



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP PROJECT REPORT



DECEMBER 2021

Project Summary

The Climate Leadership Fellowship initiated by Climate Smart Nigeria in partnership with Glow initiative for Economic Empowerment was designed to provide expert training on climate change advocacy and leadership to a new crop of young Nigerian leaders to build national climate resilience. The 12 week program welcomed and empowered 50 leaders with expert training to lead change for climate action, in turn; the fellows adopted schools and taught climate change across Nigeria. All fellows received a climate education toolkit and a certificate of climate leadership. The fellowship program was necessitated as a response to the prevailing impacts of climate change which is ravaging the world. In Nigeria, severe cases of drought and desertification are ravaging parts of the north leading to conflicts from lack of water. Agricultural yields have been heavily affected causing high poverty rate. Extreme flooding, disease spread through contaminated water is reported in the south. The climate leadership fellowship was launched in clear recognition that the time to invest into a new generation of young leaders to lead change for climate action is now.

Project Aim and Objectives

The aim of the project was to provide expert training on climate change advocacy and leadership to a new crop of young Nigerian leaders to build national climate resilience.

The objectives are as follows:

- a. To provide 50 leaders with expert training to lead change for climate action.
- b. To train the trainers that will champion and teach climate action advocacy across Nigeria.

Selection of Fellows

A call for fellows was made for interested applicants to apply for the climate leadership fellowship. The application portal opened on the 5th of July 2021. The criterion for selection included that applicants must possess the following

- a) Be aged 22 – 45
- b) Must have demonstrated leadership for climate change
- c) Must be part of a growing environmental organization or student
- d) Must be passionate to promote awareness for climate change
- e) Must be from any part of the world but resident in Nigeria

Also, applicants were made to understand that selected applicants would be available and willing to teach climate change within their communities using provided toolkit, participate in the climate leadership expert training, submit a fellowship work plan and be available for all virtual meetings.

The application portal was closed on the 26th day of July, 2021.

Review of Applications

At the close of applications, about two hundred and seventeen applications were received from applicants scattered all over Nigeria. A team of reviewers (made up of seasoned environmental professionals) carefully reviewed the applications. The reviewers considered applicants commitment to devote time to the fellowship program, their knowledge of climate change and their previous involvement in climate action related activities. After the review, fifty applications were selected and the successful applicants were communicated.

Launch of the Climate Leadership Fellowship

The Climate Leadership Fellowship was officially launched on Tuesday 10th August, 2021. The launch which was a virtual event had in attendance Nigeria's Honourable Minister of state for environment, **Mrs. Sharon Ikeazor**, the head of sustainability Access Bank, **Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan**, the selected fellows and other guests.

The Honourable Minister in her remarks opined that climate change is real! And its impacts are better imagined than experienced. "At the moment, the negative impacts of climate change are taking their toll on the health, environment, and wellbeing of various nations of the whole world, Nigeria inclusive", she said. The Minister also took time to highlight the federal government response to fighting climate change which includes a commitment to fully transition to renewable energy sources by 2060.

Similarly, the head of sustainability Access Bank Plc, in her remarks emphasized Access bank's commitment to environmental sustainability which according to her has compelled the bank to mainstream environmentally friendly policies into their business practices to manage the operational impact on the environment.

"We understand that there can be no finance when there are no environmental resources to harness and transform. We do not just care about the environment, because of our business; we do so also because our people (shareholders, employees, customers, and communities) all desire a future wherein nature and its resources are equally accessible to their children and grandchildren generations", she said.

She further pledged Access Bank's commitment to continue supporting initiatives geared towards making the environment better.

The virtual launch was held on Zoom and had about 65 persons in attendance.

4 Weeks Expert Training

The 50 selected fellows underwent a 4weeks expert training which was facilitated by seasoned professionals. The trainings which were conducted virtually covered various topics relating to climate change. The topics included:

- a. Career Opportunities in Climate Change Advocacy
- b. Clean/Renewable Energy for a Smart Climate (Understanding Renewable Energy & why it is safer for the environment)
- c. The concept and science of climate change (How youths can led action for a better climate)
- d. Story telling for Climate Change.

At the end of the 4weeks of training, a special training review and mentorship session was held with a seasoned Climate professional, Kathleen Vaughan. This session provided fellows the opportunity to get clarifications on various issues relating to climate change which they were yet to properly understand in preparation for the next phase of the fellowship program. Also, fellows were exposed to global best practices of climate education and workable strategies for effective teaching of climate education.

