

Mena startups raised \$127M in March 2025, bringing Q1 total to \$1.5B

- According to [Wamda's report](#), the amount was raised from 28 deals:
- Total investment reached \$127.5M, down 76% from February's \$530M, even after excluding debt financing from both months.
 - UAE led with \$104.4M across 14 deals, followed by Egypt with \$11.6M across 4 deals, then KSA with \$8M across 5 deals.
 - Fintech dominated with \$82.5M, followed by Healthtech with \$16M, then AI with \$14M.
 - Early-stage startups led in funding volume with \$58M, while later-stage startups raised \$46M, and debt financing made up 12.5% of funds raised.
 - B2B startups led with \$97M across 16 deals, while B2C startups secured \$24M across 6 deals; the remaining funding went to dual-mode startups.

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
NymCard	Fintech	UAE	\$33M, Series B	led by QED Investors; from Lunate, Dubai Future District Fund (DFDF), Mashreq Bank, Knollwood, Reciprocal, FJ Labs, Endeavor, Shorooq Partners, Oraseya Capital
Valeo Health	Healthtech	UAE	\$12M, Series B	led by Flintera; from Nuwa Capital, FJ Labs, Oryx, Mindshift Capital, Oraseya Capital , Eirad
Infilink	Deep Tech / Semiconductor	Egypt	\$10M, Seed	MediaTek, Sukna Ventures, Egypt Ventures, M Empire Angels
KLAIM	Fintech	UAE	\$10M, Series A	led by Mad'a Investments; from CDG Invest, Tharawat Tuwaiq Financial Company
ClearGrid	Fintech	UAE	\$3.5M, Pre-Seed \$6.5M, Seed	Pre-Seed was co-led by Raed Ventures and Beco Capital; Seed was co-led by Nuwa Capital and Raed Ventures; from Aramco's Waed Ventures, KBW Ventures, Sharaka, 9yards Capital, Protagonist, BYLD, Eirad Holdings, Endeavor Catalyst, Wamda Capital
PlaysOut	Gametech	UAE	\$7M, Seed	OKX Ventures, KBW Ventures, Pacific Century Group
enza	Fintech	UAE	\$6.75M, Seed	co-led by Algebra Ventures and Quona Capital
Longevity Wellness Hub	Healthtech	UAE	\$4M, Undisclosed	Undisclosed
Nayla Finance	Fintech	KSA	\$4M, Seed	Sanabil Venture Studio
Lumi AI	AI	UAE	\$3.7M, Seed	led by AgFunder; from Forum Ventures, Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund ADQ, Qora71 syndicate, angels
Calo	Fintech	KSA	\$3M, Series B	Oraseya Capital

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
ORA Technologies SuperApp		Morocco	\$1.9M, Pre-Series A	Witamax, Azur Innovation Fund
Aya	E-Commerce	KSA	\$1.6M, Seed	led by Khwarizmi Ventures; from Raed Ventures, Joa Capital, FENA Holdings, Turki Alrajhi, angels
Ajras	Proptech	KSA	\$1.5M, Pre-Series A	Veda Holding
Ziina	Fintech	UAE	\$1.25M, Bridge to Series B	Oraseya Capital
Galini	AI	UAE	\$150K, Pre-Seed	Oraseya Capital
Arabian Pay	Fintech	KSA	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	Al Bassami Holding Group
Motery	Autotech	Kuwait	Undisclosed, Seed	Undisclosed
BILRS	Fintech	UAE	Undisclosed	Salica Spring Studios
COCA	Fintech	UAE	Undisclosed	Stellar Development Foundation (SDF), FunFair Ventures
Grinta	Healthtech	Egypt	Undisclosed	Beltone Venture Capital, Raed Ventures
Juridoc.tn	Legaltech	Tunisia	Undisclosed	Go Big Partners, 216 Capital Ventures
MENA Analytics	Market research	Palestine	Undisclosed	Ibtikar Fund
Mrkoon	Wastetech	Egypt	Undisclosed	A Ventures
ORO Labs	Fintech	UAE	Undisclosed	led by 468 Capital; from Fasset, angels

