

2DAY SYMPOSIUM FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

DIGITAL: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
IN BUSINESS

SEDEC Newsletter

Promoting Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria



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Message from The Team Lead

At SEDEC, we are committed to sustainable practices for economic development in Nigeria.

It's our maiden edition of the SEDEC Newsletter and we are glad you found the time to read it.

This journey of streamlining our work in the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) Nigeria began in 2019 and it's exciting to see how far we've come and the impact we have recorded, together. This newsletter is one of the many knowledge

products you'll see from us as we've done with the [migration newsletter](#) and other thematic topics.

We hope that this edition gives you an insight into our work and invites you to collaborate with us in our mission to contribute to job creation and sustainable growth in Nigeria through our programmes funded by the German Government, the European Union and the Swiss Government.

We look forward to your feedback!

Markus Wauschkuhn
Cluster Coordinator, SEDEC



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Cluster Overview

Vision. Mission. Values.

We are dedicated to- “More and better jobs for Nigeria” – We cooperate to promote sustainable growth and economic development in Nigeria.

The Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) in Nigeria was formed in 2019. The cluster which is currently made of eight programmes/projects has over 120million EUR in funding from the [German Ministry of Economic Development \(BMZ\)](#) with co-financing from the [European Union](#) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

SEDEC programmes are implemented by [GLZ](#) and has presence in 11 states and the FCT.

⇒ Vision.



SEDEC has the vision is to provide more and better jobs for Nigeria. We hope to significantly promote sustainable growth and economic development in Nigeria.

⇒ Mission.



SEDEC is streamlining shared interest and promoting knowledge and resource mobilization to improve efficiency, quality and the cluster's competitiveness.

Our Values

Cooperation

Together, we solve the toughest problems through synergies with public and private sector partners.

Diversity

We promote a diverse and inclusive workplace to make sure no one is disadvantaged or left behind.

Teamwork

Our team is dedicated to a collaborative environment that has a common goal for impact and growth.

Quality

At the cluster, quality is delivering outputs that meet specific standard requirements.

Transparency

We are committed to a open workspace with trust and forthrightness displayed in our words and

Efficiency

We are result driven. We ensure timely and effective implementation for optimal resource management.

✓

11
Active States

Programmes in the cluster are active in 11 states plus the FCT.

✓

50+
Partners

We work with over 50 private and public sector partners.

✓

300
Team Members

The team has over 300 professionals working towards a common goal.

Our Programmes- Cluster Areas

The cluster has eight programmes and projects namely; [Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment -SEDIN](#); [Skills Development for Youth Employment \(SKYE\)](#); [Migration for Development \(PME\)](#); [Programme Migration & Diaspora \(PMD\)](#); [Nigeria Competitiveness Project \(NICOP\)](#); [Partnerships for Development-oriented Vocational Training and Labour Migration \(PAM\)](#); [VET-Toolbox 2](#) ; [Digital Solutions for a sustainable development in Nigeria \(DTC\)](#).

These programmes work jointly to promote core thematic areas for sustainable development in Nigeria. With some of the programmes now in its close out phase, the cluster actively promotes the goal of creating more decent jobs.



01 Employment Promotion

Through our programmes, we work with the objective of ensure that the employment and income situation of SMEs, MSMEs, youths, women, returnees and underserved communities in selected sectors is improved both at the Federal and State level.

02 TVET

Improvement of formal TVET in selected economic sectors; Promotion of innovative pilot models (formal and non-formal TVET) Support for active labour market measures (Matching, Advisory Services, Short-term trainings)

03 Entrepreneurship Development

Skills for economic participation, entrepreneurship and start-up support. Improving selected value chains and Local Economic Development Promoting MSMEs access to finance and Business Development Services.

04 Digital Literacy

Through the cluster digitalization approaches, framework conditions for the digital transformation of MSMEs in SDG and development-related sectors are created. Overall, digital innovations are implemented for economic growth.

05 Policies and Reforms

The Policy and Reform section of the cluster is saddled with the responsibility to work with policy stakeholders and other partners for an improved policy framework & enabling business environment.

06 Gender Inclusivity

Gender mainstreaming plays a crucial and active role when implementing the cluster activities. The smallest to the biggest project from inception to closure prioritizes gender issues because gender inclusivity is essential for economic prosperity.

07 Access to Finance

Access to Finance approaches focuses on enhancing the supply of financial products and services and building the financial competences of the target groups and economically active population in Nigeria.

08 Migration

Economic and social (re)integration to act as a central point of contact for people from Nigeria who are looking for new perspectives – for returnees, internal migrants, the local population as well as people interested in migration



The cluster also works on innovative approaches that engenders sustainable growth and development in Nigeria. An example is **Circular Economy.**

Programmes that make up GIZ SEDEC in Nigeria



In the News

January 2023- June 2023

Wholesale Impact Investment Fund (WIIF)

→ **50%**

The Nigerian government has committed to providing 50% of the seed capital required for the take-off of the Wholesale Impact Investment Fund (WIIF).

The creation of the WIIF is as a result of the collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, including the Nigeria Competitiveness Project, the National Advisory Board for Impact Investing (NABII), Impact Investors' Foundation (IIF), and the Ford Foundation.

