

Baobab Network Report  
for  
ZENMONDO member  
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**Baobab Weekly - News, views and analysis on technology and VC in  
Africa**

30th July 2019

Issue #3



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**Hello!**

**Google are growing and adapting their products for the African continent**

The tech giant has modified its product – [Google Maps](#) - for drivers in Nigeria. The product is targeted at both cars and motorcycles and has been modified to provide navigation instructions in a Nigerian voice.

[Google Station](#), the company's public wi-fi service, has now gone live in Nigeria. The service is

currently present in four locations in Lagos and is looking to expand in 200 more Nigerian cities by the end of 2019.

And, investment in the continent won't stop here. The company has big plans! Currently in talks with telecom operators in Kenya, about [Project Loon](#). A plan to transmit internet to users through solar-powered high-altitude balloons.



Source: [Reuters](#)

## News

### Sure Chill to invest £4 million GBP in Africa

Cooling tech company [Sure Chill](#) has recently secured £4 million GBP series A investment and is planning to expand in Africa. Financing the investment are Africa-focused VC, Novastar Ventures and London-based VC, The Garage Soho.

So, how does Sure Chill's product work? They harness a property present in water and use it to maintain a cool temperature for vaccine and blood bank refrigerators. This process is achieved without the requirement of power and lasts for 10 days or more, making the product viable and useful to the end-consumer.

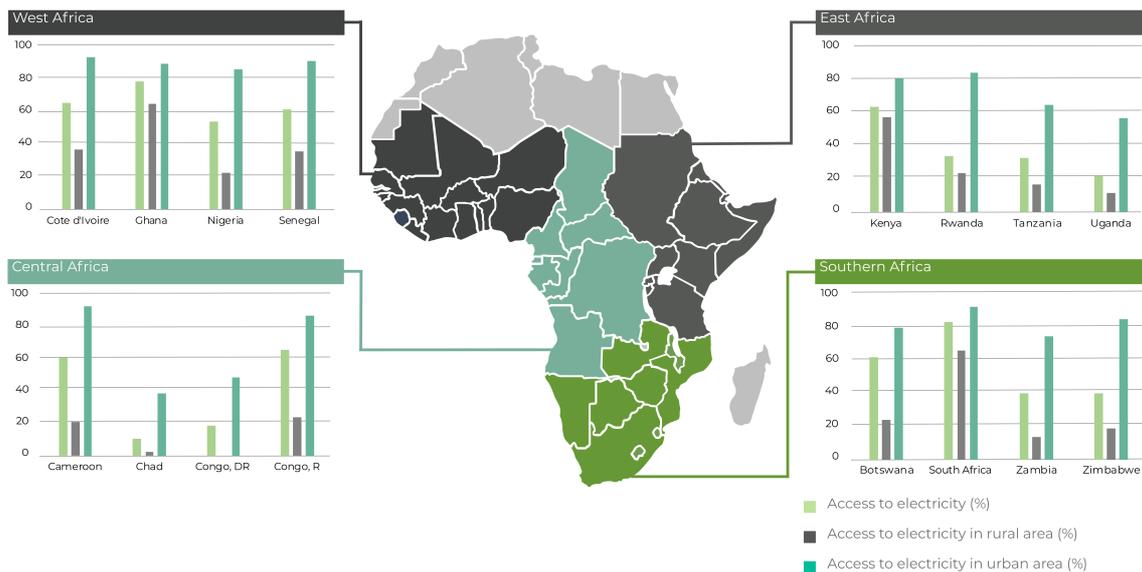


Source: [techcaba](http://techcaba.com)

It is interesting to see the reasoning behind Novastar Ventures' investment. "We see enormous potential to deploy the technology to serve the refrigeration needs of mass consumer and small business markets that are currently hindered by inconsistent and unreliable access to electricity," Andrew Carruthers (Co-founder).

With reference to the unreliability that accompanies electricity access on the continent, the [Baobab Insights](#) team decided to dig a little deeper and translate these words into numbers.

