Agriculture (30.39%), Fashion (12.77%) and Commercial/Retail (8.18%) lead as top 3 sectors. 

A total of 151,692 persons registered from 54 African countries and 59 other countries outside of Africa. 

Top 10 Sectors by Application:
- Agriculture: 30.39%
- Fashion: 12.77%
- Commercial/Retail: 8.18%
- ICT: 7.31%
- Manufacturing: 7.48%
- Education and Training: 6.13%
- Media and Entertainment: 4.37%
- Professional Services: 3.43%
- Healthcare: 3.17%
- Construction: 2.66%

Top 10 Countries by Application:
- Nigeria: 69,551
- Kenya: 2,839
- Uganda: 2,210
- Ghana: 1,782
- Tanzania: 1,437
- South Africa: 1,358
- Cameroon: 1,121
- Zambia: 1,095
- Benin: 940
- Botswana: 932

Applications by Stage of Business:
- Idea (Concept): 30.7%
- Testing (Research & Development): 16.6%
- Infancy (Market Entry): 31.9%
- Growth: 20.8%

Gender Distribution Among Applicants:
- Female: 41.2%
- Male: 58.8%

There was a 2% increase in female applications compared to 2017’s figures of 39.17%.
THE 2018 SELECTION

SELECTED BATCH OF 1,000 BY REGION

Fifty-one (51) African countries were represented in the batch of selected 1,000, with Nigeria comprising 26%.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

A total of 353 applicants from the selected batch of 1,000 are female entrepreneurs, representing 35% of selected applicants.

- Madagascar (100%)
- Seychelles (75%), DRC (67%), Lesotho (60%) and Morocco (60%) had more female applicants selected.

SECTOR DISTRIBUTION

Majority of the selected applications (59%) are from late-stage businesses in the Market Entry and Growth stages.

DISTRIBUTION BY STAGE OF BUSINESS

- IDEA (Concept): 19%
- TESTING (R&D): 22%
- INFANCY (Market Entry): 43%
- GROWTH: 16%