

Meet the Africa's
Business Heroes
Top 10 Finalists
2019-2021



2019 - 2021 TOP 10 HEROES

Alphabetical Order By Last Name

Africa's Business
Heroes

2019 TOP 10 HEROES



Ayodeji Arikawe
Co-Founder, Thrive Agric
(Nigeria)



Temie Giwa-Tubosun
Founder & CEO, Lifebank
(Nigeria)



Mahmud Johnson
Founder & CEO, J-Palm
(Liberia)



Kevine Kagirimpundu
Co-Founder & CEO, UZURI K&Y
(Rwanda)



Christelle Kwizera
Founder, Water Access Rwanda
(Rwanda)



Dr. Tosan J. Mogbeyiteren
Founder, Black Swan
(Nigeria)



Chibuzo Opara
Co-Founder, DrugStoc
(Nigeria)



Waleed Abd El Rahman
CEO, Mumm
(Egypt)



Dr. Omar Sakr
Founder & CEO, Nawah Scientific
(Egypt)



Moulaye Taboure
Co-Founder & CEO, Afrikrea
(Cote D'Ivoire)

2020 TOP 10 HEROES



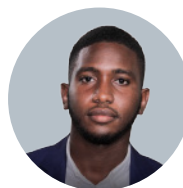
Abdulai A Dasana
CEO & COO, Amaati Company Limited
(Ghana)



Axel Emmanuel Gbaou
CEO & Founder, Le Chocolatier Ivoirien
(Côte d'Ivoire)



Mame Diarra Bousso Gueye
CEO & Founder, Diarrablù
(Senegal)



Aoubakar Karim
CEO & Founder, INVESTIV
(Côte d'Ivoire)



Chebet Lesan
Founder & CEO, Bright Green R. Energy
(Kenya)



Ethel Mupambwa
Co-Founder & Executive Director, MoneyMart
(Zimbabwe)



Joan Rukundo Nalubega
CEO & Founder, Uganics
(Uganda)



Dr. Emma Naluyima Mugerwa
Founder, MST Junior School
(Uganda)



Cyrille Nkontchou
Founder & Chairman, Enko Education
(Cameroon)



Oluwasoga Oni
CEO & Co-Founder, MDaaS Global
(Nigeria)

2021 TOP 10 HEROES



Ghirmay Abraham
Founder & CEO, Aptech Africa Ltd
(Uganda, Ghirmay is Eritrean)



Violet Amoabeng
Founder & CEO, Skin Gourmet
(Ghana)



Dr. Khadija Elbedweihy
Co-founder & CEO, Praxilabs
(Egypt)



Oghenetega Iortim
Founder & CEO, Grid
(Nigeria)



Yvette Ishimwe
Founder & CEO, IRIBA Water Group Ltd
(Rwanda)



Ketshephaone Jacob
Founder, The Bulb World
(Botswana)



Charlot Magayi
Founder & CEO, Mukuru Clean Stoves
(Kenya)



Chidi Nwaogu
Co-founder & CEO, Publiseer
(Nigeria)



Ikenna Nzewi
Co-founder & CEO, Releaf
(Nigeria)



Navalayo Osembo-Ombati
Co-founder & CEO, Enda
(Kenya)



Temie Giwa-Tubosun
Founder & CEO, Lifebank (Nigeria) 2019 ABH Winner

LifeBank is a medical distribution company that uses data and technology to help health workers discover critical medical products and has saved over 5,300 lives in Nigeria. Founder Temie has over 10 years of health management experience with DFID, WHO, UNDP and Lagos State. In 2014, BBC listed her as one of the 100 Women changing the world. She was also recognized by Quartz and World Economic Forum.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 22 indirect jobs
- Won Global Citizen Prize for Business Leaders and Cartier Women's Initiative Laureate Award
- Expanded full operations to three new cities in Nigeria (Port Harcourt, Ibadan, and Kano) and launched in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Launched a clinical trial to determine the efficacy of our blockchain technology powered product, SmartBag which seeks to introduce unparalleled transparency and safety in the blood transfusion system.
- Oxygen delivery service, AirBank expanded to different regions in response to the pandemic.
- Partnered with a wide range of organisations including MSD for Mothers, USAID, Skoll Foundation, JnJ etc.
- Raised a total of \$225K in funding over 4 rounds (disclosed)



