

GEF-UNIDO IEE & RECP PROJECT NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1 Update

Editorial Note: Setting the Tone for Transformation



Every meaningful transformation begins with intention, structure, and alignment.

Quarter 1 of the GEF-UNIDO Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) and Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Project in Nigeria was about laying that foundation. Not with noise.

Not with shortcuts. But with clarity of purpose, strong institutional coordination, and the careful onboarding of stakeholders who will ultimately carry this work forward.

This quarter marked the official transition of the project from concept to coordinated national action. Systems were put in place. Capacities were built.

Conversations moved from “why sustainability matters” to “how we implement it in real factories, real policies, and real investments.”

What follows is a detailed account of how that foundation was laid and why it matters for Nigeria’s industrial future.

Project Overview

Nigeria’s industrial sector sits at a crossroads.

On one hand, industry is critical to economic growth, job creation, and competitiveness. On the other, rising energy costs, inefficiencies, environmental pressures, and global sustainability expectations demand a new way of operating.

The GEF-UNIDO IEE & RECP Project responds directly to this moment.

The project is designed to:

- Improve industrial energy efficiency
- Promote cleaner production practices
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Strengthen technical and institutional capacity
- Mobilize finance for sustainable industrial investments

By aligning Nigerian industries with international best practices, the project supports both economic resilience and environmental responsibility.

Quarter 1 focused on preparing the ecosystem needed to deliver these outcomes at scale.

Inception Phase: Aligning Vision, Roles, and Expectations

The first critical milestone of the project was the Inception Phase, where clarity was established around governance, implementation frameworks, and stakeholder responsibilities.

Key outcomes of the inception process included:

- Confirmation of project scope, objectives, and timelines
- Alignment between UNIDO, MAN/PMU, national institutions, and implementing partners
- Establishment of reporting structures and communication protocols
- Agreement on technical and capacity-building priorities

This phase ensured that everyone involved was working from the same blueprint, speaking the same language, and moving in the same direction. It also set the tone for accountability, transparency, and results-oriented implementation.

Project Steering Committee Meeting

Strategic Oversight at the National Level

Date: February 4, 2025

Venue: Chelsea Hotel, Central Business District, Abuja

One of the most significant activities of Quarter 1 was the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, which brought together key institutional stakeholders responsible for guiding the project at a strategic level.

The meeting served as a platform to:

- Review the project framework and planned activities
- Clarify governance and decision-making processes
- Discuss coordination between technical, financial, and policy components

- Reinforce national ownership of the project

Participants included representatives from:

- UNIDO
- Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
- Relevant government agencies
- Technical experts and project coordinators

Beyond formal presentations, the PSC meeting fostered honest dialogue about opportunities, risks, and expectations. It reinforced the shared responsibility of ensuring that the project delivers tangible results for Nigerian industries.

Building Technical Capacity: Training as a Cornerstone

With governance structures in place, Quarter 1 quickly moved into capacity development, recognising that sustainable industrial transformation depends on people, not just policies.

Beginner Technical Training on IEE & RECP

Date: February 5–6, 2025

Venue: Chelsea Hotel, Abuja

This introductory workshop focused on:

- Energy Management Systems (EnMS)
- Environmental Management Systems (EMS)
- Core principles of industrial energy efficiency
- Foundations of cleaner production

The training was designed to:

- Build a common understanding of IEE and RECP concepts
- Prepare participants for more advanced technical engagements
- Introduce practical tools applicable to Nigerian industrial contexts

Participants included industry professionals, technical officers, and stakeholders who play a direct role in operational decision-making within factories.

The sessions emphasised practicality. Discussions were grounded in real industrial scenarios, not abstract theory. Participants were encouraged to ask hard questions, share challenges, and explore solutions collaboratively.

Advanced Technical Training on IEE & RECP

Date: February 11–12, 2025

Venue: Amber Residence, Ikeja GRA, Lagos

Building on the Abuja training, the Lagos workshop deepened participants' technical understanding and application skills.

Key focus areas included:

- Advanced energy management strategies
- Environmental performance improvement
- Integration of IEE and RECP into existing operational systems
- Preparing industries for on-site assessments and implementation

This progression from beginner to more technical training within the same quarter was intentional. It allowed participants to immediately build on prior knowledge while maintaining momentum and engagement.

Learning Approach: From Knowledge to Action

Across both training sessions, the learning approach followed three clear principles:

1. Contextual relevance

Training content was adapted to Nigeria's industrial realities, energy landscape, and regulatory environment.

2. Practical application

Emphasis was placed on tools, methodologies, and processes participants could implement within their organizations.

3. Peer learning

Participants learned not only from facilitators but from each other, sharing experiences across sectors and regions.

This approach ensured that learning did not end in the training room.



Media, Visibility, and Knowledge Sharing

Quarter 1 also placed strong emphasis on visibility and documentation, recognizing that impact must be seen, shared, and understood.

Activities included:

- Professional photography and video coverage at key events
- Stakeholder interviews capturing insights and expectations
- Deployment of training highlights on YouTube
- Short-form video content shared on Instagram and X
- Media mentions in both online and print newspapers

These efforts served multiple purposes:

- Keeping stakeholders informed
- Demonstrating transparency and accountability
- Positioning the project as a credible national initiative
- Building public awareness around industrial sustainability

Early Signals of Impact

While Quarter 1 was primarily foundational, early indicators already point to meaningful impact:

- Increased awareness of IEE and RECP methodologies among industry stakeholders
- Strong engagement and participation during technical trainings
- Positive feedback from participants on relevance and quality of content
- Strengthened collaboration between national institutions and international partners
- Most importantly, industries began to shift from seeing sustainability as a compliance burden to viewing it as a strategic advantage.

That mindset shift is critical.

Looking Ahead: Preparing for Scale

Quarter 1 closed with a clear sense of readiness.

With governance structures established, stakeholders aligned, and foundational capacity built, the project is well-positioned to move into:

- Finance and investment training
- Intermediate and advanced technical interventions
- On-site cleaner production assessments
- Policy and institutional strengthening

The groundwork laid in this first quarter ensures that future activities will not operate in isolation but as part of a coherent, scalable national effort.



Closing Reflection

Quarter 1 was not about headlines. It was about structure.

It was about creating the conditions necessary for Nigeria's industries to become more efficient, competitive, and sustainable in a rapidly changing global economy.

The GEF–UNIDO IEE & RECP Project has begun that journey with intention, discipline, and collaboration. The foundation is set. The work ahead is ambitious. And the momentum is real.