



African Private Equity and
Venture Capital Association

Venture Capital in Africa Report

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avca-africa.org



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Executive Summary

2021 was a great year to be a founder in Africa's innovation ecosystem. A **record-breaking year** by volume and value, venture capitalists put more money to work in Africa in 2021 than the preceding seven years combined. **US\$5.2 billion was raised from 604 unique companies in 2021**, and the data shows an industry that has achieved, and is poised for, tremendous growth.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- **Each investment stage witnessed annual growth**, but late-stage deals (Series C+) saw triple digit acceleration.
- By geographic focus, **West Africa** charged forth in 2021, buoyed in large part by the significant deal activity that took place in Nigeria.
- African tech took centre stage in 2021: **81% of VC deals in 2021 were in technology or technology-enabled companies** operating across a variety of sectors.
- **16 super-sized deals** (with a combined value of US\$2.6 billion) took place in 2021, raised from 15 unique companies.

REGULATORY CHANGES

Progressive legislation remains paramount to cradle and incentivise entrepreneurship in Africa. Over the last year, governments across the continent's most established startup hubs maintained their commitment to creating strong foundations for innovation to thrive.

Befitting the surge in deal making activity in the Financials sector, 2021 saw a wave of FinTech related regulation. In Egypt, new legislation introduced in September 2021 permitted the Central Bank to allocate banking licenses to FinTech and digital commerce firms, consequently

making Egypt's banking regulations more favourable towards FinTech. In East Africa, Kenya's Capital Markets Authority instituted a Regulatory Sandbox Platform in May 2021, admitting nine FinTech startups to live test their products and services in a controlled environment free from the constraints of existing regulation.

Beyond the Financials sector, Uganda's Capital Markets Authority, in partnership with the European Union and FSD Uganda, established the *Deal Flow Facility* in July 2021¹. This technical assistance and match-making initiative aims to

¹ FSD Uganda, 2021. [The Deal Flow Facility](#).



address the persistent gap in accessing growth capital for emerging businesses in Uganda. The South African government displayed an equal commitment to the stimulation of private sector growth with the introduction of a startup visa programme last year. The proposed initiative would enable entrepreneurs to live and start a business in the country, thus attracting high-impact investors and entrepreneurs to its shores. Finally, at the tail end of 2021, the *Nigeria Startup Bill* was approved by the country's Executive and is currently pending parliamentary approval to

become law². A unique feature of Nigeria's startup bill is its status as a co-created regulation (birthed as a joint initiative by Nigeria's tech ecosystem and the Presidency). The creation of an enabling regulatory environment from the bottom-up is transformative, in that it ensures regulation keeps pace with innovation. Nigeria's example paves the way for other Regulators across the continent endeavouring to keep up with the momentum of the ecosystem's expansion, to ensure legislation is enabling, adaptive and inclusive.

UNICORNS

2021 saw a record five African startups reach valuations of over a billion dollars, a statistic that attracted tremendous media attention and injected excitement and optimism to the industry. To contextualise this incredible feat, unicorns were a non-existent breed in Africa's venture landscape until 2016. Moreover, OPay's US\$400 million Series C in August 2021, which thrust the startup to unicorn status, equalled the total value

of reported VC deals in Africa in both 2014 and 2015, and surpassed what the entire industry raised in 2017. Looking beyond the headlines, this rapid surge in African unicorns highlights the speed of, and prospects for, continental growth. It also underscores the gradual maturation of the industry and a pace of investment acceleration being achieved nowhere else in the world.

² <https://startupbill.ng/>

NEW ACTORS & INTEREST

The diversification of actors investing and operating in the industry continues to multiply, with familiar and new faces coming to the table. In recognition of the innovative solutions African entrepreneurs are bringing to market, 2021 saw an explosion of activity from global investors. In addition to investments from several multi-billion dollar VC Fund Managers from the United States, last year American high net worth investors Jack Dorsey (via digital-payments company Block), Jeff Bezos (via family office Bezos Expeditions)

and Justin Mateen (via VC Fund JAM Fund) all made investments in Africa. Investors from the Asia-Pacific region also displayed a keen appetite for African venture capital in 2021 – backing African entrepreneurs in repeat (not just token) transactions. For example, SoftBank led two of the year's sixteen megadeals, while Tencent Holdings made a reappearance in *uLesson's* US\$10 million Series A and *Ozow's* US\$48 million Series B rounds.



CONCLUSION

A sleeping giant no longer, Africa's economic revival is imminent. The sanguinity of 2020, which saw elevated deal volume but depressed deal value, has now given way to unbridled optimism following the double-digit growth the industry witnessed in 2021. The rising tide of venture capital in Africa in 2021 illustrates the industry's transition through the tumult of the last two years, having successfully transitioned from recovery and resilience to results.

The third edition of AVCA's *Venture Capital in Africa* report chronicles the maturation of Africa's entrepreneurial space between 2014 and 2021. In doing so, this report exemplifies AVCA's commitment to being part of Africa's growth story by providing independent industry research that supports actors on both the supply and demand sides of capital.



Global Trends

NUMBER OF VC DEALS IN AFRICA

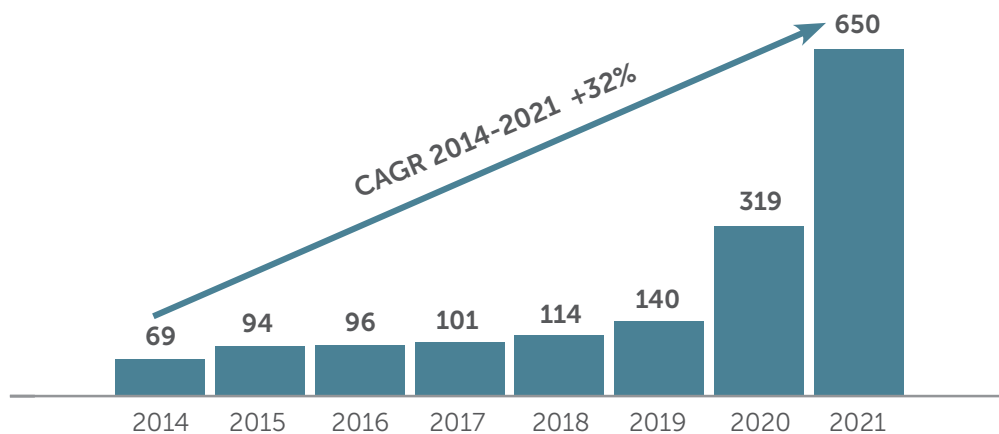
KEY FINDING:

- 650 reported VC deals in Africa in 2021; marking a 104% increase from the 319 VC deals reported in 2020
- 1,583 reported VC deals in Africa, 2014-2021

In the last two decades, Africa's VC landscape has established itself as a recognised and definable investment theme. However, the sedate pace of deal making in Africa's venture ecosystem has shown exponential acceleration in the last few years. In a recurring trend, 2021 saw the number of reported VC deals in Africa more than double. A new high of 650 deals were concluded on the continent last year, which corresponds to a 104% YoY increase.

The increasing volume of VC deals concluded on the continent reflects the maturation of Africa's entrepreneurial space, which grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 32% between 2014 and 2021. The number of VC deals recorded in 2021 alone corresponds to 70% of the total volume of VC deals recorded on the continent between 2014 to 2020, and 41% over the period 2014-2021. Africa remains one of the fastest growing VC markets globally, and this trend shows no sign of future abatement.

Figure 1: Number of VC Deals in Africa, By Year



VALUE OF VC DEALS IN AFRICA

KEY FINDING:

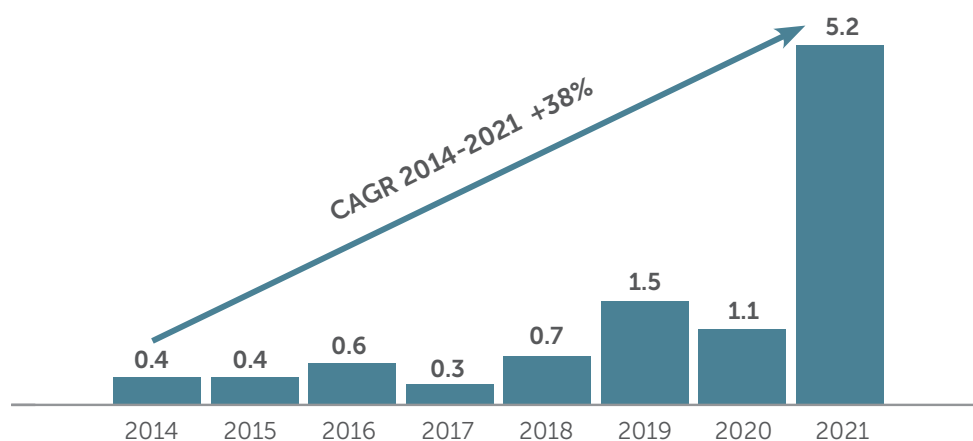
- **US\$10.2bn** Total value of reported VC deals in Africa, 2014 – 2021
- **US\$5.2bn** Total value of reported VC deals in Africa in 2021
- **US\$1.65mn** Median deal size of VC deals, 2014 – 2021
- **US\$1.4mn** Median deal size of VC deals, 2021

2021 was also a record year by deal value. The cumulative value of VC deals reported in Africa reached US\$5.2 billion in 2021. This equates to a 4.9x YoY increase from 2020, and corresponds to an overwhelming 51% of the total value of VC deals recorded on the continent in the eight year period between 2014 and 2021. This annual increase is particularly impressive considering the funding dip witnessed in 2020, which saw a marginal tightening of investor purse strings following the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in a 21% decrease in the total the amount raised by African startups compared to 2019.

The US\$5.2 billion raised from 604 unique companies in 2021 is not just resuming the

industry's previously consecutive growth trajectory, but surpassing it. African startups raised more in 2021 alone than the preceding seven years combined. This recent, sharp uptick in the total deal value also significantly raises the average annual total deal value of reported VC deals in Africa, from US\$0.7 billion between 2014 – 2020, to US\$1.3 billion between 2014 and 2021. The preceding paints an optimistic picture for the future of capital generation opportunities available to emerging entrepreneurs on the continent and illustrates the industry's transition through the tumult of the last two years. The industry has successfully transitioned from recovery and resilience to results.

