

ACE for Development Impact (ACE Impact)

2023 Annual Workplan Narrative

(submitted along with the attached detailed work plan and budget)

Name of Center	ACEDHARS
Institution	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
Country	NIGERIA
Center Leader	DR. O. ADE-ADEMILUA
Annual Workplan (Month – Month Year)	January – December, 2023

Narrative

1. **Center highlights in 2022** (maximum of 3 Highlights, maximum 100 words each)
 - i. The Center got full national accreditation for 11 new Masters and Ph.D. programs with online delivery of curriculum
 - ii. The Center had a successful Entrepreneurship training of its faculty and students. The Center gave four small entrepreneurship grants to teams within the Center for development of herbal remedies of treatment of non-communicable diseases.
 - iii. The Center enrolled 72 Regional students from four countries and 98 National students in new programmes spread in two enrollment sessions
2. In a concise, descriptive statement suitable for public understanding, provide up to three Highlights from the Center accomplishments in the past year. You may attach: weblinks; press releases; photographs.

In less than a year of commencement of its multidisciplinary postgraduate programs, the center has enrolled over 150 students with about 50% from outside Nigeria. The attraction to the new programs is the online delivery of curriculum of multidisciplinary programs that are not comparable to any such programs in any University in the region.

3. **Key Center achievements in 2022** (Maximum 500 words) Describe the Key Accomplishments of the Center in the preceding Calendar Year. Focus on: Teaching, Research, Center-level Operations. In addition, comment on how the Accomplishments align with the ACE Impact project Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and the Center Implementation Plan.

The center new programmes have curriculum that have been designed to be delivered online, which is a far cry from what is obtainable from other Postgraduate programmes in the University. This allowed for the continued delivery of lectures despite the eight

months industrial action in Nigeria. The centers online presence increased regional enrolment as students were able to stay in their countries for a longer time and it also increased the achievement of DLI 3.

On research, the entrepreneurship training conducted for researchers on entrepreneurial research design which also included award of entrepreneurship grant to four teams under DLI 5.3, has helped to improve the quality of research design for postgraduate programme in the Center. The Center has also invested in laboratory equipment and product packaging machines has also enhanced the ease of research activities in all postgraduate programmes of the center.

The Center got all the necessary approvals for the Center Building and has commenced award of contracts under DLI 4.3. The Procurement Unit of the Center has better mastered the process of procurement under the 2017 Nigerian Procurement Act.

4. **Status/Progress on Implementation** (Maximum 250 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is ahead of schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan.

The Center is only head of the implementation plan in area of short course delivery (DLI 3.3) and publications (DLI 4.2), which have been fully confirmed and completed.

The Center was behind in the running of its new postgraduate programmes and enrollment of students. The center has however, intensified its enrollment pursuit and by the time the December submission is confirmed, the Center would have been well ahead in DLI 3.1 and 3.2.

5. **Plan for Acceleration** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is behind schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan. How will the Center adjust to achieve the anticipated project deliverables by the conclusion of ACE Impact?

The Center is behind in international accreditation (DLI 4.1) as the Center was trying to achieve national accreditation for the new programmes first. However, all Accrediting bodies claim they cannot accredit programmes that have not graduated at least one set. This has set the accreditation exercise back. However, the Center decided to process its old programmes for international accreditation so as to accomplish the DLI before the end of the project.

The Center is behind in the construction of the Center building which should have been completed by end of third year. The Center has been able to accomplish the first phase of the DLI 4.3 and has set machineries in place to ensure accomplishment of the entire DLI by end of second quarter of 2023.

The Center is behind in earnings through other sources of funding (DLI 5.1). This is because the Center accounts were not opened by the Central bank on time and grants that

was awarded to Center teams were paid in the University account and it was not counted for the Center. The center will be investing in more grant writing and product development. The latter is a milk way as the center will be going after international investors for its Center products. The Center is behind in internship (DLI 5.2), only 4 students have gone for internship so far but surely with the currently enrolled students, the center will achieve the DLI by 100% before the project ends.

The Center did not receive the grant funds until December 2021. The Center accounts with the Central Bank are now operating well and the external auditor will do the first audit by the end of 2022. Fiducial reporting will be on schedule henceforth.

The institutional delivery of DLI 7 has been behind schedule but the team has intensified effort and surely will accomplish all by 100% through back-to-back University-wide involvement. The Center and the University team has developed the model of going on Booth camps to ensure prompt and effective brainstorming, drafting of policies, action plans and ensuring delivery of the Regional Strategy and the intervention plan for second phase of PASET Benchmarking.

- 6. Key changes to approved IP, including Covid-19 Related Activities** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center proposes changes to its approved Implementation Plan. Focus on the reasons for the proposed changes, any impact on the proposed activities, and how the proposed changes will affect the anticipated projects deliverables.

The main change is the international accreditation of old programs. The center will pursue international accreditation for new programs as soon as a set of students are graduated in 2024. The change will not affect the anticipated project deliverable so much as we hope that the University of Lagos will achieve institutional accreditation which will be an added advantage to all programmes in the University anyway.