

1st Edition, Jan - Jun 2026

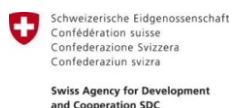
SEDEC NEWSLETTER

Sustainable Economic Development Cluster



GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS

Support to Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**

implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

WELCOME

Message from the Cluster Coordinator



Dr. Didier Djoumessi

Cluster Coordinator, SEDEC GIZ Nigeria

Dear readers,

Welcome to this edition of the SEDEC Newsletter, highlighting some of the milestones, partnerships, and stories that shaped our work during the first half of 2026.

As I reflect on the past six months, I am encouraged not only by the results achieved but also by the strong collaboration and shared commitment that continue to drive our work forward. Across the SEDEC Cluster, we have seen young people access skills development and employment opportunities, entrepreneurs strengthen and grow their businesses, institutions advance important reforms, digital solutions create new pathways for inclusion and innovation, and migration-focused interventions expand opportunities for economic participation, reintegration, and sustainable livelihoods.

A recurring theme throughout this edition is the importance of collaboration. Sustainable economic development cannot be achieved through isolated interventions. It requires strong partnerships, local ownership, innovation, and a shared commitment to creating opportunities that are inclusive, practical, and sustainable. I am particularly

encouraged by the growing leadership of our Nigerian partners, whose dedication and expertise continue to strengthen the impact and sustainability of our interventions.

Beyond the achievements and statistics, these stories reflect the experiences of people whose lives and livelihoods have been positively influenced through new skills, improved employment prospects, stronger businesses, enhanced digital capabilities, and expanded economic opportunities. They remind us that sustainable development is ultimately about people and their ability to participate meaningfully in and benefit from economic growth.

“

This edition showcases the breadth of our work and the diverse ways in which we contribute to sustainable economic development.

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I would like to sincerely thank our partners, stakeholders, and colleagues for their continued collaboration and commitment. Your contributions remain central to the progress highlighted in these pages.

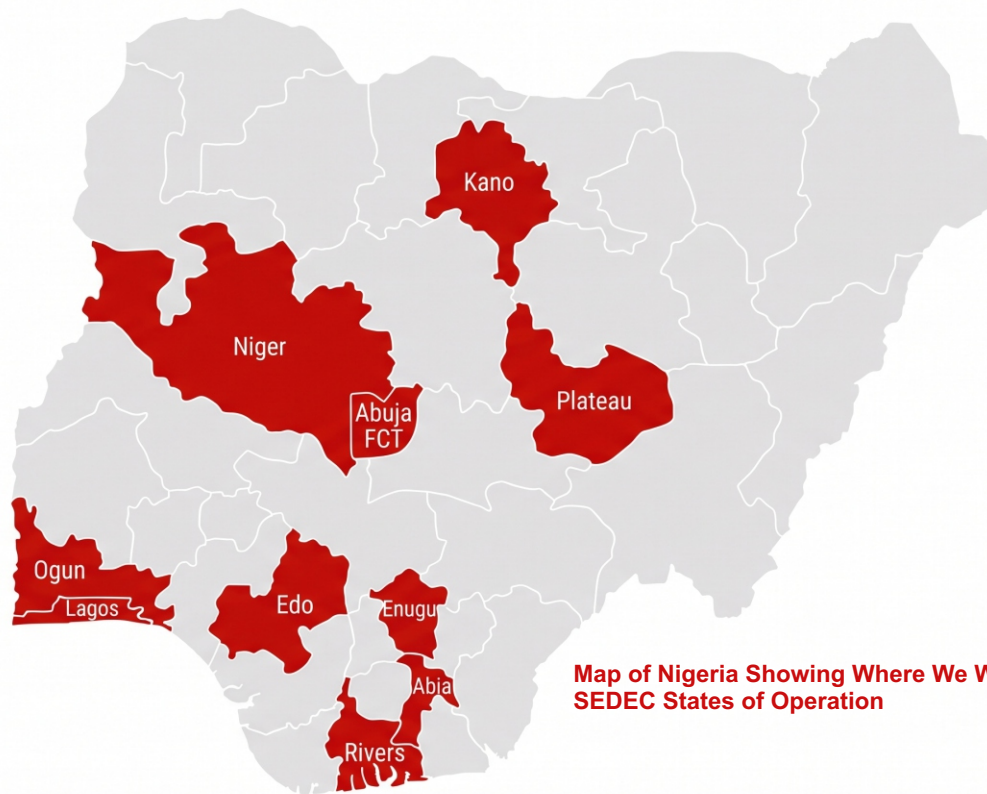
I hope you enjoy reading this edition and find inspiration in the many examples of partnership, innovation, resilience, and impact it contains.

Happy reading.

From strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems to supporting digital transformation, improving the business enabling environment, promoting access to markets, and creating opportunities linked to migration and labour mobility, the stories featured here demonstrate the value of integrated and partnership-driven approaches.

SEDEC AT A GLANCE

January–June 2026 | Cluster Overview



**Map of Nigeria Showing Where We Work:
SEDEC States of Operation**

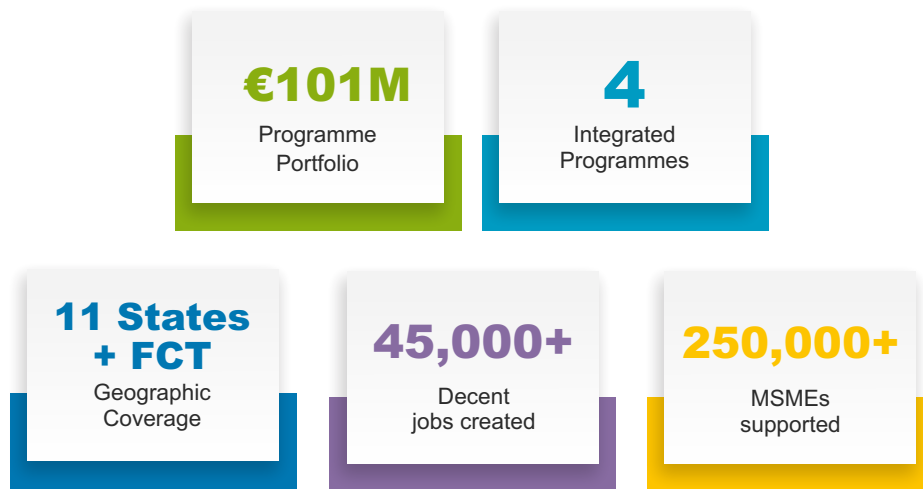
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is a global organisation with extensive experience dedicated to international cooperation for sustainable development and international education. GIZ has been operating in Nigeria since 1974, implementing programmes focused on sustainable economic development, employment promotion, governance, energy, environment, peace and security, and digital transformation.

To strengthen and streamline its interventions on sustainable economic development in Nigeria, GIZ established the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) in 2019. The cluster currently comprises four programmes:

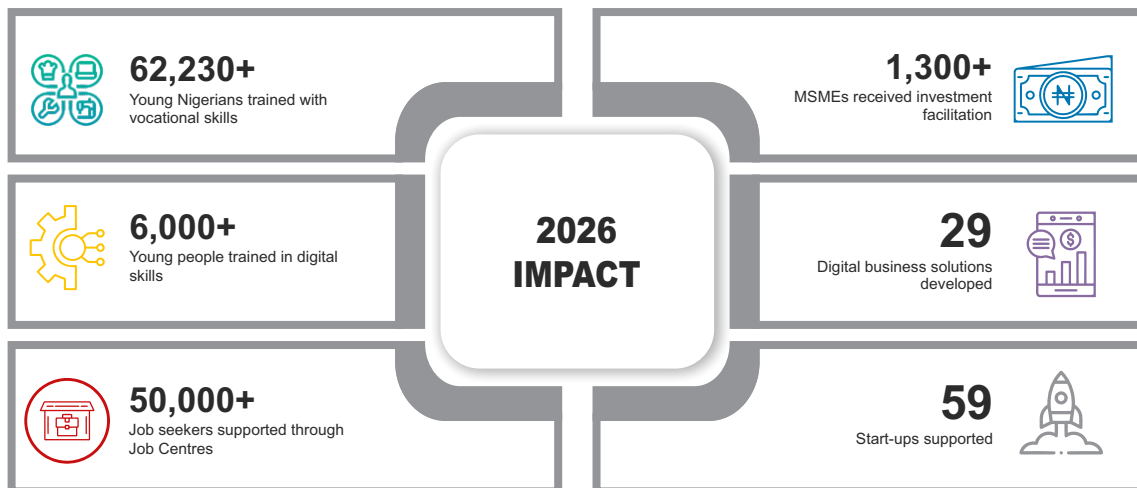
Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN), Skills Development for Youth Employment II (SKYE II), Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), and Digital Transformation Center (DTC). These programmes work across different thematic areas including employment promotion, entrepreneurship, migration and reintegration, digital innovation, skills development, and private sector engagement.

SEDEC activities are implemented across 11 Nigerian states, with offices in Edo, Lagos, Ogun, and Plateau States, supporting public and private sector institutions to strengthen their roles in sustainable and inclusive economic development.

