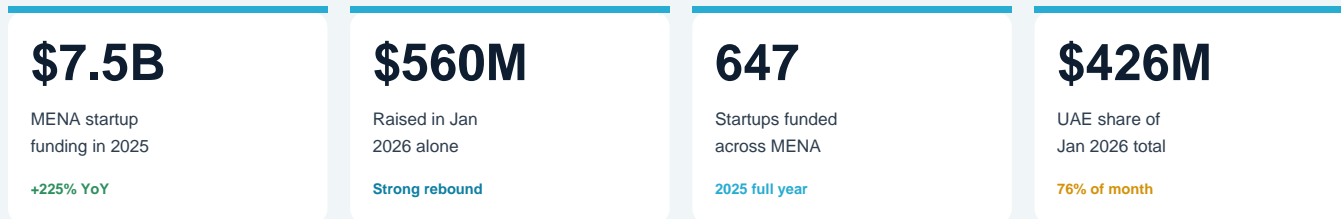
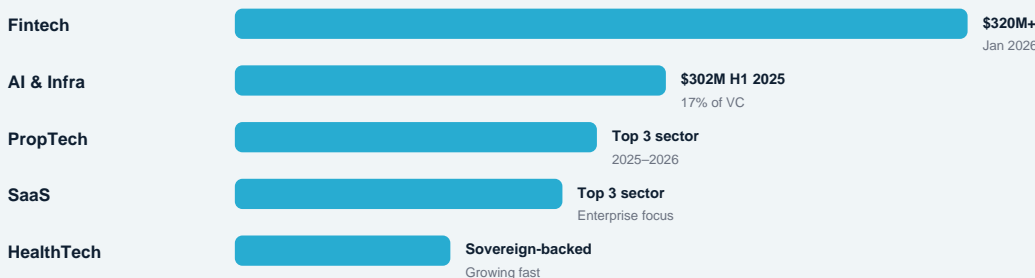


MENA Founder Fundraising Data Snapshot 2025–2026

Key data points for founders raising in the GCC
Compiled by Fiducia Adamantina



TOP FUNDED SECTORS



DEAL SIZE & VALUATION BENCHMARKS (MENA)

Stage	Typical Round	Valuation Range	Dilution	Instrument
Pre-Seed	\$250K – \$1M	\$3–\$5M pre-money	10–15%	SAFE
Seed	\$1M – \$3M	\$2M – \$12M pre-money	~10%	SAFE / Priced
Series A	\$5M – \$15M	\$25M – \$50M pre-money	~18%	Priced Equity

KEY INSIGHTS FOR FOUNDERS

- 56% of MENA pre-seed startups never make it to the next stage. Investor readiness at the earliest stage is critical.
- Saudi Arabia led with 64% of total MENA funding in H1 2025 (\$1.34B). UAE remains the most active by deal count.
- For the first time, active investors outnumber new startups being founded in MENA — a supply/demand shift favoring prepared founders.
- AI startups command a ~30% premium on deal sizes. But 43 older companies rebranded as “AI startups” vs. only 33 genuinely new AI ventures.
- Series A is stuck: 30% of current Series A startups risk write-off by 2026. The gap between seed and Series A is widening.
- Investors now demand clear unit economics even at pre-seed. Growth-at-all-costs narrative is dead in the GCC.

Need help getting investor-ready?

Our Investor Readiness Sprint: deck, model, narrative — done in 2–3 weeks.

contact@fiduciaadamantina.ae

Also available:

Investor Readiness Checklist

GCC Investor Deck Template

5 Financial Model Mistakes Guide