

# **PROJECT REPORT**

## **CLIMATE LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP**

**COHORT 2, 2022**

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**GALVANIZING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

The criterion for selection included that applicants must possess the following

- a) Be aged 22 – 35
- 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

## 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 11th August, 2021. The launch which was a virtual event had in attendance the head of sustainability Access Bank, **Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan**, the selected fellows and other guests.

Mrs Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan, the head of sustainability Access Bank Plc, in her keynote remark 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 must treat climate change as an immediate threat, just as we must treat the connected crises of nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, as immediate threats. It is time to get serious because every tonne of CO2 emission adds to global warming.”, 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 37 persons in attendance.

## 2 Weeks Expert Training

The 30 selected fellows underwent a 2-weeks expert training which was facilitated by seasoned professionals. The trainings which were conducted virtually covered various topics relating to climate change. For this cohort, we also partnered with Project Drawdown, America's leading climate solutions organization to provide two of their expert climate change courses to our fellows: The topics included:

- a. Concept and Science of Climate Change
- b. Climate Change; Recycling as a Business Case
- c. Clean/Renewable Energy for a Smart Climate (Understanding Renewable Energy & why it is safer for the environment)
- d. The Business Case of Renewable Energy
- e. Stopping Climate Change
- f. Strategies for Emissions Reduction

We also attached additional reading materials from renowned global organizations fighting climate change.

At the end of the 4weeks of training, a special training review and mentorship session was held on the next step of the fellowship – The Adopt A School. This session provided fellows the opportunity to get clarifications on how to Adopt a School, how to teach with the Climate education toolkit provides and understand various issues relating to climate change which they were yet to properly understand. 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.

### **Partner Schools**

Our fellows worked in 27 secondary schools across Nigeria teaching Climate change. At the end of the program

### **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 thirty (30) 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, 27 schools were covered nationwide; training a total of 4500 students and 10,000 community members.