SEDEC IN NUMBERS



FIRST HALF 2026 IMPACT ACROSS THE CLUSTER



IN THIS EDITION

1. Welcome

Message from Cluster Coordinator Dr. Didier Djoumessi | SEDEC at a Glance

2. Feature Story

Youth Voices at the Centre of Employment Dialogue — Martha John, NLC Youth Committee

3. Event Highlights

Omniverse Africa Summit 3.0 | TVET Conference 2026 | ICSS4All Programme Launch | Nigeria–Ghana Labour Mobility Exchange | *Additional Omniverse beneficiary stories*

4. Skills Development and Labour Market

Lagos skills pathways | Job Centres, Ogun & Enugu | Repositioning TVET | SKYE CBT | Benin Technical College | Germany study visit | *Stories: Owolabi, Jennifer, Esther, Oluwagbemiga, Tewari & Ayomide*

5. Private Sector Development and Entrepreneurship

DTC Policy Training | ICSS ecosystem | Breaking market barriers | Abuja Arts & Crafts Cluster

6. Digitalisation and Innovation

Rivers State ICT engagement | Wider NetFarms drone demo, Port Harcourt | Stakeholder Inception Workshop on E-Commerce Data Protection and Privacy Framework

7. Access to Finance, Green Economy and Sustainable Development

Financial literacy, Plateau | Shared productive infrastructure | OGSEDA | SEDIN energy access reforms | *Stories: Hannatu, Emmanuel*

8. Migration and Labour Mobility

IMRF 2026, New York | African Skills 4 Germany | Trade unions & migrant workers

9. Gender Equality and Inclusion

IWD, Plateau State | Purple Book gender reforms | Gender-inclusive procurement | Inclusive Business | Waste management

10. Looking Ahead

The SEDEC Loop | International Youth Day | National MSME Conference 2026

11. Impressum

Contributors, Editor, Design/Layout



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SEDEC Newsletter — January–June 2026, 1st Edition

Abbreviation	Full Meaning
AEA	Abuja Enterprise Agency
AHK	Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (Außenhandelskammer)
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AS4G	African Skills 4 Germany
ATUMNET	African Trade Union Migration Network
BASF	Badische Anilin und Soda-Fabrik (German chemical company, parent of trinamiX)
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
BOI	Bank of Industry
CBT	Competency-Based Training
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Gießen-Friedberg, Germany)
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DTC	Digital Transformation Centre
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESPV	Electrical Solar PV Installation and Maintenance
EU	European Union
EU-VACE	European Union — Value Chain and Employment (GIZ programme)
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GmbH)
GSTC	Gender and Social Transformation Centre
IAMN	Institute of Agribusiness Management in Nigeria
IB	Inclusive Business
ICR	Inclusive and Climate-Resilient (Facility)
ICSS	Inspire, Create, Start and Scale
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IPA	Investment Promotion Agency
ITUC-AFRICA	International Trade Union Confederation — Africa
LGA	Local Government Area
LSETF	Lagos State Employment Trust Fund
MCW	Masonry Construction Worker
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MWCE	Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment (Lagos State)
NACCIMA	Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture
NIPC	Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission
NLC	Nigeria Labour Congress
OGSEDA	Ogun State Enterprise Development Agency
PIC	Policy Innovation Centre

Abbreviation	Full Meaning
PLASMIDA	Plateau State Microfinance Development Agency
PV	Photovoltaic
RACI	Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed (coordination framework)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEDEC	Sustainable Economic Development Cluster
SEDIN	Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria
SHINE	Supporting Her Innovation, Networking and Enterprise
SKYE II	Skills Development for Youth Employment II
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
TARED	Trade, Agriculture, Rural Economy and Development (GIZ programme)
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
USD	United States Dollar
WAPAN	Waste Pickers Association of Nigeria
WEPROSPER	Waste Pickers Empowerment Programme
WETI	West End Trade and Industry (Cluster)
WITED	Women in Technical Education
ZME	Centres for Migration and Development (Zentren für Migration und Entwicklung)

Total: 60 abbreviations

Prepared by Shima Designs Ltd for GIZ Nigeria, SEDEC Cluster | PO 4500029640

FEATURE STORY

Youth Voices at the Centre of Employment Dialogue

Following her participation in the “United for Youth: Social Partners for Jobs in Africa” conference in Berlin, organised by GIZ on behalf of Germany’s Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Comrade Martha John, Chairperson of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Youth Committee, sat with Oluwale Olubanji, GIZ-ZME Communication Advisor, to share her insights on social dialogue, youth inclusion and improving employment outcomes for young people.

GIZ-“Centres for Migration and Development” (ZME): You recently represented Nigeria at a global conference on youth employment. What stayed with you the most?

Martha:

What really stood out was the level of collaboration between governments, employers, and workers’ organisations. Social dialogue wasn’t approached as a formality; it was advanced as an integral aspect of social change. I was also impressed by how intentionally young people were included, not just to attend, but to actively contribute their knowledge as critical stakeholders in their future.

GIZ-ZME: How does that compare with what we see in Nigeria?

Martha:

It shows both progress and opportunity. We already have structures in place, such as the Youth Committee of the Nigeria Labour Congress. But youth participation needs to go beyond formal representation to become an

active contributor to socio-economic discourse. It has to be meaningful. This experience really reinforced the importance of embedding youth voices into our labour systems in a more deliberate way.

GIZ-ZME: Were there shared challenges across countries?

Martha:

Very much so. No matter the country, young people are facing similar issues such as unemployment, underemployment, and unfair or indecent work practices. It was a strong reminder that this is a global challenge that requires collective solutions.

GIZ-ZME: What were the key takeaways from the conference?

Martha:

There was a clear commitment to creating more decent jobs for young people, especially in informal and emerging sectors. We also saw a strong focus on improving skills development, strengthening school-to-work transitions, and ensuring better protection for young workers. Safe and fair labour migration was another key priority.

GIZ-ZME: What should be prioritised moving forward?

Martha: Investment in skills is critical, especially through vocational training. We also need more structured internship opportunities that actually lead somewhere. At the same time, we must extend social protection to young people in informal and gig work, while preparing them with digital skills for the future.



Comrade Martha John Chairperson, NLC Youth Committee, Nigeria Labour Congress with ZME Head of Programme, Sandra Vermuijten at the IMRF 2026 in New York, USA

GIZ-ZME: How does social dialogue help drive this change?

Martha: It brings everyone to the table to build solutions together. When young people are genuinely included, policies become more practical and more sustainable. It's about shifting from simply being consulted to actually being part of decision-making.

GIZ-ZME: What are your next priorities after this experience?

Martha: I'm focused on creating more inclusive spaces for young people within the labour movement, pushing for

access to decent work, and strengthening pathways from education to employment. The connections made at the conference will also help sustain collaboration going forward.

GIZ-ZME: Finally, what does International Workers' Day mean to you in this context?

Martha: It's a reminder that the future of work must include everyone. Young people shouldn't just benefit from the system; they should help shape it. Strengthening social dialogue is how we make that happen.

As we commemorate International Workers' Day, this conversation reminds us that advancing youth employment is not just about creating opportunities, but about reshaping the systems that govern work itself. Social dialogue offers a powerful pathway to ensure that young people are not sidelined, but recognised as equal partners in building fair, resilient, and forward-looking labour markets. By deepening collaboration among governments, employers, and workers' organisations, and by intentionally embedding youth voices in decision-making spaces, we can move closer to a future where decent work is not an aspiration, but a reality for all.

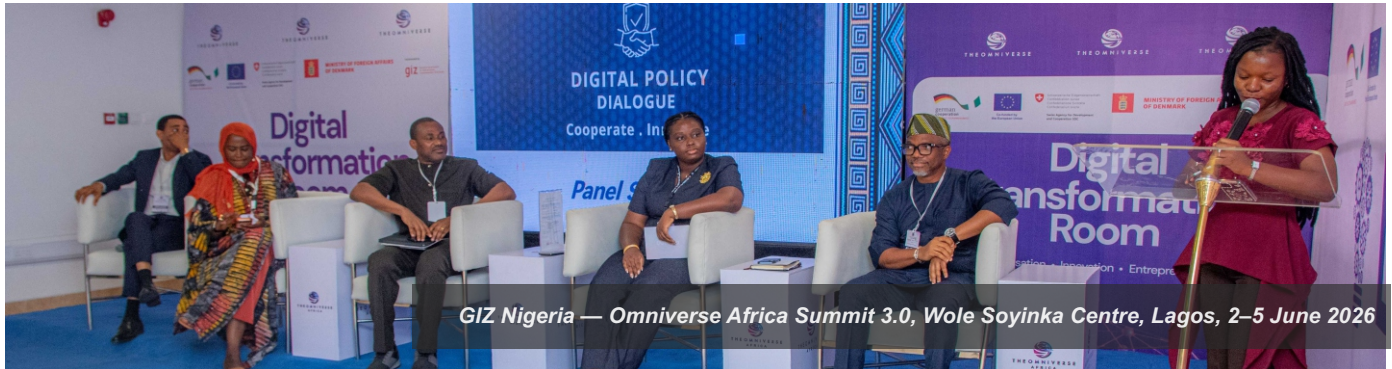


Martha John (NLC Youth Committee Chairperson) at a panel discussion during her participation in the United for Youth Conference in Berlin, Germany in March 2026

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Omniverse Africa Summit 3.0 | TVET Conference 2026 | ICSS4All | Nigeria–Ghana Exchange

The Omniverse Africa Summit 3.0: Connecting Talent, Innovation and Opportunity



Africa's digital economy holds immense promise, but turning that promise into jobs, thriving businesses, and inclusive growth requires more than technology alone. Young people need relevant skills and pathways into decent work. Entrepreneurs need stronger support systems to grow competitive businesses. Governments, industry, academia, and development partners must also work together to create an enabling environment where innovation can flourish.

Against this backdrop, Omniverse Africa Summit 3.0, co-convened by GIZ's Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) and its partners, brought together policymakers, entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, technology companies, development partners, academia, creatives, and young professionals from 2 to 5 June 2026 at the Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and Creative Arts, National Theatre, Lagos. Under the theme "Connected Future, Synergy for Impact," the summit provided a platform to strengthen partnerships, exchange knowledge, and explore practical solutions for advancing Africa's digital economy. Delivered in close collaboration with key ecosystem partners, including the Eko Job Centre and the Migration Resource Centre (MRC), the

Highlights

30,000+

participants from more than 20 countries

3,000+

job and internship matches facilitated through the Career Centre

180+

speakers and 80+ partners engaged across four thematic days

summit reflected the value of coordinated partnerships in driving innovation, employability, and enterprise development.



The Career Centre connected young people with employers, career advisors, training providers, and industry experts through mentoring, labour migration advisory services, panel discussions, and a career fair. These engagements equipped participants with practical insights into emerging career pathways, future-ready skills, and employment opportunities within Nigeria and beyond.

Alongside this, the Digital Transformation Room explored how technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital finance, digital public infrastructure, and digital governance can strengthen businesses and improve public service delivery. Through practical demonstrations and discussions, participants examined how digital innovation can enhance business competitiveness, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and support inclusive growth.

In parallel, Roundtables, the MSME Clinic, and interactive workshops brought together entrepreneurs, investors, government institutions, development partners, and ecosystem actors to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and identify collaborative solutions around startup growth, innovation financing, responsible AI, digital inclusion, the green economy, film innovation, and the future of education. Together, these conversations reflected the breadth of opportunities shaping Africa's evolving digital economy and reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration.

Drawing on expertise from across its programmes, SEDEC contributed perspectives on digital transformation, entrepreneurship, skills development, youth employment, labour mobility, and private sector development, demonstrating how these interconnected areas work together to expand economic opportunities.

Omniverse Africa Summit 3.0 demonstrated the value of connecting talent with opportunity, innovation with enterprise, and policy with practice. It reaffirmed that digital transformation is not an end in itself, but a catalyst for job creation, enterprise growth, and inclusive, sustainable economic development.



Speakers and panellists at the Omniverse Africa Summit 2026



NYSC participants take part in a live demonstration session at the Career Centre during the Omniverse Africa Summit 2026



A career counselling session between an Eko Job Centre career counsellor and an NYSC participant at the Career Centre.

