



FUNDING HER FUTURE:

GENDER LENS FINANCING BREAKFAST DIALOGUE.



AGENDA

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration & Networking Arrival, check-in, media interactions and welcome tea
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Welcome Address Abubakar Suleiman MD/CEO, Sterling Bank, Limited
9:15 AM – 9:40 AM	OneWoman Presentation Ezinne Nwokafor Head, OneWoman, Sterling Bank Limited
9:40 AM – 9:50 AM	OneWoman Impact Documentary Video of OneWoman's impact and testimonials from beneficiaries.
9:50 AM – 10:35 AM	First Panel Session Collectively Strengthening Pathways: Financing Women Entrepreneurs Across Sectors and Growth Stages Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Adebola Oruma Group Head, Gender Business Group, Bank of Industry (BOI)- Mobolaji Ogundairo Chief Whisk, Sophisticated Wobia Ltd.- Thelma Luke Nwoye Group Head, Business Finance, Sterling Bank- Emezino Daniel Afiegbe Head, Gender Centre of Excellence, Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EfinA)- Theresa Lawal Head, Product Development & Strategic Alliances, Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) Moderator Uchechi Okeke Research and Business Intelligence Officer, Sterling Bank 35mins discussion 10mins Q&A
10:35 AM – 10:45 AM	Interlude Mentimeter icebreaker

AGENDA

<p>10:45 AM – 11:30 AM</p>	<p>Second Panel Session Beyond Capital, Toward Capability: Building Sustainable Ecosystems for Women Entrepreneurs</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Olapeju Ibekwe Chief Executive Officer, Sterling One Foundation- Solape Akinpelu CEO and Co-founder, HerVest- Olajumoke Daramola Specialist, Advisory Services, Women's World Banking- Dr. Nneka Okekearu Enterprise Development Centre- Ifeoma Uddoh Founder & CEO, Shecluded <p>Moderator Toluwanimi Adeeko Non-Financial Propositions Officer, OneWoman, Sterling Bank</p> <p>35mins discussion 10mins Q&A</p>
<p>11:30 AM – 11:45 AM</p>	<p>Media Interaction and Photo Session Press engagement and official event photography session</p>
<p>11:45 AM – 12:00 AM</p>	<p>Closing Remarks Edward Ogunmekan Chief Growth Officer, Sterling Bank Limited</p>

Lunch | Post event networking | Continued stakeholder engagement

PANEL SESSION 1

Collectively Strengthening Pathways: Financing Women Entrepreneurs Across Growth Stages and Sectors

This session explores how financial institutions, development partners, and entrepreneurs can work together to strengthen financing pathways for women-led businesses across different sectors and stages of growth.

The conversation will examine what is working, where the gaps remain, and what must change to enable more women-led businesses to access the right kind of financing at the right time.



Dr. Adebola Oruma

Group Head,
Gender Business Group,
Bank of Industry (BOI)



Mobolaji Ogundairo

Chief Whisk,
Sophisticated Wobia Ltd.



Thelma Luke Nwoye

Group Head,
Business Finance, Sterling Bank



Theresa Lawal

Head, Product Development &
Strategic Alliances, Development
Bank of Nigeria (DBN)



Emezino Daniel Afiegbe

Head, Gender Centre of
Excellence, Enhancing
Financial Innovation &
Access (EfinA)



SPEAKER BIO

Dr. Adebola Oruma

**Group Head, Gender Business Group,
Bank of Industry (BOI)**

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Dr. Adebola Oluwatoyin Oruma has over two decades of work experience spanning across Educational Management, Banking, Consulting and MSME Business Development and Development Finance space. She is currently the Group Head, Gender Business, BOI where she leads various strategic initiatives to support and empower Women Businesses.

Adebola is an Associate Member of WIMBIZ, a Fellow of the Institute Agricultural Management of Nigeria (FIAMN). Distinguished Fellow, Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management (DFCILRM) and Member, National Institute of Training & Development (MNITAD).

