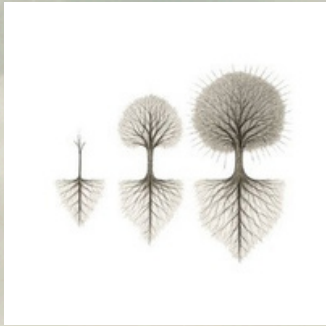




LEARNING BRIEF

Building a Pan-African Pre-Investment Pipeline for Youth Collaboration

Insights from a Cross-regional Consortium Readiness Pilot

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Executive Summary

Africa is home to the world's youngest population, with more than 60% of its population under the age of 25. By 2030, young Africans are expected to account for approximately 42% of the world's youth population. Across the continent, young people are creating businesses, leading community initiatives, responding to climate and health challenges, building digital solutions, and developing locally grounded approaches to development.

Despite this, many youth-led organisations remain excluded from the partnerships, networks, and institutional pathways that provide access to larger funding opportunities. This challenge is reflected in broader philanthropic funding trends. While many foundations support programmes that benefit young people, significantly fewer invest directly in youth-led organisations. A recent review found that 84% of foundations funded youth-focused programmes, while only 24% funded youth-led organisations directly.

Philanthropy is increasingly prioritising localisation, consortium-based funding, and collaborative approaches to development. These models depend on partnerships that combine complementary expertise, local knowledge, implementation capacity, and governance capability. Many funders, however, continue to face challenges identifying and supporting emerging youth-led organisations before they have established track records, partnership histories, or the institutional infrastructure typically associated with funding readiness.

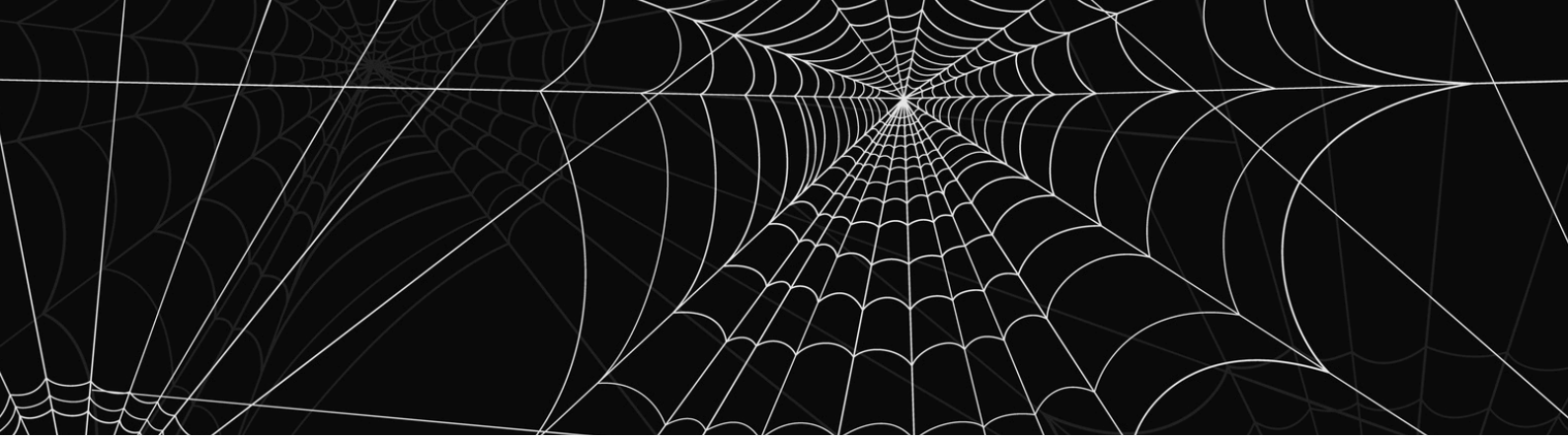
Organisations are often expected to demonstrate partnership readiness, governance capacity, and collaborative experience before they have had opportunities to build them.

Partnership formation, role allocation, consortium design, and governance discussions frequently take place under the pressure of proposal deadlines instead of a deliberate and intentional process of collaboration and relationship-building.

To test this, Unearthing Insights ran a pilot with more than 250 organisations and participants from 25 countries, exploring whether a digitally enabled collaboration model could support early relationship-building, partnership formation, and consortium readiness.

The experience confirmed strong demand for structured spaces that support partnership development and generated several important lessons.

“84% of foundations funded youth-focused programmes, while only 24% funded youth-led organisations directly.”