"Africa's digital future is not built with technology alone — it is built with people, skills, and the courage to collaborate."



Dr. Divani delivers a keynote address at the Career Centre during the Omniverse Africa Summit 2026.



A selfie moment with GIZ representatives and the Honourable Minister of Defence.



Participants gather for a group photograph at the Omniverse Africa Summit 2026

The TVET Conference 2026: Building Momentum for TVET Reform and Youth Employment in Nigeria



L-R: Dr. Samson Ebijaro, Director, International Development, Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning; Mr. Laurent Favier, Consul General of the French Embassy in Lagos; Ms. Conny Camenzind, Consul General of Switzerland in Nigeria; Mr. Daniel Krull, Consul General of Germany in Nigeria; Dr. Obafemi Kari Hamzat, Deputy Governor of Lagos State; Dr. Mariuf Olatunji Alausa, Honourable Minister of Education; Mr. Massimo De Luca, Head of European Union Cooperation to Nigeria and ECOWAS; Mr. Seve Diomande, Programme Manager, IOM, representing UN agencies; and Prof. Idris Bugge, Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE).

In this spirit of partnership and shared learning, the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE II) programme, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) led the TVET Development Partners Working Group to support the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) to convene a National TVET Conference in Lagos between 8 and 10 June, 2026. Held under the theme “*Harnessing TVET as a*

Pathway to Employment: Building a System for Employability, Inclusion and Green Growth in Nigeria,” the conference provided a strategic platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and networking among key stakeholders in Nigeria’s skills development ecosystem to advance the compelling vision for accelerating TVET reforms through systemic transformation, stronger public-private collaboration, and greater alignment between skills development, labour market needs and emerging trends.

A central message that emerged from the conference was that “*Technical and Vocational*

Education and Training (TVET) should no longer be viewed as an alternative educational pathway. Rather, it must be recognized as a strategic economic development instrument capable of driving productivity, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, inclusion, and green growth” while equipping Nigeria’s labour force with the skills required to succeed in an increasingly dynamic and future-oriented economy.

One of the most profound observations from the conference was that unemployment in Nigeria is increasingly linked to a mismatch between the skills available in the Labour Market (LM) and those



Participants and dignitaries in attendance during a plenary session at the National TVET Conference 2026.

demand by employers. Training systems often operate in isolation from industry realities, producing graduates whose competencies do not align with current and emerging economic opportunities. This reality demands a shift from supply-driven training models to demand-driven systems that are informed by labour market intelligence, employer needs, and future LM trends.

The need to reposition the private sector from being merely a consumer of skilled labour to becoming a co-owner of the TVET system featured in conversations across all three thematic areas, as employers should not only recruit graduates; they should help design curricula, shape occupational standards, provide workplace

learning opportunities, and participate in quality assurance processes. This reinforces a simple truth: skills development is not philanthropy, it is a business investment with measurable returns.

Another key takeaway was the growing recognition that the green economy is rapidly reshaping workforce demand. Renewable energy, sustainable construction, waste management, environmental services, circular economy enterprises, and climate-smart agriculture are emerging as major sources of employment opportunities. For Nigeria, integrating green competencies across all TVET programmes should not simply be an environmental agenda but rather

an economic strategy that prepares the labour force for green transitions. The conference also challenged stakeholders to rethink inclusion as women, persons with disabilities, rural populations, and vulnerable groups continue to face barriers to accessing quality skills development opportunities.

Side events at the conference, such as industry exhibitions and Career Hive connected students directly with employers, recruiters and industry professionals, with at least 100 students directly accessing career counselling services from trained counselors and industry experts, within the broader scope of exposing the learners to real world experiences in the LM.



The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, joins representatives from government, the private sector, development partners and TVET institutions for a group photograph during the National TVET Conference 2026.



A student contributes to discussions during an interactive session at the National TVET Conference 2026 Career Hive.



Cross-section of high-level delegates from development partner institutions with the Governor of Lagos State

ICSS4All: Official Launch of the ICSS Programme



Group picture of participants at the Nigeria-Ghana regional exchange workshop in Lagos in April 2026

A major milestone in Nigeria's entrepreneurship ecosystem was marked with the launch of the Inspire, Create, Start, and Scale (ICSS) Entrepreneurship Development Programme, a structured framework designed to support entrepreneurs and MSMEs at every stage of their business journey.

Developed under the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN) programme and

implemented in collaboration with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Kaduna Business School, and GOPA Consultancy, ICSS provides a holistic approach to entrepreneurship development. The programme supports entrepreneurs from ideation and business creation through to growth, market access, and long-term sustainability.

Built around four pillars—Inspire, Create, Start, and Scale—ICSS combines entrepreneurship training, mentorship, business advisory services, market linkages, and access to finance to help entrepreneurs develop resilient and competitive businesses. By bringing these elements together within a single ecosystem, the programme addresses critical gaps that often limit the growth potential of MSMEs.

The launch event brought together key stakeholders from government, the private sector, development cooperation, and the wider entrepreneurship ecosystem, reaffirming a shared commitment to strengthening MSMEs as drivers of innovation, job creation, and economic growth.

The event also highlighted the impact already achieved through the partnership. Since 2020, GIZ has supported the training of more than 48,921 entrepreneurs, while GOPA Consultancy has trained over 14,000 beneficiaries, contributing to stronger entrepreneurship support systems and expanding opportunities for enterprise development across Nigeria.

A major highlight was the exhibition of products by programme beneficiaries, showcasing businesses across sectors including fashion, Adire, footwear, food processing, and creative industries. The exhibition provided entrepreneurs with opportunities to increase visibility, connect with potential customers, and explore new market opportunities.

As the programme moves forward, ICSS is expected to further strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems across the country, equipping more entrepreneurs with the skills, networks, and opportunities needed to build sustainable businesses, create jobs, and contribute to inclusive economic growth.

"Since its pilot in 2021, GIZ has supported the training of more than 48,921 entrepreneurs, while over 14,000 of these beneficiaries were capacitated through GOPA in the last 18 months alone."



Presentation of Certificate to ICSS Alumni



ICSS4All Event



ICSS4All Event



Exhibitors at the ICSS4All event



Exhibitors at the ICSS4All event

Nigeria and Ghana Exchange Good Practices on Labour Mobility



GIZ Nigeria/ZME — Nigeria-Ghana Labour Mobility Exchange, Lagos, 27–30 April 2026. Illustration: GIZ

From 27th to 30th April 2026, the Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), implemented by GIZ on behalf of Germany, convened Private Employment Agencies (PEAs), Labour Officers, and migration stakeholders from Nigeria and Ghana in Lagos for a regional learning and exchange workshop.

The workshop provided a platform for participants to discuss the evolving realities of labour migration within the ECOWAS region and to explore how PEAs can contribute to safer, more structured, and demand-driven migration pathways across Africa.

Participants explored key issues shaping labour migration within the

ECOWAS region, including labour mobility, migration governance, skills development and certification, and access to employment opportunities.

The discussions also provided an opportunity for Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) and government stakeholders from Nigeria and Ghana to reflect on the practical challenges affecting labour migration management and to identify areas for stronger collaboration. Through the exchange, participants shared experiences on labour market needs, emerging employment trends, and mechanisms for improving information sharing, coordination, and cross-border

cooperation in support of safer and more organised labour mobility across the region.

The exchange also strengthened collaboration among government institutions, PEAs, and migration actors from both countries, while identifying practical steps to improve governance, oversight, and coordination within labour mobility systems.

As migration dynamics continue to evolve across the region, partnerships and knowledge-sharing platforms such as this remain essential for promoting safe, orderly, and rights-based migration pathways for Africans.



SEDEC WORKS ACROSS SIX INTERCONNECTED THEMATIC AREAS



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT

Building demand-driven TVET systems, expanding Job Centres, and equipping young Nigerian with the practical skills employers need.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening MSMEs, launching entrepreneurship ecosystems, and connecting Nigerian businesses to markets, finance, and digital tools.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & INNOVATION

Expanding digital skills and literacy, supporting innovation hubs, and enabling businesses and institutions to harness technology for inclusive

ACCESS TO FINANCE & GREEN ECONOMY

Improving financial literacy, facilitating investment, and advancing clean energy access to power MSME productivity and resilience.



MIGRATION & LABOUR MOBILITY

Promoting safe, orderly migration, opening pathways to international employment, and protecting the rights of Nigerian workers at home and abroad.

GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Embedding gender-responsive policies across sectors, advancing women's economic participation, and ensuring no one is left behind.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR MARKET

1 Creating Pathways to Decent Work Through Skills Development in Lagos State

For many young people in Lagos State, the transition from training to decent work remains difficult. Limited access to practical experience, industry exposure, and employment pathways often makes it hard to transition into the workforce even after gaining technical skills.

To address this gap, the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) programme, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) partnered with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment (MWCE) to implement an inclusive skills development initiative aimed at strengthening employability and connecting young people to opportunity. The programme combined technical training, workplace readiness support, internships, and employer engagement to equip participants with future-ready capabilities and practical industry experience.

Through this partnership, about 1,500 participants gained practical skills and hands-on experience across three critical sectors shaping tomorrow's economy: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Trade &

Commerce, and Recycling & Environmental Sustainability. The initiative included a 4-week intensive training followed by a 3-month internship, enabling participants to apply their new skills in real work environments and improve their readiness for employment.

Beyond technical training, the programme also strengthened direct engagement between employers, counsellors, government institutions, and private sector partners through targeted career activities and networking opportunities.

Employability readiness sessions at the Eko Job Centre equipped participants with practical knowledge in CV writing, interview preparation, workplace ethics, and soft skills development, while the Career Expo connected over 500 participants with 50 companies for career guidance, networking, internship placements, and employment opportunities.

Inclusivity remained central throughout the initiative, with dedicated opportunities for women and persons with disabilities, reinforcing the commitment to ensuring no one is left behind.

Moving forward, the partnership continues to strengthen pathways to decent work while contributing to a skilled, confident, and inclusive workforce for Lagos State.



LAGOS SKILLS INITIATIVE - KEY RESULTS

1,500

Participants trained

3

Sectors: ICT, Trade & Recycling

4 wks+3 mths

Training plus internship

500+

At Career Expo

50

Companies engaged



The Deputy Governor of Ogun State, H.E. Noimot Salako-Oyedele, officially launches the Ogun Job Centre alongside Ms.Karin Jansen, Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Nigeria.

2 Job Centres in Ogun and Enugu Are Expanding Pathways to Employment

Young people across Nigeria often face challenges transitioning from education and training into employment. Limited access to career guidance, practical work experience, and labour market information can make it difficult to secure decent work or pursue sustainable self-employment opportunities.

