

Digital Innovation Made in Africa

For Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Selected Showcases presented at the EU-Africa Business Forum | Abidjan, 27 November 2017



Implemented by



Table of Contents

Foreword	4	IbuHub	13
Tech Entrepreneurship Initiative Make-IT in Africa	5	LIFEBANK	14
Clinic Master	6	Mamalette	15
FASHPA	7	PREPCLASS	16
FIREFLY MEDIA	8	TRADEDEPOT	17
Gebeya	9	Riby	18
Golix	10	Young at Heart	19
GoMetro	11	Implementing Partner	20
Happierco.	12	Imprint	22

Foreword



Innovative Entrepreneurship is one of the key drivers behind Africa's digital transformation.

For many young people, entrepreneurship is often the best way to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Innovative entrepreneurs know their local markets and understand the social context. This gives them a competitive advantage that helps them develop "Digital Innovation Made in Africa" and to assert themselves on the market globally.

This brochure presents a selection of these innovations with a strong potential for social impact and scaling. 15 young tech entrepreneurs have been invited to the Startup Fair, taking place on 27th November 2017 in Abidjan as a side-event of the 6th EU-Africa Business Forum.

These entrepreneurs represent new developments that convey a completely new image of Africa: dynamic, modern, innovative, technical, and at the same time human – because behind every digital innovation there is a team of founders who are keen to combine socially responsible entrepreneurship with digital modernization.

We would like to thank 'Bosun Tijani and Femi Longe (Co-Creation Hub Nigeria) and Regina M. Sipos (Social-Digital Innovation Initiative) for selecting the entrepreneurs. We would also like to express our special thanks to the technology start-ups shown, whose creativity and commitment make them role models for an entire generation of young people – worldwide.

Dr. Jan Schwaab

Head of Programme

Tech Entrepreneurship Initiative 'Make-IT in Africa'

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Tech Entrepreneurship Initiative ‘Make-IT in Africa’



Dynamic young entrepreneurs from the digital economy have great potential to discover new and local solutions for development challenges, and to create new opportunities for employment and social impact.

‘Make-IT in Africa’ promotes digital innovation for sustainable and inclusive development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as part of BMZ’s Digital Africa Initiative.

In close collaboration with more than 20 corporate and financing partners, social enterprises, hubs and networks, ‘Make-IT in Africa’ supports an enabling environment for young tech entrepreneurs – to provide better access to finance, markets and skills.

In its showcasing series ‘Digital Innovation Made in Africa’, the project presents good practices from African tech entrepreneurs with a high potential for social impact.

More information and contact:
<https://make-it-in-africa.org/>

Clinic Master

Uganda



Short description

ClinicMaster is an integrated healthcare information management and medical billing software. It automates patient transactions in the clinic or hospital on a visit basis and daily procedures.

Problem statement

Patients are frustrated by the long queues and high turn around time at health facilities. It is cumbersome for health workers to retrieve patient's data and generate reports from manual files. This results in delayed and inaccurate generation of bills and the inability to properly manage drug inventory.

Solution

An integrated healthcare information management and medical billing system.



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FASHPA

Nigeria



Short description

Fashpa is a platform that leverages mobile technology to aggregate tailors by connecting them to manufacturing hubs and to small & medium sized fashion brands.

Problem statement

The backbone of fashion industry is manufacturing. Africa's production infrastructure is weak and presents a huge barrier to growth and prosperity for local tailors and brands. The result is that small and medium sized clothing brands cannot access production at scale in Africa to grow their business and meet demand. Besides, the majority of tailors are also disconnected from the supply chain and have no real path to get their goods to market and increase their income.

Solution

The platform of Fashpa leverages mobile technology to aggregate tailors by connecting them to manufacturing hubs and to small and medium sized fashion brands. The business model is based on technology using data to understand tailor supply and connect them with supply request from companies.



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FIREFLY MEDIA

Senegal



Short description

FIREFLY MEDIA is an advertising agency specialized in communication within public transport in Senegal and especially in buses.

Problem statement

Mobility is a central challenge for African countries to build a sustainable growth. Passengers struggle every day due to the inefficiency of urban transports, yet operators do not make enough money to provide a better quality of service. Efficient transportation facilitates access to education, jobs and hospitals, increases productivity and reduces CO₂ emissions. The future of transportation relies on capital, access to services, and digital technologies that connect all actors.

Solution

FIREFLY MEDIA gives companies access to the mass media market platform of public transport to promote their products, services or messages. 25% of the advertising revenue goes to the operators, which they can use to increase their service. Through digital devices in the buses, they can be tracked. The generated information is accessible for the customers, so that passengers know in real time when the bus arrive.



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Gebeya

Kenya, Ethiopia and US



Short description

Gebeya is building a self-sustained ecosystem that trains, hires and incubates the best of African talent.

