

Project Report: Unified Cardano Student Club (Nigeria)

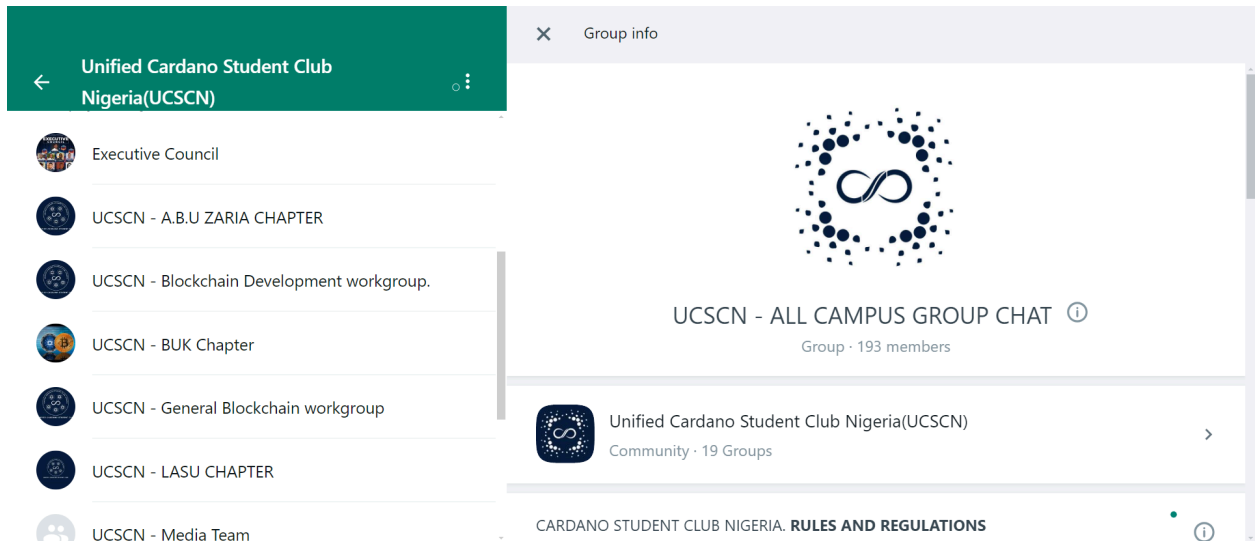
- **Name of project manager: Ubio Obu**
- **FUND: 10**
- **Category: Startups and Onboarding for Students**
- **Date project started: Oct 2023**
- **Date project completed: May 2024**
- **Project ID: 1000186**
- **Project Title: The Unified Cardano Student Club Nigeria**
- **Project Link**
<https://projectcatalyst.io/funds/10/f10-startups-and-onboarding-for-students/unified-cardano-student-club-nigeria>
- **Closeout Video Link: <https://youtu.be/Tbef7r4fBgY>**

Challenge KPIs and how the project addressed them

- Challenge: Activities to foster student Catalyst proposers and blockchain engineers,
- Solution: Established Cardano student clubs at 6 universities across Nigeria, delivering educational workshops and events, onboarding students to Cardano and providing mentorship for these students to learn and build on Cardano.

Project KPIs and how they were addressed

- KPI: Onboard at least 100 students in 6 months.
- Result: Over 300 students were onboarded in 6 universities namely Unilag, Lasu, ABU, UniUyo, UniAbuja, BUK, exceeding the initial target, this can be seen in the number of students in the pictures from each of the clubs where we engaged in. Here is a link and screenshots to the group where all the students and university clubs are in



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/H6XFBMX6XsPAv96oCy5wfA>

- KPI: Establish a National Supervisory Council.
- Result: A Council was formed to guide the affairs of the club, the names of the members of this council are

(i)Jaiyeola Oluwademilade Mayowa

(ii) Lawal Musa

(iii) Samson Anthony

(iv) Qussim Bakre

Also mentors were brought together to help the students, these mentors are:

1. Jaiyeola Oluwademilade Mayowa: With a background in Cardano development,
2. Ona Ohimor: An entrepreneur and Cardano community builder
3. Lawal Musa: With a strong foundation in Cardano development,
4. Israel Ayoola: Israel's expertise as a data analyst and Cardano community member

- KPI: Increase student engagement with the Cardano ecosystem.
- Result: A dedicated student group was created, participating in Project Catalyst proposals and on twitter.(WhatsApp channel and Twitter handle

@UnifiedCardano for reference) with a National student council comprising of

1. Musa Ridwan Itopa from University of Kano as President
2. Abdulrahman Abdulbasit Adigun from University of Lagos as Assistant President
3. Idongesit Ekpany from University of Uyo as Secretary
4. Abdulrauf Yahaya from University of Kaduna as Treasurer

Key Achievements

- Collaboration: Students participated in voting rounds, Submitted Proposals collectively, and Became Reviewers understanding Cardano's governance structure.
- Engagement: Launched a social media platform to share information and promote Cardano.
- Education: Over 300 students were onboarded and equipped with basic blockchain knowledge. Kickstarting the Mentorship Program with 4 different Workgroups
- The National Supervisory Council was established
- President was voted in through a Decentralised voting mechanism with members of the Cardano ecosystem present to witness this event

What Failed

The project taught us a lesson on contingencies and the need to be creative in execution, Our initial funding structure for the project was not viable and the sudden spike in inflation in Nigeria affected our pricing model for the project, it was a tough one and we had to reduce our human resource and be flexible enough to execute the project with minimal resources. Also, we overestimated our capacity to execute this proposal in a large and diverse country like Nigeria, in one case we had to do 2 universities in one region namely Unilag and Lasu as we couldn't go to the eastern region due to the insecurity. The region was experiencing some level of insecurity due to some secession movements, which made it impossible to expand to that region and

when we did our risk analysis it was not worth sending any of our representatives to that region as at that time, this impacted the overall outcome and extent that we could go with the proposal. Overall, it was great that we could still reach our goal of 6 universities.

Key Learnings

- Cultural and religious sensitivities need to be considered during outreach efforts.
- Blockchain awareness and opportunities are limited, requiring targeted initiatives.
- Many students lack deep understanding beyond Bitcoin, necessitating foundational education.
- Blockchain experts are scarce, highlighting the need for mentorship programs.
- Numerous potential of the blockchain technology in enhancing the way of life in this region
- The youths appetite to learn this new technology and participate fully in it

Next Steps

- **Fostering Collaboration:** Encourage student collaboration on Cardano ecosystem projects.
- **Project Deployment:** Enable students to deploy their projects on the Cardano blockchain.
- **Expansion:** Extend the initiative to new universities and equip students for further outreach.
- **Mentorship Programs Spinoffs:** Establish workshops and programs to facilitate learning and partnerships.
- **Research:** Conduct research on blockchain penetration and use cases in Africa.
- **Curriculum Development:** Create a Cardano learning series curriculum for educational institutions.

Final Thoughts

The Unified Cardano Student Club has successfully laid the groundwork for Cardano education and Adoption in Nigeria and beyond. By addressing initial challenges and fostering student engagement, the project has empowered hundreds of students and established a strong foundation for future growth. Expanding reach, promoting collaboration, and equipping students with technical skills will be crucial for driving further adoption and innovation within the Cardano ecosystem in Africa.