



ABUJA GLOBAL SHAPERS

Q1

NEWSLETTER
2026/2027 HUB YEAR



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Editorial Note

The first quarter of the 2026–2027 Hub year has been a period of new beginnings, renewed energy, and continued commitment to impact. Across July, August, and September, the Abuja Global Shapers have continued to drive projects, initiatives, and conversations that respond to the needs of our communities while creating spaces for young people to learn, connect, and contribute. From building skills and promoting health and well-being to protecting the planet and strengthening civic engagement, this quarter's work reflects the breadth of the Hub's impact across the I-SHAPE areas. As we continue in this new year of the Abuja Hub's journey, we invite you to look back at the people, projects, and moments that shaped our first quarter.

What is I-SHAPE?

- I** — **Inclusive** communities
- S** — Re**Skill** for the Future
- H** — Improve **Health** and Well-being
- A** — Deliver **Aids** and basic needs
- P** — Protect the **Planet**
- E** — Strengthen Civic **Engagement**

Curator's Address

It is particularly exciting to be writing the first edition of our newsletter since I was sworn in as Curator in July 2026. For me, this is more than bringing a newsletter back. It is about creating another way for us to see each other, celebrate what we are building, and stay connected as a community. One of my biggest goals as Curator is to build a Hub where Shapers genuinely know, support, and learn from one another, beyond our individual projects and teams. And there is a lot to be excited about. With over 45 active Shapers and more than 10 projects underway, there is so much happening across the Hub. From civic engagement and education to health, sustainability, and leadership, our Shapers are bringing ideas to life in ways that are making a difference. But none of this happens because of the Curatorship. The Hub makes this possible. Every project, conversation, partnership, and impact we create comes from Shapers and volunteers choosing to show up and contribute. Without that collective energy, there would be no stories to tell and no newsletter to write. So, welcome back to the newsletter, and in many ways, welcome to this new chapter of our Hub. I hope these pages remind us of what we are capable of when we build together.

***There is a lot ahead.
I am very glad to be
building it with you.***

Solape Sonuga
Curator, Abuja
Global Shapers Hub



Project Highlights



BREAST CANCER
IS NOT
CONTAGIOUS



PVC
Mobilization
Campaign



Meet the
Leader
Series



Abuja
Dialogue
Series



Recycle for
Education



The Literacy
Dialogue



Project Safe
Transit

PVC Mobilization Campaign: Taking Civic Engagement to the Streets

Abuja Global Shapers took civic engagement beyond the Hub and into the streets of Abuja as members of the Shaping Politics Project embarked on a PVC mobilization walk on Friday, 19 June. Moving through the community, the team engaged vendors, traders, and other members of the public, sharing information on voter registration and encouraging eligible citizens to take part in the registration process.

The conversations also highlighted some of the realities that shape civic participation, including voter apathy and the need for accessible civic information that reaches people in ways they can understand.

Through #PVCmobilization2026, the Hub continues to bring civic engagement closer to the communities it seeks to serve, one conversation at a time.



Credits: Samuel Paul

The Pink Project: Know the Signs, Save a Life

Abuja Global Shapers Pink Project team took its first breast cancer awareness outreach to Wuse Market on Saturday, 27 June, engaging market men and women in conversations about the disease and the importance of early detection.

The outreach covered breast cancer risk factors, symptoms to watch out for, and simple self-examination practices. But the conversations went beyond what the team had prepared to share. Participants also spoke about what they already knew, where they had heard it, and the questions they still had.

Credits: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Global Shapers Community



These exchanges revealed common misconceptions, including the belief that breast cancer affects only women and that every breast lump is cancerous. With health professionals on the team, the outreach provided an opportunity to address these beliefs and share clearer information about breast cancer, including the fact that men can also develop the disease and that not every lump is cancerous.

The first phase of the Pink Project was more than an awareness exercise. It was an opportunity to replace uncertainty with information and reinforce the importance of paying attention to the signs.



Meet the Leader Series: Leading with Purpose

On Friday, 14 August, Abuja Global Shapers welcomed Maryam Bukar Hassan, popularly known as Alhanislam, for a thought-provoking edition of the Meet the Leader Series themed "Leading with Purpose in a Changing World." The session opened with Alhan Said, a short game that set a lively tone for the conversation, with three participants receiving copies of Alhanislam's newly published poetry collection, *A Poet's Attempt To Freeze Time*.

The poet, author, and peace advocate then shared reflections from her journey across poetry, leadership, and advocacy, speaking candidly about the experiences that have shaped her work, the influence of her mother, and her path to becoming the first UN Global Advocate for Peace and Security.

