

Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria

The Challenge

Nigeria is a developing country with lingering economic difficulties stemming from several factors.

The country faces a critical challenge with widespread unemployment and underdevelopment, significantly impacting household incomes. This situation is further compounded by inflation, which erodes the purchasing power of existing earnings. This combination of factors creates a multifaceted problem demanding urgent attention and effective solutions.

Nigeria has a huge number of vibrant and creative Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which play a substantial role in the country's GDP and job creation. Yet, there is the need to effectively harness the potential of these MSMEs to provide more decent jobs with living wages.

Furthermore, these MSMEs, are constantly confronted with a myriad of challenges including non-availability of skilled labour, high production costs, lack of access to the right financial support, and other business development services.

There is also the issue of the business environment which has been duly identified as not conducive for growth as well as the inability of the government to readily initiate or follow through with reforms, especially those that will reduce the time and cost of doing business in Nigeria.

Also, accessing larger or new markets is challenging for MSMEs as they often lack relevant information and the capacity to go through complicated certification and registration procedures for both local and international target markets.

Our Approach

The Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria- SEDIN, a programme of **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in Nigeria**, works with the relevant government agencies, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to address the fundamentals of the identified issues.

With major funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), its main objective is to strengthen the Nigerian business environment, to enable MSMEs increase competitiveness, revenue and create decent jobs.

SEDIN has in the immediate past recorded measurable success in the areas of Local Economic Development, Policy Frameworks, Business Environment, Entrepreneurship Skills, and Financial Literacy among the target groups. This is majorly because we hinge the achievement of our objective on the implementation of our different interventions in collaboration with various partners at different levels.

We achieve this by advocating for an inclusive approach that guarantees everyone has equal access to the services we support. Our focus areas include environmental sustainability, gender equality, combating climate change, and ensuring access to sustainable infrastructure, all within specific clusters and hubs.

SEDIN also works with stakeholders in the financial sector to engender financial literacy among MSMEs.

Read our past achievements [here](#).

We work presently in the five federal states of Edo, Lagos, Niger, Ogun and Plateau, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), in Nigeria.



Our Interventions

The programme builds capacity of MSMEs with a special focus on different selected groups such as female led MSMEs, returnees, People living with Disabilities (PWDs) and youth in the partner states.

The SEDIN programme is currently cantered around five main intervention areas. These areas involve supporting both private and public sector stakeholders in addressing institutional, regulatory, and procedural frameworks. Additionally, the programme focuses on promoting an enabling business environment, enhancing access to markets, strengthening entrepreneurship development, facilitating access to finance, and fostering the development of sustainable infrastructure.

Other interventions include:

- Working with private sector associations and MSMEs to identify business enabling environment issues affecting MSMEs, jointly develop solutions through public private dialogues (PPDs) and providing technical support for implementation of adopted reforms.
- Building capacity of the private sector for better coordination, and engagement with government and reform advocacy.
- Supporting state IPAs to improve the investment facilitation and aftercare services to MSMEs and investors and supporting Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) for national peer learning and national-state linkages in investment facilitation.
- Support the development of growth strategies for entrepreneurs and MSMEs.
- Advising institutions that implement and scale existing approaches, such as the ICSS programme, the basic financial literacy training and the Student Entrepreneurship Activity Hub (SEA-Hub) project to improve and disseminate these approaches to our target groups.
- Facilitate access to finance by matchmaking MSMEs and financial intermediaries.
- Advise financial intermediaries on the adaptation and development of innovative financial products that are tailored towards green, social and digital transformation.
- Improving the provision of Business Development Services (BDS) offered to entrepreneurs and MSMEs, particularly women, and members of vulnerable groups, including returnees.

- Creating access to markets through business linkages, support to MSMEs using digital marketing channels, export promotion, and providing innovative solutions to logistics bottlenecks.
- Addressing infrastructural gaps inhibiting production capacity of MSMEs in clusters, hubs and markets.
- Building the capacity of managers of clusters, hubs and markets to improve services to MSMEs in supported clusters, hubs and markets.
- Building capacity of MSMEs to increase the environmental sustainability of their business in one of the following dimensions; energy efficiency, energy supply through renewable energy and circular economy.

Our Partners and Target Groups

Our target beneficiaries include; MSMEs in clusters, markets, and industrial hubs including the special focus on women-led businesses, returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), PWDs, youth and other vulnerable groups.

SEDIN's partners are the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Edo State Government, Lagos State Government, Niger State Government, Ogun State Government, Plateau State Government, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Small and Medium Enterprises Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), private stakeholders, civil society, media, and MDAs on implementation level.

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