

TEFCIRCLE

SEPTEMBER 2025



CONSCIENCE
IN ACTION:
A Month of Reflection, Global
Recognition and Impact

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TEFCircle is the Tony Elumelu Foundation's proprietary publication, providing updates on our alumni, partners, mentor network, and activities across the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

September demanded more of us than business as usual. It challenged our convictions, tested our resolve, and reminded us why we do what we do.

Earlier in September, our Founder, Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, was honoured with the 2025 Appeal of Conscience Award in New York. It was a global validation of a vision rooted in purpose and African agency. Represented by our Co-Founder, Dr. Awele V. Elumelu, OFR, the moment reaffirmed that our model of Africapitalism truly is the engine for sustainable change. Through our engagements at UNGA80, Concordia, and the Clinton Global Initiative, we carried Africa's narrative not as supplicants, but as partners in our own destiny.

There were moments this month that reminded us of the fragility of life and the responsibility that comes with leadership. In those quiet pauses between our wins and our work, we were reminded that success means little without empathy, and that resilience is not just about momentum, it is also about compassion. These reflections strengthened our resolve to keep leading with heart, showing up for one another, and anchoring every action in humanity and purpose.

In this edition, you will find stories of our global footprints, momentum behind key partnerships, and the voices of the entrepreneurs at the heart of TEF's mission. But amid the spotlight, we remember that every narrative we build begins



with human lives. The impact we celebrate also carries fragility, and we must steward it with humility, empathy, and steadfast purpose.

Thank you for riding with us through the year's highs and its heartaches.

Moyo Awotile
Editor-in-Chief, TEFCircle

THE BIG STORY

TEF Founder Conferred 2025 Appeal of Conscience Award

Earlier in September, our Founder, Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, was named the recipient of the 2025 Appeal of Conscience Award, joining the ranks of global changemakers who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to peace, tolerance, and human dignity. The award was presented during the Foundation's 60th Annual Gala in New York and graciously received on his behalf by our Co-Founder, Dr. Awele V. Elumelu, OFR.

This recognition is not just an honour it is an affirmation. An affirmation of values that



underpin everything we do at the Tony Elumelu Foundation, and across Africa: Africapitalism, inclusive prosperity, and economic empowerment through entrepreneurship.

"Tony Elumelu stands as a beacon of ethical entrepreneurship and visionary leadership. His commitment to uplifting others is a living example of conscience in action."

— Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Founder, Appeal of Conscience Foundation

For decades, our Founder has championed a radical rethinking of capitalism in Africa, one where private sector success fuels public good; where business is not a detour from development, but its most direct path. This award, one of the most globally revered honours in values-based leadership, recognises not just an individual, but a philosophy in motion; it recognises the impact of Africapitalism.

Unlike conventional accolades that celebrate personal success, the Appeal of Conscience Award acknowledges moral courage, the kind that shifts systems, challenges inequality, and rewrites destinies. It is this kind of courage that has catalysed over 24,000 African entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries and created over 1.5 million jobs through the Tony Elumelu Foundation.



Africapitalism is no longer a theory, it is a proven blueprint for sustainable development.

OUR FOUNDER'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH DELIVERED BY OUR CO-FOUNDER:

Your Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan,
The esteemed Founder, Rabbi Arthur
Schneier,
Our Gala Chair, Brian Moynihan,
Distinguished leaders of the Appeal of
Conscience Foundation,
Leaders of faith, business, and civil society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. As you know, my husband, Tony Elumelu, cannot be here tonight. Tony would clearly have liked to be here, and I represented him this evening to pass on his gratitude, best wishes and his heartfelt words:

It is an honour to receive this award; one that deeply resonates with my personal values, and it is a privilege to be associated with the legacy represented by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

It is with a heavy heart, weighed by recent and profound loss, that I accept this award. Just a few days ago, we lost six beloved

colleagues in a tragic incident. They were family, friends, mothers, sons, and daughters, hardworking individuals, who were dedicated to building a better Africa. Their absence leaves a void that cannot be filled.

Across our Group, we are grieving this deep loss. And so tonight, before all else, I wish to honour their memories with a moment of silence. May the souls of the departed rest in peace. Amen

Humanity first: that has been the core of my life, what keeps me up at night: how can we transform lives across Africa? How do we leave a legacy that uplifts people and creates opportunity for everyone?

I was not born with a silver spoon, I was not educated abroad, I inherited nothing. I was blessed with determination, but also luck. That determination, and that luck have brought material success. I have been rewarded with a wonderful family, with privileges, with the capacity to bring about change.

The American tradition of philanthropy, the tradition we see so clearly in this room today, has always inspired me. The great names that built America in the Gilded Age, the new generation that have endowed universities, research and culture. I was conscious right

from the beginning that we needed to give back. And to give back in a way that catalytically changes our continent, Africa.

I am not one to blame others. I also – and my career demonstrates this – know that Africa is full of opportunity. In fact, I think no other continent offers such opportunity. My businesses span four continents; we employ over 40,000 people – including here in New York – where we have the United Bank for Africa (UBA), the only African bank that can take deposits in the United States of America. I believe in the power of the private sector. This is the core of the philosophy I call Africapitalism. I know the private sector's long-term interests are inextricably linked to the health of our communities.

At Heirs Holdings, when we invest in energy and power, we see it as a mission to light up homes, schools, and hospitals. When we create value in the financial services industry, we drive inclusion, offering the underrepresented a stake in the economy. And through the Tony Elumelu Foundation, a personal commitment we made in 2010, we have identified, trained, mentored, and provided over USD100million in seed funding to over 24,000 young African entrepreneurs from all 54 African countries.

By empowering a generation with economic opportunities and the means to shape their own destinies, we are combatting the despair that fuels economic instability, migration, and insecurity. But there's more to be done. Thus, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation award not only strengthens my resolve to do more, to deepen our impact, but it is a call out for collaboration with those who share similar values.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation demonstrates wonderfully that collaboration, that appeal to our common humanity. And this is ever more important in a complicated, divided world. I am also most privileged to share this wonderful audience tonight



to Rabbi Schneier. For vision, six decades ago, has created this powerful platform. And thank you, to my good friend Maurice Levy, for this recognition. This is truly humbling.

I dedicate this award to the thousands of Africapitalists across the African continent who relentlessly create the Africa we envision; the young entrepreneurs, innovators, and my colleagues across Heirs Holdings Group who are working tirelessly, often against great odds, to create a better future, to improve lives and transform Africa.

This award is for them. It is a recognition of their resilience and a symbol of our shared commitment to building bridges of hope and prosperity across Africa and the world.

To my family – my dear wife and children – whose constant support is a source of strength.

Thank you, everyone, for this incredible honour.

TOE

[Watch the award moment](#)

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

Catalysing Change in Cabo Verde: TEF Champions Inclusive Entrepreneurship Across Lusophone Africa

In a powerful affirmation of our pan-African mission, the Tony Elumelu Foundation deepened its engagement with Cabo Verde this month, meeting with Pedro Lopes, Secretary of State for the Digital Economy of the Republic of Cape Verde, and his delegation.

Held in the spirit of shared commitment to youth empowerment, the discussions focused on expanding the Foundation's

impact in Lusophone Africa with particular emphasis on identifying, funding, and amplifying Cabo Verdean entrepreneurs within the TEF network.

"The Tony Elumelu Foundation's work in Cabo Verde is a model of what inclusive entrepreneurship can look like," ... "We are committed to working together to empower even more young entrepreneurs and showcase the innovation that exists in our country." - Pedro Lopes, Secretary of State for Digital Economy of the Republic of Cape Verde

This engagement signals our strategic intent to ensure no country, no community, and no language group is left behind in the African entrepreneurship movement. Cabo Verde, like many small island nations, faces unique challenges but also holds immense promise. Through this collaboration, TEF aims to surface that promise, one entrepreneur at



a time.

WHY LUSOPHONE AFRICA MATTERS

The Lusophone bloc from Angola and Mozambique to Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Cabo Verde represents a vital and often underrepresented segment of the African startup ecosystem. By strengthening relationships with policymakers and ecosystem actors in these regions, the Foundation continues to unlock new frontiers for inclusive development.

This is the TEF mandate in motion connecting, convening, and catalysing transformative change across all 54 African countries.



TEF Hosts Cambridge Judge Business School: A Lesson in African Enterprise and Impact

In September, the Tony Elumelu Foundation had the honour of hosting a distinguished delegation of MBA students from the Cambridge Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, as part of their annual Africa Trek a learning journey designed to expose future global leaders to Africa's economic potential and innovation landscape.

This engagement, hosted at the TEF headquarters in Lagos, offered participants a first-hand encounter with the transformative

power of African entrepreneurship. Through immersive conversations with selected TEF Alumni, the students heard powerful stories of ambition, resilience, and scalable innovation, all rooted in the foundation's core principles of Africapitalism, inclusive growth, and private-sector led development.

TESTIMONIALS THAT TRANSCEND THEORY

The visit was an experience. Alumni shared how the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme catalysed their journeys from idea-stage founders to job creators and community builders. From sectors like tech and healthtech to finance and education, these entrepreneurs painted a vibrant picture of what modern Africa looks like when youth are given tools, trust, and capital. Backed by data from the Foundation's latest



Impact Report, the dialogue bridged theory and real-world outcomes, demonstrating that entrepreneurship in Africa is not aspirational rhetoric but a proven strategy for sustainable development.

"We are here today to tell the story of Nigeria ... I consider the TEF Alumni lucky, favored, and blessed" - Emmanuel Anozie, Head of Delegation.

As the Foundation expands its global engagements, we remain committed to hosting knowledge exchanges that challenge outdated paradigms and showcase the true face of Africa's entrepreneurial future, bold, brilliant, and borderless.

