

The Baobab Network Report  
for  
ZENMONDO Members  
[Teaser version]



17th November 2020

**Good morning,**

This week we look at cold chains, and their growing importance in the global effort to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine. Also, we've got 50 Blockchain companies, a pharmaceutical acquisition in Egypt and a Tunisian retail start-up goes under the spotlight.

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**Let's keep things chilled**

As  news began to break last week about new developments in the world's search for an effective COVID-19 vaccine, it became clear that one of the key challenges when distributing the drug would be trying to keep it cold.

Really cold in fact, with most  reports suggesting minus 80 degrees centigrade as a standard requirement for safe distribution.

Earlier this year we published new  research looking specifically at healthcare supply chains in Africa, in a report that included a whole section on cold chains.

## B2B Supply Chain: Cold-Chain Specialists in Africa 2020



ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS:  
Percentage of vaccines thrown away due to problems in the cold supply chain:  
25% of all vaccines (World Health Organisation)

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A recent WHO [report](#) suggests that 25% of all vaccines are degraded before reaching their target patient, due to problems associated with cold chains and temperature regulation.

Our [data](#) suggests that in 2019, healthcare supply chain companies secured \$209.5m in funding, across 20 deals.

Our view is that the success achieved by companies such as [Swoop Aero](#) and [Zipline](#) indicates the genuine need in the healthcare sector in Africa for solutions that help to bring medicines to market with a much lower burden to the customer.



[Download our full healthcare supply chain report here](#)

**We've mapped 50 Blockchain and Cryptocurrency start-ups**

Excluding ICOs, our analysts have so far recorded \$22.5m raised by Cryptocurrency and Blockchain companies operating in Africa this year alone, with new companies emerging in the FinTech, Education and Real Estate space.

# 50 Blockchain Companies to Watch in Africa

[baobabinsights.com/companies](http://baobabinsights.com/companies)



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Download our new Blockchain and Crypto market map

## In conversation with Harriet Kariuki

Last month we had the pleasure of interviewing [Harriet Kariuki](#), Co-Founder of [The Afrijob Network](#), an on-demand professional and recruitment platform specialising in emerging markets.



[afrijob.org](#)



Read the full interview with Harriet here

## News

## Digital freight start-up Lori Systems announces new partnership with Imperial Logistics

Imperial, a company focused on providing integrated market access and logistics solutions have announced an investment in and partnership with Lori Systems, to allow the expansion of e-logistics technology solutions across Africa.

Imperial's investment in Lori came through the Imperial Venture Fund, an early stage VC vehicle managed by Newtown Partners.

Source: Ventureburn

## Egypt's Ibsina Pharma acquires 3elagi

Ibsina Pharma, Egypt's second-largest pharmaceutical distributor, is acquiring a 75% stake in local online pharmacy marketplace 3elagi. MENAbytes covered the story [here](#).

Source: MENAbytes

## South African AI start-up FinChatBot raises \$1.6m

Johannesburg-based AI FinTech start-up FinChatBot has raised \$1.6m from Saviu Ventures, Compass Venture Capital and Kalon Venture Partners.

Source: Techmoran



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## Deals

Nigerian FinTech start-up Kuda has raised \$10m in a seed round led by Target Global.

