AfricaNenda
foundation

Empowering African economies through inclusive instant payment systems

WHY WE'RE HERE

Amina runs a small fruit stall in a bustling market in West Africa. Every day she wakes up before dawn, buys produce from local farmers, and sells it to her loyal customers. Amina keeps all her earnings in cash. She has no bank account, no safe way to save, and no access to credit to expand her stall. One theft or unexpected expense could wipe out everything she has built.

Amina's story is not unique. Across Africa, 400 million adults live outside of the formal financial system. These adults include women striving to grow microbusinesses, farmers searching for better prices, and salaried workers trying to stretch their income. Without access to secure, affordable financial services, their livelihoods remain fragile and invisible.

Digital payments can play a role in addressing those inequities by motivating people to open accounts and enabling them to pay friends, merchants, suppliers, and utility providers. Given the central role digital payments play in financial inclusion, it is essential that every country have the infrastructure in place to enable instant, interoperable, accessible, affordable, and reliable payments, and ensure everyone, including women and low-income adults, can safely use them.

Yet gaps in that infrastructure are still too common in Africa. Around half of the adults on the continent live in countries without instant payment systems (IPS). IPS are society-wide systems that process digital payments in near real time and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When they are inclusive (or IIPS), they provide all licensed payment providers with fair access and offer end users a full range of use cases and channels, along with transparent and fit-for-purpose recourse mechanisms. IIPS serve as the payments layer of a country's digital public infrastructure (DPI).

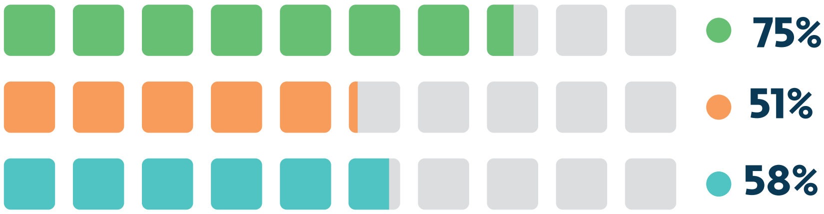
AfricaNenda Foundation is working to help people like Amina by accelerating the development, launch, and improvement of IIPS in Africa.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN AFRICA

Adults owning mobile phones, most of them basic phones

Adults using digital payments

Adults with either a bank or mobile money account



400 MILLION people do not have financial access

Source: AfricaNenda Foundation

25 countries have a domestic instant payment system (IPS)

Source: AfricaNenda Foundation

35% of adults use the internet

52% of women have an account

13% of adults opened their first account to receive a government or wage payment

70% growth in financial account ownership since 2014

More than 30% of adults worry about covering monthly expenses

Source: The Global Findex Database 2025 unless otherwise noted.

AfricaNenda Foundation is an Africa-based, African-led nonprofit organization that collaborates with central banks, multilateral organizations, digital infrastructure providers, and financial sector regulators to accelerate the design, development, launch, and improvement of IIPS. We provide technical expertise, build capacity, share knowledge, and advocate for inclusivity across the instant payment system project lifecycle. Through this work, we aim to help deliver the power of seamless and affordable digital payments to 260 million financially excluded Africans by 2030.

WHO WE ARE

AfricaNenda's team works across more than a dozen African countries, bringing together deep expertise in payments, regulation, financial inclusion, technology, and development policy. We operate as trusted technical advisors, combining strategic insight with on-the-ground support to guide partners through complex implementation journeys.

AFRICANENDA'S HISTORY

Initially established in late 2021 as a project incubated within Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, AfricaNenda's first operating years served as a proof-of-concept for an Africa-based, Africa-led organization providing on-the-ground technical assistance and advocacy to accelerate access to IIPS. Building on the success of our first three years, our transition into a foundation took place in June 2024 with funding from the Gates Foundation. With that transition, AfricaNenda is fully able to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and deliver high-impact solutions at all stages of the IIPS project lifecycle.

CONTINENTAL VISION, LOCAL DELIVERY

With a footprint across the continent and strong partnerships at regional and national levels, AfricaNenda remains uniquely positioned to support IIPS advancement. Our African-led approach ensures cultural relevance, responsiveness to local needs, and alignment with broader regional integration efforts.