To help address this gap, the German and Swiss-funded Skills Development for Youth Employment Programme (SKYE II) supported the establishment of two new Job Centres in Ogun and Enugu States in partnership with the Ogun State Skills Fund and the Enugu SME Centre. Since opening their doors to job seekers in 2025, the centres have provided a range of services including career counselling, employability training, CV reviews, digital literacy training, internship placements, job matching, and entrepreneurship support.

The centres have quickly become important hubs for connecting young people to opportunities, while also strengthening collaboration between government institutions, employers, training providers, and other labour market actors. Through innovative services such as digital skills training, career guidance, equipment lending, and work hubs for artisans, the centres are supporting both employment and self-employment pathways.

By 2026, the Job Centres had reached 62,230 people through their services, helping job seekers improve their

employability, access labour market information, connect with employers, and explore entrepreneurship opportunities.

Beyond the numbers, the impact is best reflected in the stories of the people who have benefited. From graduates securing their first jobs, to young people building digital skills, entrepreneurs growing their businesses, and innovators turning ideas into opportunities, the Job Centres are helping transform lives and livelihoods across Ogun and Enugu States.



Owolabi Oluwasuen Tobi — From Graduate to Headteacher

Owolabi Oluwasuen Tobi had been searching for work since graduating from Olabisi Onabanjo University in 2025. Through the Ogun Job Centre, he was connected with a school that employed him as a headteacher and provided accommodation.

“My life has been transformed. I have been able to support my family and build a more stable future.”

Jennifer Amadi — Learning Digital Skills from Scratch

When Jennifer Amadi joined digital literacy training at the Enugu Job Centre, she had little experience using computers. After two weeks of training, she had learned typing, PowerPoint, Excel, animations, video editing, and other digital skills that improved her confidence and employability.

“Before now, I didn’t know anything about computers. I have learned so much thanks to the Enugu Job Centre.”

Esther Adeola — Building Confidence for the Future

For Esther Adeola, employability training at the Ogun Job Centre provided more than technical knowledge. Through practical training, teamwork exercises, entrepreneurship sessions, and workplace readiness support, she gained confidence and developed skills that improved her prospects for both employment and self-employment.

“The programme has greatly improved my employability and prepared me for both employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.”

Oluwagbemiga Adeboye — Turning Innovation into Opportunity

Following a career fair and innovation pitch organised by the Ogun Job Centre and the Federal University of Agriculture, Oluwagbemiga Adeboye refined his solar dryer prototype based on employer feedback. In March 2026, he became one of the recipients of the Federal Government Student Venture Capital Grant, receiving ₦50 million to further develop the innovation.

Tewari Vera & Ayomide Olawale — Supporting Self-Employment

The Ogun Job Centre’s work hub and equipment lending scheme is helping artisans and entrepreneurs grow their businesses. Furniture maker Tewari Vera borrowed equipment to meet customer demand, while baker and garment maker Ayomide Olawale used the centre’s facilities to improve service delivery and expand her client base.

“The opportunity has helped me boost my business because more customers are satisfied with timely delivery.”





Participants showcase their certificates following a study visit to Germany, supporting knowledge exchange and improved TVET delivery.

3 Repositioning TVET as a Driver of Nigeria's Economic Transformation

“What we need is not incremental change, but a systemic shift, one that positions Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) not as an alternative pathway, but as a mainstream driver of economic transformation.” - Jani Ibrahim

This powerful statement by Jani Ibrahim, National President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), set the tone for critical conversations at the recent NACCIMA TVET Summit held in Lagos, under the theme: Building Industry-Ready Professionals for a \$1 Trillion Economy.

The summit, held in April, convened key stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and development organisations to address one of Nigeria’s most pressing development challenges: bridging the gap between education and employability.

While Nigeria boasts one of the largest youth populations globally, experts at the summit agreed that the country’s challenge is not a shortage of talent, but a disconnect between available skills and industry demand. Employers continue to face difficulties finding job-ready professionals with practical competencies, even as thousands of young people remain unemployed or underemployed. This challenge is further compounded by longstanding perceptions that place TVET below traditional academic pathways, despite growing evidence that technical and vocational skills are essential to industrial growth, innovation,



A guided tour of a vocational training facility in Germany provides participants with practical insights into demand-driven technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

and economic competitiveness.

Through the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE II) programme, implemented on behalf of the German and Swiss governments, GIZ Nigeria, in collaboration with public and private sector partners, continues to champion a more demand-driven TVET system, one that responds directly to labour market needs and creates sustainable pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

Across panel sessions, technical exchanges, and stakeholder engagements, several priorities emerged as critical to strengthening Nigeria's skills ecosystem. These include stronger industry ownership of skills development initiatives, closer collaboration between businesses and training institutions, and a greater emphasis on practical, market-relevant competencies that translate into meaningful employment opportunities. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for more inclusive access to skills development, particularly for women and young people entering the workforce, recognising that inclusive economic growth depends on expanding opportunities for all segments of society.

The NACCIMA TVET Summit served both as a platform for reflection and as a renewed call to action, one that recognises TVET as a strategic pillar for national development and a key enabler of Nigeria's journey toward a more productive, industrialised, and prosperous economy.

As conversations continue beyond the summit, attention is now shifting from dialogue to implementation. The collective focus remains on transforming shared commitments into concrete actions that strengthen systems, empower young people, support industries, and accelerate inclusive economic growth.



Participants visit a modern vocational training facility in Germany, exploring innovative learning environments and industry-aligned training infrastructure



Participants pose for a group photograph after completing a Training of Trainers programme on Competency-Based Training (CBT) under the SKYE programme

4

SKYE Strengthens Competency-Based Training in Nigeria's TVET System

Nigeria's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system has long faced a mismatch between training content and labour market needs, resulting in graduates lacking practical, industry-relevant skills. Before now, many training programmes were theory-heavy with limited alignment to occupational standards and weak industry linkage.

To address this gap, SKYE supported the development of demand-oriented occupational standards for key sectors such as manufacturing and construction. These standards are now being implemented across selected TVET institutions, supported through teacher training, provision of equipment and consumables, and structured collaboration between training centres and industry partners. This has enabled the rollout of competency-based training that is aligned with real workplace requirements.

Currently, 15 selected TVET institutions in 6 states have enrolled or will shortly enrol, trainees in competency-based training programmes based on the new demand-oriented occupational standards. Trainers are better equipped to deliver practical, industry-relevant instruction, improving the quality of teaching and learning. The strengthened collaboration between TVET institutions and industry is also creating more opportunities for workplace learning and exposure for trainees. Early implementation signals improved learner engagement and stronger alignment between skills acquisition and labour market expectations. These developments are helping to build a more responsive skills ecosystem that better prepares young people for employment and self-employment.

Continuous refinement of the occupational standards and training delivery will further strengthen TVET quality and labour market relevance.



"Building Africa's digital future requires more than technology. It requires investment in people."



Newly installed workshop equipment at Benin Technical College, supporting the delivery of practical, competency-based technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

5

Revitalising Practical Skills Training at Benin Technical College, Edo State

For several years, the delivery of quality technical education in Benin Technical College was constrained by limited access to functional and adequately equipped workshops, reducing opportunities for effective hands-on practical training.

In a significant step toward addressing these challenges, SKYE supported the revitalisation of practical skills training through the installation and operationalisation of workshop equipment and machines that had remained unused in storage for nearly five years.

The equipment, originally procured under another donor supported initiative, had not been deployed for training purposes, limiting opportunities for students to acquire industry-relevant practical competencies. Beyond the installation of the machines and equipment, SKYE further strengthened the institution's capacity by facilitating hands-on training for teachers and instructors on the operation, use, and maintenance of the equipment across key technical trades like Mechanical Engineering, Woodwork, Welding & Fabrication, Electrical Installation, and Auto-Mechanics. The intervention also included installation of a 275 kVA power generator.

Today, the transformation is evident. Benin Technical College now boasts a functional and active workshop environment that supports effective hands-on practical training for students. Teachers are better equipped to deliver competency-based instruction, while students now have the opportunity to learn with modern equipment that reflects real workplace conditions.

The intervention has been warmly received by the school community, with the principal, instructors, and students expressing deep appreciation for the support and renewed learning opportunities. Beyond restoring dormant assets, SKYE is also supporting the implementation of Competence-Based Training (CBT) in Electrical Solar PV Installation and Maintenance and Masonry Construction Worker trades. The initiative has reignited confidence in technical education and reinforced the importance of practical skills development in preparing young people for employment, entrepreneurship, and the future of work.



An instructor demonstrates the use of newly installed workshop equipment during a practical training session at Benin Technical College, Edo State.)

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1 Digital Transformation Center Nigeria Strengthens Policy Actors' Capacity on Entrepreneurship

From 7 to 9 April 2026, the Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) programme co-funded by the European Union (EU), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) organised a three-day Entrepreneurship Training for Policy Actors in Abuja.

The training brought together participants from government institutions, development organisations, innovation hubs and entrepreneurship-focused organisations working across Nigeria's MSME and digital economy ecosystem.

The engagement was designed to strengthen the capacity of federal-level policy actors to support more effective MSME policy implementation through digital tools, improved coordination and evidence-based decision-making. It also responded to the need for stronger collaboration among institutions involved in entrepreneurship development, digital transformation, regulation and MSME support.

Over the three days, participants engaged in expert-led sessions, group exercises, policy labs and action planning activities. Discussions focused on the National MSME Policy framework, institutional roles, Digital

"From Abuja boardrooms to digital frontlines — Nigeria's policy actors are now speaking the language of transformation."

"Better policy doesn't happen by accident. It happens when the right people are equipped to build it."



Participants collaborate during an interactive group exercise on entrepreneurship policy and digital transformation



Participants pose for a group photograph during the Entrepreneurship Training for Policy Actors programme

Public Infrastructure, Regulatory Technology, AI governance, data protection, interoperability and practical coordination tools such as the RACI framework.

A key outcome of the training was the development of practical policy advocacy concepts, including ideas for an integrated digital registration platform for MSMEs, an AI-powered policy monitoring system and a cross-agency data exchange platform. These outputs showed

how the training moved beyond knowledge-sharing to practical solution development.

By the end of the engagement, participants had strengthened their understanding of digital approaches to MSME policy implementation and demonstrated increased confidence to apply the tools within their institutions.



Participants engage in a group discussion during the Entrepreneurship Training for Policy Actors programme

2 Building a Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Through ICSS — How ICSS is Redefining Entrepreneurship Development in Nigeria

Sustainable entrepreneurship requires more than equipping individuals with business skills – it requires strong systems, capable institutions, and networks that enable entrepreneurs to access the support they need to grow.

