

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Catalyzing technology development



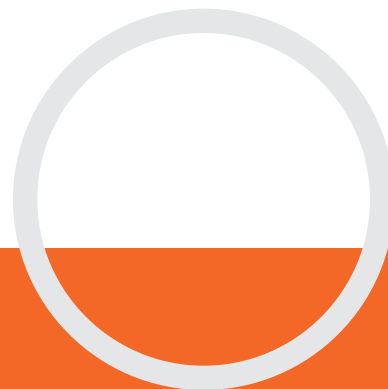
Executive Summary

Emerging Communities Africa (ECA) is a non-profit organisation focused on catalysing technology development to solve social and entrepreneurial challenges in different sectors in emerging communities across Africa.

The Emerging Communities Africa (ECA) Report highlights impactful initiatives focused on technology, career prospects, digital literacy, and brand building. Notable events include the "Leveraging Technology for Business Growth" webinar, the "Emerging Industries and Career Prospects" program, and the Aleph Digital Ad Program in September. Additionally, ECA successfully organized events at Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba, empowering students for leadership in the tech space, and celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child with a focus on digital literacy.

The report underscores ECA's commitment to community empowerment and digital inclusion, with positive participant feedback and visual documentation. As the year concludes, the report reflects ECA's success in creating meaningful change and sets the stage for sustained impact in the future.

2023 in numbers



15

Programs Organized

628

Event Attendees

~~N~~1M

Support for Female
Entrepreneurs

16

Partners

3

Tech Communities
Supported

460+

Children Taught

10

Secondary
schools visited

7

Blog Posts

1

New International
Partnership

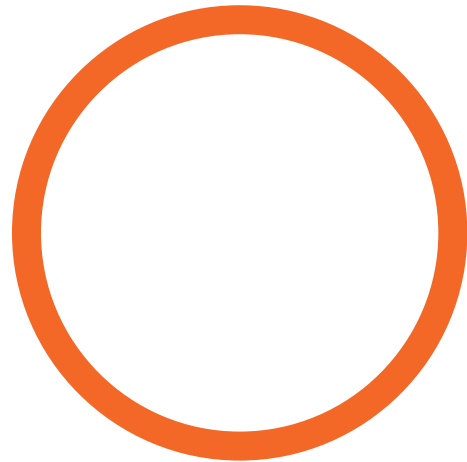
76.7%

Growth across all
Social Media

12

Attendees Distribution
across Nigerian States

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Boss Lady Cohort 1



11 Nigerian states represented

13 Shortlisted Businesses

2

Partners

64

Applications Received

Boss Lady Cohort 1 launched in February 2023 in partnership with Opolo Global as a challenge where women in entrepreneurship made a 60 second instagram video pitching their businesses for a cash prize. We received 63 applications from female entrepreneurs across 11 states in Nigeria.

The bootcamp took place on June 23rd and 24th where 13 shortlisted businesses came down to Akure Tech Hub for a 2 day business workshop and live pitch session. One of the sessions at the bootcamp was powered by Bumpa providing these entrepreneurs with discounts on their business platform. At the end of the bootcamp, 3 businesses won cash prizes.



Winner (500k) - **TasteClan**, an online service that connects university students and working class personnel to ready food vendors.

Second place (350k) - Tifehh_designs, branding and production of quality totebags and afrocentric bags.

Third place (250k) - Oak, an online learning environment that helps high school students learn in-demand digital & soft skills alongside their traditional curriculum.

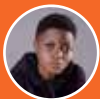
Program Feedback



The session on marketing and branding posed a thought-provoking question: "If you cease to exist in this world, what would your customers miss out on?" This question resonated deeply with me and made me reflect on the value I offer to my customers.

Throughout the event, I met several inspiring female entrepreneurs who are building remarkable products. Their stories encouraged me to consistently put myself out there and reminded me not to let my gender limit my potential for greatness.

During the pitch session, the judges provided constructive feedback on my team's product, allowing us to identify loopholes and areas in need of improvement immediately. I cannot emphasize enough how wonderful of an experience it was.

