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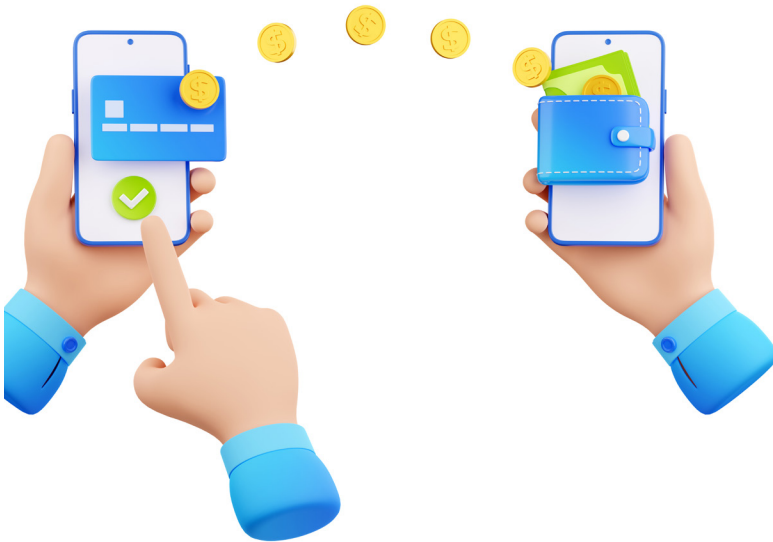
M A G A Z I N E

- Top 7 Nigerian Investment Apps Replacing Traditional Banking in 2025 .Pg12
- Digital Transformation: It's About People, Purpose, and Precision... .Pg26

TOO YOUNG TO LEAD?

**Meet the 21 Year Old MD
Proving Everyone Wrong**





7. Why Global Venture Capital Is Overlooking Tanzanian Startups – And What Can Be Done

10. Africa's Venture Capital Comeback: Big Deals Spark Hope for Fintech Funding in 2025

13. Waza Raises \$8M to Boost Fintech Expansion in Africa and Beyond

15. MTN Group Posts 19.8% Revenue Growth in Q1 2025, Fueled by Fintech Boom

17. CBN Policies May Lower Nigeria's Inflation to 22.1% – World Bank

24. NAICOM Revises

Aviation Insurance Rules to Boost Aircraft Access in Nigeria

25. African Health Tech Startups Raise Only \$200K in Q1 2025 Despite Global Funding Boom

28. 13 APAC-Born Companies Recognized Among Top Global Cross-Border Payment Leaders of 2025

31. The Impact of Digital Wallets on European Retail and E-commerce

33. The World's Most Valuable Neobanks: A Global Look at the Digital Banking Revolution

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BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES

Dear Readers,
Welcome to this inspiring edition of our magazine, themed “Too Young to Lead: Meet the 21-Year-Old MD Proving Everyone Wrong.” This issue is both a spotlight and a celebration, a spotlight on the remarkable story of a young leader defying expectations, and a celebration of the resilience, vision, and innovation that continue to define Africa’s future.

For too long, leadership has been framed as the privilege of age, years of experience, or traditional titles. But the world is changing. Today, leadership is defined by courage, vision, and the ability to act boldly in the face of uncertainty. The young, dynamic leaders of Africa are showing us that the future does not wait for permission, it is being built here and now.

At the heart of this issue is the story of a 21-year-old Managing Director whose journey challenges stereotypes. In an environment where many doubt the ability of youth to lead, he has broken barriers, taken risks, and charted a new path that proves leadership is not about how long you’ve lived, but how well you can see the road ahead. His story

embodies the spirit of this edition: breaking barriers, building futures.

But his is not the only story worth telling. Across the continent, we are witnessing an unstoppable wave of innovation in fintech and beyond. Africa is no longer catching up with the world; it is shaping the global narrative. From the rise of mobile money giants to the bold strides of neobanks, African solutions are being recognized and adopted worldwide. These breakthroughs are not accidents, they are born of necessity, creativity, and resilience.

Global investors are once again turning their gaze to Africa, not out of charity, but out of recognition that this is where the future of finance and digital growth is unfolding. Billion-dollar telco plays, venture capital funding, and partnerships are validating what we already know: Africa is not just participating in the digital revolution, Africa is leading it.

Yet behind the headlines and big numbers, the human story matters most. The mother who can now save securely through her phone, the small business owner accessing new markets through digital payments, the student who secures a loan to pursue education, these

lives remind us that innovation is not abstract. It is real, it is practical, and it is changing futures every day.

As you engage with the stories in this edition, I invite you to reflect on what it means to lead. Leadership is not always about holding a title; sometimes, it is about daring to go first, challenging conventions, and refusing to let barriers define you. This is the lesson our young MD teaches us, and it is the lesson countless entrepreneurs, innovators, and visionaries across Africa are teaching the world.

This issue is therefore a call to action, to young people, to investors, to dreamers, and to doers. The future belongs to those who are willing to build it. And in Africa, the future is being built every day by those who are not afraid to stand tall, even when told they are too young to lead.

As you turn the pages, may you be inspired by their courage, challenged by their vision, and reminded that the boundaries of possibility are only as strong as we allow them to be.

African growth is unstoppable. And as we celebrate this young trailblazer and the many others like him, we are reminded that the best way to predict the future is to create it.

Warm regards,
Ajetunmobi Olumayowa

Previous Edition



Fintech AFRICA
MAGAZINE

MTN Group Delivers Strong Q1 2025 Results with Fintech and Data Leading Growth

MTN Group has announced impressive results for the first quarter of 2025, with its fintech and data services fueling robust growth across key African markets, notably Nigeria and Ghana. The Group recorded a 19.8% year-on-year increase in service revenue (in constant currency), underscoring strong operational performance despite macroeconomic headwinds.

Fintech continues to be a major growth engine for the Group. Fintech revenue surged by 17.2%, driven by a

MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita attributed the strong performance to the consistent execution of the Group's strategic priorities, resilient digital demand, and improving macroeconomic conditions in core markets. He also emphasized progress in key areas such as fintech platform development, network infrastructure sharing, regulatory approvals, and MTN's strategic collaborations with low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite providers.



13.9% increase in transaction volumes, which reached 5.5 billion, and a remarkable 48.9% rise in transaction value to \$95.3 billion. This reinforces MTN's growing role as a key player in Africa's evolving digital financial ecosystem.

Data services also posted a solid 17.9% revenue increase, reflecting the continent's accelerating demand for digital connectivity. MTN's total subscriber base grew by 4.7% to 296.8 million, with active data users up by 9.1% to 161.7 million.

Operational efficiency improved significantly, with the Group's EBITDA margin expanding to 44.1%—a 5.3 percentage point increase—reflecting cost discipline and scale advantages across its markets.

As

MTN continues to scale its digital and financial services across Africa, its strategic focus on platform separation and fintech innovation positions it to unlock new revenue streams and empower millions of users in 2025 and beyond.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer

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Why Global Venture Capital Is Overlooking Tanzanian Startups – And What Can Be Done

Despite East Africa's growing reputation as a hotspot for innovation, Tanzania remains on the margins of global venture capital (VC) flows, raising critical questions about what is holding back one of Africa's most promising markets.

While neighboring Kenya continues to attract significant startup funding—thanks to a robust ecosystem and favorable investor policies—Tanzanian entrepreneurs are finding it increasingly difficult to tap into global VC opportunities. In 2024, Tanzania recorded only a fraction of the VC deals that flowed into the broader East African region.

Limited Visibility, Structural Challenges

One of the biggest hurdles facing Tanzanian startups is visibility. Many investors cite a lack of exposure to high-potential Tanzanian ventures. Unlike more mature ecosystems in Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, Tanzania still lacks regular participation in global demo days, accelerators, and pitch competitions that put startups on investors' radars.

Further, regulatory uncertainty and underdeveloped legal frameworks continue to discourage cross-border investors. Fintech founders in Tanzania often face bottlenecks in licensing, foreign exchange controls, and limited access to sandboxes that support experimentation and rapid scaling.

Nascent Ecosystem and Talent Pipeline Gaps

The Tanzanian startup ecosystem remains relatively nascent. There is limited access to pre-seed and seed capital locally, which stifles early-stage experimentation. Meanwhile, gaps in the tech talent pipeline make it difficult for startups to build competitive teams with scalable digital solutions.

A thriving fintech ecosystem relies not only on capital but on strong partnerships, a deep bench of developers and product managers, and a regulatory environment that encourages innovation. For many Tanzanian founders, this trifecta remains elusive.

What Needs to Change

To reverse this trend, Tanzanian fintech startups and ecosystem enablers must become more proactive in engaging regional and global networks. Increased participation in pan-African accelerators, stronger

public-private collaboration, and the establishment of a VC-friendly regulatory environment are key steps.

Moreover, targeted government incentives for fintech innovation, clearer licensing pathways for digital financial services, and better access to financial data can position Tanzania as a viable destination for VC funding.

