



AGS IMPACT

Vol. 3

Committed to improving the state of our world...



**ABUJA GLOBAL SHAPERS
COMMUNITY**

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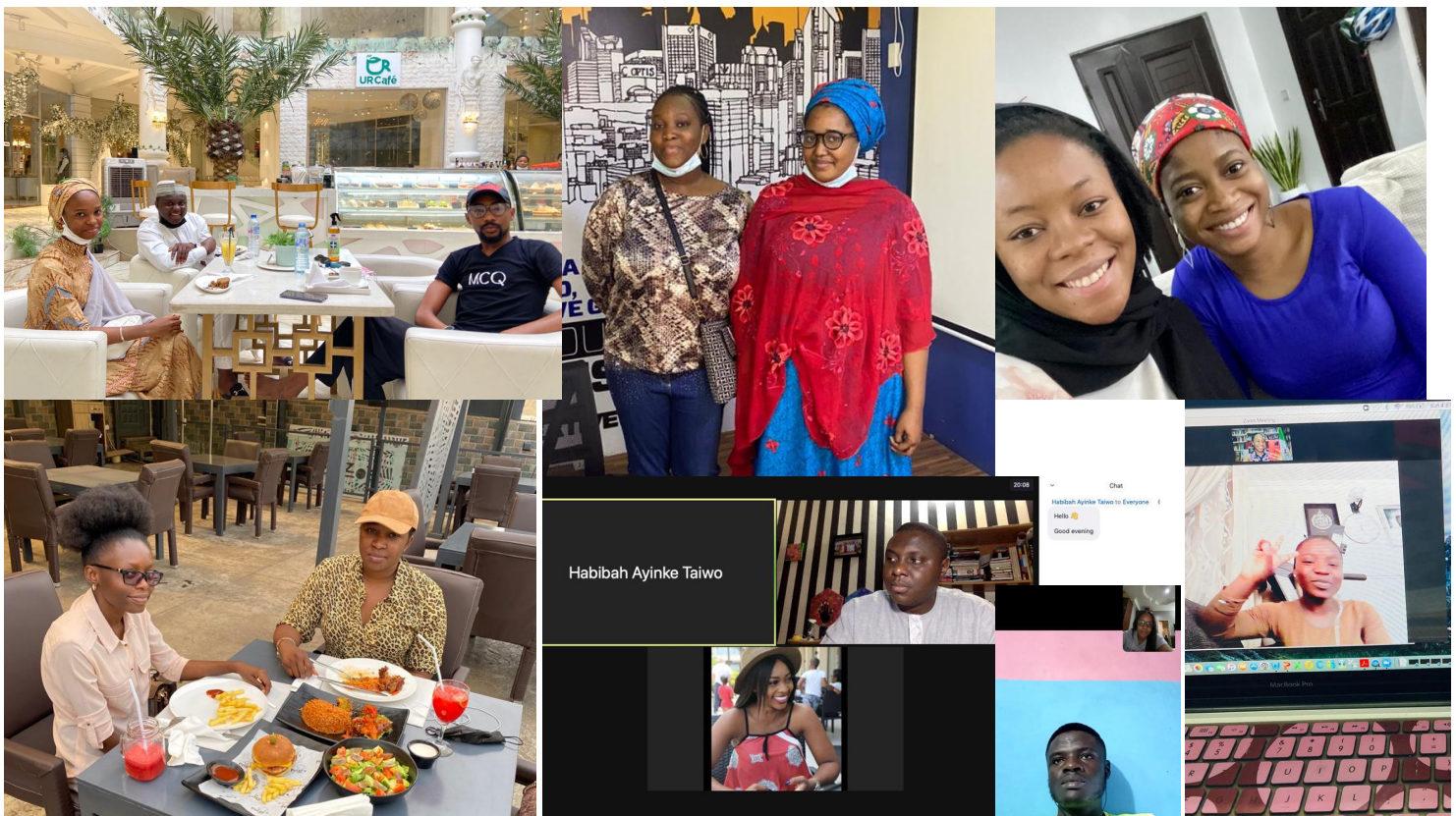
MENTORSHIP AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS PARTNERSHIP WITH NILE UNIVERSITY.

The Abuja Global Shapers Hub launched its inaugural mentorship and employability program in partnership with Nile University, a leading University located in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The program which started with an official opening ceremony at the university in January, is structured to pair students (mentees) with mentors from the hub, who support and drive them towards achieving success in their chosen careers.

For its maiden edition, the program has successfully paired eight mentors from the hub with ten mentees.

Several mentoring sessions have taken place and the programme is in its fourth week.



GIVE A GIFT

The Abuja Global Shapers Valentine's Edition



“Everyone can experience the joy and blessing of generosity; because everyone has something to give.”