Problem statement

There is a serious lack of qualified IT professionals in Africa. The main issues revolve around capacity, employability and visibility for funding and mentorship. Those who have great ideas and potential, do not have a supporting ecosystem to scale and lack of resources to implement.

Solution

A profitable and self-sustainable ecosystem that combines an original and practical training model to shape the next generation of African software developers.

Training: Practical project based training.

Incubation: Finance, accelerate and exit Start-ups.

Marketplace: Job platform for on-demand IT talent.



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Golix

Zimbabwe



Short description

Golix uses digital currencies such as bitcoin to help people in Africa make international payments.

Problem statement

It is hard for Zimbabwean companies to make cross-border payments. Most have no means, and those who can, pay fees north of 10%, while many have to wait indefinitely for their transfers to go through.

Solution

A bitcoin exchange and wallet services for multiple African currencies which makes it super easy to exchange between currencies and send money anywhere in the world.



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GoMetro

South Africa



Short description

GoMetro is a Flexible Mobility Platform that produces actionable business intelligence on the transport network of a city.

Problem statement

As cities grow, congestion and car use become an unacceptable deterrent to economic growth and environmental sustainability. The last 50 years have shown that no city around the world has been able to grow its way out of traffic.

Solution

The solution for city congestion – offer mobility, not transport. Urban Mobility has realized that a livable city is not car-centric, and prioritizes public transport and shared mobility modes. Urban mobility's future is Flexible Mobility Networks that rely on Electrification, Shared Mobility and Autonomous Vehicles.



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Happierco

Zimbabwe



Short description

Happierco is a modern solution that helps companies improve employees' performance and engagement. It helps an entire company stay aligned and focused on priorities by setting clear goals and monitoring daily actions to achieve them effectively.

Problem statement

We realised that keeping your team productive and focused with effective goals setting and communication can be a problem. Happierco works on improving team engagement and performance.

Solution

Happierco is a solution that helps small and medium size businesses manage their employees' performance and engagement. We connect all necessary elements for an effective workforce improvement: goals management, communication between coworkers and managers, and effective performance reviews. This product can be easily adopted by companies and loved by employees. Companies that use Happierco get a productive and happy workforce to boost their growth.



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IbuHub

Zimbabwe

Short description

IbuHub identifies and brings together Africa's young entrepreneurs into a support ecosystem that grows technology and diverse innovation centric start-up ideas into commercially viable ventures.



Contact Founder:
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Problem statement

Lack of centralized support system to help start-up ideas in Zimbabwe.



Solution

Ibuhub provides an enabling platform to encourage enterprising technology enthusiast who are creating solutions to in Zimbabwe. Ibihub provides its members with the following:

- Admin support: Setting of company structures, legal support, tax returns and filling, annual returns and account functions are some of the back office services that are provided to members so that they can focus on growing their business.
- Workspace: Ideal working spaces and offices from which the entrepreneur can flexibly grow their business from. Available is office workspace for teams of 1 up to 15 people with flexible lease arrangements. Included in the workspace are shared meeting rooms with conference call facilities.
- Learning and resource centre: From time to time we will have an international expert in a field staying with us in residence for a period of time. They will be sharing their expertise with the entrepreneur with their key contributions being posted on the resource centre.
- Funding: Through our network of partners, appropriate funding can be structured for the entrepreneur depending on their stage of the journey to commercialising and scaling up their business.

URL
<http://ibuhub.com/>

LIFEBANK

Nigeria



Short description

LifeBank is a platform that makes blood available when and where it is needed in Nigeria to save lives, by mobilizing blood donations, taking inventory of all blood available in the country, and delivering blood in the right condition to the point of need.

Problem statement

African health system, specifically Nigeria, both public and private hospitals are overcrowded and inefficient. Health workers are overworked and spend valuable time chasing after essential medical products, lack of which leads to significant preventable deaths.

Solution

LifeBank is the smart supply chain engine for Africa's health system. We use technology, big data, and smart logistics to improve access to essential medical supplies and save lives in hospitals across Africa. We are the engine of this continent's economic growth. We help hospitals discover medical products using next generation technology and big data for predictive experience, and we deliver to hospitals in the right condition using smart logistics system.



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Mamalette

Nigeria



Short description

Mamalette connects pregnant women and new mothers to proven and evidence based life-saving information through an active online community & a network of motherhood support groups in communities across Nigeria.



Contact: Founder
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Problem statement

Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places in the world to give birth and to be born. According to UNICEF, a woman's chance of dying from pregnancy and childbirth in Nigeria is 1 in 13. The same dire situation is mirrored across Africa

One of the underlying causes of the high maternal and infant mortality in Nigeria includes limited availability of timely and reliable health information for decision-making and poor access to and use of health facilities. In addition, there remains a lack of collective community knowledge on safe and healthy pregnancy and infant care.

