ideialab times

EDITION #1

ideialab





What we see:

A community of Entrepreneurs in Growth

An ever-changing ecosystem

CLICK ON THE LINKS

Trends, transformations, and triumphs

Opportunities Not Challenges

PEOPLE. LEARNING. IMPACT.

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What we see:

Insights, innovations, and impact from the entrepreneurial ecosystem

ideialab times is composed of 4 themed editions and a series of articles where we share our observations, reflections, and learnings from the past two years. What you will see ahead is an invitation to delve into this entrepreneurial world, to look deeper and discover its limitless potential and the opportunities that await.

WHAT WE SEE: A Community of Entrepreneurs in Growth

WHAT WE SEE out there is a surge of solutions addressing Mozambique's pressing needs, born from the resilience and ingenuity of its entrepreneurs.

WE SEE a transformative wave of entrepreneurship that has the power to create a better, fairer, more inclusive, and harmonious world.

WHAT WE SEE out there is the potential in all people, their ideas and dreams, as they harness entrepreneurship to change their lives and those around them.

WE SEE and gather evidence of the positive impact that entrepreneurship has on building sustainable businesses, creating jobs, improving market dynamics and on the evolution of Mozambique's economy.

ideialab is strategically positioned to observe and influence the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Mozambique. As one of the pioneers Mozambican Entrepreneurship Support Organization founded by Mozambican entrepreneurs for their peer entrepreneurs, we have been, since 2010, a catalyst for change, equipping entrepreneurs through various programs and initiatives that stimulate, activate, and accelerate their growth.

This ongoing commitment with the entrepreneurial ecosystem, has led us to design, advise, and implement impactful projects and programs that support entrepreneurship, micro, small, and medium enterprise (mSME) development, and ecosystem strengthening—both digitally and in person—across various sectors and countries in Africa.



HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT **SHADIA** IS DOING?

Shadia Gafur is a co-founder of Associação Chapateca, which is dedicated to promoting access to books and information for economically vulnerable populations in Mozambique, focusing on developing reading and writing skills through community libraries and mobile units that reach remote areas.



HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT **IRANILDE** IS DOING?

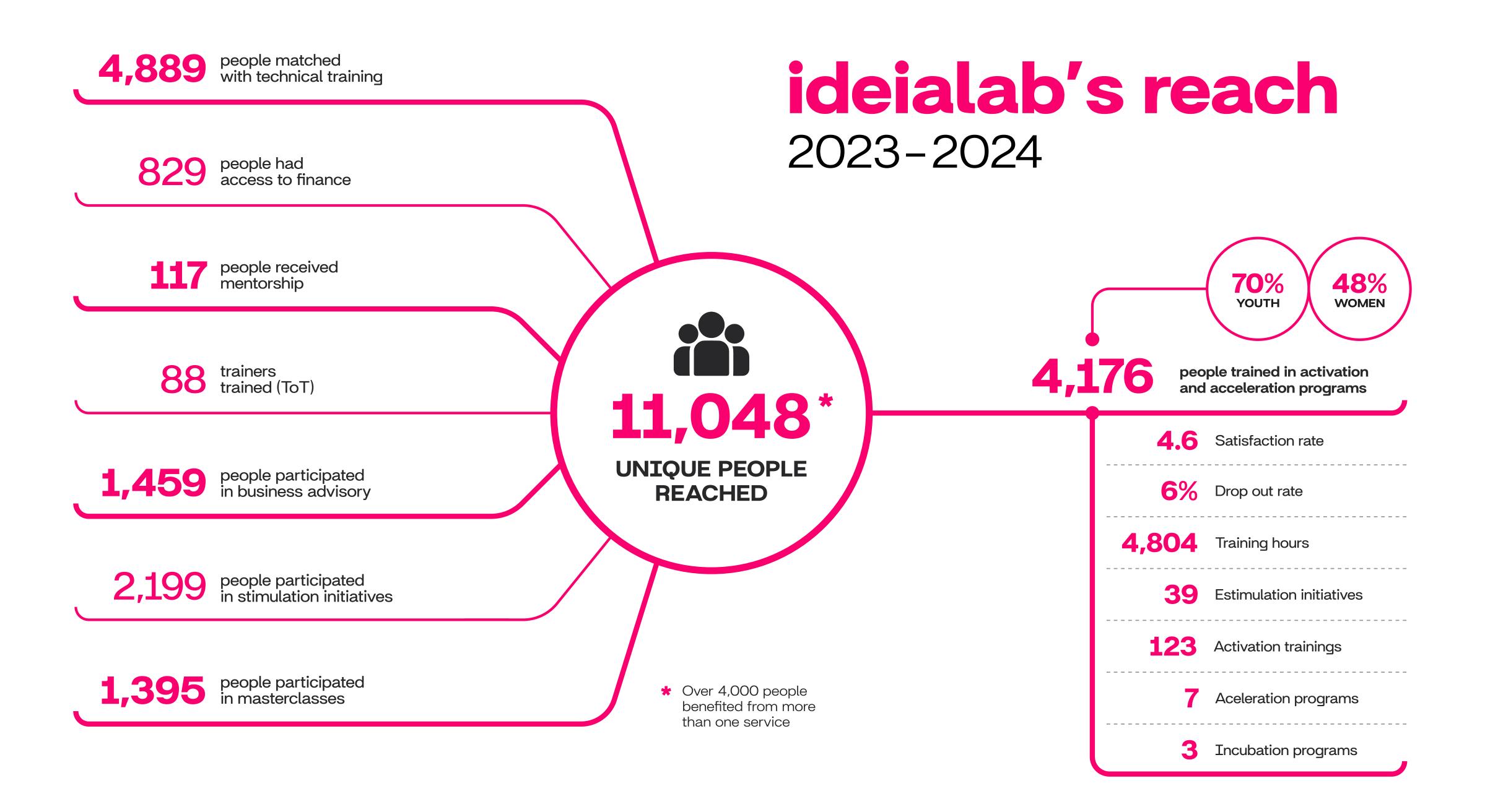
Iranilde Marizane is the entrepreneur behind Naturalle Beauty Clinic, known as "Doutora Cabelos", is revolutionizing hair health in Mozambique through innovative trichology practices and strategic social media marketing.



HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT **EDMILSON** IS DOING?

Edmilson Novele is revolutionizing education in Mozambique through his startup, Tivane Game Studio, which focuses on developing educational games and gamification strategies to empower young minds.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR GREEN REPORT? CLICK HERE



week-long program

focused on strategy and

implementation partners

from Africa, the Middle

East, and Asia gathered

to share experiences and

learn from each other to

enhance incubation and

acceleration programs.

collaboration. Over 20



In 2023 and 2024, ideialab significantly expanded its reach and diversified its interventions, impacting a total of 11048 people through a comprehensive set of offerings that includes capacity building, incubation, acceleration, matching with technical training services, funding opportunities, training of trainers (TOT), mentorship programs and masterclasses.

Among these, **4176 entrepreneurs** were trained in our flagship activation and acceleration programs, which provide over 40 hours of comprehensive entrepreneurial training. This group of entrepreneurs included 57% of participants from outside Maputo. We have consistently achieved a satisfaction rate of over **4.5** out of 5 and a completion rate exceeding 90%.

This growth reflects our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and creating sustainable business opportunities within the community.

What we see is not just numbers; it is a community of entrepreneurs in growth. As we continue to support their journeys, we recognize the importance of tailored interventions that resonate with their unique needs.

ideialab has become a member of ANDE, joining a global network dedicated to supporting the growth of the small and medium business sector in developing economies, benefiting from exclusive resources and collaboration opportunities.



Each program is designed to address client objectives, business context and entrepreneurs needs along their entrepreneurial journey and to enhance engagement, and foster growth, ensuring that we effectively support our community's diverse requirements.



ideialab PEOPLE. LEARNING. IMPACT.

Over the past 15 years, we have seen entrepreneurs navigating their journeys. From the initial spark of an idea to the consolidation of their businesses, overcoming barriers, taking risks, failing and trying again and ultimately realizing their full potential.

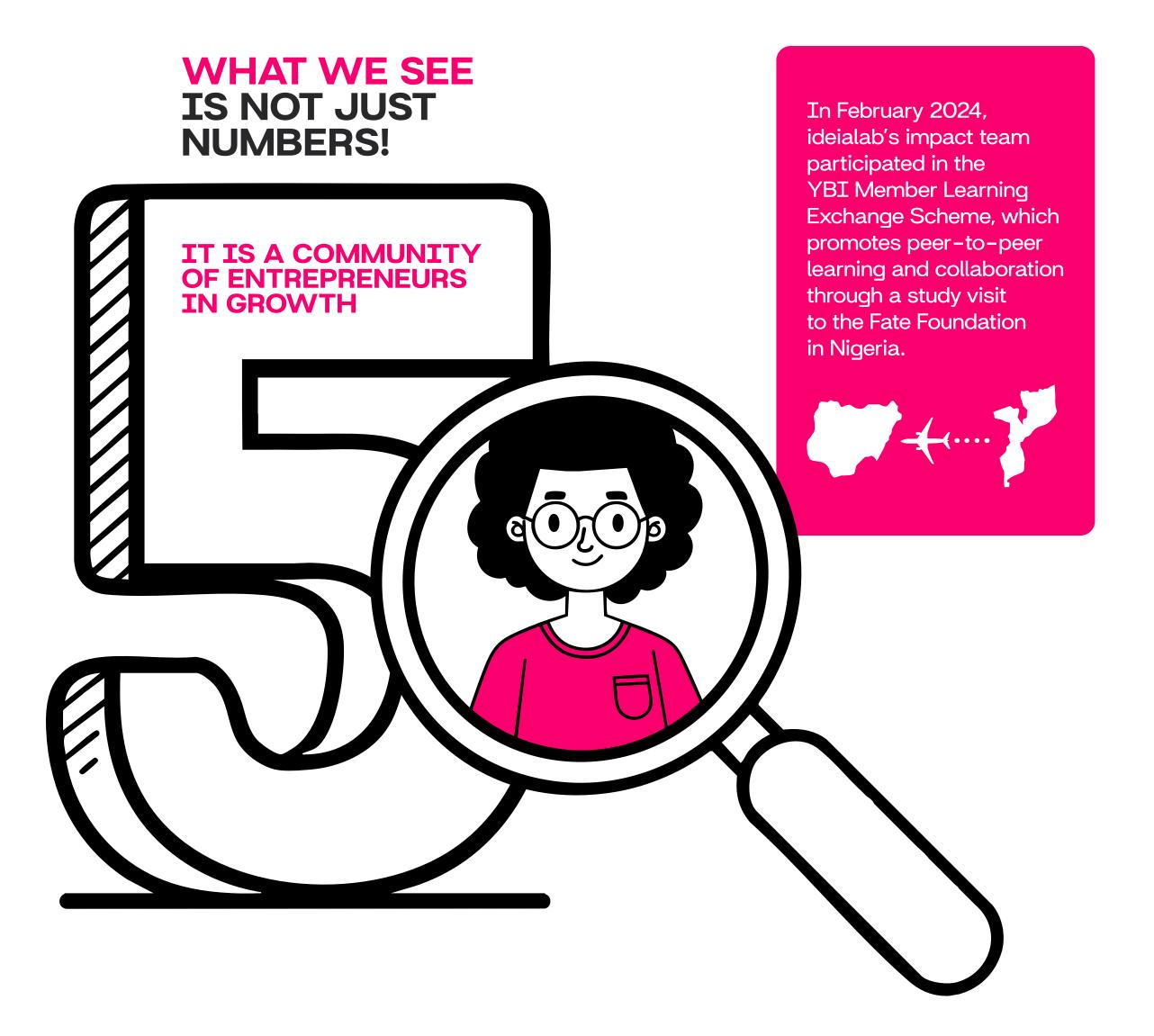
By working closely with entrepreneurs across different contexts, we gather diverse perspectives and insights that inform our strategies and enhance our impact.

As we have evolved, our capacity to see and understand the entrepreneurial landscape has deepened. We have gained a more in depth knowledge about the entrepreneurs we serve—their journeys, pain points, growth drivers, and when and how our interventions can create a positive and sustainable impact.

This understanding has helped us to tailor specific offerings for entrepreneurs at different stages of their development, refining our programs to maximize effectiveness.

The Navigators Award is an award given by ANDE (Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs) to recognize organizations and individuals that have a significant impact on the small and medium business entrepreneurship ecosystem in emerging markets. ideialab received this award in 2024, standing out for its commitment to the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. This recognition reinforces ideialab's role in supporting startups and sustainable businesses, driving innovation and economic growth in the country.

ideialab is recognized as a quality-driven organization, boasting ISO 9001:2015 certification, which reflects its commitment to international standards for quality management, validated by audits from leading accounting firms over the past five years.



ideialab offers a structure jorney of entrepreneurs throught 5 key stages:

STAGE #1

EXPLORATION

Where curiosity and creativity spark entrepreneurial thinking and idea generation.

PROGRAMS

- BAZA
- Todos Podem Empreender
- Lig'Arte



STAGE #2

DREAMING AND VALIDATION

Focusing on market research, value proposition refinement, and building a Minimum Viable Product (MVP).

PROGRAMS

- Descola
- iDeate
- QQSE
- Activ´arte
- Skills2Live Youth Power Bootcamp



STAGE #3

CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Where ideas evolve into operational businesses with initial customers and revenue.

PROGRAMS

- BIZ
- Restart
- Agora Emprega
- CLP
- Puxap
- Resina



STAGE #4

GROWTH AND SCALING

Emphasizing market expansion, operational efficiency, and team building.

PROGRAMS

- OCIF
- Femtech
- TFSA
- Resina
- iCreate



STAGE #5

SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Ensuring long-term success through innovation, adaptability, and leadership.



Aceler'arte





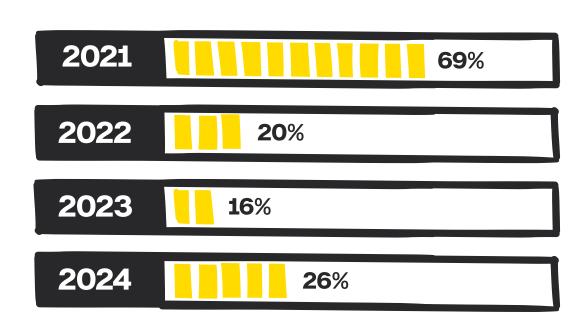
WHAT WE SEE:

An Ever-Changing Ecosystem

What we see out there is a burgeoning entrepreneurial landscape in Mozambique, where the drive for self-sufficiency and innovation is reshaping the economic narrative. As reported by the World Bank¹, the traditional job market is saturated, prompting many to turn towards entrepreneurship as a viable alternative. This shift is not merely a response to necessity; it represents a strategic choice for those aiming for financial independence, personal fulfillment, and social impact.

The growing interest in entrepreneurship is reflected by the surge in applications to ideialab's programs. Between 2021 and 2024, there was a remarkable 45% increase in applications, with 3,933 candidates vying for just 1,027 available spots in our flagship programs last year. What we see in this disparity is an increased demand for entrepreneurship programs and for new opportunties, and

also the clear need for an expanding ecosystem fueled by this generation eager to innovate, grow and find sustainable livelihood opportunities. In the last 4 years, ideailab has only been able to serve a small percentage of the overall applications or for our flagship programs:



The influx of candidates emphasizes the urgent need to broaden initiatives within the ecosystem to ensure greater access

to knowledge, essential tools for business development, strategic connections, links to market and finance.

What do we see ahead?

As we observed and acknowledged this trend of increasing applications, ideialab is strategically intensifying its focus on incorporating Training of Trainers (ToTs) across various projects, having trained 88 trainers in 2024 alone, notably of the 88 individuals trained in ToT in 2024, 70 were from outside of Maputo city and province.

This initiative generates a multiplying effect, enhancing scalability by equipping trainers to disseminate knowledge and skills throughout the ecosystem. Consequently, it more effectively addresses the urgent training needs of entrepreneurs and fosters sustainable growth and prepares us for the future

Challenging times like those experienced in the last quarter of 2024, resulting from political instability that impacted the entire country, represent a step back in this growing movement. However, they also serve as a reminder for us to continue observing, listening, and creating open channels of communication that allow us to remain responsive and relevant. As we write this report, ideialab is actively engaging with micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to assess the extent of the damage caused by recent disruptions and identify how best to support their recovery.

¹ www.worldbank.org/pt/news/feature/2024/06/06/ youth-entrepreneurship-transforming-afe-mozambiques-future



by anticipating the growing demand for training across different regions.

The entrepreneurial scene in Mozambique is witnessing a notable rise in emerging entrepreneurs. It is imperative for us—catalysts, investors, accelerators, partners, and policymakers—to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary conditions to thrive. As the critical mass grows, now is the time to expand capacity building programs, strengthen support networks, and develop policies that facilitate access to financing and infrastructure for micro, small and medium enterprises.

What we see is not just numbers; it signals a movement that must be amplified. The pressing question now is: what actions will we take to nurture this promising future? As we continue to observe these vibrant tendencies, we see our role validated and recognize that our collective efforts can lead to more transformative outcomes.

By fostering an environment where entrepreneurs can flourish, we not only contribute to individual success stories but also catalyze broader economic growth that benefits all of Mozambique.





WHAT WE SEE: Trends, Transformations, and Triumphs

What we see is a vibrant community of entrepreneurs who are not just surviving but thriving, thanks to targeted programs that have transformed their ideas into viable businesses. The self-reported data from our impact survey², administered six months to one year after implementation, reveals a narrative of motivation, growth, and community support. This data was collected from 245 participants across 14 of our flagship programs implemented during 2022 and 2023.

WE SEE entrepreneurs creating jobs and building futures

We see entrepreneurs becoming job creators and economic drivers in their communities. A remarkable **75% of participants are actively creating jobs**, resulting in 598 new positions generated by 120 entrepreneurs. This includes opportunities for 424 young people (71%),

326 women (55%), 284 of whom are young women (47%). On average, each entrepreneur created approximately 4.9 jobs, showcasing the ripple effect of these programs on employment and economic development.

reported feeling motivated, inspired, and confident in their entrepreneurial journey. This mindset shift has been pivotal in driving transformation, with 84% altering of participants are actively creating jobs reported feeling motivated, inspired feeling motivated, inspired

WE SEE motivation and confidence driving change

What we see out there is a community of entrepreneurs fueled by motivation, inspiration, and confidence. One year post-participation, 86% of participants reported feeling motivated, inspired, and confident in their entrepreneurial journey. This mindset shift has been pivotal in driving transformation, with 84% altering

and confident

their business practices as a direct result of the program. These changes reflect not just a willingness to grow but a commitment to applying what they've learned to strengthen their businesses.