OFF - THE TARMAC:

TEF IN ACTION

From Performative Aid to Purposeful Investment: TEF CEO Somachi Champions Africa's Entrepreneurs at Concordia 2025 Annual Summit

At the 2025 Concordia Annual Summit, held on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), the Tony Elumelu Foundation continued to amplify Africa's voice at the highest level of global



dialogue,, calling for a radical rethinking of philanthropy, development, and inclusive growth.

"Igniting Opportunity: Innovation, Inclusion, and Growth in Africa," under this bold theme, Somachi Chris-Asoluka, CEO of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, took the global stage alongside renowned voices such as Cherie Blair CBE KC, Founder of Omnia Strategy LLP and the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. Their message was clear: the future of Africa

lies not in handouts, but in empowering entrepreneurs, especially women and youth — with tools, trust, and access.

"Let us see the lens of development through our young people in Africa. Let us see entrepreneurship as the one way to develop the continent on a large scale,"
— Somachi Chris-Asoluka, CEO, Tony Elumelu Foundation, at #Concordia2025



She urged global leaders and development institutions to move beyond performative aid models and instead invest in systems that priorities flexibility, mentorship, and long-term support for African entrepreneurs.

"Entrepreneurship demonstrates that Africa's rise won't come from abroad — it will come from Africa, by Africans. Especially our young ones, because they understand these challenges better than any of us."

African women are already driving advancement in agribusiness, education, digital inclusion, and the green economy. The discussion called for these contributions to be recognised, resourced, and replicated not sidelined.

A Seat at the Global Table: TEF Shapes Dialogue on Jobs, Equity, and Africa's Entrepreneurial Future



At the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) 2025 Annual Meeting, held on the sidelines of UNGA80 in New York, the Tony Elumelu Foundation once again stood at the forefront of global conversations about the future of work, development, and equity in emerging markets.

Our CEO, Somachi Chris-Asoluka, joined the leader's panel to discuss the future of job creation and economic mobility with a sharp focus on how to prepare both workers and businesses for a rapidly evolving global economy.

In her remarks, Chris-Asoluka issued a firm call to global partners and policymakers to modernise their development playbooks:



"For us at the Tony Elumelu Foundation, everything that we do is centred around supporting African entrepreneurs. We are calling on our international partners to rethink how we look at development. It is time for a 21st-century approach, one that centres young entrepreneurs. Not by charity. Not by handouts. But by investing in these young people."

Her words cut to the core of the Foundation's long-standing message: Entrepreneurship is not just an economic lever it is a transformation engine.

CATALYTIC JOBS, SCALABLE SOLUTIONS

As the panel explored pathways to economic mobility, Somachi Chris-Asoluka reminded the audience that Africa's job creation crisis cannot be solved through traditional employment models alone. With over 60% of the continent under the age of 25, the urgency is clear.

"Entrepreneurship is how we will create catalytic jobs across the continent. It is how we will rapidly transform Africa by unlocking local solutions, community-led innovation, and scalable impact."

TEF's presence at CGI2025 reflects our deepening global influence shaping how the world understands African potential, and how African voices lead in crafting solutions for inclusive, resilient development.

TEF in Europe

Workshopping the IYBA-WE4A Programme at the GIZ HQ in Germany.

Realigning Partnerships, Rebuilding Strategy, and Reimagining Green Growth Across Africa



As part of its deepening European engagements, the Tony Elumelu Foundation made a high-impact stop in Frankfurt, Germany, for a week-long strategic workshop with its longstanding partners, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the European Union. Held between September 20–27, the workshop was a reset moment. A moment to reflect on what worked in Phase I of the Investing in Young Businesses in Africa: Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (IYBA-WE4A) programme, and more critically, to co-create a tighter, more transformative path for Phase II, with clearer structures, sharper focus, and greater shared accountability.

A GREEN SEED TAKES ROOT

Since 2021, the Tony Elumelu Foundation has worked alongside GIZ, the EU, and OACPS to build a three-component model empowering 3,171 women-led businesses across Africa, with TEF leading the charge

through its tried-and-tested entrepreneurship programme. Now, IYBA-WE4A Phase II narrows its lens to green entrepreneurship in eight key Sub-Saharan countries: Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Cameroon, and Uganda.

Together with new delivery partners like Goodwell Investments and Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P), the programme will integrate:

- Seed capital and training Entrepreneurship support and business acceleration
- Access to follow-on funding through catalytic loans

The ultimate goal? Holistic, sustainable green growth driven by women not as beneficiaries, but as builders.

ALIGNMENT, ACTIVATION, AND ACTION PLANS

Application Drive Planning

The team dived into launch preparations for the new application cycle (Which started October 6), mapping outreach activations across all 8 countries. TEF's Head of Marketing & Comms, Moyo Awotile, reinforced the campaign's central message: "Empowering Africa's female green entrepreneurs" and clarifying what "green business" truly means in an African context.

PROGRAMME INTEGRITY AND GOVERNANCE

The session reaffirmed eligibility standards



entrepreneurs must remain consistent across their pitch videos, business plans, and registration details. Any sector change post-application would be considered grounds for disqualification. This speaks to the programme's ethos: authenticity, transparency, and trust.

A robust timeline was mapped for training, mentorship, physical verification, and business plan assessments — including the integration of new learning content and a more structured review mechanism using third-party vendors.

WHY IT MATTERS: FROM PROGRAMME TO ECOSYSTEM

This workshop was about creating a continuous handshake across all components of the programme. A system where grants lead to growth, mentorship leads to markets, and partnerships lead to purpose. As the IYBA-WE4A programme enters its next chapter, one thing is clear: this is not a one-off intervention, but a blueprint for inclusive climate-smart entrepreneurship on the continent, designed by Africans, powered by women, and sustained by collective resolve.

Strategic Alignment in Brussels: TEF Meets with the European Commission's DEG INTPA

Following a productive workshop in Germany, the Tony Elumelu Foundation's team continued its European mission in Brussels, engaging in a high-level strategy session with partners at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the EU institution steering global development cooperation.

Hosted at the International Partnerships office, the TEF delegation met with:

- Paz Velasco Velasquez – Head of Unit, Trade, Investment Climate, Entrepreneurship & Value Chains
- Ophelie Bouquet – Policy Officer, DG INTPA E2

PROGRAMME UPDATE, BRAND ALIGNMENT & POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Brussels meeting was an opportunity to provide real-time updates on the Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (WE4A) Programme, particularly on changes introduced for the 2024 cycle. The team walked through:

- Updated application timelines and rollout strategy
- Revised flyers and marketing materials, ensuring alignment with EU's brand and visibility guidelines
- New structural components in programme delivery across the eight focus countries

The Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and collaborative decision-making, especially in aligning communications, outreach assets, and feedback loops with all consortium partners.

A UNIFIED FRONT FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH

This Brussels engagement served as a critical bridge between programme vision and policy execution. It reinforced the need for adaptive governance balancing innovation with inclusion, and efficiency with fairness. With the groundwork laid in Frankfurt and policy clarity secured in Brussels, the Foundation moves forward into WE4A's next chapter with renewed alignment, deeper partnerships, and an unwavering focus on empowering Africa's women entrepreneurs to lead the continent's green transition.

Building Strategic Synergies in Cologne

TEF's Courtesy Visit and Workshop with DEG



On Friday, September 26th, the Tony Elumelu Foundation wrapped up its European mission with a strategic stop in Cologne, Germany, for a courtesy visit and full-day workshop with the team at DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, the German development finance institution and a key ally in Africa's entrepreneurial and green growth ecosystem.

MAPPING THE DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

The first half of the session focused on mutual learning and context building. The Foundation shared a robust overview of its decade-long impact, spotlighting:

- The TEF Entrepreneurship Programme model and how it has empowered over 24,000 African entrepreneurs
- Outcomes and learnings from the initial 2021 DEG-TEF partnership, which focused on bolstering sustainable businesses led by women

In turn, DEG colleagues provided clarity on the institutional architecture of KfW, DEG,

and DEG Impulse, highlighting where each entity sits within the German development ecosystem. Special focus was placed on DEG Impulse, the arm most aligned with social impact initiatives, and the anchor for TEF's partnership within the group.

The teams also explored UBA's role in facilitating SME financing and how its reach, compliance, and fraud-prevention capabilities reinforce the objectives of the partnership.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY, DISBURSEMENTS, AND METRICS

The workshop zoomed in on the current green entrepreneurship programme, a targeted initiative supporting 100 entrepreneurs across 8 Francophone countries: Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin Republic, and Cameroon.

KEY TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Programme Financials & Seed Capital
Timeline Impact Measurement & Indicator Tracking
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):
Shared Vision: Greening Africa, Empowering Women

This final engagement in Cologne cemented the Foundation's vision to not just fund entrepreneurs, but build ecosystems that enable them to thrive long-term. With DEG's support and the shared momentum from the EU and GIZ, the path is set for a comprehensive, continent-wide green entrepreneurship pipeline — one driven by women, backed by data, and rooted in sustainability.

As the programme advances into its critical delivery phase, this partnership continues to demonstrate how capital, capacity-building, and collaboration can jointly power Africa's green transformation.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Over 1,000 Women-Led Businesses to Receive Funding Under Second Cohort of the IYBA-WE4A Programme

Global development leaders – EU, OACPS, BMZ, GIZ and TEF – scale up partnership to empower African women for a sustainable future.

The European Union (EU), Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States

(OACPS), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) today announced the launch of the second cohort of the Investing in Young Businesses in Africa – Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (IYBA-WE4A) Programme.

Following the successful implementation of the first cohort, which empowered 751 African women-led green businesses with USD\$3.99 million in funding, the partners are scaling up their impact to support more than 1,000 African women entrepreneurs pioneering innovative solutions across critical green sectors.

Applications opened October 6, 2025, and closes on January 25, 2026.

