



# A YEAR IN REVIEW



A group of people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are gathered in a room with white walls and yellow accents. Some are standing and talking, while others are seated at tables. In the foreground, a large, dark-colored African drum with a light-colored head and red decorative elements is visible. The overall atmosphere is professional and social.

# 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), as well as our two initiatives, the ADN Digital Health Pilot and Beyond Remittances.

# MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

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Dear friends and colleagues,

In reflecting on the transformative year that was 2023, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit that defines our dynamic community. 2023 was pivotal for the African diaspora—a moment where our collective engagement has served as a catalyst for shaping Africa's future. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape, it is abundantly clear that Africa stands at the forefront of innovation, and our diaspora community is poised to play a defining role in this narrative.

The momentum we've generated, thanks to the commitment and support of our Board of Directors, Funders, Executive Advisory Council, Program Advisory Committees, and the entire ADN team, is propelling us into a future where the diaspora's influence is not only recognized but actively shaping the trajectory of innovation on the continent. This is a moment of unprecedented opportunity, and it is through your engagement that we are paving the way for lasting impact. Thank you.

Major highlights from this year include:

## Inform

- ✓ The appointment to [President Biden's Inaugural African Diaspora Advisory Council](#) is a testament to the significant recognition of ADN's tireless efforts in shaping impactful initiatives for the diaspora, reinforcing our commitment to driving positive change on a national stage.
- ✓ As we expanded our reach with impactful Innovation Forum sessions, partnering with Africa No Filter and other global collaborators, the diaspora's role as a catalyst for shaping Africa's future became increasingly evident.

## Engage

- ✓ The third cohort of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program showcased the diaspora's potential as leaders and change-makers, demonstrating the incredible impact of 16 entrepreneurs across diverse communities.
- ✓ Our collaboration with the African Management Institute and support from the United States African Development Foundation allowed us to recognize and empower 9 exceptional individuals through the Builders of Africa's Future program.

- ✓ The resounding success of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2023, held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, marked a crucial moment in our commitment to being the driving force behind Africa's innovation landscape.

As we look forward to 2024, the opportunities before us are boundless:

- ✓ The launch of the fourth ABLE cohort, a testament to the diaspora's continued commitment to fostering black leadership and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The initiation of the eighth Builders of Africa's Future program, highlighting our dedication to recognizing and supporting visionaries driving positive change across the continent.
- ✓ Advancements in our Digital Health Initiative, in collaboration with a selected clinical provider, will further contribute to improving healthcare access and underscoring the diaspora's role in transformative initiatives.
- ✓ Our ongoing collaboration with global partners to host impactful Impact and Innovation Forum sessions will contribute to the continued growth of interest and innovation in Africa.

This is a momentous time, and the African diaspora's engagement, commitment, and support are the driving forces shaping the future of the continent. Together, we are not merely witnessing history; we are actively co-authoring it. Thank you for being integral to this journey toward a dynamic and prosperous future.

As always, thank you.



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.

This year marked the return of the in-person African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS23) with the theme of “Future Ready Africa” March 22-24, 2023 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA. Unforeseeable economic shocks created by the ongoing pandemic, international conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, and challenges in the global economy have sparked innovations in industry, investment, entrepreneurship across the continent. Now, ten years into Agenda 2063, Africa must plan for a sustainable recovery and reimagine its path forward. “Future Ready Africa” asked, what does a future ready Africa look like? How can we transform the continent through innovation, entrepreneurship, investment, and human capital development?

Read the full outcomes report [here](#) and register for ADIS24 March 20-22, 2024 at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose, CA [here](#).



# IMPACT AND INNOVATION FORUMS

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Our [Impact and Innovation Forums](#) is 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 African Diaspora Network intentionally collaborates with organizations to bring topics to our network aligned with our strategic direction. 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.

ADN has engaged attendees from 97 countries through its convenings, African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) and Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF). This year ADN partnered with the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS), Black Philanthropy Month, Afrigrants, Africa No Filter, Global Diaspora Insights, and AFFORD to present webinars to Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa around topics of beyond remittances, philanthropy, and the role of youth in narrative shifting. Special thank you to our lead funder, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

[Beyond Remittances](#): Skoll World Forum Marmalade Festival 2023

[Lauder Institute's Africa Futures Symposium](#), African Economies Ahead: Aid, Trade, Debt & Diaspora

[Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development \(GFRID\)](#) Summit, Harnessing the power of migrants: misconceptions and opportunities

