



SEDEC NEWSLETTER

July, 2024

Sustainable Economic Development Cluster Newsletter



Implemented by:



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Message from AV DTC Nigeria Programme

Dear colleagues,

As we look back on the first half of 2024, we must reflect on the remarkable strides we have made in fostering sustainable and economic development across Nigeria. Our collective efforts have been instrumental in driving impactful initiatives and building solid partnerships that propel the sustainable growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), enhance digital literacy, and promote inclusive economic participation across Nigeria.

In this edition, one thing stands out: our strength lies in our collaborative spirit and shared goals. This spirit is crucial in driving our achievements, including the success of the Omniverse Summit, the planning of the 9th EU Business Forum, and the upcoming MSME Conference, to mention a few.

Project Highlights

We have made significant strides in various areas of our work. To solidify our commitment to MSME development, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the GIZ Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC).

The Pan-African E-Commerce Initiative (PeCI) and SEDIN conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on a new, gender-sensitive e-commerce course, 'Se4G', which includes greening content. This workshop is an important step towards promoting sustainable e-commerce practices.

In Edo State, our efforts to empower youth advanced significantly through a collaboration between the Ministry of Youth and Humanitarian Affairs, the Edo Creative Hub, and GIZ, focusing on the filmmaking and production industry.

The Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) and the Equipment Leasing Association of Nigeria (ELAN), supported by SEDIN, launched the MSME Equipment Leasing Initiative to boost the MSME growth in facilitating access to equipment leasing.

The policy dialogue on the Nigeria Data Protection Act, held in February in honour of World Privacy Day, provided a platform for discussing critical issues surrounding data protection in Nigeria.

The first meeting of the year for the Gig Economy Partners' Forum (GEPF) marked a significant milestone since its inauguration in 2023. This forum continues to address challenges and opportunities within the gig economy.

Celebrating cultural diversity is a core value of our organisation. Our event in May for World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighted the importance of cross-cultural dialogue and peaceful co-existence.

High-level visits further underscored our commitment to development and collaboration. In early February, DTC Nigeria hosted a substantial EU delegation, organising an educational tour of the NitHub facility at the University of Lagos and facilitating a meeting with the hub's innovators. Additionally, the

Director General of the GIZ Africa Department, Ms. Petra Warnecke, visited Adamawa and Lagos State, while BMZ State Secretary, Dr. Bärbel Kofler, engaged with female tech founders at NitHub UNILAG. These highlights of our achievements within the SEDEC cluster moments of great honour and collaboration are a testament to our shared vision and unwavering dedication. Together, we can achieve even greater success.

Sincerely

Dr. Thuweba Diwani

Head of Project, GIZ / DTC Nigeria



1 - An Overview of the SEDEC Cluster

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

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

SEDEC programmes are implemented by [GIZ](#) and has presence in 4 states and the FCT.



11

Active States

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



50+

Partners

We work with over 50 private and public sector partners.



190+

Team Members

The team has over 200 professionals working towards a common goal.

Vision. Mission. Values

Vision

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

Mission

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

Our Values



Cooperation

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



Diversity

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



Teamwork

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



Quality

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



Transparency

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



Efficiency

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



2 - Our Programme Cluster Areas

The cluster has five programmes and projects namely;

- [Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment -SEDIN;](#)
- [Skills Development for Youth Employment \(SKYE\);](#)
- [Nigeria- Germany Centre for Migration for Development \(ZME\);](#)
- [Digital Transformation Center Nigeria \(DTC\);](#)
- [Pan-African e-Commerce Initiative](#)

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

1. Access to Finance

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

2. Digitalisation

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

3. TVET

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

4. Labour

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

5. Migration

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



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

Programmes that make up GIZ SEDEC in Nigeria



3 - In the News

(January, 2024 – June, 2024)

Continued Partnership with SMEDAN for MSME Development

In June 2024, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the GIZ Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) that will serve as a guide and partnership framework between the two bodies. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) plays a vital role in coordinating, promoting, and facilitating the development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria and this partnership will enhance the growth and digital transformation of MSMEs across the country.

Specifically, the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme (SEDIN) and the Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) have resolved to provide joint interventions to SMEDAN which necessitated the signing of the MoU, which was held at SMEDAN's headquarters, Idu-Abuja. The Director General/CEO of SMEDAN, Mr. Charles Odii and the Cluster Coordinator of SEDEC, Mr. Markus Wauschkuhn appreciated the progress recorded in their past collaboration and hoped that by signing the new MoU, another chapter has been opened to deepen their partnership towards providing sustainable economic development in Nigeria through support and strengthening of the MSMEs.

Learn more about GIZ's approach to MSME development on the website www.sedin-nigeria.net



Signed partnership with SMEDAN and SEDEC GIZ



The DG of SMEDAN and the Cluster Coordinator of SEDEC signing the MOU

Strengthening Competency for Quality Filmmaking

In a significant stride towards empowering youth in Edo State, the Ministry of Youth and Humanitarian Affairs and the Edo Creative Hub in collaboration with GIZ launched a transformative training and mentorship programme focused on the filmmaking and production industry. The programme, which coincided with the 2023 International Youth Day celebrations, aimed to equip participants with essential skills vital for success in film production, thereby fostering growth in the local creative sector.

As a culmination of the programme, each group produced two distinct film projects titled “[Trouble in the Dark](#)” and “[Against All Odds](#).” The movies premiered on May 28, 2024, and provided a platform for participants to showcase their newfound skills and creativity to a wider audience, marking a significant achievement for their professional development.

