



AFRICA  
BITCOIN  
CONFERENCE

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# IMPACT REPORT ON AFRICA BITCOIN CONFERENCE

# 2022-23

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# 01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bitcoin presents a compelling solution to Africa's economic woes by offering financial inclusivity, stability, and opportunity in the face of currency volatility and inflation. Leveraging Bitcoin's decentralized architecture, borderless nature, and low transaction costs, Africans can access banking services, engage in cross-border trade, and secure their financial futures without relying on traditional financial institutions.

For the past few years, the Africa Bitcoin Conference has emerged as a pivotal event in the continent's financial and technological landscape. The conference provides a unique platform for stakeholders to explore the potential of Bitcoin and blockchain technology in driving economic growth and financial inclusion across Africa. The 2024 conference which is slated to be hosted in Nairobi, Kenya has been preceded by 2 editions in 2022 and 2023 which were hosted in Accra, Ghana.

This document presents an assessment of the conference across different fronts including economic, social, and technological dimensions.

## 02. PARTICIPANTS

**The Africa Bitcoin Conference stands as the continent's largest gathering dedicated to Bitcoin, marking a pivotal milestone in the fintech landscape of Africa. Over the past two years, we have witnessed remarkable growth, expanding from 400 to over 600 attendees.**

Notably, the conference's influence transcends continental boundaries, attracting participants from Asia, North America, South America, and Europe. This diverse international representation enriches discussions, offering a global perspective on Bitcoin adoption's challenges and opportunities. By fostering dialogue and dispelling myths, the conference plays a critical role in elucidating Bitcoin's potential to revolutionize lives and industries across Africa and beyond.

In essence, the Africa Bitcoin Conference has evolved into a cornerstone event within Africa's fintech ecosystem, solidifying its status as one of the continent's most significant gatherings.

Participants are not only limited to the African Continent but delegates from Asia, North America, South America and Europe have participated at the previous conferences unveiling the global audience we get accorded. This international representation has enriched the discussions and provided a global perspective on the challenges and opportunities in Bitcoin adoption across the world.

This year, the Africa Bitcoin Community will host the third edition of the conference to bring together 600 people, with half coming from Africa and the other half from the larger global Bitcoin community.



# 03. SPEAKERS



## 100+ SPEAKERS

During the previous Africa Bitcoin Conference, an array of significant figures from the global Bitcoin ecosystem delivered impactful keynote presentations. These presentations were delivered by prominent players such as Jack Dorsey, Abubakar Abubakar Nur Kalil, Jack Mallers, Charlene Fadirepo, Obi Nwosu, Bernard Parah, Prof Nii Quaynor, Alex Gladstein, Renata Rodriguez, Magette Wade, Ojoma Ochai, Jeff Booth, Mike Brock, Jack Mallers, Janet Mungi, Abubakar Abubakar Nur Kalil, Erik Hirsman, Carla Kirk Cohen, Gloria Zaho, Femi Longe, Lamar Wilson, Ojoma Ochai Marcelle Lorraine, Gloria Zhao and Charlene Fadirepo.

Speakers have represented key companies such as B-Trust, Fedi, Paxful, Block, Bitnob, Strike, Tether, KoinKoin, Kingsway Capital, Ghana Dot Com and bitcoin oriented organizations such as Human Rights Foundation and Save the Children USA.

The conference also featured engaging fireside chats where prominent industry leaders took the stage to share their valuable experiences and insights regarding the global evolution of Bitcoin and its influence on the

# 04. LEARNING LUNCHESES

Learning Lunches at the Africa Bitcoin Conference is a cornerstone of the event, offering hands-on learning opportunities and practical insights into Bitcoin technology. These sessions are designed to cater to a diverse audience, from beginners to seasoned professionals, and cover various topics relevant to the African context.

Below are some of the key topics covered at the learning lunches

BITCOIN CRASH COURSE

BITCOIN 101 FOR NONPROFITS

CAREER IN BITCOIN AND LIGHTNING ENGINEERING

BITCOIN FOR ACTIVISTS AND NONPROFITS

RUNNING YOUR OWN NODE

WASABI WALLET: SECURE YOUR BITCOIN!

HANDS-ON BITCOIN MINING

FEDI: A SUPER APP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

TETHER FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: A SOLUTION FOR UNSTABLE CURRENCIES







# 05. THE AFRO BITCOIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Afro Bitcoin Fellowship was launched to provide a 12-month mentorship by Bitcoin industry experts. As part of the program, fellows receive a full scholarship to the Africa Bitcoin Conference to gain access to the Bitcoin Developer's community, and resources for their personal and professional development.

In 2022, fellows had the opportunity to receive mentorship from Jack Dorsey and pitch their ideas to him and his team at the conference.

42 Young  
Developers

The fellowship programme has successfully enrolled 42 young Developers from across the continent.

Fellows during an engagement with **Jack Dorsey**, Chairman of BLOCK at the 2022 Africa Bitcoin Conference

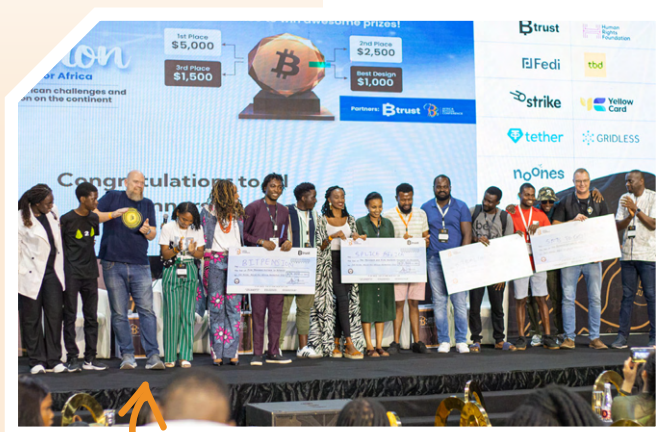


# 06. HACKATHON

The Africa Bitcoin Conference Hackathon has been a highlight of the event, fostering innovation and creativity among participants. In its inaugural year, the hackathon attracted 30 teams who developed solutions focused on financial inclusion and cross-border payments using Bitcoin. The second year saw increased participation, with more teams working on projects spanning various sectors, including healthcare, education, pensions and agriculture.

Winning projects from the hackathon receive funding and mentorship to bring their ideas to fruition, further underscoring the conference's commitment to nurturing talent and driving technological advancements in Africa.

In the 2022 and 2023 editions winners were rewarded with cash prizes ranging from \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500 for the winners and runner ups respectively. Another prize of \$1,000 is awarded to the project with the best design.



2023 Hackathon Winners

2022 Hackathon Winner



# 07. MEDIA IMPACT

The Africa Bitcoin Conference over the years has received extensive media coverage across the continent and beyond. With almost 100 publications covering keynotes, product & collaboration announcements and interviews the conference has become the leading platform to attract media attention for the Bitcoin community. On social media, our hashtags #AfroBitcoin trends in several countries as we generate interest from bitcoin enthusiasts.

The media impact of the Africa Bitcoin Conference has been significant, with extensive coverage from local and international media outlets. Over the past two years, the conference has garnered attention from major publications, television networks, and online platforms. This media coverage has helped raise awareness about the potential of Bitcoin and blockchain technology in Africa, attracting more interest and investment to the region.

The Africa Bitcoin Conference has received notable mentions on **CNBC, Bitcoin Magazine, Forbes, Blockchain Reporter, Coin Desk, Tech in Africa, MyJoyOnline, Coin Telegraph, Tech Cabal, Ghana News Agency etc.**



# 08. PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

The Africa Bitcoin Conference has been the ground to facilitate key partnerships in the Bitcoin ecosystem. These partnerships have become significant as they were either started as a conversation from the conference or announced at the conference.



## Bitnob & Strike

At the 2022 conference, Bitnob and Strike announced a partnership with Bitnob to facilitate cross-border payments into Africa. Jack Mallers announced on stage at the conference where he stood alongside Bernard Farah, the CEO of Bitnob, following a short presentation on how the process works.



## Paxful Education Center in Kumasi

During the 2022 conference, Paxful worked with local partners in Kumasi to open a Bitcoin education centre. This centre has been an avenue for introducing and training young people on Bitcoin technology in Ghana.



## Block & Yellow Card

Block announced and signed its partnership with the African crypto exchange Yellow Card at the 2023 conference to help facilitate cross-border payments in Africa based on Block's infrastructure.



## Trezor & Bitcoin Cowries

Trezor Academy through its Bitcoineta initiative presented a vehicle to Bitcoin Cowries at the 2023 Conference to facilitate bitcoin education across West Africa.



## Bitcoin Dua Education Center

Bitcoin Dua Education Center is a Bitcoin Circular economy project currently in the Agbozume located in the Volta Region of Ghana. The centre was founded after the founder attended the 2022 conference in Accra. The center has partnered with various Bitcoin organisations to bring Bitcoin education to the community of Agbozume. Bitcoin Dua has organised School outreaches, a Beauty Pageant and various community engagement activities.



# 09. SOCIAL IMPACT

Through the Africa Bitcoin Conference, we developed the Bitcoin for Youngsters Program. We have visited a lot of schools to introduce them to Bitcoin and the technology behind it. This program has evolved into the Financial Literacy program where we will be introducing youngsters to general money topics to improve and appreciate the potential of savings and bitcoin. The program has already benefited over 3,000 students in Ghana and looking for expansion into other African countries.



In 2023, through collaborations with members of the Bitcoin community in Africa, we launched the Africa Bitcoin Day to celebrate the efforts of Africans promoting the adoption of Bitcoin across the continent. Physical activities were held in 10 different African countries coupled with online activities from across the continent.



Togo



Mali



Ghana



Kenya



Cameroon



Benin



Nigeria



Kenya



Nigeria



Kenya



Togo



Kenya



DR Congo



Kenya



Nigeria



# 10. AFRICA BITCOIN FAIR

In 2023, we hosted the Africa Bitcoin Fair which featured exhibitions from companies and organisations promoting Bitcoin through their products and programs. The fair also had talented chefs from eight different African countries who showcased their culinary expertise in an exciting food-tasting show. This allowed participants to experience the rich and diverse food flavours from across the African continent.



# 11. NETWORKING SIDE EVENTS

Every year, sponsors and partners host special networking events to appreciate their staff and present an opportunity to introduce their products to participants. Some of these networking events have been hosted by sponsors such as Block, Yellow Card and B-Trust.



# 12. PERFORMANCES

Over the years, we have also created a space to use cultural and musical artists to entertain the guests of the conference. These performances are witnessed during the beginning of the conference and during various stages to keep participants entertained and embrace the local culture of the host country.



# 13. GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATORY BODIES

As the host country, we have involved various government regulatory bodies and educational institutions in attending the conference to shape their knowledge of Bitcoin technology. We have recorded participation from the Bank of Ghana, the Ministry of Communication and Digitalisation, the Ghana Cybersecurity Authority, the University of Cape Coast, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the University of Ghana.



# 14. CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Africa Bitcoin Conference confronts several significant challenges as it continues to evolve and expand its impact within the fintech landscape. One of the foremost hurdles is the availability of funding, which is crucial for sustaining and enhancing the conference's initiatives. Without adequate financial support, it becomes increasingly difficult to organize and execute the event at the scale required to maximize its influence.

Additionally, the conference grapples with the pervasive public fear and misconceptions surrounding Bitcoin. Addressing these concerns is essential for fostering a more informed and receptive audience and we are trying to achieve this by organizing pre-conference events in various countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, the DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda etc. By actively working to deconstruct myths and provide accurate information, the conference aims to alleviate apprehensions and promote a deeper understanding of Bitcoin's potential benefits.

Furthermore, there is a notable disparity in the representation of African companies among sponsors. Diversifying sponsorship sources is imperative for ensuring the conference's sustainability and relevance to the African fintech community. By attracting more local and regional companies to support the event, the conference can better reflect and serve the needs of its primary audience.

Moreover, the high cost of running conferences in Africa presents a significant logistical and financial challenge. Particularly, the exorbitant prices of flight tickets pose constraints on the conference's ability to bring in participants and speakers from diverse backgrounds. This limitation not only affects attendance but also hampers efforts to foster global collaboration and exchange of ideas.

Despite these challenges, the Africa Bitcoin Conference also presents numerous opportunities for growth and advancement. The event has sparked immense interest among individuals across the continent, driving greater awareness and understanding of Bitcoin and its applications. Additionally, the conference serves as a platform for positive engagement with regulators, paving the way for more constructive dialogue and regulatory frameworks surrounding Bitcoin.

Furthermore, the conference plays a vital role in talent development and innovation within the fintech space. It receives numerous requests from young developers eager to participate, highlighting the event's significance as a catalyst for nurturing talent and driving innovation in Africa's burgeoning fintech ecosystem. By capitalizing on these opportunities and addressing its challenges, the Africa Bitcoin Conference aims to further solidify its position as a leading event in the global fintech calendar.



# 15. WHAT ARE WE DOING DIFFERENTLY THIS YEAR

In 2024, as we gear up for the third Africa Bitcoin Conference, our focus has shifted to a more hands-on approach, emphasizing practical workshops, networking opportunities, and project collaboration. We're devoting less time to traditional talks and instead providing innovators with platforms to showcase their brands, highlight the beauty of their innovations, and demonstrate tangible solutions. Moreover, we're fostering partnerships that arise from the conference, offering small startups the chance to pitch their projects to potential investors and venture capitalists while facilitating intimate meetups within the conference setting.

This year, we're adopting a community-driven approach to the conference, moving away from its previous status as a solely private initiative. To ensure a more inclusive event, we've established a board of advisors consisting of ten African Bitcoiners from three different regions. Their diverse perspectives guide our planning and execution, ensuring that the conference represents and serves the entire community.

Furthermore, we're organizing a closed-door roundtable session with regulators, aiming to bring together regulators from multiple African nations for a private discussion with industry leaders and Bitcoin educators. The goal is to illustrate how Bitcoin can drive economic growth and advocate for Bitcoin-friendly resolutions that can streamline processes and create an environment conducive to innovation and development across the continent.

This year we are also planning a closed door roundtable with regulators and we are working to bring regulators from at least 10 African nations to a private conversation with key industry leaders and bitcoin educators for them to see and understand ways bitcoin can advance economic growth in their countries and ways they could ease their process through bitcoin favorable resolutions.

In addition to our core focus on fintech, this year we're intentionally reaching out to other industries such as healthcare, academia, entertainment, tourism, and agriculture. We believe that Bitcoin has the potential to revolutionize various sectors beyond finance. By showcasing how Bitcoin technology can enhance delivery systems, expand reach, and improve efficiency in these industries, we aim to foster cross-sector collaboration and inspire innovative solutions that benefit society as a whole.

Through these concerted efforts, we envision the Africa Bitcoin Conference serving as a catalyst for holistic development and progress across diverse sectors of the economy.







# 16. CONCLUSION

The Africa Bitcoin Conference has proven to be more than just a gathering of Bitcoin enthusiasts; it is a dynamic platform that fosters collaboration, innovation, and growth. With its increasing number of speakers, diverse international representation, impactful fellowship programs, and successful hackathons, the conference continues to drive positive change. Its media impact and the fruitful partnerships it has inspired underscore its importance in accelerating Africa's growth through Bitcoin and blockchain technology.



