

MENA startup
funding drops to
\$785M in October
2025. Debt financing
takes 72% share

According to [Wamda’s report](#), the amount was raised from 43 deals:

- UAE led with \$615.7M from 15 deals driven by Property finder’s debt round, followed by KSA with \$119.3M across 15 startups.
- Debt financing led with 4 deals accounting for 72% of the total funding at \$567.8M, while equity and other instruments raised \$217M.
- Proptech dominated with \$526M, followed by SaaS with \$60M, and then by a single Gametech deal for \$41.6M.
- Early-stage startups accounted for the most deals (32), raising \$95.2M, while one late-stage Series B round brought in \$50M.
- B2C models led with \$594.7M, followed by B2B at \$166M.
- Even with the 77% MoM decline, October funding marks a 395% YoY increase, signaling sustained investor confidence in the region’s tech landscape.

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

| Startup | | Investment Details | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Property Finder | Proptech | UAE | \$250M, Debt financing | Ares Management |
| UnifyApps | SaaS | UAE | \$50M, Series B | led by WestBridge Capital; from ICONIQ |
| Astra Nova | Web3 | KSA | \$48.3M, Undisclosed | Outlier Ventures, family offices |
| BRKZ | Contech | KSA | \$30M, Debt financing | Stride Ventures |
| Arsann | IoT / Mobility | KSA | \$26.7M, Undisclosed | Merak Capital |
| Tagaddod | Cleantech | Egypt | \$26.3M, Series A | led by The Arab Energy Fund (TAEF); from FMO, VKAV, A15 Ventures |
| Cercli | HRtech | UAE | \$12M, Series A | led by Picus Capital; from Knollwood Investment Advisory, Y Combinator, Afore Capital, COTU Ventures, OpenFX, Buk, JetHR, Truelayer, AI71 |
| Chari | Fintech | Morocco | \$12M, Series A | led by SPE Capital and Orange Ventures; from Verod-Kepple, Global Founders Capital, Endeavor Catalyst, Plug and Play |
| Upfront | Fintech | UAE | \$10M, Pre-Seed (debt & equity) | co-led by Palm Ventures and SABAH.fund; from angels |
| 1001 | Deeptech | UAE | \$9M, Seed | led by CIV, General Catalyst, and Lux Capital; from Chris Ré, Amjad Masad (Replit), Amira Sajwani (DAMAC), Khalid Bin Bader Al Saud (RAED Ventures), Hisham Al-Falih (Lean Technologies) |
| TachyHealth | Healthtech | KSA | \$5M, Series A | led by Tawuniya |
| Touché Privé | E-commerce | Turkey | \$5M, Shariah-compliant growth funding | Amplify Growth Partnership |
| TabSense | AI | KSA | \$5M, Undisclosed | led by Jasoor Ventures |
| CADO | E-commerce | UAE | \$4.5M, Pre-Seed | led by Sanabil 500, a German family office, angels |
| Engagesoft | HRtech | KSA | \$3.5M, Pre-Series A | led by Silicon Badia |