Successful applicants will receive

- USD\$5,000 seed capital, tailored business

management training, a customised green curriculum, mentorship, and lifetime access to TEFConnect for sustained growth and investment readiness. Target sectors include sustainable agriculture, blue economy, renewable energy, circular economy, eco-tourism, construction, and logistics.

- USD\$5,000 non-refundable seed capital to scale their businesses;
- Comprehensive business management training within the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, including a customised green curriculum;
- Mentorship and lifetime access to the TEFConnect digital platform, enabling sustained growth, investment-readiness and follow-up funding; and
- Specialised Masterclasses led by industry

experts on finance, resilience, digital growth, leadership, and expansion led by experts and entrepreneurs.

Through this initiative, the EU, OACPS, BMZ, GIZ,



and TEF reaffirm their shared commitment to gender-focused economic empowerment and sustainable development, reducing Africa's environmental impact and advancing the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III).

"At the Tony Elumelu Foundation, we have seen first-hand the transformative power of supporting women entrepreneurs. Having successfully implemented the first cohort, we are excited to scale up our impact to empower even more African women-led businesses," said Somachi Chris-Asoluka, CEO, Tony Elumelu Foundation.

"This partnership continues to accelerate Africa's inclusive, green economy and demonstrates the limitless potential of African women when given the right support."

"The private sector plays a key role in bringing about change to poverty, equality and driving forward social change," added Romina Kochius, Director of Programme, WE4D. *"With a project of this dimension, we are expected to drive this change."*

All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply now on www.TEFConnect.com before the deadline of 25 January, 2026

ABOUT IYBA-WE4A

The Multi-Donor Action Team Europe Initiative Investing in Young Businesses in Africa – Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (TEI IYBA WE4A) is jointly co-financed by the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific State (OACPS) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the BMZ-funded multi-donor project Employment Promotion for Women for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D).

The IYBA WE4A programme directly contributes to increasing the economic participation of women and gender equality. The overall objective (impact) of the IYBA WE4A programme is to create sustainable, inclusive, green growth in selected African countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda). The specific objective (outcome) of the programme is: The economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs in sectors contributing to the green transformation in selected Sub-Saharan countries is increased. Furthermore, the programme aims at creating and securing existing jobs in the supported women-led businesses, enhancing their capacities and promoting their growth path.



Apply for \$5,000 seed capital, training, mentoring and access to networks.

Open to women with green business either in idea stage or no more than five years of operations.

Green Business Models: Sustainable Agriculture / Agro-Processing, Renewable Energy, Blue Economy / Aquaculture, Eco-tourism, Circular Economy/ Waste Management/ Biomass.

Greening of Business Models: Transportation / Logistics, Construction

Countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.



APPLY NOW ON www.TEFConnect.com

**Date: October 6, 2025
- January 25, 2026**

Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



**THE TONY ELUMELU
FOUNDATION**


www.TEFConnect.com

All you need is a Green Idea

Apply now to the
#BeGreenAfrica initiative

*Open to young green entrepreneurs in Kenya (Waste Management), Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa (All Green Sectors)

Deadline: November 30, 2025



BeGreen Africa: Catalysing Environmental Innovation

The Tony Elumelu Foundation's commitment to environmental sustainability comes to life through BeGreen Africa—our pioneering green entrepreneurship initiative developed in partnership with IKEA Foundation.

This innovative Programme addresses the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion through entrepreneurial action.

BeGreen Africa represents our targeted intervention in green enterprise development, providing:

- Specialised environmental business curriculum
- Green-focused seed funding
- Expert environmental mentorship

- Access to sustainable finance networks
- Community of environmental innovators

EARLY IMPACT INDICATORS:

- 7,666 entrepreneurs were given access to training in green business practices
- 2,806 completed the green training
- 10 sectors impacted across Africa
- All funded BeGreen entrepreneurs will experience post-funding mentorship

Africa's environmental challenges present unprecedented opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation.

Through BeGreen Africa, we are empowering entrepreneurs to build profitable solutions that protect our planet while driving economic growth.

HEIRS INSURANCE **TRAVEL FESTIVAL** 2025



Entry is FREE!
But registration
is compulsory.

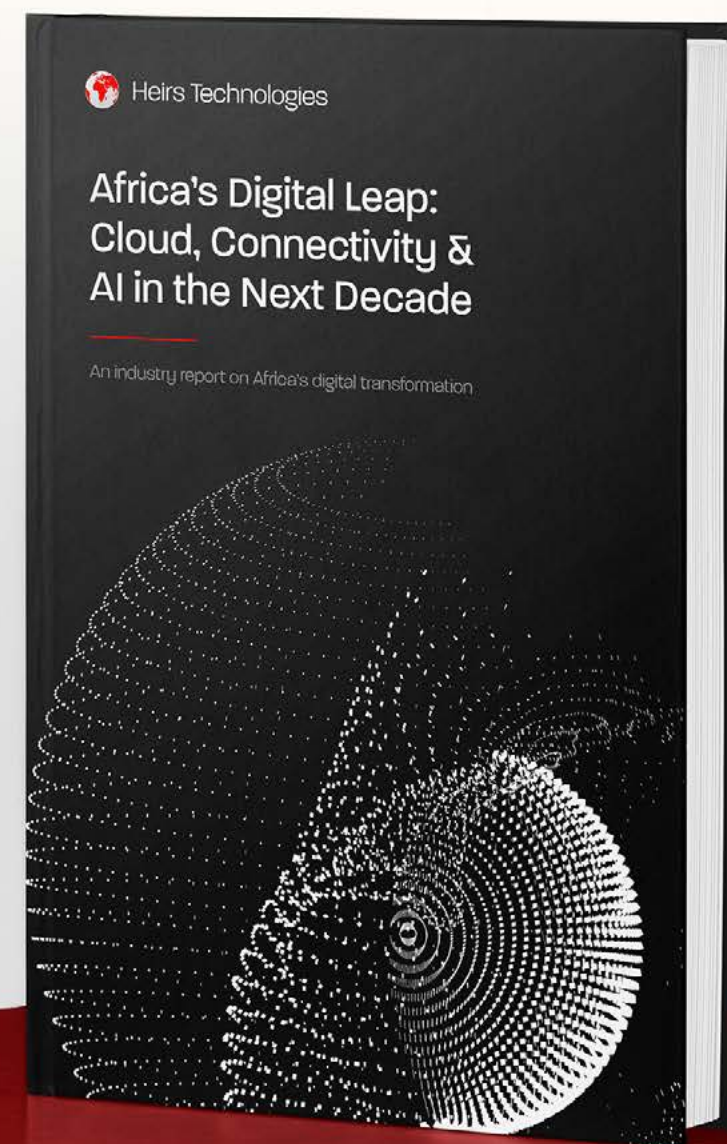


Scan to register

**Harbour Point Event Centre,
Victoria Island, Lagos**

Sat. Nov 29, 2025 | 12PM

Africa's Digital Future Is Now.



Heirs Technologies' new report, **"Africa's Digital Leap: Cloud, Connectivity & AI in the Next Decade,"** unpacks the continent's tech transformation — and the opportunities behind it.

It's more than insight; it's a roadmap — showing what to build, where to invest, and how to scale smartly.



Scan to download
the report

TEF IN THE NEWS

Africa Climate Reports: How Sweet Potatoes Sparked a Wellness Movement

2024 TEF Alumna Adebisi Opeyemi Aminat, CSM®, Founder of Pemnia Wellness, is leading a food revolution across the continent — and her secret weapon is the humble sweet potato.

By transforming the Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) into high-impact wellness products, Opeyemi is not only promoting better health outcomes but



also unlocking new income streams for local farmers. Her model blends agricultural innovation, nutrition science, and community empowerment, creating a ripple effect from farm to household.

"Crafting health from OFSP isn't just a tagline — it's a movement," says Opeyemi, whose work exemplifies the entrepreneurial solutions Africa's youth are building for the continent's most urgent needs.

Her feature is a compelling reminder that African entrepreneurs are driving grassroots change, leveraging local resources for global impact.

International Trade Centre (ITC): Your Next Cup of Coffee Should Be From Ghana – Meet Kawa Moka



2019 TEF Alumna Emi-Beth Quantson, Founder of Kawa Moka, is boldly brewing change

in Ghana's coffee sector. With a mission to elevate Ghana's coffee onto the world stage, Kawa Moka is producing specialty blends that rival international standards — all while anchoring its operations in fair trade, women empowerment, and sustainable sourcing.

By working directly with smallholder farmers and women-led agribusinesses, Emi-Beth is crafting more than coffee — she's creating economic dignity, global exposure, and long-term sustainability for Ghana's agriculture ecosystem.

This is Africapitalism in action: local enterprise creating global impact through inclusive, community-driven solutions.

Her story is a strong testament to the power of African entrepreneurs in reshaping industries one cup at a time.

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI): Top Global and Industry Leaders to Convene at the Clinton Global Initiative



At this year's Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, Somachi Chris-Asoluka, CEO of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, delivered a sharp, sobering message that pierced through

optimistic tech narratives.

"We can't really talk about AI if we still have parts of the continent where 60% are without electricity."

Her remarks confronted the digital paradox threatening Africa's development: innovation without infrastructure risks deepening inequality instead of solving it. The Tony Elumelu Foundation CEO's intervention urged global development partners to move beyond buzzwords and invest in power access, infrastructure, and human capital as prerequisites for digital transformation.

This call-to-action reframed the dialogue around Africa's tech future — centring it on equity, realism, and urgency.

News Gazette Nigeria: TEF, Africapitalism, and Financing of Women-Owned Businesses



African women are not just participants in the economy — they are its foundation and future. In this powerful spotlight, News Gazette

Nigeria explores how the Tony Elumelu Foundation, through its Africapitalism philosophy, is redefining inclusive economic development by centering women entrepreneurs.

