



Global
Alliance

Africa

Global Ideas Exchange:

Enhancing Innovative Resilience in Africa

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Connecting for
Positive Change

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KTN's Global Alliance Africa

KTN exists to connect innovators with new partners and new opportunities beyond their existing thinking – accelerating ambitious ideas into real-world solutions.

[KTN's Global Alliance Africa](#) is a six-year project co-funded by the UK's [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office](#) (FCDO) and [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#) (BEIS) through the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) with the strategic partnership of [Innovate UK](#) to drive networking activities that can help foster long-lasting, strategic partnerships between Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, the UK and across sub-Saharan Africa. In doing so, it aims to accelerate innovations that promote economic growth and job creation.

Our long-term ambition is to promote job creation, inclusive growth and poverty reduction through knowledge transfer, skills building and opportunities to support businesses and innovations that can deliver scalable impact.

The overall objectives of Global Alliance Africa are to develop stronger UK-African and Pan-African knowledge and innovation networks that lead to mutual socio-economic benefits for African partner countries as well as the UK.

Over the coming years we continue to take a market-focused approach, viewing issues through a pragmatic business lens to:

Coordinate



in helping investors, innovators and governments to connect, the Global Alliance Africa will open new doors for job creation and economic growth in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa.

Connect



by hosting networking and training events, KTN will create opportunities for champions of innovation to share their work with one another. Global Alliance Africa will not only facilitate new connections but will allow them to grow organically.

Collaborate



KTN will work closely with other initiatives from the UK Government to ensure a more aligned approach to UK support for innovation in Africa.

The Global Ideas Exchange Series (Global Ideas Exchange) is the first in a series of new activities designed to respond to [Covid-19](#) and support resilience and recovery in African innovation ecosystems. We hope to encourage sharing and learning, we aim to showcase the latest ideas and best practice in innovation.



Global Alliance Africa Team



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Introduction

As [Covid-19](#) has swept the globe, every government has been forced to confront difficult decisions in reconciling economic growth with public health.

Grappling with these trade-offs hasn't been easy anywhere, and innovation stakeholders from across the ecosystem have stepped in to respond to help support, whether in preventing the disease's spread, getting people back to work or building back more resilient systems.

Over the past six months we have seen how, for better or for worse, [Covid-19](#) has accelerated many processes already in progress. The rapid adoption of digital technologies has been necessary to keep people working through lockdown, while also supporting more flexible working hours and making it easier to keep in touch. It has also exposed and exacerbated gaps that already existed, with vulnerable populations living without reliable access to ICT infrastructure being left even further behind.

This pandemic has highlighted the need to support context-specific partnerships, policy, investment, infrastructure, skills training and market access to enable innovation stakeholders in their efforts to build more resilient ecosystems.

These six target areas were identified by DFID (now part of the FCDO) in its planning of the [African Technology and Innovation Partnership \(ATIP\) programme](#) and have been identified as foundational to the challenge areas surfaced by KTN in its rapid analysis of innovation ecosystem responses in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa.



In the context of [Covid-19](#) and at a time when the UK is entering a new phase of its international relations, it has never been more important to foster long-lasting partnerships with the global community. As a core component of the ATIP programme and a key programme in KTN's [international programming](#), the [Global Alliance Africa](#) is working with partners to build new relationships and strengthen old ones, with the hope we can use this crisis to build back better together.

As we all continue to respond and shift towards building resilience and recovery, KTN's Global Ideas Exchange Series (Global Ideas Exchange) aims to acknowledge the incredible efforts already made, while also being critical and open enough to learn from our shortcomings. We hope to provide participants with a platform to share their experiences, build new ideas and strengthen new connections for the journey ahead.

Global Ideas Exchange Overview

KTN's Global Ideas Exchange (Global Ideas Exchange) event series is an inclusive platform for innovators, innovation enablers, investors, industry leaders, academia, the public sector and global innovation community to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and enable inclusive, multi-scalar approaches to resilience.

