



SOCIAL IMPACT INCUBATOR

— WEST AFRICA —

BENIN - SENEGAL - TOGO

WHAT IS SII AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

SII stands for the **Social Impact Incubator**. It is an incubator model built to empower passionate, progressive local leaders working to change their communities. It is painfully obvious that promising African organizations struggle to access the capital and credibility needed to grow. Too often, young leaders don't have the means to make their voices heard by those who control the capital.

SII serves as a bridge. It identifies and vets promising organizations and provides mentorship while monitoring their progress. For funders, it offers a way to closely follow and participate in the growth of organizations that create true impact. For young leaders, it gives them the tools, framework, and funding to properly stand on their own and thrive.

This graduation marks the first milestone of **SII's West Africa edition**, the program's official debut on the continent's western coast. Over five years, **Segal Family Foundation and its partners** will collaboratively design and implement multiple **Social Impact Incubators** in the region, identifying and nurturing several cohorts of locally-led visionary organizations. Three countries are our playground: **Benin, Senegal, and Togo**. **31 of West Africa's** most promising organizations are graduating this *April*.

MEET OUR CHAMPIONS



GROWING LIFE FARM



"My wish is that every woman in my region can be self-sufficient and rely on no one but herself to thrive." - Maman Thérèse

Maman Thérèse is a passionate social entrepreneur and founder of **Growing Life** in **Senegal**. After years of traveling the world for her international career, she realized how important it was to come back to her roots and prioritize her family and her community, the people who had given her so much.

Today, **Growing Life** works to empower women and girls through agroecology. By providing hands-on, confidence-building training, the nonprofit gives women the tools they need to succeed and earn income through sustainable farming, while also contributing to the prosperity of their community.

One of **Growing Life's** core missions is to fight seasonal migration, a phenomenon where girls as young as **10 to 12** leave their rural communities to work as domestic workers in cities like Dakar. During these months, they are often victims of physical and psychological abuse, working long hours just to cover their school fees, supplies, and clothing. Instead of a time to rest, their school breaks become a period of suffering and hard labor.

Thanks to **Growing Life**, these young girls, and their mothers, can now earn enough income to avoid that situation and, hopefully, even fund their own projects.



WAKANDA

WAKANDA

Wakanda began as a meeting of minds, four social entrepreneurs, united by shared values and over **60 years** of combined experience in the social and solidarity economy. Their common ambition: to change the world by creating lasting impact across Africa.

Founded in 2020, Wakanda was born as a Beninese association with a bold vision, to become the first third-place space in Benin dedicated to social innovation and social entrepreneurship. It quickly grew into something broader: a true incubator for solidarity-driven, ecological, and civic initiatives.

From day one, the mission has never wavered. **Wakanda** takes vacant buildings in working-class neighborhoods and breathes new life into them, transforming forgotten spaces into vibrant educational, cultural, entrepreneurial, and civic hubs. Open to young people, these spaces exist for one purpose: to surface hidden talent and spark social innovation where it's needed most.



La BoBaR

BoBaR
Distribution

Founded in **2013**, **La BoBaR** is a project launched by young Togolese members of the Organization for Food and Local Development (**OADL**). The association originally focused on raising awareness among neighborhood development committees about democratic civic life, before shifting its attention to promoting local culinary arts.

The concept behind La BoBaR grew out of a desire to showcase local products. The association helps producers improve their packaging and meet hygiene standards, boosting both the quality and visibility of Togolese goods.

La BoBaR goes beyond simply being a store by hosting cultural events such as concerts, film festivals, cooking workshops, and markets. These events give participants a chance to discover the rich culinary heritage of Togo while supporting local producers.

OADL's vision is rooted in a strong belief: food is a fundamental human right. They envision an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition, where well-informed communities live and work with dignity, in full respect of the right to food for all.



DeafSync



Co-founded by **Osée Soke**, **DeafSync** is a digital company based in **Benin**, dedicated to the social inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Through artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technology, **DeafSync** develops innovative solutions such as **DeafTranslator**, a sign language translation app, alongside complementary projects like Lambda, an inclusive EdTech platform, and Vocood, an automatic sign language dubbing solution.

