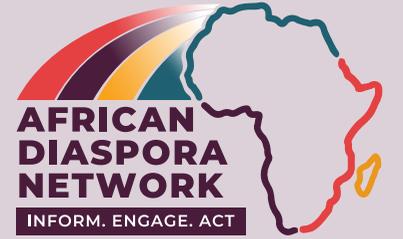


IMPACT REPORT

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF AFRICAN AND DIASPORA INNOVATION



2025



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A MESSAGE FROM

THE FOUNDER & CEO

15 Years of African Diaspora Network: From First Movers to a Global Platform for Impact

Fifteen years ago, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) was born from a bold belief: that the African diaspora, when connected, trusted, and mobilized, could be a powerful force in shaping Africa's future and strengthening global African communities.

At the time, diaspora engagement was fragmented, often transactional, and rarely seen as a strategic asset. ADN emerged as one of the first platforms to reframe that narrative, to move beyond charity and remittances and toward shared ownership, long-term investment, and collective problem-solving.

ADN has grown into a global community grounded not in programs alone, but in people - entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, policy leaders, creatives, philanthropists, and allies - brought together by a shared commitment to Africa's potential and the diaspora's responsibility to engage differently.

We have convened across borders and sectors, creating trusted spaces where ideas turn into action and relationships turn into long-term collaboration. We have supported entrepreneurs in Africa and the United States who are building viable businesses, creating jobs, and anchoring opportunities in their communities. We have brought together African scientists and global experts who are advancing innovation in health, science, and technology, often across institutions and geographies that had never previously connected.

Perhaps most importantly, ADN has helped shape a new way of thinking about diaspora capital. Long before it became widely discussed, we introduced and advanced the Beyond Remittances framework, challenging diasporans, institutions, and governments to recognize diaspora engagement as an engine for investment, innovation, and systems change. Today, this concept is increasingly embraced across the diaspora ecosystem as a paradigm shift for encouraging long-term, catalytic investment rather than short-term flows alone.

None of this has happened in isolation. ADN's story is a collective one, made possible by the trust, generosity, and shared commitment of our funders, board members, advisors, partners, and dedicated team, and written by the community we have built together. It is reflected in the entrepreneurs who found their first believers through our network; the scientists who discovered new collaborators; the partners who took a chance on a new and untested model; and the diaspora leaders who came to see themselves not just as contributors, but as co-architects of Africa's future.

Thanks to all who have been part of this journey, ADN today stands as a global platform for diaspora engagement and activation. The work ahead calls for transformational partnerships, bolder capital formation, and continued leadership in how the diaspora shows up in moments of both opportunity and uncertainty.

As we enter our next chapter, our focus is on scale, sustainability, and stewardship, ensuring the community built over the past 15 years continues to thrive beyond any single program or moment. To those who believed from the beginning, thank you; to those who joined along the way, thank you; and to those just discovering ADN, welcome. There has never been a more important time to engage. We look forward to working with you.

With appreciation,

Almaz Negash



Founder & CEO
African Diaspora Network



ABOUT ADN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its founding in 2010, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) has served as a leading diaspora-led platform dedicated to mobilizing the intellectual, social, and financial capital of Africans in the diaspora, allies of Africa, and individuals on the continent to drive inclusive economic growth. What began as a community-supported initiative has grown into a globally recognized organization advancing entrepreneurship, innovation, and social impact through strategic partnerships and high-impact programs. Grounded in the core values of respect, integrity, accountability, and civic responsibility, ADN is known for its ability to convene diverse global communities and foster collaboration across cultures, sectors, and borders.

ADN has built a vibrant global ecosystem of more than 15,000 engaged members, including entrepreneurs, investors, philanthropists, policymakers, and changemakers across 115+ countries. Through flagship convenings such as the African Diaspora Investment Symposium and Impact and Innovation Forums, ADN has convened over 11,000 participants, facilitated cross-sector dialogue, and strengthened economic and policy linkages between Africa and the diaspora. Over the past seven years, ADN has directly supported more than 160 entrepreneurs through accelerator programs, mentorship, and access to capital, while cultivating over 65 ecosystem partnerships with leading institutions.

ADN is advancing a bold vision to move beyond remittances toward sustainable, diaspora-led investment and innovation. With the African diaspora sending more than US\$92 billion annually to Africa, ADN's Beyond Remittances strategy channels this untapped potential into long-term investments that build resilient economies and communities. As ADN enters its next phase of growth, it continues to serve as a trusted platform for action—uniting historical, Afro-Caribbean, and contemporary African diasporas to shape Africa's future through shared prosperity, pan-African collaboration, and transformative impact.

OUR MISSION

We convene Africans from the continent, descendants of Africa—including African Americans and Afro-Caribbeans—and allies to create an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurial spirit and mobilizes intellectual and financial resources for a prosperous future. Through strategic partnerships and innovative programs, we aim to serve as a catalyst for positive change and growth in Africa, its diaspora, and global communities.

OUR VISION

Harnessing the collective power of the global African diaspora to drive entrepreneurship, forge partnerships, facilitate knowledge exchange, generate social impact, and foster human capital development.

OUR APPROACH

As a leading global network, ADN is dedicated to advancing diaspora engagement through our strategic priorities. To view our full 2024 to 2028 strategic plan, [click here](#).



