



AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK

A YEAR IN REVIEW





ABOUT AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK (ADN)

Founded in 2010, African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit that promotes entrepreneurship and economic development on the African continent and in the communities in which we live.

We bring together Africans on the continent, in the diaspora, and friends of Africa to actualize their full potential, activate their entrepreneurial spirit, and strategically mobilize financial and intellectual resources to ensure a brighter future for the African continent.

ADN provides virtual and physical forums to accelerate access to resources that foster partnership, knowledge-sharing, and advance investment opportunities. ADN's mission is to sustainably serve its constituencies, marketplace, and partners.

We do this through four signature programs: African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS), Builders of Africa's Future (BAF), Innovation and Impact Forums (IIF), and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE). Each of our signature programs complements our strategic focus of Education, Healthcare, Finance, and Connectivity.

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER



Dear friends and colleagues,

For eleven years, African Diaspora Network (ADN) has been dedicated to bringing together Africans on the continent, the diaspora, and friends of Africa.

As a grassroots nonprofit organization, we remain humbled by the opportunities in this remarkable year that have enabled us to activate the entrepreneurial spirit of the continent and communities in which we live.

This includes:

- ✓ **Hosting the sixth annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium** with seven virtual sessions and 2,158 total attendees;
- ✓ **Recognizing 11 Builders of Africa's Future Awardees** and providing a virtual training and mentorship program with the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University and funding from the United States African Development Foundation;
- ✓ **Launching the inaugural Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program with 16 entrepreneurs**, funded by Bill.com, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the CA Black Freedom Fund, and the County of Santa Clara, with the Silicon Valley Executive Center at Santa Clara University as the academic partner;
- ✓ **Hosting a United Nations General Assembly Side Event** in September on "Leveraging the Diaspora for the Benefit of Households and National Economies in the Countries of Origin and Destination" with esteemed global experts on remittances and investment;
- ✓ **And receiving funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a telehealth pilot** that ADN will design to expand digitized healthcare services in Africa as part of our strategic focus on healthcare.

Collaboration has been key to strategically mobilizing financial and intellectual resources and taking ideas into action. In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, African Diaspora Network is committed to serving as a vital channel to inform, engage, and act.

As always, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Almaz Negash'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

Almaz Negash
Founder and Executive Director
African Diaspora Network

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

[African Diaspora Investment Symposium \(ADIS\)](#) is the premier Silicon Valley conference that celebrates and fosters the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and friends of Africa. The symposium offers a dive deep into some of the hottest investment and development trends on the continent, and an opportunity to network with investors, make meaningful business connections, foster partnerships, and create impact.

From 2016 to 2020, ADN held five in-person African Diaspora Investment Symposiums in Santa Clara County, CA, with an attendance of 1,300 entrepreneurial, Africa-focused leaders and professionals from across the world.

Due to COVID-19, ADN pivoted to host a virtual ADIS 2021 with an attendance of 2,158 professionals. ADIS21 sessions included:

[July 2020 Leveraging The Private Sector: DFIS, Investment Vehicles, And Funding Responses](#)

[August 2020: Human Capital Development: From Health Care Access To Delivery](#)

[September 2020: Digital Connectivity Across Africa](#)

[October 2020: Amplify Innovation And Investment Hubs In Africa](#)

[November 2020: Investment In Education And Online Learning In Africa](#)

[February 2020: Innovation In Payments In Africa](#)

