

MENA Startup Ecosystem News

JUNE 2023

MENA startups raised \$35.6M in June 2023, pushing half year funding to \$1.6B, with KSA achieving highest funding value

Based on [Wamda's report](#), startups raised \$35.6M across 45 deals:

- KSA takes first place in terms of funding value with \$25M across 12 rounds, with UAE taking second with \$6M raised over 20 rounds. Egyptians startups were the third largest recipients of capital thanks to Egypt's trucking marketplace Trella's \$3.5 million round.
- Fintech remains to attract the most number of deals with 7 startups raising \$3M. But it was the foodtech space that secured the most funding with just over \$20 million raised across four startups, accounting for 56% of the total raised.
- While May was a bounceback month for investment in the region, June has been less dazzling, marking a 92% decrease month-on-month. However, if Tabby's \$350 million debt financing round announced in May is excluded, then this monthly decline falls to 62.5 per cent

INVESTMENTS

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
Trella	Transport & Logistics	Egypt	\$3.5M, undisclosed	Avanz Capital Egypt
EdfaPay	Finance	KSA	\$3.2M, Seed	Sanabil 500 MENA Seed Accelerator Fund
Colis.ma	Transport & Logistics	Morocco	\$50K, undisclosed	The Baobab Network (Accelerator)
Autobia	Automotive	KSA	\$2.5M, Seed	Led by Sadu Capital; from Wa'ed Ventures by Aramco, Raz Holding, Techstars, angels
File Orbis	IT Solutions	UAE	\$2M, Undisclosed	Revo Capital
Chari.ma	Retail	Morocco	\$1.5M, Undisclosed	Verod-Kepple Africa Ventures
Baeynh	Legal	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
Bynow	Finance	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
Ballurh	F&B	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
HorizonX	F&B	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
Kharja	Recreation	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
The Architect	Interior Design	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
Unipal	Marketing / Consumer services	Bahrain	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)
Ygii	Retail	KSA	\$133K, Seed	Flat6Labs Riyadh (Accelerator)

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Agel	Finance	Egypt	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	Plus VC, Seedstars International Ventures, Flat6labs, SEEDRA Ventures, Banque Misr Acceleration Program, angels
Boonfull	Health	KSA	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	Undisclosed
Byanat	Data Analytics	Oman	Undisclosed, Seed	500 Global, Sanabil Investments, Omantel, Al Jabr MENA, angels
Eyas App	Legal	KSA	Undisclosed, Seed	Riyadh Angel Investors
HashMove	Transport & Logistics	UAE	Undisclosed, Pre-Series A	Led by Bunat Ventures
Marahat	Education	UAE	Undisclosed, Seed	Plus VC
Retalio Technologies	Retail	KSA	Undisclosed, Pre-Series B	Shorooq Partners
Rodud	Transport & Logistics	KSA	Undisclosed	Mjalis Investment
The Food Lab	F&B	Egypt	Undisclosed, Seed	Shorooq Partners
Tmam	Finance	UAE	Undisclosed, Seed	Plus VC
Transportr	Transport & Logistics	UAE	Undisclosed, Seed	Ittihad Ventures Holding, Industrial Capital Group
Zidyia	Education	UAE	Undisclosed	Undisclosed

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
Bloomax	Consumer services	KSA	Floranow, UAE	Combination of debt and equity
Arkan United	Healthcare	KSA	Rology, Egypt	Undisclosed amount
Spotii	Finance (BNPL)	KSA	NymCard, UAE	Undisclosed amount
GroCart	Consumer services	UAE	InstaShop, UAE	Undisclosed amount
Opio	Fashion	Egypt	The Fashion Kingdom	Undisclosed amount

STARTUPS

The Greek Campus merges with MQR

Workspace provider The Greek Campus merges with MQR, a facilities management services provider. Both located in Egypt, they merger will enable both to diversify their product offerings and benefit from one another's growing network of startup and corporate clients.

Egypt announces 5-year tax exemption for startups

President Abdul Fattah El Sisi has announced a five-year tax exemption for startups, with an aim to boost the country's ecosystem and retain its talent. Over the first five months of the year, Egyptian startup attracted as much as \$426 million in funding, with MNT-Halan leading the fundraise with its \$400 million round raised in February.