DeafSync's vision is to create an inclusive world where every individual can express themselves freely and be understood without communication barriers. The company works to remove these obstacles, promote inclusive education, and make technology accessible to everyone.

Beyond its tech solutions, **DeafSync** also offers digital training programs, awareness campaigns, and technical support. The company further contributes to the creation of inclusive job opportunities and helps tech businesses integrate inclusivity at the core of their products and services.



Patat'Innov



"This project was born from the observation of a paradox. There are significant agricultural losses, particularly in the north of the country, while at the same time, many children suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. We wanted to address both of these challenges within a single project, and that's how "Patat'innov" came to life" – Fatoumata Sonko

Patat'innov was built on a deep conviction: every child deserves a chance to grow up healthy. In sub-Saharan Africa, where childhood malnutrition is an everyday reality, **Fatoumata Sonko, Khadi Seck** and **Aissata Dianko** co-founders of **Patat'Innov** decided to make a difference, one spoonful at a time. The project's mission is simple : to provide nutritious purees, made fro potatoes, local fruits and vegetables, that combine great taste with real health benefits for the most vulnerable.

Every product created is designed to deliver the essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants needed for healthy development. But the commitment goes beyond nutrition – by supporting local agriculture, **Patat'Innov** help build solidarity-driven economies while ensuring a positive impact on communities.

Their vision? A future where childhood malnutrition is a thing of the past. A world where every household has access to healthy, nourishing food, and where children can grow to their full potential and become strong adults, capable of achieving their dreams.



KaNora



KaNora was born from a troubling observation. Domestic work is deeply embedded in African culture, and yet in Senegal, over **99%** of domestic workers operate in an informal setting, often precarious, where their rights and dignity are overlooked. This sector, which is essential to the daily lives of countless families, remains largely invisible and undervalued. **KaNora** aims to be the visionary movement that, rather than accepting this reality, transforms it.

KaNora is a visionary movement that transforms domestic workers into respected, empowered, and valued professionals. Through a dynamic ecosystem, the company automates and professionalizes this key sector of the African economy, while bringing innovative solutions to redefine the future of work across the continent.

Their mission is to build an evolving ecosystem that turns domestic workers into accomplished professionals, valued and connected to a trusted network. **KaNora** transforms informal labor into a dignified opportunity by recognizing skills and giving **KaNora Ladies** the chance to dream big and act with professionalism.

Their vision is straightforward: to give every woman the power to succeed, achieve economic independence, and play an active role in transforming her community.

KaNora embodies a model of social change where innovation, excellence, and respect come together to create dignified opportunities, strengthening communities with every completed mission.



Bluemind Foundation



"Investing in women's mental health is investing in human dignity and the resilience of communities." - Marie-Alix de Putter

Born from the personal story of its founder, **Marie-Alix de Putter**, who transformed the tragedy of her husband's murder and her own battle with trauma, depression, and anxiety, the **Bluemind Foundation** is now the fastest-growing nonprofit mental health organization in French-speaking West Africa.

At the heart of its vision, the foundation holds that mental health is inseparable from health overall – and that it must never be a privilege reserved for the few. It is a social, cultural, political, and economic issue that, when ignored, traps millions of lives in cycles of poverty and exclusion.

Through its innovative Heal by Hair program, the **Bluemind Foundation** has created the first African network of hairdressers trained as mental health ambassadors. In their salons – familiar, trusted spaces – women find a refuge where they can open up, be heard, and be guided toward care.



Handicap Actions Togo



In **Togo**, more than **37,000** people live with hearing disabilities, and a large number of them face serious challenges integrating into society and the workforce.

In **2017**, **Akossiwa L. Kinvi** founded **Handicap Actions Togo** following a chance encounter with young deaf women who had graduated in sewing. These women faced major difficulties making a living from their trade, as they were excluded from commercial exchanges due to the language barrier. This center was created to facilitate communication, offer work opportunities, and allow these women to lead a fulfilling social life.

