



AFRICA *MEETS* BAVARIA



TWO YEARS
OF BUILDING
ENTREPRENEURIAL
BRIDGES

IMPACT REPORT 2024–2026

2024 -26 CELEBRATING TWO YEARS

This report showcases two years of Africa Meets Bavaria — the achievements, impact, and network that have emerged, and what continues to grow from them. It looks back at the journey so far and ahead at where it's headed next.

Our sincere thanks go to the Bavarian State Chancellery for its generous support and excellent cooperation, and to all participants, startups, and partners for making the two years of Africa Meets Bavaria such a remarkable success.

- 01 WHY AFRICA MEETS BAVARIA & HOW WE CREATE IMPACT
- 02 OUR SUCCESS IN NUMBERS
- 03 OUR NETWORK
- 04 SPOTLIGHT BEYOND THE PROGRAM
- 05 CHELSEA & JOY - A SUCCESS STORY
- 06 OUR UPCOMING LEARNING VISIT

WHY AFRICA MEETS BAVARIA?

Bavaria and Africa are home to dynamic and complementary innovation ecosystems. While Bavaria offers world-class research, established startup infrastructure and a strong entrepreneurial network, African countries are among the fastest-growing innovation hubs, driven by young entrepreneurial talent, digital transformation and rapidly evolving markets.

Africa meets Bavaria was created to connect these strengths. By bringing together entrepreneurial talents, innovative startups and ecosystem partners from both regions, the initiative enables mutual learning, knowledge exchange and practical collaboration. Talents gain international experience and entrepreneurial skills, while startups benefit from new perspectives, intercultural collaboration and valuable insights into African markets.

Through long-term partnerships between individuals and institutions, the initiative contributes to stronger innovation ecosystems in both Bavaria and Africa.

HOW WE CREATE IMPACT

FROM ZERO TO HERO

10-hours introductory certificate course on digital product development

online

self-paced

~ 200 participants

TRAIN THE TRAINER

One-week hands-on facilitation program for our partners

Munich

full-time

~ 6 participants

MASTERCLASS

12-weeks training on advanced digital product development

hybrid

part-time

~ 80 participants

INNOVATION EXCHANGE IN BAVARIA

8-week hands-on experience at a Bavarian startup in Germany

Munich

full-time

~ 20 participants

LEARNING VISIT

1-week learning visit to African entrepreneurial ecosystems

Nairobi, Addis Abeba,
Lagos, Accra

20+ participants

OUR SUCCESS IN NUMBERS

PROGRAM METRICS

300+

TALENTS SUPPORTED

20

INNOVATION EXCHANGE
TALENT AND STARTUP MATCHES

80%

OF TALENT: PREPARING TO LAUNCH OR
ACTIVELY BUILDING A VENTURE

300+

NEW NETWORK MEMBERS

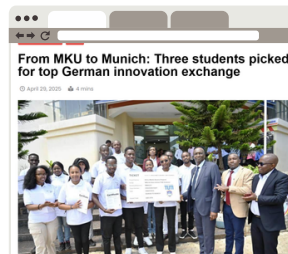
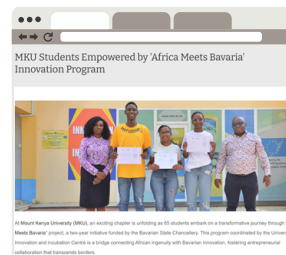
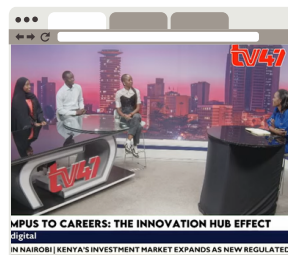
MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