Figure 2: Value of VC deals in Africa, By Year, US\$bn

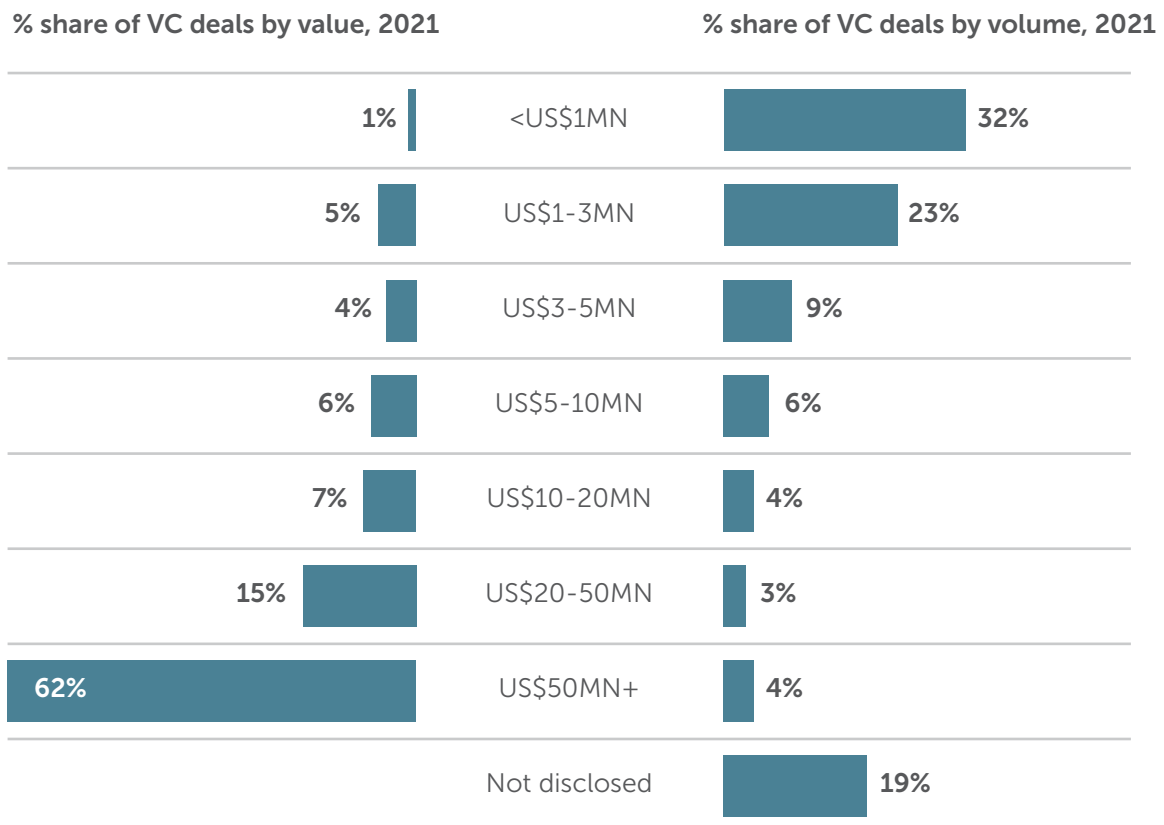


VOLUME & VALUE OF VC DEALS CATEGORISED BY TICKET SIZE

By ticket size, slightly less than a third of the number of VC deals were less than US\$1 million, although these only contributed to 1% of the total value of deals concluded in 2021. 64% of deals that took place in 2021 were under US\$5 million in value – higher than the average for the period 2014-2020, where 48% of deals fell in this bracket. Conversely, although only 4% of deals reported in Africa in 2021 were over US\$50 million in value, they accounted for 62% (i.e. US\$3.2 billion) of the total value of VC deals for the year.

The concave distribution of funding in the graph below is an apt visualisation of the problem of the “missing middle” (inadequate access to capital or affordable, tailored credit for startups in their early stages of growth) in Africa’s startup ecosystem. Although the breadth, sophistication and variations in financing structures available to African businesses has grown significantly in the last decade, more remains to be done to increase mid-range transitional stage funding (the US\$1 – 3 million bracket) for startups navigating fragile early stages of growth.

Figure 3: Distribution of VC Deal Volume and Value By Ticket Size, 2021



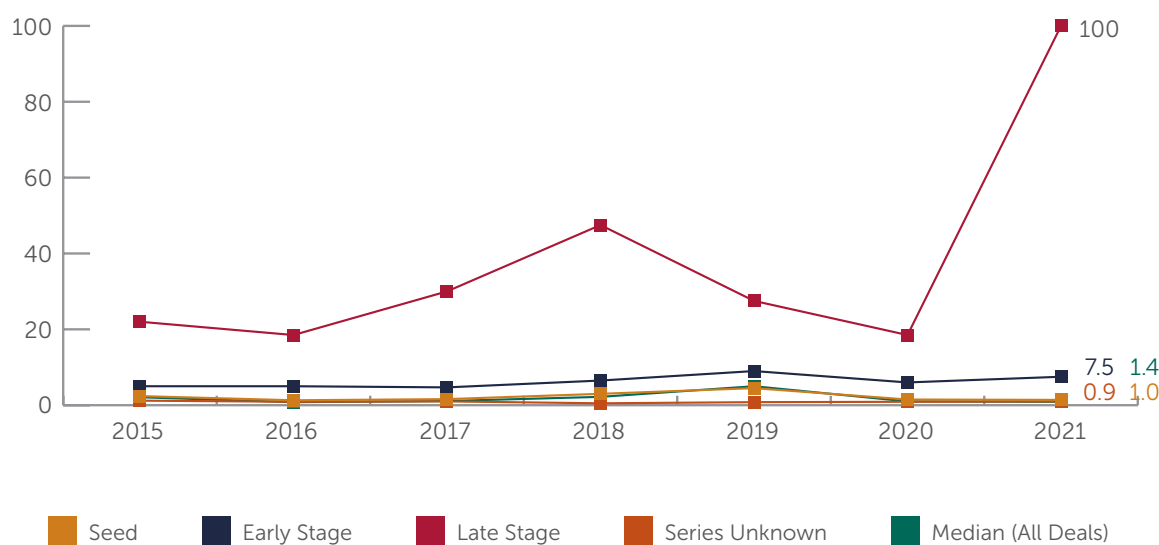
Investment Stage Focus

VOLUME & VALUE OF VC DEALS CATEGORISED BY FUNDING ROUNDS

The majority of venture financing directed to startups in Africa remains concentrated in early-stage funding rounds. Seed stage deals, which continually comprise the largest proportion of the total VC deal volume in Africa, saw a 125% YoY increase in 2021. A total of 245 seed deals were concluded that year (up from 109 seed deals

in 2020), with an average ticket size of US\$1.8 million and a median ticket size of US\$1 million. The median value of late-stage deals has seen more fluctuations, but also sharper growth, when compared to the annual median value for seed and early stage deals, which conversely displayed more modest growth between 2015 and 2021.

Figure 4: Annual Evolution Of The Median Size By Stage, 2014-2021



Although every investment stage witnessed annual growth in 2021, this trend was particularly acute for late-stage deals. Deals in the Series C category showed a 4.5x YoY increase by volume, and a remarkable 39x YoY increase by value. This magnification can largely be attributed to the successful closing of *Chipper Cash*, *MFS Africa*, *Yoco*, and *OPay* Series C funding rounds, which cumulatively raised US\$833 million in 2021. Although not as sharp, deals in the Series

D-F rounds also saw pronounced YoY growth, at 2.6x by volume (from 3 deals in 2020 to 8 deals in 2021) and 13.6x by value (from US\$27.3mn in 2020 to over US\$1 billion in 2021). The exponential growth of late stage deals in 2021 further highlights the gradual maturation of the entrepreneurial space in Africa. More startups than ever before are maintaining investor confidence to secure later-stage venture financing.



However, there continues to be several deals where the series funding is unknown, consistently representing close to (and in some cases, over) a third of the total volume of total deals reported every year. Worth noting is the median ticket size of deals in the “series unknown” category, which was US\$0.9 million in 2021. This is well below the

average annual median ticket size observed in the period between 2014 and 2020, which was US\$1.8 million. The relatively low median ticket value for this category indicates that these deals would more than likely fall into the catalogue of early-stage deals.

Figure 5: Annual Evolution of VC Deal Volume, by Stage, 2014-2021

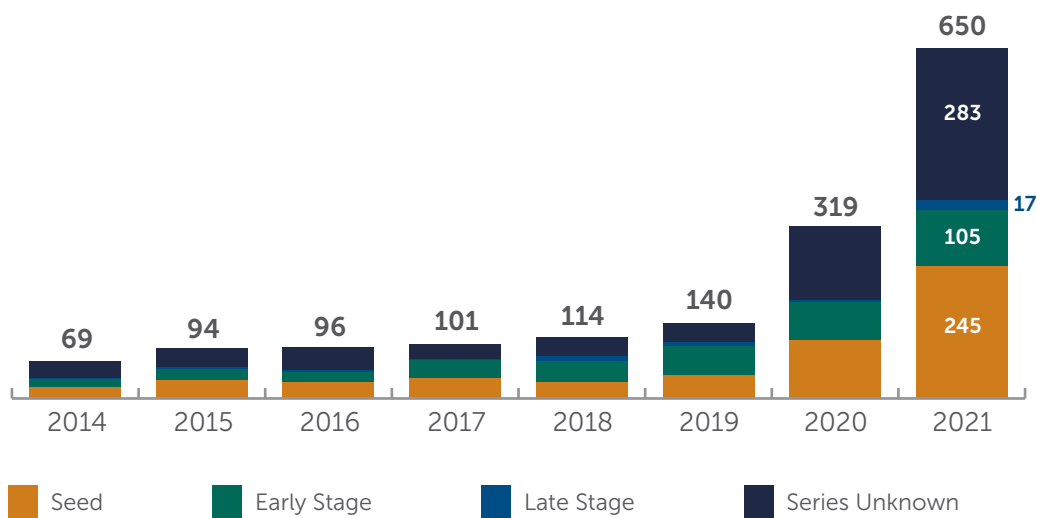
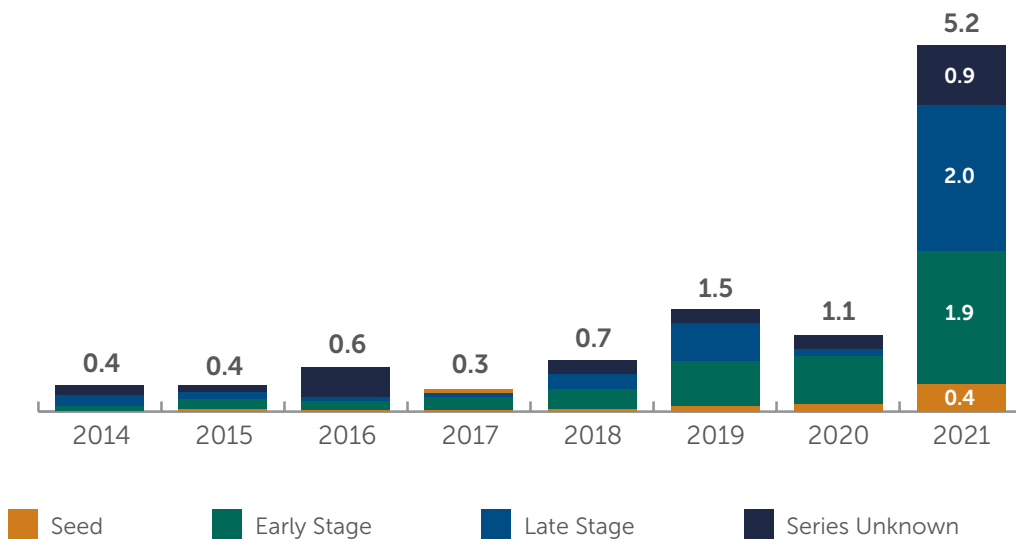


Figure 6: Annual Evolution of VC Deal Value, by Stage, 2014-2021, US\$bn



Geographic Focus

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE VC DEAL VOLUME AND VALUE IN AFRICA

KEY FINDING:

West Africa accounted for the largest share of VC deals by volume in 2021, while Multi-region deals attracted the largest share by value

West Africa attracted the highest volume (33%) of VC deals in Africa in 2021, rising two places to eclipse Southern Africa's longstanding predominance between 2014 and 2020. East, North and Southern Africa each accounted for an equal proportion of deal value last year, drawing 20% of the total deal volume respectively. This uncharacteristic uniformity in the regional allocation of deal volume is due to the decline in deal activity in both East (-2%) and Southern Africa (-4%) in 2021.