With over 8,000 women supported across all 54 African countries, TEF's approach proves that funding, training, and mentorship are not acts of charity, but strategic investments in Africa's prosperity. Flagship programmes like WE4A are extending this impact further,

catalyzing green jobs, digital inclusion, and innovation in eco-tourism and sustainable agriculture.

"This is not philanthropy; it is sustainable capitalism in practice."

Africapitalism as TEF continues to demonstrate — is not a theory; it's a working model where profit and purpose go hand in hand, with women entrepreneurs leading the charge.



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Women Entrepreneurs: Africa's Competitive Edge (The TEF-EU Model)

For too long, Africa's women entrepreneurs have been invisible in the mainstream narrative of development.

They are often described as "micro," as if their businesses were destined to remain small, local, or marginal. The truth is far more disruptive: women are building enterprises that can redefine industries, value chains, and even Africa's position in the global market.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), in



partnership with the European Union (EU), bets on that truth. Through the Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (WE4A) initiative, women across the continent are receiving seed capital, training, and mentorship. More importantly, they are redefining what African entrepreneurship looks like.

PROOF BEYOND POLICY

Wezi Mzumara, founder of Kwanza Cocoa in Malawi.

TEF Alumna, Wezi's company is more than a chocolate brand; it is becoming a movement. Kwanza Cocoa produces artisan chocolates today, but its ambition stretches across the Southern African region. With an outgrower programme already in place, Wezi is building a sustainable supply chain that empowers farmers, reduces dependency on imports, and creates locally manufactured cocoa products for both

Malawi and Southern African Development Community (SADC) markets.

Uzoamaka Igweike, founder of Loom Craft Chocolate in Nigeria.

By processing Nigerian cocoa into high-quality artisanal products, TEF Alumna, Uzoamaka is challenging the entrenched status quo of exporting raw cocoa. Instead, she is proving that value addition can happen at source, keeping wealth, jobs, and innovation within Africa. Her company not only makes world-class products but also supports other local businesses and creates employment opportunities.

These are not isolated cases. They reflect a wider trend: across the Tony Elumelu Foundation portfolio, 46% of entrepreneurs supported by TEF are women, with 85% retaining full control of their businesses. Crucially, 52% of jobs created are filled by

women, proving that when women scale, entire communities rise. These are not “micro” enterprises. They are macro-impact ventures, and they reveal the multiplier effect when women are given the tools to scale.

FROM AID TO AFRICAPITALISM

What makes the TEF–EU partnership distinct is its philosophy. This partnership is an investment in Africa’s young entrepreneurs, an expression of Africapitalism.

As our Co-Founder, Dr Awele V. Elumelu, reminds us:

“Women are the backbone of our economies and the catalysts for sustainable development.”

Women reinvest up to 90% of their income back into families and communities. Supporting women-led enterprises creates ripple effects that aid alone could never replicate.

ALIGNING WITH GLOBAL GOALS

The TEF–EU model is a tried-and-tested blueprint for translating local action into global change. It aligns directly with:

- SDG 5 (Gender Equality) – creating equal entrepreneurial opportunities.
- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) – driving job creation through SMEs.
- Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – building inclusive, sustainable value chains.

Through ventures like Kwanza Cocoa and Loom Craft Chocolate, we see how global goals are translated into local realities.

THE BIGGER CHALLENGE

If 2,500 women are already reshaping industries through this partnership alone, what would Africa look like if 25,000 or 250,000 women were backed in the same



way?

That is the challenge to governments, investors, and corporates: to scale the model. Aid dependency has had its time. The next era belongs to entrepreneurs, and women are at the forefront.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AS AFRICA'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

The TEF–EU partnership is proof that women are not marginal players but Africa’s competitive edge. They are redefining value chains, shifting global perceptions, and proving that Africa can and must export not just raw materials, but world-class products, innovation, and leadership.

The future of Africa’s prosperity is not locked in oil wells or mines. It is being crafted—sometimes literally—in the hands of our women.

The Digital University for Entrepreneurs: What the World Can Learn from The Tony Elumelu Foundation’s TEFConnect

Entrepreneurship has become the defining skill of the 21st century, but access to knowledge, capital, and networks is still distributed unevenly.

In emerging markets especially, the difference between an idea that thrives and one that fades often comes down to access: who you know, what you have been taught, and whether you can secure that elusive first investment.

Africa, with its booming youth population and unmatched entrepreneurial energy, has pioneered a bold solution. It’s called TEFConnect, the flagship digital platform of the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF). More than just a website, TEFConnect functions as

a digital university for entrepreneurs, offering practical and real-world applicable skills. And it might just be the blueprint the world has been waiting for.

WHY EMERGING MARKETS NEED DIGITAL UNIVERSITIES

Traditional education systems prepare graduates for employment, not entrepreneurship. Accelerators and business schools are limited to a privileged few. Meanwhile, in Africa, 1 in 5 adults is starting a business, the highest entrepreneurship rate in the world. But most lack access to training, mentorship, or finance.

TEFConnect. A free, pan-African, digital-first platform that collapses the barriers to entrepreneurship support by providing:

- Accessible training, tailored for African realities.
- Seed capital, tied directly to completion of training.
- A borderless network, connecting





entrepreneurs with peers, mentors, and investors across 54 countries.

EDUCATION AT SCALE: THE DIGITAL CURRICULUM

The beating heart of TEFConnect is its 12-week training delivered digitally to thousands of entrepreneurs each year. Through interactive modules and video content, participants learn:

- Financial planning for small and growing businesses.
- Marketing and customer acquisition strategies.
- Legal and compliance essentials.
- Digital tools for scaling operations.

Unlike generic online courses, these are rooted in context-specific challenges: how to thrive in informal markets, how to use mobile money for transactions, how to navigate fragile infrastructure.

The platform also provides masterclasses from experienced African founders and panel sessions on innovation. In effect, TEFConnect has digitised the entrepreneurial wisdom of an entire continent, making it free and accessible to anyone with internet access.

NETWORKS WITHOUT BORDERS

TEF Connect platform also serves as a pan-African marketplace for connections. Entrepreneurs can:

- Connect with mentors across industries.
- Network with peers facing similar challenges.
- Access a knowledge base that gives them access to global investors looking for African opportunities.

In our Masterclasses, entrepreneurs pitch, share experiences, and collaborate across borders. In one workshop, a Ugandan agripreneur exchanges lessons with a Nigerian fintech founder, the kind of cross-pollination that accelerates ideas into scalable ventures.

PROOF OF IMPACT

The results of this digital university are visible:

- Over 2.5 million entrepreneurs engaged through TEFConnect.
- More than 24,000 trained and funded through the platform.
- Alumni generating billions in revenue and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

These are not classroom exercises. They are real-world businesses born from a digital university.

A MODEL THE WORLD SHOULD REPLICATE

TEFConnect's genius lies in its replicability. For continents where youth populations face similar barriers, TEFConnect offers a ready-made blueprint:

- Digital-first delivery makes it low-cost and scalable.
- Curriculum + capital + network ensures end-to-end support.
- Pan-regional access bridges geographic and gender divides.

In effect, TEFConnect is doing for entrepreneurship what Khan Academy did for education, democratising access at scale.

A CHALLENGE TO INSTITUTIONS

Global institutions spend billions annually on traditional aid and university systems. But TEFConnect proves that a fraction of that, deployed digitally, can create entrepreneurs instead of dependents, builders instead of job seekers.

The question is not whether the model works — the results are in. The real question is: why aren't more institutions adopting it?

THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

TEFConnect is not a platform. It is a digital university for entrepreneurs, producing not degrees, but businesses, jobs, and hope. It delivers what the world's youth need most: the skills to build, the capital to start, and the networks to grow.

As our founder, Tony O. Elumelu, C.F.R., has argued, *"Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind Africa's economic transformation."*

The next wave of global growth may not come from traditional universities or development aid, but from digital universities for entrepreneurs — with TEFConnect showing the way.

The Invisible Threads of Change: Micro-Narratives from Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme Beneficiaries



Africa is not one country, nor one culture. It is 54 countries, with thousands of cultures, and millions of entrepreneurial stories playing out every day.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation's support is like a tracer dye illuminating the vital pathways of Africa's entrepreneurial ecosystem. It reveals how entrepreneurs across geographies, sectors, and cultures respond to the catalytic force of "just a little luck," often the very head start they need to break through barriers and build lasting impact.

Their stories are not uniform; they are as varied as the markets they serve. But when placed side by side, they reveal patterns: how capital creates jobs, how mentorship sparks pivots, how resilience looks in agriculture versus tech, how culture shapes innovation.

This article is a cartography of micro-narratives, each one small but together forming a mosaic of what entrepreneurship in Africa really looks like: diverse, improvised, systemic, and human.

**Eliab Mayengo**

2018 Ugandan TEF Alumni

At 12, Eliab Mayengo was already self-sponsoring his education, moulding clay bricks by hand to cover his school fees. Years later, with a degree in mechanical engineering, he returned to the same soil this time with the vision to industrialise brickmaking. His company, Orca-Pod Holdings, fabricates machinery that produces affordable, high-quality building materials such as clay bricks, ventilators, and partition blocks, making decent housing more accessible to Uganda's middle class.

With support from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Eliab scaled his operations dramatically. His workforce grew from 20 to 45 employees, and annual revenues rose from UGX 145 million to UGX 201 million. He also constructed an eco-friendly kiln, reducing fuel use while increasing production capacity, allowing him to expand into new districts.

For Eliab, bricks are the foundation of dignity, enabling Ugandan families to build safer homes while proving that local innovation can tackle housing challenges sustainably.

**Haythem Dabbabi**

2019 Tunisian TEF Alumni

When the world went into lockdown in 2020, so did Tunisia, and TEF Alumni, Haythem Dabbabi saw not paralysis but possibility. With his venture, Evocraft, he began introducing children to robotics, coding, and STEM through playful, non-traditional approaches. What started as a single prototype became, with the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme training, mentorship, and seed capital, a growing business model serving schools and communities.

