Internal Audit of WIPO Nigeria Office

Internal Oversight Division
Internal Audit Engagement

IOD Ref: IA 2024-05
Date: December 19, 2024

Note: Parts of the original report were withheld or redacted due to safety, security or privacy reasons.



WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

This report has been re-issued on January 21, 2026, to reflect updated rating terminology. These changes do not affect the engagement conclusion.

Table of Content

1 Executive Summary

2 Background

3 Objectives, Scope, Methodology

4 Observations and Recommendations

5 Annexes

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1

Executive Summary

Engagement conclusion:

As included in Annex 1, IOD has 5 ratings:
1) Satisfactory
2) Satisfactory, Some improvement needed
3) Partially satisfactory, Major improvement needed
4) Unsatisfactory
5) N/A

(Ratings revised as of March 2025).

Satisfactory is the highest rating/conclusion that can be assigned, indicating that assessed governance arrangements, risk management, and controls were adequately established and functioning well.

The Internal Oversight Division (IOD) conducted an audit of **the Nigeria Office** to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of Governance, Risk Management, and Controls around the key processes. The audit covered activities in 2024 up to the performance of audit procedures in November 2024. The audit was conducted in conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Engagement Conclusion

In IOD's opinion • The assessed governance arrangements, risk management, and controls were adequately established and functioning well. • Issues identified by the audit, If any, are unlikely to affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.	**Satisfactory**

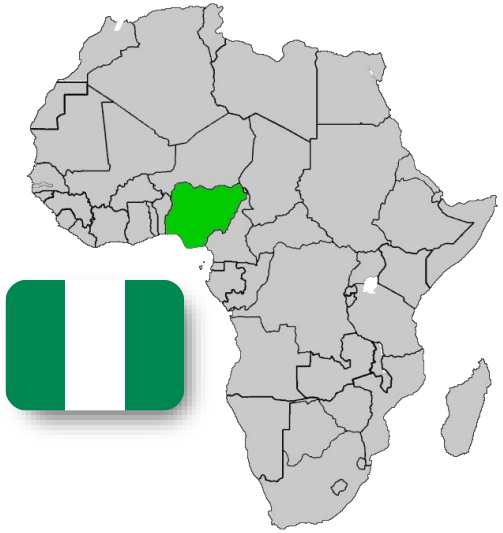
Audit ratings by key audit area

Governance: Alignment with the Expected Results	**Satisfactory**
Governance: Budget Execution and Resources	**Satisfactory**
Governance: Monitoring Performance	**Satisfactory**
Risk Management	**Satisfactory**
Key Risks and Controls	**Satisfactory**
Business Continuity Management	**Satisfactory**
Systems, Tools, and Information flows with WIPO Headquarters	**Satisfactory**

IOD has not issued any formal recommendations.

2 Background – Federal Republic of Nigeria Profile (1 of 2)

Free stock Photos
https://www.pexels.com
https://unsplash.com/



Key Facts

- Full Name: Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Capital City: Abuja
- Largest City: Lagos
- Area: Approximately 923,769 km² (356,669 sq mi)
- Population: Over 220 million (2023 estimate), making it the most populous country in Africa and the 7th most populous in the world.
- Official Language: English
- Ethnic Groups: Over 250 ethnic groups
- Religion: Islam, Christianity, and Indigenous beliefs
- Political System: Federal Presidential Republic
- Currency: Nigerian Naira (₦, NGN)

Culture

- Music: Afrobeat, Highlife, Juju, and Fuji are popular genres.
- Notable artists include Fela Kuti, Burna Boy, Davido and Wizkid.
- Film Industry: Nollywood is the second-largest film industry in the world by volume, second only to Bollywood.
- Cuisine: Popular dishes include jollof rice, pounded yam, egusi soup, suya, and moi moi.









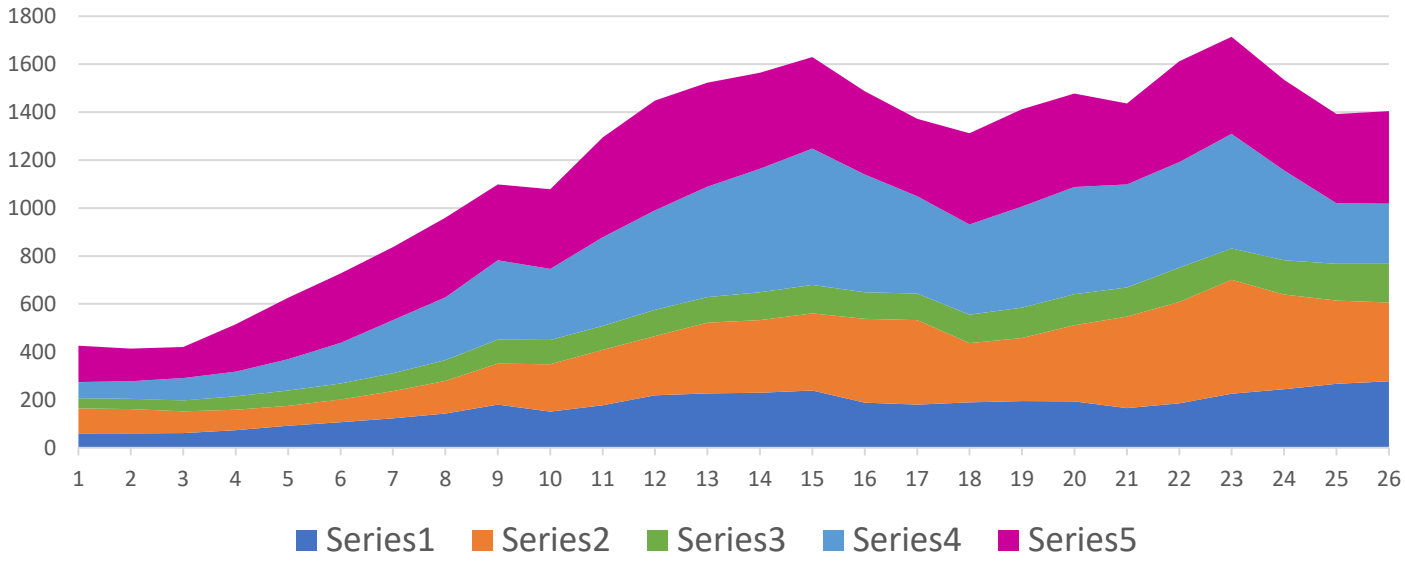
2 Background – Republic of Nigeria Profile (2 of 2)

Key Sectors of the Nigerian Economy

Services Sector	• Telecommunications, financial services, trade
Agriculture	• Crop production, livestock, forestry, fishing
Industry and Manufacturing	• Mining, quarrying, and construction
Creative Economy	• Entertainment, media, and the arts

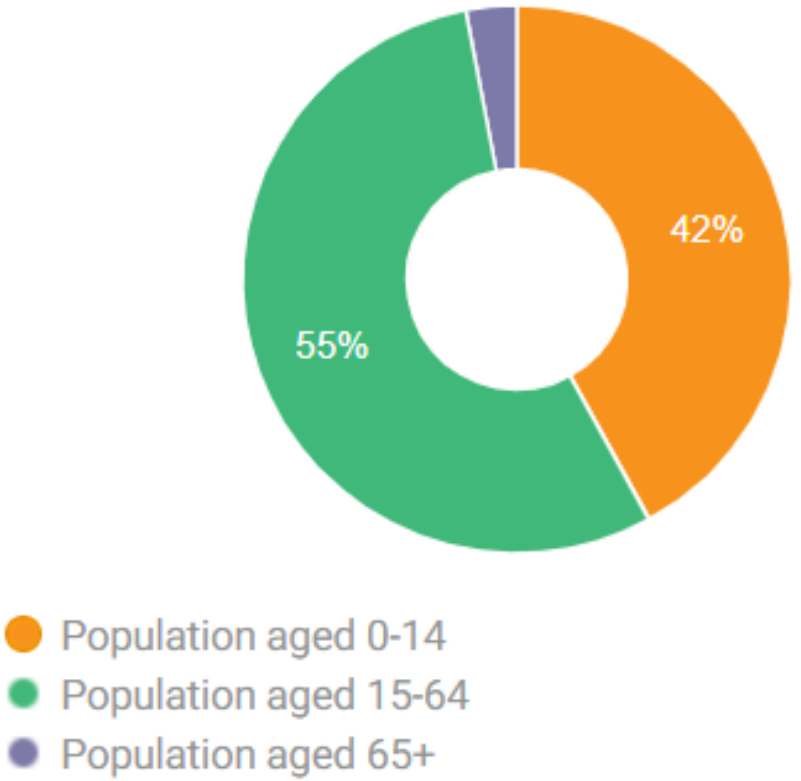
Source: IMF, Reuters

GDP in bn.of USD between the top 5 African countries - timeline



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (2024) Dataset accessible here.

