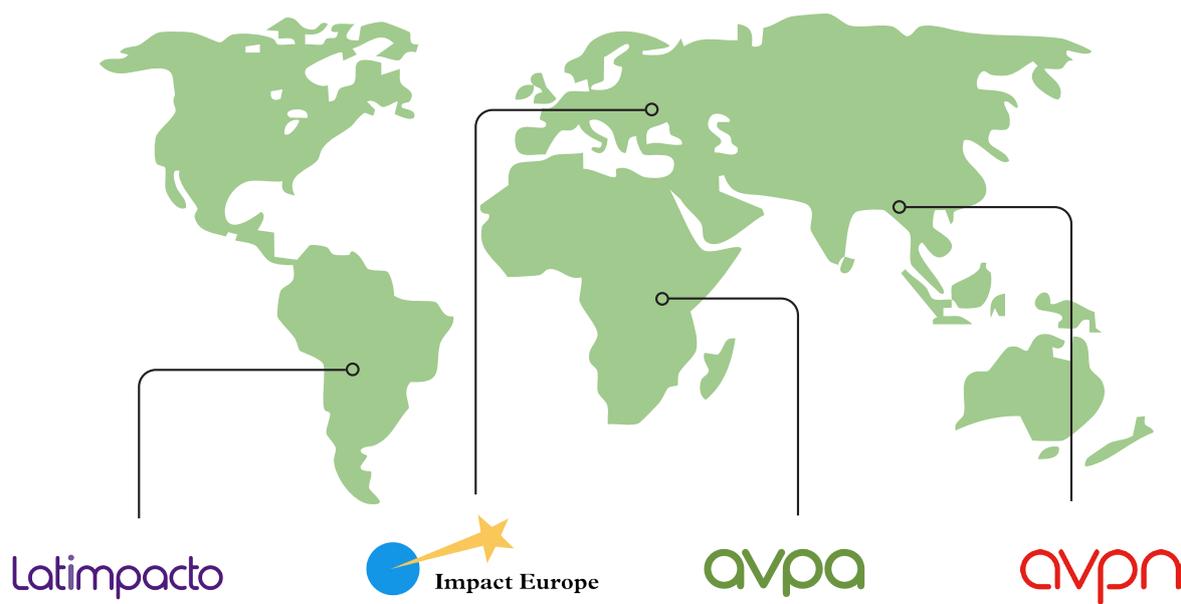


# About AVPA

The [African Venture Philanthropy Alliance \(AVPA\)](#) is a unique Pan-African network of social investors collaborating to increase the flow of capital into African social investments and ensure its effective deployment for maximum social impact. At a grand scale, AVPA is aiming to address the SDG financing gap on the continent by crowding in incremental capital, especially private capital, into social investments. AVPA has its headquarters in Nairobi, with regional offices in Johannesburg and Lagos. AVPA is aligned with thriving sister networks in Europe (Impact Europe), Latin America (Latimpecto) and Asia (AVPN), thus forming a dynamic global force for social impact.



**AVPA is part of a global investment movement. We foster local, regional and global collaboration.**

# Sponsors and Partners Acknowledgement

The success of the 2025 AVPA Conference was made possible through the support and invaluable collaboration of our sponsors and partners. We extend our deepest gratitude for their commitment, which was instrumental in fostering a dynamic platform to explore innovative solutions, share best practices, and foster powerful partnerships that drive sustainable development on the continent.

## Sponsors



## Partners



## Delivery Partners



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**“Better impact means lower repayment.”**

*- Steve McCallum, Roots of Impact*

# FUTURE-PROOFING AFRICA

AFRICAN LEADERS SHAPING THE CONTINENT'S FUTURE

## Executive Summary

The AVPA Conference is Africa's premier gathering of changemakers, policymakers, investors, philanthropists, and development actors dedicated to advancing impactful social investment across the continent. Hosted by the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA), the conference provides a dynamic platform to explore innovative solutions, share best practices, and foster powerful partnerships that drive sustainable development on the continent.

The 2025 AVPA Conference brought together 480 delegates from 37 countries in Nairobi, Kenya, to explore how the continent can leverage catalytic capital and scalable social investment opportunities to drive meaningful and lasting change.

The conference discussion was driven and steered by 166 speakers and experts from the impact ecosystem space. Under the theme "Future Proofing Africa - Driving Sustainable Investments and Innovations for Resilient

Growth," the conference discussion centred on how Africa can develop sustainable, localised financing mechanisms, explore non-financial options, and strengthen local resilience and independence in social investment. Key thematic areas focused on included catalytic capital, private sector engagement for impact, gender-lens investing, AI for good, jobs, and the future of work, which were anchored in four SDG focus areas: health, climate, agriculture, and education.

### 2025 AVPA Conference keynote speakers

- British Robinson, Chair - Africa, Milken Institute International
- Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact
- Isaac O. Awuondo, Chairman, NCBA Bank PLC
- Vimal Shah, Chairman, BIDCO Africa Group
- Joseph Ogutu, East Africa Board Chair, AVPA/Chair of the Board of Directors, Safaricom Foundation

### Key conference highlights

- The Coalition for Mental Health Investment (CMHI), co-founded by the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance, Clinton Global Initiative, Kokoro, McKinsey Health Institute and Wellcome Trust, launched Africa's first Catalytic Pooled Fund to drive Mental Health Investment in the continent.
- The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) and the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA), during AVPA's 2025 annual conference formally announced partnership aimed at unlocking and mobilizing new sources and amounts of capital for innovation across the African continent, and promoting the value and mechanics of collaborative, blended finance approaches among ecosystem actors.
- During the conference, over 44 sessions were held which included masterclasses, panels, and workshops featuring industry leaders and changemakers. Under the AVPA Impact Safari 2025 umbrella, we had 7 side events and 8 excursions as part of the conference experience.
- 480 delegates from 37 countries attended the conference.

**"We cannot ODA (foreign aid) ourselves to glory."**

- Ambassador Christian Frutiger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

# 2025 AVPA CONFERENCE

FUTURE-PROOFING AFRICA

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2025 | TRADEMARK HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA

The conference successfully convened a significant and diverse global impact community with:-



480

Conference attendees



37

Countries represented



166

Speakers



44

Sessions



8

field visits

The conference brought together



Investors & Funders



Policy Makers & Governments



Social Entrepreneurs & Innovators



Academia & Thought Leaders

Delegate profiles



88

Delegates  
Fund Manager/Impact Funds/PEs & VCs



83

Delegates  
Corporate/Consultancy/Banks/Financial Institution



65

Delegates  
Foundation/Trust/Philanthropy/Family Office



65

Delegates  
Intermediaries/Networks



59

Delegates  
International & Local NGOs



41

Delegates  
Govt Related/DFIs Multilateral & Bilateral Agencies



40

Delegates  
Social Ventures/Innovators Accelerators



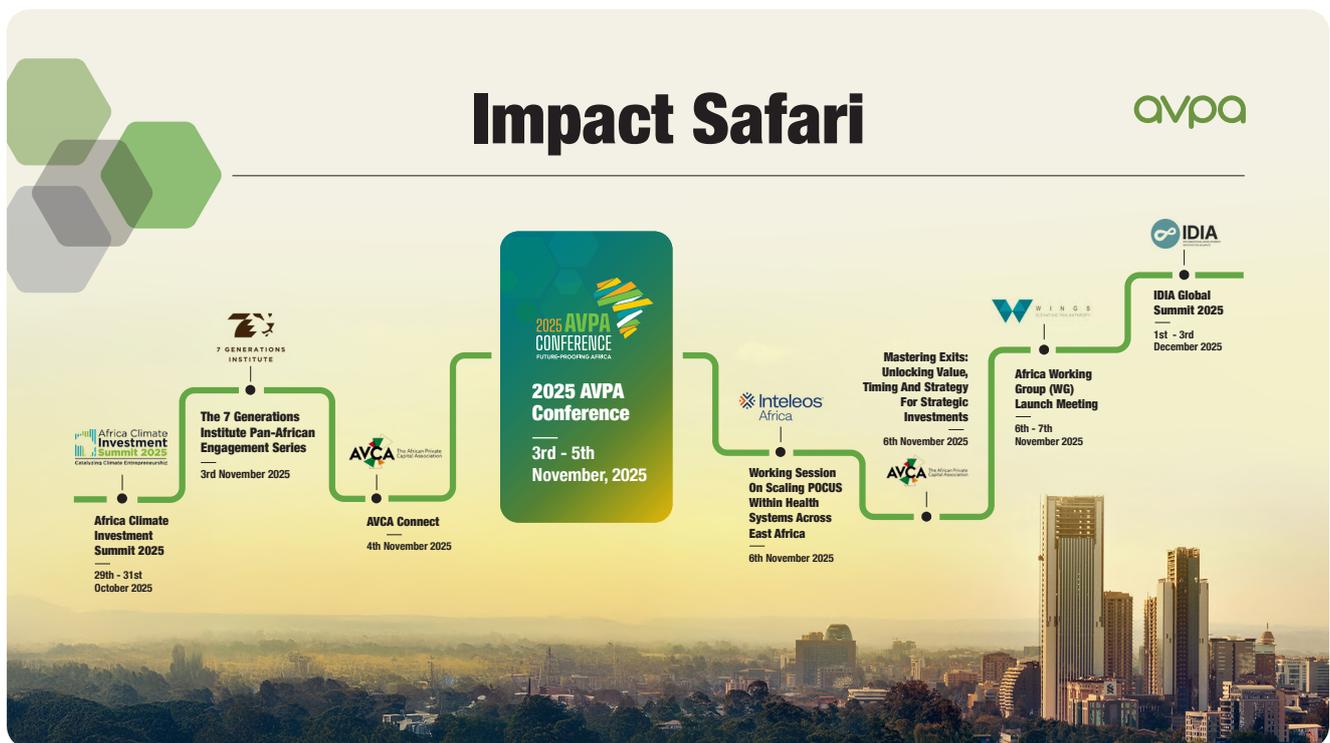
16

Delegates  
University, Research & Academia

# AVPA Impact Safari 2025

The AVPA Impact Safari 2025, held alongside the 2025 Conference, offered a curated journey through Africa's growing community of impact innovators, investors and ecosystem enablers working to bridge capital and catalyse meaningful change.

Hosted by AVPA's impact partners, these engagements created dynamic spaces for learning, connection and collaboration through high-level dialogue, immersive experiences, innovation showcases and practical case studies that brought impact to life across the continent.





# Key Announcements and Partnerships



1

## The Launch of the Mental Health Fund by the Coalition for Mental Health Investment (CMHI)



Coalition of Mental Health Investment Founding Members Representatives.

Despite the high prevalence of mental health conditions and their significant impact on individuals, communities, and economies, mental health remains underfunded compared to other health sectors. The global mental health funding gap is estimated to be USD 200 billion annually, and mental health receives only about 1-2% of global health investment, even though non-communicable diseases and mental health account for 75% of global deaths. This lack of investment is due to barriers like stigma, limited awareness of the financial and social benefits of mental health funding, fragmented financing mechanisms, and a lack of understanding

about how to scale and regulate effective mental health solutions or use innovative funding methods. The [Coalition for Mental Health Investment \(CMHI\)](#), established in partnership with the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA), the McKinsey Health Institute, the Clinton Global Initiative, Kokoo Change, and the Wellcome Trust, envisions that within a generation, investment in mental health will match the scale of global need. CMHI seeks to ensure that it is attractive for funders across the full range of public and private capital to invest in mental health at scale. CMHI aims to achieve this through four key objectives:



Connect leaders from diverse sectors to opportunities that advance this vision.



Inspire global investment, especially in low and middle-income countries, by showing the business case and potential impact of mental health funding.



De-risk mental health investments by promoting innovative financing methods, like blending philanthropic and venture capital.



Integrate mental health into existing funding areas, such as education, humanitarian aid, and women and girls' health.

As part of its CMHI commitments, AVPA launched a USD 100 million Mental Health Fund during its 2025 annual conference. The Fund is set to leverage USD 20 million in catalytic capital to unlock USD 80 million in private investment over 10 years, making it safer for investors to support mental health solutions. The Mental Health Fund will serve as a transformative instrument to bridge the mental health funding gap in Africa by derisking high-impact mental health opportunities, thereby attracting private capital and positioning mental health as a viable investment area within the continent's health agenda. By backing early-stage ideas, scaling proven pilots, and expanding larger programs, the Fund will help overcome barriers such as high upfront costs, limited community-

based care, and fragmented donor funding. Beyond financing, AVPA will provide technical advisory, investment readiness support, and rigorous impact measurement and management to ensure sustainability. Drawing on CMHI's global network and AVPA's expertise in innovative finance, the Fund will transform mental health ecosystems across Africa by expanding access to care, reducing economic and health burdens, and advancing policy and funding practices that last. AVPA is calling on all philanthropies, governments, impact investors, and private investors to join the fund and transform Africa's mental health ecosystem. We must act now to bridge the mental health funding gap in Africa.

## **The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) and the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA) Partnership**



Thomas Feeny, Director, International Development Innovation Agency and Frank Aswani, CEO, African Venture Philanthropy Alliance shaking hands.

The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) and the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA) acknowledge that the world is facing unprecedented, complex and interconnected challenges that cannot be addressed through a 'business as usual' approach; and that the societies and economies are increasingly vulnerable to shocks. At the centre of all this is innovation, which holds the promise of a brighter future for all. In recognition of these facts, AVPA and IDIA, during AVPA's 2025 annual conference, formally announced a partnership aimed at unlocking and mobilising new sources and amounts of capital for innovation across the African continent, and promoting the value and mechanics of collaborative, blended finance approaches among ecosystem actors.