We are committed to empowering African countries with the tools to build payment systems that are inclusive, sustainable, and capable of catalyzing long-term digital transformation.

WE COMBINE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH POLICY AND ADVOCACY. OUR IMPACT INCLUDES:

IIPS projects

9

2

significant policy contributions, including to Article 15 of the AfCFTA Protocol for Digital Trade, and a proposed Payment Services Directive for Africa

4

editions of the *State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems in Africa* report

As of November 2025

25

experts in

13

countries

2675

ecosystem stakeholders reached with capacity building and peer learning events, including 700 women

Our approach spans the full IIPS project lifecycle. It includes strategic planning and ecosystem diagnostics, policy advisory, system design, technical implementation support, scheme operationalization, scaling program management, and institutional capacity building. We partner with national and regional entities to advance financial inclusion and foster inclusive digital economies.

WHAT WE DO

OUR SERVICES ENCOMPASS

Strategic and technical advisory:
We design IIPS strategy and implementation roadmaps tailored to national and regional priorities.

Policy and regulatory expertise:
We develop policy frameworks that promote competition, interoperability, financial inclusion, and consumer protection.

System design and technology guidance:
We support central banks and payment system operators with guidance on system architecture, implementation approaches, vendor engagement, and inclusive use case development.

Project management and coordination:
We facilitate multi-stakeholder governance and deliver technical assistance across all implementation phases.

Capacity building:
We develop structured training programs for institutions and professionals engaged in digital payment systems.

Data, research, and insights:
We deliver market diagnostics, benchmarking, and knowledge products to guide decision making and track progress across the continent.

THE FOCUS OF OUR WORK

1
Supporting IIPS Implementation and ongoing improvement

2
Enabling an inclusive ecosystem

3
Strengthening institutional and human capacity

FOCUS 1

AfricaNenda assists public and private sector entities to create and evolve instant payment systems to be inclusive by design.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

AfricaNenda offers a package of post-deployment program management tools, including research, reviews of business model and scheme rules, go-to-market strategy, and customer journey mapping, to help identify improvement opportunities and support their implementation, with the goal of increasing access and usage for different end-user groups.

VISION AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

We collaborate with central banks, payment system operators, and project sponsors to build a shared national vision for inclusive instant payments. This work includes readiness assessments, use case prioritization, instant payment system strategy, and multi-stakeholder alignment on implementation goals.

DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE

We help define the ideal system architecture, governance models, and operational frameworks. Our team supports design choices, develops implementation roadmaps, and facilitates coordination with technical partners and vendors.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLLOUT SUPPORT

Our experts advise organizations throughout the project execution phase by ensuring alignment with inclusion goals, strengthening stakeholder coordination, and supporting effective system deployment.

FOCUS 2

Technology alone is not sufficient. A robust policy environment, well-informed stakeholders, and effective coordination mechanisms are essential to the success of inclusive payment schemes.

POLICY ADVISORY AND REGULATORY SUPPORT

We work with regulatory bodies and policymakers to develop enabling policy frameworks, encourage interoperability, and align payment strategies with broader financial inclusion goals.

KNOWLEDGE AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Through initiatives such as the State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems in Africa (SIIPS) report, AfricaNenda generates insights that inform policymaking, system design, and market development.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONVENING

We host technical exchanges and learning platforms, including a Center of Excellence, facilitate peer learning visits, and promote regional collaboration.

FOCUS 3

Sustainable systems require strong institutions and skilled professionals. We invest in building the capabilities of individuals and organizations driving financial transformation.

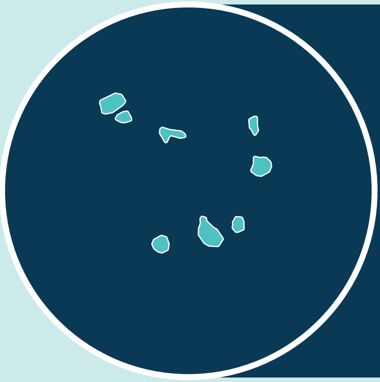
TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We collaborate with leading institutions to develop targeted training programs for policymakers, regulators, and ecosystem stakeholders. African market contexts and global best practices inform these programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY SUPPORT

We support institutional efforts that strengthen capacity, including technical assistance, peer exchange, and resource development to build resilient and responsive payment system institutions.

