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# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 2026



## Sneak Peek

### Inside, you'll find:

Updates from the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs

Highlights of ACIH Members' activities in the last quarter

Call to Action: Items and Initiatives to get Involved In

## Welcome to the April to June 2026 edition

of the ACIH Quarterly Newsletter, brought to you by the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs.

In this issue, we look back at the milestones reached over the past three months, spotlight some of the standout projects and people driving change within our hubs

**Read more inside!**

## UPDATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYWIDE INNOVATION HUBS

### ACIH Takes the Stage at Build From Here Conference 2026

ACIH was proud to be represented at the Build From Here Conference 2026, an event that brought together leaders from across the talent, opportunity, and innovation ecosystem for candid conversations about what it truly takes to build sustainable pathways into employment and entrepreneurship.

Our Chairperson, Savio Wambugu, joined the Closing the Last Mile panel alongside fellow ecosystem leaders, including Chepkemoi Magdaline, HSC, of EldoHub. The conversation was made possible through the support of our partners, Dorcas Owinoh of LakeHub and Zone01 Kisumu, whose contributions helped bring this important dialogue to life.



At the center of the panel was a question many in the sector continue to wrestle with. If the talent is there, why are jobs still out of reach? The discussion offered a clear answer. Skills alone are not the finish line. What young people and innovators need just as much is active connection to ecosystems that can translate ability into opportunity.

This idea echoed throughout the conference. Talent, no matter how strong, cannot thrive in isolation. It needs to be held up by resilient communities, dependable infrastructure, and consistent, sustained ecosystem support. This is precisely the mission ACIH continues to champion across its network of innovation hubs nationwide, working to ensure that capability is never the limiting factor in someone's path to opportunity.



Moments like these remind us why this work matters. We are encouraged by the energy and shared purpose shaping the future of innovation and talent across the country, and we remain committed to building the bridges that connect potential to possibility.

## UPDATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYWIDE INNOVATION HUBS

### ACIH at the 15th Annual Connected Africa Summit *April 27 to 30, 2026 | Edge Convention Centre, Nairobi*

The 15th Annual Connected Africa Summit brought together some of Africa's most influential voices in technology, innovation, and digital transformation, and ACIH was right at the heart of it.



Our Secretary of Technical and Training, Kenneth Njihia, was on the ground throughout the event, engaging with the Innovation Bootcamp and witnessing firsthand how local innovators are coming together to tackle the continent's most pressing challenges. Kenneth's presence at the bootcamp was a reflection of ACIH's commitment to technical capacity building and our belief that the most relevant solutions are those built closest to the communities they serve. Our Chairperson, Savio Wambugu, was also in attendance. Savio further supports Kenya's digital sector through his role on the Board of Directors at the ICT Authority, and his presence at the Summit reinforced ACIH's position as a key player in national conversations on innovation and technology governance.



Representing ACIH alongside the leadership team was Denis Muthuyia of ACIH member EmpServe Kenya, whose attendance underscored the value of our network showing up collectively at platforms that shape Africa's digital future.

A key highlight from the Summit was a statement by PS Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui, CBS, who noted that trust and cybersecurity are the foundations of progress in Africa's digital ecosystem. This resonated strongly with ACIH's work in building a network of hubs that are not only innovative but responsible and trustworthy in how they serve their communities.

The Connected Africa Summit was a powerful reminder of the role that innovation hubs play in Africa's technology story, and ACIH will continue to ensure our network is present, visible, and contributing wherever that story is being written.

## UPDATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYWIDE INNOVATION HUBS

### ACIH Members Co-Create at the IYBA-SEED Initiative in Nakuru

From Kisumu to Uasin Gishu, innovation hubs gathered in Nakuru united by one shared mission: co-creating entrepreneurship solutions that truly reflect the realities of our communities.

Three powerful days of collaboration, validation, and shared learning took place under the IYBA-SEED Project initiative, bringing together some of our most active member hubs from across the region. Nakuru Box Innovation Center served as host, alongside FabLab Winam, MG iHub, EldoHub, CoELIB, Africa Tech Space, Tumaini Innovation Center, and ICON Data and Learning Labs (IDL).



The sessions centred on building entrepreneurship solutions from the ground up, with community voices and local realities at the core of every conversation. Participants engaged in hands-on validation exercises, peer learning, and collaborative problem-solving that went beyond the typical workshop format. The energy across the three days was a testament to what becomes possible when hubs stop working in silos and start building together.

One phrase captured the spirit of the gathering best: "We own it because we created it." This is the kind of innovation ACIH was built to enable. Not solutions imported from elsewhere, but ideas developed by the communities that will live with them. The IYBA-SEED initiative continues to be one of the most compelling examples of what community-centred entrepreneurship looks like in practice, and we are proud that so many of our member hubs are at the heart of it.



As a network of 167 innovation hubs across Kenya, ACIH remains committed to creating the conditions where our members do not just connect, but truly co-create.

## UPDATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYWIDE INNOVATION HUBS

### ACIH at the Afristart Mission in Nairobi

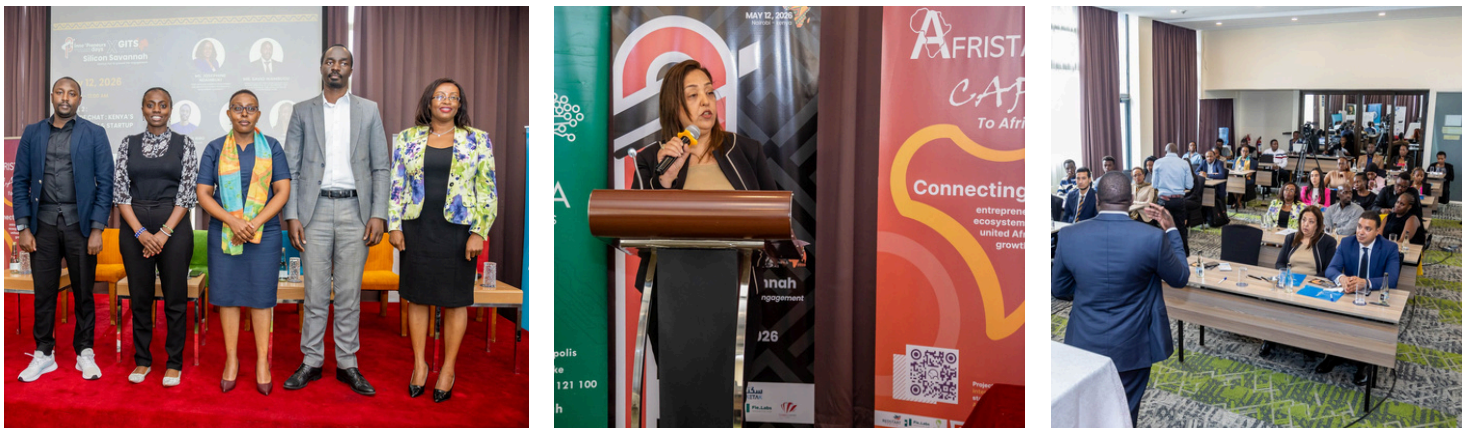
When Tunisian startups came to the Silicon Savannah looking to connect with Africa's innovation ecosystem, ACIH was in the room.

