

September's \$1.1B funding surge lifts MENA Q3 Total to \$1.65B, led by Saudi Arabia

- According to Wamda’s [Q3 report](#) and [September Report](#), MENA startups raised \$1.65B across 145 deals in Q3 2026, up 108% QoQ, while September funding exceeded \$1.1B across 73 deals.
- Saudi Arabia led regional funding with approximately \$1B across 62 transactions in Q3 and \$947.2M across 40 startups in September, accounting for roughly 86% of monthly funding.
- Fintech dominated sector activity, attracting \$1.03B across 35 transactions in Q3. In September alone, 20 fintech startups raised \$930.6M, around 85% of all funding deployed.
- Debt financing accounted for \$441M across 10 transactions in Q3, representing 26.8% of total investment. In September, debt represented 31.7% of total funding.
- The recovery remained heavily concentrated in a handful of companies and markets, while capital flowed disproportionately to a handful of large, predominantly Saudi fintech companies rather than evenly across the ecosystem.

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
barq	Fintech	KSA	\$329.5M, Series A Valuation: \$1.85B	Noon Investments, Sohar International Bank, and M20 Fund
Tabby	Fintech	KSA	\$233M , Series F Valuation: \$6.5B	led by Blue Pool Capital; from HSG, Wellington Management and Arbor Ventures
Rize	Proptech	KSA	\$50M, Debt	Jadwa Investment
Tarabut	Fintech	Bahrain	\$50M, Undisclosed	Riyad Bank, SAB Invest, GIB Saudi Arabia, Zamil Group and Kanoo Ventures
Paymob	Fintech	Egypt	\$35M, Series C	co-led by Mubadala Investment Company and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); from British International Investment (BII), Global Ventures and DPI Ventures
BRKZ	Contech	KSA	\$31M, Equity & Debt mix	\$13M Series B co-led by Wa’ed Ventures and 500 Global; from BECO Capital and ANB Capital. \$18M Debt from Stride Ventures
FlyAkeed	Traveltech	KSA	\$25.15M, Equity & Debt mix	Equity was led by led by Sanabil Investments; from Artal Capital, tali ventures, and Aljazira Capital; Murabaha sukuk financing led by Artal Capital
erad	Fintech	KSA	\$22M, Series A	led by MEVP; from Oraseya Capital, 500 Global, Saudi Venture Capital, \$60 Ventures, ANB Capital, Conjunction Capital and Araya Ventures, alongside existing investors Khwarizmi Ventures, Nuwa Capital, Aljazira Capital and Joa Capital
Enhance	Healthtech	UAE	\$18.2M, Equity & Debt mix	Equity from Global Ventures and venture debt from Stride Ventures
Nayla	Fintech	KSA	\$18M, Pre-Series A (Equity & Debt mix)	Equity led by Idrisi Ventures; from Suhail Ventures. Debt facility led by BLOMINVEST
Synapse Analytics	AI	UAE	\$13M, Series A	led by Partech; from Algebra Ventures, Silicon Badia
Syarah	Autotech	KSA	\$12M, Undisclosed	Impact46

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
Sirdab	Logistics	KSA	\$10M, Series A	co-led by Elm and BECO Capital; from Y Combinator, COTU Ventures and D Global Ventures
Zeal	Fintech	Egypt	\$10M, Undisclosed	Undisclosed
Amaani	E-commerce	UAE	\$5M, Series A	led by BECO Capital; from Homegrown Ventures and Peak XV's Surge
Sav	Fintech	UAE	\$3.5M, Pre-Series A	led by Phoenix Venture Partners (PVP); from the investor base of Phoenix Venture Partners Innovation Fund (PVPIF)
3C Coding School	Edtech	Egypt	\$3M, Seed	led by MRG Economic Group; from Amr Saad, angels
Dawraty	Edtech	Kuwait	\$2M, Seed	Qatar Development Bank
Keep Converting E-commerce		UAE	\$2M, Pre-Seed	led by Nuwa Capital and COTU Ventures
Gaia	AI	KSA	\$1.5M, Pre-Seed	led by Seedra Ventures
Remedium	Climatetech	KSA	\$1.5M, Pre-Seed	led by Kaltaire Investments
Aligator	AI	Qatar	\$1.2M, Seed	led by Qatar Development Bank and Next Ventures
Rwaj	E-commerce	KSA	\$1.2M, Pre-Seed	Undisclosed
Doushesh	Proptech	KSA	\$480K, Undisclosed	AQAR
Arabic.AI	AI	UAE	Undisclosed	HUMAIN
AREP (Academic Research and Educational Platform)	Edtech	KSA	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	led by Golden Assets Investment
Carly	E-commerce	KSA	Undisclosed	Pinnacle Capital
Churn Solution	AI	Palestine	Undisclosed, Seed	Ibtikar Fund
COFE Tech	SaaS	Kuwait	Undisclosed, Pre-IPO	co-led by Wa'ed Ventures, Aditum Investment Management, Masarrah Investment Company and Alyasra Foods
Gathern	Proptech	KSA	Undisclosed	Pinnacle Capital
Rela	Proptech	KSA	Undisclosed	Yazeed Al Rajhi & Brothers Holding
TalMal	Fintech	KSA	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	MM Partners
Tanami	Fintech	Bahrain	Undisclosed	tali ventures, stc group, Qatar Development Bank (QDB), UK-based 1818 Ventures