EXAMPLES OF OUR CONTRIBUTION



CABO VERDE

AfricaNenda is collaborating with the Banco de Cabo Verde (BCV) to deploy a national switch that fulfills the DPI principles. AfricaNenda's role is to lead the technical implementation and provide pre-project technical assistance and capacity building. AfricaNenda conducted a successful proof of concept involving three commercial banks processing person-to-person (P2P) payments.

LIBERIA

AfricaNenda is working with the Central Bank of Liberia to develop mobile money interoperability by integrating the country's two mobile network operators (MNOs) on a single payment system. The scope of work includes the G2P and P2G use-cases to promote efficient and cost-effective payment channels for government payers and P2P mobile money payments.

RWANDA

AfricaNenda has supported the second-generation evolution of eKash, an interoperable IPS built on Mojaloop open-source software and designed to drive financial inclusion, revolutionize digital payments, and accelerate adoption in Rwanda. The February 2025 launch included the P2P and merchant payment use cases. Our work spanned project scoping, technology development, infrastructure setup, business model design, scheme development, operationalization, and project resourcing to ensure local talent can deploy and maintain the system.

SOMALILAND

AfricaNenda Foundation and the Bank of Somaliland are collaborating to develop a robust payment system. The goal is to improve financial inclusion through a regulatory framework that includes fintech regulation licensing and is designed for long-term stability and growth.

SOUTH SUDAN

Building on an IIPS proof of concept completed in 2024, AfricaNenda has continued its engagement with the Bank of South Sudan to advance its IPS implementation planning. Our work in the country includes stakeholder engagement, technology development, capacity building, scheme rules development for switch operations, and project resourcing. These ongoing efforts are helping to establish a strong foundation and ensure seamless coordination among key players, positioning the project for accelerated implementation.

GIMAC in CEMAC

AfricaNenda and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community's (CEMAC) regional switch, GIMAC, began collaborating to expand the interoperability, adoption, and inclusivity of the region's GIMACPAY IPS. The GIMAC relationship is powerful for the way it brings together the central banks and payment system stakeholders from six countries to collaborate on shared challenges and opportunities in CEMAC.

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

AfricaNenda Foundation and the SADC Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG) Payment Systems Subcommittee are working together to develop a SADC fintech regulatory framework, inspired by recommendations that came out of a report on the role of fintechs in the SADC region.

ETHIOPIA

AfricaNenda is supporting EthSwitch in advancing a national payment gateway that links banks, microfinance institutions, telecom operators, and payment service providers into a single interoperable system. This work is helping expand shared infrastructure, enable new digital payment use cases, and strengthen Ethiopia's transition toward faster, more inclusive digital payments.

OTHER COLLABORATORS

AfricaNenda Foundation seeks to engage with all stakeholders in Africa's economic and financial inclusion ecosystems to share knowledge and resources and multiply our collective impact. Our current collaborators include:

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY BODIES

African Union

صـنـدوق الـنـقـد الـعـربـي
ARAB MONETARY FUND

AfCFTA
Creating One African Market

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

UNECA

BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE

WORLD BANK GROUP

UNCDF
Impact Capital for Development

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY ASSOCIATIONS

GSMA™

Alliance of Digital Finance and Fintech Associations

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA FINTECH NETWORK
Innovate together. Advance as one.

ACADEMIC

DIGITAL FRONTIERS INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Judge Business School

Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance

JOIN US

AfricaNenda is committed to ensuring that all Africans have access to IIPS. One organization cannot achieve that goal alone, however. It requires collective action and investment from governments, central banks, payment system operators, financial institutions, technology providers, and development partners within and beyond Africa. We embrace opportunities to collaborate and amplify our impact.

Please join us.

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