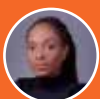


Akinpelu Gladness

I learnt I need to be 100% accountable to all the funds I receive and send out. My bookkeeping must be accurate, dated and concise.

In marketing, I now understand a better conversion funnel - the seeing stage, the thinking stage and the doing stage. Of which, the metrics of each stage varies.

I truly am grateful to the community for putting together a boot-camp for us female founders.



Daramola Ayomide

Program Feedback



My experience at the bootcamp was really an amazing one, from the business sessions down to networking with my fellow entrepreneurs, to the panel sessions and even the welfarism.

The bootcamp has really opened my eyes to some of the things I thought were just normal in business, meanwhile it needed a professional touch. I also want to commend the organizers for taking care of me during the boot camp, it was really a warm experience.

Some key words I learnt during the bootcamp sessions are: My target customers are not the people that need my products but those that connect with my brand DNA and also I also learnt that in everything I do in my business, professionalism must be applied.



Osinowo Boluwatife

International Women's Day



On March 8 2023, ECA in partnership with Opolo Global Innovation organized a webinar on “Building a Gender Inclusive Innovation Ecosystem”. This event was organized to discuss the challenges women entrepreneurs face in building a business. The webinar focused on; Partnerships & Networking, Funding opportunities, Branding tips, Government policies for businesses and Legal requirements/frameworks to operate businesses in Nigeria.

64

Attendees

4

Focused
Areas

International Girls in ICT Day



In celebration of the International Girls in ICT day, we partnered with Teens-Launch Africa and Kids & Teens to train teenage girls on 3 computing skills; Wordpress, Microsoft Office and Canva. The training took place at Akure Tech Hub on May 6th with 19 teenage girls across 11 secondary schools in Akure.

11 Schools

13 Learning Tracks

2

Partners

19

Girls

Impact Story



Ayilola Damilola, a senior secondary student (SS3) attending FUTA Secondary School, enrolled in a Microsoft Office class with the intention of enhancing her computer science knowledge for her upcoming WAEC examination. Recognizing the significance of practical experience, she joined the class to improve her chances of obtaining a higher grade. As a result of her participation, she confidently shared her newfound abilities in utilizing Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint effectively.

OSSA-GBV Project

In 2022, Akure Tech Hub under ECA got a contract to build the multimedia section of The Ondo State Agency Against Gender-Based Violence E-learning Platform. This E-learning platform is one of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy project

In February 2023, ECA created audio media for the Violence Against Persons Prohibition(VAPP) Law in 3 different languages (English, Yoruba and Pidgin).

ECA was paid ₦300,000 for this project

Children's Day Celebration



9

School
Visited

1

Partner

400+

Children

During the month of May, in partnership with SabiProgramers we conducted a series of technology-focused events for primary school children, emphasizing the safe use of the internet and hosting a Canva design workshop. Initially, we reached out to 26 schools in Akure with our proposals, but due to scheduling constraints, the celebrations took place at only 9 schools. Despite this, we successfully engaged with over 400 students across these 9 schools.