AVPA noted that through our collaboration, the partnership will strengthen strategic support to global development funders by building their understanding of the significant role innovation plays in international development and the achievement of SDGs. IDIA acknowledged that solving social challenges requires a united front. Governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia must break down traditional silos and collaborate more closely than ever before. The partnership signifies a collective mission to discover, fund, and scale new innovative solutions across the continent. Both AVPA and IDIA emphasised that the cost of inaction is too high and that it is crucial to take action now to accelerate progress toward the SDGs and unlock new opportunities for the African people. AVPA and IDIA are committed to advancing innovation as a primary means to achieve sustainable development by uniting world-leading agencies, innovation platforms, and private foundations.

## The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) and Impact Intelligence Partnership



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Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant possibility — it's rapidly remaking how we deliver and communicate impact. In 2024 alone, 78 % of organisations reported using AI in at least one business function, up from 55 % a year earlier. McKinsey & Company Generative AI in particular saw adoption jump to 71% of organisations in 2024. [McKinsey & Company](#). With the AI market projected to surpass USD 826 billion by 2030, and AI-driven analytics expected to contribute up to USD 15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2025, the scale of opportunity is enormous. The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) and Impact Intelligence recognise that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming a defining feature globally and in Africa's digital transformation, with the potential to transform Africa's economy, adding over USD 30 billion to its economy and driving progress across various sectors. In recognition of these facts, AVPA and

Impact Intelligence formally announced a partnership during the AVPA's 2025 annual conference to develop a [Social Investment in Action Africa](#) (SIAF) generative AI platform. This interactive dashboard maps the mobilisation of capital in Africa.

SIAF provides interactive data about the mobilisation of capital towards impact in Africa involving AVPA members, sourced from news. The dashboard tracks the activities of AVPA members every month in more than 54 countries across Africa. The dashboard provides a wide range of benefits to both AVPA members and non-members, including strategic insights into the movement of impact activities and unmet needs across various dimensions in Africa; collaboration opportunities to drive collective impact; and reduced time required for data collection, allowing for a focus on decision-making.

[CLICK HERE](#) for SIAF Dashboard's seven-day trial.

**"It's not charity - impact and returns must sit side by side."**

- David Uduanu, Access ARM Pensions



# 2026 AVPA Conference

The 2026 AVPA Conference will be held from November 1st to 4th, 2026, in Mombasa, Kenya. For more information about participation or sponsoring the upcoming conference, click [HERE](#) or write directly to [conference@avpa.africa](mailto:conference@avpa.africa)

# 2

# Summary of Conference Session Discussions



# Conference Agenda

Day	Time	Session
Sunday	Conference Kick Off	Welcoming Cocktail
Monday	Morning	<b>Keynote Addresses</b> <b>Opening Plenary:</b> Building Africa's Catalytic Future: From Development Cooperation to Capital Collaboration
	Mid-Morning	<b>Panel:</b> Blending for Scale: Successful Models, Lessons Learned, and the Future of Blended Finance in Africa <b>Panel:</b> Catalytic Capital for Mental Health: Africa's Next Frontier <b>Workshop:</b> Emerging Practices and Innovations in Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) <b>Masterclass:</b> Using Interactive Data for Mobilizing Capital Towards Impact in Africa : AI-Powered Social Investment in Action
		<b>Panel:</b> From Local Pools to Continental Growth: Investing Africa's Pension and Sovereign Wealth in Africa
	Afternoon	<b>Panel:</b> Better Terms for Better Impact: How Impact-Linked Finance Accelerates SMEs in Africa <b>Workshop:</b> An Outcome of Ambition: Using Outcomes-Based Financing to Incentivize Investment in Kenya's Left-Behind Youth <b>Masterclass:</b> Catalytic Capital Unlocked
	Catalytic Conversations	<b>Catalytic Conversation:</b> Capital that fits: exploring impact-aligned investment models for SMEs <b>Catalytic conversation:</b> Watt's Next? Redefining Energy in an African Context <b>Catalytic Conversation:</b> CTRL+ALT+AFRICA: Resetting Africa <b>Catalytic conversation:</b> Powering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Philanthropy as a catalyst for Sustainable Development
		Side Events
Tuesday	Early Morning	IFI Breakfast
	Morning	<b>Keynote Addresses</b> <b>Opening Plenary:</b> From global finance to grounded impact: designing capital that works for Africa's future <b>Panel:</b> Natural Capital, Real Value: Mainstreaming Nature into African Finance
	Mid-Morning	<b>Panel:</b> From Education to Impact: Financing the Youth Opportunity Frontier <b>Panel:</b> Unlocking Small and Growing Businesses (SGB) Growth: Beyond Research into Practical Blended Finance Mechanisms <b>Masterclass:</b> Impact Performance Reporting
		<b>Panel:</b> Making Waves: Venture Philanthropy and the Future of Africa's Blue Economy
	Afternoon	<b>Panel:</b> Investing with a Legacy Lens: HNWI's and the Family Office Evolution <b>Workshop:</b> It's not the innovators, it's us: Rethinking how funders fund <b>Masterclass:</b> Shifting Perspectives – Systems Thinking for Impact Investing
	Catalytic Conversations	<b>Catalytic Conversation:</b> De-risking the Deal: Making Public Money a Magnet for Private Capital <b>Catalytic conversation:</b> Catalyzing Impact Movements: Lessons from Africa's GSG Taskforces <b>Catalytic Conversation:</b> Decent Work: From Stories to Solutions Acumen - West Africa <b>Catalytic conversation:</b> Galvanising Private Sector Engagement in Social Investment: Lessons from East, West, & Southern Africa
Side Events		<b>Side session 1:</b> AVPA & Porticus Side Event <b>Side session 2:</b> AVPA Deal Share
Wednesday	Early Morning	UN SDG PP Side Event MEDA Side Event: Closed Session: Investment Leaders/ Pension Funds Breakfast Session MEDA Side Event: Closed Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund Roundtable: Designing Fit-for-Context Investment Structures in East Africa
		<b>Exclusive Roundtable: Investing at home:</b> The case for Increased Pension & Sovereign Wealth Fund Investing in Africa <b>2 PANELS:</b> Panel 1: Unlocking Institutional Capital for Impact – Barriers and Breakthroughs Panel 2: Bringing It Home – The Case for Pension Funds Investing in Africa Domiciled Investment Vehicles. <b>EA Member-Led Session:</b> Backing Africa's Builders: Practical Pathways for Growing Enterprises in East Africa <b>SA Member-Led Session:</b> Unlocking Local Resilience through Catalytic and Impact-Driven Investments <b>WA Member-Led Session:</b> Financing Resilience: Scaling Sustainable Agriculture and Health Solutions for West Africa's Growth <b>Exclusive CEO and Investor Roundtable on Nature Investment Opportunities in Africa:</b> Hosted by African Natural Capital Alliance x AVPA x Building Bridges
	Morning	<b>Bus A:</b> Food 4 Education & Roam Electric <b>Bus B:</b> Tradecare Africa & Tawi Fresh <b>Bus C:</b> Shamiri Institute & D&R Studios <b>Bus D:</b> Jackfruit Finance & TechnoServe
	Afternoon - Impact in Action	
	Evening	Impact Disco - Closing celebration with music, networking, and entertainment.

## Welcome Cocktail - Kick off of the Conference



The Conference kicked off spectacularly on Sunday, November 2, with a warm and vibrant welcome cocktail at the Trademark Hotel Clubhouse, bringing together partners, sponsors, members, delegates, and ecosystem builders from across the continent. The evening blended cultural warmth, mission-driven reflections and inspiring stories from leaders, including *Tochukwu Ezeukwu* (Regional Director, West Africa, AVPA), *Uwa Osa-Oboh* (AVPA Board Member), *Adam Thompson* (COO, EHA Impact Ventures), *Carolyn Kirabo* (CEO, M-Kyala Ventures), and *Ivan Swartz* (CEO, Nation Builder). Speakers highlighted the importance of collaboration, cross-sector partnerships, gender equity, and ecosystem strengthening as the foundation for “Future Proofing Africa.” From health and agriculture to finance and mental health, the night set a unifying tone for the week, reminding all attendees that sustainable impact is only possible when we build together.

## Day 1 Sessions

### Opening Plenary: Building Africa's Catalytic Future: From Development Cooperation to Capital Collaboration



The 2025 AVPA Conference opened with a powerful opening plenary session that set a new strategic direction for development finance in Africa. Moderated by *Harvey Koh* (Senior Advisor, Catalytic Capital Consortium (C3)), the plenary championed a decisive shift from traditional aid to collaborative investment models, positioning Africa as a co-creator of its own sustainable economic future.

The discussion, featuring leaders from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Porticus, the British High Commission, and Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), moved beyond theory to showcase actionable models. Case studies, such as the USD 1.1 billion SDG Loan Fund and local initiatives in Ghana

and Zambia, have demonstrated how catalytic capital is already de-risking investments and mobilising significant commercial funding. Key insights highlighted the necessity of patient, risk-tolerant capital to build markets, with a focus on empowering local partners and fostering innovation through a “fail fast, fail cheap” mindset.

The session concluded with a clear call to action: to leverage local institutional capital, develop African-specific impact metrics, and strategically engage underutilised funding streams, such as faith-based and diaspora capital, to build a truly self-sustaining and impactful economic landscape for the continent.

**“The potential is vast, yet systemic barriers persist. It’s time to reimagine how we invest in human capital.”**

- *Arif Neky, UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Kenya*



## British Robinson

Chair - Africa, Milken Institute International

*“Africa cannot grant its way to prosperity.” Philanthropy’s role involves “signalling to the market that Africa is a best bet.”*

In her keynote, British challenged the very notion of “future-proofing” Africa, arguing that the continent is not bracing for disaster but is already “building a future on a foundation that has already been laid.” She reframed the narrative from defensive to opportunistic, urging the audience to focus on “future-building.”

Citing compelling data, she revealed that African infrastructure debt has delivered market-rate returns of 8-9% annually for the past decade with default rates below 1%. This performance shatters outdated risk perceptions, proving that investing in Africa is not a speculative bet but a sound financial decision. British issued a direct call to action for philanthropies, stating that “Africa cannot grant its way to prosperity.” She outlined a new “catalytic philanthropy playbook,” where philanthropic capital must be used to de-risk projects, fund feasibility studies, and take first-loss positions to unlock the trillions in domestic African capital currently sitting on the sidelines.

Lastly, she emphasised scale, asserting that the proven models exist and the momentum is clear. The critical task now is to accelerate, moving from isolated proof points to a scaled movement that finally convinces global and local investors that the real risk is in missing out on Africa’s unparalleled opportunity.

# Day 1: Mid-Morning Session

## AVPA and Impact Intelligence Masterclass: Using Interactive Data for Mobilising Capital Towards Impact in Africa: AI-Powered Social Investment in Action



This dynamic masterclass, led by *Nikolaj Moesgaard* (Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Impact Intelligence), provided a live demonstration of how artificial intelligence is transforming social investment by turning vast amounts of data into actionable intelligence. The session centred on the [AI-powered Social Investment in Action - Africa](#)

([SIIA dashboard](#)), a live platform developed in partnership with AVPA that maps the flow of capital and activity across the continent.

The masterclass highlighted the dashboard's three core strategic benefits for investors and philanthropists:



**Strategic Capital Allocation:** Enabling users to deconstruct capital flows by geography, sector, and SDG to identify critical gaps and ensure investments are truly catalytic.



**Systemic Collaboration:** Helping investors identify potential co-investors and pipeline opportunities by tracking the portfolios of aligned organisations.



**Operational Efficiency:** Automating labour-intensive market research and due diligence, freeing up teams for deeper analysis and engagement.

Attendees saw how the platform leverages AI to scan over 3 million news articles, tracking more than 18,000 activities to provide a near real-time view of the ecosystem.

The session concluded with a clear path forward, urging participants to actively explore the SIIA dashboard, provide feedback for its enhancement, and pilot AI tools within their own workflows to de-risk investments and amplify their impact.

## Day 1: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA Panel Session: Blending for Scale: Successful Models, Lessons Learned, and the Future of Blended Finance in Africa



The session provided a critical examination of how blended finance is being leveraged to scale social impact across Africa. The discussion brought together diverse perspectives from foundations, equity investors, and impact exchanges to discuss successful models and future pathways, such as AVPA's Africa Social Impact Exchange Catalytic Pool Fund.

The conversation established that blended finance is far more than a financial tool; it is an essential strategy for de-risking investments and mobilising private capital towards sustainable development. Panellists commented that achieving scale requires the right mix of partners sharing both risks and rewards.

#### Key insights from the panel:

*Kanini Mutooni* (Regional Managing Director, Africa, DRK Foundation) emphasised the critical role of concessional capital in empowering early-stage founders to take bold risks and build a track record that attracts further investment.

*Karen Waithaka* (CEO, DOB Equity) championed the model of patient, permanent capital, which provides not just funding but long-term strategic support to help social enterprises navigate growth challenges and achieve sustainability.

*Sanjeev Debispersad* (Head of Investments, Africa Social Impact Exchange (ASIEx) Catalytic Pool Fund/Partner, Shivam Capital) showcased how innovative platforms are creating new pathways to scale, exploring models such as impact-linked compensation to build investor trust and ensure project viability.

The session concluded with a unified call to action, identifying a crucial need for greater involvement from local actors. Key next steps include mobilising capital from African high-net-worth individuals and family offices, advocating for supportive government policies, and increasing transparency around successful impact exits to build confidence and attract more investment into the sector.

**“Let’s move past platitudes and buzzwords - focus on what actually works in the real African context.”**

- *Eric Wanless, Factor E Ventures*

## Day 1: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA and Oxford University Workshop: Emerging Practices and Innovations in Impact Measurement and Management (IMM)



This workshop challenged participants to move beyond foundational Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) and embrace next-generation practices that make measurement dynamic, functional, and integrated.

