

African Startup entrepreneurs

There are many successful businessmen and businesswomen in Africa.

Another word for businessman or businesswoman is 'entrepreneur'. It is a French word that we use in English. An entrepreneur is a person with a lot of business ideas, a lot of energy and good business skills. Entrepreneurs have a strong motivation to start a new business and work hard to make it successful.

A 'startup' is a new business, a new company. An entrepreneur starts a new company with his or her new ideas and a little bit of money. Usually we call a new company a 'startup' when it is a technology company. All the famous technology companies – like Apple and Facebook – were startups at one time.

Let's visit some African startups.

ActivSpaces in Cameroon

Come to the city of Buea in Cameroon. Meet the team at ActivSpaces.

This a technology centre. ActivSpaces helps young people make a new business idea. Young people come to the centre and work on their idea for a technology business. A new business is a 'startup' - a new and small business.

ActivSpaces works with another centre in Doula - AppsTech.

ActivSpaces works with Google and helps people make Android programmes and apps.

Technology experts work in both cities to help young people.

The centre teaches technology and business skills. The centre helps people with their business ideas, and helps the startup grow.

People come and work in the centre - it is their new office.

People bring ideas and talk about their new idea with partners.

People come and learn new ideas and new skills, and make their business better.

Entrepreneurs come and make a new company, and can get money and help from the centre.

Some successful startups came from this centre. These are some new startup companies in Buea:

Jabea - this company helps people learn African languages

Digital Renter - this company helps people find a new house to live in

MyGaz - this company helps people work with gas bottles in their house

You can find out more about ActivSpaces from the website <https://www.activspaces.com>.

MakeSense in Dakar

MakeSense is a community for entrepreneurs in Dakar. It started in 2010. It wants to help entrepreneurs make new companies and find new ways to help Senegal. It is interested in ways to solve problems in society and in the environment.

Makesense is a centre and it makes connections between entrepreneurs and governments, between startups and big companies.

Makesense is international. It has offices in Dakar, Paris, Lima, Delhi and more.

It makes connections between businesspeople in all these cities and looks for new ways to make life better for people in these countries.

Makesense helps new young entrepreneurs. It gives them an office - a place to work. It gives them training - workshops where they can learn new skills. It gives them a place to meet new people and share new ideas. It gives them projects to work on, projects to solve important problems in the world.

Makesense works on climate projects and energy projects. Makesense works on projects to help women and old people.

You can find out more about Makesense from the website <https://makesense.org>

New words for this article

1	Startup	new company
2	Entrepreneur	a business person with new ideas and energy
3	Skill	a good way to do things; knowledge
4	Experta	person who can do things well; a person who knows a lot
5	Successful	when a business makes money and gets success, it is successful
6	Community	a group of people living and working together
7	To solve	to find an answer

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What is a startup?
- 2 What can people learn at ActivSpaces?
- 3 Where has Makesense got offices?
- 4 What projects does Makesense work on?
- 5 What does the startup Jabea do?

- 1 A new company, usually a technology company
- 2 They can learn how to start a business
- 3 It has offices in Dakar, Paris, Lima and Delhi
- 4 It works on climate projects and energy projects
- 5 this company helps people learn African languages

Answers
Comprehension questions