

MENA startups

raised \$52M in June

2025, down 82%

from May

- According to [Wamda's report](#), the amount was raised from 37 deals:
- Total investment reached \$52M, down 82% from May's amount, and a 55% drop from June last year.
  - UAE led with \$37M across 13 deals, followed by Egypt with \$6.2M across 6 deals, then Tunisia with \$3.5M from 1 deal.
  - Fintech dominated with 74% of total capital, followed by Cleantech, then Web3.
  - Early-stage startups led in funding volume, with \$10.6M in seed-stage across 11 rounds, \$5M in pre-seed across 8 transactions, and 1 Series A deal. Debt financing made up 40% of the total.
  - B2B startups led with 78% of funding across 21 deals, B2C raised under \$1.5M across 8 deals, and hybrid B2B/B2C secured \$9.7M across 5 deals.

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
AppliedAI	AI	UAE	\$55M, Series A	MEVP, G42, Bessemer Venture Partners, e&
PetroApp	Autotech	KSA	\$50M, Undisclosed	led by Jadwa Investment; from Bunat Ventures
Related	Fintech	UAE	\$8M, Undisclosed	Equivator
Octane	Fintech	Egypt	\$5.2M, Undisclosed	led by Shorooq Partners, Algebra Ventures, and SC Holding
Kumulus Water	CleanTech	Tunisia/France	\$3.5M, Seed	led by Bpifrance; from PlusVC, Khalys Venture, Flat6Labs, Spadel
SaturnX	Fintech	UAE	\$3M, Seed	led by White Star Capital
XFOLIO	Fintech	France/Lebanon	\$2M, Seed	Middle East Venture Partners
Qanooni	Legaltech	UAE	\$2M, Pre-Seed	led by Village Global, Oryx Fund, TA Ventures, angels
Prop-AI	Proptech	UAE	\$1.5M, Pre-Seed	led by Plus VC; from Oraseya Capital, Joa Capital, Select Ventures, Plug & Play, angels
idea-L	Web3	UAE	\$1M, Pre-Seed	angels
Byzanlink	Fintech	UAE	\$1M, Undisclosed	Outlier Ventures, NTDP Saudi Arabia, Smart IT Frame, Sensei Capital, angels
Nowlun	Logistics	Egypt	\$600K, Seed extension	led by Ingressive Capital
Darwinz AI (TheDar.AI)	AI	KSA	\$325K, Seed	led by Flat6Labs KSA and Glint Ventures

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
Shipbee	Logistics	Qatar	\$235K, Pre-Seed	led by GrowthX; from angels
AgriCash	Agritech	Egypt	Undisclosed, Seed	led by Alex Angels
eVoost AI	Proptech	UAE	Undisclosed, Seed	Qora71
Morni	Autotech	KSA	Undisclosed	STV
Roomz.rent	Proptech	Egypt	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	led by Qora71 (Angel Syndicate); from additional angels
SANTECHTURE	Healthtech	UAE	Undisclosed	CorroHealth
Talenteo	HRtech	Algeria	Undisclosed	216 Capital

ACQUISITIONS

COMPANY	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	ACQUIRER, LOCATION	DETAILS
Qora71	Fintech	UAE	Stryde, UAE	Undisclosed
Nook Holdings	Sports tech	UAE	Lottery.com, USA	90% stake for \$2.5M

STARTUPS

Valu begins trading on EGX with Amazon as investor

Valu, a buy now pay later (BNPL) service with a presence in Egypt and KSA, has commenced trading on the Egyptian Exchange (EGX). EFG Holding distributed 20.488% of Valu’s share capital to shareholders. Amazon acquired shares representing a 3.95% direct shareholding in Valu for a price per share of EGP 6.041. EFG Finance Holding will continue to own 67% of Valu post trading and sale of shares to Amazon.

