



“The ISO14001:2015 EMS has enabled me to enroll and qualify as a lead auditor in another standard, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), in Nigeria. At present, I am the only qualified and accredited AWS lead auditor in the country.”

Country Representative, Control Union

Training courses for auditors/implementers

In a bid to improve Nigeria’s compliance with international standards and certification, the National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) has supported government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as the private sector, consumer protection agencies and associations through trainings in quality, environmental and food safety management systems. This support is one of the aims of the European Union-funded project, which is implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

UNIDO’S APPROACH

Through a series of training sessions organized from 2016 to 2018, UNIDO facilitated the certification of 255 participants as lead auditors/implementers:

- In May and June 2016, 162 persons received training on the Quality Management System standard, ISO 9001.
- In November and December 2017, 114 persons received training on the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standard, ISO 14001.
- In January and February 2018, 115 persons received training on the Food Safety Management Systems standard, ISO 22000.

Each training took place in Lagos and Abuja and were facilitated by internationally recognized trainers and experts. Qualified participants of the lead auditor/implementer trainings reported on the benefits of improved knowledge. Four out of 10 qualified persons reported that the training impacted on their lives in various ways, including the establishment of new consultancies, increased earnings, promotions in the workplace, new employment opportunities and improved knowledge.

“I have been technically and professionally empowered especially in the development

and implementation of management system in an organization. As the MR/Certification Manager in IPAN-SoTLAN PCB, I have been involved in the development and implementation of Quality Management System in this newly established Personnel Certification Body (PCB).” - Christian Eboh (IPAN Management Representative to IPAN-SoTLAN Conformance Systems Ltd.).

IMPACT

According to the impact (tracer) study, in the short term, the training programs increased the likelihood of starting a new consultancy by 37% (n=68), increased technical know-how useful on the job by 44%, it increased the chances of gaining a promotion by 15% as well as the chances of gaining a new job by 4% respectively. Participants aged between 46 and 52 were more likely to start a consultancy in the short term after training than participants in

other age groups. Women were more likely to gain a promotion and men were more likely to start a consultancy. For about 38% of the sampled population, the training increased their earnings. Furthermore, the new expertise had ripple effects for some of the qualified persons who have stepped down the trainings to others. In addition, participants who qualified were 72% likely to implement the relevant standards, the most commonly implemented standard was ISO 9001: 2015.

WAY FORWARD

The ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 and 22000 lead auditor/implementer trainings have been effective for promoting employment, job creation, improving technical skills and income generation in addition to being a significant career promoting experience in the short term.

AT A GLANCE

Project title	National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP)
Thematic area	Advancing Economic Competitiveness
Donor	European Union
Project counterpart	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI)
Budget	12,080,000 EUR
Duration	July 2013 – January 2019