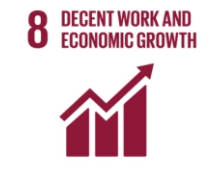




*...INSPIRING JOURNEYS AND NEW SKILLS*



# AFS SPOTLIGHT

December, 2024,  
Volume 1 Number 2

## **FOREWORD!**

Welcome to the latest edition of the AFS Spotlight Newsletter!

As we reflect on the transformative work done in 2024, we are filled with pride and optimism for the future.

At AFS, we believe in the power of skills, education, collaboration, and innovation to bring about meaningful change. This newsletter highlights the incredible strides we've made in empowering individuals and creating opportunities for skills, growth and development.

In this edition, we are excited to share the latest updates on our projects, partnerships, and initiatives that are making a difference in communities. From empowering youth and women in renewable energy to upskilling potential migrants and transforming the lives of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), AFS continues to drive positive change.

At AFS, our mission goes beyond training and skills development; we aim to foster lasting change that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and promotes sustainable growth. With the continued support of our partners, we are unlocking new opportunities and paving the way for brighter futures. We are excited to share these stories of impact with you and look forward to the continued journey of transformation. Thank you for being part of our mission to create lasting change.

## ABOUT AFS VOCATIONAL HUB

AFS Vocational Hub is the leading vocational training centre in Abuja, FCT, Nigeria. Our core focus is on delivering training that enhances employable skills, cultivating an exceptional workforce for the local and global labour market. AFS is duly accredited and recognized by the National Business and Technical Education Board (NABTEB) and by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to conduct Trade Test.

Our experienced faculty plays a multifaceted role, serving as educators, mentors, and ensuring that trainees are thoroughly prepared for employment opportunities or equipped to initiate and grow their businesses. With meticulously designed programs aligned with global standards and career goals, offering flexibility in delivery and progression routes, AFS has trained over 15,000 youths across various categories and ensured their integration into the local and global labour market. Our commitment is evident in a remarkable 96% employment transition rate within a few months of training program completion, demonstrating our dedication to creating tangible and lasting impacts on the lives and careers of those we serve

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### OUR VISION

To build a world class community of outstanding and skilled workforce ready for the prevailing local and global labour market



### OUR MISSION

To deliver the highest quality vocational training and support to enable young people and adults gain skills, qualifications, and confidence to achieve their full potential and build a positive future towards a rewarding and well sought after career.





## We are characterized by



Strong and autonomous governance, leadership and management with a global perspective



An innovative approach to curriculum design and delivery



Up-to-date facility that reflect the workplace



Excellent teaching and assessment by professional tutors with pedagogical and vocational expertise



Strong links with employers underpinned by labour market intelligence



Learner centered support services that focus on equality of opportunity





## PAVING THE PATH TO EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS-BASED EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

AFS Vocational Hub (AFS) is leading the way in promoting skills-based education that equips young people and women with relevant in-demand skills needed in today's labour market. AFS recognizes that skills are the currency of the future, which is why it offers training at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels across key sectors, including renewable energy, IT, and creative industries such as fashion, leatherwork, hair, beauty, and hospitality. This approach enables AFS to directly contribute to addressing Nigeria's high youth unemployment and bridging the gap between education and labour market needs.

By focusing on hands-on training, mentorship, internships, entrepreneurial development, and providing the right certifications, AFS is reshaping education, fostering self-reliance, and empowering a new generation of youth and women to make meaningful contributions to Nigeria's socioeconomic development.





## **FOSTERING SKILLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: AFS & UNDP TRAIN 200 YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLAR SYSTEMS**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with AFS Vocational Hub, has successfully trained 200 youth and women through the Vocational Training in Renewable Energy Systems (VTRES) program. This impactful initiative has equipped participants with the necessary skills and certifications to

thrive in Nigeria's rapidly expanding renewable energy sector, with a focus on gender inclusivity and support for persons with disabilities.

