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MIGRATION UPDATE

Volume 3 Issue 1 April 2021

FOREWORD

DEAR READERS,

What a year 2020 was with Covid-19 and everything that came with it! Through it all, we gained new experiences, learned new ways of working, developed mechanisms to cope and stuck together as we fought the virus and the economic consequences.

The pandemic influenced the size and impact of our interventions in the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC), but we were able to adjust and bask in the knowledge that it did not halt us, as the economic impact of the pandemic requires a lot of cooperation – more so in 2021. The Cluster's programmes continued to work hard, thinking through ways of not only continuing, but improving on our re-integration efforts. We are delighted that activities are gradually swinging back to full speed, which we are topping with the addition of new virtual activity opportunities. It is in this excitement, that we bring to you this issue of our Migration Update Newsletter.

In this issue, we celebrate 2021 International Women's Day, and the successful completion of trainings like SEDIN's pilot Entrepreneurship Cycle training. We welcome new partnerships like those gotten through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Edo and Lagos State Governments, and the



psychological support programmes for returnees with International Organisation of Migration (IOM). We also present several impact stories told by beneficiaries of our interventions in Lagos, Edo, and other states across Nigeria.

We wish you happy reading and look forward to your feedback!

Markus Wauschkuhn
Head of Programme,
Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria - SEDIN

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KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACTIVITIES: RETURNING EXPERTS AS CATALYSTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic, with the attendant lockdown, significantly affected the implementation of Programme Migration & Diaspora (PMD) activities in Nigeria. By its design, the implementation of PMD globally, requires that staff, partners, potential partners, returning and diaspora experts hold physical meetings regularly. Understandably, none of these meetings took place between March and November 2020 due to the social distancing protocols occasioned by Covid-19. It was therefore, with great pleasure that the PMD team welcomed the news of the lifting of the ban on travel and public gathering with effect from the last quarter of 2020. The team swiftly went into planning and implementing a Knowledge-Sharing Workshop in Enugu State

for new Returning Experts as well as a Networking event for all Returned Experts and PMD Alumni.

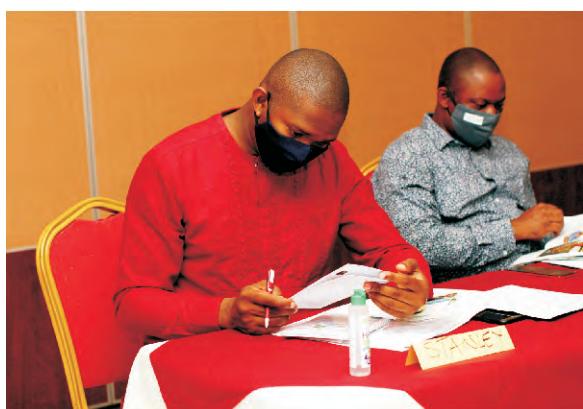
The event which took place from 30th November to 5th December, 2020 brought together Returned Experts who PMD identifies as bridge-builders and agents of positive change, to network and exchanged ideas.

PMD believes that, having studied and worked professionally in Germany for extended periods, these experts are sure to have imbibed the German culture and work ethics; acquired new knowledge, skills and competences; established international connections and attained higher levels of self-development. Combining these with their Nigerian heritage

places them in a position to make valuable contributions in their workplaces, facilitate cooperation between their employers and German institutions, share knowledge with colleagues and partners, and help their employers meet their development needs; thus, contributing towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This special position that the Returning Experts occupy makes them important players in the field of International Development Cooperation, and to this end, the Knowledge-Sharing Workshop introduced new Returning Experts to the following:

- I. the work of GIZ
- ii. the core principles in International Development Cooperation especially, the Paris Declaration
- iii. their role as catalysts for sustainable development
- iv. the competences and tools required for effective knowledge-sharing
- v. the need to appreciate cultural differences
- vi. how to work effectively in multicultural contexts



This edition of the PMD's Knowledge Sharing Workshop also featured a session dedicated to gender issues which addressed how the Returning Experts could contribute to Gender Equality by engaging in activities targeted at reorienting the general populace in their



PMD's stay in Enugu reached its climax with the successful implementation of the Annual General Networking event for Returning Experts and PMD Alumni. As expected, this event afforded the participants the opportunity to interact and share ideas on how to improve PMD in Nigeria. Discussions also touched on their various work, research and latest advancements.