Together, they worked closely with the Federal Government to develop a roadmap for the fund's establishment. This is expected to drive sustainable and impactful investments in the country.

Equipment Leasing in Nigeria

→ **\$10 billion**

According to a report by the African Development Bank, the equipment leasing industry in Nigeria is valued at \$10 billion and is expected to continue growing due to the increasing demand for equipment in various sectors such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare.

To support this growth, SEDIN is working with the Equipment Leasing Association of Nigeria (ELAN) to jointly develop and implement measures to remove bottlenecks and constraints in the leasing ecosystem and enhance access to innovative sources of finance for MSMEs across Nigeria.

SEDEC has facilitated and supported over 1,000 Public-Private Dialogues (PPDs) in Nigeria. PPDs is an effective tool for private sector development.



Partner Spotlight

Genius Hub

Genius Hub is a community of social & economic development initiative with the goal to improve lives.

Leadership

Genius Hub is led by Isimeme Whyte, a social entrepreneur and life coach.

Isimeme was recently recognized for her work in promoting the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and women-led businesses in Nigeria through the use of gender-responsive technology and innovation.

Partnership with SEDEC

Genius Hub has partnered with programmes in SEDEC to implement skills acquisition, entrepreneurship development, access to market, digitalization, migration and re-integration activities for our target groups in Nigeria. Genius hub is equipped with practical solutions to community development at the last mile.

Introducing The SEDIN Podcast



...and more Employment

Our work Features & Events

Dive in to see all the amazing work SEDEC has carried out in the first half of 2023.

Our goal for decent jobs remains a priority at SEDEC and we record new jobs with every intervention.

With several training, capacity building, out-reaches and PPD sessions, we have recorded direct and indirect employment in our imple-

mentation states. In this edition of the SEDEC newsletter, we feature graduation and continuous learning stories of entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

This edition also explores the policy angle of our work as we partner with policy makers for improved services and enabling business environment.

TVET Study Tour

In April this year, Edo state TVET partners went on a study tour to Lagos and Abuja. The exchange was part of the effort to strengthen collaboration between the public and the private sector and promote life long learning.

Read more on Pg. 15

More Start-up Kits

As part of the effort to support the local population and returning migrants, start-up Kits are often provided to entrepreneurs to inspire action.

This year, over 150 start-up kits have been provided.
Read more on Pg. 27

ICSS Modular Approach

Thinking of how to prompt a better learning balance for SMEs & MS-MEs? Read about the ICSS Modular course.

The modular approach systematically and practically caters for different level of entrepreneurship.

Read more on Pg. 20

More Digital Innovations

On page 30, explore the innovative digital solutions from the Digital Transformation Center.

They are leaving nothing to chance in harmonising digital training standards and improving access to digital and entrepreneurial skills for women and youth.



Through GIZ trainings, I got the opportunity to train as a female technician.

My expertise as a phone technician has earned me an opportunity to get a dedicated workplace, gain access to loans & expand by business.

Omase Ehiwario
Beneficiary, Technician



TVET

Promoting improvement of formal and informal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in selected economic sectors.



A soft landing for job seekers

In a significant development, 18 trainers of career counsellors have successfully graduated from esteemed partner institutions, including Edo State Skills Development Agency (EDOJOBS), LASTVEB, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), FMLE, and the Ministry of Wealth Creation. This accomplishment marks the completion of an intensive ten-module course on career guidance, equipping these trainers with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to assist individuals in making well-informed decisions regarding their professional paths.

The comprehensive course delved into various critical topics, such as career development, career planning, effective job search strategies, and in-depth labour market analysis. Emphasizing the importance of employer outreach and job matching, the training aimed to ensure a seamless transition into the workforce for job seekers.

With their newfound expertise, our partner institutions are now prepared to implement the training, thereby empowering a new generation of career counsellors. These professionals are poised to play a vital role in guiding young people towards their ideal career paths and providing much-needed support throughout their job search journeys.

Dr. Adamade, the Director of the Academics and Distance Learning Programme at Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), underscores the significance of offering guidance to young individuals as they navigate their career choices. He firmly believes that providing support in this crucial aspect of their lives not only leads to personal success but also contributes to the growth and prosperity of Nigerian society and the economy as a whole.

The successful graduation of these trainers is made possible through the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) programme, which receives co-funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This collaborative effort aims to empower Nigerian youth by equipping them with the skills and resources needed to thrive in an ever-evolving job market.



Edo State Stakeholders' Study Tour to Abuja & Lagos

In an effort to enhance human capacity and institutional development within the TVET Board in Edo State, GIZ-SKYE partnered with the Edo State Ministry of Education and the TVET Board to organize a series of study tours for technical college teachers, school managers, and administrators from the Board for Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE). These tours took place in April and May 2023 and aimed to strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors.

The participants of the study tours included the Board Secretary of the Edo State TVET Board, three Directors from the Board, five Executive Principals, and three Vice Principals from the five Technical Colleges in Edo State. To foster public-private partnerships, the Vice President of the Benin Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (BENCCIMA) was also part of the delegation. Additionally, twelve technical college teachers from Edo State joined the study tours for TVET teachers/instructors in Lagos and Abuja.