As [Covid-19](#) rapidly started sweeping the globe, KTN's Global Alliance Africa project quickly shifted its activities to track and map the innovation response to the pandemic in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa.

We partnered with [AfriLabs](#), [CcHub](#), and the [South African Technology and Innovation Agency](#), while also reaching out to other international partners to collect experience data, case studies and best practice from 23 countries across Europe, Asia and Africa.

Through our efforts we learned about the amazing work already being done to support innovation and tackle the economic and health ramifications of [Covid-19](#). We also heard loud and clear that more work needs to be done to close gaps and link up existing work.

This Global Ideas Exchange series is our way of responding to these calls. We will feed back our findings and create opportunities for innovation stakeholders to discuss and drive the conversation forward. In short, we want to make this wealth of information actionable across ecosystems.

To do this, we will draw upon KTN's experience as a trusted partner supporting innovation in the UK and our partner countries, and work with in-country ecosystem partners to support stronger connections and more responsive relationships between upstream support and downstream needs.



Series Objectives

- To share the findings of our rapid analysis and provide inclusive platforms to drive constructive discussions around key findings and clearer information around public sector offerings.
- To ensure participation from diverse innovation stakeholders in the UK, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and from around the world in building frameworks for future cooperation.
- To launch inclusive communities of practice that can actively support SMEs through more robust and effective investment and funding pipelines for innovation in Africa.
- To improve visibility of existing connections and develop new avenues for communication between policy makers and innovation enablers.

Week 1: Convening Resources

Week 1 aims to support coordination and coherence among high-level public and private sector stakeholders from around the world, with the knowledge and capacity to influence (a) constraints on innovation funding, (b) innovation networks, and (c) value chain disruption in their home countries.

In these closed-door sessions, participants will have the opportunity to present on different activities with the objectives of identifying synergies, recognising gaps, and surfacing best practice. Virtual networking opportunities will be facilitated to support new global connections.

Week 1 Timetable (Closed Sessions)

Please note all sessions are GMT+1

Monday 12 Oct	Tuesday 13 Oct	Wednesday 14 Oct	Thursday 15 Oct	Friday 16 Oct
Global Ideas Exchange Kick-off Workshop	Innovation Funding	Innovation Networks	Value Chain Disruption	Future Shaping
09.00 – 10.00	09.00 – 11.30	09.00 – 11.30	09.00 – 11.30	09.00 – 11.30



Monday 12 Oct

Kick-off Workshop

This session will set the stage with a presentation on KTN's analysis and overview of different country responses to the [Covid-19](#) pandemic. Participants will be invited from government and other public and private sector organisations from around the world to provide feedback, ask questions network and kick off this series.

Tuesday 13 Oct

Innovation Funding

Global exchange, gaps and lessons from Covid-19

This workshop will focus on the different funding mechanisms made available to support innovation through the pandemic. Participants will be invited to share their experiences, highlight lessons learned, and express areas for improvement where collaboration could be facilitated.

Wednesday 14 Oct

Innovation Networks

Global exchange, gaps and lessons from Covid-19

This workshop will explore how multi-scalar stakeholders connect and work together to support open innovation. In the spirit of building local, national and global networks, participants will be invited to highlight success stories, communicate potential weak spots, and brainstorm potential strategies for stronger connections.

Thursday 15 Oct

Value Chain Disruption

Global exchange, gaps and lessons from Covid-19

This workshop will investigate changes to production and value chains arising from the pandemic. Participants will be invited to share their experiences, highlight lessons learned, and express areas for improvement where collaboration could be facilitated.

Friday 16 Oct

Future Shaping

Building back, better together

In closing the first week's activities, this session will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on next steps and determine approach for how we can build back better.

Week 2: Global Idea Exchange Sessions

Week 2 aims to strengthen cross-ecosystem relationships between government, academia, investors, industry, enablers, NGOs and innovators through targeted Q&A sessions, panel discussions, virtual networking and online community building.