Population, by age group, per cent (2024)



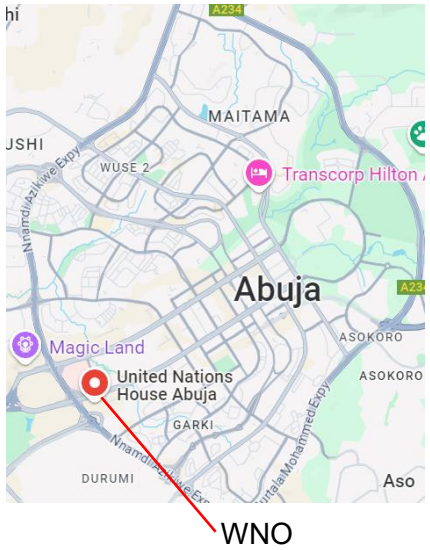
Source: United Nations Population Fund Dashboard

The population structure indicates a healthy potential for Youth Engagement in IP, which is already being done by WIPO Nigeria Office.

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

2 Background – WIPO Nigeria Office (1 of 1)





The WIPO Nigeria Office (WNO) was established in Abuja in **January 2020,** following the approval of its Host Country Agreement by the WIPO Coordination Committee in October 2017.

The WNO provides an institutional Sub-Saharan presence for WIPO in Nigeria, which contributes to the Organization's program delivery, responds to inquiries, and offers support to the Organization's cooperation and services in Nigeria.

Location: Situated in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, the office is strategically positioned to engage with governmental bodies, IP stakeholders, and the broader community.





WIPO

3

Objectives, Scope, Methodology

Objectives

A. Review the effectiveness of **governance**, **compliance**, **risk management and internal controls** surrounding the operations of the WIPO Nigeria Office

B. Verify whether the **structure** and **resources** are fit-for-purpose

C. Assess the adequacy of **tools and systems** to support operations, including effective **information flow with Headquarters**.

Scope

Operations in 2024

Methodology

-Interviews with relevant stakeholders

- Review and analyses of documents and records

- Walkthroughs and test of controls

- Data analytics



International Professional Practices Framework® (IPPF) 2024

WIPO

4.1

Governance
(1 of 6)

- WIPO Strategy House – A conceptual framework developed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to outline its strategic vision and operational approach. This model is detailed in WIPO's Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2022–2026 Link.

Where WNO **contributes to** within the WIPO Strategy House

A world where
Innovation and Creativity from Anywhere is
supported by Intellectual Property, for the good of Everyone

WIPO Leads the development of a balanced and effective global intellectual property ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future

Strategic Pillar 1: Reach out worldwide to explain the potential for intellectual property to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere	**Strategic Pillar 2**: Bring people together and partner with stakeholders to shape the future of the global intellectual property ecosystem	**Strategic Pillar 3:** Provide high quality intellectual property services, knowledge and data that deliver value to users around the world	**Strategic Pillar 4**: Support governments, enterprises, communities and individuals to use intellectual property as a tool for growth and sustainable development
1.1 More effective communication and engagement world-wide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere	**2.1** Development of balanced and effective international normative frameworks for IP	**3.1** Wider and more effective use of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data	**4.1** More effective use of a balanced IP system to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations
	2.2 WIPO brings the international community together to proactively address emerging issues and policy challenges at the global level relating to IP, innovation and creativity	**3.2** Improved productivity and service quality of WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge and data	**4.2** Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States
	2.3 International dialogue and cooperation on Building Respect for IP		**4.3** Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States
	2.4 Effective interaction and partnerships with the UN, IGOs and NGOs in support of global goals to which IP can contribute	**3.3** Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges	**4.4** More innovators, creators, SMEs, universities, research institutions and communities leverage IP successfully
			4.5 Enhanced IP infrastructure for IP Offices

Foundation: Empower our people work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively by providing them with the right resources, training and environment

5.1 A Secretariat that is empowered through a dynamic corporate culture and is provided with the right resources and training to work effectively, collaboratively and innovatively	**5.2** Digitally enabled, secure and sustainable operating environment and services	**5.3** Sound and prudent financial management and effective corporate governance and oversight

4.1

Governance
(2 of 6)

- MTSP – WIPO Medium-term Strategic Plan. Link.
- PW&B – WIPO Program of Work and Budget 2024/25. Link.
- PMSDS – Performance management and staff development system. Sets the roles and responsibilities, quality standard, and individual performance targets of staff.
- ICS – Individual Contractor Services.

Governance: Alignment with the Expected Results

WIPO MTSP and PW&B: Strategic Decision-Making
Expected Results allocated to WNO: 1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5

WNO Workplan Activities
2024/25 Budget of WNO: 837 Thousand CHF which is 0,1% of the total WIPO budget (857 million CHF for 2024/25).

Activity	Y2024/25, T.CHF
Effective interface with stakeholders	291
Communication: Promotion, Awareness Raising	111
Tailored educational programs	55
Skills and knowledge building programs	47
WIPO Academy programs	44
Innovators, creators, SMEs, etc.	44
IP for growth and development	40

Activity	Y2024/25, T.CHF
National IP Policies	33
TISC networks	32
IP Training Institutes	31
Support on Platforms, Tools and Databases	30
Promote WIPO's global IP systems, treaties, and DB	27
Digital transformation of IP offices	26
IP policies for academic, research and business	24

Director [Operational Decision-Making]

External Provider (sourced through UNDP)	ICS 1 (sourced through WIPO HQ)	ICS 2 (sourced through WIPO HQ)
WIPO Staff and Financial Rules and Regulations; Code of Ethics		
	Internal Procedures and Guidelines	
	Job Descriptions	
	PMSDS Individual Objectives	
	Mentoring / Instructing by Senior Peers	

WIPO Accountability Framework

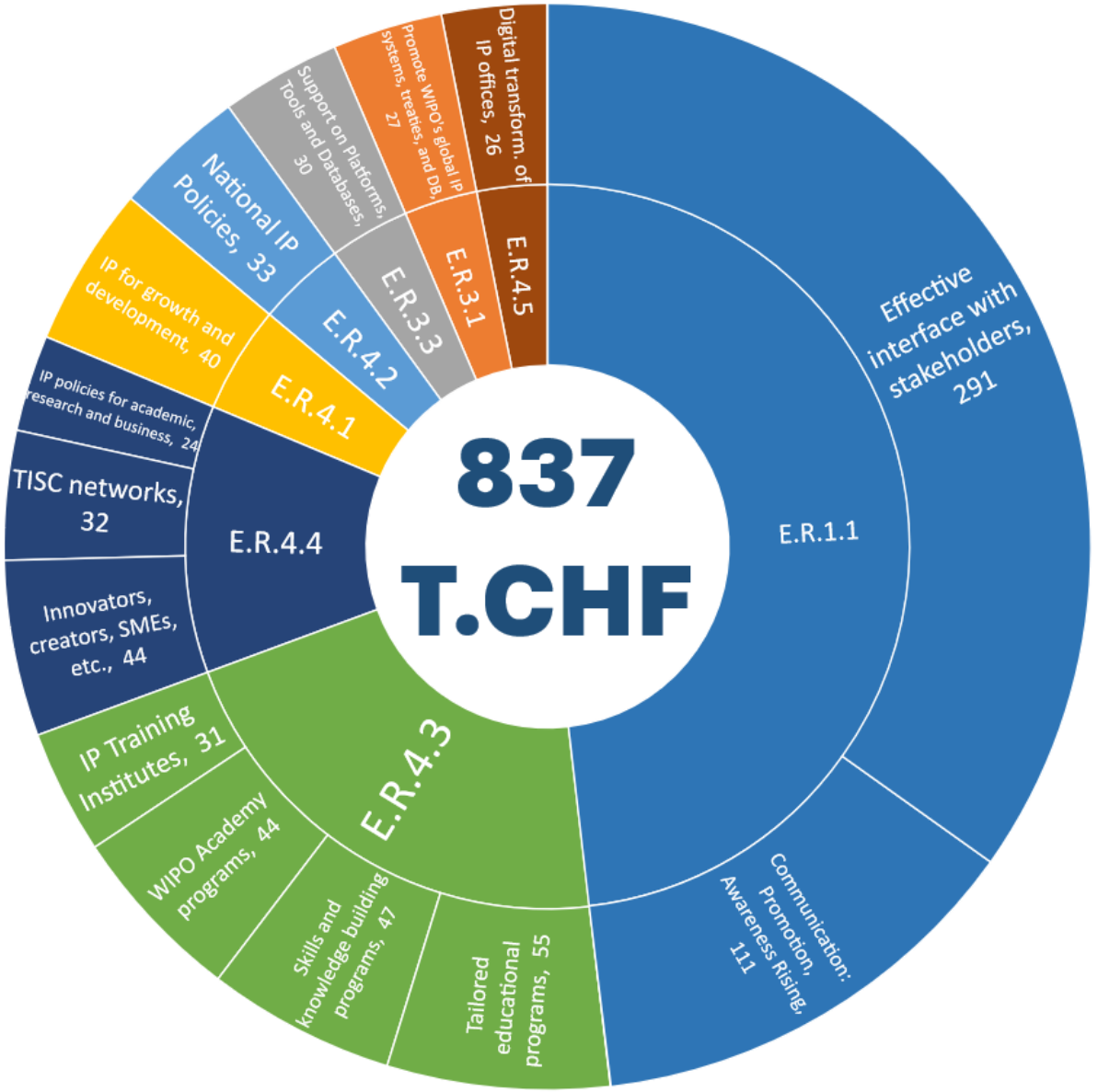
The WNO organizational structure and allocated budget are designed to support the delivery of planned Program Activities (PAs) for 2024/25. All PAs are aligned with and contribute to the achievement of the allocated Expected Results.