Participants benefited from hands-on training and engagement with industry experts at local and national levels. This interaction not only enhanced their technical skills but also provided valuable insights into the processes of the film industry. The programme's success was underscored by the presentation of certificates to 103 individuals who completed the training and contributed actively to the short film projects, signalling their readiness for careers in filmmaking. Furthermore, the Edo State Creative Hub presented GIZ SKYE with a special recognition award for their continuous partnership. This acknowledgement highlights the pivotal role of collaborative initiatives in promoting employment growth and sustainability within the creative sector.



A plenary session with filmmakers at the event



Participants engrossed in the movie at the premiere

Development Bank of Nigeria and ELAN Launches MSME Equipment Leasing Initiative

In May 2024, the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN), and the Equipment Leasing Association of Nigeria (ELAN), supported by the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme – SEDIN, launched the MSME Equipment Leasing Initiative to boost the MSME sector through innovative equipment leasing.

Equipment leasing is a financial product that allows MSMEs to rent equipment for a period of time, instead of having the financial burden of purchasing that equipment themselves. In this way, the approach lifts, to some extent, the significant economic cost and risks associated with procurement of equipment.

This innovative approach aims to enhance the capacity and opportunities to access capital, which constitutes one of the biggest challenges for Nigerian MSMEs, and therefore also supporting business growth and technological advancements for MSMEs.

This initiative underscores the commitment to creating a supportive ecosystem for MSMEs, driving economic growth, raising awareness, and promoting leasing as a feasible option for financing.



Information being shared about the MSME Equipment Leasing Initiative



GIZ and DBN collaboration

Training of Trainers on the Sustainable E-Commerce for Growth (Se4G) Course

May 2024 was an impact-filled month for the cluster as the Pan-African E-Commerce Initiative (PeCI) project in collaboration with SEDIN, conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on a newly developed, gender-sensitive e-commerce course, 'Se4G', which includes greening content.

PeCI aims to strengthen the enabling environment for cross-border digital trade in selected countries of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). In Nigeria, this initiative is implemented by the SEDIN programme.

The ToT workshop was attended by twenty-five trainers from thirteen intermediary institutions across the private and public sectors, all of whom provide business development support services to MSMEs. The training emphasised gender and greening perspectives within e-commerce activities. Key topics included building an e-commerce business model, cross-border trade, knowledge transfer, global best practices, laws and regulations, and digital tools for successful e-commerce. The trainers developed actionable plans to integrate this course into their curricula and to further train other trainers and their target MSME groups.

To ensure the sustainability of Se4G, a planning workshop will be held for selected intermediary organisations. Where they will be supported in developing organisational and financial plans to ensure the course remains accessible to MSMEs.



Pictures taken during the E-commerce TOT Workshop



Participants of the TOT workshop

4 - Our Work: Features & Events

The Omniverse Summit

The Omniverse Summit is an initiative of the Innovation Support Network (ISN) supported by the SEDEC Cluster which created a platform that brought together the various stakeholders in the Nigerian Innovation and Entrepreneurial ecosystem with the aim to provide a forum for public and private sector actors to engage, share resources, exchange learnings and create more opportunities for collective action.

The Omniverse Summit commenced on February 27th and was concluded on March 1st, 2024. It featured four (4) days of dialogue focused on actionable outcomes, designed to generate practical action plans. It was structured around overarching themes of building narratives, inspiring innovation, fostering collaboration, and facilitating monetisation. It convened leaders of industries, innovators, and professionals from across the globe to collaborate and nurture best practices.

The event was graced by esteemed figures like Anna Sophie Herken (Managing Director GIZ), Massimo De Luca (Head of Corporation for Nigeria and Ecowas), Mr. Weert Borner the German Consul-General, Hannatu Musawa (Hon. Minister of Art, Culture and The Creative Economy of Nigeria), Will Stevens (U.S Consulate-General) who all echoed the vital role of technology in moving the nation forward, reinforcing our commitment to collaborative partnerships for digital transformation.

The summit emphasised the importance of forging connections and bridging gaps, ensuring inclusivity where everyone is treated as equal participants. Each day offered a deep dive into a different theme, and there were 5 breakout rooms or connection rooms.

- A.** The Digital Transformation Room powered by the SEDEC Cluster at the Omniverse Summit focused on leveraging digital technologies for economic growth and development in Nigeria. The discussions centred on empowering various stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on women, youth, and MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) pertaining to the use of policies, digitalisation, and innovation to develop their businesses.
- B.** The career centre registered over three hundred attendees, providing networking and job pairing opportunities. Participants gained new insights from teaching sessions to help with navigating career challenges and getting a good head start in their various fields.
- C.** The deal room, facilitated by Innovation Support Network (ISN) hubs, provided a platform for fifty promising startups to be engaged and assessed. From these, ten finalists were carefully chosen to present their business concepts to a wider audience, with the goal of securing funding from both local and global investors.
- D.** Experience centre (gaming area): Gaming competitions were hosted in the designated gaming area, offering participants a range of game options to choose from. Gift prizes were awarded to foster a positive competitive atmosphere.

- E.** Marketplace: The marketplace was arranged to enable organisations to exhibit their products and services. Over 30 organisations from diverse ecosystems participated.



The European Union Head of cooperation, for Nigeria and ECOWAS, Massimo De Luca



A Live Podcast Session on How MSMEs can Scale.

The Gig Economy Partners' Forum: *Paving the Way for the Future of Work*

More in the month of May 2024, the Gig Economy Partners' Forum (GEPF) convened for its first meeting of the year. This marked a significant milestone since the Forum was inaugurated during the closing event of the VET Toolbox project in 2023. The meeting, held with a focus on redefining its mandate, improving operational modalities, and re-establishing its vision, highlighted the Forum's commitment to shaping the future of the gig economy.