Nawah-Scientific is the first private research center in the MENA region, focused on natural and biomedical sciences, that offers analytical and scientific services online and on-demand. Dr. Sakr has 13 years of pharmaceutical experience, has worked as an adjunct assistant professor of entrepreneurship at Zewail City of Science and Technology, and holds scientific and business awards for innovative product design.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 100 indirect jobs
- 300% revenue growth
- 200% team growth
- Raised 1M USD in capital



Dr Omar Sakr
Founder & CEO, Nawah Scientific (Egypt) 2019 ABH 2nd Prize Winner



Water Access Rwanda pioneered INUMAT™, a Safe Water Microgrid that reclaims broken boreholes and transforms them into state-of-the-art solar-powered water kiosks and pipelines. The water is sold for \$1/1000L and creates off-farm jobs for youth. Currently, Water Access Rwanda employs 68 people, and allows 88,000 customers access to water daily across 86 stations. Christelle is a mechanical engineer and was named INCO's woman entrepreneur of the year in 2019 among other high-profile awards.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 20 direct jobs and 1,700 indirect jobs
- Received their first private investment totalling \$140k USD
- Received funding for two new pilots
- Bought new higher end machinery
- Won the Global Citizen Cisco Youth Leadership Award, Silver Loerie Award, and Transformer Award
- Received \$250k USD from Cisco Youth Leadership Award
- Received funds from 3rd Creek Foundation



Christelle Kwizera
Founder, Water Access Rwanda (Rwanda) 2019 ABH 3rd Prize Winner



Thrive Agric is an agricultural technology-enabled company that works with smallholder farmers to enable them with greater access to finance, as well as improve their income and harvest distribution. Today, Thrive Agric works with 22,000 farmers in Nigeria, but is aiming to build the largest network of farmers in Africa. They are on a mission to "build an Africa that feeds the world and itself." Ayodeji is an accomplished software engineer and serves as both co-founder and CTO for Thrive Agric.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created over 2000 indirect jobs
- Expanded to 3 more states
- Over 10x revenue growth
- Awarded 100k grant funding
- Made the Ynaija 2020 new establishment list
- Raised \$56.4m to accelerate pan-Africa expansion plans



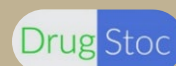
Ayodeji Arikawe
Co-Founder, Thrive Agric (Nigeria)

DrugStoc is a cloud-based pharmaceutical IT and logistics platform focused on eliminating counterfeit drugs, expanding access to pharmaceutical products and improving transparency in pricing for healthcare providers and the product supply chain. Chibuzo is a health economist and medical doctor with over 12 years of experience in the health sector. He has worked with the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 140 indirect jobs
- Expanded their product range by launching a few web and mobile products
- Tripled sales revenue
- Raised \$4.4m USD in investment funding
- Awarded \$5k USD in grant funding
- Won the Builders of Africa Awards

Chibuzo Opara
Co-Founder, DrugStoc (Nigeria)



UZURI K&Y is an African-inspired eco-friendly shoe brand established in Rwanda. Kevine is the co-founder and CEO of UZURI K&Y, and she is passionate about ending global waste while also leveraging her creativity to create employment opportunities for her community. UZURI has made a direct impact on more than 750 people through employment and skills training. In addition to obtaining her degree in creative design, she has also participated numerous entrepreneurship programs to enhance her skills in business development. In 2017, she was recognized as the winner of the Made in Rwanda Enterprise of the Year.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 125 indirect jobs
- Launched 2 new retail stores
- Raised 47k in grant funding



Kevine Kagirimpundu
Co-Founder & CEO, UZURI K&Y (Rwanda)



Mahmud Johnson
Founder & CEO, J-Palm (Liberia)

