



Impact Review

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From our leadership



Maelis Carraro

Managing Partner



Maxime Bayen
Operating Partner



Karen Serem Waithaka
Chief Investment Officer

As we witness increasingly severe challenges brought by climate change in Africa, our commitment to backing sustainable and innovative climate resilience solutions has never been stronger.

The Catalyst Fund has strategically invested in a diverse range of solutions across economic sectors that significantly bolster climate resilience. From precision agriculture to reducing the use of water and fertilizers, to financing for drought-resistant seeds and access to climate insurance, to enabling water access and management technologies in rural areas, to financing for renewable energy assets for small businesses, to land restoration and desalination technologies to restore desert lands, to alternative protein-based animal feed for farmers, our portfolio companies are empowering local populations to manage climate risks effectively.

The fund aims to back 40 mission-driven and bold founders to scale climate resilience solutions that improve the economic stability and well-being of millions of Africans.

While the journey of these ventures is still at the beginning, we are committed to measuring their impact every step of the way, helping founders build the best impact measurement methods, and supporting them in deepening their impact as they scale.

This report will highlight the impact of some of our portfolio companies to date, our theory of change and how we empower founders with our hands-on venture building.

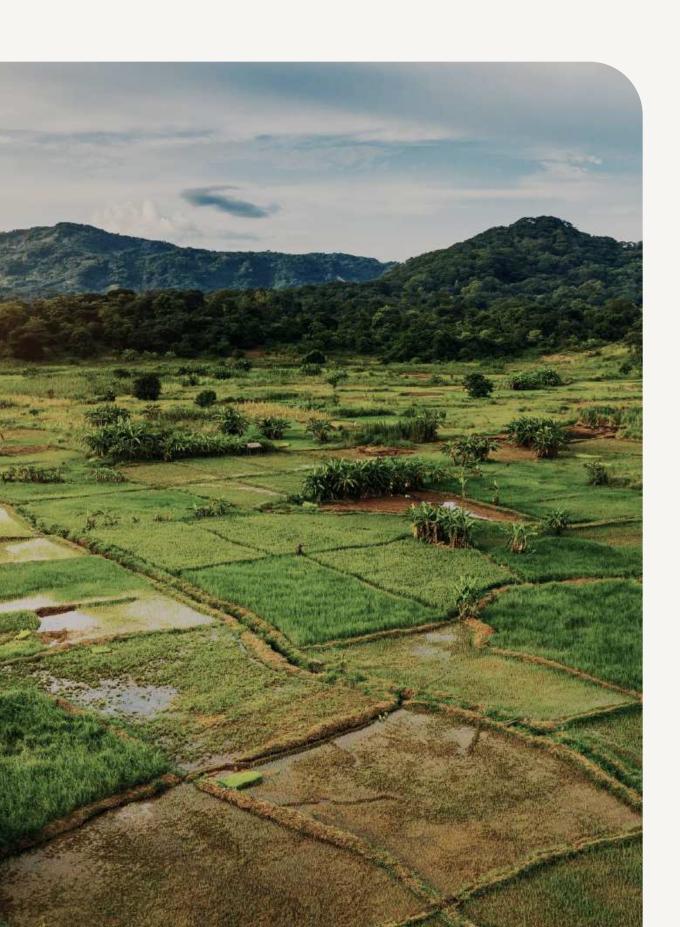
We are grateful to all our partners for their continued support and belief in our mission to build a climate resilient future in Africa.

Maelis, Maxime & Karen

The information on impact performance presented in this section is reported to the best of our knowledge and reflects our current access to both investee and third-party data. We have taken steps to ensure we do not intentionally or unintentionally inflate positive impact results or under-report negative impacts. We acknowledge there are limitations in the quantity and quality of data available.

About Catalyst Climate Resilience Fund

Catalyst Fund is a venture capital fund and accelerator, investing for a climate-resilient future in Africa. We partner with founders building climate adaptation and resilience solutions for African communities.



Key advantages

1.0

Affordable

For low-income customers and MSMEs

2.0

Appropriate

To meet the needs and preferences of undeserved populations

3.0

Accessible

To the undeserved without unnecessary complexity





95%

local founders

18

portfolio companies to date

35%

female founders or co-founders

180k+

users reached





110M

people on the continent were affected by <u>climate hazards in 2022</u>



48%

of <u>Africa's GDP</u> is vulnerable to extreme climate patterns



346M

people are <u>food insecure</u> in Africa, due to climate change, conflict, and economic conditions



\$277B/year

is needed for <u>climate financing in</u>

<u>Africa</u> to meet 2030 climate goals

The opportunity

opportunity by 2030





Proven ability to scale tech innovation

Africa leapfrogged in telecom (directly to mobile) and financial services (directly to mobile money). Green growth is the next big opportunity.



Untapped potential carbon markets

Business models that capture or prevent greenhouse gas emissions can deliver green growth on the continent. Nature-based carbon removal opportunities can drive \$15B in revenue and create 85M new jobs.



Growing investor interest in climate

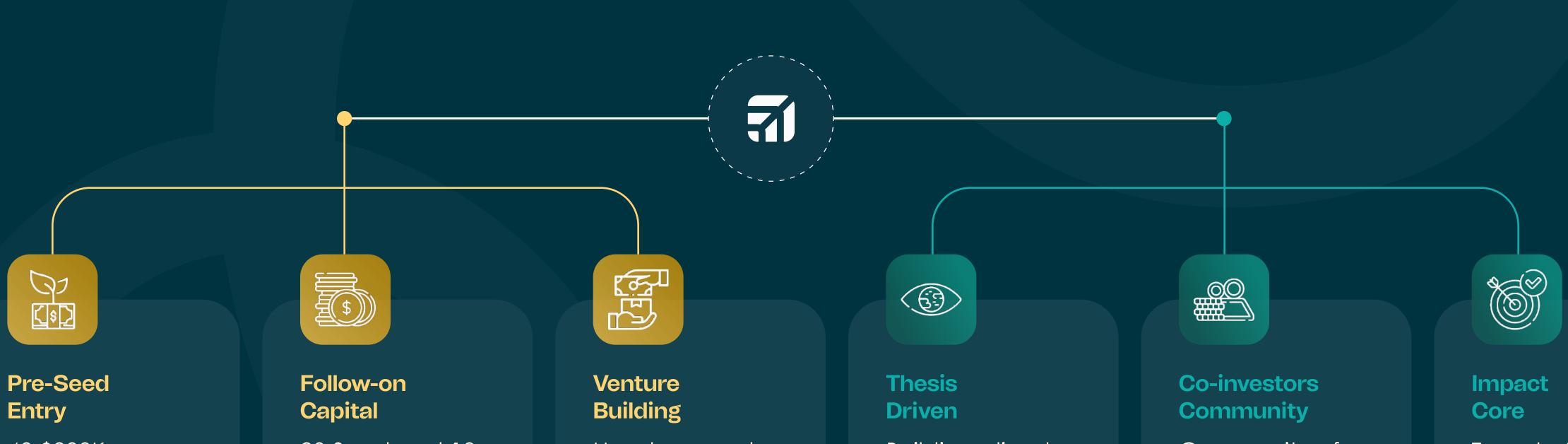
Funding for climate tech startups has reached \$3B since 2019 (\$2B in 2022-2023 alone). In 2023, \$1 in \$3 raised by startups in Africa went to climate tech.