50+

EXTERNAL MEDIA COVERAGE

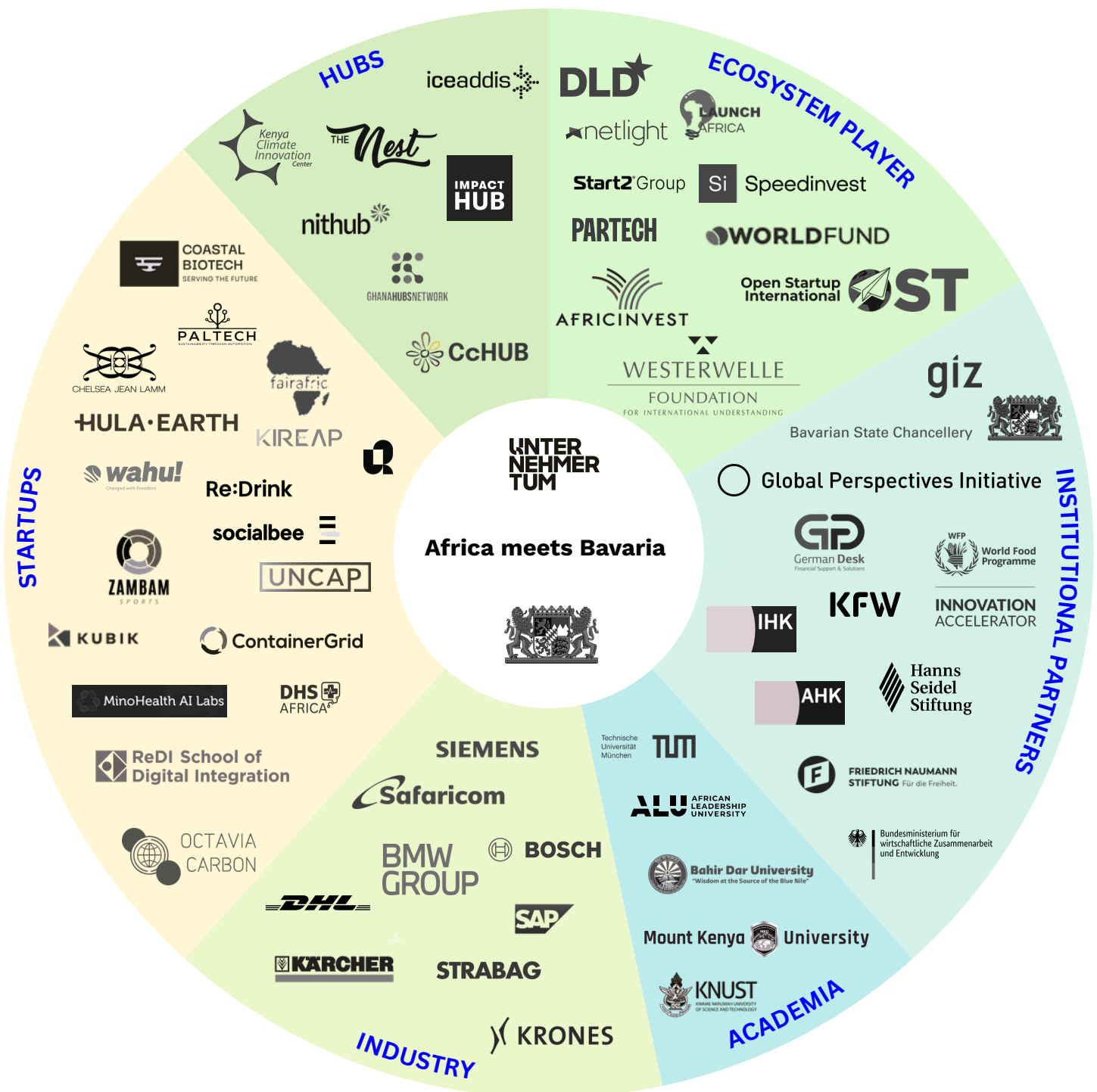
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IN-HOUSE PUBLICATIONS



OUR NETWORK

The Africa meets Bavaria Network has been built up over the past two years and continues to grow steadily. It brings together a broad network of partners — including academic institutions, corporates, ecosystem actors, African program leads, and participating startups.



SPOTLIGHT BEYOND THE PROGRAM



“Our motivation for participating in the program was to highlight the Africa Rising perspective and show how much German companies can learn from **partnerships based on equality.**”

Johannes Willms

Managing Director at Uncap, participating startup of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch (2025)



“The confidence and connections I gained through the program led to a panel invitation at the **Munich Cybersecurity Conference**, where I shared insights on Kenya's digital ecosystem and Africa's broader tech landscape.”

Joy Watiri

Computer Science student at Mount Kenya University, alumna of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch (2025) with an internship at Uncap



“The experience and credibility I gained through the program have opened many new doors — including the **opportunity to lead DHS Africa's new Kenya office**, where I engage with investors, lead partnerships, and help shape our growth strategy.”

Clifford Mbithuka Musyoka

Computer Science graduate at Mount Kenya University, alumna of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch (2025) with an internship at DHS Africa



“**The potential in Africa is enormous**, but you can't tap into it from a distance. You need someone on the ground who understands the country, is fully committed, and really wants it. For us, that person was Clifford — without him, our business in Kenya wouldn't exist.”

Niklas Inderst

CEO at DHS Africa, participating startup of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch (2025)



CHELSEA & JOY

A STORY OF SHARED CRAFT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



In December 2025, a message appeared in our company-wide success stories channel: Chelsea Jean Lamm, a German South African founder and creative director of her namesake fashion label, had just been named to Forbes 30 Under 30 for her work in fashion, design, and art.



Where It started

Years earlier, a scholarship gave Chelsea her first access to laser-cutting technology at the UnternehmerTUM MakerSpace. It let her build her first prototype, an experience she calls one that “[fundamentally changed my understanding of what was possible.](#)” It opened up technologies she couldn't have reached otherwise, and a community where, as she puts it, “[knowledge was shared openly across disciplines.](#)” Working alongside engineers, designers, entrepreneurs, and makers there reinforced a belief that still shapes how she works today, together with her sister and collaborator Ashley Elizabeth Lamm: meaningful innovation rarely happens within a single field.