The regional heterogeneity that typically characterises the continent's funding allocation is more visible in the distribution of deal value in 2021, which once again saw multi-region deals account for the largest share. However, the regional distribution of deal value in 2021 displayed significant disparities to those recorded in the 2020 *VC in Africa* report, which analysed data from 2014-2020. West Africa claimed second place, attracting over a fifth of the total value of VC

funding directed to the continent in 2021. Nigeria's ascension relegates East Africa to fourth place in 2021. Illustratively, the value of funding raised by East African entrepreneurs decreased by more than half: from 18% between 2014 and 2020 to just 7% in 2021. Of note, although South Africa's share of deal volume declined in 2021, their share of deal value increased by 9%. This suggests that while fewer deals were struck in the region last year, they were buoyed by higher values and ticket sizes. Demonstratively, the median deal value in Southern Africa in 2021 was US\$1.4mn – compared to a median of US\$1.0 in East and North Africa and a median of US\$1.2 million in West Africa. North Africa held strong by both volume and value, occupying a larger proportion of each compared to figures recorded in last year's report.



Figure 7: Share of VC Deal Volume in Africa, by Region, 2014 – 2020 vs 2021

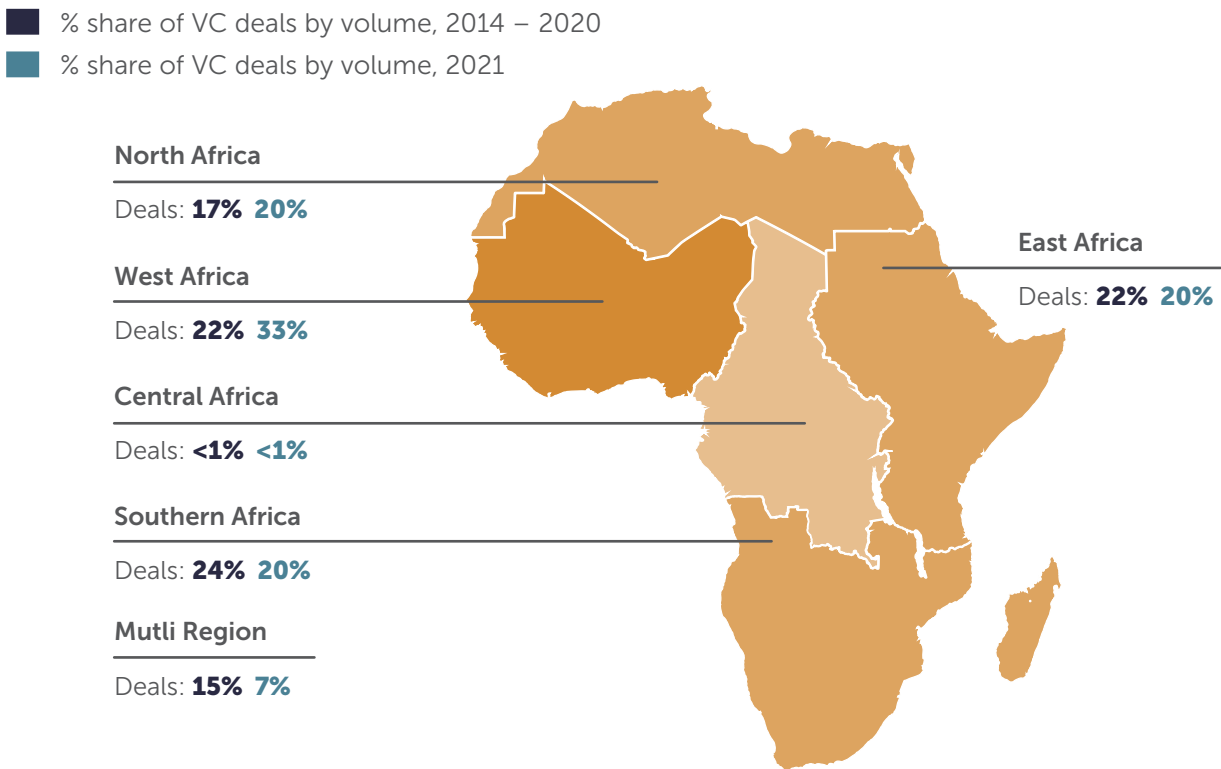
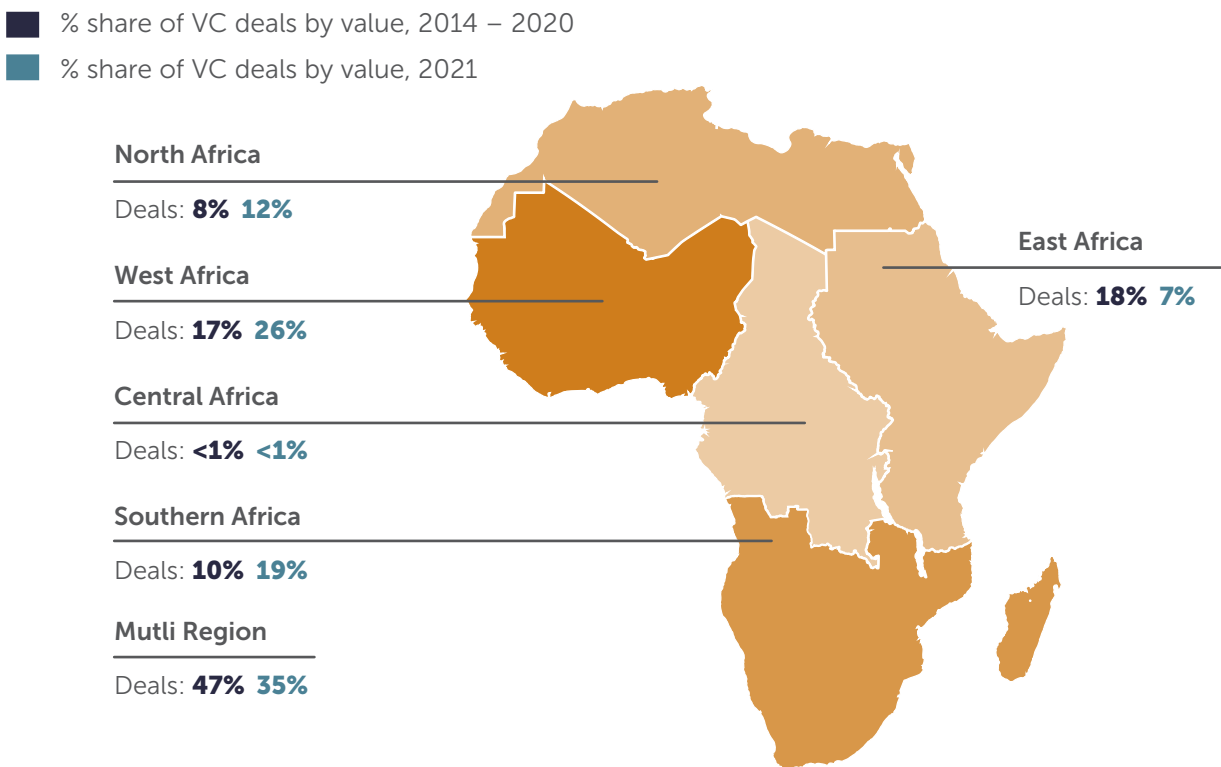


Figure 8: Share of VC Deal Value in Africa, by Region, 2014 – 2020 vs 2021



COUNTRY-SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE VC DEAL VOLUME AND VALUE IN AFRICA

KEY FINDING:

23% of the volume of VC deals in 2021 were in companies headquartered in Nigeria

When categorised from a country-specific level, the distribution of venture financing reveals a familiar picture. South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya, all leaders in the continent's startup landscape, appear in the top 5 by both volume and value once again. Less expected, however, is the ordering of their predominance. Nigeria, the continent's largest economy, took first place in 2021, replacing South Africa to attract the bulk of Africa's VC deal volume and value. South Africa (17%) had the second highest share of early-stage deal volume, followed by Egypt (15%).

Startups headquartered in the United States accounted for just 5% of VC deal volume in 2021, but drew a significant 25% (over US\$1.3 billion) of the total VC deal value for the year. The number of Africa-focused, but not headquartered, startups has been on an upward trend in recent years. Several of these types of companies are founded by members of the African diaspora (such as job placement network *Andela* and logistics startup *Sote*) or alternatively have raised venture funding to expand or maintain their African presence (such as drone manufacturer *Zipline* and FinTech platform *Taptap Send*).