Climate competitiveness

Africa has abundant affordable and arable land, rich biodiversity, untapped renewable energy potential, and a growing workforce. Over 40% of the world's youth will be in Africa by 2030.

Catalyst Fund accelerates high-growth & high-impact climate resilience ventures in Africa



40 \$200K preseed high impact deals

20 Seed and 10 Series A followon deals

Hands-on and bespoke venture building support

Building climate resilience + adaptation in critical economic sectors

Community of 200+ co-investors and strategic corporate partners

Targets 40% women founders, 80% local, founders, ESG lens

We back tech-enabled solutions for climate resilience

each carefully
 selected to build
 resilience and adaptive
 capacity among
 vulnerable communities

THESES



Fintech for Resilience

SOLUTIONS

RESILIENCE OUTCOMES

Climate insurance

Carbon finance

Climate data

Households and users have access to a range of financial services that build their financial health and allow them to cope with climate risks.



Sustainable Livelihoods Climate-smart agri tech

Fishery management

Land restoration

Vulnerable people access and develop livelihoods that are adapted to climate change and its related effects.



Climate-smart
Essential Services

Water management

Cooling and Cold storage

Health

Waste management

Vulnerable people access essential services that are adapted to climate change and equip them to manage its impacts.

Our theory of change

Creating climate resilience for people and the planet

Sustainably managed land and ocean resources

Health communities

Economicgrowth and wellbeing

Food security























The solution: build climate resilience of vulnerable communities

Improved
financial health
and disaster
recovery

Greater access to clean water, energy and other essential services

More resilient buildings and infrastructure

Improved
healthcare
access and
services

Higher productivity of sustainably managed land and fisheries

Livelihoods that are adapted to climate risks

Catalyst Fund supports innovations that solve for these risks and vulnerabilities

FINTECH FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Insurtech
- Carbon finance
- Emergency payments
- Data for pricing risk

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- Climate-smart agtech
- Fishery management and aquaculture
- Land restoration

CLIMATE-SMART ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- Water management
- Cooling and cold storage
- Sustainable energy access
- Waste management
- Healthcare

Climate change is creating risks and exacerbating vulnerabilities

PHYSICAL CLIMATE RISKS

- Drought and changes in rainfall patterns
- Major heatwaves and increased temperature
- Storms and cyclones
- Wildfires
- Riverine and coastal flooding

VULNERABILITY

- Poverty and inequality
- Livelihoods and markets highly reliant on agriculture
- Weak infrastructure
- Inflexible policy environment

KNOCK-ON IMPACTS

- Water scarcity
- Crop failure
- Death and illness
- Infrastructure loss and damage
- Loss or declining productivity of livelihoods