4.1 Governance – Allocation of Budget to Activities planned in 2024/25 (3 of 6)

WNO Budget for 2024/25

Analysis of the biggest budget allocations:

- 48% or CHF 402 thousand is allocated to ensure the Effective Interface with Stakeholders (operating and running costs of the office; administration) and Communication (promotional and awareness raising activities).
- The second biggest budget allocation is made to E.R.4.3, specifically - to Educational and Training Activities (21% or CHF 178 thousand).
- 12% or CHF 100 thousand is allocated to E.R.4.4, focusing on Innovators, Creators, SMEs, TISC networks, Academics, Researchers and Businesses among others.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WIPO

4.1 Governance – Budget Execution (4 of 6)

Biennial Budget 2024/25 Execution as of 20 November 2024 in Swiss Francs

		Budget 2024/25			Actuals 2024/25			
E.R.	Workplan Activities	Payroll	Non-Payroll	Total	Payroll	Non-Payroll	Total	Execution YTD
E.R.1.1	Communication: Promotion, Awareness Rising	39.860	71.500	**111.360**	20.661	55.339	**76.000**	68% (A)
E.R.3.1	Promote WIPO's global IP systems, treaties, and DB	23.916	3.500	**27.416**	12.397	0	**12.397**	45%
E.R.3.3	Support on Platforms, Tools and Databases	23.916	6.000	**29.916**	12.397	0	**12.397**	41%
E.R.4.2	National IP Policies	27.902	5.000	**32.902**	14.463	0	**14.463**	44%
E.R.4.2	Tailored educational programs	27.902	27.485	**55.387**	14.463	24.495	**38.958**	70% (B)
E.R.4.4	TISC networks	27.902	4.250	**32.152**	14.463	0	**14.463**	45%
E.R.1.1	Effective interface with stakeholders	23.916	267.500	**291.416**	12.397	211.176	**223.573**	77% (C)
E.R.4.1	IP for growth and development	27.902	12.000	**39.902**	14.463	0	**14.463**	36%
E.R.4.3	Skills and knowledge building programs	41.834	5.000	**46.834**	22.727	0	**22.727**	49%
E.R.4.3	WIPO Academy programs	27.902	16.500	**44.402**	14.463	0	**14.463**	33%
E.R.4.3	IP Training Institutes	27.902	3.000	**30.902**	14.463	0	**14.463**	47%
E.R.4.4	Innovators, creators, SMEs, etc.	35.798	8.000	**43.798**	22.727	0	**22.727**	52%
E.R.4.4	IP policies for academic, research and business	20.006	4.000	**24.006**	6.198	0	**6.198**	26%
E.R.4.5	Digital transformation of IP offices	21.942	4.265	**26.207**	10.331	0	**10.331**	39%
		398.600	**438.000**	**836.600**	**206.611**	**291.011**	**497.622**	**59%**

Analytical expectations on budget execution

As of the end of November 2024, the expected analytical budget execution was approximately 46% (11 months / 24 months), assuming activities and related expenditure were evenly spread throughout the 2024/25 biennium.

(A) As of November 2024, WNO utilized 68% of the biennial budget for the activity. Less non-payroll expenditures are expected for 2025 compared to 2024.

(B) The increased percentage of execution as of November 2024 is explained by encumbrances of CHF 6,500 made for the ICS services (Coordinator) in 2025 regarding the expansion of the IP Salaye project.

(C) In June 2024, the External Offices Coordination Unit, in coordination with the Safety and Security Coordination Service and Business Continuity Coordinator, requested an official vehicle and accessories for the WIPO Nigeria Office (refer to Slide 4.4). The vehicle (KCHF 54) was ordered in November 2024, with an expected delivery in 2025. Ongoing costs, including a driver (driver loan or ICS through UNDP), are estimated at KCHF 30 per year. PPBD confirmed that the funds have been allocated for the acquisition.

IOD notes that the three work plan activities highlighted above will need closer budgetary monitoring in 2025, having passed the 50% threshold in 2024.

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.1

Governance
(5 of 6)

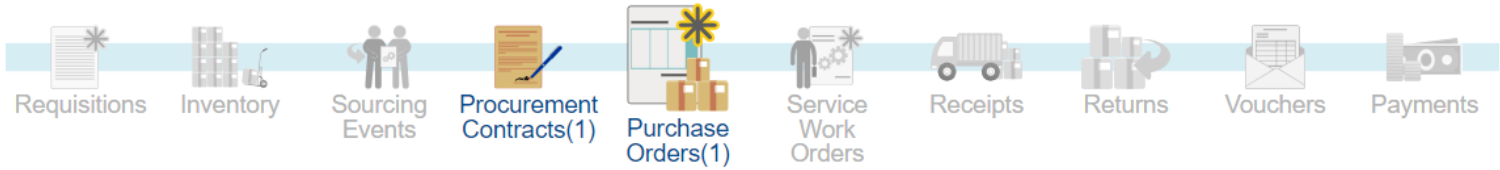
Procure - to - Pay

WIPO Headquarters centrally manages the acquisition of goods and services and subsequent payments at WNO (procure-to-pay cycle). WNO's procurement thresholds and steps are in accordance with the WIPO Procurement Manual.

The "Generalized" workflow on the right is created based on observations of procurement transactions at WNO. IOD notes that the workflow may vary depending on acquisition value and type of goods or services. Overall, no significant discrepancies in the Procure-to-Pay workflow were identified.

LTA – Long-term agreement
PPBD – Program Performance and Budget Division
CSD – Central Services Division
DDG – Deputy Director General
RNDS - Regional and National Development Sector
ALT1 – Alternate 1
AIMS - Administrative Integrated Management System

Governance: Approval Workflow in the Procure-to-Pay Cycle



"Generalized" Acquisition Approval Workflow based on walkthrough of WNO transactions.

Business Case

WNO prepares the justification (business case) for why certain goods or services are needed. The justification is communicated and confirmed with relevant stakeholders (for example, DDG RNDS, PPBD, CSD, SIAD among others).

Selecting the most appropriate Solicitation Method

The method of solicitation is selected depending on the estimated value. The majority of purchases at WNO fall under informal solicitation methods: "Low-value orders" (up to 1,000 Swiss Francs) and "Direct Purchases" (less than 20,000 Swiss Francs).

Contract

When relevant, the contract is reviewed and cleared by the Senior Legal Officer of the Central Services Division.

The Procurement Officer signs the contract.

Requisition

After checking available funds, a requisition is created by responsible WNO personnel (requester).

The requisition is approved by the Program/Fund Manager (Director, WNO). The Director's threshold is CHF 100 000 (ALT1).

Purchase Order

The Procurement Officer (buyer) prepares the Purchase Order (PO).

Receipts

After the verification and validation of received goods or services, the receipt is recorded in AIMS.

Payment

The vendor receives payment.

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.1

Governance
(6 of 6)

Governance: Monitoring Performance

Key Performance Monitoring Mechanisms

Weekly Management Meetings
Analysis of the progress of activities in the pipeline; planning ahead.

WePerform Data
Analysis of the execution of the WorkPlan

Ad-hoc Reports

Key Performance Indicators monitored by WNO

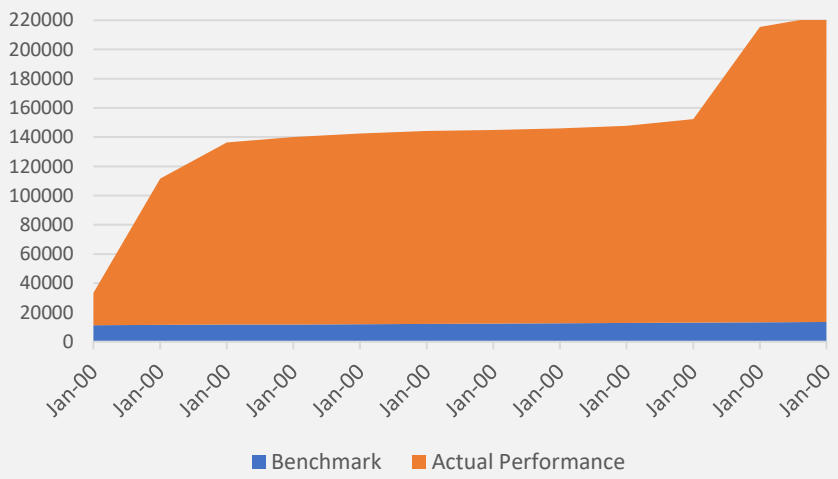
1. No. of unique visitors to the WIPO website and the websites of the External Office.