J-Palm Liberia (JPL) was founded with the goal to make premium consumer goods while creating income-earning and employment opportunities through sustainable palm oil production. When JPL was first founded, palm oil kernels had been going to waste in Liberia, but founder and CEO Mahmud Johnson found a way to innovate productive uses for this overlooked natural resource. Today, JPL has created a range of beauty and clean energy products, built a robust network of partnerships across the country, and helped to create jobs for hundreds of Liberians. Mahmud holds a degree in economics from Dartmouth College and is a 2017 recipient of the Order of the Star of Africa conferred by the President of Liberia.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 23 indirect jobs
- Formed a partnership with Pacha Soap, a US-based soaps company, which will position them to begin exports to the US and EU
- Received a \$250K grant from USADF to invest in expanding their supply chain and sourcing activities to 20 new rural communities, targeting about 6400 smallholder farmers over 4 years
- Won The Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) Award, and in 2019 The Orange Social Venture 2nd Prize
- Partnered with Whole Planet Foundation (WPF) to improve access to more efficient processing technologies for 7,500 smallholder oil palm producers in rural Liberia, and to connect palm oil producers to markets;
- Received an investment from the Elea Center for Ethics in Globalization



Afrikrea.com is the leading "Made of Africa" fashion, art and handicraft online marketplace. The marketplace has processed more than \$4 million in sales across 101 countries and supports merchants from all over the world. After growing up in Mali and working for companies like PwC and Alstom, Moulaye now dedicates his time to building the global infrastructure for African culture.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Launched new brand "ANKA"
- Created 100 indirect jobs
- 5x Revenue Growth
- GMV more than doubled
- Officially became the biggest African exporter of ecommerce with DHL
- Pivoted their business model
- Launched a new offering, the Afrikrea VISA card and the ability for sellers to create their own personal website linked to their Afrikrea shop
- Raised \$6.2m USD in investment



Moulaye Taboure
Co-Founder & CEO, Afrikrea (Cote D'Ivoire)

WeMUNIZE by Black Swan Tech Ltd is helping to solve Nigeria's public health challenges by deploying an automated scheduling, GPS-enabled Software-as-a-service that uses a combination of digital record keeping and community engagement to increase birth registration and early childhood immunizations. Black Swan is working with USAID Nigeria to expand WeMUNIZE coverage in northern Nigeria. Tosan is a public health specialist with more than 13 years of experience in deploying technology to solve development challenges in Nigeria.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 6 indirect jobs
- Executed a major pivot in our strategy by expanding from a for-profit limited liability company to include a non-profit model
- Registered the non-profit "Black Swan Tech foundation"
- Were invited to play an advisory capacity to the Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19
- Provided technical & technological support with the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centres of states in Northern Nigeria
- Won the "Boost Community award for innovation in routine immunization" funded by the Sabin Vaccine Institute



Dr. Tosan J. Mogbeyiteren
Founder, Black Swan (Nigeria)



Mumm is a virtual cafeteria for businesses, harnessing the power of shared economy through technology, cloud kitchens and an online marketplace for home-based entrepreneurial cooks. Waleed is a seasoned Entrepreneur with 12+ years in food tech, the former founding Managing director of MIT Technology Review-Middle East and a member of the Advisory Committee of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Raised undisclosed amount of Angel investment and closed Series-A Round of funding



Waleed Abd El Rahman
CEO, Mumm (Egypt)



Chebet Lesan

Founder & CEO, Bright Green R. Energy (Kenya) ABH 2020 Winner

BrightGreen Energy produces life-saving fuel bricks that reduce the cost of cooking for underserved communities across Africa. Its mission is to save lives and save forests. It collects post-harvest waste from farmers and uses a proprietary process to upscale this waste. Its fuels are affordable, high-quality and contain a unique mosquito-repelling technology that fights off malaria-causing mosquitos. This solution is reducing reliance on woodfuels and building resiliency for value chain partners. BrightGreen's model enhances a circular economy, and its impact is felt in the energy, food security, environment and health sectors. BrightGreen is led by Chebet Lesan. She has a background in Leadership from The University of Cambridge, Product Design from The University of Nairobi, Supply Chain Management from Rutgers School of Business and a Business-Design Fellowship from Massachusetts Institute of Technology D-lab.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