Facilitated by *Karim Harji* (Program Director, Said Business School, University of Oxford), the session tackled a core industry paradox: while 99% of impact investors report satisfaction with their impact, “impact washing” remains the sector’s top challenge.

The workshop focused on two key innovations to bridge this gap: **Impact-Linked Finance** and **Systems Thinking & Standardisation**. A critical theme emerged from participant contributions: the need for humility

and context. Practitioners questioned whether “top-down” metrics measure the right things and stressed the importance of adapting frameworks based on ground-level learning.

The session concluded with a clear call to action: the field must evolve from reporting on capital mobilised to accounting for outcomes achieved. Key next steps include adopting impact-linked compensation, implementing standardised reporting norms, and critically applying systems-thinking tools to ensure IMM drives genuine, accountable impact.

## Day 1: Mid-Morning Session

### Coalition of Mental Health Investment (CMHI) Panel: Catalytic Capital for Mental Health: Africa's Next Frontier



The panel session made a robust case for positioning mental health as a critical, yet underfunded, investment frontier in Africa. Convened by the Coalition of Mental Health Investment (CMHI), co-founded by the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance, the Clinton Global Initiative, Kokoro, McKinsey Health Institute, and the Wellcome Trust, the discussion focused on mobilising capital to close the significant funding gap and scale high-impact, community-based solutions.

The session outlined a clear socio-economic rationale, demonstrating that investing in mental health strengthens communities, boosts workforce productivity, and fuels broader economic growth by unlocking human potential. Successful interventions, such as training community health workers and deploying digital platforms like Kenya's Shamiri Institute, were highlighted as proven, cost-effective models ready for scaling.

It highlighted the urgent need for sector integration, arguing that mental well-being is a cross-cutting issue that acts as a multiplier for success in climate, education, and humanitarian aid. Funders in these adjacent sectors were encouraged to incorporate mental health into their portfolios to safeguard and enhance their core investments.

The session championed blended finance vehicles, like the AVPA's Catalytic Pooled Fund, as essential tools to de-risk the sector for private investors. The key call to action was for African governments to increase health budget allocations beyond the current <2%, and for all funders, from philanthropies to private investors, to contribute catalytic capital and join collaborative efforts to build a mentally resilient Africa.



## Dr. Frank Aswani

Chief Executive Officer, AVPA

Dr. Frank Aswani opened the conference with a compelling call to action, framing the event as a critical response to a generation “blessed with many crises.” He challenged attendees to answer the central question: “How do we future-proof Africa against future shocks?”

Dr. Aswani identified a powerful paradox at the heart of this challenge: a USD 300 billion annual SDG financing gap exists alongside USD 2.4 trillion of dormant capital on the continent. He argued that the solution is not to borrow more, but to unlock and creatively blend this local capital, emphasizing that “the challenge is not a shortage of capital, but a lack of risk capital.”

He pointed out the encouraging progress, including the growing involvement of local pension funds and a shift in philanthropy towards funding risk and innovation. Boldly declaring Africa the “global sandbox for impact,” Dr. Aswani invited global investors to engage, stating that missing this opportunity is like “missing out on playing in the World Cup final of impact.”

He concluded by urging collaboration focused on shared problems rather than individual solutions, setting the stage for three days of building the partnerships needed to define Africa’s resilient future.

## Day 1: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Panel Session: Better Terms for Better Impact: How Impact-Linked Finance Accelerates SMEs in Africa



This session, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and moderated by *Katie Naeve* (Director, Impact-Linked Finance Collaborative), showcased how Impact-Linked Finance (ILF) is creating a powerful new paradigm for funding SMEs in Africa by directly tying financial rewards to verified social and environmental outcomes. The discussion, featuring funders, technical advisors, and entrepreneurs, highlighted ILF as a key tool to address the continent's significant SME financing gap.

The session demonstrated ILF's practical application through compelling case studies:

- ***Aceli Africa*** shared how financial incentives have successfully motivated commercial banks in East Africa to restructure their agricultural lending portfolios, shifting focus towards food crops and underserved borrowers.
- ***iGravity and AlphaMundi Foundation*** presented data showing how their ILF funds have catalysed millions in external capital, supporting SMEs that have reached hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries.

- ***Roots of Impact*** introduced innovative structures, such as the Simple Agreement for Future Impact (SAFI), emphasising that ILF is fundamentally about driving behavioural change.

A key takeaway was that relatively small, well-designed incentives can produce significant shifts in the behaviour of entrepreneurs, banks, and investors. The panel commented that for ILF to be effective, metrics must be co-created with enterprises to ensure alignment and avoid mission drift. Structures must be flexible enough to adapt to external shocks.

A clear call was made to expand the use of ILF, advocating for its application in corporate supply chains and fragile states, while building capacity among local investors and making resources openly available to democratise its adoption.

## Day 1: Afternoon Session

### AVPA Panel Session: From Local Pools to Continental Growth: Investing Africa's Pension and Sovereign Wealth in Africa



The session addressed the urgent need to mobilise Africa's vast pension capital, estimated at over USD 1.3 trillion in assets, to finance the continent's development, particularly its USD 4 trillion infrastructure gap. The discussion, featuring leaders from Nigerian and Kenyan pension funds, highlighted both the significant progress and remaining barriers to unlocking this domestic capital for impactful investments.

The focus was on the decisive role of regulatory reform as a key catalyst for change. In Nigeria, regulators increased the allowable limit for alternative investments from 10% to 30%, directly enabling Access ARM Pensions to target a 20% allocation (approximately USD 500 million) to private equity, infrastructure, and real estate. However, across the continent, a stark implementation gap persists; while Kenyan regulations allow up to 40% in alternatives, the actual average allocation remains below 5%.

The panel identified the governance and capacity of pension fund trustees as the primary bottleneck. Trustees, who are ultimately responsible for member protection, often lack the deep conviction or technical expertise to approve complex alternative investments, leading to a default preference for simpler government bonds.

#### Key solutions and action points emerged:

- **Structural Reforms:** Proposals included creating a pan-African regulatory framework mandating a 5% cross-border allocation and resourcing trustee boards with investment professionals
- **Collaborative Models:** Pension funds are pursuing fund-of-funds structures, co-investments with DFIs, and pooled initiatives like a proposed USD 1 billion pledge fund to achieve scale and share due diligence costs
- **Sector-Focused Strategy:** Successful investments are built on deep sector familiarity, as demonstrated by Kenya Power's focus on energy infrastructure and ARM's targeted housing finance schemes

Africa's challenge is not a lack of capital, but rather a challenge in deploying it effectively. By advancing regulatory harmonisation, building trustee capacity, and fostering collaboration, the continent's pension funds can transform from dormant pools of capital into the primary engine for its sustainable and inclusive growth.



## Vimal Shah

Chairman, BIDCO  
Africa Group

Vimal Shah challenged the audience to shift from a mindset of rights to one of responsibility, or, as he put it in Swahili, from “haki yetu” to “wajibu wetu.” He argued that Africa’s future “will not be imported from elsewhere,” but must be built and branded at home. Decrying the continent’s historical model of exporting raw materials and importing finished goods, Vimal championed a decisive shift “from extraction to creation.” He identified manufacturing and agribusiness as critical vehicles for this transformation, creating jobs, building value chains, and fostering resilience.

Highlighting the immense opportunity of a population set to grow by one billion people, Vimal reframed this not as a challenge but as an unprecedented market and production opportunity. He called for the urgent mobilisation of African capital, from pension funds and private wealth, to invest in industrial clusters and green technology, stating that “capital that builds industries is not aid... it is about agency.”

He concluded with a powerful message, urging long-term, “planter” investments over short-term “harvests” and reminding the audience that “Africa’s prosperity will come from factories, not fortunes held abroad.” His message was a clear charge to the generation that will transform Africa’s long-discussed potential into tangible achievement.

## Day 1: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and Healthy Brains Global Initiative (HBGI) Workshop: An Outcome of Ambition: Using Outcomes-Based Financing to Incentivise Investment in Kenya's Left-Behind Youth



The workshop showcased the “Outcome of Ambition” initiative by the HBGI, a pioneering outcomes-based financing model designed to address the systemic barriers faced by adolescent mothers and out-of-school young women in Kenya. The discussion highlighted a strategic shift in Kenya’s development landscape, moving from traditional grant dependency towards performance-driven investment models that leverage growing domestic capital.

The initiative aims to raise USD 30 million to support 25,000 young women in re-entering education, training, and entrepreneurship pathways. A core innovation of the model is its payment structure: funders only pay after independently verified results are achieved, creating shared accountability and shifting focus from inputs to measurable impact.

The panel emphasised that empowering this demographic requires a holistic, cross-sectoral approach that addresses interconnected challenges in education, health, childcare, and mental well-being. Key next steps include finalising the fund’s design with clear metrics, onboarding outcome funders and investors, and launching pilot implementations in high-priority counties.

This model represents a significant opportunity to embed a new financing paradigm within Kenya’s SDG ecosystem, demonstrating how blending public, private, and philanthropic capital can drive tangible progress for the nation’s most marginalised youth.

**“It’s not just about building megawatts; it’s about delivering value for people through electricity.”**

*- Olamide Niyi-Afiye, Africa Minigrid Developers Association*

## Day 1: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and Catalytic Capital Consortium (C3) Masterclass: Catalytic Capital Unlocked



This Masterclass, facilitated by *Harvey Koh* (Senior Advisor, Catalytic Capital Consortium), explored the strategic and transformative role catalytic capital can play in closing Africa's widening financing gaps. The discussion moved beyond abstract definitions to equip participants with practical tools for diagnosing investment barriers, understanding the psychology of capital deployment, and designing interventions that unlock both commercial and social investment at scale.

It was highlighted that Africa's financing challenge is not a shortage of capital in absolute terms, but a shortage of risk-tolerant capital capable of de-risking impactful but underserved ventures. Catalytic capital must be understood not only as a launch tool for new ventures but also as a sustaining force for essential solutions that may never be commercially profitable. Harvey Koh brought this to reality, noting that many of the world's most critical social interventions will not generate commercial returns. In his words, ***"The reality of the work of the world is that a lot of worthwhile things will never produce a commercial return. I'm sorry."***

The conversation also highlighted the complexity of diagnosing capital gaps. Rather than treating categories like "SME Finance" as a singular, broad subject, Harvey Koh demonstrated the importance of disaggregating

market segments into specific situations along a continuum, that is, from high-performing firms to early-stage agricultural ventures, each with increasingly layered barriers. The masterclass also discussed the need to differentiate between rational barriers (risk, return, cost) and mindset barriers (bias, fear, unfamiliarity), with Harvey Koh emphasising that solving financial constraints alone is insufficient if cognitive and attitudinal obstacles persist.

Key takeaways and action points included a call for rigorous situational analysis before deploying catalytic capital, an acknowledgement that mindset barriers require targeted strategies rooted in behavioural science, and a reminder that catalytic capital is only one part of a broader toolkit involving policy, ecosystem development, and technical assistance. Participants were encouraged to engage with the C3 framework and resources, deepen collaboration within AVPA's catalytic capital community, and develop more deliberate approaches to shifting investor mindsets while bridging the worlds of deal-focused investors and systems-change practitioners.

## Day 1: Catalytic Conversation

### AVPA and Social Finance International Catalytic Conversation: Capital that fits: exploring impact-aligned investment models for SMEs



This catalytic conversation, hosted by Social Finance International in partnership with AVPA, tackled the critical challenge of financing Africa's SMEs, which face an estimated USD 140 billion funding gap. The session moved beyond diagnosing the problem to showcase practical, innovative financing models that align with the realities of small and growing businesses.

The discussion highlighted a fundamental shift in philosophy: the need to "fix the capital and not just the businesses." Panellists presented their distinct approaches to providing patient and flexible capital:

*Lilian Mramba* (CEO, Grassroot Business Fund) emphasised customised investment structures and a unique technical assistance model that embeds experienced operators from its portfolio to provide fractional, needs-based support to other investees

*Jane Mbinya* (Senior Investment, Afrishela) focused on supporting women-led, climate-adaptive businesses by moving beyond rigid risk assessments. Her approach

includes evaluating "softer" factors, providing business development support, and using milestone-based disbursements.

*Sawa Nakagawa* (Executive Director, AlphaMundi Foundation) stressed the importance of helping SMEs articulate and achieve their impact vision, using tools like impact-linked finance to create win-win situations where verified social performance is financially rewarded.

A key takeaway was the importance of deep listening and customisation. The panel advocated for moving away from a one-size-fits-all model, instead tailoring financial instruments and technical assistance to the specific cash flow cycles, growth stages, and challenges of each enterprise. The session concluded with a powerful call to action for all capital providers to critically ask, "Is the capital we are providing working for the businesses we are meant to serve?" The consensus was clear: deploying patient, flexible, and well-structured capital is not a concession but a strategic necessity for unlocking the full potential of Africa's SME sector.

## Day 1: Catalytic Conversation

### AVPA and WINGS Catalytic Conversation: Powering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Philanthropy as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development



This session, hosted by WINGS Philanthropy in conjunction with AVPA, explored the unique and critical role philanthropy can play as a catalyst and convener for multi-stakeholder partnerships that drive sustainable development across Africa. The discussion centred on moving beyond isolated interventions to foster collective action that includes governments, the private sector, and civil society.

It was highlighted that there is a need for strategic alignment and trust-building among diverse partners. Panellists emphasised that successful partnerships require a shared understanding of the problem and a unified approach, with philanthropy often best positioned to de-risk initial investments and create a neutral space for collaboration. *Arif Neky* (Honorary Chairman, Strategic Advisory Board, UN SDG Partnership Platform, Kenya) highlighted the indispensability of government involvement for scalability and sustainability, stressing that

partnerships must align with national priorities to secure long-term commitment.