PMD leverages networking events to provoke Returning Experts and Alumni to engage in the discourse that will birth new ideas which can be translated into concrete action plans, to ensure improved quality and processes. This event was a veritable platform for forging viable partnerships among the participants.

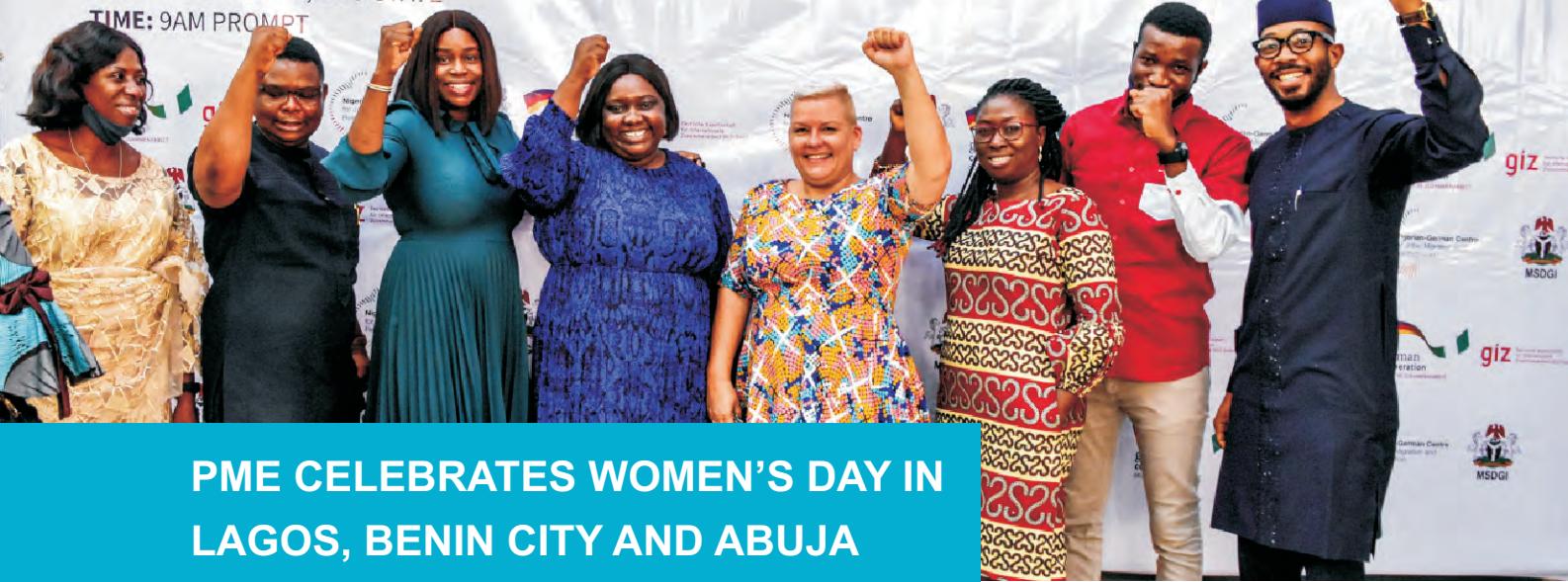
In spite of the COVID-19 protocols, which required that all participants had on their facemasks and maintained social distancing throughout, the two networking events were a huge success. PMD has indeed adapted to the current realities and is looking forward to the successful implementation of similar measures in the future.

**ADDRESSING THE VULNERABILITIES
OF WOMEN IN THE COVID 19 ERA:
TOWARDS ACHIEVING A MORE GENDER
EQUAL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**

DATE: 8TH MARCH, 2021

VENUE: BENIN CITY, EDO STATE

TIME: 9AM PROMPT



**PME CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY IN
LAGOS, BENIN CITY AND ABUJA**

One year on, the world still reels under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic as we all strive to recover and adjust to the new normal that it has left in its wake. And while the impact has been widespread, touching practically everyone across the globe, the economic impact on women cannot be overemphasised – from the drop in employment rates as a result of social distancing measures, to increased childcare needs occasioned by the closure of schools and day-care centres – women in all walks of life have been significantly affected in no small measure by Covid-19.

