



BongoHive Innovations Ltd
Company Profile

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1. About Us

BongoHive is Zambia's first technology and innovation hub. Established in May 2011 and based in Lusaka, BongoHive began as a means to build upon the entrepreneurship hub concept that has already proved successful in several other Sub-Saharan countries. In alignment with our values, BongoHive was established to support the launch and growth of enterprises and also make Zambia the next hotbed of innovation in Africa.

The co-founders and current board members are Lukonga Lindunda, Silumesii Maboshe, Simunza Muyangana, and Bart Cornille, sought to address the gaps they experienced working within the local technology and innovation space that had led to a lack of coordination, skills exposure, and productivity. In response, BongoHive has evolved to assist scalable startups of any background by enhancing skills, accelerating growth, strengthening networks of collaboration, and reducing the barriers to entrepreneurship.

Our main activities focus on the development of entrepreneurs. We organise issue-specific workshops and seminars, run developer groups on a variety of topics, provide strategic and practical business advice, accelerate startups, and host a wide range of industry networking events. We also collaborate extensively: our partners and stakeholders include a number of both local and international non-governmental, corporate and tertiary education partners, as well as Zambian government entities.

1.1. BongoHive's Vision

To foster a vibrant entrepreneurship community in Zambia that is capable of developing, launching, and operating enterprises that address the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow in an effective, sustainable, and socially impactful way.

2. Program Overview

The vision of BongoHive has evolved to encompass more than just technology enthusiasts—we have grown our capacity and the breadth of our programming to welcome and support aspiring entrepreneurs with ideas in all sectors. Promising businesses have emerged in a wide range of services and products including fashion, agriculture, aquaculture, technology, personal development, professional services, delivery, and events.

We operate three core entrepreneurship programs that focus on entrepreneurs at different levels. To date, all three programs have received extremely positive feedback and are regularly oversubscribed. Although we tend to focus on those that show the most promise rather than taking on large numbers, we have had well over 100 entrepreneurs through our core programs (listed below) since launching in January 2016.

2.1. Discover Startup Pre-Accelerator

Discover is a structured three-week program designed for aspiring entrepreneurs that are equipped with a business idea but need help transitioning the idea to reality. Discover takes on ten startups and runs six times per year. Once startups complete the Discover program, we expect them to begin operating their businesses.

2.2. Launch Startup Accelerator

Launch is a semi-structured program that runs for twelve weeks in which ten startups (largely comprised of the standout Discover participants) try to gain market traction. They are matched

with mentors throughout the process and have weekly topical sessions. They also schedule office hours with the internal team covering areas such as Strategy, Finance and Accounting, and Legal.

The Launch program culminates in a Demo Day where program participants pitch to over 200 attendees which include investors, mentors, and partners.

2.3. Thrive Startup Incubator

Upon completion of Launch, we identify those businesses most likely to succeed and continue achieving growth. We invite only the most promising startups to join our Thrive program, unique and flexible program tailor-made for each company. This structuring program allows, over a 6 – 18-month cycle, to set up and develop a system and strategies to achieve the objectives of the company. The startups are also introduced to investors and industry connections and given priority access to our many events and special guests.

3. Masterclass Overview

Although the programs listed above provide much of the required support and training to see startups thrive, most startups require some additional issue-specific support. We provide a range of masterclasses designed to directly build any startups’ capacity in areas where skills-gaps are most common among BongoHive startups and Zambian businesses at large.

The masterclasses include:

• Build Your First Website	• Build Your First App
• Social Media Kickstarters: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Mailchimp, Instagram, YouTube	• Customer Research
• Social Media Strategy & Analytics	• Building a Brand
• SpeechCraft for Business	• Accounting & Finance Essentials

4. Supporting Women in Entrepreneurship

Since inception, we have supported organizations that drive female empowerment, skills development, and job creation across numerous sectors. By 2017, female participation in our programmes averages over 60% and our staff is made up of approximately 50% women.

We also continue to support organisations empower women in entrepreneurship, assisting them in their aim to reduce the gender gap.

5. Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

As Zambia’s first hub for aspiring entrepreneurs and startups, BongoHive’s overarching goal is to create an ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship by reducing barriers to entry, building capacity, giving startups a competitive edge, and making connections. BongoHive was established to address the weak support network for entrepreneurs of any sort in Zambia. Six years later, we are a thriving hub of activity, drawing innovative thinkers from across Zambia

and throughout the globe. BongoHive serves as a springboard for Zambians wishing to use the power of business to meet the challenges and opportunities before us.

6. Partners

We currently have the following partners: MTN, Cavmont Bank, National Technology and Business Center, Zambia ICT Authority, Musa Dudhia & Co., US Embassy, Facebook, Queen's Young Leaders (UK), Private Enterprise Program, AfriLabs, Best of Zambia, The Indigo Trust (UK).

Past partners include: InfoDev (WorldBank), UNICEF, Google for Entrepreneurs, Microsoft 4Afrika, Southern Africa Innovation Support Program, University of Alabama in Birmingham, Protea Hotels Zambia, iConnect, Dr. Brenda Davies.

7. Contact Details

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