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

ADN is a hub for knowledge sharing and raising trend and opportunity awareness across Africa while bridging the gap between those working there and in the diaspora. Our virtual, hybrid and in person convenings feature seasoned industry experts across a range of pertinent topics.

ADN also activates a global network of people willing to share their time and expertise as mentors and ecosystem partners.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

ADN engages key stakeholders including government, academia, corporations, multinational organizations and NGOs through strategic partnerships that promote entrepreneurship, social impact and sustainable investment **beyond remittances**. Through our programs and convenings, we also provide ample opportunities for connections and collaborations that often lead to impactful partnerships for our network and those they serve.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Our enterprise accelerators support changemakers leading nonprofit and for profit businesses on the continent and in the diaspora. Our goal is to help scale their ventures through enterprise development training, mentorship and networking opportunities within the diaspora and the continent.



BEYOND REMITTANCES

ADN elevates and supports the work that African diasporans are doing to enable investments and philanthropy for sustainable development and transformational impact. We intentionally engage Africans, African diasporans, and friends of Africa to move beyond remittances toward long-term, sustainable investment for the betterment of the African continent.

[Read more here.](#)

TOP QUOTES & SUCCESS STORIES

For 15 Years, ADN has served as a catalyst for groundbreaking collaborations and partnerships. Whether through convenings, entrepreneurship programs or other diaspora mobilization efforts, ADN continues to connect people to resources that propel their efforts. Here are a few descriptions of ADN's impact:

Launching Innovative Technology:

During the first ADIS in 2016, two software engineers, Hiruy Amanuel and Amadou Daffe, met and went on to co-found Gebeya, a new-age EdTech company based in Ethiopia that trains, hires, and cultivates top talented African software engineers. Recently, Gebeya partnered with Nvidia with the goal of upskilling 50,000 developers across Africa.

Introducing African Start-ups to a Global Audience:

When Marsha Wulff and her partners attended ADIS in 2017, they met with African cohort members of YC & 500 Startups. After meeting and learning firsthand about African entrepreneurship from African entrepreneurs, LoftyInc invested in three Africa-facing ventures: Flutterwave, Printivo and Kangpe/Reliance HMO. LoftyInc was among Flutterwave's first investors with \$250,000 in 2017 and the company is now considered a fintech unicorn. The investment is considered widely successful and positioned LoftyInc as a firm that recognizes leading tech start-ups early.'



Investing in Entrepreneurs:

After graduating from ADN's Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) in October 2022, Emmanuel Brown launched the ChurchSpace platform in November 2023. The platform quickly became a vibrant hub, empowering pastors and their congregations by transforming underutilized church spaces into dynamic hubs that benefit their communities. Emmanuel reflected that

"through ABLE's network, I built meaningful relationships that directly supported my journey to raise \$1.5 Million."



Funding Africa's Youth:

After attending ADIS23, three Mandela Washington Fellows collectively left with over \$50,000 in investments from ADIS23 attendees. As Ambrose Kanya, founder of KingaSafety described, *"In only three and half days, ADIS23 connected me to people I have struggled to access for the past five years of my entrepreneurial journey."*

Facilitating Strategic Partnerships:



Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) graduates Kusaluka Aginiwe, CSO of Smart Darasa and George Akilimali, CEO and Co-founder of Smartcore, partnered to launch Ekima Africa. They formalized their partnership in March 2025, marking the first-ever startup collaboration of this kind in Tanzania.

Together, they deliver cutting-edge technologies such as video simulations, 2D/3D animations, AR/VR, and AI-driven tools. Kusaluka said: *"The BAF program played a crucial role by fostering a collaborative mindset and emphasizing strategic partnerships. The program's focus on ecosystem development and partnerships provided us with the tools and connections necessary to explore and solidify this collaboration."*

Accelerating Africa's R&D:



In a landmark collaboration, Bio Usawa, a pioneering biotechnology company advancing Africa's monoclonal antibody development and manufacturing capacity, and Yemaachi Biotech, a leader in African cancer genomics, partnered to accelerate precision medicine and pharmacogenomics for infectious diseases, cancer, and eye diseases across the continent. The founders met and began discussing their collaboration at the ASCE launch during ADIS25.

OUR PROGRAMS

ADN's programs and initiatives blend convening with action, giving our audience the space to stay informed, engage with each other and cutting edge innovations, and act upon opportunities that improve our collective futures.

Click on each program to find our more about it.

ASCE

African Scientific Community Engagement

ASCE brings together diverse African diaspora and friends of Africa to advocate for, invest in, and work toward the global advancement of Africa.

ADIS

African Diaspora Investment Symposium

The symposium annually celebrates the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of the African Diaspora.

IIF

Impact and Innovation Forums

IIF is a series of in-person and virtual events that showcase and support impactful innovations within the African Diaspora.

ABLE

Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship

ABLE supports impact-orientated businesses in the USA and entrepreneurs from historically disadvantaged communities and connections to Africa

BAF

Builders of Africa's Future

BAF is an accelerator program recognizing and supporting African entrepreneurs and startups making social impact.

SYSE

Start Your Social Enterprise

SYSE is a training program for entrepreneurial Catholic Sisters whose initiatives meet needs in underserved communities.

AfDIF

African Diaspora Innovation Fund

AfDIF is a philanthropic fund being raised by ADN and its allies to support African and African-descendant social entrepreneurs.

OUR HISTORY



Origins of ADN: Almaz Negash convenes 15 people to discuss the idea of launching the African Diaspora Network (ADN). Team convenes local grassroots Diasporans on issues of entrepreneurship, investment, and innovation.

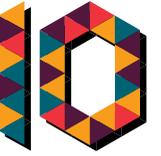


Inspiration Almaz Negash attends the 2014 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS), hosted by the U.S. Department of State and USAID

ADN hosts the fourth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium: **Amplifying Abundance in Africa.**

ADN partners with the eBay Foundation Global Gives program to provide **mentorship and resources** to the 2020 Builders of Africa's Future cohort.

ADN hosts the eight annual ADIS **Future Ready: Africa** as our first in-person symposium since the pandemic at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, USA.



ADN celebrates the tenth anniversary of ADIS in the city that inspired its origins: Washington, D.C. The milestone symposium presents the theme of **Beyond Remittances: The Evolving Role of Africans in the Diaspora in Unlocking Transformational Investments.**

2010 2011 2012 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

From August '11-'12, the team convenes local grassroots Diasporans on issues ranging from entrepreneurship to innovation to investment, using about \$5,000 in self-funded contributions.

ADN forms collaborations with International Institute for Education, Global Fund for Women, Silicon Valley African Film Festival and many others, including hosting several leaders from Africa.

Ideation ADN pitches the idea of the first African Diaspora Investment Symposium in Silicon Valley to USAID and the State Department.



Seed Funding: ADN receives \$15,000 seed funding from the State Department that propelled the first ADIS in January 2016. ADN leverages the \$15,000 to raise an additional \$150,000 for the first ADIS.



Inaugural ADIS: African Diaspora Network hosts the first African Diaspora Investment Symposium in Silicon Valley in January 2016 with the theme **"Under One Umbrella, One Family."**

ADN hosts the third annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium: **Building Africa's Future: Magnifying What is Within.**

ADN launches the first **Builders of Africa's Future Awards** at ADIS2018.

ADN launches the first African Diaspora Network **Impact and Innovation Speaker Series**, expanding nationwide to reach audiences in Silicon Valley, Washington D.C., and New York City.

ADN hosts the second African Diaspora Investment Symposium: **Engage, Spark, Activate and presents its first Barka Award** to Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro.

With funding from BILL, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, KLA Foundation and others, ADN launched the **first Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)** cohort to support Black entrepreneurs in the USA and prepare them to pitch to Silicon Valley investors.

ADN launched the **Beyond Remittances initiative** at the US African Leaders Summit.

With funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, ADN trains the first cohort of Catholic Sisters through the **Start Your Social Enterprise program**. Selected graduates are chosen to participate in ADN's Builders of Africa's Future program.

ADN celebrates its **ten-year anniversary** during the Covid-19 pandemic, keeping the community informed and engaged through a virtual Impact and Innovation Speaker Series. With support from the U.S. African Development Foundation, ADN also hosts the sixth annual ADIS through monthly virtual convenings July 2020 to January 2021 on the theme **Leapfrogging Africa: Healthcare, Education, Technology, Finance.**

ADN hosts the ninth annual ADIS **Activate with Africa: Climate Change, Connections, and Actions** at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose, CA, USA.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| <h2>ADIS</h2> | <p>The 10th African Diaspora Investment Symposium convened global changemakers to exchange bold ideas, spark cross-sector collaboration, and shape a shared vision for the diaspora's role in unlocking transformational investments in Africa.</p> |  <h3>69</h3> <p>SPEAKERS</p> |  <h3>300</h3> <p>PEOPLE CONVENED</p> |  <h3>16</h3> <p>COUNTRIES REPRESENTED</p> |
| <h2>IIFs</h2> | <p>Impact and Innovation Forums (IIFs) convened in-person, virtual, and hybrid conversations that brought diaspora leaders and partners together to explore critical issues shaping Africa's future through investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, research & development and policy engagement.</p> |  <h3>27</h3> <p>SPEAKERS</p> |  <h3>557</h3> <p>PEOPLE CONVENED</p> |  <h3>12</h3> <p>SESSIONS</p> |
| <h2>ASCE</h2> | <p>At ADIS25 and throughout the year, diaspora and African scientists and innovators convened under the newly launched African Scientific and Community Engagement (ASCE) program,—yielding new collaborations and partnerships advancing African health innovation.</p> |  <h3>51</h3> <p>SENIOR SCIENTISTS ENGAGED</p> |  <h3>6</h3> <p>COLLABORATIONS FACILITATED</p> |  <h3>12</h3> <p>PARTNERS ENGAGED</p> |
| <h2>AfDIF</h2> | <p>ADN advanced its Beyond Remittances strategy through global partnerships and collaborations across U.S., Europe and Africa; and through the launch of the African Diaspora Innovation Fund (AfDIF), mobilizing philanthropic capital to support African and diaspora social entrepreneurs.</p> |  <h3>65</h3> <p>ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS</p> |  <h3>4,778</h3> <p>PEOPLE ENGAGED <i>(at External Events)</i></p> |  <h3>34</h3> <p>PEOPLE REGISTERED TO HEAR ENTREPRENEURS PITCH</p> |

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|--|---|
| <h2>BAF</h2> | <p>Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) supported bold early-stage entrepreneurs advancing culturally grounded, community-centered solutions to Africa's most pressing challenges across key social and economic sectors.</p> |  16 ENTREPRENEURS GRADUATED |  10 SECTORS REPRESENTED |  7 AFRICAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED |
| <h2>SYSE</h2> | <p>Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE) continued to empower Catholic Sisters to transform community-based initiatives into sustainable social enterprises, strengthening a grassroots pipeline of mission-driven leaders advancing opportunity across Africa.</p> |  14 ENTREPRENEURS GRADUATED |  6 SECTORS REPRESENTED |  6 AFRICAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED |
| <h2>ABLE</h2> | <p>Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) held for the first time in-house, served as a powerful catalyst for impact-driven entrepreneurs, equipping them with the tools, mentorship, and networks needed to navigate the complexities of the global investment landscape.</p> |  16 ENTREPRENEURS GRADUATED |  8 SECTORS REPRESENTED |  9 U.S. STATES REPRESENTED |

Cheers to ADN on 15 incredible years of uniting Africans in the Diaspora with innovators and change agents across the continent! Your tireless work building partnerships, empowering leaders, and creating community across borders is an inspiration. We honor your legacy and can't wait to see the future you continue to shape.

—Hugh Molotsi, Founder, Ujaama, and ADN Emeritus Board Member



SPOTLIGHTING IMPACT

Since its founding, ADN has designed and delivered entrepreneurship programs to support African, diaspora, and Africa-facing entrepreneurs at critical stages of growth. Through accelerator programs, pitch platforms, mentorship, and peer learning, ADN equips founders with practical tools, networks, and capital-readiness support to strengthen their enterprises and expand their impact.

In 2025, ADN conducted its **first-ever alumni survey** across its entrepreneurship programs to better understand long-term outcomes, business performance, and post-program growth. The survey captured both **quantitative metrics** and **qualitative reflections** from alumni founders, offering a holistic picture of enterprise performance and ecosystem contribution.

Disclaimer: Results are based on a 30% response rate from the ADN Entrepreneur Network (AEN). Findings are indicative and extrapolated from respondents.

“Participating in the ADN program has greatly impacted me and Picard Printing Press. I gained stronger **leadership, financial, and strategic skills**, which improved how I run the business. For the enterprise, **the program helped us streamline operations, set clear growth targets, and build resilience for sustainable expansion.**”

—Josephine Ndinda Kitonyi, Picard Printing Press, BAF’25



ADN’S ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

77% of alumni expanded products or services post-program

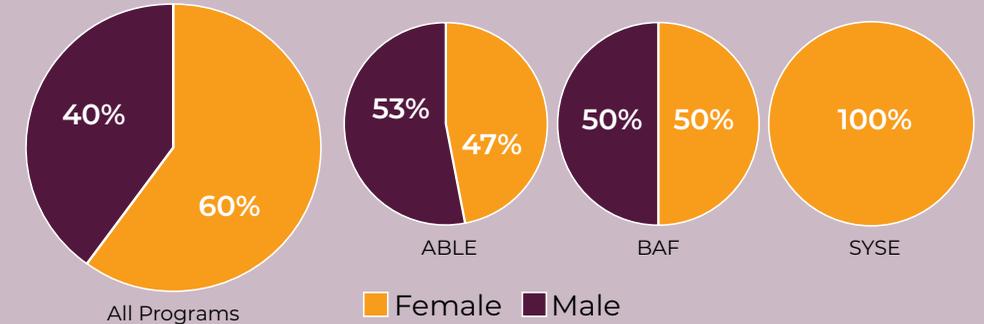
68% raised \$10,000+ after completing an ADN program

57% attribute their growth “very much” or “completely” to ADN

Entrepreneurs per program

210] **70** ABLE
93 BAF
47 SYSE

Gender

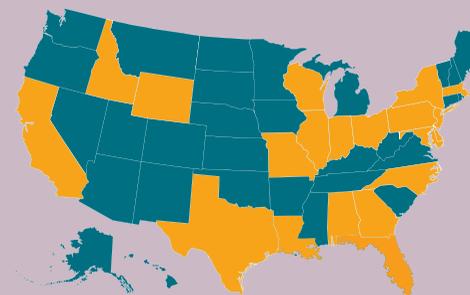


Global Presence

ADN’s Entrepreneur Network spans across two continents.



19 African Countries



21 U.S. States

Industry Representation

ADN entrepreneurs operate across high-impact sectors including healthcare, edtech, agriculture, fintech, and creative industries. The majority are early- to growth-stage enterprises balancing revenue generation with measurable social outcomes.

Top 5 Sectors

- Health
- Agriculture / Food & Beverage
- Education
- Finance
- Energy

CAPITAL READINESS AND NETWORK LEVERAGE

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ADN?

ADN's value proposition extends beyond training. The ADN Entrepreneur Network (AEN) continues to activate networks, mentors, and their peers - all key predictors of long-term enterprise performance.

Post-program outcomes:

64%

continued collaborating with cohort peers

42%

made key connections through ADN events

38%

attracted investors

26%

raised capital using pitch decks and materials developed during ADN programs

When ADN entrepreneurs receive financial awards, funds are deployed toward **business fundamentals** rather than short-term consumption, signaling **capital discipline** and **founder maturity**. **With their new awards they invested in:**

Equipment and technology upgrades

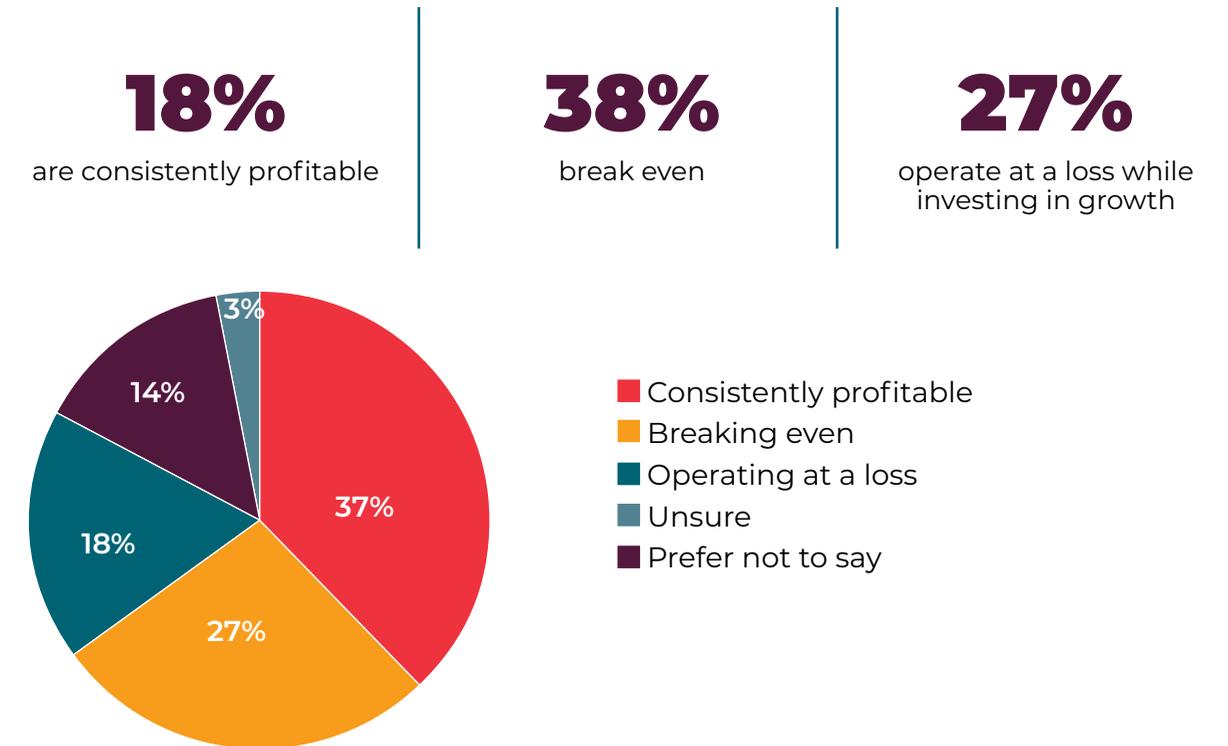
Product and service expansion

Hiring and operational stability

ENTERPRISE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL HEALTH

REVENUE & SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

While alumni enterprises are at varying stages of maturity,



18%

are consistently profitable

38%

break even

27%

operate at a loss while investing in growth

- Consistently profitable
- Breaking even
- Operating at a loss
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say



“I met one of my key mentors - who also invested and helped me get to know the bay area investment ecosystem - through ADN.”
—Yasmin Kumi, Africa Foresight, BAF'18

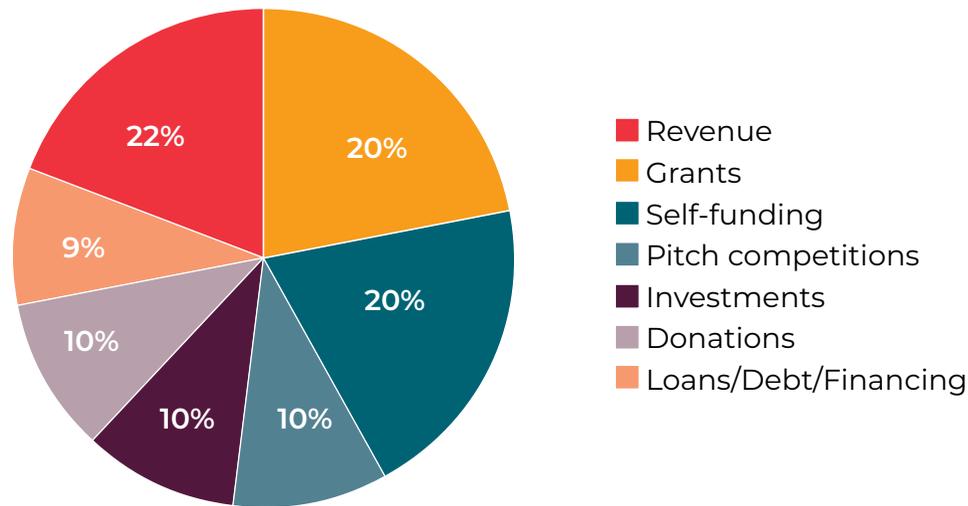
FUNDING MIX & CAPITAL STACKING

With a mix of non-profit, for-profit and social enterprise business models, ADN's entrepreneurs utilize diversified capital strategies:

Grants as early catalytic capital

Revenue as a growing share of total funding

Selective use of equity, prizes, and debt



“Participating in the ADN program strengthened my leadership and Clinic+O’s growth trajectory. The structured mentorship and peer learning sharpened our scaling strategy, improved our fundraising approach, and positioned us to secure new partnerships. We left with stronger tools to measure impact, a refined pitch, and a clearer roadmap for digitizing community health in Guinea.”

—Nasser Diallo, Clinic+O, BAF’24



CREATING JOBS

ADN-supported enterprises actively translate growth into employment. While workforce sizes vary by sector and stage, alumni report building lean teams that expand as enterprises secure revenue, contracts, and follow-on funding.

1,634 JOBS
Created & Sustained

ADN-supported enterprises completing the 2025 survey collectively employ 1,634 people - including full-time employees, part-time staff, and contractors across sectors and geographies.

Youth employment

A majority of enterprises report youth (29 and under) comprising over **21%** of their workforce, with 18 enterprises indicating youth make up more than **50%** of employees.

Women’s employment

Women are strongly represented in ADN-supported enterprises, with **75%+** reporting that women comprise more than **21%** of their workforce. **22 enterprises** reported majority-women teams.

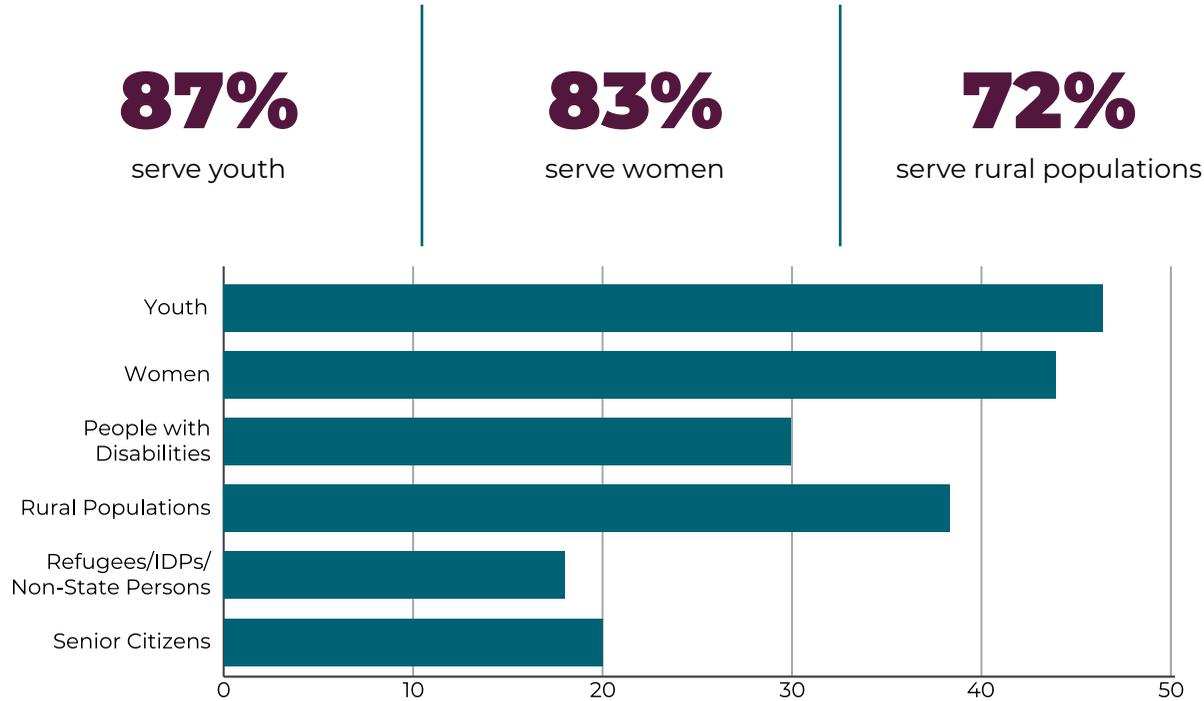
“Participating in the ADN program was nothing short of transformational. For my enterprise, ADN became the blueprint for scaling with clarity. I walked away with refined systems, a stronger business model, and a network that amplified my reach far beyond what I could have created alone. It positioned my brand for sustainable growth in e-commerce, digital education, and high-impact services, while also giving me access to mentors and resources that turned ambition into executable action. ADN didn’t just give me tools; it gave me momentum. It anchored me in confidence, expanded my community, and set my enterprise on a trajectory where luxury, results, and empowerment aren’t just goals - they’re the standard.”

—Victoria Prince, Tori Prince Beauty, LLC, ABLE’23



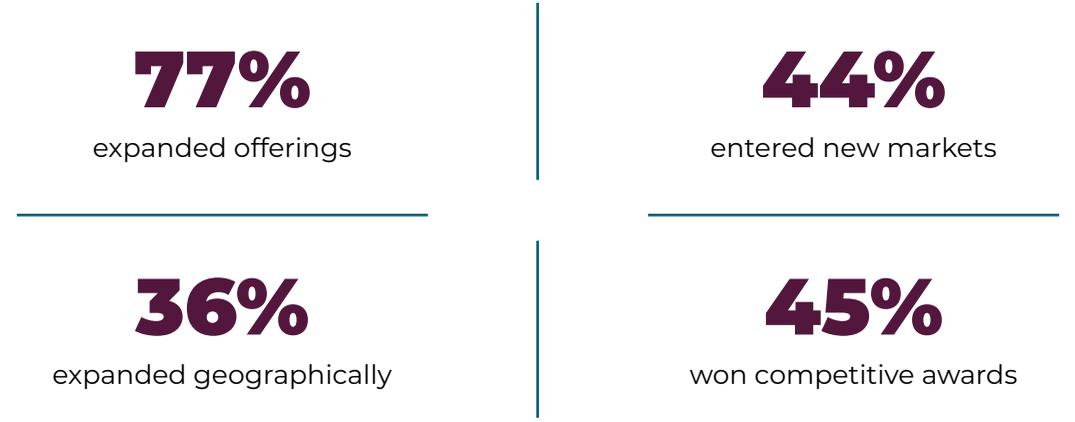
MARKET REACH & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

ADN-backed enterprises serve markets that are often both underserved and commercially viable:



GROWTH BEYOND NUMBERS

Since completing ADN programs:



“Participating in the ADN program was transformative for both me and Revna Biosciences. The program provided access to a robust network of mentors and peers which accelerated our ability to refine our business model and strengthen our go-to-market strategy. The structured curriculum and expert guidance helped us sharpen our value proposition and position Revna as a leader in precision medicine for West Africa. Most importantly, the program opened doors to strategic partnerships opportunities that have been critical to our growth trajectory.”

-Derrick Akpalu, Revna Biosciences, ABLE'24



Beyond enterprise growth, ADN alumni contribute to ecosystem health:



VOLUNTEERS AND CHAMPIONS

The Community Behind the Impact

For 15 years, African Diaspora Network’s impact has been powered by a remarkable community of volunteers, advisors, mentors, reviewers, investors, and champions who have given their time, talent, and belief to support African and diaspora entrepreneurs. Their contributions—often behind the scenes—have helped founders refine ideas, access opportunity, and build lasting connections across the global diaspora. For a full list of some of our amazing 2025 volunteers and advisors, please see our [2025 End of Year Thank You Message](#).

As part of this Impact Report, we invited a few of these champions to reflect on what motivates them to volunteer with ADN and to share some of their most meaningful ADN experiences.

One of our key focus areas is helping under-resourced entrepreneurs achieve success by developing skills and networks of mentors and peers that enable growth. The ABLE program has provided early stage entrepreneurs with the foundational knowledge and connections to mentors and peers that can help them build successful businesses. We are grateful to the team’s dedication to this community.

—Joyce Chung, Mahakahama Foundation and ADN ABLE Advisor



Ever since [ADN’s founding], I’ve been delighted to lend my support to the ADN because it is an action-oriented organization with a small but mighty team! **ADN certainly exemplifies the African proverb “if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”**

Some of my fondest memories of ADN are my ADIS experiences, **which I call a festival of learning and fun!** ADIS is a place for community, for thought leadership but also to celebrate African arts and culture! I’ve had the privilege of mentoring several ABLE entrepreneurs and assisting them with pitch and fundraising. The entrepreneurship journey can be an exciting but very difficult one, and ADN programs like ABLE and BAF provide invaluable support!

—Romi Bhatia, Venture Partner at Jedar Capital and ADN Executive Leadership Council and AfDiF Advisor



My main motivation in getting involved with ADN is my belief that Africa’s problems are best tackled and solved by Africans themselves, not by non-Africans. Yes, of course, non-Africans can help, but at the forefront of the battlefield, we Africans must be the ones leading, weaving, and swerving through the jungle of economic difficulties and underdevelopment, until we succeed in developing the entire continent. Not outsiders. In short, we must take full responsibility for what happens to our continent. Listening to Almaz share her story about how the idea of ADN was conceived, when I first attended ADIS several years ago, it was a no brainer that I had found what I had been looking for: the platform through which I could help my people, and my continent, even if just a little. This is because I know the feeling, when in your most difficult moments or trying times, suddenly someone unexpectedly shows up, and renders help. I’m sure if we ask most successful people today, they’ll tell us that at one time or the other, they too stood on the shoulders of giants - call them mentors, helpers, advisers, or whatever. **My volunteerism, mentoring, and investing in Builders of Africa’s Future, and investing in some of these new businesses, is as a result of this overall philosophy.**

—Ali Garba, Chairman & CEO, Akufai Capital & Equities, LLC and BAF Advisor

I am a proud member of the African Diaspora. ADN and the ADIS conference allow me an opportunity to **participate in this important part of my identity.** At ADIS I always meet young founders and C-suite executives that I **continue to coach and mentor long past the convening.**

—Latanya Mapp, LSI Fellow, University of Chicago; and ADN Executive Leadership Council., AfDiF Advisor

VOLUNTEERS AND CHAMPIONS

Volunteering with the ADN allows me to fulfill my passion for acting as a **connector** and a catalyst for other professionals. By serving as a reviewer, I am able to bridge the gap between innovative ideas and the resources they need to scale. I am driven by the opportunity to support impact-oriented businesses that solve pressing issues whether through technology in Africa or by addressing essential community needs within the U.S. diaspora. For me, volunteering is a way to leverage my expertise to ensure that visionary entrepreneurs have the mentorship and investor-readiness required to create sustainable global change.

One of my most rewarding experiences has been serving as a **Reviewer for the Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) program**. Reviewing early-stage African enterprises is more than an administrative task; it is a front-row seat to the continent's innovation. Seeing a startup I reviewed successfully move through the accelerator is incredibly fulfilling.

—Victor Aneleh, ADN Volunteer

I am motivated to volunteer with the African Diaspora Network because it gives me a meaningful way to give back by sharing my knowledge and expertise in business development services, digitization, and community development. ADN's community-centered and values-driven approach strongly aligns with my passion for supporting locally led, impact-driven.

One of my most rewarding ADN experiences has been mentoring Catholic sisters through the Start Your Social Enterprise Program. I have enjoyed supporting them to strengthen their social enterprise ideas, improve sustainability, and build confidence in applying business and digital skills to their missions. It has been deeply fulfilling to see the tangible impact their enterprises create—particularly in education, job creation, and women and youth empowerment. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the power of mentorship and community-driven entrepreneurship.

—Benard O. Nyachieo, Kujia Kenya Founder and ADN Volunteer

I stay engaged with the African Diaspora Network because I believe deeply in the impact of its work, especially through the ABE program. ADN provides entrepreneurs with access to knowledge, mentors, and capital that may not otherwise be within reach, and that support can be truly transformative. I am grateful to have served as an ABE program advisory and selection committee member since the inaugural cohort in 2021. Almaz Negash and her team have been instrumental in shaping the vision and execution of ABE, and their leadership has contributed significantly to the program's continued growth and success year after year.

—Helen Kim, Senior Operations Executive and ABE Advisor



I'm passionate about helping entrepreneurs be successful in making a difference in their communities. Volunteering for the BAF program offers me an excellent opportunity for finding and supporting local solutions.

—Michael Moscherosch, Founder, Periodic Element LLC; ABE and BAF Advisor and Executive Leadership Council



VOLUNTEERS AND CHAMPIONS

I would like to congratulate ADN on this important 15-year milestone. ADN represents authentic diaspora engagement.

Through their team, platforms and programs, ADN has put diaspora ownership at the heart of design and delivery of engagement. They have done this in deep collaboration with the range of partners required to make this work thrive. In that, I would like to thank all the corporations, foundations, civil society, public agencies, investors, entrepreneurs and mentors who actively contribute to making ADN what it is — a world leader in African diaspora engagement.

Like any long-term journey, there will be hard times with the good times! As the world shifts in front of our eyes, this anniversary could not come at a better time to reassert the premise and promise of ADN.

I would encourage friends old and new to invest in ADN to build this new dawn. This will be the defining leadership opportunity ahead for the organisation.

Let's have the courage to **go for it with our energy, expertise and, yes, money!**

— Martin Russell, *Global Diaspora Insights*



It has been an inspiring and exciting journey, walking the mentees from one level to another, and it's truly fulfilling to see them make strides and thrive in their new spaces.

One of my most meaningful experiences with the ADN's mentorship program has been staying connected with my sister mentees beyond the formal mentorship period. These continued relationships have opened space for ongoing learning, collaboration, and exploration of new opportunities. Seeing the mentees remain open, curious, and committed to growth affirms the belief in lifelong learning and reflects how ADN's mentorship model empowers participants to thrive beyond the program and within the broader ecosystem.

I really appreciate this program, and I wish for its continuity, sustainability, and broader impact.

—Lenah Mwangi, *Founder and Team Leader, and ADN Volunteer*

Some of my favorite moments with ADN have come from reviewing proposals and meeting founders who are solving challenges that are both deeply local and globally relevant. I was consistently struck by their commitment: entrepreneurs working through constraints that might seem insurmountable, yet approaching them with optimism, ingenuity, and a refreshing fearlessness. Each proposal offered a window into a different reality—new markets, new technologies, new ways of thinking—and I found myself learning just as much as I was contributing. These encounters left me energized and hopeful, reminding me that the continent's greatest asset is its people: bold thinkers who are not waiting for change but actively creating it. Being part of ADN's community allowed me not just to support these entrepreneurs, but also to be inspired by them in return.

—Gelila Tsega, *ADN Volunteer*

THANK YOU

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

For 15 years, the generosity, trust, and long-term commitment of our sponsors, funders, and supporters have made ADN's work possible. Their partnership has powered programs, fueled innovation, and brought together global champions advancing our mission.

This collective belief in diaspora-led innovation and collaboration has enabled convening, building, and scaling of programs that create meaningful impact across Africa and its global diaspora. More than supporters, these relationships represent true partnership in purpose—driving impact, growth, and shared vision every step of the way.

It is with deep gratitude that we celebrate these 15 years of impact.

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