Our Chairperson Savio Wambugu, Secretary General Martin W. Irungu, and ACIH member Jeremy Riro, Founder of FIE Labs Innovation Hub, represented the network at the Afristart Mission in Nairobi, a high energy convergence of Tunisian startups, African innovators, investors, and ecosystem builders hosted in Kenya's capital.



The mission, organized by RedStart Tunisie and Seketak Solutions in partnership with Technopolis Development Authority, GAK Advisory, FIE Labs Innovation Hub, and Tunisia Export CEPEX, was held within the framework of the Qawafel project, funded by Agence Française de Développement and implemented by Expertise France. It brought together participants from across the continent for panel discussions, high-level conversations, B2B meetings, and the forging of strategic partnerships that cut across borders and ecosystems.

For ACIH, the mission was more than an event. It was a demonstration of what our network stands for: ensuring that Kenya's innovation hubs and entrepreneurs are present and visible where the conversations shaping Africa's entrepreneurship future are taking place. Our Chairperson and Secretary General's attendance, alongside representation from one of our member hubs, reflected the kind of collective showing up that defines a strong and connected network.



The partnerships and connections made at the Afristart Mission are a foundation for deeper collaboration between Kenya and Tunisia's innovation ecosystems, and ACIH looks forward to seeing those relationships grow. As we noted at the time, this is only the beginning.

## UPDATES FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYWIDE INNOVATION HUBS

### Strengthening Our Hubs: ACIH and the British High Commission Equipment Distribution

One of ACIH's core commitments is ensuring that our member hubs are not only connected to programmes and partnerships, but are also operationally equipped to serve their communities effectively. This quarter, that commitment took a very practical form.

Through the generous support of the British High Commission Nairobi, ACIH received a set of office equipment that has been allocated and distributed to member hubs across our network. From computers to office furniture and other essential tools, the items being distributed are designed to strengthen the day to day operations of our hubs and enhance their capacity to deliver services to entrepreneurs and innovators in their communities.



The distribution process was coordinated through ACIH's secretariat, with members notified of their allocations and invited to collect their items from Milestone Business Centre, 5th Floor, Ruiru. Members unable to arrange collection were given the option of facilitated delivery. This initiative is a reflection of ACIH's approach to network support: practical, tangible, and directly responsive to what our hubs need on the ground. A well equipped hub is better positioned to attract talent, host programmes, and create an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive.

We are grateful to the British High Commission Nairobi for this partnership and for recognising the role that Kenya's innovation hubs play in driving economic growth and community development. To our members receiving their allocations, this is one of the many ways ACIH continues to work for you.



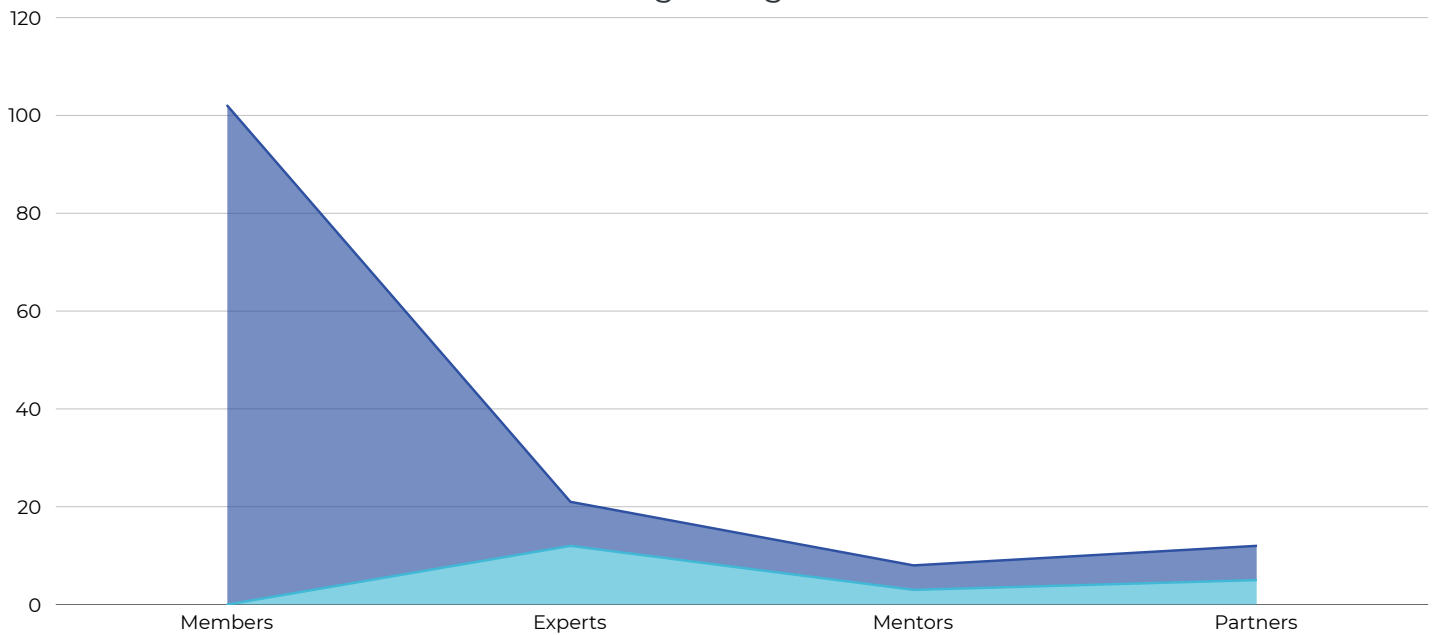
We look forward to deepening this and similar partnerships in the months ahead as we continue to build a stronger, better resourced network for Kenya's innovation ecosystem.

# Countrywide Digital Innovation Network (CDIN) Platform: Powering Kenya's Innovation Ecosystem Platform



The CDIN Platform is a product of the strong partnership between ACIH and the Research and Innovation Systems for Africa (RISA) Fund, implemented by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The platform was conceptualized as a response to the fragmented access to data, visibility, and resource-sharing among grassroots innovation hubs in Kenya. RISA's support was instrumental in enabling ACIH to design, build, and roll out a digital platform that directly addresses these gaps.