Figure 9: Top 10 early-stage investment destinations by VC deal volume, 2021

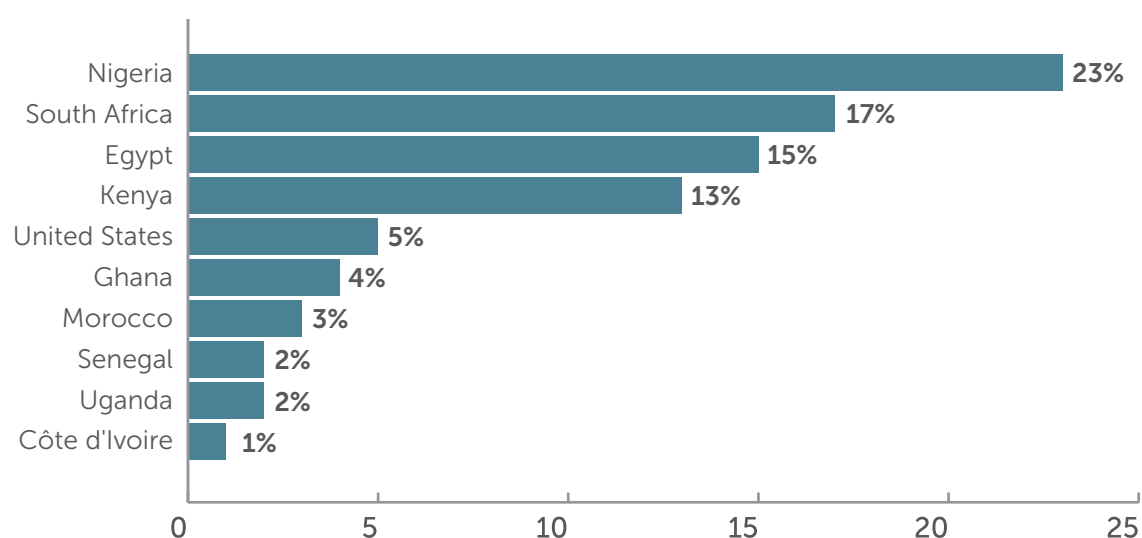




Figure 10: Top 10 early-stage investment destinations by VC deal value, 2021

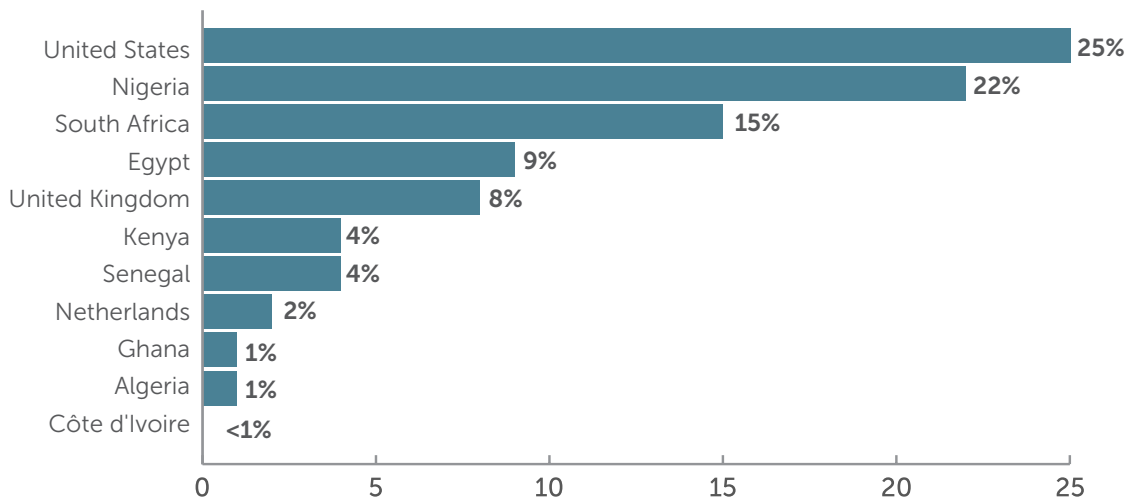
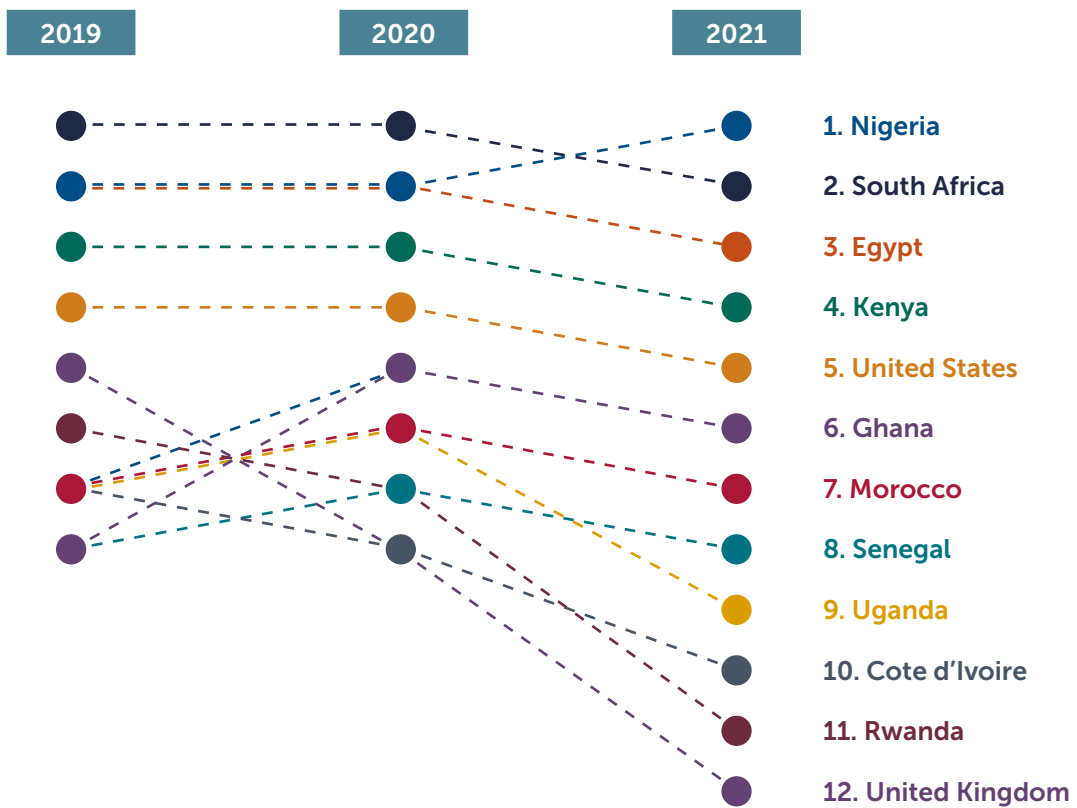


Figure 11: Evolution of Country Ranking, by VC Deal Volume, 2019-2021



COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: TOP 5

1. NIGERIA RANKING



KEY FINDING:

145 deals took place in Nigeria in 2021, with a total reported value of US\$1.1 billion






Nigeria, the continent's largest economy, attracted the bulk of Africa's VC deal volume and value in 2021. Home to Africa's largest population and consumer class, Nigeria has been positioning itself as a hub for VC activity not just regionally, but cross-continently. Nigeria has produced five of Africa's seven unicorns: three of these in 2021 alone, in fairly rapid succession.

The engine for Nigeria's rapid escalation to the top spot in Africa's startup ecosystem lies largely in FinTech. Deals in the Financials sector dominate Nigeria's investment history, accounting for 38%

of deal volume in the country between 2014 and 2021, followed by Consumer Discretionary (16%), Industrials and Information Technology (12% each).

Notable deals that took place in Nigeria in 2021 include the US\$400 million Series C round in mobile money platform *OPay* (in a transaction that propelled the startup to unicorn status and a US\$2 billion market valuation), the US\$110 million Series B round in B2B marketplace *Trade Depot*, as well as the US\$100 million Series A round in payment app *Palmpay*.

5 Most Active Sectors in Nigeria, 2014-2021

Sector	% share of VC deals by volume, 2021
 Financials	38%
 Consumer Discretionary	16%
 Information Technology	12%
 Industrials	12%
 Communication Services	7%

2. SOUTH AFRICA RANKING



KEY FINDING:

112 deals took place in South Africa in 2021, with a total reported value of US\$783 million

Despite its status as one of Africa’s most well-established startup ecosystems, South Africa’s longstanding position as a titan in the venture capital industry is giving way in the face of increased competition, entrepreneurial innovation, and investment elsewhere in the continent’s start up market. Nevertheless, South Africa continues to harbour strong investment activity, receiving a sizeable proportion of the total deal volume and value of VC deals in Africa - both historically and in 2021.

Reflecting the highly diversified nature of the South African economy, the top sectors for investment are varied. Deals in the Financials sector commanded 30% of deal volume in the country between 2014 and 2021, while 25% went to Information Technology and another 17% to the Consumer Discretionary sector. Notable deals that took place in South Africa in 2021 include the US\$180 million Series B round (across two tranches) in digital bank *TymeBank*, the US\$100 million Series C in Africa’s largest digital payments network *MFS Africa* led by *AfricInvest*, as well as the US\$83 million Series C round in payment startup *Yoco*.

5 Most Active Sectors in South Africa, 2014-2021

Financials	% share of VC deals by volume, 2021	30%
Information Technology		25%
Consumer Discretionary		17%
Communication Services		10%
Healthcare		8%

3. EGYPT RANKING



KEY FINDING:

98 deals took place in Egypt in 2021, with a total reported value of US\$484 million

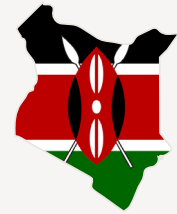
Egypt's share of the total volume of VC deals in Africa has shown marginal, but steady, year-on-year increases, reflecting the growing investor interest in the country. Commanding 15% of total deal volume in 2021, Egypt is carving a niche for itself as a new VC hub on the continent. In contrast to its West African counterparts where FinTech is the most popular sector for entrepreneurial activity, Egypt's innovation ecosystem is extremely consumer oriented: driven by e-commerce, disruptive supply chain technology and EdTech. Deals in the Consumer Discretionary sector accounted for 27% of total volume of VC deals in Egypt between 2014 and 2021, followed by deals in the Information Technology and Financials sectors, which accounted for 13% each.

A unique feature of Egypt's startup ecosystem is the prevalence of local support networks providing ancillary support to emerging entrepreneurs. Egyptian startups are the most accelerated on the continent, with over one third (39%) of them having taken part in some kind of acceleration or incubation programme³. Egypt also boasts the first special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) deal the industry has witnessed thus far. In July 2021, Egyptian ride-sharing startup Swvl announced its intention to go public via SPAC at a valuation of US\$1.5 billion. Other notable deals that took place in Egypt in 2021 include the US\$120 million funding round in microfinance lending and payments company *MNT-Halan*, the US\$55 million Series A round in a B2B e-commerce marketplace *MaxAB*, as well as the US\$42 million Series A in *Trella*, a digital freight marketplace.

5 Most Active Sectors in Nigeria, 2014-2021

Sector	% share of VC deals by volume, 2021
Consumer Discretionary	27%
Industrials	16%
Information Technology	13%
Financials	13%
Healthcare	10%

4. KENYA RANKING



KEY FINDING:

87 deals took place in Kenya in 2021, with a total reported value of US\$225 million

Kenya’s VC funding was visibly impacted in 2021 – drawing 13% of total deal volume in Africa and just 4% of total deal value. Increasing competition in the East Africa region (from neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda) has partially contributed to Kenya’s declining performance on the continental stage. Nevertheless, Kenya’s startup ecosystem remains robust, with over 200 new businesses being registered daily: up from 30 business registrations daily 6 years ago⁴. A strong macroeconomic performance in 2021 will likely foster a resurgence in Kenya’s startup ecosystem, as will the recent introduction of a Business Regulatory Toolkit. The Toolkit is designed to assist local SMEs and foreign businesses navigate the regulatory environment, to improve their overall performance and efficiency.

Deal making between 2014 and 2021 is concentrated in the Financials sector (drawing 23% of deal volume in the country in this period) followed by Consumer Discretionary (18%) and Information Technology (15%). Notable deals that took place in Kenya in 2021 include the US\$50 million Series C round in e-commerce food distribution platform *Twiga Foods* from a consortium of investors including TCom capital, the US\$40 million investment in *Victory Farms*, as well as *British International Investment’s* US\$10 million investment in asset financing platform *M-Kopa*.

5 Most Active Sectors in Kenya, 2014-2021

Financials	% share of VC deals by volume, 2021	23%
Consumer Discretionary		18%
Information Technology		15%
Industrials		14%
Communication Services		9%

⁴ Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 2021. Kenya, [UK Launch Business Regulatory Guide](#)

5. GHANA RANKING



KEY FINDING:






23 deals took place in Ghana in 2021, with a total reported value of US\$78 million

Ghana's stable government and strong business environment is drawing an increasing proportion of VC deal activity to its shores. Ghana has one of the most well defined legal and regulatory frameworks for venture capital funds in Africa, having established their governing framework in the early 1990s⁵.