2 ideialab implements a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for each cohort participating in our activation and acceleration more robust capacity building programs. This system includes three key phases of data collection and analysis:

Baseline Assessment: Conducted prior to training, this phase provides a snapshot of the entrepreneurs and the current status of their businesses.

Feedback Collection: Administered at the conclusion of the training, this phase gathers data to inform our continuous improvement efforts.

Impact Survey: Conducted 6 to 12 months post-training, this phase collects self-reported data from participants regarding the changes they have experienced since completing the program.

This section presents data from 245 participants who voluntarily responded to our impact survey. The survey was conducted 6 to 12 months after the completion of 14 of our programs implemented in 2022 and 2023, such as Biz, Femtech, iCreate, Restart. These respondents represent 48% of the 509 total program participants. The survey was shared with all 509 participants, and no selection mechanism was applied.



WE SEE skills and toolsmaking an impact

We see entrepreneurs equipped with tools and skills to succeed.

94% of participants stated that the competencies they gained during the programs significantly strengthened their businesses, while 93% continue to use the tools and resources provided one year after the program. The impact extends to leadership and operational improvements, with 87% recognizing growth in their management skills. This practical application of knowledge ensures that these entrepreneurs are better prepared to navigate challenges and seize opportunities.

stated that the program strengthened their business

WE SEE community as a catalyst for growth

We see the power of community in fostering resilience and collaboration. Among participants, 83% felt supported by their peers, and 76% reported feeling part of a larger entrepreneurial community. This sense of belonging is critical in creating an environment where individuals can share ideas, seek advice, and form meaningful connections that propel them forward.

felt supported and **76**% reported feeling part of a larger entrepreneurial community

WE SEE businesses surviving and thriving

We see businesses not just surviving but thriving after program participation. Nearly half of the participants (49%) entered the programs with an active business, while 51% joined with just an idea. A year later, the results speak volumes: 96% of those with active businesses remained operational and continued making sales, while 60% of those starting from an idea had made their first sales.

active businesses remained operational and continued making sales

WE SEE sales growth and product innovation

We see entrepreneurs and their dynamic nature as they adapt and evolve resulting in advancements in sales and product development. 74.6% of participants reported an increase in their sales volume, demonstrating the tangible impact of the programs on their fi nancial performance. Furthermore, 82% indicated that they have introduced new products or services to the market and 91% of participants reported that they have improved their products or services, reflecting a commitment to innovation and responsiveness to customer needs.

WE SEE partnerships powering collaboration

We see partnerships emerging as a key driver of success within this ecosystem.

Among alumni, 39% formed partnerships with fellow participants, while 53% established external collaborations.

These connections are fostering

These connections are fostering innovation, expanding market reach, and creating opportunities for growth that extend beyond individual businesses.





WHAT WE SEE:

Opportunities Not Challenges

It is true that Mozambique faces a complex web of challenges, from youth unemployment and limited access to information to the need for sustainable economic growth and empowerment of women.

However, at ideialab, one of the first essential lessons we teach our entrepreneurs is to view challenges as opportunities. This mindset encourages them to take calculated risks and adapt quickly in response to identified needs.

We stand by this principle in our operations, which gives us the capacity to see beyond obstacles and respond effectively to Mozambique's pressing needs through a range of innovative and impactful initiatives.

YOUTH

Nurturing the next generation

Mozambique's youth represent a powerful force for change, but often lack the opportunities and skills to thrive.

ideialab sees this potential and focuses on youth development through programs like Orange Corners Maputo (OCM) and Orange Corners International Fund (OCIF).

These initiatives empower youth with the skills and resources they need to become successful entrepreneurs and contribute to Mozambique's economic growth.

The success of these programs, highlights ideialab's adaptability and commitment to reaching young people. OCM alone has capacitated 504 young people in 2023 and 2024 through its stimulation, activation and acceleration programs.

EMPLOYABILITY

Addressing the skills gap

Unemployment remains a significant hurdle, particularly for young people. ideialab tackles this challenge through partnering with programs like Acredita Emprega, which equipped 5000 young people with employable skills in key technical sectors. Additionally, the impact data collected one year after our activation and acceleration programs shows that 75% of our entrepreneurs are creating jobs and that this group creates on average 4.9 jobs.

GREEN BUSINESSES

Fostering sustainable growth

Climate change poses a significant threat to Mozambique, making the promotion of green businesses crucial. **ideialab champions sustainable businesses** Orange Corners Mozambique, a public-private partnership, offers an incubation program that provides young entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, and access to networks, fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. OCIF builds upon this foundation, offering further support to OCM alumni to scale their businesses, including access to finance.

Acredita Emprega is a project focused on training 5,000 young people in the districts of Kamaxakeni, Matola, Manhiça and Matutuine with training and support services that increase their employability potential. In a second phase, Acredita Emprega gave access to financing to 1,000 young entrepreneurs.





through initiatives like the CLP and MozGreen.com, and most recently the Village Capital and the Femtech for sustainability. These programs support the development and growth of environmentally friendly businesses, promoting a green economy and contributing to a more sustainable future. By fostering not only the innovation in the green sector but also the transition into greener business in all our entrepreneurs, ideialab is helping to address climate change while creating economic opportunities.

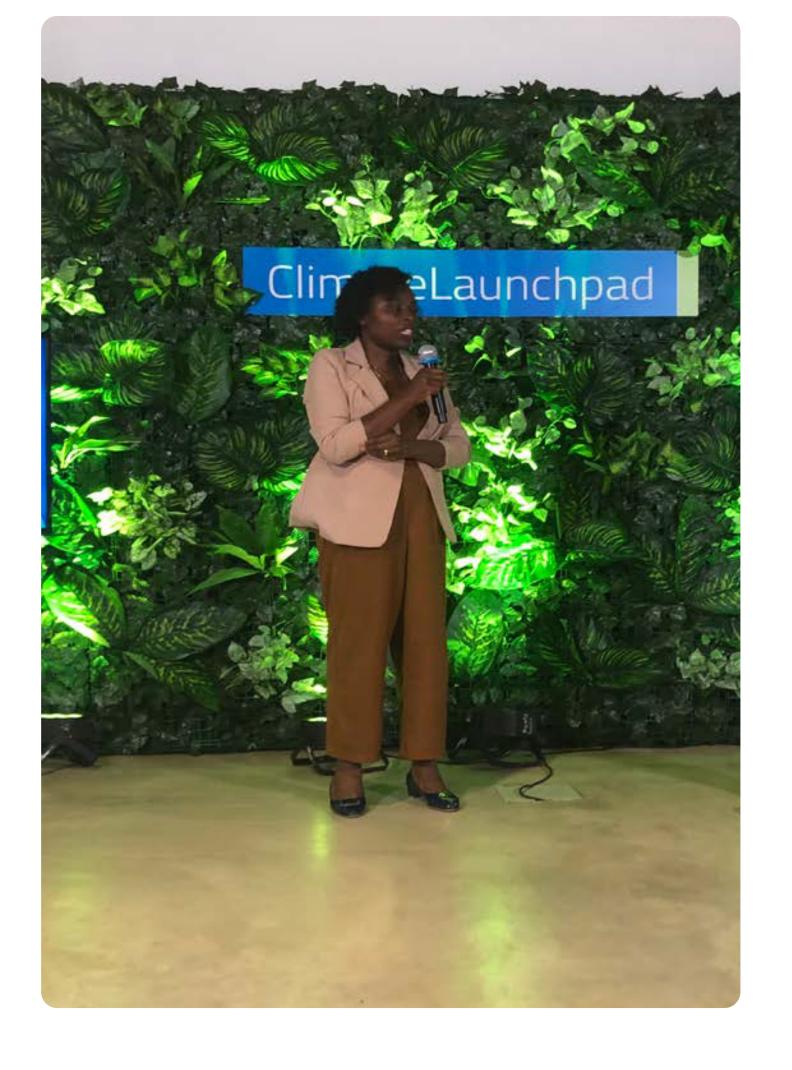
MozGreen aims to strengthen the green business ecosystem in Mozambique. The initiative is based on pillars such as strengthening businesses in the local and international market, providing access to tools, and promoting green initiatives.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Bringing people together

Limited access to information can hinder business development and individual empowerment. ideialab addresses this challenge by bringing essential services directly to our training programs and creating dialogue spaces with the entrepreneurs. Through collaborations with state entities like BAU, IPI, Banks, AT, and Mitrab, ideialab connects the participants with vital information and resources, promoting business formalization and economic inclusion.

ClimateLaunchpad is the biggest global competition of green business ideas, in which more than 2500 ideas from close to 50 countries participate. For the competition, the businesses that participate have access to workshops and tools, and exposure to an international network.



DIGITAL

Expanding reach and inclusion

ideialab recognizes digital technology's transformative power and works to bridge the digital divide, expanding access and fostering inclusion. "Boost Academy" involved developing ideialab's own **Learning Management System (LMS)** platform, enabling the provision of business and executive courses to SMEs and demonstrating a commitment to accessible training across Mozambique. The Impact Women Who Lead platform further empowers women entrepreneurs

through digital connectivity and resources.

Boost Academy is an executive business academy, in digital format, that will develop leadership

and management skills to enhance the talent and growth of people, teams and businesses.





In recent years, ideialab has significantly invested in digitizing its offerings, ensuring quality and reach. This strategic move has yielded notable results: by 2024, 57% of participants were from outside Maputo.

WOMEN

Empowering and supporting female entrepreneurs

We place a strong emphasis on empowering women entrepreneurs, recognizing their crucial role in economic development. ideialab implements numerous programs specifically designed to empower women, including Femtech, Restart, Network and Build, and special editions for women of iDeate and iCreate. These initiatives provide women with targeted training, mentorship, access to finance, and networking opportunities, enabling them to overcome barriers and succeed in business. ideialab's strong track record in supporting women entrepreneurs demonstrates ideialab's deep commitment to gender equality and women's economic empowerment, addressing specific challenges women face in business. Notably, 48% of the entrepreneurs

capacitated by ideialab are women, and in 2023 and 2024 alone, over 2,000 women were trained through its programs. ideialab also has an active network of female entrepreneurs called "Femmies," comprising 245 members fostering collaboration and peer support among women business leaders in Mozambique.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

Fueling entrepreneurial growth

Access to finance is a critical challenge for many entrepreneurs, particularly in developing economies like Mozambique. ideialab addresses this through a range of programs, including BIZ, Acredita Emprega, OCIF, and Agora Emprega, providing tailored financial support, mentorship, and guidance to entrepreneurs at various stages of development. BIZ, part of the Orange Corners program, offers training in key business skills and grants of €750 to €1,000. Acredita Emprega supports emerging businesses with fixed grants of approximately €1,000. The OCIF provides a comprehensive acceleration program with training, workshops, and consulting, alongside flexible funding

from €5,000 to €20,000. Agora Emprega focuses on funding, supporting participants in developing business plans to access up to €22,000. This multi-faceted approach, combining grants, loans, and tailored support, demonstrates ideialab's commitment to fueling entrepreneurial growth and creating economic opportunities.

LOCAL CONTENT

Strengthening SMEs

With the support provided to small and medium-sized companies, through programs such as iCreate acceleration program where we support existing companies on the restructuring and repositioning of their businesses to further growth, the Orange Corners Innovation Fund, where we support entrepreneurs, alumni of the Orange Corners program, in accessing financing for growth, or Academia Boost, a 100% digital academy, aimed at executive training, in strategic management and leadership, ideialab contributes to strengthen business and better positioning of small and mediumsized companies to participate in the local content, in particular the oil and

FEMTECH is an acceleration program that aims to improve the economic position of women entrepreneurs and micro and small companies led by women.

ReStart is a 100% digital business revitalization program for women entrepreneurs in who intend to reinvent, innovate, and accelerate the growth of their businesses in the context of the Covid-19 crisis.

iDeate is a bootcamp focused on stimulating entrepreneurial thinking, bringing ideas to life and transforming them into actions.

iCreate is a 100% digital or hybrid business strengthening program, designed to support senior MSME teams in designing adaptation and remodeling actions.

Network and Build is an initiative to grow women's businesses through workshops, interaction events and market exposure.



gas industry. During the events promoted by the programs, large companies in the sector are invited to participate, strengthening relationships and sharing opportunities.

AGRICULTURE

Contributing to rural development

Recognizing the importance of agriculture to Mozambique's economy, ideialab participated in RESINA (Resilience through Enhanced Markets and Nutrition Activity). RESINA aims to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and rural families in select districts of Zambezia and Nampula provinces. ideialab's contributions to RESINA included delivering entrepreneurship activation training programs for agrodealers.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Nurturing talent and innovation

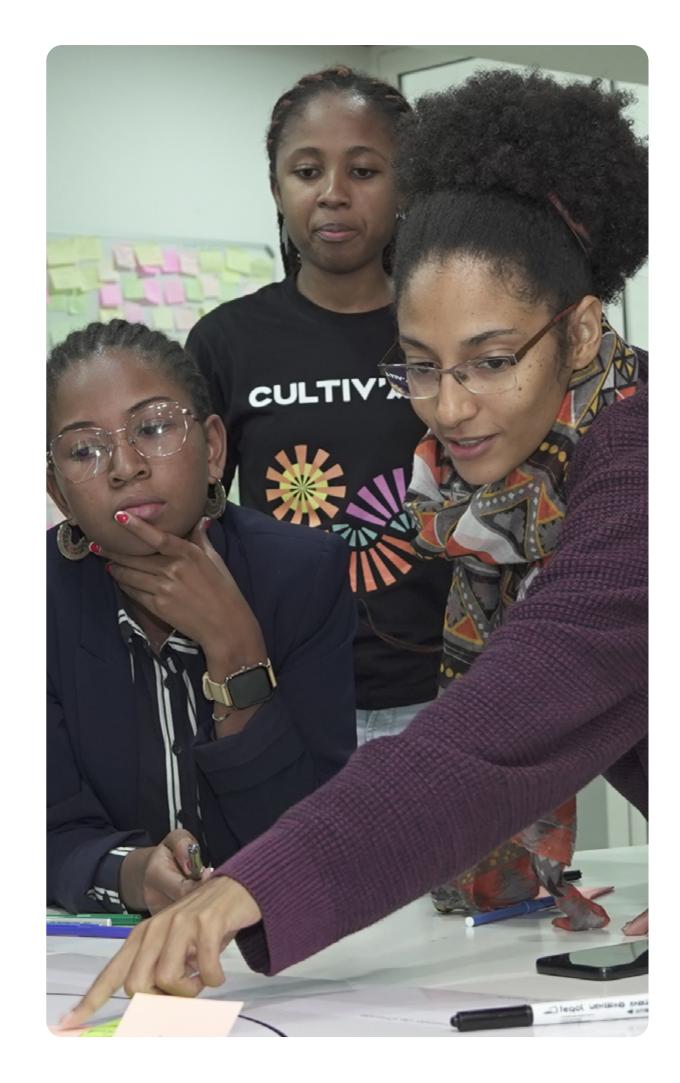
The creative industries hold significant potential for economic growth and cultural expression. ideialab supports this sector through initiatives like Cultiv'arte and MAKE, empowering young people

and women in creative fields. In 2024 through Cultiv'arte, 179 entrepreneurs were successfully trained across the provinces of Maputo, Inhambane, Beira, and Nampula (40.2% women) in Activ'arte bootcamps; 24 creative and cultural organizations successfully completed the Aceler'arte acceleration program and 22 women completed a special edition of FEMTECH specially designed for women leading creative and cultural businesses.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Equipping trainers for sustainable growth

ideialab is bolstering its commitment to Training of Trainers (ToTs) across multiple initiatives. In 2024, it successfully trained 88 trainers, with a significant majority—70—coming from regions beyond Maputo city and province. This strategic approach amplifies impact by enabling trainers to spread knowledge and skills widely, thereby boosting scalability, meeting critical training demands for entrepreneurs, and driving sustainable national growth. In 2024, ideialab launched Trainers Lab, an open to all initiative that offers a platform for all to enhance their skills and expertise.



RESINA (Resilience through Enhanced Markets and Nutrition Activity) is a project that aims to increase the resilience of small farmers and rural families in certain districts of the provinces of Zambezia and Nampula, in Mozambique. This project is part of a coordinated effort to leverage past and current donor investments in order to catalyze systemic transformation.





Cultiv'arte aims to enhance the cultural sector's social and economic impact. It benefits stakeholders including public authorities, entrepreneurs, artists, rights holders, and civil society organizations. During the two years implementation (2024-2025) ideialab's activities in Cultiv'arte include bootcamps for 600 entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sector and acceleration programs for another 175 entrepreneurs.





Trainers Lab offers a comprehensive Training of Trainers (TOT) program, leveraging ideialab's extensive experience of over 14 years in developing capacity-building programs and supporting trainers both nationally and internationally.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Strengthening

Organizations and amplifying Impact ideialab's commitment to capacity building extends beyond direct program implementation. Through Training of Trainers (TOT) programs, they empower other organizations to implement effective entrepreneurship initiatives, as well as for Young Africa's Technical and Professional Institutes through the Skills to Live program, exemplify this approach, demonstrating ideialab's commitment to expanding their impact through knowledge sharing and capacity building.

PROVINCIAL IMPACT

Expanding beyond Maputo

ideialab has significantly expanded its provincial reach since the pandemic, achieving notable milestones in inclusivity. In 2023, the organization engaged 36% of participants from outside Maputo, with this figure rising to 57% in 2024.

This growth was facilitated through both in-person and digital training programs, demonstrating our commitment to impacting entrepreneurs across Mozambique. By bridging geographical gaps and leveraging technology, ideialab continues to strengthen its impact nationwide.

Skills To Live is a project that seeks to economically empower young people in Zimbabwe. The ideialab intervention was in the design of the entrepreneurship curriculum and training of trainers in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique using the ideialab methodology in entrepreneurship and small business management subjects.



Partners and Clients











Partners and Clients



CULTIV'ARTE

















Partners and Clients



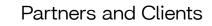






Partners and Clients













Partners and Clients







RESINA

Partners and Clients

Partners and Clients







Partners and Clients

















Partners and Clients





Partners and Clients

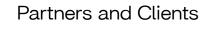


Female Economic Empowerment Partners and Clients





Kingdom of the Netherlands











Partners and Clients



Program

(FEEP)





Thank you.

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