The conversation also highlighted the importance of integrating local context and community voices. *Henrietta Bankole-Olusina* (Vice President, Africa, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors) pointed to African traditions, such as the ESUSU model, as a blueprint for formalising community-centric philanthropy, arguing that effective partnerships must be rooted in cultural understanding to ensure they meet real, on-the-ground needs.

Key takeaways and action points included a call for philanthropy to shift from short-term funding to long-term partnership building, a push for the formal inclusion of local communities in the design and execution of initiatives, and a reaffirmation of the African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” as a guiding principle for collaborative impact.

**“Ask the women first - solutions must be rooted in real community needs, especially those of vulnerable groups.”**

- *Allie Hollowell, Climate Resilience for All*



## Isaac O. Awuondo

Chairman,  
NCBA Bank PLC

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*"We cannot build a resilient Africa by perpetuating Westernist disquotas. We must provide realistic pathways to liquidity..."*

Drawing from his four decades of experience in banking, Isaac Awuondo delivered a powerful keynote grounded in the practical realities of financing African innovation. He identified a critical paradox: while a USD 300 billion annual SDG financing gap exists, capital flow is choked by structural barriers, including "a crisis of distribution and confidence."

Mr. Awuondo highlighted a severe concentration problem, where a handful of mega-deals receive over half of all startup funding, leaving a vast pool of proven, growth-stage businesses, particularly in crucial sectors like agriculture, health, and education, starved of the capital needed to scale. He argued that the private sector must adopt more adaptable risk profiles to support these youth-led innovations. The cornerstone of his solution was the urgent need to mobilise local capital, pointing to the over USD1.8 trillion in African pension and insurance assets. He championed blended finance as a key mechanism to de-risk investments and unlock this domestic capital for high-impact opportunities. Illustrating his points with tangible examples from NCBA, such as a transformative rice-farming initiative that boosted yields 600% and digital lending platforms that have disbursed over USD 1 trillion, Mr. Awuondo demonstrated that it is "possible to survive, to thrive, and to build well-functioning businesses." He concluded with a resounding call to action, urging all stakeholders to collaborate and take responsibility for building a self-reliant and resilient Africa.

# Day 1: Catalytic Conversation

## AVPA Catalytic Conversation: Watt's Next – Redefining Energy in an African Context



The session provided a comprehensive roadmap for accelerating Africa’s renewable energy transition, moving beyond theoretical potential to focus on practical, scalable solutions. Speakers emphasised the urgent need to bridge a massive financing gap: with over USD 150 billion needed for universal energy access against less than USD 2.5 billion committed in 2023.

Mini-grids are no longer temporary fixes but permanent infrastructure, evolving into “metro-grids” that power both rural and urban areas. Panellists demonstrated how integrated models, such as partnerships with utilities and anchor-business-community approaches, are enhancing financial viability and scale.

The conversation strongly emphasised that energy access must be linked to productive use and local

economic development to be sustainable. Success stories showcased tangible impacts. An example is the UNHCR’s report, which shows that electrification in refugee camps quadrupled median incomes and increased female employment by 17%, while every USD 50,000 invested in mini-grids enabled 20 more girls to attend school.

Critical action points included a call to directly fund local entrepreneurs, who currently receive only 3% of global climate finance, and to adopt a “ask the women first” approach to ensure solutions meet community needs.

The session concluded that overcoming fragmentation through multi-stakeholder collaboration and innovative, blended financing is essential to transform Africa’s vast renewable resources into inclusive, resilient growth.

**“No country has developed with low energy use. Productive use and demand creation are central to sustainability.”**

*- Carol Koech, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)*

# Day 1: Catalytic Conversation

## AVPA Catalytic Conversation: CTRL+ALT+AFRICA: Resetting Africa



This session, themed “CTRL + ALT + AFRICA: Resetting Africa,” moderated by *Esther Ndeti* (Managing Partner, Unconventional Capital), explored the urgent need for the continent to reclaim its narrative, re-evaluate inherited structures, and elevate homegrown innovations as the foundation for Africa’s transformation. The discussion emphasised shifting from externally imposed frameworks toward a collective, Africa-led strategic intent that places African voices, ideas, and solutions at the centre of development.

It was highlighted that reframing Africa’s narrative requires boldness, confidence, and intentional resistance to externally shaped perceptions and policies. Participants emphasised that African countries must champion their own solutions, foster stronger intra-African trust, and resist practices that diminish agency, citing examples of countries challenging foreign policy restrictions and Francophone states renegotiating their relations with former colonial powers. Trust-building, cross-country cooperation, and a shift toward opportunity-focused storytelling were underscored as foundational for progress.

The conversation also elevated the need to dismantle outdated or harmful structures that continue to limit the continent’s potential. The audience examined issues such as the treatment of Africa as a country, the use of exclusionary language like “alien’s pass” for Africans within the continent, and the persistence of extractive

economic models. Participants argued for rethinking regional blocs, questioning venture-driven but extractive innovation models, and addressing the lingering “colonial shadow” shaping policy and investment decisions. Key discussions on Africa’s global power highlighted the importance of increasing domestic financing, primarily through vehicles such as pension funds, to reduce dependence on foreign capital that often leads to value extraction. Participants called for systemic rather than siloed investments, stronger African value chains through local processing, and the amplification of African success stories such as the Great Green Wall. Good governance and anti-corruption efforts were noted as critical enablers for these ambitions.

Key takeaways and action points included a call for African-led policy and tax reforms to drive entrepreneurship, a push for diverse leadership models to strengthen governance, and a targeted shift from exporting cheap labour to exporting high-value skills in areas like digital technology and AI. Participants emphasised Africa’s need to be actively represented in global decision-making systems, including redefining risk metrics and securing seats in global governance bodies. The discussion concluded with a challenge for individuals and institutions to examine the narratives they perpetuate critically, collaborate intentionally, and champion African-designed solutions as the pathway to a reset grounded in self-determination and collective action.

## Day 2 Sessions

### Opening Plenary: From global finance to grounded impact: designing capital that works for Africa's future

Speakers from the IFC, Catalytic Finance Foundation, Norfund, SDG Impact Finance Initiative, and HealthCap Africa addressed the critical disconnect between global capital and Africa's development needs, highlighting that while the continent accounts for 20% of the world's population, it attracts only 3% of international investment. The discussion centred on redesigning financial architectures to serve African realities better.

The critical focus is the severe capital mismatch plaguing the continent. Panellists identified that available investment often fails to align with business needs regarding currency, duration, and structure. *Shruti Chandrasekhar* (Head, Private Equity Funds Business, Africa, IFC) noted that high operational costs and a nascent ecosystem of local capital pools further constrain growth.

The conversation strongly advocated for patient, locally-denominated capital. *William Nyaoko* (Regional Director,

East Africa, Norfund) emphasised that measuring returns in local currency, rather than US dollars, is crucial to avoid value erosion for businesses and to encourage domestic institutional investors to fund local enterprises instead of defaulting to real estate.

While blended finance was presented as a key tool for de-risking investments, panellists cautioned it is not a silver bullet. *David Albertani* (CEO, Catalytic Finance Foundation) stressed that solutions must be tailored to specific markets, moving beyond the perception of Africa as a single, homogenous investment destination. The session concluded with a powerful call for self-reliance and trust-building. The panel urged African capital holders to invest locally, thereby inspiring global confidence, asserting that "the day we take responsibility for our own problems is the day we will get better returns." The path forward requires long-term, flexible capital structured around actual business needs to unlock Africa's vast potential.



## Day 2: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA Panel session: Natural Capital, Real Value: Mainstreaming Nature into African Finance



This session made a robust economic case for recognising Africa's natural wealth, its forests, water, soils, and biodiversity, as a critical asset class essential for the continent's long-term resilience and prosperity. With over 60% of Africa's economy reliant on natural capital, the discussion centred on practical strategies to integrate these assets into mainstream financial systems.

The conversation highlighted the urgent investment imperative, noting that 65% of Africa's productive landscapes are degraded, while sustainable restoration could deliver returns of up to 600%. Panellists explored innovative financing mechanisms, including green bonds, carbon credits, and blended finance models, that can channel private capital toward nature-positive outcomes.

A key focus was the need for supportive policy frameworks and community-centred models to ensure investments deliver both ecological health and equitable benefits for the 70% of Sub-Saharan communities that depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods.

The session concluded that mainstreaming natural capital is not an environmental niche but a fundamental economic strategy. By reframing nature as a core asset rather than a cost, Africa can unlock new financial flows, build climate resilience, and create sustainable value for future generations.

**"If we keep talking about how much capital we've mobilised but not how much impact it's actually had in the real world, then we're missing the mark."**

*- Karim Harji, Said Business School, University of Oxford*

## Day 2: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA, Leap Africa, and International Youth Foundation Panel session: From Education to Impact: Financing the Youth Opportunity Frontier



This session challenged the traditional education funding paradigm, arguing that financing access to schooling is insufficient without creating tangible pathways to opportunity. The discussion centred on how catalytic capital and cross-sector collaboration can foster ecosystems that directly connect learning to livelihoods, positioning youth as Africa’s next generation of leaders and builders.

A central focus was the need to shift from funding education to financing holistic “opportunity pathways.” This requires moving beyond metrics like enrollment and graduation to track meaningful outcomes such as wage premiums, job retention, and entrepreneurial success. There was more emphasis on strengthening public systems, such as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), to make them more responsive to labour market needs, rather than creating parallel structures.

The session highlighted innovative financing instruments as key to this transition:

- **Outcomes-based contracts** that tie funding to verified employment results
- **Sector-specific venture funds** that align industry growth with youth training
- **Catalytic funds** that de-risk innovative models and unlock public-private collaboration

Critically, the conversation championed youth as co-designers and architects of their own futures. This requires governance models that grant genuine decision-making power, such as youth steering committees and peer review panels, rather than merely token consultation. The session concluded that authentic investment in youth means financing their agency and ownership of the future, transforming the entire ecosystem of opportunity rather than just funding isolated education projects.

## Day 2: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA, Open Capital and FSD Africa Panel: Unlocking Small and Growing Businesses (SGB) Growth: Beyond Research into Practical Blended Finance Mechanisms



Over the past 10 months, Open Capital and FSD Africa, with support from the IKEA Foundation, have been conducting a market study across Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia to identify how innovative financing can unlock the growth of small and growing businesses (SGB) in three high-potential sectors: productive use of renewable energy, solid waste management and regenerative and circular agriculture. Drawing on 150+ stakeholder consultations and three in-country validation workshops, they mapped the current state of these sectors, surfaced key barriers that constrain SGB growth, and developed finance-focused recommendations to address them.

The research findings highlight practical ways to de-risk early-stage investments, strengthen business model viability, and build a robust pipeline of investable SGBs. This presents opportunities for catalytic investment that can accelerate the adoption of productive renewable energy solutions, scale innovative approaches in solid waste management, and advance regenerative agriculture, while unlocking commercial capital flows across these sectors.

Building on this research, Open Capital and FSD Africa, in partnership with AVPA, hosted this session focusing on **“Unlocking Small and Growing Businesses (SGB) Growth: Beyond Research into Practical Blended Finance Mechanisms”** This session translated critical research into actionable solutions for financing Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) in Africa’s key green sectors: renewable energy, solid waste management, and regenerative agriculture. The discussion expanded beyond identifying barriers to presenting practical blended finance mechanisms for overcoming them.

The key challenge identified was the high upfront capital costs and working capital constraints that stifle SGB growth. Panellists highlighted that traditional financing is often misaligned with the cash flow cycles and long-term horizons of businesses in these sectors.

**The session showcased specific, innovative financing tools being deployed:**



**Asset Finance:**  
To overcome the high initial cost of renewable energy systems for end-users.



**Carbon Finance:**  
As a potential revenue stream to improve the viability of climate-focused SGBs.



**Supply Chain Financing:**  
To formalise linkages and provide flexible capital for actors in regenerative agriculture, helping to reduce post-harvest losses.

A key takeaway was the essential role of catalytic, patient capital in de-risking these sectors and attracting commercial and institutional investors. The session concluded that success hinges on developing dedicated blended finance vehicles and strengthening market linkages through clear off-taker agreements.

By combining public, private, and philanthropic capital in innovative structures, stakeholders can unlock the immense potential of SGBs to drive Africa's green economy.

## Day 2: Mid-Morning Session

### AVPA and Impact Frontiers Masterclass: Impact Performance Reporting



This masterclass addressed the pervasive sentiment of fatigue and complexity surrounding impact reporting, reframing it as a vital tool for informed strategic decision-making and scaling impact, rather than merely a performative exercise. Facilitated by *Yewande Ososanya* (Representative for Africa, Impact Frontiers), the session introduced the [Impact Performance Reporting Norms \(IPRN\)](#), a market-tested framework designed to standardise reports, reduce the burden on preparers, and increase their usefulness for users.

The session established that the core purpose of an impact report is to “enable decisions along the capital chain.” The IPRN provides a consistent structure for achieving this, built on six key sections: Entity Overview & Impact Thesis, Impact Management Process, Impact Performance, Governance, Case Studies, and an optional Independent Review.

The key focus was the imperative to report on adverse and unintended outcomes. The discussion emphasised that transparent disclosure of failures or adverse effects is essential for learning, course correction, and building long-term credibility, shifting from a culture of “proving” to one of “improving.”

The masterclass concluded with a powerful call to action: to put “boots on the ground.” This means engaging directly with communities to capture authentic voices and experiences, ensuring that reports are not only accurate and verifiable but also truly reflect the reality on the ground. Participants were encouraged to adopt the IPRN and utilise a customizable template provided by AVPA and Impact Frontiers to begin enhancing their reporting practices immediately.