A snapshot of some of the toolkit



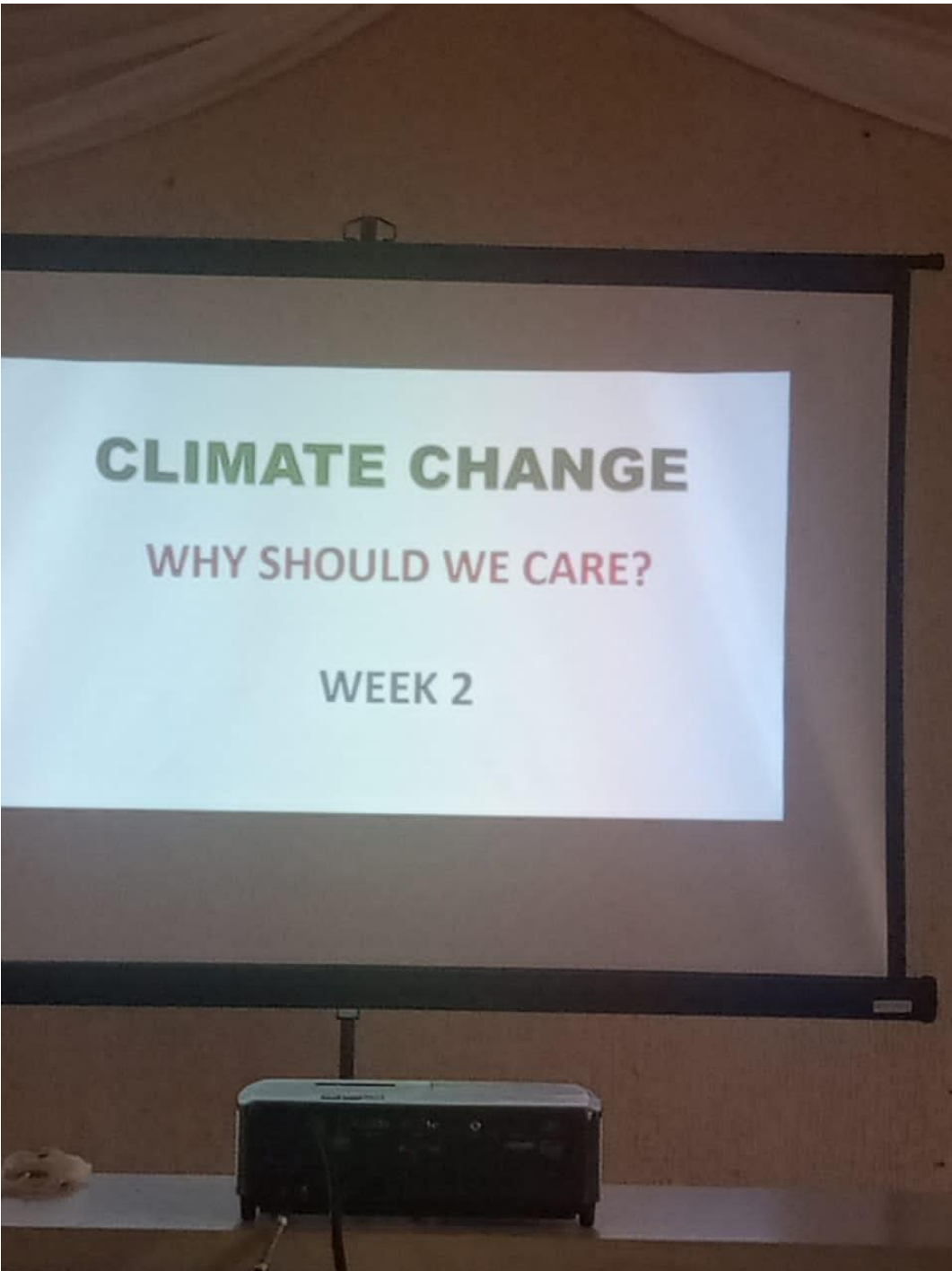
**ADOPT A SCHOOL PROJECT**

FELLOWS TEACH CLIMATE CHANGE AT SCHOOLS ACROSS NIGERIA, CONDUCT MARKET CLEAN UP EXERCISES, BUILD PLASTIC HOUSES AND ACTED DRAMA AND OTHER ENGAGING ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR STUDENTS



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









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As a CLF Alumni, I will be Addressing CLIMATE LEADERSHIP FELLOWS and sharing tips about the Adopt a School Program



Lawrence Akpoteral  
Climate Leadership Fellow 2021 Cohort  
Climate Change and Adaptation  
University of Nairobi

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As a CLF Alumni, I will be Addressing CLIMATE LEADERSHIP FELLOWS and sharing tips about the Adopt a School Program



Mercy Jayeola  
Climate Leadership Fellow 2021 Cohort  
CEO at CRAFTIFY

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Two Alumni members invited to speak during the Opening event and during the Adopt a School Training Engagement to address fellows.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> Day of July, 2022.

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 30 fellows who originally enrolled for the program, 27 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 30 young Nigerians who in turn trained about 4500 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.

Also in the absence of Covid-19 related restrictions, more funds can be provided for the training programs to be changed from virtual to live sessions. This will enhance the quality of training and guarantee a better learning outcome.

## SKILLS AND IMPACTS

### SKILLS

- ♣ Smart Climate action strategies
- ♣ Composting to combat food waste
- ♣ How to Plant a Tree
- ♣ How to build a plastic house with PET bottles
- ♣ How to Install a solar system
- ♣ Recycling
- ♣ How to organise and implement a climate change campaign and outreach
- ♣ How to make useful crafts from waste materials
- ♣ How to hold local government leaders accountable
- ♣ Climate change advocacy using songs and games
- ♣ Storytelling for climate action

### IMPACTS

- ☐ 30 fellows selected
- 🎓 27 secondary schools engaged
- 👤🎓 4500 students trained as climate leaders
- 🏠 12 Climate change clubs created
- 🏠 1 plastic house built
- 🌳 10 trees planted
- 👤👤👤👤 multiple street campaigns, clean ups, market campaigns & clean up organised by fellows
- 👤👤👤👤 10000 plus community members reached with climate change knowledge and smart waste management strategies

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17iQzSGy2EtdlFXAr0c8uwCprVpsPmDWR/view?usp=sharing>

## **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.