A New Development Partner: SEDEC

Aligned with the overarching vision of integrated solutions championed by the German Development Agency GIZ for 2028, the Forum introduced the Sustainable and Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC) as the new development partner. SEDEC replaces the VET Toolbox as the co-chair of the dialogue platform, bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to the Forum's initiatives.

Vision and Mandate

The Forum aims to foster a collaborative environment where public and private sector players can engage in meaningful dialogue, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing the gig economy. This collaborative approach is essential for creating a more equitable and sustainable gig economy. The GEPF comprises a diverse group of stakeholders, including major players in the gig economy sector such as Bolt, Uber, GoKada, Jise, Sendstack, Jumia, and the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation. This wide-ranging membership ensures that the Forum can address the needs and concerns of various segments of the gig economy, from transportation and logistics to e-commerce and food delivery.

The inaugural meeting of the Gig Economy Partners' Forum in 2024 marked a significant step forward in addressing the challenges and opportunities within the gig economy.



Focal persons from SEDEC and GEPP

Launch of the TVET policy and work-based learning with the private sector in Edo state.

The inaugural Business Roundtable on Technical Talent Development in Edo state marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors. This event aimed to enhance practical skills and position the state as a premier hub for technical talent. The initiative convened various stakeholders including government agencies, private sector representatives, educational institutions, industry associations, and community-based organisations.

The event saw the official launch of the Edo Technical Talent Development Policy, a strategic framework to foster a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs. Governor Godwin Obaseki formally inaugurated the policy, underscoring its importance in advancing the state's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) agenda. This policy framework, inspired by the Edo TVET Strategy and supported by GIZ SKYE, was developed collaboratively through the Edo State Public-Private Dialogue Platform in 2023.

A pivotal outcome of the Business Roundtable was the commitment from over 40 private sector stakeholders who pledged their support for the newly inaugurated Work-based Learning initiative. This commitment was solidified through the signing of a "declaration of commitment" document, signalling their readiness to collaborate closely with the government to promote effective work-based learning programmes. This initiative is seen as a crucial pathway to bridging the skills gap and ensuring that TVET programmes in Edo state are demand-driven and responsive to industry needs.

Looking forward, stakeholders agreed to institutionalise the Business Roundtable as an annual event in Edo state. This decision aims to sustain momentum in fostering dialogue, trust-building, and partnerships between public and private sectors within the TVET space. By nurturing these collaborative efforts, Edo State seeks to create a conducive environment for skills development, economic growth, and sustainable development across various sectors.



Gov. of Edo state, Gov Obaseki delivering the keynote address



Student participants at the Launch event

GENDER LENS

Participation at Digital Africa Gathering - DTC Panel Discussion - A feminist take on Digital Ecosystem Development – Experiences from the DTCs – May 2024

DTC Nigeria participated in the Digital Africa Gathering Series on knowledge sharing across Digital transformation centers globally. The theme of the Panel Discussion was- A feminist take on Digital Ecosystem Development – experiences from the Digital Transformation centers.

Insights were shared on practical ways gender transformative approaches were used in DTCs across the globe to achieve impact in their work. Panellists included Gender and Women Economic Empowerment Advisors, Doreen Sena Aglago-Cofie (DTC Ghana), Gbekeloluwa Abisola Oshinowo (DTC Nigeria), Seraphine Noukeu (DTC Cameroon). This inclusive session was creatively translated into French and English with the support of bilingual colleagues Akouvi Claudine Elom Awoudja (DTC Togo) and Franziska Götz von Olenhusen (DTC Umbrella) who moderated to ensure that the shared learnings were accessible to all participants.

DTC Nigeria highlighted the innovative inclusion of gender, diversity & inclusion (GDI) information sessions in the agenda of Policy-building Stakeholder sessions. These sessions were attended by policy makers and high-level decision makers from government and private institutions. By engaging this captive audience, the sessions enable more effective dissemination of gender transformative approaches, helping decision-makers gain better understanding of GDI and influence their organisations to become more inclusive.

Other insights from the session included continuous engagement with beneficiary groups to ensure the previous knowledge captured was still valid. For example, historical knowledge used to design interventions for women in marginalised communities had to be adapted post-covid to take into account changed attitudes towards women being online in hitherto restricted access in the same communities.

A Feminist Take on Digital Ecosystem Development Experiences from the DTC Network



International Women's Event in Ogun State

To commemorate International Women's Day, SEDIN in collaboration with the SKYE project held an Experience-Sharing Session on Gender Inclusive activities by partner organisations in Ogun State. At this event, which took place on 7th March 2024 at the GIZ office, Ogun State, there were discussions on recent gender-inclusive projects by partner organisations and an adapted training on Gender Transformative Approaches which was conducted by the SEDIN GFP in Ogun State. We recorded 20 participants (17 female and 3 male) at the event. On the event of International Women's Day, we celebrated the remarkable achievements of women, and participants shared their success stories, and progress made so far as a result of GIZ intervention programs, while also acknowledging the challenges they continue to face.

This year's event highlighted the progress women have made towards equality, while also acknowledging persistent challenges such as marginalisation and violence. Despite male-dominated societal structures and backlash against women's rights, the theme *"Invest in Women"* emphasised the need for financial support for women's organisations and inclusion in various sectors.