[The Role of Youth](#) in Shifting Narratives of Africa

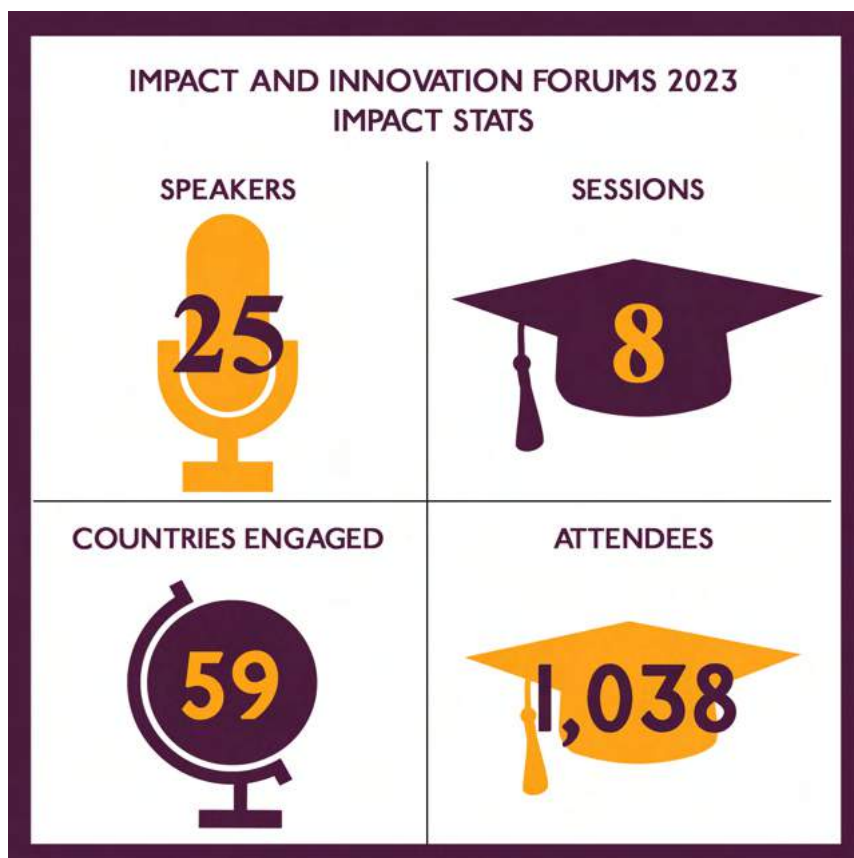
[Black Philanthropy Month Webinar](#), Transforming the African Narrative through Philanthropy

[Beyond Remittances](#), African Diaspora Investment, UN 78th General Assembly Side Event

[How Young Africans](#) Experience the Diaspora

[ADN Masterclass](#): Achieving Diaspora Impact through Partnerships

# ADN CONVENING IMPACT

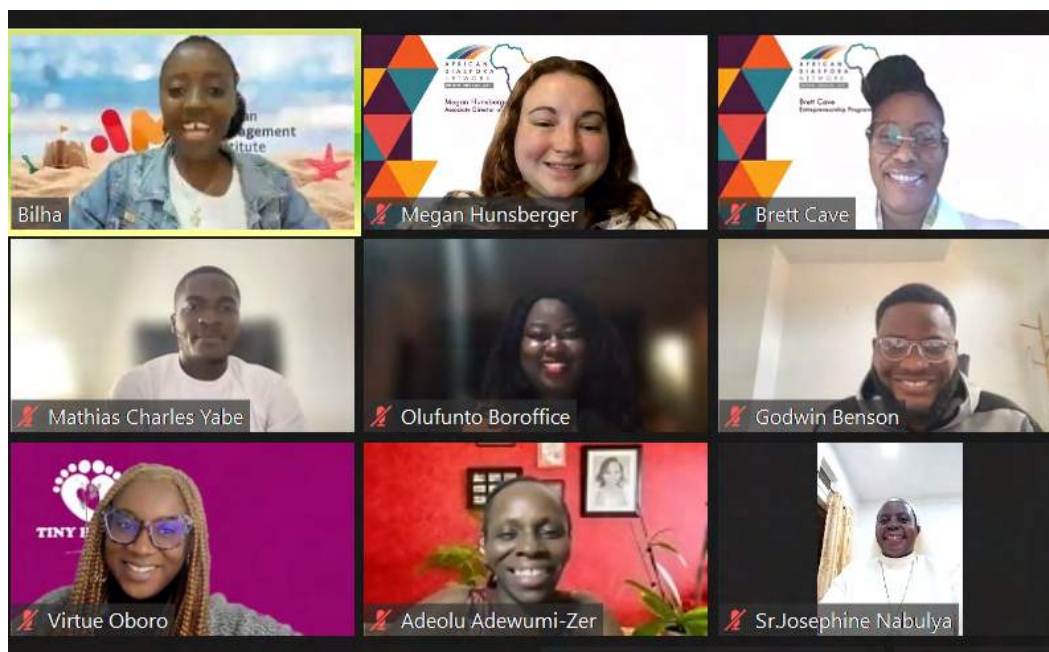


# BUILDERS OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

[Builders of Africa's Future \(BAF\)](#) celebrates innovation and impact in early-stage African enterprises. 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 goods. Since 2018, 62 entrepreneurs have participated in the program.

