



AFRICARENA
THE AFRICAN TECH ECOSYSTEM ACCELERATOR

THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA 2025

Be a part of the conversation

20 February 2025

16:00 - 19:00

**Amazon Africa Headquarters, 29 Gogosoa St
Observatory, Cape Town**

Powered by **aws** startups



WHAT IS AFRICARENA?

VISION

Be the premier African platform for connecting tech ecosystems, founders and investors.

MISSION

- **Connect** founders with investors & corporates in a founder-focus series of events.
- **Bridge** African tech ecosystems and promote their opportunities. **Create** an impact-driven investor community.
- **Attract** entrepreneurs and investors in Africa.

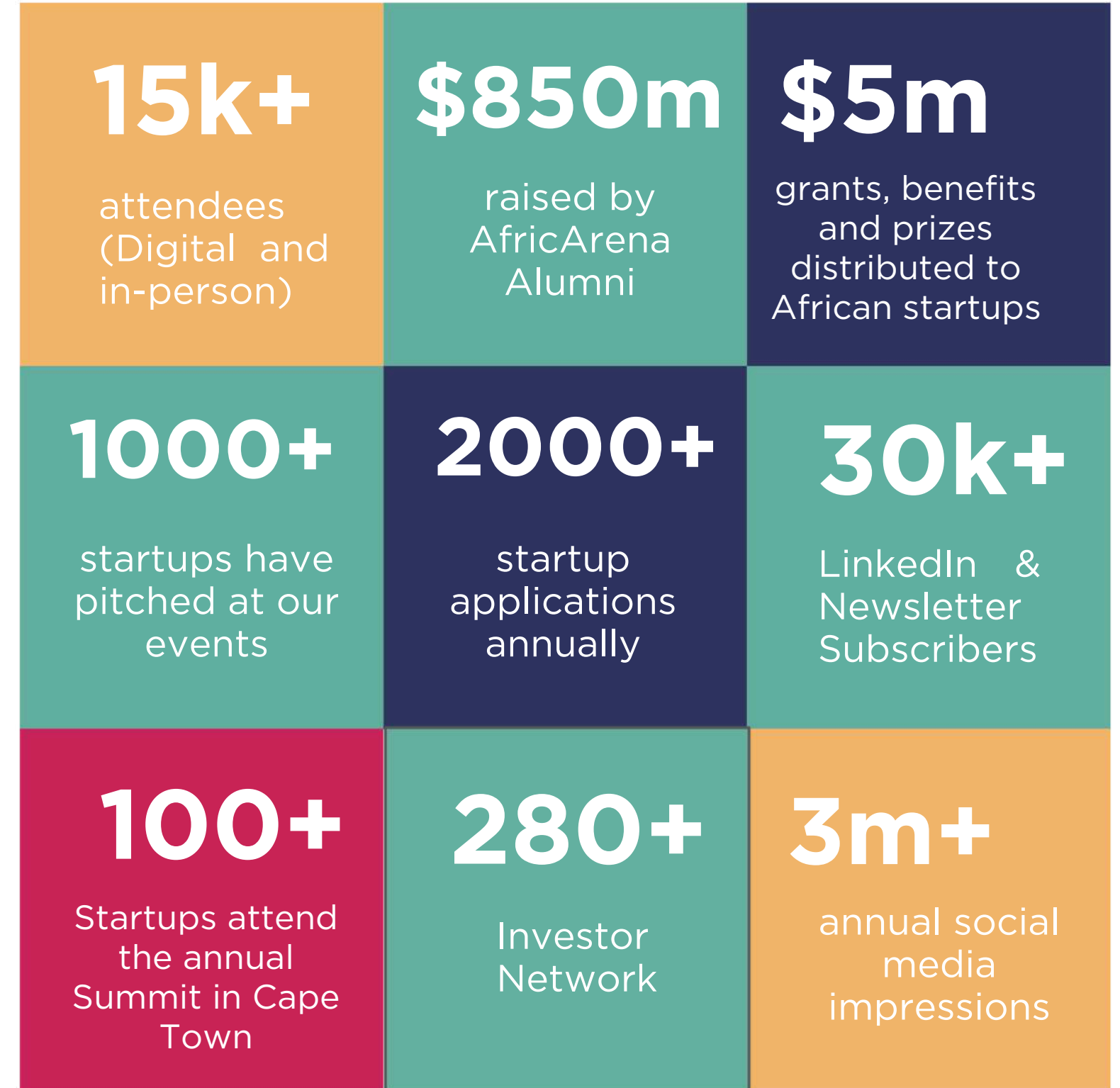
OUR IMPACT SINCE 2017

AfricArena has been, since 2017, a premier dealflow platform for startups, investors, corporates and tech ecosystem players in the continent.

Startups that have showcased at AfricArena have collectively raised over **US\$850 million** to date in capital. **20+ global corporates** have launched **30+ open innovation challenges** across multiple industries, and have attracted **1000+ applications** from startups in **30+ countries**.

280+ of Africa's top investors have attended the Summit, looking for world class talent to partner with.

Learn more: www.africarena.com



OUR ECOSYSTEM DNA

AFRICARISE

AfricArise, powered by AfricArena, is a pan-African startup accelerator that connects startups with corporates and investors. It's an annual program aimed at supporting startups through mentorship, coaching and investment deal support.



DIGITAL COLLECTIVE AFRICA

Digital Collective Africa is a community of African investors, incubators, accelerators, and founders who aim to support early-stage startups. We work together on projects to limit friction and offer more transparency within the ecosystems.



FSAT LABS

FSAT Labs is a non-profit corporation incubator and accelerator for South African startups in Cape Town and South Africa. FSAT Labs supports each incubated project with an agile team that offers customized services of support and an co-innovation space to call home.



AFRICARENA WIRED

AfricArena Wired connects our live events, and exclusive knowledge base to African tech founders, investors, corporates, mentors and ecosystem players.



**ACCESS THE
AFRICARENA ECOSYSTEM HERE**




SCAN ME 

2024 AfricArena Tour At A Glance (in-person & digital)



8

Cities

5

Softlanding programs

120+

Pitching Startups*

300+

Speakers

2k+

Online viewers

2k+

Attendees

200+

Investors

\$50M

Fundraising impact

30% female led startups

2024 Grand Summit in Cape Town At A Glance (in-person & digital)



150 Participating startups

50 Pitching Startups

31 African countries

represented across the event

8 Winners

600+ Attendees

150+ In-person investors

60+ Speakers

3K+ Live Stream Views

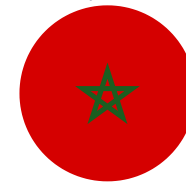
AfricArena Provisional Tour Calendar 2025

During an average of 5 full days, the in-person regional events host a series of events with 20-30+ pitching startups from neighbouring countries, international corporates and investors.

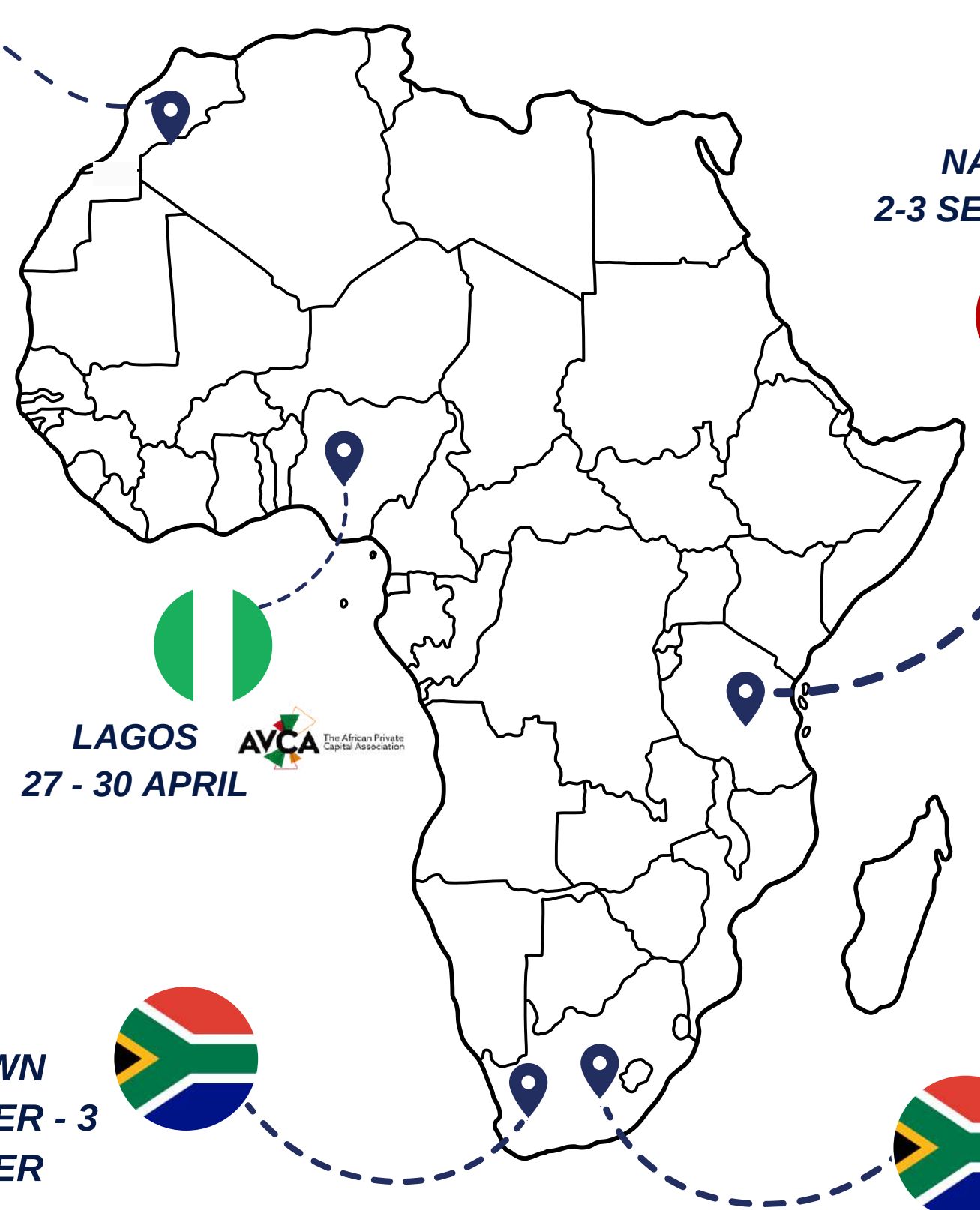
The regional events consisted of:

- Founders' Bootcamps
- Wired Connect
- Networking events

MARRAKESH
12-13 APRIL



NAIROBI
2-3 SEPTEMBER



LAGOS AVCA
27 - 30 APRIL



CAPE TOWN
28 NOVEMBER - 3
DECEMBER



SuperReturn
Africa

JOHANNESBURG
22-25 MARCH

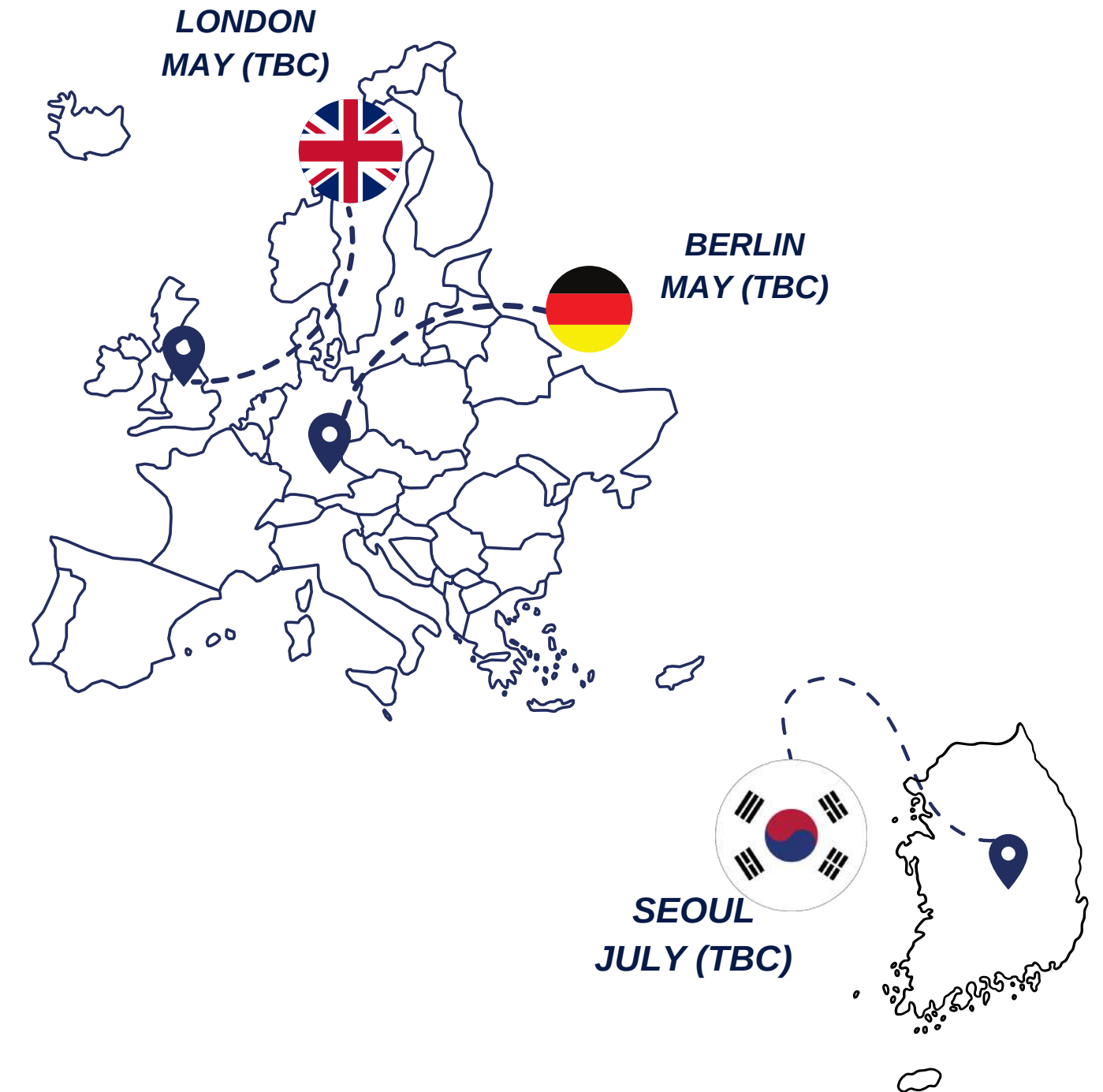


AfricArena Provisional Showcase Tour Calendar 2025

During 3 full days, the in-person international events will host 20+ pitching startups from african countries, international corporates and investors.

The international showcase events consisted of:

- Learning Expeditions
- 1-day showcase summit



APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Our 2025 Circuit is Here & We're Calling All Startups! 🚀

Apply today for the AfricArise Program and seize the opportunity to pitch on the AfricArena stage!

- ◆ **Win** US\$25,000 worth of AWS credits
- ◆ **Gain** exposure to renowned investors
- ◆ Win and **join** us in December for the ultimate pitch challenge in front of 300+ attendees, including VCs, researchers, corporate leaders, and tech ecosystem players from Africa and beyond!

Showcase your innovation and apply now.

Deadline: 20 March 2025





The **JOHANNESBURG** Summit 2025

Fintech, Deep Tech
& Enterprise

26 March 2025
22 Sloane St, Bryanston, Sandton

Get Your
Early Bird Tickets



REGISTER NOW

africarena.com

Powered by



AFRICARENA JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2025 SCHEDULE

4 events as per AfricArena Johannesburg Summit 2025



Founders Bootcamp

23 - 24 March

The Founders' Bootcamp is a 2-day program that accelerates founders' knowledge in key areas often overlooked by other incubation programs. This program is used to prepare startups ahead of the summit.



Wired connect

25 March

You are invited to our Wired Connect event, a speed networking opportunity designed to bring together Limited Partners (LPs), General Partners (GPs), and startups. This exclusive event is open to selected VCs and startups, offering a fast-paced environment to facilitate meaningful connections.



VC Night

25 March

You are invited to our VC night for networking between startups and investors. The event is open to selected VCs and startups.



Johannesburg Summit

26 March

The AfricArena Jozi Summit 2025, will see the participation of more than 30 startups operating all over Africa between the Seed phase and Series B

Theme for the summit would be Deeptech, Enterprise and Fintech



AFRICARENA
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The **LAGOS**

Summit 2025

Coming Soon

30 April
Venue TBC

www.africarena.com/thetour



REGISTER NOW



AFRICARENA

THE AFRICAN TECH ECOSYSTEM ACCELERATOR

KEY PARTNERS



AFRICARENA TOUR PARTNERS



INVESTORS PARTICIPATING



INVESTOR PARTNERS



ECOSYSTEM, ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



AfricArena accelerates African ecosystems 365 days a year on AfricArena Wired.



THE AFRICARENA STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA REPORT



Since 2020, AfricArena has been at the forefront of documenting Africa's tech evolution through its **State of Tech in Africa Report**. Now in its 6th edition, this report has become a key benchmark for investors, tech entrepreneurs, and industry leaders looking to navigate and capitalize on the continent's dynamic tech ecosystem.

Our key mission with this report is to **unpack the stories** behind the deep insights & data-driven analysis of Africa's startup ecosystem, investment trends, and emerging sectors **by spotlighting** key markets and rising tech hubs across the continent, as well as identifying the next frontiers of innovation.

See more: www.wired.africarena.com/insights

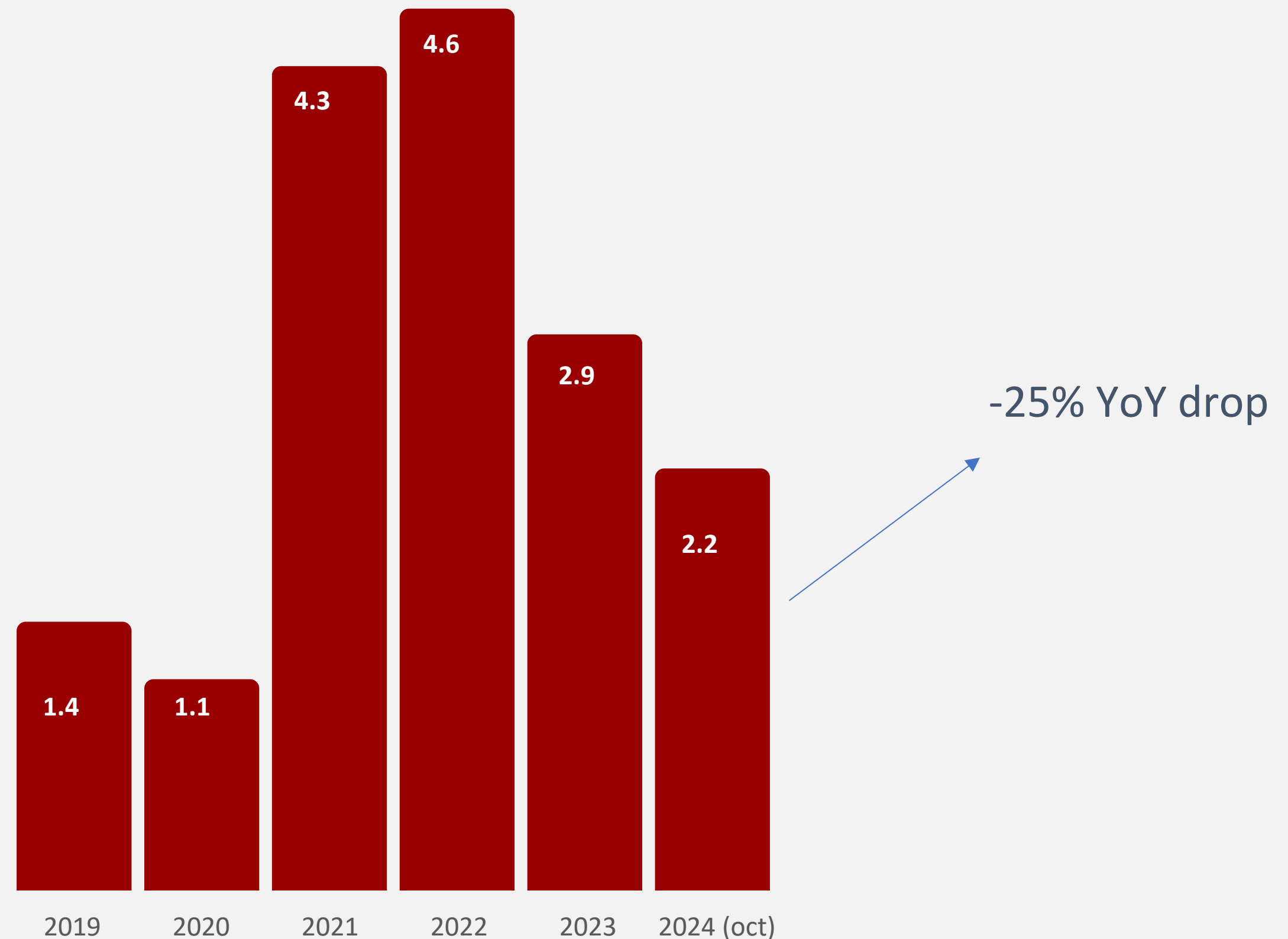


A Look at the numbers in 2024

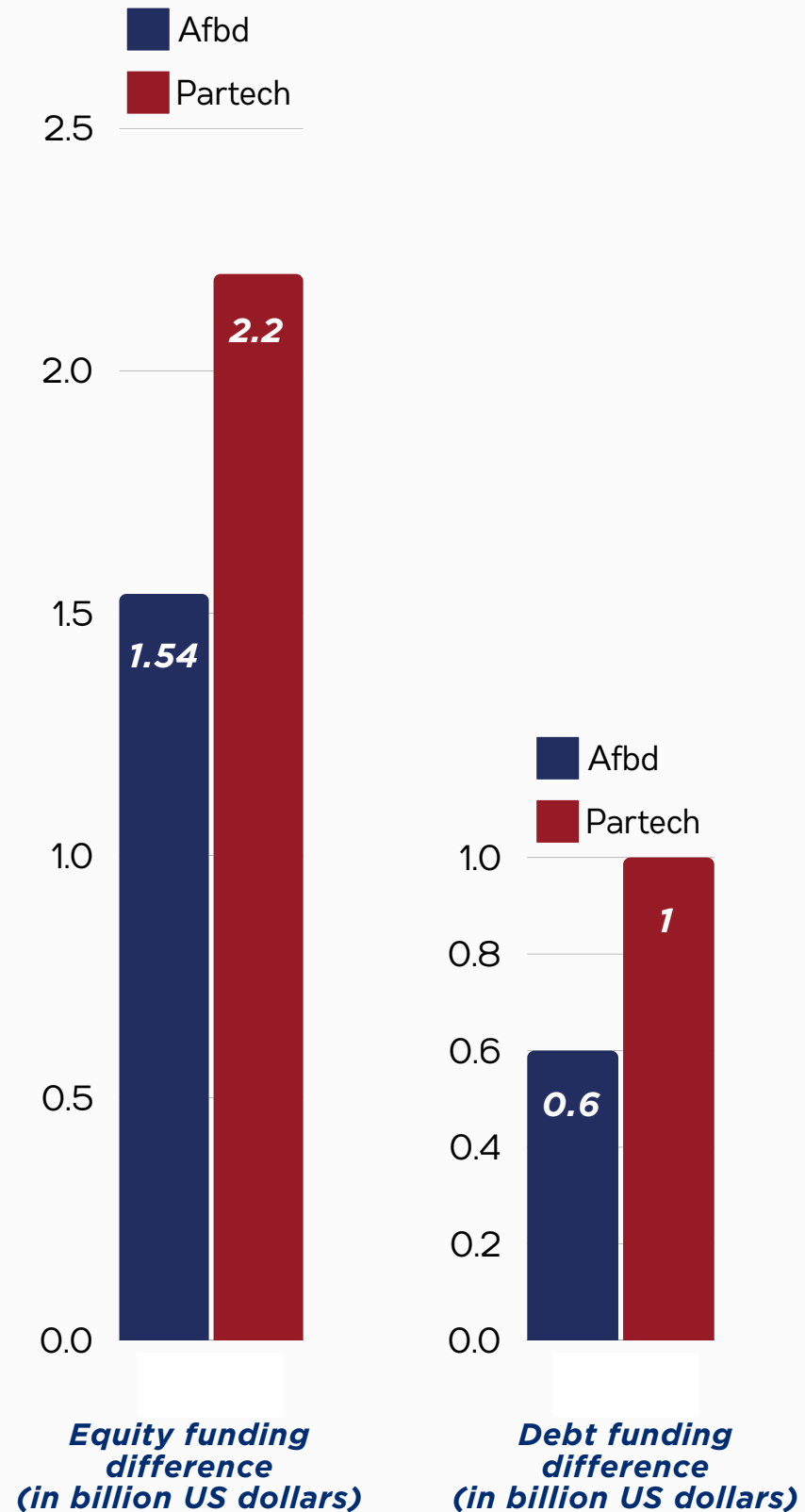



- Startups in Africa raised 2.2b in 2024 according to the Big Deal, **a 25% YoY drop**. Partech announced 3.2b, representing a 7% YoY drop.
- These numbers also represented **a 52% drop from 2022 levels**; Therefore, logically, the number of active investors also declined.

Startups funding in Africa (\$M)



2024 Discrepancies' analysis between Africa: The Big Deal and Partech



Report Methodology / Discrepancies	PARTECH	 Africa: The Big Deal <i>Startup Deals Database</i>
Deals Tracked	<p>Only equity or debt rounds that are \$200K or above; Undisclosed (non-public) small and large deals (i.e Zepz formally WorldRemit and Sendwave).</p>	<p>Public (open source) equity, grant and debt rounds that are 100K and above.</p>
Geography Focus	<p>African startups whose main market is within the continent, even if they expand globally / based outside of Africa.</p>	<p>Pan-African headquartered startups only, which exclude non-African headquartered startups with 80% - 95% of their staff outside Africa, and entire management (inc. founders) outside Africa and non-African.</p>

Report Methodology / Discrepancies Breakdown

After 3 years of decline, funding might have stabilised



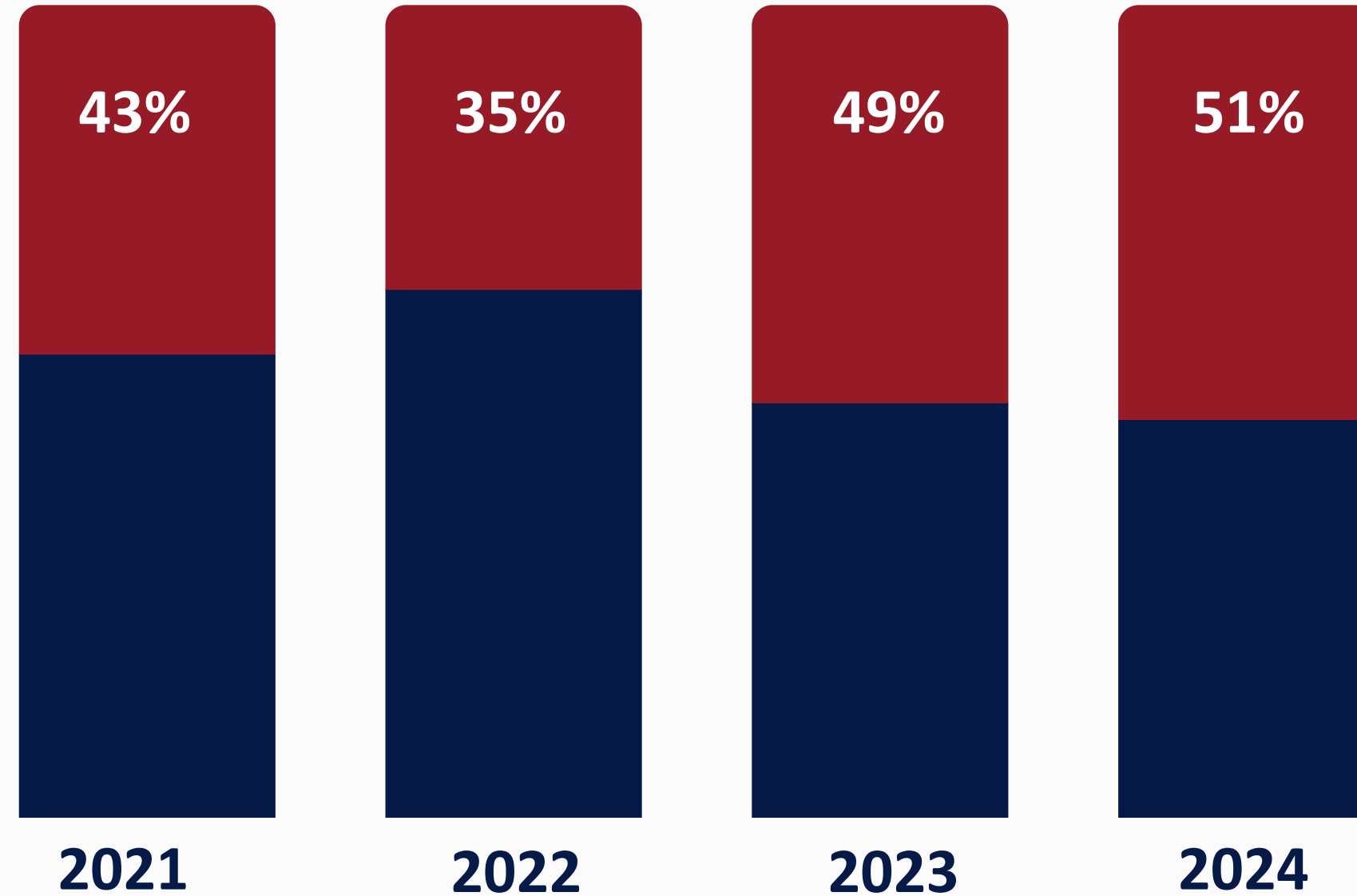
- Total funding raised (exc. exits) | 12-monthly rolling periods



Half of the start-up funding in 2024 went to 10 ventures



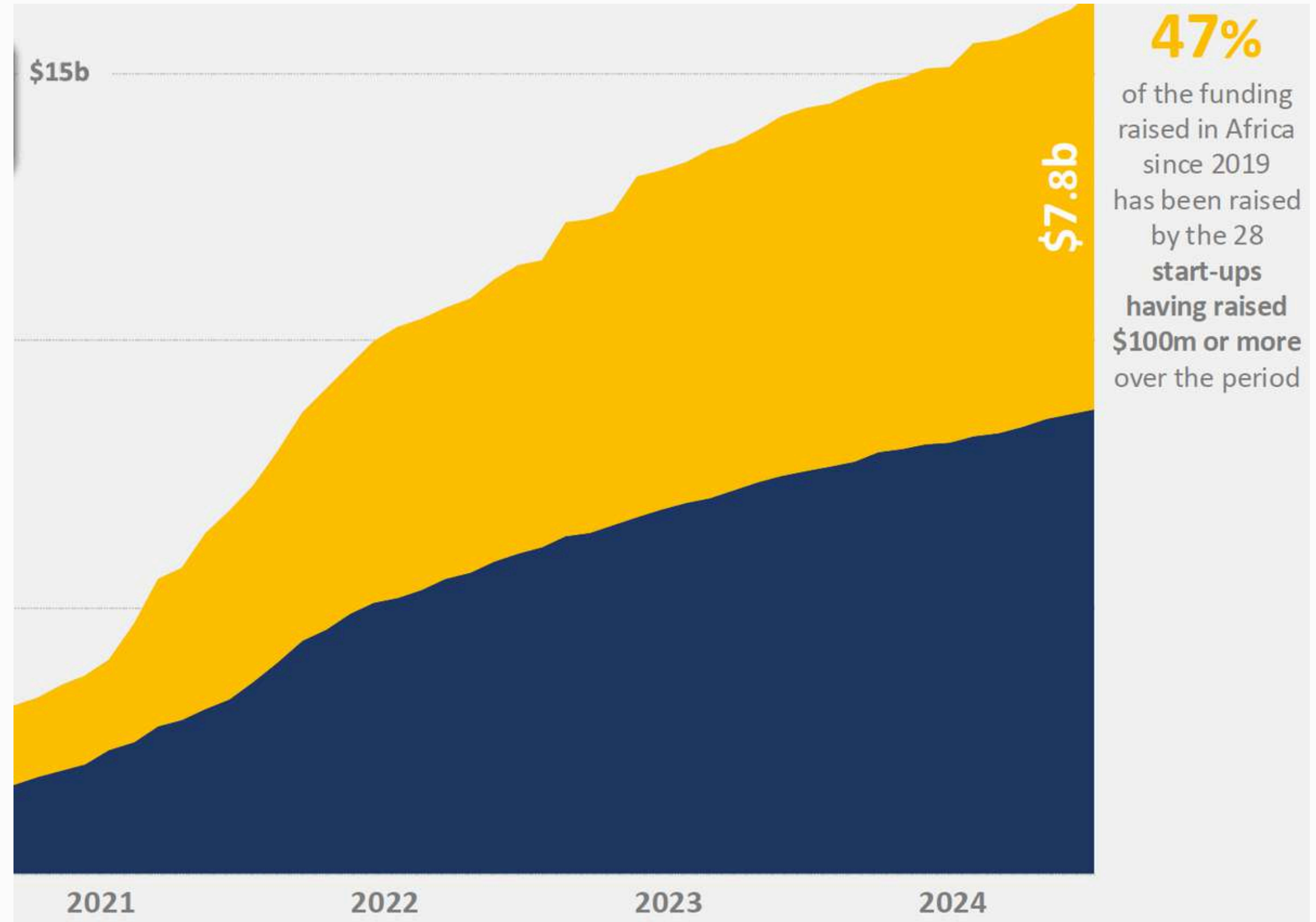
- Total funding raised (exc. exits) | Top 10 raisers per year



28 start-ups concentrated nearly half of the funding since 2019



- Total funding (exc. exits) raised by ventures having raised \$100m+ since 2019 vs. the rest of the ecosystem

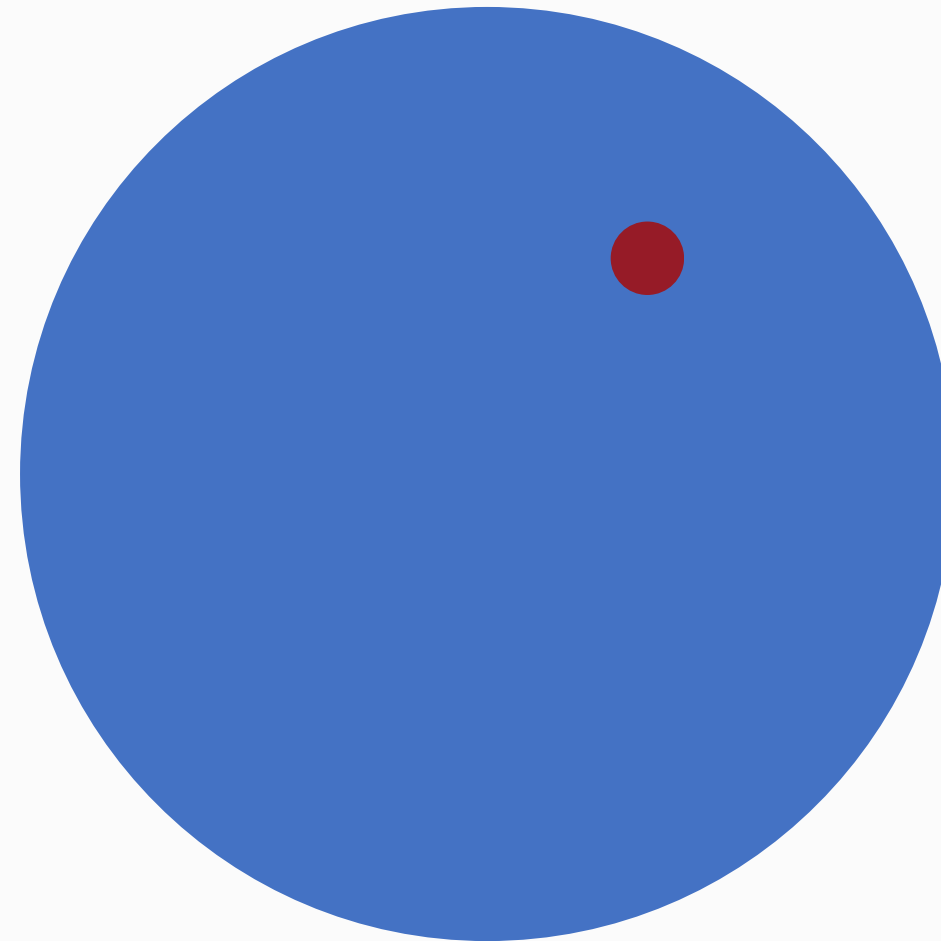


In relative terms, Africa continued to underperform in 2024



- Total equity funding raised in 2024 | Global vs Africa

- Global
- Africa



0.6%

Africa's share of Global Equity Funding in 2024 (\$1.5b out of \$275b)



Less than the amount of equity raised by start-ups in

Miami

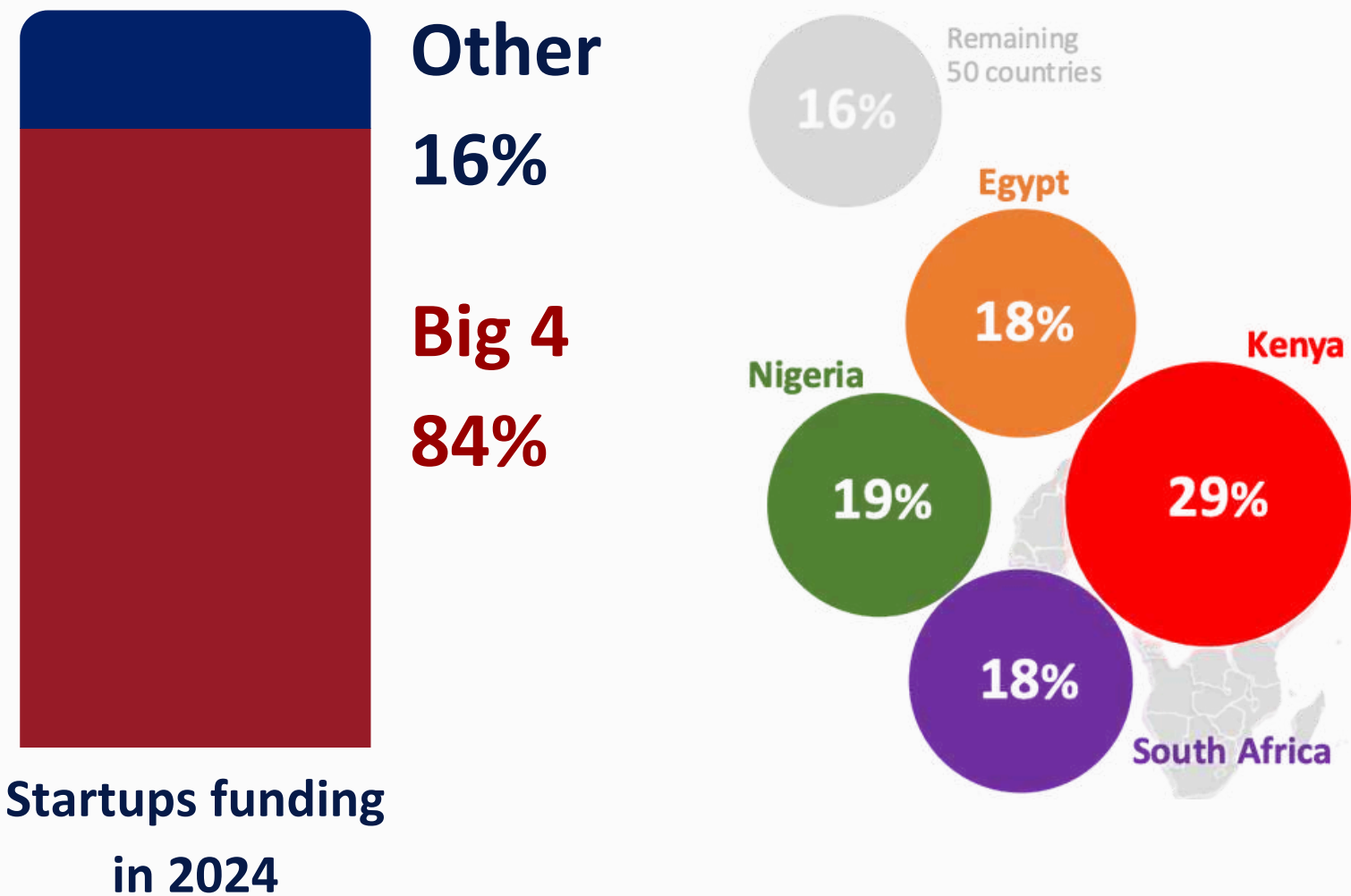
in 2024 (1.8b), the US 12th city in terms of equity fundraising

The Big Four's supremacy remained unchallenged in 2024



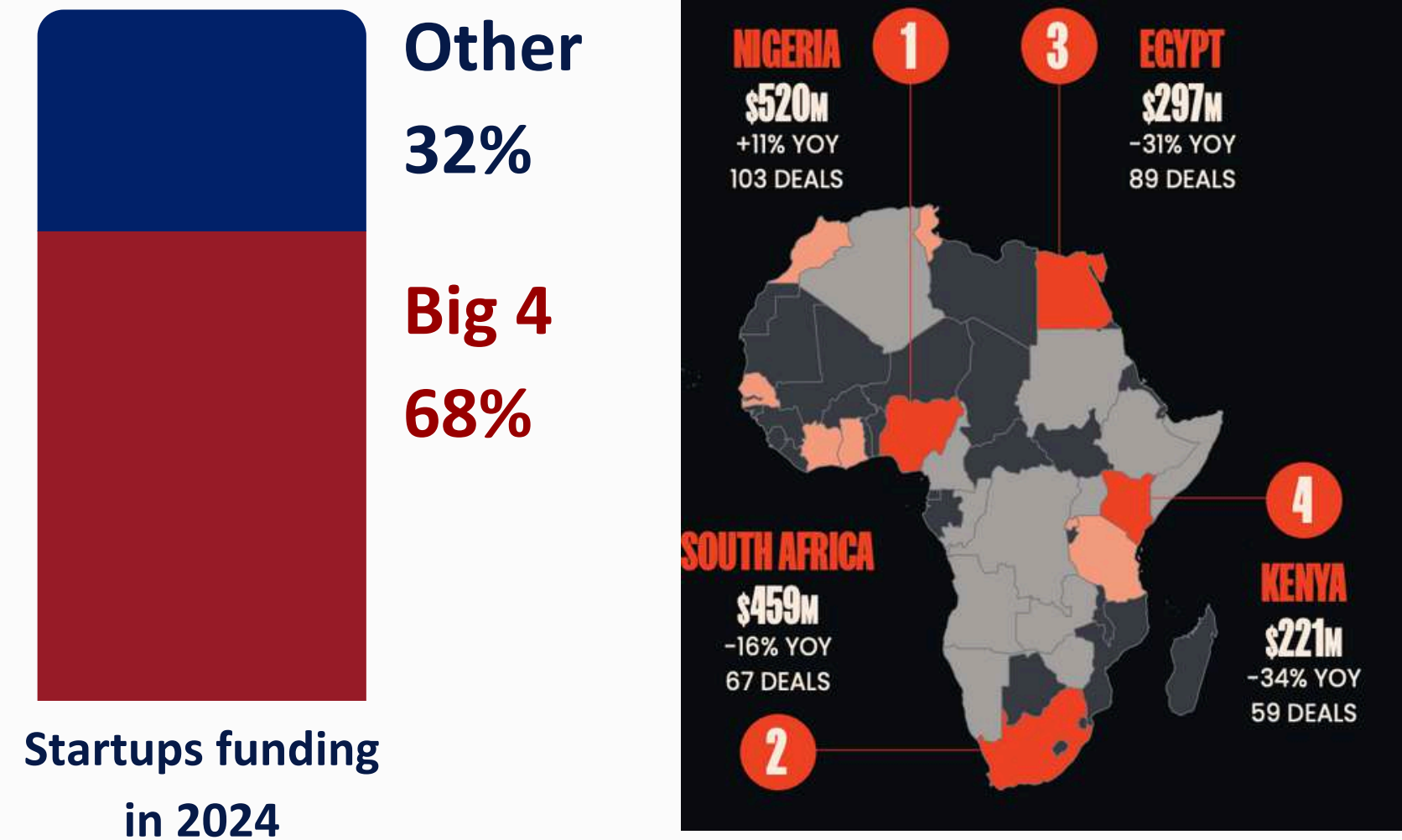
Total funding raised (exc. exits) | Big Four vs. others:
The Big Four punch above their weight

Africa The Big Deal

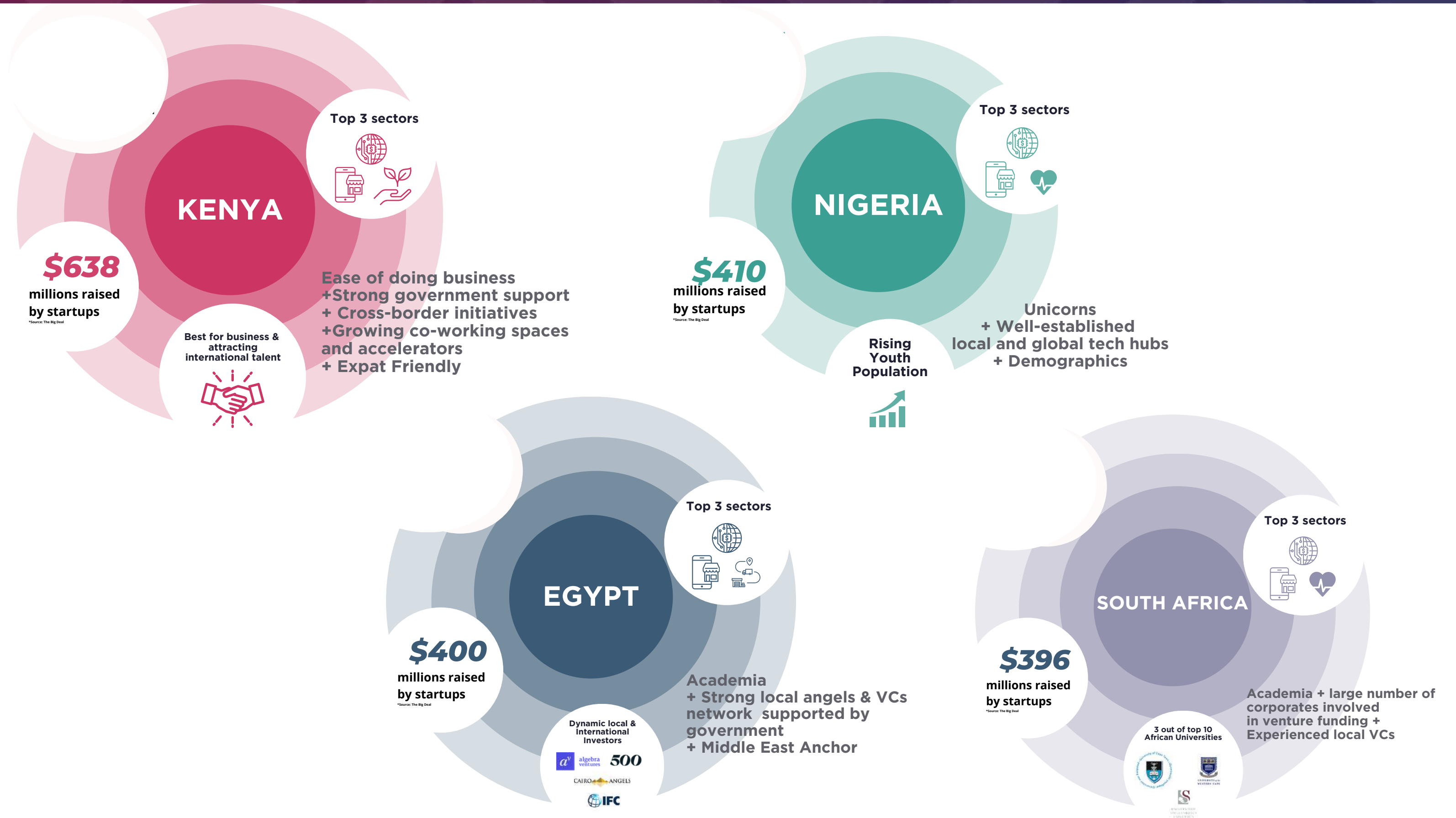


VS.

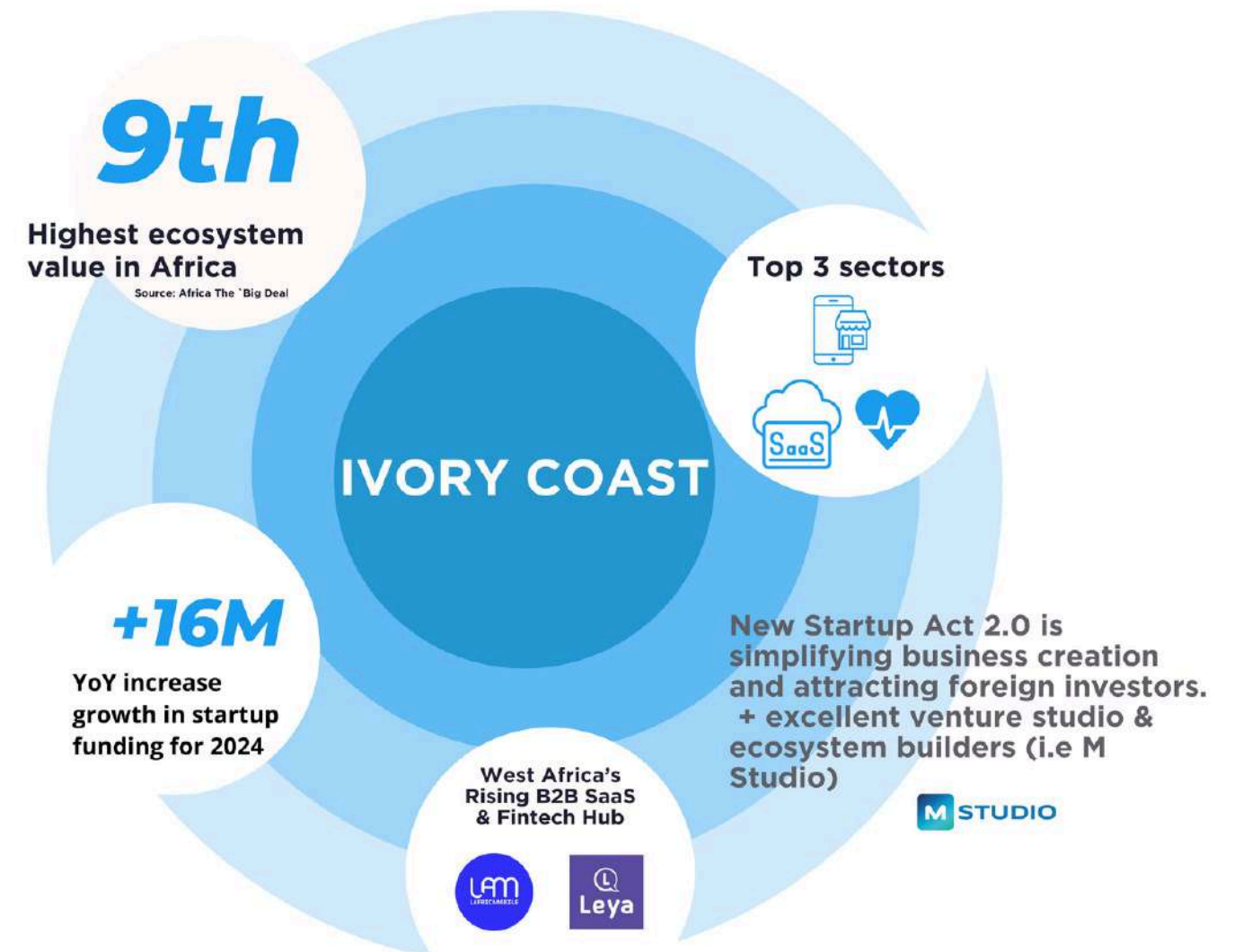
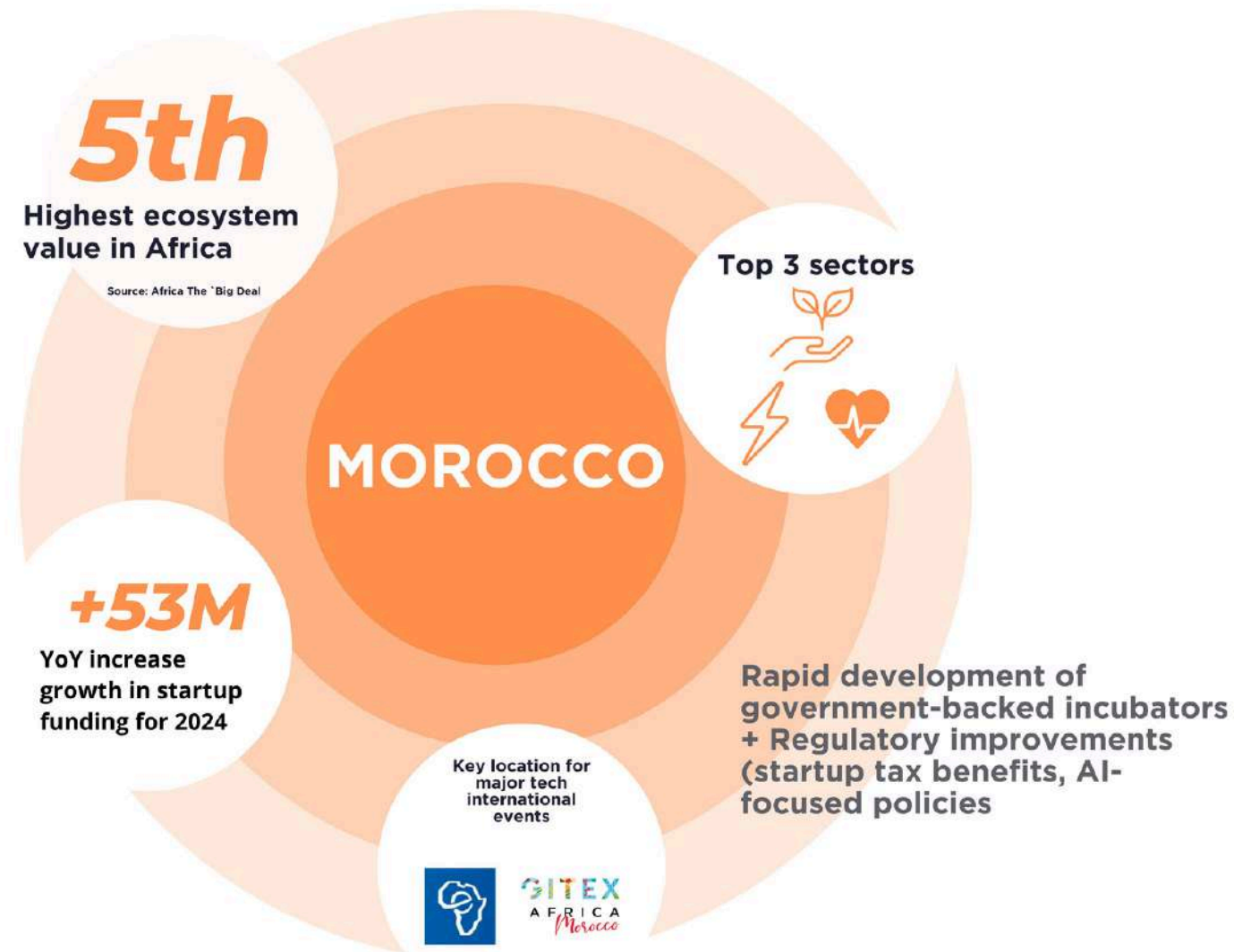
Partech



2024 Big 4 market characteristics



2024 Rising Stars

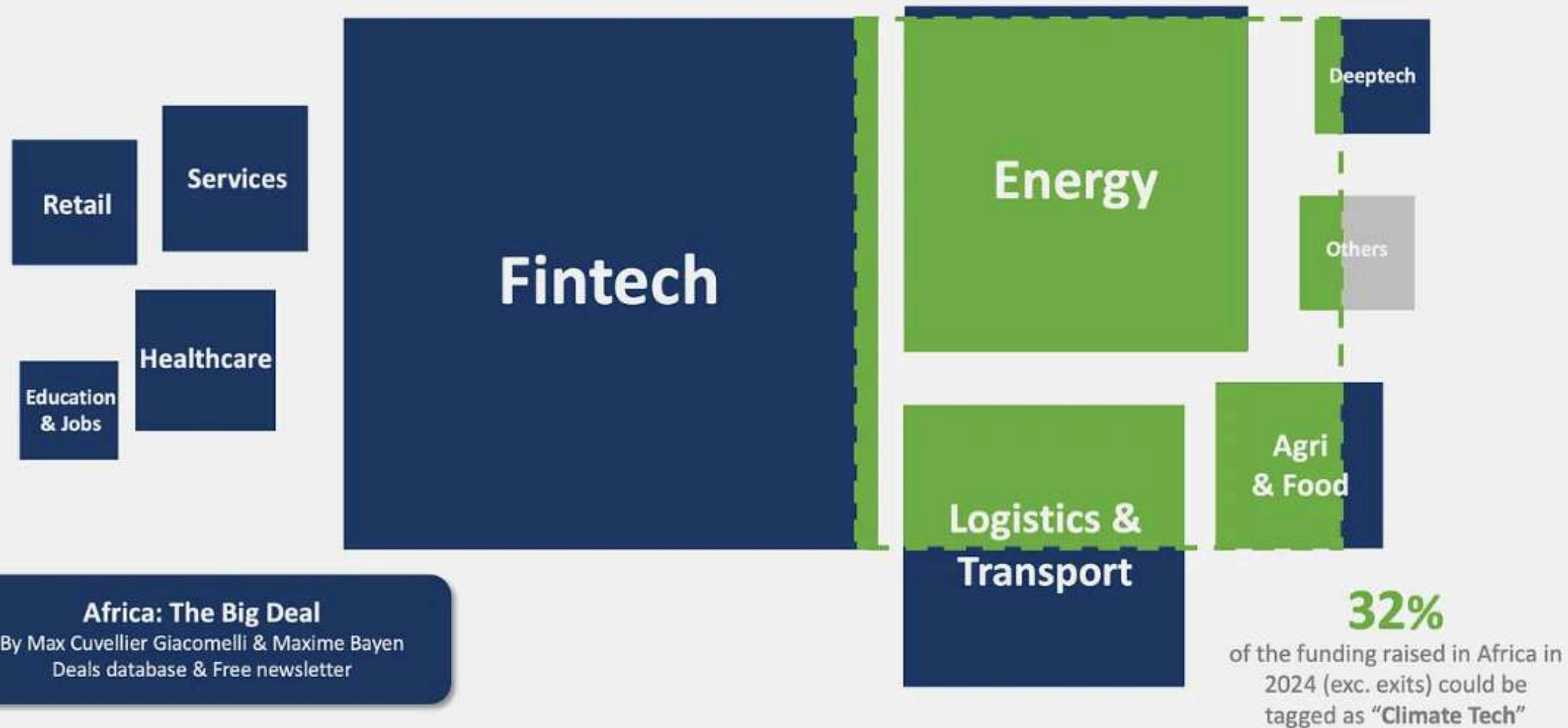


2024 Top Sectors Overview



'Climate Tech' represented 32% of the funding raised in 2024

Total funding raised in 2024 (exc. exits) | by sector – focus on Climate Tech



Africa: The Big Deal

By Max Cuvellier Giacomelli & Maxime Bayen
Deals database & Free newsletter

Source: Proprietary database available at thebigdeal.gumroad.com | Equity, debt, grant deals (exc. exits) / \$1m+ (2019), \$500k+ (2020) & \$100k+ (2021-) | For more, Check out africathebigdeal.com & Follow us on LinkedIn

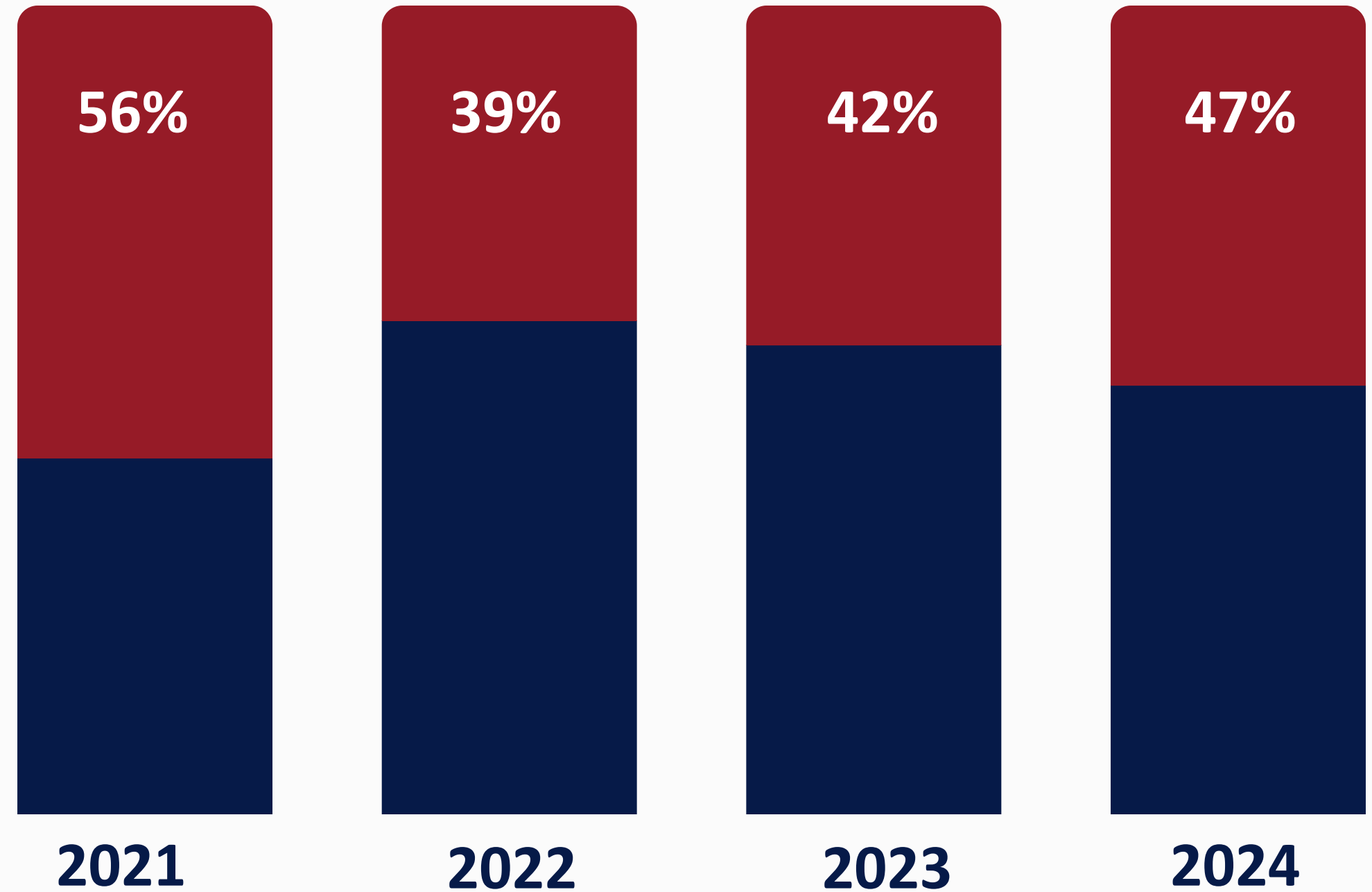
Fintech accounted for 47% of the total funding raised in African tech compared to 41% in 2022, according to the big deal data tracker. Energy comes in at a far second with 20% (decreased by 8% from last year); logistics accounted for 13% (6% increase), agriculture, health care, deep tech and education comprise the next best-funded sectors with others.



The share of fintech in overall funding has been growing back



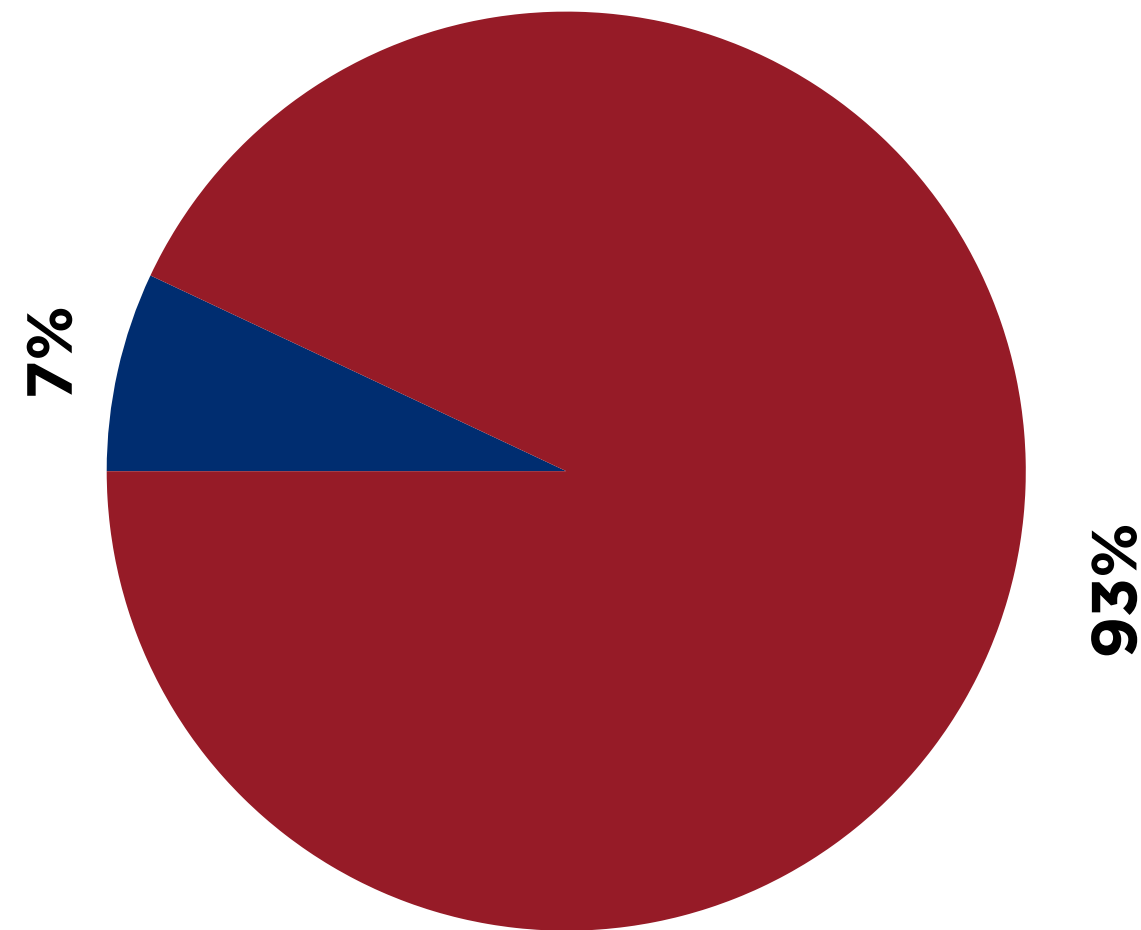
- Total funding raised (exc. exits) | fintech vs. other sectors | by year



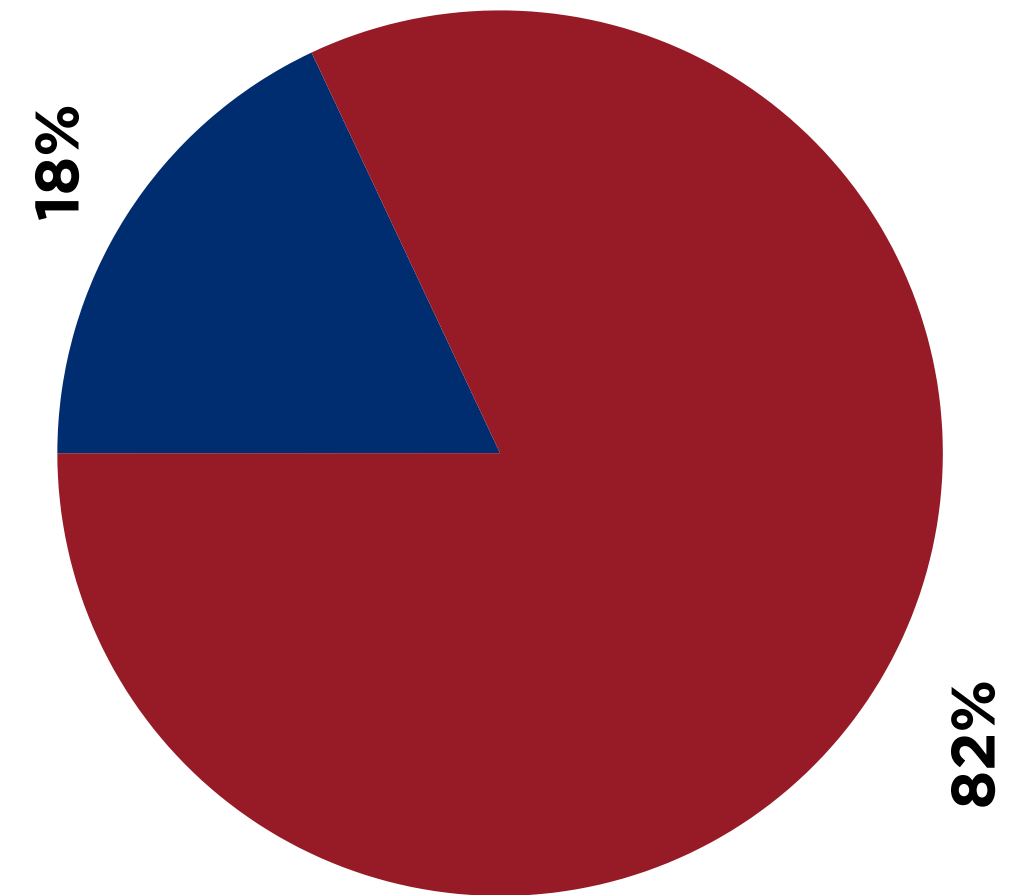
Diversity Divide



- **7%** of Total equity going to female-founded startups (-9% YoY) and;
- **18%** of equity deals closed by female-founded startups (-7%YoY)



2024 Africa Tech VC-Equity
Funding to Female Founders



2024 Africa Tech VC-Equity
Deals Led By Female Founders

Gender Diversity Pledge – Where We Are One Year Later



Diversity Pledge - Commitments in terms of 12 months of rolling investment in startups with at least one female in the founders' team (holding equity) for 2024.

Diversity Pledge - Results in terms of 12 months of rolling investment in startups with at least one female in the founders' team (holding equity) for 2024.

VS

TARGET IN %	FIRM
80 - 100%	
60 - 79%	
40 - 59%	
20 - 39%	
0-19%	

TARGET IN %	FIRM
80 - 100%	
60 - 79%	
40 - 59%	
20 - 39%	
0-19%	
Results not yet out	

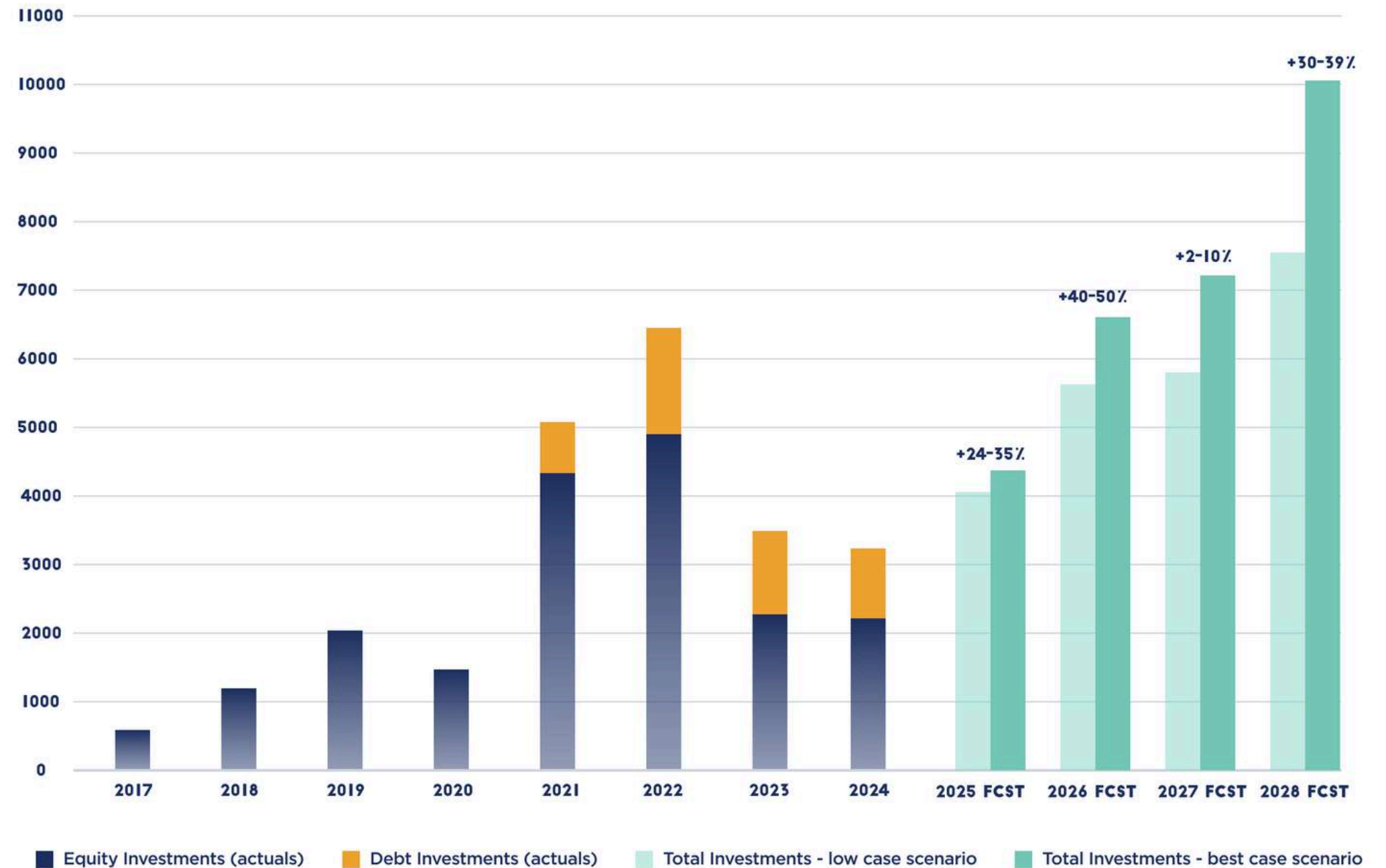
Predictions

Predictions for 2025 and beyond | Investment in African Tech Startups



2025 will see a resurgence of investment, and a total investment ranging from between US\$4 billion and US\$4.4 billion in 2025, marking a growth of 30% - 40% compared to 2024.

Investment in African tech startups: 2017 - 2028 (in \$ million)
Source: Partech reports (2017 to 2024), AfricArena forecast (2025 to 2028)



Predictions

Predictions for 2025 and beyond | Investment in African Tech Startups



Amongst the long-term factors supporting our forecast:

- **Return of International VCs:** International venture capitalists, particularly from North America and Europe, are expected to return, increasingly partnering with local funds, leveraging their market expertise.
- **A rebalancing of grant funding from US to Europe** (programs such as Horizon 2020), **Japan and South Korea**. Our research indicates that over US\$60 million will pour annually from these programs into the African tech ecosystem (ESOs, VC firms and directly to startups). US will restructure its efforts around investment and not grant/development funding.
- **Increased capital allocation from corporates** to their corporate VC activities and, most importantly to investment and acquisitions of African tech companies.
- Increasing effect of **successful exits and IPOs** on angel investments and entrepreneur-led seed rounds to support new ventures in early stage rounds;
- **Specialization of African Funds:** The “spray and pray” era of generalist funding is likely over. Pan-African funds are increasingly specializing in sectors such as climate tech, agritech, and infrastructure, moving beyond agnostic approach.



Predictions

A great start in 2025



January 2025 has been a pretty solid month when it comes to start-up fundraising in Africa with a total of \$289m raised through \$100k+ deals (exc. exits).

This is nearly 3.5x times the amount that was raised back in January 2024 (\$85m) and actually the second-best month of January since at least 2019, second only to January 2022

In January 2025,

40

**start-ups in Africa
announced a total of**

\$289m

**in funding
(\$100k+ equity, debt, grants)**



THANK YOU

Scan here to download The 2025 State of
Tech in Africa

