



African Diaspora Network Executive Summary





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Who We Are



Based in Silicon Valley, the center of innovation and entrepreneurship, ADN has built a strong community and network. Our African Diaspora Investment Symposium and Impact and Innovation Forums have attracted over 10,000 attendees (virtually and in-person) who are interested in investing in and partnering with African and Africa-focused business leaders and entrepreneurs.

ADN has four key programs-African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS), Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF), Builders of Africa's Future (BAF), and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) and two initiatives, Beyond Remittances and ADN Digital Health Pilot. These will be discussed later in the executive summary.

As an integrated member of the Silicon Valley ecosystem, ADN is reputed as a conduit for local and global African diaspora entrepreneurs, tech professionals, innovators and philanthropists who are interested in working with or being mentored by the world's most prolific innovators. ADN is an organization accessible to all who are committed to work with the diaspora to further Africa's development.



Our Network



“ Today, because of the networking introductions, PrimoEnergy has been requested by the Barbados Light & Power to present a proposal for renewable energy generation products on the island. This proposal also includes the establishment of a presence on the island as well as eventually being a regional hub for manufacturing and distribution to other islands in the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, approval has been given by the Barbados Community College for PrimoEnergy to provide clean, renewable energy production, as well as extend WIFI coverage on the campus where necessary. I don't believe this would have been possible without your involvement, introduction and reference. ”

Thank you to the African Diaspora Network.

– David M. Rice, CHA, CAM
Sunbury International

Our Impact

Since 2016, ADN prides itself in being an action-oriented organization with initiatives and convenings that result in strong partnerships, authentic community-building and even new businesses and organizations.

10,000
CONVENED

Over 10,000 people from 89+ different countries through the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) and Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF) in the last six years.

119
ENTREPRENEURS

63 African Startups through the Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) program, 38 Blackled U.S startups through the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program, and 18 Catholic Sisters through the Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE) initiative.

20
INVESTMENTS

Enabled at least 20 new investments for African grassroots organizations, the Diaspora, as well as friends of Africa.



Inform, Engage, Act

For many years, Africans in the diaspora have been actively and passionately engaged in giving back to their home communities. Each year more than \$48 billion is sent to Africa in remittances as individuals fundraise within their communities from around the world. They also engage by providing donations through church groups, sending funds directly to extended family members, investing in businesses, and more. We at ADN saw the potential of the diaspora early on and we began convening Africans and friends of Africa to amplify their efforts and to Inform, Engage, and Act.

Through these three areas of action, we have been able to build a diverse and energetic community—including for-profits, non-profits, philanthropists, community leaders, universities, and more—that comes together to share knowledge, network, and mobilize around impactful initiatives, individuals, and organizations. African Diaspora Network continues to organize and host community events to introduce organizations and individuals working on African issues and to discuss and debate current and developing initiatives that have been designed and executed to create positive economic and social impact in Africa and the communities where we live. The ADN is committed to:

- Bringing together a global network of Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa
- Connecting entrepreneurs, investors, academics, and leaders of nonprofit, corporations, and development agencies
- Creating opportunities for learning, engaging, and co-creating possibilities between the above groups
- Capitalizing on the collective ideation, action, and collaboration of Africans around the world for the benefit of Africa.

“I am an ADN “lifer.” I was captivated by Almaz and her passion, inspiration, energy for what, at the time, was just an idea. Her desire to avoid the silo effect of support and look at the bigger picture for the greater good of the continent was appealing and refreshing. The organization is inclusive, everyone’s voice is heard and valued; it’s agile and always willing to adjust as needed. Ultimately, ADN is guided by hope and aspirations for a better future for Africa.”

Daniel Hartz
ADN Founding Member & Director of Finance and Operations

Inform. Engage. Act

Mission, Vision and Values



OUR MISSION

The mission of ADN is to sustainably serve its constituencies, marketplace, and partners. This is inextricably linked to engaging the African diaspora through an ethics of care, enhancing their well-being in their adopted homelands, and facilitating their strategic involvement in the development of Africa.