Impact Story

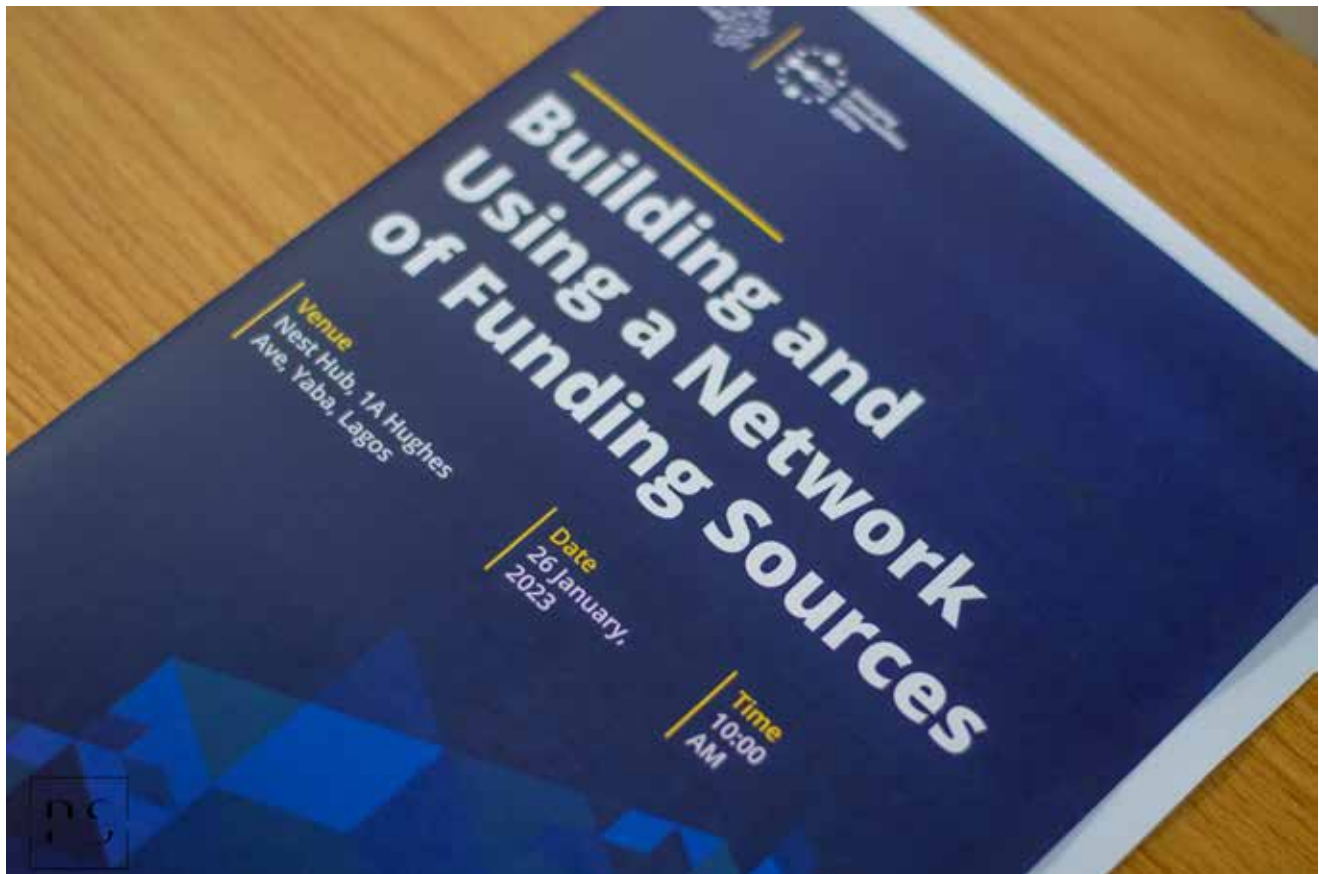


Dele Hosanna, a JSS 2 student from Ecwa Group of Schools, shared his experience of learning to use Canva for designs. He expressed his enthusiasm for pursuing a career in Technology and how this newfound skill has ignited his passion for creative work.

Adeniran Tolulope, a student from Mabest Academy, also impressed us with his progress. He enthusiastically shared how he has acquired knowledge about designing fliers using Canva, demonstrating the practical application of this skill. It is inspiring to see young minds like Dele and Adeniran embracing technology and harnessing their creativity through such learning experiences.

AfriConEU Events

Building and Using a Network of Funding Sources



18

Virtual
Attendees

1

Partner
(The Nest Hub)

31

Physical
Attendees

The workshop held on Thursday, January 26th, 2023, at The Nest Hub, Yaba, Lagos Nigeria and focused on finding sources for startups and digital innovation hubs. At the end of the workshop, attendees engaged in a group activity session where they worked together to propose a sustainable funding/partnership framework for innovative projects.

- Group A devised a plan to scale the export of high-quality leather from Aba, a city in Abia, Nigeria using technology.
- Group B developed a partnership strategy to bridge the institution and industry mismatch using digital innovation hubs as enablers.