Concerned about issues relating to unemployment and job creation, PME collaborates with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and its Migrant Recourse Centres, as well as with state level agencies and the private sector to create employment opportunities for young men and women in Nigeria through the three Nigerian-German Centres for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration in Abuja, Lagos and Benin City. These centres implement measures designed

to empower young men and women, providing them with opportunities for the development of relevant skills that would enable them create and sustain profitmaking businesses. Women are offered trainings in female dominated sectors, such as event management, catering and fashion design, as well as in non-traditional enterprises such as car repairs and Information Technology (IT), showing that women can also thrive in those sectors.

Beneficiaries of these trainings include trafficked women and returning migrants who are often in need of psychosocial support to help them overcome any trauma they might have been subjected to, as they restart their new lives. Provision of shelter for returnees is also included in this intervention.

As GIZ joined the world to mark 2021 International Women's Day on March 8, 2021, some of the issues highlighted above were on the front burner of discussions in the series of activities organised in Lagos, Abuja and Benin City to commemorate the occasion.

N1B TRUST FUND FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN LAUNCHED IN EDO STATE

To mark Women's Day in Benin City, PME, in collaboration with the Office of the Wife of the Governor of Edo State and the Edo State Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues organised a gender conference with the theme "Addressing the Vulnerabilities of Women in the COVID-19 Era: Towards achieving a more gender equal and inclusive society". The conference featured a keynote presentation on the conference theme as well as a panel that discussed 'The impact of COVID-19 on women and the girl child', 'Gender sensitive recovery response to COVID-19', and 'The role of Government and other stakeholders in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on women and other vulnerable groups'.

In his remarks, the State Governor noted that data gathered across the state shows that a lot of women lost their livelihoods and business capital due to the COVID-19 lockdown. This, he said, was his motivation for establishing the 1-Billion-naira Women Support Fund to support women and widows in their COVID-19 recovery process.

The First Lady of Edo State, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki, in her address, remarked that responsible governments around the world should also look into enacting policies that would cushion the effect of COVID-19 lockdown on women. She therefore urged government and political leaders at all levels in the country to be more sensitive to the needs and plight of women



across Nigeria as they suffered the most in the past year.

Commenting at the event, the Programme Team Leader, Sandra Vermuijten pledged the continued commitment of PME to contribute to a more equal, inclusive and women-friendly future in Edo State and Nigeria at large. She observed that if the government and other stakeholders – individually and collectively – commit to this goal, every day will be 8th of March.

The conference took place at the New Festival Hall of the Edo State Government House and had in attendance, His Excellency, Governor Godwin Obaseki and his wife, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki; the Deputy Governor, Hon. Philip Shuaibu and his wife; the Secretary to the Edo State Government; the wife of the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly; Wives of the State Legislators; Heads of Ministries and Agencies of the State; Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners as well as members of the Press.



A SENSITISATION WALK AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In Lagos, PME marked Women's Day with a Sensitisation Walk around the Obalende/Ikoyi area of Lagos State. The walk, which was organised in collaboration with the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), beamed the spotlight on issues affecting women during labour migration.

Mr. Mienye Badejo, Head of the Migrant Resource Centre, led the walk which took off from the Nigerian-German Centre (NGC) in Ikoyi, Lagos with participants distributing information cards to sensitise the public on the risks that women face when they engage in irregular migration. While also distributing face masks and alcohol-based hand sanitisers, to sensitise the citizens of their role in the fight against Covid-19, participants also called on the public to adherence strictly to all Covid-19 protocols.



In a statement issued at the event, Ayomikun Olugbode, who represented Programme Migration for Development (PME), stated that the Programme aims at supporting women and will continue to do so through the provision of skills and employment, with special attention to vulnerable groups.

He revealed that women are increasingly migrating in search of work and other economic opportunities, stating that almost half of all international migrants are women and girls who face major risks, especially when they travel through irregular routes.



A CALL FOR EQUAL FUTURE FOR WOMEN IN A POST-COVI9-19 WORLD

In Abuja, PME teamed up with the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives to organise a 2-day conference with the theme: Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World. The Conference discussed ways and modalities of ensuring that women received fair and equitable support at work regardless of their migration status. After due deliberations, the participants committed themselves to actively push for government's ratification of ILO C190 and R206 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the

work place. They also advocated for the adequate equipping of hospital facilities and the provision of necessary protective gear to caregivers and health workers who are exposed in the line of duty.