- Jan Grace

The Global Shapers Community Abuja hub decided to spread this joy of generosity by reaching out to the sick and hospitalized at Kubwa General Hospital to commemorate St. Valentine's Day, a day of love and cheerful giving.

When I learned about the plan to go to a hospital for this year's "Give a Gift", I was delighted and committed to being there. My commitment to participate in this program was fuelled by my experience as a health professional, having seen first-hand the difficulties low- and middle-income Nigerian families experience in paying for health services as a result of the out-of-pocket nature of healthcare payment in Nigeria.

We arrived at Kubwa General Hospital at about 2:20PM. It was a hot Sunday afternoon, the sun torrid as though angry with Kubwa. The hospital was busy and bustling with activities- nurses shuffling trollies and patient files across long corridors with parched walls, relatives of patients sitting on long benches along corridors eating or discussing, some others remained silent overcome by worries, cleaners mopping floors and surfaces- a typical sight for public hospitals.

There were seven of us present, five shapers and two friends of the hub. We proceeded to the office of the nurse that would take us to various wards to identify the patients who had been at the hospital for a long time.

Our first point of call was the paediatrics ward where we met the families of three babies on admission. The first family was the parents of a set of twins, one twin was seriously ill and had been on oxygen and also had blood transfused. The child looked frail while sleeping in the mother's arms, and we were told the father had gone out to search for money to pay for the hospital bill and medications. We supported the family with a sum of NGN20,000 and the joy on the mother's face was indescribable. The fact that this little act of kindness meant a lot to this family encouraged us all; we were able to brighten someone's day.

We were able to give NGN10,000 to another mother for payment for her child's drugs and NGN5,000 to another to augment payment for the child's oxygen and bed space. We gave NGN5,000 each as well to two other mothers whose children were on admission, and they were very appreciative and thanked the hub for the kindness. In all, we left that ward having put smiles on people's faces and lifted their spirits.

In the midst of restored hope, we encountered a man who had just lost his little daughter; she laid lifeless on a hospital bed. From the information I was able to gather from the nurses in the ward, the man did not bring the child to the hospital early because he took her to a clinic that could not manage the condition, due to cost. This was quite an emotional moment for us all. I wished I could do more to help in that moment. It further strengthened my resolve to work hard towards improving access to affordable and quality healthcare irrespective of the financial status of the sick.

We proceeded through a long corridor—with flowers by the side—to the male surgical ward. This ward had both young, middle-aged, and old men who have been on admission for weeks and had accumulated hospital bills to settle. We were able to assist 4 patients with NGN10,000 each to help with their hospital bills and other related expenses. They were all happy and full of gratitude, expressing how much the gesture meant to them. By the time we left the ward, the atmosphere was filled with hope.

Moving to the isolation ward not too far away, we saw an elderly tuberculosis patient who had been in isolation for months. After interacting with him and telling him the purpose of our visit, we gave him NGN20,000 and the man broke down in tears. He narrated to us how he has not been able to pay for his drugs and blood transfusion, and how the money would be of great help to him. He went ahead to pray for us and the hub for blessings and prosperity.

Give a Gift came with a mixture of feelings for every one of us present. There were moments I felt so happy seeing smiles on the faces of these patients and hearing them thank and pray for the hub.



There were also low times when I wished we could do more to help ease the suffering and gloom felt in the room.

The project was a great success. NGN110,000 made such a huge difference, and its impact was palpably felt. I hope we can do this more often: with so little, we can do so much!

By Kenechukwu Ben-Umeh

DAVOS LAB: REIMAGINING NIGERIA'S HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE IN A POST-COVID ERA

The Abuja hub of the Global Shapers Community hosted a conversation focused on Nigeria's healthcare infrastructure in a post-covid era. The session started at 7:00 pm and ended by 8:05 pm WAT on March 3, 2021. It was an evening of thoughtful conversations which focused on three main areas: healthcare infrastructure, Covid-19 vaccine, and preparing for the next pandemic/ managing healthcare costs. The panelists were Chiedozie Nwafor, Dr. Aliyu Abdullahi, and Olajumoke Adekeye, while the conversation was moderated by Pharm. Kenechukwu Ben-Umeh.

Issues related to the state of Nigerian healthcare infrastructure were tackled in the first part of the discussion. Panelists Jumoke and Dr. Aliyu pointed out how the pandemic has affected healthcare delivery generally in a negative angle but also highlighted some positive effects as the pandemic prompted several reactionary investments in healthcare and mobilization of resources such as the construction of molecular labs around the country in response to the pandemic and improving the oxygen capacity in hospitals. Suggestions were made on how to rebuild our healthcare infrastructure. Such suggestions from Jumoke focused on not just building infrastructure but building a solid healthcare system, investing in human resources to stop the brain-drain in the medical profession, and shifting the development focus to the primary healthcare centers. The panelists also emphasized the need to improve political will towards investing in healthcare financing and improving the healthcare budget at the national, state, and local government levels.