OUR VISION

ADN's vision is to activate capital from the African diaspora and friends of Africa for the development of Africa and communities around the world. We aim to be the global leader in diaspora philanthropy, investment, and innovation.

OUR VALUES

- Diversity and inclusion
- Integrity in our work, partnerships, and projects
- Accountability to our partners
- Civic responsibility to the community

Our Strategy

OUR STRATEGY

The ongoing pandemic has devastated the world and hit Africa hard. It has forced us to focus on accelerating technological development. This focus presents an opportunity to leapfrog traditional African development processes, bypassing physical infrastructure that the continent has lacked for the most part of a century. ADN intends to be at the forefront of the momentum focused on four vital areas: connectivity, education, healthcare, and finance.

CONNECTIVITY



ADN has established its brand as a convener for Africa, the African diaspora, and friends of Africa through The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS). Beginning July 2020, ADN hosted a virtual series of webinars (ADIS) focusing on how Africa is leapfrogging and can continue to leapfrog in areas of connectivity, education, healthcare, and finance. Given the success of ADIS, going forward, we will apply a digital strategy to deliver year-round live, virtual convenings that will keep the development and wellbeing of the continent at the forefront.

EDUCATION



The new normal following COVID will reduce accessibility barriers and bring millions of African students online for the first time. We see an unprecedented opportunity for Africa to accelerate education through technology. ADN's community comprises students, education experts, and technologists with a shared interest in supporting this mass migration in EdTech. ADN will continue to provide networking opportunities so that this shared support for online education can grow.

Our Strategy

HEALTH CARE



Healthcare digitization is accelerating at this time. There is much work to be done by doctors within the continent itself, but there are also many opportunities for healthcare professionals to participate from anywhere in the world. With the expansion of technology, doctors no longer need to be in Africa to participate in health reform.

ADN will work with our community and partners to make healthcare accessible to more Africans at a time when healthcare-related needs are increasing.

FINANCE



ADN's focus on philanthropy and investment will be crucial in transforming financial inclusion as more of Africa comes online.

Programs such as Builders of Africa's Future and collaborations with social and impact funds will scale, through technology, to ensure a sustainable economic outlook for Africans.

We will accomplish this strategy by continuing our pattern of creating lasting partnerships. Our motto, 'Inform, Engage, Act', will serve as a guide to co-creating solutions with experts and similarly aligned organizations:

Corporations: ADN encourages corporate giving by partnering with organizations whose leaders and employees make up our communities. We work through corporate interests in diversity, education, technology, and philanthropy.

Communities: We highlight acts of service to encourage philanthropic and investment leadership from within our diaspora communities.

Entrepreneurs/Innovators: ADN amplifies emerging entrepreneurs and innovators on our platform by showcasing accomplishments and facilitating introductions.

Philanthropists/Foundations: We connect philanthropists and foundations with vetted African opportunities. ADN maximizes their impact through partnerships with local experts from our community.

Nonprofits: We source developmental capital for nonprofits whose work furthers our goal.

Key Programs

The African Diaspora Network is committed to informing, engaging, and activating Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa through in-person and virtual meetings, webinars, and more. The key programs that reflect this commitment are African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS), Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF), Builders of Africa's Future (BAF), and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) as well as two initiatives, Beyond Remittances and ADN Digital Health Pilot.

African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)

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.

"ADN has built a community committed to building Africa's future through entrepreneurship. The convergence of shared mission at ADIS was truly inspiring and offers unique opportunities to effect meaningful impact moving forward. Congratulations to Almaz and her team!"

Thane Kreiner, Ph.D.