[The 2023 BAF cohort](#) includes 9 entrepreneurs from multiple sectors including agriculture, tech, healthcare, education, and renewable energy. Each BAF awardee received a financial award thanks to our partners at the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and enterprise training thanks to the African Management Institute.

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](#) with the support of the 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. This year 9 Sisters completed the Start Your Social Enterprise program with one sister from the group going on to participate in the 2023 Builders of Africa's Future cohort.



# ACCELERATING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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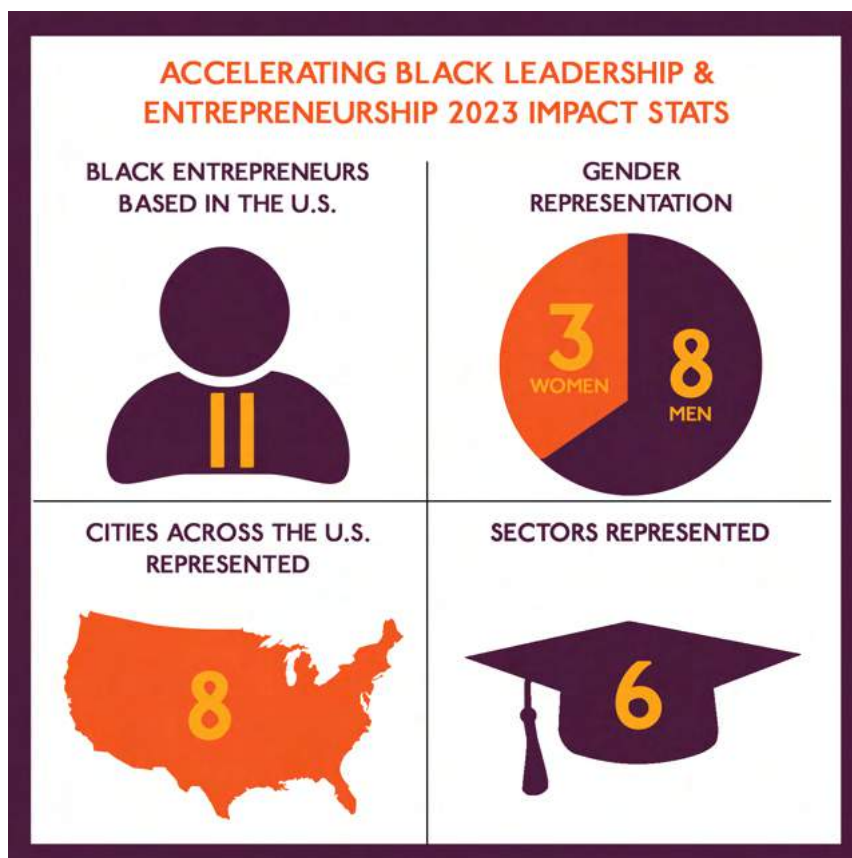
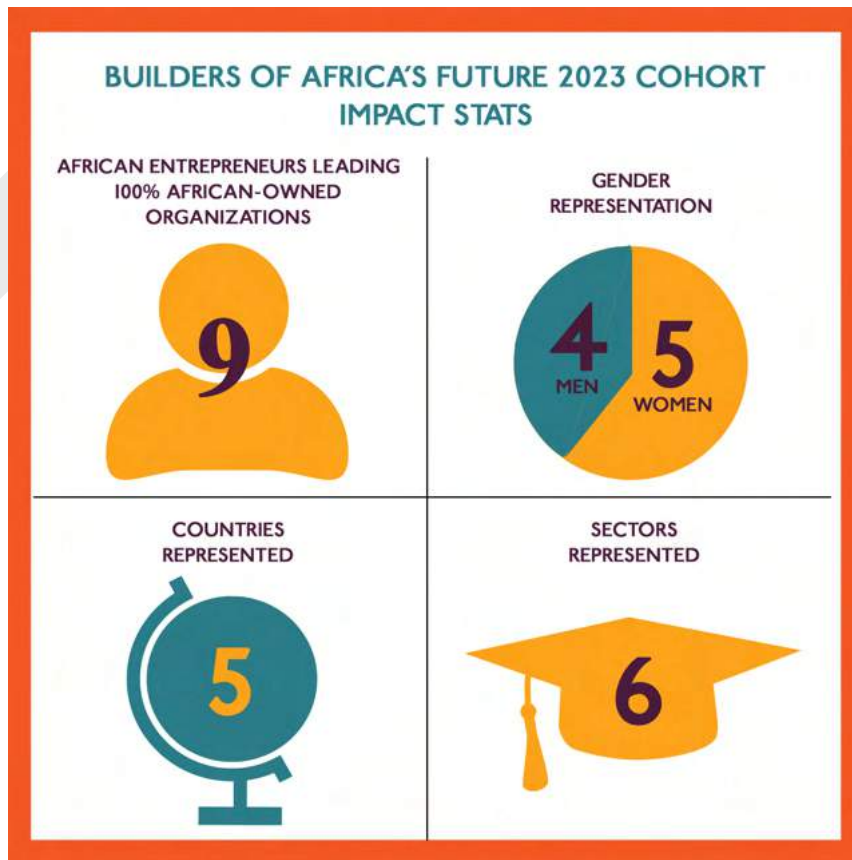
[Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship \(ABLE\)](#) is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support small businesses and startups led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States.