Key Lessons

1

Collaboration was strongest around shared challenges, thematic priorities, and practical opportunities.

2

Time and repeated engagement were essential for trust and partnership formation.

3

Participation was shaped by capacity, digital access, and eligibility requirements.

Supporting Details

1. Collaboration was strongest when organisations were organised around shared challenges, thematic priorities, and practical opportunities. General networking increased visibility and awareness of other organisations work but did not result in meaningful partnership development.
2. The pilot highlighted the importance of time in partnership formation. Participants consistently pointed to the need for ongoing engagement to build relationships, understand organisational strengths, establish trust, and explore opportunities for collaboration. Initial introductions opened conversations.
3. The pilot also exposed several barriers that influence participation before funding opportunities emerge. Limited organisational capacity for partnership development, unequal access to digital infrastructure, and institutional eligibility requirements shaped who was able to participate consistently and who remained disconnected from emerging opportunities.
4. Many organisations demonstrated strong technical expertise, community legitimacy, local networks, and implementation experience. These strengths were not always matched by the institutional infrastructure required to access funding directly. Constraints relating to registration status, compliance requirements, financial systems, audit histories, or donor eligibility criteria limited participation in funding opportunities despite the significant value these organisations could contribute within a consortium.

Strategic Insight: Pan-African Pivot

The pilot also generated an important strategic lesson about where collaboration demand currently exists. The original model was designed to facilitate relationship-building and partnership formation between youth-led organisations in Africa and Europe. Interest and engagement were overwhelmingly concentrated among African organisations, many of whom expressed a strong desire to build international partnerships and access collaborative funding opportunities. The limited participation from Europe reduced the number of viable cross-regional partnerships and informed a strategic pivot towards Pan-African collaboration.

What Comes Next

Designing Phase 2: Applying the Lessons

Phase 2 focuses on strengthening Pan-African collaboration through thematic cohorts, structured partnership development, consortium readiness support, and fiscal sponsorship pathways.

Organisations will be grouped around shared thematic priorities and engage around live funding opportunities that remain open throughout the year. These opportunities serve as practical vehicles for collaboration, enabling organisations to identify partners, define roles, develop governance arrangements, and strengthen consortium readiness while working towards real funding opportunities

The model also introduces greater emphasis on participation infrastructure. Fiscal sponsorship and institutional partnership arrangements will help create pathways for organisations with strong local legitimacy and implementation capacity to participate in funding opportunities where institutional eligibility requirements might otherwise create barriers.

Why This Matters

Many of the challenges that affect consortium performance emerge long before implementation begins. Partner alignment, governance arrangements, role clarity, trust, and participation are frequently developed under the pressures of proposal deadlines rather than through a structured process of collaboration.

The pilot suggests that strengthening partnership development earlier in the funding lifecycle can contribute to stronger consortiums, more diverse partnership pipelines, and greater participation by youth-led organisations. These outcomes are closely linked to priorities already shared by many funders, including risk management, localisation, implementation readiness, and the long-term effectiveness of collaborative investments.

Join Phase 2

We invite funders, philanthropy networks, ecosystem builders, policymakers, and youth-led organisations to help shape this next phase and strengthen pathways into funding opportunities for youth-led organisations across the continent.

Funders

Philanthropy networks

Ecosystem builders

Policymakers

Youth-led organisations

We welcome perspectives on:

- How can partnership development be better supported before funding opportunities emerge?
- What practical pathways can strengthen participation for youth-led organisations with strong local legitimacy but limited funding access?
- How can pre-investment infrastructure contribute to stronger, more diverse, and more inclusive consortiums?
- What role can fiscal sponsorship and institutional partnership models play in expanding access to funding?
- How can funders, ecosystem builders, and policymakers strengthen conditions that enable Pan-African collaboration?
- What information helps identify partnership readiness before organisations enter formal funding processes?



