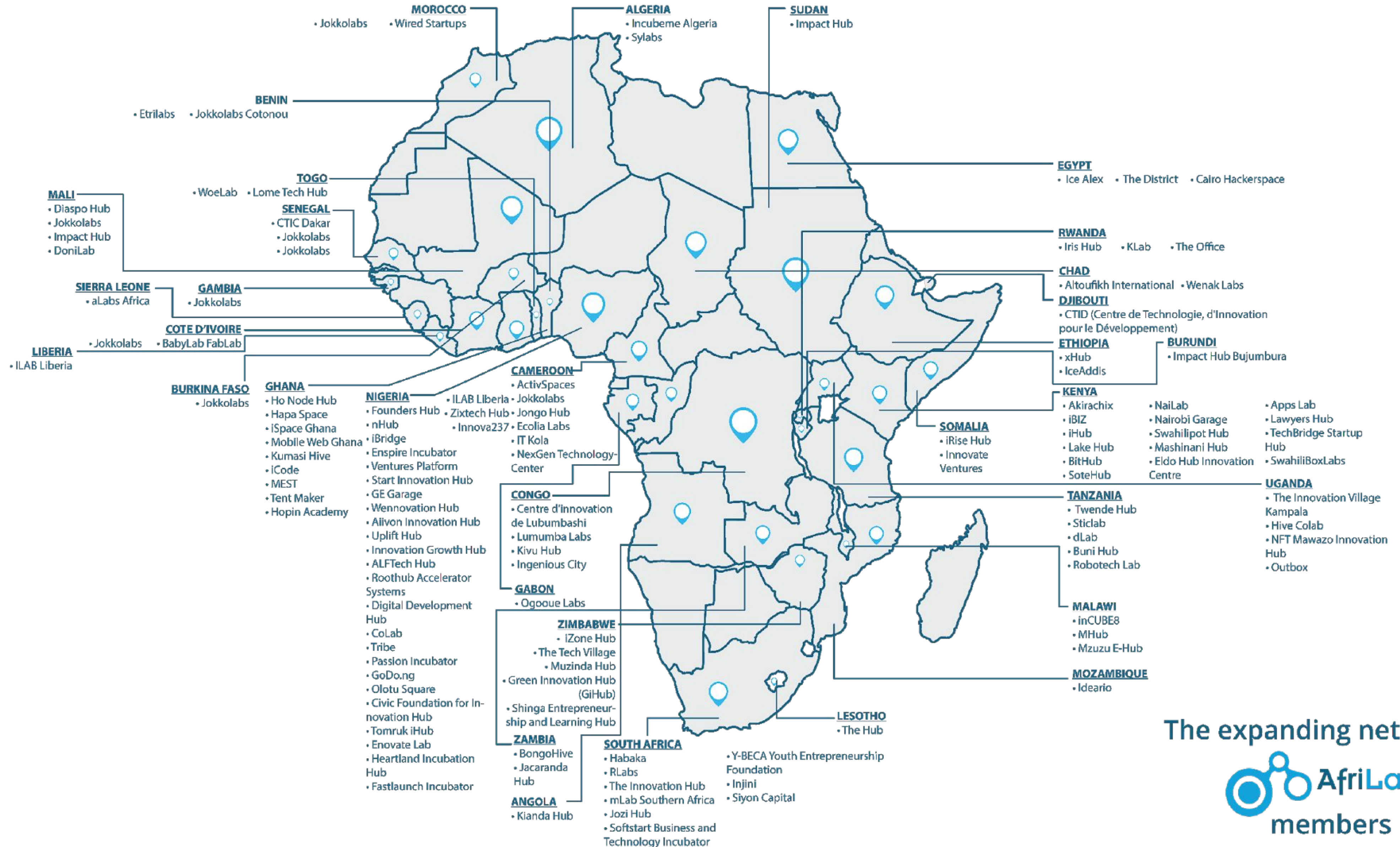






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# AFRILABS NETWORK MEMBERS ACROSS AFRICA



The expanding network of







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# How We Engage and Impact the AfriLabs Hub Community



