

Ijeoma Adesanya is a seasoned Development Professional and Gender Inclusion Specialist with over 12 years of experience in leadership and managerial roles across multiple industries, including Oil & Gas, Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, and Power. Her work focuses on driving sustainable development, gender mainstreaming, and diversity and inclusion, with a particular emphasis on empowering women and girls in Nigeria and Africa.

Ijeoma holds an MSc in Business Analytics and Consulting from Warwick Business School and a BA (Hons) in Accounting and Management from the University of Reading. Further honing her expertise, she completed the Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) Facilitator Certification from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a Public Policy Analysis CPD at the London School of Economics. These qualifications have provided her with a robust analytical and policy-making skill set, enabling her to create impactful and innovative solutions for complex societal challenges.

As Principal Consultant at Kobikam Africa, Ijeoma Adesanya has led key initiatives to advance gender equality and social inclusion across various sectors. Her work includes providing technical assistance to the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment, leading the review of the National Policy for MSMEs (2021-2025) with a comprehensive gap assessment report and a validation workshop on gender mainstreaming, and developing gender action plans and equity scorecards. She has also advised organisations like Solar Sister and the Rocky Mountain Institute on integrating gender considerations into local community programs. In addition, Ijeoma has coached over 100 female entrepreneurs across Sub-Saharan Africa and facilitated workshops for more than 400 entrepreneurs, equipping them with essential skills in financial management and confidence building.

In her role as Senior Programs Manager and Head of ScaleUp Lab at FATE Foundation, Ijeoma designed and implemented programs supporting entrepreneurs in scaling their businesses across key industries. She successfully managed the €1.4 million Orange Corners Innovation Fund, which has supported over 140 entrepreneurs, and developed a strategic five-year plan for the organization in collaboration with directors and board members. Ijeoma worked

with international partners, including GAIN and Deloitte, to deliver programs that foster entrepreneurship and drive economic growth in Nigeria.

During her tenure at General Electric (GE), Ijeoma held roles in commercial finance and cash management, where she contributed significantly to financial growth and operational efficiency across Sub-Saharan Africa. She negotiated contracts valued at over \$300 million, improved payment processes, and drove financing solutions for large infrastructure projects.

Beyond her professional roles, Ijeoma is a passionate advocate for gender equity and youth development. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Brighter Girls Life Initiative and has held leadership roles with Women in Management, Business, and Public Service (WIMBIZ), where she worked with a team to develop a Gender Equality and Equity Scorecard for private sector organisations in Nigeria.

Over the years, Ijeoma has built a career defined by her ability to bridge the gap between strategy and impact. By championing diversity and inclusion, supporting entrepreneurship, and advancing sustainable development, she continues to make significant contributions to improving the lives of women, girls, and underserved communities across Africa.