Beyond her accomplishments, Alhanislam explored the role of purpose in leadership and the power of finding and using one's voice. Her reflections connected creativity, personal conviction, and public service, offering participants a closer look at the ideas behind her work.

Moderated by AGS Impact Officer Saraya Yaduma, the session created space for participants to engage with Alhanislam's story and perspectives. From poetry and personal journeys to leadership and peacebuilding, the conversation offered an intimate look at what it means to lead with purpose in a changing world.

Credits: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Global Shapers Community



Abuja Dialogue Series: Protecting Ideas, Powering Innovation

Abuja Global Shapers, in partnership with the WIPO Nigeria Office, hosted an edition of the Abuja Dialogue Series at the UN House, Abuja, themed "IP as a Catalyst for Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship."

Held on Thursday, 20 August, the dialogue brought together tech founders and startups, creatives and content producers, young entrepreneurs and innovators, and Global Shapers to explore the role of intellectual property in youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship.



Credits: Amaka Ekeng/Global Shapers Community



The session featured Oluwatobiloba Moody, Country Director of the WIPO Nigeria Office, and Program Officer, Abdul Argungu Abubakar of the WIPO Nigeria Office. The conversation was expertly guided by Solape Sonuga, Curator, Abuja Global Shapers, and Hassana Maina, Lead of the Abuja Dialogue Series. By placing intellectual property at the center of conversations around innovation and entrepreneurship, the dialogue created a platform for young people to better understand the value of protecting and building on their ideas.

Recycle for Education: Turning Waste Into Opportunity

What if something as simple as a discarded plastic bottle could help a child get an education? Through Recycle4Education (R4E), recyclable materials are collected and sold, with the proceeds used to support the education of children in IDP camps.

On Saturday, 5 September, the project took this mission to Wuse Market, combining plastic collection with community engagement. The outing served two purposes. First, Wuse Market became a drop-off point where Shapers, R4E Champions, and members of the public could bring their recyclable materials.

The team also took the project into the market itself, engaging shop owners, hawkers, and other members of the community about R4E and encouraging them to set aside plastic and cartons for future collection.

Following the engagement, the team regrouped and handed the collected materials over for pickup, taking another step towards turning discarded materials into opportunities for children to access education. From a market stall to a child's classroom, R4E continues to show that waste can have a second life, and that second life can help shape a child's future.



The Literacy Dialogue: Literacy, Learning, and Nigeria's Future

The Abuja Global Shapers Community joined Mafaku for The Literacy Dialogue, a platform bringing practitioners and stakeholders together around one of Nigeria's most pressing education challenges: foundational literacy. Held on 9 September 2026 at Gatefield, the dialogue was themed Literacy, Learning and Nigeria's Future.

As a strategic programme partner, the Hub contributed evidence from its Each One, Read One project, which has worked to strengthen reading comprehension and English language proficiency among pupils in the Apo Dutse community. The project's baseline and endline assessments provided practical insights from the field, helping ground the discussion in the realities of children's literacy outcomes.

The conversation brought together educators, advocates, publishers and development practitioners to examine the factors shaping foundational literacy, from early childhood development and education financing to classroom realities, inclusion and access. Participants also explored the roles of families, communities and publishers in building a stronger reading culture.

For Abuja Global Shapers, the dialogue provided an opportunity to take lessons from Each One, Read One beyond the communities where the project was implemented and into a wider conversation about what it takes for every child to read, learn and participate meaningfully in Nigeria's future.



Credits: Mafaku Team

Project Safe Transit: Giving a Voice to Survivors

Project Safe Transit's work to address the dangers of One Chance kidnapping, where criminals pose as commercial transport operators to rob, assault, or kidnap unsuspecting passengers in Nigeria's capital city took another step forward this quarter, combining survivor storytelling with public advocacy for safer transportation. As part of the project's ongoing work, the Abuja Global Shapers engaged survivors of a One Chance kidnapping for a documentary shoot, including a Person with Disability who shared how this issue also particularly affects PWDs, creating space for a firsthand account of the experience and the realities surrounding these incidents. By bringing a survivor's voice to the conversation, the project seeks to deepen public awareness and encourage greater attention to transportation safety.

The Hub also released a press statement, *Moving Without Fear*, on September 17, calling attention to the need for stronger measures to make movement safer for residents and commuters. The statement extended the conversation beyond individual experiences, highlighting the shared responsibility of relevant institutions and stakeholders in addressing the risks associated with unsafe transportation.

Together, these efforts reflect Project Safe Transit's continued commitment to raising awareness, amplifying lived experiences, and advocating for a transportation environment where people can move without fear.