## Capacity Building

Webinars, Workshops & Resources for Hub Sustainability

## Policy Advocacy

Support policy advocacy activities for innovation and entrepreneurship

## Events

Ecosystem events to convene, network and foster collaboration



## 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



**1** ECOSYSTEM EVENTS

**2** CONSULTING

**3** CATALYST

**Focus  
Areas/Projects**

HUB ACADEMY **4**

CAPACITY BUILDING **5**

POLICY **6**





# 1. Ecosystem Events In Africa

## REGIONAL MEETUPS

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- Hubs
- Investors
- Development Agencies

## PARTNER EVENTS

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- German-African Entrepreneurship Summit – German Chamber of Commerce
- ICT4SI – Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Regions
- YAS! – UNDP + Accenture
- Innovating in Education Expo – African Union

## AFRILABS ANNUAL GATHERINGS

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- 2016 – Accra
- 2017 – Cairo
- 2018 – Dar es Salaam
- 2019 – Addis Ababa





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# AfriLabs Annual Gatherings 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 and in Tanzania in 2018 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 AFRILABS ANNUAL GATHERING 2019



# CONNECT

TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

28TH - 30TH OCTOBER, 2019  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

The fourth edition of the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2019 has been scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28th - 30th October 2019 with the theme: 'Connect: Towards an Integrated Innovation Ecosystem'

The 2019 Gathering focuses on connecting players of the African innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem with the goal of building collaborative, sustainable systems and creating synergies that will pave the way for the African innovation ecosystem to thrive and develop the African continent. The Gathering will host over 350 leaders and decision makers of multiple stakeholder groups.