2. Level of satisfaction of participants in WIPO training and skills development programs.

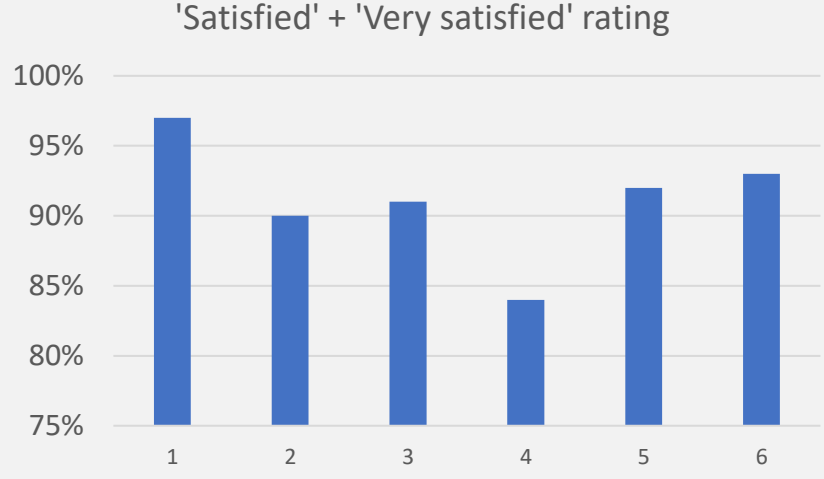
Analysis of Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

KPIs are reported annually to the PPBD and independently validated before inclusion in the WIPO Performance Report, which is presented to Member States. The last WPR for 2022/23 was presented at the 57th Session of the WIPO General Assembly (GA), Geneva, July 9 to 17, 2024.

TISC - Technology and Innovation Support Center
SMEs – Small and medium-sized enterprises
IPAS – Industrial Property Automation System



Total no. of unique visitors in 2024 = 209,799
Benchmark (20% increase from 2023) = 11067 + 20% = 13,280



WIPO

4.2

Risk Management

- WIPO RM Framework: For the explanation and review of components of the framework, refer to WIPO Risk Handbook
- WIPO Risk Appetite Statement – The document explains the amount and type of risk WIPO is willing to take to meet its strategic goals and expected results. Link.
- ERM - A central repository to log, track, and manage risks.
- Sector Risk Coordinators (SRC) coordinate with Sector Leads, Managers, and the central risk team in the Office of the Controller to keep risks and response actions up-to-date in the ERM system. Here is a listing of SRCs.

Risk Management (RM)

WIPO RM Framework

Managing Risk: Steps

RM Steps	WNO "As is"	Done?	Documented?
1. Identification	Management is well informed about key risks and events that may prevent, accelerate or delay the achievement of the WNO's objectives. Risks are identified during the regular analysis and review of business processes and workflows; also during the internal management meetings with HQ.	Yes	Yes
2. Analysis	Management understands the risk exposure by considering the likelihood of occurrence and potential impact of events. This allows for a clearer understanding of which risks require greater attention.	Yes	
3. Response	The review of processes showed the division's ability to adequately respond to key risks. This is mainly done through implementation of mitigating actions and controls. Some risks are also avoided or accepted in line with the WIPO Risk Appetite Statement.	Yes	
4. Reporting	As per WIPO Risk Handbook, Risk Owners and Response Action Owners, with the support of their Sector Risk Coordinators, record risks in the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) system. The key risk of the WNO is recorded and registered in the ERM system.	Yes	
5. Monitor & Review	Weekly management meetings, monitoring of key performance indicators, and analysis of external environment help the WNO be up-to-date on existing and emerging risks.	Yes	

Overall, management knows the WIPO RM Framework and its application. Risks are identified and analyzed, and adequate risk responses are developed to reduce risks to an acceptable level. Key WNO risks and controls are presented on the next slide.

4.3 Key Risks and Controls

SIAD – Security and Information Assurance Division

WNO – Key Risks and Controls

	Relevant Controls, Control Activities, and main Control Owners			
Key Risks	**WIPO Nigeria Office**	**SIAD**	**Business Continuity Coordinator**	**Other WIPO departments**
Impact of external factors on WNO activities.	• Virtual capacity-building skills have been augmented in the past (e.g., virtual summer school), and these capabilities could replace physical meetings if disruptions occur. Additionally, if practical, choose regions less affected by the delivery of initiatives. • Acquisition of the official vehicle to enhance safety and security.	• Safety and Security framework	• Identifying BC Gaps and following-up the mitigating measures.	• n/a

Controls surrounding key risks
WNO, in combination with other WIPO departments, has adequate controls around the key risks to reduce them to an acceptable level in line with the WIPO risk appetite.

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.4 Business Continuity

BCC – Business Continuity Coordinator
ICTD – Information Communication and Technology Division
BCAP – Business Continuity Action Plan

Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

The Business Continuity Coordinator (BCC) prepares the BCP with the active participation of the WNO's management and other resources.

The WNO is responsible for maintaining the plan and may request the BCC's support.

The BCC follows up with the Head of the WNO at least once a year to receive an updated plan or to provide support if the WNO requests it.

The plan is maintained regularly throughout the year as preparedness gaps identified by the managers are bridged or other developments warrant changes. A more structured review of the plan is done once a year.

BCP last update: 19 November 2024.

IOD Follow-up of outstanding WNO BCP Gaps as of November 2024

Gap	Details from the Gap summary	Status, Nov 2024	Ref (if any)
Safety measures	Currently, the WNO representative uses a non-UN privately rented vehicle and driver for personal and official road movements. UN-system staff in Abuja normally use UN-plated or issued vehicles.	The vehicle was ordered in November 2024, to be received in the beginning of 2025.	4.1 Governance – Budget Execution
Local offline backup of vital records and documents (target date – 22 Nov 2024).	Define location and inform BCC so that there is a BCP.	Both electronic and hard copy backups of vital documents are routinely printed and securely stored in the safe. This ensures that we have reliable, accessible copies of important documents in the event of any system failures or data loss.	
Network performance (target date – 31 Dec 2024).	The network performance relating to access to WIPO ICTD resources is poor. ICTD, in collaboration with UNDP at UN House Abuja and EO WNO, will explore and, if feasible, implement improvements.	The current situation is not ideal and to address this, one option WNO is exploring is to either improve the existing infrastructure or potentially switch to a dedicated supply for the WNO, which would require additional financial investment beyond WNO current budget. As a result, WNO is currently collaborating with UNDP to manage the situation until more funds become available to allow for necessary upgrades or changes.	
The BC Action Plan has not been prepared for the provision of services by WNO (target date: 31 Dec 2025).	The current WNO BCP has one of the two BC Action Plans usually prepared for an External Office. When originally prepared, there was not time to do both, so the "manage the office" BCAP was prioritized. The next comprehensive update should include a BCAP for services.	Planning is currently in progress. The action plan is scheduled to be carried out in Q1/Q2 of 2025, with specific timelines and resources being finalized as part of the ongoing planning process.	

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.5

Status of the 2024/25 work plan

Summary of the status of the 2024/25 Workplan

E.R.	Status of Activities as of November 2024				Activities %
	Completed	In Progress	Planned	Total	
E.R.1.1	3	9		12	38%
E.R.3.1	1	1	1	3	9%
E.R.3.3		2		2	6%
E.R.4.1		2		2	6%
E.R.4.2	1	1		2	6%
E.R.4.3	1	8	1	10	31%
E.R.4.4		1		1	3%
Total	6	24	2	32	100%
	19%	75%	6%	100%	

Analysis of the status of the workplan activities

- Most workplan activities (70%) are built around Expected Results 1.1 (Raising awareness of and increasing knowledge about the potential of IP) and 4.3 (Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States).
- Similarly, Expected Results 1.1 and 4.3 were allocated KCHF 581, or 69% of the total budget for 2024/25
- In addition to the 32 activities in the completed, in progress and planned phases, there were 21 additional activities that were foreseen albeit some unbudgeted for. By incorporating the range of 'foreseen' activities within the overall WNO plan, an understanding was that it adjust and prioritize implementation based on actual and additional resources as they evolve throughout the year. This method was adopted to ensure agility was maintained through the year to achieve maximum impact while still aligning with the approved activities pursuant to outlined ERs.

4.6 Raising awareness of and increasing knowledge about the potential of IP (E.R. 1.1)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024				
E.R.	Completed	In Progress	Postponed	Canceled	Total
E.R.1.1	3	9	2	1	15

Postponed and Cancelled Activities

Generally, the main reasons for postponing/canceling were priority changes, external factors, financial and workforce capacity.

IP and Women Business Summit



Target Category: Women Entrepreneurs

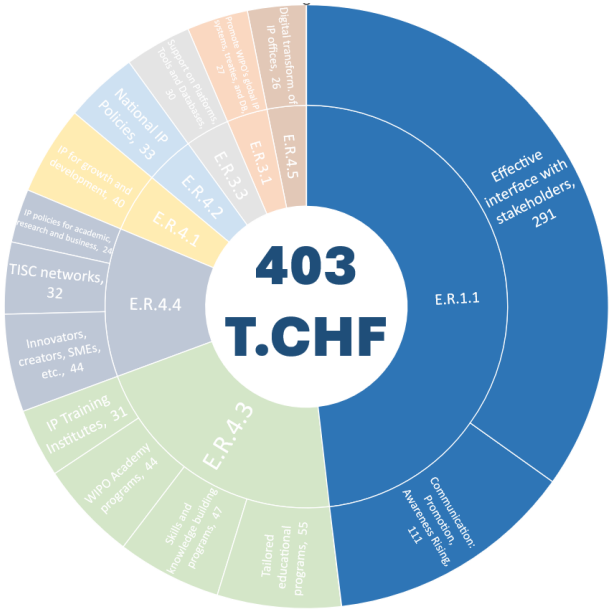
600 women entrepreneurs were educated and empowered with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively protect and leverage their IP assets for business growth and innovation.