The organization provides financial empowerment opportunities, skills training, and a space for communication. There, the seamstresses produce quality fashion accessories, clothing, and wellness products. **Handicap Actions Togo** is structured as a nonprofit focused on production and training, alongside an **LLC** that handles distribution for the brands "**Han Design Togo**" and "**Lawanie**", ensuring that the artisans earn a fair and dignified income.

The organization is also paving the way to include people with other types of disabilities as soon as space becomes available, with the goal of building a more inclusive society for everyone.



I AM Foundation



Ian Mahinmi, a former NBA champion and 13-year veteran of the league, embodies the foundation's ambitious vision. Known for his pivotal role with the Dallas Mavericks in their **2011 NBA Championship** victory, Ian now dedicates his efforts to using sports for sustainable development, youth empowerment, and promoting Benin's international appeal. Through the **Ian Mahinmi I AM Foundation**, founded in **2016**, he has become a key figure in shaping sports development in West Africa.

The foundation harnesses the passion for basketball to inspire and guide youth through innovative programs and community events. The foundation creates learning opportunities, fosters leadership, and promotes the physical and mental well-being of young people. Since its inception, **I AM** has built a committed community dedicated to helping children pursue their love for basketball and driving positive change worldwide.

Many young participants in the foundation's programs have gone on to become professional basketball players. Their successes fuel the foundation's mission and reinforce its commitment to unlocking the potential of every child.



Smart Bilingual Academy



Tchanlandjou Kpare, a social entrepreneur and passionate educator, founded **Smart Bilingual Academy** in **2022** in **Fatick, Senegal**, with a clear vision: to provide innovative, high-quality education in secondary and rural areas. With over ten years of experience in social innovation, he created this academy to address the lack of schools capable of combining modern teaching methods with local values.

His journey as a parent was the turning point. When he enrolled his son in school in Fatick, he quickly realized that the local educational options did not meet the expectations he had for his child. Drawing from his own experience in an education system built around memorization and passing exams, he wanted to give his son and the children of the region the skills needed for an ever-changing world: bilingualism, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and leadership.

Smart Bilingual Academy is built on active learning, where children learn through play and projects in a bilingual (**French-English**) environment, while also celebrating local languages, Serer and Wolof. The academy is a model of community-driven educational innovation, with parent and elder involvement at the heart of the project. Today, the school welcomes **children ages 3 to 18** and is recognized as a model for its inclusive and interconnected approach, aimed at reducing the educational gap between major cities and rural areas.



L'AFRICAIN D'ARCHITECTURE

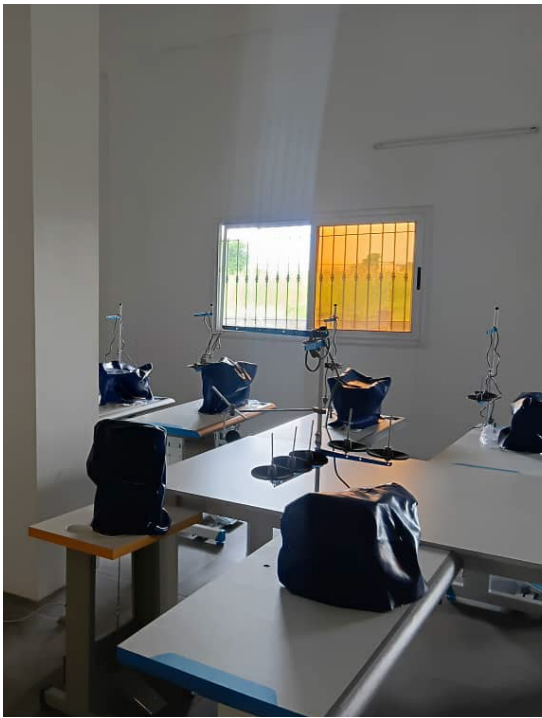
A F R
I C A
I N E

"Sustainability means building an architecture that can be renewed indefinitely" – Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou

Founded in **2011**, **L'Africaine d'Architecture** is a collaborative association that places innovation, design, and architecture at the heart of responsible urban planning, directly connected to African realities. Founded by **Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou**, it is built on the principle of **"neo-vernacular"**, an approach that blends local traditions with modernity in building the African city of tomorrow.