The main focus of the intervention was to equip the participants with the necessary skills to provide employment-oriented education and training to TVET students, aligning with the needs of the labour market. The study tours examined successful training models and existing public-private partnerships that facilitate the delivery of demand-driven skills that are sought after by industries and relevant to the labour market. Institutions visited during the tour included the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), ETIWA Tech, Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB), Technical Colleges in Lagos, and FOCI Academy in Abuja. According to the participants, the study tour provided valuable insights and served as an eye-opener for possible knowledge transfer.

The success of these systems can be attributed to robust governance and administration structures, active industry engagement, relevant curriculum development, modern infrastructure, work-based learning opportunities, and quality assurance. These key points were identified as crucial and, if properly implemented, will act as catalysts in the development of the TVET system in Edo State.



VET Toolbox 2 Records Success in the Cashew Nut Sector



With the aim of supporting European investment to create jobs, increase employment, and increased income, VET Toolbox 2 developed new training materials on cashew processing in line with Competency Based Training Standards (CBT). This is to train Cashew processors and also utilize existing training materials on cashew production for farmers to prompt increased productivity and profitability in the cashew sector while highlighting the importance of vocational education and training for sustainable economic growth and development.

In partnership with Julius Berger Nigeria and Vertex Agro limited, VET Toolbox trained 434 beneficiaries along the cashew nut value chain through a Training of Trainers approach for cashew nut procurement officers, quality assurance managers and warehouse managers, and a cascading approach to small holder farmers in Kwara and Oyo state, with 48% women participation rate.

During the project's mission to capture testimonials, success stories, lessons learned and policy recommendations in June 2023, the beneficiary farmers commended the project's training content and highlighted that it had brought about increased yield, and increased income. They also learned new farming methods and appreciated methods like pruning and using fire ants for pest control.

With the BMZ interest in the project and the partnership style of the VET Toolbox 2, BMZ Representative for Nigeria, Susan Schroder, and a representative from the German Embassy, Mr Wolf, paid a visit to our beneficiaries in Julius Berger Nigeria. In a brief tour of the facility done by the Director Corporate Development for Julius Berger Nigeria, Tobias Meletschus, discussions on impact of trainings and short interviews of the beneficiaries were carried out.

VET Toolbox, a partnership of five European development agencies is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, is implementing demand-driven and inclusive vocational education and training in Nigeria through GIZ/SKYE.

GIZ-SKYE & Edo State- Promoting Demand-Driven TVET

In January 2023, Edo State, Nigeria, was the stage for a highly informative and thought-provoking conference organized by the “Skills Development for Youth Employment” (SKYE) project. Titled “How Can State and Non-State Actors Promote Demand Driven Quality TVET,” the event attracted representatives from esteemed institutions including the Edo State Board for Technical and Vocational Education, the Federal Ministry of Education, NBTE, NABTEB, FOCI, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Education Interventions, the World Bank, and various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

The conference proved to be an invaluable platform to delve into the significance of aligning technical and vocational education and training (TVET) with the needs of industries. Experts in the field shared their insights, emphasizing the crucial role of state and non-state actors in ensuring that TVET programmes effectively address the demands of the job market.

“Tackling the skills gap in the labour market and fostering economic development in Edo State hinges on the promotion of demand-driven TVET,” remarked Tobias Wolfgarten, the Head of the SKYE Programme at GIZ. “We are privileged to have the support of the Edo State Government and eagerly anticipate our collaborative efforts towards achieving this shared objective.”

The conference served to strengthen the call for collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders involved in TVET. It highlighted the need to work collectively to enhance the quality of TVET and bridge the skills gap faced by the youth in Edo State.

One significant outcome of the event was the presentation of the final draft of the Edo State Strategy on TVET and Job Facilitation. This comprehensive strategic vision, developed in close collaboration with stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as civil society, was facilitated and technically supported by SKYE. The strategy not only delivered a sound roadmap with a specific action plan but also fostered trust and synergy among the stakeholders, which are crucial for the successful implementation of TVET initiatives.

Expressing gratitude to the German government, Governor Obaseki affirmed Edo State’s commitment to becoming the leading TVET state in Nigeria. He emphasized that the state government is ready to allocate the necessary resources to ensure the strategy’s effective implementation and the achievement of its objectives.

The progress made in Edo State to enhance the quality of TVET and bridge the skills gap for its youth is undeniably exciting. The conference has set the stage for collaborative efforts that will shape the future of TVET in the state, empowering the youth with the skills and knowledge needed for success in the dynamic job market.



Enabling National Occupation Standards for Agriculture in Nigeria

Nigeria’s youthful population, comprising approximately 60% of its 200 million people, presents both opportunities and challenges for the country. To harness the potential of this demographic and address the risks of youth unemployment, a systematic process of curriculum development is essential. The curriculum development process begins with a value chain assessment, identifying key crops and value chains with high potential for employment and poverty reduction. Pre-selected crops such as rice, maize, cassava, and yam are evaluated to understand the required skills in the agricultural sector.

Next, a skills needs assessment is conducted, collecting data and assessing job profiles to identify specific skills required for different agricultural occupations. This provides a comprehensive understanding of the knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary for employment in the sector.