Today, Evocraft has impacted over hundreds of children, with a flagship TechBus that drives into rural areas, teaching underserved girls how to code, build robots, and imagine futures in technology. The TEF Entrepreneurship Programme not only funded his dream but reshaped his operations, helping him expand nationally and prepare for international markets.

"My purpose in life, is to help other people's development skills." For him, robots are not the goal; they are the tools. The true invention is confidence: proving to young Africans, especially girls, that the future of STEM belongs to them too.

**Nora Chaynane**

2019 Moroccan TEF Alumni

In Morocco, 80% of teenagers between 15 and 18 are uncertain about their career path. For Nora Chaynane, that confusion was not inevitable it was a problem waiting to be solved. With support from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, she founded Shine Space, a socio-educational initiative that equips young people with technical and interpersonal skills often missing from formal schooling.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Shine Space delivered more than 10 workshops, offering mentoring and career guidance. When classrooms closed, Nora pivoted online, hosting 20 digital workshops, supporting 100 students with direct mentorship, and reaching over 2,500 participants. She also collaborated with health centres and Morocco's Ministry of Health to raise awareness of the COVID-19, showing her commitment to both education and community well-being.

Her next frontier was Glisabla VISA Morocco's first interactive platform designed to improve language and conversational skills through discussion groups on trending issues.

**Gladys Chibanda**

2019 Zimbabwean TEF Alumni

At just 21, Gladys Chibanda reimagined Ankara fabric not just as clothing, but as functional art. Through her brand, Krafted Ink, she began producing handmade journals, diaries, and gift packaging infused with African textiles. With the support of the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme's training, mentorship and seed capital, Gladys refined her business model, built smart partnerships, and scaled her customer base from a few dozen to more than 50,000 users across all 36 Nigerian states.

Her vision goes beyond craft. In 2022, she launched Dignity for Her, a project training adolescent girls to sell reusable pads in their communities. To date, over 300 girls have been equipped with both product knowledge and income opportunities, with a target of 2,000 in sight. The initiative bundles menstrual health education with entrepreneurship, breaking cycles of poverty and stigma at the same time.



Lahja Amakali

2018 Namibian TEF Alumni

When her three sole shareholders pulled out, Lahja Amakali nearly lost her agribusiness. But the seed capital from the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme kept Niithete's Agro-Business alive. Today, her company produces five flavours of sorghum coffee substitutes and partners with mint, lemon, and ginger growers. "The Tony Elumelu Foundation classes were my eye opener," she says. "They gave me peers to share challenges and pushed me forward when others gave up." Her company now employs 10 part-time and two full-time staff and empowers small farmers with training on biogas, backyard gardens, and crop marketing.

For Lahja, agribusiness is more than profit: it is proving that Namibians can process food for national and international markets and feed themselves with their own hands.



Msindazwe Ndhlovu

2019 Zimbabwean TEF Alumni

In Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Msindazwe Ndhlovu is solving two crises at once: plastic waste and housing shortages. His company, The Noble Savage, recycles waste plastic into roofing tiles, ridges, and paving blocks — lighter, stronger, and more affordable than traditional alternatives. With empowerment from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, he scaled from five to eight employees and doubled annual revenue from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Recognition followed: two national innovation awards and due diligence with Earth Capital for a \$1 million investment. "I want to transform Africa one piece of plastic at a time," he says.

His work shows how waste, reimagined, can become shelter for the most vulnerable.



Peter Chama

2019 Zambian TEF Alumni

From cross-border hair trading to lecturing, Peter Chama's path was anything but straight. But it led him to founding Petcha — Centre for Complementary Medicine, Zambia's first accredited institution for naturopathy and alternative medicine. After participating in the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, Peter expanded from six to 15 staff, opened three new campuses, and now runs certificate and diploma courses across provinces.

Revenue jumped tenfold — from K50,000 to K500,000 annually. "The vision was never to build one school, ... It was to build a network so that underperforming campuses could be sustained by stronger ones." For Peter, entrepreneurship is nation-building through education.



Lungile Marhungane

2021 South African TEF Alumni

Growing up in Limpopo, Lungile Marhungane witnessed first-hand how the absence of clean water could mean both illness and economic loss. Determined to change this, she founded Jeslu Puro Water, a start-up that purifies water using an innovative macadamia nut filter — a green, locally rooted solution.

Since participating in the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, Lungile has employed four staff, supplied funeral parlours and households, and generated \$800–\$1,500 monthly. "The financial tools from TEF helped me understand profitability and projections." Today, Jeslu Puro is incubated at Innovation Hub South Africa, preparing to expand nationwide.

For Lungile, clean water is a circular economic opportunity that creates jobs and safeguards health.



Angele Messa
2018 Cameroonian TEF Alumni

When schools shut down in Cameroon in 2018, thousands of young people were left stranded without education or opportunities. For Angele Messa, it was a personal call to action. Drawing on her own struggles with education, she founded EduClick Africa and later EduClick Careers, a digital learning and job-matching platform.

With the \$5,000 non-refundable seed capital from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Angele built an online learning hub and expanded her venture into Cameroon's largest job search engine. Today, EduClick employs three full-time and four part-time staff, has registered more than 46,000 users, trained over 8,000 young people in employability skills, and placed more than 600 into decent jobs.

Her ambition is bold; to help one million Cameroonian youths' access meaningful work by 2025 regardless of location, qualification, or gender.



Maliki Sankaré
2021 Malian TEF Alumni

Across 24 hectares of farmland in Mali, Maliki Sankaré is rewriting agriculture's story. His company, Socco-Agro-Business, grows rice and vegetables while creating jobs for rural youth and women. With the seed capital, mentorship and training from the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, he expanded operations, trained 150 farmers, and now generates up to two million FCFA annually.

Maliki's vision is bold. He is harnessing digital farming to monitor water and fertiliser use, reduce rural exodus, and create employment across Mali by 2030. Already recognised by the World Food Programme, his work proves that Mali's land holds wealth when in the hands of its youth.



Ogola Kange
2015 Nigerian TEF Alumni

In Nigeria, where 40% of tomatoes are lost post-harvest, Ogola Kange saw both waste and opportunity. Her company, Smiley's Mobile Kitchen, processes surplus tomatoes into organic products with longer shelf life, helping farmers reduce losses while ensuring food security. With a \$5,000 seed capital and training from the Tony Elumelu Foundation in 2015, Ogola transformed her idea into a sustainable agribusiness.

Today, she works with 35 smallholder farmers, boosting their sales by 25% annually, and has trained over 200 women in agribusiness, 50 of whom have since launched their own ventures. Smiley's is now part of the Solar Impulse Foundation's 1,000 Solutions, recognised for its renewable practices that cut CO₂, conserve water, and reduce waste.

For Ogola, every jar of tomato paste is a recipe for women's empowerment and a solution to Nigeria's food security challenge.



Omowunmi Akande
2015 Nigerian TEF Alumni

A former corporate worker, Omowunmi Akande left her desk job to make healthy living accessible. Her brand, Smoothie Express, launched in 2015 with TEF support, now generates over one million dollars in revenue through outlets, subscriptions, and events.

Employing more than 30 people, her business positions wellness as a lifestyle, not a luxury. "The TEF Entrepreneurship Programme could not have come at a better time ... It moulded us into the savvy entrepreneurs we are today."

From business-to-business (B2B) sales to international recognition, Smoothie Express proves that health and profit can scale together.

**Assiba Fée**

2022 Beninoise TEF Alumni

When her newborn struggled to gain weight, Assiba Fée tried an age-old remedy: moringa leaves. Within weeks, her baby was thriving. That personal miracle became the seed of Assiba Fée Sarl, an agribusiness in Benin republic that grows and processes moringa into juice, pasta, syrup, and jam. With the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme seed capital, she renovated her workspace to meet food safety standards, purchased modern processing equipment, and expanded her team from four to 10.

Revenues leapt from Three million to Sixteen million West African CFA francs annually. Recognition followed: wins at Get in the Ring Cotonou, Fenou Contest, and the Food Connection Challenge, plus \$30,000 in additional funding. Today, as she builds a new factory, her mission is clear: to turn moringa — the “most nutritious plant in the world” into accessible, everyday products that tackle malnutrition without changing the taste of people’s meals. For Assiba, moringa is a pathway to healthier families and stronger communities.

**Onome Matilda Odogene**

2017 Nigerian TEF Alumni

In the Niger Delta, where oil dominates, Onome Odogene chose food over fuel. With a background in engineering, she founded Styda Culinary Academy to train chefs and food entrepreneurs. The TEF Entrepreneurship Programme I gave her the launchpad: today, she has trained more than 300 chefs, revamped 30 food businesses, and employed six staff directly.

Her culinary school is a hub of opportunity, offering youth in the Niger Delta a pathway beyond oil dependency. “The networks and training from TEF changed my life entirely,” she says. Styda is proof that the region’s wealth is not only under the ground, but also in kitchens and classrooms.

**Adeolu Joseph Adekunle**

2018 Nigerian TEF Alumni

Combining his veterinary degree with his knack for tech, Adeolu built Vspotter, a digital platform linking pet owners with veterinary doctors in real time. Through the empowerment from the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, he upgraded his cloud-based management software, Orion, and expanded from 20 users to a database of every veterinary doctor in Nigeria, now serving hundreds of pet owners daily.

His team grew from two to five, and revenue quadrupled to \$10,000 annually. “Before TEF, this was just an idea; now it’s a national platform.” For Adeolu, animal health is more than a niche; it is a critical piece of food security, livelihoods, and innovation.

ENTREPRENEURS ARE AFRICA'S UNFAIR ADVANTAGE

Africa’s transformation is happening in quiet, determined steps.

