

# Building a Green Hydrogen Centre of Excellence: Advancing Kenya's GH2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Documentation of full ii2030 process in Kenya

September 2023

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# ii2030 GH2 in Africa Edition

Green hydrogen can be transformative for Africa. The sector will create **green jobs** and **new opportunities** for local startups and innovators.

Now is the time to create the fertile ground for entrepreneurs, who often lack access to adequate finance, skills, or even awareness of opportunities in the GH2 sector.

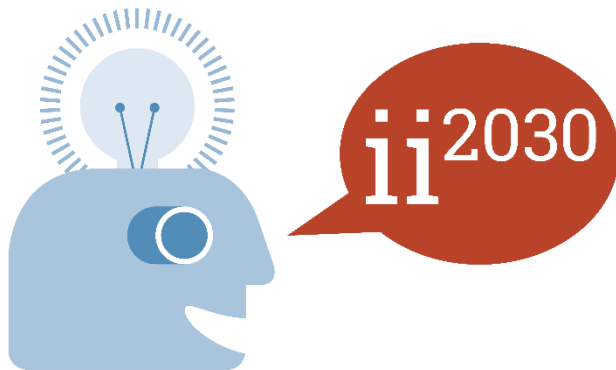
ii2030 is a **catalytic process** that begins with a problem and an opportunity and ends with a prototype of a systemic solution that can be implemented to **strengthen the GH2 support ecosystem** for local startups and innovators at the national and pan-African levels.



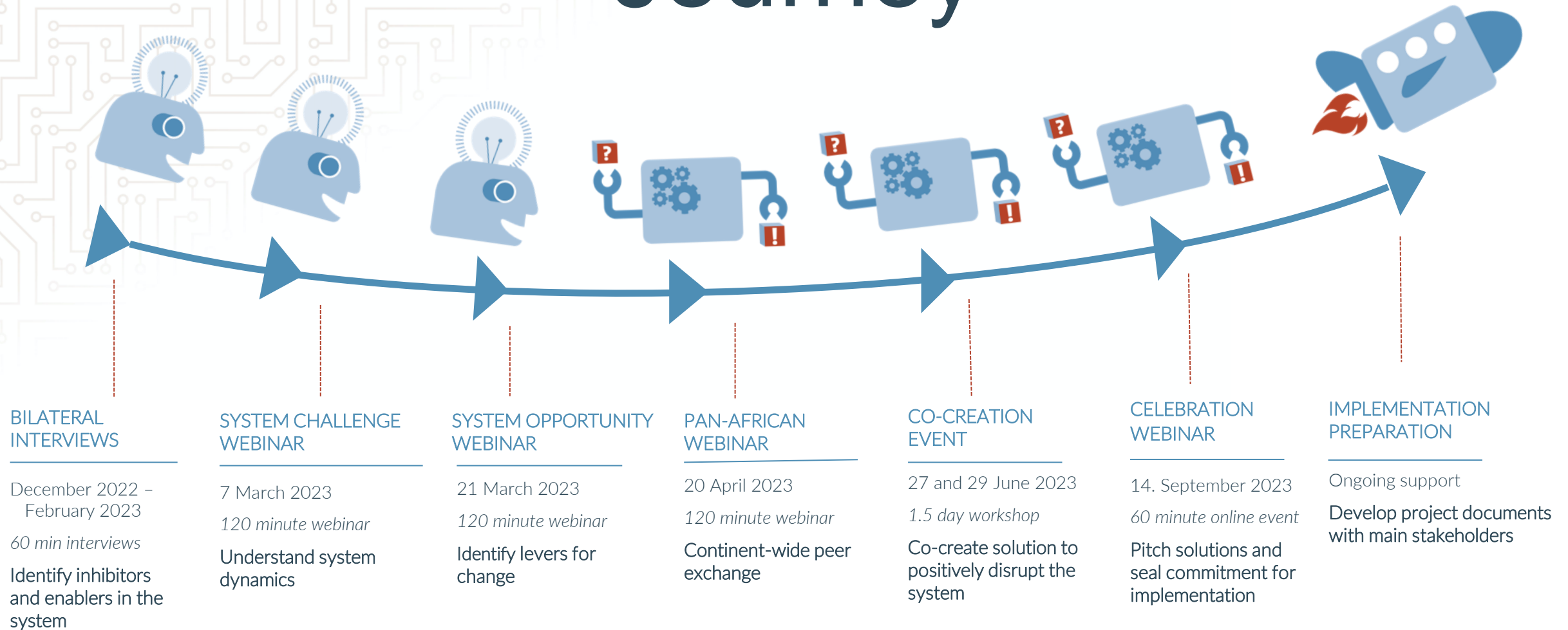
Photo: Co-Creation in Nairobi in June 2023 (Endeva)