Based on the skills needs assessment, occupational profiles are developed, defining the duties, tasks, and competencies required for specific agricultural roles. Profiles include occupations like Mobile Machine Operation, Food-processing related Machine Operation, and Agripreneurship, serving as a reference for curriculum development. Curriculum development involves creating modules, assessment guidelines, and compiling learning materials. Curricula outline the learning requirements and competencies, while assessment guidelines establish criteria for evaluating learners’ performance. The training employs the use of digital tools for training delivery, to ensure alignment with industry demands and facilitate effective learning experiences. Implemented through a collaborative approach, the training programmes form clusters and offer capacity development for workplace trainers and teachers. This approach ensures effective curriculum implementation, providing practical training, internships, and hands-on experience in the agricultural sector.

The National Occupation Standard for Agriculture (NOSA) in Nigeria is the outcome of this curriculum development process. It provides clear standards and guidelines, aligning agricultural education and training programmes with industry requirements. By equipping farmers and professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills, NOSA contributes to increased productivity, enhanced competitiveness of Nigerian agricultural products, and the creation of employment opportunities.

Curriculum development plays a vital role in empowering youth for employment and driving agricultural development. The NOSA in Nigeria serves as a valuable framework, improving education and training quality, increasing productivity, and enhancing agricultural competitiveness. By addressing industry needs and focusing on skill development, the NOSA supports the growth and prosperity of the Nigerian agricultural sector, benefiting the country’s youth and economy.



Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship development in this edition focuses on achievements and the cluster's approaches to prompt sustainable businesses.



**E-COMMERCE TRAINING
MSMEs IN EDO STATE**

SEDIN
Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of
Employment in Nigeria Programme



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Modular Learning and the Future of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

The Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (EEE) component of the SEDIN programme through years of experience uses the modular learning for its target population in Nigeria. The content of the training has been designed to be rolled out using the modular approach that builds from INSPIRE, to CREATE, to START, and ends with the SCALE (ICSS) module. Depending on pre-qualifications, participants have access to these offers without being required to go through all modules. At the same time, participants who have completed INSPIRE can then move on to participate in the CREATE, START and/or SCALE modules.

SEDIN is promoting the upscale and institutionalisation of the ICSS modular course through GOPA Consulting and partner organizations in Nigeria. The modular courses are expected to deliver tailored demand driven learning experience.

The ICSS module has been developed into 4 course content material in paper form and digital format. There are also facilitator guides and audio based learning available.

Watch this space for more on modular learning.

2023 MSME Day

In SEDEC, the 2023 world MSME Day was commemorated with an online event that explored digitalisation and gender inclusion for MSME development in Nigeria.

The event which had a rich presence of subject matter experts recorded the presence of over 70 internal and external stakeholders.

Click on flier for recording.



Presents

MSME DAY 2023

Theme:

**Harnessing Digitalisation for
MSME Development in Nigeria:
Enhancing Gender Inclusion**



27 JUNE 2023
10.00 AM

Link to join
bit.ly/MSMEDAY2023



Host
Sina Uti Waziri
Head of Component
Local Economic Development, SEDIN



Speaker
Dr. Thuwaba Diwani
Head of Project (AV),
Digital Transformation Center (DTC)

Organised by the Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion
of Employment in Nigeria - SEDIN Programme



NICOP Project Closure

The EU co-funded Nigeria Competitiveness Project (NICOP), held its close out event on the 26th of May 2023 in Abuja. The project which commenced in April 2019, focused on inclusivity and innovation to improve competitiveness throughout tomato, ginger, chilli, leather, and garment value chains.

NICOP has empowered MSMEs to seize opportunities, add value, and improve livelihoods in the focal states of Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, Abia, and Kebbi. All activities have continuously supported women to deliver meaningful opportunities for economic empowerment through capacity development and better access to more diverse markets.

With the project reaching over 29,000 entrepreneurs, NICOP's achievements extend beyond economic impact. The project has also contributed to positive gender outcomes and has explored opportunities to incorporate digital and green solutions.

+29,000

Entrepreneurs directly and indirectly supported in the selected value chains

+100

MSMEs supported in export promotion/experience exchange mission

+22,000

Entrepreneurs trained confirmed that their knowledge has improved

N600 Mil.

Over N600,000,000 recorded (access to finance)

21,000

of supported entrepreneurs increased their reported income by 20%

+12,000

Beneficiaries informed on access to finance options



The Lab of Tomorrow

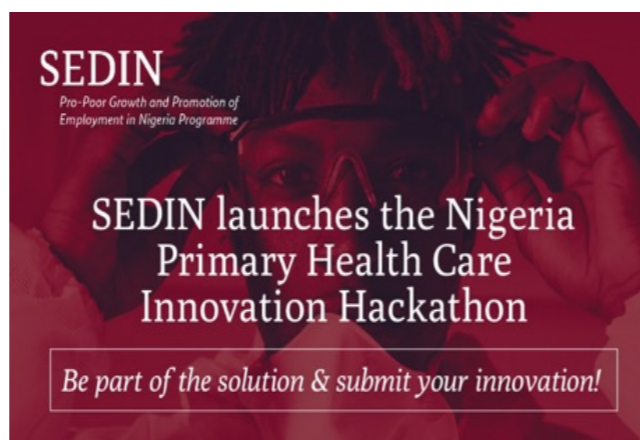
The 17th "lab of tomorrow" (lot) innovation sprint was held with a focus on developing new sustainable business solutions to improve intercity & last mile transportation services for people and goods in Nigeria and beyond.