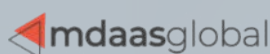
- Created 12 direct jobs
- 35% increase in sales revenue
- 150% increase in production output
- Celebrated with 4 other global business leaders by Reykjavik Global Forum as part of the Leading Edge Initiative



MDaaS Global builds and operates modern, tech-enabled diagnostic centers in clinically-underserved communities, starting in Nigeria. It provides a world-class patient experience at highly-affordable prices through its: vertically-integrated supply chain, which enables MDaaS to build cutting-edge facilities for 60% less than its competition; use of technology to streamline center operations and provide modern services (like telemedicine and mobile diagnostics); and partnerships with hundreds of referring clinicians, insurance companies, and employers. Each center reaches profitability within 6 months, allowing MDaaS to scale healthcare infrastructure rapidly. Currently operating in four states, MDaaS Global has provided health services to over 25,000 patients while maintaining patient satisfaction scores above 95%. MDaaS is led by Oluwasoga Oni, an MIT-trained systems engineer.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 20 direct
- Raised \$2.3m USD in seed funding
- Launched 3 more diagnostic centers, with 3 more in the works.
- Launched SentinelX, a personalized preventive care program in a few weeks
- Grew monthly recurring revenue by 50%



CEO & Co-Founder, MDaaS Global (Nigeria) ABH 2020 2nd Prize Winner



Oluwasoga Oni

MoneyMart is a Zimbabwean based Microfinance Institution that offers business loans to MSMEs. It also provides loans to individuals who live off the power grid to access quality Solar-Lighting-Kits with a 2-Year Warranty and 5-Year battery life. Money Mart's loan Products are tailor made according to the nature of each client's business and their cash flow structure. It also has an efficient and effective credit management system and also uses Mobile Money technology for disbursements and repayments. MoneyMart's affordable interest rates, and grassroots distribution & repayment systems fuels strong demand for its services with a default-rate of less than 5%. MoneyMart is co-led by Ethel Mupambwa, who has nine years of experience in Finance and is a Level 2 Chartered Financial Analyst Candidate.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 18 direct jobs
- Completed her PhD
- Added four more branches in Zvishavane, Kadoma, Chinhoyi, and Gweru to make a total of eight branches together across Zimbabwe
- 2x growth in loan book
- Monthly targets have grown by 6x
- Distributed a cumulative number of 1,700 Solar Home Systems
- Won Medium Enterprise of Year and 4 other awards in 2021 from SME Association of Zimbabwe



Ethel Mupambwa

Co-Founder & Executive Director, MoneyMart (Zimbabwe) ABH 2020 3rd Prize



Amaati is a Ghanaian social enterprise whose mission is to build sustainable communities through the use of the Fonio grain, which nourishes the land, the people and society. Amaati uses the triple-bottom line approach to support landless vulnerable women in rural Savannah to revive an extinct and a neglected crop called Fonio, on marginal lands. The cultivation of Fonio and other crops supports land regeneration, and also serves as a source of income. Amaati processes and sells Fonio for the domestic Ghanaian and international market. Amaati is led by Abdulai A. Dasana, an agricultural technologist with a decade of experience in finance, banking and SMEs, and with a vision to revolutionize the agriculture sector to benefit the most vulnerable.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 15 direct jobs
- Received significant media attention which has resulted in the company being featured on a number of publications including "How we made it in Africa"
- In talks with potential partners including Century Green Consortium and Regonopolis.
- Increased number of customers and seen 2x growth in product sales
- Secured co-investment from West African Hub to help farmers supply fonio to the international market and empower 5,800 women farmers



Abdulai A Dasana
CEO & COO, Amaati Company Limited (Ghana)