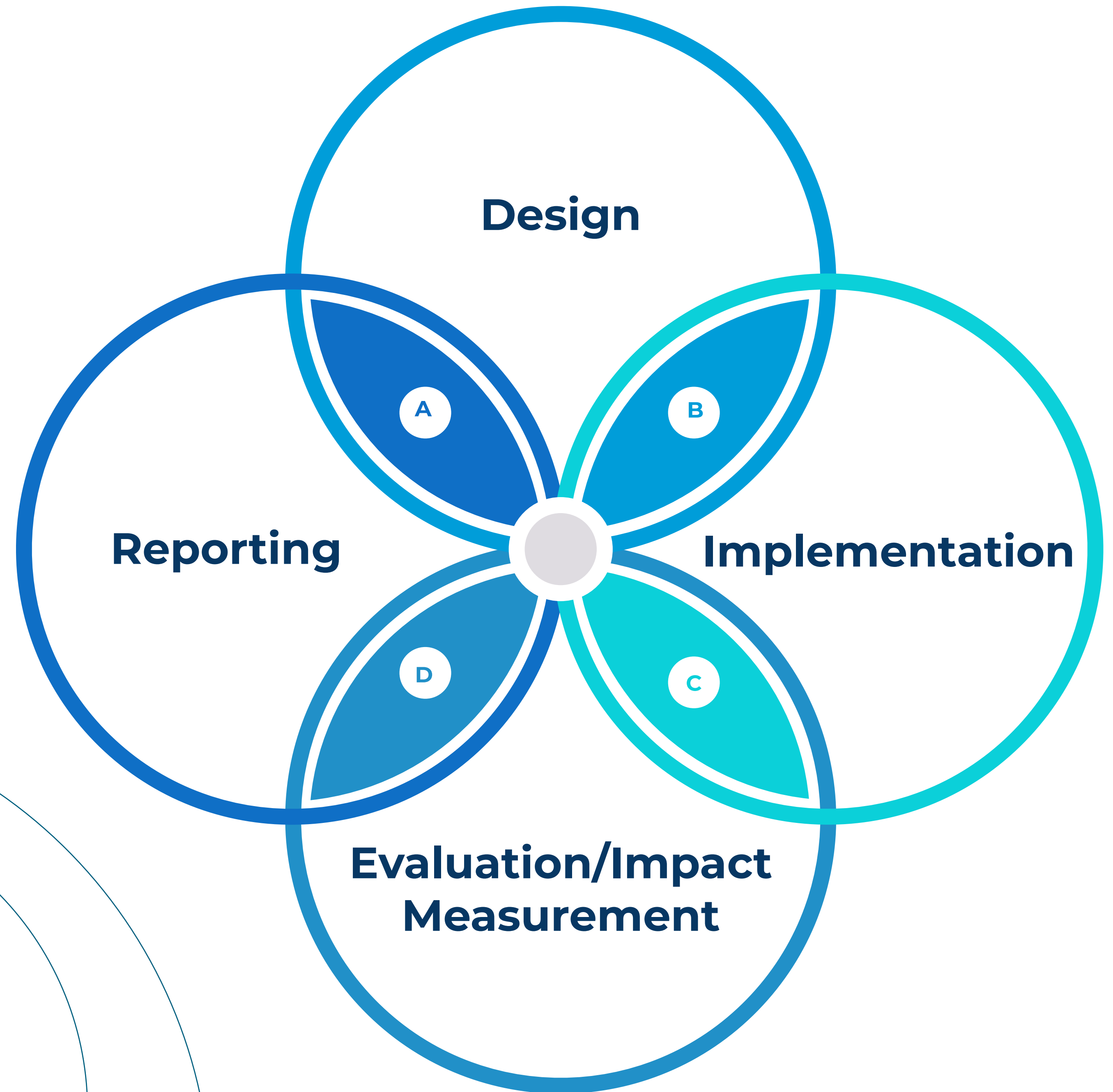
#AfriLabsAG'19  
#AfriLabsConnect





# 2. Consulting

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







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# Clients & Partners – Our Approach

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.

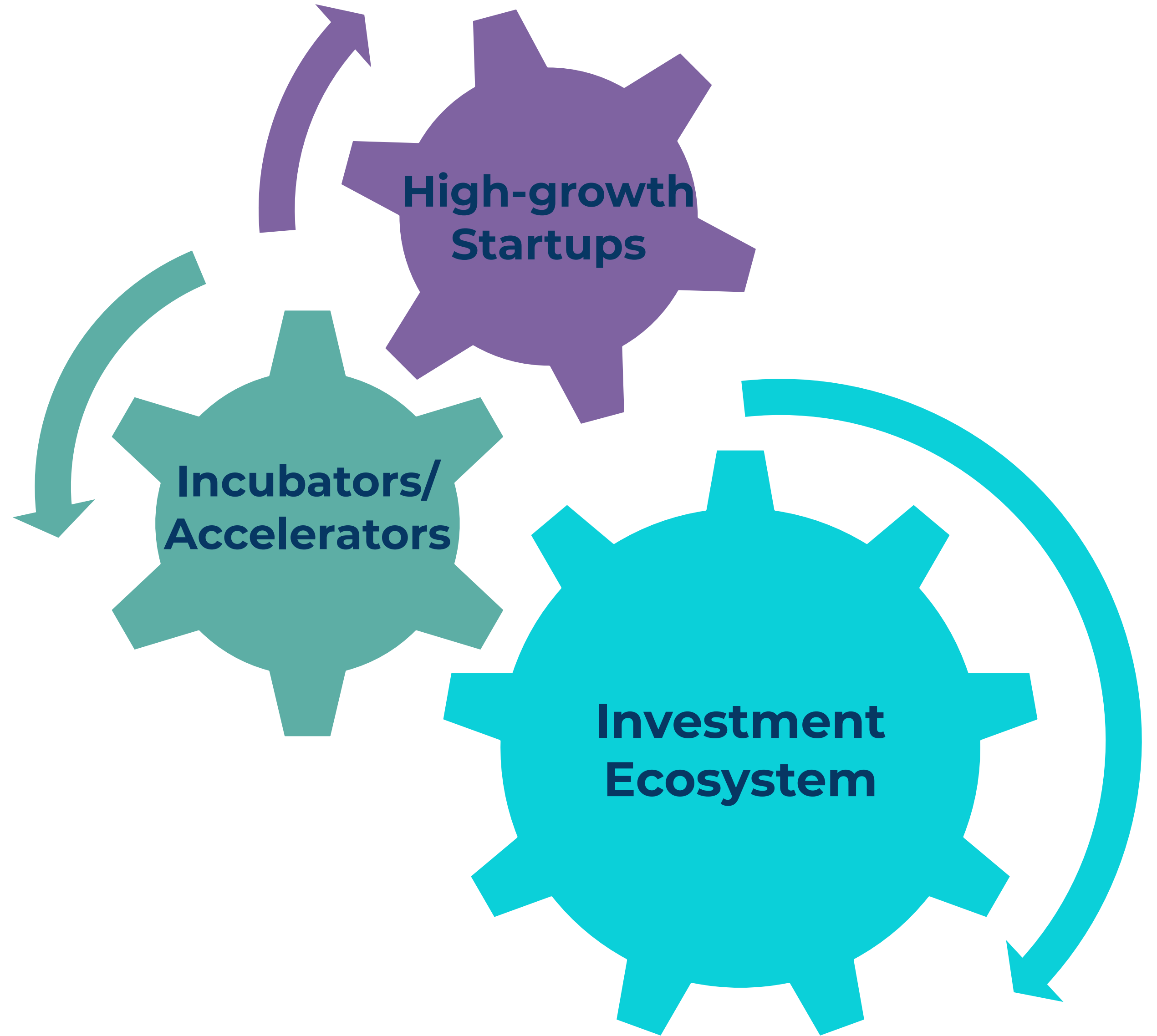
We cover key sectors of the African and global economy like Agriculture, Education, Finance, ICT, Energy etc. We have the capacity to deliver on key technology, entrepreneurship and research projects in line with clients' sector-specific and general requests.