ACQUISITIONS

COMPANY	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	ACQUIRER, LOCATION	DETAILS
Amazon Payment Services MENA	Fintech	MENA	PayTabs Group, KSA	>\$100M
Eduact	Edtech	Egypt	Abwaab, Jordan	Undisclosed
LuxuryX	Proptech	UAE	Huspy, UAE	Undisclosed
Paylink	Fintech	KSA	Salla, KSA	Undisclosed

STARTUPS

Enhance raises \$18.2M in equity-debt round

Oraseya Capital-backed Enhance raised \$18.2M in equity and venture debt, with Global Ventures participating in the equity financing and Stride Ventures providing venture debt. The growth capital will be used to accelerate Enhance’s expansion in the United States. Enhance’s enterprise software has been licensed in the US since January 2025 and is now present in 700+ clubs across major national chains such as Crunch Fitness, In-Shape Family Fitness, UFC Gym, and PureGym USA.

BitOasis names Jonathan Rigg CEO to lead next phase of growth

BitOasis, a CoinDCX company, appointed Jonathan Rigg as Chief Executive Officer, succeeding co-founder Ola Doudin. The platform has recorded approximately \$8.5B in spot trading volume and serves more than a million customers in the region. BitOasis Bahrain launched following a broker dealer license from the Central Bank of Bahrain, extending its regulated footprint beyond the UAE.

Aajil Capital secures CMA licence for investment management in Saudi Arabia

Aajil Capital received a CMA license to conduct Managing Investments activity in the securities business and is preparing to commence operations. Once operational, it intends to provide Shariah-compliant investment management services giving investors access to Saudi Arabia’s industrial SME sector. Aajil Capital’s investment strategy will be built on transaction data generated by sister company Aajil. Aajil supplied SAR 600M.

OmniOps, HPE sign MoU at LEAP to advance sovereign AI solutions

OmniOps signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HPE to develop sovereign AI solutions combining HPE’s Saudi Made infrastructure and OmniOps’ Saudi-developed AI platforms and in-country deployment capabilities. The collaboration aims to help government and enterprise organizations accelerate AI adoption, strengthen digital sovereignty and local technology capabilities, and support organizations deploying and managing AI workloads within the Kingdom.

STARTUPS

Velents enters Bahrain through strategic partnership with stc Bahrain

Velents expanded into Bahrain through a strategic partnership with stc Bahrain, building on its existing presence in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Founded by Mohamed Gaber, Velents develops agentic AI solutions for enterprises. The partnership will launch agentic AI product bundles for enterprise customers in Bahrain, integrating Velents' technology into stc Bahrain's B2B offering and supporting regional expansion.

Sira Community Jordan marks four-year anniversary

Sira Community celebrated its fourth anniversary with Rab3etna, an evening centered on belonging. Founded in Jordan in 2022, Sira has grown into a regional professional community across Jordan and the UAE. The fourth-anniversary experience was designed around five Signals of Belonging: Being Seen, Being Welcomed, Being Challenged, Being Supported, and Being Remembered through real experiences of members.

NVIDIA, RiseUp host Cairo reception for Egypt's AI ecosystem

NVIDIA and RiseUp are bringing together startup founders, developers, industry executives, academics and technology ecosystem stakeholders for an AI Ecosystem Reception in Cairo. The event follows the first NVIDIA SIGNALS session in Egypt in July 2026 and represents the next stage of an ongoing collaboration, with further joint initiatives for the regional AI ecosystem planned.

FinTra Holding launches global payments consortium UPN

Universal Payment Network (UPN), owned by UAE's FinTra Holding, launched the UPN Consortium, an open global platform bringing together payment networks, banks, financial institutions, digital wallets, remittance companies and open finance providers. UPN expands across more than 50 markets, serving more than 500M accounts and providing access to more than 100 Alternative Payment Methods.

Lendo, Quantic launch \$200 million SME financing programme in Saudi Arabia

Lendo partnered with Quantic Financial Solutions on an institutional capital programme of up to SAR750 million (\$200 million) dedicated to working capital financing for SMEs in Saudi Arabia. The programme will allow Lendo to expand its working capital financing capacity and launch new financing solutions for SMEs, while Quantic will structure Shariah-compliant investment products for international investors.