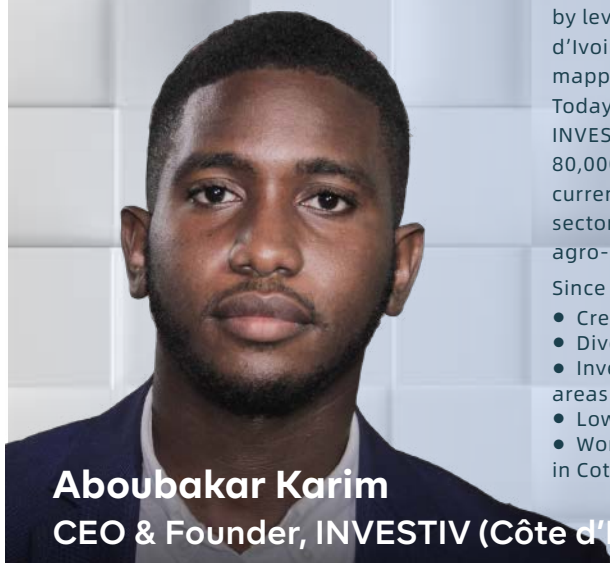
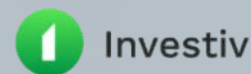


INVESTIV is an Ivorian company whose mission is to help build the future of African agriculture by leveraging innovative technologies to support smallholder farmers throughout Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa. It offers 5 types of precision agriculture solutions (including, aerial mapping & spraying by drones) to optimize productivity, improve performance and save time. Today, over 20,000 small- and medium-scale farmers have already directly benefited from INVESTIV's mapping and spraying activities. The company UAVs have flown over more than 80,000 hectares of farmland throughout Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa. INVESTIV currently employs 13 full-time employees, and its client base includes cooperatives, private sector businesses and public sector companies. It is led by Aboubakar Karim, 25 years old agro-economist.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 3 direct jobs
- Diversified business offering and business model to increase value-add
- Invest in the development of a fleet of latest generation drone allowing us to cover more areas in less time
- Lower operating costs. We have been able to
- Won Best Business Leader In the Youth Category of the 2021 National Award of Excellence in Cote d'Ivoire

Aboubakar Karim
CEO & Founder, INVESTIV (Côte d'Ivoire)



Le Chocolatier Ivoirien is the realization of the vision of a young Ivorian Axel-Emmanuel who knew, through his passion for chocolate, he could express his way of seeing the world. Numerous national and international distinctions have come to reward the talent and creativity of this charismatic entrepreneur from a popular district of Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire. The Ivorian Chocolatier is a quality chocolate committed to respecting international standards in terms of production and sustainable development.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 10 direct
- Bought land for a new factory
- Released a new product chocolate for a low-cost market
- Received the 2021 Prize for Best Ivorian in the Diaspora in Cote d'Ivoire



Axel Emmanuel Gbaou
CEO & Founder, Le Chocolatier Ivoirien (Côte d'Ivoire)





Cyrille Nkontchou
Founder & Chairman, Enko Education (Cameroon)

Enko Education operates the largest single network of private schools in Africa that teaches the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Its mission is to democratize access to quality international education for African youth, to improve their chance of getting into the best universities around the world. Enko owns or operates 14 affordable primary and secondary schools across 9 countries in Africa that teach quality international curriculum at a fraction of the tuition fees charged by premium international schools. Currently, Enko teaches over 3,000 pupils and plans to exceed 15,000 pupils in the next 5 years. Enko was founded by Cyrille Nkontchou, an economist by training with extensive experience as a fund manager, a banker and a consultant.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 33 direct jobs
- Progressing on a \$5m USD Series B funding round
- Hired a dedicated resource to focus on raising scholarships



MST Junior School is a Primary School with a unique approach and learning model, aiming to equip the pupils with unique skills that they can then leverage to solve community issues such as food insecurity, waste management and malnutrition. The school was established by Dr. Emma Naluyima, a vet, farmer and educator with a desire to train young people and change their lives through Modern and Purposeful Farming.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Constructed teachers' quarter, equipped their ICT center by 75%, and equipped the Laboratory by 100 %