Press release

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DdY6D78itV9/?psln=MjUzMW8wZzd0cXZ4>

Credits: Anikebrands/Global Shapers Community



Chibuike Chukwueke/Global Shapers Community

Global Shapers Annual Summit 2026: Abuja on the Global Stage

The Abuja Global Shapers Community took its voice to the global stage at the 2026 Global Shapers Annual Summit (GSAS) in Geneva, Switzerland, where Abuja Hub Curator Solape Sonuga was selected to speak at the Summit's opening plenary, "Signals for the Future."

Held from 30 June to 2 July, GSAS 2026 brought together Global Shapers from across the world to connect, exchange ideas and explore the forces shaping the future. Solape joined Jenn Zeng as one of two Global Shapers selected to speak in the flagship opening plenary, sharing the stage with prominent global voices including Marc Benioff and Daren Tang. Her participation marked a moment of global representation for the Abuja Hub, bringing the perspective and work of its community into one of the Global Shapers Community's most significant gatherings. For Abuja, the Summit was more than a global gathering; it was an opportunity to see the Hub's leadership represented on an international platform and to carry its voice beyond its local community.

Credits: Thibaut Bouvier/World Economic Forum



Our Digital Footprint: Quarter 1 in Review

Our commitment to building a safer, more sustainable Abuja is making significant waves online. Over the last quarter, our digital platforms experienced unprecedented growth, proving that our advocacy deeply resonates with a global audience. Here is a snapshot of our digital impact from July to September.



Instagram: Driving Mass Awareness

Instagram remains our primary engine for visual storytelling and community mobilization. Breaking down our Q1 performance shows exactly when our campaigns caught fire.

July: We built steady momentum with **44,000** views and **271** new followers, fueled by **1 reel, 6 posts, and 22 stories**. Half of these views came from non-followers, successfully expanding our reach outside our immediate circle.

August: Our motion peaked massively. Driven by the Abuja Dialogue Series and Meet The Leader, we achieved a staggering **171,000** views (a **283%** increase) and gained **514** new followers. We published **2 reels, 11 posts, and 48 stories, with 62%** of our reach landing on non-followers.

September: We sustained the engagement with **43,000** views and **76** new followers as we pushed the Recycle for Education and Project Safe Transit campaigns through 2 reels, 3 posts, and 5 stories.



LinkedIn: Strengthening Institutional Partnerships

Our LinkedIn presence continues to secure our position as a thought leader in policy and civic engagement among professionals and institutional partners.

Impressions: A massive **27,032** impressions, representing a **66.7%** increase in our professional reach.

Reactions: **1,100** reactions, an outstanding **95%** jump, showing deep professional alignment with our initiatives.

Network Growth: We gained **259** new followers (a **35.6%** increase), pushing our total to **1,683** highly engaged professionals.



X (Twitter) & Facebook: Expanding Community Conversations

We maintain a steady presence on X and Facebook to ensure our message is accessible across all community touchpoints.

X (Twitter): Our quick updates and event announcements generated over **2,000** impressions and **17** direct interactions over the quarter.

Facebook: We mirror our community outreach here, matching the steady visibility and interaction rates we see on Instagram to ensure no part of our local demographic is left behind.

Our Alumni on the World Economic Forum

We are proud to celebrate three of our alumni, Teniola Tayo, Princess Ike and Jake Okechukwu Effoduh, whose work was recently featured by the World Economic Forum.

Teniola Tayo explored how African small businesses can build for continuity beyond their founders, contributing to the conversation on sustainable business growth across the continent. https://www.weforum.org/stories/economic-growth/africa-small-business-infrastructure/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Jake Okechukwu Effoduh examined what a chip in a football can teach us about governing artificial intelligence, connecting everyday technology to broader questions around AI governance. https://www.weforum.org/stories/artificial-intelligence/what-a-chip-in-a-football-teaches-us-about-governing-ai/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Princess Ike explored how protecting eye health can support older talent in an aging global workforce. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/health-and-healthcare-systems/eye-health-older-talent-ageing-global-workforce/>



Alumni Spotlight: From Shaper to Public Service

We are delighted to spotlight Simi Fajemirokun, an alumna of the Abuja Global Shapers Hub and former Curator, Executive Board Member and Secretary of the Hub. Today, Simi serves as Senior Special Adviser on Strategy, Investment and Partnerships at Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her journey from the Abuja Hub into public service reflects the many ways Shapers continue to carry the values of leadership, service, and community into their work beyond the Hub.