The lab of tomorrow aims at turning business opportunities in developing countries into profitable businesses and this is the first sprint in Nigeria. The event brought about companies operating in last-mile delivery of perishable goods, green transportation solutions, information on transportation options and trust in e-commerce payments and returns.

The innovation sprint which lasted for 5 days had 29 #entrepreneurs ideate on different business problems and offer solutions. These entrepreneurs were grouped, and each group came up with a business solution which they presented to experts around the world. The sprint was supported by sector experts from the private sector such as DHL and Konga Group who gave insights and advice to the businesses even as they developed their ideas. Following this sprint, the #entrepreneurs are on a 4-month incubation phase in which their business solutions will be further designed and piloted.

The local economy development unit of the Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria Programme – SEDIN identified the lot as a sustainable platform to develop local innovative business solutions which will directly impact the #economy and create more decent jobs.

Primary Health Care Innovation



Migration

The migration and reintegration aspect of the cluster covers intervention on migrants, returnees and local population.



A Returnee Enjoys Improved Livelihoods After Participating in GIZ Skills Training



Paul Okoeguale, 24, is a returnee who left Nigeria for Libya a few years ago, hoping to improve his economic situation. Born in Edo state Nigeria, Paul grew up in the rural community of Irrua where he had access to very minimal education and had to leave his father's home early to fend for himself. He soon started working odd jobs to survive everyday and lived from hand to mouth.

"When life became too tough, and I could not see a future for me in Nigeria, I started to think seriously about migrating from Nigeria. All the young people around me were leaving and going to places like Italy and Germany. I considered this and saw it as an opportunity to improve my economic situation so that I can someday marry and provide adequately for my family."

Soon, Paul left Nigeria and emigrated to the State of Libya in North Africa, hoping to later travel on from there to Europe. However, without a good education and any skill or handcraft for trade in a foreign land his financial condition only worsened, forcing him to return to Nigeria after six months.

Back home in Nigeria, he decided to take up welding as a craft to earn money achieve economic stability. However, he lacked adequate training and had to apprentice with a local welder.

He notes, "I felt the only way I can help myself is by learning a trade. When I was in Libya, I suffered a lot because I did not have any specialised skill. I returned to Nigeria and started working as an apprentice to my boss, who is an experienced welder. He was the one who told me about this welding skills training programme that GIZ SKYE was carrying out for young people in Edo state. My boss encouraged me to apply, and I thank God I did, because it has been a transformative experience for me!"

Participating in the GIZ training programme on welding proved a catalyst to Paul's improved fortunes. The training was implemented by the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) project, with co-funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

He continues,

"I was always looking for a handcraft skill that I could learn which would allow me to earn good money with dignity. GIZ has given me this opportunity. With what I have learned, I have started taking welding jobs for building and construction. I can now earn good money and save enough to marry, have my own children and provide square meals for them. I don't have to run away to another country. GIZ has given me hope to live well in my own country. I am very happy and grateful."



Over 200 Nigerians Sensitized on Regular Migration to Mitigate the Risks and Dangers of Irregular migration

On the 31st of May 2023, the Programme Migration for Development (PME) and Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) partnered with the Abuja Enterprise Agency (AEA) to organize a one-day Information Session on Regular Migration to Germany, entrepreneurship, and employability at the AEA.

The programme had in attendance the Director General of the AEA in the person of Mr. Shehu Abdulkadir and seasoned speakers on the topic of regular migration to Germany, entrepreneurship, and employability. He welcomed over 150 participants in attendance which included young unemployed youths and potential migrants and expressed delight at the cooperation with GIZ. He went on to give an overview of the AEA and its service offerings such as business advisory, access to finance, workspace facilitation, training and mentorship.

Ms. Tolulope Olaiya, the Abuja Coordinator of the PME introduced the services of the Nigerian German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC), also highlighting the cooperation with the Migrant Resource Centre of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Major highlights of the day included the session on regular pathways for migration to Germany, looking particularly at the requirements for studying and working in Germany which Dr. Austin Ezejiolor, team leader of PMD, presented.

Mrs. Mariam of the AEA further sensitized participants on practical steps to becoming a business owner and introduced the participants to the one-stop shop of the AEA. Worthy of note is that the one-stop shop houses desk officers from fourteen different regulatory agencies relevant to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including the Corporate Affairs Commission, Federal Inland Revenue Service, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration, Standard Organisation of Nigeria amongst others.

The one-stop shop makes it easier for MSMEs to interact with relevant regulatory agencies in one location towards enhancing business profitability and productivity.

“Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human”- Ban Ki Moon

Participants were also sensitized on building a career while assessing the prospects and challenges involved. At the end of the sessions, the participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and clarify grey areas.

One of the participants, Alfred, expressed his delight at the wealth of information he gained at the end of the information session. Cynthia advised that more information sessions should be organized to reach the public, because “many so-called travel agents are ‘cashing out’ on promises that they can arrange trips to Europe for people nowadays. These promises end up being fake.”





