

The Baobab Network Report
For
ZENMONDO Members
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Baobab Insights

Market insights from The Baobab Network,
Africa's leading start-up accelerator



5th October 2021

Hello,

In this week's edition of our newsletter, we welcome yet another African unicorn. Also, a Tunisian VC firm closes a fund and a Nigerian crypto company secures funding.

Andela: Africa's newest unicorn

[Andela](#), the tech talent community matching software developers from Africa with opportunities across the globe, has just closed a \$200 million USD Series E funding round led by [Softbank](#) (via their [Vision 2 Fund](#)).

Other participants in the round were the [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#), which has participated in earlier rounds, Boston's [Whale Rock](#), another repeat investor: [Generation Investment Management](#), and [Spark Capital](#).

Following their [Series E funding round](#), Andela is now valued at \$1.5 billion USD, becoming Africa's first HRTech unicorn. The 2014-founded company will use the funds to grow the team and expand its technology and products.

Baobab Insights.  **Andela** Key Investors




















ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

Last amount raised: \$200 million USD
 Last funding round: Series E
 Current valuation: \$1.5 billion

What is interesting is that this is [Softbanks](#)'s second debut as the lead investor into an African unicorn this year, following [OPay](#)'s \$400 million USD Series A funding round earlier this year.

We also note that [Sequoia Capital](#) participated in 2 of these rounds, albeit from different offices.

Baobab Insights. 2021 funding rounds: West African companies valued over \$1 billion USD

	FUNDING DETAILS	SELECTED INVESTORS
	\$200 million USD Series E October 2021	Softbank, Whale Rock, Spark Capital, <i>et al.</i>
	\$200 million USD Series C September 2021	Sequoia Heritage, Stripe, Ribbit Capital, <i>et al.</i>
	\$400 million USD Series C August 2021	Softbank, Sequoia Capital, China, Source Code Capital, <i>et al.</i>
	\$170 million USD Series C March 2021	Avenir Growth Capital, Tiger Global Management, <i>et al.</i>



ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

\$6.2 billion USD
 Total valuation of these 4 unicorn technology companies.

Of the now 7 African technology companies in Africa with a valuation of at least \$1 billion USD, 6 are West African: 5 from Nigeria and Senegal's [Wave](#). What is it about the region that is so attractive to VC firms? [Share your thoughts with us.](#)

News

Flat6 Labs Tunisia closes second \$10 million fund

[Flat6 Labs](#) announced the close of their Tunisian [Anava Seed Fund](#) which has now increased from \$3 million USD to \$10 million USD. The accelerator/VC operates across the MENA region and the Tunis arm runs a bi-annual program providing 8 start-ups with approximately \$70,000 USD in seed capital, in exchange for 10% equity. Flat6 Labs Tunis' portfolio currently comprises of over 50 Tunisian start-ups including [Dabchy](#), a fashion e-commerce platform that empowers women by allowing them to sell their clothes online, and [Sghartoon](#), an app helping dyslexic children learn new languages.

Source: [Wamda](#)

Yellow Card raises \$15 million Series A

Nigerian cryptocurrency exchange [Yellow Card](#) has announced a \$15 million USD Series A funding round. The round was led by [Castle Island Ventures](#), [Third Prime](#) and [Valar Ventures](#) and included participation from [Blockchain.com Ventures](#), [BlockFi](#), [Coinbase Ventures](#), [Fabric Ventures](#), [GreenHouse Capital](#) and [Square Inc.](#)

Yellow Card was in 2018 and is now in 12 countries and will use the investment to continue expansion as well as grow its workforce.

Source: [PR Newswire](#)

[Tap into our curated data on Africa's technology landscape](#)

Deals

Nigerian EdTech [Edves](#) has raised \$575,000 USD in a seed funding round led by [Beta Ventures](#). Other participants in the round included [Chinook Capital](#), [Future Africa](#) and [Launch Africa Ventures](#). Edves has been digitizing the learning process since 2016 and will use the investment to improve on their products and range.

[Sun Exchange](#), a South African CleanTech platform founded in 2015 has secured \$2.5 million USD in convertible note financing from [ARCH Emerging Markets Partners Limited](#)'s Africa Renewable Power Fund (ARPF). This investment will enable Sun Exchange to grow its solar leasing platform.

[Learn how The Baobab Network is supporting Africa's best tech entrepreneurs](#)

Chart of the week

This week, our analysts looked at the VC-backed technology companies in the Tunisian landscape since 2020.

From our data we found on average, funding tends to favour early-stage investments with an average of 75% of investments in Tunisia going to early-stage technology companies. The value of most investment into the country's tech start-ups is under \$100,000 USD. Will we see more investment into later-stage companies this year as the landscape continues to develop?



[Read the in-depth country profile on Tunisia here](#)

Start-up spotlight

[ReelFruit](#) is a Nigerian Food and Beverage delivery company that provides customers with dried fruit snacks made from locally sourced ingredients.

Founded in 2012 by [Affiong Williams](#), its mission is to empower farmers by purchasing local raw materials and creating jobs for youths in Nigeria.



The team has secured \$3 million USD in a Series A funding round led by [Alitheia IDF](#) and backed by [Samata Capital](#) and [Flying Doctor Healthcare Investment Company](#). The funding will help the team set up a new factory in Ogun State, Nigeria to increase its production and expand exportation to the USA and other international markets.

To keeping it reel!

Source: [ReelFruit](#)

This year, we've made a pledge to support more women-led companies through our start-up spotlight feature. Know a team that deserves recognition? [Nominate them](#) for our weekly spotlight.

Data in this newsletter comes from [The Baobab Network](#), an accelerator that invests in Africa's boldest tech entrepreneurs. Are you a founder looking for funding and a global platform to scale your business? [Apply now](#).

**The
Baobab
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