



# Grand Africa Initiative (GAIN)

**Promoting Youth Empowerment for Development...**

Website: [www.grandafrica.org](http://www.grandafrica.org)

# INTRODUCTION:



## WHO WE ARE

Grand Africa Initiative (GAIN) is a pan-African Non-governmental organization set up to help African young men and women, between 15 and 35 years, develop and harness their unique ideas, talents and abilities for success in education, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

We train, mentor and empower African young men and women with digital, leadership, employability and entrepreneurial skills for self-sustenance and professional growth.

GAIN was established to tackle some of the key challenges facing the youth and consequently slowing down the speed of sustainable development as we witness in Africa today. These challenges as shown in various development reports by the World Bank, African Development Bank, UNDP, ILO etc includes:

- High youth unemployment rate.
- High poverty rate in Africa.
- Dearth of entrepreneurial, employability and digital skills required in 21st century world.
- Rising illegal migration crises among the youth in search of greener pastures.
- Rise in crime rate among the youth.
- Insecurity of lives and property.
- High rate of hopelessness and frustration among the youth due to lack of economic power
- Poor value system imbibed by many youth.
- Poor academic performance among many students.

# What is the Challenge?



Africa has the youngest population in the world and by 2055, this population of young men and women is expected to double the 2015 figure which was 226 million (UNDP (2017)). The prosperity of the continent clearly depends on implementing a strategy that would unlock the potential of this demographic; however, Africa is still far from achieving this all-important objective. The African Development bank (AfDB), in their report on jobs for the youth in Africa, predicted that 263 million young people will lack an economic stake in the system by 2025. The World Bank in their analysis states that sub-saharan Africa accounts for 63% of the global poor population, World Bank (2020).

Lack of skills and uncurbed rise in youth unemployment rate breed hopelessness, frustration and depression. The consequences include mass illegal migration, insecurity, political violence, civil unrest, social and economic instability, among other vices. A World Bank survey in 2011 showed that about forty (40) percent of those who join rebel movements disclosed that they were primarily motivated by lack of jobs.

Mitigating these challenges and achieving the sustainable development goals in Africa alongside the African Union Agenda 2063, require a strategy to unlock Africa's true goldmine - young people. This is the main focus of our organization, Grand Africa Initiative (GAIN).

### The GAIN Way Out

GAIN champions a multi-pronged strategy to unlock the enthusiasm and dynamism of the young men and women in Africa. The GAIN strategy prioritises education,

employment, innovation and entrepreneurship. Our goals align with the United Nations Sustainable development goals of:

1. No poverty (1)
2. Quality education(4)
3. Gender equality (5)
4. Decent work and economic growth (8)
5. Reduced inequalities (10)
6. Partnership for the goals (17)

And the relevant African Union Agenda 2063 goals.



# Our Programs:

- **Grow with GAIN:** A bi-monthly learning session that holds online and offline. This session brings experts to share their knowledge and train the youth on various topics. Exact dates are published on our social media pages and through our newsletters.

- **A Date with GAIN Mentors:** A mentorship hangout session with experienced global mentors. An opportunity for young people to access, interact and learn from highly experienced individuals, decision makers and leaders from all walks of life and from around the world. Standing on the shoulders of today's giants enables the youth to grow faster, professionally and personally. The online version of this program is held on the last Fridays of the month.

- **GAIN Entrepreneurship Masterclass:** This is a five week training and mentorship program for aspiring and new entrepreneurs to equip them with the skills and mindset they need to build and grow their businesses in today's very competitive and global business world. Our faculty is drawn from the top of the class around the world. They bring to the class experience and mastery.

- **GAIN Youth Summit:** A global event for discourse, dialogue and insightful engagement between global leaders, institutions, agencies, civil society, corporate organisations and the youth. It fosters ideas exchange, networking, collaboration and sustainable development through youth empowerment.



- **GAIN Community Development Forum:** This program focuses on young people at the community levels. This program exposes them to the opportunities they can tap into, equip them with the relevant skills for success and broadens their horizon. Each concept is tailored to suit the local context.

