

## BIC Africa Newsletter Issue 7 - November 2023



### BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2023 (#BICAfrica2023) - 26 October, Nairobi Kenya

The BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2023 (#BICAfrica2023) took place on the 26th of October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, with a theme of “Promoting shared learning. Driving innovative startups!” This year’s event, co-hosted by the BIC Somali project in partnership with UNIDO Somalia, brought together over 100 participants from the country projects: Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia, Kenya, and participants from Europe.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Annual Gathering sparked many thought-provoking discussions, and the participants had an opportunity to connect with other stakeholders and enthusiasts, exchange insights and lay the foundation to explore strategic partnerships for future potential collaborations and leverage unique mutual understanding. This was one of the key outcomes of the gathering.

The event showcased the role of regional collaborations and facilitated exchanges in the innovation and entrepreneurship arena to overcome the challenges faced by the business incubator communities today to support current and future entrepreneurs (with a focus on youth and women). Finally, we had an exciting networking reception - what a great gathering!

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[▶ Watch the BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2023 Recording](#)



**REGISTER NOW**

**BIC Africa**  
Online Training 2023

- Session 1: Introduction to Incubation and Ecosystems - 29 Nov
- Session 2: Business Model Canvas - 4 Dec
- Session 3: Engaging with Investors (I) - 6 Dec
- Session 4: Engaging with Investors (II) and Interactive Business Case - 13 Dec

**Time: 2:00pm to 6:00pm (EAT)**  
**Location: Zoom**

Designed by the BIC Africa Virtual Training Centre.

 **BIC AFRICA**  
AFRICAN BUSINESS INCUBATOR COMMUNITIES

 BIC Africa is funded by the European Union.

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## BIC Africa activities updates and events



### BIC Africa Kenya Boot Camp: Impactful Dialogue

We are delighted to share that the first edition of the BIC Africa African Boot Camp was held successfully on October 24th and 25th in the vibrant city of Nairobi, Kenya. This intensive two-day event brought together 15 business incubator managers from the five BIC Africa project countries: Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Somalia.

The Boot Camp aimed to equip selected business incubators (BIs) with essential knowledge and skills, focusing on business mentorship and mentoring start-ups, sourcing and securing good human resources capital and creating and maintaining s with corporates. Through this Boot Camp, the business incubator managers explored how to scale up their business incubation services, by having an opportunity to engage in teamwork, collaborative exercises and exchanges with the other fellow participants as well as the expert facilitators.

On the second and final day of the Boot Camp the participants had a networking and study tour to iHub Nairobi, SNDBX | The Village Experts, iBizAfrica Incubation Center Strathmore University to learn more about Kenya's vibrant ecosystem, reconnect and expand regional connections. The visit also facilitated networking opportunities for the participants to connect with the local ecosystem, especially with key players to create synergies and to further collaborate. Along the way, participants identified key avenues for long-lasting working relationships and impact.

[Read more](#)



### BIC Africa Showcased at the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2023 in Kigali

BIC Africa participated and exhibited in the AfriLabs annual gathering 2023 in Kigali Rwanda held from the 11th to the 13th of October 2023, themed "Accelerating Africa's Digital Economy; by the Strength of our Community."

BIC Africa, along with its sister projects Enrich in Africa (EiA) and AEDIB|NET, had a booth where they interacted with the participants and explored potential collaborations across borders to build and bridge innovation ecosystems. This is in line with BIC Africa's mission to support business incubators (BIs) in stimulating entrepreneurship and creating and consolidating new innovative start-ups in Africa, with a specific focus on youth and women. BIC Africa aims to strengthen entrepreneurship and foster decent job creation and sustainable livelihoods.

The AfriLabs Annual Gathering enabled BIC Africa to participate in the global knowledge and innovation marketplace



### Unlocking Agricultural Finance in Ethiopia: The BIC Ethiopia Agri-Finance Lab and the Agri-Finance Navigator

Ethiopia, a country known for its rich agricultural heritage and diverse agri-business landscape, is on a journey towards economic transformation. This transformation is fueled by initiatives like the BIC Ethiopia project, a four-year endeavour co-financed by the European Union and implemented by sequa in collaboration with five dedicated partner organizations. The project's primary objective is to empower business incubators to support agri-tech and agri-business start-ups and MSMEs, ultimately enhancing market access, boosting income, and generating employment opportunities.

As a significant milestone in this project, the BIC Ethiopia Agri-Finance Lab took centre stage on September 20-21, 2023. This two-day event was a remarkable gathering of financial stakeholders, including banks, microfinance institutions, investors, and fintech companies, all converging to address the challenge of agricultural financing in Ethiopia.

and reconnect with the selected BIs from the BIC Africa country projects, some of whom are members of the AfriLabs network. This facilitated networking and partnership with local initiatives and companies.

Another product of BIC Ethiopia is the recently released Agri-Finance Navigator. This comprehensive snapshot of the Ethiopian Agri-SME financing ecosystem acts as a guiding tool, offering insights into the complex world of agricultural finance.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

## Resources & Opportunities



**Call for Proposals:  
Promoting Women's  
Economic Empowerment  
in African, Caribbean  
and Pacific Countries**

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**Open Innovation  
Program**

[Learn more](#)



**Introducing Standards of  
Practice for Gender Lens  
Investing**

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