Solution

The platform is setup to provide the much needed advisory support to expectant mother, healthcare givers and other stakeholders in the primary health care system especially with regards to women.

URL
www.mamalette.com

PREPCLASS

Nigeria



Short description

Prepclass is a hyperlocal marketplace that connects learners who need help with vetted and trusted independent tutors looking to offer their services.

Problem statement

Finding professional, reliable, trustworthy and accountable tutors in a safe and secure manner.

Solution

Through our platform clients have access to a database over 17,000 tutors in 3 Cities in Nigeria. Clients may select their tutors or Prepclass can choose a tutor for them. The process is very easy and convenient and offers a scalable solution with unbeatable user experience.



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TRADEDEPOT

Nigeria



Short description

TradeDepot's B2B marketplace connects consumer goods brands directly to millions of small and mid-sized FMCG (Fast moving consumer goods) retailers in emerging markets

Problem statement

In fragmented markets, FMCG brands supply to millions of retailers with no way of receiving order requests to know which retailer needs what product or track when a retailer is running out of stock

Solution

TradeDepot is the Marketplace for FMCG supplies, connecting Consumer Goods Brands to receive orders directly from their retail and wholesale buyers. Retailers create orders on TradeDepot with their exact needs, and these orders are automatically routed to the appropriate distributors to deliver.



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Riby

Nigeria



Short description

Riby is a banking platform created for small and large cooperatives operating in financially excluded areas of the country as well as large corporates.

Problem statement

A large number of the populace are still financially excluded from the formal banking system. Their only option is often with the small thrift collectors and informal savings groups/societies with very high risk of fraud. A number of these cooperatives also operate in the corporate world but still grapple with issues of trust and mismanagement.

Solution

Riby's technology platform makes it easy to enlist members, manage data/financial records and provides live access to all dealings within the group. The platform also makes it easy to integrate into the formal banking system and access other support in form of investments and credit facilities.



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Young at Heart

Ghana



Short description

Young at Heart Ghana is championing a revolution of digital literacy for Ghana with special focus on children and youth in rural/deprived communities. Our Mission is to provide solutions to the needs of children in Ghana with regards to their education in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).



Contact: Founder
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Problem statement

Digital illiteracy amongst young adults in Africa is extremely high and there aren't enough organisations championing quality education in rural areas in Africa.

Solution

Our Mission is to provide solutions to the needs of children in Ghana with regards to their education in Information and Communication Technology.

URL
<http://www.youngatheartgh.com/>

Implementing Partner

Co-Creation Hub Nigeria

CcHUB is a social innovation centre dedicated to accelerating the application of social capital and technology for economic prosperity. The technology hub is the first in Nigeria to serve as an Open Living Lab in which user-driven innovation is fully integrated in the co-creative process of new services, products and societal infrastructures.

CcHUB's methodology is hinged on engaging a community of progressive stakeholders (end-users, subject matter experts, government agencies, businesses, academics, civil societies etc.) who bring their creativity and knowledge to play in co-creating solutions to social challenges faced by the average Nigerian through our open living labs. The resulting innovations are then supported to become sustainable market solutions by providing proactive business support, advice, mentorship and funding through our pre-incubation & research unit.

For more information, visit:
www.cchubnigeria.com

Konnektiv

Konnektiv is a Berlin-based agency working at the intersection of technology, collaboration, and social development. We focus on new innovative approaches for international development in the field of information and communication technology (ICT). We design, manage, and evaluate development projects in the ICT sector, advise on digital strategy and portfolio management, provide training and facilitation, conduct research and analysis, and program software solutions.

For more information, visit:
<https://konnektiv.de>

Social-Digital Innovation Initiative

The Social-Digital Innovation Initiative (SDI) is a non-profit company committed to creating a world where social solutions use technologies meaningfully, are impact driven, sustainable and benefit and belong to those who create them. SDI builds bridges for collaboration between technology and communities worldwide, supports cross-pollination and excels in empowering grassroots to create socially relevant, feasible, financially sustainable social-tech enterprises. We bring tech and social entrepreneurship together, incubate pre-seed projects in a non-profit, non-equity, independent development program. Our modular offerings are designed in collaboration with local partners and flexibly to fit the local context.

For more information, visit:
<https://sdinnovation.org>

Make-IT in Africa

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More information and contact:

www.make-it-in-africa.org



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GIZ is a provider of international cooperation services for sustainable development and international education work. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The diverse expertise of our federal enterprise is in demand around the globe, with the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector and governments of other countries all benefiting from our services. We work with businesses, civil society actors and research institutions, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other policy fields and areas of activity. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is our main commissioning party.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.giz.de/>



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