Each Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur represents a calculated risk, a small but intentional bet on potential. When viewed collectively, these entrepreneurs form a living map of innovation, grit, and ambition

Green Jobs, Green Profits: How Young Africans Are Turning Waste into Wealth



Africa’s entrepreneurs are reframing one of the world’s greatest challenges into its greatest opportunity.

Across the continent, a new generation is proving that climate solutions are not merely acts of charity or sacrifice; they are profitable ventures that generate employment, create trade opportunities, and deliver prosperity alongside sustainability.

At the centre of this shift is BeGreen Africa, a partnership between the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), the IKEA Foundation, and UNICEF’s Generation Unlimited (GenU). Designed to equip young Africans with the skills, capital, and market access to build green enterprises, it transforms climate action into an economic growth strategy.

FROM RISK TO REWARD: RETHINKING CLIMATE ACTION

Africa contributes less than 4% of global emissions, yet it bears the brunt of climate shocks: floods, droughts, desertification, and degraded soils. For years, the global narrative cast climate action as a sacrifice, a burden developing countries must shoulder to protect the planet.

But Africa's young entrepreneurs see things differently. To them, climate adaptation is not a cost; it is a market. It is the chance to reimagine waste as raw material, renewable energy as industry, and sustainability as a competitive edge in the global economy. Circular economy ventures repurpose waste into tradable goods, Renewable energy start-ups expand access to power while reducing emissions. Agri-waste innovators turn crop residue into biofuels and organic fertilisers.

BEGREEN AFRICA: A GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODEL

Launched in 2022, BeGreen Africa was designed to address what the United Nations (UN) and other international bodies call

"The triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with entrepreneurship as the antidote."

The programme provides:

- Specialised training in green entrepreneurship, from waste management to renewable energy.
- Seed capital, ensuring young entrepreneurs move from concepts to viable operations.
- Mentorship and networks, linking them with investors, markets, and peers across borders.

Delivered through TEFConnect, TEF's proprietary digital platform that connects over 2.5 million African entrepreneurs, BeGreen combines online learning with practical pilot programmes. It places Africa's youth at the forefront of green transformation, equipping them not merely to survive the climate crisis, but to build industries out of it.

TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH: EVIDENCE ON THE GROUND

The early results are promising. In Kenya,



entrepreneurs supported through BeGreen are converting organic waste into affordable biofertilisers, simultaneously raising crop yields and reducing harmful methane emissions.

"Before BeGreen, I saw organic waste as a challenge for my community. Today, I see it as a resource. With the training and seed capital I received, I am using Black Soldier Fly technology to turn waste into nutrient-rich frass and high-quality seedlings. This is not only reducing pollution, it is improving soil health and supporting farmers in Machakos County. BeGreen has shown me that waste is not the end of a cycle, it is the beginning of opportunity." — Benard Mbula Musyoki, BeGreen Africa Beneficiary

Across Africa, innovators are transforming plastic waste into construction materials, addressing both urban housing needs and pollution. These are formal businesses with clear market pathways: serving growing demand, creating jobs, and exporting sustainable solutions.

GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AFRICA'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

Africa has a unique advantage: unlike



other regions, it is not locked into outdated, carbon-intensive infrastructure. It can leapfrog directly into clean technologies and circular economies.

- Export advantage: locally produced green goods, from recycled plastics to biofuels, can meet the rising global demand for sustainable supply chains.
- Employment creation: green ventures are inherently labour-intensive, absorbing the continent's fast-growing youth workforce.
- Community resilience: local access to renewable energy, clean environments, and sustainable inputs strengthens economies from the ground up.

Here, climate action is not philanthropy. It is Africa's competitive edge.

A GLOBAL BLUEPRINT

BeGreen Africa demonstrates what happens when philanthropy, private capital, and development organisations align around entrepreneurship. Its model training, capital, mentoring, and networks for green innovation can be replicated in other emerging markets.

For governments and development partners across South Asia or Latin America, the lesson is clear: do not wait for external aid or carbon credits to trickle down. Invest directly in entrepreneurs who are already creating solutions that blend climate and commerce.

GREEN IS GROWTH

Africa's young entrepreneurs are charting a new path. They are showing that green jobs are not an afterthought of climate policy; they are the main prize. By turning waste into wealth and scarcity into opportunity, they are laying the foundations for both prosperity and sustainability.

BeGreen Africa is proof that when we invest in youth and innovation, the result is not just cleaner communities or reduced emissions. It is thriving businesses, new industries, and inclusive growth.

The world should take note: Africa is not waiting for luck or handouts. It is building green economies that pay in profits, in jobs, and in resilience.



Democratising Luck: How \$5,000 is Redefining Africa's Economy

For decades, entrepreneurial success in Africa has been shaped by chance, a fortunate investor, an unexpected loan, or a serendipitous meeting. Structural barriers like limited access to capital, inadequate training, and weak networks have left many with ideas but no pathway to execution.

At the Tony Elumelu Foundation, we believe opportunity should be a system. Our flagship Entrepreneurship Programme is designed to institutionalise access, i.e. democratise luck, by combining a rigorous training, mentorship, access to networks and a catalytic \$5,000 seed capital to empower entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries.

This is a tried and tested model that is reshaping the economic landscape of the continent.

WHY \$5,000 MATTERS

In global venture circles, \$5,000 may seem

modest, but in African markets, it is often the difference between an idea that fades and a business that flourishes. It enables entrepreneurs to purchase essential equipment, hire their first staff, or launch a prototype, bridging the gap between concept and revenue.

Importantly, the Tony Elumelu Foundation's empowerment is not transactional. Every entrepreneur undergoes 12 weeks of business training, is paired with a mentor, and gains access to our pan-African network. This ensures that the seed capital we provide them at the end of the Programme is not merely financial aid; it is strategic, structured, and scalable. This combination of capital and capacity building is what transforms potential into performance.

PROOF OF IMPACT

Our model is not theoretical. It is evidenced by thousands of Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurs whose businesses now drive local economies:

- In Kenya, Stella Sigana, founder of Alternative Waste Technologies, has recycled over 500 tonnes of waste into clean fuel briquettes, created 12 jobs, and empowered hundreds of women

entrepreneurs in informal settlements.

- In Benin Republic, Vital Sounouvou, founder of Exportunity, built an e-commerce platform that connects African producers to global buyers. He has engaged 750+ clients, built a database of 85,000 companies, and employs 32 staff.
- In Cameroon, Mechi Amaah, founder of Black and Natural Cosmetics, used her empowerment to expand operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing revenue by 70%, employing seven staff, and launching vocational training for young women.

These are outcomes of a replicable model that transforms modest capital into measurable impact.

FROM PHILANTHROPY TO ECONOMIC STRATEGY

What began as a \$100 million philanthropic commitment by our Founder, Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, and his family, has evolved into a proven economic development model across the continent. To date, we have:

- Empowered over 24,000 entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries, lifting more than 2 million people out of poverty, and granting over 2.5 million Africans with access to trainings
- Maintained gender-balanced cohorts
- Funded businesses across diverse sectors, with top representation in Agri-business, Fashion, ICT, Manufacturing, and Healthcare

These figures reflect a strategic intervention in Africa's economic architecture. By equipping entrepreneurs with capital, training, and networks, we are not only supporting livelihoods but also building resilient, locally driven economies.

Our beneficiaries span from urban tech-focused hubs to rural farming communities, proving that innovation and impact are not



confined by geography; they are unlocked by access.

A SCALABLE MODEL FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

We are now advancing this model through high-impact partnerships, bringing together key players from the private sector, governments, and development agencies to scale our impact.

This is a continental shift, a movement that recognises that Africa's greatest resource is its people, and its greatest opportunity lies in enabling them to build, solve, and lead.

Our philosophy is simple: entrepreneurs are the engine of Africa's transformation. By equipping them with the right tools, we are building economies.

As one Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur aptly put it: "This support not only gave me the resources to start but also opened doors to countless opportunities and invaluable business insights," - Tawonga Nyirenda, 2019 Malawi TEF Alumni

This is the democratisation of luck. This is Africapitalism in action.



The Gendered ROI: Measuring the Economic Return on Investing in Women Founders

For decades, investing in women has been framed as philanthropy, a moral gesture, a soft quota, an act of equity. In Africa today, the evidence tells a sharper story: investing in women founders is not charity, it is strategy.

When women receive capital, they generate more jobs per dollar, reinvest more in households, and build more resilient businesses. The real question is no longer why invest in women, but why would any rational economy not?

The Investing in Young Businesses in African Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (IYBA-WE4A) programme, spearheaded in partnership with the European Union, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and implemented by the German Development Agency (GIZ) and the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF),

provides one of the clearest test cases to date. By combining seed capital, capacity building, and digital learning through TEFConnect, IYBA-WE4A has channeled millions of dollars into women-led businesses across the continent. The results are no longer anecdotal. They point to an investable thesis: gender lens entrepreneurship delivers measurable, outsized returns not only for women, but for labour markets and national economies.

FRAMING INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AS AN ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

Too often, investment in women entrepreneurs is justified in the language of equity or moral duty. While justice matters, the economic evidence is stronger still. Global studies from the IMF and McKinsey have consistently shown that narrowing gender gaps in labour force participation could add trillions to global GDP. Yet these figures often remain abstract, detached from the lived realities of African markets where informality is high, finance is scarce, and education systems are misaligned with demand.

IYBA-WE4A grounds this global debate in empirical reality. In 2021, over 798 African women-led enterprises received USD \$3.99 million in grant funding under the programme. Each beneficiary received \$5,000 in non-refundable seed capital, accompanied by capacity-building training, mentoring, and in some cases follow-on catalytic investments of up to €50,000 for high-growth firms. These grants, though not vast by macroeconomic standards, have yielded disproportionate impact creating jobs, expanding revenues, and building market linkages across the continent.