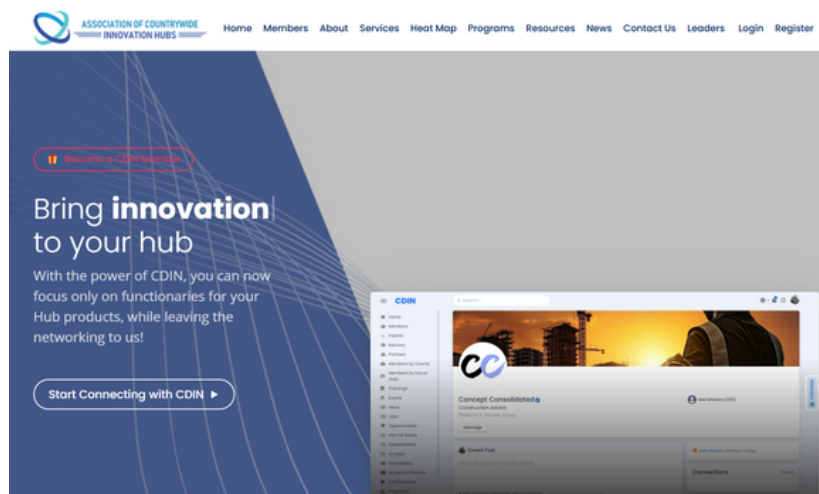
We're proud to highlight once again that our registration numbers on the CDIN Platform are growing.



***There has been a 2% increase in member registrations on the CDIN platform as from April 2026. We now have 97 registered members on the platform including innovation hubs, CBOs, and Start-ups.***

**CDIN Platform is a digital hub and knowledge-sharing space for Kenya's network of grassroots innovation actors. It enables hubs to:**

- Map innovation activity across the country
- Share opportunities, such as funding, training, and events
- Collaborate across counties in real time
- Showcase success stories and innovations from member hubs
- Generate data and insights to inform policymaking and investment decisions



*The platform offers features such as toolkits, resources, access to certifications and finance as well as a feature for users to display their products and services for sale.*

**Sign up today by: [Clicking Here](#)**

### **Inclusive Entrepreneurship Training Kicks Off at Active Hub (IYBA-SEEB Project)**

ACIH member Active Hub officially launched its Inclusive Entrepreneurship Training program this quarter, marking the beginning of an eight-week journey covering 15 modules for ten entrepreneurs drawn from youth, women, and persons with disabilities in Trans Nzoia County. The program is funded by the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation and implemented by Impact Gateway Africa, with EldoHub serving as the Lead Partner in Uasin Gishu County and Active Hub as the implementing Entrepreneurship Support Organisation (ESO) in Trans Nzoia County.

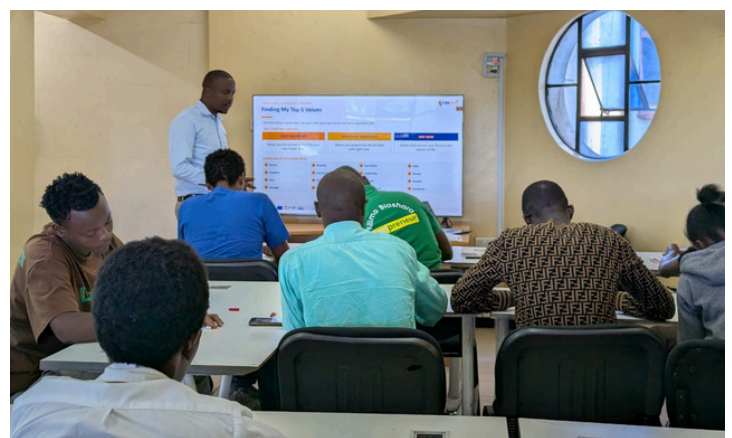
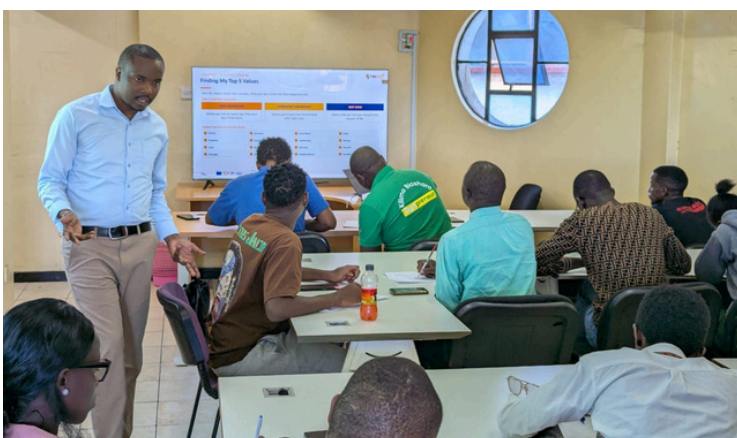


On the ground, the program is facilitated by Christine Savai, Operations Lead, and Starvon Odhiambo, Programs Lead. The training is designed to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity, support business growth, and help participants build sustainable ventures. This is exactly the kind of community rooted, inclusive programming that ACIH's network exists to enable, ensuring that entrepreneurship support reaches those who need it most, regardless of geography or background.



### **Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program Launches at Africa Tech Space (IYBA-SEEB Project)**

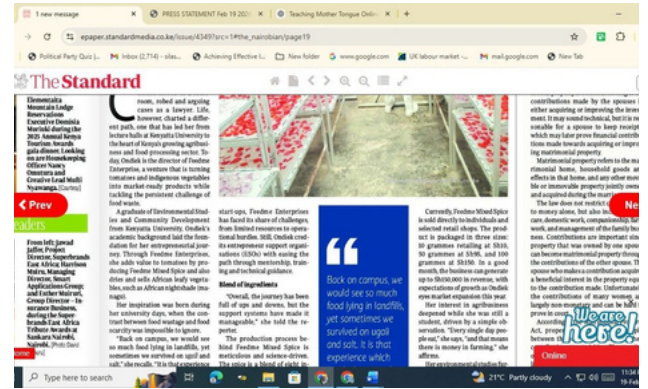
ACIH member Africa Tech Space officially kicked off its Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program this quarter, funded by SlovakAid, bringing together 11 entrepreneurs from diverse sectors including agribusiness, technology, and small and medium enterprises. The first session set a strong foundation, guiding participants through reflections on their entrepreneurial journeys, personal strengths, motivations, and business identity, while helping them align their enterprises with clear, values driven purpose.



The program marks the beginning of a structured support journey designed to grow not only businesses but also the confidence, resilience, and leadership of each participant. Africa Tech Space's commitment to walking this journey alongside their entrepreneurs is a strong example of what ACIH's member hubs do best: creating spaces where people and businesses can grow together.

**AfriFORTIFIED Innovator Ondiek Cynthia Featured in The Standard**

ACIH member AfriFORTIFIED, a leading food innovation hub committed to reshaping Kenya's food landscape through technology and sustainable food systems, had reason to celebrate this quarter as one of their AgriFood innovators gained national visibility. Ondiek Cynthia, Director at Feedme Enterprises, was featured in The Standard newspaper for her work addressing food waste as both an environmental and socio-economic challenge. Through the FeedMe Mixed Spice and African Leafy Vegetables product line, Cynthia is helping households reduce food spoilage, promote the consumption of indigenous vegetables, and support local farmers through sustainable value addition.



This kind of visibility matters beyond the individual entrepreneur. When innovators within our network gain recognition and scale sustainably, the ripple effects extend to markets, communities, and the broader Pan-African food system.

