

s981 Udeji Samuel Uchenna Nigeria Journal (TEAM 41)

Sometimes we do not know what is coming our way. Sometimes we think that we know it all until we meet new experience and the best experience could be working with people from different part of the world, sometime we wish we have the power to put smile on the faces of people living with hunger and poverty and sometimes, we may have that power but indirectly. That is the experience GEEBIZ has created in me, in my three years of participation especially this year. GEEBIZ thought me that when am not in the position to make those critical decisions needed to change the life of so many, I can put them in writing in form of “Business Proposal”, which can be used to better the life of so many people. When I got the invitation for this year’s competition, I didn’t want to register (because I felt my two years participation had given the whole experience but I was proven wrong at the end), though I told so many of my friends and encourage them to register for the competition. Some of them did and were very grateful to GEEBIZ for the wonderful experience. Everything changed one day on my way home. I saw a young girl of about four years with her school uniform hocking on the street of Lagos and I cried. I followed her home, on getting there, I saw poverty and hunger. Her mother she said: “if she doesn’t hock, we won’t eat, there is no money for her school fees and in few days we may all be dead because of hunger”. Then I decided to register and vowed to do my best to make sure my team will work on first Millennium Development Goal “Eradicate extreme Poverty and Hunger” and if I win, I will do my best to help that family.

After the lunch of the competition, I was more than hungry and desperate to start. Our first meeting was not a good one as people had connection problems. But before the second meeting, my team leader had created facebook page where we can chat and post our ideas anytime and other team members will read and comment. The second meeting was good. But with timing running like Usain Bolt, we had to speed up. We shared brief introduction of ourselves and went into idea generation. At the end, everyone was asked to think about it and vote on our facebook page. The first MDG and Plantain plantation in Nigeria won the vote, and without wasting time, my team leader shared task. Along the line, my team leader went missing in action. My other team member and I were very worried as no one seems to know his way about. I called his personal phone, left so many messages but got no reply. With just two days left and our leader nowhere to be found, I wrote to Deb Gilbertson and he encouraged me to step in as the leader. Immediately, I posted it on our wall on facebook and called every member of my team on the phone and encouraged them to put in their best in the absence of our main leader. It was unexpected but with the support of my other team members, we did a very good job until our team leader later sent us a message that he had been in the hospital. I was very surprise but happy to hear from him. I handed him his leadership and everything I have done. In end, it was a wonderful and successful project though we requested for extension.

With so much joy, love, respect and happiness in my heart, I really appreciate my wonderful team members, team head and GEEBIZ for given me another wonderful experience. In a very special way, I want to thank Deb Gilbertson for giving me the opportunity to test team leadership in the competition.