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.

ADN collaborated with seed funder Silicon Valley Community Foundation, lead funder BILL, and Makahakama Foundation, CA Black Freedom Fund, County of Santa Clara, the KLA Foundation, and BlackRock Foundation, as funders, with academic partner, Silicon Valley Executive Center at the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University, to graduate the second and third cohorts of ABLE. Since 2021, ABLE has supported 38 Black entrepreneurs who are addressing essential community needs and spurring sustainable growth.



# ADN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM IMPACT



# AFRICAN DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

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[African Diaspora Network \(ADN\)](#) is piloting a new African Digital Health Initiative with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The initiative 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 COVID-19 pandemic that has placed a spotlight on the global shortage of healthcare workers at all levels.

# BEYOND REMITTANCES



Through the [Beyond Remittances initiative](#), African Diaspora Network intentionally engages diasporans and friends of Africa to move beyond remittances and activate sustainable investment for the betterment of the African continent. In order to advance this cause, ADN informs, engages, and activates our global community through a series of Impact & Innovation Forums. Join us as we increase awareness, engagement, and action among Africans, African diasporans, and friends of Africa.

[United Nations 77th General Assembly \(UNGA77\) Side Event](#): Innovative Approaches To Integrate The Diaspora In Accelerating Africa's Economic Recovery Post Covid-19

[Part of the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit 2022](#): Beyond Remittances: U.S. High-level Working Group

[African Diaspora Investment Symposium \(ADIS23\)](#): Blueprints For Africa: Diaspora Engagement and Beyond Remittances

[Skoll World Forum Marmalade Festival 2023](#): Beyond Remittances

[Africa Futures Symposium](#): Lauder Institute University of Pennsylvania

[Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development](#): Harnessing the power of migrants: misconceptions and opportunities

[United Nations 78th General Assembly \(UNGA78\) Side Event](#): Beyond Remittances, African Diaspora Investment

# ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- ❖ 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](#)
- ❖ [Register](#) to attend ADIS24
- ❖ Be a [volunteer](#) and support African Diaspora Network initiatives
- ❖ [Mentor](#) an African or Black-led startup
- ❖ [Nominate](#) an entrepreneur for an accelerator
- ❖ [Review](#) applications for the next program cohort
- ❖ [Become](#) an ADN ecosystem partner
- ❖ [Give](#) a gift or join us as an organizational sponsor



# WAYS TO GIVE

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The impact that ADN and our programs make is possible through the generosity 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.



SUPPORT AFRICAN STARTUPS



SUPPORT BLACK ENTREPRENEURS  
IN THE UNITED STATES



SUPPORT CONVENINGS ON  
THE FUTURE OF AFRICA



SUPPORT DIGITAL HEALTH  
INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

## HOW TO GIVE

- ❖ African Diaspora Network at [Support ADN Webpage](#)
- ❖ Checks made payable to African Diaspora Network addressed to:

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





African Diaspora Network  
4701 Patrick Henry Dr, Building 25,  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Questions? Email [info@africandiasporanetwork.org](mailto:info@africandiasporanetwork.org)  
Visit our website at <https://africandiasporanetwork.org/>