Week 2 Timetable

Monday 19 Oct	Tuesday 20 Oct	Wednesday 21 Oct	Thursday 22 Oct	Friday 23 Oct
Public Sector Q&A - Intl 09.30 – 10.30	Public Sector Q&A - Kenya 09.30 – 10.30	Public Sector Q&A - Nigeria 09.30 – 10.30	Public Sector Q&A – SA 09.30 – 10.30	
Multi-lateral Innovation Funding 14.00 – 15.30	Blended Finance Options for Innovation 14.00 – 15.30	Open Innovation 14.00 – 15.30	Informal Innovation 14.00 – 15.30	Multi-scalar linkages 14.00 – 15.30

Mon 19, Tues 20, Wed 21 & Thurs 22 Oct

Public Sector Q&A Sessions

These sessions will provide clear public sector messaging on support available to innovators in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, and from other international partners. Featuring 5-minute recorded presentations from key public sector actors on specific directives, available funding and existing/upcoming initiatives, these sessions will raise awareness on the landscape of upstream innovation support to downstream stakeholders.

Monday 19 Oct

Multi-Lateral Innovation Funding

With African and international policymakers, as well as experts from multilateral development banks, panellists will discuss the potential benefits and risks of bi- and multi-lateral programmes to fund African innovation.

Tuesday 20 Oct

Blended Finance Options for Innovation

This panel session will bring together experts in public and private funding and finance to discuss into how blended options could reduce risk and redistribute financial resources more effectively and flexibly, through innovation investment pipelines in Africa.

Wednesday 21 Oct

Open Innovation

Featuring leaders from government, industry and academia, this panel discussion will explore how we can work together to break down silos, bridge information gaps, and leverage digital capabilities to support more robust and inclusive innovation.

Thursday 22 Oct

Informal Innovation

Bringing in diverse voices from across innovation ecosystems, this panel will highlight best practice and explore new mechanisms (including frugal innovation) for connecting with innovators in the informal sector.

Friday 22 Oct

Multi-Scalar linkages

Building on ideas developed over the course of the week, this panel will focus on the importance of strengthening vertical connections to amplify clearer messaging and to build more resilient innovation ecosystems.

Week 3: Investment Community Building & Global Ideas Exchange Summit

Week 3 aims to bring government, academia, investors, industry, enablers, NGOs, and innovators together to foster a more diversely connected community of practice working to strengthen African investment pipelines.

Week 3 Timetable

Monday 26 Oct	Tuesday 27 Oct	Wednesday 28 Oct	Thursday 29 Oct
October Fireside Chat	October Fireside Chat	October Fireside Chat	Global Ideas Exchange Summit
11.30 - 12.00	11.30 - 12.00	11.30 - 12.00	09.00 – 12.00

Monday 26 - Wednesday 28 Oct

October Fireside Chats

These 30-minute sessions will feature conversations between technical experts working in innovation funding and finance, covering key themes to arise over the past week.

Questions will be submitted ahead of time.

"Real, lasting change happens when we work together. KTN exists to connect innovators with new partners and new opportunities to drive positive change. The Global Ideas Exchange event series will bring together people and organisations globally to ensure our innovation systems are resilient and fit for recovery given the impact of Covid-19. I am very excited about this initiative and look forward to the outcomes and making a valuable difference."

Alicia Created, CEO, KTN

Thursday 29 Oct

Global Ideas Exchange Summit

The Global Ideas Exchange Summit will serve to wrap up the series and bring together participants from government, academia, private finance, industry, hubs, labs, NGOs, MSMEs, as well as individual innovators and entrepreneurs, to reflect upon series' outcomes and highlight any key case studies, thought leadership, and takeaways, to have developed over the past month of activities.

Wrap-up Presentation

In this short session, KTN Global Alliance Team will share its lessons learnt, takeaways from the event, and launch its activities for the coming year.

Invited Keynote Speakers

Alicia Created, CEO, KTN

Final Panel

Featuring panellists from the week's activities to discuss outcomes and next steps.

Enhancing Innovative Resilience in Africa
Join us for the open sessions from Monday 19 October

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