The volume of VC deals conducted in Ghana has seen a CAGR of 84% in the three-year period between 2019-2021, which is particularly impressive given the muted global investment environment following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prominent sectors for investment in Ghana between 2014 and 2021 include Health Care (which assumed 26% of deal volume in the country) closely followed by Financials (25%) and Information Technology (16%). Notable deals that took place in Ghana in 2021 include the US\$18.5 million Series A round in healthcare provider *Africa Health Holdings*, the US\$7.9 million Series A round in FinTech startup *ZeePay*, as well as the US\$3.4 million seed round in logistics startup *Jetstream*, led by pan-African gender lens investing fund Alitheia IDF.

5 Most Active Sectors in Nigeria, 2014-2021

 Healthcare	% share of VC deals by volume, 2021	26%
 Financials		25%
 Information Technology		15%
 Industrials		11%
 Communication Services		4%

Sector Focus

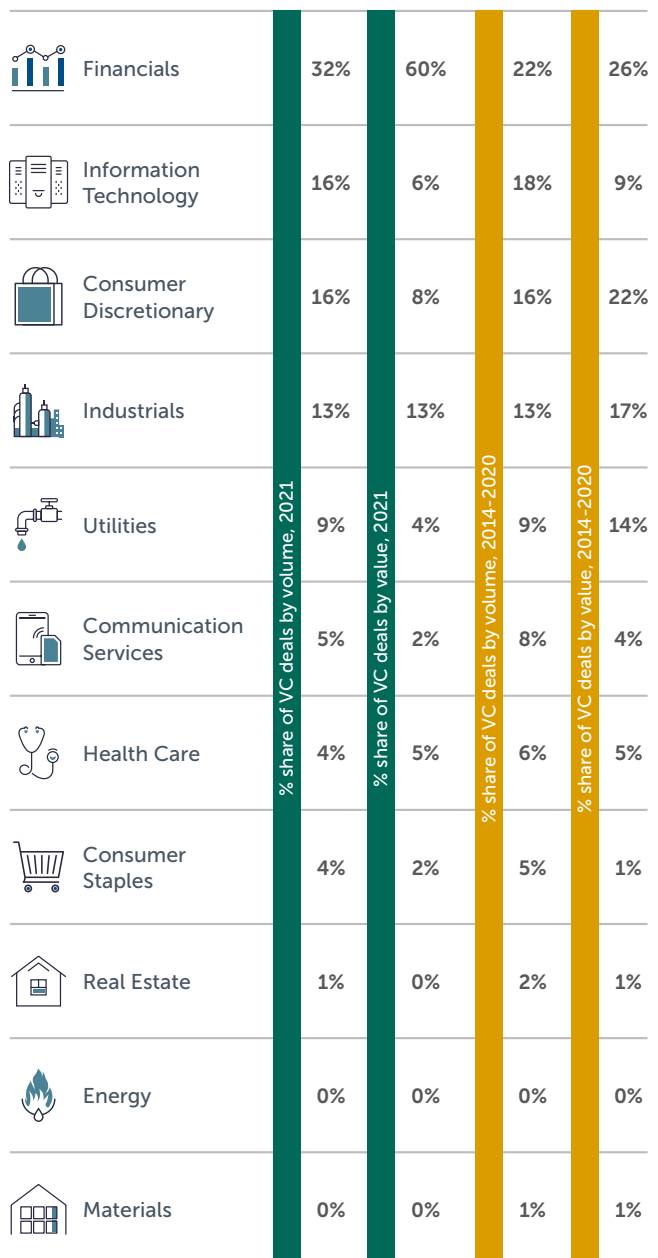
KEY FINDING:

Financials accounted for the largest share of VC deals by both volume (32%) and value (60%) in 2021.

Financials (32%), Information Technology (16%), and Consumer Discretionary (16%) were the 3 most active sectors by volume in 2021, maintaining trends witnessed in last year's Venture Capital in Africa report. The Financials sector continues to gain prominence in Africa's venture landscape – claiming 44% of the total value of VC deals in Africa between 2014 and 2021, up from 26% in 2014-2020. This increased proportion is due to the overwhelming influx of activity in, and capital allocated to, the Financials sector in 2021 specifically, which drew a monumental 60% of the total deal value for the year.

By deal value, Industrials was a rising sector, responsible for 13% of the total value of venture capital deals in Africa in 2021⁶. This sector boasted YoY increases by both volume (+91%) and value (+590%). Emerging verticals within this sector that are gaining traction include MobilityTech (companies that provide technologies and services that are disrupting the transportation, automotive and shipping industries), HRTech (companies developing software designed to improve human resource management, operations, and hiring processes) as well as Supply Chain Tech (companies that provide technologies and services changing how domestic and global supply chains are managed). Notable deals within the Industrials sector in 2021 include the US\$200mn Series E round in global job placement platform Andela, the US\$31 million Series B round in Nigerian online delivery platform Max.ng, as well as the US\$37 million Seed round in Algerian ride-hailing startup Yassir.

Figure 12: Share Of Volume And Value of VC Deals In Africa, By Sector, 2014 – 2020 vs 2021



KEY FINDING:



81% of VC deals in 2021 were in technology or technology-enabled companies operating across a variety of sectors

Africa's tech ecosystem continues to thrive, with an increasing number of African entrepreneurs starting and scaling tech-enabled solutions to the continent's most pressing challenges. Harnessing disruptive technology has become mainstream practice in Africa's early-stage ecosystem. Digital tools are becoming increasingly integrated in the formulation and execution of business models, bringing much needed products and services to large underserved markets.

FinTech attracted a significant share of total VC deal volume in 2021, and this trend will likely persist in the long term. Technological innovation

is not, however, solely precluded to the Financials sector. E-Commerce and HealthTech are some of the verticals that exhibited significant growth in 2021, as did Mobilty Tech. 2021 saw a proliferation of startups offering practical yet innovative solutions addressing urban mobility challenges in Africa's cities. Startups such as Kenya's electric-vehicle ride hailing company *NopeaRide*, Togo's transport technology platform *Gozem* and Nigeria's motorcycle-taxi app *Max.ng* all leverage technology to improve the accessibility and affordability of mobility services, and each raised funding in 2021.

Figure 13: Top Verticals Amongst Tech-Enabled Companies, 2021

Sector within technology		% share of VC deals by volume, 2021
 FinTech	31%	
 E-commerce	7%	
 Healthtech	6%	
 Supply Chain Tech	4%	
 Mobility Tech	3%	
 InsurTech	3%	

Super-Sized Deals

KEY FINDING:

- 16 super-sized deals took place in 2021, raised from 15 unique companies
- 50% (US\$2.6 billion) of total VC deal value in 2021 went to super-sized deals

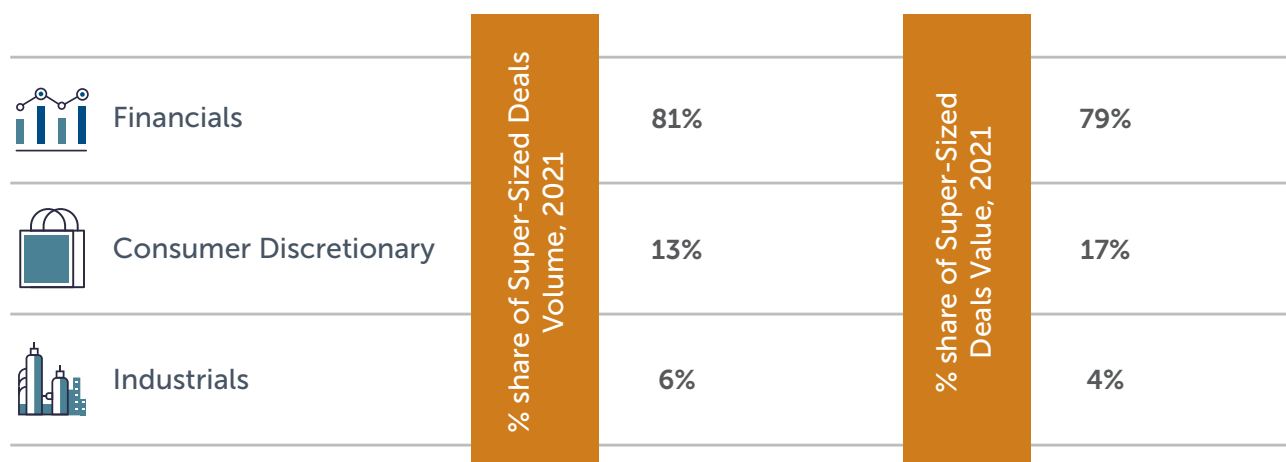
15 companies concluded deals with a value of US\$100 million or more in 2021 – a remarkable feat considering that there were no super-sized deals reported in 2020, and only three reported in 2019.

2021’s super-sized deals were concentrated in three sectors and six countries (by headquarters). Financials claimed thirteen deals (81%), Industrials claimed two deals (13%) and just one super-sized deal took place in the Consumer Discretionary sector. This distribution is largely consistent with the wider sectoral breakdown of VC deals in Africa in 2021, where Financials, Industrials and

Consumer Discretionary were also the most active sectors by both deal volume and value⁷.

From a country-specific perspective, five super-sized deals were in companies headquartered in the United States (Chipper Cash, Tala, Andela and Zipline International), three were in companies headquartered in Nigeria (PalmPay, TradeDepot and OPay), two were in companies headquartered in South Africa (MFS Africa and Tyme Bank) and finally one super-sized deals respectively in a Senegalese (Wave Mobile Money), Egyptian (MNT-Halan) and British (Zepz) company.

Figure 14: Sectoral Distribution of Super-Sized Deals, 2021








⁷ Please see Figure A4 in the Supplementary Data section for a more detailed sectoral breakdown of VC deal activity by volume and value in 2021.

2021 also saw a record number of African startups reach valuations of over a billion dollars: the first nine months of the year alone saw the emergence of four unicorns on the continent. Five super-sized deals that took place during the year catapulted their recipients to unicorn status. With the exception of Andela, Africa's most recent unicorns are all FinTech companies. Amid the excitement and optimism created by this rapid surge in African unicorns, the industry is poised to witness similar success stories in the future. Egypt's *Swvl* (a ride-hailing startup) and Nigeria's *Kuda* (a digital bank startup) are both expected to reach unicorn status by 2023.

Of note, international investors are leading the charge for these large, late-stage deals. With the exception of *MFS Africa* whose US\$100 million Series C was led by *AfricInvest*, and *MNT-Halan* whose US\$120 million fundraise was led by Africa-focused fund manager *Development Partners International (DPI)*, the other super-sized deals that took place in Africa in 2021 were led by international PE and VC fund managers from the United States, Japan, Singapore and the United Kingdom, to name a few.