**BEI Hub Facilitates International Academic Exchange at the Port of Mombasa**

In February 2026, Kenya welcomed MV World Odyssey, a floating university operated by the Institute of Shipboard Education in partnership with Colorado State University, as part of the Semester at Sea Spring 2026 voyage. The 106-day journey spanning Asia, Africa, and Europe made a stop in Mombasa, where ACIH member BEI Hub, the Blue Economy Innovation Hub, played a key role in facilitating an academic exchange program at the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM). Thirty students and two faculty members from the voyage, representing courses in Working with Data and Globalization, Sustainability, and Justice, were hosted by TUM on.



The visit, facilitated by TUM's Department of Management Science alongside BEI Hub, included joint discussions and cultural immersion activities designed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing between international and local academics. For BEI Hub, this was a meaningful opportunity to position Mombasa and Kenya's Blue Economy ecosystem on a global academic stage, connecting international students with the innovation and maritime potential that the coast of Kenya has to offer. ACIH is proud to count BEI Hub among our members and celebrates this milestone as a reflection of what our hubs are capable of when they engage boldly with the world.



### Close the Gap Kenya Advances the Circular Economy Agenda in Nairobi

Close the Gap Kenya made significant strides this quarter with the launch of their Nairobi Circular Economy Hub, a facility dedicated to the repair and refurbishment of pre-owned IT equipment. The hub caught the attention of EPROK Kenya, whose team visited to explore shared opportunities around Kenya's e-waste value chain. At the heart of their discussions was a shared conviction that repair and refurbishment must be recognised as a crucial tier in how Kenya manages end-of-life IT equipment, rather than allowing devices to move directly to recycling and bypass the significant environmental and social value that refurbishment offers.



The two organisations explored how corporates and institutions disposing of IT assets can be intentionally directed towards refurbishment centres as a first option, how awareness of certified refurbished devices can be elevated among consumers, and how such centres can align with Kenya's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. For ACIH, Close the Gap Kenya's work is a compelling example of how our member hubs are driving innovation that goes beyond entrepreneurship to tackle systemic environmental challenges. We look forward to seeing this partnership with EPROK Kenya grow as both organisations work to build a circular economy that maximises value and minimises waste.

### CoELIB Centre Represents at the World Farmers' Organisation General Assembly

ACIH member CoELIB Centre had a landmark moment this quarter when Wilson Karimi, representing Learn Pathway CoELIB under the Power for Food Partnership, presented a gap analysis at the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) General Assembly in Kenya. The Assembly, the first of its kind to be hosted on Kenyan soil, brought together farmers, governments, private sector actors, financiers, and development partners for high-level discussions centred on elevating African-led solutions and strengthening collaboration toward the transformation of global food systems.

CoELIB Centre's presence at this platform is a testament to the growing recognition of Kenya's innovation hubs as credible contributors to global conversations on food systems and agricultural development. ACIH is proud to see our member hubs showing up at assemblies of this scale, bringing ground-level insights and African-led solutions to the table where they are needed most.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Dimewise Africa and HOK Join Bridge for Billions Africa's Conecta Africa 2026 Cohort

ACIH members Dimewise Africa and Homeless of Kisumu (HOK) are among 14 foundational Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs) selected to join Bridge for Billions Africa's Conecta Africa 2026 cohort, a milestone that spans Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa and is backed by a powerful global consortium committed to building critical ecosystem infrastructure from the ground up. Dimewise Africa, a leading ESO dedicated to supporting integrated financial inclusion among micro-preneurs, joins HOK in the Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Track alongside other dynamic organisations from across the continent, a recognition that affirms the quality and impact of the work both hubs are doing in their respective communities. ACIH congratulates Dimewise Africa and HOK on this well-deserved recognition and looks forward to seeing the impact they will create through this cohort.



### Edutab Africa Hosts Kenya's First SciFest Event

ACIH member Edutab Africa, dedicated to supporting schools and educators through technology and creative learning methods, made history this quarter by organising the first SciFest event in Kenya in partnership with the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Science Society, Kabarak University, and Precious Blood Secondary School Riruta Alumni Association. The event introduced learners to science and technology through hands-on exploration, with students looking through Foldscopes for the first time, assembling and programming robots, and learning about the Internet of Things. By the end of the day, participants were asking questions about artificial intelligence, engineering, and the kinds of problems technology can help solve.



The impact of the event was best captured in the words of one participant: "I got to actually make a robot and not just learn about how to make it." For Edutab Africa, and for ACIH, this is exactly what meaningful innovation education looks like: not lectures, but lived experiences that spark curiosity and open young minds to what is possible.

We congratulate Edutab Africa and their partners for bringing this milestone moment to Kenya's learners.

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### EldoHub Tech and AI Academy Celebrates Graduate Cohort

ACIH member EldoHub marked a proud milestone this quarter as learners graduated from the EldoHub Tech and AI Academy, completing a practical skills program designed to equip the next generation of Kenya's tech talent. But for EldoHub, the certificate is only the beginning. The hub's approach goes beyond training, connecting graduates to SasaKazi, a platform designed to help them access opportunities that support real career growth and progression. From learning to mentorship to opportunity, EldoHub is building a deliberate pipeline that ensures talent does not just get trained but gets connected and supported to flourish. ACIH celebrates EldoHub and this graduating cohort, and recognises this model as a powerful example of what innovation hubs can achieve when they commit to walking with their communities beyond the classroom.



### EmpServe Kenya Graduates 36 Participants from ICT and Social Entrepreneurship Programs

ACIH member EmpServe Kenya celebrated a significant milestone this quarter with the graduation of 36 participants at the W4-EmpServe Social Innovation Hub, marking the successful completion of Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced ICT and Social Entrepreneurship programs. The graduation, made possible through a partnership with Women's Worldwide Web (W4), was a celebration of young women who have gained practical knowledge and skills across a structured learning journey designed to prepare them for meaningful transitions into employment, academia, or entrepreneurship.



Graduates are now positioned to pursue job placements, continue into further academic pathways, or join EmpServe's Enterprise Incubation program, where their social enterprise ideas will be nurtured toward investment readiness. We celebrate the 36 graduates on this achievement. This is what bridging the gap looks like in practice, and we look forward to the impact these young women will create as they step into their next chapter.

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Futures Infinite and STEAMLabs Africa Partner to Strengthen Code Clubs Across Kenya

ACIH member Futures Infinite, a non-profit dedicated to preparing young people for the future of work as leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs, announced a new partnership with STEAMLabs Africa this quarter, bringing expanded coding resources, tools, and support to teachers running Code Clubs across Kenya's Western region. Teachers trained by both organisations will now benefit from a broader range of support designed to help their Code Clubs thrive, while also gaining access to professional development opportunities in Artificial Intelligence powered by Microsoft Elevate and Canva Education, equipping them with practical digital tools to enhance teaching, learning, and creativity in the classroom. ACIH celebrates this partnership as a meaningful step toward building a generation of digitally confident young Kenyans, and looks forward to seeing the impact it creates for educators and learners alike.