Through the ICSS Entrepreneurship Development Programme, efforts are underway to strengthen Nigeria's entrepreneurship ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with the institutions, resources, and opportunities required for long-term success.

Unlike traditional entrepreneurship interventions, ICSS adopts an ecosystem-based approach that brings together implementing organisations, training providers, finance actors, market partners, and digital platforms to create a more coordinated support system for MSMEs. This approach ensures that entrepreneurs receive continued support beyond training, from business development and mentorship to market access and growth opportunities.

A significant milestone in this journey has been the nationalisation of ICSS through the anchoring role of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), alongside partners including Kaduna Business School, implementing organisations, trainers, facilitators, coaches, and

other ecosystem stakeholders. The establishment of a National Steering Committee and Technical Working Group further strengthens coordination, quality assurance, and long-term institutional ownership.

Since 2021, ICSS has supported 48,921 entrepreneurs across Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Niger, Plateau States, and the FCT. The programme's reach includes strong participation from young people, who represent 78% of beneficiaries, as well as support for 28,219 women-led MSMEs. Beyond training, ICSS has contributed to employment

"Training alone was never enough. ICSS stays with the entrepreneur from the first idea to the first profit and beyond."

creation for 20,353 individuals, improved business turnover for 16,282 MSMEs, facilitated access to financial services for 7,814 enterprises, and supported 4,164 market linkages.

Through the ICSSLearn digital platform, the programme continues to expand access to entrepreneurship development



while strengthening scalability. Local capacity has also been reinforced through the certification of 108 Master Trainers and the training of 540 Trainers, Facilitators, and Coaches, alongside partnerships with 32 implementing organisations and 17 implementing institutions.

With ICSS 2.0, the programme is further evolving to integrate green economy solutions, circularity, and sustainability into entrepreneurship support. This ensures that MSMEs are not only equipped to grow but are also positioned to respond to emerging market opportunities.

By strengthening the systems behind entrepreneurship, ICSS continues to support the development of a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready MSME ecosystem in Nigeria.

"Inspire. Create. Start. Scale."

Four words. One mission.

48,921 reasons it is working."

ICSS PROGRAMME — CUMULATIVE IMPACT (2021–2026)

48,921

Entrepreneurs reached since 2021

78%

Young people among beneficiaries

28,219

Women-led MSMEs supported

20,353

Jobs created

16,282

MSMEs with improved turnover

7,814

Enterprises with financial access



Afrizonemart visit to WETI cluster, Lagos

3 Breaking Market Barriers for Local Businesses

For many small and growing businesses, producing quality products is only part of the journey. Accessing larger markets beyond local communities often remains a significant challenge, limiting opportunities for growth, increased sales, and business expansion.

To help address this gap, SEDIN's Access to Market Unit facilitated a strategic partnership between MSMEs from the WETI and Edo Exporter clusters and Afrizonemart, a Pan-African e-commerce and retail platform dedicated exclusively to promoting Made-in-Africa products.

As part of the collaboration, Afrizonemart engaged directly with businesses across both clusters, profiling products and conducting assessments to identify high-potential enterprises and market-ready products. The exercise provided participating MSMEs with an opportunity to showcase their offerings to a growing retail

platform with a presence across African and international markets.

The engagement culminated in the selection of several MSMEs whose products will now be featured and distributed through Afrizonemart's regional outlets and international retail channels.

This milestone represents more than increased visibility. It opens new pathways for export, strengthens the market position of participating businesses, and demonstrates the competitiveness of products emerging from SEDIN-supported clusters. By linking local producers to wider markets, the initiative is helping create opportunities for increased revenue, business growth, and job creation while elevating the profile of Nigerian-made products across Africa and beyond.



Afrizonemart visit to Edo exporter cluster



Group picture of the German Delegation and cluster members

4 Abuja Arts & Crafts Cluster Showcases Results of MSME Support Through Drama

The Abuja Arts and Crafts Village recently hosted a high-level delegation from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in May 2026, providing a platform to showcase how targeted MSME support is strengthening entrepreneurship, improving competitiveness, and expanding market access within Nigeria's business clusters.

The visit brought together entrepreneurs from the Arts and Crafts Village Cluster and other GIZ-supported MSME clusters in Abuja. Through exhibitions, creative displays, and interactive sessions, businesses demonstrated how interventions in digitalisation and e-commerce, governance, mediation, entrepreneurship development, and market access are contributing to improved livelihoods, increased sales opportunities, and more structured, growth-oriented enterprises.

A key highlight of the visit was a drama performance by cluster members, creatively illustrating the impact of cluster support on real business experiences. The play showcased how digital tools, improved cluster governance, conflict management, trade fair

participation, and entrepreneurship training are helping MSMEs strengthen productivity, visibility, and sustainability in practical and relatable ways.

The visit also featured inspiring entrepreneur success stories. Hope Zekeri, CEO of Goodhood Global Services Limited, shared how support from trade fair participation and e-commerce training enabled her to expand her customer base, strengthen branding and packaging, grow her workforce from two to six employees, and open additional business outlets. She also highlighted how exposure at the Abuja International Trade Fair further led to participation in the Lagos International Trade Fair, opening access to new markets and international buyers.

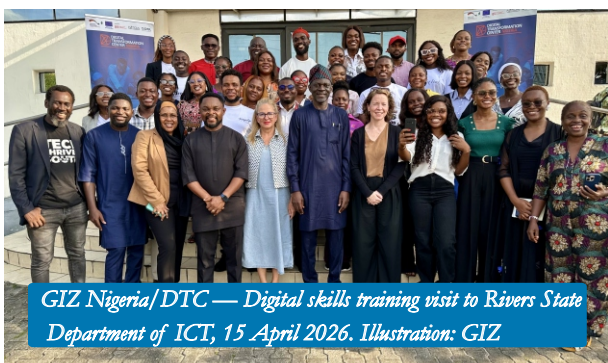
Similarly, Onyekachukwu Iloanya of Akadile Art Circle highlighted how digital literacy, e-commerce, and data management training supported the formalisation of his operations, improved branding, and expanded online visibility for his waste-to-value creative enterprise, transforming it into a more structured and growth-oriented business.



Drama Presentation at the Arts and Craft Cluster

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

1 DTC Nigeria Engages MSMEs at the Rivers State Department of ICT

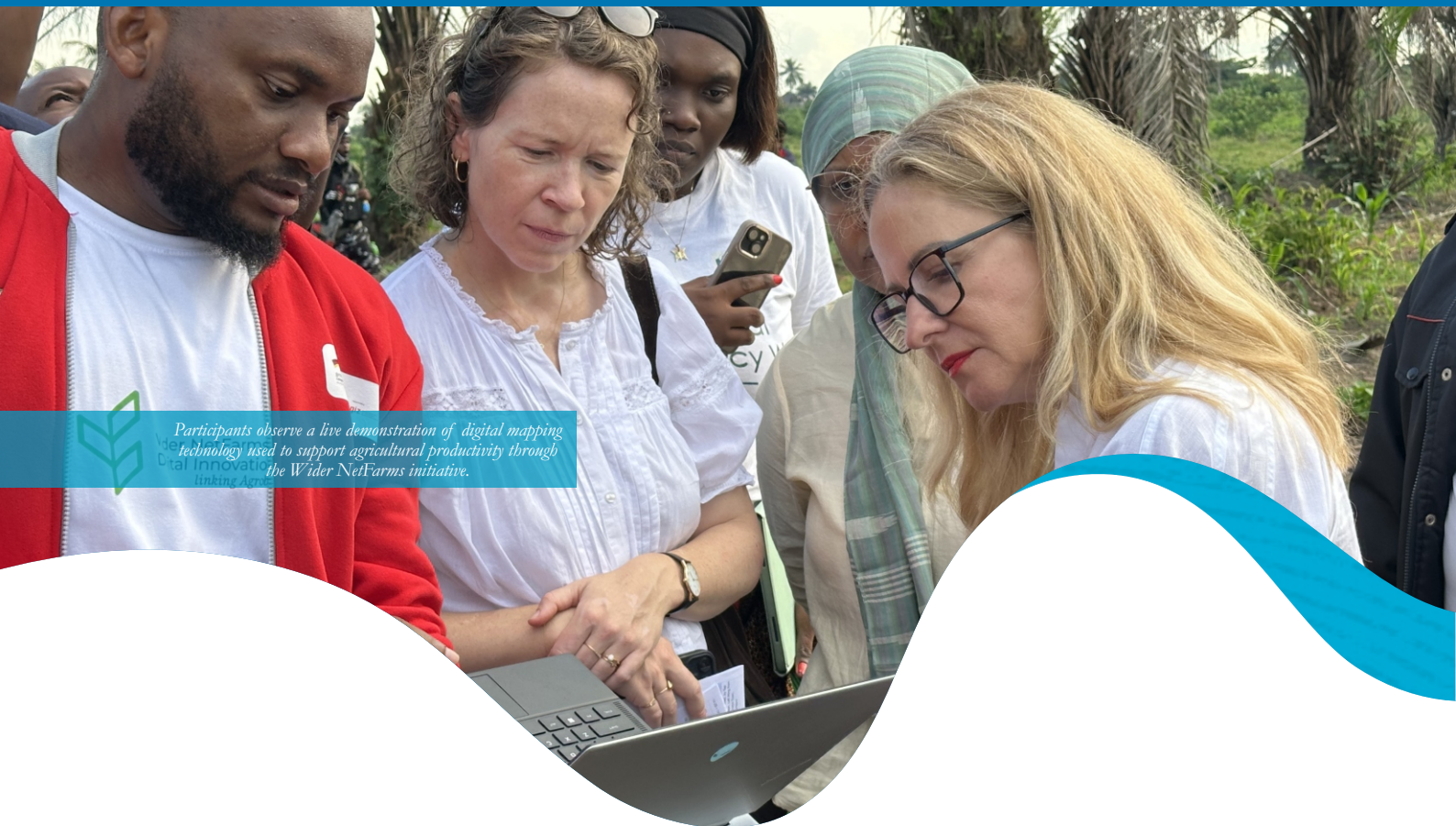


On 15 April 2026, as part of a high-level visit to Port Harcourt, the GIZ Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) team, together with representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the German Development Cooperation, visited the Rivers State Department of ICT.

The visit provided an opportunity to engage with entrepreneurs who had participated in digital skills training supported through the programme. With over 1,400 MSMEs trained, the interaction highlighted how business owners are applying digital skills to improve their operations, increase visibility, expand market access and compete more effectively in a changing business environment.

During the engagement, the delegation met enthusiastic entrepreneurs who shared how the training had strengthened their confidence and improved the way they use digital tools in their businesses. Their experiences demonstrated the practical value of digital capacity building in helping MSMEs move from learning to application.