As part of the Global Shapers Community's 15-year celebration, Simi reflected on her Shapers journey, the lessons the Community has contributed to her approach to leadership and public service, and the experiences that have stayed with her over the years. From helping shape the Abuja Hub to contributing to Nigeria's public service today, Simi's journey offers a glimpse into the lasting connections between the communities we build and the work we go on to do.

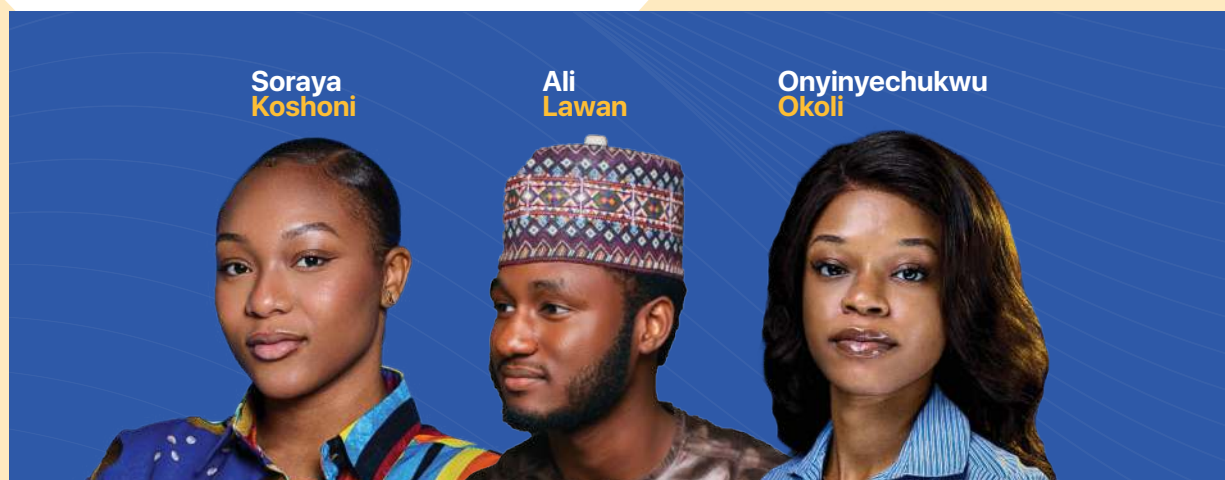
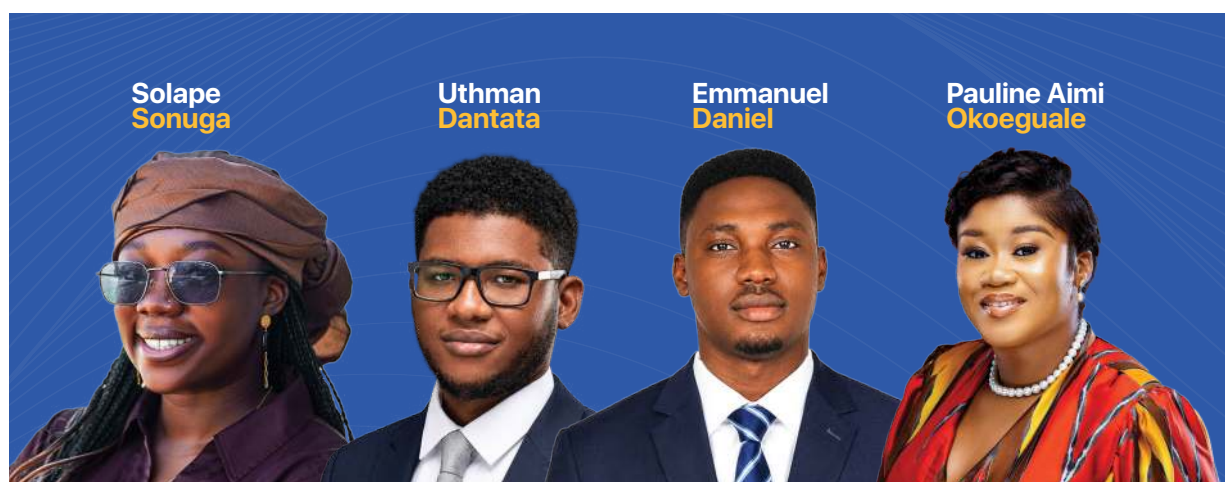
Credits: Anikebrands/Global Shapers Community



**Simi
Fajemirokun**

Shapers of the Quarter

Meet our Shapers of the Quarter! These are Shapers whose commitment, active engagement, and contributions to the Hub have truly stood out for the first quarter of the 2026/2027 Hub Year.



Credits: Anikebrands/Global Shapers Community

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