MST Junior School
Little Seeds, Big Dreams



Dr. Emma Naluyima Mugerwa
Founder, MST Junior School (Uganda)

Uganics is a social business that manufactures life-saving organic anti-malaria soap to address malaria, which kills millions of people every year. Uganics sells its soap with its organic, natural, mosquito-repellent essential oils and long-lasting soap base to hotels, tourist shops, tour companies, pharmacies, organics shops and other venues around the world at a high profit margin to subsidize sales to poor populations at the same price as regular soap. To reach more marginalized communities, Uganics develops ongoing relationships with schools, refugee camps, hospitals, NGOs and CBOs, and provides its lifesaving anti-malaria soap for their protection. Uganics is led by Joan Rukundo Nalubega, a Malaria survivor and a social entrepreneur with a vision to fight Malaria.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 5 direct jobs
- Finalized the construction of their new factory
- More customer acquisition
- Launched new products



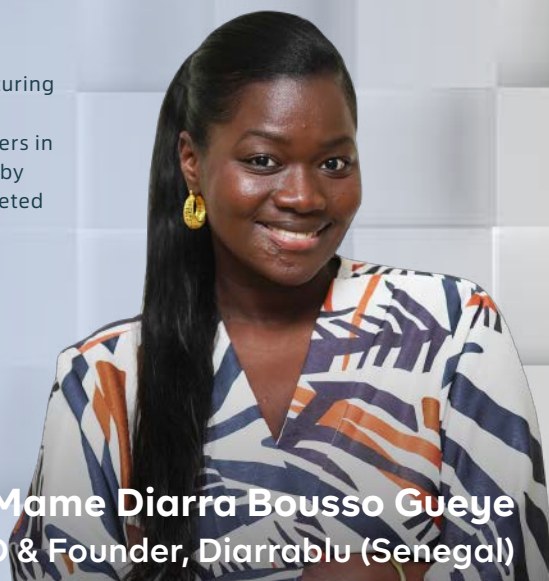
Joan Rukundo Nalubega
CEO & Founder, Uganics (Uganda)

Diarrablu is a Senegalese fashion tech company merging African artisan traditions with technology to empower African artisans. Diarrablu is on a mission to build an ethical and sustainable fashion future centered around ancestral African craftsmanship. It does so by fusing traditional craftsmanship, algorithmic design, flexible sizing, and circular manufacturing to reduce textile waste by 60%. In 2020 alone, Diarrablu achieved 900% revenue growth, produced over 5000 garments in Senegal, created 30 jobs for artisans, and served customers in 25 countries. Profiled by Forbes, Reuters, CNN & Vogue for its innovations, DiarraBlu is led by Diarra Gueye who has experience in finance, mathematics, and design and recently completed her Master's at Stanford University with a focus on creative mathematics.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Created 12 direct jobs
- Expanded their manufacturing in Senegal and moved to a new 10,000sq foot space
- Revenues for 2021 were expected to be over \$1m USD in 2021
- Sales have increased tremendously
- Refined their business model
- Entered new strong partnerships including 3 major US retailers in million-dollar partnerships (in addition to their ecommerce website)

DIARRABLU



Mame Diarra Bousso Gueye
CEO & Founder, Diarrablu (Senegal)



Khadija Mohamed Elbedweihi
Co-founder & CEO, PraxiLabs (Egypt) ABH 2021 Winner

Graduated top of her class four years in a row and then went on to receive her PhD from the university of Sheffield to be the youngest lecturer in her faculty, with a PhD focused on human-computer interaction and user experience. Together with her belief in adopting technology for improving education and enabling equal opportunities, Khadija founded and is currently managing PraxiLabs with an amazing team who have the same vision as she does. This is her true passion and daily quest.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Signed a MoU with Liberia MoE
- Hired new staff