The association works toward a collective vision for the future challenges of the African city, anticipating the needs of its urbanization through sustainable and responsible concepts. **L'Africaine d'Architecture** supports project developers through its LAA Studios, offering expertise in construction using bio-sourced and locally available materials.

Through its actions and initiatives, **L'Africaine d'Architecture** seeks to spark a responsible, open, and accessible urban revolution for all – integrating new technologies, sport, and startup culture into the process of urban transformation.



Kitambaa

The story of **Kitambaa** begins with an article received in **2016**, describing how two men had created reusable sanitary pads for their daughters so they would no longer have to miss school during their periods. The article deeply moved **Yaye Hélène Ndiaye**, the company's founder, who was reminded of a story shared by her laundress. She had told her about a practice in her community that forced women to isolate themselves during their periods, because they couldn't afford to buy disposable sanitary pads. This situation is far from unique, many young girls and women across Africa, particularly in low-income families, are forced to stay home during their periods, affecting their education, their work, and their participation in society.

Kitambaa is today a social enterprise that offers affordable and sustainable reusable sanitary pad kits. These pads allow young girls to attend school during their periods, improving their academic performance, and enable women to continue their economic activities, strengthening their independence and long-term income.

Kitambaa's goal is to ensure that every woman and girl experiences her period with dignity, safety, and autonomy, while contributing to their empowerment and the development of their communities.



Sen Biopest



Sen Biopest is a Senegalese company specializing in the production and distribution of natural biopesticides made from local plants. Founded by **Meingue Ndiaye**, an agronomist specializing in seed science, the company offers an effective and affordable alternative to chemical pesticides, while preserving soil fertility and biodiversity.

Sen Biopest is committed to the health of farmers, consumers, and the environment by providing sustainable agricultural solutions. The company takes a circular economy approach by making the most of local resources and minimizing waste. It also supports market gardeners through hands-on training on the use of biopesticides.

The company's ambition is to become a leading player in Senegal and across West Africa in the development of biological agricultural inputs tailored to local realities.



Level Up Togo



Speech Spark is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving primary education in rural areas of **Togo**. Convinced that every child deserves a quality education, the organization strengthens students' foundational skills in reading, writing, and math, while also supporting their emotional well-being.

The story of **Komlan Abalo Braly**, founder of **Speech Spark**, begins in **2014**, when he discovered that the village of Tchitchao had just opened its first high school, but had no science teachers and no textbooks. Rather than moving on, Komlan, then a student of applied physics, chose to stay and teach as a volunteer. That was the beginning of his commitment to education, not by joining an existing program, but by creating the solution his students desperately needed.

His motivation stems from a deeply personal experience: growing up in a region where **82% of children** could not read a simple sentence by age **10**, he witnessed too many bright children, like Abiré, being labeled "incapable" by an education system that had given up on them. For Komlan, it wasn't the children who were failing, it was the system. He firmly believed that different outcomes required differently trained teachers. Faced with the absence of this type of educational initiative in French-speaking Africa, he decided to take matters into his own hands and founded **Speech Spark**.

By combining structured pedagogy with socio-emotional learning practices adapted to the local context, **Speech Spark** trains teachers in proven methods and supports them directly in the field. The organization implements a cascade training model to sustainably spread best teaching practices.



Advance Benin



Céphas Catraye, founder and president of **Advance Benin**, was born and raised in **Cotonou, Benin, West Africa**. He moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2013 to pursue his studies, earning a degree in Design Interactivity and Media Arts from Metropolitan Community College.

Céphas grew up with the belief that education was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. His childhood was shaped by the struggles of his best friend, who, due to extreme poverty, couldn't attend school and often went without food. Tragically, his friend passed away, leaving behind a young daughter.

This loss fueled Céphas' determination to help children in his homeland, which led him and his wife, Amanda, to start Advance Benin.

The nonprofit is dedicated to empowering vulnerable children in **Benin** through education. Since **2020**, the organization has been providing school supplies, support, and opportunities to help children escape poverty and build a better future.

