



## Job Creation and Youth EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA

As a result of the worrisome, high level of unemployment in Nigeria, the Office of the Vice President contacted UK Aid in September 2015 to support its new Job Creation Unit (JCU). Hitherto, both trained and untrained youth had minimal hope of securing jobs, even at the minimum level needed to survive or raise a family. Responding positively, through PDF II, an Embedded Adviser was provided.

Further support was also provided by PDF II, to develop a strategic framework to underpin the government's job creation initiatives. Dalberg Nigeria was engaged to help develop the Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan for Job Creation and Youth Employment in Nigeria. The framework, identified four high-growth sectors, with potential to create mass employment opportunities as follows: i) construction ii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) iii) agribusiness and agro-allied industries and iv) wholesale and retail trade. Implementation of the framework from first quarter 2016, has been built around three key strands: Npower, Skills Acquisition and Innovation Hubs. Here, we highlight some of the achievements within two of the three core areas - Npower and Innovation Hubs.



### ABOUT US

Policy Development Facility Phase II (PDF II) is a flexible, rapid-response programme funded by the UK Aid Department for International Development (DFID). The primary objective of PDF II is to provide targeted assistance to support Nigeria's 'champions of change' across the Federal Government to implement economic and social reforms that lead to poverty reduction. This is done through the provision of high quality organisational support and high quality policy research to build the evidence base for this support.





## ROAD TO CHANGE

The following strategies were used by the JCU in the VPs office to achieve the key changes:

### Partnership with Private Sector:



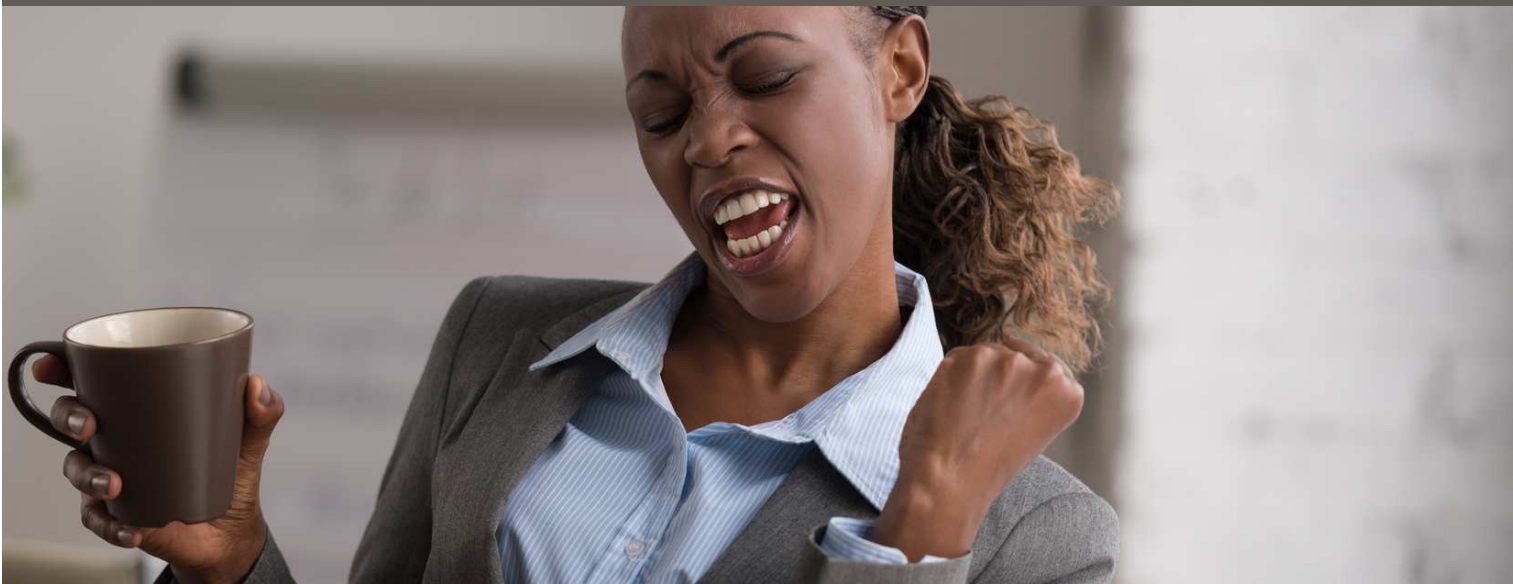
**400,000**

This is the number of young Nigerians trained by Google as part of the Google Digital Skills Training Programme. This was facilitated by Office of the vice-president and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals



**1,000,000**

The goal is to train this number of Nigerians and further 4,000 Nigerians as Android Software developers.



### Aso Villa Demo Day:



**N756 Million**

196 Technology Start-Up companies, who were part of the Aso Villa Demo Day, were given the opportunity to apply for seed fund grants of between \$10,000 and \$40,000 from the World Bank GEM project. 79 of them were selected and grants totalling N756 million Naira have been given out. The grant signing ceremony was held on April 4th 2016, attendees included His Excellency the Vice President, Honourable Minister and Minister of State Industry, Trade and Investment and Honourable Minister of Communications and the representative of the World Bank Country Director.

This is the first time Technology start-ups have benefitted from government support (through the Aso Villa demo day grant and the World Bank GEM project) to scale up their businesses and recruit more staff. The businesses believe that this government is within reach especially because of their constant contact with the Embedded Adviser, who works in the JCU.

## KEY CHANGES

Although the implementation of the Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan for Job Creation and Youth Employment is still on going, some achievements have emerged through N-Power and Innovation Hubs:

### N-Power



# 500,000

N-Power speaks directly to the social aspect of job creation with a clear promise from government to create 500,000 jobs for youth between the ages of 18-35. It is a two-year programme made up of a series of empowerment/skills competency projects to help the beneficiaries secure a sustainable life after the end of the programme. So far, 200,000 direct jobs have been created through Npower. Indirect jobs are already being created through business enterprises the beneficiaries are setting up with stipends received. The Npower training programs will train a total of 100,000 artisans and technology professionals in various skills for jobs, and to become self-employed



One of the major achievements of the Npower programme is its monitoring process, and the institutional sustainability incorporated as part of the program. For instance, the Npower programme has collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, National Healthcare Development Authority and N-Teach on learning and how to digitise learning content, these manuals are already embedded in some of the Ministries.



The end goal is Learn, Work and Entrepreneurship to enable the beneficiaries live a sustainable life after the end of the programme. The success of the Npower gave birth to #MuchMore which was used to tell success stories from the various Npower beneficiaries on Twitter.





## Innovation Hubs

According to the Dalberg and Accenture study report on Regional Innovation Hubs, technology is an integral part of a thriving innovation ecosystem, serving both as an input (e.g. creating access to information and resources) and an output (e.g. new business models, products and services). The ICT sector in Nigeria has experienced rapid growth over the past 15 years, averaging 31% annual growth between 2009 and 2014 while contributing an average of 11% to GDP annually from 2010 to 2014[1].

The JCU has worked with relevant agencies in the area of technology to build partnerships with private sector players and development partners like Google, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the establishment of technology innovation hubs across the country. The planning for the Innovation Hubs brought about a number of opportunities by bringing together different stakeholders, for instance partnership with ICRC for a Humanitarian Innovation Centre in the North East which was launched by the Vice President. Collaboration between the ICRC and American University has led to engagement around a Make-a-thon that focuses on specific humanitarian need being set up in the North East.

Following the delivery of the Report on Regional Innovation Hubs, plans are now underway to set-up seven innovation hubs across Nigeria, one in each of the six geo-political zones including Abuja. The following have been set up and launched:

- The North East Humanitarian Innovation Hub (mentioned above),
- The South-South Innovation Hub in partnership with Marydel Hubs and Edo State Government
- The North Central Hub Project in partnership with the Ventures Platform Hub in Abuja,
- The World Bank Climate Innovation Center in collaboration with Lagos Business School to be launched in August 2018.

Through the Innovation Hubs initiative, technology companies have better access to government, and were able to feed into the process therefore, having a voice that represents tech start-ups in Nigeria. The Innovation Hubs create a platform for tech start-ups to incubate thereby reducing their costs and avoiding the burden of heavy financial overheads.

These initiatives have been leading the way in their approach to partnering with private sector companies, support from companies such as VGG, CISCO, Ventures Platform, etc, has been crucial for setting up the initial framework. To this end, the VP's office through the Embedded Adviser has responded very positively to all the advice received from them, which was reflected in the final report by Dalberg and Accenture.

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[1]Dalberg Analysis; Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin 2014.