The highlight of the event was the pledge and commitment made by all PME staff and SKYE Team members, to stand up against sexism and discrimination at work. A similar pledge was also made by participants in several PME trainings currently taking place across the three locations.





SEDEC AND EDO STATE SIGN MOU ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

In the bid to reduce unemployment rate amongst youths in Edo State, GIZ Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Edo State Government on Thursday, the 11th of February 2021, in Benin City, Nigeria. The MoU which would be implemented through a viable skills development programme is focused on human capital development in the state.

GIZ's Country Director, Ina Hommers, during her opening remarks at the ceremony gave an overview of the developmental programmes of GIZ Nigeria in the state. These include the programmes Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN), Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE), the Programme Migration for Development (PME), and the Programme Migration & Diaspora (PMD). She highlighted some of the activities of these programmes under the Sustainable Economic Development (SEDEC) Cluster in Edo State. According to Hommers, "PME kickstarted activities in the state in 2018 closely followed by

SKYE's engagement with the Edo State Skills Development Agency (Edojobs) and subsequently SEDIN, which started its activities in late 2020".

She added that a Nigerian-German Centre was set-up and commissioned in 2019 to support the facilitation of all the GIZ Nigeria programmes. She also reaffirmed the commitment of the group which has continued to run several programmes across several locations within the state even in the face of the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic. According to her, "Today's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing clearly shows the commitment of the German government and GIZ as a development partner to the growth of key sectors at the state level".

Concluding her remarks, Hommers expressed heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Edo State for the good cooperation, commitment and support for the developmental programmes of GIZ Nigeria.

In his response, the Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki lauded the collaboration between his administration and the German Government stating that the question of cooperating with the German Government did not require hard thinking because, he had observed upon resuming office in 2017 that issues of irregular migration, human capacity development and unemployment were major challenges confronting the state, two of which the German Government was interested in ameliorating.

In his words, “It is significant to note that the journey started in 2017 when we came into office and realised that irregular migration was a pointer to the more fundamental human capacity challenges we are having. As a state, we are clear on what the issues are and know that the responsibility for changing our situation rests on us before we can expect help to come from others. We also realised that human capacity development and unemployment are big issues in the state.”

Regarding culture and tourism, the Governor expressed appreciation to GIZ for its projects and activities in the state, particularly the digitisation of all Ancient Benin works of art that are resident

in museums all over the world. He also commended GIZ and the SEDEC Cluster for enhancing technical and vocational training through the provision of relevant support for Technical and Vocational Education in Technical Schools. He then voiced the commitment of the state to make judicious use of the resources made available by GIZ Nigeria. “We appreciate your efforts in supporting Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) in technical schools, and your efforts at enhancing technical and vocational training. We assure you that as partners, we will utilise the resources you have made available to us as we possibly can,” he said.

The ceremony which held in Government House, Benin City had in attendance, the Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, GIZ Country Director, Ina Hommers, other notable representatives of GIZ as well as some state government functionaries.

At the end of the event, the Edo State Coordinator of SEDIN, Blessing Ajimoti, presented the programme's 2020 policy audit report to Governor Obaseki and thereafter, the group, led by the Governor, proceeded to the launching ceremony of the new SEDEC building on Etete Road, Benin City, Nigeria.

SEDEC PARTNERS WITH IOM ON PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR RETURNED MIGRANTS

The efforts of GIZ Nigeria to follow the progress of beneficiaries in any of its capacity development programmes has helped the team to keep abreast of progress being made while monitoring areas needing attention. In the light of this, GIZ/SEDEC has partnered with the International Organisation on Migration, IOM to bring a more holistic experience to all the reintegration measures with a Psychosocial Support Programme.

The contract which extends to the year 2022 adequately provides for the inclusion of a psychosocial care to other technical and

vocational training measures as a way to further ensure that beneficiaries of all programmes are wholly reintegrated without a loss of their sense of self. The contract also lays significant emphasis on the need for specific measures for women who have been identified as being in the majority among the returnees.

With this new partnership, all future modules and interventions of GIZ Nigeria's programmes will be more tailored to suit the personal and environmental needs and abilities of the participants.