Africa Initiative



# Partner with GAIN:

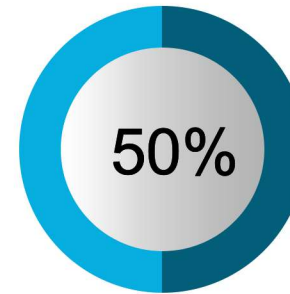
According to African Development Bank, Africa has 420 million youth between 15-35 years; 50% are not contributing to the economy and of the 50% contributing to the economy, 35% are vulnerable. That means only 15% are effectively contributing to the economy. AfDB (2015).

At GAIN, we reach about a million youths across Africa through our programs annually. Our 5 year target is to empower 60% of this figure to start contributing to the economies of their various countries.

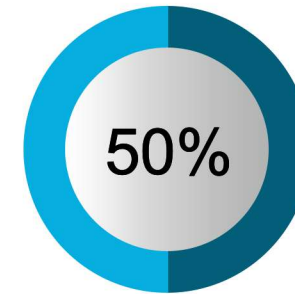
Let's work together to accomplish this target.

## We could partner with you in the following ways:

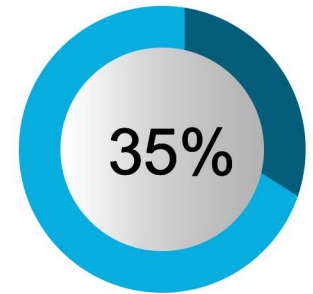
- Partner on one of our existing programs
- Host training programs on the themes: entrepreneurship, mentorship, youth employment, careers, digital skills, leadership, self development etc.
- Host a workshop/seminar/conference of any scale.
- Organise business plan competition/ academic competition
- Organise and run a relevant campaign
- Conduct a needs assessment
- Design a program for a school, community or region.
- Engage in policy advocacy
- Design and implement a customised program



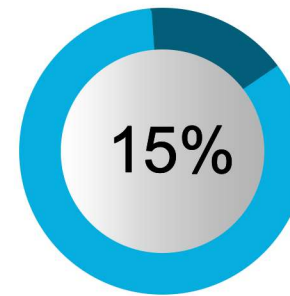
420 million youths contributing to the economy



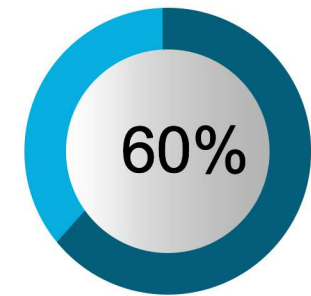
420 million youths not contributing to the economy



35% of the half is vulnerable



Only 15% of the half are effectively contributing to the economy



GAIN targets to empower 60% of 1 million youth to start contributing to the economies of their various countries