Training Methodology

The expert trainings were held virtually on Zoom mobile application and the trainings lasted between 2-3hours. Facilitators tried as much as possible to simplify their teachings to accommodate participants who had just a basic knowledge of climate change. After the trainings, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and get clarifications from the facilitators. The training sessions also offered an opportunity for facilitators and participants to deliberate extensively on various issues especially as it relates to the impacts of climate

change on local communities.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Time allocation

The time allocated for the session was limited especially during the Q&A sessions.

- Technical Issues

By their very nature, virtual learning environments and platforms are subject to technical issues, such as security, network, and bandwidth glitches. There were few technical hiccups noticed during the expert trainings. These technical interferences were minimal and did not constitute any serious impediment to the effectiveness of training program.

- Contribution/Involvement

The level of contribution and involvement of participants during question and answers was very impressive. Their level of participation and engagement demonstrated that they were adequately equipped to train others. This supports one of the objectives of this training which is centered on training the trainers that will take climate action advocacy across Nigeria.

Adopt a School Project

The fifty (50) selected fellows after undergoing the expert training were commissioned for “the adopt a school project”

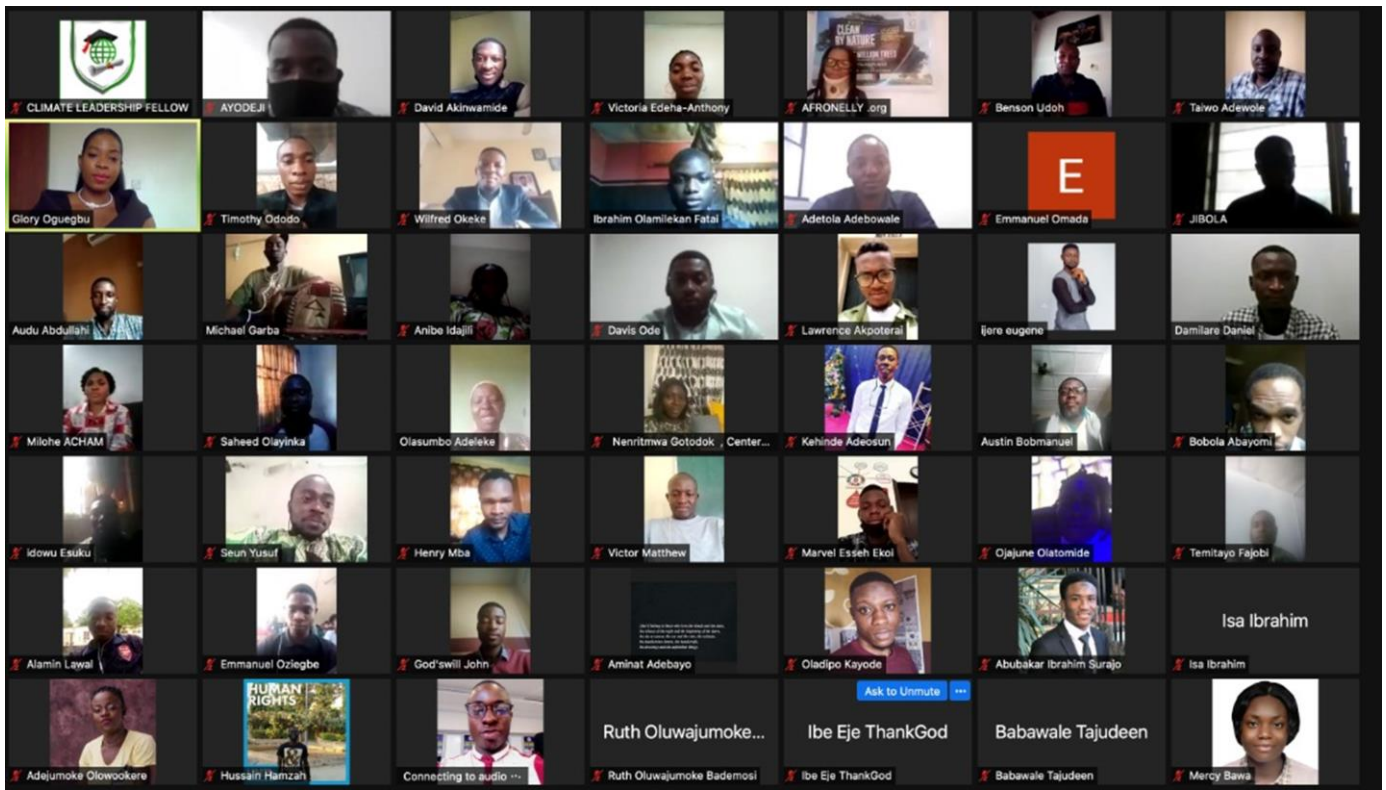
Under the “Adopt a School Project”, fellows adopted a school where they taught climate change. They taught young students the basic concepts of climate change and its impact. More importantly, young students were taught how they can play active roles in the fight against climate change. This supports the goal of this program which is to provide training on climate change advocacy and leadership to a new crop of young Nigerian leaders to build national climate resilience.