AfriConEU Events

The Technology Transfer Process



40

**Physical
Attendees**

11

**Virtual
Attendees**

The hybrid workshop took place on Friday, March 31st 2023 at Akure Tech Hub, Ondo State and focused on how technology can be moved from the ideation (intellectual property) phase to the market for consumers. During the workshop, participants gathered in 3 groups to discuss “the motivations and benefits of technology transfer”

- Adedapo from group A stated that Improved standard of living through technology has helped make life easier.
- Esther from group B gave some benefits of technology transfer which includes Collaboration; Using the strength of a sector to build another, Commercialization and Industrialization, Knowledge dissemination, Innovation.
- Peace from group C said ”the importance of licensing cannot be over-emphasized, if you have an idea, you must protect it in transferring such technology and the sustainability of the idea or product that is being involved in the process of technology transfer”.



AfriConEU Events

Market Uptake Process



31

Virtual
Attendees

2

Partner

30

Physical
Attendees

The hybrid workshop aimed to delve into the intricacies of formulating agreements and contracts with prospective partners in the technology transfer journey and was held on May 26, 2023, at the Edo Innovation Hub in Benin City.

The workshop emphasized the pivotal role academic institutions play in fostering innovation as well as the importance of conducting thorough market research and competitor analysis



AfriConEU Events

Policy Roundtable



4

Government
Agencies

3

Digital
Innovation Hubs

2

Partners

42

Attendees

One of the outcomes of the AfriConEU project is to generate a comprehensive report containing policy recommendations for fostering trans-continental collaborations in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.

To achieve this, a policy roundtable was organized, bringing together policymakers, local Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), startups, and European policy experts to contribute their insights and finalize the policy recommendations. Distinguished panelists from various institutions participated, including the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, Nigerian Startup Act, and the Network of Incubators and Innovators in Nigeria.

In addition to policy experts, representatives from three Digital Innovation Hubs; Seedbuilders, Mipple Tech, and DIGILOGIC, were also present. The event took place at the Enspire hub in Abuja on 18th May, attracting a total of 42 attendees both physically and online. The collaborative efforts of these stakeholders aim to shape a transformative blueprint for fostering successful cross-continental collaborations in the region.



STARTS4AFRICA



The STARTS4AFRICA project launched in May 2023, promotes a S+T+ARTS approach to digital innovation rooted in African sub-Saharan culture and digital innovation hubs.

As an associated partner on the project, we held a Nigeria focus group with various stakeholders - Local Government, ICT Professionals, Artistic Communities, Digital Innovation Hubs and Innovation Enablers to analyze the “Challenges and opportunities for AU-EU collaboration on arts-driven innovation”.

Leveraging Technology and Digital tools for Business Growth



The event was organized by Emerging Communities Africa in partnership with BUMPA on the 21st of July 2023. The purpose of the webinar was to help female-led businesses leverage technology and digital tools as a means of enhancing growth.

The event featured Serah Kassim, a growth and partnership manager at BUMPA as the resource person. The session covered pragmatic ideas and insights on how to scale and maximize growth opportunities, especially for SMEs.

Impacts

- The event had 25 registrations with 16 attendees.
- The event provided a 20% discount to every participant who registered to use BUMPA.
- The webinar opened participants to practical strategies for selling online and accessing a wider market.
- The webinar helped participants identify technology tools useful for their business operations.

Impact Story



The session was awesome! I learned how to ensure my businesses stay on top of the latest tech trends. Also, how to use digital tools to help reach new heights. It was also great to see how BUMPA as a tool can be used, and how it can be implemented to achieve specific goals. It was insightful.



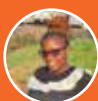
Esther Sodipo

I'm excited about the growth my business got from using some of the tools learnt at this event.



Akinsanya Precious

During the session, I realized that I could use technology to streamline my operations and also increase my customer service as a brand owner/entrepreneur. It also explained that I can use the medium to reach out to a large audience whether I am selling my product or using social media as a medium to connect.