Over the course of 8 weeks, participants received hands-on training in the design, installation, and maintenance of solar energy systems. In addition to technical expertise, the program also provided participants with valuable soft skills, digital marketing capabilities, and entrepreneurial training, empowering them to launch

their own businesses or secure meaningful employment in the green economy. After completing the program, participants underwent a competency-based assessment and received certification from the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN). They also sat for trade test exams administered by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and received certification from AFS Vocational Hub. To further support their career progression, participants were provided with starter packs to facilitate their entry into the renewable energy industry.

The training program aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 5 (Gender Equality). It addresses Nigeria's dual challenges of energy access and unemployment while contributing to the nation's energy transition and economic growth. By prioritizing youth and women, the initiative seeks to reduce unemployment and bridge the gender gap in the energy sector.

This partnership highlights UNDP's commitment to promoting sustainable development and AFS Vocational Hub's mission to equip individuals with essential, in-demand skills. Together, they are tackling the interconnected challenges of unemployment and climate change, while creating opportunities for a brighter, greener future. Of significant impact is that, AFS has entered into a partnership with an international renewable energy company involved in building mini-grids across Nigeria. As part of this collaboration, the company will offer internships to all certified trainees, with additional opportunities available as more youths and women get trained under the VTRES program.





Participants of the AFS/UNDP solar training





## DRIVING THE NIGERIAN FASHION INDUSTRY TOWARDS A TECH-ENABLED FUTURE.

In an era where creativity converges with technology, AFS is playing a pivotal role in reshaping Nigeria's fashion industry. By offering specialized training in digital fashion illustration and digital pattern drafting, the Hub equips fashion designers with the tools to bring their ideas to life in dynamic and innovative ways.

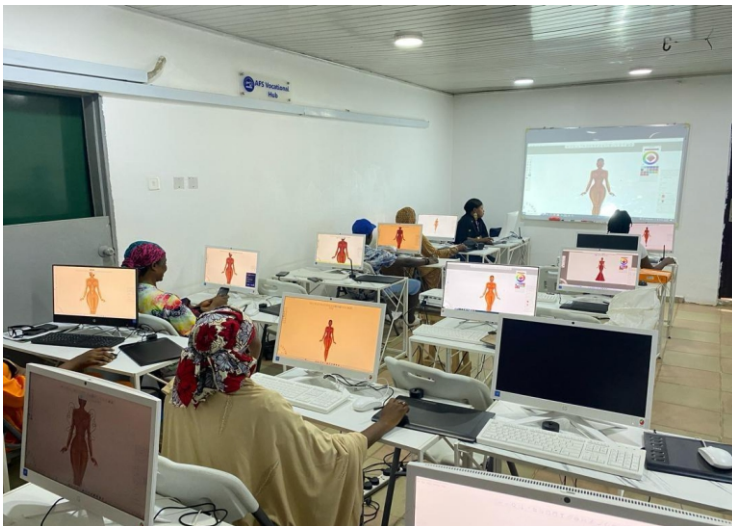
Digital fashion illustration and digital pattern drafting have revolutionized the design process. Designers can now

create detailed sketches, experiment with colors, and visualize concepts with precision, while also crafting precise, customizable patterns with ease. This not only enhances efficiency but also reduces fabric waste and streamlines the production process, making it an essential tool for modern designers.

Recognizing the immense potential of these technologies, AFS has seamlessly integrated digital fashion into its curriculum, ensuring trainees are not just aligned with global trends, but are also setting new ones. Through hands-on workshops and mentorship, participants

gain the skills to use industry-standard software to design garments that resonate with both local and international audiences, while experimenting with various cuts, styles, and fits. This training fosters creativity and opens doors to collaboration, entrepreneurship, and global competitiveness.

AFS is nurturing a new generation of designers, empowering them to elevate Nigeria's fashion scene. With every digital design, a new story unfolds—one of innovation, empowerment, and transformation. AFS is more than just a training centre; it is a movement, driving the Nigerian fashion industry toward a tech-enabled future.