Fellows were provided toolkits that contained two textbooks on Climate Change authored by the convener of the Climate Leadership Fellowship. The textbooks were designed for students in both senior and junior secondary schools. The toolkits also contained CLF branded t-shirts, bags and Identity cards.

At the successful completion of the project, 30 schools were covered nationwide; training a total of 5000 students.



The CLF toolKit



A screenshot of participants during a virtual training

ADOPT A SCHOOL PROJECT
FELLOWS TEACH CLIMATE CHANGE AT SCHOOLS ACROSS NIGERIA



**ADOPT A SCHOOL PROJECT
FELLOWS TEACH CLIMATE CHANGE AT SCHOOLS ACROSS NIGERIA**



Closing and Round Up Ceremony

After 3 months of different activities and engagements, the Climate Leadership fellowship was rounded up with a virtual closing ceremony held on the 13th day of December 2021.

The closing ceremony had the convener of the fellowship program, **Miss Glory Oguegbu**, the head of sustainability Access Bank, **Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan** among other guests in attendance.

At the closing ceremony, fellows were encouraged to continue their advocacy on climate action in spite the roundup of the program. They were reminded that climate change was beginning to have a devastating toll on our health, wellbeing and environment. This could even get worse if nothing serious is done to stem the tide. Interestingly, fellows pledged their commitment to continue to spread the gospel of climate action and to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change in their various localities. They also pledged to continue the “Adopt a School Project” at least for the next one year. With this, it is expected that over 30,000 students will be reached across Nigeria in the next one year.

Fellows who were outstanding in their performance were recognized and presented award of excellence. Out of 50 fellows who originally enrolled for the program, 30 successfully met all the demands of the fellowship program and were officially commissioned as Climate Leadership fellows.

Conclusion

The Climate Leadership Fellowship can be adjudged successful having met its set goal. The program successfully trained 50 young Nigerians who in turn trained about 5000 students nationwide. It is believed that beneficiaries of this training will be at the frontline in efforts to build national climate resilience.

Lack of climate awareness has been a major drawback for Nigeria's fight against climate change. This fellowship program has proven to be a step in the right direction in efforts to raise the awareness of Nigerians on Climate change and its prevailing impacts. When people are adequately informed, they will become more responsible and take the right actions that will help save our climate.

With the success recorded in this maiden edition of the Climate Leadership Fellowship, it is recommended that the program continues. The scope of the program can also be expanded if more funds are available. Also in the absence of Covid-19 related restrictions, the training programs can be changed from virtual to live sessions. This will enhance the quality of training and guarantee a better learning outcome.

IMPACTS

- ✚ 219 applications received for the fellowship program.
- ✚ 55 fellows selected from 20 states of Nigeria.
- ✚ 50 consistent fellows received toolkits and participated in “the Adopt the School Project”
- ✚ 30 fellows successfully completed the adopt “the Adopt the School Project”
- ✚ 30 secondary schools reached across Nigeria.

**Follow this link to watch a documentary on the
Climate Leadership Fellowship**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3z-
uGQCTLY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3z-uGQCTLY)**

Access Bank Support

1. Access Bank support covered expert designs for our IECs and publicity materials.
2. Access Bank support enabled the virtual hosting of the expert training sessions.
3. Access Bank support enabled the purchase of the tool kits for fellows and its distribution to fellows spread across various locations in Nigeria.
4. Access bank support provided funds for all technical and IT related cost incurred in the running of this program

About Glow Initiative for Economic Empowerment and Climate Smart Nigeria

Glow Initiative for Economic Empowerment is a non-governmental organization set up to harness the economic potentials of communities by tackling problems like unemployment, poor electricity access and climate change through education and investments in renewable energy. We are focused on reducing unemployment and creating a sustainable society by supporting women and young people to become renewable energy entrepreneurs by helping them acquire solar technology, business and financial management skills to create and deploy solar solutions for individuals and companies in rural and urban areas. Our goal is to birth 10,000 renewable energy entrepreneurs in the next 5 years. Climate Smart Nigeria is the arm Of Glow Initiative which is set up to combat environmental problems like Climate change to improve the nation's power sector by spreading the awareness of Climate Change to curb climate

illiteracy and promoting the intervention of renewable energy. Through CSN, we use the tool of education to curb climate illiteracy. Our goal is to boost the economic development of Nigeria and attain a Climate Smart nation come 2026 through pioneering investments in renewable energy, Climate education and agriculture.