Entrepreneurship as Human Capital Policy

The Tony Elumelu Foundation has long argued that entrepreneurship is not peripheral to Africa's labour markets; it is the labour market.

Women have been central to the TEF story. 46% of all TEF beneficiaries are women, and within the IYBA-WE4A programme specifically, the figure is 100%. Our data shows that each TEF beneficiary with an active business creates an average of 13 jobs, and that employees in these firms earn three times the national per-capita income. Over half of their workforce are women and youth. Profits average 22 times national income per capita, and 64% of these businesses support other SMEs as suppliers and vendors.

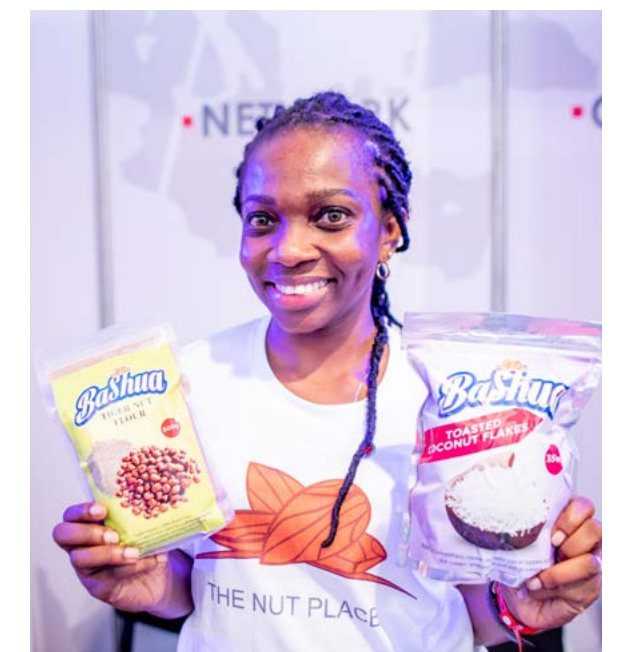
These are not peripheral gains. They illustrate entrepreneurship as a system of human capital formation: every grant dollar is simultaneously training a founder, formalising jobs, raising wages, and building domestic supply chains.

THE WE4A MULTIPLIER

The outcomes of WE4A demonstrate how seed capital, when targeted at women founders, multiplies across multiple dimensions:

- **Job Creation:** Beneficiaries consistently report new hires within 12–18 months of receiving capital. Women-led firms are more likely to employ women and youth, creating a virtuous cycle of inclusion.
- **Revenue Growth:** Internal monitoring shows many WE4A enterprises doubling revenues post-intervention, with profits channelled into reinvestment and expansion.
- **Social Spillovers:** Women entrepreneurs tend to reinvest earnings into household education, healthcare, and community development. This indirect impact is harder to quantify but significantly strengthens human development outcomes alongside economic ones.

The cost-per-job and return-on-investment (ROI) of funding women founders compares favourably with many large-scale infrastructure or vocational training schemes. Put differently, if an economist were to run a benefit-cost analysis, entrepreneurship





support for women would not only clear the bar of social justification but outperform many conventional policy levers.

CASE NARRATIVES: GROUNDING DATA IN LIVED ENTERPRISE

Numbers alone cannot convey the systemic patterns. Micro-narratives from WE4A beneficiaries illustrate how gendered ROI plays out on the ground.

- **Kenya – Dial a Pad** is transforming access to feminine hygiene and reproductive healthcare through tech-enabled solutions. Founded to address period poverty, the platform combines a mobile app offering e-commerce and telemedicine with locally manufactured, IoT-enabled sanitary towel dispensers. Backed by the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Dial a Pad has deployed its smart dispensers in schools across Kenya, where 7 in 10 girls miss school due to lack of

menstrual products. To date, the initiative has reached over 10,000 school-going girls, enabled uninterrupted education and promoted good health and well-being for African girls and women.

- **Uganda – Dromedic** is tackling the critical shortage of essential medical supplies through smart logistics and technology. Founded to address the life-threatening unavailability of blood in Uganda, the platform combines data-driven inventory management with a digital discovery system that connects hospitals, patients, and doctors to blood banks and donors. With support from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Dromedic ensures safe, fast, and affordable delivery of medical supplies—such as blood—within 45 minutes. So far, over 1,000 pints of blood and other vital items including oxygen cylinders, face masks, and vaccines have been delivered to more than 50 hospitals

and communities across Uganda.

- **Mauritius – Recycle Moi** Africa's 100% biodegradable sanitary napkins. Made from natural bamboo and corn fibre, and packaged in recyclable cardboard, the napkins are free from toxins, bleaches, latex, perfumes, and plastic—making them safe for sensitive skin and environmentally friendly. Recycle Moi operates through an innovative “mini factory” model that equips rural women to produce and distribute the pads within their communities. The initiative not only promotes sustainable health practices but also creates jobs and empowers women at the grassroots level.
- **Nigeria – ORÍKÌ Group** is Nigeria's all-natural farm-to-skin brand combining luxury wellness with indigenous skincare. Founded to promote holistic beauty and wellness, ORÍKÌ operates a chain of luxury spas powered by its own line of potent, botanical-based products. Backed by the Tony Elumelu Foundation, the brand has grown to include 7 spas, 1 manufacturing division, and UNWIND by ORÍKÌ—Africa's first tech platform offering wellness on demand. With global expansion underway through the ORÍKÌ Franchise, the brand continues to elevate African wellness, delivering relaxation, skincare, and empowerment from farm to face. Each case illustrates the layered return: financial growth, job creation, social empowerment, and community resilience.

FROM PILOT TO POLICY: THE IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA'S LABOUR MARKETS

By 2035, Africa will host the world's largest working-age population. The demographic dividend will not materialise simply by building more schools or launching new vocational centres. It will depend on how effectively young Africans, and especially women, translate skills into livelihoods.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation's approach demonstrates that entrepreneurship training extends far beyond launching startups, it is about creating decentralised skill-building systems that strengthen labour markets with resilience. Each entrepreneur becomes a hub of expertise, amplifying capabilities among employees, suppliers, and communities.

A GENDERED DIVIDEND, IF SEIZED

The case for investing in women entrepreneurs is no longer simply moral or rhetorical. It is empirical and economic. WE4A demonstrates that women-led enterprises deliver superior returns across financial, social, and systemic dimensions. They create jobs at lower cost, pay higher wages, and reinvest in households and communities.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation has shown the world what is possible when women founders are given capital, training, mentoring, and access.

If scaled and embedded into policy, the gendered ROI of investing in women could well define Africa's growth trajectory turning population pressure into shared prosperity.



The Private Sector's Playbook for Human Capital in Africa

Africa's demographic dividend, its young, rapidly growing population, is often cited as its greatest asset, yet that potential frequently collides with the reality of slow labour absorption, skills gaps, and fragile employment systems.

While traditional policy levers like building more schools and importing curricula have yielded limited results, the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) employs an Africapitalism-based approach to address human capital challenges in Africa, distinct from traditional policy methods. Since the launch of the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme in 2015, the Tony Elumelu Foundation has granted over 2.5 million young Africans with access to trainings via its proprietary digital hub, TEFConnect, and provided over \$100 million in direct funding to more than 24,000 entrepreneurs, resulting in the creation of up to 1.5 million jobs.

This is a parallel skills system in action:

entrepreneurship as mass human-capital formation.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS HUMAN-CAPITAL FORMATION.

Where public policy typically segments "entrepreneurship" from "labour," TEF collapses the boundary. Our flagship Entrepreneurship Programme treats the entrepreneur not just as a firm-starter, but as a skill node, a multiplier in the labour market.

The model is simple but radical: teach a founder financial literacy, market analysis, resilience, and digital adoption, and you are indirectly teaching their employees, suppliers, and even customers.

Our proprietary digital hub, TEFConnect, not only delivers training modules; it creates peer-to-peer learning, mentoring, and access to tools that spill into the broader workforce. TEFConnect functions both as a skills accelerator and a market signal: it not only equips entrepreneurs with practical knowledge but also reveals in real time which capabilities are most in demand and builds them at scale.

THE MACRO IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING.

What does this mean for Africa's labour markets? Three shifts stand out:

- **From Wage Dependence to Opportunity Creation**
On average, each active Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur creates an average of 13 jobs, with employees earning three times above the national per capita income. Beyond headcount, we are redefining "job" itself by blending formal and informal work into viable pathways for income security.
- **From Curriculum Deficits to Market-Driven Learning**
Unlike many vocational systems, TEF's training is modular, digital, and updated in sync with market shifts. With 80% of entrepreneurs generating revenue and reporting 40% increases in turnover, this model keeps skills tethered to actual demand curves, not outdated curricula.
- **From Human-Capital Scarcity to Distributed Capability**
The OECD has identified a "capability trap" in Africa characterised by overstretched institutions and unfulfilled ambitions. In contrast, the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) addresses this by empowering entrepreneurs, decentralizing capability, and fostering resilience; 76% of TEF entrepreneurs integrate into broader value chains.

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS AND INSTITUTIONS.

For governments and development partners, the lesson is not to outsource education to the private sector, but to integrate entrepreneurial training into human-capital strategy. Imagine if ministries of labour accept TEFConnect not as a complementary infrastructure: a digital

vocational arm reaching youth faster, cheaper, and with measurable results.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation effectively puts into practice the Harvard Business Review's argument for treating human capital as a strategic asset.

Through its scalable digital training and mentorship programmes, the Tony Elumelu Foundation empowers entrepreneurs in challenging environments, reaching historically underserved groups such as women, who make up 46% of Tony Elumelu Foundation beneficiaries.