Introduction

Africa is home to the world's youngest population. More than 60% of Africans are under the age of 25, and by 2030 young Africans are projected to constitute approximately 42% of the world's youth population. This generation represents one of the continent's greatest assets and will play a defining role in shaping Africa's economic, social, and environmental future.[1][2]

Across the continent, young people are already leading responses to critical challenges ranging from climate resilience and food security to public health, economic inclusion, education, and civic participation. They are building community-based initiatives, launching social enterprises, creating digital solutions, and mobilising local action in ways that are deeply grounded in lived realities and community needs. Despite their innovation and proximity to the challenges development actors seek to address, many remain disconnected from the partnerships, networks, and resources required to scale their impact.[3]

This challenge is not one for young people alone, it also represents a strategic challenge for philanthropy. Across the development and philanthropic landscape, there is growing recognition that sustainable impact depends on localisation, community leadership, and shifting decision-making power closer to those most affected by development challenges. The localisation agenda has gained significant momentum within global philanthropy, with increasing calls for funding systems that are more equitable, participatory, and responsive to local realities.[4][5][6]

However, many funding systems continue to struggle to identify, support, and invest in emerging local actors. Research on philanthropic funding trends shows that while many foundations fund programmes that benefit young people, significantly fewer invest directly in youth-led organisations themselves. A recent review of donor funding trends found that although 84% of foundations supported youth-focused programmes, only 24% funded youth-led organisations.[7]

The Missing Layer: Pre-Investment Infrastructure

This disparity is a result of a structural challenge within the funding ecosystem. Philanthropic institutions are accountable for stewarding resources responsibly and often operate under significant pressure to demonstrate measurable outcomes. As a result, funding tends to flow toward organisations with established track records, existing partnerships, strong governance systems, and prior grant-management experience. However, these are precisely the capabilities that many emerging youth-led organisations have had limited opportunities to develop.

While this approach helps funders manage risk, it can also make it difficult to identify and support emerging youth-led organisations that possess deep community knowledge, innovative ideas, and strong local legitimacy but have not yet had the opportunity to build the institutional history that funders commonly use as indicators of readiness.

[1] World Economic Forum. How Africa's Youth Population Will Drive Global Growth (2023). More than 60% of Africa's population is under 25 and by 2035 more young Africans will enter the workforce each year than in the rest of the world combined.

[2] Afrobarometer & Mastercard Foundation. Understanding the Youth's Perspective: Highlights of Afrobarometer Round 9 Findings (2023). Young Africans are projected to constitute approximately 42% of global youth by 2030

[3] World Economic Forum. Why Africa's Youth Hold the Key to its Development Potential (2022). Highlights the growing role of young Africans in entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic transformation

The issue, therefore, the absence of structured mechanisms that allow funders to discover, assess, and nurture promising organisations before they become investment-ready. This challenge becomes even more pronounced within a funding ecosystem that increasingly relies on consortium-based models. These approaches often assume that organisations already possess trusted partnerships, international networks, governance structures, and the institutional capacity required to participate in complex, multi-country funding opportunities. For many youth-led organisations across Africa, these capabilities do not yet exist, because the relationships and infrastructure needed to build them have never been systematically supported.



Moving from Paper to Process

Most funding decisions are based on documents.

Concept notes, proposals, budgets, governance frameworks, and implementation plans help funders assess the viability of an investment opportunity. These tools provide valuable information about what organisations intend to do, how resources will be allocated, and what outcomes are expected.

What they do not always reveal is the maturity of the partnership behind the proposal.

In many funding processes, organisations are required to form consortiums, negotiate roles, allocate budgets, establish governance arrangements, and develop project concepts within highly compressed timeframes. Proposal development frequently becomes the space in which partners attempt to build relationships while simultaneously preparing a competitive submission.

Many partnerships are formed in response to funding opportunities rather than through a deliberate process of relationship-building and collaboration. Organisations often identify partners, negotiate roles, allocate budgets, establish governance arrangements, and develop project concepts while simultaneously preparing a proposal. The proposal therefore reflects an intended model of collaboration, while many of the practical realities of partnership are only tested during implementation. For youth-led organisations, this challenge is particularly pronounced as opportunities to build trusted relationships, explore collaboration, and develop consortium readiness before funding opportunities emerge remain limited. Partnership formation is frequently compressed into application timelines, leaving little space for the iterative work required to build strong and sustainable collaborations.

Unearthing Insights sought to address this gap through a pilot initiative designed to create a structured pre-investment environment where young people and youth-led organisations could connect, explore shared interests, identify complementary strengths, and begin building partnerships before entering formal funding processes. The initiative focused on creating the conditions for collaboration to emerge earlier in the funding lifecycle, enabling organisations to develop relationships, explore opportunities, and strengthen partnership readiness before responding to funding calls.

[4] Mohamed-Katerere, J., Kuloba-Warria, C., & Kwamou, E. *Philanthropy in Africa: Proposals to Strengthen Localisation, Identify Intermediaries and Transform Funding Systems* (Oak Foundation, 2024). Documents growing demand for localisation and more equitable funding relationships in Africa.

