



# Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in Contemporary East Africa: A Survey Study

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## Abstract

In contemporary East Africa, entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs have emerged as critical drivers of regional economic development and social transformation. The study employs quantitative surveys to gather data from key stakeholders including entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers. A mixed-methods approach integrates interviews with the survey results for comprehensive insights. Data analysis reveals that while Eritrea has a nascent but growing network of innovation hubs, there is significant room for improvement in terms of funding access and mentorship programmes compared to more established ecosystems elsewhere in Africa. The findings underscore the potential for targeted interventions to enhance these hubs' effectiveness and scalability, contributing to broader economic resilience and social inclusivity. Policy recommendations include advocating for increased public-private partnerships focused on infrastructure development and capacity building within innovation hubs.

**Keywords:** *East African, entrepreneurial networks, innovation hubs, regional development, ecosystem analysis, stakeholder engagement, qualitative methodology*

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