GIZ AND LSETF PARTNER TO SUPPORT POTENTIAL MIGRANTS AND VOLUNTARY RETURNNEES IN NIGERIA

In what would seem like the quest for Eldorado, many Nigerians dream of nothing other than to leave the shores of the country to pursue what they consider a better estate. This search for greener pastures holds such strong sway in the average Nigerian youth whose loss of faith in the system drives them to the point of being prepared to pay any price for the opportunity to travel abroad, including embarking of treacherous journeys through irregular routes. The reality that many have lost their lives in the course of such journeys being lost on them, aspiring migrants ignore the tales of extreme hardship told by many returnees, optimistic that they would enjoy a different experience and reach Eldorado.

This very palpable dream across Nigeria shows that many-a-Nigerian feels that the government is not moving fast enough to hedge the fast-rising unemployment rate and the general dissatisfaction with the declining standard of living in the country. In some quarters, it is

believed that the government is making effort to meet these needs but a critical mass – the youths – of the citizenry, is not getting the required information quickly enough nor feeling the impact of such intervention.

However, being caught in what would seem like a vicious cycle, many of those who have been involved in irregular migration are often forced to return home where they face the compounded challenge of difficulty in being reintegrated back into the society. Their situations having been made worse by the often-traumatic experiences associated with irregular immigration. They are therefore often unable to benefit from government initiatives designed to tackle unemployment among Nigerian youths as these interventions do not satisfy the specific requirements of returning migrants who require more specialized attention in order to be successfully reintegrated and motivated to remain in the country.

It is with this understanding that GIZ Nigeria has taken on the responsibility of ensuring that Nigerians who are returnees from Germany are adequately coached and tooled to be productive members of the society. To effectively carry this out, GIZ pursues rewarding partnerships, one of which is the recent partnership with Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) to provide economic support for potential migrants and voluntary returnees. This particular partnership has the noble objective of reducing irregular migration and reintegrating voluntary returnees into society through targeted counselling and vocational training.

One such training which was recently concluded involved empowering the 170 participants with skills in Construction and Health & Beauty. The Construction programme which was facilitated by Honeytreat Trade Academy, Agege had 110 participants; while the Health and Beauty Programme which was facilitated by Dr. Therapy School of Cosmetology & Medical Aesthetics, Surulere had 60 attendees.

Seeking to dissuade people from irregular migration, the training, which also featured one-on-one counselling sessions, highlighted the dangers associated with irregular migration. It also discussed myriads of opportunities available in Nigeria, thus renewing hope for the growth and development of voluntary returnees in the country. In addition to exposure to the technical knowledge of the subject matter, the training also addressed such important topics as soft skills, attitudes and entrepreneurship skills which are necessary for success in the

marketplace. The beneficiaries were thus empowered and fully equipped to be well-rounded employees or entrepreneurs - whichever path they choose to take.

At the end of the training programme, a graduation ceremony was held on the 6th and 9th of November, 2020 for the trainees of the Health & Beauty Programme and those of the Construction Programme, at their respective training venues. The statistical feedback from the training was quite impressive as a total of 143 out of the 170 trainees successfully completed the programme and were certified in their chosen tracks. This figure includes 47 graduates from the Health and Beauty Programme, representing 72% of the class and 96 graduates from the Construction Programme, representing 87% of the class. Some of the graduates were placed in paid employment while others were empowered to set up small businesses.

The participants could not contain their joy on this life changing opportunity. One of them offered a testimony, saying “the training was timely and well thought out. In a time when people are losing jobs, and with a looming recession, the impact so far has changed the economic status of 143 beneficiaries, 39 of which received starter kits. This is a laudable feat deserving of great commendation”.

With 84% success rate in this pilot initiative and the supporting testimonies of the beneficiaries, it is clear that the objective of the GIZ/LSTEF partnership was met in exceptional measures.





CAR TRACKING AND ELECTRIC FENCE INSTALLATION TRAINING IN BENIN CITY

Fifty youths among whom were returned migrants and women were beneficiaries of a 4-week vocational skills training in Car Tracking and Electric Fence Installation organised by Migration for Development Programme (PME) and Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE). The training was aimed at equipping the returned with skills that would empower them for economic reintegration and sustainability. It took place in Benin City from 15th February, 2021 to 12th March, 2021, while the graduation ceremony for the trainees took place on Thursday, 25th March, 2021.