## Day 2: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and DOEN Foundation Panel Session: Making Waves: Venture Philanthropy and the Future of Africa's Blue Economy



This session explored the transformative potential of Africa's blue economy and highlighted how venture philanthropy can accelerate regenerative, community-centred innovation across the continent. The discussion emphasised the ocean's immense but underfunded role in global climate resilience, biodiversity, and economic opportunity. The DOEN Foundation shared its long-term, trust-based funding philosophy, rooted in regenerative economics and patient capital, and outlined why early-stage innovators require flexible, mission-aligned financing to unlock the full impact of the blue economy.

The conversation highlighted African-led solutions that demonstrated high potential for environmental regeneration and community uplift. Notable examples included Nasari Naturals' spirulina production model, which leverages natural lake nutrients to reduce input

costs drastically, and Somo Africa Trust's inclusive finance and shared facilities that enable entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth, to scale value addition. Key challenges were also explored, including language barriers that exclude grassroots innovators from funding opportunities, as well as the urgent need for product standardisation and certification to access export markets.

The session concluded with a strong call to action for funders, investors, and ecosystem enablers to collaborate intentionally in creating the conditions necessary for blue economy enterprises to thrive. Participants were urged to support standardisation and certification pathways, adopt holistic investment approaches that incorporate community needs, and align funding practices with indigenous knowledge and regenerative principles.

**"The aim is to reduce the reporting burden for report preparers and increase the decision usefulness for report readers."**

*- Yewande Ososanya, Impact Frontiers*



## Joseph Ogutu

East Africa Board  
Chair, AVPA/Chair  
of the Board of  
Directors, Safaricom  
Foundation

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*“Let us write the next chapter of Africa’s growth story: genuinely inclusive, resilient and enduring society.”*

In his keynote address message on the second day, Joseph Ogutu issued a compelling call to move “from ideas to concrete action.” Centering his message on the undeniable power of collaboration, he stated, “If there is one thing that I have learned from my experience, it is that partnerships work.”

Drawing from Safaricom’s own origins as a public-private joint venture, Ogutu illustrated how embedding sustainability into the core business strategy is key to achieving a scalable impact. He presented tangible proof from Safaricom’s maternal health initiatives, where integrated partnerships in Lamu County reduced maternal deaths from over 550 to under 300 per 100,000 live births through a multi-faceted approach, including boat ambulances and telemedicine.

He further detailed the ambitious “Citizens of the Future” program, which aims to rebuild 600 schools and provide 10,000 scholarships by 2030. Ogutu challenged the private sector to redefine success, asserting that “Safaricom can only be sustainable if the environment within which it is operating, if the people that it is working for, are thriving.” His address served as a blueprint for forging home-grown pathways where corporate growth and community wellbeing are inextricably linked

## Day 2: Afternoon Session

### AVPA Panel Session: Investing with a Legacy Lens: HNWIs and the Family Office Evolution



This session challenged participants to rethink how Africa's High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) and family offices define legacy, urging a shift from wealth preservation toward values-driven, long-term stewardship. Moderated by *Geetika Mantri* (Oxford University), the discussion unpacked the key challenge. While global family office models emphasise intergenerational governance and purpose, Africa's landscape is still dominated by first-generation wealth builders navigating immediate commercial pressures.

The conversation crystallised around three transformative ideas: the evolution of legacy from financial inheritance to values and consciousness; the need for patient, regenerative capital that recirculates within African

economies; and the role of governance structures in transmitting purpose across generations. A recurring insight from all speakers was the importance of contextualising global frameworks. Family offices must "take the best and drop the rest," building models shaped by African realities, institutional constraints, and cultural narratives.

The session ended with a clear direction for the field: Africa's next generation of family offices must integrate impact, identity, and long-term accountability at their core. Priority actions include strengthening value-based governance, expanding the use of blended and patient capital, and building enabling environments that keep capital and opportunity rooted on the continent.

**"Public money must be intentional; it must catalyse private capital, not replace it."**

- *Hamdiya Ismaila, Impact Investing Ghana*

## Day 2: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and International Development Innovation Initiative - Supported by Briter Bridges - Workshop: It's not you, it's not us: From blended instruments to blended approach



The workshop explored the growing need to shift Africa's impact investment landscape from isolated blended finance tools toward a holistic blended approach that better aligns capital types, funder expectations, and venture needs across the entire growth journey.

The discussion highlighted both the progress made in strengthening Africa's funding ecosystem and the systemic gaps that continue to obstruct the flow of capital, particularly the persistent "missing middle" and "missing end" challenges.

There is a need to consider the importance of **coordination and fit-for-purpose capital** as the ecosystem matures. The workshop emphasised that Africa's climate and innovation sectors are shaped by the types of funding available. When investors rely on narrow or misaligned definitions of "investability," high-potential ventures struggle to transition from early pilots to scalable businesses. The conversation revealed structural barriers across the ecosystem.



The "missing middle" (\$250K–\$1M) remains economically unattractive for most investors and too risky for founders, creating a valley of death for growth-stage companies.



The "missing end" continues to limit late-stage scale and commercialisation.



Adaptation and nature-based solutions remain severely underfunded, with shrinking ODA intensifying the need for innovative instruments and increased private sector participation.

The workshop highlighted blended vehicles that layer grants, concessional capital, and commercial investment, as well as hybrid or stacked fund models that reduce risk and expand flexibility across stages. Speakers emphasised that African markets cannot adopt Silicon Valley-style investment models; instead, instruments must reflect local realities, regulatory contexts, and risk profiles.

Africa's challenge is not the absence of capital, but the lack of alignment. By strengthening collaboration, refining the Capital Continuum, and embracing blended, flexible, and locally grounded financing models, stakeholders can unlock the continent's innovation potential and transform fragmented funding pathways into engines of sustainable, scalable impact.

## Day 2: Afternoon Session

### AVPA and Said Business School, Oxford University Masterclass: Shifting Perspectives – Systems Thinking for Impact Investing



This masterclass drew participants to rethink how impact investing engages with complexity, urging a shift from transactional project funding to approaches that intentionally work with and through systems. Led by *Karim Harji* (Programme Director, Said Business School, University of Oxford), it was insinuated that while systems thinking has become one of the sector's most discussed themes, its practical application remains elusive, often reduced to jargon rather than genuine strategic redesign.

The session anchored itself in two foundational resources: [the Systems-Oriented Investing Primer and Playbook](#), developed by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. It challenged participants to grapple with what systems thinking actually demands in practice. *Karim Harji* explained the concept into four essential shifts: widening one's worldview, embracing non-linearity and uncertainty, recognising financial capital as only one lever of change,

and targeting root causes rather than symptoms. Expert contributor - *Henrietta Bankole-Olusina* (Vice President, Africa, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors) emphasised that shifting systems requires a parallel shift in how funders think, act, learn, unlearn, and collaborate, grounding the work in humility, shared language, and peer learning, and contextual adaptation, especially for the African ecosystem.

Systems change is not a destination but an ongoing discipline that demands internal alignment, adaptive measurement, and collective accountability. Participants were encouraged to use the Primer and Playbook as public goods, engage their teams in belief-resetting exercises, adopt iterative self-assessment tools, and join emerging learning cohorts to co-create contextually relevant approaches.

## Day 2: Catalytic Conversation

### AVPA, Kenya Innovation Ecosystem Funders Forum (KIEFF), RISA Fund, Global Innovation Fund Catalytic Conversation: De-risking the Deal – Making Public Money a Magnet for Private Capital



AVPA hosted the session in conjunction with the FCDO, RISA Fund, The Lemelson Foundation, under the umbrella of the Kenya Innovation Ecosystem Funders Forum (KIEFF), and in collaboration with the Global Innovation Fund. The session provided a strategic examination of how public capital can be used as a powerful tool to de-

risk investments and attract significant private funding into Africa's early-stage businesses. The discussion showcased proven models and highlighted that effective deployment, not just the availability of funds, is the critical success factor.

#### Featured concrete examples of successful catalytic structures:

In South Africa, the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) uses public funding as first-loss capital in a 20:80 ratio with private investors to commercialise domestic research and build a pre-seed pipeline.

In Ghana, a venture capital fund-of-funds model achieved an impressive 1:10 leverage ratio and 11% returns, supported by targeted tax incentives like 10-year tax holidays.

The Global Innovation Fund (GIF) shared how concessional capital from public funders, such as the FCDO, is used to subsidise fund costs and cover losses, making investments more palatable for commercial partners.

The key message from the session was that governance and capacity building are as critical as capital. Speakers emphasised that public money must be allocated intentionally and transparently to prevent market distortion, with a focus on creating an enabling environment. As one of the speakers put it, "Our biggest constraint is not funding, it is governance."

To strengthen collaboration between public agencies and impact investors, document and share these successful models across the continent, and advocate for policy reforms that enable local institutional investors, such as pension funds, to participate in these de-risked venture opportunities.

## Day 2: Catalytic Conversation

### Catalytic Conversation: Catalysing Impact Movements: Lessons from Africa's GSG Taskforces



This session showcased how National Advisory Boards (NABs) across Africa are building the critical infrastructure for impact investing by mobilising local capital, shaping supportive policies, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. The discussion highlighted the unique role these national platforms play in translating global impact principles into locally-driven action that advances sustainable development.

The primary focus was the power of multi-stakeholder coalitions in driving systemic change. These platforms bring together leaders from government, finance, and civil society to build shared agendas and advocate for policy innovations such as tax incentives for impact enterprises and blended finance structures. Their convening power enables them to address market gaps that no single entity could tackle alone. The session emphasised the strategic importance of localising catalytic capital

by engaging domestic institutions. Panellists outlined practical approaches to mobilising pension funds through scaled investment vehicles with partial credit guarantees, as well as aligning corporate investment with community development and supply chain growth.

Key lessons emerged on developing impact measurement standards, stressing that frameworks must be context-specific and pragmatically implemented. The “good enough” standard widely adopted was deemed more valuable than a perfect but unused one.

The session concluded with a powerful call for pan-African collaboration through shared learning platforms, cross-border deal syndication, and unified advocacy. By presenting a cohesive “African Voice,” these national partners can collectively attract patient capital and accelerate the continent’s impact economy.

**“Family offices are no longer just about preserving wealth; they are now actively investing in legacies that will have a lasting impact on society.”**

*- Getika Mantri, University of Oxford*

## Day 2: Catalytic Conversation

### AVPA and Acumen West Africa Catalytic Conversation: Decent Work: From Stories to Solutions



This workshop reframed the conversation around work in Africa, shifting the focus from mere job creation to the critical importance of job quality. Facilitated by *Olayide Odediran* (Lead, Workforce Development in Africa, Acumen West Africa), the session used powerful data and personal narratives to move participants from understanding lived experiences to designing investable solutions for decent work.

While Nigeria's unemployment rate fell to 4.1%, poverty simultaneously rose to 38%, revealing that millions are working in informal, low-quality jobs that do not provide a pathway out of poverty. With 10-12 million young Africans entering the job market annually against only 3 million formal jobs created, the imperative is to improve conditions within the existing informal economy, which employs up to 97% of the workforce in some countries.

**The session introduced Acumen's practical framework for evaluating decent work:**



**Ladders:**  
Economic opportunity, including fair pay, career growth, and autonomy.



**Nets:**  
Social protections, such as insurance, safety equipment, and income stability.



**Dignity:**  
Recognition, respect, and a valued voice for workers.

Through breakout groups, participants analysed the real-life cases of "Banke," a tuk-tuk driver, and "Hakeem," a green technician, identifying systemic gaps and brainstorming investable solutions, such as digital cooperatives, certification platforms, and asset-finance models.

The session concluded that achieving scale requires "under-designing" solutions to fit existing user behaviours, applying a gender lens, and building market-oriented business models that prove "capital can meet dignity."



## Sanda Ojiambo

Executive Director,  
United Nations  
Global Compact

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*“We need to fully back the AfCFTA in its quest to lower barriers, expand markets and make it easier for African enterprises to trade, grow and attract investment. And this is where AVPA is so valuable. Connecting capital to credible opportunities and building the partnerships that move us from pilots to platforms.”*

In a recorded video, Sandra Ojiambo issued a call for a fundamental shift in how the world engages with Africa economically. She urged a move “from doing business in Africa to doing business with Africa,” championing an investment model that builds resilience, equity, and sovereignty rather than dependency.

Central to her message was the imperative for local value addition, arguing that Africa’s minerals, fertile land, and renewable energy should fuel its own green and industrial transformations. She emphasised that this growth must be inclusive, bringing women and young people along as “builders and owners of value chains.”

To facilitate this transition, Ojiambo emphasised the crucial need to de-risk African markets and establish supportive infrastructure, strongly endorsing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a foundational platform for scale and integration. She concluded by affirming the vital role of platforms like AVPA in connecting capital to credible opportunities, asserting that “when we work across sectors and borders, Africa’s future is truly unstoppable.”

## Day 2: Catalytic Conversation

### AVPA Catalytic Conversation: Galvanising Private Sector Engagement in Social Investment: Lessons from East, West, and Southern Africa



This session provided a cross-regional analysis of the evolving role of the private sector in Africa's social investment landscape. The discussion highlighted a significant shift from charitable giving (CSI 1.0) to strategic, leveraged partnerships (CSI 3.0), which integrate social impact into core business models and foster system-level change.

There is a critical importance of creating aligned and locally-driven frameworks. Panellists emphasised that for partnerships to be effective and sustainable, they must respect local contexts and ensure that the goals of corporations, governments, and communities are in sync. *Evans Okinyi* (CEO, East Africa Philanthropy Network) pointed out that misaligned expectations between the public and private sectors remain a key challenge, necessitating robust governance structures. The session also focused on the power of strategic regulatory frameworks to unlock private capital for the

public good. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) laws in some countries have successfully channelled significant resources toward national development priorities, demonstrating how thoughtful policy can incentivise deeper private sector engagement.

Furthermore, speakers championed the essential role of youth engagement and entrepreneurship. *Amabelle Nwakanma* (Director of Programmes, LEAP Africa) illustrated how mission-driven partnerships that support youth innovation platforms are crucial for long-term, sustainable development, moving beyond transactional relationships to build a resilient ecosystem.

Corporations must transition from isolated CSR projects to integrated, long-term partnerships, while policymakers should develop enabling environments that align private investment with Africa's most pressing social and developmental needs.

**“The future of family offices lies in blending philanthropy and investment to create systemic change that lasts beyond a single generation.”**

- *Frank Tobé, DOB Equity*



## Adedotun Sulaiman

Pan-African Board Chair, AVPA

Adedotun Sulaiman's powerful opening keynote set the tone for the conference by challenging the global narrative on Africa. He highlighted a continent not defined by its challenges, but by its "innovation, creativity, and resilience," where a new generation of entrepreneurs, green innovators, and impact investors is actively shaping their own future.

Aligning with the conference theme, "Future-Proofing Africa: Driving Sustainable Investments and Innovation for Resilient Growth," Sulaiman argued that the core task is to build enduring systems by closing the critical gaps between capital and need, as well as between innovation and scale. He emphasised AVPA's role in bridging these divides by intentionally deploying catalytic capital to unlock both social and economic value.

Ultimately, he reminded the audience that future-proofing is not about prediction, but about "protecting potential", ensuring people, businesses, and ecosystems can not only survive but thrive. He concluded with a call to action for the community to collaborate boldly, blend capital and mindsets, and co-create a resilient future for the continent.

# Member-Led Sessions

## AVPA East Africa Member-Led Session: Backing Africa's Builders: Inclusive and Sustainable Pathways for East Africa's Enterprises

This session brought together diverse capital providers to map out a collaborative approach for backing East Africa's enterprises, emphasising that inclusion and sustainability are fundamental to risk mitigation and long-term success. The discussion highlighted the critical need to finance the entire capital continuum, from high-risk, early-stage ventures to scalable, growth-stage businesses. Diversity is a key risk management strategy. AVPA

members, including Agri-Frontiers, M-Kyala Ventures, SNV, Kumwe Hub/Save the Children International, and EG Capital, demonstrated that diverse leadership and governance lead to stronger and more resilient businesses. They actively work to transition "gender basket cases" towards more inclusive structures, proving that intentionality in building diverse teams is a sound investment principle.



### The session showcased complementary roles within the ecosystem:

- 1** Kumwe Hub (Save the Children) tackles the highest-risk, early-stage frontier by developing a pipeline of locally led solutions, such as a nurse-preneur model in Rwanda that has served over 5,000 patients.
- 2** SNV works across the entire impact continuum, from grassroots groups requiring patient grant funding to larger, bankable projects.
- 3** Agri Frontier provides growth capital to proven agri-SMEs, with the panellist identifying a lack of capital as the single most significant constraint to scaling thousands of sophisticated businesses.
- 4** M-Kyala Ventures: Focuses on building diverse and inclusive teams as a core investment principle.
- 5** EG Capital: Provides growth capital to scale proven, bankable businesses.

An interactive breakout challenged attendees to design funding frameworks, leading to the key takeaway that inclusion must be assessed holistically, looking beyond the founder to governance, supply chain, workforce, and beneficiaries.

The session concluded that overcoming the core challenges of "Time, Money, and Mindset" requires a coordinated ecosystem where different types of capital work in concert to build inclusive and sustainable pathways for East Africa's enterprises.

## AVPA Southern Africa Member-Led Session: Unlocking Local Resilience through Catalytic and Impact-Driven Investments



This session brought together speakers from elea Foundation, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy, Bet9ja Foundation, and Grounded Investments to explore how catalytic, patient capital builds resilient local economies in Africa. The central thesis was that long-term, flexible investment is essential for de-risking and validating African-led solutions, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, livelihoods, and climate resilience.

There is a critical need for patient capital. Panellists highlighted that achieving impact in complex sectors requires extended time horizons. Grounded Investments emphasised the necessity of a 15-year fund life with 7-8 year holding periods to accommodate agricultural cycles and attract follow-on commercial capital, while the Elea Foundation seeks 5-10 year commitments to support ventures in solidifying their profit-with-purpose models.

The discussion firmly established that localisation is non-negotiable. Success hinges on investing in proximate founders, listening to community needs, and allowing local entrepreneurs to be in control. This approach ensures that solutions are co-created and genuinely meet on-the-ground demands, moving beyond externally imposed metrics.

Partnership is the true catalyst. No single entity can solve systemic challenges alone. Effective collaboration involves co-curating impact metrics with entrepreneurs, onboarding co-investors to share risk, and maintaining clarity on exit strategies from the outset. The session concluded with a clear call to action for funders: to commit to flexible capital, build trust through collaborative relationships, and use strategic philanthropy to de-risk innovation in Africa's most vital but neglected sectors.

**“If we want to shift systems and not just fund individual transactional projects, then both philanthropy and impact investing need to change how we think, act, learn, unlearn, and relearn.”**

*- Henrietta Bankole Olusina, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors*

## AVPA West Africa Member-Led Session: Financing Resilience - Scaling Sustainable Agriculture and Health Solutions for West Africa's Growth



This member-led session (EHA Impact Ventures, MTN Foundation, Open Value Foundation, and LEAP Africa) championed a West African vision for building resilience, emphasising that locally-owned partnerships and innovative financing are key to scaling solutions in the region's critical health and agriculture sectors. The discussion moved beyond capital to focus on the strategic ecosystems required for sustainable growth.

The session's primary focus was the power of strategic and co-created partnerships. The MTN Foundation showcased a transformative public-private model that revitalised 49 primary healthcare centres in Nigeria. By providing solar-powered water and electricity, the partnership increased patient attendance by over 60% and boosted deliveries by 63%, demonstrating how corporate resources can effectively close public infrastructure gaps. The session also highlighted the need for tailored and blended finance to mitigate the risks associated with early-stage ventures. Open Value

Foundation advocated for bespoke funding combinations of grants and results-based loans. At the same time, EHA Impact Ventures stressed the importance of funding experimental, tech-driven ideas that traditional investors often overlook.

A critical insight emerged on the limitations of mentorship alone. Panellists argued that entrepreneurs need "tangible resources" and operational support. EHA's model of a shared services office, handling HR and procurement for its portfolio, was presented as an innovative way to reduce "ecosystem debt" and allow founders to focus on innovation.

The session concluded that financing resilience requires a holistic approach: combining blended capital, deep public-private collaboration, and robust non-financial support to empower youth and women as central drivers of value creation in West Africa's economy.

**"For SGBs to scale, we need to solve the challenge of high working capital costs and weak market linkages, while ensuring the right financing structures are in place."**

*- Remy Olsen, Open Capital*



# Side Events



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In light of the conference’s collaborative spirit, AVPA was pleased to partner with the following organisations to host different side events on the sidelines of the 2025 AVPA Conference.



Allan & Gill Gray  
PHILANTHROPIES

**Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy Side Event**

to showcase innovative and scalable models in Africa addressing youth unemployment through venture development and investment, spotlighting programmes under the Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies that nurture responsible entrepreneurship across education, artisanal training, and market-creating ventures

**Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Exclusive Roundtable: “Bringing It Home – The Case for Pension Funds Investing in Africa Domiciled Investment Vehicles.”** Discussions on the structures, fund domiciliation, and vehicles that enable pension and sovereign wealth funds to invest confidently on the continent.



**The Porticus Side Event** provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing African non-profits as they transition to more sustainable models. The session emphasised the need for a blend of grants and investment to support long-term social impact. It also underscored the importance of mindset shifts, capacity building, and collaboration between non-profits, investors, and stakeholders to drive meaningful change. The testimonials and panel discussions offered practical guidance for organisations on their journey to becoming investment-ready.



**AVPA Deal Share Live** to showcase investable social enterprises across Africa and demonstrate how blended and catalytic capital can de-risk early-stage ventures, attract private investors, and strengthen the pipeline of impact-driven businesses. The Deal Share Live Session brought together eight social entrepreneurs and a team of 50+ social investors, inspiring “opportunity-lens investing” over risk-averse mindsets.





**AVPA Exclusive Roundtable:** *“Investing at home: The case for Increased Pension & Sovereign Wealth Fund Investing in Africa”* Aim was to explore how pension funds can unlock capital for impact, with a focus on regulatory shifts, risk frameworks, and strategies for increasing investments in infrastructure, climate, and social sectors in Africa.

**AVPA, African Natural Capital Alliance and Building Bridges Foundation CEO Roundtable**

focusing on nature opportunities in Africa. This high-level, closed-door roundtable convened senior executives, institutional investors, asset managers, policymakers, and thought leaders. The focus of the discussion was that Africa’s multi-trillion-dollar natural capital base represents a significant, underutilised opportunity to drive sustainable economic growth, simultaneously addressing pressing global challenges in climate change, food security, and biodiversity.

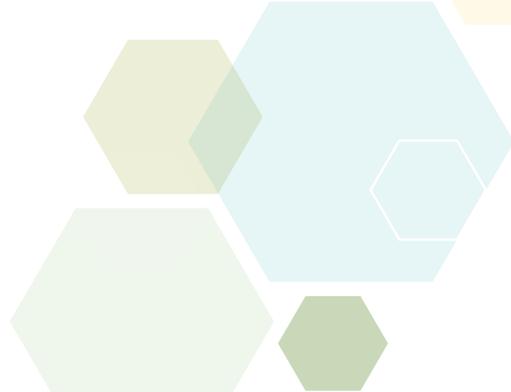


The **Kenyan Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (State Department for Energy)**, in partnership with the **UN SDG Partnership Platform** and **Sustainable Energy for All**, hosted a high-level breakfast session to engage investors and philanthropies on opportunities for investment in the energy sector in Kenya, with a focus on the country’s engagement in Mission 300. The Kenya National Energy Compact underscores the government’s commitment to delivering reliable, competitive, and sustainable energy, thereby creating jobs, promoting higher incomes, and driving stronger economic growth. It further provides detailed strategies, plans and resources required to achieve the goals set under each pillar. The implementation of the Energy Compact is estimated to require a total investment of USD 19.115 billion by 2030, with USD 14.002 billion from the public sector and USD 5.113 billion from the private sector.



# Impact in Action

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To complement the conference discussions, AVPA hosted eight “Impact in Action” excursions. These excursions provided our delegates with the opportunity to experience firsthand the initiatives, enterprises, and communities making a tangible impact on the ground. The excursions highlighted innovative approaches, real-world challenges, and opportunities for collaboration.



Delegates visiting Smart Dukas in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya. The [Smart Dukas initiative](#), launched by [elea Foundation](#) in partnership with [TechnoServe Kenya](#) in 2015, aims to transform Kenya's micro-retail sector by creating a network of thriving dukas that serve as a strategic last-mile channel for multiple stakeholders.



Delegates visiting [OakPark Academy](#) - a Jackfruit-supported school to see the impact first-hand. Since partnering with [Jackfruit Network](#) in 2023, Oakpark Academy has grown by 31% to 372 learners, through strategic financing of KES 9.7 million.



Delegates visiting [Food 4 Education](#) - Africa's largest green school feeding kitchen, gaining insight into how we prepare and deliver hot, nutritious meals daily to over half a million public primary school children



Delegates visiting [Roam Electric](#) - a pioneering electric mobility company in Africa, starting in Kenya, with a mission to deliver low-cost, low-emission transport solutions designed for the realities of emerging markets. Roam's electric motorcycles and buses tackle Africa's daily transport demands while cutting emissions and costs: built for scale, sustainability, and local impact.



Delegates visiting [Shamiri Institute](#). Founded in 2018 at the Harvard Lab for Youth Mental Health by Kenyan social entrepreneur Tom Osborn, global mental health researcher Katherine Venturo-Conerly, and Prof. John R. Weisz, Shamiri combines rigorous social science research with deep contextual knowledge of educational and mental healthcare systems to develop and implement scalable solutions that enable young people to thrive and actualise their life potential.



Delegates visiting [D&R Studios](#), a creative audio-visual production company that was founded in 2013. D&R Studios specialize in the production of quality, entertaining and informative audio and visual content. D&R Studios is dedicated to telling African stories in a bold and impactful way.



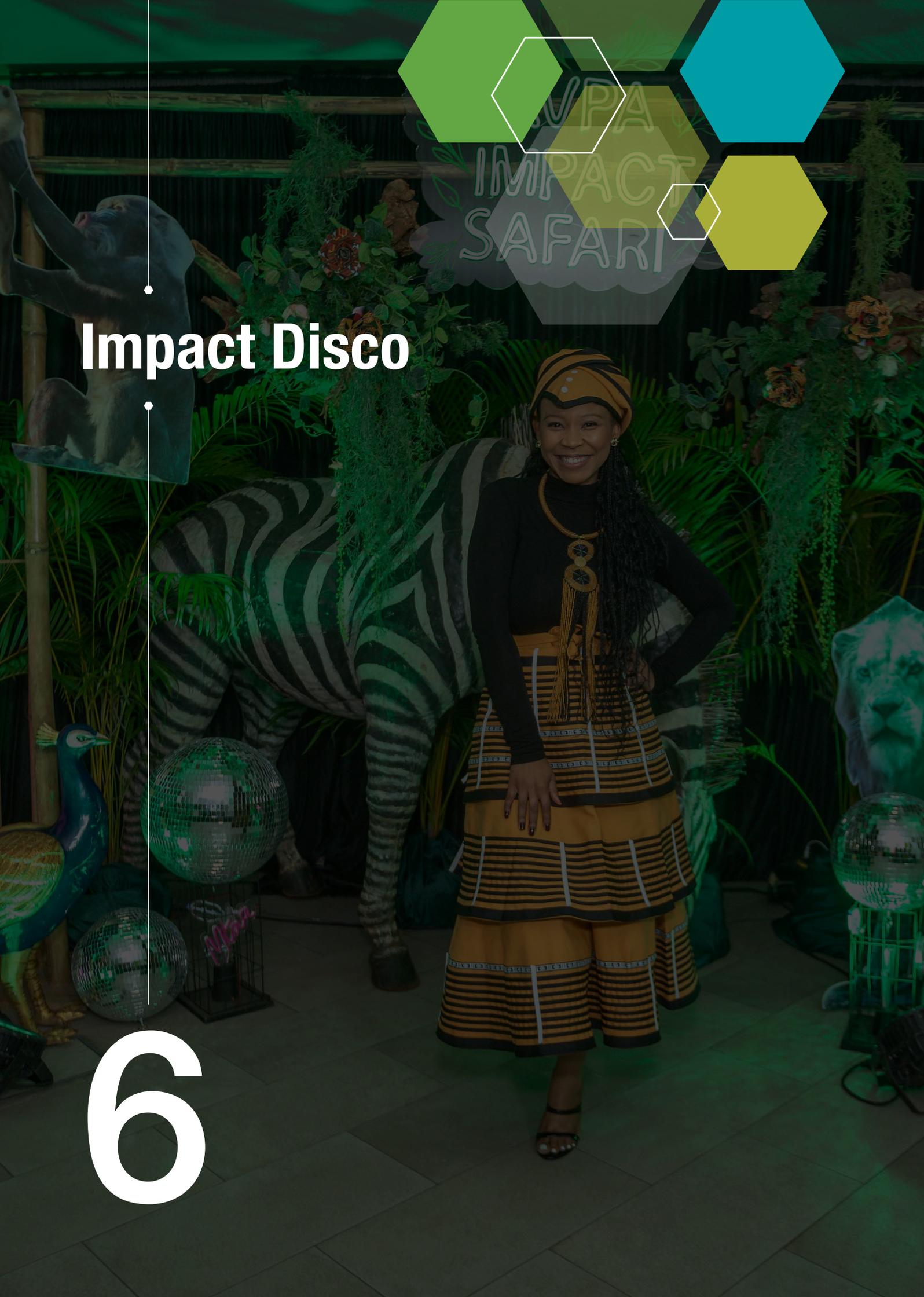
Delegates visiting [Tradecare Africa](#). Experiential journey through the digital heartbeat of modern African agriculture, witnessing a complete ecosystem in action. Delegates were able to see in real-time how our Mazao Safi platform utilises data from the FarmDataPod to deliver tailored training to farmers, then step into the world of React Cert Africa to understand how this same data streamlines certification for international standards.



Delegates visiting [Tawi Fresh Kenya](#) - an Agri-SME offering a B2B digital marketplace solution designed to facilitate secure e-commerce transactions, financing, and value-added services. Its expertise ensures a seamless journey from farm to fork. Tawi Fresh Kenya is utilising this knowledge and insights gained to transform and organise the Agricultural value chain for increased incomes, job creation and enterprise growth.



# Impact Disco



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Following three days of intensive sessions, the 2025 AVPA Conference ended with an Impact Disco, a celebratory networking event held under the Nairobi sky. This high-energy evening provided delegates with a vibrant space to connect beyond conference sessions. The event successfully fostered a sense of community spirit, allowing attendees to celebrate their shared commitment to driving meaningful impact across the continent in a relaxed and memorable setting.





# 2025 AVPA Conference: Key Take-Aways and Recommendations

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**Unlock Africa's Dormant Capital:** The continent holds an estimated USD 1.3 - 2.4 trillion in local assets (e.g., pension funds). The primary challenge is not a capital shortage but a deployment challenge. Advocacy is needed for pan-African regulatory harmonisation and to build the capacity of pension fund trustees to confidently allocate capital to alternative, impact-focused asset classes, such as infrastructure and private equity.

**Champion Catalytic Capital as a Strategic**

**Tool:** Patient, risk-tolerant capital is essential to de-risk investments and “crowd in” commercial funding for high-impact sectors. There is a need to develop and promote standardised frameworks for diagnosing capital gaps and designing catalytic capital instruments that address both financial and behavioural barriers to investment.

**Scale Blended Finance from Pilots to Platforms:**

Blended finance is a proven de-risking mechanism, but its use remains fragmented. Key recommendation from the conference is to create dedicated blended finance vehicles for key sectors (e.g., green economy, health) and increase transparency around successful exits to build investor confidence and attract larger-scale capital.

**Formalise the Mental Health Investment Agenda:**

The launch of the USD 100 million Catalytic Pooled Fund for Mental Health by the Coalition of Mental Health Investment (CMHI) establishes a new asset class. There is an urgent need for philanthropies, DFIs, and private investors to contribute to the fund and integrate mental health as a cross-cutting priority across climate, education, and humanitarian portfolios.

**Bridge the “Missing Middle” for SMEs:** Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) face a critical funding gap (USD250K–USD1M). There is a need to promote flexible, patient capital instruments, such as impact-linked finance and asset-based lending, tailored to the cash flow cycles of SGBs in sectors like renewable energy and regenerative agriculture.

**Adopt Impact-Linked Finance (ILF) to Drive**

**Outcomes:** Tying financial rewards to verified social and environmental performance directly incentivises impact. Conference recommendation: Pilot and scale ILF models, such as the Simple Agreement for Future Impact (SAFI), and build capacity among local fund managers and entrepreneurs to effectively implement them.

**Prioritise African Data Sovereignty with AI:**

The partnership to develop the AI-powered Social Investment in Action Africa (SIIA) dashboard by AVPA and Impact Intelligence is a critical step. Both entities encourage ecosystem actors to utilise the SIIA platform for strategic decision-making and provide feedback to ensure it accurately reflects on-the-ground realities and investment opportunities.

**Shift from Project Funding to Systems Investing:**

Addressing root causes requires moving beyond transactional investments. Ecosystem players are encouraged to adopt systems-thinking tools and frameworks, invest in multi-stakeholder partnerships, and allocate capital for long-term ecosystem development rather than focusing solely on short-term project outcomes.





**Mobilise Private Sector Leadership for Systemic Change:** Corporations are evolving from charitable giving (CSI 1.0) to integrating impact into core business models (CSI 3.0). The conference recommended the development and sharing of case studies of successful corporate partnerships and advocated for policy frameworks that incentivise private sector investment in national development priorities.

**Invest in Africa’s Blue and Natural Economy:** The ocean and natural capital represent a multi-trillion-dollar, underfunded opportunity. Direct venture philanthropy and blended capital towards community-centred, regenerative blue economy ventures, and support the development of product standardisation and certification for African markets, is needed.

**Reframe Job Creation Around “Decent Work”:** The focus must shift from quantity to quality, addressing the prevalence of low-paying, informal jobs. Apply a “decent work” lens—evaluating economic opportunity, social protections, and dignity—to workforce investments and support business models that prove these are not mutually exclusive with profitability.

**Leverage Public Capital as a Strategic De-risking Tool:** Public and philanthropic funding can be structured to attract significant private co-investment. A key recommendation from the conference is to document and replicate successful public de-risking models (e.g., first-loss capital, fund-of-funds) and strengthen governance to ensure that public money catalyses rather than distorts markets.

**Empower Local Entrepreneurs and Fund Managers:** Proximity to leadership is key to resilience, yet local funders receive only a fraction of the global capital. Key recommendation is the commitment to investing in and through local fund managers, providing flexible, long-term capital, and offering tangible operational support (e.g., shared services) beyond mentorship.

**Advance Contextual and Verifiable Impact Reporting:** To combat “impact washing,” the sector needs more straightforward, more standardised, and honest reporting. A key recommendation is to adopt the Impact Performance Reporting Norms (IPRN) widely, mandate the disclosure of adverse and unintended outcomes, and ensure that data is grounded in direct community feedback.

**Forge a New Narrative of African Agency and Collaboration:** The continent must shift from a narrative of dependency to one of co-creation and self-reliance. A key recommendation is to build intra-African partnerships intentionally, champion African-led solutions on global platforms, and align investment terms with the long-term, patient horizon required to create a resilient Africa.

A modern lounge area featuring a large living wall of greenery on the left. The ceiling is decorated with numerous disco balls and spherical pendant lights. The seating consists of white sofas and armchairs with wooden frames, arranged around a low wooden coffee table. The floor is covered in a patterned carpet. In the background, there are dining tables and chairs, and a bar area with green lighting.

# Annex

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# Conference Speakers



**Tochukwu Ezeukwu**, Regional Director, West Africa

**Andrew Tarazid Tarawali**, Investment Director, Small Foundation

**Adam Thompson**, Chief Operating Officer, EHA Impact Ventures

**Carolyne Kirabo**, Chief Executive Officer, M-Kyala Ventures

**Ivan Swartz**, Chief Executive Officer, Nation Builder

**Adedotun Sulaiman**, Pan-African Board Chair, AVPA

**Frank Aswani**, Chief Executive Officer, AVPA

**British Robinson**, Chair - Africa, Milken Institute International

**Isaac O. Awuondo**, Chairman, NCBA Bank PLC

**Kana Enomoto**, Director of Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute

**Ambassador Christian Frutiger**, Vice-Director General at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Kerubo Okioga**, Regional Director, Africa, Porticus

**Daniel Wilcox**, Economic Counsellor and Head of Prosperity & Climate Change, British High Commission, Kenya

**Rita Odero**, Director, Business Development Services, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

**Harvey Koh**, Senior Advisor, Catalytic Consortium Capital (C3)

**Precious Wilson Nkandu**, Chief Operations Officer, AVPA

**Kanani Mutooni**, Senior Managing Director and Africa Director - Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation (DRK)

**Karen Waithaka**, Chief Executive Officer, DOB Equity

**Sanjeev Debipersad**, Head of Investments, Africa Social Impact Exchange (ASiEx) Catalytic Pool Fund/Partner, Shivam Capital

**Ashley Ambrose**, Deputy Director of Health Equity, Clinton Global Initiative

**Dr. Regeru Njoroge Regeru**, Senior Manager - Program Delivery & Impact, Africa and Middle East - Global Health Equity, Johnson & Johnson

**Dr. Mercy Karanja**, Head of Mental Health Division, Ministry of Health Kenya

**Karim Harji**, Program Director, Said Business School, University of Oxford

**Niko Moesgaard**, Managing Partner, Impact Intelligence

**Dave Uduanu**, Chief Executive Officer, Access ARM Pensions, Nigeria

**Edwin Ruttoh**, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Power Pension Fund

**Galm G. Jaldesa**, General Manager - Strategy and Planning, LAPFUND

**Godwin Simba**, Council Member, Executive Director, Finnet Trust Services Limited, Association of Pension Trustees and Administrators of Kenya (APTAK)

**Nasri Adam**, Director, Programmes, Impact & Communications (Pan-Africa) & Regional Director, East Africa, AVPA

**Derek George**, Deputy Head of the Economy and Education Section at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

**Lucas Tschan**, Head of Advisory, iGravity

**Claire Njoki**, Investment and Program Manager, AlphaMundi Foundation

**Steve McCallum**, Lead, Advisory & Solutions, Roots of Impact

**Richard Midikira**, Senior Manager, Innovation & Partnerships, Aceli Africa

**Katie Naeve**, Director, Impact-Linked Finance Collaborative

**Dr. Daphne Ngunjiri**, Chief Executive Officer, Access Afya

**Julia Greenland**, Managing Director, HBGI

**Arif Neky**, Honorary Chairman- Strategic Advisory Board, UN SDG partnership platform, Kenya

**Claire McDonald**, Partnerships Manager, Education Outcomes Fund

**Dr. Philip Mbithi**, SRHR Programme Officer, UNFPA

**Chloe Eddleston**, Regional Lead for East Africa, Social Finance International

**Jane Mbinya**, Senior Investment Officer, Afrishela

**Lilian Mramba**, Chief Investment Officer, Grassroots Business Fund

**Sawa Nakagawa**, Executive Director, AlphaMundi

**Carol Koech**, Vice President, Africa, Global Energy Alliance (GEA)

**Eric Wanless**, Senior Fellow, Factor E

**Nick Selby**, VP of Engineering at Renewvia Solar Africa

**Alexandra Burrough**, Regional Director Africa, New Energy Nexus

**Olamide Niya-Afuye**, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA)

**Allie Hollowell**, Director of Partnerships, Climate Resilience for All

**Bweme Antonio**, Regional Coordinator for Africa, Africa, WINGS

**Awuor Ayiecho**, Practice lead for Investment to Impact, Development Dynamics

**Henrietta Bankole-Olusina**, Vice President, Africa, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

**Arif Neky**, Honorary Chairman-Strategic Advisory Board, UN SDG partnership platform, Kenya

**Dr. Roselyn Marandu**, Country Director, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Aline Kabanda**, East Africa Regional Director, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Seth Mulli**, Program Director, Allan Gray Makers, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Njoki Riguga**, Program Manager, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Sihle Mofokeng**, Allan Gray Makers, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Mlibo Zibaya**, Impact Assurance Lead, Allan Gray Makers, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**John Icharia**, Jasiri Growth Accelerator Lead, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Palesa Mofokeng**, Allan Gray Makers, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

**Esther Ndeti**, Unconventional Capital

**Joseph Ogutu**, East Africa Board Chair, AVPA/Chair of the Board of Directors, Safaricom Foundation

**Sanda Ojiambo**, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

**Vimal Shah**, Chairman, BIDCO Africa Group

**Thomas Feeny**, Director, International Development Innovation Agency (IDIA)

**Shruti Chandrasekhar**, Regional Lead, Africa Private Equity, International Finance Corporation

**Dr. Ola Brown**, Founder and General Partner, HealthCap Africa

**William Nyaoke**, Regional Director, East Africa, Norfund

**David Albertani**, Chief Executive Officer, Catalytic Finance Foundation

**Guillaume Bonnel**, Chief Executive Officer, SDG Impact Finance Initiative

**Maarten Weehuizen**, Partner, Thirdway Partners

**Dorothy Maseke**, Head of African Natural Capital Alliance Secretariat & Lead, Nature Finance and TNFD at FSD Africa

**Tim Bromfield**, Vice President - Africa, Conservation International

**Isabella Masinde**, Chief Executive Officer, UMITA Limited

**Julius Kamau**, Associate Director, Energy, Environment and Climate Change & Ag. Group Director, Sustainability, Equity Group Foundation

**Shalane Yuen**, Founding Managing Partner, Trevor Noah Foundation

**Donne Cameron**, Co-Chief Executive Officer, VSO International

**Amabelle Nwakanma**, Director of Programmes and Partnerships, Leap Africa

**Mary Burmeister**, Director for Corporate and Foundation Partnerships, International Youth Foundation (IYF)

**Taba Dwinger**, Principal, Open Capital

**Remy Olsen**, Senior Project Leader, Open Capital

**Kuria Wanjau**, Project Manager, FSD Africa

**Marc Mutambala**, Manager Capital Markets, FSD Africa

**Eveline Jansen**, Regional Program Manager

**Shiro Wachira**, Head of Portfolio Services, Factor E

**Yewande Ososanya**, Representative for Africa, Impact Frontiers

**Freija Vermeer**, Program Manager, DOEN Foundation

**Janno van der Laan**, Founder, Nasaru Naturals

**Catherine Masolia**, Managing Director, Somo Africa

**Emmy van Kleef**, Program Manager, Regenerative Economy, DOEN Foundation

**Getika Mantri**, Lead Researcher, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

**Barry Johnson**, Founder and CEO Of Seven Generations

**Frank Tobé**, Board Member, DOB Equity

**Rupin Vadera**, Director and Chief Executive Officer, FII Limited

**Audrey Chebet**, Briter Bridges

**David Saunders**, Briter Bridges

**Diana Irungu**, Investment Associate, Global Innovation Fund

**Kennedy Mugo**, Technical Adviser, Climate Adaptation Finance NDC Assist II, GIZ

**Susan Wanjiku**, Innovation & Investment Fund Manager at SPARK, GIZ

**Tandokazi Nquma-Moyo**, General Manager: Strategic Partnerships, Business Development and Stakeholder Relations, Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

**Hamdiya Ismaila**, Chief Executive Officer, Savannah Impact Advisory

**Maggie Flanagan**, Senior Program Officer, Lemelson Foundation

**Krisztina Tora**, Chief Market Development Officer, GSG Impact

**Amma Lartey**, Chief Executive Officer, Impact Investing Ghana

**Dr. Austine Mwape**, Board Member NABII Zambia

**Olayide Odediran**, Lead, Workforce Development in Africa, Acumen West Africa

**Evans Okinyi**, Secretary to the Board, East Africa Philanthropy Network

**Cathy Duff**, Director, Trialogue

**Amabelle Diana Nwakanma**, Director of Programmes, Leap Africa

**Donne Cameron**, Co-CEO, VSO International

**Karen Hitschke**, Chief Executive Officer, Building Bridges Foundation

**Blain Teketel**, Senior Program Manager, Porticus

**Diana Gichaga**, Managing Partner and Founder, Private Equity Support (PES)

**Felistus Mwikali**, Programme Manager, Girl Child Network, Kenya

**Millycent Aoko**, Investment Manager, Acumen East Africa

**Nick Markham**, Investments Lead, Jobtech Alliance

**Victor Wambua**, Regional Lead, Access to Finance, Mastercard Foundation

**Jason-Louis Carmichael**, Executive Chairman, Tibu Health

**Francescah Munyi**, Co-Founder & CEO, KOFAR Kenya Ltd

**Dhiren R. Thakker**, President & CEO, Med Aditus

**Liz Njeri Kamau**, Programs and Operations Lead, PadMad Kenya

**Mwihaki Njehu**, Operations Director, Grace Rock Farms Ltd

**Margaret Mutie**, Co-Founder & CEO, Ndalani Farm Produce Ltd

**Nyandia Kamawe**, Founder, MokoMaya

**Ziwa Hillington Musoke**, Managing Director, Green Bio Energy

**Heinrich Van Der Merwe**, Managing Director, Agri-Mel

**Norah Magero**, Founder & CEO, Drop Access

**Hon. Alex Kamau Wachira**, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Kenya

**Stephen Jackson**, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations Office in Nairobi

**Aida Diop**, Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund

**Bukar Kyari**, West Africa Board Chair, AVPA

**Mark Napier**, Chief Executive Officer, FSD Africa

**Anne Marie Chidzero**, Chief Investment Officer, FSD Africa Investments

**Stephen Macharia**, Principal, Investments, FSD Africa Investments

**David Obura**, Chair of IPBES: Building Investment

**Eva Wairigia**, Associate Director, New Forests

**Robbie Marwick**, CEO & Founder, Africa Carbon Partners and Gashaka Gumti

**Vahid Fotuhi**, Founder and CEO, Blue Forests

**Bryan Adkins**, Project Manager, Rubeho

**Sam Ndonga**, Senior Advisor, Development Finance & Impact Investing, Catalyst54

**Evans Osano**, Chief Financial Markets Officer, FSD Africa

**Jean Kambuni**, Deputy Director, Capital Markets, Nairobi International Finance Centre

**George Okioma**, Director of Operations and Marketing, CPF Financial Services Ltd (Kenya)

**Jeff Temba**, Member, Collaborative for Fund Domiciliation in Africa

# Sponsor & Partner Spotlights

## Sponsors



Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation with a vision of a healthier future for everyone. Together with the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance, Clinton Global Initiative, Kokoro, and McKinsey Health Institute, Wellcome Trust has co-founded the Coalition of Mental Health Investment (CMHI).

Website: <https://wellcome.org/>



Impact Frontiers is a learning and market-building collaboration for investors seeking to manage their social and environmental impacts and incorporate impact into investment decision-making. Impact Frontiers and African Venture Philanthropy Alliance have been collaborating on a pilot program for Impact Performance Reporting Norms. The program aims to enhance the clarity, consistency, and decision-usefulness of impact reporting practices in Africa. It is specifically designed to support learning and adaptation of the reporting norms within African markets, helping to contextualize global guidance to better align with local needs, practices, and priorities. Website: <https://impactfrontiers.org/>



Mennonite Economic Development Associates is an international economic development organization that creates business solutions to poverty. Website: <https://www.meda.org/>



Porticus is a philanthropic organisation that aims to create a just and sustainable future where human dignity flourishes. AVPA, funded by Porticus, has been implementing an investor readiness program designed to equip social enterprises and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the necessary commercial skills and sustainable business models to attract capital from investors and reduce reliance on traditional aid.

Website: <https://www.porticus.com/>



The Rockefeller Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that promotes the well-being of humanity by finding and scaling solutions that advance opportunity and reverse the climate crisis. Today the Foundation uses advances in power, health, food, and finance sectors to ensure everyone has good jobs, good food, good health, and more at a time when climate change's effects are taking lives and undermining livelihoods.

Website: <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org>



The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is responsible for the overall coordination of development cooperation alongside other federal offices, as well as for Swiss humanitarian aid.

Website: <https://www.deza.eda.admin.ch/en>



Allan & Gill Gray Foundation was established in 2015 by Allan and his wife Gill, partners and soulmates for over 60 years, and their family. It was endowed with the family's controlling interests in the Orbis and Allan Gray groups of asset managers. This structure allows the Foundation to serve dual purposes: Business and philanthropy. Website: <https://allangillgrayfoundation.org/>



Open Capital is a management consulting and financial advisory firm that drives growth, enables investment and builds markets across the African continent. Website: <https://www.opencapital.com/>



FSD Africa is a specialist development agency that helps to make finance work for Africa's future. It helps strengthen the continent's financial system so that it's better able to support green economic development and address the challenges of climate change, poverty, population growth, and unsustainable debt.

Website: <https://fsdafrica.org/>



The Kenya Innovation Ecosystem Funders Forum (KIEFF) stands as a powerful collaborative force, uniting leading innovation grantmakers in Kenya. Its mission extends beyond simply granting funds. It aspires to cultivate a robust innovation ecosystem that fosters the successful commercialization of solutions and propels Kenya towards a sustainable future fueled by a thriving entrepreneurial spirit.

Website: <https://www.lemelson.org/kieff/>



The Global Innovation Fund is a non-profit, impact-first investment fund headquartered in London with offices in Washington, D.C., Nairobi and Singapore. It invests in the development, rigorous testing, and scaling up of new products, services, business processes, or policy reforms that are more cost-effective than current practice and targeted at improving the lives of the world's poorest people. Website: <https://www.globalinnovation.fund/>



The Research and Innovation Systems for Africa (RISA) Fund is a multi-country project, funded by UK International Development from the UK Government, to support research and innovation systems strengthening in Africa. Website: <https://www.risa-fund.org/>



DOEN Foundation is the Fund of the National Postcode Loterij and VriendenLoterij. DOEN aims to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, in which everyone counts, that puts the commons first, and there is room for radical imagination. Website: <https://www.doen.nl/en/>



Based in Chicago, with locations in India and Nigeria, MacArthur Foundation works with people around the world to explore new ideas, approaches, and models. The Foundation boldly invests in creative solutions to critical challenges, sparking hope for our future. Website: <https://www.macfound.org/>



Leap Africa is a youth-focused leadership development organization committed to raising leaders that will transform Africa; through interventions for young people, that bridges the gap in leadership, education, employability and entrepreneurship. As a mission driven organization, it recognizes that youth leadership and inclusion is critical to nation building and wealth creation. Website: <https://leapafrika.org/>



With 35 years of experience of creating impact, IYF is a global nonprofit transforming lives and tackling economic inequality at scale by equipping young people with the skills to thrive today and lead tomorrow. Website: <https://iyfglobal.org/>



Acumen is a global force of entrepreneurs, investors, philanthropists, and social innovators working together to break the cycle of poverty. Acumen invests in entrepreneurs and helps them build a more inclusive world. Website: <https://acumen.org/regions/west-africa/>



Human Brains Global Initiative (HBGI) transform and build high-performing mental health systems that maximize outcomes for individuals. Website: <https://www.hbgi.org/>

## Partners



Inteleos is a global non-profit community of more than 145,000 medical professionals united in assuring that patients obtain the highest quality healthcare. For more than 45 years, Inteleos has defined excellence through quality patient care and certification. Inteleos is the governing and managing organization for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®), the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ (APCA™), and the Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Certification Academy™. The Inteleos Foundation oversees the philanthropic work for the organization. Inteleos has opened an Africa office to advance basic obstetric point of care ultrasound (OPOCUS) certification across East Africa. Website: [https://www.inteleos.org/africa\\_office/](https://www.inteleos.org/africa_office/)



Impact Intelligence leverages AI-powered state-of-the-art technologies to deliver valuable insights to companies and institutions and help realize their most ambitious projects to promote public good and sustainability. AVPA and Impact Intelligence have developed a Social Investment in Action Africa (SIAF) generative AI platform. This interactive dashboard maps the mobilisation of capital in Africa. Website: <https://impactintel.com/>



Building Bridges began in 2019 as a collaborative initiative among diverse stakeholders in Geneva. After four years of successful conferences, the Building Bridges Foundation was officially established in October 2023, providing a permanent home for the conference moving forward. The Foundation aims to drive its mission not only through its flagship annual event but also by fostering engagement and collaboration year-round, leveraging the power of its global community. Website: <https://www.buildingbridges.org/>



International Development Innovation Agency is a unique collaboration platform that brings together the senior leadership from the innovation teams, labs and departments of some of the world's leading development agencies. AVPA and IDIA has formally announced a partnership aimed at unlocking and mobilising new sources and amounts of capital for innovation across the African continent, and promoting the value and mechanics of collaborative, blended finance approaches among ecosystem actors. Website: <https://www.idiainnovation.org/>



African Natural Capital Alliance (ANCA) is an African-led collaborative multi-stakeholder initiative, acting as the vehicle to drive coordinated advocacy and action across the continent. ANCA was established in 2022 by FSD Africa out of a need to ensure an African Voice on the global nature agenda. Website: <https://africannaturalcapitalalliance.com/>



7 Generations Africa A culturally-aligned platform empowering Africa's leading families to preserve and grow wealth, strengthen unity, and create positive societal impact across many generations to come. Website: <https://7genafrika.com/>



Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) is a leading climate innovation hub fostering sustainable development through technology, entrepreneurship, and strategic partnerships. Website: <https://www.kenyacic.org/>



The African Private Capital Association is committed to championing and enabling private capital investment in Africa. AVCA plays a significant role as an effective change agent for the industry by educating, equipping and connecting members and key stakeholders with independent industry research, advocacy, best-practice professional development programmes, and unparalleled networking opportunities. Website: <https://www.avca.africa/>



Said Business School - University of Oxford has Oxford impact measurement programme as one of its programmes. Students are able to learn the core concepts and emerging issues in impact measurement, how 'impact' is framed by and for different stakeholders and uses, and examples of measurement approaches and tools, and how they could be adapted for your work. Website: <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/programmes/executive-education/person-programmes/oxford-impact-measurement-programme>



For more information  
about our work, please  
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# avpa

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