Thelma Luke Nwoye

**Group Head, Business Finance,
Sterling Bank**

02

Thelma Luke Nwoye (TLN) is a Business Leader and thoroughbred Banking Professional with 23 years cognate experience in Financial Services, across three Banks in Nigeria. She is a Retail Banking expert, well skilled in the Personal and SME Business with track record in Product Development & Management, Lending & Digital Products Innovation, Retail Sales, Employee Banking, Value Chain and Change Management.

Thelma currently Heads the Business Finance Group at Sterling Bank, driving financial services, strategy and ecosystem play for Business Customers as well as providing collaborative opportunities across the Retail Directorates.

Prior to joining Sterling, in the last 17 years with Access Holdings, she exemplified strong leadership, served in various capacities and has anchored several key Projects including Head, Emerging Businesses, Head Liability Product Management/Development functions, Start-Up of the Activation Team, Pre-Post Mergers Bank wide Issue Resolution and Employee Banking.

She is a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Loan & Risk Management (FCILRM).

Thelma is a respected mentor who recognizes and optimizes talents of aspiring leaders. She speaks three languages fluently and is an excellent Relationship Builder with attentiveness and emotional intelligence to build bridges at both vertical and horizontal levels.

SPEAKER BIO

Emezino Daniel Afiegbe

Head, Gender Centre of Excellence

Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA)

03

Emezino “Zino” Daniel Afiegbe is an experienced financial inclusion, gender specialist, business development and relationship management executive, hands-on digital payments practitioner and motivational educator. With over 23 years’ experience working with leading financial institutions towards developing and driving digital payments adoption in Africa, Zino has been an active player in the evolution of digital value exchange on the continent. He is a committed advocate of going into the field and engaging directly with end-users with a view to co-creating pertinent and segmentspecific (businesses, youth, women, men and more) propositions.

A frontline leader, Zino has led action-oriented teams within the digital financial services and product development space, at leading regional financial institutions, including Diamond Bank (now Access Bank), Guaranty Trust Bank and First Bank. He also served as Visa’s Country Manager for Gambia, Ghana & Nigeria, where he drove the proliferation of payments and alternative channels and grew profitability for Visa and partner institutions over a 5-year period (2013 to 2018). In November 2018, he founded CCL (Contextual Constructs Limited), a value-exchange and digital payments startup focused on advancing financial inclusion, financial literacy, digital financial services knowledge transfer, payments strategy formulation/delivery and customer-centric product development. Strengthening and reinforcing his expertise in financial inclusion, Zino led business development, policy advocacy and relationship management for Women’s World Banking in Africa during the period of 2019 to 2024.

Zino currently leads the Gender Centre of Excellence at EFInA (Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access). His present focus is on developing and implementing financial inclusion interventions that would facilitate public and private sector collaboration towards enabling women gain access to commercially viable and impactful solutions that would unlock prosperity for underserved communities across Nigeria.

Zino is an alumnus of University of Lagos and Oxford University. He is also a Certified Management Consultant and Fellow of the Institute of Business Development.

SPEAKER BIO

Mobolaji Ogundairo
Chief Whisk,
Sophisticated Wobia Ltd

04

Mobolaji Ogundairo is a visionary leader whose career seamlessly bridges the worlds of construction, project management, and high-growth entrepreneurship. A certified Project Management Professional with a BSc in Estate Management from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Osun State Nigeria and a Master's degree in Business Management from UCLAN, U.K., she spent over a decade delivering complex, high-value construction projects with precision and excellence. Her expertise spans commercial developments, luxury hospitality structures, and corporate headquarters—many of which stand as testaments to her ability to blend functionality with aesthetic sophistication.

Before founding her own enterprise, Mobolaji served in senior management roles within the Leadway Group. There, she led multidisciplinary teams and managed multi-million-naira construction and renovation projects. Her work was marked by a hands-on leadership style, an unwavering commitment to quality, and a talent for fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders—from architects and engineers to government regulators and clients.