The beneficiaries expressed great joy at having participated in the training, from which they not only acquired car tracking and electric fence installation skills, but also received start-

up toolkits to enable them start work immediately. Many of them were placed on paid internship with selected organisations to further deepen and enhance their newly acquired skills.

The value of this training to participants cannot be overemphasised as Car Tracking and Electric Fence Installation are both in high demand in Edo State due to general security challenges that have heightened the desire for car and property owners in Edo State to take greater security measures. Furthermore, the businesses are not capital intensive, which means that, having been armed with just the right skills and tools of the trade, beneficiaries can immediately set out to apply their new skills in providing services and start creating wealth without delays.



IMPACT STORIES: PME-SKYE FASHION DESIGN TRAINING IN ABUJA

GIZ Nigeria's Programme Migration for Development (PME) and Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) are unrelenting in the quest to provide relevant skills acquisition and training programmes for those in need. Pursuant to this quest, a fashion design training was conducted at the AFS Vocational Hub in Abuja in the period spanning June-September 2020. Aimed at producing capable and skilful fashion designers that will satisfy the prevailing market demands, this round of training had 56 participants who were exposed to the rudiments of garment making – from the point of designing to constructing the garments.

Six months after the conclusion of the training, three of the participants who have started their fashion brands are happy to share their impact stories.

■ 21ST MAY COUTURE – ELIZABETH OMOLE

I am Elizabeth Omole, a 24-year-old graduate of Accounting. Upon my graduation in 2017, I proceeded for the compulsory National Youth Service, after which I seriously began job hunting until 2019 when a friend told me about the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC) in Abuja.

When I approached the NGC for support, I was counselled and intimated of an opportunity to learn a skill which incidentally, I have always been passionate about – Fashion Design. I therefore enrolled for the course and thereafter, commenced the training in June 2020.

My experience at AFS Vocational Hub was awesome, as the environment was very conducive, so much so that by the end of the training, I was able to cut and make different kinds of garments. GIZ also empowered me with an industrial sewing machine to start my business.

Emboldened by my new knowledge and work tool, I went and got a working space at Garki International Market in Abuja and started my fashion brand – “21st May Couture” and the business has been enjoying steady growth from the considerable level of patronage we are attracting.

My future plans include growing my fashion brand beyond Nigeria and hopefully showcasing my clothes at the Paris Fashion week one day.

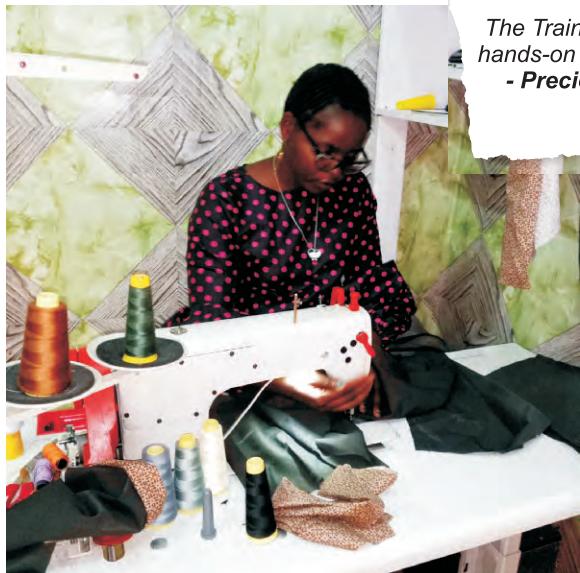
*My experience at AFS Vocational Hub was awesome, both with what I learnt and with the gift of a sewing machine.
- Elizabeth Omole*



■ HUMALLO – PRECIOUS UMOH

I am Precious Umoh, a 25-year-old graduate of Early Childhood Education from University of Benin. My interest in fashion developed during my National Youth Service in 2018 when I engaged in the sale of fabrics as a means of making ends meet. During this time, almost everyone who bought a fabric from me asked if I had a good tailor that could sew the fabric, so I saw a major demand.

After my youth service, I started looking for a job then a friend told me about the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration



The Training was very hands-on and insightful - Precious Umoh

and Reintegration (NGC). I went to the Centre in December 2019 for counselling and enrolled for the fashion design training. In June 2020, I was invited for the training at AFS Vocational Hub. It was a very hands-on and insightful experience which enabled me within a short time to create all sorts of designs and empowered me the confidence to start my fashion brand – “Humallo” while still in training.