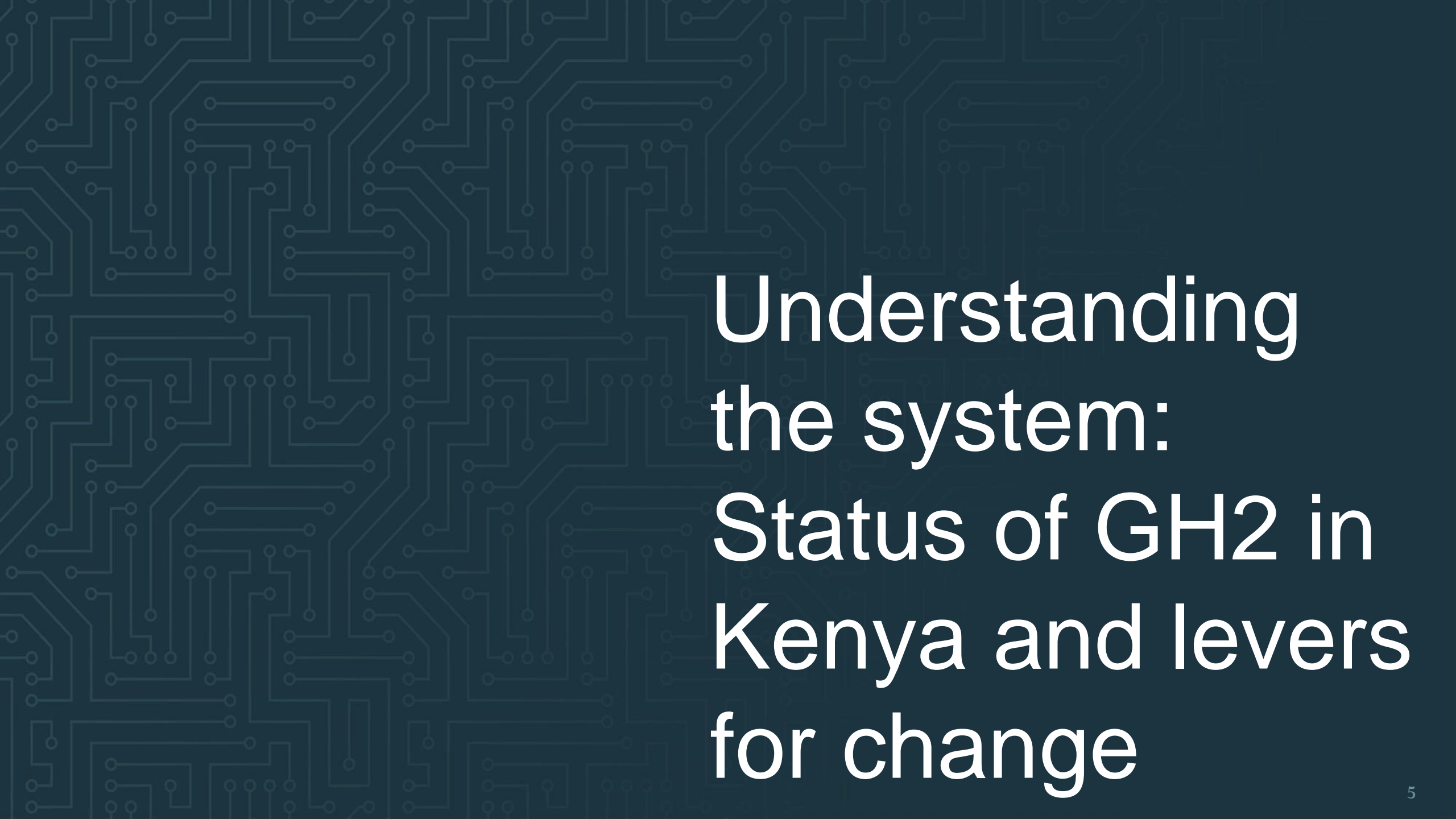
# Guiding Question for the ii2030 Green Hydrogen Edition

How might we ensure that (digital) startups and local innovators benefit from the potential in the green hydrogen sector?



