

The Baobab Network Report
For
ZENMONDO Members
[Teaser Version]



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Hello,

In this week's edition, we review the record-breaking start to the year for African tech and take a closer look at the funding trends over Q1 2022. Also this week, we break down deals from FinTech in Nigeria, and Morocco, HR-Tech in South Africa, and EdTech in Egypt.



A record-breaking Q1 for African tech start-ups

This year, we have seen a record amount of funding going towards African technology companies, with \$1 billion USD raised over just 7 weeks! Since then, African start-ups have gone on to raise an additional \$300 million USD in disclosed funding (excluding prizes, grants and non-equity fundraising).

Over the 124 funding rounds in Q1 2022, we see a mix of different sectors represented, however, FinTech continues to dominate investor attention with 29% of all funding rounds going towards the financial services sector with raised over \$500 million of all the funding in Q1.



Next in line was the transport and logistics sector which closed 18.5% of the funding rounds, securing over \$370 million USD in funding.

Geographically, Nigerian start-ups attracted the most amount of funding, securing 32 of the 124 funding rounds recorded, totalling \$555.8 million USD in Q1 2022 (42.5% of total funding).

Egyptian technology companies came in a close second, with 31 funding rounds in Q1 2022, and a total of \$163 million USD raised. Kenyan tech start-ups secured more funding than their Egyptian counterparts, with \$321.9 million raised over 18 funding rounds.

Finally, South Africa, the remaining "Big 4" tech hub, secured \$107 million USD over 14 funding rounds in Q1 2022. Francophone countries secured \$15.9 million USD in 5 funding rounds across Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Rwanda in Q1 2022, a number we hope to see grow soon.

[Read our funding report on West Africa in Q1 2022](#)



News

Ziropay secures \$11.4 million Series A

[Ziropay](#), a Lagos and Helsinki-based solution that enables small business owners to collect payments on the go, has raised \$11.4 million USD in a Series A funding round led by [Zrosk Investment Management](#). Other participants in the round included [Exotix Advisory](#), [Fedha Capital](#), and [Inventure](#), alongside some angel investors.

Ziropay was launched in 2014 by [Omoniyi A. Olawale](#) and [Olusola Folorunso](#) under a parent company, IroFit Technologies. The funding will go towards growing the team and customer base, as well as broadening their payment infrastructure.

Source: [Tech Crunch](#)

SA's SmartWage raises \$2 million seed round

South Africa's [SmartWage](#), a HR-Tech start-up that enables employees to access earned wages before pay day, has secured \$2 million USD in a seed funding round. Participants in the round included Creator Collective Capital, LoftyInc Capital Management, and Penrose Capital, among some angel investors.

SmartWage was founded in 2019 by [Caroline van der Merwe](#) and [Simon Ellis](#). The HR and communication company will use the funding to grow its product and tech teams, and tackle more issues facing employer/employee relations.

Source: [Disrupt Africa](#)

[Read our in-house research on Africa's burgeoning tech scene](#)

Deals

Moroccan FinTech [Wafir](#), a platform that enables users to earn rewards when shopping, has secured \$278,000 USD in a funding round. The round was led by [UM6P Ventures](#) and [Plug and Play](#), with participation from undisclosed investors.






[Sprints](#), an Egyptian EdTech, has secured \$1.2 million USD in a [Series A funding round](#).


The round was led by the [Alexandria Angels Network](#) and featured participation from [AUC Angels](#), [Cairo Angels](#), [Challenge Fund](#), [Cubit Ventures](#), [EdVentures](#), [Falak Startups](#) and [MED Angels](#).

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

Chart of the week

This week, we take a look at the biggest deals in the first quarter of 2022. This year, African technology start-ups broke records, securing over \$1.3 billion USD in 3 months, over 124 funding rounds (excluding prizes, grants and non-equity assistance).

The Baobab Network. Top 5 funding rounds in Africa: Q1 2022		
	FUNDING DETAILS	SELECTED INVESTORS
 Flutterwave	\$250 million USD Series D February 2022	Whale Rock, Glynn Capital, Avenir Growth, Tiger Global, et al.
 WASOKO (formerly Sokowatch)	\$125 million USD Series D March 2022	Tiger Global, Avenir Growth, 4DX Capital, VNV Global, et al.
 movo	\$105 million USD Series A March 2022	Left Lane Capital, Speedinvest, AfricInvest, Kreos Capital, et al.
 InstaDeep™	\$100 million USD Series B January 2022	Alpha Intelligence Capital, CDF, BioNTech, Google, Group 42, et al.
 thrive agric	\$54.6 million USD Debt Financing March 2022	Undisclosed.



ADDITIONAL INSIGHT
\$1.07 billion USD
Raised in Q1 2021 over 134 funding rounds. A 32% increase in Q1 2022 funding comparatively.

[Read up on significant developments by African tech start-ups](#)

Start-up spotlight

[Sycamore](#) is a peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platform based in Nigeria.

Founded in 2019 by [Babatunde Akin-Moses](#), [Onyinye Okonji](#) and [Mayowa Adeosun](#),

Sycamore enables users to invest, borrow and get loans via web and mobile apps.



Sycamore recently secured an undisclosed amount of funding in a [seed round](#) led by [White Hibiscus Capital](#) (WHC).

To improved access to finance!

Source: [Sycamore](#)

This year, we continue with our pledge to support more women-led companies through the weekly start-up spotlight feature. Know a team that deserves recognition? [Nominate them](#) for an upcoming feature!

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

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