



## Village Capital and Local ESOs Launch Accelerator for Sustainable Startups in Africa

**Nairobi, Kenya (March 10, 2025)** — [Village Capital](#), in partnership with Norway, through [Norad – the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#), has launched the second phase of the Empowering Sustainable Entrepreneurship Africa initiative. In 2024, we supported 14 Ecosystem Builders through training and capacity building. This year, we continue our mission to support impact-creating founders and strengthen regional ecosystems by collaborating with five of these high-performing, community-led ESOs to co-deliver tailored investment-readiness programs for 150 sustainability-focused startups in Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique.

Despite Africa's immense potential in greentech, startups in the sector face persistent challenges, including chronic underinvestment, fragmented support systems, and generic training programs. Systemic challenges such as limited capital, investor skepticism, and bureaucratic hurdles continue to slow progress. Without targeted interventions, the green transformation in sub-Saharan Africa will remain out of reach. Empowering Sustainable Entrepreneurship Africa will create a pipeline of 500 startups across five countries, supporting 100 startups through pre-acceleration workshops and accelerating 30 startups per market through two cohorts.

The call for applications is open to early-stage startups in Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique developing high-potential sustainability solutions in Climate Adaptation, Renewable Energy, Blue Economy, and Food Security.

The initiative will be co-delivered by Village Capital and five Ecosystem Builders, each leading a localized program tailored to the country's specific needs and dynamics.

Startups should apply [here](#) based on their country of operation. Applications close on April 30, 2025.

Meet the five ESOs who will co-deliver these programs:

- Ennovate Ventures (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) is a venture factory supporting early-stage, innovative businesses that aim to enhance prosperity and job creation in Africa.
- Catalyst Fund (Nairobi, Kenya) runs a pre-seed fund and accelerator investing in tech startups that offer climate adaptation solutions to enhance the resilience of communities in Africa.

- Reach for Change Foundation (Accra, Ghana) is a social enterprise supporting local social entrepreneurs to drive sustainable green initiatives and innovate in edtech to benefit women, youth, and children.
- Emerge Livelihoods (Mzuzu, Malawi) fosters a thriving ecosystem in Malawi and beyond so that individuals and communities become self-reliant through an impact hub.
- IdeiaLab (Maputo, Mozambique) has a robust, evidence-based entrepreneurship development methodology and a 14-year track record of developing and enabling entrepreneurial potential.

From May 2025 - September 2026, the selected startups will be exposed to Village Capital's curriculum, structured to help them develop the networks and tools they need to scale their solutions. Founders will work closely with industry experts, investors, ecosystem partners, and an investment analyst who will coach them 1:1 on building a financial model, identifying unit economics, and using financial metrics to drive both business and investor diligence. Upon completion of the program, four startups per market will be able to receive a grant of USD 25K each.

For more information, reach out to Joseph Mwanyika at Ennovate Ventures ([joseph@ennovateventures.co](mailto:joseph@ennovateventures.co)).

### **About Ennovate Ventures**

*Ennovate Ventures is a pan-African venture studio and microfund that is building and funding the next wave of disruptive innovations for Africa's prosperity. Through its venture fund and innovation consulting solutions, Ennovate is at the forefront of driving inclusive social and economic development in Tanzania and across the continent. Learn more here: [ennovateventures.co](http://ennovateventures.co)*

### **About Village Capital**

*Village Capital is reinventing the system to back the entrepreneurs of the future. Known for its groundbreaking approaches to supporting founders who are building solutions to emergent social, economic, and environmental challenges, VilCap unlocks critical social and financial capital for early-stage companies to maximize business and impact growth. Village Capital has operated in sub-Saharan Africa since 2012 by running over 14 accelerator programs serving entrepreneurs in 27 countries in the region. VilCap has supported more than 170 locally-based startups and close to 50 Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESO) working in sectors such as financial health, hardware, sustainability, and the future of work. Learn more at [www.vilcap.com](http://www.vilcap.com) and follow @villagecapital.*

### **About Norad**

*Norad is the Norwegian agency for development cooperation. We work for the world to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Norad is a professional body under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with our partners and on behalf of Norway, Norad strives for a greener future in a world without poverty. Human rights must be respected, and none left out. By way of knowledge and cooperation, we ensure that the funds of Norwegian development aid contribute to global development.*