



VERBATIM

August '25
Newsletter

Executive Director's Note

The Needs Of The
Average Nigerian
Remain At The Center
Of Everything We Do

**Stronger institutions
and policy coherence**
are no longer optional,
they **are essential.**



Hello and welcome,

July was a strategic month for Verbatim Virtual Solutions as our engagements reflected our continued commitment to tackling complex development challenges with clarity, evidence, and policy insight, always with the needs of the average Nigerian at the center.

This month marked a turning point for Nigeria's development trajectory. The National Bureau of Statistics released the rebased GDP figures for Nigeria giving an insight into the economic trajectory of the country. While the **rebasing of GDP** to \$244 billion has improved fiscal optics – reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio and increasing per capita income on paper, the lived reality tells a different story: inflation remains high at over 23%, poverty is on the rise, and public services continue to struggle.

Across the continent, shrinking aid flows and tighter donor conditions continue to drive a new development model, one focused on domestic resource mobilization, institutional reform, and results-based accountability. In Nigeria and across West Africa, this calls for greater policy coherence, stronger institutions, and development strategies grounded in local ownership.

At **Verbatim Virtual Solutions**, we are helping to make this transition real and meaningful by supporting governments in enacting reforms that address the needs of the people. This includes increasing focus on education, inclusive policies, and strengthening institutional memory to last through transitions.

In July, we delivered a Media Strategy for the **PACE programme**, leading strategy review sessions on media engagement – ensuring the programme's visibility and public narrative advances policy reform goals and improves the material conditions of citizens. We participated in the **KADA EduPACT International Summit** hosted by the Kaduna State Government, contributing strategic insights to support education reform and strengthen the state's knowledge infrastructure.

At the national level, I joined discussions on the **Reserved Seats Bill** at the House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Review Dinner with Women Legislators. With women's representation in the 10th National Assembly at an all-time low, the Bill offers a timely, strategic fix to close the gender gap and strengthen democratic legitimacy.

As Nigeria prepares for a leaner, more performance-driven aid environment, Verbatim is deepening its role in shaping strategic communication, reform narratives, and inclusive policymaking. **Our technical support continues to inform major governance programs** like **PACE**, while our thought leadership engages broader debates on locally led development, institutional trust, and policy transformation.

We remain committed to delivering strategic work, grounded in rigour, purpose, and results. We welcome partnerships with organizations that are equally ready to meet the demands of this evolving development era.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

Warm regards,



Enene Ejembi, M.Litt, CKM
Executive Director



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Thought Leadership



KADA EduPACT International Summit 2025

Verbatim Virtual Solutions participated in the KADA EduPACT International Summit hosted by the Kaduna State Government. The Summit gathered stakeholders, government leaders and representatives from the education ecosystem, and reaffirmed Kaduna's dedication and results: reducing tuition, scaling access and returning more than 200,000 out-of-school children to school.



House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Review Dinner with Women Legislators

Our Executive Director, Enene Ejembi, attended the House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Review Dinner with Women Legislators, where progress on the Reserved Seats Bill was discussed. The Bill is timely, especially as the 10th National Assembly records an even lower female representation, indicating the need for increased participation and awareness. The gap between capacity and representation is stark and the Reserved Seats Bill offers a time-bound, strategic correction that can make Nigeria's democracy more inclusive and credible.

PACE Climate Finance, Media, MERL, and KM strategy review session

As the Media Advisor on the Partnership for Agile Governance and Climate Engagement, Enene Ejembi led working sessions on the PACE Media Strategy & Engagement Guidelines, including a Framework for Thought Leadership during PACE's integrated review of Climate Finance, MERL, Knowledge Management, and Media held from July 21 to 26, 2025.

Her facilitation aligned PACE's media strategy with reform priorities, ensuring it works hand-in-hand with delivery teams, coalitions, and technical leads and produced politically attuned direction for campaign planning, partner engagement, and state-level narrative framing. This groundwork sets the stage for high-impact media campaigns — including the Kano Climate Policy pilot — that will amplify reform messages with credibility and resonance across Nigeria's media ecosystem.

Sector Specific Insights



Keeping What We Know: Building Stronger Knowledge Systems

In today's development and governance space, organizations face increasing complexity in managing information, retaining expertise, and ensuring continuity, especially with staff turnover and leadership transitions. Without deliberate systems to capture and preserve knowledge, much of what is learned gets lost. Reports get buried in inboxes. Decisions remain undocumented. Valuable lessons fade away, leaving new teams to start from scratch, often repeating past mistakes.



The Limits of Traditional Storage

Many organizations still rely on outdated systems, filing cabinets, personal folders, and scattered drives, which may store information, but do little to support accessibility, learning, or collaboration. The deeper risk lies not just in misplaced documents, but in the erosion of institutional memory. When staff leave, they take more than their titles; they leave with informal knowledge, context, relationships, workarounds, and lessons that never made it into official reports.

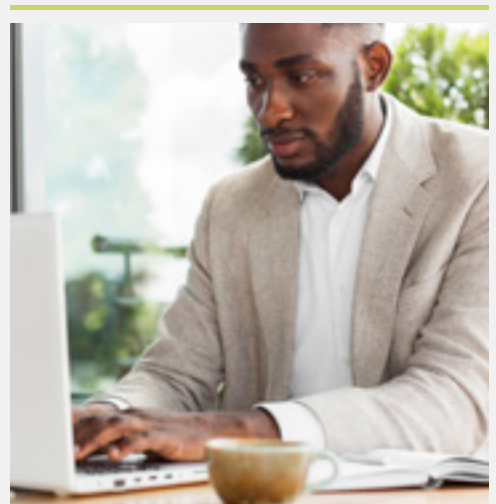
In the public sector, this means reforms stall or disappear with leadership changes. In the development world, communities are subjected to repetitive assessments because incoming teams lack access to previous insights. Every transition slows progress and increases cost.



Treating Knowledge as a Strategic Asset

To address this, organizations must begin to see knowledge not as a by-product of operations, but as a strategic resource. Knowledge management is no longer a luxury; it is foundational to effective service delivery, accountability, and institutional resilience.

This doesn't just mean scanning documents or uploading files to a cloud drive. It requires intentional, structured systems designed to capture, organize, and circulate knowledge across departments and over time. This kind of system supports continuity, speeds up onboarding, and builds institutional intelligence.



Technology Helps, But Culture is Critical

The move from paper to digital is a necessary step, but technology alone can't fix the problem. Even the most advanced tools become digital dumping grounds if not actively maintained. The true shift must be cultural: from treating documentation as an afterthought to embedding it as an essential part of work.

Staff need clear expectations, leadership support, and simple routines. For instance, after every major project or meeting, teams can take five minutes to document what worked, what didn't, and what could be done differently. These short reflections, when stored and shared, become building blocks for smarter decisions.

Knowledge has no value if it remains hidden or unused. It must be shared, applied, and continuously updated. This could mean short learning briefs after project closeouts, internal newsletters with lessons learned, or informal learning exchanges where staff share real experiences, not just polished reports.

When staff see how past knowledge helps solve current challenges, they're more inclined to contribute. The key is building feedback loops that show knowledge in action.



Sector Specific Insights



Becoming Institutions That Remember

Organizations that embed strong knowledge management practices become more adaptive, resilient, and effective. They avoid duplication, reduce costs, and retain progress regardless of who comes or goes. Programs stay on course. Institutional learning compounds.

Ultimately, every organization, government agency, and development program must ask: Are we protecting what we know or letting it slip away?

The shift from traditional storage to digital knowledge ecosystems is more than a tech upgrade. It is a mindset shift. And the sooner organizations make that change, the sooner they stop losing ground and start building toward something stronger, smarter, and more sustainable.



Opportunities Corner

Are you seeking an internship or Fellowship placement? This section provides information on available opportunities in the global space. All the best!



Global Youth Convention 2025

The Global Youth Convention 2025 in Milan, Italy is a premier global forum designed to empower emerging youth leaders, social entrepreneurs, and change agents.

Eligibility: Individuals, youth leaders, students, professionals, entrepreneurs, activists and community builders aged 18-45 years

More Info: [Global Youth Convention 2025 – Headway Institute of Strategic Alliance](#)



Mandela Washington Fellowship (YALI)

Field: Business, Civic Engagement, Public Management

Location: United States (hosted by selected universities)

Duration: 6 weeks (summer)

Eligibility: Young African leaders (25–35 years)

More Info: [YALI Fellowship](#)

Obama Foundation Scholars Program

Field: Social Impact, Policy, Civic Engagement

Location: New York (Columbia University) or Chicago (UChicago)

Duration: 1 academic year (begins in summer)

More Info: [Obama Foundation Scholars](#)

Echoing Green Fellowship

Field: Social Entrepreneurship, Development, Policy

Location: Global

Duration: 18 months (acceptance announced in summer)

More Info: [Echoing Green](#)

Our Areas of Expertise

We collaborate with the government, agencies, private corporations and philanthropies to drive systems transformation in frontier markets. We offer services in:



Our Values

Sustainability

We empower communities to lead and sustain their own development journeys.

Transparency

We build trust through open, honest communication.

Innovation

We continually seek bold, creative ways to solve development challenges.

Results

We deliver tangible outcomes—tracking, measuring, and reporting every step of the way.

We'd love to hear from you

Have a question? Send us a message by filling out the form, and we'll get back to you within 24 hours. You can also contact us via our social media accounts.



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