Figure 15: Super-sized Deals Leading To US\$1 billion+ Valuations, 2021

	Portfolio Company	HQ Location	Region (Operations)	Date	Funding Round	Deal Amount (US\$mn)
1	 Flutterwave	United States	Multi-Region	Mar-21	Series C	170
2	 OPay	Nigeria	West Africa	Aug-21	Series C	400
3	 Andela	United States	Multi-Region	Sep-21	Series E	200
4	 wave	Senegal	West Africa	Sep-21	Series A	200
5	 Chipper®	United States	Multi-Region	Nov-21	Series C1	150

Impact & Diversity Focus

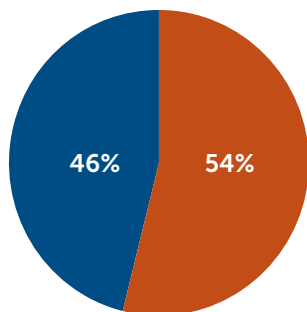
KEY FINDING:

42% of VC deals in Africa in 2021 saw participation from at least one impact investor

In a trend largely consistent with findings from last year’s VC in Africa report, which covered deal activity between 2014 and 2020, at least one impact investor participated in 42% of the total number of VC deals recorded in Africa in 2021. This report draws on the *Global Impact Investing Network’s* definition of impact investing to define impact investors as: investors with an intentional desire to solve problems, address opportunities, and generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.

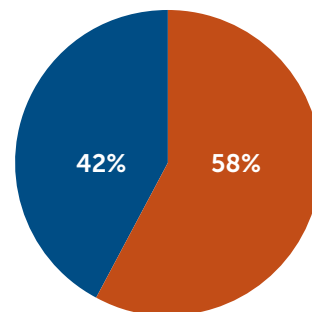
The perceived incompatibility between impact investing and strong returns in African VC is on the decline. In light of the global pursuit of a net-zero transition by 2050, impact-focused investment approaches in Africa’s venture capital industry will likely gain momentum in the near future. Examples of private capital allocated to support the development of low-emissions energy solutions in 2021 include the US\$90 million investment in renewable energy solutions provider *Zola Electric* in September 2021. Another example is the US\$25 million Series E (across two tranches) round in solar lighting and power products manufacturer *d.Light* in October 2021.

Figure 16: Share of VC deals in Africa with participation from at least one impact investor, 2014 – 2020



■ Impact investor presence ■ No Impact investor presence

Figure 17: Share of VC deals in Africa with participation from at least one impact investor, 2021



■ Impact investor presence ■ No Impact investor presence

GENDER PROFILE

KEY FINDING:

24% of VC investments in Africa in 2021 were in startups with a female founder or multiple founders, including at least one female

African women are the backbone of their economies: producing close to 80% of the food, supporting 40% of the families and comprising close to 90% of the informal economy in sub-Saharan Africa⁸. Despite the integral role women play, the data reveals an uneven, and familiar, picture of deal activity in Africa when categorised by gender. Only 13% of the deals struck in 2021 were in companies led by women, although this figure rises by ten percentage points when evaluating the proportion of deal volume allocated to diverse founding teams. Specifically, 24% of startups that received venture financing in 2021 were either entirely female led, or counted at least one female in the founding cohort, raising a cumulative total of US\$150 million. Comparatively,

26% of startups that received venture financing in 2020 fit into this category, indicating that the industry was not as favourable to female founders last year. Given that Africa’s economic development is inherently interlinked with the progress of its women, more capital allocators in Africa’s early-stage market ought to be cognisant of the existing barriers to women’s leadership and participation in economic activities, and accordingly adopt a gendered lens to investing to close the immense funding gap between male and female founders in Africa. Worth noting, 54% of VC investments in female-led or female founded startups in 2021 saw participation from at least one impact investor.

Figure 18: Share of VC deal volume by female-led startups in Africa, 2021

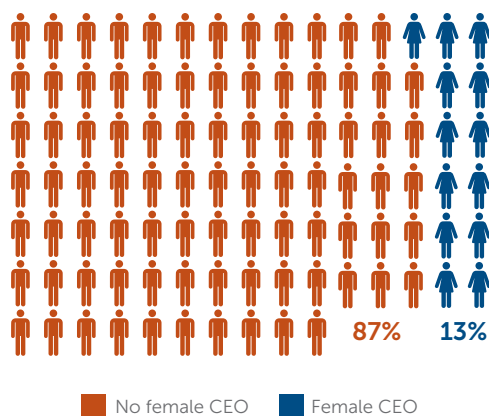
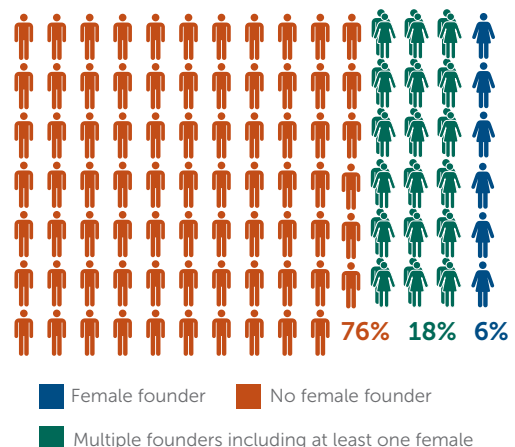


Figure 19: Share of VC deal volume by female-founded startups in Africa, 2021



⁸ African Development Bank, 2019. [Unleashing Women’s Entrepreneurship Through Strategic Partnerships](#)

Investors Profile

PARTICIPATION BY VC FUND MANAGER

KEY FINDING:

52% of VC deals in Africa had at least one VC fund manager involved in the deal

Just over half of the deals that took place in Africa in 2021 featured at least one fund manager – marginally lower than the 62% recorded in the period between 2014 and 2020. The declining saturation of fund managers in Africa’s deal making arena highlights the diversity of the industry and the myriad of capital generation sources that exist outside the traditional GP-LP fund investment space.

Figure 20: Share of VC deals in Africa with participation from at least one VC fund manager, 2014 – 2020

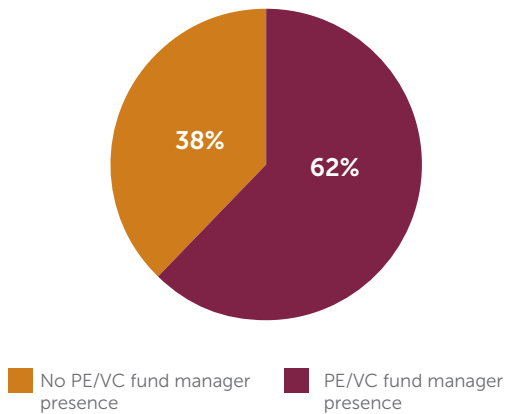
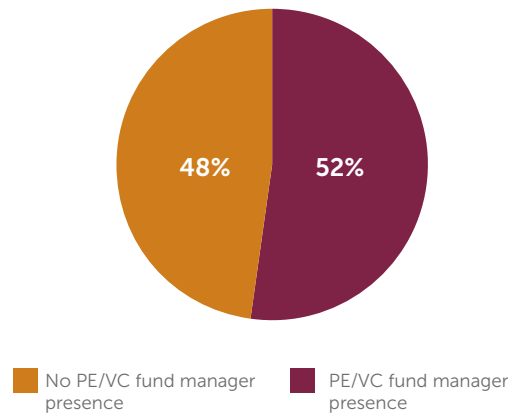


Figure 21: Share of VC deals in Africa with participation from at least one VC fund manager, 2021



PROFILE OF INVESTORS ACTIVE IN AFRICA, 2014 – 2021

KEY FINDING:

PE/VC Fund Managers and PE/VC Investment Firms were the most prominent investor types funding VC deals on the continent in 2021, accounting for 58% of the year's active investors

PE/VC Fund Managers (firms that have raised, or are currently raising, third-party funds from institutional investors) were the most active investors by type in Africa in 2021, closely followed by PE/VC Investment Firms (firms that are not known to be investing through a fund structure, making mainly direct investments). Worth noting is the increasing crossover and participation of PE investors - that previously targeted investment opportunities in African SMEs - that are now considering emerging opportunities in the VC space as well. African fund managers that traditionally focused on PE investments on the continent are now concurrently raising VC funds, such as the partnership between AfricInvest and Cathay Innovation with the US\$168 million *Cathay AfricInvest Innovation Fund*.

Investors under the "Other" category, which was largely encompassed by individual companies making unique investments, accounted for 9% of the total number of investors that participated in VC deals reported in Africa in 2021. This corresponds to a 2% increase when compared to their participation frequency between 2014 and

2020. An interesting trend in this category is the increasing number of startups, which themselves received VC funding earlier in their development lifecycle, that are beginning to finance other entrepreneurs emerging on the continent. Startups *Sendy*, *MFS Africa*, *Thunes*, and *Global Accelerex* are just some examples of VC-backed companies that shifted gears to become capital allocators in 2021. Regardless of if these investments are part of each company's wider M&A strategy, or if they represent the passing of the baton from industry veterans to the new kids on the block, the emergence of this entrepreneur-centric model for early-stage financing is an interesting new development in the ecosystem, and one that we have seen in more developed VC markets.

Finally, an important change worth noting is the declining involvement of Corporate Venture Capital in Africa's innovation ecosystem, which only accounted for 5% of the investors active in Africa in 2021, down from 10% between 2014 and 2020.

Figure 22: Top 5 Categories of Investors Participating in VC deals in Africa, 2014 – 2020⁹

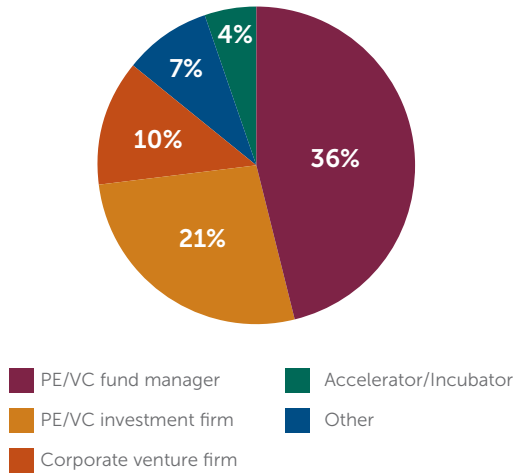
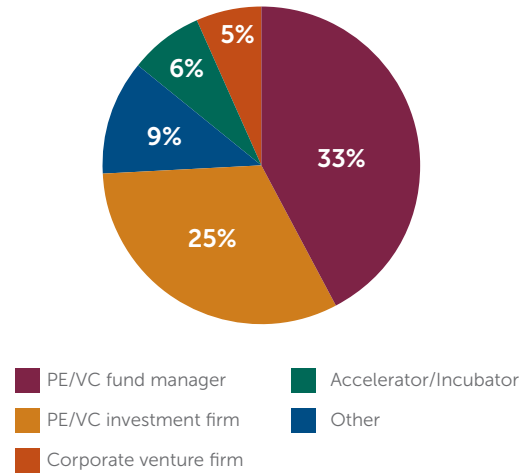


Figure 23: Top 5 Categories of Investors Participating in VC deals in Africa, 2021



KEY FINDING:

Africa-based investors comprised 25% of the total number of investors active in Africa’s VC landscape in 2021

The ratio of domestic to foreign investors participating in VC investments in Africa in 2021 was 1:3, remaining largely consistent with the proportions recorded in the 2020 edition of the Report.