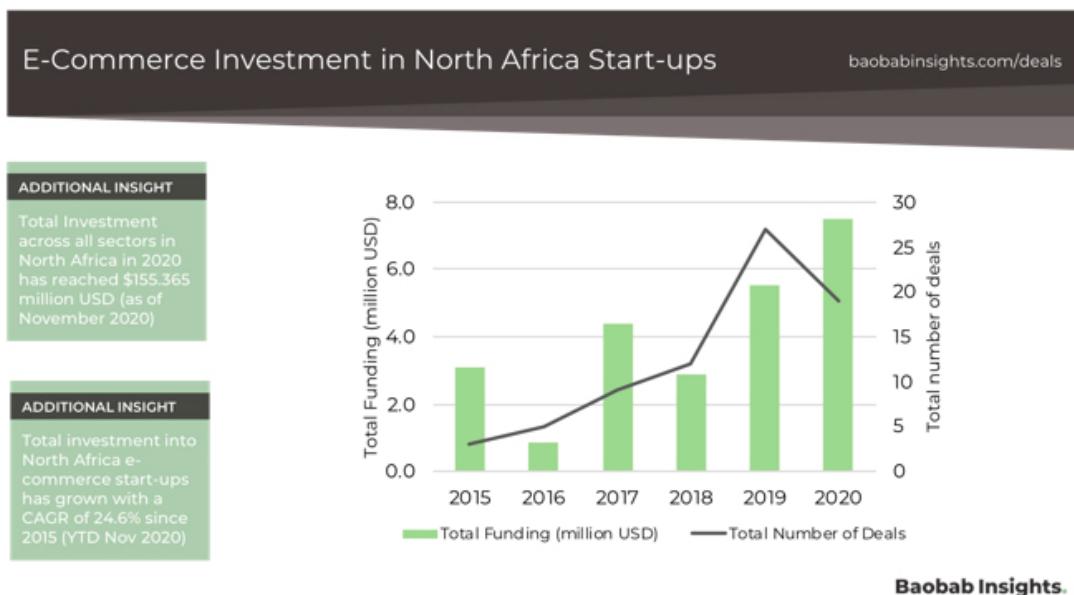
InsurTech start-up Turaco has closed \$2m in new funding from Novastar Ventures and Mercy Corps Ventures.

Nigerian ship and freight logistics start-up Sote has raised \$3.2m in new funding.

Access data on over 2,500 African VC deals

## Chart of the week

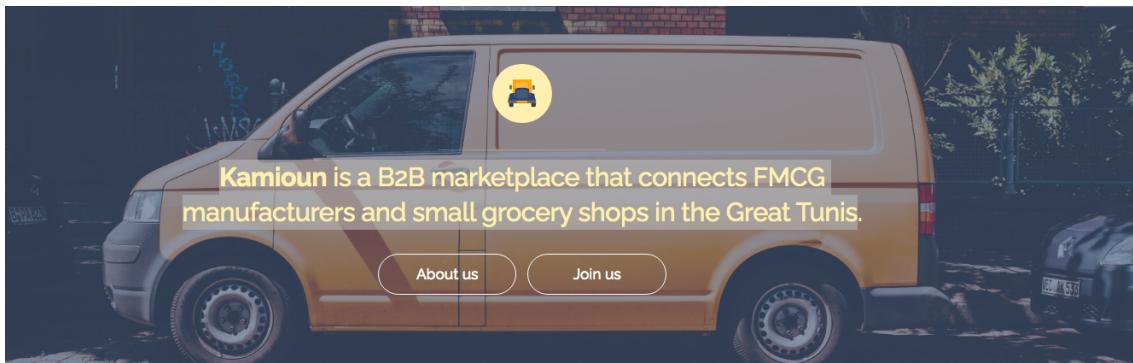
Here's a cool chart we made looking at the growth in funding for e-commerce start-ups in North Africa since 2015.



Learn more in our recent North Africa digital retail blog

## Start-up spotlight

Launched in February 2020 by Tunisian tech entrepreneur [Fares Belghith](#), [Kamioun](#) is a B2B marketplace that connects FMCG manufacturers and small grocery shops in Tunisia.



□ Kamioun launched their new product in August of this year and are already working with over 250 retailers. Retail innovation in the Great Tunis!

Source: □ Kamioun

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Know a company building something cool? Nominate them for our weekly spotlight at [team@baobabinsights.com](mailto:team@baobabinsights.com).

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Data in this newsletter comes from □ Baobab Insights. Join Novastar Ventures, Amazon, Standard Chartered, Sanofi, Cargill, Newtown Partners and tonnes of other clients to get access to Africa's best venture capital market data.

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Since last week, the Baobab Insights platform added:

27 deals | 67 companies | 15 funds | 3 market reports

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