Increasing women leaders in business and finance is crucial to driving policies that address women's needs. Participants called for urgent action to promote women's participation and leadership across all sectors, empowering women to boost economies and contribute to peace.



SEDIN and SKYE Gender Focal Persons with participants at the International Women's Day Event in Ogun State

Gender Inclusion Perspectives in Digital Literacy for Nigeria at Stakeholder Awareness Sessions with National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) – February, March & April 2024

GIZ/Digital Transformation Center held sessions on Gender Inclusion Perspectives in Digital Literacy for Nigeria at Stakeholder Awareness Sessions with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) on the National Digital Literacy Framework in Lagos, Abuja and Kano in Q1 2024. The objective of the sessions was to educate stakeholders across Nigeria on the need for inclusiveness in their contributions to the Policy implementation of the National Digital Literacy Framework. Gender, Diversity, Inclusion and the Diversity Dimensions, and Intersectionality were discussed to drive deliberations and inputs that are truly reflective of the needs of the digital literacy needs of all Nigerians.



A stakeholder giving input during the session



Stakeholders at the event

Celebrating Our Diversity: GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS on 21 May 2024 **celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** **Organised by the Diversity Secretariat.**

Celebrating cultural diversity provides a platform to strengthen cross-cultural dialogue and promote peaceful co-existence in view of the pockets of violence/conflicts in the world today.

In an organization like GIZ with over 25,000 employees from 150 nationalities, the event was more than a celebration, it was a catalyst for the ongoing diversity efforts to raise awareness and promote the values of trust and respect, created from sincerity and authenticity.

From the ambiance of the arts and culture gallery to cultural attires and creative performances, to the insightful presentation by [Chika Idoko of British Council](#) on biases, stereotypes and adaptability in the workplace and the engaging panel discussion with colleagues and external participants such as [Jake Epelle of TAF Africa](#) on effective cross-cultural communication & inclusivity, we amplified the beauty of the Africa and German cultures and created a platform for thorough reflection. Additionally, our Country Director – [Markus Wagner](#) reaffirmed the company's commitment to fostering diversity and promoting inclusion.

Another event may have come and gone, but the bonds created, and knowledge shared will have a lasting impact. Together, we are on the journey to shaping a more diversity-compliant workplace.



Award for most culturally dressed



Panelists at the event

5 - Our Work: Stories

Special article: Breaking barriers – harnessing abilities in disabilities

People with disabilities are often confronted with numerous barriers – physical, social, financial, and attitudinal. Enabling disabled individuals to express and maximise their potential requires an intentional and concerted effort to dismantle these existing and limiting barriers. Imagine the difference it would make if disabled people had equal opportunities and platforms to deploy their abilities, thereby contributing to economic growth and development!

Recognising the *"ability in disability,"* the SKYE programme has supported and continues to support various initiatives aimed at breaking these barriers. The following paragraphs highlight some of these efforts.

Spotlight story – Joy's transformative journey

Joy Amadasun, a visually impaired woman who lost her sight in 2019 due to an armed robbery attack, exemplifies the transformative impact of this intervention. Prior to the training, Joy had no experience with digital skills, was unemployed, and faced a bleak future. In her own words, she often experienced periods of depression.

However, Joy's story has changed dramatically. After successfully completing the training and internship, she now volunteers at the Edo State Creative Hub, where she developed marketing skills during her internship. She is entrusted with handling the front desk office and enjoys the love and support of her colleagues and managers. Inspired by her experiences, Joy is now pursuing her previously neglected academic aspirations and exploring her passion for acting. She recently secured a role in a stage play, earning extra income.

Joy has transitioned from being a seasonally depressed, visually impaired woman to an inspired young creative who motivates other visually impaired individuals. The impact of this intervention continues to resonate through her journey and influence.



A portrait of Joy



A picture of joy during the digital training

Tiodunmo Omotola Alaba, a 28-year-old from Epe, Lagos state, has transformed his life through SKYE. Despite being physically challenged, Omotola's dedication and passion for technology have propelled him into a successful career in mobile phone and laptop repairs.

Growing up in Epe, Lagos state, Omotola developed a fascination for repairs at the age of 10. He often dismantled radios at home to explore their components. This early interest fueled his passion for technology, but his journey was fraught with challenges, including his physical disability, which required him to use crutches.

Omotola's life took a significant turn when he participated in the SKYE mobile phone and laptop repair training at the Slot Foundation Academy in Ikeja, Lagos. Initially skeptical about the intervention's authenticity, he soon realised its immense value. The training covered a wide range of topics, including hardware diagnostics, software troubleshooting, and component replacement. Omotola excelled in Level One and Two repairs and advanced to the more complex Level Three repairs, involving intricate work on circuit boards and IC components. The technical skills acquired during the training empowered Omotola to start his own repair business, ALABA Ventures. With the support of his family, he began accepting repair jobs and quickly built a reputation for his expertise. The hands-on training and guidance from experienced instructors boosted his confidence and laid a solid foundation for his career. The intervention not only provided him with skills but also with essential tools, including a re-workstation, battery booster, and hot plate, which were crucial for his business.

Through the SKYE training, Omotola has achieved financial independence and professional fulfilment. He proudly states that he has become a technician who can solve community problems and earn decent income. The training has given him the knowledge and confidence to pursue his passion and establish a successful business.

Looking ahead, Omotola plans to expand his business and train apprentices, contributing to the community by sharing his knowledge and skills. He expresses deep gratitude to the German Development Cooperation for the transformative opportunities. Omotola's story is a testament to the impact of the German government-funded programmes on individuals and communities. His journey from a passionate young boy to a skilled technician illustrates the power of empowerment and education in changing lives.