At 40%, investors from North America once again represented the largest share of those that allocated capital to the continent in 2021. However, 2021 also saw a higher degree of

local capital being deployed in the industry, with participation from investors based in Africa accounting for a quarter of the investor profile for the year, by region.

Finally, accounting for a fifth, European investors were also significant sources of deal-making activity in Africa in 2021, albeit to a lesser degree than what was witnessed between 2014 to 2020.

⁹ Please see Figure A10 in the Supplementary Data section for a more detailed categorisation of the investors that participated in Africa’s deal making activity between 2014 and 2021.

Figure 24: Share of investors participating in VC deals in Africa by region, 2014 – 2020

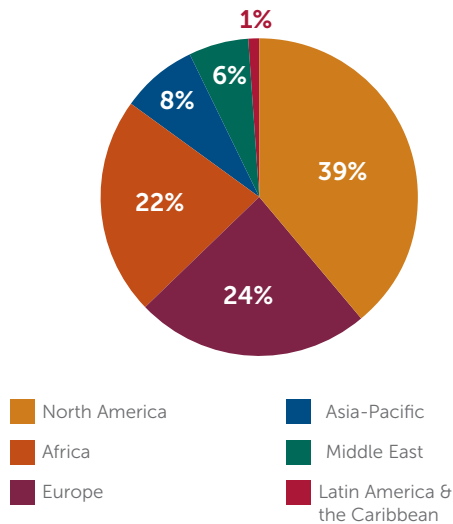
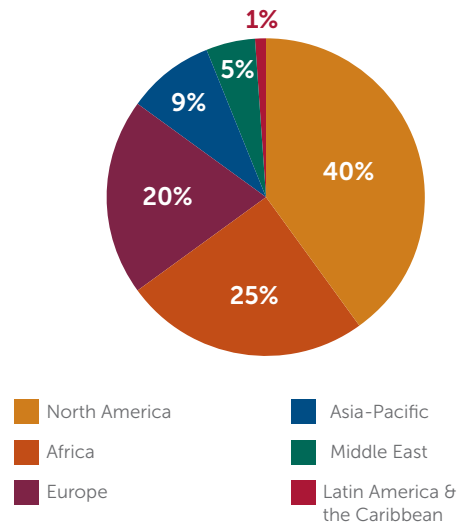


Figure 25: Share of investors participating in VC deals in Africa by region, 2021



KEY FINDING:

At 38%, investors from the United States comprised the largest share of the investors active in Africa's venture capital industry in 2021

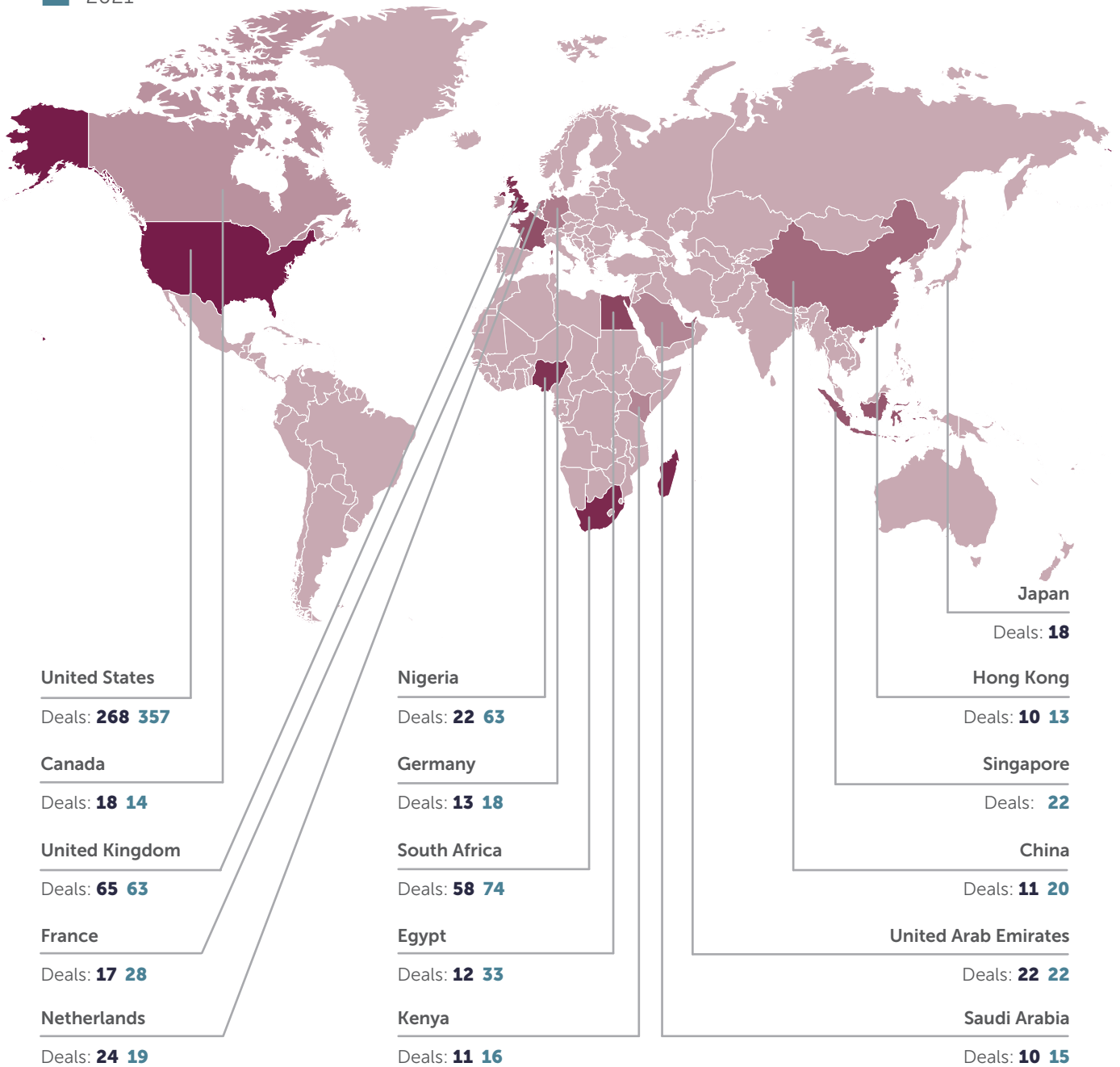
Well over a third of the investors that took part in VC deals on the continent in 2021 were based in the United States. The profile of investors in this cohort ranged from multi-billion dollar VC Fund Managers (Andreessen Horowitz, Tiger Global, Ribbit Capital) to Family Offices (Bezos Expeditions) and Non-profit Organisations (including the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative and the Rockefeller Foundation). 357 unique American investors participated in Africa's deal making activity in 2021, a significant proportion more than the 268 cumulatively active between 2014 and 2020. The widening depth and breadth of American investors in the continent's venture capital industry underscores Africa's continued attractiveness as an investment destination to Silicon Valley and beyond.

South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt continue to be the main sources of venture capital funding amongst African investors, featuring in the top five of the country-based breakdown of investor participation in 2021. These three countries accounted for a combined 19% share of the total number of investors that participated in VC deals on the continent in 2021, a similar proportion to that recorded between 2014 and 2020. The US\$71 million *Sawari Ventures North Africa Fund I* (which reached final close in April 2021) and TCom Capital's US\$150 million Africa tech-focused fund (which reached a first close of US\$70 million earlier this year) are just some of the many African VC funds that were actively fundraising in addition to deal-making in 2021.

The United Kingdom (7%) leads the cohort of investors based in Europe, whilst Singapore and China lead of the investors based in the Asia-Pacific region (2% each). Finally, investors from the United Arab Emirates, which typically concentrate their African portfolio in Arabic-speaking North Africa, represented 3% of the total number of investors in 2021.

Figure 26: Top 15 countries where investors that participated in VC deals in Africa from 2014 to 2020 vs 2021 are based

■ 2014 – 2020
 ■ 2021



AVCA Venture Capital Committee Outlook

2021 was another year of significant progress for African venture capital. All of us who are operators in this space (general partners, limited partners, entrepreneurs, advisors) are grateful to AVCA for its invaluable work measuring and analysing the continued growth of this asset class, and for providing the related analytics that illuminate the drivers and features of this encouraging trajectory.

In 2021, global investments in venture capital approached US\$600 billion in a record year of growth for this asset class. Africa's share was still small at US\$5 billion compared with its value generation potential. Nevertheless, it registered the highest growth rate of all continents, taking another positive step toward a much-deserved global recognition of its impact and economic upside.

African venture capital still faces the typical challenges of a young ecosystem. There remains too little capital and talent compared to the strong demand for both from the many entrepreneurs building the next generation of world class African companies. But last year provided ample evidence of a maturing asset class worthy of the increased attention of global capital.

The value of investments grew 5x in 2021 and the number of investments more than doubled, with the average investment increasing more than 2x to \$8 million. This reflects not only the growing number of local funds, but also greater interest of and investments by global funds from the US, Europe and Asia.

From a geographic perspective, while West Africa, mostly Nigeria, once again attracted the largest share of resources, 2021 further consolidated a reality where multiple already-active entrepreneurial clusters, such as Lagos, Cairo, Nairobi and Cape Town, gained strength as they continued to build world class companies.

Fintech continued to be the dominant sector, attracting 60% of capital and 32% of investments. This reflects not only the global leadership of Africa in terms of penetration of mobile money, but also the natural sequence of establishing a digital infrastructure as the first step toward the digital transformation of other significant industries in the consumer and B2B space. The relatively low level of legacy infrastructure is also a unique advantage to startups on the continent. African startups are enabling the rest of the economy to migrate to digital solutions in a wide variety of industries, including e-commerce, logistics, health, and education; achieving inclusion, employment and value generation. Many of these startups are deeply impacting the life of African communities by providing them with quality access to essential services and are shaking the status quo of incumbent operators in all verticals.

The vast majority of investments were in Seed to Series B financing rounds, reflecting a growing attractiveness of the risk to return profile associated with early-stage opportunities. But it is noteworthy that 40% of capital was invested in later stage opportunities, indicating the increasing ability of African entrepreneurs to attract capital along all stages of the company life cycle.

Much work still lies ahead. Most important is our collective ability to achieve value generation via high return exits, a process which provided initial evidence in 2021 via successful exits and "unicorn" valuations priced by global investors. The past year provided evidence that the Africa venture capital space is moving in the right direction, attracting well-deserved growing global attention. An urgent reminder of the formidable challenge we face in delivering the massive upside potential of impact and economic value that the African VC industry is promising.



