



Africa as the Sector: LEAP Africa and Partners Zenith Bank, Jobberman, Muna Foundation, NYFF Convene Youth Enterprises and Investors

Lagos, Nigeria, October 23, 2026 — LEAP Africa is set to convene over 200 social entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers and business leaders at the 13th edition of its Social Innovators Programme and Awards (SIPA), scheduled for October 28, 2026, at Four Points by Sheraton, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The event, themed *“Africa as the Sector: Maximising Youth Agency for a Prosperous Africa – Leveraging Technology, Finance and Policy,”* will focus on strengthening the ecosystem for youth-led social enterprises through improved access to finance, enabling policies, technology and strategic partnerships.

SIPA 2026 builds on LEAP Africa's commitment to developing young African leaders and supporting social enterprises addressing critical development challenges. The convening will provide opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs to engage with investors, industry leaders and institutions capable of supporting their growth and long-term sustainability.

Supported by institutional organisations Zenith Bank, Jobberman, Muna Foundation, the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) and others, the event will feature expert discussions, enterprise showcases, live pitches, networking opportunities and recognition of outstanding social innovators.

Expected speakers include Rosy Fynn of the Mastercard Foundation; Olamide Adeyeye of Jobberman Nigeria; Dr. Elisabeth Agbiti-Douglas of the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund; Dr. Ndubuisi Nwokolo of Nextier; Ahmed Alaga of TATC; Agnes Onyekwere-Disu of Impact Padi; Esohe Igbinoba of BusinessFront Inc.; and Tola Adeyemi, Chief Executive Officer of KPMG One Africa. The speakers will share insights on enterprise financing, employability, policy reform, governance and strategies for scaling sustainable social enterprises across Africa.

SIPA 2026 will culminate in the recognition of exceptional changemakers through four award categories, including Outstanding Innovator of the Year; Social Enterprise of the Year; the Seyi Bickersteth Award for Financial Accountability, which recognises financial transparency and accountability among social enterprises; and the Innocent Chukwuma Award for Social Innovation in South-East Nigeria, which celebrates social entrepreneurs advancing youth mobilisation, gender empowerment and community development in the region. Representatives of both award legacies, Josephine Chukwuma and Melody Bickersteth, are expected at the ceremony.

The convening will also provide a platform for selected social entrepreneurs to pitch their solutions before investors and enterprise development leaders, creating opportunities for visibility, feedback and potential partnerships.



ABOUT LEAP AFRICA

LEAP (Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability and Professionalism) Africa is a youth-focused leadership development organisation committed to raising leaders who will transform Africa. Through interventions across Education, Entrepreneurship, Employability, Active Citizenship, and Health & Wellbeing, LEAP Africa equips and empowers youth to lead ethically and drive positive change in their communities. With over one million direct beneficiaries across the 36 Nigerian states including and 48 African countries, LEAP Africa continues to build an inclusive and thriving Africa driven by dynamic, innovative, and ethical youth leaders.

ABOUT SIPA

The Social Innovators Programme and Awards (SIPA) is LEAP Africa's flagship initiative dedicated to empowering, celebrating, and showcasing young changemakers across the continent. Since 2013, SIPA has directly supported more than 324 social entrepreneurs in over 15 African countries, connecting them with mentors, investors, and networks that enhance their impact and sustainability. The annual SIPA convening brings together leaders, innovators, and policymakers to co-create solutions and shape the future of social innovation in Africa.

Media Contact:

Hembadoon Inyamkume
Communications & PR Manager, LEAP Africa
hinyamkume@leapafrika.org
+23408119652975
www.sipa.leapafrika.ng