Breadfast expands into restaurant delivery with Breadfast Food

Breadfast announced the official launch of Breadfast Food following a successful beta period. The service expands Breadfast's everyday convenience platform with restaurant delivery, enabling customers to discover and order from a curated selection of restaurants through the Breadfast app. Breadfast Food builds on the company's technology platform, established logistics network, and supply chain expertise to provide a seamless experience.

EFG Holding secures \$40M EBRD loan to expand MSME financing in Egypt

Egyptian financial services group EFG Holding has secured a \$40M, four-year senior unsecured loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to expand financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Egypt. The facility will support businesses' liquidity and working-capital requirements, expand access to finance in underserved regions, and diversify funding sources.

KEMET-X to bring global investors and startups to Egypt in December

KEMET-X, a global entrepreneurship and innovation gathering, will bring together more than 200 partners, startups and venture capital firms from over 50 countries on 14–15 December 2026. Organised by Career 180, the platform aims to connect Egyptian and African startups with international investors, venture capital firms, corporates and technology companies, creating opportunities for investment and partnerships.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy enhances funding, growth opportunities for 7 digital startups

Oraseya Capital and Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy organized a dedicated pitching session aimed at enhancing funding opportunities for technology startups. The session brought together founders of seven startups with the Oraseya Capital investment team and SANDBOX Investment Program. Following the session, a number of companies progressed to the next stage of Oraseya Capital's evaluation process with potential investment opportunities.

STV's Emerging Tech & AI Fund secures backing from Arcapita

STV secured an investment from Arcapita for its Emerging Tech & AI Fund, adding to an institutional investor base that includes Google, regional semi-sovereign entities and endowment investors. The fund targets early-stage, application-layer technology and AI startups. The fund has invested in four AI-native startups: Sawt, Clarity, Signit and Stream. The size of Arcapita's investment was not disclosed.

Shorooq, Presight join Maven Robotics' \$100M Series A

Shorooq and Presight, a G42 company, invested in US industrial robotics startup Maven Robotics as part of its \$100M Series A through funds managed by Shorooq. The round also included RoboStrategy, LocalGlobe, Vine Ventures and XTX Ventures. The investment supports Maven's autonomous industrial robots for logistics and manufacturing and broader materials-handling applications.

Creative Investments Holding secures \$20M first close, targets \$50M

Creative Investments Holding announced the conclusion of its founding round, with initial aggregate commitments of USD 20M at first close subject to definitive agreements, targeting a total raise of up to USD 50M. The platform will acquire, create and grow distinctive businesses, primarily in Egypt and the wider MENA region, and provide growth capital and operational infrastructure.

AMAN, Bokra and Erada join GIZ-backed venture debt programme in Egypt

AMAN Holding, Bokra and Erada Finance joined Scale It Forward, an initiative launched by GIZ Egypt and enpact to advance the adoption of Venture Debt in Egypt. The programme introduces Venture Debt as an alternative financing instrument for Egyptian scaleups seeking growth capital without equity dilution, while expanding access to non-dilutive financing and supporting financial sector capacity building.

STARTUP PROGRAMS

Sandbox by Oraseya Capital welcomes its SB F26 Cohort



Having received over 1,000 applications, SANDBOX Accelerator welcomed 15 high-caliber startups into Phase 1 of the program, hosted by Oraseya Capital.

Designed as a founder-centric, five-month journey, the program equips startups with deep mentorship and access to Oraseya's extensive network, and the opportunity for investment to support scaling and growth.

Startups shortlisted to Phase 2 of the accelerator program will each receive a USD 150K investment from Oraseya Capital to support scaling and growth.

Launchpad by Oraseya Capital launches Residency Program



Launchpad is a 6-month, in-person founder residency by Oraseya Capital that supports early-stage startups before they are investment-ready. Designed for founders serious about building real momentum, the program helps founders move faster through structured support, guidance, and access while building alongside high-caliber peers.

Participants receive access to world-class mentors, 50+ expert-led workshops, weekly office hours, investor networking events, \$500k+ software credits and perks, and fast-track consideration for the SANDBOX Investment Program.

Applications are always open. Interested applicants may submit their applications by clicking [Apply Now.](#)

WORTH THE READ

Wamda

- [MENA's Open Finance opportunity in the age of AI](#)
- [The AI metric founders should track: Cost of correction](#)

Zawya

- [Using AI to reshape digital customer acquisition in MENA](#)
- [UAE Government Media Office launches Guide to Agentic AI Applications for Government Communication Teams](#)
- [Companies with trustworthy AI record higher returns, says study](#)