### HOK Hosts SCEJU Project Steering Committee for Field Learning Visit in Kisumu

Homeless of Kisumu (HOK), dedicated to improving the wellbeing and livelihoods of vulnerable groups in Kenya through social protection, sustainable livelihoods, and climate action, hosted the SCEJU Project Steering Committee and consortium representatives for a field learning visit in Kisumu this quarter, showcasing an innovative digital solution designed to empower informal waste actors through fair trade mechanisms and real-time waste data tracking. The delegation visited the Maendeleo Recovery Facility, where they engaged directly with waste actors, witnessed live demonstrations, and explored how technology can enhance dignity, transparency, and circularity within the waste management sector, with the committee commending the resilience and impact of these workers and affirming that their often invisible labour is fundamental to building clean, sustainable, and inclusive cities.



We celebrate HOK's work as a powerful example of how our member hubs are driving innovation that centres justice and dignity, and we echo their conviction that informal waste actors are not a challenge to be managed but a solution to be scaled.

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### ICON Data and Learning Labs Facilitates Sessions at the Global Data Festival 2026

ACIH member ICON Data and Learning Labs (IDL), a non-profit empowering marginalized communities and grassroots organisations in Kenya's LREB region through digital operations and data-driven decision-making, made a significant mark this quarter at the 3rd Global Data Festival and Kenya Space Expo Conference, a historic event being hosted in Africa for the very first time, bringing together more than 1,000 delegates from over 90 countries for 100-plus sessions on how data can accelerate sustainable development and improve lives. IDL did not simply attend; the hub facilitated four sessions during the festival, contributing actively to conversations that included an opening keynote by Hon. Wilber Ottichilo, Governor of Vihiga County, on data-driven leadership in healthcare and agriculture, and a challenge from Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data CEO Jenna Slotin to move beyond intention and into action. ACIH is proud to see IDL leading from the front at a platform of this global scale, a testament to the calibre of expertise and impact that our member hubs bring to the table.



### Kayana Create Launches the Women to Watch Magazine 2026

Kayana Create, a community of women business owners focused on collaboration and capacity building, launched the Kayana Women to Watch Magazine 2026 this quarter, celebrating a remarkable group of women who are building, creating, leading, and shaping the future across Kenya's creative industries. The magazine documents the resilience, innovation, and determination behind some of the most compelling women-led journeys in Kenya, grounded in Kayana's belief that visibility creates opportunity and that amplifying these stories will inspire more women to pursue their ambitions boldly and create meaningful change within their communities.

We congratulate Kayana Create on this publication and encourages our network to read and share it.



Access the magazine here: <https://publuu.com/flip-book/467850/2492569>

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Kipkelion Youth Service Cooperative Takes Youth Employment Conversation to NTV

Kipkelion Youth Service Cooperative Ltd took their message to a national audience this quarter, appearing on an NTV talk show to discuss how youth-led cooperatives and practical, hands-on skills development are powerful tools in the fight against unemployment and the creation of sustainable wealth among young people. The conversation centred on a compelling premise: that the solution to youth joblessness lies not in waiting for opportunities but in young people empowering themselves, supporting each other's businesses, and creating spaces where they can lead. Congratulations to Kipkelion Youth Service Cooperative for amplifying this message on a national platform and for embodying the spirit of community-driven innovation that our network stands for.



### Lake Hub Welcomes US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires to Zone01 Kisumu

A significant moment of recognition came for Lake Hub this quarter when Susan M. Burns, Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kenya, visited Zone01 Kisumu to engage with the hub's work in building a vibrant tech community in Western Kenya. Co-Executive Directors Dorcas Owinoh and Caleb Nyoiro shared Lake Hub's journey of creating tech opportunities for young people far beyond the lakeshore, while the Chargé d'Affaires engaged directly with Zone01 Kisumu apprentices and alumni who showcased the software development skills and real-world tech solutions they have built during their time at the hub.



The visit was also an opportunity to explore mutually beneficial US-Kenya commercial partnerships in tech talent acceleration and digital economic growth, a conversation that speaks to the growing global relevance of what Kenya's innovation hubs are building on the ground.

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Lampstand Communications Hosts Customer Service Workshop in Bungoma

Lampstand Communications, an entrepreneurship support organisation dedicated to helping youth, women, persons with disabilities, and organisations scale productivity through experiential and transformational programs, is bringing a timely conversation to Bungoma County with its Above and Beyond Customer Service workshop on 26th June 2026.

The workshop tackles one of the most silent threats to business growth: customers who never complain but simply disappear, taking their referrals with them, and it invites business owners to confront an honest question about what their customers would say if they told the truth about the service they receive. Attendees can expect practical insights into customer behaviour and retention habits that make a real difference to the sustainability of their businesses.

**LAMPSTAND COMMUNICATIONS**  
*Reconnect & Transform*

# ABOVE & BEYOND CUSTOMER SERVICE.

**Facilitator:**  
Angolio Ashiono

**Date:**  
26th of June 2026

**Time:**  
8am - 4:30pm

**Charges:**  
Ksh. 3500/=

**Venue:**  
Ashleys Suites (Bungoma)

**Who Should Attend?**

- ✓ Heads of Departments
- ✓ Front Office Assistants
- ✓ Healthcare Personnel
- ✓ Sales & Marketing Teams

To register call **+254781337878**

### Lish AI Labs May 2026 Cohort Delivers Industry-Ready Tech Solutions

Based in Nakuru and committed to empowering youth through Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Lish AI Labs wrapped up an exciting quarter with their May 2026 intern and attachee cohort delivering an impressive range of real-world tech solutions, from AI-powered education tools and next-generation fintech platforms to smart mobility and management systems. The cohort went through an intense pitch and review session with the Lish AI Labs senior leadership team, demonstrating not just coding ability but the capacity to build heavy-duty, scalable systems ready for industry deployment. It is a strong signal of the quality of talent being nurtured within our network, and a reminder that the future of Africa's tech industry is already being built inside our member hubs.



### Makueni Tech and Innovation Hub Celebrates Grassroots Innovation Excellence

Makueni Tech and Innovation Hub, operating under the Government of Makueni County's Department of ICT, Education and Internship, hosted an award ceremony this quarter recognising the Mumbuni Focused Mothers Group, who secured 2nd position out of 12 groups in a competitive inter-county innovation challenge involving Makueni, Kajiado, and Embu Counties, with solutions addressing climate change while embedding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. As the initiative moves into its incubation phase, the County Government reaffirmed its commitment to capacity building, mentorship, and strategic partnerships that position grassroots innovators for scalability and long-term impact.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### MG iHub Kicks Off Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program (IYBA-SEED Project)

Focused on entrepreneurship and the creative economy, MG iHub officially launched its SlovakAid-funded Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program this quarter, bringing together 10 entrepreneurs for a six-week journey across 15 modules and six thematic areas designed to turn ideas into sustainable ventures. From the very first session, the energy in the room set a strong tone, with rich conversations, thoughtful questions, and a clear eagerness to learn signalling that this cohort is ready to do the work. We look forward to seeing the progress these entrepreneurs make over the weeks ahead.



