

BIC Africa

Impactful Support to African Business Incubators.
Empowering Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.

**2021 – 2026
Highlights**

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About the BIC Africa Project

BIC Africa, funded by the European Union, was a regional network supporting selected business incubators (BIs) in stimulating entrepreneurship and creating and consolidating new innovative start-ups in Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia, and since 2026 in Tanzania with a specific focus on youth and women. It was implemented by the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN)

BIC Africa Community!



6 African Countries



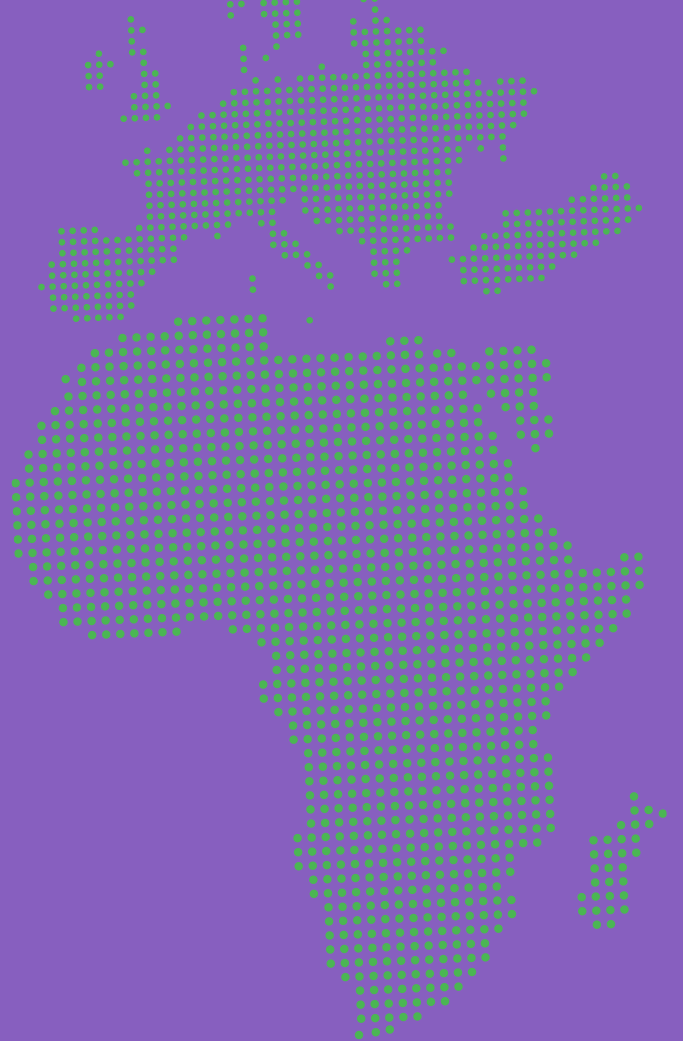
100+ Business Incubators



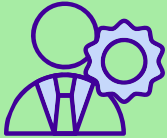
10+ Project Partners



2021 to 2026



Key Achievements at a Glance



700+

Business incubation
professionals trained



112

Business incubators
supported



140

Women entrepreneurs
accelerated



30

Incubation experts had
international exchanges



34

Incubators completed
quality assessment



6

Online knowledge
exchange for
entrepreneurs



400+

Stakeholders attended
four Annual Gatherings



6000+

Entrepreneurs supported
through incubators

5 Key Sustainable Results

Over the past five years, BIC Africa worked closely with EU delegations, the Country Projects, and ecosystem stakeholders across Angola, Ethiopia, Somalia, Madagascar, Comoros, and Tanzania toward a shared goal: strengthening business incubation ecosystems, empowering entrepreneurs, and fostering connections between African and European innovation ecosystems.

Working alongside our partners, we are able to achieve **5 key sustainable results** that are expected to extend well beyond the lifetime of the programme, creating lasting benefits for entrepreneurial ecosystems.

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This milestone highlights the vital role of business incubators in accelerating Angola's entrepreneurial ecosystem. INAPEM's active participation in the BIC Africa project reinforces the urgent need to continuously strengthen incubation capacities, ensuring managers have the knowledge, networks, and strategies to drive high-impact startups. Strengthening international connections, particularly with Portugal, is not just an opportunity—it is a necessity for sustainable growth and global competitiveness for our SMEs. The empowerment of our incubation ecosystem must remain a priority.