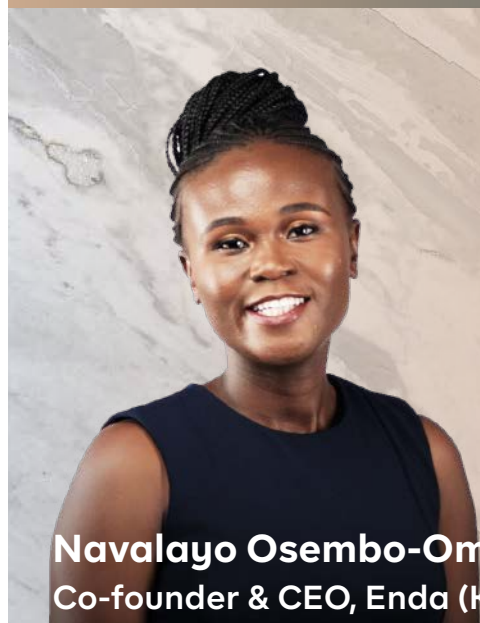
Ikenna Nzewi is the co-founder and CEO of Releaf, an agriculture technology company that develops hardware and software solutions to drive industrialisation of food processing in Africa. Ikenna graduated from Yale University in 2017 with a Bachelors in Computer Science and co-founded Releaf while he was still at university. In the early days of Releaf, Ikenna also worked as an Associate Consultant at Bain & Company, one of the biggest management consulting firms in the world, as part of the Private Equity Group conducting commercial due diligence for leading global private equity funds with Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeding \$400 billion.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Raised \$4.2m in seed funding and grants
- Partnered with IITA
- Participated in UN's World Food Program Zero Hunger Sprint Innovation Accelerator
- Joined inaugural cohort of Endeavor ScaleUp program



Ikenna Nzewi
Co-founder & CEO, Releaf (Nigeria) ABH 2021 2nd Prize Winner



Navalayo Osembo-Ombati
Co-founder & CEO, Enda (Kenya) ABH 2021 3rd Prize Winner

Navalayo Osembo is the Co-Founder and CEO of Enda Athletic, Inc. Osembo is a graduate of the London School of Economics and has worked internationally, including in the US, UK, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya where she utilizes her diverse skills as an accountant, a lawyer, risk manager, and in international development. She is from a town near Eldoret, Kenya that has produced generations of the world's greatest distance runners. Prior to creating Enda Athletic Inc., Osembo started a sports academy in Bungoma, Western Kenya to provide sports proteges from disadvantaged backgrounds access to much-needed professional training without compromising their education. In order to maximize social impact in Kenya through sports, Osembo teamed up with her Co-Founder to create Enda Athletic Inc., a made-in-Kenya running shoe brand that creates jobs, invests in local communities, and spurs economic development through exports.

Since receiving ABH Grant:

- Selected as one of the Top 100 Kenyans of 2021
- Nominated for the #ZuriAwards 2021
- Secured investment of \$1.1m USD



Charlot Magayi is the founder and CEO of Mukuru Clean Stoves. She grew up in Mukuru, one of the biggest slums in Nairobi, and became a mother at age 16. When her two-year-old daughter suffered a severe burn injury caused by a traditional stove, Charlot was moved to provide safer cooking technologies for her community. She founded Mukuru Clean Stoves to help mothers keep their children safe, save on fuel consumption, and reduce household air pollution. She has been recognized and awarded for her work by Global Citizen, World Bank and AWIEF. Charlot is a 2020 Echoing Green Fellow.

Since receiving ABH Grant:

- Selected as one of the Top 40 under 40 Women of 2021
- Began construction on a new factory



Charlot Magayi
Founder & CEO, Mukuru Clean Stoves (Kenya)