### Mirai Tech Hub Girls Build AI Solutions for Agriculture on International Girls in ICT Day

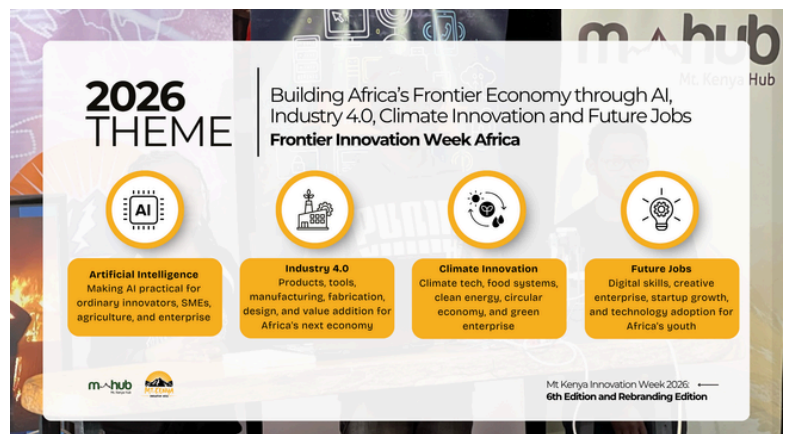
Marking the International Girls in ICT Day themed "AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future," Mirai Tech Hub took participants beyond theory and into hands-on innovation, with girls working in teams to design web-based AI assistants addressing real agricultural challenges in their communities, including pest management, crop timing, and market access. By the end of the session, participants had developed and demonstrated functional prototypes while also applying foundational cybersecurity principles around responsible data use, privacy, and safe digital practices. It was a compelling demonstration of what becomes possible when young women are given the tools, space, and confidence to shape their own digital future.



### Mt Kenya Hub Announces Frontier Innovation Week Africa 2026

After five years and 217 hackathon submissions spanning startups, artisans, engineers, climate innovators, and young builders, Mt Kenya Hub is taking the next bold step. The 6th Edition of what was known as Mt Kenya Innovation Week will officially transition into Frontier Innovation Week Africa, themed "Building Africa's Frontier Economy through AI, Industry 4.0, Climate Innovation and Future Jobs," and is set to take place from 2nd to 9th October 2026 at Mt Kenya Hub Campus in Nyeri.

What began as a regional gathering is growing into a continental movement, and ACIH is proud to have Mt Kenya Hub in our network as they make that leap.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Nakuru Box Innovation Center Wraps Up IYBA-SEED Training of Trainers Workshop

Nakuru Box Innovation Center hosted a productive Training of Trainers workshop under the IYBA-SEED initiative this quarter, with Day 2 centred on practice and readiness as participants led role plays, simulations, and trainer presentations, receiving peer and facilitator feedback to sharpen their facilitation skills and deepen their grasp of the training curriculum. The workshop closed with trainers reflecting on key lessons, identifying areas for growth, and making commitments toward successful pilot implementation, with the energy and collaboration throughout signalling the kind of impact this growing network of trainers will have on entrepreneurs and communities across the region.



### Nyali Capital Limited Walks the Journey with Tujijenge SHG

Nyali Capital Limited, a non-deposit-taking microfinance institution providing short-term credit, financial advisory services, and training programs, reaffirmed its community-centred approach this quarter through its ongoing partnership with members of Tujijenge Self Help Group, standing alongside them as partners in growth, empowerment, and progress. For Nyali Capital, impact goes beyond financial services and is rooted in building genuine relationships and walking the journey together with the communities they serve, a philosophy that aligns closely with the values that define the best of Kenya's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.



### Sote Hub Advances Africa's Blue Economy Agenda at the 11th Our Ocean Conference

Fablab Winam received significant recognition this quarter with their selection as Master Craft Service Providers for beneficiaries of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme, a government initiative designed to increase employment, enhance earnings, and promote savings for vulnerable youth aged 18 to 29 across Kenya. The selection was affirmed through a courtesy visit and site visit by representatives from NYOTA and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who observed Fablab Winam's digital fabrication tools, robotics and STEM education programmes, and ongoing prototyping projects, and engaged with the hub's people-centred training approach that bridges classroom learning and market-ready skills. Through this collaboration, Fablab Winam will develop critical technical and soft skills among apprentices, earning government certification in the process, a well-deserved recognition of the consistent impact they have had on youth in Kisumu County.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### Sote Hub Advances Africa's Blue Economy Agenda at the 11th Our Ocean Conference

Sote Hub made a significant impact at the 11th Our Ocean Conference this quarter, with Director David Ogiga contributing to multiple high-level sessions including the launch of the 1000 Ocean Startups Africa Regional Community, where he championed blended capital as a key financing approach to de-risk investments and unlock growth for ocean ventures across the continent, and the 1000 Ocean Startups Africa Community Breakfast co-led with OceanHub Africa, where discussions highlighted the untapped potential of Kenya's local ocean fisheries and the critical role of data sharing and evidence-based storytelling in attracting investor confidence. Sote Hub also participated in the side event on Investing in African Women Scaling Africa's Seafood and Aquaculture, co-hosted with Hatch Blue, which centred on empowering women entrepreneurs through investment readiness, mentorship, and ecosystem partnerships across the aquaculture, fisheries, and seaweed value chains, with Astrid Bergmål, State Secretary for International Development, Kingdom of Norway, as guest speaker.



Taken together, Sote Hub's contributions across these sessions were a powerful demonstration of the role our member hubs are playing in shaping Africa's sustainable Blue Economy.

### Stawisha Africa Initiative Bridges Climate Change and Reproductive Health Conversations

Stawisha Africa Initiative brought together Adolescent Girls and Young Women, their partners, and community leaders this quarter for a vital conversation connecting two often siloed issues: climate change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The discussions surfaced a clear and urgent reality: when the environment shifts, so does the safety and health of communities, with floods and extreme weather blocking access to clinics and maternal care, climate-driven economic stress increasing rates of gender-based violence and early marriage, and rising heat and water scarcity directly impacting menstrual hygiene and prenatal health. It is exactly the kind of intersectional, community-rooted dialogue that demonstrates how our member hubs are engaging with the full complexity of the challenges facing the people they serve.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