Advance Benin envisions a world where every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to learn, grow, and unlock their potential to transform their families and communities. By offering essential resources and guidance, the organization helps children not only succeed in school but also thrive in life.



AgriAcademy



Hamidou Camara is the founder of **AgriAcademy (Agri Connect)**, an edtech startup dedicated to training and supporting young agro-entrepreneurs in West Africa. Through its e-learning platform and innovative mobile app (**AgriLink**), **AgriAcademy** offers interactive modules, practical tools, and access to agricultural experts.

Today, **AgriAcademy** hosts an active community of over **450 young people** on WhatsApp, spread across West Africa, all committed to building a modern, sustainable, and profitable agricultural sector.



Cabinet ACTe



Cabinet ACTe was born from a fundamental question: how do we prepare and equip our generations to meet today's challenges and build a sustainable future? That question gave rise to a clear and purposeful mission: to train, support, and integrate the talents of tomorrow, providing every young person, every woman, and every project owner with the skills, confidence, and tools needed to turn their ideas into concrete success.

Under the leadership of **Kangni Kueviakoe**, **ACTe** positions itself as a journey partner, an idea incubator, and a skills connector. The organization invests in people and believes in the power of applied education and innovation as drivers of development. Today, **ACTe** is a hub for learning and experimentation, where every project owner finds a space to refine their idea, and every participant gains direction and builds new skills. **ACTe** firmly believes that human capital is a nation's greatest wealth, and strives to bring talents to life and turn ideas into concrete action.



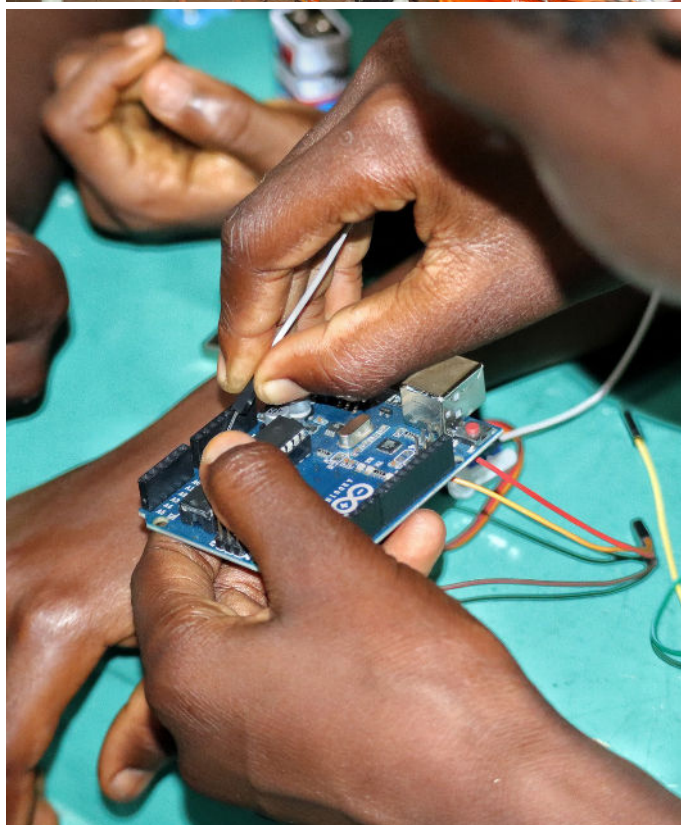
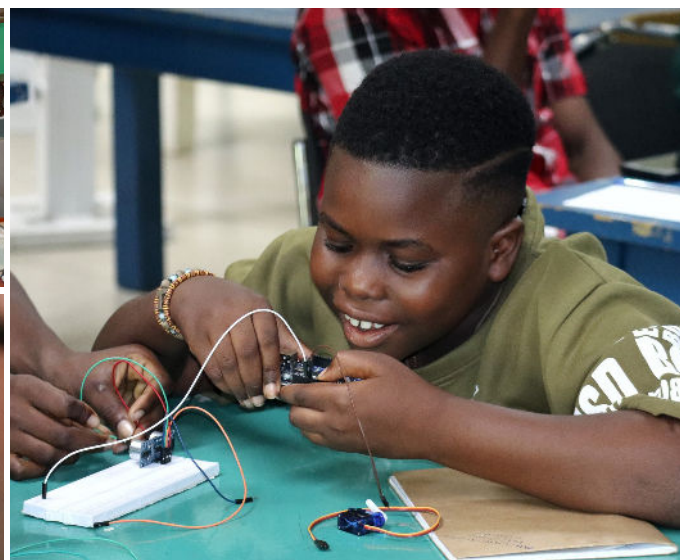
FARM