The Opportunity Ahead

Tanzania's demographic trends, increasing digital adoption, and untapped market segments represent a significant

opportunity for venture capital in Africa. However, unlocking this potential will require a coordinated effort to strengthen local capacity, improve regulatory clarity, and elevate the visibility of Tanzanian startups on the global stage.

At a time when African fintech is booming, Tanzania must act decisively to ensure it is not left behind in the next wave of VC-backed innovation.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer

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Bitcoin Finds New Ground: Garden Route Emerges as South Africa's Latest Crypto Frontier

A quiet but promising crypto revolution is taking shape along South Africa's scenic Garden Route. Once known primarily for its breathtaking coastline and tourist appeal, the region is now gaining attention for something very different—its growing adoption of Bitcoin among local businesses.

From cafés and craft shops to service providers, merchants in towns like George, Knysna, and Mossel Bay are increasingly accepting Bitcoin payments. This development signals a grassroots shift in how small



businesses view cryptocurrency—not just as an asset class, but as a viable payment solution in everyday commerce.

A Decentralized Payment Alternative

In a country where traditional banking infrastructure remains robust yet sometimes exclusionary, Bitcoin offers a decentralized, fast, and borderless payment option. Local entrepreneurs cite lower transaction costs, greater financial autonomy, and appeal to a global tourist base as key motivators for embracing the

technology.

Community-led initiatives and educational outreach by crypto advocates have also played a pivotal role. These efforts help demystify Bitcoin usage, equipping merchants with digital wallets and the technical knowledge to conduct safe and secure crypto transactions.

A Model for Merchant-Led Crypto Adoption

What makes the Garden Route experiment unique is that it's being driven not by fintech startups or policy directives—but by merchants themselves. This organic form of adoption highlights the growing relevance of peer-to-peer digital currencies in Africa's informal and SME sectors.

Analysts see this trend as a potential model for broader Bitcoin integration across other African regions, especially in areas underserved by banks or plagued by volatile local currencies.

Challenges Ahead

Despite the optimism, obstacles remain. Volatility, regulatory ambiguity, and limited crypto-to-fiat offramps continue to challenge widespread adoption. But for now, the Garden Route's early adopters remain enthusiastic, seeing Bitcoin not just as a hedge or speculative asset, but as a practical tool in the evolving digital economy.

Looking Forward

As Africa's crypto ecosystem matures, local case studies like the Garden Route provide valuable insights into real-world use cases. Fintech players, policymakers, and financial inclusion advocates would do well to watch closely.

The road ahead may be winding—but for Bitcoin in the Garden Route, the journey is already well underway.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer

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Saudi Arabia Positions Itself as a Fintech Powerhouse at Fintech Revolution Summit 2025

At the 2025 Fintech Revolution Summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia made it clear: it is not just participating in the fintech future of the Middle East—it is determined to lead it.

The two-day summit brought together top regulators, fintech entrepreneurs, investors, and digital banking leaders from across the region and beyond. Discussions focused on everything from open banking frameworks and digital assets to AI in financial

e-wallet platforms to piloting blockchain-based financial services. These moves underscore the country's ambition to become a regional hub for innovation, attracting capital and talent to support a thriving fintech ecosystem.

Of particular interest to African stakeholders is Saudi Arabia's growing interest in fostering fintech collaborations across emerging markets. Panellists from the Gulf and Africa discussed partnership opportunities in payments, remittances, and financial inclusion—areas where both regions share common challenges and growth potential.

Opportunities for Africa-Middle East Synergy

For African fintech founders and investors, the message from Riyadh was clear: there is growing appetite for cross-regional dialogue, capital flows, and knowledge exchange. With similar demographic dynamics, mobile-first financial cultures, and regulatory modernization efforts, the Middle East and Africa are natural allies in shaping the future of digital finance.

Saudi Arabia's fintech surge offers a blueprint that African markets can learn from—especially in building public-private coalitions, modernizing regulatory frameworks, and scaling fintech solutions beyond borders.

Conclusion

As the Fintech Revolution Summit 2025 concluded, one thing became evident: Saudi Arabia's fintech vision is bold, coordinated, and gaining momentum. For Africa's fintech players, this opens the door to greater collaboration, investment, and shared innovation on a global stage.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer

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services and cross-border payments.

Saudi Arabia's proactive regulatory environment, investment in digital infrastructure, and bold Vision 2030 strategy have positioned the Kingdom as a rising fintech force. With initiatives like the Fintech Saudi program and the establishment of a regulatory sandbox by the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA), the country is creating fertile ground for both homegrown startups and global fintech firms.

Regional Leadership in Fintech Innovation

Speakers at the summit emphasized Saudi Arabia's rapid progress—from launching digital banks and

Africa's Venture Capital Comeback: Big Deals Spark Hope for Fintech Funding in 2025

After a tough period of funding slowdown, Africa's venture capital scene is showing strong signs of recovery in 2025. Big-ticket deals and renewed investor confidence are breathing life back into the continent's fintech and startup ecosystem.

In recent months, several major investments—especially in fintech and digital platforms—have signaled that the “VC winter” in Africa may finally be over. Startups in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, and Egypt are once again attracting large rounds of funding, reversing the downward trend seen in 2023

conditions, strong startup resilience, and Africa's long-term digital potential. Investors are now more focused on sustainable growth, profitability, and solid business models—especially in fintech, where the demand for financial services remains massive and unmet.

Governments and regulators across Africa are also playing a role by improving the ease of doing business, encouraging digital innovation, and supporting fintech-friendly policies.

What This Means for African Fintech

This VC revival is good news for both early-stage and growth-stage fintech companies. It means more

opportunities to build, scale, and solve real problems—from payments and lending to insurance and remittances.

For founders, it's a sign to prepare. Investors are back—but they are more selective, looking for startups with strong teams, clear impact, and a path to profitability.

Final Thoughts

Africa's venture capital recovery is more than just good news—it's a sign of resilience, innovation, and rising global interest in the continent's digital economy. As 2025 unfolds, fintech startups should seize this moment to grow, partner, and push forward Africa's financial future.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer

Want more insights on fintech trends, funding updates, and startup success stories across Africa?

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and 2024.

Big Deals Are Back

From mobile money platforms to lending apps and payment gateways, fintech remains the top sector drawing investor interest. Mega deals worth tens of millions of dollars are once again making headlines, showing that global and regional investors still believe in Africa's digital future.

These large investments are not only providing much-needed capital, but also boosting confidence across the tech ecosystem. Founders and investors alike see this as a turning point—proof that innovation in Africa continues to be a smart bet.

Why Funding is Returning

Experts point to a mix of improved global market

ADVERT



Top 7 Nigerian Investment Apps Replacing Traditional Banking in 2025

As Nigeria's digital economy grows, more people are turning to investment mobile apps instead of traditional banks. These platforms offer easier access to savings, investment opportunities, and financial freedom—right from a smartphone. Here are the top 7 Nigerian investment apps reshaping how Nigerians grow their money in 2025.

1. PiggyVest

 PiggyVest is one of Nigeria's most popular savings and investment apps. It allows users to automatically save money, invest in real estate and agriculture, and earn competitive interest rates.

Key Features:

- Autosave & target savings
- Investment opportunities
- Flexible withdrawal plans

2. Cowrywise

 Cowrywise helps users build wealth with discipline. The app offers investment in mutual funds, fixed savings, and financial planning tools.

Key Features:

- Access to mutual funds
- Automated savings
- Transparent performance tracking

3. Risevest

 Risevest allows Nigerians to invest in global dollar-denominated assets like stocks, real estate, and fixed income.

Key Features:

- Dollar-based investments
- Risk-profile-based recommendations
- Easy portfolio management

4. Bamboo

 Bamboo gives Nigerians the power to invest directly in U.S. and Nigerian stocks. It has a clean interface and makes investing simple for beginners and pros alike.

Key Features:

- U.S. & Nigerian stock trading
- Real-time market tracking
- Dollar and naira wallet support

5. Chaka

 Chaka is a digital investment platform that opens up access to local and global financial markets, helping users invest from as little as #1,000.

Key Features:

- Nigerian and international stocks
- Regulatory compliance
- Fractional investing

6. Trove

 Trove is known for giving everyday Nigerians the tools to invest in global assets, including ETFs, bonds, and cryptocurrencies.

Key Features:

- Wide asset variety
- Low entry threshold
- Real-time updates



7. I-Invest

I-Invest focuses on government bonds and treasury bills, making it great for users who prefer low-risk investments.

Key Features:

- Safe, government-backed assets
- Real-time interest tracking
- Easy onboarding process

Why Nigerians Are Choosing Investment Apps Over Banks

Investment apps provide better returns, easier access, and more control over financial decisions. With user-friendly interfaces, lower fees, and smart automation, these platforms are helping Nigerians save, invest, and grow their money on their terms.



Waza Raises \$8M to Boost Fintech Expansion in Africa and Beyond

African fintech startup Waza has secured \$8 million in funding to fuel its expansion into new and emerging markets. The funding round, led by global investors, highlights growing confidence in African fintech solutions designed for cross-border payments and digital trade.

Waza, known for its real-time treasury and payment infrastructure for businesses, plans to use the capital to enhance its platform and enter more African markets, as well as parts of Asia and Latin America.

Powering Global Trade from Africa

The startup helps businesses manage international payments, currency exchange, and liquidity—all

through a single digital platform. With trade across Africa and emerging economies increasing, Waza's tools are gaining traction among companies seeking faster, cheaper, and transparent transactions.

Investor Confidence in African Fintech

The \$8 million raise sends a strong signal: investors are still bullish on fintech in Africa, especially startups solving cross-border payment challenges. Waza's growth strategy aligns with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) goals, making it well-positioned to lead in digital trade infrastructure.

What's Next?

Waza plans to grow its team, strengthen its tech infrastructure, and deepen its presence in both established and underserved regions. The goal: simplify treasury and payment systems for businesses moving money across borders.

By Fintech Africa Magazine Staff Writer



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CBN Warns Nigerians About Fake Loan, Contract, and Grant Claims

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has issued a warning to the public about fraudulent individuals and groups claiming to offer government-backed contracts, loans, and grants. According to the CBN, these scammers are using the bank's name and branding to deceive Nigerians, especially via social media and messaging platforms.

Fraudsters Are Targeting Unsuspecting Nigerians

The CBN has stated clearly that it does not award

or share sensitive information—putting their personal and financial security at risk.

Stay Alert and Verify Information

To protect yourself:

- Always confirm offers by checking official CBN communication channels.
- Do not share personal or banking details with unknown sources.
- Report suspicious messages or requests to the authorities.

The apex bank emphasized that legitimate programs or initiatives will be published only on official CBN platforms or via trusted financial institutions.

Protecting Nigeria's Financial Ecosystem

This alert is part of the CBN's broader effort to fight financial fraud, improve public awareness, and protect the credibility of Nigeria's financial ecosystem—especially as digital banking and fintech adoption continue to rise.



contracts, disburse personal loans, or provide grants directly to individuals or businesses. These fake offers often require victims to pay upfront “processing fees”

For the latest news on financial regulations, fintech safety tips, and digital banking in Africa, follow *Fintech Africa Magazine*.



MTN Group Posts 19.8% Revenue Growth in Q1 2025, Fueled by Fintech Boom

MTN Group has reported a strong start to 2025 with a 19.8% increase in revenue for the first quarter, driven largely by the rapid growth of its fintech and data services across key African markets like Nigeria and Ghana.

Fintech and Data Services Lead the Surge

MTN's fintech business recorded a 17.2% rise in revenue, reflecting increased usage of mobile financial services. In total, the group processed over 5.5 billion fintech transactions valued at \$95.3 billion, marking a 48.9% year-on-year increase in transaction value. At the same time, data revenue rose by 17.9%, as more subscribers embraced digital services across MTN's markets.

Subscriber Growth and Digital Adoption

- Total subscribers grew by 4.7%, reaching 296.8 million.
- Active data users increased by 9.1% to 161.7 million, signaling deeper internet and app engagement.
- Fintech transaction volumes surged by 13.9%, showing strong consumer demand for mobile money and digital wallets.

Higher Profits and Operational Efficiency

MTN's EBITDA margin improved by 5.3 percentage points, rising to 44.1%. This growth reflects both cost

optimization and stronger revenue from high-margin services like fintech and digital platforms.

Despite economic headwinds in parts of Africa, MTN made strategic progress through:

- Network sharing initiatives
- Partnerships with low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite providers
- Ongoing separation of its fintech business to unlock more value

CEO Credits Fintech Strategy and Market Resilience
MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita said the results reflect the Group's disciplined execution, resilient digital demand, and improving macroeconomic conditions.

He added that advancements in mobile money, network efficiency, and regulatory approvals are setting the stage for even stronger performance in the coming quarters.

Why This Matters for African Fintech

MTN's results show that fintech is now a key driver of telco growth in Africa. Mobile operators are evolving into full-fledged digital financial service providers, reaching millions with payment, lending, and savings tools.

This trend creates new opportunities for fintech startups, investors, and policymakers working to deepen financial inclusion across the continent.

Stay tuned to Fintech Africa Magazine for the latest insights on mobile money, fintech revenues, and telco-led financial innovation across Africa.



Airtel Money Eyes IPO to Boost Fintech Competition in Africa

Airtel Africa is planning to list its mobile money arm, Airtel Money, through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). This bold move is part of Airtel's strategy to strengthen its position in the rapidly growing African fintech market.

Why an IPO?

Airtel aims to raise fresh capital through the IPO to:

- Expand its mobile money services across more

steadily, signaling strong demand for digital financial services in both urban and rural areas.

What This Means for the Fintech Ecosystem

An IPO for Airtel Money could:

- Increase investment interest in African fintech startups.
- Encourage more regulatory support for digital financial services.

- Boost competition and drive innovation in mobile money offerings.

It also sends a strong signal that mobile money is no longer just a telco add-on—but a core fintech asset shaping Africa's digital future.

Looking Ahead

As Airtel Money prepares to go public, industry watchers believe this move could pave the way for more fintech IPOs across the continent. The African fintech space is maturing, and Airtel's listing could be the beginning of a new era of

scale, transparency, and investment.



African countries.

- Compete strongly with regional giants like MTN MoMo and M-Pesa.
- Improve financial inclusion by offering digital payments, savings, and micro-lending to millions of unbanked Africans.

The listing will also help unlock value for investors and improve transparency for Airtel Money's operations.

Mobile Money: A Growing Force in Fintech

With over 35 million active users, Airtel Money has become a major player in mobile payments.

Its services—ranging from peer-to-peer transfers, merchant payments, to utility bill settlements—are used widely across East and West Africa.

Airtel's mobile money revenue has been growing

Follow Fintech Africa Magazine for updates on fintech IPOs, digital finance trends, and mobile money growth across the continent.

CBN Policies May Lower Nigeria's Inflation to 22.1% – World Bank



The World Bank has projected that Nigeria's inflation rate may drop to 22.1% in 2025, thanks to recent policy reforms introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). This comes as the country continues to battle rising costs of food, fuel, and other essential goods.

Tighter Monetary Policy Is Working

According to the World Bank, the CBN's efforts to tighten monetary policy, including interest rate hikes and currency management reforms, are helping to stabilize the economy. These policies aim to reduce money supply, curb inflation, and restore investor confidence.

Key Drivers of Inflation Control

Some of the major steps taken by the CBN include:

- Increasing the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to reduce inflationary pressure.
- Introducing new foreign exchange policies to unify and stabilize the naira.
- Supporting fiscal discipline and reducing budget deficits.

These actions are expected to ease price pressure, especially on food and transportation, two major drivers of inflation in Nigeria.

Why This Matters for Fintech and the Economy

A lower inflation rate means:

- More stable interest rates for loans and savings.
 - Better investment conditions for startups and fintech firms.
 - Improved consumer purchasing power, driving digital payment and lending adoption.
- For fintech players, this could translate into higher transaction volumes, reduced credit risk, and a more predictable economic environment.

The Road Ahead

While the projected 22.1% inflation rate is still high, it signals a positive trend and renewed hope for economic recovery. Continued policy consistency and government support will be key to achieving this target.

Stay tuned with Fintech Africa Magazine for expert insights on how macroeconomic shifts affect fintech growth across the continent.



Too Young to Lead? Meet the 21 Year Old MD Proving Everyone Wrong?

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

1. *Can you tell us a bit about yourself—where you're from and what growing up was like for you?*

I'm from Nanka town in Anambra State, Nigeria. My father passed away when I was just seven years old, and afterward, I went to live with my great-grand aunt. I attended both primary and secondary school in Nanka, and after ten years, in 2020, I moved to Lagos to pursue higher education at Babcock University. I recently graduated with a degree in Computer Information Systems.

2. *What inspired your interest in business and technology at such a young age?*

Since I was a child, I always believed I was meant for something great. I used to say it confidently, even though I came from a humble background. I was raised in the village, never traveled outside my hometown, and attended a government school where fees were just 1,000 naira per term. But I always dreamed big and held on to my faith in God. At the age of seven, after losing my dad, I would climb the fruit tree behind our house, gather the fruit, and sell them at the village market to buy food for my family. I've always had a business mindset and a strong desire to lift my family out of poverty. In university, my peers nicknamed me "Mark Zuckerberg" because I was always talking about different technologies I wanted to build and how I planned to become Africa's youngest billionaire.

3. *At just 21, you're already the MD of Veefin Nigeria. What has your journey been like to get here?*

It's been a challenging but incredibly rewarding journey. In 2023, at the age of 19, I started my first startup—Bookclinic, a healthtech platform. I managed to raise about \$18,000 from an angel investor and partnered with over 80 healthcare centers across 18 locations in Lagos.

On my way to pitch Bookclinic to a hospital, I was

robbed by a one-chance gang who took my phone and everything in my account. But I didn't quit. Even though Bookclinic didn't take off as I had hoped, it gained enough traction to draw the attention of Veefin, a global fintech firm. That's how I got the opportunity to lead their expansion into Nigeria and eventually across Africa.

4. *Were there any defining moments or mentors that significantly influenced your path to leadership?*

Yes. My uncle played a major role in my journey. He believed in me and provided my first funding. His own story—from rags to riches—was a huge inspiration and pushed me to believe even more deeply in my dreams.

Also, seeing what I achieved with Bookclinic gave me the confidence that I could do more—and lead on a larger scale.

5. *What challenges have you faced as a young entrepreneur and executive—and how did you overcome them?*

Age bias and skepticism were big challenges. Many people doubted me, but I overcame that by consistently delivering results and building deep industry knowledge. I gave myself fully to continuous learning and sought guidance from those more experienced than me.

Balancing school and business was also tough. I'd attend meetings while lectures were going on, and my lecturers didn't care that I was running a startup. So I had to work extra hours to catch up.

Funding was another issue—I often used my personal money to keep the business afloat until it grew stable enough to attract investors.

And because I was still in school, I couldn't give my business 100% attention. So I worked hard to ensure I didn't get an extra year, just so I could graduate and fully focus on my entrepreneurial journey.

6. *Many people spend decades working their way up before becoming a CEO. What unique perspectives do you bring to the role at 21?*



I think one of my biggest strengths is my ability to form strong relationships—with investors, industry experts, and business partners—that move the company forward.

I'm bold, and I face challenges head-on rather than avoiding them. I'm also always willing to learn, no matter who it's from. That humility has helped me grow quickly in leadership.

7. *How do you balance learning and leadership in your role at Veefin Nigeria?*

I see myself as both a student and a leader. I make critical decisions, but I also prioritize learning from others—especially my more experienced colleagues. I closely observe how they operate, ask questions, and learn on the job. That balance between curiosity and responsibility keeps me sharp and effective.

8. *What's your leadership philosophy, and how do you inspire your team given your age?*

I believe in creating an environment where everyone feels free to be creative. Kindness and respect go a long way. People are more willing to work hard for someone they feel values them.

I always reward great work, and when correction is needed, I do it with love, insight, and respect. That said, I also set clear standards. Everyone knows what's acceptable and what's not, and there are consequences when those standards aren't met.

9. *How do older colleagues or industry peers perceive you—and how do you handle skepticism or age bias?*

At first, some people were skeptical. But over time, I let my work speak for itself. I've learned that no one argues with value—once you deliver results, you earn respect, regardless of your age.

I don't waste energy trying to prove myself through words. I prove myself through performance and consistency.

UNDERSTANDING VEEFIN NIGERIA

10. *Can you give us an overview of what Veefin does and the core problems it solves?*

Veefin Nigeria is part of Veefin Solutions, a global fintech firm specializing in digital lending and supply-

chain finance. Veefin Solutions is described as “a global leader in Digital Supply Chain Finance” that builds white-label lending platforms. In practice, we provide a full lending stack – from customer onboarding and loan origination to loan management, reporting and collections – that automates and digitizes credit processes. This addresses the key problems of slow, manual loan processing and limited access to finance. By replacing paper-based workflows with automated underwriting and real-time analytics, Veefin enables banks and fintechs to approve loans much faster and extend credit to SMEs and unbanked segments that previously struggled to get financing.

11. *What differentiates Veefin from other fintech solution providers in the Nigerian market?*

One big difference is that we bring a turnkey, enterprise-grade platform built for speed and scalability. For example, our system is “pre-configured and ready to go,” allowing a bank to launch a new digital lending product in weeks. The technology is also highly adaptable – our modules are stress-tested to scale and easy to customize as regulations or business needs evolve. Importantly, we combine this advanced tech with strong security and compliance (we are ISO 27001-certified and support cloud or on-premise deployment). Unlike many smaller vendors, Veefin has a proven track record across 20+ countries (India, Bangladesh, MENA, Africa, etc.), so Nigerian clients benefit from a mature solution refined on global projects. And because we have local leadership and in-market teams, we tailor these global solutions to fit Nigerian banking practices and customer needs.

12. *Who are your target clients, and what are some success stories you can share?*

Our primary clients are banks and financial institutions (including fintech lenders, microfinance banks, and large corporates) that want to modernize lending. In short, we serve Banks, Financial Institutions, Fintechs, B2B marketplaces and Corporates. For example, in one success story Bank of Kigali (the largest commercial bank in Rwanda) partnered with Veefin to fully digitize their lending process. Using our suite, BK empowered corporate, SME, agribusiness and retail customers to apply for credit via digital channels with much faster



turnaround. Another notable project is with Select Africa, a pan-African financial services group. Select Africa has adopted Veefin's end-to-end lending suite across multiple South and East African countries to focus on the unbanked

segment. These clients now use our onboarding, origination and management modules to streamline lending and expand into new markets with a digital-first approach. These partnerships show that both large banks and emerging fintechs can leverage Veefin to grow their lending business efficiently.

13. *How has Veefin contributed to improving digital lending, supply chain finance, or embedded finance in Nigeria?*

Veefin Nigeria brings the same innovations we've delivered elsewhere to the local market. For digital lending, our platform enables banks to automate the entire loan life-cycle. For example, as with Bank of Kigali, Nigerian banks can use our system to offer "fully digital, hyper-personalized" lending experiences – borrowers can apply online, have loans underwritten automatically through a decision engine, and receive approvals in hours instead of weeks. On the supply-chain side, we provide solutions that help banks offer payables/receivables financing to corporate clients and their suppliers, improving liquidity. We also support embedded finance use cases: this means retailers, marketplaces or other apps can integrate our loan modules so that financing is seamlessly embedded into their services. Altogether, Veefin's technology helps Nigerian institutions move from fragmented, manual credit processes to modern digital workflows, broadening access to finance and improving efficiency in the ecosystem.

14. *What are some of the key products or services Veefin is currently offering?*

Veefin's core offerings center on an integrated digital lending platform. For example, our digital lending suite includes modules such as:

- Onboarding Module: Enables customers to register and apply for loans through web or mobile channels
- Loan Origination System (LOS): Automates credit

appraisal and underwriting, applying custom decision rules.

- Loan Management System (LMS): Manages loan disbursement, repayment schedules, and portfolio monitoring.
- Reporting and Collections: Provides analytics dashboards, risk reporting, and delinquency management.

In addition, Veefin offers specialized extensions like an Embedded Finance framework (so financial products can be built into third-party platforms) and Deep-Tier Supply Chain Finance (to handle multi-layer invoices in supply chains). Altogether, these solutions cover the full end-to-end lending life cycle and associated services for banks and corporates.

VEEFIN'S ROLE IN FINTECH DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA AND GLOBALLY

15. *How is Veefin Nigeria contributing to the broader fintech ecosystem in Africa?*

By introducing our advanced lending and finance solutions in Nigeria, we help raise the bar for digital finance across the continent. Our presence encourages innovation and competition; local banks see what modern digital credit systems can do, which drives wider fintech adoption. For instance, in other African markets we've helped banks "boost efficiency and improve transparency" in lending. These success stories become reference points for Nigerian institutions. In effect, Veefin Nigeria acts as a bridge: we share best practices from our projects in Rwanda, East Africa and beyond, and we bring Nigerian market insights back to our global network. As more Nigerian lenders upgrade their technology (with Veefin or others), it creates momentum that benefits the entire fintech ecosystem – more inclusive finance, faster digital rollouts and stronger infrastructure for fintech innovation.

16. *What partnerships or collaborations have helped shape Veefin's growth and relevance in Nigeria?*

Veefin's growth is bolstered by major collaborations in Africa. Two highlights are our partnerships with Bank of Kigali and Select Africa, both outside Nigeria but



highly relevant to our African credibility. Bank of Kigali's decision to integrate Veefin's digital lending suite made BK the first Rwandan bank with a fully digital lending process. Similarly, Select Africa's multi-country rollout

of our end-to-end lending platform is helping it reach underserved borrowers across the continent. These high-profile projects demonstrate that our solutions work at scale in African markets, which reassures Nigerian clients. We've also collaborated with regional systems integrators (for example, partnering with Kenya's Computech to extend our reach in East Africa). All these alliances – both with banks and technology partners – sharpen our offerings and strengthen Veefin's reputation in Nigeria. Domestically, we continue to engage with local technology partners and financial industry forums to ensure our solutions are well-adapted to Nigeria's regulatory and market environment.

17. *How does Veefin's work in Nigeria align with its global vision or operations in other markets?*

Veefin Nigeria is fully aligned with the parent company's global mission: to be the top supply-chain finance and lending platform worldwide. In practice, this means we use the same core platform that powers digital lending in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Our global vision is to make cutting-edge credit technology accessible to lenders of all sizes; deploying in Nigeria is a natural extension of that vision. The modules and features we offer here (onboarding, LOS, LMS, etc.) are identical to those used by our international clients, so we deliver proven, "future-ready" solutions locally. At the same time, insights from the Nigerian market inform product development for Veefin globally. This two-way alignment ensures that whether a bank is in Lagos, Kigali or Dhaka, they get the benefit of a unified, well-tested platform that can be customized to local needs.

18. *What role do you see Nigerian fintech playing on the global stage—and how is Veefin preparing for that?*

Nigeria has one of the largest and most dynamic fintech markets in the world. Our fintech sector

is known for innovation (think mobile payments, neobanks, and payment processors) and is increasingly attracting international investment. We expect Nigerian fintechs and banks to continue growing their regional and global reach over the next few years. In this context, Veefin Nigeria is preparing by ensuring our offerings meet international standards. We help local lenders build digital finance services that can interoperate across borders – for example, by supporting multi-currency transactions and adhering to global risk norms. We also stay plugged into global fintech trends (like open banking, digital ID, AI for credit scoring) so our clients won't be left behind. By equipping Nigerian financial institutions with enterprise-grade infrastructure, Veefin helps position them as competitive players on the world stage.

19. *How does Veefin address regulatory challenges, financial inclusion gaps, and infrastructure issues in Nigeria?*

Veefin tackles these challenges through careful design and partnerships. Our software is built to comply with strict security and data regulations: for instance, it is ISO 27001-certified and can be deployed on cloud or on-premises. This flexibility means a bank can implement our system within Nigeria's data-regulatory framework or leverage cloud solutions where appropriate. We also include built-in compliance features (like digital KYC workflows and audit trails) to help meet local banking guidelines.

On financial inclusion, our work is directly aimed at expanding access. By digitizing lending, we enable banks to serve micro-enterprises and rural customers more easily. For example, our multi-country projects emphasize serving the unbanked, and we bring that same mindset to Nigeria. In effect, if the technology can efficiently onboard and score loans for small clients anywhere, it can do so here too.

Regarding infrastructure, Veefin's lean cloud-first design helps overcome connectivity challenges. Because our system can run on the cloud, we reduce the need for heavy on-prem infrastructure at banks. And where needed, offline and low-bandwidth modes can be supported. All told, Veefin works closely with regulators and local partners to adapt to Nigeria's



environment – ensuring our platform operates within legal requirements and still pushes the frontier of digital finance.

FUTURE OUTLOOK & ADVICE

20. *What are your short- and long-term goals for Veefin Nigeria?*

In the short term, we are focused on piloting our solutions with key Nigerian banks and financial institutions, and proving success stories locally. We aim to refine our products for the Nigerian market and demonstrate rapid ROI (faster loan turnaround, higher loan volumes) for early clients. In the longer term, Veefin Nigeria's goal is to become a leading provider of digital lending and supply-chain finance technology in West Africa. That means expanding to multiple Nigerian banks across regions and eventually offering our platform to other African markets from our Nigerian base. We also plan to continuously innovate – for instance, adding AI-based credit scoring and analytics to better serve SMEs. Ultimately, we want Veefin's name to be synonymous with modern, inclusive finance solutions in Nigeria.

21. *As a young leader, what advice would you give to other young Africans looking to break into fintech or leadership roles?*

It's important to believe in yourself and take action, even if you feel inexperienced. We say: execution matters more than credentials. Don't wait to have every piece in place before you start learning and working. Seek out mentors, continuously build your skills, and don't be afraid to start small and learn on the job. Also remember that local insight is a huge advantage – understanding Nigeria's market, culture and customer needs can be as valuable as technical skill. Finally, focus on solving real problems. If you tackle issues that matter to your community (like financial inclusion or small business funding), you'll find purpose and support. In short: be proactive, stay curious, and keep delivering results – that will get you noticed faster than anything else.

22. *How do you see the future of fintech in Nigeria evolving over the next 5 years—and what*

role will Veefin play in that future?

The next five years will likely see Nigeria's fintech sector deepen and diversify. We expect more digital lending innovations (including BNPL and buy-now-pay-later for everyday purchases), broader open-banking services, and greater use of mobile money and digital IDs. Fintech and traditional banks will probably collaborate more, and regulations may evolve to support new models like peer-to-peer lending or blockchain-based trade finance. In this future, Veefin sees its role as an enabler: we will provide the backbone technology that powers new credit products. If a Nigerian fintech or bank wants to launch, say, a fully digital POS loan product or an embedded loan through a retail app, they could use Veefin's platform to do so. We plan to keep adding features (e.g. richer analytics, machine learning models, APIs) so that our clients can experiment and innovate quickly.



Essentially, Veefin will be the “engine under the hood” that supports the next wave of fintech services in Nigeria.

23. What keeps you motivated every day in this demanding role?

What keeps us going is the impact of this work. Every day we see problems that need solving – struggling small businesses waiting weeks for a loan, or farmers who could grow with timely credit. Knowing that our technology can empower these people and fuel economic growth is a huge motivator. We also find energy in innovation – working at the intersection of finance and tech means there's always something new to learn or build. And finally, our team is motivated by Nigeria's potential: this is a country full of talented professionals and ambitious entrepreneurs. Seeing Veefin's tools help them succeed – whether it's a large bank reaching new customers or a young entrepreneur getting a first loan – drives us to keep improving and expanding what we do.

24. Any exciting projects, innovations, or announcements you can share with our listeners?

We have a few things in the pipeline that we're excited

about. For instance, we are working on a mobile-based lending app specifically for micro-lenders and Cooperatives – this will let smaller institutions use Veefin's engine even if they don't have full digital infrastructure. We're also enhancing our platform with AI-driven credit scoring and risk insights, which should help lenders make better decisions with less data. Additionally, we expect to announce new partnerships with Nigerian banks and possibly one of the large telecom fintechs later this year. In short, we are continuously expanding our product and partner ecosystem so that more Nigerians can benefit from digital finance.

24. Closing Remark

If you'd like to follow my work, you can find me on LinkedIn at Miracle Nwankwo. You can also learn more about what we're building at [Veefin.com](https://veefin.com).



NAICOM Revises Aviation Insurance Rules to Boost Aircraft Access in Nigeria

In a move set to strengthen Nigeria's aviation and insurance industries, the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has revised its aviation insurance guidelines, making it easier for airlines to acquire and operate more aircraft.

Key Policy Changes

The updated regulation removes some of the bottlenecks in aviation insurance, allowing:

- Greater flexibility in securing aircraft insurance coverage.



- Faster processing of insurance approvals.
 - Improved access to reinsurance support from both local and international markets.
- NAICOM says the new rules are designed to encourage fleet expansion by airlines and support the broader goal of improving air transport infrastructure in Nigeria.

Why This Matters for Fintech and Insurtech

The revised policy is expected to:

- Attract more investment into aviation insurance and related fintech solutions.

- Encourage the growth of insurtech innovations, especially in aviation risk management and underwriting.
- Promote digital transformation in insurance processes across Nigeria's transport and logistics sectors.

With airlines now able to insure more aircraft efficiently, digital platforms and fintech startups offering policy management, risk analysis, and claims automation stand to benefit.

Industry Response and Opportunities

Experts in aviation and insurance have welcomed the update, calling it a proactive step toward improving airline capacity and ensuring insurance compliance. The change is expected to increase collaboration between airlines, insurance providers, and fintech startups offering digital solutions for risk financing.

The Bigger Picture

This move aligns with Nigeria's vision to improve transportation infrastructure and economic mobility. By reducing insurance barriers, NAICOM is creating a more enabling environment for both local airlines and digital insurance providers to thrive.

Fintech Africa Magazine will continue to monitor how this policy supports innovation across insurtech and transportation sectors.

African Health Tech Startups Raise Only \$200K in Q1 2025 Despite Global Funding Boom

While global venture funding showed signs of recovery in early 2025, Africa's health tech sector lagged behind, raising just \$200,000 in the first quarter of the year. This marks a worrying slowdown for a sector once viewed as a key part of Africa's digital transformation.

Global Growth, Local Decline

Globally, health tech and biotech startups raised billions in Q1 2025, driven by advancements in AI-driven healthcare, telemedicine, and wellness apps. However, African startups struggled to attract significant funding, pointing to ongoing investor caution in the region.

According to the latest data, the \$200K raised in Q1 2025 represents a sharp drop compared to previous quarters, when health tech startups across Africa pulled in millions of dollars.

Challenges Facing African Health Tech Startups

Key barriers slowing investment in Africa's digital health space include:

- Low investor confidence in early-stage ventures.
- Limited digital infrastructure in rural and underserved areas.
- Regulatory uncertainty across different countries.
- Slow adoption of health tech solutions by public institutions.

These factors are deterring global and local VCs from placing large bets on the sector.

Why Fintech Can Help Health Tech Scale

There is growing interest in how fintech platforms can enable better health outcomes. For example:

- Mobile wallets and insurance tech can improve access to affordable healthcare.
- Digital lending platforms can support health SMEs and clinics.
- Blockchain and data analytics can enhance

transparency and efficiency in health systems.

Fintech and health tech partnerships could unlock new revenue models and attract impact-driven capital.

A Call for Strategic Collaboration

To reverse the trend, experts are calling for:

- Stronger ecosystem partnerships between fintech, health tech, and donor agencies.
- Government policies that support innovation in health financing.
- Accelerators and incubators that focus on the intersection of health and finance.

The Road Ahead

Despite the funding dip, Africa's health challenges also represent huge opportunities for innovation. Startups that combine tech, finance, and healthcare solutions have the potential to scale quickly—if they receive the right support.

Fintech Africa Magazine will continue to spotlight emerging health tech players and explore how fintech can power the next wave of inclusive healthcare across the continent.

Digital Transformation: It's About People, Purpose, and Precision – Not Just Technology

Across Africa, the buzz around digital transformation is loud—but often misunderstood. Many organizations believe buying the latest tech tools is the answer. But experts now agree: digital transformation is not just about technology. It's about aligning people, purpose, and precision.



Digital tools fail when teams don't understand or embrace them.

2. Purpose: Clear goals must drive every digital shift. Whether improving customer experience or speeding up operations, companies need a guiding purpose.

3. Precision: Strategy and execution must align. Digital plans must be data-driven, measurable, and focused on real outcomes—not vague trends.

context.

- Employee involvement: Including teams in product rollouts and process changes.

- Cultural transformation: Creating a digital-first mindset within the organization.

As African fintechs scale, those that invest in culture, not just code, will build stronger, more sustainable companies.

Conclusion: Transformation Starts From Within

Digital transformation in Africa must go beyond buzzwords. It starts by asking:

- Are our people ready for digital change?
- Are we solving real problems with purpose?
- Are we measuring the right things?

At Fintech Africa Magazine, we'll continue to spotlight organizations that understand the human side of digital transformation—and succeed because of it.

Why Mindset Matters More Than Machines

In today's fast-changing digital world, successful transformation comes down to three key pillars:

1. People: Employees must be trained, empowered, and supported through the change process.

Without purpose and people-first strategies, even the best tech stack won't deliver results.

Digital Leaders Are Human-Centered

True digital leaders focus on:

- Customer-centric design: Building for usability and local

Egypt's Nawy Secures \$52M Series A to Scale PropTech Platform

Nawy, a leading Egyptian proptech startup, has successfully raised \$52 million in a Series A equity round, positioning itself as one of North Africa's top-funded tech companies in 2025. This funding round is expected to accelerate Nawy's expansion across property technology (proptech) and real estate fintech solutions in Egypt and beyond.

Revolutionizing Real Estate Through Technology

Nawy has built a digital platform that helps users:

As fintech continues to blend into traditional sectors, Nawy's model demonstrates the potential of digital platforms in real estate financing. With tools like:

- Property loans
- Online payment gateways
- Digital KYC for home buyers

Fintech is helping simplify the property buying journey for millions in Africa.

Backed by Strong Investor Confidence

The \$52M Series A round signals growing investor trust in Africa's tech ecosystem. Investors see Nawy as a proptech leader with potential to digitize real estate transactions in underserved markets where property deals are still largely offline.

This funding also points to the continued global interest in African startups that are solving real problems with scalable digital solutions.

Future Outlook

Nawy's expansion plans will likely include:

- Introducing real estate financing partnerships with local banks and fintechs.
- Launching mobile-first platforms for users in smaller cities

- Search and compare residential and commercial properties.
- Get personalized real estate recommendations.
- Access mortgage options and financing tools.
- Connect with agents and developers.

With the new funding, Nawy plans to:

- Expand its product offerings.
- Enhance its AI-powered property matching engine.
- Enter new emerging markets across the MENA region.

Fintech Meets Proptech: A Growing Trend

and rural areas.

- Leveraging data analytics to help developers make better market decisions.

With demand for affordable housing and digital access to property services growing across Africa, Nawy's model could become a blueprint for real estate innovation on the continent.

Stay tuned to Fintech Africa Magazine for more stories on how fintech is driving transformation in real estate, proptech, and digital infrastructure across Africa.



13 APAC-Born Companies Recognized Among Top Global Cross-Border Payment Leaders of 2025

The global payments industry is evolving rapidly, and APAC-born companies are making a significant mark. According to the latest reports, 13 companies from the Asia-Pacific region have been recognized as top leaders in cross-border payments for 2025. These fintech innovators are disrupting traditional financial systems by offering faster, cheaper,

region, the demand for seamless and secure payment solutions is driving a surge in innovation. From peer-to-peer payments to digital wallets, these companies are shaping the future of international transactions.

Key Players in the Cross-Border Payments Space

Some of the standout APAC-born

how cross-border payments are made between China and the world.

- **Revolut:** Originally from the UK, but with a growing presence in Asia, it's recognized for pushing boundaries in global money management. These companies are leveraging innovative technology like blockchain, AI, and machine learning to make cross-border payments faster and more efficient.

Why APAC Leads the Way in Cross-Border Payments

Several factors contribute to APAC's leadership in cross-border payments:

- **Strong Mobile Penetration:** With high mobile phone usage across the region, mobile payments have become a mainstream solution for international transactions.
- **Tech-Savvy Population:** Consumers in APAC are quick to adopt

new fintech solutions, making the region an attractive hub for payment innovation.

- **Regulatory Support:** Governments are increasingly focusing on digital financial inclusion, providing support for fintech startups to scale.



and more accessible ways to move money across borders.

The Rise of Cross-Border Payments in APAC

As trade and digital services expand globally, cross-border payments are becoming a vital part of global commerce. In the APAC

companies recognized include:

- **TransferWise (Wise):** Known for its low-cost international money transfers.
- **Paytm:** India's fintech giant revolutionizing mobile payments and financial services.
- **Ant Group:** The parent company of Alipay, transforming

What This Means for African Fintechs

For African fintechs looking to expand across borders, APAC companies offer valuable lessons in:

- Leveraging mobile-first solutions to tap into a large, tech-savvy customer base.
- Adapting to local market needs while scaling internationally.
- Building partnerships with global financial institutions to expand their reach.

As cross-border payments become more integral to global trade, the spotlight is shifting to regions like

Africa, where fintech companies are now seeking to replicate APAC's success in digital payments, blockchain technology, and remittance services.

Conclusion: The Future of Cross-Border Payments

As we move into 2025, the global payments landscape will continue to evolve. APAC companies are not just leading the way—they are setting the pace for how cross-border payments will be made. For African fintechs, this is an exciting opportunity to learn, innovate, and

create solutions that can seamlessly connect Africa to the rest of the world.

Stay tuned to Fintech Africa Magazine for more insights into global payment trends and what's next in the world of fintech innovation.



Europe's Payment Future: Digital Wallet Innovation Takes Center Stage

Europe is leading the way in digital payment innovation, and digital wallets are at the heart of this transformation. As consumers move away from traditional banking methods, the rise of contactless payments,

often include advanced security features such as biometric authentication and tokenization, making them more secure than traditional payment methods.

- **Speed:** With the ability to pay instantly via mobile apps

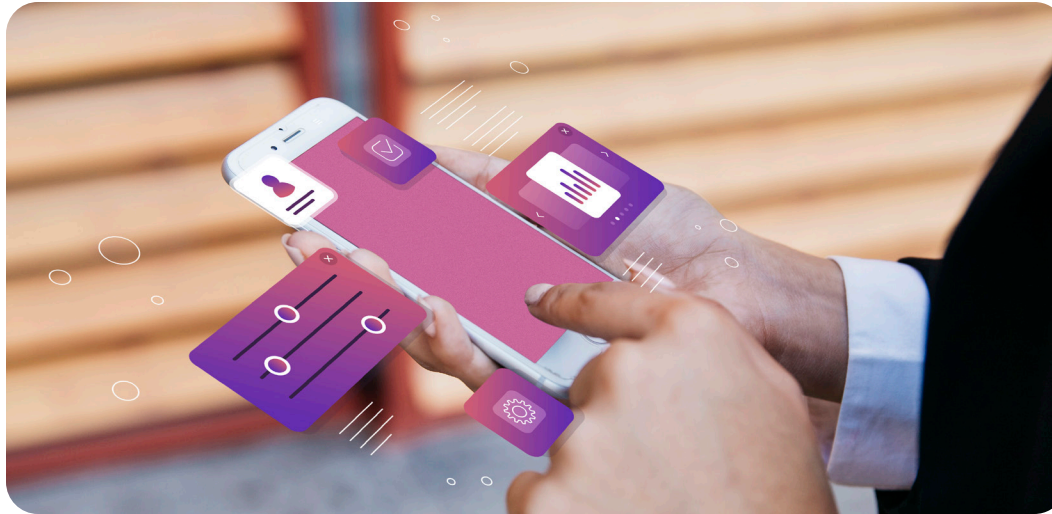
its advanced technology, including magnetic secure transmission (MST) and NFC payments, which make it a top choice for mobile transactions.

- **Revolut:** A fintech powerhouse offering mobile

wallet solutions along with foreign exchange services, cryptocurrency trading, and personal finance management.

- **Klarna:** A popular Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) service in Europe, Klarna also provides consumers with a mobile wallet for easy payments across online retailers.

These companies are leveraging blockchain technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and biometric verification to enhance the payment process and make it more secure and accessible.



mobile wallets, and QR codes is reshaping how Europeans conduct financial transactions. In 2025, the region is poised to witness an even more significant shift towards digital wallet solutions, transforming the payment landscape for businesses and consumers alike.

Why Digital Wallets Are the Future of Payments in Europe?

The demand for digital wallet solutions in Europe is skyrocketing due to several factors:

- **Convenience:** Digital wallets offer a seamless payment experience, allowing consumers to pay for goods and services without the need for physical cash or cards.
- **Security:** Digital wallets

or contactless payments, digital wallets offer an efficient alternative to slower methods like bank transfers or credit card payments.

Key Players in the Digital Wallet Revolution

Several key players are driving the digital wallet revolution in Europe, including:

- **Apple Pay:** A leader in the digital wallet space, offering fast, secure payments through Apple devices.
- **Google Pay:** Popular across the continent, Google Pay is rapidly growing with its ability to integrate with multiple banking institutions and payment platforms.
- **Samsung Pay:** Known for

The Impact of Digital Wallets on European Retail and E-commerce

The rise of digital wallets is transforming the retail and e-commerce sectors in Europe.

Businesses are increasingly adopting mobile payment options to meet the demands of tech-savvy consumers who prefer contactless and quick payment methods. This shift is also impacting online shopping, where consumers are using digital wallets to make instant, secure transactions.

For retailers, digital wallets offer numerous benefits,

payments, transfer money, and access financial services from their mobile phones, bridging the gap for those without access to physical bank branches.

What This Means for African Fintechs

For African fintechs looking to innovate, the rise of digital wallets in Europe offers important lessons:

- **Mobile-first solutions:** With mobile penetration growing across Africa, digital wallets are an excellent way to bring financial services to a wide audience.
- **Focus on security:** As mobile payments rise, so does the need for secure solutions. Integrating biometrics and blockchain technology can ensure a safe user experience.
- **Cross-border payments:** Digital wallets enable easy cross-border transactions, a feature that is increasingly valuable in Africa's growing e-commerce and remittance markets.



such as:

- **Increased conversion rates:** Simplified payment processes encourage consumers to complete purchases.
- **Reduced fraud risks:** Enhanced security features make digital wallets more reliable than traditional payment methods.
- **Global reach:** With cross-border payment capabilities, digital wallets enable businesses to cater to international customers more efficiently.

The Role of Digital Wallets in Financial Inclusion

Digital wallets also play a crucial role in financial inclusion across Europe. They provide access to banking services for individuals who are unbanked or underbanked, especially in rural or remote areas where traditional banking infrastructure may be limited. Through digital wallets, users can make

Conclusion: The Future of Digital

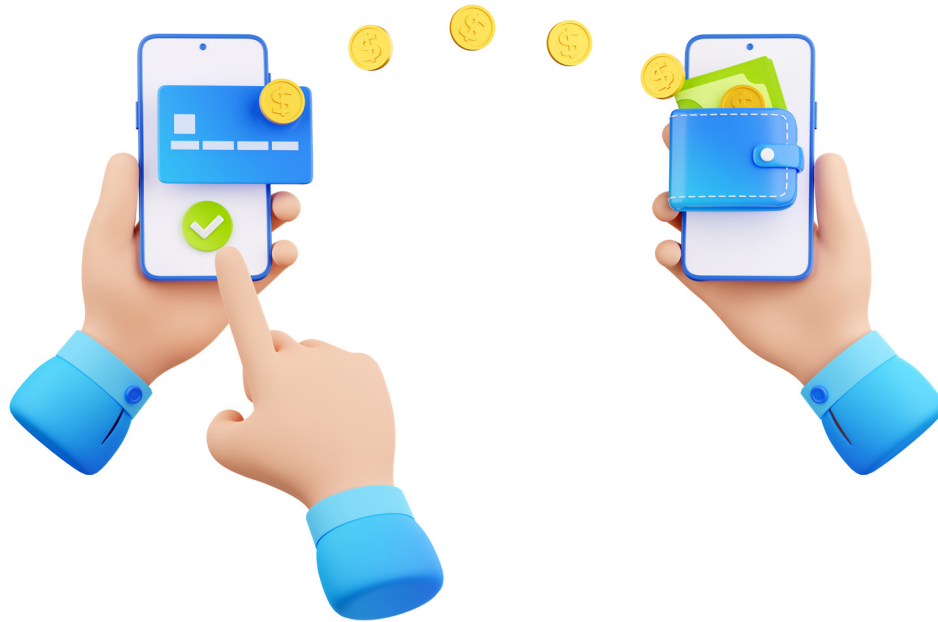
Payments in Europe and Beyond

As digital wallets continue to gain momentum in Europe, they are setting the stage for the future of payments globally. With consumers demanding faster, more secure, and more convenient ways to pay, the growth of mobile wallets is only expected to increase. For fintechs, both in Europe and Africa, embracing this innovation will be key to staying competitive and meeting the needs of modern consumers.

At Fintech Africa Magazine, we're excited to continue covering this fast-evolving space and sharing the insights that can help African fintechs scale and succeed in the digital payments revolution.

NEOBANKS

Revolutionizing Finance: How Neobanks Are Shaping the Future of Banking



The World's Most Valuable Neobanks: A Global Look at the Digital Banking Revolution

In recent years, neobanks—digital-first financial institutions that operate without traditional brick-and-mortar branches—have revolutionized the banking landscape. With the rise of financial technology (fintech), neobanks have offered customers an innovative, convenient, and cost-effective alternative to traditional banks. As a result, neobanks are now among the most valuable financial institutions globally, with some reaching significant market valuations.

What Makes Neobanks Different from Traditional Banks?

Unlike traditional banks, which rely heavily on physical branches, neobanks operate solely through digital platforms, including mobile apps and websites. This gives them the flexibility to offer:

- **Lower fees:** Without the overhead costs associated with physical branches, neobanks can offer customers lower transaction fees, better interest rates, and fewer account maintenance fees.
- **Better customer experience:** Neobanks leverage cutting-edge technology to offer user-friendly apps, real-time customer support, and data-driven insights to help users manage their finances.
- **Accessibility:** With no geographical barriers, neobanks make banking accessible to individuals globally, especially in underserved or remote areas where traditional banks may not have a presence.

TOP NEOBANKS TO WATCH IN 2025

Several neobanks are leading the way in terms of market value, customer base, and innovation. These institutions have made their mark by offering unique products and services that appeal to tech-savvy consumers. Here are some of the world's most valuable neobanks to watch:

- **Nubank (Brazil):** Nubank is one of the largest neobanks in the world, valued at over \$30 billion.

It offers a wide range of services, from credit cards to personal loans and digital accounts, all managed through a sleek, intuitive app. Nubank has expanded its services to several Latin American countries, including Mexico and Colombia, and continues to grow rapidly.

- **Chime (USA):** Chime, valued at over \$25 billion, has become a household name in the U.S. for its no-fee banking model and user-friendly app. It offers a variety of financial products, including checking accounts, savings accounts, and credit-building tools.
- **Revolut (UK):** Revolut is a well-known player in the neobank space, valued at around \$33 billion. It offers an extensive suite of financial services, including currency exchange, stock trading, crypto trading, and insurance, catering to customers worldwide.
- **Monzo (UK):** With a valuation of over \$5 billion, Monzo is one of the leading digital banks in Europe. It provides customers with current accounts, loans, overdraft facilities, and savings tools, all accessible through its highly-rated app.
- **Starling Bank (UK):** Starling Bank has raised over \$500 million in funding and offers various services such as current accounts, loans, overdrafts, and business banking. It has built a loyal customer base in the UK with its competitive offerings and seamless digital experience.

“...an innovative, convenient, and cost-effective alternative to traditional banks.”

The Global Impact of Neobanks on Financial Inclusion

Neobanks are playing a significant role in advancing financial inclusion, especially in developing markets. With a focus on accessibility and low-cost services, neobanks are reaching individuals who have been excluded from traditional banking systems. This is particularly evident in regions like Africa, where mobile-first banking solutions are gaining traction due to high mobile penetration and limited access to physical bank branches.

For example, Chime and Nubank have grown rapidly in their respective regions by offering easy-to-use mobile apps, low fees, and services that cater to underserved populations. In Africa, fintech companies like Flutterwave and Chipper Cash are capitalizing on the rise of mobile banking, offering digital wallets, money transfers, and cross-border payment solutions that rival traditional banking services.

What Does the Future Hold for Neobanks?

As neobanks continue to grow and gain market share, the future looks bright. Some of the key trends to watch for include:

- **Expansion into new markets:** As neobanks build more robust infrastructures, expect them to enter new regions and provide financial services to millions more customers globally.

- **Integration with other**

fintech services: Many neobanks are expanding their offerings to include not only payments and savings accounts, but also services like investing, insurance, and lending.

- **AI and machine learning:** The use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning will continue to improve personalized banking experiences and



automated financial advice, giving customers more control over their financial decisions.

- **Partnerships and acquisitions:** Neobanks will increasingly form partnerships with other fintech companies, traditional banks, and financial institutions to expand their service offerings and reach new customer segments.

Neobanks in Africa: A Growing Opportunity

In Africa, neobanks are positioned to disrupt the traditional banking landscape by offering affordable, accessible, and efficient financial services to the continent's unbanked population. With

increasing smartphone adoption and mobile money solutions, African fintechs are tapping into the power of digital banking to serve both urban and rural customers.

Fintech companies in Africa can learn from the success of global neobanks by focusing on mobile-first solutions, innovative pricing models, and user-friendly interfaces that cater to local needs. As the demand for cashless payments and digital banking continues to rise, African neobanks will become key players in the continent's financial ecosystem.

Conclusion: The Neobank Revolution is Here to Stay

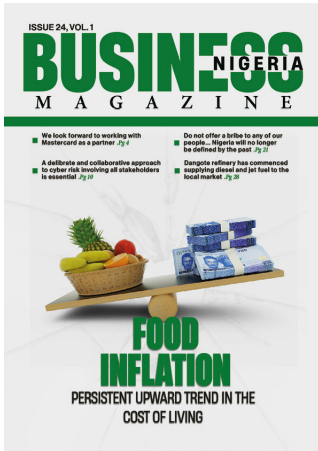
The rise of neobanks is not just a trend but a global financial revolution. With their ability to provide digital-first, cost-effective, and convenient banking solutions, neobanks are reshaping the future of finance. As their market value grows, and their services expand, these digital banks are setting the stage for the next phase of financial innovation across the globe—and especially in regions like Africa, where fintech adoption is accelerating.

At Fintech Africa Magazine, we continue to track the developments in the neobank space and look forward to sharing insights that can help local fintechs scale and innovate in the rapidly-evolving digital banking ecosystem.

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The Role of Regulation in Neobanks' Growth

As the neobank sector continues to expand, regulation will play a crucial role in shaping the industry's future. While neobanks offer exciting opportunities for customers, they also face increasing scrutiny from regulators. This is especially true in regions like Africa, where financial regulations are still evolving and where mobile money and digital financial services are gaining traction.

- **Consumer Protection:** Regulators will need to ensure that neobanks prioritize customer protection, particularly when it comes to issues like data security, fraud prevention, and transparency in fees and services.

- **Licensing and Compliance:** As neobanks expand into new markets, they must comply with local laws and obtain the necessary licenses. This could involve adjusting business models to meet the legal and regulatory frameworks in various countries.

- **Financial Stability:** While neobanks bring innovative products to market, maintaining financial stability will be key to their long-term success. Regulators must ensure that these banks are not only profitable but also able to withstand financial shocks or economic downturns. As regulatory frameworks continue to develop in emerging markets, such as in Africa, neobanks will need to collaborate with local financial authorities to ensure compliance and build trust with consumers.

The Growing Influence of Fintech Ecosystems on Neobanks

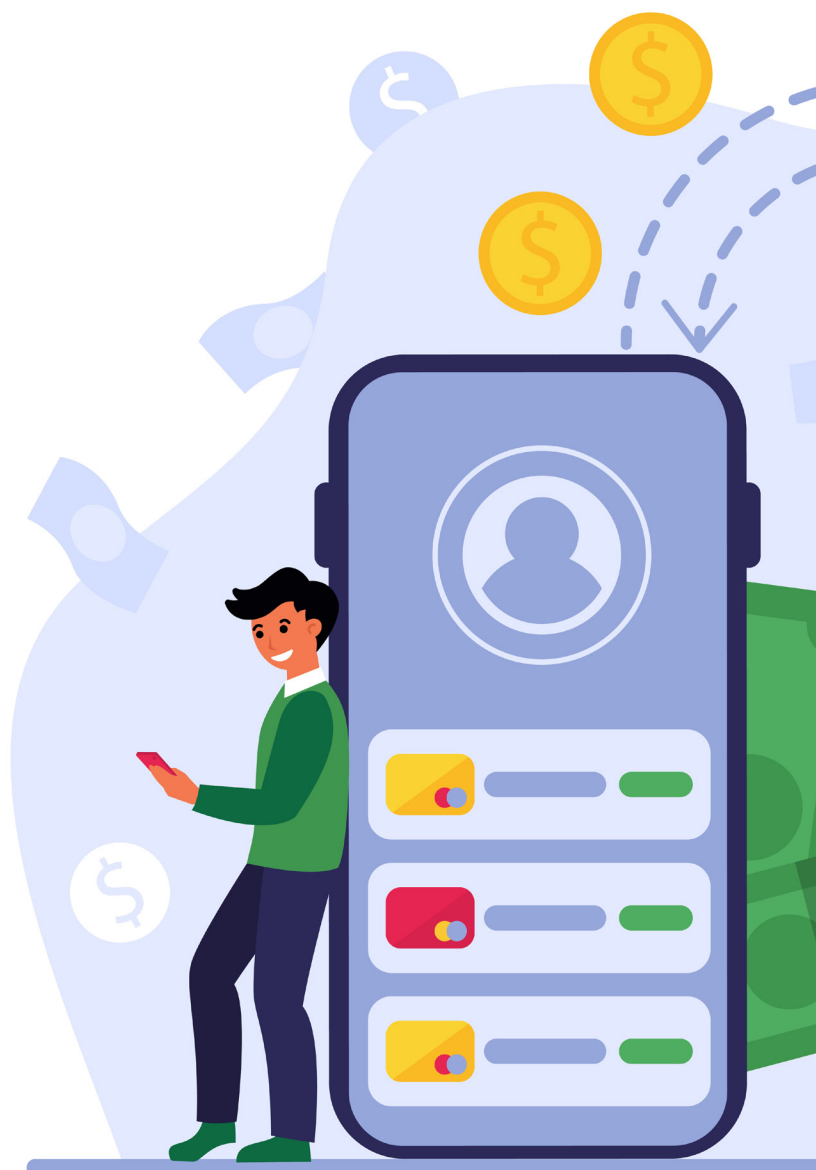
Fintech ecosystems are also playing an essential role in the growth of neobanks. These ecosystems connect fintech startups, banks, regulatory bodies, investors, and other players, creating a robust environment for innovation.

- **Partnerships with Fintechs:** Neobanks are increasingly collaborating with other fintech companies to offer a broader range of services. For example, neobanks might partner with insurance

tech companies to offer digital insurance products or with payments platforms to enhance their cross-border payment solutions.

- **Venture Capital Funding:** As more venture capitalists recognize the potential of neobanks, funding in this sector is on the rise. This investment helps neobanks scale rapidly and bring new features to market that cater to the needs of consumers. The funding influx also contributes to product development, improved infrastructure, and expanded customer support capabilities.

In Africa, growing fintech ecosystems are providing



neobanks with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Startups in countries like Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa are already making strides in the digital banking sector, providing the infrastructure and support to drive neobank adoption.

NEOBANKS AND THE FUTURE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

As neobanks expand their customer bases, they also play a pivotal role in promoting financial literacy. Digital-first banking offers an opportunity for customers to gain a deeper understanding of personal finance, money management, and financial planning—all directly through mobile apps and

online platforms.

- **Educational Features:** Many neobanks are incorporating educational tools and resources within their apps. These tools might include budget tracking, savings goals, financial planning tips, and even interactive courses that teach users about investing and financial management.

- **Targeting the Unbanked:** Neobanks, especially in emerging markets like Africa, offer opportunities to teach financial literacy to people who have traditionally lacked access to formal banking services. By providing an easy-to-use platform for customers to manage their money, neobanks can significantly contribute to improving financial education across diverse communities.

As digital literacy grows in emerging economies, neobanks can serve as gateways for individuals to gain the skills and knowledge they need to become financially independent.

Conclusion: Neobanks as the Future of Banking in Africa

In conclusion, neobanks are reshaping the financial landscape, both globally and in Africa. As these digital-first institutions gain ground, they are setting new standards for affordable, accessible, and efficient banking. With continued innovation, strategic partnerships, and a focus on customer-centric services, neobanks are poised to become the financial institution of choice for millions of people worldwide. For African fintech startups, neobanks represent a powerful opportunity to drive financial inclusion, enhance customer experiences, and expand market access. As mobile penetration grows, coupled with supportive regulatory environments, neobanks will be integral to the region's economic transformation. The future of digital banking in Africa is bright, and neobanks will undoubtedly play a major role in shaping it.



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