Building bridges across continents

When we asked Chelsea to join the Africa Meets Bavaria program and host an African talent for two months, she said yes right away. She reflects our mission of building entrepreneurial bridges, and her connection to the continent runs far deeper than a two-month program. Even though her atelier is based in Germany, its campaigns, its research, and its long-term collaborators are South African artists, photographers, filmmakers, musicians, and craftspeople.

“[For me, entrepreneurship is about building relationships that create opportunities, strengthen creative communities, and allow ideas to move meaningfully between continents,](#)” Chelsea says. For her, cultural exchange isn't something that happens after a project wraps. It's part of the process itself. So when the offer to host came in, it wasn't really a decision. It was a continuation of how she already worked.





Joy joins the atelier

Joy Oladunjoye arrived from Nigeria as a UI/UX designer, strategist, and creative problem solver, driven by a passion for technology with meaningful social impact. “I believe great innovation happens where technology, creativity, and human-centered thinking come together,” she says. She traces this mindset back to Nigeria: “You naturally become resourceful, because many everyday challenges require creative thinking rather than waiting for perfect systems,” an environment, she found, that produces founders who are resilient and closely attuned to real needs. She wants to put that resilience towards building sustainable products and innovation ecosystems, and towards shifting how Africa's role in global innovation is understood. “I wish more people saw Africa as a place where innovation is created, not simply implemented,” she says. “Rather than viewing Africa only as an emerging market, it's important to recognize it as an innovation partner with valuable knowledge, perspectives, and talent.”



Two months of learning on both sides



Joy's impact was directly felt, says Chelsea: “From the beginning, Joy brought an exceptional combination of curiosity, kindness, professionalism, and creative sensitivity into our atelier.” Her questions soon had the team rethinking their workflow. The learning went both ways: watching sustainability guide the atelier's work, Joy came to see design differently. “Sustainability can be both creative and environmentally responsible, and truly exceptional design is intentional.” For Chelsea, that mutual exchange is the point of programs like this: “When these perspectives meet with openness and mutual respect, they create possibilities neither side could have developed alone.”



What stays

Two months later, Joy and Chelsea describe the exchange in similar terms: “Africa Meets Bavaria has been a life-changing experience,” Joy says. “It showed me that the future of innovation is built through collaboration, curiosity, and the courage to dream beyond borders.” Chelsea puts it the same way: “The program reminds us that the future of innovation is shaped not by a single way of thinking, but through meaningful exchange and shared authorship.”



LEARNING VISIT

TO NIGERIA + GHANA

LEARNING VISIT (16.-20 NOV)
OPTIONAL EXTENSION (23-25 NOV)



400M+

YOUNG & TECH-SAVVY POPULATION

2 of Africa's Top 10

STARTUP ECOSYSTEMS

5 of 9

AFRICAN UNICORNS

\$2B+

VC FUNDING

60%+

MOBILE MONEY ADOPTION

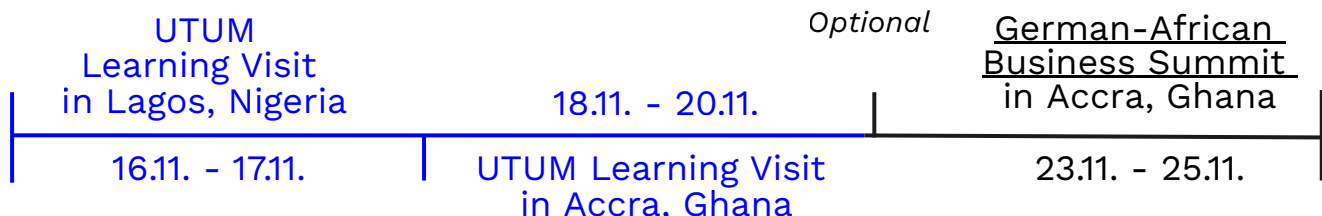
WHY NIGERIA AND GHANA NOW?



Details,
Registration
& Contact

JOIN US

& EXPLORE AFRICA'S
LEADING INNOVATION
ECOSYSTEM



HEAR IT FROM THOSE WHO JOINED BEFORE

LEARNING VISIT — KENYA & ETHIOPIA 2025

“We wanted to get a real feel for the market and meet the right people — and that's exactly what happened. The direct access to companies, from small businesses to major players, opened doors we didn't expect. Some of those connections are already turning into real partnerships.”

Niklas Inderst

CEO at DHS Africa, participating startup of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch and the 2025 Learning Visit

“Our visit to Octavia Carbon (a Kenyan startup working in direct air capture and storage), showed exactly what's possible there. It was so convincing that **we didn't just leave inspired — we invested directly in the company's Series A round.”**

Holger Frank

Former Head of Finance at KIREAP, participating startup of the 1st Innovation Exchange batch and the 2025 Learning Visit



“The question is not what Africa can learn from us, **but what the world can learn from Africa.”**

Steffi Czerny

Managing Director at DLD Media, participant of the 2025 Learning Visit

INNOVATION

KNOWS

NO BORDERS

***THANK
YOU***

**FOR BUILDING
THE FUTURE
WITH US**