DAVOS LAB
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

TOPIC: Reimagining Nigeria's Healthcare Infrastructure in a Post-Covid Era

CHIEDOZIE NWAFOR
Global Shaper
PANELIST

DR. ALIYU ABDULLAHI
Global Shaper
PANELIST

OLAJUMOKE ADEKEYE
Global Shapers Community Champion
PANELIST

KENECHUKWU BEN-UMEH
Global Shaper
MODERATOR

03
March

07 - 08
PM - PM

Virtual

DAVOS LAB: IMPROVING JOB SECURITY: LEVERAGING AN INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

On Wednesday, 10th March 2021, the Abuja Hub of the Global Shapers Community convened a virtual conversation on “Improving Job Security: Leveraging an Inclusive Workforce.” The one-hour event started at 7 pm West African Time, and was moderated by Teniola Tayo, a hub member. Inspired by one of Davos Lab's ten pillars – inclusive jobs, the discussion revolved around three thematic areas: Protection of Vulnerable Groups, Upskilling & Reskilling, and Technology & Employment Standards. Speakers included Tope Fasua, Chioma Agwuebo, Olusola Owonikoko and Zainab Haruna.

In discussing the protection of vulnerable groups, Mr. Owonikoko, Executive Director at Stanford Edge, made the first attempt and highlighted the supply-side factors that lead to lack of access to vulnerable groups' chance at getting opportunities. These include, but are not limited to, inadequate training, poor quality education and lack of information mostly suffered by say, persons with disabilities (PWDs). Ms. Haruna, women and youth empowerment specialist, proposed that vulnerable groups be brought to the table and be put at the center of the decision-making and implementation to address the problems affecting them effectively. According to Ms. Haruna, sustainability is more likely to be achieved if the people at the receiving end take an active role in designing the solutions.

During the second aspect of the conversation which was skilling and upskilling, Ms. Agwuebo spoke about the work her organization, ‘TechHer’ was doing in assisting women embrace technology which makes them more productive. She stated that TechHer does this by teaching women skills such as digital marketing, web design, coding and efficient use of social media. She also acknowledged the importance of safe spaces for vulnerable groups typically women to connect and share ideas in order to be improve their chances of getting opportunities.

DAVOS LAB
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

TOPIC: Improving Job Security: Leveraging an Inclusive Workforce

TOPE FASUA
Businessman, Economist & Former Nigeria Presidential Candidate
PANELIST

CHIOMA AGWUEBO
Executive Director, TechHerNG
PANELIST

OLUSOLA OWONIKOKO
Executive Director, Stanford Edge
PANELIST

ZAINAB HARUNA
HR Development Expert & Founder, Decipher Solutions
PANELIST

TENIOLA TAYO
Global Shaper Consultant, Institute for Security Studies
MODERATOR

10 March
07 PM - **08** PM
Virtual

DAVOS LAB:IMPROVING JOB SECURITY: LEVERAGING AN INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

While these initiatives were all recognized as helpful to vulnerable groups, it was agreed that government must take a major role in providing the right education to allow disadvantaged people get decent jobs.

The last segment of the conversation was on technology and employment standards. Mr. Fasua opined that the creation of employment opportunities is a public policy issue for governments to make. In doing this, policymakers should be pragmatic, taking into account certain peculiarities such as the Nigerian population's and literacy level. He however, highlighted the implications of modern technologies on local businesses that provide opportunities for people to earn income. Although technology encroaches on the sales made by certain companies and the demand for specific jobs, it has an ability to create multiple opportunities for people else where and as such, the government must seek to understand the complexities of technology in order not to take actions that stand in the way of technology to redistribute jobs. Having outlined clear action points in each thematic area, the conversation ended with a consensus: that emphasis should be on production in order for job opportunities to be created for PWDs, less privileged women, young people and other vulnerable groups.

HUB ELECTIONS

It was yet another round of hub elections on the 13th of February 2021, leading to the emergence of Umar Abdulmalik Naveed, who is currently serving as deputy curator, as Curator-elect and Akumushi Ayenajeh as Deputy Curator-elect. Both shapers would be collecting the baton of leadership from Johannes Wojuola, the outgoing curator.

#AGSHUBDECIDES

A NOTE FROM NAVEED, CURATOR-ELECT

“Thank you all for this opportunity to serve you. I promise I will do everything within my means not to disappoint this hub.