Today, Mobolaji strategically channels her leadership, creativity, and passion for sustainability into Sophisticated Wobia and SW Café—a proudly Nigerian bakery and café located in the heart of Victoria Island. Renowned for its gourmet treats, artisanal craftsmanship, and commitment to locally sourced ingredients, SW Café has flourished under her guidance into a successful culinary brand that celebrates Nigerian excellence, community, and authenticity.

Her journey reflects a rare blend of technical mastery and creative business acumen. Whether managing the construction of a landmark property or scaling a beloved consumer brand, Mobolaji approaches every project with precision, purpose, and heart.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she is deeply passionate about women's empowerment, sustainable business practices, and nurturing local talent. Mobolaji is intentionally driven in life and is often described as elegant yet grounded, bold yet thoughtful—a hands-on leader who inspires by example. In every space she occupies, Mobolaji Ogundairo embodies the essence of what it means to build—not just structures or businesses, but enduring legacies driven by vision, integrity, and a love for excellence.

Charting New Territories

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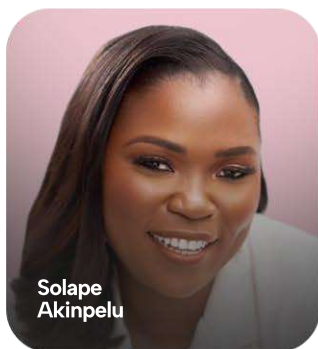


PANEL SESSION 2

Beyond Capital, Toward Capability: Building Sustainable Ecosystems for Women Entrepreneurs

This session explores the role of capacity-building, partnerships, and women-focused communities in helping women entrepreneurs grow sustainably.

The conversation will look beyond financing alone to examine the broader support systems women need, including business readiness, mentorship, visibility, networks, and collaborative ecosystems that strengthen long-term growth.



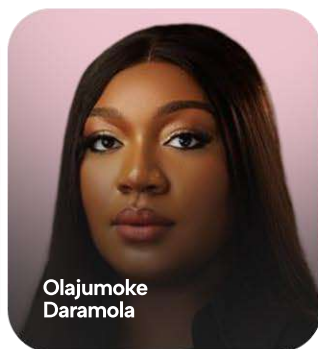
**Solape
Akinpelu**

CEO and Co-founder,
HerVest



**Olapeju
Ibekwe**

Chief Executive Officer,
Sterling One Foundation



**Olajumoke
Daramola**

Specialist, Advisory Services,
Womens' World Banking



**Dr. Nneka
Okekearu**

Director, Entrepreneurship
Development Center (EDC)



**Ifeoma
Uddoh**

Founder & CEO,
Shecluded



SPEAKER BIO

Olapeju Ibekwe
Chief Executive Officer,
Sterling One Foundation

01

Olapeju Ibekwe is a distinguished social impact leader and sustainability advocate, widely recognised for her visionary leadership in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Africa. As the Chief Executive Officer of Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju has led transformative initiatives that address critical challenges in healthcare, education, gender equality, climate action, and food security. Under her guidance, the Foundation has emerged as a catalyst for systemic change, leveraging strategic partnerships and innovative solutions to create measurable and sustainable impact.

Under Olapeju's leadership, Sterling One Foundation secured recognition as the African Union's private sector anchor partner for the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) Initiative, which seeks to unlock \$100billion for the empowerment of 10 million African women and youth by 2030 in furtherance of the African Union Agenda 2063. She has also led the expansion of the Foundation's partnership network, including Water.org, and various public and private sector stakeholders.

Olapeju's strategic foresight as a filmmaker and advocate for social change led to the production and successful execution of Chatroom, a groundbreaking film and gender-based violence advocacy campaign tool. The project has engaged over 1500 participants across more than nine states, addressing gender-based violence through powerful storytelling and community engagement. This initiative not only amplified voices but also inspired policy and community-driven action to combat systemic inequalities.

With over two decades of experience spanning corporate strategy, sustainability, and branding, Olapeju's career is marked by exceptional achievements. She has held key roles at Sterling Bank, including Marketing Manager for Corporate and Investment Banking and Head of Branding, where she led corporate transformation initiatives that enhanced organisational growth and visibility.

Beyond the Sterling One Foundation, she serves on the boards of the United Nations Global Compact Network Nigeria, NECA ESG Advisory Board, the UN Women GBV Fund, the Health Workers Fund and Quality Education Development Associates (QEDA). Her governance contributions underscore her commitment to impactful leadership and sustainable development.

Olapeju's exceptional contributions have earned her accolades, including The Peak Performer's Admirable Women in Leadership Recognition for the 2023/2024 period, the Leadership Impact Award in Nonprofit Management, and recognition as one of Ventures Africa's 20 Women of Impact. These honours reflect her unwavering dedication to creating opportunities and empowering communities across Africa.

SPEAKER BIO

Ifeoma Uddo
CEO & Founder
Shecluded

02

Ifeoma Uddoh is the Founder and CEO of Shecluded, Nigeria's first female-focused fintech and challenger bank. A Halcyon, SOCAP, and Echoing Green Fellow, she is a leading voice on gender-lens investing and women's economic empowerment.

Through Shecluded, she has directly empowered over 40,000 women entrepreneurs and facilitated more than \$4.4 million in funding to women-led businesses, closing critical gaps in access to finance, education, and opportunities.

With a background in strategy consulting and product development at PwC, IROKO Partners, and Sasware, Ifeoma brings over two decades of leadership in emerging markets.

Dr. Nneka Okekearu
Enterprise Development Centre

03

Dr. Nneka Okekearu is Director of the Enterprise Development Centre at Pan-Atlantic University, where she leads initiatives that strengthen sustainable support systems for entrepreneurs, particularly women across Africa. She has advised institutions globally on building and strengthening entrepreneurship centres and brings a strong focus on translating ecosystem thinking into practical, scalable impact.

Nneka also sits on multiple boards and currently chairs the West Africa Advisory Council of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE).

SPEAKER BIO

Solape Akinpelu
CEO and Co-Founder,
HerVest

04

Solape Akinpelu is a tech business leader, best-selling author and gender-finance expert. She serves as the CEO and Co-founder of HerVest, a fintech company that provides inclusive finance to African women through savings, impact investing, and credit financing for smallholder women farmers and women-led SMEs. With over 100,000 members, #HerVest is dedicated to improving women's lives through financial access and services.

Solape serves as the Global Co-Chair of Marketing for the Women in Tech Global Movement and as the Country Manager for Nigeria. She is also the former Chairman of Technology at the Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce, promoting technology trade and investment between Nigeria and Britain. She is a member of the Presidential High-Level Advisory Committee to the President of Nigeria on Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment. In addition, she sits on the Gender Committee Desk at CBN on Framework for Advancing Women's Financial Inclusion.

Solape is a Certified Financial Education instructor and a member of the Personal Finance Speakers Association (USA) and the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK).

She has a background in financial marketing, having previously served as the Head of Marketing at Meristem, a leading investment and wealth management conglomerate in Nigeria.

Solape is a sought-after speaker, leading gender finance conversations both online and offline, and in various media outlets.

Solape is also the author of the best-selling personal finance book "Stripped: An African Woman's Guide to Building Generational Wealth."

Olajumoke Daramola
Specialist, Advisory Services Africa,
Women's World Banking

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Olajumoke Daramola serves as a Specialist in Advisory Services Africa at Women's World Banking. In her role, she is responsible for designing and replicating women-centered solutions and products aimed at enhancing financial inclusion for low-income women. She brings over 12 years of experience in the financial services industry, having held various positions. Prior to joining Women's World Banking, Olajumoke was the Product Manager for Micro Finance Banks and Other Financial Institutions at Sterling Bank Plc. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Babcock University and is affiliated with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

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