FARM is a family-owned farm located in *Minawara, Kaffrine, Senegal*, founded by **Cheikh Tidiane Cissé**, a former international civil servant. Spanning 15 hectares in the heart of the groundnut basin, FARM integrates agriculture, livestock, fish farming, and poultry.

Beyond its production activities, the farm plays a key role in the community through:

- **Training & Incubation:** Offering training and developing an incubation center to enhance skills and employability.
- **Empowering Women & Youth:** Supporting women's and youth's economic empowerment, creating jobs, and improving access to water, electricity, and better living conditions for the surrounding population.
- **Research & Development (R&D):** Experimenting with high-value crops and innovative techniques to adapt agriculture to climate challenges and increase profitability.



AfrikEduTech (AFT)



AfrikEduTech (AFT) is a Beninese nonprofit focused on the digital inclusion of disadvantaged youth, especially in rural areas. **AFT** accelerates digital education in Benin by providing inclusive development spaces and opportunities for youth aged **10 to 25**, regardless of their origin or gender. The organization works towards an inclusive Benin where all young people, regardless of background, have full access to the transformative opportunities offered by digital technology.



GJFA-ONG



Anne Ella Mahouko, the coordinator of **GJFA-ONG**, is a passionate activist and expert in sexual and reproductive health rights and gender-based violence (**GBV**). Anne is also dedicated to training young girls and women in leadership, with a strong focus on their economic and social empowerment. Her work centers on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and GBV.

GJFA-ONG is a Beninese organization, committed to defending the rights of women and girls, with a focus on gender equality, gender-based violence (**GBV**), and sexual and reproductive health rights.

The organization places young girls at the center of all its actions, not as beneficiaries, but as co-creators and agents of community change. They participate in the design of projects, define their own action priorities, and decide on the strategies to adopt on issues as critical as gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and local accountability. These participatory spaces have transformed the posture of these girls, who are now capable of engaging in dialogue with decision-makers.



BLUE GREEN ENGINEERING



Ziath Achimi is a water and sanitation engineer, renewable energy master trainer, and **2019** Mandela Washington Fellow. With over eight years of experience in community development, Ziath has become a leading voice in sustainable solutions for Africa. As the founder and CEO of **Blue and Green Engineering**, she has led transformative projects across rural and peri-urban communities, focusing on water, sanitation, renewable energy, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Blue and Green Engineering is a social enterprise founded by Ziath to provide innovative, solar-powered solutions for clean water, sustainable energy, and climate-resilient agriculture. The company focuses on addressing the challenges faced by rural and peri-urban communities, bringing sustainable solutions that impact both the environment and the people. Through her leadership, Ziath's company continues to drive forward impactful projects in **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)**, menstrual health, climate education, and the empowerment of youth and women.



OSMER



Salma Bougoune is the founder of **Osmer Sarl**, a startup that has developed an innovative solar-powered cooking stove, a technology that could transform cooking practices across many African communities. Powered by solar panels, this stove operates without wood, charcoal, or gas, eliminating harmful smoke while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.

The idea for this innovation emerged from a simple observation in the field. In many African communities, women still spend several hours a day collecting firewood.

To address these challenges, **Osmer Sarl** has developed an innovative solar-powered stove, which is protected by a patent. The key feature of this technology is its ability to trap the heat produced during cooking. Unlike traditional stoves, where much of the heat escapes into the air, this system retains the heat in a specially designed thermal chamber to optimize energy use. Thanks to this innovation, the energy required to prepare a meal is significantly reduced. While traditional cooking typically requires about **2000 watts** to cook for six people, **Osmer's** stove uses only **400 watts**.