# 3. Catalyst

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



In partnership with African Business Angel Network







# Catalyst Program

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.

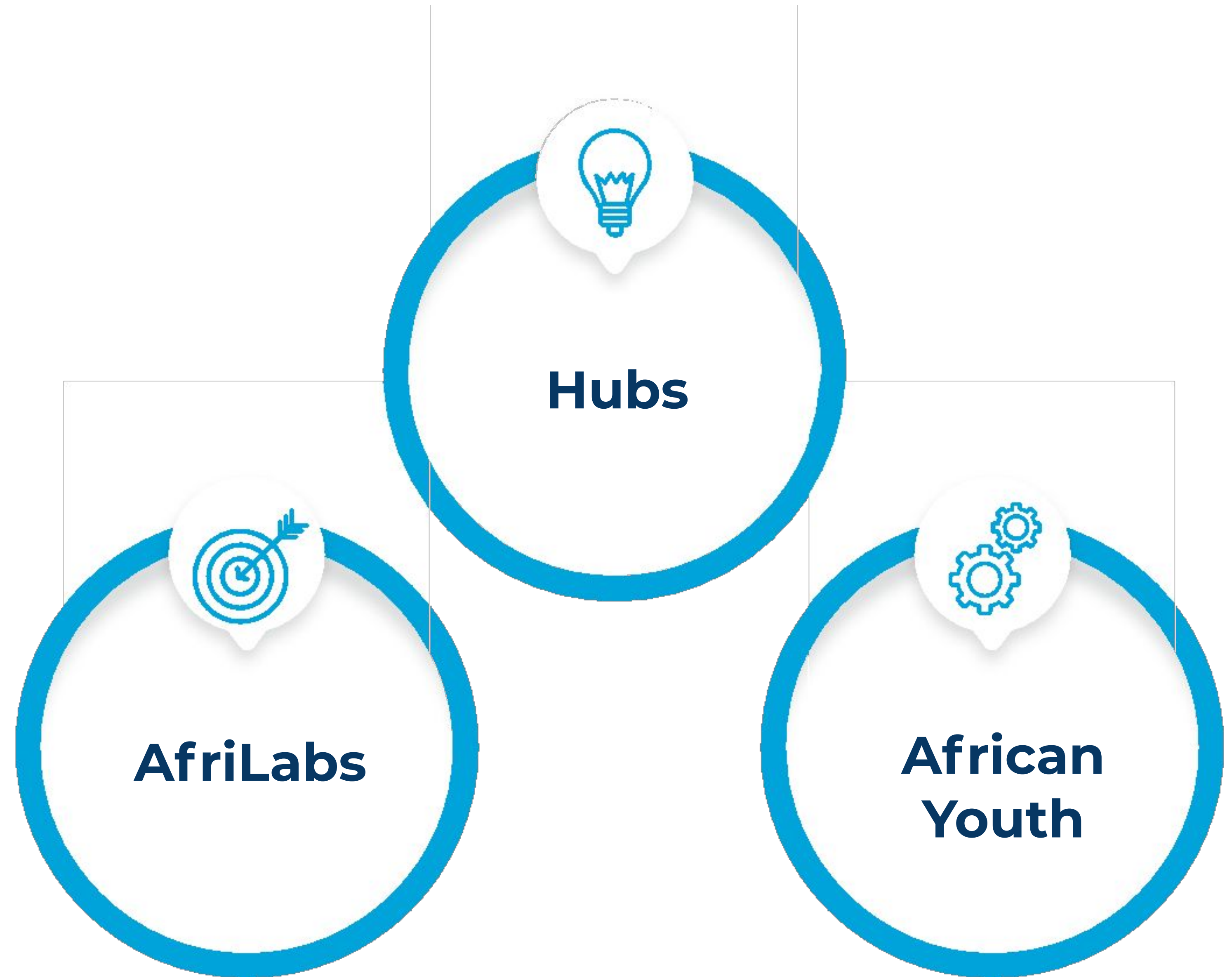




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# 4. Hub Academy

Developing skills of African youth, leveraging on hubs as learning centers of excellence while also driving employment and jobs for the future.



In partnership with  
Liquid Telecom







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# AfriLabs Hubs Academy

The Hub Academy is an initiative of AfriLabs in partnership with Liquid Telecom. It aims to provide a learning platform that offers training and upskilling support to AfriLabs member hubs (to be known as Learning Centers) and their communities. The academy aims to train 10,000 students within 2 years.

Courses offered will be relevant and updated materials in the areas of technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, business development and other areas as deemed useful for the audience.

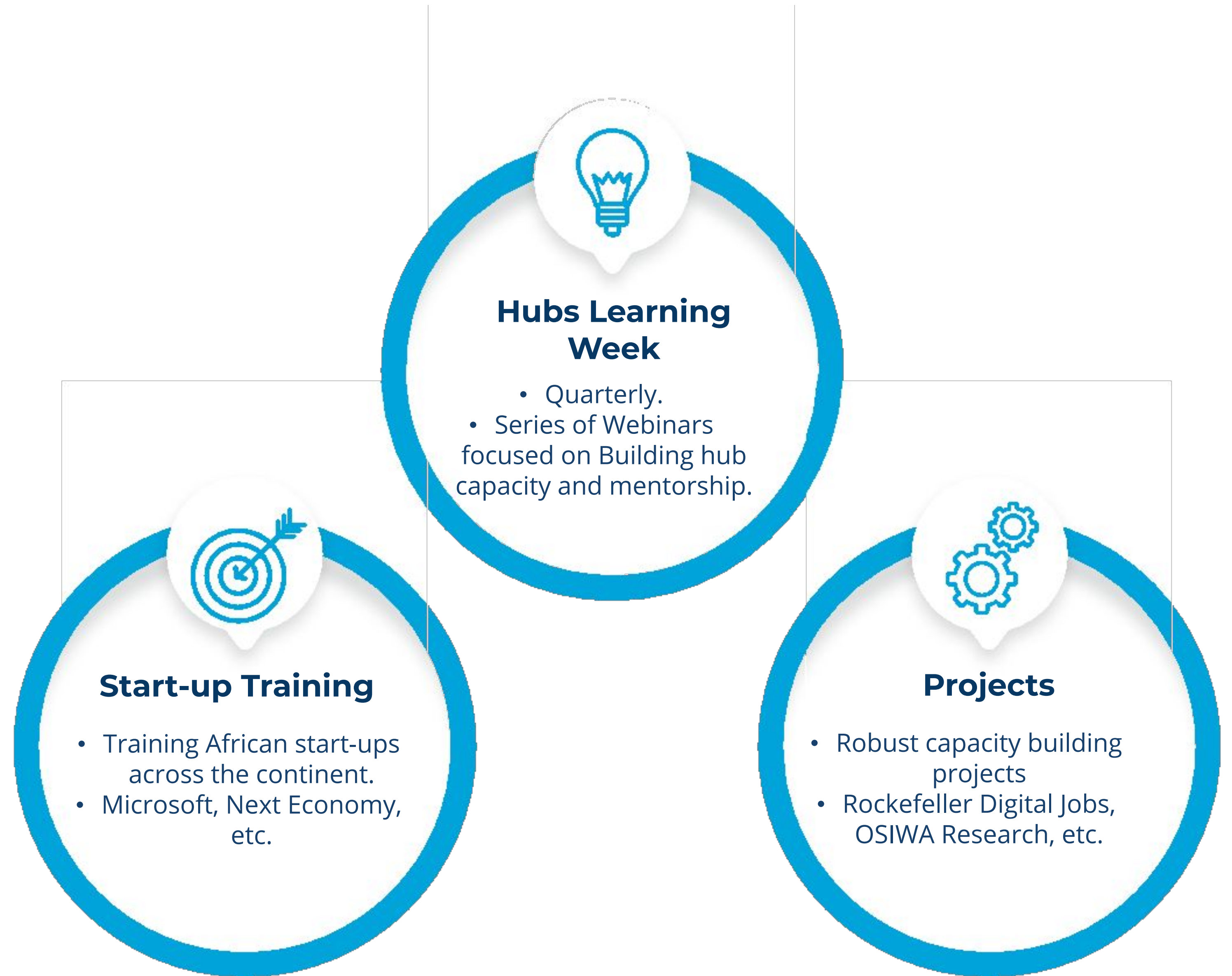
Across all available courses, learners will be able to obtain/purchase a certificate upon completion, demonstrating the learner's proficiency in this area.