I know there are a lot of expectations from every curatorship, mine would be no different. I assure our hub that we will improve on areas we are weak in, and continue to raise the bar high — as every Curatorship has done throughout the lifetime of this hub.

I am confident that we will achieve all we proposed in the leadership plan and more.

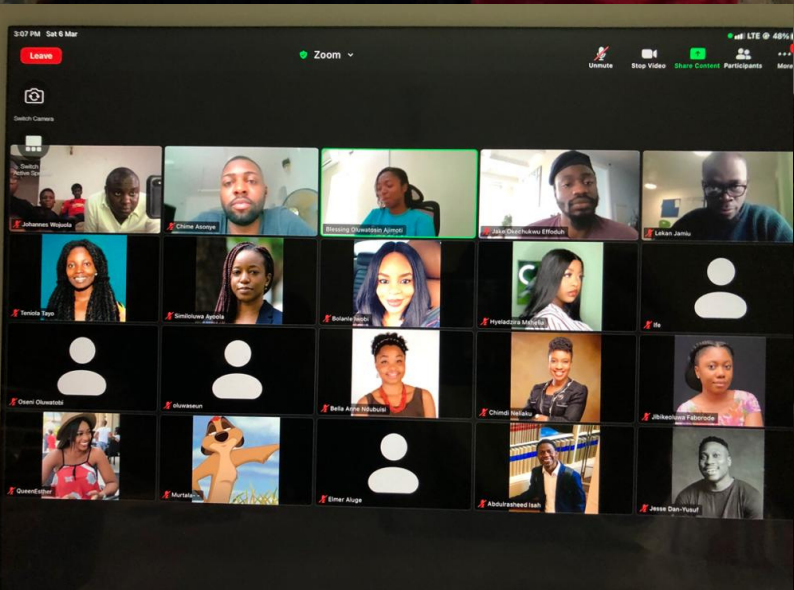
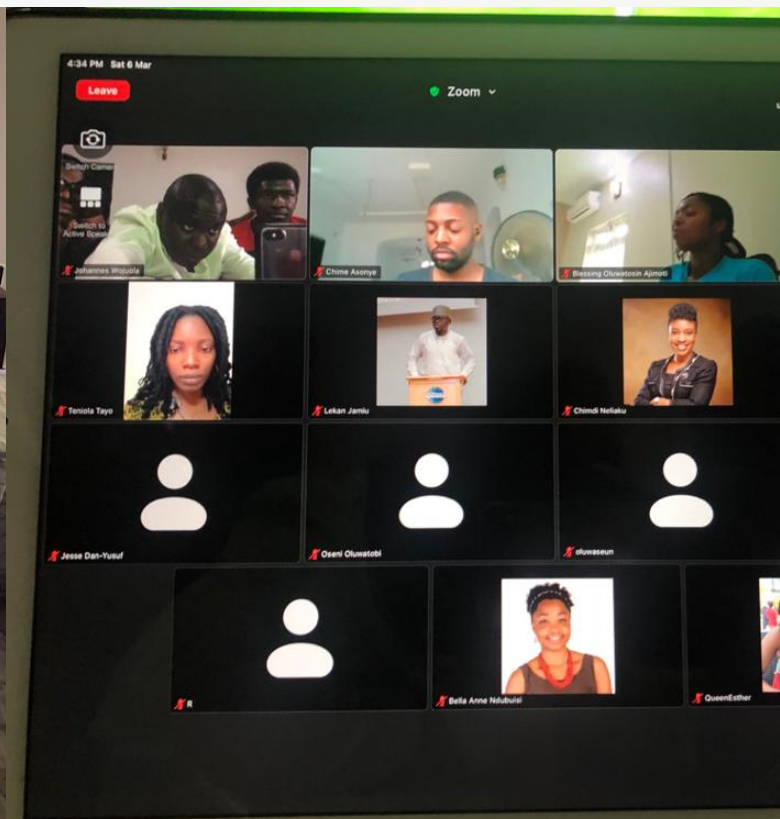
I also pray that our friendship and bond continues to blossom as it is one of the major reasons we all enjoy making an impact (without it feeling like a chore).”



ABUJA HUB PARLOUR

With Jake Effoduh

TOPIC: A Shapers Life: A conversations about struggling through failures, procrastinations, and still being the best Shaper you can be.



Chatham House Rules...

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Newsletter Team

Seun Durojaiye - Editor

Akumishi Ayenajeh - Design

**Vanessa Sobebe, Jeremiah Enoch, Ejike Otti. Kenechukwu Ben-Umeh,
Johannes Wojuola, Umar Naveed- Contributors**