[5] Oak Foundation. *Philanthropy Ecosystem in Africa* (2024). Highlights increasing calls for African organisations to engage with philanthropy as equal partners rather than implementation vehicles.

[6] SHOFCO & Global Alliance for Communities. *Road to Localization White Paper* (2023). Examines barriers preventing local organisations from accessing funding despite widespread commitments to localisation.

[7] Okerulu, C., Mmari, K., Hunersen, K., & Arnett, T. *Analyzing Donor Funding Trends and Strategic Priorities: Empowering Youth-Led Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa through Advocacy* (2025). Found that 84% of foundations funded youth-focused programmes, while only 24% funded youth-led organisations directly.



Pilot Overview

The pilot initiative demonstrated demand for structured pre-investment infrastructure among youth-led organisations seeking opportunities to collaborate across countries and sectors. The initiative generated immediate momentum across regions and thematic sectors, demonstrating a clear appetite for structured spaces where organisations can build relationships, test collaboration, and develop partnership readiness before funding opportunities arise.

- Over 250 organisations formally expressed interest in participating in cross-regional collaboration sessions.
- Over 140 representatives from 25 countries across Europe and Africa registered to participate in sessions.
- Participants represented a diverse range of thematic areas, including climate action, public health, disability inclusion, agriculture, nature conservation, water and sanitation (WASH), digital innovation, arts, sports, and culture.
- The pilot executed bi-weekly, 90-minute virtual sessions, each capping engagement at roughly 30 active participants to maintain an interactive environment.

Importantly, the pilot was structured as an exploratory pre-investment environment that provided visibility into how partnerships emerge, where collaboration challenges arise, and what forms of support may strengthen consortium readiness.

To support relationship development beyond individual sessions, participants were connected through LinkedIn and WhatsApp communities that enabled ongoing engagement between meetings. These channels provided a low-bandwidth mechanism for participants to continue discussions, explore potential partnerships, share opportunities, and maintain contact across geographies and time zones.

250+

Organisations
Expressed Interest

25

Countries
Represented

140+

Representatives
Registered

Trialling Three Collaboration Models

The core of the pilot was designed as an experimental environment to examine how youth-led organisations communicate, engage, and co-design within different collaborative formats. Three distinct interaction models were tested, each revealing important behavioural patterns and structural barriers affecting partnership development and investment readiness.

Trialled Model

Show and Tell	Organisations were invited to respond to a foundational networking prompt: "If you had to share key aspects of your work that could lead into a follow-up conversation, what would you present?"
Fishbowl Discussion	This format involved a rotating core group engaging in a structured discussion on collaboration challenges, while other participants observed and entered the conversation in stages.
Distributed Collaboration	Participants were organised into small virtual working groups and tasked with completing rapid, collaborative co-design exercises.

“

What I liked most about the session was the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals and interact with other participants who share similar interests. The discussions were insightful and inspiring, and they provided practical knowledge that can be applied in real-world situations.

— Participant Feedback

What We Learned About Partnership Formation

The pilot explored different approaches to relationship-building, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among youth-led organisations. While participants engaged through a variety of formats, the most valuable insights emerged from how organisations interacted with one another and what conditions enabled collaboration to move beyond initial introductions. Three themes emerged across the pilot

1. Shared Purpose Drives Meaningful Engagement

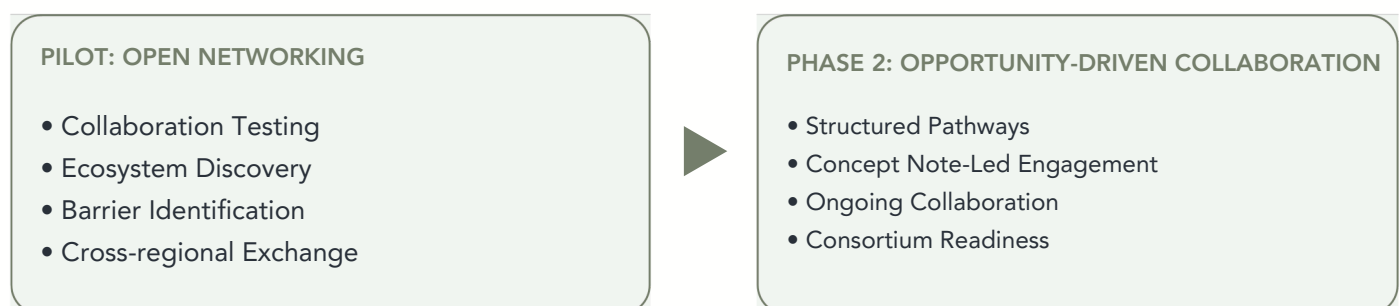
Participants engaged most actively when discussions centred on common challenges, opportunities, or areas of expertise. General networking and organisational introductions helped increase visibility, but rarely led to meaningful collaboration on their own.