CATIFAT



CATIFAT is a social enterprise based in Togo with a mission to support young girls and women facing difficult situations, helping them integrate into society and the workforce. **CATIFAT** identifies, listens to, trains, and follows up with its beneficiaries to help them start income-generating activities, businesses, or secure employment in thriving sectors where they have been trained.

To fund its social mission and ensure the sustainability of its actions, **CATIFAT** transforms solid domestic waste into office accessories and manufactures various fashion items. Founded in **2021** by **Ayoko d'ALMEIDA**, a passionate Togolese woman dedicated to environmental issues and women's empowerment since **2017**, **CATIFAT** addresses the challenges faced by many young girls and mothers in Togo, such as school dropout, early pregnancies, poverty, and social exclusion. These challenges limit their opportunities and perpetuate the cycle of vulnerability.

CATIFAT was born out of the belief that every young girl deserves a second chance and that social entrepreneurship can be a powerful lever for social transformation. We believe that the economic empowerment of women is essential for sustainable development.



SALIANTA AGROFOODS



"I was born to entrepreneurial parents, and I chose to become an entrepreneur to contribute to the development of my country."- Mame Diarra Saliou Ndione

Mame Diarra, who completed her studies in the United States, holds a ***Bachelor's degree in Business Management***, as well as a ***Bachelor's degree in Private Law and a Master's in Business Law***. After gaining eight years of experience in banking and ten years in real estate management, she returned to Senegal to contribute to the development of her country.

Salianta Agrofoods is an innovative company established in June **2021**. The company's mission is to transform fresh fruits and vegetables into delicious and nutritious dried products. The initiative arose from a simple observation: the abundance of fruits and vegetables spoiling due to a lack of market opportunities in Senegal. By processing these local products through drying, **Salianta Agrofoods** tackles food waste while creating economic opportunities for women and local farmers.

African Geospace

AFRICAN
GEOSPACE

“Everything we talk about, satellites, data, and artificial intelligence, depends primarily on human resources. It is essential to massively train in both the analysis of geospatial data and the more technical spatial professions.”

Richard Folly is a key player in the space and geospatial industry in Africa, and a passionate advocate for the use of geospatial data and satellite technologies to address key challenges on the continent. Richard has extensive experience in the geospatial and space industries and has been instrumental in the development of **OpenStreetMap Togo**, an open-source initiative launched in **2013** to promote the production and dissemination of free geographical data.

African Geospace is a purpose-driven company focused on unlocking the vast potential of space to solve some of the most pressing challenges on Earth. With a team of space scientists, technologists, and entrepreneurs, the company is committed to transforming the rapidly growing space industry in Africa. **African Geospace** aims to harness space technology to drive informed decision-making, promote sustainability, and improve lives across the globe.



ONG Shine Together



In **Benin**, there is a vision to ensure that no child lives on the streets and that every child has access to the basic rights of food, education, healthcare, and opportunities for social and professional reintegration. This vision drives an organization dedicated to transforming the lives of children in difficult situations, particularly those living on the streets. Their goal is to create a world where every child is given the resources and support they need to thrive, no matter their circumstances.


ONG Shine Together works relentlessly to advocate for and improve the living conditions of children facing extreme hardship, focusing especially on street children. They are committed to helping these children meet their five fundamental needs: clothing, shelter, food, healthcare, and education. By addressing these basic needs, they aim to empower these children, providing not only the essentials but also the chance for reintegration into society, offering a path toward a brighter future.



"Solimi is committed to empowering Togolese citizens with digital financial solutions that are local, secure, and accessible, helping them manage their finances more efficiently while fostering financial inclusion." - Matina Gaël Egbidi

Solimi is a Togolese fintech company that aims to provide a local alternative to international neobanks by offering a seamless, secure, and user-friendly digital financial experience. Launched in **2020** by **Matina Gaël Egbidi**, **Solimi** developed **Gnim**, a mobile app designed for integrated management of personal expenses and online payments. The app allows users to open a fully digital account, instantly access a Visa virtual card, and track their finances with advanced tools such as expense categorization, real-time balance checks, and secure online payments.