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

| STARTUP | SECTOR / INDUSTRY | LOCATION | AMOUNT & ROUND | INVESTORS |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|---|
| KitchenomiKs | Foodtech | Oman | \$3.2M, Undisclosed | led by Jasoor Ventures |
| Squadio | HRtech | KSA | \$3M, Pre-Series A | Wa’ed Ventures, 500 Sanabil MENA, Nour Nouf Ventures, SEEDRA Ventures, NTDP |
| Nuxera AI | Healthtech | KSA | \$2.5M, Pre-Seed | Sanabil Venture Studio |
| KLIQ | Martech | KSA | \$2.25M, Seed | led by Sanabil Venture Studio |
| Logexa | Logistics | KSA | \$2M, Pre-Series A | led by SEEDRA Ventures; from Nour Nouf Ventures, angels |
| Velents | HRtech | KSA | \$1.5M, Undisclosed | angels |
| SehaTech | Insurtech | Egypt | \$1.1M, Seed | led by Ingressive Capital; from Plus VC, angels, A15, Beltone Venture Capital |
| Oqood | Legaltech | UAE | \$1M, Seed | angels |
| Nanovate | AI | Egypt | \$1M, Pre-Seed | angels |
| Anavid | AI | Tunisia | \$200K, Undisclosed | Flourish Ventures |
| Hypeo AI | Martech | Morocco | \$200K, Undisclosed | Flourish Ventures |
| rmz.ai | AI | KSA | \$100K, Pre-Seed | Beyond.xyz |
| EMMA Systems | SaaS | Qatar | Undisclosed, Seed | Plus VC, angels |
| Najeeb.ai | Insurtech | KSA | Undisclosed, Pre-Seed | angels |
| Payday | Fintech | Tunisia | Undisclosed, Pre-Seed | led by UGFS North Africa; from TALYS Group and BioProtection SA |
| Stake | Proptech | UAE | Undisclosed | Property Finder |

ACQUISITIONS

| COMPANY | SECTOR / INDUSTRY | LOCATION | ACQUIRER, LOCATION | DETAILS |
|------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Sanad Cash | Fintech | KSA | Qashio, UAE | Undisclosed |
| iCareer | HRtech | Egypt | BasharSoft, Egypt | \$4.8M |

STARTUPS

MoneyHash partners with Tabby to enable BNPL for merchants across MEA

MoneyHash, the first payment orchestration platform in emerging markets, partnered with Tabby. The collaboration offers merchants seamless access to Tabby's buy now pay later service across UAE and KSA through MoneyHash's unified API, enabling flexible payments, reducing time-to-market, and elevating checkout experience while driving higher conversion rates and supporting digital transformation.

Noon and Jahez partner to connect quick commerce with food delivery across the Kingdom

Saudi food delivery platform Jahez and e-commerce giant noon have partnered to integrate quick commerce and food delivery services across KSA. Customers can access noon Minutes via Jahez and Jahez's restaurant via noon, enhancing convenience, speed, and choice while boosting engagement and loyalty across both platforms

Abu Dhabi's MGX joins \$6.6B OpenAI share sale, valuing ChatGPT maker at \$500B

Abu Dhabi's MGX participated in a \$6.6B secondary sale in OpenAI, valuing the ChatGPT maker at \$500B. The transaction, led by Thrive Capital, SoftBank, Dragoneer, and T. Rowe Price, enables employees and early investors to monetise holdings. MGX, launched by G42 and Mubadala, seeks global AI partnerships and large-scale infrastructure projects.

TiE Women MENA 2025 crowns regional champions at GITEX Global

TiE Women MENA 2025 crowned regional champions at GITEX Global, with Ayesha Mansha's Sahl winning the MENA title and TarKeys as runner-up. Nearly 200 women-founded businesses competed across five tracks, showcasing compliance, AI, edtech, and femtech. Winners advance to TiE Global Summit in Jaipur for a USD 50,000 prize, supported by mentors and ecosystem partners.

Tamara obtains Central Bank of the UAE approval

Tamara has received a restricted finance license from the Central Bank of the UAE, marking a significant milestone for the leading Fintech platform. Achieving full regulatory status is a significant milestone that directly enables Tamara to contribute to the goals of the UAE Vision 2031, thereby reinforcing its commitment to building a more advanced and reliable financial ecosystem in the Emirates.

A Ventures, TikTok launch "A 7elmak?" a live show turning youth dreams into startups

A Ventures and TikTok Live MENA launched "A 7elmak?", an interactive live show turning youth dreams into startups. Featuring live pitches, expert feedback, and audience engagement, the program offers mentorship, exposure, and incubation. Streaming in November-December 2025, it aims to empower MENA's digitally fluent youth with tools, confidence, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Tabby completes secondary share sale at \$4.5B valuation

Tabby, a Saudi fintech, completed a secondary share sale involving HSG, Boyu Capital, and others, valuing the company at \$4.5B. No new shares were issued, and Tabby received no proceeds. The deal reflects strong investor confidence in Tabby's growth and its role in shaping regional financial services.

Dubai Free Zones Council reviews strategic plans to drive D33 goals

Dubai Free Zones Council, chaired by H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, held its 32nd meeting to address strategic initiatives. Members were briefed on the Ignyte initiative, developed by the Dubai International Financial Centre, a pioneering digital platform connecting startups with experts, investors, and major corporations, strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Crescent Enterprises commits \$68M to build globally competitive ventures from the UAE

Crescent Enterprises announced a \$68M (AED 250M) investment program to scale CE-Creates, its UAE-based venture-building platform. Operating as a sector-agnostic venture studio, CE-Creates deploys patient capital and operational support to transform early-stage ideas into globally competitive businesses. The platform incubated ventures including Kava & Chai, ION, and BreakBread, reinforcing the UAE's ambition as a hub for entrepreneurship.

Saudi Venture Capital to increase allocation to private credit funds

Saudi Venture Capital (SVC), a state-backed investor and part of the National Development Fund, with more than US\$3B in assets under management, will allocate half of its investments to private credit and equity, up from about a third last year. Launched in 2018, SVC has a mandate to invest \$3B by 2030 to develop the financing ecosystem.

The Lab Ventures closes AED 124M Fund II to accelerate MENA B2B innovation

The Lab Ventures, an operational venture capital firm with offices in Madrid and Dubai, announces the successful close of its second fund at AED 12M, positioning the firm to accelerate B2B digitization across the MENA and European markets, with a particular focus on PropTech, HealthTech, and AI-enabled professional services, targeting pre-seed and seed-stage companies.

HALA Capital launches as CMA-licensed private capital firm

KSA-based HALA Capital, formerly HALA Ventures, has launched as a CMA-licensed private capital firm. The transformation expands its scope beyond ventures to include Venture Capital, Private Equity and Private Credit. HALA is setting the stage for broader alternative investments.

STARTUP PROGRAMS

Sandbox by Oraseya Capital welcomes its seventh Cohort



Having received over 1,200 applications, SANDBOX Accelerator welcomed 17 high caliber startups into Phase 1 of the program. Startups that will be shortlisted into Phase Two of the program will receive a USD 150K investment from Oraseya Capital. The founder-centric program spans five months providing extensive support to help these startups grow and scale. Applications are open for the 8th Cohort, interested Applicants may send in their applications by clicking [Apply Now](#).

DCAI Accelerator Program's second edition draws over 1,300 local, global applications

The Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence launched the second edition of its Accelerator Programme to support startups and technology companies in creating solutions for government challenges. It attracted 1,300 applications and 105 AI use cases from 20 entities. Fifteen solutions will undergo prototyping, testing, and implementation, fostering global collaboration and supporting Dubai's future-ready government vision.

Dubai SME and Plug and Play Launch Accelerator Program to Boost Emirati Startup Growth

Dubai SME launched an accelerator program with Plug and Play to scale Emirati-owned startups. Hosting two cohorts annually with 10 tech-enabled businesses, the program offers mentorship, global exposure, and market access. It supports Dubai Economic Agenda D33 and aims to position Dubai as a global hub for SMEs. The program invites entities to identify challenges and engage Emirati startups in innovative solutions.

WORTH THE READ

Wamda

- [MENA startups face a cybersecurity wake-up call](#)
- [Is the UAE building the region's first true open finance economy?](#)

Zawya

- [Building scale and value through AI innovation](#)
- [Chip crunch: how the AI boom is stoking prices of less trendy memory](#)

Dubai Media Office

- [Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy launches 'Dubai Startup Guide'](#)
- [Dubai Startup Guide 2025](#)