World IP Day Seminar



Target Category: SMEs, Experts, Government Stakeholders

380 experts, entrepreneurs and government officials engaged to share experiences, insights, and best practices on how IP can support the goal of achieving zero hunger in Nigeria.



WIPO

4.7 WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge, and data (E.R. 3.1) 1 of 2

	Status of Activities as of November 2024				
E.R.	Completed	In Progress	Planned	Postponed	Total
E.R.3.1	1	1	1	1	4

National Workshop on the Budapest Treaty (May 6, 2024)



53 beneficiaries (Government agencies, researchers, law professionals, and innovation experts)

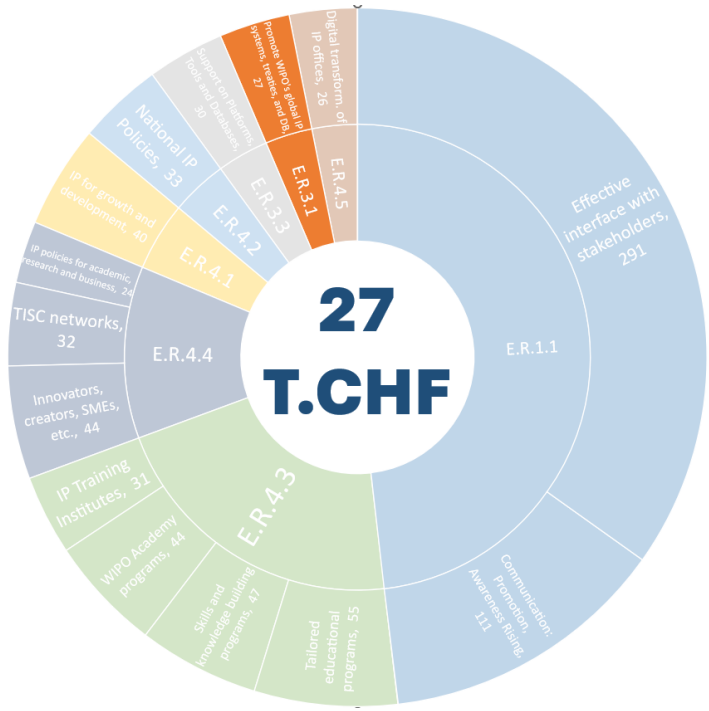
The workshop provided an opportunity to learn about the benefits of the Budapest Treaty and the operations of International Depositary Authorities. During the event, participants shared their experiences using the Budapest system and discussed the importance of biotechnology and the deposit of microorganisms for patent procedures.

Roundtable Discussion on the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (August 14, 2024)



134 beneficiaries (Government agencies, researchers, law professionals, and innovation experts)

The event provided an opportunity for representatives of different sectors potentially impacted by the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge — government, private sector, legal professionals, and researchers — to discuss the treaty and potential applications within the Nigerian context.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WIPO

4.7 WIPO's global IP systems, services, knowledge, and data (E.R. 3.1) 2 of 2

Nigeria – successes and opportunities in the area of IP Legislation

General Background

As part of the WNO visit, IOD met with two representatives from the Nigerian Ministry of Industry Trade and Investments: the Registrar of the Trademarks Registry and with the Registrar of the Patents and Designs Registry.

The visit resulted in useful insights on the evolving landscape of IP in Nigeria and continued collaboration with WIPO.

FEDERAL 8 POINT AGENDA (January 2024)

Economy – sustained inclusive growth	National Security	Agriculture	Energy and Natural Resources	Infrastructure and Transport	Education, Health, Social Investment	Industrialization, Digitalization, Creative arts, Manufacturing, Innovation	Governance and Effective Service Delivery

STATUS OF IP LEGISLATION

Enactment of the Copyright Act 2022	October 2024 -The Federal Government reaffirmed its commitment to IP protection by revalidating the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS)

Information sourced from www.osgf.gov.ng , IMF , other public resources.

Trademarks – short summary

- Nigeria is not a party to the Madrid System because it has not yet acceded to the Madrid Agreement or the Protocol.
- WNO provides training support.
- Trademark filings in Nigeria take the first place among all other IP filings.

Patents – short summary

- Nigeria is a contracting party to the Berne Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
- Patents are less popular than Trademarks in Nigeria; however, patent filings are growing.
- WNO provides training support in the area of PCT.

The official webpage of Nigeria Industrial Property Office is (https://nipo.gov.ng/) and
The Official Website Of The Trademarks, Patents And Designs Registry, Commercial Law Department, Federal Ministry Of Industry, Trade And Investment (www.iponigeria.com).

4.8 WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges (E.R. 3.3)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024	
E.R.	In Progress	Total
E.R.3.3	2	2

IP for Green Innovation (Launched September 16, 2024)

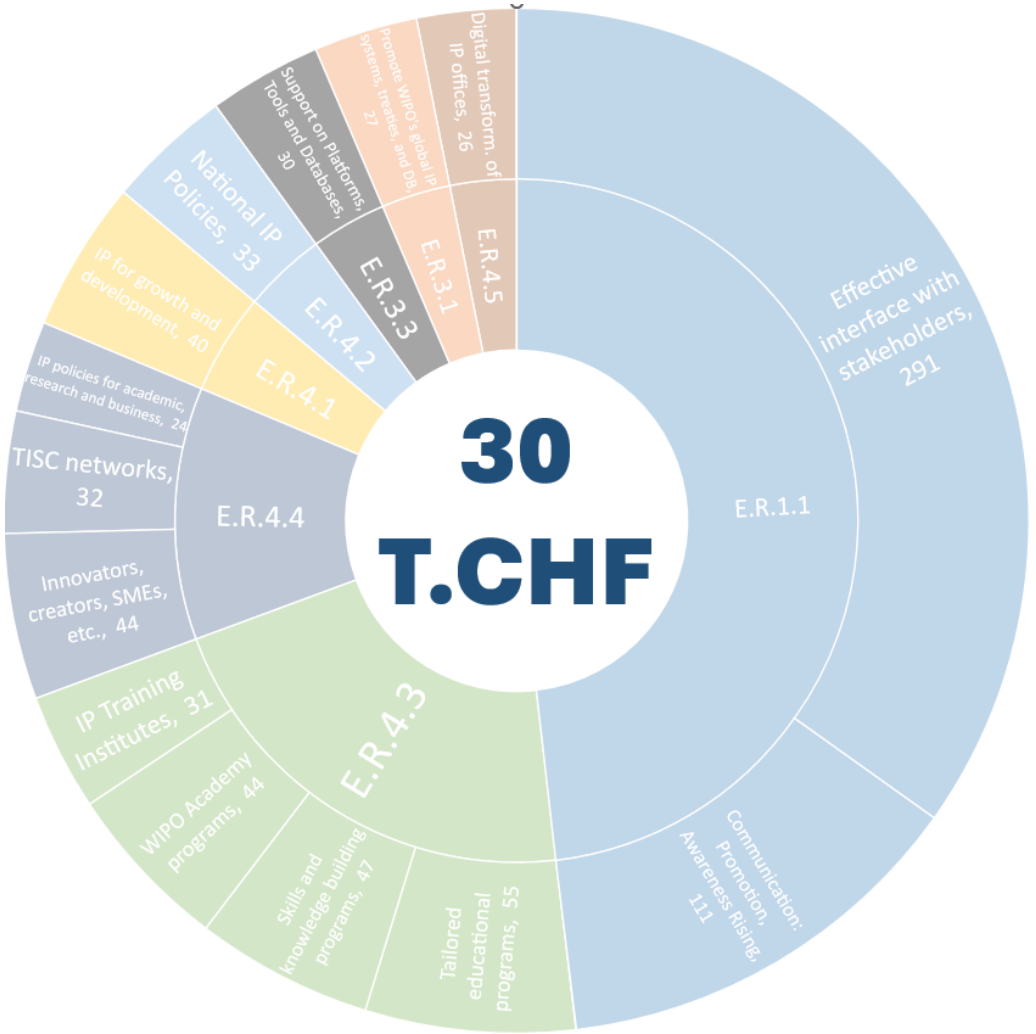






100 beneficiaries (SMEs, green hardware innovators, Indigenous communities)

This project is building capacity and empowering Nigerian green hardware innovators with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to leverage IP rights as a business development and financing strategy, including connecting these entrepreneurs with the WIPO IP for Green platform.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.9 Support growth and development of all Member States (E.R.4.1)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024		
E.R.	In Progress	Postponed	Total
E.R.4.1	2	2	4

IP Labs 2.0 (Launched August 23, 2024)



300 beneficiaries (SMEs, innovators, indigenous communities)