The visit also reinforced the importance of collaboration with state-level institutions in promoting digital transformation. By working with partners such as the Rivers State Department of ICT, DTC Nigeria continues to support MSMEs with the skills and tools needed to participate more actively in Nigeria's digital economy.



2 Wider Net Farms: DTC Nigeria Showcases Practical Digital Innovation for Agriculture in Port Harcourt

On 15 April 2026, the GIZ Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) team undertook a high-level visit to Port Harcourt, Rivers State, as part of efforts to showcase how digital innovation can support MSMEs and strengthen productivity in non-ICT sectors such as agriculture.

The visit brought together representatives from the Delegation of the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the German Development Cooperation, the Rivers State Ministry of Agriculture, the Innovation Support Network (ISN), and other ecosystem actors.

A key highlight of the engagement was a field visit to a farm in Obio/Akpor, supported by Wider NetFarms Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) in collaboration with the Rivers State Ministry of Agriculture. During the visit, participants witnessed a live drone-mapping demonstration that generated real-time geospatial and soil health insights. The demonstration showed how precision agriculture can help farmers make better decisions, improve productivity and access data that supports more efficient farm management.

The engagement provided a practical example of how

digital transformation can move from policy and concept to visible, testable and interactive solutions. It also demonstrated the role of Digital Innovation Hubs in helping farmers and MSMEs access digital tools, finance, markets and advanced agricultural technologies.

Through Wider NetFarms, farmers across the Niger Delta are being connected to solutions that can strengthen agricultural productivity and improve business outcomes. This reflects DTC Nigeria's broader objective of supporting innovation support organisations and enabling MSMEs in non-ICT sectors to adopt and benefit from digital innovation.



Group photograph of farmers, community members and GIZ Nigeria representatives during the Wider NetFarms field visit in Rivers State.



Stakeholders pose for a group photograph during the inception workshop on the E-Commerce Data Protection and Privacy Framework in Nigeria

3 Stakeholder Inception Workshop on E-Commerce Data Protection and Privacy Framework

On 2 June 2026, stakeholders in Nigeria's e-commerce ecosystem convened for a consultation session on the development of the E-Commerce Sectoral Data Protection and Privacy Framework in Nigeria.

The engagement was led by the Nigeria Data Protection Commission in collaboration with GIZ Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria programme and GIZ African Union. It reflected a shared commitment to strengthening trust, responsible data use and a more enabling environment for digital trade and innovation.

As e-commerce continues to reshape how people buy, sell and access services, clear and practical data governance frameworks are becoming increasingly important. The consultation created a platform for stakeholders to discuss key issues affecting the sector, including data protection and

consumer rights, cross-border data flows, platform accountability, digital inclusion and alignment with regional and continental data governance approaches.

The engagement also provided an opportunity for different actors within the digital economy ecosystem to share perspectives on how Nigeria can build a safer, more trusted and competitive e-commerce environment.

Outcomes from the consultation are expected to support the ongoing development of a framework that protects consumers' rights, promotes responsible data practices and strengthens confidence in Nigeria's growing e-commerce ecosystem.



A presentation session during the stakeholder engagement explores key considerations for Nigeria's E-Commerce Data Protection and Privacy Framework.



A participant contributes to discussions during the inception workshop on the E-Commerce Data Protection and Privacy Framework.

ACCESS TO FINANCE, GREEN ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1 Financial Literacy and Business Support Improve Livelihoods in Plateau State

GIZ Nigeria/SEDIN — Financial literacy and business support for entrepreneurs in Plateau State, in collaboration with PLASMIDA and Kefiano Global Foundation. Illustration: GIZ



At the FL training Graduation Ceremony

One year ago, 50 entrepreneurs in Plateau State, including vulnerable persons and people living with disabilities, participated in a financial literacy training aimed at strengthening their financial management skills and supporting business growth.

The training focused on practical areas such as budgeting, saving, record keeping, and business planning. It was designed to equip participants with the tools needed to make informed financial decisions, improve business management, and build more sustainable livelihoods.

To support the application of these skills, participants also received a shared ₦10 million grant to invest directly in their businesses. This combination of knowledge and financial support enabled entrepreneurs to immediately put learning into practice and strengthen their income-generating activities.

The intervention was implemented under the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN) Programme, in collaboration with the Plateau State Microfinance Development Agency (PLASMIDA) and Kefiano Global Foundation.

Today, the results of the intervention are evident. Participants report improved financial discipline, better record keeping, and stronger planning skills. Many have expanded their businesses, reinvested profits, and improved the stability of their income sources.

In Plateau State, fifty entrepreneurs were handed both a lesson and a lifeline. One year later, the results speak.

Hannatu — From One Goat to Five

When Hannatu participated in a financial literacy and business support programme in Plateau State, she gained practical skills in budgeting, saving, record keeping, and business planning. The training, delivered under the SEDIN Programme in partnership with PLASMIDA and Kefiano Global Foundation, was complemented by financial support that enabled participants to invest in their livelihoods.

For Hannatu, the impact extended beyond improved financial management. What started as a single goat has since grown into a herd of five, creating an additional source of income and strengthening her household's economic resilience. Her story demonstrates how access to knowledge, combined with targeted financial support, can help vulnerable entrepreneurs build assets, diversify income sources, and improve their long-term economic security.



Presentation of the grant cheque



At the FL training Graduation Ceremony

Emmanuel — Growing a Business Through Financial Literacy

For Emmanuel, financial literacy training became an opportunity to strengthen both his business and his future. As part of a SEDIN-supported intervention in Plateau State, Emmanuel received training in budgeting, saving, record keeping, and business planning, alongside financial support to help participants apply their learning in practical ways. Using the knowledge and resources gained through the programme, Emmanuel expanded his bead production business, creating a more stable source of income to support both his education and his family. His experience highlights the value of combining financial literacy with targeted business support. By equipping entrepreneurs with practical skills and the resources to act on them, programmes such as this can help transform small enterprises into more sustainable sources of livelihood and economic opportunity.

2 Powering MSME Growth Through Shared Productive Infrastructure

Access to reliable energy and productive equipment remains a major challenge for many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria. High operating costs and limited access to essential assets such as cold storage facilities, processing equipment, packaging machinery, and clean energy systems often restrict business growth, productivity, and job creation.

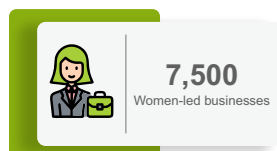
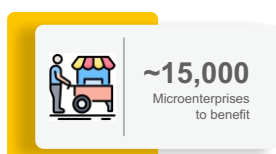
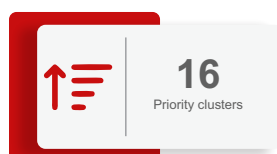
To address these challenges, SEDIN is supporting an innovative approach that enables businesses within industrial and business clusters to access shared productive infrastructure. Through a strategic partnership with Shell Foundation under the Powering Informal Clusters: Shared Clean Energy Assets for Microenterprise Growth initiative, GIZ is helping to deploy shared clean energy and productive equipment across selected MSME clusters in Lagos and Edo States.

The USD 500,000 pilot programme, co-funded by Shell Foundation and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, will provide solar-powered cold

rooms, milling and packaging equipment, recycling machinery, and clean energy systems as shared cooperative assets across 16 priority clusters. By reducing the cost of accessing critical infrastructure, the initiative is expected to improve productivity, lower energy expenses, and strengthen the competitiveness of approximately 15,000 microenterprises, including 7,500 women-led businesses.

Beyond supporting enterprise growth, the initiative is expected to create approximately 220 green jobs and train roughly 500 individuals in solar operations, cold-chain management, sustainable production, and cooperative governance. The programme demonstrates how shared infrastructure models can unlock economic opportunities while supporting Nigeria's transition to greener and more sustainable business practices.

To further scale these efforts, GIZ is also facilitating collaboration with private sector actors and financial institutions, including the Bank of Industry (BoI), to develop sustainable financing solutions for productive infrastructure and green technologies. These partnerships are laying the foundation for long-term investment in MSME clusters and strengthening the ecosystem required for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.





Capacity development training for the newly deployed staff of the Ogun state Enterprise Development Agency

3 OGSEDA Begins Operations with Support from GIZ

A thriving business environment is essential for economic growth, job creation, and investment attraction. In Ogun State, the establishment of the Ogun State Enterprise Development Agency (OGSEDA) marks a significant step towards addressing longstanding challenges faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including limited access to business support services, regulatory bottlenecks, and the large informal business sector operating outside government support systems.

To support the operationalisation of OGSEDA, the SEDIN Programme has provided technical assistance aimed at building the agency's institutional capacity and strengthening its ability to serve businesses across the state. As part of this support, Dr. Olusegun Dada, the Business Enabling Reforms and Policy Advisor for Ogun State, was deployed to lead the agency during its formative phase.

GIZ also facilitated study visits for OGSEDA staff to the Abuja Enterprise Agency (AEA) and the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), enabling them to learn from established enterprise support institutions. In

addition, a week-long capacity-building workshop brought together agency staff and key stakeholders to define the agency's vision, mission, and strategic direction.

To ensure the agency's sustainability, GIZ has supported the review and validation of the OGSEDA Establishment Bill, bringing together public and private sector stakeholders to strengthen the legal framework that will underpin the agency's operations.

With the agency now operational and pilot programmes underway, OGSEDA is positioned to play a key role in improving the business environment in Ogun State. The initiative has renewed public and private sector attention on enterprise development and strengthened stakeholder commitment to addressing barriers faced by businesses. These efforts contribute to creating a more enabling environment for investment, enterprise growth, and job creation across the state.



Review of the Draft bill for the legalisation of the Ogun state Enterprise Development Agency.



MIGRATION AND LABOUR MOBILITY

Centres for Migration and Development (ZME)

1 Nigeria Takes Centre Stage at IMRF 2026

Nigeria received international recognition at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2026 in New York, where the United Nations designated the country a Champion Country for Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) for its leadership in migration governance and in promoting regular migration pathways.

Nigeria participated actively throughout the forum as part of a broad national delegation representing government institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, and migration stakeholders working to strengthen migration governance systems in the country. The head of programme at GIZ-Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), Sandra Vermuijten, participated in the forum, representing development partners invited to form the Nigerian delegation to the event. The forum brought together migration stakeholders to review progress in implementing the Global Compact for Safe,



Repositioning TVET as a Driver of Nigeria's Economic Transformation



Participants at the International Migration Review Forum in New York; standing in the middle is the ZME Head of Programme, Sandra Vermuijten



Panoramic view of participants at the IMRF 2026 in New York, USA

Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Nigeria's Evolving Leadership Narrative

Across plenary discussions and side events, Nigeria was increasingly positioned as an emerging example of structured migration governance and institutional coordination within Africa.