# ii2030 GH2 in Kenya Journey





Understanding  
the system:  
Status of GH2 in  
Kenya and levers  
for change

# Milestones of the Sector

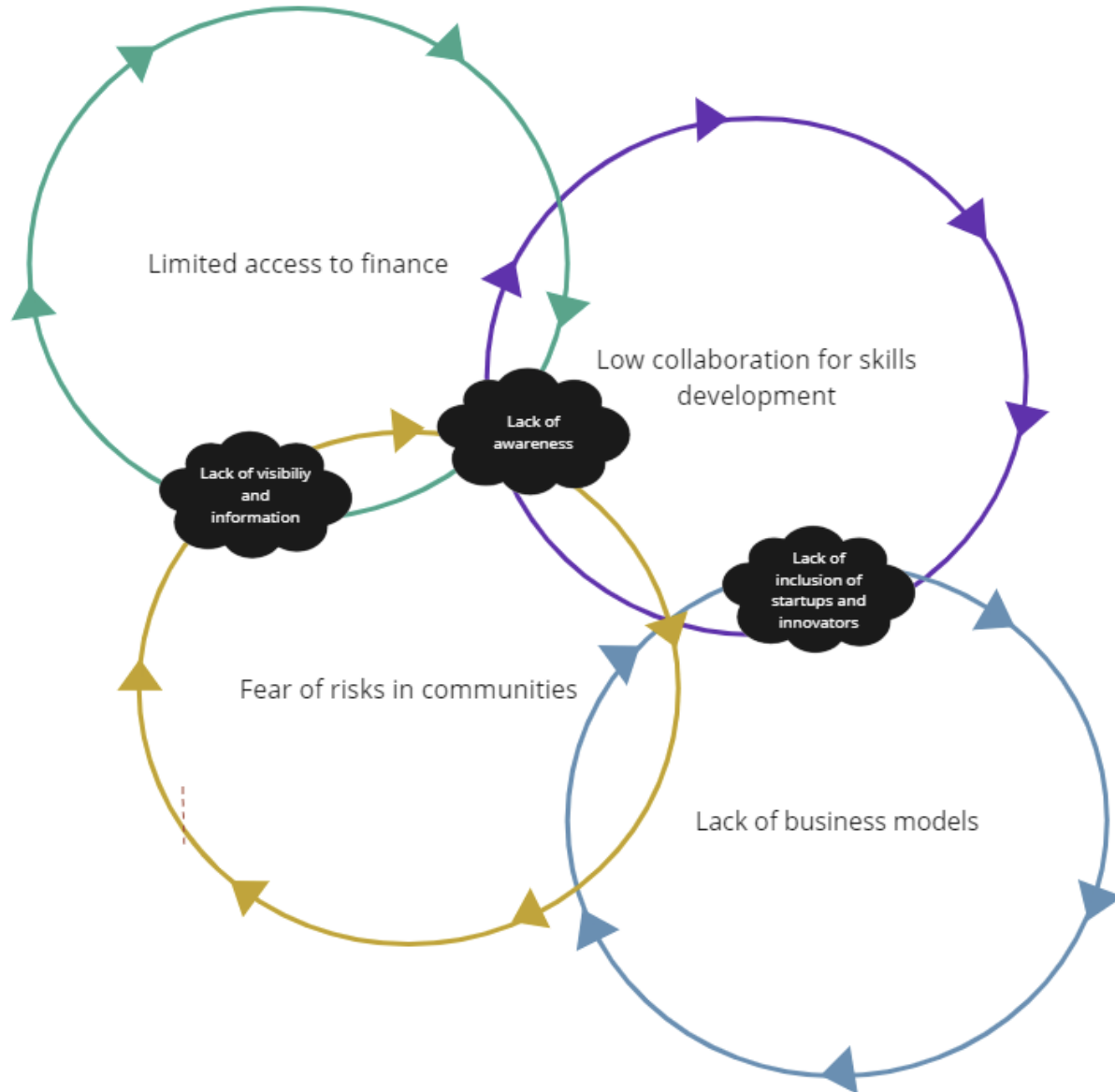
- Kenya produces **more than 90%** of its electricity from hydropower, geothermal energy, solar and wind energy as well as biomass.
- Kenya's hydrogen development strategy and roadmap is under progress and is scheduled to be launched in **early September 2023**, when Nairobi is hosting Africa Climate Week.
- Kenya is identifying industrial pathways to further pursue uses of **GH2 as energy carrier** for selected transport (mobility) options and **regional export of green ammonia/fertiliser** into the East Africa Community (EAC) and under AfCFTA.



# Key Actors



# Core Story of the System



Overall, we see that the hype for green hydrogen in Kenya is driven by a committed government to complete the green transition to 100% renewable electricity generation as well as an equally supportive collaboration with development partners and (international) financial institutions.

However, there is a lack of inclusivity as communities and entrepreneurs experience limited awareness, visibility, information, finance options and opportunities to participate. A more holistic approach might be needed for full understanding, support and enthusiasm from all sectors.

Another key bottleneck is the cost of electricity. Therefore, the price to produce GH<sub>2</sub> is still a challenge.



# Solutions for Access to Finance

Limited access to finance

Limited financing options for startups

- Government subsidies

No pilot startups and innovations in GH2

- Better collaboration between startups

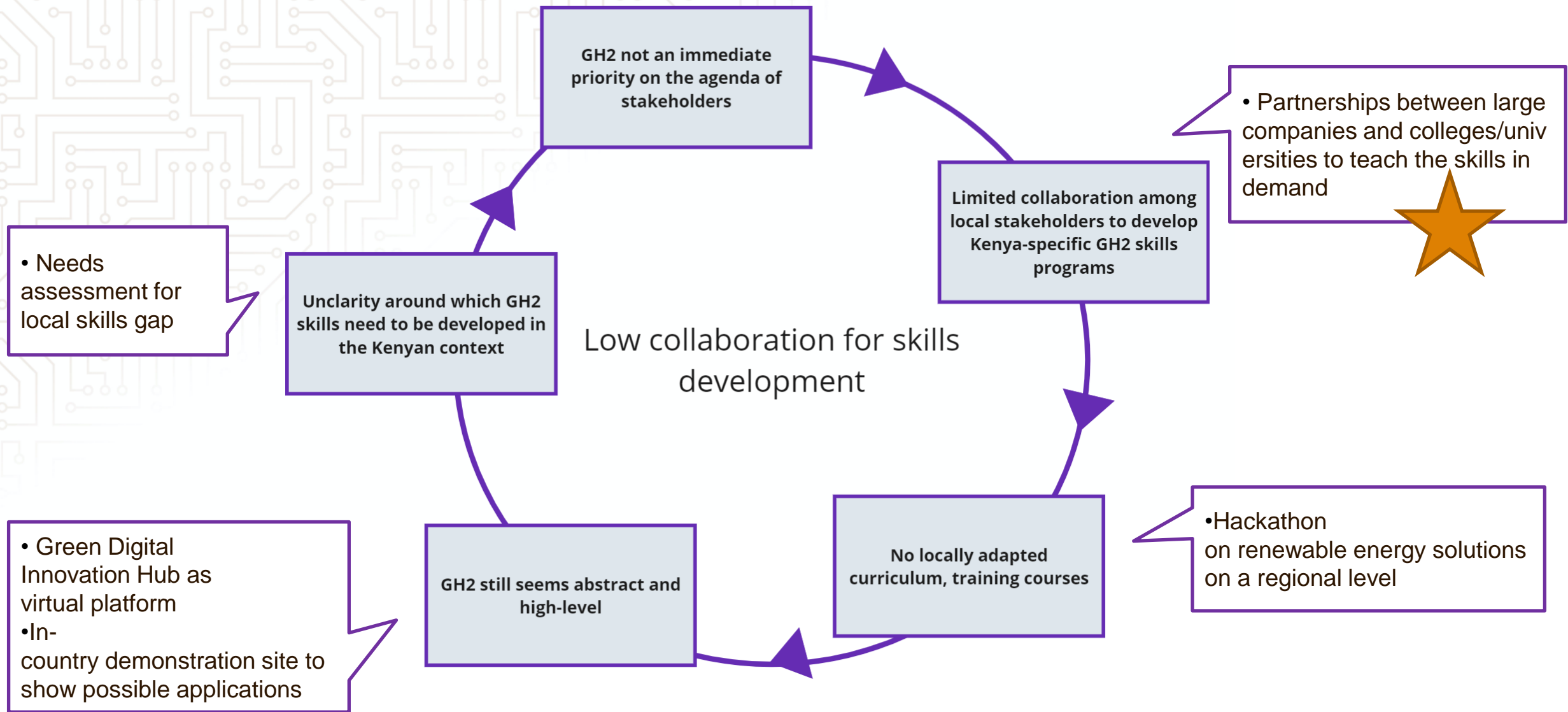
Investors and commercial lenders have little interest and high risk aversion

- Increase GH2 knowledge for local financiers

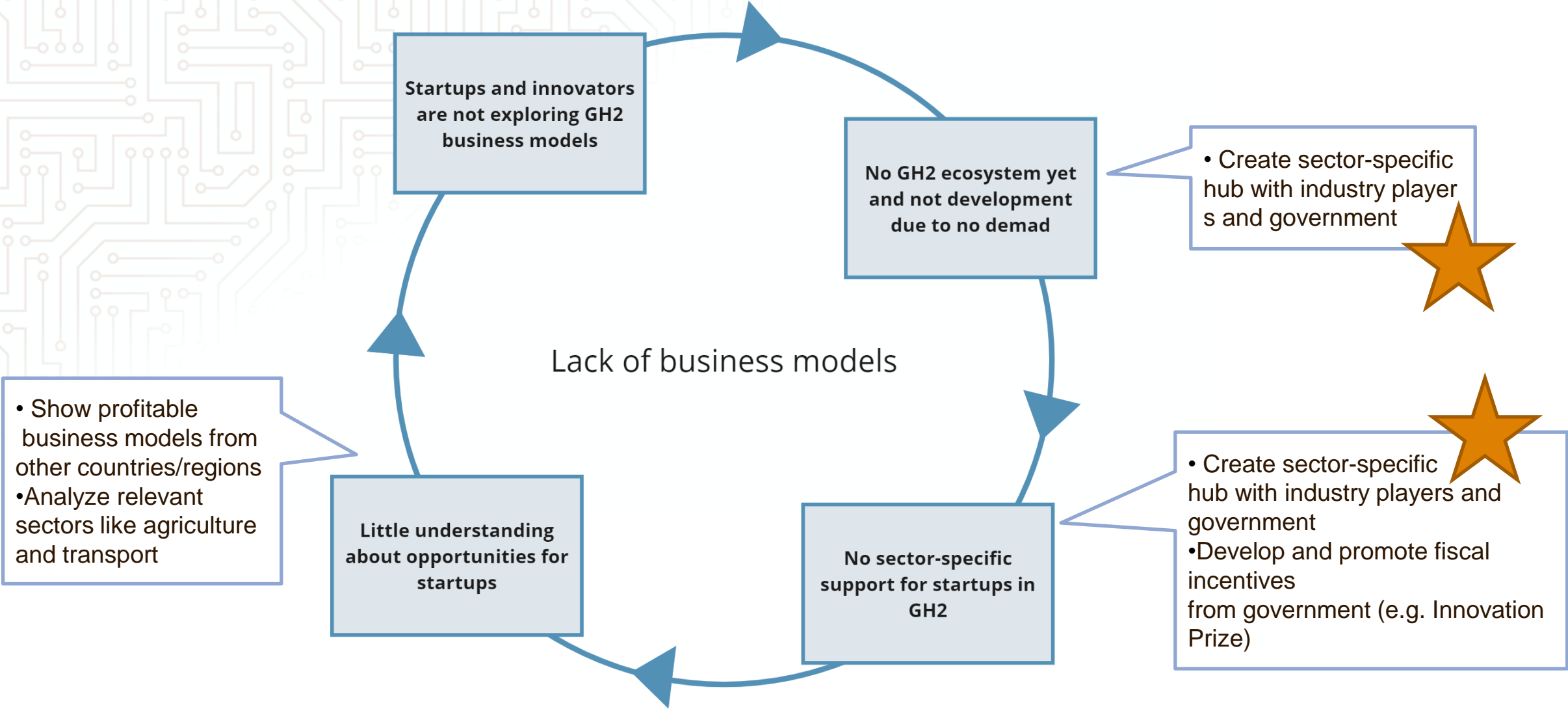
Ideas are stalled, no proof of concept

- Training and education center of excellence should lead to business models and finance needs
- Build localized digital solutions

# Solutions for Collaboration for Skills Development



# Solutions for Lack of Business Models





# Results of Co- Creation: GH2 Centre of Excellence

# Starting Point



How can we create a Centre of Excellence to support the development of the green hydrogen ecosystem in Kenya through technical and commercial expertise and know-how for entrepreneurs, technicians and investors?

# Prototype 1 – GH2 Acceleration Centre



## Prototype 1 – GAC

**Developers/Group participants:** Pauline, Christoph, Lucy, Lemayan, Hillary

An inclusive centre of hydrogen that focuses on the technical knowledge and showcasing of the entire value chain from renewable energy production (wind, solar) to use cases.

Featuring:

- 1) Demonstration plots for solar, wind and electrolyzers
- 2) Research lab
- 3) Market place

# Prototype 2 - Services



## Prototype 1 – Services

**Developers/Group participants:** Catherine, Jackie, Grace, Joy and Mary

Designing the services, the group envisioned an open, welcoming space to experiment and network among engineers, scientists and R&D companies to fully understand and utilize the technical aspects and commercial opportunities of green hydrogen in Kenya.

Featuring:

- 1) Demonstration plots
- 2) Prototyping Lab
- 3) Networking Hub

# GH2 Fund



## Prototype 1 – GH2 Fund

**Developers/Group participants:** Karina, Joyce, Kevin and Paul

Focussing on short- and long-term finance solutions, the group envisioned several funding opportunities for GH2 activities, start-ups and mature businesses, where in-depth knowledge and investor appetite would de-risk new ventures.

Featuring:

- 1) Soft loans and equity from Impact Investors
- 2) Revolving Fund for SMEs
- 3) Grant mechanisms and innovation challenge funds from development partners



# Concept of a Centre of Excellence in the GH2 Sector

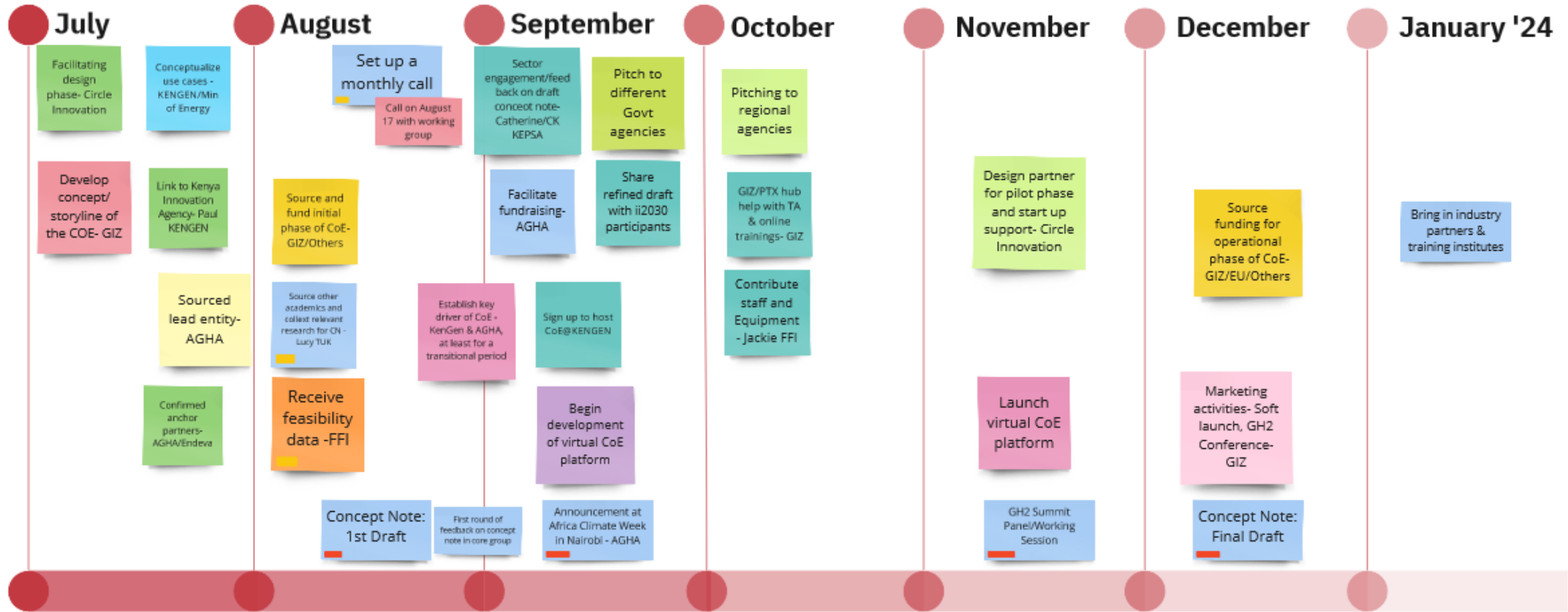
On the second day, core stakeholders started detailing the idea of a Centre of Excellence

# Project Model Canvas



# Roadmap to Concept Development

## Roadmap to Concept Development, June-December 2023



June 2023

December 2023