*Our*

**IMPACT**

**SO**

**FAR**

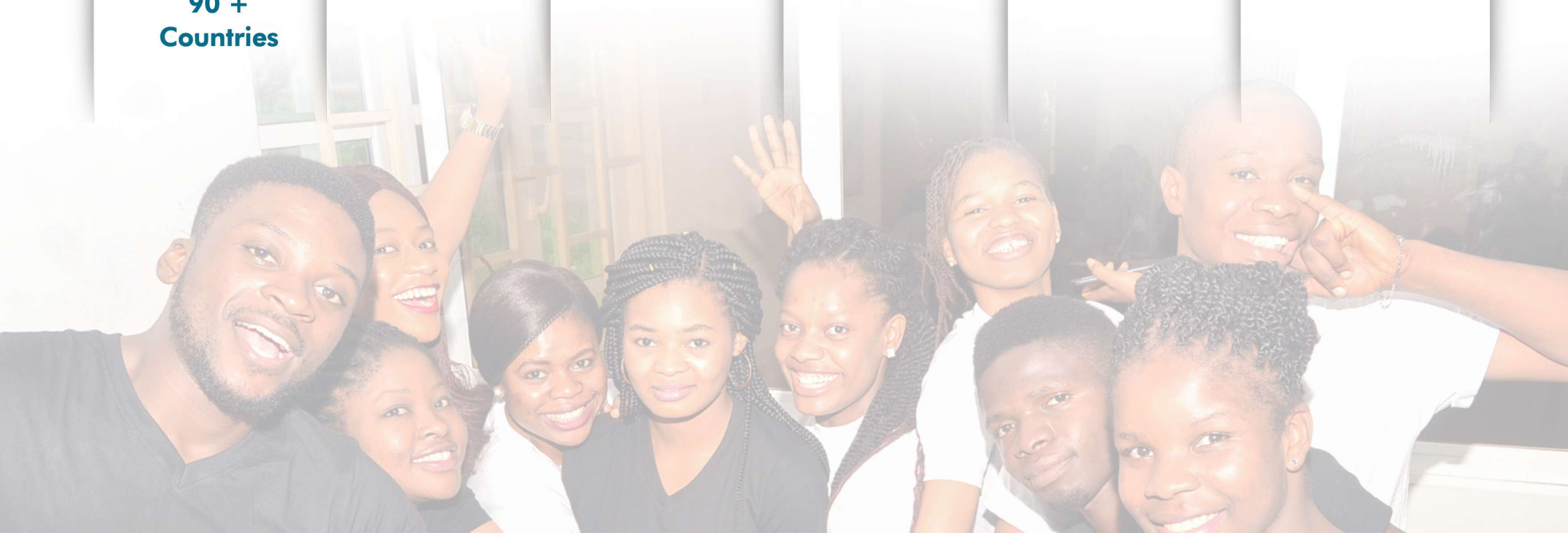
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**Since 2018, we have impacted African youth in the following ways:**



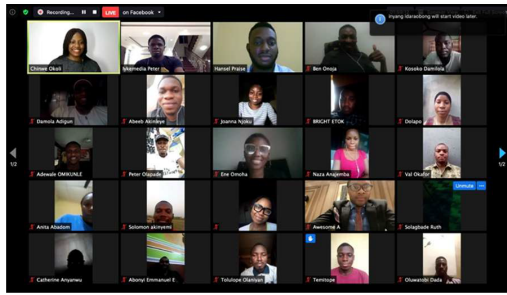
- Reached and impacted about a million youths in over 90 countries, online and offline.
- Partnership with SERS (Scale Early, Rapidly, Securely) on Cross Border for Local Value Program sponsored by Carleton University Ottawa, Canada: A 12 week free training and mentorship program to youth to innovate and collaborate to build businesses across borders.
- Bridged knowledge gap by hosting monthly mentorship programs that have significantly impacted professional and personal growth of over 8,000 youths.
- GAIN women focused programs held in 7 cities and impacted over 9,800 young women and girls.
- GAIN facilitated a youth initiative that resulted in a N10,000,000 entrepreneurship grant for the youth of the Ogidi community by a philanthropist.
- Spurred excellence among the youth through prize awards and educational materials to winners in various academic events and competitions for over 4,000 students.
- Facilitated 200 scholarships to the youth of Amichi in Nigeria.
- Donated textbooks and educational materials to students and libraries of 38 schools in Nigeria.
- Impacted over 300,000 youths through various online and offline programs in the last one year.
- Partnership with the Global Union on a 3-year mentorship Program: A 3 year mentorship program for 78 African youths on business, careers, leadership, global partnership, education, governmental affairs, community, empowerment, for sustainable growth and peace.



# OUR PROGRAMS AND IMPACT



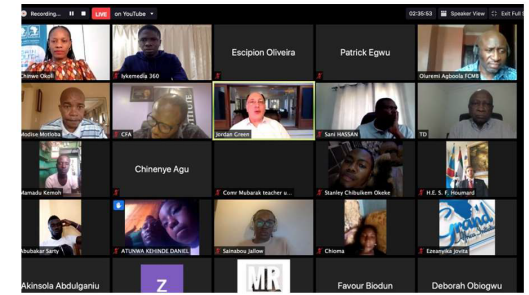
# OUR PROGRAMS AND IMPACT



**Cross section of youth attending a virtual training on employability skills**



**Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo delivering his keynote speech at GAIN Youth Summit 2020**



**A Session at GAIN Youth Summit 2020**

# Our Supporters and Partners:





How we  
**Engage  
&  
Impact**

- **Capacity Building:** Webinars and in-person trainings on bespoke life skills, employability, digital, financial and leadership skills; innovation and entrepreneurship skills. “If sixty (60) percent of Africa’s youth are equipped with the right skills and given the right opportunities, this demographic group could help propel Africa onto a higher growth path” - AfDB 2015.

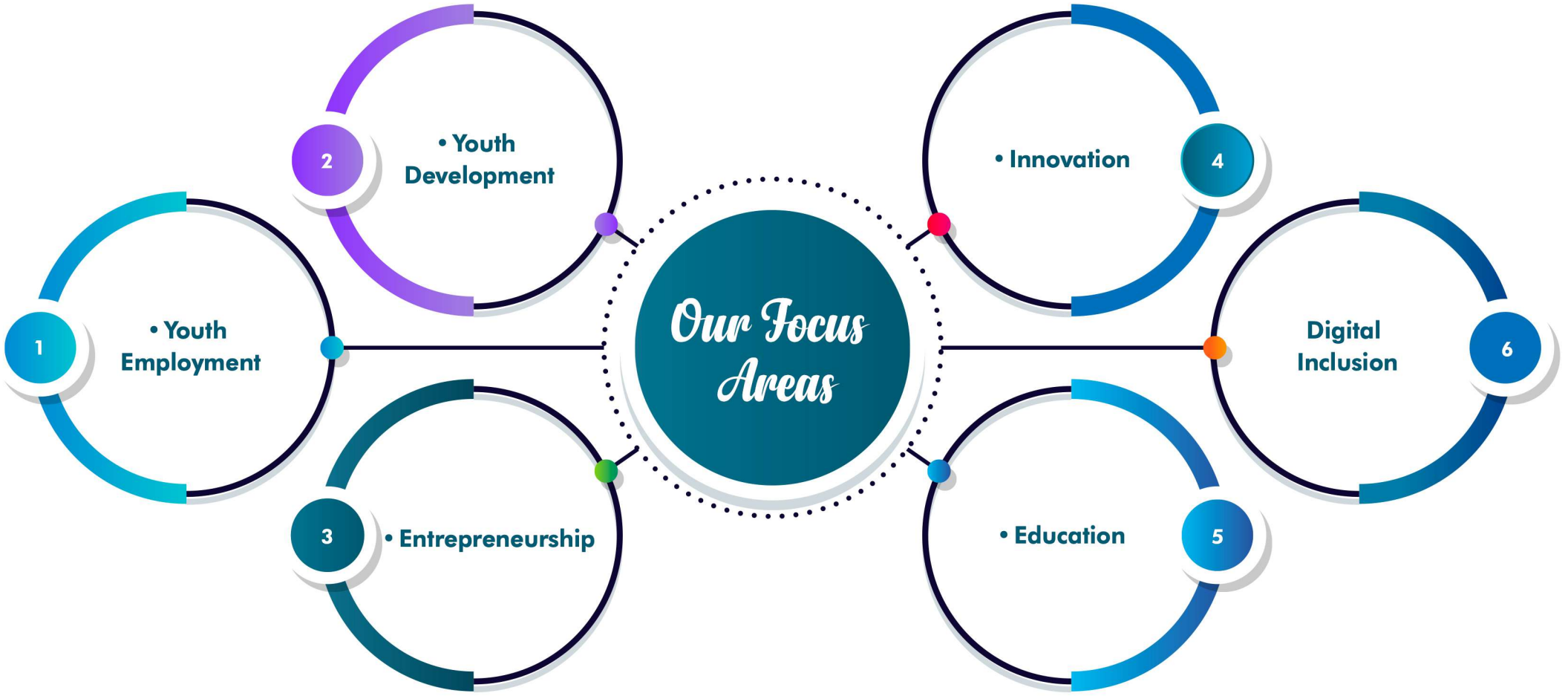
- **Events:** Youth focused events creating an opportunity for the youth and stakeholders to convene, engage, discover, network and collaborate even across the borders.

- **Mentorship Program:** Our mentorship programs allow knowledge transfer from accomplished career professionals and business leaders to the youth to help prepare them for success.

- **Advocacy:** We engage in policy advocacy, research, thought leadership and strategic engagement for African young men and women; promote mindset/value re-orientation and awareness creation among the youth.

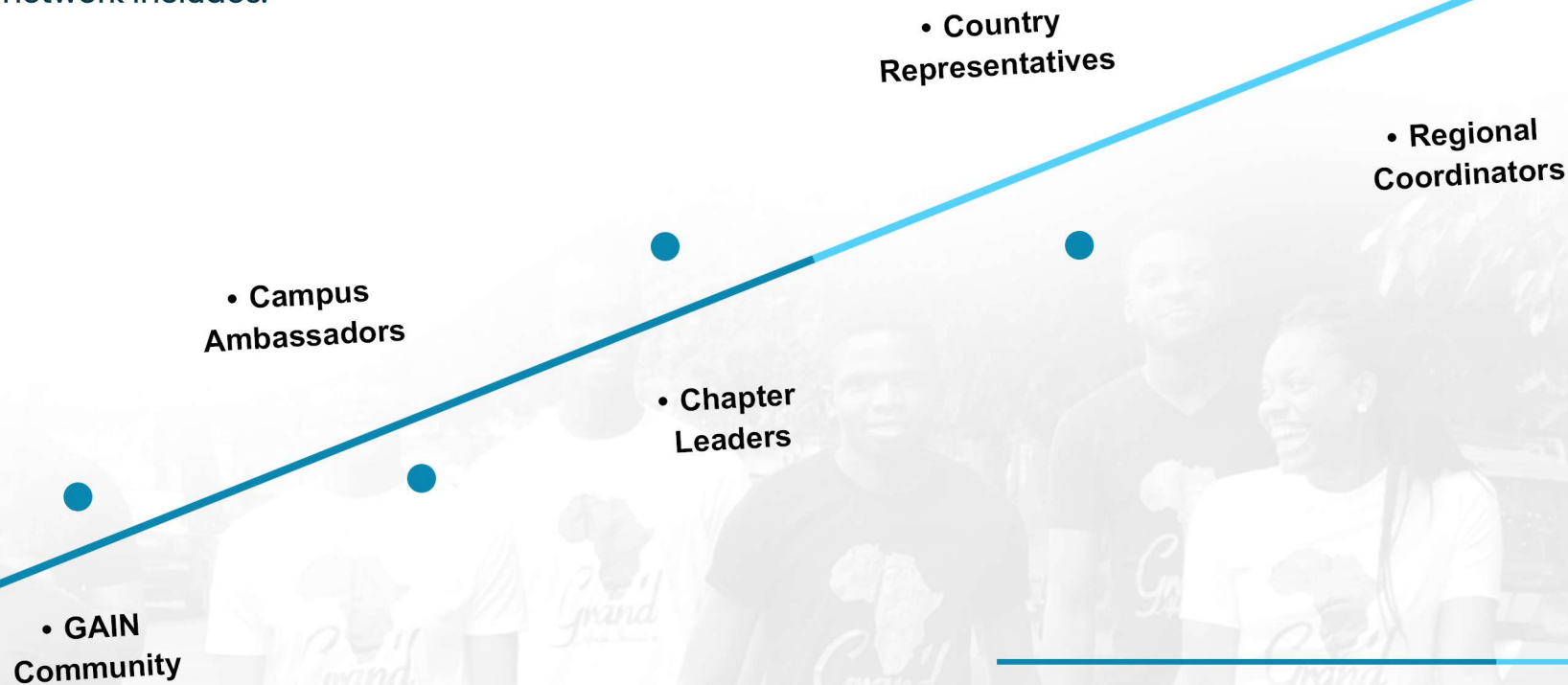
- **Partnership & Opportunities:** We engage in strategic collaborations with relevant national and international stakeholders, agencies and organisations who share the vision for empowering African youth. We also the youth identify these opportunities. We also create and promote opportunities, source for and disseminate information on funding, grants, scholarships, apprenticeships, internships, exchange programs, competitions, events, awards and other opportunities for the youth.

- **Empowerment:** We hold masterclasses in our focus areas. We also host targeted programmes such as gender focused programs, situational based programs for teenage mothers; special counselling sessions (SpeCS); community-based development programs and we facilitate donations of educational materials and gadgets for digital education especially to schools and communities in underserved areas.



# Our Fast Growing Network:

GAIN network of young Africans is growing rapidly.  
Our network includes:



**Where we Operate: Our programs hold wherever young Africans live.**

# GAIN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## Board of Trustees/Advisors

**Professor  
Pat O.Utom**

CEO, Centre for Values in  
Leadership, Nig.  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
and Advisors



**Chinwe F.  
Okoli**

Executive Director  
Grand Africa Initiative  
(GAIN)



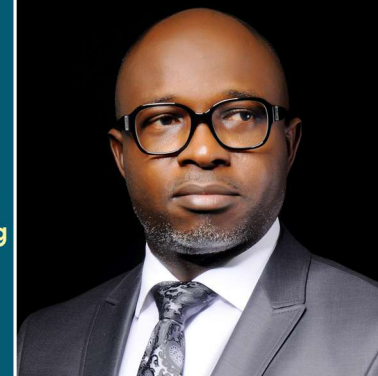
**Mclean Sibanda,  
Ph.D**

Bigen Group, South  
Africa.  
Member, Advisory  
Board



**Mr Felix  
Achibiri**

Chairman, DFC Holdings, Nig  
Member, Advisory Board



**Professor Esther  
Akinlabi**

University of Johannesburg,  
South Africa  
Member, Advisory Board



**Ranga Zinyemba,  
Ph.D**

Vice Chancellor  
Catholic University of  
Zimbabwe  
Member, Advisory Board



# GAIN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## Program Team

**Chinwe F. Okoli**

Executive Director



**Chinaza Anajemba**

Community & Programs  
Officer



**Ike Peter  
Anajemba**

Brand and  
Publications Lead



**Chinenye  
Agu**

Accounts & Finance Lead



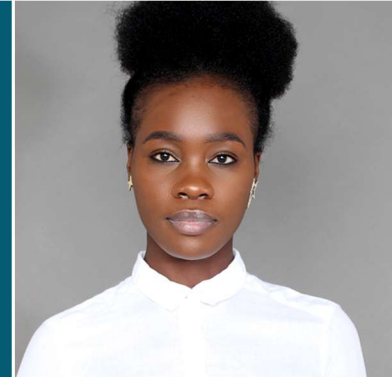
**Valentine  
Okafor**

Outreach and Partnership  
Lead



**Asha Cynthiah  
Amani**

Regional Coordinator,  
East Africa





## Contact Us:

Address: No 22 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria

Website: [www.grandafrica.org](http://www.grandafrica.org)

Executive Director: Chinwe Okoli

Email: [chinwe@grandafrica.org](mailto:chinwe@grandafrica.org)

[info@grandafrica.org](mailto:info@grandafrica.org)

+234 807 051 1605, +234 806 127 2449

## Social Media Handles:

Facebook: Page/group: Grand Africa Initiative- GAIN

Twitter: [@GrandAfrica\\_I](https://twitter.com/GrandAfrica_I)

Instagram: [@grandafricainitiative](https://www.instagram.com/grandafricainitiative)

Linkedin: Grand Africa Initiative





Executive Director, Chinwe Okoli with His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo. The Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria after a meeting at the State House, Abuja



Participants at GAIN empowerment program recently



GAIN International Women's day Program at University of Nigeria Nsuka



GAIN Choose to Challenge program for IWD 2021



Executive Director Chinwe Okoli, Speaking as a Panelist on at WBAF World Congress, in Istanbul



GAIN E.D paid a courtesy visit on H.R.M Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe CFR, mni(Obi of Onitsha),to discuss upcoming GAIN programs



Executive Director, Chinwe Okoli in a handshake with the Baybars Altuntas, The Chairman, World Business Angel Investment Forum(WBAF) in Istanbul



GAIN Executive Director, Chinwe Okoli speaking at the 9th Heads of State and Government Summit\_Business Summit of ACP in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019



GAIN E.D received by H.E Dr Januario.E.Quibato, The Angola Ambassador to Nigeria, at the Angola 45th Independence Day Celebration .jpg