Supplementary Data

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA (INVESTMENT STAGE FOCUS)

Figure A1: Annual Evolution of VC Deal Volume, by Stage, 2014-2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Seed	30%	37%	31%	38%	26%	31%	33%	38%
Series A	16%	12%	17%	26%	25%	28%	19%	12%
Series B	7%	9%	4%	7%	11%	9%	7%	4%
Series C	1%	3%	1%	2%	5%	2%	2%	1%
Series D, E & F	0%	2%	3%	0%	2%	4%	2%	1%
Series Unknown	45%	37%	44%	28%	32%	25%	37%	43%

Figure A2: Annual Evolution of VC Deal Value, by Stage, 2014-2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Seed	3%	10%	3%	9%	4%	5%	6%	7%
Series A	8%	13%	10%	38%	18%	23%	21%	21%
Series B	12%	25%	11%	16%	22%	22%	22%	16%
Series C	39%	17%	3%	19%	21%	7%	12%	20%
Series D, E & F	0%	8%	7%	0%	7%	30%	13%	20%
Series Unknown	39%	26%	65%	19%	27%	13%	27%	16%

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA (SECTOR FOCUS)

Figure A3: Annual evolution of funds raised by sector (2014-2021)

% share of VC deals by value, 2014-2021								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Communication Services	0%	2%	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%	2%
Consumer Discretionary	71%	18%	64%	14%	15%	12%	5%	8%
Consumer Staples	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	2%
Financials	5%	30%	7%	25%	30%	33%	35%	60%
Health Care	2%	1%	1%	3%	4%	4%	11%	5%
Industrials	2%	10%	8%	19%	16%	32%	9%	13%
Information Technology	8%	2%	2%	11%	7%	5%	24%	6%
Materials	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	4%	<1%
Real Estate	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	<1%
Utilities	7%	36%	13%	17%	21%	11%	5%	<1%

Figure A4: Share of VC Deal Volume by industry segment (period 2014-2020)

Industry Segment	% Share of Volume (2014-2020)
Financials	22%
Software & Services	18%
Utilities	9%
Consumer Services	8%
Media & Entertainment	7%
Commercial & Professional Services	7%
Retailing	7%
Health Care Equipment & Services	6%
Transportation	5%
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	3%
Food & Staples Retailing	2%
Real Estate	2%
Capital Goods	1%
Consumer Durables & Apparel	1%
Materials	1%
Telecommunication Services	1%
Technology Hardware & Equipment	<1%
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	<1%
Automobiles & Components	<1%
Household & Personal Products	<1%

Figure A5: Share of VC Deal Volume by industry segment (2021)

Industry Segment	% Share of Volume (2021)
Diversified Financials	27%
Software & Services	15%
Transportation	8%
Consumer Services	8%
Health Care Equipment & Services	8%
Retailing	6%
Media & Entertainment	5%
Commercial & Professional Services	5%
Utilities	4%
Insurance	3%
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	2%
Food & Staples Retailing	2%
Consumer Durables & Apparel	1%
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1%
Automobiles & Components	1%
Real Estate	1%
Banks	1%
Capital Goods	1%
Technology Hardware & Equipment	1%
Energy	0%
Telecommunication Services	0%
Materials	0%

Figure A6: Share of VC Deal Value by industry segment (period 2014-2020)

Industry Segment	% Share of Value
Automobiles & Components	0%
Banks	0%
Capital Goods	0%
Commercial & Professional Services	5%
Consumer Durables & Apparel	0%
Consumer Services	3%
Diversified Financials	26%
Food & Staples Retailing	0%
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	1%
Health Care Equipment & Services	4%
Household & Personal Products	0%
Insurance	1%
Materials	1%
Media & Entertainment	3%
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	0%
Real Estate	1%
Retailing	19%
Software & Services	9%
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0%
Telecommunication Services	0%
Transportation	11%
Utilities	14%

Figure A7: Share of VC Deal Value by startups by industry segment (2021)

Industry Segment	% Share of Value
Automobiles & Components	0%
Banks	3%
Capital Goods	0%
Commercial & Professional Services	4%
Consumer Durables & Apparel	0%
Consumer Services	1%
Diversified Financials	55%
Energy	0%
Food & Staples Retailing	0%
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	1%
Health Care Equipment & Services	3%
Insurance	1%
Materials	0%
Media & Entertainment	1%
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	2%
Real Estate	0%
Retailing	6%
Software & Services	6%
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0%
Telecommunication Services	1%
Transportation	9%
Utilities	4%

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA (SUPER-SIZED DEALS)

Figure A7: Share of funds raised by megadeals by industry segment (2021)

Industry Segment	% Share of Value
Banks	4%
Commercial & Professional Services	8%
Diversified Financials	75%
Retailing	4%
Transportation	9%

Figure A8: Share of number of megadeals deals by industry segment (2021)

Industry Segment	% Share of Volume
Banks	6%
Commercial & Professional Services	6%
Diversified Financials	75%
Retailing	6%
Transportation	6%

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA (INVESTORS PROFILE)

Figure A9: Share of investors participating in VC deals in Africa by type, 2014 – 2020

PE/VC Fund Manager	36%
PE/VC Investment Firm	21%
Corporate Venture Firm	10%
Other	7%
Accelerator/Incubator	4%
Government agency	3%
Foundation/Endowment	3%
Angel Group/Angel Network	3%
Family Office	3%
Asset Manager	3%
Financial Institution	2%
Investment Holding Company	2%
Non-profit organisation	2%
Sovereign Wealth Fund	1%
Third-Party Fund Manager	0%

Figure A10: Share of investors participating in VC deals in Africa by type, 2021

PE/VC Fund Manager	33%
PE/VC Investment Firm	25%
Other	9%
Accelerator/Incubator	6%
Corporate Venture Firm	5%
Financial Institution	3%
Investment Holding Company	3%
Angel Group/Angel Network	3%
Government Agency	3%
Family Office	2%
Asset Manager	2%
Foundation	2%
Non-profit organisation	2%
Third-Party Fund Manager	2%
Endowment	<1%
Sovereign Wealth Fund	<1%
Pension Fund	<1%

Research Methodology

The Venture Capital in Africa Report defines Venture Capital as: An investment practice within private equity featuring short-medium term direct equity or equity-linked investments in earlier-stage, younger companies that need funding and support to get an idea off the ground, develop a business model or launch into the market. This capital is often deployed to companies in a series of “rounds” of funding as pre-agreed milestones are met.

INVESTMENT SCOPE:

AVCA's Venture Capital Database takes an **investment stage approach** to data collection. There is no minimum deal value threshold for data collection. Instead, our methodology tracks startups and early-stage companies that have raised seed, post-seed to late stage financing only.

Deals value includes equity, mezzanine, and debt when the latter is part of a larger transaction that also involves equity.

The following exclusions are applied to our methodology:

- **Pre-Seed Deals.** The focus on seed+ stages is because seed funding is (often, but not always) the first official equity funding stage. Given that the most common sources of pre-seed funding are the founders themselves, angel or family networks, this stage is excluded from our analysis.
- Deals from **Accelerators and Incubators.** Deals featuring accelerators or incubators have only been included when they were part of a larger consortium of investors that participated in the financing or funding round of a company.
- Deals from **Angel Investors.** Deals featuring angel investors have only been included where they were part of a larger consortium of investors that participated in the financing or funding round of a company.
- **Growth Equity.** Deals classified as growth equity are excluded from our methodology. AVCA Research classifies these transactions as private equity. As such, these deals are included in AVCA's African Private Capital Activity Report, not the Venture Capital in Africa Report.
- **Crowdfunding.** Deals where capital was sourced solely from crowdfunding platforms are excluded.
- **Grants, Mergers & Acquisitions, Competition or Award** financing is also excluded.

DATA SOURCES AND QUALITY CONTROLS:

AVCA Research collects data on a bi-annual basis from a range of public and private sources. Public sources include news outlets, company press releases and public platforms. Private sources include data obtained directly from fund managers, investors and founders as well as from subscription-based platforms. The data from private sources are treated as confidential, and only reported in aggregate.

AVCA Research supplements these sources using desk-based research to ensure data completeness. AVCA Research reviews all data obtained, queries any obvious errors, verifies the cut-off rules, and processes all necessary changes to historical data that have been reported by contributors. As such, AVCA cannot guarantee the ultimate accuracy of the data.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE:

This Report is by no means exhaustive but intends to be indicative of the overall venture landscape in Africa. To provide a holistic overview of the volume and value of venture financing being channelled to the continent, this report covers the following:

- 1. Startups Headquartered In Africa.**
- 2. Africa-Focused Startups.** We define this as early-stage companies headquartered outside of Africa, but whose primary business, operations and market is in Africa. An example of what this Report classifies as an Africa-focused startup is *Andela*, an African-focused software developer training and outsourcing company. Although incorporated in the United States, this company operates in Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and South Africa, thus meeting our methodology as an Africa-focused startup.
- 3. Startups not headquartered in Africa or whose primary business, operations and market is not in Africa, but have raised capital to **finance the company's expansion or strengthen the company's presence in Africa specifically.**** In these instances, the entire deal value is used.

TEMPORAL SCOPE:

This Report covers deal activity in Africa's venture capital industry between 2014 and 2021. Deal dates are taken to be the date on which the deal is announced, unless otherwise specified.

SECTOR CLASSIFICATIONS:

The classification of invested company by sector is based on the 2018 Global Industry Classification Standard Classifications (GICS). A detailed breakdown is provided below:

 Consumer Discretionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automobile and components • Consumer durables and apparel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer services • Retailing
 Consumer Staples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and staples retailing • Food, beverage and tobacco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household and personal products
 Financials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks • Diversified financials and capital markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance
 Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software and IT services • Technological equipment and hardware 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semiconductors and equipment
 Communication Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunication services (including wireless) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media and entertainment
 Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare providers equipment and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences
 Industrials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital good • Commercial and professional services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation
 Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals • Construction materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metals and mining • Paper and forest products
 Real Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REITs - Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real estate management and development
 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy equipment and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil, gas, consumable fuels
 Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric utilities • Gas utilities • Multi-utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water utilities • Independent power and renewable electricity producers

KEY DEFINITIONS:

1. **Impact Investor:** investors with an intentional desire to solve problems, address opportunities, and generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.
2. **PE/VC Fund Managers:** firms that have raised, or are currently raising, third-party funds from institutional investors.
3. **PE/ VC Investment Firms:** firms that are not known to be investing through a fund structure, making mainly direct investments.



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AVCA. The database is constantly updated, and as such historical and current data may change as new information becomes available. AVCA takes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information, projections or opinions included in this publication, and neither AVCA nor any of its members or related third parties shall be responsible for any loss whatsoever sustained by any person who relies on this publication. AVCA encourages personal and non-commercial use of this publication with proper acknowledgment of AVCA. Users are restricted from reselling, redistributing, or creating derivative works for commercial purposes without the express written consent of AVCA.

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CHAMPIONING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AFRICA

The African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association is the pan-African industry body which promotes and enables private investment in Africa. AVCA plays an important role as a champion and effective change agent for the industry, educating, equipping and connecting members and stakeholders with independent industry research, best practice training programmes and exceptional networking opportunities. With a global and growing member base, AVCA members span private equity and venture capital firms, institutional investors, foundations and endowments, pension funds, international development finance institutions, professional service firms, academia, and other associations. This diverse membership is united by a common purpose: to be part of the Africa growth story.



African Private Equity and
Venture Capital Association

For further information, please contact
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