A picture of Omotola at his graduation

Leaving No One Behind: A Documentary of Waste Collectors In Nigeria

The SEDIN programme through its circular economy activities has partnered to document the voices of waste collectors in Nigeria in a documentary titled: [LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND](#).

The documentary captures the contributions, struggles and challenges of waste collectors to the waste management value chain in Lagos, Nigeria.

In collaboration with the Circulative Initiative and the UN-Habitat, voices and stories of waste collectors were documented from Vietnam, India, Nigeria and South Africa and was first screened at the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC-3) meeting in Nairobi Kenya in November 2023, where the International Plastics Treaty was discussed. The documentary currently features at the world-renowned documentary film festival and can be [watched for free worldwide](#).

Click here to watch full video on YouTube: [Leaving No One Behind](#)

Scan the QR Code to watch – Use image here



6 - Digitalisation/Digital Literacy

Nigerian Data Protection Act Policy Dialogue

The policy dialogue on the Nigeria Data Protection Act was held on the 1st of February 2024 and it was held in honour of World Privacy Day. The gathering was not just a conference but a call to action to recognise and uphold the privacy rights of individuals globally. The event served as a platform for discussing the vital role of data protection and privacy in our increasingly digital world

The thematic tone for the day's discussions was understanding and implementing effective data governance as a means to champion privacy, encourage innovation, and foster a resilient digital economy that respects individual rights and engenders public confidence.

Mr. Charles Odii, Director General of SMEDAN, represented by Mr. Bunmi Kole-Dawodu Lagos State Manager SMEDAN highlighted the critical role of data protection in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. He shared that when these businesses protect their customer's information well, it helps them grow and gain trust.

Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, Director General and CEO of NITDA, represented by Mr. Emmanuel Edet Director, Standards, Guidelines and Frameworks of the Agency. discussed NITDA's efforts in supporting the Nigeria Data Protection Commission in enforcing compliance, enforcing the Nigeria Data Protection Act, and fostering a secure digital economy in Nigeria.

The event's core was a series of five thematic breakout sessions - Principles Governing Processing of Personal Data, Your Data, Your Power: Rights of a Data Subject, Beyond Borders: Data Security and Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Data, Understanding Regulations and Fees, Enforcement and Legal Proceedings - designed to foster a deeper understanding of various keys aspects under the Nigerian Data Protection Act (NDPA).



Remarks at the Policy Dialogue



Breakout session

Digital Optimisation Training for 200 Female Entrepreneurs in Abuja and Kano in April – June 2024

GIZ/Digital Transformation center in partnership with Wennovation Hub, implemented a comprehensive 4-day Digital Optimisation Training for 200 Female Entrepreneurs in Abuja and Kano in Q2 2024.

This user-centred training program was designed to equip female entrepreneurs with the essential digital skills and strategies needed to thrive in today's competitive business landscape. Through a combination of interactive workshops, hands-on activities, and expert guidance and mentorship, participants gained practical insights and actionable knowledge to harness the practical insights of digital technologies for business growth and success.

Mothers and persons with disabilities were specifically invited to apply, and we were pleased to have over a dozen mothers and their children fully participate in the classes. This training program also captured the unique opportunities and challenges of the female entrepreneurial ecosystem from Kano to inform DTC Nigeria activities in line with its commitment to incorporating Gender Transformative approaches in its interventions. DTC Nigeria plans to hold the Digital Optimisation Training for 100 Female Entrepreneurs in Lagos in July 2024



Digital Optimization Training in Kano



Certificate presentation at the Digital Optimization Training, Abuja

Get Online with DigiPlus Alliance Digital Innovation Hub: Pioneer Digital Upskilling Training.

DigiPlus Alliance Digital Innovation Hub hosted a vibrant graduation ceremony for 20 women entrepreneurs who successfully completed a transformative 2-week digital upskilling program in Lagos. This dynamic training equipped women aged 18-65 with essential digital business skills, enabling them to thrive in today's fast-paced digital economy. Throughout the program, participants delved into impactful and actionable knowledge of business digitisation tools and processes, setting the stage for their ventures to become more efficient, successful, and responsive to customer needs.

The graduation ceremony was a showcase of remarkable success stories, with MSMEs presenting how DigiPlus Alliance's services have catalyzed their business growth and sustainability. The event culminated in a heartfelt speech by the top student, who shared her inspiring journey of transformation and newfound confidence. Her words resonated with all attendees, highlighting the profound impact of digital skills on entrepreneurial success. The ceremony not only celebrated individual achievements but also underscored the collective strides made towards fostering a digitally empowered community of women entrepreneurs in Lagos.



A female entrepreneur pitching her business.



A cross section of participants that completed the training.

The Techmybiz Design-Thinking Workshop

The Techmybiz Design Thinking Workshop, co-facilitated by SAP and GIZ/DTC Nigeria, was concluded in this quarter with resounding success. This intensive workshop was designed to empower winners from the 2023 Techmybiz Pitchathon, focusing on refining their MVP products and enhancing their understanding of business, people, and product models.

Spread across Lagos and Abuja, the workshop saw 44 representatives from 22 startups embark on a transformative six-week journey of ideation and innovation.

The workshop's structure was a perfect blend of immersive and virtual learning. Week 1 kicked off with an on-premises pre-learning bootcamp, where participants dived deep into user-centric design principles and collaborative learning sessions. Weeks 2 and 3 transitioned to virtual prototyping and office hours, allowing startups to experiment and iterate their ideas from the comfort of their own spaces. The final week brought everyone back together for a hands-on production support bootcamp, where prototypes were tested, refined, and polished for their final pitches.

Participants not only learned to prioritise user needs and develop empathetic solutions but also engaged in dynamic peer exchanges and real-world business model analysis.



A female innovator describing her business model



Modelling Design Thinking Efforts

Digital skills training for the visually impaired

In August 2023, in collaboration with the Edo Innovation Hub and Edo Job Centre, the SKYE programme embarked on a transformative initiative aimed at promoting social inclusion and creating job opportunities for visually impaired individuals in Edo state. The key objectives of the intervention included providing essential digital skills, raising awareness on inclusion, fostering community support and enhancing partner capacity for sustainable digital skills training for the blind.

Intervention in Summary:

- 25 visually impaired individuals underwent intensive hands-on practical digital skills training by Edo Innovation Hub facilitated by Access Tech.
- Beneficiaries were further trained on employability skills provided by the Edo Job Centre, and over 90% of them were placed on a two-month paid internship.
- Each beneficiary received additional equipment support consisting of a laptop equipped with a screen reader, positioning them to leverage technology for continuous learning and skills development.
- To enhance employment prospects, a summit, targeting private employers, was organised to raise awareness.

7 - Entrepreneurship

Empowering Persons Living with Disabilities through skills training in Edo

The Edo State Skills Acquisition Centre, supported by the GIZ SKYE programme and under the Edo Jobs initiative, has empowered 100 young individuals with in-demand skills in leatherwork. Notably, 50% of these beneficiaries are persons living with disabilities. The short-term training also included digital marketing, facilitated by the Edo Innovates Hub, equipping participants with the necessary skills to access broader markets and platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, thereby enhancing their sales revenue and livelihood.

Additionally, the beneficiaries undertook the modular trade test and received certification from the National Business and Technical Examinations Board. Following this, they were provided with start-up kits to aid their entrepreneurial journey.

The leatherwork training programme has significantly impacted the lives of the beneficiaries. 78 out of the 98 participants are already producing high-quality bags, footwear, belts, and more. Among these, three beneficiaries have come together to form a business partnership. These individuals are now earning from their skills and have improved their livelihoods, becoming active contributors to economic development.



A participant at the training



A participant at the training

SEA-Hub Nationwide Expansion: SEDIN trains 18 SMEDAN Officers

In continuous efforts to expand the reach of the Student Entrepreneurship Activity Hub (SEA-Hub) project which has already reached over 35,000 students, SEDIN recently conducted a comprehensive six-day training session in Lagos for 18 SMEDAN Zonal officers from various states across Nigeria.

The training marks a significant step towards the nationwide expansion of SEA-Hub, facilitated by a collaboration between SMEDAN and SEDIN initiated in 2023. Looking ahead, SEDIN is poised to offer ongoing technical support and institutional capacity-building assistance to SMEDAN as it spearheads SEA-Hub's nationwide expansion. Notably, SMEDAN has earmarked Niger and Edo as the locations for the regional extended step down trainings for their staff across the country, while SEA-Hub upscales to new schools and states set to commence in September 2024. As SEA-Hub continues to pave the way for entrepreneurial orientation among Nigeria's youth, this collaborative effort promises to foster a generation of innovative, forward-thinking leaders poised to drive sustainable economic development across the nation.

[Click to learn more about the SEA-Hub project](#)



Focal persons from GIZ with SMEDAN Zonal officers

Crowdfunding as an Alternative Instrument to Access Finance for MSMEs

The Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme (SEDIN), in collaboration with the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigeria (SEC), recently hosted a Stakeholder Dialogue on Crowdfunding to boost finance and investment for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Nigeria.

The event brought together key stakeholders to explore the transformative potential of crowdfunding for MSMEs and discuss strategies to enhance access to finance. Insightful discussions with government officials, financial institutions, crowdfunding platforms, MSME owners, regulatory bodies, and investors focused on creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for MSMEs, highlighting the importance of alternative and innovative financing solutions.

The event is part of SEDIN's ongoing work to promote innovative financing options for MSMEs, driving economic growth and inclusion in Nigeria. By facilitating such dialogues, SEDIN continues to support the financial empowerment of MSMEs, contributing to sustainable and inclusive economic development.



Stakeholders present at the Stakeholder dialogue on Crowdfunding



Panelists of Stakeholder dialogue session

SEDIN Promotes Design Thinking Approach to Support MSMEs in Nigeria

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria are the backbone of the economy, contributing significantly to job creation and economic growth. However, these MSMEs face numerous challenges that hinder their growth and sustainability such as enhanced business development services, access to financing, and access to market. Oftentimes, service providers in the entrepreneurship ecosystem have operated independently, leading to high costs, increased risks, and inefficiencies.

The SEDIN programme aims to foster a more integrated and efficient support ecosystem for MSMEs by bringing together key actors to co-create value and solutions. This initiative is centred around a workshop themed "*Rethinking Value and Bundling Service Offerings for MSMEs.*" The workshop leveraged the '*Design Thinking*' approach, a user-centric method that encourages creative problem-solving and innovation.

The workshop organised by SEDIN in Niger State brought together various stakeholders, including financial institutions, business development experts, and market access organisations. These participants engaged in collaborative brainstorming sessions to develop comprehensive solution prototypes tailored to the needs of MSMEs selected clusters, hubs, and markets.

By leveraging a Design Thinking approach, SEDIN is promoting more integrated, efficient, and user centered solutions. This collaborative model not only addresses the immediate challenges faced by MSMEs but also builds a more resilient and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem in Nigeria.



Focal persons from GIZ with SMEDAN Zonal officers



Focal persons from GIZ with SMEDAN Zonal officers

SEDIN Boosts MSMEs at the 13th International Trade Fair in Ogun

The 13th International Trade Fair hosted by the Ogun State Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (OGUNCCIMA) was an epicentre for showcasing innovation, fostering collaborations, and attracting global investments. A notable highlight of this year's event was the active participation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and regulatory agencies, facilitated by the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme- SEDIN.

The International Trade Fair, led by the Ogun State government, aims to boost economic growth within the region and SEDIN's involvement underscored the program's commitment to empowering MSMEs, providing them with a platform to engage with a wider audience and showcase their innovations. The trade fair offered a unique opportunity for MSMEs to engage directly with potential customers, investors, and partners. Further, they were able to evaluate their competition, forge partnerships, and significantly expand their market presence.

Beyond showcasing their products and services, MSMEs had the chance to interact with regulatory bodies present at the trade fair. This interaction was crucial for addressing and resolving pertinent business challenges. Regulatory agencies provided insights and guidance on compliance, licensing, and other regulatory requirements, helping MSMEs navigate the often-complex business environment.

More than just an exhibition, the 13th International Trade Fair in Ogun State was a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and economic potential. With the support of the SEDIN programme, MSMEs were able to expand their reach and address business challenges. As MSMEs continue to grow and thrive, they play a crucial role in shaping a vibrant and sustainable economic future for Nigeria.



OGUN TRADE FAIR : MSMEs, GIZ and other stakeholders at the International Trade fair in Ogun state

8 - Migration

ZME Strengthens Partner's Capacity to Promote Regular Migration to Germany

The Centres for Migration and Development (ZME) recently organised a 2-day capacity building programme to strengthen the organisational capacity of staff of the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC). The workshop aimed to provide the MRC advisors with the required information and resource materials to effectively provide migration advice to Nigerians seeking jobs or educational opportunities in Germany.

The event was held in Lagos and drew participation from the staff of the MRC in Lagos, Abuja, and Edo. It also featured practical sessions such as role plays, group work, and presentations on the step-by-step procedure of applying for jobs and study opportunities in Germany.

The programme also included discussions on the new Skilled Immigration Act (FEG), which makes it easier for skilled workers with vocational training and individuals with practical to immigrate to Germany. The MRC is a unit in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and has been an implementation partner of GIZ's Centres for Migration and Development (ZME) in Nigeria.

GIZ-ZME and Nike Art Gallery Organise Art Exhibition to end a Two-week Art Masterclass for Painters and Photographers

Nike Art Gallery, Abuja recently hosted an exhibition of artworks created by participants of the **#MadeinNigeria** art masterclass on Saturday, 25th May. The Nigerian-German Centre for Migration and Development (NGC), the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), and the iconic Nike Art Gallery organised the two-week art masterclass and the exhibition that rounded it off.

This year's masterclass and exhibition was the fifth such event the NGC has supported, partnering with leading players in the art industry, and the third consecutive time it has taken place in Abuja. The BMZ West Africa II director, Morgan Roth, members of the German mission in Nigeria, and the country director of GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS, including colleagues from other GIZ programmes, were at the gallery to promote Nigerian arts and support the careers of Nigeria's young artists. The implementation partner of the NGC, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, was also represented by the Director of Wages and Employment in the ministry, who gave a speech on behalf of the minister.

Speaking to thronging art lovers at the event, the BMZ director of the West African department noted, **"Nigerian artists are rocking the world and art is a real career."** John Nyamali, Director of the Department of Employment and Wages of the FMLE, also said the ministry has recognised the importance of the art sector for job creation strategy, **"pursuing art as a strategy for skills development in Nigeria."** Sandra Vermuijten, the head of the programme of the Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), which operates the NGC, noted that the programme has consistently promoted the development of young artists, Nigeria's art and culture, and the emergence of a new generation of art lovers in the country.

Shortly before the speeches began, a troupe of cultural artists had serenaded viewers with traditional songs and dances, accompanied by African percussions and their rhythms. Many artists went home with smiles on their faces as they sold off their works to a coterie of international and national art lovers. Anyone interested in these works can still get them by contacting the ZME office in Abuja, Lagos or Edo.



L-R Sandra Vermuijten-Alonge, ZME head of programme, inviting participants of the art masterclass for presentation of certificates by the visiting BMZ West African department director, Ms. Morgenroth

Promoting Regular Migration through Freelance and Remote Work

Towards the promotion of regular migration, GIZ's Centres for Migration and Development (ZME), in April, organised a workshop on freelancing and remote work opportunities for potential migrants in collaboration with Terawork in Lagos. About a hundred people participated in the workshop and those were selected from an application pool of over a thousand registrants.

The Workshop strengthened the capacity of beneficiaries with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills to thrive in remote work and access local and international opportunities. The sessions involved expert-led sessions, networking sessions, sessions on labour migration to Germany, LinkedIn optimisation, CV review, and many more.

Furthermore, participants interested in learning the German language had the opportunity of a one-on-one session with the representative of Goethe Institute, who provided a detailed guide on the processes and steps required to participate in German Language class.



Group picture of participants and facilitators of the workshop



A staff of the Goethe Institute counselling participants on opportunities for vocational training in Germany



Cross-section of participants at the workshop on freelancing and remote work opportunities



A staff member of the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment contributing to the topic of Regular Migration.



A consultant from Terrawork making a presentation on *Standing Out Online*

9 - High-Level Visits

Petra Warnecke:

Digital Innovation Hubs, a vehicle for the Digital Transformation of MSMEs in Nigeria

In an exciting celebration of digital progress, a fireside chat titled "Digital Innovation Hubs: A Vehicle for the Digital Transformation of MSMEs in Nigeria" was held to honour the visit of Dr. Petra Warnecke, Director General Africa at GIZ /GIZ Head of Africa Department. This vibrant event was a convergence of a diverse range of digital innovation ecosystem actors such as MSMEs, Digital Innovation Hubs, thought leaders, and innovators all eager to explore the transformative potential of digital innovation hubs. The chat underscored the critical role these hubs play in driving digital literacy, fostering entrepreneurial spirit, and equipping small businesses with the tools needed to thrive in a digital economy. Petra Warnecke's presence added an inspiring touch, as she highlighted GIZ's commitment to supporting Nigeria's MSME sector through innovative digital solutions. The discussions delved into success stories of local entrepreneurs who were beneficiaries of the recently concluded Digital Upskilling Training hosted by a DIH, DTC Nigeria is supporting. These entrepreneurs have harnessed the power of digital hubs to scale their businesses, alongside future to expand these initiatives across the country. The event not only celebrated current achievements but also set the stage for a brighter, digitally empowered future for Nigerian MSMEs.



Dr Petra Warnecke giving her closing remark.



A fireside chat with a DIH Lead Partner

GIZ Head of Africa Department Visits Circular Economy Partners in Lagos

Petra Warnecke, GIZ Director General of Africa Department, recently visited one of our circular economy partners, Wecyclers, in Nigeria as part of the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development for Decent Employment in Nigeria Programme – SEDIN. The visit aimed to showcase the impactful work in promoting circular economy practices in the region, while also highlighting Germany's support for transitioning to a more circular economy through its private sector development program.

At Wecyclers' facility, Petra Warnecke and other partners were given a comprehensive tour, exploring the various sectors and roles within the circular economy framework. Discussions centred on production processes, raw material availability, product markets, and key challenges faced by circular economy businesses.

Special insights were provided by the Lagos State Government representative, Mrs. Titi Oshodi (Special Advisor to the Governor, Office of Climate Change and Circular Economy) Mrs. Titi Oshodi, on enabling policies in the circular economy sphere.

Other circular economy businesses present at the visit were MitiMeth, Quadloop, Clozetsales, and Circular Economy Innovation Partnership (CEIP).



Visit to one of our partners in Circular Economy: Wecyclers

Yaba Skills Centre Hosts Ms. Petra Warnecke as the Centre Graduates 80 Trainees

The director general of the GIZ Africa department, Ms. Petra Warnecke, was hosted at the Yaba Skills Centre of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), Yaba, Lagos by the ZME programme and our partners in the FMLE.

She toured the skills centre, meeting with partners and beneficiaries, including the eighty graduates trained in catering, fashion design, automobile diagnostic, digital marketing and graphic design, and sewing machine repairs. Every moment showcased positive cooperation between the Yaba Skills Centre and the ZME. This is evident from the success stories and feedback of the graduating trainees.

During the visit to the Yaba Skills Centre, Ms. Petra Warnecke held an insightful and robust roundtable with partners from Yaba Skills Centre, Migrant Resource Centre and Goethe Institute as well as beneficiaries. The meeting was crucial as the partners reiterated the impact of the cooperation with ZME, which has increased the number of beneficiaries of its programmes.

Since the commencement of ZME cooperation with Yaba Skills Centre in September 2022, the centre has trained 400 beneficiaries in fashion design, catering, automobile diagnostic, repair of sewing machine and ICT. The centre has also hosted the training of over 100 participants in German Language. The Yaba Skills Centre is the first vocational training and certification centre in Nigeria, founded as far back as 1946, and the ZME presently supports its skills development programmes in Yaba, Lagos.



Presentation on Regular Migration to Germany by the Programme Component Manager-Lagos, ZME.

Exchange with Female Tech Founders and BMZ State Secretary Dr. Bärbel Kofler - February 2024

The GIZ/DTC Nigeria hosted an Exchange with Female Tech Founders and the BMZ State Secretary Dr. Bärbel Kofler, in collaboration with NitHub, UNILAG on February 8th, 2024. The objective was to provide a platform for direct feedback on the realities of female founders in Nigeria and the women entrepreneurs they serve. Five female founders whose organisations serve thousands of women entrepreneurs across Nigeria highlighted that beyond more effective awareness-raising on entrepreneurship training for women, added support was needed for these trained women to move beyond limiting self-beliefs and imposter syndrome to effectively implement what they have been taught. They also recommended leveraging on a women-to-women business mentorship model where women entrepreneurs can thrive in a 'safe learning space' with other women entrepreneurs. Furthermore, showcasing success stories of relatable women entrepreneurs was also emphasized as an invaluable tool to inspire action. DTC Nigeria is developing a mentorship curriculum for women entrepreneurs and will showcase the success stories of women across the project.

The female founders also recommended directing efforts to positive gender socialization of young girls in school to prompt a mindset shift away from limiting stereotypes and towards embracing the full spectrum of careers and entrepreneurship opportunities in the digital ecosystem.

By leveraging a Design Thinking approach, SEDIN is promoting more integrated, efficient, and user centered solutions. This collaborative model not only addresses the immediate challenges faced by MSMEs but also builds a more resilient and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem in Nigeria.



Dr. Bärbel Kofler with Five Female Tech Founders, NITHUB, UNILAG



Dr. Bärbel Kofler discussing with DIH consortium partner, Grace Oluchi

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