”



Bráulio Augusto
Executive Director
INAPEM, Angola

5 Key Sustainable Results

1

A strong network with 100+ organisations.

The BIC Africa Network brings together more than 100 business support organisations across the region, creating meaningful connections and a growing community of incubators, entrepreneurs and ecosystem actors who continue to learn, collaborate and explore new opportunities.

2

Reinforced Capacity of Business Incubators.

BIC Africa delivered complementary in-person boot camps and online trainings led by experts from EU|BIC-certified incubators. These activities strengthened the capacity and leadership skills of incubation managers and experts, equipping them with practical insights, best practices and high-quality approaches to support entrepreneurs. The Boot Camps also fostered collaboration and peer learning, helping build stronger, more sustainable incubators across the region.

5 Key Sustainable Results

3

Better Connections and International Exposure.

Through Soft-Landing in Europe and Staff Exchange in Africa BIC Africa facilitated short-term inter-regional and international exchanges for business incubator staff members, providing a platform to learn from each other and to explore how some of the good practices, sustainable strategies and effective management models can be adapted to the local realities in the respective African countries and in Europe. The peer exchanges enabled the participants to harness and share practical experience in the day-to-day operations and management of BIs, fostering long-term sustainable relationships. These relationships scout regional connections and opportunities for their client companies.

Overall, the programmes provided BI staff members with a valuable opportunity to explore peer ecosystems, explore new collaboration avenues, and strengthen entrepreneurial support systems across borders.

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I had the honour of participating in the Soft-Landing Program in Portugal, as part of the BIC Africa. This experience exceeded all expectations. Direct contact with solid, rooted and constantly evolving innovation ecosystems allowed us to closely observe good practices, sustainable strategies and effective management models that we feel ready to adapt to the Angolan reality.

We had the opportunity to learn, in detail, about the operation of IPN – a European reference in science, technology and business incubation – and to visit its unit located in Penela, Smart Rural HIESE – Habitat de Inovação Empresarial nos Sectores Estratégicos. we exchanged valuable experiences and understood the differentiating elements.

”



Evaldo Chindele

Project Manager

RINOVAC – Rede de Inovação e Valorização
do Conhecimento from Angola

5 Key Sustainable Results

4

Women Entrepreneurs Empowered.

Since 2021, through online Acceleration and Training Programme for Women Entrepreneurs, BIC Africa supported innovative women across Africa. The Programmes offered tailored training, coaching and mentoring to strengthen women-led start-ups and grow their businesses. In addition, strengthened their business leadership capacity and enabled them to lead their startups and business to scale sustainably. Many of these women entrepreneurs have been able to significantly improve their business and able to secure funding after the completion of the programme.

Their initiatives are expected to generate a ripple effect, supporting business growth, job creation, and greater economic inclusion within their communities. Their impact is set to grow even further as their businesses continue to expand.

“

The BIC Africa 2024 programme has been an enriching experience that allowed me to discover many valuable tools to manage and develop my company Wutamu; I particularly liked analysing my psychological and financial profile, better understand my customers with customer empathy tool, and discover relevant marketing strategies.

”



Jihane Guy
Founder of Wutamu
Comoros

“

I'm proud to be part of and complete the BIC Africa Acceleration Programme for Female Entrepreneurs 2025! From the first empowering session to the final mentorship call, the journey has transformed how I see myself as a leader and how I'm building EmpowerRise Hub Somalia's first fully women-led innovation and technology centre. I'm deeply grateful to those who stood beside me during this journey.

”



Mushtaq Muhudin
Founder of EmpowerRise Hub
Somalia

5 Key Sustainable Results

5 BIs accustomed to the BIC Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

34 Business Support Organisations from the five Country Projects participated in the quality assessment activities. Through this process, these organisations aligned their internal practices and self-assessment processes with a recognised BI quality assessment framework, demonstrating tangible preparedness to engage in a future certification or quality recognition system.



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Published in August 2026



BIC Africa is funded by
the European Union.

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