Chidi Nwaogu is a tech entrepreneur and software developer. He is currently the co-founder and CEO at Publiseer, a digital content distribution company that helps independent and underserved African creatives earn a living from the sales of their creative works. Before Publiseer, Nwaogu founded LAGbook, a social networking platform that garnered over one million registered users within three years and was acquired by a Canadian tech company, Gulf Pearl Ltd. For his works at Publiseer, he won the 2020 Migration Entrepreneurship Prize from the Swiss Government. Nwaogu is an Acumen Fellow, Alibaba eFounders Fellow, Westerwelle Fellow, and French-African Young Leader.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Selected as one of the 2021 100 laureates of the French-African Young Leaders program
- Selected as one of the 50 Pfizer Scholars selected to attend the One Young World Summit in Munich, Germany
- Invited to speak on the tech stage of the RiseUp summit at the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt
- Recognized as one of the most powerful young Nigerians for the Year 2021

Chidi Nwaogu
Co-founder & CEO, Publiseer (Nigeria)



Ghirmay Abraham was born in Eritrea. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Asmara, before starting work in the renewable energy sector. In 2011, he left Eritrea for South Sudan where he started Aptech Africa with only a \$20,000 investment. The war in South Sudan came and went in 2013, during which time Aptech gained a reputation for quality project delivery under the most difficult circumstances. Under Ghirmay's leadership of working to bring electricity and water to people across Africa, Aptech has grown to be a multinational business operating in seven African countries.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Selected as one of the 2021 Meaningful Business 100



Ghirmay Abraham
Founder & CEO, Aptech Africa Ltd (Uganda, Ghirmay is Eritrean)





Ketshephaone Jacob
Founder, The Bulb World (Botswana)

Ketshephaone Jacob is a Botswana based Entrepreneur. He is the Founder and CEO of The Bulb World, an LED light manufacturing company whose lights are currently retailing at Spar, Pick and Pay, Shoprite Group, Builders Warehouse and other local distributors. Ketshephaone is very passionate about helping youth startups and also giving back to communities through The Bulb World CSR Initiative aptly named "Lesedi Ke Mpho" (meaning light is a gift) which sets out to light up public boarding schools to give learners a brighter learning environment.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Received funding for SADC expansion and is setting up a factory in South Africa to create over 200 jobs



An Information Communications Engineer with a Bachelor's degree from Covenant University. In the past few years, Oghenetega has worked on multiple software development projects and initiatives to improve efficiency and save operations cost across a wide range of sectors including healthcare, agriculture and logistics. Oghenetega Iortim is passionate about human well being and keen on solving health and food accessibility challenges through technology. He is currently attempting to do this through his startup, Gricd, where he is building cold-chain facilities to address storage pitfalls in the agricultural and healthcare sectors.

Since receiving the ABH Grant:

- Secured investment



Oghenetega Iortim
Founder & CEO, Gricd (Nigeria)

VIOLET AWO AMOABENG, Founder and CEO of Skin Gourmet Limited, is a high energy super hopeful entrepreneur who has always been passionate about people and has attained Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business administration - specializing in marketing, supply chain management and accounting. In 2014, Violet created Skin Gourmet with GHS 145 (USD 45.00). Skin Gourmet is now distributed in over 17 different countries and Violet has been featured in Glitz and EMY Magazine as an emerging industry leader. Skin Gourmet has been featured in Forbes, Elle, Pop Sugar and Indian Cosmopolitan for an Editor's Best Product Pick Award.

Since receiving ABH Grant:

- Awarded AGI GRANT for USD 4,000
- Featured in a Forbes Africa Magazine Story
- Selected as Ghanaian Correspondent for Bona Expo



Violet Amoabeng
Founder & CEO, Skin Gourmet (Ghana)



Yvette is the founder and CEO of IRIBA WATER Group Ltd, a social enterprise that offers innovative drinking water solutions. Yvette holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Southern New Hampshire University. She is a YALI Mandela Washington Fellow 2019, and has been awarded by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of England in 2017 in recognition of the impact her work with IRIBA has brought to the community. Yvette served as the 2nd Vice president in the Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs in the Private Sector Federation of Rwanda for 2 years. Her ongoing mission is to transform Africa through social entrepreneurship.

Since receiving ABH Grant:

- Won 2021 Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards



Yvette Ishimwe
Founder & CEO, IRIBA Water Group Ltd (Rwanda)



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