



# The African Diaspora Network Ecosystem & Collaboration Criteria

Collaborations are important to the [African Diaspora Network \(ADN\)](#) in fulfilling our vision to activate capital from the African diaspora and friends of Africa for the development of Africa and communities around the world. We are grateful for the many organizations that reach out to us for potential collaboration. We would like to collaborate with everyone, but due to limited time and resources, we must limit our focus to collaborations that meet the following criteria. This is necessary for ADN to continue fulfilling our vision and serving our community the best we can.

Below are the criteria ADN considers when deciding whether or not to move forward with a potential collaboration.

## The collaboration must fit with our strategic focus

### **Our Focus:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread devastation across the globe, especially in Africa. However, it has also prompted us to prioritize the acceleration of technological development. This focus presents an opportunity to leapfrog traditional development processes, bypassing physical infrastructure that the continent has lacked. Over the next three years, ADN will leverage the power of technology to reach our network online in four vital areas: connectivity, education, health care, and finance.

### **Education**

ADN sees an unprecedented opportunity for Africa to accelerate education through technology in the wake of COVID, which brought many African students online for the first time. Our community of students, education experts, and technologists all have a shared interest in supporting this mass migration in EdTech, and we will continue to provide networking opportunities so that this shared support continues to grow.

## **Healthcare**

Healthcare digitization is increasing rapidly, allowing more doctors and other healthcare professionals to participate in Africa's health systems from anywhere in the world. ADN will leverage this growing opportunity to increase accessibility to healthcare for more Africans and improve outcomes at a time when health-related needs are increasing.

## **Connectivity**

As an established convener for the African and African diaspora communities, we will apply a strategy to deliver year-round convenings online—like the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)—that keep the development and well-being of Africa at the forefront.

## **Finance**

ADN's focus on philanthropy and investment will be crucial in transforming financial inclusion as more of Africa gains access to the Internet. Through technology, we will be able to scale programs like Builders of Africa's Future, Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE), and our collaborations with social and impact funds to ensure a sustainable economic future for Africans.

The collaboration should support and advance at least one of ADN's key programs and initiatives:

### **[African Diaspora Investment Symposium \(ADIS\)](#)**

The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) is an annual conference in Silicon Valley that celebrates and fosters the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and friends of Africa. The Symposium offers an opportunity to dive deep into some of the hottest investment and development trends on the continent.

### **[Impact and Innovation Forums \(IIF\)](#)**

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. 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.

### **[Builders of Africa's Future \(BAF\)](#)**

Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) is a program that celebrates innovation and impact in early-stage African enterprises. 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 include health, education, energy, financial inclusion, gender inclusion, nutrition, commerce, industrial development, and other socio-economic good.

## [Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship \(ABLE\)](#)

Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support startups and small businesses led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States. ABLE identifies Black business leaders with impact-oriented solutions at the local and national levels addressing essential community needs while spurring sustainable growth.

## [Start Your Social Enterprise \(SYSE\)](#)

Start Your Social Enterprise helps accelerate the entrepreneurial skills of Catholic Sisters who are connected to underserved communities facing poverty and other challenges across the Continent. Sisters are eligible to apply for Builders of Africa's Future upon completion.

## [Africa Digital Health Initiative \(ADHI\)](#)

With seed funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ADN is developing a digital health pilot focused on mobilizing African medical professionals in the diaspora to address gestational diabetes, with the goal of expanding healthcare access in Africa using the latest digital health technology to targeted populations, especially women and girls.

## [Beyond Remittances](#)

African Diaspora Network intentionally engages diasporans and friends of Africa to move beyond remittances toward sustainable investment for the betterment of the African continent. In order to advance this cause, ADN informs, engages, and activates its global community through a series of Impact & Innovation Forums.

If you are interested in potentially collaborating with the African Diaspora network, please feel free to submit the ADN Engagement and Collaboration form [here](#), and we will follow up with you.

Thank you for your interest in and ongoing support of the African Diaspora Network!

## **Benefits of Becoming an ADN Ecosystem Partner**

Ecosystem partners benefit from the following:

- First notification of the enterprise accelerator application(s) prior to the public launch
- Inclusion on ADN's marketing materials (website, social media, newsletter)
- Opportunity to share announcements relevant to ADN's network in the Community News section of our newsletter and into accelerator program-specific cohorts and alumni communications
- Opportunity to review applications to identify the top entrepreneurs leading impact-oriented businesses to be part of our accelerators as well as mentor entrepreneurs in our enterprise accelerator program
- Mentions in the ADN Impact Report