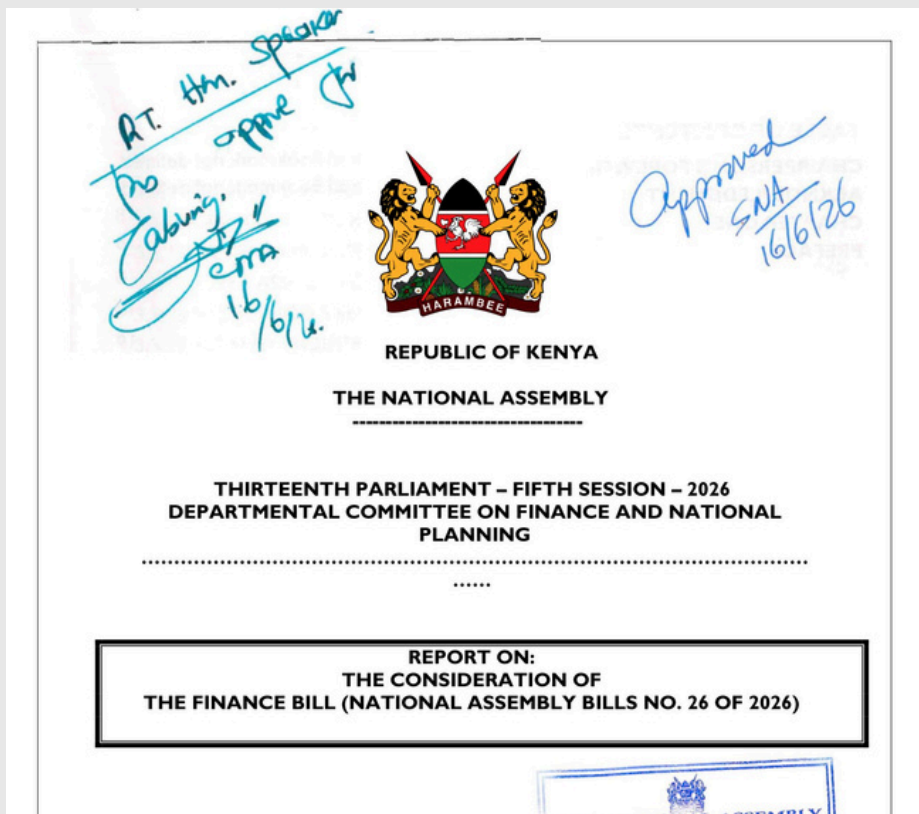
### Uzuzi Hub Opens Applications for Agile Masterclass Cohort VIII

Uzuzi Hub is now accepting applications for Cohort VIII of their Agile Masterclass, a programme that has steadily grown from its very first cohort into a thriving community of young professionals equipped with Agile, teamwork, and project management skills. Delivered in partnership with PMI Kenya Chapter and a team of accomplished facilitators including Whitney Wafula, Zipporah Githegi, Cynthia Orang'o, Linda Machoka, and Hellen Kabira, the masterclass has contributed cohort by cohort to shaping a generation of future-ready talent in Kenya, and aspiring professionals are invited to be part of the next chapter.



### Viffa Consult Engages Parliament on the Finance Bill 2026

Viffa Consult, in collaboration with the African Institute of MSME Policy and Research and the Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Associations, presented a memorandum to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning on the Finance Bill 2026, with a focus on the implications of the bill for MSMEs and startups.



Of the nine substantive issues raised, the Committee fully agreed with Viffa Consult on three, including digital royalty definition, VAT restructuring, and plastic excise, fully rejected two, and partially compromised on four others covering filing timelines, crypto reporting, data-matching assessments, and penalty rates. The outcome reflected a Committee that was generally receptive to MSME concerns where the policy rationale was weak, while holding firm on areas with clear revenue and tax administration objectives.

Viffa Consult has committed to continuing its engagement with the Committee, the National Treasury, and other relevant government agencies in the ongoing effort to strengthen the legal, regulatory, and business environment for MSMEs and startups in Kenya. This work is a strong example of how our member hubs are going beyond service delivery to actively shape the policy landscape that determines whether small businesses in Kenya can survive and thrive.

Download the full reports here: <https://lnkd.in/dstBGZTd>

## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### WA-WA Kenya Joins Forces with KGGGA and UNICEF to Empower Adolescent Girls in Homa Bay

WA-WA Kenya, a Non-Governmental Organisation founded to stop sex-for-fish practices and empower women and girls in fisher communities around Lake Victoria, participated in a pivotal meeting with the Kenya Girl Guides Association and UNICEF at the Activate Action Centre in Kodiero this quarter, contributing to the establishment of a new network designed to address the gaps affecting adolescent girls and teen mothers in Homa Bay County. The initiative is built around three pillars: Power Within, fostering self-awareness, confidence, and resilience; Power To, building skills and agency; and Power With, strengthening collective voice and collaboration for change. By creating safe spaces where girls can be heard, the network directly reinforces WA-WA Kenya's mission to protect vulnerable young women from exploitation, and signals the kind of community-led, intersectional work that makes our member hubs indispensable to the communities they serve.



### Westerwelle Startup Haus Mombasa Kicks Off WaveMakers 2026 Cohort

Westerwelle Startup Haus Mombasa officially launched the first WaveMakers 2026 Mombasa Cohort this quarter, bringing together 50 entrepreneurs, women leaders, and civil society organisations from across the Coast for a seven-month programme covering mentorship, peer learning, and practical workshops across financial management, fundraising, marketing, governance, and pitching. Supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the cohort is designed to strengthen the systems, skills, and networks that help community-rooted organisations grow, recognising that Mombasa's ecosystem is already full of people doing the work and that what they need is the infrastructure to help that work scale.

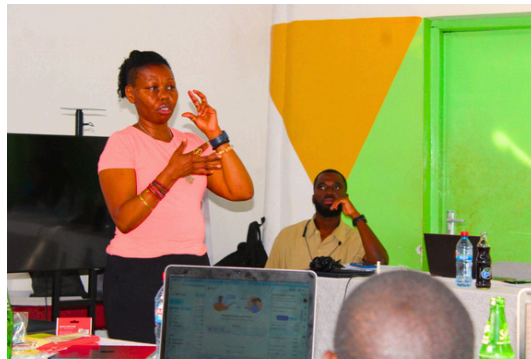
It is a long-term investment in the Coast's entrepreneurial ecosystem, and one that reflects the kind of sustained, community-centred support that our network continues to champion.



## Updates from Our Ecosystem

### WISE Hub Hosts IYBA-SEED Trainer of Trainers Workshop in Kisumu

A leading innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship hub in the Lake Victoria region, WISE Hub brought together educators, innovation leaders, and ecosystem actors in Kisumu this quarter for the IYBA-SEED Project Trainer of Trainers Workshop, held at their offices along Busia Road. The workshop strengthened participants' capacity in business foundations, financial literacy, digital skills, and business operations, equipping trainers from organisations including STADA Kenya, Sabako VTC, ICON Data and Learning Labs, FabLab Winam, Homeless of Kisumu, and others with practical tools to better support entrepreneurs and local enterprises across their respective hubs and institutions. What began as a collaborative co-creation journey translated into shared learning and measurable impact, made possible through the support of SlovakAid, Impact Gateway Africa, and the IYBA-SEED Project, and serving as a strong reminder of what becomes possible when Kenya's innovation hubs invest in each other.



### YEPI Launches Industry Experiential Learning Placements for Young Entrepreneurs

Youth Empowerment Program Initiative (YEPI), a non-profit addressing youth unemployment, poverty, and violent extremism in Kenya's Coast Region, reached an exciting milestone this quarter with the launch of industry experiential learning placements under their YEPI SEED Program, giving young entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn directly from real-world businesses, apply skills acquired during their entrepreneurship training, and be mentored by experienced business owners and professionals in areas spanning business operations, customer relations, and financial management. The first placement was at C-TEC Hub, a dynamic environment where innovation, creativity, and technology converge to solve real-world challenges, setting a strong tone for the placements ahead. It is a meaningful step in YEPI's commitment to transforming ideas into thriving businesses and creating sustainable pathways for economic empowerment among young people on the Coast.