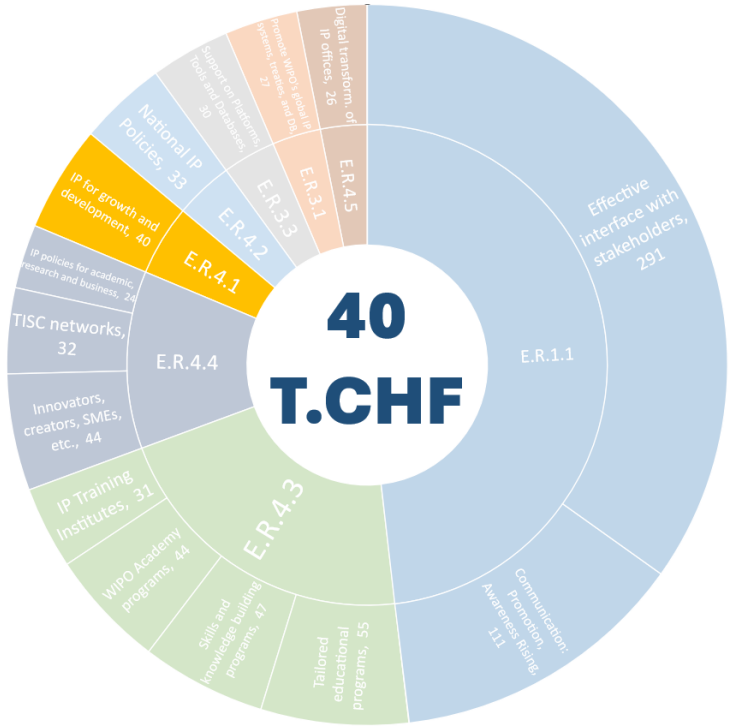
This project is building capacity and empowering Nigerian tech startup entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to start and run successful businesses by leveraging IP rights as a business development and financing strategy.

IP SALAYE - IP Skills Acquisition, Learning, and Entrepreneurship



Target Category: Youth

- Pilot edition held from October 2023 – April 2024.
- 28 youth corps members in Abuja were trained over 4 months in using IP as a business development and financing strategy.
- Demo Day event: 78 youth corps members were educated on the role of IP in business development and financing.
- Second Edition: Launched October 2024.
- 397 applications have been received so far across the Abuja, Kano, and Lagos states.
- 150 will be selected and trained in using IP as a business development and financing strategy.
- Official launch event had 50 youth corps members who were introduced to the subject of IP and entrepreneurship.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WIPO

4.10 Development of IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States (E.R. 4.2)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024		
E.R.	Completed	In Progress	Total
E.R.4.2	1	1	2

Engagement with Government

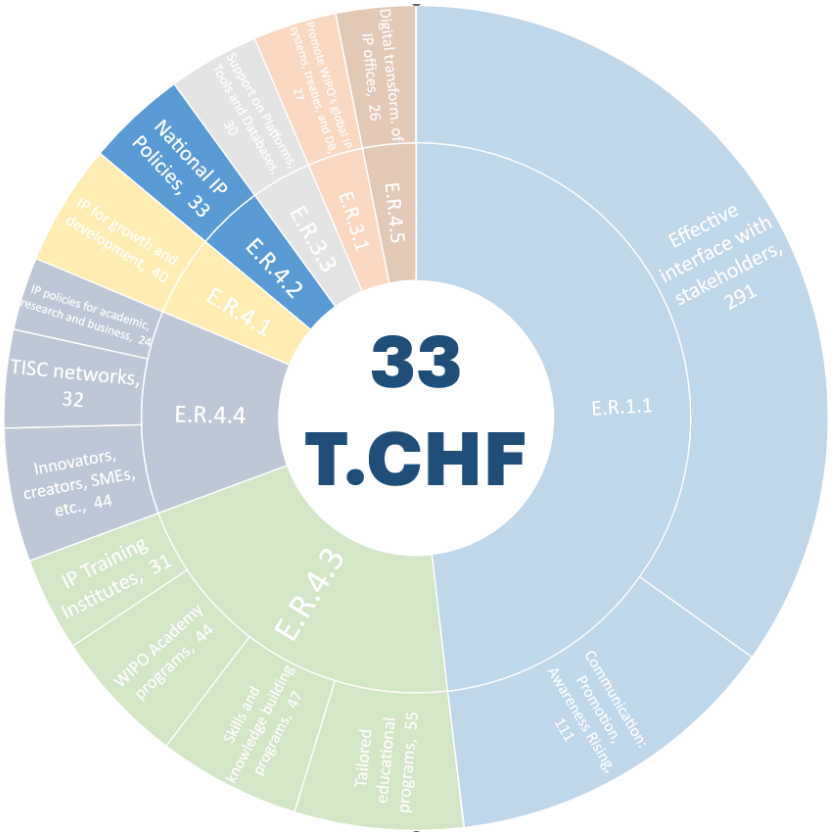
Engagement with senior government officials (Executive, Legislative and Judiciary) in Nigeria, to promote the visibility of WIPO and IP within government circles and in the context of the new administration's "Renewed Hope" agenda. This provides greater political context and guidance to WIPO's positive engagement with Nigeria.

WNO has continued to engage with senior government officials, including within the newly established ministries. visits to the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Ministry of Innovation and Digital Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, National Judicial Institute etc.

Promotion and implementation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy

Performed in coordination with the Division for Africa (DA). The DA has successfully led the validation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy; however, it is still in progress.

WNO continued to provide support on the ground in coordination with the DA. WNO participated in the revalidation exercise this year which took place on October 14. With a new minister recently appointed, the process is currently awaiting finalization by the lead ministries.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WIPO

4.11 Increased IP knowledge and skills in all Member States (E.R. 4.3)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024					
E.R.	Completed	In Progress	Planned	Postponed	Canceled	Total
E.R.4.3	1	8	1	10	2	22

IP SALAYE - IP Skills Acquisition, Learning, and Entrepreneurship



Target Category: Youth

- Pilot edition held from October 2023 – April 2024
- 28 youth corps members in Abuja were trained over 4 months in using IP as a business development and financing strategy.
- Demo Day event: 78 youth corps members were educated on the role of IP in business development and financing.
- Second Edition: Launched October 2024
- 397 applications have been received so far across the Abuja, Kano, and Lagos states.
- 150 will be selected and trained in using IP as a business development and financing strategy.
- Official launch event had 50 youth corps members who were introduced to the subject of IP and entrepreneurship.

WIPO National IP Essay Competition and Study Tour



Target Category: Youth

- 235 students of tertiary institutions participated to explore the various ways in which IP can support Nigeria's goal of achieving SDG 2 addressing food insecurity.
- The 20 winning students had the opportunity to directly engage with the institutions behind the IP system in Nigeria.

The WIPO project on IP for SMEs in the Indigenous Fashion and Craft Industries in Nigeria



Target Category: SMEs, Youth, Women Entrepreneurs

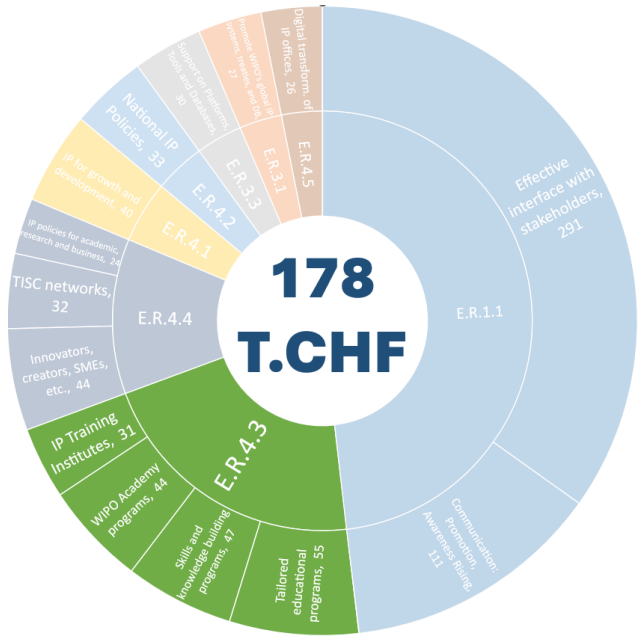
- 22 SMEs in the indigenous fashion and crafts industries in Nigeria were trained and mentored over 3 months to use IP to grow their businesses.
- During the closing showcase of the project, 78 SMEs, Women Entrepreneurs, Youth, and members of Nigerian Indigenous Communities engaged on strengthening the capacities of the indigenous fashion and craft industries in Nigeria.