Speakers



38

Sessions



7

Registrants



3,059

Attendees



2,158

ADIS21

Countries Represented 57+



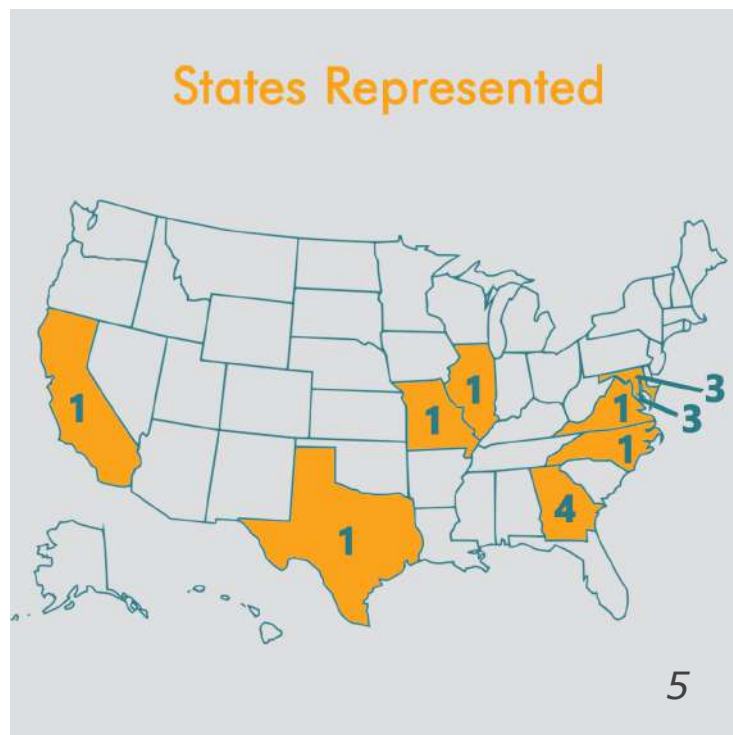
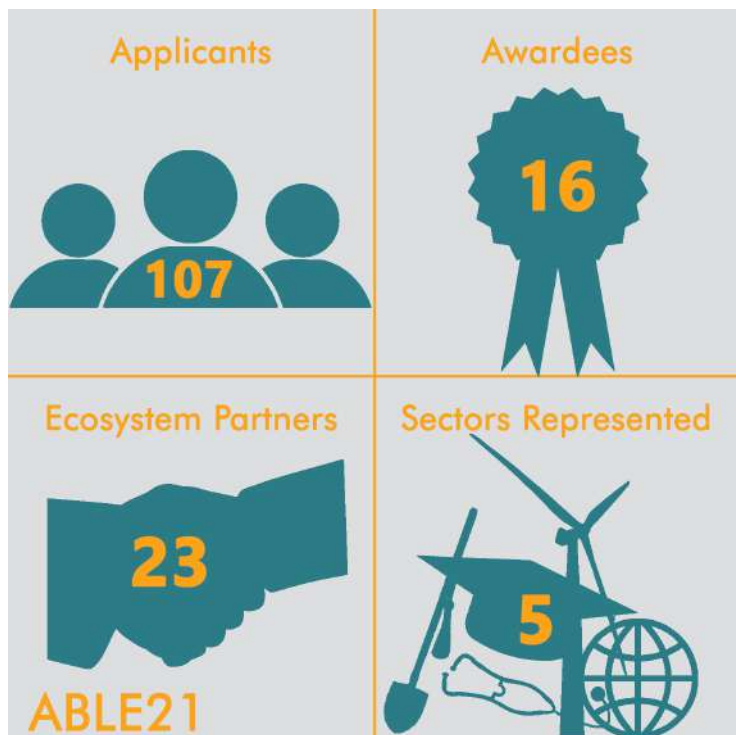
ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

[Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship \(ABLE\)](#) is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support small businesses and nonprofit organizations led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States.

Adapted from ADN's Builders of Africa's Future program that celebrates innovation and impact among early-stage African enterprises, ABLE identifies 15-20 Black business leaders catalyzing an array of sustainable solutions to poverty across multiple sectors at the local and national level. This includes education, healthcare, finance, renewable energy, and connectivity, all of which address essential community needs while spurring sustainable growth.

ADN collaborated with seed funder Silicon Valley Community Foundation, lead funder Bill.com, and the CA Black Freedom Fund and the County of Santa Clara as funders, with academic partner, Silicon Valley Executive Center at the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University, to launch the inaugural cohort of 16 entrepreneurs in 2021. The entrepreneurs began their training and one-on-one mentorship in September 2021 and the cohort will continue their training as they prepare for their pitch day in February 2022.

The ABLE program exemplifies the work of ADN over the last 10 years to unite Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa. The ABLE and BAF programs, although separate programs, are also strongly connected. We look forward to seeing the first ABLE cohort as they collaborate with their African brother and sister entrepreneurs from the BAF program.