# CALL TO ACTION

## Join the Fie Labs Experts Network

Fie Labs Innovation Hub, one of ACIH's active member hubs driving technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Southwestern Kenya, has opened applications for its Experts Network, a growing community of seasoned professionals committed to empowering the next generation of African innovators. The network is looking for experts across Business, Finance, Technology, Product Design, Marketing, Legal, and Sustainability to mentor startups, MSMEs, and emerging founders, share expertise with high-impact ventures, support innovation in climate, agriculture, and technology, and contribute to a growing Pan-African innovation ecosystem.

If you have the experience and the drive to contribute to Africa's growth story, this is your opportunity to plug in where it matters.

👉 **Apply here:** <https://tinyurl.com/v5rcv7cr>

The poster features the Fie Labs logo at the top left, with the tagline 'Technology | Innovation | Growth | Impact' to its right. The main headline reads 'Join the Fie-Labs Experts Network' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'Empower Local Innovation | Build African Solutions'. There are four circular icons with text: a rocket for 'Mentor startups, MSMEs & emerging founders', a lightbulb for 'Support innovation in climate, agriculture & technology', a gear for 'Share expertise with high-impact ventures', and a group of people for 'Join a growing Pan-African innovation ecosystem'. A section titled 'We're Looking For:' lists 'Experts in Business, Technology, Finance, Marketing, Legal, Product Design & Sustainability.' At the bottom, there is a green 'APPLY NOW' button with a right arrow, the URL 'https://tinyurl.com/v5rcv7cr', and the text 'Or scan the QR code' next to a QR code. On the right side of the poster, there is a photograph of three people (two men and one woman) standing together in a professional setting.

## Nyali Capital Limited: Financial Support for Growing Businesses

Nyali Capital Limited, a non-deposit-taking microfinance institution providing short-term credit, financial advisory services, and training programs, reaffirmed its community-centred approach this quarter through its ongoing partnership with members of Tujijenge Self Help Group, standing alongside them as partners in growth, empowerment, and progress.

For Nyali Capital, impact goes beyond financial services and is rooted in building genuine relationships and walking the journey together with the communities they serve, a philosophy that aligns closely with the values that define the best of Kenya's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

If you are an entrepreneur or small business owner looking for timely and affordable financial support to grow your biashara, Nyali Capital has a range of products designed for you, including Business Loans, Emergency Loans, School Fees Loans, Salary Advances, and Letters of Credit, all with affordable interest rates and group support options.

☎ 0791446318 / 0720510688

✉ [info@nyalicapital.co.ke](mailto:info@nyalicapital.co.ke)

🌐 [nyalicapital.co.ke](http://nyalicapital.co.ke)

📍 3rd Floor, Shiva Towers, Meru Road



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*Kikundi Chetu, Utajiri Wetu*

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#### Timely & Reliable

Get the financial support you need to expand your biashara and achieve your goals.

#### PRODUCT OFFERED

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#### WHY CHOOSE NYALI CAPITAL?

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- ✓ Affordable Interest Rates
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Kikundi Chetu, Utajiri Wetu

**Kikundi Chetu, Utajiri Wetu.**

# CALL TO ACTION

## Westerwelle Startup Haus Mombasa: Visual Branding Masterclass Coming to Kisumu

Westerwelle Startup Haus Mombasa, part of the global Westerwelle Foundation dedicated to creating opportunities for young people and strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems in emerging countries, is bringing its WaveMakers Programme to Kisumu on 3rd and 4th July 2026 with a practical two-day training titled "Your Business Beyond the Logo: Visual Branding That Moves People, Makes Profit and Creates Impact."

Designed for creatives, entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and organisations looking to strengthen how they communicate visually, the training covers everything from colours and photography to storytelling, design, and brand consistency, all delivered with support from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. If you are ready to build a brand that people remember, this is the room to be in.

👉 Register here: <https://luma.com/wnrz3y2r>

**WAVEMAKERS**

KISUMU EDITION

### YOUR BUSINESS BEYOND THE LOGO

Visual branding that moves people, makes profit and creates impact.

DATE 3-4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026  
TIME 9AM - 5PM (BOTH DAYS)  
VENUE KISUMU

FOR ENQUIRIES  
☎ +254 701 575 722  
✉ [mombasa@westerwelle.haus](mailto:mombasa@westerwelle.haus)

Supported By: Federal Foreign Office  
Implemented By: WSH WESTERWELLE STARTUP HAUS MOMBASA

Scan to register

## Partner with Mt Kenya Hub for Frontier Innovation Week Africa 2026

Mt Kenya Hub is gearing up for a landmark moment: the 6th Edition of Mt Kenya Innovation Week, taking place from 2nd to 9th October 2026 at Mt Kenya Hub Campus in Nyeri, will officially transition into Frontier Innovation Week Africa, themed "Building Africa's Frontier Economy through AI, Industry 4.0, Climate Innovation and Future Jobs."

### PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN US.  
SHAPE  
THE  
FUTURE.



Lead visibility, naming rights, keynote & high-level engagements	Title Partner
Mentors, judges, tools, cloud credits & hackathon challenge statements	BushHack Partner
Take innovation to Nyeri town — logistics, branding & public mobilisation	Street of Innovation
Photography, videography, livestreaming & post-event storytelling	Media Partner
Support a specific pillar: AI, Climate, Creative Economy or Industry 4.0	Track Partner
Materials, branding, packaging & buyer linkages for creative entrepreneurs	Artisans Partner
Prizes, grants, equipment, incubation & media exposure for winners	Awards Partner
University, research or technical agency supporting training & policy	Knowledge Partner

Taking place from 2nd to 9th October 2026 at Mt Kenya Hub Campus in Nyeri, the eight-day event is expected to bring together 2,000-plus innovators, three flagship hackathons, and seven innovation tracks, with partnership opportunities open across multiple categories for organisations that want to be part of this historic step from a regional platform into a wider African mission.

If your organisation wants to be at the table as a regional platform steps into a wider African mission, reach out to the Mt Kenya Hub team at [hello@mtkenyahub.com](mailto:hello@mtkenyahub.com) or [savio@mtkenyahub.com](mailto:savio@mtkenyahub.com), call +254 738 532 139 or visit the website: [mtkenyainnovationweek.com/](https://mtkenyainnovationweek.com/)

# Contribute to Future Editions of the ACIH Newsletter!

## Member Contribution: Share Your Highlights!

Do you have exciting updates or success stories to share?

Submit your hub's highlights for the next newsletter to

**[tracygacathi@countrywidehubs.org](mailto:tracygacathi@countrywidehubs.org)**.

Let's amplify your impact together!





# NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 2026

Thank you for being an integral part of the ACIH community.

**with regards,**

**The Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs Team**

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