MARY AGEKAMEH

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Investment and venture research professional with nearly 4 years of experience evaluating early-stage ventures, conducting market and financial analysis, and supporting investment readiness and fundraising activities. Experienced in venture screening, business model assessment, market sizing, financial modelling, competitive research, and investment documentation. Strong background in analysing African startups, researching investor activity and emerging markets, and translating complex business and market information into actionable investment insights.

INVESTMENT RESEARCH & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

African Startup Breakdown Series (Independent Research Initiative)

Portfolio

- Conducted in-depth research and analysis of 30+ African startups across fintech, healthtech, agritech, mobility, SaaS, insurance, defence tech, and other sectors.
- Evaluated business models, market opportunities, competitive positioning, revenue models, unit economics, growth strategies, and operational risks to assess venture viability and growth potential.
- Researched investor activity across analysed companies, identifying participating venture capital firms, investment rounds, funding amounts, and disclosed uses of capital.
- Examined investor portfolios, sector interests, and funding patterns to understand investment activity and the relationship between investor focus and startup opportunities.
- Synthesised fragmented company, market, industry, and funding information into structured investment-oriented analyses, generating 300,000+ cumulative LinkedIn impressions.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

TAI Foundation — Venture Associate (Part-Time)

April 2026 – Present

- Conduct ecosystem research examining barriers and opportunities in technology commercialisation, venture creation, and investment across African markets.
- Research innovation ecosystems, market opportunities, commercialisation pathways, and stakeholder landscapes to inform venture development and strategic decisions.
- Support initiatives translating university, research institution, and government innovations into commercially viable and investable ventures.
- Develop research reports, strategic recommendations, and ecosystem insights while engaging founders, researchers, innovation hubs, and other stakeholders.

Idea to Funded — Client Advisory & Venture Analysis Associate

June 2025 – April 2026

- Evaluated early-stage ventures through reviews of pitch decks, business models, financial projections, growth strategies, and market positioning, providing recommendations to strengthen investment readiness.
- Conducted market research, sector analysis, market sizing, competitor analysis, and unit economics assessments to evaluate venture opportunities and support strategic decisions.
- Developed 30+ financial models, business plans, pitch decks, investment materials, and opportunity briefs for founders preparing for fundraising.
- Prepared advisory reports, investment-style memoranda, concept notes, and executive presentations synthesising company, market, financial, and competitive analysis.
- Tracked African startup ecosystem developments, funding activity, emerging sectors, and investment trends to inform advisory recommendations and strategic insights.
- Contributed to the development and launch of an Investment Readiness Tool that attracted 40+ founders within its first month.

Mindcapital, Nigeria — Program & Operations Associate (Part-Time)

February 2025 – March 2026

- Screened and evaluated 800+ startup applications, assessing business models, market opportunities, founder readiness, and programme fit to support venture selection.
- Supported 16 founders through structured venture development programmes, milestone tracking, advisory sessions, and ongoing founder support.
- Monitored venture progress and programme performance, identifying challenges and opportunities requiring intervention.
- Managed engagement across a community of 1,000+ entrepreneurs spanning multiple African countries and diaspora markets.
- Supported grant sourcing, partnership development, and ecosystem engagement initiatives while maintaining venture and programme information using Notion, Airtable, and Google Workspace.

Triift Africa, Nigeria — Operations & Community Manager

January 2023 - January 2025

- Assessed MSME loan applications and business performance by reviewing business viability, financing needs, repayment capacity, and operational readiness, contributing to financing decisions supporting ₦200M+ in business financing.
- Provided business advisory and financial planning support to entrepreneurs, helping improve business readiness and access to financing opportunities.
- Managed relationships with entrepreneurs, ecosystem partners, and service providers,

supporting business growth initiatives and engagement across a community of 1,000+ MSMEs.

- Coordinated partnerships, business support initiatives, and stakeholder engagement while producing operational reports and performance updates for leadership.

START Accelerator Programme — Programs Manager (Led Under Triift Africa)

Cohort 1: February 2023 – June 2023 | Cohort 2: March 2024 – July 2024

- Led the design and execution of a multi-country accelerator programme supporting 400+ student and graduate entrepreneurs across three African countries.
- Coordinated venture applications, founder selection, programme delivery, mentorship, workshops, and pitch events across two cohorts.
- Secured strategic partnerships with B2B SaaS providers, negotiating discounted subscriptions, free product access, and business support resources for participating founders.
- Developed monitoring and evaluation frameworks and produced programme reports covering founder outcomes, programme performance, and key lessons.

SKILLS

- Investment Research & Investor Intelligence
- Venture Screening & Evaluation
- Market & Competitive Analysis
- Financial Modelling & Forecasting
- Market Sizing & Unit Economics
- Business Model Assessment
- Investment Readiness & Fundraising Support
- Investment Documentation & Reporting
- Sector Research & Opportunity Assessment
- Venture Pipeline & Database Management

Tools: Microsoft Excel, Google Workspace, Notion, Airtable, LinkedIn, AI-assisted research tools.

EDUCATION

2016-2021|University Of Ilorin, Kwara State.

B.Sc. Economics