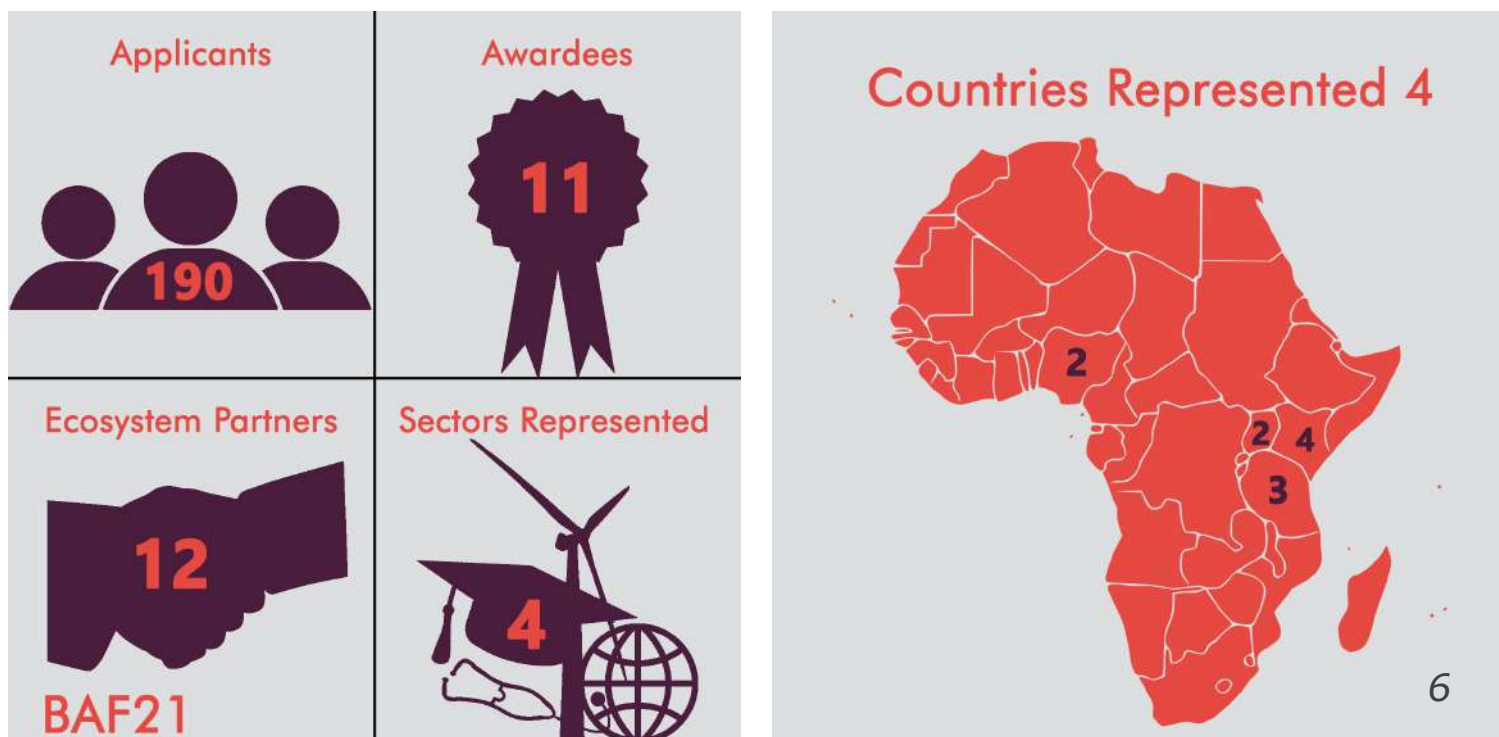


BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

[Builders of Africa's Future \(BAF\)](#) celebrates innovation and impact in early-stage African enterprise. BAF serves to showcase and award entrepreneurs who are running early-stage for profit and nonprofits that are addressing Africa's unique needs through technology or differentiated business models. These unique needs are in health, education, energy, financial inclusion, gender inclusion, nutrition, commerce, industrial development, agriculture, and other socioeconomic good. Since 2018, 42 entrepreneurs have participated in the program.

The [2021 BAF cohort](#) includes 11 entrepreneurs from multiple sectors including tech, healthcare, education, and renewable energy. Each BAF awardee received a \$5,000.00 financial award thanks to our partners at the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and enterprise training thanks to the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University.

African Diaspora Network is committed to human capital development and supporting individuals on the ground who are working with youth, families, and communities to increase opportunity and quality of life. As such, ADN started the [Start Your Social Enterprise program](#) this year with the support of Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to help accelerate the entrepreneurial skills of Catholic Sisters who are connected to underserved communities facing poverty and other challenges across the continent of Africa. The goal is to help the Sisters transform their charity models into sustainable social enterprises and to have at least three Sisters qualify for the 2022 Builders of Africa's Future cohort.



IMPACT AND INNOVATION FORUMS

[Impact and Innovation Forums](#) is a year-round speaker series in Silicon Valley, Washington, D.C., New York City, and virtually featuring thought-provoking conversations around strategic and consistent diaspora engagement in Africa's future. Through these sessions, the ADN network learns about the impactful work happening in Africa and the ways they can support the continent and the communities in which they live.

Between 2018 and 2020, ADN hosted the Impact and Innovation Forums with 900 participants in California, Washington, D.C. and New York. In 2021, Impact and Innovation Forums went virtual with 681 participants from 45+ different countries. ADN partnered with Invest Barbados, SME.NG, King Baudouin Foundation United States, the Mastercard Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the Tiba Foundation.

2021 Impact and Innovation Forum Sessions:

[March: Investment Opportunities In Barbados](#)

[March: Investing In Women To Support Africa's Covid-19 Recovery](#)

[April: Harnessing Knowledge And Resources: Entrepreneurship & Investment](#)

[April: Social Entrepreneurs' Rapid Response To Crisis](#)

[May: Investing In Grassroots African Healthcare Organizations](#)

[July: The Role Of Faith In Philanthropic Giving To Africa](#)

[September: Leveraging The Diaspora For The Benefit Of Households And National Economies In The Countries Of Origin And Destination](#)

Speakers



17

Sessions



7

Registrants



984

Attendees



681

IIF21

Countries Represented 58+



TELEHEALTH PILOT



ADN Telehealth Pilot

Future of Healthcare in Africa

Expanding digitized healthcare services by mobilizing African medical professionals abroad

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Seed Funder

IGNITE VENTURE STUDIO

Partner

Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

Partner

African Diaspora Network (ADN) is developing a new telehealth pilot with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The telehealth pilot leverages technology that expands digital health access, at home or point of care diagnostics, wellness and prevention opportunities, and medicine delivery directly to consumers and patients when needed. Formally titled “The Future of Healthcare in Africa: Expanding digitized healthcare services by mobilizing African medical professionals abroad,” this project seeks to address challenges amplified by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has placed a spotlight on the global shortage of healthcare workers at all levels. Learn more [here](#).

WAYS TO GIVE

The impact that ADN and our programs make is possible because of our funders. Please consider making a charitable gift to the African Diaspora Network. There are multiple ways to give and your gift of any amount helps us advance our work.



HOW TO GIVE

- ❖ African Diaspora Network at [Support ADN Webpage](#)
- ❖ Silicon Valley Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund at [SVCFDAF](#)
- ❖ Select ADN on [Amazon Smile](#)
- ❖ Checks made payable to African Diaspora Network addressed to:

African Diaspora Network
4701 Patrick Henry Drive
Building 25, Mailbox 140
Santa Clara, CA 95054



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in being a part of ADN's impact? Here are ways you can participate over the next year.

- ❖ Join ADN's online networking platform [here](#)
- ❖ Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- ❖ Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
- ❖ Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- ❖ Support us through [Amazon Smile](#)
- ❖ Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund
- ❖ Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Debra Pacio, ADN's Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Manager, at debra@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more.
- ❖ Be a volunteer and support African Diaspora Network initiatives
- ❖ Submit an article to ADN's Blog. Contact Megan Hunsberger, ADN's Program and Digital Media manager, at megan@africandiasporanetwork.org
- ❖ Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#).



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Questions? Email info@africandiasporanetwork.org
Visit our website at <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/>