ACQUISITIONS

COMPANY	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	ACQUIRER, LOCATION	DETAILS
Beban	Fintech	Bahrain	Foras, UAE	Undisclosed 36% stake
Instashop	E-Commerce	UAE	Talabat, UAE	\$32M
PayTabs Egypt	Fintech	Egypt	PayTabs Group, KSA	Undisclosed 31% stake
Citi Clinic	Healthcare	Egypt	Grinta, Egypt	Undisclosed
OSN+	Media	UAE	Warner Bros Discovery, USA	\$57M, 30% stake

VENTURE CAPITAL

SC Ventures unites with Visa for MENA SMEs

SC Ventures, Standard Chartered’s fintech investment arm, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Visa to support SMEs across MENA. The signing took place at the Visa Innovation Center in Dubai, highlighting both organizations’ commitment to innovation and SME growth in the UAE and beyond. As SMEs move beyond traditional sectors into fintech, e-commerce, and healthcare, this aligns with regional efforts to diversify economies.

Phoenix Venture completes second closing of its innovation fund

Phoenix Venture Partners announced the second close of its \$50M Phoenix Venture Partners Innovation Fund CEIC (PVPIF), with commitments from family offices and high-net-worth individuals. The fund targets early-stage startups in MENA across fintech, healthtech, edtech, agri-foodtech, logistics and mobility, sustainability, and consumer tech. Investors from France, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Kuwait, and KSA participated. The additional capital enables live deals, portfolio expansion, and greater impact in the innovation ecosystem.

Yango Group launches \$20M venture fund

Yango Group has launched Yango Ventures, a \$20M corporate venture fund to support early-stage startups in LATAM, Sub-Saharan Africa, MENAP, and other high-growth regions. The fund focuses on O2O, B2B SaaS, and fintech sectors, aiming to foster local innovation and entrepreneurial growth by providing capital and leveraging Yango's experience and network to help startups scale and create sustainable impact within their communities.

STARTUPS

Fawry partners with Contact to broaden BNPL services in Egypt

Fawry and Contact Financial Holding have expanded their partnership to integrate Contact’s Buy Now, Pay Later service into Fawry’s payment network of over 370,000 POSs and online platform. The collaboration includes electronic payment solutions and bill collection, promoting financial inclusion and Egypt’s digital transformation. The partnership aims to provide flexible, convenient, and secure payment options, enhancing nationwide reach and supporting the country’s shift from cash to digital payments.

PayPal partners with Ignyte to boost UAE startups’ global reach

PayPal announced a strategic partnership with Ignyte, a global digital platform supporting startups and SMBs. As a founding partner, PayPal enables seamless cross-border payments, tailored support, exclusive offers, and thought leadership events. Launched in October 2024 under the Dubai Digital Economy Strategy, Ignyte empowers startups with resources, mentors, and access to capital. The collaboration aims to help 100,000 startups scale globally, reinforcing UAE’s role in digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

STARTUP PROGRAMS

Sandbox by Oraseya Capital welcomes its sixth Cohort



Having received over 1,100 applications, SANDBOX Accelerator welcomed 23 high-caliber startups to the Phase 1 of the Accelerator program, hosted by Oraseya Capital. The founder-centric program spans five months with a two-phased structure whereby, startups shortlisted into Phase Two of the program will receive a US\$150K investment from Oraseya Capital.

WORTH THE READ

Zawya

- [Digital Dubai launches AI skills programme to empower Dubai Government workforce](#)

Finance MiddleEast

- [Kuwait enacts public debt law, paving way for \\$97 billion borrowing plan](#)

Wamda

- [Five proven strategies for winning the GCC B2B market](#)
- [Think local, act local: The secret to thriving in GCC e-commerce](#)