



MIGRATION UPDATE

Volume 2 Issue 2 June 2020

Foreword

Dear Readers,

Since our last newsletter, our world has changed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. With a third of humanity under lockdown, the pandemic has had a major impact on social and economic life. In Nigeria, the economic impact is being felt and has translated into budget cuts due to lower oil price and layoffs in some sectors. Ban on large gatherings and health crisis resulted in the postponing of many planned activities. This uncertainty is a major challenge, since most working people in Nigeria do not have any savings, but life should go on even in times of COVID 19.

This edition of “Migration Update” prominently features our individual and collective work in the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC). The Programme Migration and Development (PME) intensified its online offers in terms of webinars and short skills training, with a focus on technical and entrepreneurial skills. The Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria programme – SEDIN, also presents the launch of e-learning and digital training that fosters entrepreneurial thinking. We also report on the Programme Migration and Diaspora (PMD) visit to Enugu and potential partnerships in the state. Lastly, we share impact stories from one of our collaborative effort in SEDEC, the 2019 Abuja Job Fair.

Our newsletter intends to trigger reactions, discussions, exchange and dialogue. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sandra Vermuijten,
Team Leader,
Programme Migration for Development

Content

PMD visits Enugu: First Impressions about the Partnership Ecosystem in Enugu	3
The SEDIN programme initiates new e-learning and digital training for returnees and unemployed youth	4
Programme Migration for Development (PME) Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic	5
Impact Stories from the 2019 Abuja Job Fair	11



PMD Visits Enugu: First Impressions about the Partnership Ecosystem in Enugu

The Programme Migration & Diaspora (PMD) in Nigeria aims at partnering with key stakeholders in Nigeria to enable them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by leveraging the positive effects of regular migration and diaspora engagement. This is mostly achieved by placing returning and diaspora experts in organisations and institutions where they share knowledge, add value, and serve as multipliers. Through this process, the experts can contribute to workplace capacity development by putting into use the knowledge and skills they have acquired in Germany.

The search for partners/stakeholders in the form of employers and host institutions for the experts took PMD to Enugu. For the first time, PMD organised an info session in Enugu, an event which took place on March 10 and 11, 2020 for the organised private sector and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) respectively. Enugu, a major city in South-East Nigeria with a population of 4,411,119 in 2016 (National Bureau of Statistics, Demographic

Statistics Bulletin, 2017) became PMD's destination because of the city's growing relevance in the socio-economic landscape of the country.

Besides coal mining and manufacturing industries, the economy of Enugu also thrives on agriculture, technical and vocational education, and training (TVET) and entrepreneurship. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is playing a vital role in shaping economic development in the city. This was recently corroborated in a publication by The Guardian Newspaper, which suggests that the Enugu economy is widely digitalising, and the youth are ready and eager to acquire new skills leading to being self-employed. The youth have been charged to acquire digital skills for present and future development.

The info sessions were well attended by both the members of the organised private sector and representatives of NGOs. PMD took the opportunity to promote the programme in particular and GIZ

In general, and to seek opportunities for partnership with participating organisations. These opportunities include providing employment for potential returning experts, hosting diaspora experts on a temporary basis, and being matched with Nigerian diaspora organisations in Germany to implement small-scale projects in the context of the SDGs.

The two-day info sessions were complemented by bilateral meetings with potential partners, which among others included the Enugu Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ECCIMA), the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) and the Enugu State SME Development and Investment Centre. In addition to partnering with PMD, another recurring theme during the events and exchange is the need to support the youth in their growing desire for TVET and entrepreneurship. ECCIMA, ESUT and SME Development & Investment Centre expressed their preparedness to collaborate with GIZ in this regard.

Although the outcomes and responses were mostly positive, one major challenge was that some institutions did not clearly understand what GIZ stands for and how GIZ's procedures differ from those of other sister agencies they are used to such as DFID and USAID. This could be because GIZ is not well known in South-East Nigeria and it will take more visits and interactions to gain traction.

In conclusion, PMD's visit to Enugu has a lot of potentials for partnership that can be tapped into not only by PMD but also by the Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC). Enugu is unarguably a new hub where GIZ Nigeria should explore fully for more concrete business relationships with different stakeholders for the realisation of the SDGs.

The SEDIN programme initiates new e-learning and digital training for returnees and unemployed youth

Following the new COVID-19 realities, the SEDIN programme has commenced the pilot process of new e-learning and virtual training to meet the demands on business development for returned migrants and unemployed people. The first digital training format is being piloted with a 2-day digital training on Entrepreneurial Thinking. These training sessions aim at opening new possibilities for anyone thinking of becoming an entrepreneur. While the training offers introductory elements of an entrepreneurial path, it is expected to spark the interest of participants to develop further basic and advance skills for successful entrepreneurship in the future. These basic skills include finding new customers online through digital marketing, prototyping new business ideas, and improving business ideas based on data. The digital E-Thinking training sessions are expected to commence in June and run till September 2020 for participants residing in Abuja, Lagos, and Edo states.

Programme Migration for Development (PME) Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic

Given the global COVID-19 pandemic and particularly its effect in Nigeria, the careful analysis showed an urgent need for intervention to upskill and support both job seekers and local entrepreneurs. In May 2020 the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC), in collaboration with partners, designed and executed several short online training to address the needs of clients, either by supporting them in taking up new emerging job opportunities or boosting SME sales and giving guidance on how to link up with support from financial institutions or federal government palliative measures so that post COVID-19 SME's stay in business. The piloted courses covered business psychology, graphic design, data science and business intelligence, social media planning, Google digital marketing, NAKISE, coding, social media marketing and access to finance offered to 800 beneficiaries across board. Below are some of the highlights and impacts of these training from the perspective of both the trainers and the beneficiaries.

NerdzFactory: Empowering Young People During the Pandemic

Ade Olowojoba tells us: "Our organisation – NerdzFactory – works with young people and organisations to build their skills in technology and boost their employability. In May 2020, we started our cooperation with NGC to train young people in Nigeria on graphic design between May 13 to 22, 2020. During the course, they were introduced to Adobe Photoshop and Canva applications. The group of participants was very diverse with different backgrounds, including students, recently graduated youth, as well as employed and self-employed entrepreneurs looking to upscale their skills and improve their brand. The training was intense because we tried to cover as much as possible and the trainees were very receptive and open to learning.

I was apprehensive about the looming COVID-19 pandemic but with innovation, we managed to carry

out the training virtually. We discovered that learning virtually can be even more efficient than physical classes on the condition of the availability of a good internet connection and a laptop. The online platform was a more direct approach because we were able to share screens with learners and the level of concentration was higher. Recording of the class virtually was less resource-intensive and it was easier for participants to always go back and to refresh their memory if they had questions about the lessons.

At the end of the training, 34 people completed the workshop which was beyond our target of 30 people. Interestingly, we had a high turnout of female participants (19) which is usually rare for a graphics design course. In the coming weeks, two of the high-performing participants will be selected for internship placements provided by us and our partners.”

Day 5: Women Against COVID 19

Tool: *Photoshop*



Flyer designed by Mercy Anih

Creating a Space for Women and Girls in the Graphic Design Profession

“I’m an educator who works with teenagers and I write business proposals. I have always been interested in graphic design and I really needed an opportunity to develop my skills. I was excited when I saw the flyer for the training on WhatsApp after which I signed up. Since the conclusion of the training, I have been able to design a few graphics, including a few book covers and letter-headed papers for friends and my start-up business.”



Mercy Anih, participate in the Graphics Design Training by NerdzFactory

“As a woman, I feel there are very few women graphic designers and I am determined to further develop my skills on this path to change the status quo. This was the first time I saw so many women in a workshop like this, it made me feel empowered. I am grateful to GIZ for supporting the graphics workshop and giving me the opportunity to develop my skills.”

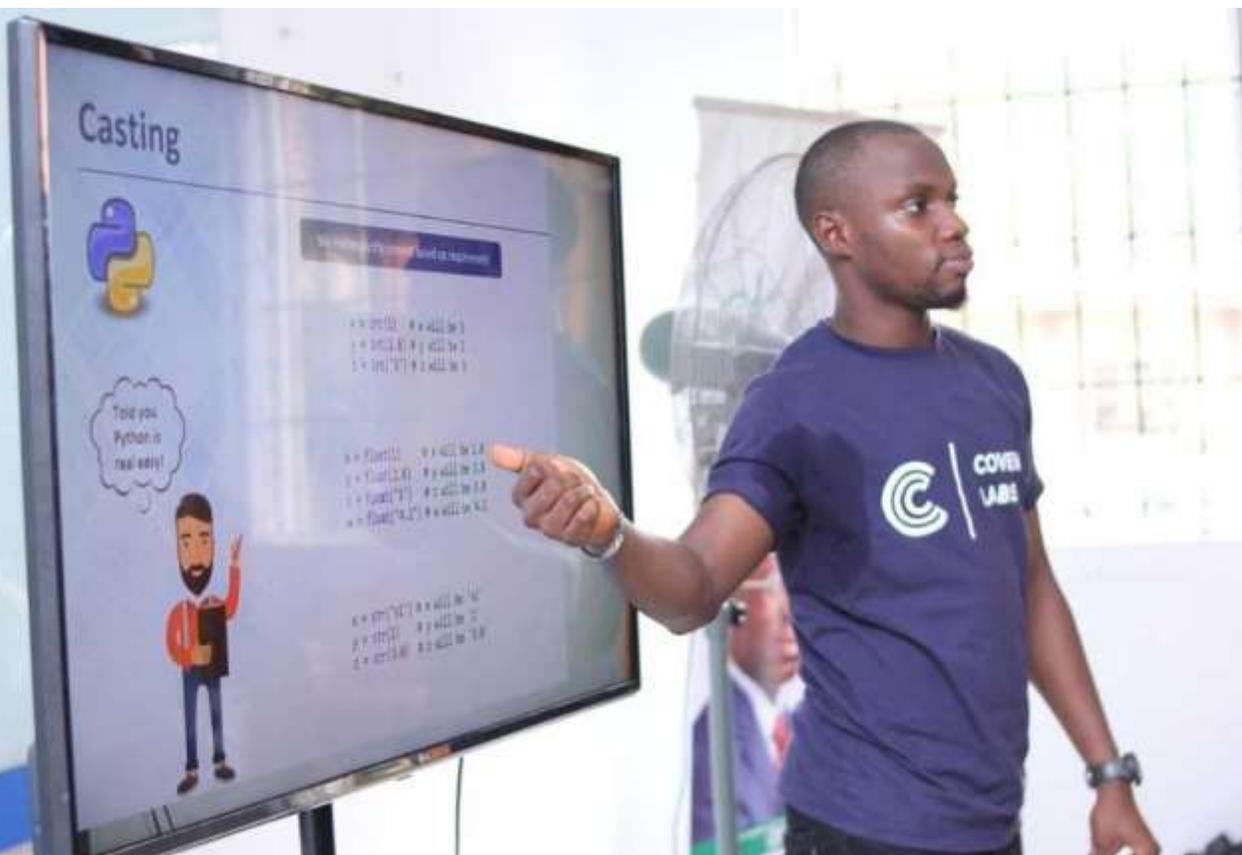
Training on Data Science & Business Intelligence by Coven Works

“The Data Science and Business Intelligence Online Training took place between 18 and 29 of May 2020 was met with so much enthusiasm on the first day and surprisingly, the same level of energy was seen all through the ten-day boot camp. The goal was to ensure that the completion and engagement were maintained with two live sessions and assignments daily, support for the 100 selected people and a capstone project for all them across several fields with an hourly check-in for monitoring.

We saw people move from being complete novices to working on COVID19 data to generate insights, while others who had not written a line of code performed an analysis with Python and generated analytical dashboards. Five selected persons with disabilities gave their all during the training and now

have jobs waiting for them because of their participation in the ten-day program. This proves that a lot of impacts can be achieved with this training when access is increased for minority groups among us.

With this training, beneficiaries can support any business with data-empowered recommendations, make projections and provide business information hidden under figures. While there are higher levels they will still need to learn, they certainly have the support they need to move ahead with the community created by Curators Interactive for members of their Alumni who have access to over 2500 industry experts in the online community. The end goal of this training is for them to find or create jobs, which they have already been introduced to with the help of the training supported by GIZ.”



Precious Gift from Coven Works



Emenike Precious, participated in the Data Science & Business Intelligence training by Coven Works

A Clearer Picture for Emenike Precious

My name is Emenike Precious Amarachukwu, I am 21 years old and a graduate of Computer science from the University of Benin, Nigeria. I was lucky to participate in the training on Data Science & Business Intelligence by Coven Works.

Before the training, I constantly tried to streamline my career in data science, but it always felt cumbersome because there was too much information online which made it confusing. However, during the training, I realised my interest in Python which I can now say I am proficient in. I would like to use this medium to say thank you to the organisers and GIZ for this opportunity.

Lessons from the GIZ-Amelior Consult Training

“The NGC Business Psychology Training that took place from 11 to 15 May 2020 was indeed timely, well received and the coordination was top-notch. All the facilitators displayed their skills and delivered the content with intent and enthusiasm which made the classes engaging and learner friendly. Currently, I manage an educational and tourism business. With the advent of COVID-19, tourism is on hold and the classes have not been functioning as students are not going to school physically.

During the training, I was exposed to a lot of insightful information that guided my decision and shift in perspective, especially as the new normal evolves. As a result of the module on creative thinking, I have gained information about how to develop a forward-thinking attitude towards products or services that my target audience needs at this time. So, I started a WhatsApp class for Teenagers and Students where we currently have about 40 participants.

We were also taught about leveraging on technology which made me expand my business to the digital space and move from focusing on my physical office. Also, we were taught the importance of collaboration, creating a brand, and staying focused. These modules have helped me through these difficult times because the explanations, examples, and life stories about how to cope with the present situation to avoid being anxious and depressed were inspiring. The confidence I have is that this phase will pass, and I believe that opportunities abound to be maximised. In all, the training has surpassed my expectations as I was intrigued by the composition of the topics and inspired by the delivery of the facilitators. Many thanks to the organizers - GIZ and Amelior Consult. “



Cynthia (middle) at the NGC Career Path Training

Working in the time of COVID-19 Lockdown

My name is Cynthia Iyamabo, I am 31 years old, from Edo State, Nigeria. I studied medical biochemistry at the University of Benin (UNIBEN) but could not find a job after graduation in 2012 and have been job hunting ever since, doing menial jobs here and there in the meantime.

I got to know about the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC) in Benin City through a friend and decided to visit the Centre in April 2019. I spoke with one of the advisors, was profiled and counselled on the services and offers of the Centre. I was first referred to “Career Path”, a two-day training organised by NGC to enhance soft skills and self- discovery. It helped me to focus on what my options are and how I could develop myself further. I have always been interested in fashion and realised that I could run my brand.

I was subsequently selected to take part in a textile and fashion design training organized by the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC) and implemented by Genius Hub in autumn 2019.

At the end of the three-month training, we were provided with sewing machines to start-up our businesses. NGC also registered my business for me. I started working from home and building my client base through referrals from clients. I have been busy making clothes and getting orders every day. This has been of great support to my family income.



Cynthia receiving her certificate of participation at the NGC career path training.



Cynthia sewing a cloth face mask

In March 2020, I was invited to join the workforce to produce face masks for the Edo State Government, through a public contract as part of its campaign to contain the spread of COVID-19 within the state. I and all other 29 beneficiaries of the 2019 textile and fashion design training are now engaged in the production of these cloth facemasks, which serves as an additional source of income. We can earn up to 90 thousand naira per month producing face masks. I am so happy and grateful for this opportunity, especially in this period when a lot of people are losing their sources of income. For the coming six months, I will work on this public order, but I continue my fashion business at home. I hope that when this crisis is over, I can start my shop.

Cloth face masks made by Cynthia





Impact Stories from the 2019 Abuja Job Fair

On the 10th of October 2019, the Programme Migration for Development (PME), Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN) and Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), organised the Abuja Job Fair. The job fair brought together over 3000 job seekers and around 118 local and international organisations offering vacant positions for recruitment. As of January 2020, over 100 persons have been reported in employment. In this newsletter edition, we follow the stories of some of the job seekers who got jobs from the fair and remain in employment despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on employment in Nigeria.

Bassey Richards, Intake Specialist

My name is Bassey Richards. I am a 25-year-old graduate of Mass Communication from Oklahoma City University, USA. I returned to Nigeria after my studies in 2015, completed my National Youth

Service and started job hunting. I approached the Nigerian German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC), Abuja in 2019 for support with job placement and I was counselled and referred to the career path training organised by



Bassey at the 2019 Abuja Job Fair

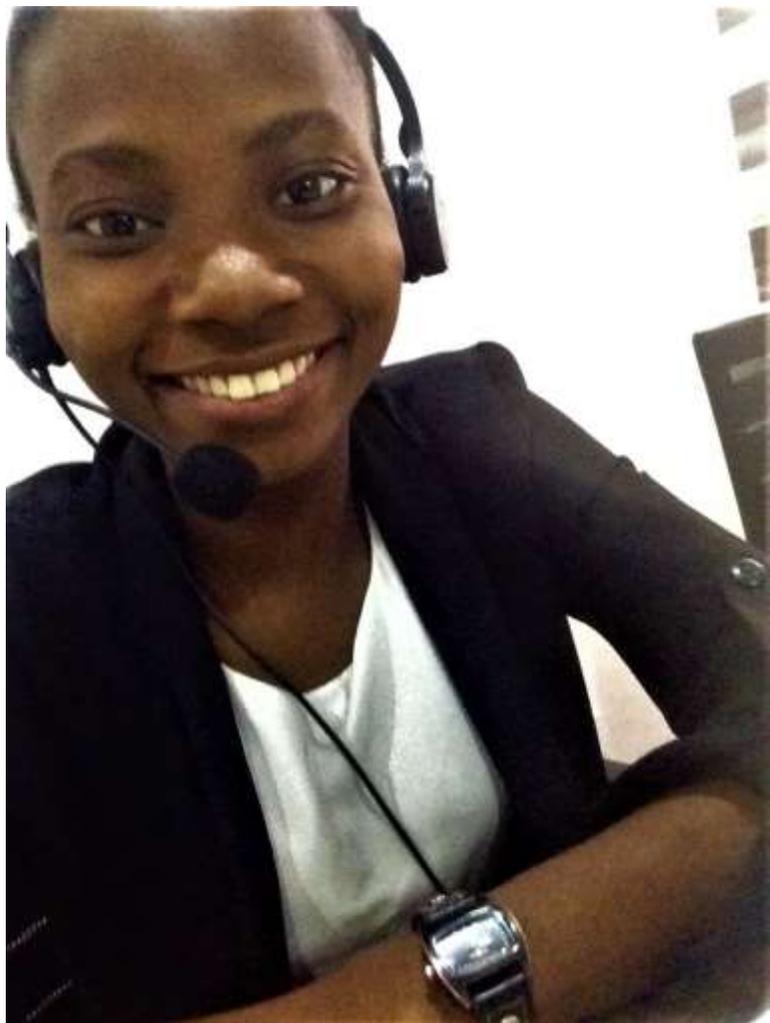
the NGC in collaboration with the Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria programme (SEDIN) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment in September 2019. During this training, I learnt how to write a winning cv, cover letter and learnt salient interview tips.

In October 2019, I was invited to the Abuja Job Fair where I had the opportunity to interact with several employers and drop my CV. I subsequently got a call from one of the employers, Outsource Global, a leading business/knowledge process outsourcing company for a job interview. I passed successfully and was offered a job as an Intake Specialist. It has been 7 months since the Job fair, and I remain in employment despite the COVID-19 situation. I am indeed grateful to GIZ for making this connection possible.

Blessing Eyakndue, Customer Service Officer

My name is Blessing Eyakndue, a 25-year-old graduate of Foreign Languages from the University of Uyo, Nigeria. I graduated in 2018 and subsequently did my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Sokoto state. I finished my youth service and was job-hunting for a while. My friend told me about the Nigerian German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (NGC), she suggested that we could go to look for volunteer opportunities there for a start. I was ok with the idea because I studied German in school, and I was also excited about being a volunteer to get more skills and experiences at the start of my career. We got to the Centre and ended up being counselled and registered as participants for the 2-day Career Path training in September 2019.

After the training, we were told that a job fair would come up in a few weeks and several employers from different sectors would be available to recruit for their organization. I crossed my fingers, not so sure that I would get any job, but also hopeful that I could get a volunteering opportunity. I dropped my CV with different employers in the different sectors I knew I could function properly, and thankfully, I was called upon for an interview. I passed the interview successfully and was hired as a customer service officer with Naluchi Global Technologies Limited, a leading Information Technology Company in Abuja. I would like to say a big thank you to NGC Abuja and to GIZ for making this job a reality.



Blessing answering phone calls at Naluchi Global Technologies



Nwando at iCreate Africa Skills Hub

Nwando Egbose, Business Manager

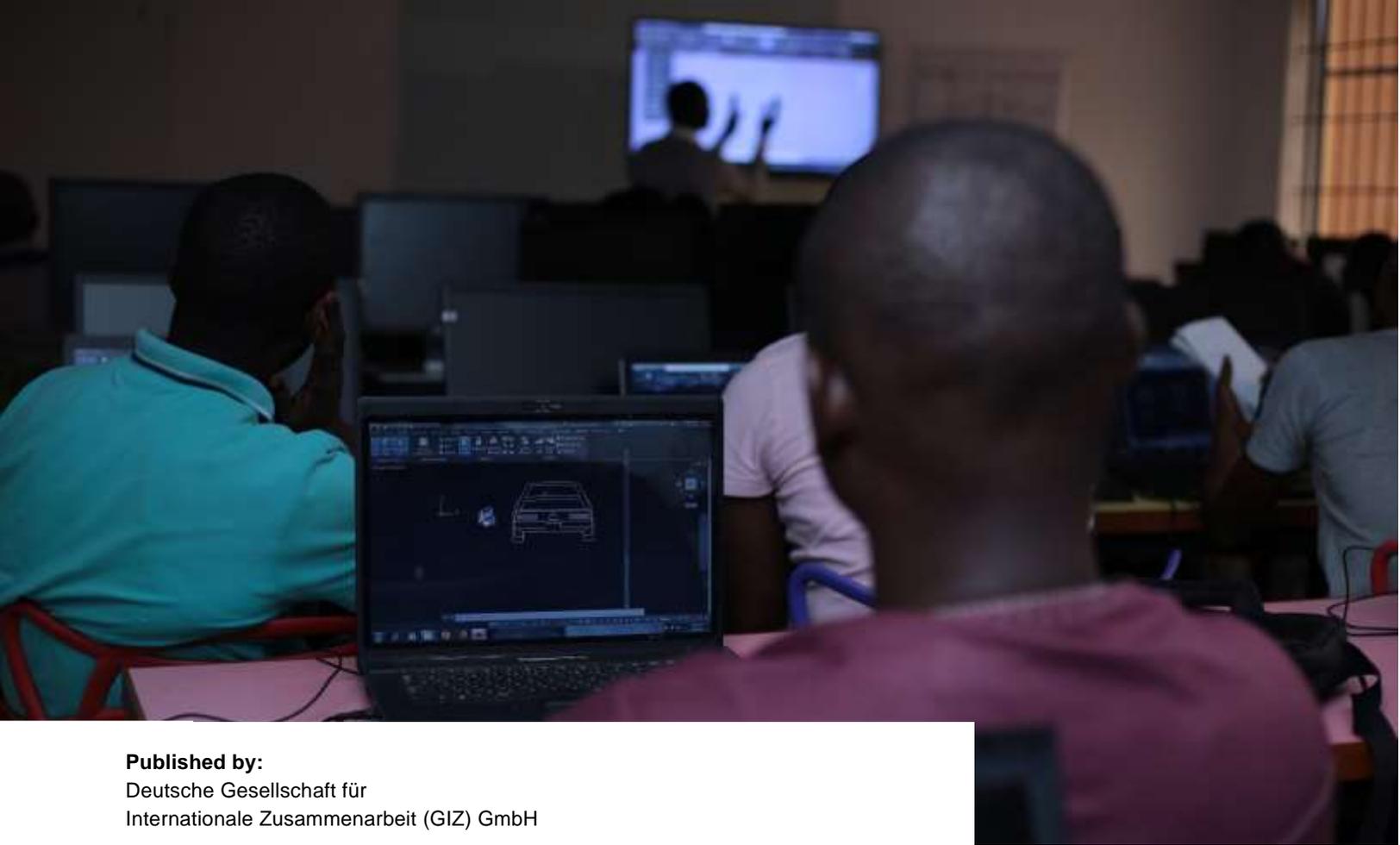
My name is Nwando Egbose, a Psychology graduate from the University of Ibadan. I had been in the banking sector for quite some time and was in dire need of a change in my career. When I saw the Job Fair flyer on a friend's WhatsApp status, I was going to dismiss it as usual until I noticed it was a GIZ/NGC programme and thought it must be worth a try. I attended the job fair and was very impressed with the turnout and quality of organizations at the fair. I was particularly intrigued by one of the organizations at the fair - iCreate Africa as before then, I had heard of the iCreate Skills Competitions, one of the initiatives of the organisation. Having a soft spot for all they do, I applied for a position with iCreate Africa at the fair and was subsequently interviewed. The rest they say is history, as I am presently the Business Manager of iCreate Africa. Many thanks to GIZ for providing such a wonderful job matching platform.

Kingsley Kalu, Food and Beverage Supervisor

My name is Kingsley Kalu. I am a 30-year-old graduate of political science from the National Open University, Abuja. My job-hunting journey started after my graduation in 2018. During the journey, I heard about the NGC Abuja and approached the Centre in April 2019 to assist me with job placement. I was profiled and referred to the Career Path training which helped enhance my employability skills in a remarkable way. I was followed up consistently and subsequently invited to the Abuja Job fair in October 2019 where I met several employers. I was particularly interested in working in the hospitality sector, so I submitted my CV to Dome Entertainment Limited, a prominent hospitality company in Abuja and was hopeful. I was subsequently called for an interview which I passed and was offered the position of Food and Beverage Supervisor. I began working with Dome since last year and I am enjoying my role. I am indeed very grateful for the opportunity



Kingsley at the Dome

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Registered offices
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Sustainable Economic Development Cluster (SEDEC)
SEDEC Building
Haile Selassie Street 20, Asokoro, FCT Abuja
T +234 805 529 9996

E giz-nigeria@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Writers

Sandra Vermuijten, Augustine Ezejiolor, & Princess George, Abuja

Editor

Caroline Chukwura, Abuja

Design

Caroline Chukwura, Abuja

Photo credits:

GIZ Nigeria, @EyesofaLagosboy

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