Insights Graph outlining access to electricity in Africa:



### KeshoLabs sets out to become a major blockchain-based FinTech platform for Africa

Kenyan start-up [KeshoLabs](#) has launched an application focused on payments and remittances. The end goal? Financially connecting the continent. The company is primarily focused on connecting South Sudan to the rest of East Africa.

KeshoLabs have big plans for the future! These include the launch of products in crypto exchange and an e-gaming platform.

Will the recent signing and agreement of a [free trade area](#) help KeshoLabs achieve their long-term goal of total continent connectivity?



Source: [KeshoLabs](#)

## Deals

Kenyan start-ups are taking the lead this week with:

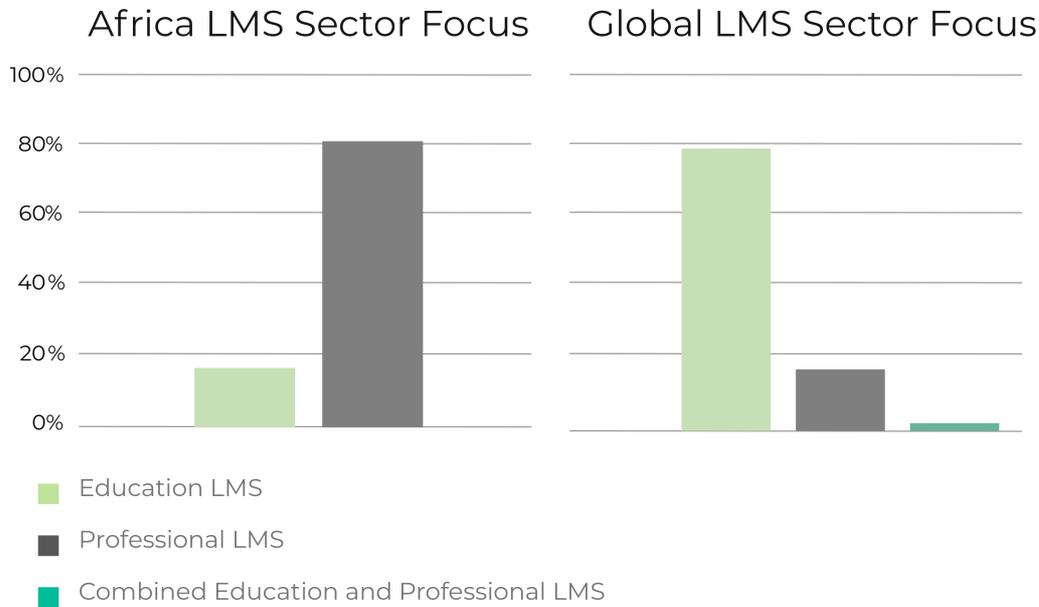
[Taimba Limited](#), a mobile-based platform connecting farmers to urban traders, raising \$100,000 in a seed funding round from Gray Matters Capital.

[Optimetriks](#), a data driven FMCG distribution, securing \$330,000 in debt financing from French commercial banks.

The Baobab Network has launched a new angel network for individuals and funds interested in tech start-ups in Africa. To learn more or sign up, click [here](#).

## Chart of the week

We took a look at the case of Learning Management Systems (LMS) this week. A growing number of LMS start-ups are showing an interest in the education sector. According to our [Baobab Insights](#) team this trend contradicts the global development of LMS solutions which primarily focuses on the professional development sector.



Despite the growing activity in the LMS scene of Africa, there is significantly higher investment in global markets. A good example is the one of US based [Everfi](#) who has raised over 300million USD in comparison to the total funding into African LMS platforms of around 10.7million USD.

## Start-up spotlight

While we are on the topic of education, this week's start-up is focusing on STEM learning. [Starlight](#), based in Rwanda, is creating toys, gadgets and experiences for the new generation of global learners. Alice and Ariane (founders) have addressed the problem of 600 million people lacking access to electricity and have combined it with the opportunity present in the young population of Africa (945 million by 2050). Their upcoming product launch will feature a build-your-own solar lantern with USB charger. Starlight are soon opening their seed funding round. To find out more get in touch with them [here](#).



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