PME Provides Start-Up Kits To 138 Trained Fashion Designers

In May 2023, 138 beneficiaries graduated from the fashion design training PME implemented in partnership with Crown Natures Nigeria Limited. The beneficiaries were provided with industrial sewing machines to kick-start their businesses. A mentorship program was also provided to the beneficiaries to improve the skills and knowledge they acquired during training.

A beneficiary, S. Aderonke, giving her feedback about the training, said the training was a full package. We were not only trained for free, but we were also given free industrial machines. Much has really been given and I think NGC wants success for us in life.”

Another beneficiary, Chidinma O., spoke about her hope for the future, she said, “our training will make us different from the others. We really learned from the best and learned other sides of the fashion business beyond cutting and sewing.” Chidinma said they were trade secrets when pressed to tell us those sides of the fashion industry she learned from the training.

PME Provides Short-Term Skills To 285 Beneficiaries In The FCT

In the first half of the year, the NGC successfully provided short-term trainings to 285 beneficiaries, including returnees and the local population within the FCT in different skills. Amongst the skills training provided were climate mitigation skills, such as upcycling and solar panel installation while other trainings were provided in leather works, makeup artistry, wig making, pastry making, baking and confectionery, fashion design, and entrepreneurship training amongst others.

The trainings were carefully designed in line with the NABTEB curriculum to give participants the necessary skills needed to thrive in their chosen vocations. At the end of the training, the participants testified to being equipped with valuable knowledge and hands-on experience in their areas of interest.

The beneficiaries were also presented with a certificate and relevant start-up tools to support the startup of their respective businesses. One notable aspect of the short-term trainings continues to be their focus on inclusion. The programme recognizes the need to provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of limitations or challenges, thus participation in the trainings included persons with disabilities thereby ensuring PWDs have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Speaking on the success of the training programs at the fashion design graduation, the Coordinator of NGC Abuja, Tolulope Olaiya, expressed her delight at the level of impact the training has had on the beneficiaries. “The training offered is designed to enhance the employability of the beneficiaries by upskilling them for the labour market. By using a standardized curriculum in line with the demands of the labour market and ensuring that facilitators have the right pedagogical background and industry experience, we are positive that the beneficiaries have been equipped with the tools they need to succeed in the labour market either as self-employed or by getting into jobs.”



Digital Literacy

The Digital Transformation Center is a global hub for digital innovations that improves economic development for MSMEs in Nigeria.



Transforming The Eco-System Through Digital Innovations

Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Nigeria, in its commitment to supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has taken a significant step towards accelerating the digital transformation landscape. In the last quarter, twelve promising Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) consortia were shortlisted for an immersive 3-day training bootcamp organized by DTC Nigeria from 10th to 12th May as part of Output 1's (Digital Innovation Ecosystem Support) efforts.

This bootcamp aimed to refine proposals and deepen the practical understanding of the DIH concept. During the comprehensive bootcamp sessions, a wide range of topics were covered, including innovative service offerings for MSMEs, sustainable business models, financing opportunities, governance structures, networking strategies, and impactful monitoring practices. By fostering collaboration and equipping DIH consortia with valuable knowledge and resources, DTC Nigeria aims to facilitate partnerships among innovation actors across Nigeria's diverse innovation ecosystem. Afterwards, 12 DIH consortia have submitted their proposals, and we are now in the final phase of selecting the top 5 consortia. These chosen consortia will receive comprehensive support to operationalize and drive the digital transformation of non-tech MSMEs in Nigeria.

In addition, DTC implemented Digital & Entrepreneurial projects for Women & Youths. This focused on helping women understand the importance of digitalizing their businesses and provided valuable insights into tools they can use to achieve digitalization, ultimately enhancing their economic and social advancement.

The activity featured sessions led by industry experts, such as Gbeke Oshinowo, Technical Advisor, Digital and Entrepreneurship Skills: Women and Youth at DTC Nigeria, who discussed the need for digital transformation in female entrepreneurship. Tosin Abajo, Assistant Chief Enterprise Officer at the South-West Zonal Office, SMEDAN, facilitated a session on bridging the gap in female entrepreneurship through digital transformation. Dr. Wole Odetayo, Co-Founder of LoftyInc Allied Partners Limited and Wennovation Hub, shared insights on digital tools for optimum digital transformation.

With over 100 participants, predominantly women from different parts of Nigeria, the session provided a platform for meaningful discussions. It commenced with warm welcome remarks from Isimeme Whyte, who expertly hosted and moderated the panel. Dr. Thuweba Diwani, Head of Project at DTC Nigeria, emphasized the organization's focus on women, considering that only 20% of jobs in Nigeria are occupied by women. Bridging this gap through entrepreneurship and the infusion of digital transformation in women-led businesses became an essential objective for DTC Nigeria.

We were honoured to have Dr. Ahmed Yussuff Tambuwal, Head of Digital Skills at the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), deliver the keynote address on behalf of Dr. Amina Sambo Magaji, Ag Director of the Digital Literacy and Capacity Development Department at NITDA. Dr. Tambuwal highlighted the government's commitment to gender equality and representation, with women holding significant leadership positions at NITDA.

It is crucial to equip Nigerian women and youths with digital skills, as these skills will prepare them for existing and future opportunities. The seminar's objective was to dispel the fears surrounding digital transformation among female entrepreneurs, while also showcasing the immense opportunities and challenges it presents.