The WIPO Branding Project for SMEs in Nigeria



Target Category: SMEs, Youth, Women Entrepreneurs

- 60 SMEs in the Food and Beverages, Cosmetics, and Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) sectors are being trained over three months to utilize branding as a tool for strengthening market access and dominance.
- During the official launch event of the project, 272 SMEs, IP experts and government stakeholders engaged on leveraging trademarks and branding for sustainable business growth.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

4.12 Innovators, creators, SMEs, and other stakeholders (E.R. 4.4)

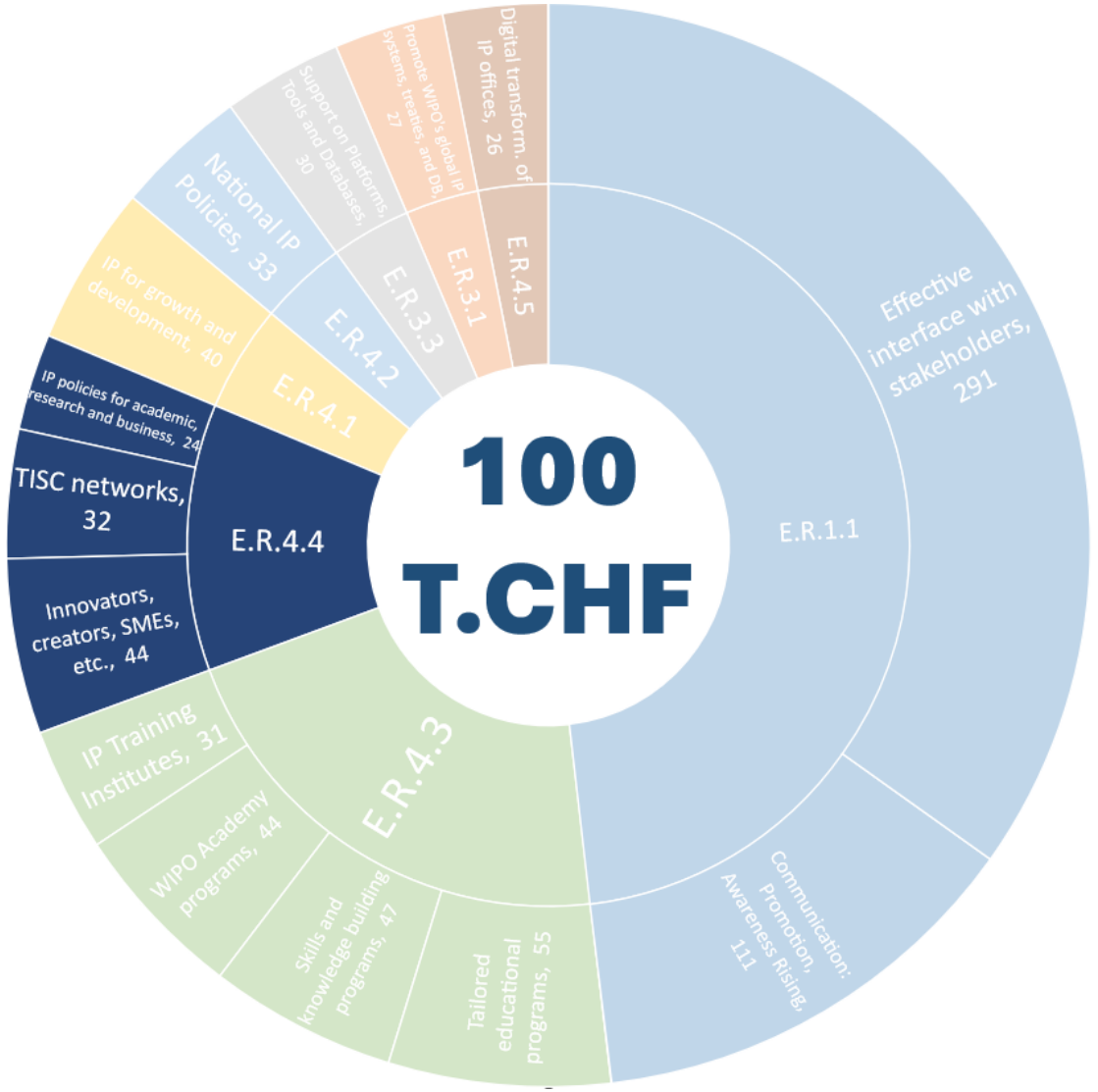
	Status of Activities as of November 2024		
E.R.	In Progress	Postponed	Total
E.R.4.4	1	2	3

Participation at the Omniverse Summit in Lagos, Nigeria (February 27 – March 1, 2024)



194 beneficiaries (Youth, SMEs, innovators, creatives, Indigenous communities)

Representatives of the office engaged in real-time with the tech and creative community in Lagos and delivered a workshop to build IP capacity in one of the largest creative and tech ecosystems in Nigeria.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

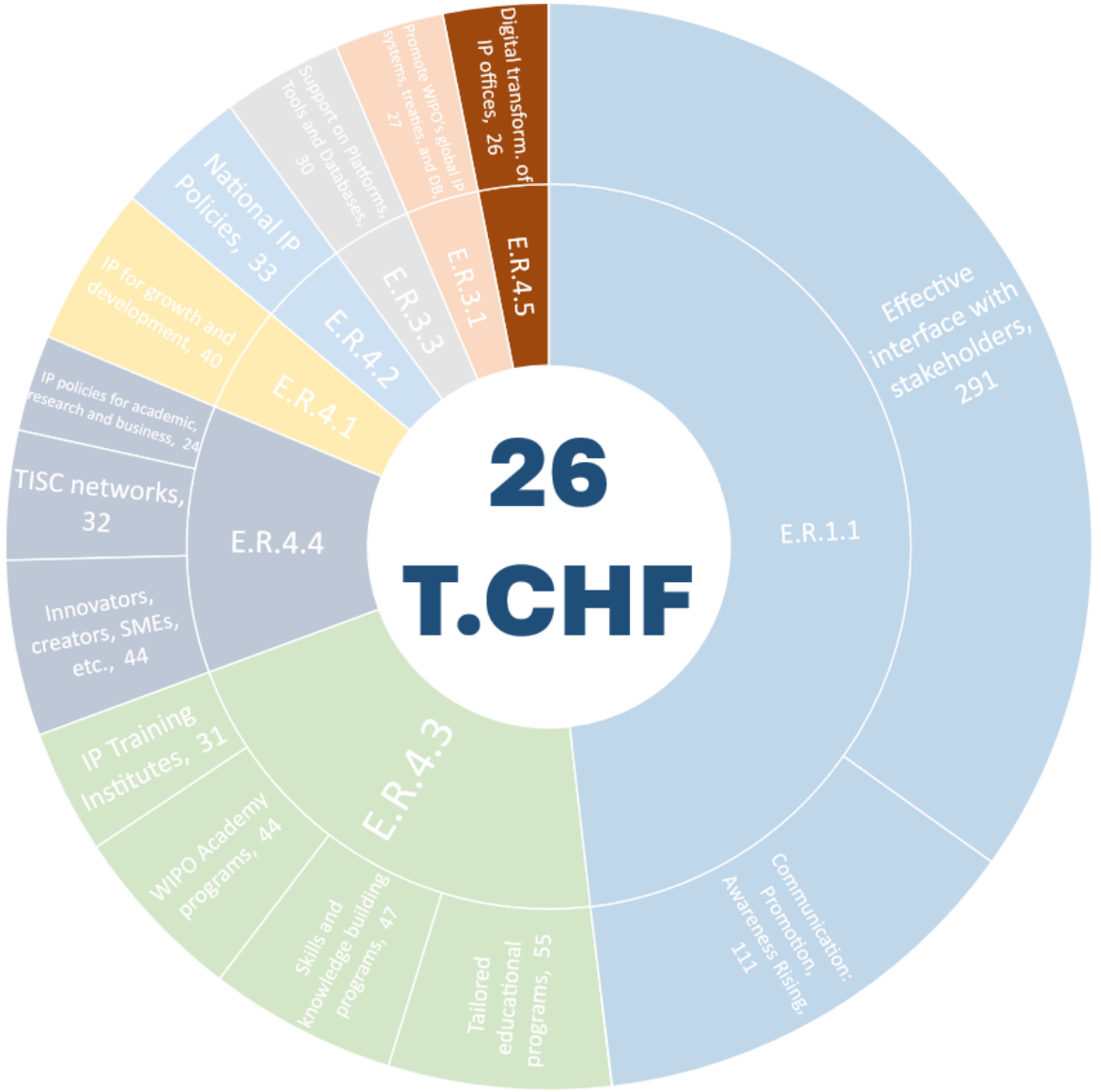
WIPO

4.13 Enhanced IP infrastructure for IP Offices (E.R. 4.5)

	Status of Activities as of November 2024	
E.R.	Postponed	Total
E.R.4.5	1	1

Training and implementation support for Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) upgrades to the IP Registries

While currently indicated as “postponed activity” in the WePerform system, the actual activity status is implemented. Colleagues from the WIPO IP Office Business Solutions (IPBS) visited Nigeria in November 2024 to provide some support to the IP Registry. This workplan activity is included to provide an opportunity for the WNO to provide support to relevant Divisions providing this engagement.



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WIPO

4.14

Tools, Systems, Communication

- EOCU – External Offices Coordination Unit, WIPO Headquarters
- DA – Division for Africa
- NIPS – National Intellectual Property Strategy
- PBC – Program and Budget Committee
- GA – General Assemblies

Tools, systems, and information flow with Headquarters (HQ)

Main Tools and Systems

WNO has access to all main Tools and Systems utilized at WIPO Headquarters to support operations.

AIMS - Administrative Integrated Management System

TRESORIT – Cloud storage platform with end-to-end encryption

WePerform – Budgeting and performance management software.

