

Top 10 African Startup Founders (2025 Edition)

1. Olugbenga “GB” Agboola

Background: Nigerian-born (b. 1985) fintech entrepreneur. Co-founded Flutterwave in 2016 and became CEO in 2018.

Startup & Value Proposition: Flutterwave enables merchants across Africa to accept and send payments globally, processing billions in transactions.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$150 million (2025); Flutterwave stake valued around \$100 – 120 million.

Achievements:

- Scaled Flutterwave to ~US\$3.2 billion valuation.
- Operates in 40+ countries.

Why He Matters: Built Africa's leading payment infrastructure, enabling cross-border commerce.

2. Shola Akinlade

Background: Nigerian software engineer; co-founded Paystack in 2015.

Startup & Value Proposition: Simplifies payments for African merchants; acquired by Stripe for > US\$200 million (2020).

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$50 – 100 million.

Achievements:

- First Nigerian startup in Y Combinator.
- Served 60,000+ businesses.

Why He Matters: Set the standard for successful African fintech exits.

3. Tope Awotona

Background: Lagos-born, US-based founder of Calendly (2013).

Startup & Value Proposition: Simplifies scheduling globally for millions of users.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$1.4 billion.

Achievements:

- Raised US\$350 million in 2021.
- Built a global SaaS leader.

Why He Matters: Demonstrates that African-born founders can build billion-dollar global startups.

4. Mitchell Elegbe

Background: Nigerian engineer; founded Interswitch in 2002.

Startup & Value Proposition: Provides electronic payment infrastructure across Africa.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$150 million.

Achievements:

- Pioneered African fintech infrastructure.
- EY Hall of Fame inductee (2023).

Why He Matters: Laid the foundation for Africa's modern digital payments systems.

5. Tosin Eniolorunda

Background: Former Interswitch engineer; co-founded Moniepoint in 2015.

Startup & Value Proposition: Offers business banking and POS services for African SMEs.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$100 million.

Achievements:

- Moniepoint became a unicorn in 2024.

Why He Matters: Empowering small businesses with fintech innovation.

6. Tunde Kehinde

Background: Co-founded Jumia in 2012.

Startup & Value Proposition: Africa ' s leading e-commerce and logistics platform.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$40 million.

Achievements:

- Jumia became a unicorn (2016).
- Pioneered cross-border digital retail.

Why He Matters: Expanded Africa ' s digital trade frontier.

7. Ezra Olubi

Background: Co-founder & CTO of Paystack.

Startup & Value Proposition: Helps African merchants accept online payments.

Estimated Net Worth: Tens to low hundreds of millions USD.

Achievements:

- Major African fintech exit.

Why He Matters: Inspirational figure for inclusive innovation.

8. Iyinoluwa Aboyeji

Background: Co-founded Andela and Flutterwave.

Startup & Value Proposition: Connects African developers globally and enables digital payments.

Estimated Net Worth: US\$200 – 300 million.

Achievements:

- Built two global-scale African tech companies.

Why He Matters: A serial founder shaping Africa ' s tech ecosystem.

9. Tayo Oviosu

Background: Founded Paga in 2009.

Startup & Value Proposition: Mobile money platform promoting financial inclusion.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$50 – 70 million.

Achievements:

- 20 million+ users in Nigeria & Ethiopia.

Why He Matters: Early pioneer of mobile payments in Africa.

10. Strive Masiyiwa

Background: Zimbabwean-born founder of Econet Global & Cassava Technologies.

Startup & Value Proposition: Telecom, fintech, and digital infrastructure across Africa.

Estimated Net Worth: ~US\$2.7 billion (Forbes, 2025).

Achievements:

- Built one of Africa ' s largest tech conglomerates.
- Major philanthropist.

Why He Matters: A first-wave tech titan shaping Africa ' s innovation future.