THE STAKES AHEAD

By 2035, Africa will have the world's largest working-age population. Whether this becomes a demographic dividend or a demographic disaster will depend less on the number of schools built, and more on how effectively young Africans can convert skills into livelihoods.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation's model clearly shows that investing in entrepreneurship is not just about launching startups; it is about scaling skills systems and embedding resilience into entire labor markets. If governments and global institutions collaborate and scale these lessons, Africa can transform its demographic pressure into a powerful engine of prosperity and opportunity.



From Philanthropy to Markets: How the Tony Elumelu Foundation Is Building Africa's Investible Future

Africa's entrepreneurial story has too often been told through the lens of scarcity: scarce capital, scarce jobs, scarce opportunities. Yet on the ground, a different narrative is unfolding. The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) is showing how targeted philanthropy can seed markets, de-risk ventures, and create pipelines of businesses ready for private investment.

As global interest in impact investing accelerates, TEF's model provides a blueprint for how philanthropy and markets can work hand in hand to unlock Africa's potential.

PHILANTHROPY MEETS PRIVATE CAPITAL

The Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme is more than a grant scheme;

it is a continent-wide mechanism for talent discovery, business validation, and capacity-building. Since 2015, the TEF Entrepreneurship Programme has trained millions on its digital hub TEFConnect and supported thousands of entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries.

This early-stage investment is catalytic: by blending financial literacy, mentorship, and startup capital, TEF lowers the risk profile of African ventures. For Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), venture capital funds, and private equity firms, this means a pipeline of entrepreneurs who already understand markets, discipline, and growth.

DE-RISKING EARLY-STAGE VENTURES

African startups are often passed over because investors view them as "too risky" at inception. TEF tackles this directly. Rigorous selection criteria, intensive business training, and structured post-funding support ensure that ventures graduate from the programme as investible propositions.

The proof lies in outcomes: TEF Alumni have



gone on to attract follow-on funding from global impact funds, local VCs, and DFIs. They emerge not just as entrepreneurs, but as disciplined operators with validated models, tested resilience, and growing revenues.

BUILDING THE PIPELINE INVESTORS NEED

Impact investing is built on dual outcomes: financial return and social value. The Tony Elumelu Foundation provides both and its alumni's ventures span sectors critical to Africa's development; with measurable results in job creation, income generation, and community resilience.

By aggregating this data across countries and sectors, TEF offers investors something rare in African markets: visibility. Trends in revenue, employment, and sectoral performance are tracked and shared, giving investors the intelligence they need to allocate capital with confidence.

FROM ISOLATED STORIES TO SYSTEMIC CHANGE

The significance of the Tony Elumelu Foundation goes beyond individual success stories. It demonstrates how philanthropy can serve as the first-loss capital that de-risks ecosystems and primes them for market investment. This is blended finance in action, where the catalytic role of grants unlocks the leverage of billions in private capital.

For global institutions seeking credible partners in Africa, TEF is now a proven ally. Its track record in converting seed support into scalable ventures makes it an essential bridge between philanthropy and markets.

A NEW PLAYBOOK FOR AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

What the Tony Elumelu Foundation is engineering is nothing less than a paradigm shift. It is not only funding startups but also reconfiguring the very architecture of entrepreneurship in Africa. By turning small amounts of philanthropic capital into investible opportunities, it is demonstrating that Africa's growth story will be written not only in classrooms or ministries, but in boardrooms and marketplaces.

For DFIs, impact funds, and private investors, this represents a unique opportunity: to engage with ventures that are not only de-risked but deeply embedded in Africa's realities while meeting global standards.

THE STAKES AHEAD

Africa's entrepreneurial future is already being built, enterprise by enterprise, across all 54 countries. By converting early-stage support into investible businesses, the Tony Elumelu Foundation is proving that Africa is not a frontier of risk, but a frontier of innovation. What comes next is no longer a question of potential; it is a question of how quickly the world chooses to back the continent's builders.

ALUMNI & MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

At the Tony Elumelu Foundation, impact is not just measured in numbers, it is felt in the stories of bold Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurs and passionate TEF mentors who are transforming Africa, one business at a time.

In this edition of TEF Circle, we shine a spotlight on some of our alumni and mentors who are not only building thriving ventures but also embodying the spirit of Africapitalism by creating jobs, uplifting communities, and rewriting Africa's narrative through entrepreneurship.



Paul Depooter kabeya

Business Name: KPD Technology Pty Ltd

Country: South Africa

Year of funding: 2021

Impact area: Upskilling and Women's Economic Empowerment

The growth of garment and clothing industry has increased imports into Africa. Many local talents and artisan are not treated at their fair value. This is at the heart of unemployment, poverty, leak of talent, criminal activities and a weak business environment where Self-employed tailor cannot compete.

Paul Depooter was passionate about impacting his community and how he could bring a positive way of attaining financial freedom to the most vulnerable in South Africa.

Kwetu is a clothing brand that caters the African communities in cape town and Africa in general, as their name suggests their focus is to provide a clothing brand made in Africa for Africans. They aim to empower and promote local talents as people of one mind expressing their skills through homemade clothing line markets to local and international consumers from all

walks of life.

"I wanted to change the mindset of the African, by not looking at jobs as the only way of surviving but to believe in their own ability in order to let their talents express themselves into manufacturing of garment and fashion accessories made in Africa by Africans."

Paul believes the TEF program did not only bring a financial boost to his business but has been a game changer in terms of personal development. Through the garment and fashion accessories he makes in South Africa, he has empowered 20 women who, through their businesses, can use their skills to make a difference in their respective communities in South Africa.

"Through the TEF Entrepreneurship program, networking has been the most valuable opportunity I have explored in this journey. I have been able to meet with different

entrepreneurs learning from them to see things differently."

Paul believes the only way to enable gender balance in his society is to upskill the women and empower them to become independent. Through his fashion line, he produced not only garments but tailors and female fashion designers.



Lumbie Mlambo

Business Name: J.B.Dondolo

Country: Zimbabwe

Year of funding: 2021

Impact area: Social Intervention Program to Provide Access to Clean Water in Rural Communities.

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a significant issue in Zimbabwe, mainly in rural areas. 67% of people living in rural Zimbabwe do not have access to safe drinking water due to severe drought or floods (CARE), while only about 35% of Zimbabwe's population has access to improved sanitation (UNICEF). Women and girls bear the responsibility of collecting water, walking on average of about 3.7 miles per day (USAID). In Zimbabwe, however, it's been recorded that women and girls walk up to 18 miles a day,

leaving no time to advance their lives.

Lumbie Mlambo is determined to solve the lack of access to clean water in underserved and impoverished rural communities in Zimbabwe by intentionally placing solar, borehole water systems within the communities to benefit women and girls so they don't spend hours walking to collect water.

In response to this problem, JB Dondolo provides access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in underserved communities to reduce poverty and promote gender equity. This solution has relieved them of the stress of traveling to access water, especially women, since they no longer need to walk up to 18 miles to fetch water. Availability of clean water means good health for everyone, especially mothers and new-born babies. These changes mean girls have more time to go to school. As a result, there have been various requests for similar water systems as preferred solutions.

"I really appreciated the TEF training sessions delivered via YouTube throughout the program. I was able to watch these at my own time as they were always available online. Also, I learned to create a powerful business plan summary which I later used to create a winning pitch. I appreciated the free coaching provided by TEF coaches who spent a lot of time with each entrepreneur.

Through the TEF Groups, he connected with entrepreneurs from all over the continent. But one thing that really stood out for Lumbie was how much focus there was to empower women entrepreneurs in Africa."

Since receiving the \$5,000 grant, Lumbie has empowered over 8,000 people in the global community through the solarization of boreholes for irrigation and farming in Matobo hills. This has enabled farmers to cultivate crops for consumption and for sale in the markets. Lumbie has also

committed 5% of the earnings from sales to his organization, JB Dondolo through a "Pay-it-forward" program so that the model can be replicated and expanded to other communities.

From Digital Deficit to National Deployment: The Strategic Contribution of Ademola Joel Osho's Mentorship



or an emerging entrepreneur operating within the global technology sector, a deficiency in basic digital infrastructure is not merely a competitive disadvantage; it constitutes a critical structural barrier to both credibility and scale. This was the precise predicament faced by Muhammad, an IT entrepreneur based in Ghana, at the commencement of his mentorship with Ademola Joel Osho. Prior to the engagement, Muhammad's enterprise had demonstrably forfeited key market opportunities owing to the lack of an essential corporate website.

Osho's intervention was executed with strategic focus and systematic rigour. Acknowledging the imperative, the pair immediately established a clear, time-bound framework for delivery. Osho provided comprehensive, sustained guidance throughout the process, successfully catalysing Muhammad's design and subsequent launch of a robust, professional digital presence.

Crucially, the support extended far beyond the resolution of this immediate technical deficit. Osho offered authoritative direction in fortifying the enterprise's foundational architecture, assisting in the finalisation of both a meticulous financial model and a detailed business plan. Furthermore, Osho leveraged his extensive professional network, initiating introductions to pivotal partner organisations in Ghana and sharing bespoke opportunities curated directly from his personal contacts.

The demonstrable outcomes underscore the significant value of such expert guidance. Muhammad rapidly secured a number of new strategic partnerships. More profoundly, the newly established structural integrity of his enterprise facilitated its eligibility for substantial national engagement. This allowed him to successfully apply as a qualified service provider to two high-level government initiatives: the Adumawura Programme and the National Apprenticeship Programme in Ghana. This impressive trajectory exemplifies the transformative power generated when professional competence is meticulously aligned with entrepreneurial aspiration, elevating an operation from foundational remediation to strategic national influence.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COLLEAGUES



This September, we joined our colleagues at United Capital PLC in honouring the legacy of our dearly departed colleagues.

Although it is painful to say goodbye, we remember them fondly for the wonderful memories they left behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and the entire United Capital team.



TEFCIRCLE

www.tonyelumelufoundation.org