Many organisations struggled to communicate their work in a way that generated clear opportunities for follow-up engagement. Presentations often attempted to cover the full scope of organisational activities or lacked sufficient specificity to identify areas for collaboration. As a result, attention tended to concentrate around familiar themes or pre-existing areas of interest.

Implication for phase 2:

Phase 2 therefore shifts away from open networking and towards thematic collaboration. Organisations will be brought together around shared areas of work and supported to explore opportunities for collective action within those thematic ecosystems.

Each thematic cohort will engage around a live funding opportunity that remains open throughout the year. The opportunity functions as a collaboration tool rather than a deadline-driven application process. It provides a guiding framework through which organisations can identify partners, explore complementary strengths, define roles, develop governance arrangements, and test collaborative approaches in response to a real opportunity.



Organisations will submit concise concept note ideas in response to an identified funding opportunity. These concept notes provide a structured basis for collaboration, helping organisations define their proposed role, clarify areas of expertise, and identify complementary partners needed to develop a competitive consortium.

2. Collaboration Requires Deliberate Facilitation

Participation levels varied significantly across the pilot. More visible, experienced, or highly articulate participants frequently occupied a disproportionate share of discussions, while smaller and emerging organisations contributed less actively.

The pattern highlighted the extent to which differences in confidence, organisational maturity, visibility, and communication styles can influence participation within collaborative spaces.

Implication for phase 2:

Phase 2 incorporates structured facilitation as a core component of the collaboration process.

Facilitation will support organisations to identify areas of alignment, navigate differences in organisational capacity, clarify potential roles, and ensure that smaller and emerging organisations are able to participate meaningfully in partnership development.

3. Trust Requires Time and Continuity

The pilot showed that participants engaged most actively when interactions were organised around shared opportunities, common challenges, or areas of complementary expertise. Participants consistently noted that short interaction periods were sufficient for initial introductions but insufficient for building trust, exploring opportunities in depth, or developing coordinated approaches to collaboration. Relationship-building, consortium formation, and collaborative problem-solving required repeated engagement over time.

Implication for phase 2:

Phase 2 is designed as an ongoing collaboration process for relationship-building, partnership exploration, consortium development, and concept refinement over an extended period. This recognises that trust, alignment, and partnership readiness develop through repeated interaction instead of one-off engagements. By connecting collaboration to live funding opportunities while removing the pressure of short application deadlines, the model creates stronger incentives for organisations to invest time in building relationships and exploring long-term partnership opportunities.

4. Collaborating Where Demand Already Exists

The pilot was originally designed to facilitate collaboration between youth-led organisations in Africa and Europe. Participation patterns revealed a different reality. Interest and engagement were overwhelmingly concentrated among African organisations, while participation from Europe remained comparatively limited. This reduced the number of viable cross-regional partnership opportunities and highlighted an important consideration for ecosystem-building efforts.

Implication for phase 2:

Phase 2 shifts its primary focus towards strengthening Pan-African collaboration.

This decision reflects both the level of demand demonstrated during the pilot and the opportunity to support partnerships among organisations already seeking to collaborate across the continent. By focusing on creating structured pathways for fiscal sponsorship, the platform aims to strengthen collaboration among youth-led organisations working on common challenges across Africa.

The long-term ambition remains cross-regional collaboration. However, the pilot demonstrated that sustainable international partnerships are more likely to emerge when organisations enter collaboration spaces through structured systems with established networks, clear partnership pathways, and demonstrated value. Strengthening Pan-African collaboration therefore serves as a foundation for future engagement with organisations from other regions, creating a model that can support more balanced and effective cross-regional partnerships over time.



The Structural Realities of Cross-Border Partnerships

The pilot highlighted that forming connections is only one part of the challenge. A second set of barriers influences whether organisations are able to convert those relationships into meaningful participation within funding opportunities.