Discussions throughout the forum highlighted Nigeria's continued efforts to expand safe, orderly and regular migration pathways, strengthen labour mobility and skills partnerships, enhance protection and reintegration support for migrants, promote diaspora engagement and

development cooperation, and improve coordination among institutions responsible for migration management. Across the various sessions, Nigeria was increasingly recognised for its commitment to building more effective migration systems that support economic development, facilitate labour mobility and protect the rights and well-being of migrants throughout the migration cycle.

Several discussions also reflected a notable shift in migration discourse, with migration increasingly framed not only as a security concern, but also as a development, labour mobility, and regional cooperation issue.



Cross section of partners and beneficiaries at the launch of the AS4G project in Lagos; standing second from right is the Deputy Country Director, GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS, Ms Oladoyin Olawaiye; flanked to the right by the Consul General of Germany to Nigeria, Daniel Krull.

2 From Skills to Jobs: Opening Opportunities in Germany

Addressing a Growing Labour Shortage

As labour shortages challenge key sectors of the German economy, an innovative partnership is creating global employment pathways for skilled young Nigerians while helping German employers access much-needed talent.

The African Skills 4 Germany (AS4G) initiative is demonstrating how international cooperation, private-sector engagement, and targeted skills development can create mutually beneficial opportunities across continents. Through the project, qualified young Nigerians are being equipped with the language, vocational, and cultural competencies required to successfully enter the German labour market.

Implemented through a partnership involving the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (AHK Nigeria), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Gießen-Friedberg, the Goethe-Institut, and GIZ's Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), the initiative represents a practical response to Germany's growing demand for skilled workers.

Germany's hospitality industry is among the sectors most affected by the shortage of skilled workers and apprentices. Many training positions remain unfilled, creating significant challenges for employers seeking qualified personnel.

To address this gap, the AS4G project selected highly motivated young people between the ages of 21 and 27 from participating African countries and prepared them for vocational training and employment opportunities in Germany. By connecting skills with demand, the initiative creates a structured pathway that benefits both employers and participants.



Deborah Olamigoke is a beneficiary of the AS4G project, who's awaiting departure processes to resume work in Germany.

18

Initial cohort trained
in hospitality

B2

German language
level achieved

21–27

Target age range

Aug 2024

Project launch date

Preparing Participants for Success

The project goes beyond traditional recruitment by providing comprehensive preparation designed to ensure long-term success in the European workplace.

Participants undergo intensive German language training up to B2 level through the Goethe-Institut, while GIZ supports pre-hospitality vocational training aligned with German industry standards. Participants also receive cultural orientation and workplace readiness training to help them adapt smoothly to life and work in Germany.

The programme also facilitates direct engagement between employers and trainees through job matching and placement support, ensuring that training is closely aligned with labour market requirements.

This integrated approach reduces recruitment risks for employers while giving participants the skills and confidence required to thrive in a new professional environment.

Building Employment Pathways for Skilled Youth

Since its launch in August 2024, the project has trained an initial cohort of 18 participants in the hospitality sector in Nigeria. These young professionals have completed vocational preparation and achieved German language proficiency up to B2 level, creating a pool of job-ready candidates for the German hospitality sector.

Beyond the immediate results, the project is establishing a scalable model for international skills mobility. By aligning vocational training, language acquisition, and employer demand, the initiative demonstrates how structured migration pathways can contribute to sustainable economic development and labour market efficiency.

The Power of Partnership

One of the defining strengths of AS4G is its collaborative approach. Each partner contributes specialised expertise that supports participants throughout their journey.

AHK Nigeria coordinates project implementation and private-sector engagement. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Germany facilitates connections with employers and placement opportunities. The Goethe-Institut delivers language training, while GIZ provides vocational preparation and implementation support. German companies, in turn, define skill requirements and offer employment opportunities that reflect actual labour market needs. This demand-driven model ensures that participants acquire relevant skills while employers gain access to qualified and well-prepared talent.

Looking Ahead

The success of the hospitality pilot demonstrates the potential for expanding the model into other sectors facing labour shortages, including construction, information technology, and skilled trades.

As demand for qualified workers continues to grow globally, initiatives such as African Skills 4 Germany offer a practical example of how skills development, labour mobility, and private-sector cooperation can work together to create opportunities for individuals while addressing workforce needs.

By investing in people and strengthening partnerships, the project is building bridges between skills and employment opportunities, thereby creating a future where skills can move across borders and contribute to shared prosperity.

3 Trade Unions Strengthen Support for Migrant Workers

Trade unions are important partners in the area of migration management, ensuring that the labour and human rights of all categories of workers are protected. They can also serve as the first point of contact for labour migrants, as well as provide information for Nigerian workers making career transitions to work abroad.

Through the ACTION project, Germany, through GIZ and its partner, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), has supported the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) to develop a labour migration policy, establish a migration advisory desk, and organise joint events to mainstream labour mobility issues and promote the rights of migrating people to decent work.

ACTION stands for Action for Improving Labour Migration Governance in Nigeria, which is the project's full title.

The establishment of a migration desk at the secretariat of the Nigeria Labour Congress is a major achievement of the project. With the project's support, the desk subsequently published a migration policy document that outlines the union's strategy to protect migrant workers and support international efforts with similar objectives.

GIZ's Centres for Migration and Development (ZME) project has collaborated with the International Trade Union Confederation-Africa (ITUC-Africa) and participated in the annual conferences of the African Trade Union Migration Network (ATUMNET) since 2022. ATUMNET, as a platform, provides trade unions in Africa

with a structure to strengthen advocacy for fair and rights-based labour migration while protecting the rights and dignity of migrant workers across the continent.

ZME Nigeria is also in advanced discussions with ITUC-AFRICA to expand cooperation towards a partnership that strengthens ITUC's work in supporting trade unions within ECOWAS and the African Union to develop labour migration strategies, provide information services for prospective migrants, and build networks with key stakeholders.

In August 2025, the ZME project partnered with the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Nigeria's Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) to commemorate International Youth Day. Hundreds of young trade union members attended the event to hear a keynote address and panel discussions on issues relating to the rights of young people on the move globally.

The unfolding partnership between ZME in Nigeria and the trade unions is already strengthening union capacity, with significant potential for further impact. It also promises to create a lasting, cross-sector network that supports a unified approach to protecting vulnerable migrant workers.

"For Nigerian workers crossing borders for work, the Migration Desk at NLC means they no longer make that journey alone."



GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

1 From Advocacy to Action — Plateau State Steps Up for Women This International Women's Month



In celebration of International Women's Day in Plateau State, PLASMIDA in collaboration with GIZ (SEDIN and SKYE) convened a roundtable discussion on "Gender Responsive Reforms For Private Sector Development" where women's participation in private sector development was spotlighted with key government officials, MDAs, private sector and women groups.

Why this matters: According to the Plateau State labour information, women in Plateau are active contributors to the economy, driving household income and anchoring the informal sector. Yet they remain significantly underrepresented in leadership roles, formal employment, and high-growth business segments.



The successes documented from the discussions included:

Plateau State Ministry of Commerce and Industry carry out monthly awareness campaigns to support the registration of cooperatives across the senatorial zones in the state.

Plateau State Multi Door Courthouse has granted a cost waiver for mediation sessions for all disputes registered by women.

Plateau State Government has signed up a matching fund of 4 billion naira with BOI and 40% of the funds will be for women-led businesses.

At the end of the dialogue, the following recommendations, across the four themes have been prioritized as reforms with short-term implementation timelines:

Business Enabling Environments

Digitalisation of the registration processes for cooperatives, setting up of multi-door courthouses in other senatorial zones, advocacy for the speedy passing of the women's inheritance/property bill, etc.

Labour Market Systems

Gender-targeted career guidance and support, awareness and advocacy for labour related policies and interventions such as the job centre initiative, advocacy for work-life balance through paternity and maternity leave policies etc

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Standardised rent rates for shops and stalls, sustainable warehousing and storage facilities, target more women for ICSS (Inspire, Create, Start and Scale) entrepreneurship training module.

TVET and Skills Development

Adoption of the Gender and Disability Inclusion E-learning course in technical schools in Plateau State, sensitisation and awareness campaigns on existing scholarships for Women etc.

Read more in the policy brief.





Participants pose for a group photograph during the GS25 Policy Innovation Centre session, where SKYE II presented policy recommendations on gender-responsive education and governance reforms.

2 Shaping Gender-Responsive Education and Governance Reforms in Nigeria

Policy recommendations developed through GIZ's Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE II) Programme are contributing to national conversations on advancing gender equality and inclusion in Nigeria. The recommendations, presented during the 2025 Gender and Inclusion Summit convened by the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC), have now been captured in the Purple Book (4th Edition), a flagship publication highlighting evidence-based pathways for policy reform.

The discussions highlighted persistent barriers that continue to limit opportunities for women and girls across education, governance, and labour markets. These include gender-blind policies, weak institutional coordination, and gaps in data systems that affect planning, accountability, and equitable access to opportunities.

To address these challenges, stakeholders proposed several priority actions, including:

- Strengthening gender-responsive planning and budgeting across government institutions.
- Institutionalising gender and disability inclusion training for teachers to promote more inclusive learning environments.
- Improving Gender-Based Violence (GBV) data systems to support evidence-based decision-making and coordination.
- Adopting a national definition for women-owned and women-led businesses to strengthen affirmative procurement initiatives.

The Purple Book also highlights encouraging progress already underway. Gender-responsive reforms are helping improve inclusion in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, awareness campaigns have expanded knowledge of more than 190 gender-neutral career pathways, and digital learning platforms are increasing access to gender and inclusion training across the country.

The recommendations reinforce a shared message: achieving gender equality requires more than standalone interventions. It requires policies, institutions, and partnerships that create lasting and inclusive systems.

Through the SKYE II Programme, GIZ continues to support practical, evidence-based reforms that expand opportunities for women and girls while strengthening more inclusive governance and education systems across Nigeria.

Policy recommendations don't change lives by themselves. What changes lives is when 190 gender-neutral career pathways become real choices, when teacher training reaches classrooms, and when a national conversation makes it into the Purple Book, and from there, into practice. From classrooms to cabinet meetings, Nigeria's gender reform agenda is no longer just a recommendation; it is now part of the record.

The full recommendations are available in the Purple Book (4th Edition) published by the Policy Innovation Centre.



Panel discussion during the "Gender on the Tender" consultative forum on inclusive procurement in Nigeria's construction industry

3 Gender on the Tender: Advancing Inclusive Procurement to Empower Women in Nigeria's Construction Industry

Nigeria's construction industry remains largely male-dominated, with women facing systemic barriers to participation in skills training, employment, and leadership opportunities. Despite growing recognition of gender inequality, there has been limited structured action to embed women's inclusion within procurement and industry practices.

Inter-Bau Foundation, supported by SKYE II, organised the 2026 Key Stakeholders' Consultative Forum to promote gender-responsive procurement policies. The event brought together government agencies, private sector leaders, development partners, and women-owned enterprises to foster dialogue, share best practices, and develop actionable strategies for integrating women into public procurement processes and the construction sector.

The event underscored its national significance through the participation of the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Iman Sulaiman-Ibrahim; the Director-General of the Bureau of Public Procurement, Adebowale A. Adedokun; Karin Jansen from the Embassy of Germany

in Abuja; Conny Camenzind from the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja; alongside other distinguished dignitaries, reflecting strong national and international commitment to advancing gender-inclusive procurement.

Results and Impact:

The forum successfully aligned multi-sector stakeholders around the national policy on affirmative procurement, emphasizing digitalisation, transparency, and performance benchmarks. It catalyzed commitments to expand procurement-linked financing for women-owned enterprises and strengthen institutional frameworks for inclusion. This initiative is positioned to enhance women's access to economic opportunities, boost enterprise growth, and foster sustainable employment in Nigeria's construction sector.

Moving forward, Inter-Bau foundation will support the implementation of the agreed recommendations, aiming to establish measurable impact frameworks and digital procurement tools that will further accelerate gender inclusion and economic empowerment.



Group photograph of key stakeholders at the "Gender on the Tender" consultative forum on inclusive procurement and women's economic empowerment



Participants pose for a group photograph during the women in construction skills training and industry engagement programme.

4 Strengthening Women's Pathways to Construction Careers Through Skills Training and Industry Engagement

Bridging the gender gap in Nigeria's construction industry requires more than technical training; it requires stronger linkages between women, employers, and the institutions shaping the future workforce. In partnership with Inter-Bau Foundation, SKYE II is meeting the needs of the industry for competent technicians through demand-driven training for women in construction trades and providing opportunities for the women in construction to engage directly with employers and other members of industry associations like FOCI, WICA.

As part of this effort, Inter-Bau Foundation delivered a six-month vocational training programme that concluded in February 2026, equipping women with practical technical skills in Painting and Paint Production and Interior Decoration, alongside essential workplace competencies such as communication, teamwork, entrepreneurship, project management, health and safety, and gender inclusion. 55 participants obtained NABTEB certification, with real-world experience in companies which strengthened their competencies and positioned them as a technical talent pool for employment in the construction sector.

Complementing the technical skills training, the 2026 Construction Tradeswomen Career Fair held in January

in Lagos brought together companies and provided aspiring tradeswomen with opportunities in the construction sector, BMOs, government agencies, TVET institutions and professional bodies, provided aspiring construction tradeswomen the opportunity to engage and network with skilled female artisans serving as role models, career counsellors from job centres on one platform. More than 200 participants engaged in career talks, live skills demonstrations, mentoring, networking sessions, and career advisory services, creating meaningful connections between women entering the sector and the organisations shaping employment opportunities in Nigeria's construction industry.

The active participation of private construction companies was particularly significant, providing aspiring tradeswomen with direct exposure to employers, industry expectations, and emerging career opportunities. By strengthening collaboration between skills providers, employers, and public institutions, the initiative is helping to build a stronger pipeline of skilled women for Nigeria's construction industry while encouraging greater private sector commitment to gender inclusion.



Female trainees engage with industry professionals during a hands-on construction site learning session.



Participants pose for a group photograph during a construction site exposure visit.



Stakeholders pose for a group photograph during the Public-Private Forum on Inclusive Business, advancing inclusive business models in Nigeria.

5 Building a More Inclusive Economy: How GIZ is Scaling Inclusive Business Models in Nigeria

As businesses increasingly seek sustainable ways to grow while creating social impact, Inclusive Business is gaining momentum as a model that combines commercial success with economic opportunity.

The Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme – SEDIN is helping to advance Inclusive Business (IB) in Nigeria as a practical approach to economic growth, market expansion, and decent job creation. By supporting business models that intentionally integrate low-income populations into value chains as suppliers, employees, distributors, and consumers, GIZ is advancing a more inclusive and resilient private sector.

Over the past two years, GIZ, through the SEDIN Programme and in collaboration with partners including the ICR Facility, GIZ EU-VACE TARED, SNV, BoPInc, and Nextier as a technical partner, has engaged more than 300 ecosystem actors through trainings, policy dialogues, peer-learning exchanges, and public-private forums. These engagements have strengthened the capacity of key institutions such as SMEDAN, NIPC, state Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), and the Institute of Agribusiness Management in Nigeria (IAMN) to support

the adoption of Inclusive Business approaches nationwide.

The initiative has also helped move Inclusive Business from a niche concept to a coordinated agenda. A Private Sector Forum in Lagos brought together over 120 participants and generated broad consensus on the need for a private sector-led IB platform, stronger financing mechanisms, mentorship systems, and enabling policy incentives. Follow-up engagements in Abuja and Kano further mobilised businesses, investors, government institutions, and development partners around a shared vision for a stronger Inclusive Business ecosystem.

Beyond awareness creation, GIZ is supporting the Nigerian partners to build the institutional foundations for a sustainable Inclusive Business ecosystem through stakeholder mapping, peer-learning platforms, capacity-building tools, and the planned launch of Nigeria's first private sector-led IB network and the inaugural Africa Inclusive Business Forum.

Together, these efforts are positioning Inclusive Business not as charity, but as a commercially viable pathway for expanding markets, attracting investment, and creating sustainable economic opportunities at scale.



Group photograph during the Public-Private Forum on Inclusive Business, advancing inclusive business models in Nigeria.



Waste workers at the pilot programme of the plastic sorting initiative

6 Turning Innovation into Impact: Strengthening Inclusive Waste Management in Nigeria

What happens when technology, partnership, and community-driven action come together?

Real impact for people and the planet.

Through the Waste Pickers Empowerment Programme (WEPROSPER), GIZ under the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN) Programme, in partnership with trinamiX, a subsidiary of BASF, and the Waste Pickers Association of Nigeria (WAPAN), supported waste workers in Lagos State to strengthen plastic waste sorting and recycling systems through innovation and skills development.

The pilot phase introduced handheld sorting devices powered by advanced German technology. These tools enabled waste workers to more accurately identify different types of plastic, reduce sorting errors, and improve the quality of recyclable materials entering the value chain.

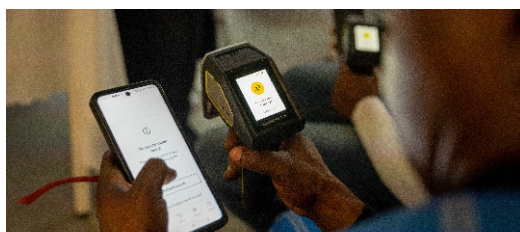
However, the impact extended beyond technology.

Over 100 members of WAPAN also benefited from entrepreneurship education, financial literacy, digital literacy, organisational development, and record-keeping

training. This holistic approach strengthened livelihoods while creating pathways toward more dignified and sustainable green jobs.

Across four major hubs in Lagos, supported waste picker communities contributed to the sorting of an average of 55 tonnes of plastic inflow. This significantly improved recycling efficiency and demonstrated the potential of inclusive, market-driven circular economy solutions.

The initiative highlights the power of combining innovation with inclusion. By equipping waste workers with both technology and skills, WEPROSPER is not only improving waste management systems but also creating meaningful economic opportunities for those at the heart of Nigeria's recycling ecosystem.



Pictures of the handheld devices



Pictures of the handheld devices

100+

WAPAN members trained

55t

Avg plastic sorted per hub

4

Lagos hubs supported

PHOTO SPLASH



PHOTO SPLASH



PHOTO SPLASH





LOOKING AHEAD

The SEDEC Loop | International Youth Day | National MSME Conference 2026

Integrated approach – the vision

At SEDEC, we believe that sustainable economic development is not a linear process. It is a continuous cycle in which people, institutions, markets, and systems reinforce one another to create lasting opportunities and shared prosperity.

This thinking is at the heart of what we call the **SEDEC Loop**.

The Loop begins with people. When young people gain relevant skills, they are better positioned to access employment, create businesses, and contribute productively to the economy. As businesses grow, they generate jobs, stimulate innovation, and expand economic opportunities for others. Stronger businesses also create demand for improved infrastructure, better policies, digital solutions, and a more skilled workforce.

At the same time, effective institutions, enabling regulations, access to finance, labour mobility, and digital transformation help create the conditions that allow people and businesses to thrive. These investments strengthen systems, which in turn expand opportunities for the next generation of entrepreneurs, workers, and innovators.

The strength of the SEDEC Loop lies in its interconnectedness. Skills development cannot be separated from labour market outcomes. Entrepreneurship cannot flourish without supportive institutions and access to markets. Digitalisation creates new opportunities, but only when people and businesses are equipped to benefit from it. Inclusive growth requires that women, young people, and vulnerable groups are able to participate meaningfully in economic life.

Our ambition is therefore not simply to implement successful programmes, but to strengthen the connections between them. By linking skills, employment, entrepreneurship, digitalisation, migration, private sector development, and institutional reform, we can create a development ecosystem that is more resilient, more inclusive, and ultimately more sustainable.

This is the future we envision: a Nigeria where opportunities are not isolated interventions, but part of a self-reinforcing cycle of growth, innovation, and inclusion. That is the SEDEC Loop.



Watch out for:

National MSME Conference 2026

This November, the National MSME Conference 2026 will once again bring together entrepreneurs, policymakers, private sector leaders, development partners, financial institutions, and business support organisations for one of Nigeria's leading gatherings dedicated to MSME development.

Building on the conversations, partnerships, and opportunities generated by previous editions, the conference is expected to provide a platform for stakeholders across the entrepreneurship ecosystem to exchange ideas, showcase innovations, and explore solutions that support the growth and competitiveness of Nigerian MSMEs.

Participants can look forward to engaging discussions on issues shaping the future of enterprise development, including entrepreneurship and innovation, access to finance, digitalisation, skills development, market access, and the business enabling environment. The conference will also offer opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among key actors working to strengthen Nigeria's MSME ecosystem.

As MSMEs continue to play a vital role in job creation, economic growth, and innovation, the National MSME Conference 2026 promises to be another important moment for dialogue, learning, and collective action.

IMPRESSUM

As a federally owned enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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Editor:
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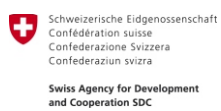
Design/layout:
Shima Designs Ltd, Abuja

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Abuja, 2026



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