Olawumi Joy

Emerging Industries and Career Prospects

The event was organized by Emerging Communities Africa on the 5th of August 2023. The program was to offer helpful insights into the quickly changing business environment. Participants in this program were taught about developing industries, their potential, and related employment prospects. Participants got a deeper understanding of the knowledge, abilities, and trends needed to excel in various industries by examining a variety of sectors.



Impacts

- The event had a total of 96 people tuned in.
- The webinar opened participants to relevant emerging industries and career prospects in tech.
- The webinar helped participants identify technology tools useful to break into these industries.

Impact Story



The Emerging Industries and Career Prospects program was an insightful and informative program. The knowledgeable and engaging speakers provided useful tips on how to navigate the job market, develop relevant skills, and create a personal brand that stands out. The program was an enlightening experience that I found beneficial for my professional growth.



David Grace

This program provided insights into future career prospects. It enlightened me on how to identify growing sectors, understand new technologies, and acquire skills relevant to the evolving job market.



Olorunda Damilare

Aleph Digital Ad Program



What is it about?

It is a 100% online and free program where you will acquire skills and knowledge to be proficient in Digital Advertising.

*No prior knowledge is required to participate.

The Partnership with Aleph Digital Ad Certificate program is an opportunity for to skill participants on the basics of digital marketing and social media advertising to build their foundation for future employment—for free. The Digital Ad Certificate allows students in emerging countries the opportunity to compete for job opportunities all over the world, providing job mobility and limitless growth potential.

Impact Story

It was really interesting, and I'm thankful for being able to join the program. The course materials were well-organized, clear, and easy to understand, so I could learn at my own pace.



Akinnurun Fiyinfoluwa

Thriving in the Tech Space

Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba

The "Thriving in the Tech Space: Shaping the Future as Aspiring Leaders" event was held on the 17th of October 2023. It was an insightful and informative gathering that left a positive impact on the participants. It brought together students from Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, Ondo State, to enlighten them about thriving in the technology space and preparing them for leadership roles in the future. The event featured valuable insights from industry experts and practical exercises to help the participants apply their knowledge.



Impacts

- The event had a total of 64 students in attendance (39 girls and 25 boys in participation)
- Participants were onboarded on the Aleph Digital AD course

International Day of The Girl Child

In commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child, Emerging Communities Africa, in collaboration with Teens Launch Africa, organized a special event focused on Digital Literacy Education at St. David Primary School, Ibule-soro, on the 6th and 11th of October 2023. The event aimed to empower young girls with essential digital literacy skills, fostering their future opportunities and growth.

The Digital Literacy Education event for the International Day of the Girl Child at St. David Primary School, Ibule-Soro, highlighted the importance of continuing efforts to empower girls through technology.



Impacts

- The event had a total of 64 students in attendance (39 girls and 25 boys in participation)
- The girls were introduced to technology tools like Virtual reality and its use in education.

Impact Story



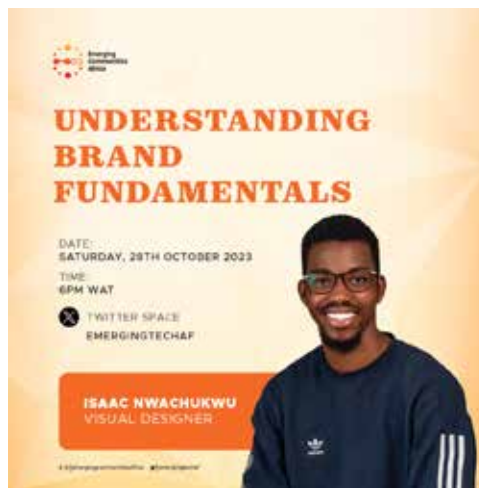
We thank and appreciate the ECA for the opportunity and we look forward to more of these workshops



School Principal

Building a Brand (Series)

"Building a Brand: A Webinar Series." This series was designed to be a compass on the journey to establishing a brand that resonates, compels, and endures. Whether a seasoned entrepreneur, a budding startup founder, a marketing professional, or simply someone passionate about the art of branding, the webinars are tailored to equip you with the knowledge, strategies, and insights needed to craft a brand that not only stands the test of time but also thrives in the digital age.



Impacts

- 141 attendees in all the series combined

Impact Story



As an entrepreneur, I learnt practical tips from the webinar. The insights and strategies shared were incredibly practical and relevant. I was able to review what I had previously to ensure that it thrives in today's digital landscape. Thank you.



Ogunsola Moyosore

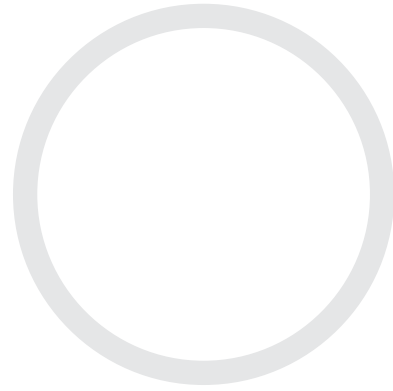
I understood that creating a brand for my business goes beyond the logo, colours and other brand elements. Branding should be for identification and standing out.



Farayola Cephas

Social Media

Instagram



1006
Followers

465 New Followers

73
Unfollowers

6.63k
Reach

3.3k
Likes

368 Comments

229
Shares

189
Posts

3.63k
Profile
Visits

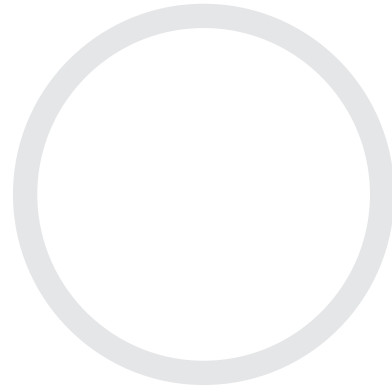
46.1k
Impressions

Women:
47%
Men:
53%

25 -34 top age range

Social Media

X (Formerly Twitter)



306
Tweets

142 New Followers

405 Followers

332
Retweet

968
Likes

146
Replies

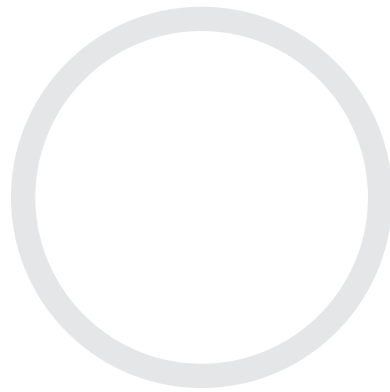
42.51k
Impressions

260
Profile
Visits

76 Mentions

Social Media

Facebook



119.43k
Reach

68 New Followers

8 Unfollowers

163
Followers

860
Page
Visits

108
Page
Likes

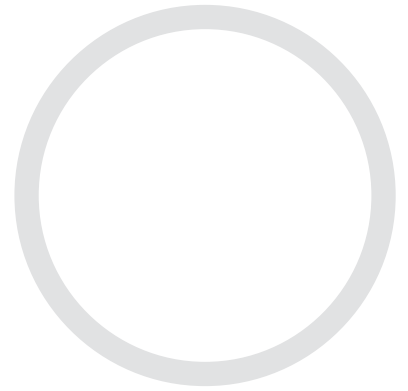
367
Post
Likes

115
Posts

52
Comments

129k
Impressions

Partners



Meet Our Team



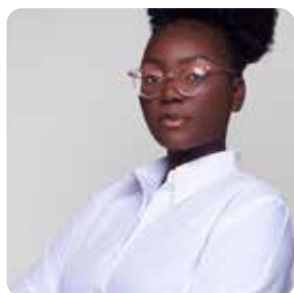
Peace Odili
Executive Director



Nwanne Nwonwu
AfriConEU Programs Manager



George Ayomipo
Programs Manager



Triumph Ogeh
Communications Lead



Moranti Success
Asst. Communications



Adesegha Cyril
Design Lead



Raheem Animashaun
Asst. Designer



Olamileke Oni
Logistics



Emerging
Communities
Africa



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