EDB launches agritech lending programme

Emirates Development Bank (EDB) launched an agritech-focused \$27M lending programme, targeting farmers, local producers, equipment suppliers and startups. It offers green- and brownfield project financing, CAPEX and working capital financing, and medium-term loans or working capital amounts of up to AED5 million.

DIFC to build Dubai AI and Web 3.0 Campus

The initiative aims to attract more than 500 startups by 2028, to become the largest cluster of artificial intelligence and tech companies in the MENA region, attracting \$300M in collective funds, and create over 3,000 jobs by 2028. A dedicated campus spanning over 100,000 sq. ft. will be set up in the DIFC premises for entrepreneurs, disruptors and engineers who possess a deep passion for emerging technologies.

INVESTMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Acasia Ventures expands to Lagos

Formerly Cairo Angels (Egypt), Acasia Ventures opens a new office in Lagos, in a bid to extend its reach across the African continent and connect with founders and stakeholders on the ground. The office is situated in the city's Impact Hub building. This follows the inauguration of their Dubai office.

South Korea and KSA launch \$160M fund

The joint fund falls under an MOU signed in November 2022. It was established with an initial investment of \$10M in an existing fund of \$150M. An additional \$160M was raised with participation of Saudi Venture Capital (SVC) and Saudi National Wealth Fund (PIF Jada). South Korean startups will attract a mandatory investment of \$10M.

SVC invests \$30 million in Bedaya Fund II

Saudi Ventures Capital (SVC) invested \$30 million in Shorooq Partner's recently launched \$150 million Bedaya Fund II. The fund was launched earlier in March targeting investments in early-stage startups in fintech, software, platform verticals, and digital asset. To date, SVC invested in 38 funds that have invested in 674 companies through 1,257 deals

Bahrain's Tenmou exits 5 startups

Bahrain's first angel investment company achieves a 6x return in an average of less than 4 years. Startups that were fully exited include Malaeb App (Sports), Faceki (Cybersecurity). Partially exited include: EatApp (F&B), Unipal (Marketing/consumer services) and The Collective Hub (Coworking). The exit was expedited through Gro Partners Fund's takeover of Tenmou's shares

Jada Fund of Funds in pre-IPO growth fund

Jada Fund of Funds, a subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has invested in Bahrain's Investorcorp, a \$500 million pre-IPO growth fund. Launched in 2022, the fund invests in high-growth startups in underserved sectors such as business services, transport and logistics, healthcare and consumer

Plug and Play to launch \$100M fund for Saudi startups

Silicon Valley-based tech investor Plug and Play is in talks with PIF's Jada Fund of Funds to support the Fund. Plug and Play will contribute 10% of the fund, which is set for launch in January 2024. Plug and Play manages a portfolio of five funds, totaling \$500M, and has plans to establish five more

STARTUP PROGRAMS

Dtec's SANDBOX for early-stage startups puts Founders at its core



Dtec's landmark 12-month startup program offers founders 200+ hours of workshops, 100+ hours 1:1 with expert practitioners, USD \$950,000+ in-kind credits from partners, access to award-winning office space, Equity Warrant of USD \$50,000, business licensing support, and much more. If you are an early-stage tech entrepreneur in Dubai, seeking to test, grow and scale, [APPLY TODAY](#)

Google launches cleantech accelerator

The programme, Google for Startups Accelerator: Climate Change, aims to back startups in MEA focused on sustainable technology climate solutions, cleantech and green energy. It offers a 10-week, equity-free hybrid program for Seed to Series A startups

Tech startup incubator DMZ Cairo and Ebank to launch fintech bootcamp

The program will target early-stage Egyptian startups with a defined MVP. Selected startups will have access to mentorship, market linkages, and a chance to compete for a cash prize of EGP200,000, and fast track into the DMZ Cairo incubator programme

Saudi VMS acquires stake in Egypt's Cash Cows

KSA-based startup accelerator Saudi VMS acquires minority stake in its Egyptian counterpart, Cash Cows. The move is aimed to bridge the gap between Saudi and Egyptian startups, and launch a joint platform for startups to exchange ideas and connect to investors

WORTH THE READ

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Wamda

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