With a focus on financial inclusion and reducing dependence on foreign solutions, Solimi is striving to meet the needs of a young, connected audience in **Togo**. The app, available on **iOS** and **Android**, has already been downloaded over **10,000 times** and is designed to provide an intuitive and smooth user experience. **Solimi's** mission is to strengthen the local financial ecosystem while offering a competitive alternative in **Togo's** growing fintech market.





Le Petit Poucet

Le Petit Poucet is an inclusive nursery and primary school that offers an innovative educational approach for all children, including those with special needs. Guided by three core values (**Excellence, Benevolence, and the Future**) the school aims to provide a high-quality, holistic education at an affordable price. The curriculum is designed to not only meet academic standards but also to integrate environmental education, encouraging children to adopt sustainable behaviors and become responsible global citizens.

At the helm of **Le Petit Poucet** is **Claire Hazoumé**, a dedicated Beninese educator and entrepreneur who is passionate about quality and inclusive education. Coming from a long line of teachers spanning three generations, Claire embodies a family tradition committed to knowledge transmission and social transformation through education. For over a decade, she has been at the forefront of renewing educational practices in **Benin** and across West Africa, constantly striving to create learning environments that are both innovative and human-centered.

In addition to her work with **Le Petit Poucet**, Claire is the founder of **Ehuzu Learning Lab**, a pedagogical innovation laboratory that supports teachers in both their professional and personal development. Through **Ehuzu**, Claire continues to influence educational practices, empowering educators and fostering an environment of continuous improvement and growth. Her work reflects a deep commitment to building a more inclusive and forward-thinking education system that equips both students and teachers for the challenges of tomorrow.



Sabali inc



Djibril Dramé is a Senegalese multidisciplinary artist whose work bridges the gap between visual arts, photography, and cinema. Rooted in African collective memory, his practice explores contemporary issues while revisiting cultural legacies. By using unconventional materials such as waste and animal skulls, Dramé creates powerful narratives that blend sustainability, spirituality, and symbolic reclamation.

In addition to his artistic practice, **Djibril Dramé** is also a co-founder of **Sabali**, a pan-African creative enterprise that operates at the intersection of commerce and social impact. **Sabali** develops audiovisual projects, editorials, and visual campaigns for international brands and publications such as Vogue. The company also runs **Ateliers Récalcitrants**, a program that offers masterclasses for young creatives. These classes, led by seasoned professionals from the African continent and the diaspora, provide mentorship and training, helping to cultivate the next generation of talent.



Women and girls for change



Aminata Sy Ndiaye, National Coordinator, holds a Master's degree in management, program control, and health services, along with a Bachelor's degree in health and community development. With over a decade of experience in community development project implementation, Aminata has made a significant impact in the field.


Co-founder of **Women and Girls for Change (WAG4C)**, she is deeply committed to creating an African society where the rights of women and girls are strictly upheld. She believes in the transformative power of quality and equitable education for children and is driven by the vision that this dream will become a reality.



Irwo is a leading Beninese educational platform launched in **January 2023**, with a mission to showcase and develop African talents. Founded by **Mylène Flicka** (*real name Marie-Madeleine Fifamè Akonai*) in **2015**, **Irwo** started as Irwo Talents with the goal of offering models of success and empowering the youth of Africa. Mylène, a young Béninoise blogger and activist, started the platform at just 18 years old to provide a space where African talents could be recognized and nurtured.

Since its inception, **Irwo** has grown to support over **10,000 learners**, offering practical programs taught by industry experts aimed at boosting careers and businesses. The platform also connects talents to professional opportunities, helping them capitalize on their skills and progress in their careers.

The name **Irwo**, which means "**stars**" in Yoruba, symbolizes the platform's mission to elevate African talent and illuminate their potential on the global stage.



**SOCIAL
IMPACT
INCUBATOR**
WEST AFRICA

POWERED BY