*Executive Director, Howard and Alida Charney
University Professor*



Impact and Innovation Forums

Our Innovation and Impact Forums are part of a year-round speaker series across Silicon Valley, Washington, D.C., New York City, and virtually with thought-provoking conversations around strategic and consistent diaspora engagement in Africa's future and empowering youth in their entrepreneurship and leadership journeys. Africa is poised to become a leading Continent for investment. According to the World Bank, over the past 15 years, African economies have enjoyed growth 'above global average.' The ADN Impact and Innovation Forums enable us to continue harnessing the knowledge and resources of Africans in the Diaspora for positive impact through investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and human capital.

Key Programs

Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)

Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE), an initiative of African Diaspora Network, is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support small businesses and nonprofit organizations led by Blacks 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 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.

Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)

Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) is a session that celebrates innovation and impact in early stage African enterprise. BAF serves to showcase and award entrepreneurs who are running early stage for-profit and not-for-profits 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, and other socio-economic good.



Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE)

A part of Builders of Africa's Future, Start Your Social Enterprise is a preparatory training program for Catholic Sisters who are connected to underserved communities facing poverty and other challenges across the Continent. The goal is to accelerate the Sisters' entrepreneurial skills and help them transform their charity models into sustainable social enterprises.

Inform. Engage. Act

ADN Digital Health Pilot: Future of Healthcare in Africa

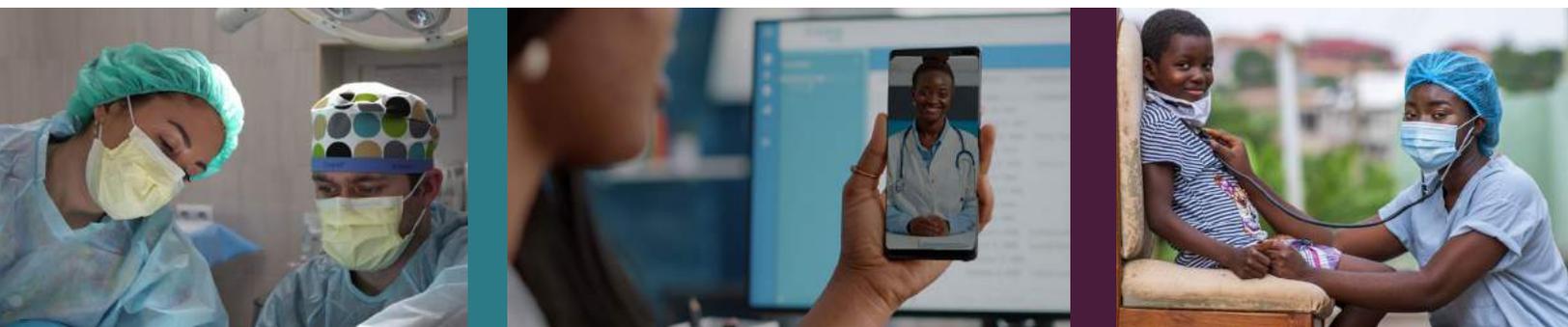
Expanding digitized healthcare services by mobilizing African medical professionals abroad

Telehealth technologies developed by Africans to diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions remotely are leapfrogging traditional systems of healthcare and enabling new, exciting collaborations to deliver quality digitized healthcare services to whomever has a cell phone connection and wherever they may be.

Medical professionals no longer need to be in Africa to provide quality health care and diagnostics in the context of where people live and work on the Continent. Technology innovations like secure data analytics are also enabling faster response times, especially those in crisis.

The key to building this future is African-led collaboration, for which ADN is known. That's why ADN is developing a project with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to leverage 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.

Our program stands out from the others because we will mobilize African medical professionals from the Diaspora – highly trained doctors and nurses who know what the challenges & opportunities are, who may speak the same languages, and who can connect and build trust with clients, and work together with peer African doctors and nurses on the ground to deliver exceptional care. Together, with an African-led telehealth platform provider, we will also bring the latest technological and data analytics advances to simplify and make healthcare efficient – including emergent technologies like home diagnostics and AI-based systems.



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African Diaspora Network

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