## **AFS PARTNERS GIZ- CENTRES FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENHANCE SKILLS OF POTENTIAL MIGRANTS.**

AFS has since 2018 partnered with the GIZ- Centres for Migration and Development. In 2024, more than 500 potential migrants were referred by the GIZ Centres for Migration and Development to AFS for upskilling across various vocations some of which include solar photovoltaic installation, baking & confectioneries, machine wig making, microblading, digital fashion illustration and leatherworks.

These short-term training programs were tailored to equip and upskill trainees' knowledge and skills in line with the demands and emerging trends required in their chosen fields.

Alongside the training, all participants also completed a digital financial literacy course, providing them with essential financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills. Upon completion, trainees were assessed and certified by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, earning their trade test certifications. Trainees had the



opportunity to showcase their newly acquired skills and achievements during the graduation ceremony.

Rita, one of the trainees stated *"Thanks to the training I received at AFS, I now have the skills and confidence to start my own business. The microblading and financial literacy training has truly transformed my life, and I'm excited for the future!"*

Many of the trainees since completing the training have seen an increase in their income-earning potential.







## **DRIVING MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND CREATING JOBS: AFS, AN IMPLEMENTING PARTNER OF THE ITF SUPA PROGRAMME.**

AFS was selected as one of the implementing partners for the ITF Skill-UP Artisans (SUPA) Programme, a comprehensive initiative by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) designed to enhance service quality through the certification and licensing of artisans, fostering the growth of small and medium enterprises. The SUPA program aims to transform Nigeria's skills acquisition landscape, address the critical shortage of technical

manpower, professionalize vocational training to boost artisan prosperity, and collaborate with internationally recognized bodies to offer globally accepted certifications.

As part of this collaboration, AFS provided two months of specialized fashion design training to over 150 beneficiaries of the ITF SUPA program. The Nigerian fashion industry has become a significant part of the economy, driving job creation, creativity, and cultural expression. Over recent years, the industry has experienced rapid growth, with Nigerian fashion becoming more



indigenous. This growth has led to an increasing demand for skilled designers.

The two-month training equipped trainees with the technical skills required to create stylish and functional garments, along with essential knowledge of fashion trends, fabric selection, pattern making, sewing techniques, and garment construction. In addition to technical training, the trainees also received instruction in digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and financial management—crucial skills for building and sustaining a successful fashion brand. This collaboration highlights the power of government and private sector partnerships in enhancing skills development in Nigeria and addressing gaps in the labour market.



Some participants of the ITF SUPA training





## EMPOWERING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE FCT.

With over 3.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across 250 camps in Nigeria, many face significant challenges in accessing education, employment, and economic opportunities. In response to this crisis, AFS partnered with the TY Danjuma Foundation to offer a transformative initiative aimed at empowering IDPs through quality short-term training. The primary goal of this collaboration is to enhance the employability, entrepreneurial skills, and income-earning potential of IDPs, providing them with the tools needed to improve their livelihoods and achieve financial independence.

This partnership has been instrumental in addressing the urgent need for economic

empowerment of IDPs. By equipping participants with marketable skills, AFS is not only offering them a chance for self-sufficiency but also helping them break the cycle of dependence on aid. The training program was carefully designed to provide a holistic approach, integrating practical skill-building with essential entrepreneurial training. This comprehensive approach ensured that IDPs are not only trained in a particular trade but are also empowered to establish and run their own businesses, contributing to local economic development.

As part of this initiative, AFS trained IDPs from households in Wassa and Durumi IDP camp in the FCT where participants were trained in various vocations, including wig making, cellphone repair, and baking and confectioneries. These skills were chosen



based on the labour market demand in the local economy, ensuring that the IDPs would have viable opportunities to start their own businesses or seek employment within these fields. The program went beyond just providing technical skills. AFS also ensured that each participant received certification upon completion of the training and provided start-up kits containing essential tools to help them launch their entrepreneurial ventures. The inclusion of business management training, financial literacy, and digital skills also equipped the trainees with the knowledge they needed to succeed in today's competitive marketplace.

A key factor in the success of this program was its emphasis on moving the IDPs out of the camp environment to receive hands-on, practical training. This allowed participants to gain real-world experience, network with industry professionals, and learn in an environment that closely mirrors actual working conditions. This partnership with the TY Danjuma Foundation has not only provided immediate relief to IDPs but has also created long-term opportunities for them to regain independence and contribute to society. The program has proven to be a vital tool in rebuilding lives, fostering resilience, and creating a pathway to self-reliance for some of Nigeria's most vulnerable populations. By investing in skills development and entrepreneurship, AFS and the TY Danjuma Foundation are making a lasting impact, helping IDPs transform their circumstances and work toward a brighter, more stable future.



Some participants of the AFS / TY DANJUMA Foundation training





## **HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT IN OGUN STATE.**

AFS partners Isafe Global Consulting Hub, TAG international and the British High Commission to provide soft skills trainings and Solar PV design and installation trainings in Ogun State. The training is designed to provide employment prospects to youths and women in Ogun State towards reducing irregular migration from the State to the UK. Trainings in soft skills and entrepreneurship commenced in late November 2024. The hands-on training in Solar PV design and

installation will commence in January 2025.

A major push factor for irregular migration from Nigeria remains high youth unemployment. By providing perspectives and access to employment opportunities in Ogun State and the country at large, it is believed that the menace of irregular migration from Nigeria will reduce.



## **AFS SIGNS MOU WITH ABUJA ENTERPRISE AGENCY**

In early 2024, AFS entered into a strategic partnership with the Abuja Enterprise Agency (AEA) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide vocational training at the Abaji Fashion Incubation Centre. This collaboration marked a significant step toward empowering vulnerable individuals in the Abaji Local Government Area, equipping them with marketable skills that can enhance their livelihoods and contribute to their community's economic growth.

As a direct result of the MoU, AFS launched a six-month training program in Fashion Design, aimed at empowering 30 vulnerable individuals. The training, conducted in cooperation with the AEA, the Abaji Local Government, and with the support of the German Cooperation (GIZ), provided participants with comprehensive instruction in key areas of fashion design, including garment construction, pattern making, fabric selection, and contemporary fashion trends. The program also focused on developing business skills, including entrepreneurship, digital marketing,



and financial literacy, to help participants succeed in the fashion industry.

The Abaji Fashion Incubation Centre is being jointly managed as part of this partnership, offering a conducive environment for learning and growth. Vulnerable persons from Abaji have been given the opportunity to not only gain hands-on training but also exposure to real-world markets. This includes showcasing their work through fashion events, connecting with potential customers, and receiving valuable feedback from industry experts. Additionally, the training program includes access to funding opportunities that will help the trainees launch and sustain their own fashion-related businesses.

This initiative not only addresses the pressing need for skills development but also ensures that these individuals have the resources and knowledge to make a meaningful impact on both their personal lives and the wider community. With this collaboration, AFS, the Abuja Enterprise Agency, and their partners are playing a pivotal role in fostering economic empowerment, job creation, and sustainable growth within the Abaji Local Government Area.



Some participants of the AFS / AEA fashion training





## **AFS COLLABORATES WITH SMEDAN TO ACTIVATE THE FASHION INDUSTRIAL HUB**

In early 2024, AFS entered into a partnership with SMEDAN to activate the SMEDAN Fashion Industrial Hub in Idu, Abuja, Nigeria. Since AFS took over the management, the hub has become a vibrant space, with numerous fashion designers using it as a permanent workstation for garment production. Many beneficiaries of AFS Vocational Hub's fashion design training have also secured workspaces at the hub. One significant impact of this activation is the installation of solar panels by UNDP, addressing the hub's challenge of erratic electricity. As a result, the hub now operates 24 hours a day, boosting productivity.



# IMAGES FROM OUR TRAININGS



















## Partner with us



**Sponsor**

We invite organizations and individuals to make donations. This would be used to provide scholarships for trainings that will contribute to the livelihoods of youths and women.



**Mentor**

If you are an industry professional in any of our training area, you can sign up to mentor our trainees as part of the AFS mentorship program.



**Engage**

Engage our alumni students as interns or fulltime employees so they gain real-work experience after their training.





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