Our impact targets

20M

individuals with improved climate resilience

1Mt

carbon emissions mitigated



100M

liters of water conserved

\$1B

follow-on capital mobilized

10K

hectares restored or sustainably managed

80%

local founders

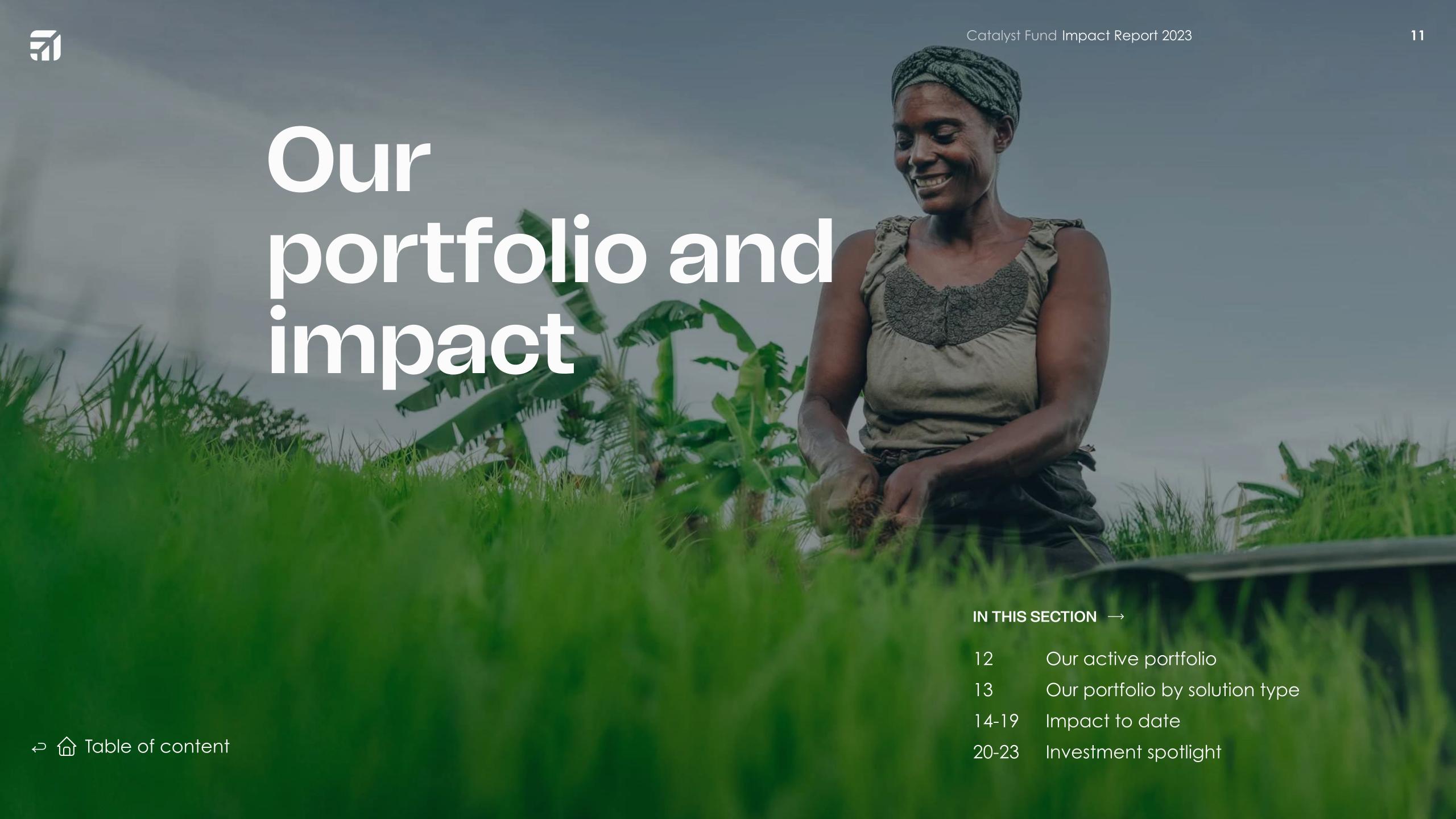
3K

green jobs created 40%

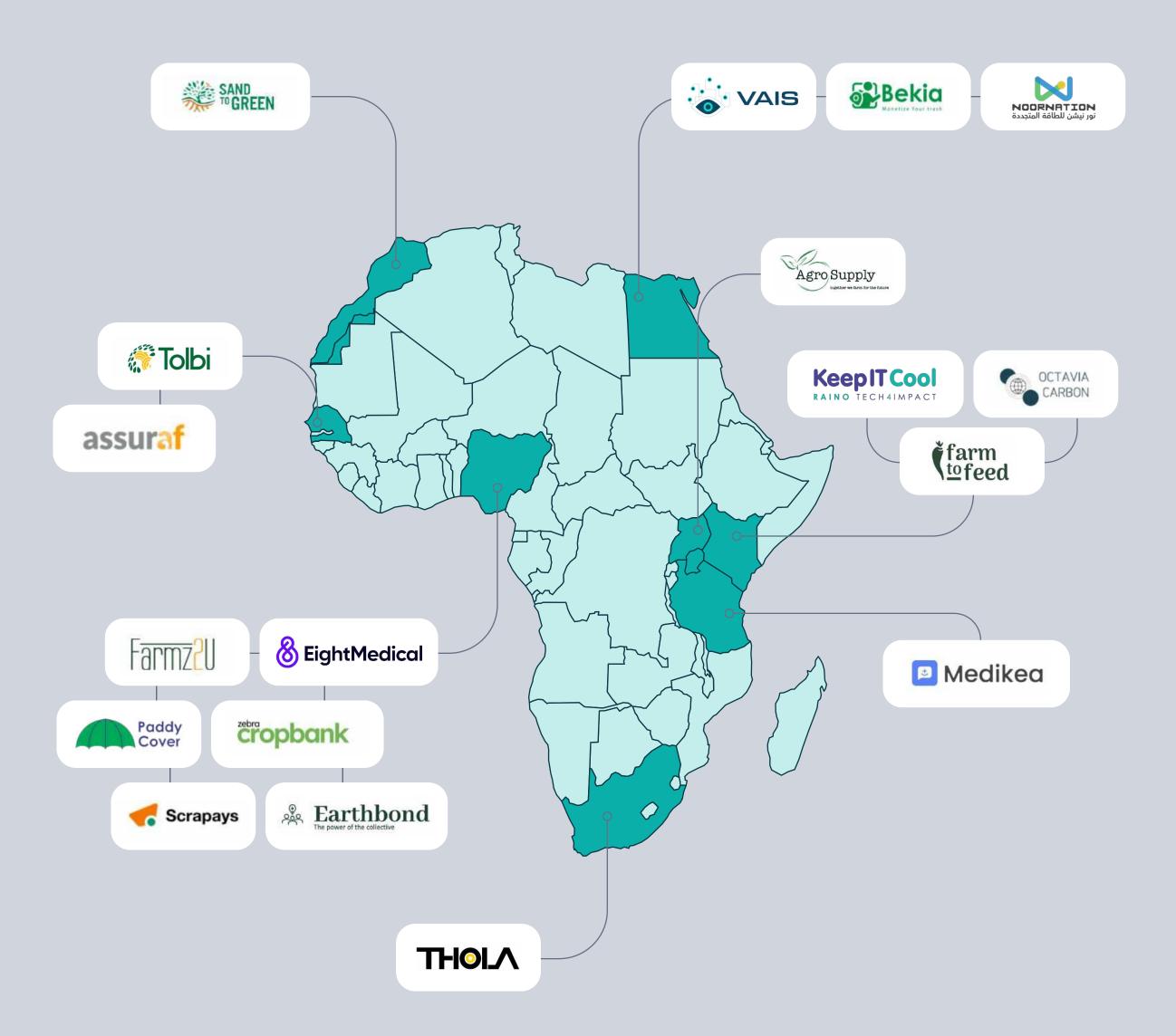
women founders

10M

women reached



We have built a diversified portfolio



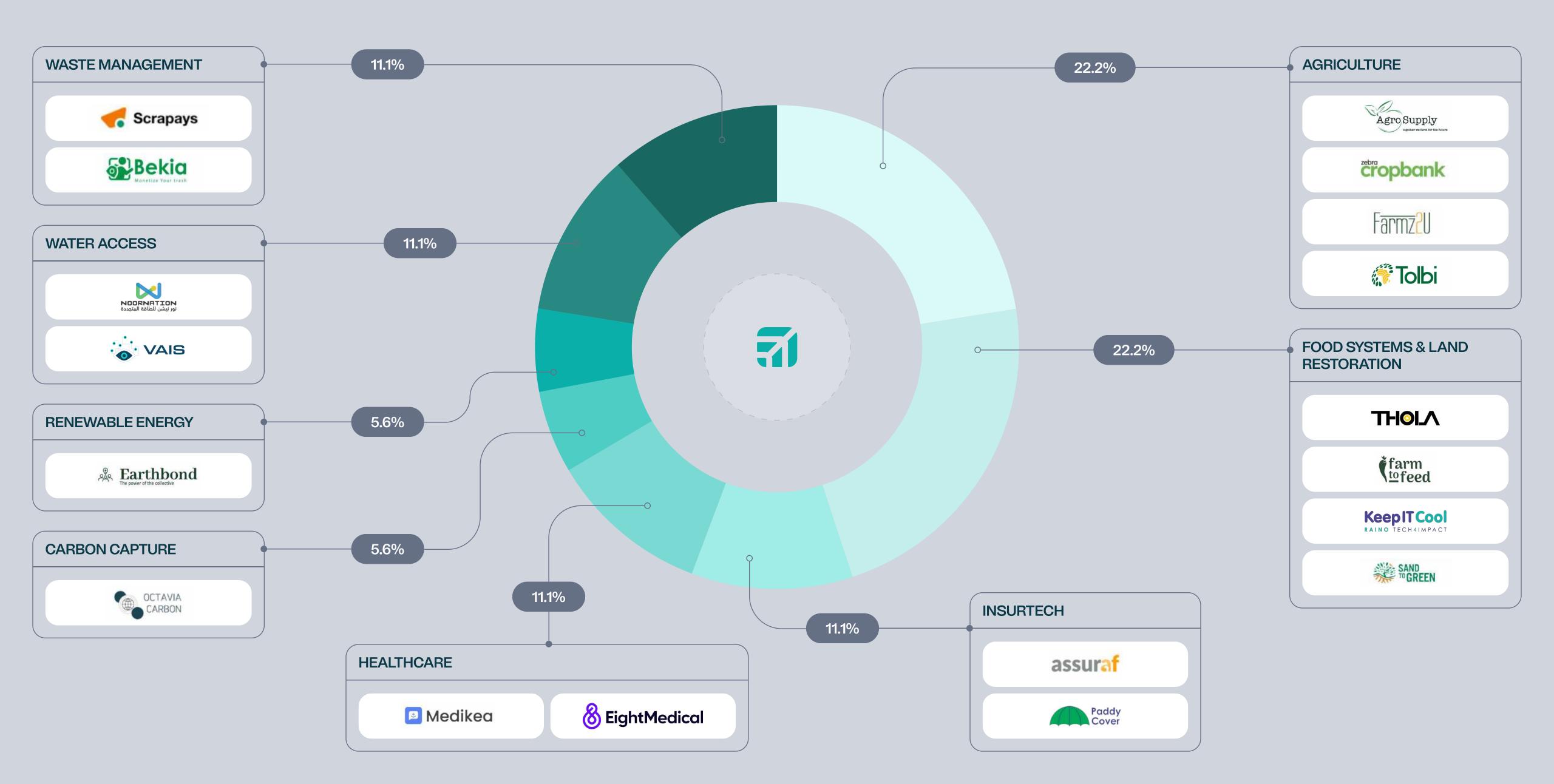
CURRENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE \$1.5M Quarterly Revenue Users reached/ made 190K more resilient Follow-on funding \$4.6M raised in 12 months 470+ Direct jobs created Hectares of land 200K sustainably managed Tons of waste 994 collected/avoided each quarter

18 Startups

8
Markets

8 Adaptation sectors

Our portfolio by solution type



Our impact to date



190K

individuals with improved climate resilience



25K+

medical interventions each quarter (incl. EMRs, Telemedicine)



200K

hectares of land sustainably managed quarterly



40%

Of these individuals are women beneficiaries



25

hectares of land restored (11 football fields)



994

tons of waste collected each quarter (food & recyclables)



4.5K+

insurance policies currently active



0.7K

tons of carbon emissions mitigated quarterly



1.2M

litres of water saved or generated each quarter



630+

Green jobs created

Catalyst Fund Impact Report 2023



80%

of the Catalyst Fund team are women

35%

of Catalyst Fund founders are women

40%

of users are women

Our agrifood startups address food waste and connect remote farmers to markets to create <u>sustainable food</u>



Water scarcity already affects 1 in 3 people in Africa, but our startups are restoring land and conserving water









2 yrs

to restore desert and harvest food

Sand to Green's unique approach of desalination, agroforestry, and green manure (compost, biochar, and regenerative practices) make desertified land productive again.



1.1M

litres of clean water sustainably delivered

Noor Nation's solar-powered water pump desalinates for farmers and households in Egypt where rising sea levels are driving high salinity throughout the Nile delta.



2.1M

litres of water conserved

FarmGATE, VAIS' digital solution, enables precision irrigation so farmers save water and fertilizer while delivering superior yields.

Heat exposure, sea level rise, and extreme events are creating health impacts across Africa





10K

patients treated

Medikea provides patients with diagnostic services, consultations, connections to specialists, and pharmacies. From diagnosis to treatment, their services cost nearly half of the alternatives – saving patients hundreds of dollars and keeping many from damaging poverty cycles. Financing options that coordinate mobile savings schemes further aid affordability, benefiting vulnerable families.



2,000

emergency calls treated

Only 8.7% of the continent's population has access to emergency healthcare. Many people on the continent do not know who to call, where to go, or what to do in an emergency, a problem that will only get worse as climate change impacts accelerate. It is estimated that over half of all deaths in low-and-middle-income countries can be averted by effective emergency care delivery. In Nigeria, that would translate to approximately 1,000,000 lives saved every year, or 3,000 lives every day.

Our startups are driving green growth, creating jobs and positioning Africa as a leader in climate action









4th

largest DAC company in the world

With 46 employees and a goal of installing 100 machines in 2024,

Octavia Carbon is among the global leaders in direct air carbon capture and is positioning Kenya to be a global leaders in carbon removal.



1,115

audits completed

Thola trains compliance officers to help farmers connect to export markets. Farmers earn higher incomes while Thola auditors secure green jobs, creating benefits for both parties. In doing so, they also promote regenerative practices by making them economically viable since farmers can secure higher prices with the certification.



5,903

recyclers, 80% for the first time

Scrapays harnesses local microenterprises to power the circular economy and responsible waste management. The startup equips entrepreneurs with technology and capital, and coordinates logistics, aggregation, and separation.

Investment spotlight



Company name Earthbond

Country of Operations Nigeria

Founder Chidalu Onyenso

About Earthbond

Earthbond is a clean energy marketplace that matches small and medium businesses with solar solutions based on their energy needs and financial abilities. Earthbond works with banks, microlenders, solar installers and manufacturers to ensure businesses can access solar solutions that make sense for their needs.







Catalyst Fund Impact Report 2023

Investment spotlight



Company name Tolbi

Country of Operations Senegal

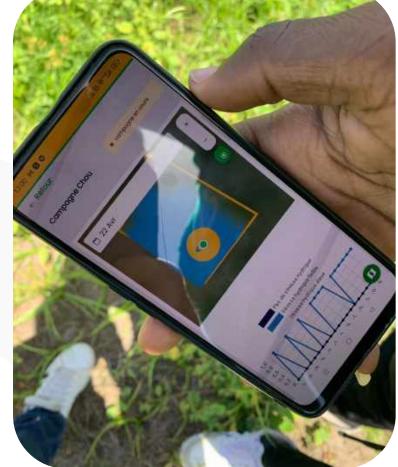
Founder Mouhamadou Lamine Kebe

About Tolbi

<u>Tolbi</u> is a pan-African climate-agtech startup using satellite imagery and AI to enable climate-smart agriculture practices on the continent. Tolbi's platform offers smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and agricultural stakeholders hyperlocal insights into weather patterns, irrigation requirements, soil health, and crop yields. This information helps to reduce inputs and operational costs, comply with new regulations on sustainable agriculture, and promote a net-zero emissions supply chain in agriculture. For example, cashew farmers using Tolbi's recommendations have increased yields by over 200%.









Investment spotlight



Company name Zebra Cropbank

Country of Operations Nigeria

Founder Buffy Okeke-Ojiudu

About Zebra Cropbank

Zebra Cropbank is providing the infrastructure for farmers to store their produce, connect them to markets, improve access to credit, and secure better prices. The company is building and leasing solar powered microwarehouses at close proximity to the farm clusters/communities making it cheap and easily accessible to smallholder farmers to store and insure their harvest. Using a USSD platform, farmers are able to efficiently and transparently store and trade their produce. By solar drying, safely storing, and selling at optimal prices, farmers using Zebra CropBank's micro-warehouses increased incomes by up to 90% while avoiding storage losses.







Keepit Cool RAINO TECH4IMPACT

Company name Keep It Cool

Country of Operations Kenya

Founder Francis Nderitu, Abigail Gachigi

About Keep It Cool

Keep It Cool is providing solar-powered cold chain solutions for small-scale fish and poultry farmers in Kenya. The startup reduces waste while also enhancing market access and resilience for farmers by facilitating direct sales to small businesses in urban centers. As a result, farmers experience higher incomes, there is more high quality food available on the market, and lower food waste means fewer greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, MSE retailers who purchase product from KIC experience higher incomes and smoother financing.











Our approach to scaling

Ventures

IN THIS SECTION ightarrow

How we work with startups

From our founders

27-28 Agro Supply

29-30 Assuraf

31-32 Bekia

33-35 Farm to Feed



Capital alone is not enough to win in Africa

We work alongside founders to accelerate startups' path to scale



We become the interim CTO,
CMO, Head of Marketing, Growth,
Product or Talent lead that earlystage companies can't afford



6-7 months of hands-on and bespoke venture-building support, delivered by technical specialists and ex-startup operators



Climate-smart product roadmap
to deepen climate impact and
support integration of ESG
principles



Value Add portfolio management
post-acceleration on
governance, strategic financing,
leadership, growth, climate
impact management

From our founders



"Catalyst Fund leverages a team of in-house operators and technical specialists with deep startup experience in emerging markets to work alongside our companies and accelerate their path to growth."

— Ogwal Joseph

Founder & CEO, AgroSupply



"The Catalyst Fund team gave us data analysis superpowers. We're now able to act and prioritize business decisions faster."

— Alaa Afifi

Founder & CEO, Bekia



"Their support is really valuable and I truly believe they are best in class in venture building in Africa, and would definitely recommend founders to apply."

— Souleymane Ginig Founder & CEO, Assuraf

Catalyst Fund's Venture Building

Catalyst Fund leverages a team of in-house operators and technical specialists with deep startup experience in emerging markets, to work alongside our companies and accelerate their path to growth.

18

companies accelerated

500 hrs

on average of support per startup



Agro Supply is on a mission to transform the lives of the smallholder farmers in Uganda by creating a holistic approach that is helping farmers to afford high quality and hybrid (drought resistant) seeds and organic fertilizers through a save-to-buy model. In addition, the company is offering area yield index insurance to further protect farmers.

Smallholder farmers across the continents are facing increasing threats from climate change from irregular rains to heatwaves to pests. They also face cash flow challenges to address those threats. Agro Supply's support enables farmers to access quality inputs and access appropriate financial services.



BEFORE

- Agro Supply lacked a world class brand identity and website.
- The startup was preparing to raise
 \$1M but lacked a strategy.
- Operations were scaling rapidly and the CEO needed an upgraded view into operations and finances.

VENTURE BUILDING

Branding

Our marketing team reviewed the customer journey and materials. We revamped Agro Supply's tagline from a layaway product to "Buy Now Pay Later", streamlined messaging on the website and reviewed USSD protocols to simplify how customers access products and services.

Fundraising

We built a fundraising CRM, made introductions to 25+ investors, and supported due diligence activities with investors.

Dashboard

We built a dashboard for the team to monitor profitability and revenues by product, maintain a list of key metrics for farmers, and equip them to track and monitor datasets from multiple business functions.

OUTCOMES

- Raised follow-on funding (equity and debt) from several investors
- Doubled revenue between 2022
 and 2023
- Now serve more than 30,000 farmers in Uganda
- Team size has more than doubled from 9 to 19

IMPACT

Quality of life

9 in 10 farmers say their quality of life has improved, noting increase in income, production, and ability to afford household bills.

Stress levels

2 in 3 farmers say their stress levels about meeting their families' basic needs have decreased

Produce

9 in 10 farmers report an increase in production with 73% of them using the same amount of land

Farmer security

81% of farmers experienced climate shocks including drought and severe lack of rain, 70% say that Agro Supply positively contributed to their recovery, 56% of them are still recovering.

Farmer benefits

90%

90% of farmers report an increase in overall quality of life



"Through the venture building assistance we got from Catalyst Fund, we have increased our revenue by 100%. We had a very scrappy website, but now we have a very professional website because of Catalyst Fund. Also, we are now incorporated in Delaware. We can now say we are an investment-ready company. Catalyst Fund amazingly did all of this.

Joseph OgwalFounder of Agro Supply



Spotlight-assuraf

Assuraf is a digital platform offering end-users access to a broad range of insurance products (including health, life, housing, travel, natural disasters, and agriculture) from over 20 insurance companies with a fully integrated claim management system on their website and mobile app.

According to the World Health Organization, <u>climate-related health</u> <u>emergencies are on the rise in Africa</u>, accounting for more than half of public health events recorded in the region over the past two decades. Their analysis found that of the 2,121 public health events recorded in the African region between 2001 and 2021, <u>56% were climate-related</u>. The medical research community now fully recognizes climate change as the <u>"greatest threat"</u> to global public health.



BEFORE

- Assuraf had great insurance policies to offer but was still building a distribution and sales strategy.
- Partnerships were in development and CEO was using a complex set of tools to manage operations.

VENTURE BUILDING

Marketing and distribution

Catalyst Fund conducted research on micro-insurance distribution models, facilitated a set of experiments to test call center vs WhatsApp outreach, conducted a missed calls experiments, and developed a B2B and B2C sales playbook.

Mascot

We developed a brand mascot and messaging strategy, including a launch campaign.

Fundraising

Refined Assuraf's pitch deck, hosted a demo day with 70 investors, and made warm intros.

Operations

We crafted Redash dashboard, developed a CTO and Chief of Staff job description, and app launch roadmap.

OUTCOMES

- Raised follow-on funding (equity & non-dilutive) from several investors
- Hired and onboarded Chief of Staff
- Launched distribution
 partnerships via petrol stations
 and agents

IMPACT

Our chatbot and mascot are helping Assuraf reach vulnerable users

Our resilience chatbot found that 40% experienced a disaster in the past year, more than half an illness

- Nearly 75% were not well prepared for a disaster, even more (86%) are not prepared for a future emergency
- Nearly 30% are not at all prepared for an emergency in the future



30% of users report that Assuraf's coverage made them better off. Those who are more vulnerable (higher debt, lower savings, enduring past emergencies) were more likely to report benefits.

User benefits

30%

30% reported that they were better off with Assuraf



"In our mission to remove barriers to coverage, and bridge the protection gap, we realized that trust is indeed one of the biggest challenges we had to tackle. With the Catalyst Fund team, we developed a mascot as a voice and a way to form a genuine connection with our audience and build that trust."

Souleymane GningFounder of Assuraf

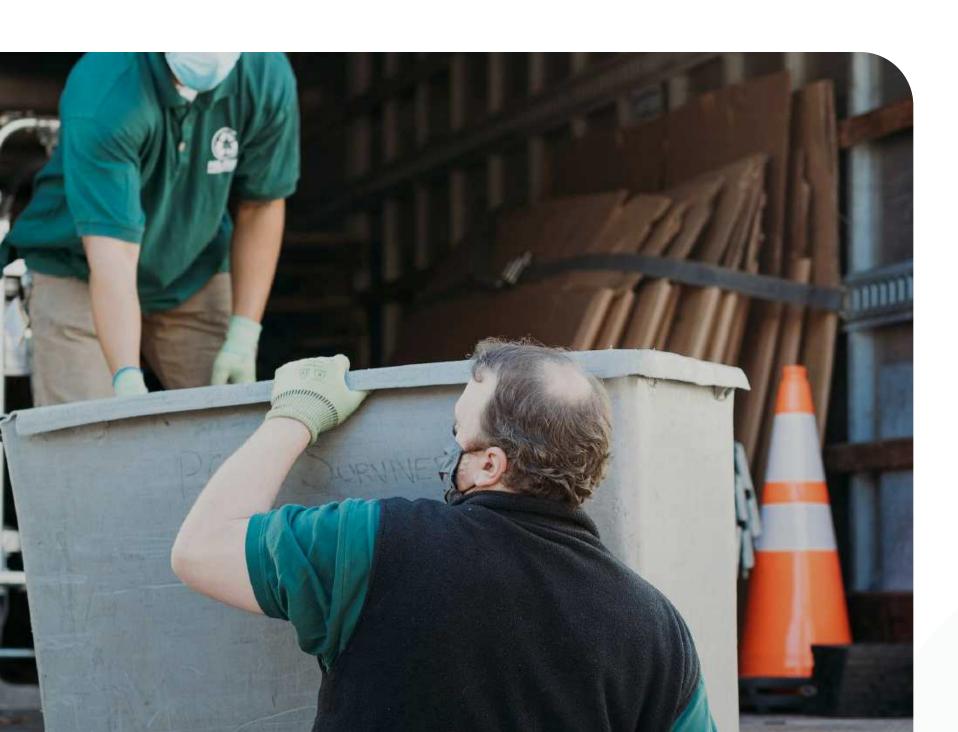






Bekia is addressing the problem of waste by ensuring that plastic, paper, and other waste are recycled or otherwise safely disposed of in environmentally responsible ways. Via Bekia's app, platform, or WhatsApp channel, users can report the waste they have collective, schedule a time for pick-up, and receive value for their waste.

Egypt produces an annual average of 90 million tons of solid waste, and only about half of it is collected. Unfortunately, only 12% of household solid waste is recycled, and the rest ends up in the environment, such as in open landfills, rivers, and waterways. This causes a range of issues, including pollution, crop and farm soil damage, and potential health issues.



BEFORE

- Bekia had been growing YoY but at a modest 10%-15% rate, among others things due to a lack of data-backed decision making approach
- Bekia's focus was mainly on B2C (60% of the revenue), generating high costs and making it difficult to scale volumes
- Collecting around 36T/month

VENTURE BUILDING

Data

Catalyst Fund team conducted an in-depth performance analysis on the product, the waste collectors and the channels before building a customized data dashboard allowing Bekia to track operations live and make informed decisions.

B2B sales strategy

Catalyst Fund ran a B2B survey to improve loyalty and build a targeted B2B sales engine.

Marketing and sales experiments were also run.

Fundraising

A fundraising CRM and strategy was developed for Bekia

OUTCOMES

- In 2023 revenue grew by over25%
- Waste collected doubled to over
 80T of waste per month
- Team size has more than doubled
 from 15 to 32 in just over a year

IMPACT

Bekia's users have collectively recycled over 100 tons of waste, contributing to an estimated 300 tons of CO2 avoided based on their Waste Reduction Model (WARM) model.

83% of users highlight that they use Bekia's service because it helps them achieve their sustainability goals, citing this reason more highly than the monetary value they receive in exchange for their waste. Bekia also provides a recycling certificate that helps businesses prove their ESG practices.



95% of the 75,000 Bekia users are women, highlighting the central role women can take in climate action.

Bekia users

95% of users are women



"Our platform targets women in Egypt, as they are typically the ones responsible for waste disposal in their homes. By targeting women, we aim to leverage their influential role in household waste management to help address the environmental challenges posed by the lack of proper waste management."

— Alaa Afifi
Founder & CEO of Bekia





<u>Farm to Feed</u> is a women led, tech startup focused on reducing food loss and waste, which improves farmer incomes, mitigates emissions and making nutritious food more available to consumers. They do this by aggregating imperfect, rescue, and surplus produce from a network of thousands of smallholder farmers across Kenya and distributing it to customers such as feeding programs, retail markets, and food processors at affordable prices.

This loss may partially explain food security; 32% of Kenyans face food insecurity or poor nutrition and 25% of children under 5 years have stunted growth due to chronic malnutrition.



BEFORE

- Farm to Feed was servicing a range of customers from households, to restaurants, to groceries but without a sense of how to segment their customer base and appropriate management tools.
- Verra had contacted Farm to Feed about the potential for carbon credits but the team lacked a way forward.

VENTURE BUILDING

Tech

Catalyst Fund developed a strategy for what tech the startup should build and what to contract, and equipped the team with the right tech at sourcing, warehousing, sales & distribution to improve efficiencies.

Carbon

Catalyst Fund delivered a prefeasibility report, and project roadmap.

Grant funding

We completed three grants applications on behalf on the team

Brand

We developed a new brand and website for Farm to Feed, reflecting a more professional and startup oriented identity.

OUTCOMES

- Raised follow-on funding (both equity and non-dilutive capital) from several investors
- In 2023 revenue almost doubled between 2023 and 2024
- Farm to Feed joined the GSMA Mobile for Development portfolio, and was recognized by AfricArena, GIZ, and the Cartier Women's Initiative



The Agri Revolution Watch video

IMPACT

Farm to Feed is pioneering a new approach to carbon mitigation

Farm to Feed is assessing a new Verra protocol to understand the opportunity to register their project in the voluntary carbon markets given the mitigation benefits of keeping food in the human consumption chain. Catalyst Fund helped evaluate the project's eligibility to use the methodology, and built a business model to understand the potential opportunity for Farm to Feed.

50%

of food in Africa is lost or wasted

89-102 GT

of CO₂ equivalent emissions could be avoided by reducing food loss

Africa's Food Loss

Almost all food loss in the continent occurs before reaching the customer instead of after

Food waste

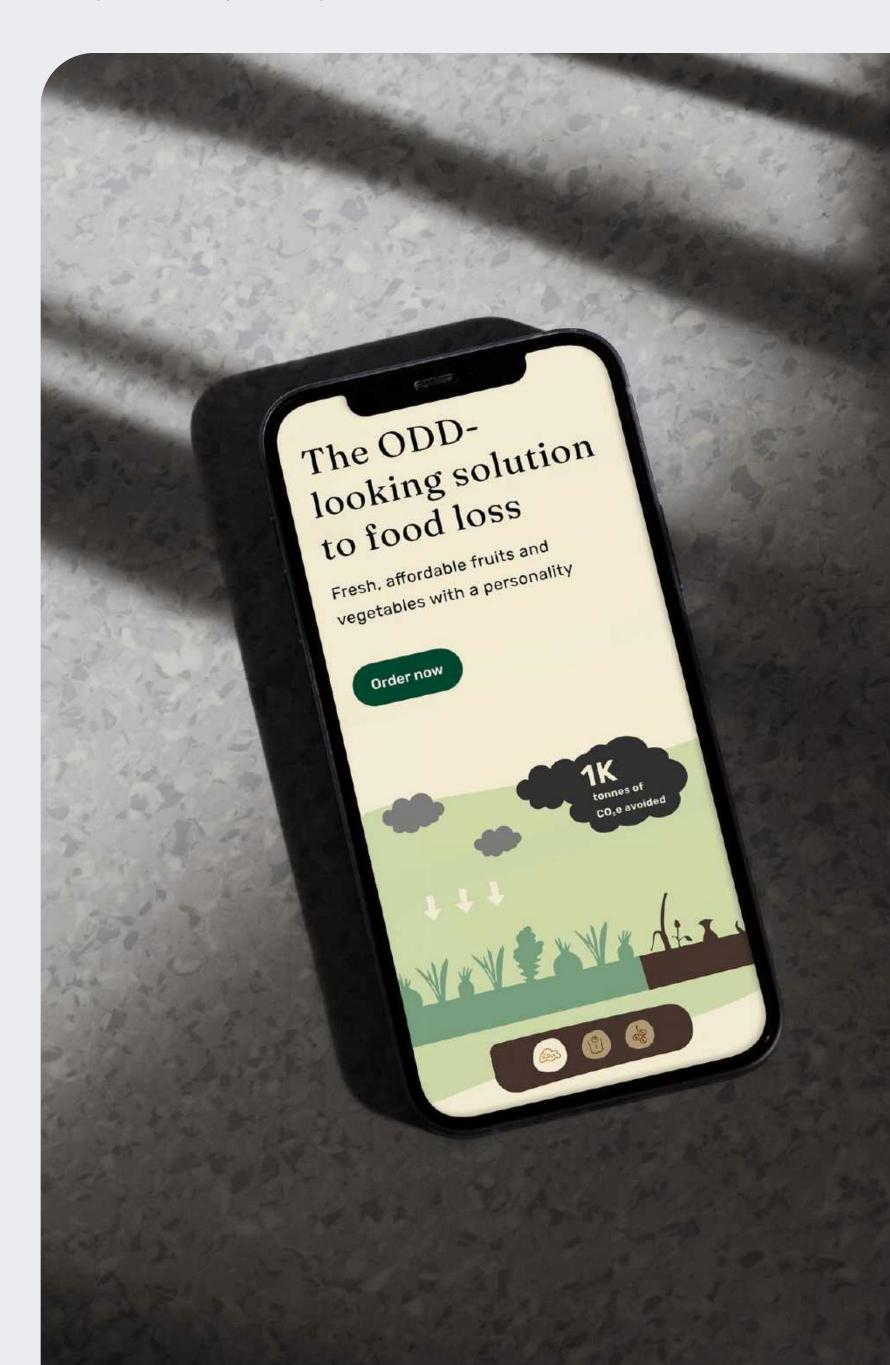
95%

95% of food wastage occurs before reaching the customer

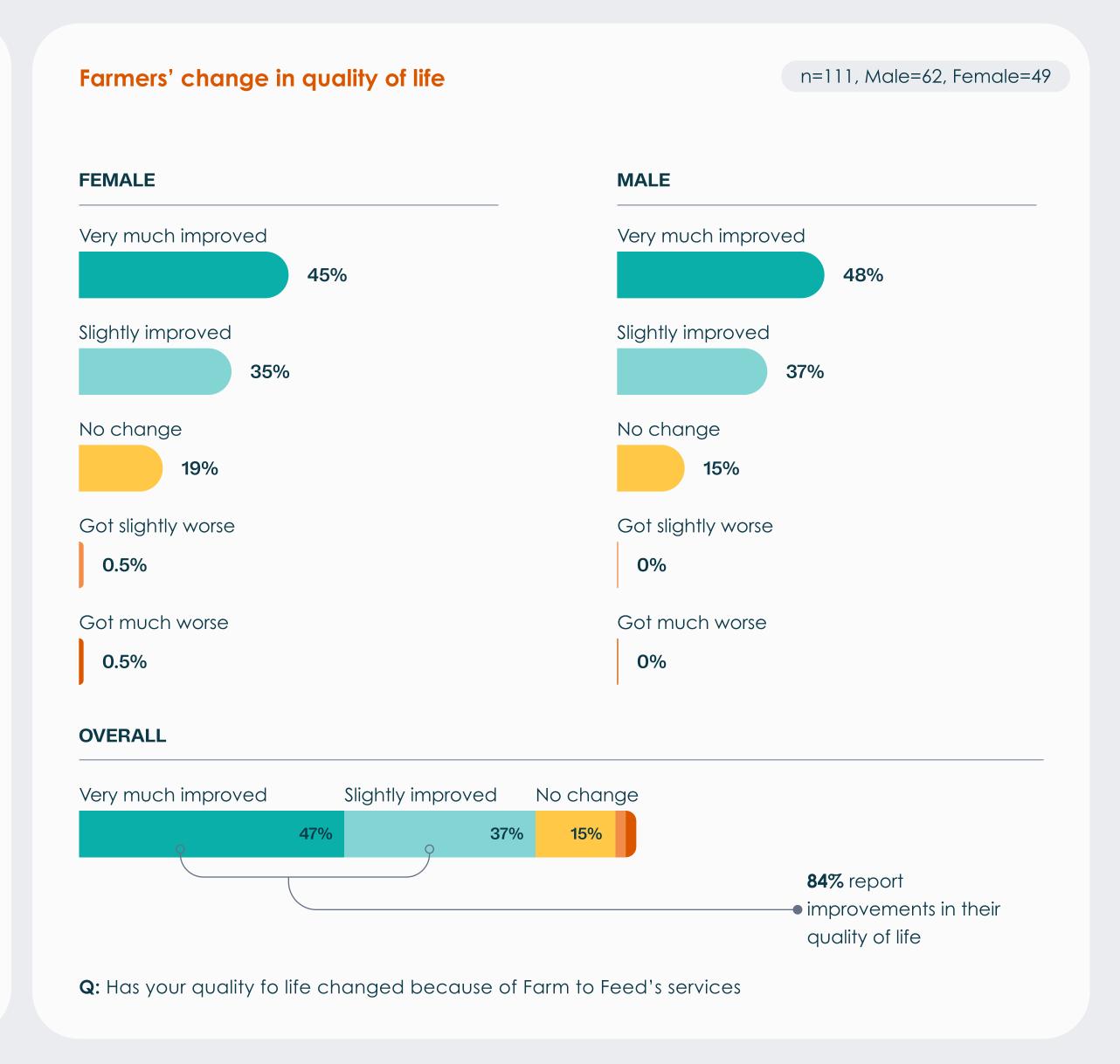


"What surprised me is really the intensity of the venture building and the fact that its really practical in a very good way. It an extension of our team, so they are running with it, together with us. And they feel ownership of our success as well."

— Claire Van Enk
Founder & CEO of Farm to Feed







Explore our portfolio



Agro Supply

USSD-based layaway system that enables smallholder farmers to save



Assuraf

An inclusive digital platform offering insurance products from 20+ companies



Bekia

App for people to exchange their valuable waste for cash through their mobile



Earthbond

The one-stop-shop for businesses that need reliable solar energy to save money



Eight Medical

A cloud-native Emergency Medical Services (EMS) platform



SCAN ME

Learn more about our portfolio companies



Farm to Feed

A digital marketplace providing a market for oddlooking and surplus produce



Farmz2u

An agtech enterprise driving sustainable agriculture



Keep It Cool

Disrupting small-scale farmer value chain by decentralizing cold chain access



Medikea

Modern & affordable medical outpatient care powered by technology for Africa



NoorNation

A startup providing farmers with solar energy and water solutions



Octavia Carbon

The Global South's first Direct Air Carbon Capture (DACC) company



Paddy Cover

Designing and offering bespoke insurance products via a multi-channel platform



Sand to Green

Transforms deserts into cultivable lands



Scrapays

Enabling micro-entrepreneurs to launch and manage thriving recycling businesses.



Thola

Automating sustainability compliance intelligence for emerging green companies



Tolbi

An agtech startup using satellite data to support climate-smart agriculture



VAIS

Leverages satellite data to provide precision farming support to farmers



Zebra Cropbank

Africa's post-harvest platform, for farmers to store & manage their produce

Recognition and membership



Impact Assets 50™

An Annual Showcase of Impact Investment Fund Managers.



VentureESG

Committed to building the right expertise across the ecosystem to prevent ESG-washing from creeping into VC.



CPI: The Lab

Investor-led, public-private initiative, accelerating early-stage climate finance solutions and instruments.



CIFAR Alliance Venture WG

Aims to provide gender-inclusive climate adaptation and resilience solutions directly to 1 billion of the world's most vulnerable people



Adaptation Research Alliance

A global coalition committed to a new paradigm of adaptation research for impact.



2x Global GP Accelerator

A 6-month acceleration programme for 7 female-led or gender-balanced fund managers across Africa.



UpLink

An open, innovation platform, created to foster collaboration to meet the UN' 17 global SDG in their 2030 Agenda.



GIIN Resilience Metrics Working Group

Shape IRIS+ research and connect with the world of impact investing by joining a working group today.



Investing for a climate resilient future in Africa



For more information, contact: