

# **Education for Sustainable Development;**

Transforming Lives Through Digital  
Empowerment



# Foreward



*Chioma...*

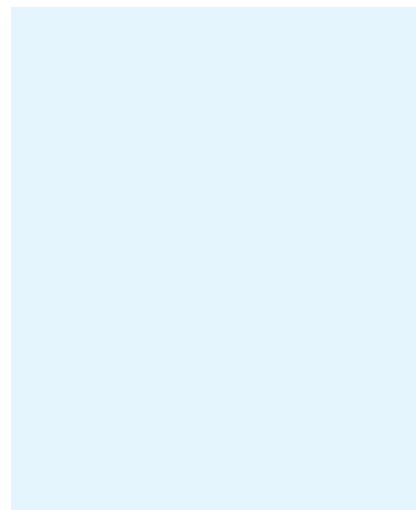
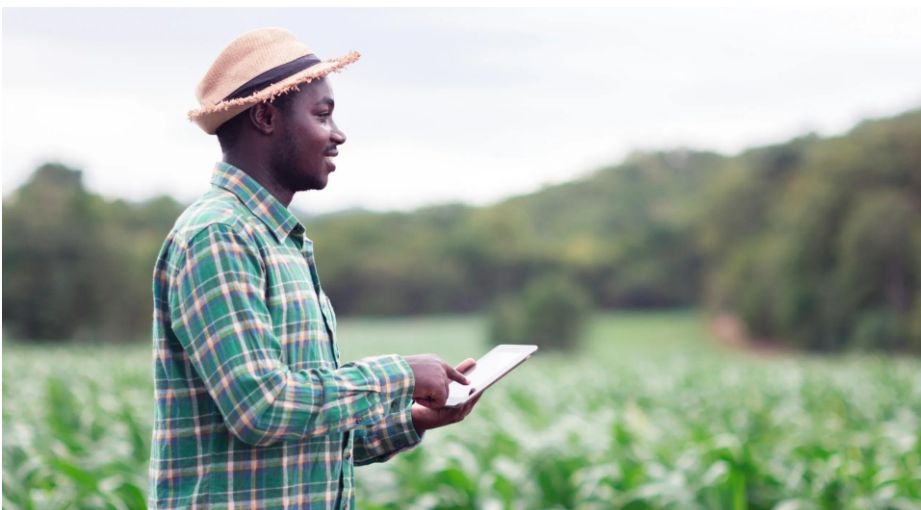
**Chioma Okoro,**  
CEO Wootlab Foundation



Over the past three years, Wootlab Foundation has remained steadfast in its commitment to utilizing technology for the advancement of inclusive and high-quality education for African children and youth who are out of school. Supported by our donors, members, and partners, and benefiting from our strategic position at the intersection of technology and development, we persistently address the objectives outlined by the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and global climate action initiatives.

Our team actively engages in addressing challenges and seizing opportunities in areas such as quality education, gender equality, decent work, economic growth, and digital inclusion for marginalized communities. With our efforts, we have positively impacted over 300 thousand lives, ranging from providing basic digital literacy training to first-time learners to empowering young Africans with technical and vocational skills for livelihood opportunities as a means to increasing the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

These endeavours exemplify the transformative potential of quality education in addressing societal, economic, and environmental challenges, all while ensuring sustainability and scalability. Behind each initiative are dedicated local and international partners, including NGOs, governments, and forward-thinking donors, alongside our passionate Wootlab team, united in our commitment to inclusivity and leaving no one behind.



# Societal Challenges Addressed by Wootlab Foundation Initiatives



## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Our programs focus on digital upskilling and green entrepreneurship initiatives to empower unemployed and underemployed youth, catering to the significant unemployment rates among Africa's youth population.

Of Africa's nearly 420 million youth aged 15-35, one-third are unemployed and discouraged, another third are vulnerably employed, and only one in six is in wage employment. Youth face roughly double the unemployment rate of adults, with significant variation by country.



## GENDER DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION

Wootlab Foundation promotes inclusive education through digital literacy interventions, striving to overcome societal norms and cultural barriers that historically limited females' access to education

Societal norms and cultural beliefs have often reinforced traditional gender roles and restricted females' access to education. For centuries, girls and women have faced barriers such as limited access to schools, discriminatory practices, lack of funding, and societal expectations to prioritize household responsibilities over education.



## DIGITAL SKILLS GAP

Comprehensive digital up-skilling programs address the prevalent digital skills gap in Sub-Saharan Africa, where low literacy rates and limited access to technology hinder economic opportunities and development.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been reported to have the lowest literacy rate in the world as the continent faces a huge digital skills gap, which is diluting economic opportunities and impeding development



## LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

By leveraging technology-driven entrepreneurship, the foundation endeavours to create pathways for economic development, job creation, and financial independence, especially crucial given the challenges posed by climate-related issues, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflicts in the region.

About 462 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are still living in extreme poverty. The recent poly-crisis – climate-related issues, the COVID-19 pandemic, and mounting conflicts – has expedited this debt surge.



## Education for Development in Numbers

Wootlab Digital Empowerment initiatives have impacted the lives of over

**330,000**  
people and counting



As of 2023, Wootlab Foundation received a total of

**356,305**  
applications;



**185,224**  
people



were trained in digital skills required for employment and various livelihood opportunities

**85,530** beneficiaries were women,



underscoring our commitment to gender equality and empowerment

**67%** of our beneficiaries have successfully transitioned to new opportunities,



either by applying their acquired skills in their current employment or embarking on entrepreneurial ventures. This demonstrates the tangible impact of our programs in fostering economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

By December 2023, Wootlab has

extended support to over

**10** organizations



dedicated to youth development across Africa. Through our comprehensive training programs and technical assistance, we ensure a seamless transfer of knowledge and skills to secondary beneficiaries, thereby amplifying the reach and impact of our initiatives.

Wootlab e-learning platform boasts a remarkable community of over

**428,000** registered users.



Equipped with Microsoft-accredited training materials and certifications, this platform serves as a valuable resource hub for individuals seeking to enhance their skills and unlock new opportunities in the digital age.



### Partners in Impact

Our work is made possible by the invaluable support of our partners: Microsoft Philanthropies, The Federal Government of Nigeria, The UK Nigeria Tech Hub through the UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), National Information Technology Development Agency, National Youth Service Corps, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and supported by Wootlab Foundation and its Members. Their collaboration is instrumental in advancing our mission, empowering African youth through digital literacy interventions, and fostering economic growth and financial freedom.



For more information, please visit Wootlab Foundation website at [www.wootlab.ng/foundation](http://www.wootlab.ng/foundation)

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