Promoting Gender in ICT (Women-in-Tech)

The Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria- SEDIN and Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC) Programmes organised a 3-day workshop in Plateau State aimed at identifying effective strategies for narrowing the digital gender gap through peer learning, networking, mentoring and capacity building for women-led tech companies in Plateau state. This is one of the objectives of the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster to improve local economic development, entrepreneurship and digitalisation for women to increase their income and employment power.

The 3-day workshop had various stakeholders in the tech ecosystem across Nigeria and Plateau state including some of Microsoft's Most valuable professionals who shared their experiences and offered mentorship opportunities to women in the ICT Value chain in the state. Other stakeholders from the Plateau State Tech Hub (PLATECH), Plateau State ICT Development Agency (PICTDA), Industrial training fund (ITF) and the University of Jos were present to share insights into closing the digital gender gap in the state.

At the end of the 3-day workshop, the participants were able to brainstorm solutions to challenges faced by women in the ICT value chain, bridge linkages for female techies and MSMEs in the ICT/E-commerce VC, but most importantly was the mentor-mentee session where participants were paired with women mentors who are thriving in the tech ecosystem and have overcome various challenges. To ensure sustainability, the mentors and mentees have created a platform for continuous exchange and support.



Building Business Resilience, Adaptation, and Financing Through Digital Solutions to Enhance Local Economic Development

Digital Literacy: Local cooperation groups across SEDIN states were provided need-based and demand-driven capacity support on digital topics to build inclusive systems and effectiveness to leverage emerging opportunities while they sustainably drive their, socio-economic, development processes and advocacy activities.

Topics covered include digital communication and collaboration skill, digital identity, digital business promotion and marketing etc. Practical sessions, handholding and follow-up measures were used to help beneficiaries apply the skills learnt. The intervention trained 573 beneficiaries.

Cooperatives- Going Digital: Most cooperatives in Nigeria are small and poorly motivated to provide optimum economic service to their members hence limiting their employment and income contributions. Data is stored and managed on paper or inefficiently on Microsoft Excel. Financial transactions are not transparent and non-traceable, which contributes to distrust and low commitment from the members.

The digitisation of cooperatives requires the use of simple, scalable and adaptive information and communication technologies. SEDIN, jointly with the private sector, is facilitating digital solutions to support cooperatives in selected value chains. These solutions will improve their internal processes and financial management while enhancing their access to the markets. The projected outcome is to increase their internal saving mobilisation, attract investment and lending from external actors, access bulk input and output market and improve their capacity to provide financial services to their members. The intervention has supported the digitisation of 4 cooperatives with 426 members.

Health Business and Digital Solutions Ideation/Hackathon: SEDIN, supported by the GIZ BACKUP-Health programme, launched a health hackathon to identify and promote the adoption of innovative business and digital solutions in Nigeria's primary health care sector to the benefit of MSMEs, citizens, primary health care practitioners, and other stakeholders.

Building on insights from qualitative and quantitative research, the programmes launched a Health Care Hackathon for Nigerian innovators. The hackathon process has identified three (3) local relevant innovations which addresses core primary health care challenges such as maternal and infant care, health education and capacity development for health workers, data access and management, telemedicine and improved health care delivery etc.

Inclusive Growth



SEDEC is dedicated to economic equity and opportunities for all. Our interventions prioritise inclusivity and leaves no-one behind.

This section showcases some of our intervention in the last six months.

As part of its gender activities, the **Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC)**, in collaboration with the **Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), Benin City**, organized a two-day symposium for female-run start-ups in Benin City on May 18 and 19, 2023.

The symposium was aimed at **empowering one hundred female entrepreneurs** on the use of modern technologies for ease of business operations, especially cashless transactions, use of online business and banking systems, and encouraged to embrace the digital space. In view of the cashless monetary policy of the CBN and the challenges its implementation has brought most business owners, mastering POS operations has a significant impact on medium, small, and even nano-scale businesses.

The Programme Migration for Development (PME) took a deliberate approach to support **People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria** through different entrepreneurial and vocational skills acquisition programmes. Some of the skills included shoemaking, soap making, hairdressing, fashion design, and information and communication technology (ICT) among others.

Notable amongst the initiatives in 2023 is the **Digital Amazons training for PWDs**. The Digital Amazons is a specialized digital capacity-building program **focused on developing the skills of young women gifted in different areas of the creative arts**. Organised in partnership with The Street Project Foundation, the Digital Amazons program promotes digital inclusion and increases access to job opportunities and a sustainable source of livelihood for young women. After holding two general trainings, a special edition was created for twenty PWDs.

As part of efforts to continue the promotion of gender equity and inclusivity, **PME trained thirty-five IDP women in millinery, from two IDP camps in Abuja, Malaysia Garden and Kabusa camps in April 2023**. The millinery training was organized in cooperation with the **Skilled Women Initiative (TSWIN)**. The training was a multifaceted, easy-to-grasp skills training that covered hat making, bama cap production, gele, and the production of beaded hair accessories.

The three-week training expanded the skill set of the IDP women, equipping them with commercially competitive skills while improving their income base from the production and sales of hats, turbans, fascinators and headbands, and other accessories. At the end of the training, the women were certified and provided a millinery toolbox to aid the startup of their businesses.