# 5. Capacity Building







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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 Hubs learning week is held on a quarterly basis usually the last week of the last month of each quarter for a period of 5 days (one hour each).

The Hub Learning Week 2019 focuses on topics such as Hub Sustainability Models, Best Practices of Hub Management, Space Management, Designing Programmes Operations and Team Building, Implementing Seed Funds for Hubs, Capturing Data for Better Communication, How to Leverage on Universities for Research, IP, Expertise and Recruitment among others.

Topics are selected based on the needs of the network and Facilitators who are experts on the different topics are engaged based on their experience in working with different stakeholders of the ecosystem.



## AFRILABS HUB LEARNING WEEK

11AM - 12PM GMT  
25th - 29th March

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### AFRILABS HUB LEARNING WEEK

11AM - 12PM GMT  
25th - 29th March

#### FACILITATORS

 <b>Daniel Chinagozi</b> Founder & CEO, Innovation Growth Hub, Nigeria	 <b>Poncelet Ileleji</b> Lead Jokkalabs Banjul, The Gambia	 <b>Bernard Chira</b> Incubation Manager iBiz Africa, Kenya
 <b>Kudzai M Mubaiwa</b> Cofounder iZone Hub, Zimbabwe	 <b>Kola Aina</b> Founder Ventures Park, Nigeria	





# 6. Policy

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.



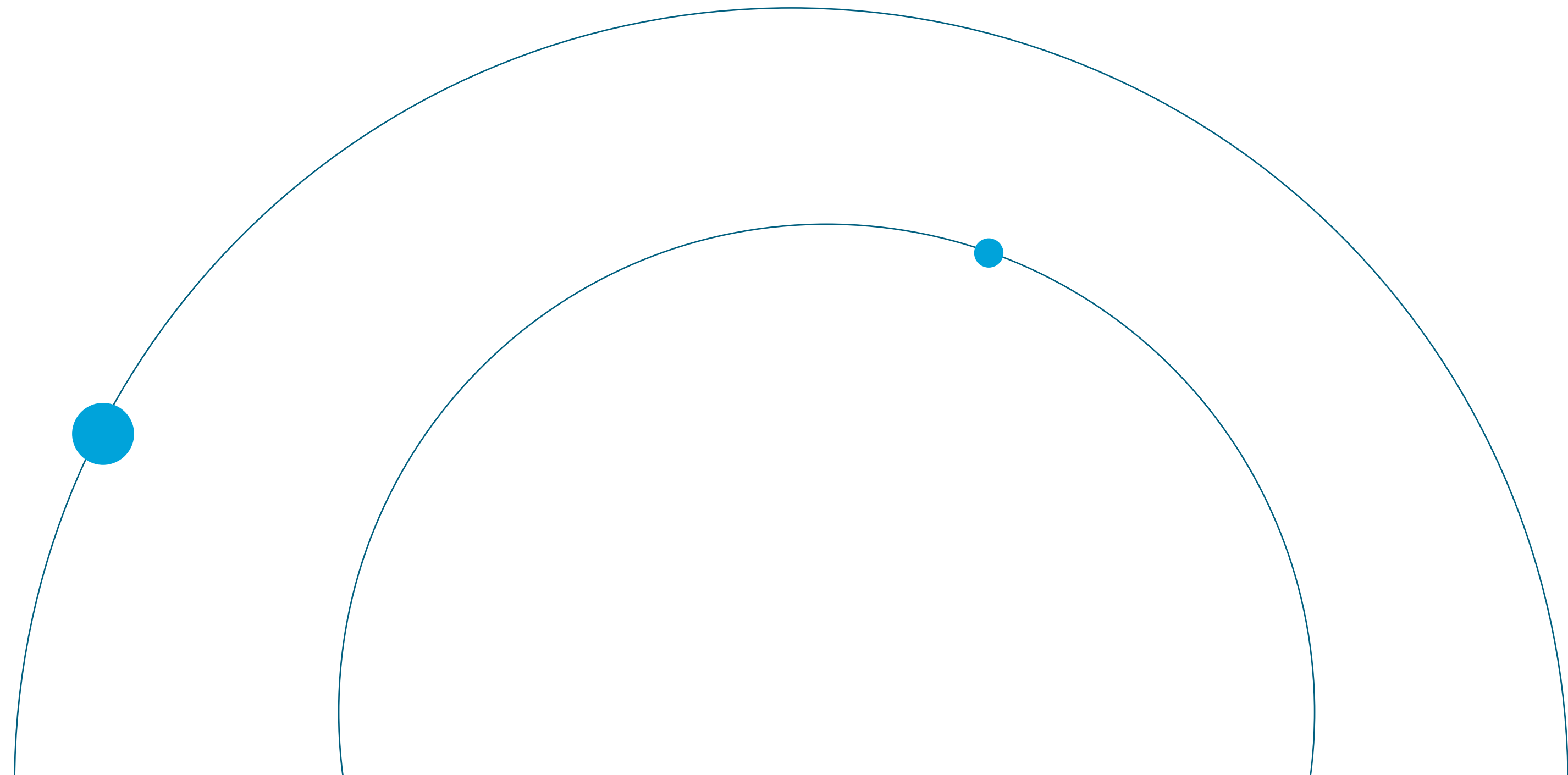
- Office of ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship



- Subgroup of AfriLabs Community
- Policy Hackathons



- National ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policy







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# i4Policy

The role of government policies in creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment cannot be overemphasized. The right policies in place on a local, national and regional level has the ability to exponentially increase the chances of business survival, cross-country and intra-African business collaboration and trade as well as local and foreign investments. AfriLabs as part of its policy advocacy drive supports the i4Policy's initiative which encourages inclusive dialogue between policy makers, innovative entrepreneurs and local communities to create policy frameworks that foster bottom-up local innovation. To realise its mission, innovation hubs organise series of hackathons and consultancies in various African countries such as the Africa Innovation Policy Manifesto developed in May in Kigali and in Nigeria.





# AfriLabs Projects & Partnerships

- 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)







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# Impact

## 200% Growth in Hub Size & Capacity

- Policy influence in 5 countries
- 250,000 community
- 3 national networks
- Innovation across sectors
- Convening Collaboration







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# Our Board

## Board Chairperson



**Rebecca Enonchong**  
ActivSpaces  
AppsTech



**Anna Ekeledo**  
Executive Director  
AfriLabs

## Board of Directors



**Regina Mbodj**  
CTIC Dakar



**Nekesa Were**  
ihub



**Rakotoarivo Sarobidy**  
Habaka Hub



**Bernard Chira**  
iBiz Africa

## Board of Advisors



**Bart Lacroix**  
1%Club



**Ben White**  
VC4Africa



**Bill Zimmerman**  
VC4Africa



**Erik Hersman**  
BRCK



**Jon Gosier**  
Cross Valley







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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**  
**[anna@afrilabs.com](mailto:anna@afrilabs.com)**