Swypex rolls out spend control card in Egypt

Swypex has launched Egypt’s first Approval-Based Limits Card through its Premium subscription, introducing dynamic spend limits activated only after transaction approval. Mimicking petty cash management, the card ensures spending stays within approved limits. It replaces manual processes with automated financial governance, giving finance teams real-time visibility, control, and efficiency while reshaping business finance in Egypt’s evolving economic landscape.

Sukna Fund provides \$20M credit facility to OCTA

UAE-based fintech OCTA, which streams financial operations for SMEs, raised \$20M in a credit facility from Sukna Fund for Direct Financing. The funding will enable OCTA to embed short-term working capital financing directly into its platform for credit access to SMEs in KSA and the region, positioning OCTA as a foundational layer for contract-to-cash automation and SME liquidity.

NayaOne Enters KSA Market with AstroLabs

London-based NayaOne launched a fully Saudi-hosted fintech platform in partnership with AstroLabs, enabling banks, insurers, and fintechs to design, test, and launch products in weeks. Supported by the UK Department for Business and Trade, this move aligns with Vision 2030. Several Saudi institutions are already live, with more expected to join NayaOne’s sandbox to accelerate financial innovation in KSA.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Arab Fund invests in Shorooq’s Nahda Fund II to expand SME credit access in MENA

The Arab Fund’s Badir Fund invested in Shorooq’s Nahda Fund II to expand credit access for tech-focused SMEs. Shorooq, known for non-dilutive financing, supports firms like Abhi and The Box. This partnership addresses restrictive bank lending and promotes financial inclusion. Leaders from both funds emphasized empowering SMEs and driving economic growth across the Arab region.

Aria Ventures launches \$1M fund to bolster deeptech investment in Egypt

Aria Ventures, an Egypt-based venture studio, launches EGP 50M (\$1M) investment for early-stage deeptech startups aiming to grow to EGP 200M. Focus areas include AI, biotech, IoT, robotics, and more. The DeepTecher competition scouts research for startup potential. Aria offers capital, R&D, legal, and market support to bridge research and commercialization, boosting Egypt’s global deeptech presence.

Stride Ventures scales up in the GCC with strong focus on KSA

Stride Ventures expands in the GCC, focusing on Saudi Arabia, by opening a second office, doubling its team, and releasing the Global Venture Debt Report 2025 with Kearney. With the GCC venture debt market growing at 54% CAGR to \$500M in 2024, Stride targets \$500M commitments. Its \$110M pipeline and \$10M average cheque empower ambitious startups with founder-friendly capital.

### STARTUP PROGRAMS

#### Sandbox by Oraseya Capital welcomes its sixth Cohort



Having received over 1,100 applications, SANDBOX Accelerator welcomed 23 high caliber startups into Phase 1 of the program where 8 startups were shortlisted to the Phase 2 of the Accelerator program, receiving USD 150K investment from Oraseya Capital.

The founder-centric program spans five months providing extensive support to help these startups grow and scale. Startups that make it to Phase 2 benefit not only from funding but also from mentorship and access to Oraseya's extensive network.

Applications are open for the 7<sup>th</sup> Cohort, interested Application may send in their applications by clicking [Apply Now](#).

#### Netaj launches Nawat, Iraq's first VC studio to back high-potential startups

Netaj has launched Nawat, Iraq's first venture capital studio, offering a six-month programme for 40 startups across ideation, MVP, and early-stage tracks. The studio provides expert-led bootcamps, mentorship, and investor access. With hybrid investment from \$10K to \$250K, Netaj aims to back 5–10 high-potential startups, transforming Iraq's startup landscape with founder-first tools, infrastructure, and capital.

### WORTH THE READ

#### Zawya

- [Qatar's digital economy bolstered by AI-driven initiatives](#)
- [Generative AI spending to hit \\$202bln by 2028: SDAIA](#)

#### Arabian Business

- [Dubai Future Foundation reveals top 10 emerging technologies of 2025](#)

#### Wamda

- [AI, digitisation could hold the key to MENA's food security challenge](#)
- [Why should MENA family offices rethink direct startup investments](#)

#### Stride Ventures

- [2025 Global Venture Debt Report](#)