Insight A: Sustained Collaboration Requires Capacity

Interest in collaboration was high throughout the pilot. Maintaining engagement over time proved more challenging. Many participating organisations operated with limited staff capacity, competing programme commitments, and resource constraints. Partnership development, co-design processes, and consortium exploration required time and coordination that often sat outside funded programme activities. While participants recognised the value of collaboration, many viewed relationship-building as an activity connected to future funding opportunities instead of a strategic area of organisational development in its own right. Engagement was easiest to sustain when participants could see a clear pathway to an emerging opportunity or a potential funding outcome.

Far fewer resources are directed towards the process of building partnerships before funding opportunities emerge. As a result, organisations often invest in consortium-building only once a funding opportunity has been identified. Relationship-building, partner discovery, and collaboration readiness become compressed into proposal development timelines, despite playing a significant role in the quality and effectiveness of future partnerships.

This highlights how strong partnerships do not emerge during proposal development alone. They are built through sustained engagement, mutual understanding, and repeated collaboration over time. If consortium-based and localisation-focused funding models are expected to deliver stronger outcomes, greater attention may need to be given to supporting partnership development before organisations enter formal funding processes.



Insight B: Accessibility and Uneven Participation

The pilot highlighted significant differences in participants' ability to engage consistently throughout the collaboration process. Unreliable connectivity, high data costs, limited access to digital collaboration tools, and broader resource constraints affected how frequently organisations could participate, communicate, and contribute to ongoing discussions.

These differences have important implications for who is able to participate in partnership development processes and who remains disconnected from emerging opportunities.

Organisations with stronger digital access and greater operational capacity were often better positioned to maintain visibility, participate in follow-up discussions, and remain engaged as conversations evolved.

Organisations operating in more constrained environments faced greater barriers to sustaining participation, despite often bringing valuable local knowledge, community relationships, and implementation experience.

As collaboration increasingly takes place through digital platforms, access to these spaces becomes an equity issue. Collaboration infrastructure must therefore be designed to accommodate varying levels of connectivity, resources, and organisational capacity so that access to opportunity is not determined by access to technology. This is particularly relevant given the growing emphasis that African governments, regional institutions, and development partners are placing on digital transformation as a driver of economic growth, innovation, entrepreneurship, and youth opportunity.

Insight C: Institutional Readiness

One of the most significant findings from the pilot was the gap between an organisation's ability to contribute to a consortium and its ability to access funding directly.

Many participants demonstrated strong technical expertise, local legitimacy, and valuable implementation experience. Some simultaneously faced constraints relating to registration status, financial systems, compliance requirements, audit histories, or donor eligibility criteria. While other organisations have the institutional infrastructure required to access funding but may have limited reach into the communities a programme intends to serve.

As a result, organisations that are well-positioned to contribute to programme delivery can remain excluded from funding opportunities because they do not meet institutional requirements established by donors and grant-makers.

Building the Foundations for Pan-African Collaboration

To strengthen the value of the collaboration process for participating organisations and funding partners, Phase 2 will incorporate a lightweight learning and data layer across thematic clusters. This will enable the systematic capture of insights on partnership formation, collaboration dynamics, and barriers to partnership development, that can inform future ecosystem-building and funding approaches.

Inclusive Entry Points for All Stages

The model is designed to support organisations with varying levels of experience, capacity, and funding readiness, creating opportunities for both established and emerging actors to contribute meaningfully to consortium development.

Mature Organisations

Mature organisations with a strong implementation track record can use the process to identify aligned partners, strengthen the diversity and relevance of their consortia, and connect with organisations that bring complementary expertise, local knowledge, and community reach.

Early-Stage & Emerging Organisations

Newer or less-established organisations can use the process to increase their visibility, showcase their expertise and community connections, and build relationships with experienced partners. Participation creates pathways to funding opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible due to capacity or eligibility constraints.

Low-Bandwidth Voice-to-Text Mapping

Recognizing the connectivity barriers identified during the pilot, Phase 2 will utilise dedicated WhatsApp groups as a low-data coordination layer for the cohort. These channels will enable participants to receive updates, access session information, coordinate across teams, and stay connected between workshops without requiring continuous access to high-bandwidth platforms. WhatsApp provides an accessible and familiar environment through which team members can organize their participation, communicate with facilitators, and prepare for structured co-design sessions.

The Live Partnership & Opportunity Dashboard

As participants form consortiums and cross-border partnerships throughout the programme, the platform will maintain a live dashboard that captures the evolving collaboration landscape. The dashboard will provide visibility into active partnerships, participating organisations, thematic focus areas, and the key social, economic, and environmental challenges that teams are seeking to address through future funding proposals. The dashboard will serve as both a collaboration management tool and an opportunity pipeline, enabling facilitators, ecosystem partners, and funders to monitor the emergence of new initiatives across the cohort.