I started marketing myself to the network of customers that I had built while selling fabrics during my service year. At the end of the training, I and other participants were each given an industrial sewing machine as a start-up tool. I immediately rented a space at Mabushi Ultra-Modern Market, from where I now function, focusing strictly on bespoke and ready to wear male garments which I also sell on my website www.humallo.com.

The business is doing very well, with a lot of income potential as I keep putting in the necessary work. I have even had to employ someone to assist me at the shop due to the increased workload. I am indeed very grateful to the PME and SKYE programme for the opportunity.



■ KAI'AMAH FASHION HOUSE – AISHA OZOHU

My name is Aisha Idris Ozohu, a 27-year-old graduate from the Federal University of Technology Minna. Prior to participating in the PME/SKYE fashion design training implemented at the AFS Vocational Hub, I was in search of a job.



Although I have always been fascinated by fashion and how clothes are put together, I had never actively pursued the prospects of getting into the trade until a friend told me about the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC) in 2019.

It was during the counselling session that I was faced with the reality that I could pursue my interest in fashion design, so I was excited when I got the invitation to the 3-month

fashion design training in June 2020. The training was very practical and I was able to learn how to draw, design, cut, sew and finish different kinds of female and male garments. During our graduation ceremony, I was given an industrial sewing machine which was the major tool I needed to start my business.

I started Kai'amah Fashion House from my home and within a few months I was able to get a shared space at the Garki International Market for my brand. My future plan is to expand Kai'amah Fashion House and to take my brand to different parts of the world.



*The 3 months training was so practical, yet comprehensive enough to help me set up my fashion house.
- Aisha Ozohu*



SEDIN PHASES OUT E-CYCLE ON A HIGH NOTE

In December 2020, the SEDIN Pilot reintegration programme, the Entrepreneurial Cycle (E-Cycle), which was initiated in September 2018 was phased out in what can be described as a hugely successful grand finale with the registration of an unprecedented 147 business names by the trainees who participated in the last batch.

E-Cycle was a 13-day training course implemented by PME and SEDIN to provide business management skills for returnees and other categories of beneficiaries including women. The programme was designed to facilitate access to knowledge in business development, financial literacy, sales strategy and client retention as well as internship opportunities for participants.

The final batch of the training witnessed a record number of participants, as an impressive 147 business names were registered by the trainees. This remarkable increase of over



100% above the two prior batches that had 50 and 70 business names registered, is a testament to the undeniable positive impact and success of E-Cycle.

The programme as a whole, enjoyed the participation of more than four hundred participants from Abuja, Edo State and Lagos State. Filled with high hopes for the future,

especially at the prospects of successfully launching their new businesses, the beneficiaries across the three locations were thrilled at the value they gained through the E-Cycle Trainings. They received and proudly displayed their certificates of participation which were presented to them at the closing ceremony.





SEDIN AND GOPA PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The SEDIN programme in partnership with GOPA Consulting Firm is working to promote sustainable development in Lagos and Edo States through the collaboration with nine Partner Organisations (Pos).

This is in line with SEDIN's commitment to provide local subsidies and technical support for POs to carry out training, coaching and mentorship programmes for employment seekers, especially returning migrants and internally displaced persons. These interventions are delivered by the POs through 4 key modules – Employ, Create, Start and Scale.

The different modules were designed to cater to the different levels of knowledge and skill needs of the participants, for instance, the Employ module provides basic employability and career sensitisation and development training; The Create module offers a wide range of trainings that would prepare the minds of participants on aspects of business (product/service) creation; the Start module

focuses on trainings designed to guide participants in their start-up development, as well as provide coaching and support; while the Scale module is a more advanced module to the Start Module.

So far, the POs have trained 1,184 job seekers in different business areas such as business registration, new media, business planning and quality control among many more. Overall, the SEDIN approach supports partner organisations and provides local subsidies for training job seekers, while also empowering the local population for sustainable growth and development across all economic sectors.



IMPACT STORIES: RETURNING TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

For every batch of training completed, the GIZ Nigeria Programme team makes it a point to follow the progress of beneficiaries. This report follows the story of two returnees from Germany who benefited from the recently concluded Entrepreneurial Cycle Training, E-Cycle as they share their experiences and how the programme empowered them to be economically independent.

■ STELLA OTTII

Stella Ottii is a returnee from Germany in her fifties who left Nigeria in 2004 in search of greener pastures. Stella initially left her home country to go to the Netherlands but eventually settled in Germany but was forced back in 2010 due to the lack of proper

difficult to reintegrate since she used all her savings to pay the agent who had facilitated her European. Forced to re-strategise life, Stella set her mind on being an entrepreneur, but she lacked both the financial means and knowledge required to venture into business.



documentation. Prior to her leaving Nigeria in 2004, Stella had worked as a hair stylist, however, with the promise of a better life in Europe, she left everything to embark on the perilous journey through Libya. A journey which eventually took her to Germany.

When Stella returned to Nigeria, she was handed over to the immigration authorities in Lagos who then moved her to Edo state, her state of origin. At her return, Stella found it

As a part of an indigenous returnee group called Greater Returnee, Stella was introduced to GIZ where she enrolled to commence her capacity building journey. In December 2018, she participated in the Career Path Training, a 2-day introductory training co-organised by PME and SEDIN Nigeria.

In January 2019, Stella joined other 20 participants in the 13-day E-Cycle Training. According to her, 'the E-Cycle training taught me a lot as the business concepts were broken down to my level. I learnt new ideas that could have increased my prospects in life. Initially, I did not bother so much about learning and development since I barely completed my primary school education. I had the mentality that learning was for those who passed through tertiary institution and so, I never tried. However, with GIZ, I now know there are no limitations to learning once the opportunity is available.'



Expressing joy and excitement at the opportunity to start to rebuild her life a fresh, Stella said she is happy to have come back home. Stella now runs a kerosene business that sees her selling to her community members in wholesale and retail. Rating the effectiveness of the training she received through GIZ and her partner organisations at 95%, Stella said she would not trade the training for anything else.

Stella is optimistic about learning new things like starting a training on the rudiments of cooking gas business in Edo. She also would love to start a hair salon and resume the hairdressing business she abandoned for her search to the proverbial greener pasture in 2004.

Today, Stella takes pride in her thriving new business and feels eternally grateful for the opportunity of participating in E-Cycle.

*SEDI N empowered
me to start again
Stella Ottii*

■ CHIDINMA ONYARU

Chidinma returned from Germany in September 2018 after her husband concluded his Doctorate Programme. Considering that she was away from Nigeria for almost two years, it was somewhat difficult for her to settle back in even with a degree in Mass Communication. She tried her hands on a few businesses but was unsuccessful. However, towards the end of 2019, Chidinma was introduced to the E-Cycle training which she decided to participate in. According to her, 'the training was a good start as it gave me the opportunity to learn. The educative and intensive classes made it possible for me to reevaluate some of my ideas. For instance, the session on business planning led me to radically review my business idea from Bamboo business to Yoghurt business. The start-up phase was exciting until the COVID-19 pandemic made me pause for some months, but I picked up again in September 2020 and it's been good since.'

Chidinma who is a mother of two explained that although nurturing and doing business during the pandemic took a toll on her, she was able to use the knowledge gained during the E-Cycle

*The E-Cycle training saved me from idleness
Chidinma Onyaru*



training to avoid some business mistakes. Her knack for branding, research and record keeping was also heightened because of the training. While Chidinma expressed concerns about some bottlenecks and government policies that make it difficult for her to thrive as a start-up, she was excited about the fact that she is a productive member of her community, and through her work, young people are gaining knowledge and employment opportunities as she engages at least two volunteers periodically.



ABOUT E-CYCLE

The E-Cycle (Entrepreneurship Cycle) is a 13-day capacity building training programme that covers the rudiments of Business Development, Financial Literacy, Sales Strategies and Client Retention. It also covers individual business coaching for returnees and a Career Path Training. Implemented by SEDIN and PME, the project

which commenced in September 2018 and ended in December 2020 succeeded in training over 400 Nigerians across Edo, Lagos and Abuja.





UPCOMING EVENT

Event: Edo Job Fair

Venue: Online - MS teams platform

Date: 18th of May, 2021

Time: 10:00 am

The event which is in partnership with EdoJobs is targeted at young people between the ages of 18-35 years of age seeking employment opportunities as well as employers looking to hire competent employees in their organisations.

Register through: www.edojobs.careers/virtualjobfair

The event is free for all.

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MIGRATION UPDATE