Beyond Head Count - Addressing gender inequality through legal and institutional reforms in partner states

Gender mainstreaming in development programmes often focus on counting the number of women participating in programme activities and the number being reached. While this is very important indicator for gender mainstreaming, it is unfortunately not enough to address the gender gap in the long term. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in setting targets and indicators for Goal 5 on gender equality emphasized the important need for policy and regulatory reforms in addressing gender inequality globally. Hence, apart from the legal and regulatory reforms required to transform gender inequality across other targets, Target 5.9 specifically targets the adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

In line with this and realizing the importance of policy, legal and institutional reforms in sustainably addressing gender inequality beyond head counts in partner states, SEDIN under its policy unit has been providing support to partner states to implement policy, legal and institutional reforms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women in the states. These are some of the achievements recorded so far in the states;

➤ **In Plateau state**, support to the implementation of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Law 2015 (which passage was supported by SEDIN under its previous phase) has led to the establishment of Gender Commission, appointment of 35 gender focal persons for key MDAs in the state and 17 gender focal persons for the local governments. These gender focal persons have been trained and they have been deepening gender mainstreaming and monitoring results in their MDAs/LGAs. Similarly, the capacity of leads partners, particularly the Ministry of Lands, the SME Agency (PLASMIDA) and Ministry of Justice and the private sector network have been strengthened on gender mainstreaming and they have developed Ministry-based gender mainstreaming action plans for implementation in line with the Gender and Equal Opportunities Law of the state. In addition, a PPD on women specific constraints to doing business in Plateau State was held where 8 BEE issues have been identified, solutions developed and being implemented.

➤ **In Niger s`tate**, support provided led to the development of the Niger State Gender Policy which was adopted and approved by the State Executive Council in October 2022 with an initial take-off budget of N10,000,000 for implementation. In line with this policy, training of core staff of the implementing agency has been carried out and an action plan developed for implementation.

➤ **In Edo state**, the state Gender Policy has been developed and validated by stakeholders. It is currently awaiting approval by the state executive council. The supported in Edo state was provided along with SKYE and PME programmes of SEDEC.

➤ **In Ogun state**, the draft state gender policy has been developed and awaiting stakeholders' validation.

➤ **In Lagos state**, there are ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation on possible areas of supporting in adopting and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels in the state along with SKYE programme.



Verifiable SEDEC Impact

SEDEC has a budget of over €120 million to run its activities in 11 states and the FCT.

Most of these funds are spent on interventions that have recorded significant impact in the area of sustainable

economic development in Nigeria. Over 58,000 beneficiaries have been provided with career counselling and over 10,000 of them employed.

More than 100 partner organizations have been supported and 20,000 businesses formalized.

Policy Alerts



Status Update



A total of 17 policies have been pushed so far. Six has been adopted/approved with eight validations and three awaiting validation.

Adopted/Approved

Validated/Awaiting Approval

Cluster Data

Migration Programme
Through our migration programmes, we have reached over 10,000 returnees



SEA-Hub Project
Over 35,000 students have been reached directly in Nigeria



Description of Policy	Status	Lead Gov. Agency	Programme
Kaduna State Ginger Investment Policy	Adopted/Approved	Kaduna State Investment Promotion Agency	NICOP
Niger State Gender Policy	Adopted/Approved	Ministry of Women Affairs	SEDIN
Niger State Shea Policy	Adopted/Approved	Niger State Commodity Export Promotion Agency	SEDIN
Niger State Investment Incentives	Adopted/Approved	Ministry of Investment	SEDIN
Plateau State Agriculture Policy	Adopted/Approved	Ministry of Agriculture	SEDIN/NICOP
Plateau State Employment Strategy	Adopted/Approved	PLASMIDA	SEDIN/SKYE
Niger State MSMEs Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	Niger State SME Agency	SEDIN
Plateau State ICT Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	Plateau State ICT Development Agency	SEDIN
Plateau State E-commerce Strategy	Validated, awaiting approval	Plateau ICT Development Agency/PLASMIDA	SEDIN
Plateau State MSMEs Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	PLASMIDA	SEDIN
Plateau State Investments & Business Incentives	Validated, awaiting approval	Plateau OSIC	SEDIN
Edo State Gender Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	Ministry of Social Development & Gender	PME, SEDIN, SKYE
Edo State Agriculture Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	Ministry of Agriculture	SEDIN
Ogun State Agriculture Policy	Validated, awaiting approval	Ministry of Agriculture	SEDIN/NICOP
Edo State MSMEs Policy	1st draft, awaiting validation	Ministry of Business, Trade and Cooperation	SEDIN
Ogun State Gender Policy	1st draft, awaiting validation	Ministry of Women Affairs	SEDIN/NICOP
Lagos State Investments and Business Incentives	1st draft, awaiting validation	Office of SDG & Investment	SEDIN



Supporting Diaspora Engagement

Since 2016, a total of 55 returning experts have been supported

With the diaspora engagement, regular exchange with German advisory structures to advise returnees already in Germany and to inform about prospects in Nigeria.

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We will keep working together to address the challenges facing the business climate in Nigeria.

Markus **Wagner**
Country Director, GIZ Nigeria

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