Pre-investment Partnership Insights

By capturing and analysing interactions throughout the pre-investment phase, Unearthing Insights will generate evidence on how partnerships develop before formal funding is secured.

This provides funders with a stronger basis for assessing partnership readiness and implementation risk. The process generates visibility into factors that are often difficult to evaluate through proposals alone, including trust-building, decision-making dynamics, role clarity, participation patterns, and organisational alignment.

The resulting insights can help funders identify promising partnerships earlier, strengthen due diligence, target technical assistance more effectively, and reduce the risk of consortium challenges emerging only after funding has been awarded.

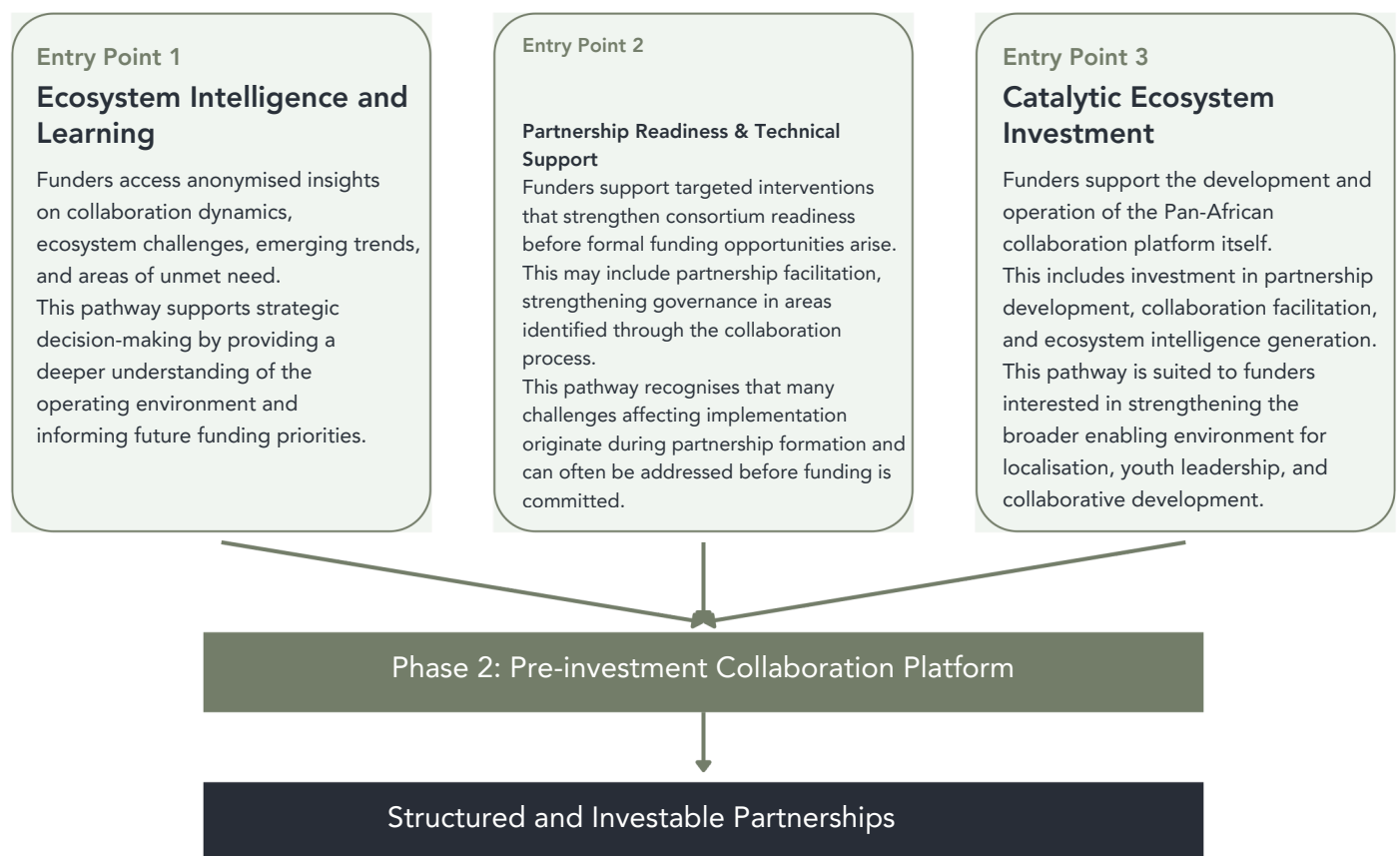
This gives funders the empirical data required to:

- Gain greater visibility into partnership readiness, governance dynamics, decision-making processes, and potential implementation risks that are often difficult to assess through proposals alone.
- Identify promising youth-led organisations, emerging consortiums, and locally rooted solutions earlier in their development journey, expanding access to actors that may otherwise remain outside traditional funding networks.
- Understand where organisations and partnerships encounter challenges during consortium formation, allowing support to be directed towards the specific areas that limit readiness, participation, or implementation potential.
- Identify and engage community-rooted organisations that bring strong local legitimacy and contextual knowledge while developing practical pathways that enable their participation in larger funding opportunities.
- Support organisations to build trust, clarify roles, establish governance arrangements, and address collaboration challenges before funding is committed, reducing the likelihood of partnership breakdowns during implementation.



Pathways for Funder Engagement

Recognising differing levels of institutional capacity and appetite for engagement, Phase 2 can accommodate multiple entry points for funders:



Overall Consideration

Many of the challenges that affect consortium performance emerge long before implementation begins. Partner alignment, governance arrangements, role clarity, trust, and participation are often developed under the pressures of proposal deadlines rather than through a structured process of collaboration. By investing in the pre-investment phase, funders can help organisations address these issues earlier, creating stronger foundations for implementation. A Pan-African collaboration platform provides the space for partnerships to form, mature, and test their readiness before funding decisions are made, helping to strengthen pipeline quality, expand participation, and reduce risks associated with newly formed consortium.

Join the Conversation

We welcome engagement from funders, philanthropy networks, youth-led organisations, ecosystem builders, intermediary organisations, researchers, and regional partners interested in strengthening collaboration across Africa.

Areas for Discussion

The pilot highlighted a number of questions that extend beyond individual organisations and speak to broader challenges within youth participation, localisation, and consortium-based funding.

We welcome perspectives on:

- How can partnership development be better supported before funding opportunities emerge?
- What practical pathways can strengthen participation for youth-led organisations that have strong local legitimacy but limited access to funding?
- How can pre-investment infrastructure contribute to stronger, more diverse, and more inclusive consortiums?
- What role can fiscal sponsorship and institutional partnership models play in expanding access to funding opportunities?
- How can funders, ecosystem builders, and policymakers strengthen the conditions that enable Pan-African collaboration?
- What information helps identify partnership readiness before organisations enter formal funding processes?

Opportunities to Engage

- Share feedback on the learnings presented in this brief
- Participate in future learning & reflection discussions
- Exploring opportunities to support thematic collaboration groups
- Supporting partnership development, consortium readiness, and fiscal sponsorship pathways.
- Joining a growing community of organisations working to strengthen Pan-African collaboration and partnership formation.
- Receive updates on ongoing learning and ecosystem insights

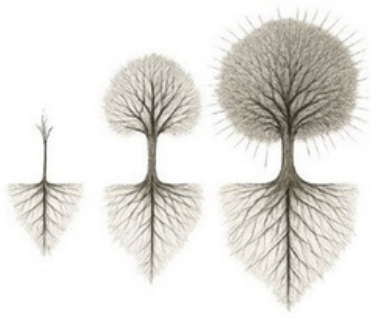
We invite you to help shape a Pan-African collaboration platform designed to strengthen those foundations and expand opportunities for young people and youth-led organisations across the continent.

Contact

Unearthing Insights Africa

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About Unearthing Insights Africa

Unearthing Insights is a youth and women-led organisation that is dedicated to unlocking economic opportunities in the nature-based economy by strengthening ecosystems, generating locally grounded insights, and enabling businesses, SMEs, and youth-led initiatives to grow, scale, and compete in the global economy.

Vision

A regenerative economy where all groups can participate equally, with fair access to opportunity, resources, and growth.

Our Approach

- **Generate Insights:** We identify where real opportunities exist through locally grounded, evidence-based analysis. This provides clarity on viable sectors, geographies, and pathways for growth.
- **Build Ecosystems:** We connect organisations, funders, and enterprises to shape coordinated pathways for opportunity. This creates the conditions for collaboration, investment, and growth.
- **Enable Implementation:** We work with partners in key locations to implement and scale solutions on the ground. This ensures opportunities translate into real economic outcomes.

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