POLICY BRIEF

March, 2026

Federal Government's Nationwide Training for 10 Million Nigerians: Opportunities, Gaps, and Need for Legislative Action

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Executive Summary

The Federal Government of Nigeria has announced the rollout of a nationwide financial inclusion and literacy programme targeting 10 million Nigerians, with a focus on women and youth. The initiative is being implemented through the Presidential Committee on Economic and Financial Inclusion (PreCEFI), chaired by Vice President Kashim Shettima, in partnership with organisations such as WAWUAfrica and professional bodies, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN). The programme aims to enhance economic participation by equipping beneficiaries with financial, digital, and entrepreneurial skills through structured training, certification, and mentorship platforms.

While the initiative represents a significant investment in human capital development and financial inclusion, several policy concerns arise. The scale of the programme raises questions about implementation capacity, particularly regarding how training will be delivered across diverse regions, including rural and underserved communities with limited digital access. Issues also persist around quality assurance, as the standards for certification, accreditation, and assessment of outcomes are not clearly defined. In addition, there is no publicly available monitoring and evaluation framework to track participation, completion rates, or long-term impacts such as employment and financial access.

Further concerns relate to policy alignment and inclusivity. It remains unclear how the programme integrates with existing national frameworks such as the National Financial Inclusion Strategy and digital economy policies, raising the risk of duplication or fragmentation. Moreover, while the focus on women and youth is appropriate, additional safeguards may be required to ensure that other vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, rural populations, and older citizens, are not excluded.

Given its constitutional oversight responsibilities, the National Assembly has a critical role in ensuring that the programme is effectively implemented, transparent, and aligned with national development priorities. Legislative engagement is necessary to clarify funding, governance structures, delivery mechanisms, and expected outcomes.

Accordingly, the National Assembly, through its Committees on Finance, National Planning, Women Affairs, Youth Development, and Communications/ICT, may consider the following actions:

1. Invite the PreCEFI Secretariat and implementing partners to present a comprehensive implementation strategy, including delivery models, outreach plans, and funding sources.

2. Seek clarification on access for rural and underserved populations, including offline participation options and provisions for persons with disabilities.

3. Request details from partner professional bodies on training curricula, certification standards, and quality assurance mechanisms.
4. Call for the establishment of an independent monitoring and evaluation framework, with periodic reporting on participation, completion rates, and post-training outcomes.

Ensure alignment with existing national policies on financial inclusion, digital economy development, and workforce skills to enhance coordination and avoid duplication.

Background:

The Federal Government (FG) recently announced the commencement of the registration of Nigerians for a free nationwide training programme on financial inclusion and literacy, targeting 10 million citizens, particularly women and youth[1]. The initiative is being implemented through the Presidential Committee on Economic and Financial Inclusion (PreCEFI), chaired by the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, and coordinated through partners including WAWUAfrica and six professional bodies such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN)[2].

The training aims to deepen economic participation by equipping participants with financial, digital, and entrepreneurial skills necessary for sustainable wealth creation in a rapidly evolving economy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Federal Government and professional bodies is intended to establish structured training curricula, certification pathways, digital competencies, and mentorship platforms for this programme[3].

Policy Issue:

While the programme represents a significant federal commitment to financial inclusion and human capital development, several issues raise questions that require legislative oversight and policy attention:

1. **Implementation Capacity and Delivery Framework:** The scale of training (10 million participants nationwide) is quite ambitious and raises critical questions related to:
    a. how the programme will be delivered across Nigeria's geopolitical zones and diverse communities,
    b. whether infrastructure and digital access exist to support remote or online participation,

[1] Ogundele, B. (2026, March 27). Financial inclusion: FG begins registration of 10 million Nigerians for free training. *The Nation.* https://thenationonlineng.net/financial-inclusion-fg-begins-registration-of-10-million-nigerians-for-free-training/

[2] Arogbonlo, I. (2026, February 3). FG begins free training for 10 million Nigerians on financial inclusion. *Nigerian Tribune.* https://tribuneonlineng.com/fg-begins-free-training-for-10-million-nigerians-on-financial-inclusion/

[3] Sunday, P. (2026, February 2). FG launches free financial inclusion training for 10 million Nigerians. *Nigeria Startup News.* https://www.nigeriastartupact.ng/fg-launches-free-financial-inclusion-training-for-10-million-nigerians/

c. and how the training will reach rural and underserved areas where digital penetration is lower.

Without a clear delivery strategy, the programme's effectiveness may be compromised, especially for target groups with limited internet access or formal education.

2. **Quality Assurance and Certification:** Although an MoU has been signed with professional bodies to develop training modules and certification pathways, the mechanisms for quality assurance, accreditation, and assessment of programme outcomes remain unclear. A lack of clear standards could dilute the value of skills acquired and limit employability or practical application.

3. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment:** There is no publicly available framework for monitoring and evaluating the programme's delivery and outcomes (e.g., employment rates, financial inclusion indices, digital adoption). Such frameworks are critical to ensure value for public investment and alignment with national development goals.

4. **Alignment with Broader Financial Inclusion Strategy:** The initiative should be situated within a broader national strategy for financial

4. international quality standards and leads to measurable skills development.

5. The programme must align with Nigeria's broader financial inclusion, digital skills, and enterprise development policies.

inclusion, financial consumer protection, and digital literacy. It is uncertain how this programme aligns with the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), policies on digital economic development or broader workforce development initiatives. Without clear alignment, there is a risk of fragmentation or duplication of efforts.

5. **Risk of Exclusion:** Targeting youth and women is appropriate given Nigeria's demographic profile, but additional safeguards are needed to ensure that persons with disabilities, older populations, and rural farmers are not inadvertently excluded.

Rationale for Legislative Action:

The National Assembly has a constitutional responsibility to provide oversight of public programmes, ensure accountability for government initiatives, and safeguard value for public resources. Legislative attention is justified because:

1. A programme of this magnitude requires clarity on budgetary allocations, programme governance, and oversight mechanisms.

2. Lawmakers must ensure that the initiative effectively reaches all eligible Nigerians, including those in rural and underserved areas.

3. Oversight is needed to ensure that training content meets national and

Recommendations to the National Assembly:

The National Assembly, through its Committees on Finance, National Planning, Women Affairs, Youth Development, and Communications/ICT, is respectfully urged to:

1. Invite the PreCEFI Secretariat, Office of the Vice President, and implementing partners to present the programme's delivery and implementation strategy, digital and physical outreach plans, and budgetary provisions and sources of funding.

2. Require information from the invited stakeholders on how Nigerians in rural and underserved areas will access this training, including how persons with disabilities are accommodated and how offline participation options will be structured.

3. Summon representatives of the six professional bodies to explain how training curricula were developed, what certification standards and assessments will be used and how outcome quality will be monitored.

4. Call for the establishment of an independent M&E framework with quarterly reporting to the National Assembly on participation numbers, completion rates, and post-training outcomes (employment, enterprise creation, and financial access improvements).

5. Urge the Executive to demonstrate how this initiative fits within the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, National Digital Economy Policy, and existing workforce development programmes to avoid overlap and enhance synergy.

Conclusion:

The Federal Government's initiative to train 10 million Nigerians in financial literacy and inclusion represents a promising strategy to enhance economic participation, particularly for women and youth. However, gaps in delivery planning, quality assurance, inclusivity measures, and evaluation frameworks suggest the need for proactive legislative oversight.

By engaging with implementing agencies, monitoring outcomes, and ensuring strategic alignment, the National Assembly can help ensure that this initiative delivers measurable and equitable benefits for Nigerians nationwide and does not serve as a conduit for financial embezzlement.

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