Office365 - Product family of productivity software, collaboration and cloud-based services owned by Microsoft.

Communication with HQ

WNO communicates regularly with WIPO Headquarters. This is done by various tools (Email, Teams, Zoom, Phone Calls) and also through physical visits.

Monthly Meetings with EOCU
- Planning
- Budgeting
- Projects
- Communications
- UN coordination
- Management Issues
- DA, NIPS, other matters

Ad-hoc meetings with RNDS management and other WIPO Departments

Participation in WIPO PBC / GA meetings, WIPO Town Halls, Trainings

Acknowledgement

IOD wishes to thank all relevant colleagues for their assistance, cooperation, and interest during this assignment.

Prepared by:

Dainis Reinieks, Senior Internal Auditor.

Reviewed and approved by: Julie Nyang'aya, Director, IOD.



5
Annexes

ID	Description
Annex I	Rating of Engagement Conclusions, Significance of Findings, and Rating of Controls and Residual Risks
Annex II	Summary of WNO Activities January – November 2024

ANNEX I: RATING OF ENGAGEMENT CONCLUSIONS, SIGNIFICANCE OF FINDINGS, AND RATING OF CONTROLS AND RESIDUAL RISKS

Engagement Conclusion	Definition
Satisfactory	• The assessed governance arrangements, risk management, and controls were adequately established and functioning well. • Issues identified by the audit, If any, are unlikely to affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.
Satisfactory, Some improvement needed	• The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices, and controls were generally established and functioning, but need some improvement. • Issues identified by the audit do not significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.
Partially satisfactory, Major improvement needed	• The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices, and controls were established and functioning but need major improvement. • Issues identified by the audit could significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.
Unsatisfactory	• The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were not adequately established and not functioning well. • Issues identified by the audit could seriously compromise the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area.
N/A	• Not Applicable.

Engagement Finding Significance	Definition
Low Significance	Matters and/or findings considered to be of **minor importance** to the maintenance of internal control, compliance, good corporate governance, or good practice for processes. Findings raised may also relate to matters warranting consideration for improving the efficiency of existing processes subject to availability of specified resources or technology.
Medium Significance	Matters and / or findings considered to be of **importance** to maintenance of internal control, compliance, good corporate governance or good practice for processes. Findings raised may also relate to matters warranting consideration for improving the efficiency of existing processes subject to availability of specified resources or technology.
High Significance	Matters and / or findings considered to be **fundamental** to maintenance of internal control, compliance, good corporate governance, or good practice for processes. The matters and / or findings should be subject to agreed remedial action either immediately or within three (3) months from date of issue of final report to management.

Effectiveness of Controls and Residual Risk Rating: The Residual Risk Ratings in the table below are driven by the combination of Inherent Risk (the level of risk before the effect of mitigating controls) and the Effectiveness of Controls.

		Inherent Risk			
		Low	Medium	High	
Control Effectiveness	Not Effective	Low	Medium	High	Residual Risk
	Partially Effective	Low	Medium	High	
	Effective	Low	Low	Medium	

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ANNEX II: SUMMARY OF WNO ACTIVITIES JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2024 1 OF 2

Activity	Date	No. of beneficiaries	Beneficiary group	Goal achieved / Impact summary	Expected Result addressed
IP SALAYE 1.0	October 2023 - April 2024	28	Youth	Built capacity and empowered young Nigerian entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to start and run successful businesses by leveraging IP rights as a business development and financing strategy.	4.1, 4.3
IP SALAYE 1.0 Prototype and Testing Workshop	February 22 - 23	28	Youth	The workshop demystified the complexities of IP rights and provide practical strategies for developing and protecting creative works and innovation.	4.1, 4.3
Participation at the Omniverse Summit in Lagos, Nigeria	February 27 - March 1 2024	194	Youth, SMEs, creatives, indigenous communities	Engaged real-time with the tech and creative community in Lagos and build IP capacity in one of the largest creative and tech ecosystems in Nigeria	1.1
IP & Women Business Summit	March 28 2024	600	Women Entrepreneurs	Educated and empowered women entrepreneurs and creators with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively protect and leverage their IP assets for business growth and innovation.	1.1
IP SALAYE 1.0 Demo Day Event	19-Apr-24	100	Youth	The event had in attendance over 100 participants including about 50 corps members who were not a part of the program, but who learnt about how to leverage IP for Business Development	4.1, 4.3
World IP Day Seminar	April 26 2024	380	SMEs, Women Entrepreneurs, Youth, Government stakeholders	The seminar provided a platform for experts in the field of IP, innovation and creativity in Nigeria to share experiences, insights, and best practices on how IP can support the goal of achieving zero hunger in Nigeria	1.1
National Workshop on the Budapest Treaty	May 6 2024	53	Government agencies, researchers, law professionals and innovation experts	The workshop provided an opportunity to learn about the benefits of the Budapest Treaty, as well as operations of International Depositary Authorities. During the event, experience on using the Budapest system was shared with participants, as well as the importance of biotechnology and deposit of microorganisms for patent procedures.	3.1
WIPO National IP Essay Competition 2024	April 27 - October 4 2024	256	Youth	Provides an opportunity for students of tertiary institutions to explore the various ways in which IP can support Nigeria's goal of achieving SDG 2 addressing food insecurity.	1.1
The WIPO project on IP for SMEs in the Indigenous Fashion and Craft Industries in Nigeria	31-May-23	22	SMEs, Women Entrepreneurs, Youth, Indigenous Communities	The project is promoting the use of IP for enhanced outputs of SMEs in the indigenous fashion and crafts industries in Nigeria.	4.1, 4.3
The WIPO Branding Project for SMEs in Nigeria	Launched May 31 2024	60	Women Entrepreneurs, Youth	This project is supporting female and youth led SMEs in the following sector: Food and Beverages, Cosmetics, and Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) to utilize branding as a tool for strengthening market access and dominance.	4.1, 4.3
IP Training for participants in the Enugu State Sustainable Economic Empowerment Program (SEEP)	Launched June 7 2024	82	Women Entrepreneurs, youth, SMEs and the physically challenged	Technical support in training on Intellectual Property for participants in the SEEP program.	1.1

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ANNEX II: SUMMARY OF WNO ACTIVITIES JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2024 2 OF 2

Activity	Date	No. of beneficiaries	Beneficiary group	Goal achieved / Impact summary	Expected Result addressed
Roundtable Discussion on the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge	14-Aug-24	134	Government agencies, researchers, law professionals and innovation experts	Provided an opportunity for representatives of different sectors potentially impacted by the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge - government, private sector, legal professionals, researchers - to discuss the treaty and potential applications within the Nigerian context.	3.1
IP Labs 2.0	Launched August 23, 2024	300	SMEs, innovators, indigenous communities	This project is building capacity and empowering Nigerian tech entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to start and run successful businesses by leveraging IP rights as a business development and financing strategy.	4.1, 4.3
IP for Green Innovation	Launched September 16, 2024	100	SMEs, green hardware innovators, indigenous communities	This project is building capacity and empowering Nigerian green hardware innovators with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to leverage IP rights as a business development and financing strategy; including connecting these entrepreneurs with the WIPO IP for Green platform	3.3
Information Roundtable and Official Launch event of the Branding Project for SMEs in Nigeria	24-Sep-24	272	SMEs, Youth and Women entrepreneurs	To officially kickstart the branding project, information roundtable and official launch event was organized to equipe SMEs with insights on how to effectively leverage trademarks and branding for sustainable business growth. This gathering emphasized the strategic importance of trademarks and branding in enhancing business development and financing strategies for SMEs.	4.1, 4.3
Information Roundtable and Official Launch event of the IP Labs and IP for Green Innovation Projects	08-Oct-23	188	SMEs, innovators, green hardware innovators, indigenous communities	The information roundtable and official launch event of two innovative projects in Lagos underscored the critical role of IP in fostering economic growth, empowering tech entrepreneurs, and addressing global challenges such as climate change.	4.1, 4.3
WIPO IP Study Tour	21 - 25 October 2024	19	Youth	Provided an opportunity for the students of Nigerian tertiary institutions to directly engage with the institutions behind the IP system in Nigeria	4.3
Official Closing Showcase of the IP for SMEs in the Indigenous Fashion and Craft Industries Project	13-Nov-24	78	SMEs, Women Entrepreneurs, Youth, Indigenous Communities	The closing showcase marked the end of the project. The discussions strengthened the capacities of Indigenous fashion and craft industries being part of Nigeria's creative economy, by helping them to discover and understand the underlying value of their IP assets, the importance of protecting and effectively managing such assets to scale up their overall competitiveness and profitability in the global marketplace	4.1, 4.3
IP SALAYE 2.0	Launched October 22, 2024	150	Youth	This project is building capacity and empowering young Nigerian entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to start and run successful businesses by leveraging IP rights as a business development and financing strategy.	4.1, 4.3
Information Roundtable and Official Launch event of the IP SALAYE 2.0	14-Nov-24	71	Youth	The event convened key stakeholders and youth corps members to discuss strategies for empowering and inspiring young innovators in Nigeria to create innovative and transformative solutions across various sectors.	4.1, 4.3

WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY