

SOCIAL GOOD SERIES REPORT

GLOCAL RESILIENCE

The Impact of COVID 19 on the Global Goals &
Multi-stakeholder Responses in Nigeria.



#GlocalResilience |    SocialGoodLagos



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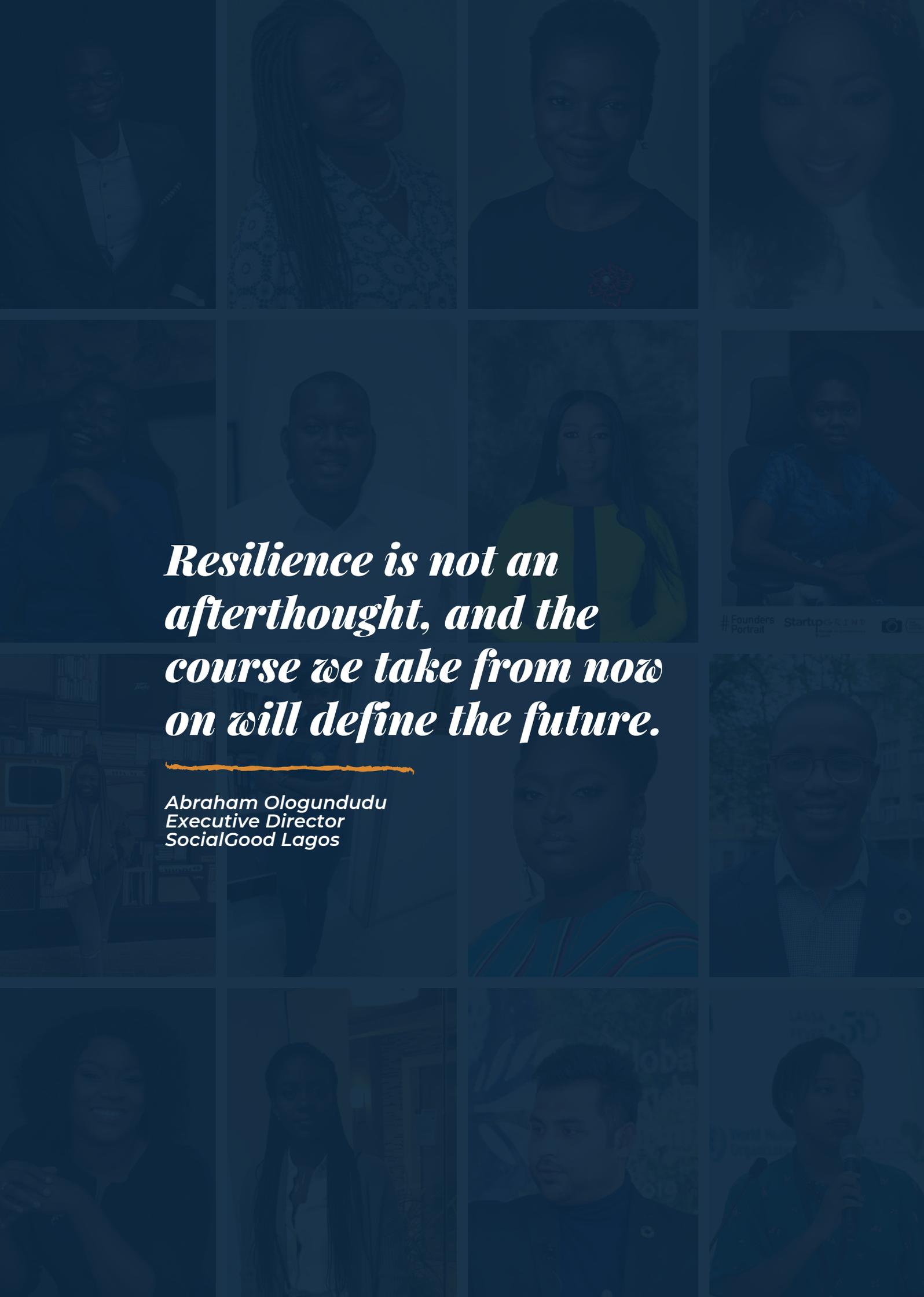
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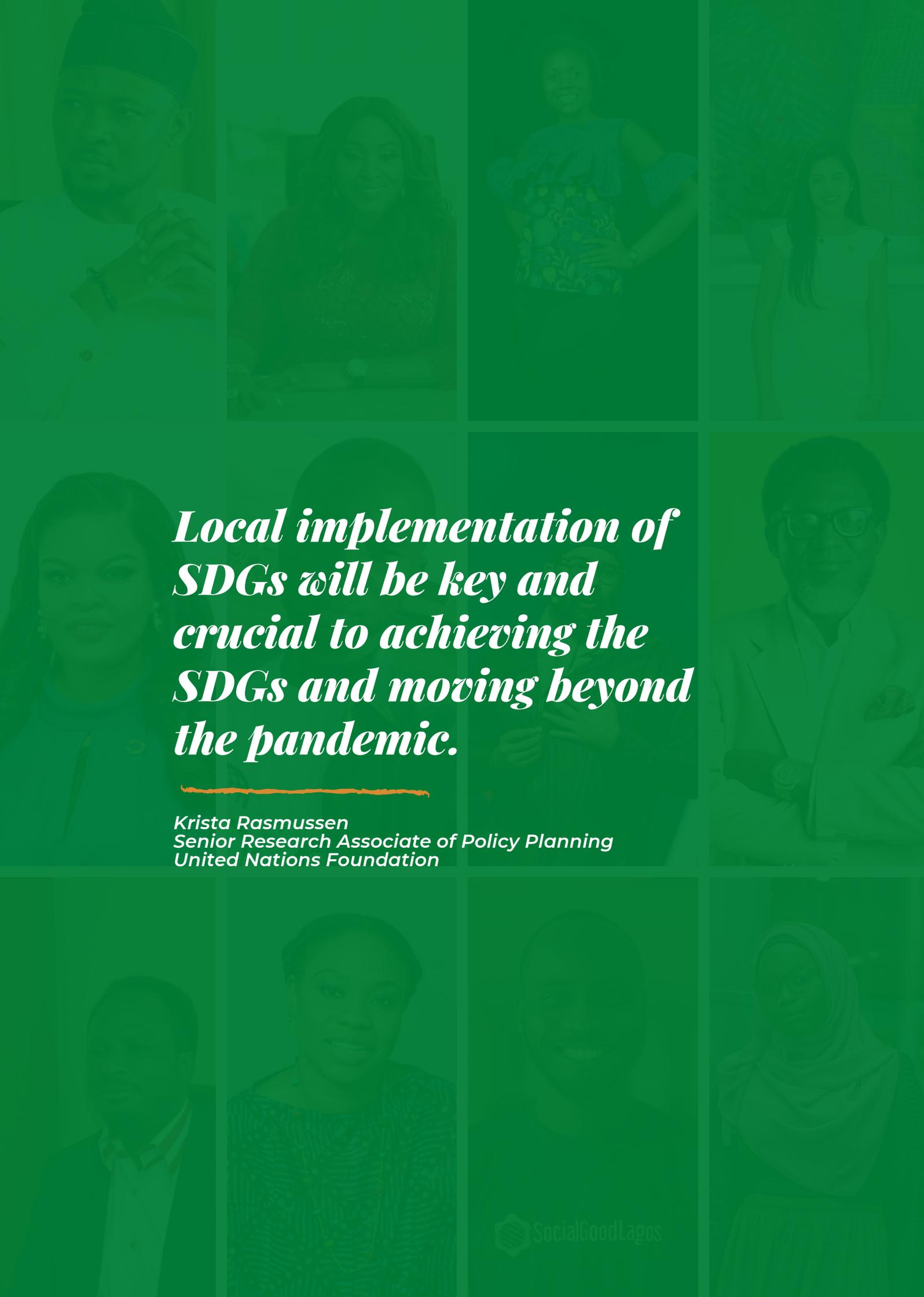
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afterthought, and the
course we take from now
on will define the future.*

Abraham Ologundudu
Executive Director
SocialGood Lagos



*Local implementation of
SDGs will be key and
crucial to achieving the
SDGs and moving beyond
the pandemic.*

*Krista Rasmussen
Senior Research Associate of Policy Planning
United Nations Foundation*

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FOREWORD

The global pandemic of the novel coronavirus - COVID-19 has been an unprecedented event that revealed the level of resilience of different nations. And we may still not have a full scope of the consequences of this pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in Nigeria and other parallel systems.

With respect to sustainable development, we define “Glocal Resilience”, as the ability for a system, to think globally, and act locally in ensuring that development strategies realize inter-and-intra-generational justice and accountability, in the presence of exogenous disturbances.

In the 2019 SDGs Index, Nigeria ranked 159 out of 162 Countries, which is indicative of the commitment/progress ratio of the nation at large. In addition to this, COVID-19 has further highlighted several issues that require urgent attention. Resilience is not an afterthought, and the course we take from now on will define the future.

Our team at SocialGood Lagos reached out to friends from UN Foundation and +SocialGood community as well as a host of experts in Nigeria to contribute to the conversation around social, economic, and environmental sustainability, vis-a-vis, the pandemic. This is in line with our commitment as a local chapter of the +SocialGood community, to curating points of engagements that bring our community together to share best practices, identify core needs, incubate ideas, and explore opportunities for development.

It is my hope that this holistic approach will further activate the desire and commitment of individuals, groups and organizations to take action towards innovation and local action for sustainable development.

Drawing on both global and local perspectives from our recently concluded Social Good Virtual Series in the month of May 2020, this report offers valuable insights and analysis, as we strive together to ensure a more prosperous, just, and inclusive world.



Abraham Ologundudu
Executive Director
SocialGood Lagos

OVERVIEW

There has never been a more suitable time to address the inequalities prevalent in countries across the globe. These inequalities also highlight the challenges to achieving the SDGs in countries. As a community of impact agents working towards the attainment of the global goals, the COVID-19 pandemic has drawn our attention to where our problems are, shining the spotlight on inequality. There has been a redesign in the ways of life of societies and we need to respond accordingly.

The fundamental questions we need to answer in addressing the new reality include: How do we make our response inclusive? What should our response system even look like?

As stated by UN Secretary-General, Antonio Gutiérrez, the impact of the coronavirus is immediate and dreadful. Therefore, the response also has to be immediate, deliberate and impactful. Stakeholders both globally and locally need to come together to understand the depth of the challenge and to develop a working strategy to address inequality – during the pandemic and post-COVID and design a sustainable model of response for organizations and countries. For this to happen, there has to be effective interaction and data to back up the process.

The Glocal Resilience series had the overall aim of highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the development of the sector, locally and globally. Our objectives included:

1. Use current data to predict the possible operational curves of NGOs, Impact based businesses and social enterprises.
2. Highlight various COVID-19 interventions and solutions across the country based on themes, sectors and industry (private sector inclusive).
3. Reinforce the role of partnerships/collaboration (Goal 17) in accelerating progress towards the SDGs.
4. Recommend possible ways forward about what stakeholders in the sector should be doing differently.

This report is therefore, a collation of the engagements and conversations we have had in a bid to ensure we are still on track to attain the SDGs.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
MDAs - Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
CACOVID - Private Sector Coalition Against COVID-19
UN - United Nations
CSOs - Civil Society Organizations
NDCs - Nationally Determined Contributions



VIRTUAL SESSIONS SUMMARY

01 THE GLOBAL GOALS IN A PANDEMIC: GALVANISING LOCAL ACTION

Session focus:

This session was geared towards exploring the performance of the SDGs in Nigeria. What has been done; and what can be done in light of new realities - with focus on the role of youths?



JOSHUA ALADE

(Project coordinator, Nigeria Youth SDGs Network)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Nigeria needed an annual investment of 10 billion Naira to achieve the SDGs but didn't get this. However, 25 billion Naira was raised in two weeks to fight COVID-19. Why can't we do this for the SDGs?
- We have focused on interventions such as poverty eradication which is good but we need to develop wealth together. To aid our recovery process, we need to build human capacity. This is the only sustainable way to address our issues.
- There are prevailing issues which we have to address as a nation during and after the pandemic. Amongst these are:
 - There is presently not enough social welfare for citizens.
 - There will be job losses and we need to start investing in creating new jobs.
- On the role of the government, we have seen that without government support and the structure, it will be hard to get things done by civil society organizations. During the pandemic, The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 has done a commendable job working with CSOs. This is good and shows what we can do if we all work together and everyone does what they are mandated to do.
- Post-COVID, a lot of CSOs in Nigeria will die because they don't understand what collaboration means. The post-COVID society will demand a lot of collaboration and partnerships and organizations would have to engage this medium to survive. Also, technology would play a significant role in civil space. Over the next year, every CSO need to ask how they can use tech to create change and how to create collaboration.
- The pandemic has seen an increase in the number of young people taking action. It has created a sense of community; broke down barriers which had existed in the country. Young people in Nigeria have been creating positive news to encourage individuals in the country. There has also been increased efforts to provide masks, food and other materials.
- On the role of the SDGs in our recovery: the SDGs is an opportunity for us to move forward post-COVID. To do this, we need to invest in policies that work such as the provision of sufficient and appropriate stimulus packages for SMEs and businesses. In addition, young people need to get more involved in the process.



02

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE GLOBAL GOALS

Session focus:

Globally, the United Nations through its agencies and institutions play a key role on the journey to achieving the SDGs. Since the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been several steps, initiatives and interventions introduced and taken to mitigate the effects. However, the question remains, what impact does COVID-19 have on the SDGs? What do we need to do differently or better?



KRISTA RASMUSSEN

(Senior Research Associate of Policy Planning,
United Nations Foundation)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- The pandemic has altered every part of our lives and the full impact on sub-Saharan African countries may not be felt for a few more months. It has exposed the vulnerabilities in our environment and drawn attention to where we have failed to meet basic needs which are at the heart of the SDGs.
- 2020 was marked as the year for accelerating effort towards the actualization of the SDGs but now we are facing a lost year. Also, we are seeing a worrying backslide in areas we had progress. This includes areas like poverty.
- The United Nations has had 3 strands of response so far:
 - Health: immediate response by WHO.
 - Socio-economic: what are we doing with jobs and inequality.
 - Humanitarian: provide support to the world's poorest countries.
- As regards the direct impact of the pandemic on the global goals, several issues arise. Such as:
 - There is still a huge financial gap.
 - We still don't know all the consequences of the pandemic on the SDGs.
- We need to address the issues surrounding women, girls and vulnerable communities. Women and girls have to be at the centre of decision making roles.
- In our recovery framework, we should include:
 - Universal health.
 - Social protection is one of the key things we need to put in place to achieve the SDGs.
 - Universal provision of high-quality services i.e water, sanitation, electricity, etc.
- We need collective leadership if we are to stay on track to 2030. What we do with the SDGs now depends on where we are in the pandemic.
- As a community, we need to hold our government and development agencies accountable during this period and afterwards.
- Local implementation of SDGs will be key and crucial to achieving the SDGs and moving beyond the pandemic.



SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

Social sustainability is an integral part of the SDGs as it captures our primary being and needs as humans. With COVID-19, we have been forced to actively rethink our processes and methodologies to achieve this crucial aspect of the SDGs. We therefore need to ensure that this is done properly with everyone engaged in the process.

03 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: A DIGNIFIED LIFE FOR ALL



PRIYANKA JAISINGHANI
(Social Entrepreneur and Founder, GirlzFTW)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Equality starts with having access. How can we ensure that students have access to resources?
- Women across the globe are pillars of their community. The pandemic is showing the pockets of issues affecting women. Therefore, we need to invest in women, giving them the right tools. However, empowering women starts with self. We need to use our voices against policies in your community.
- Global healthcare is also about access. How do we ensure communities affected the most have equal access? How are we lowering the cost of telemedicine? How can we work towards the future to sustain this?
- Collaboration starts with listening: what are people saying? What are their ideas? Conversations allow us to know how to collaborate, expanding our scope to include others.
- In proffering solutions to issues, we need to start from being a listening ear to what our community needs are even as the needs keep changing with time according to the new realities.

04 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A PANDEMIC: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



LABAKE AJIBOYE-RICHARD
(Principal Consultant, AR Initiative)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- In addressing social sustainability in Nigeria, one major challenge is the size of our problem. This includes:
 - the size of our population.
 - religious and ideological differences.
 - women inclusion.
- In responding to the pandemic and in ensuring social sustainability as a country, collaboration should be our first response. We won't make a big impact on an individual level.
- The pandemic isn't just an economic crisis but a human crisis. There is a responsibility for everyone. This is not the time to allot the role or position of stakeholder to any one person. We are all stakeholders in this and no one is exempted.
- No one has ever been in a pandemic such as this before. This means that every response and idea at this point is laudable. We should encourage more people to introduce whatever form of solution they can during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In as much as we need universal healthcare, the truth remains that Universal healthcare is expensive to fund and we don't have the infrastructure yet in Nigeria. However, we can start by giving healthcare the necessary tools to work with.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a disruption in all areas of life including the SDGs. A fundamental demand has been placed on the economic systems of countries. This set of conversation is geared towards highlighting the impact of the pandemic on the economic-related goals and how we can respond.

05

INCLUSIVE PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



ANURIKA AZUBUIKE
(Founder, Marketplace Innovation Africa)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- To ensure economic resilience and ensure the economy remains viable post COVID, we need friendly policies that help businesses grow and be sustainable.
- COVID has created new essential services. It has brought to the fore businesses that were previously given less attention and opened up new markets.
- Some of the trends that will emerge include:
 - The consumption pattern of the market will change.
 - The emergence of new markets.
 - Need for speedy execution by entrepreneurs.
 - Unemployment.
 - A lot of businesses would run out of business and the digital economy is going to explode.
- It is a time for businesses to adapt.
- The open-air markets which make up the vast portion of our market system in Nigeria will not be going out of fashion anytime soon but this is an opportunity for the country to redesign our markets. This includes:
 - Increasing spacing as our markets are always congested with minimal spacing.
 - Establish hygiene conditions in these markets.
- As it relates to collaboration which is key for any business, businesses can't begin to collaborate when they don't understand what they want. They need to first understand what they want for collaboration to take place.
- Things that businesses need to do during and post the COVID-19 pandemic include:
 - Reassess
 - Relearn
 - Re-strategize
 - Relaunch

REDESIGNING FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



SARTAJ ANAND

(+SocialGood Advisor and Founder, Egomonk)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- If we don't take the right actions now, the majority of the vulnerable people will be extinguished. We can't expect poor people to bounce back on their own. Businesses don't need help first, individuals need it.
- The Post-COVID period is going to be tough, and the reality is that the government has a lot to do, ensuring a top-bottom approach. There need to be policy changes and an increase in social welfare.
- Research has shown that direct cash transfer works better than food handouts, as people's needs differ.
- New structures have to be put in place to give cash to people, and where the government experiences limitations in this area, private organisations and individuals can also lend a hand.
- Young people have better access to communities, therefore, we need to have a decentralised structure. A case of "working together breeds a new structure."
- Leaders need to learn how to listen to experts and not be self-sure.
- Getting accountability in a broken political system is difficult, but what can be done by young individuals is to bond together and make demands from their leaders. We can leverage digital technology and also pressure billionaires and philanthropists to speak out in holding the government accountable.
- Young people should become social good megaphones, creating trends for Economic Sustainability.
- The importance of data collection cannot be overemphasised. Data is the new oil and now we can testify to that. Data banks can exist in our environment. In future, we might face a data war, and we ought to be prepared so we are not caught unaware.
- In redesigning the economy, organizations need to:
 - Show care especially the aviation sector.
 - Invest in hygiene, sanitation and some other essentials.
 - Find creative ways in meeting the needs of the community at large. It's about becoming a creative economist.
- Young people should identify where and how they really want to help.
- The health benefit of the lockdown is more than the economic benefit.
- As countries are gradually opening up, the question now is, how can economies bounce back?
 - The government needs to guarantee employment for the bottom 80%.
 - Guarantee the safety of workers.
 - Strong institutional health policies.
- People will feel confident to act when they know full well that their government has their back.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION

The environment and climate-focused discussions have been at the front burner of major global sustainability discourse. There have been repeated calls on the need to redesign the way we live as this has a direct effect on the planet. The present pandemic has shown that now more than ever, we need to come together and decide on a course of action. Essentially, it is time we moved beyond talking to taking deliberate and decisive steps to ensure the environment and our planet is protected.

ACCELERATING LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION



Doyinsola Ogunye
(CEO, MEDIC)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- This is a good time to start thinking about lifestyle changes. It would be a disaster to return to our previous lifestyle.
- The present heat waves should indicate to people the danger we are facing. We need to start responding to issues i.e planting trees to ameliorate the heatwave.
- The ignorance and mindset of individuals towards climate action is an impediment in Nigeria.
- No one person should be termed an environmentalist whose responsibility it is to take action. Everyone should all play their parts.
- Lagos launched the Bluebox initiative in August 2019 to help with waste management.
- Behavioural changes are needed. We need to build patience especially when it comes to sorting and managing waste. Climate and environmental action when it relates to waste management starts from individuals.
- Quick wins we can work on is to reduce the usage of non-degradable materials.

COVID-19 AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A CALL TO ACTION



NEESHAD SHAFI

(Founder and Executive Director, Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- A lot of responsibility comes to the government when it comes to ensuring environmental sustainability.
- The harm climate change would cause will be beyond what COVID has caused.
- Young people have to ensure that governments do not use present bailout packages to excuse companies on climate issues.
- The course we take now defines our future. We shouldn't lose this opportunity and go back to old economic ways that harm the environment.
- Human prosperity is environment prosperity.
- In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring climate action, the Government doesn't have to do anything new but enhance all the existing climate commitments and agreements that have been reached. For example, The Paris Agreement.
- One of the positives we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic is that the environment can come back to its pre-existing condition but now at what cost?
- Good things can happen if we all come together. This is a lesson we can take from COVID.
- We need individual commitment not to go back to our previous way of life.
- The pandemic is showing that our society isn't prepared and there are many things we need to address. It has shown the different inequalities in countries.
- Sitting home for a month won't bring the change we need, we need systemic change to climate issues. We can start by avoiding unwanted travels when society reopens.
- All countries that have committed to NDCs should enhance existing pathways on the ground.

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MULTI- STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES IN NIGERIA

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Session focus:

Accountability and economic growth of a nation have been said to be two sides of the same coin. As countries seek to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need to ensure that inequality is not widened. In achieving this, the role of the government cannot be discounted. It becomes vital to ensure that the government is accountable as this plays a significant role in ensuring economic sustainability. This is crucial taking into consideration the donations – both financial and nonfinancial – from individuals and organizations in the fight against COVID-19.



CHARLES UCHE

(Staff Attorney, Connected Development)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and with donations coming from local and international agencies, FollowTheMoney launched #followcovid19money campaign. Using the hashtag to aggregate, scrutinize, analyse every data around COVID money from all sources to pressure for accountability in implementation.
- Follow The Money has a google sheet with all the different forms of donations in it. Response to FOI has been slow and in some instances impossible as a result of the lock down. Specifically,
 - Digital accountability in Nigeria has limitations. Efforts to reach out to Government institutions through social media, emails have been ignored. Government institutions are ignoring emails and this defeats the idea of digital accountability.
 - The sections stating the exceptions on why FOI may be denied is more than the sections giving individuals the right to demand it. This is an impediment and needs to be changed.
- Citizens are allowed to make anonymous donations but the recipient which is the Government must give an account of such donation. The onus is on the Government to be accountable on how they spend money relating to COVID-19 and not the donor giving an account.
- There have been several guidelines on public procurement during COVID from ICPC, BPP, Ministry of finance. However, there are contradictory statements in these guidelines and this shows poor coordination from Government agencies .
- We don't only have a health crisis but a public finance crisis. Our reserves have been depleted.
- In Nigeria, only Kaduna and Lagos have given a breakdown of donations, source and plans on how it would be utilized.
- The reason why we are having issues grappling with the crisis in Nigeria is related to the fact that we haven't paid attention to health and education which are critical components of the SDGS. There is an Abuja declaration of 2001 where the Nigerian Federal government pledged to allocate 15% of its annual budget to health but till date, this hasn't been done.

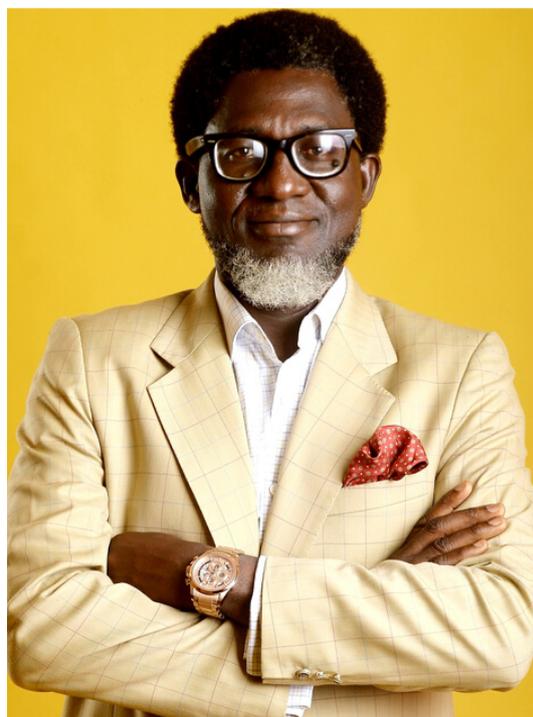
SESSION INSIGHTS

- COVID has shown that we can still achieve the SDGs in Nigeria if we come together and pull resources together. We need to start treating the key components of the SDGs as pandemics if we are to achieve the SDGs. We need the same effort directed at COVID-19 directed at all the other issues we are facing.
- The concept of e-governance and digital accountability is still alien to Nigeria. We are not strengthening institutions but persons.
- It is the job of everyone to ensure our democracy is entrenched and the government is responsive to citizens.

10 CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND COVID-19: NIGERIA'S STORY

Session focus:

This session's focus is on how environmental and climate activists in Nigeria have been responding during the COVID-19 pandemic



SEGUN ADAJU

(CEO, Consistent Energy Limited and President,
Renewable Energy Association, Nigeria)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Renewable energy showed to be the best source of power for isolation centres. Solar has the capacity to power anything and can easily be deployed within a short time frame compared to other energy sources.
- Countries have to have an energy mix to meet energy requirements in the country.
- The Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria has been advocating for local content in the energy process.
 - Wins: getting the government to classify entrepreneurs in the energy ecosystem as essential service during the lockdown.
 - Government gazette exempting some segment of solar energy players from VAT
 - Improving the number of young people in the Renewable energy sector through its mentorship, internship and student membership programs.
- There is a need to set a unification of energy standard in the country to avoid substandard operations.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP: COVID-19 AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE

Session focus:

The private sector holds a key position in any economy. In the course of the pandemic, we have seen remarkable responses from private individuals and organizations. Individually and collectively, commendable solutions that have supported Nigeria's mitigation measures and response to COVID-19 have been implemented by the private sector. Overall, this has ensured that we are still on course to achieve the global goals in Nigeria. The major focus of this session is to highlight the practical steps taken by private sectors in Nigeria since the outbreak of the pandemic.



OSAYI ALILE
(CEO, ACT Foundation)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- There is always the tendency to blame the government for not doing things right but even as individuals, we haven't been doing things right as it pertains to the SDGs.
- Although Nigeria has not been doing a lot of things right as it relates to the global goals but with the pandemic, we have an opportunity to focus on what is important and essential and to adjust.
- We need to create the foundation for building the pillars of the SDGs in Nigeria if we are to stand any chance of achieving the SDGs.
- A lot of private organizations do not understand the SDGs and how it affects them. Organizations and individuals who understand the SDGs have the responsibility of explaining to people what happens if we don't achieve the SDGs.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, we can create quick solutions that help communities without waiting for the government.
- CACOVID is a good example of different organizations coming together to take action. CACOVID has given palliatives to over 1.7 million people, set up isolation centres, beds etc.
- As an organization, Act Foundation is concerned about how we can all come together to solve problems together.
- One of the biggest solutions in solving a problem is when a group of people come together to try to solve it
- We need to look inwards and create local solutions to the issues even though they are global issues.

12 NIGERIA, THE GLOBAL GOALS AND COVID-19

Session focus:

Nigeria has always taken a front line position as it relates to the SDGs. This has been typified in strides taken during the MDGs and now in the SDGs. In relation to the present pandemic, it becomes important to highlight the efforts of the Government and plans to ensure that the country is still on course to achieve the SDGs.



ROSE KEFFAS

(Special Assistant, OSSAP-SDGs)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Without taking the SDGs into consideration, COVID has shown our frailties. This goes to show that the goals are interconnected with society.
- As a result of efforts in the fight against polio, in 2020, Nigeria will be declared polio-free.
- Nations are at liberty to prioritize the SDGs according to their realities. Nigeria reduced the 230 indicators to 162 for country focus.
- Nigeria has prioritised the SDGs in support with UNICEF. Priority SDGs are 1(2 inclusive), 3 and 4.
- We are more expectant that with COVID, Nigeria will achieve the SDGs now compared with before. This is because it has highlighted where our problems lay. There's no better time to achieve the SDGs.
- Nigeria is realigning her National Statistical data on SDGs. This will help us plan our budget appropriately. The question is: how do MDAs embed the SDGs into sectoral plans.
- Pre-COVID, state governors were enthusiastic about taking action towards the SDGs especially Kaduna, Benue and Lagos. The governors' forum had identified Health and education as priority areas.
- This year, 2020, Nigeria will be having a Voluntary National Report on the SDGs at the UN. Focus areas of the presentation include SDGs 1,3,4,5,8,16 and 17.
- As an advocate living in Nigeria, you need to learn the mandate of the ministries in charge of the SDGs to act accordingly.
- We have to do better in communicating the SDGs to the ordinary citizens
- CSOs can hold the government accountable through their voice, but they will need to join organised groups established as the government cannot deal with everybody on an individual basis.
- Everybody has a role to play. CACOVID (Private Sector Coalition Against COVID-19) has shown what partnering to achieve the goals should look like.
- The government needs to support MSMEs and create an enabling environment and invest in people to rebuild the economy post-COVID.

13 CHARTING A NEW COURSE

Session focus:

The major focus of this session is to highlight;

- Emerging opportunities in the digital economy.
- How individuals can benefit from emerging trends and markets.
- The effects of the digital economy.



J.J. OMOJUWA
(Chief Strategist, Alpha Reach)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- COVID has shown that we are a common race with a common destiny.
- Job forms are changing. We are evolving more than we are revolving.
- The internet amplifies a skill you already have. It removes the limitations that come with physical borders.
- Jobs of the future such as analytics, programming, cyber, AI etc. are now closer.
- As a country, we can't have an entirely digital economy. There are still physical structures and components that cannot be digitized. However, digitalization does make things easier.
- The digital space is shaping global healthcare and we need to invest more in this.

A THRIVING ECONOMY BEYOND COVID-19

Session focus:

MSMEs are the pillars on which the economies of countries are built. Therefore, in building a resilient economy beyond COVID-19, the role of MSMEs and entrepreneurs cannot be left out. This session is aimed at exploring how to provide continuous support to this ecosystem to ensure they thrive during and post COVID.



ADENIKE ADEYEMI

(Executive Director, FATE Foundation)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- The present reality is that everyone is affected both directly and indirectly. During this period, entrepreneurs need to answer the following questions:
 - Am I providing a product or service that customers can still afford or find value in?
 - What are the risk potentials of losing one or two customers?
 - If I am reliant on distribution and logistics, will that be a problem?
 - If there is another full lockdown, will that affect my business?
- This is a good time for businesses to spread and build on their product or look at their business growth.
- This is the time for community bonding and working together. We have seen quite a number of businesses collaborating. Either in same sector or line of business, they have come together to support the survival of their businesses.
- MSMEs are responsible for about 70% of employment created. From a survey by FATE Foundation, over 90% of businesses have been affected by the pandemic. Either partial or full operational effect. This underscores the need to support businesses through various means.
- On the role of technology in business:
 - Technology is an enabler, it democratizes information. The lockdown doesn't limit the progress of technology. An example of how technology helps businesses especially now is through digital marketing. Digital tools and platforms such as Facebook, Instagram etc. allow businesses to still reach out to customers despite physical barriers.
 - Technology also allows you to learn from similar businesses and gives a good understanding of target and potential customers. Technology has also made payments easier.
 - For aspiring entrepreneurs, technology also allows this segment to learn and understand what is needed to start a business.
 - Technology also serves a tool for pivot.
 - A tool for advocacy. It allows people to come together to think of policies, advocating and voicing these policies.
- Fate foundation has supported entrepreneurs through the following avenues:
 - helping them look at their businesses better, highlighting how they can deliver better service, different streams of income, supply sources ,etc.
 - Cash flow management.
 - Leveraging on tools.
 - Access to funds.
 - Mental health support.

T5 SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN A PANDEMIC: SUPPORTING SOCIETY'S VULNERABLE

Session focus:

There have been increased and remarkable responses from individuals and organizations who have implemented commendable solutions that have provided some form of social welfare to individuals, households and communities. These solutions have ensured that we are still on course to achieve the social sustainability goals of the SDGs. The major focus of this session is to highlight the practical steps taken by individuals to provide relief to individuals and communities since the outbreak of the pandemic.



JENNIFER SOBA PEARSE

(Founder, Give Back Nigeria and Executive Director,
Fountain Initiative for Social Development)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Showing servant leadership is the backbone of social activism. We need to recognise privilege with service. Community service should be a part of life and not something you do to feel or look good.
- NGOs and CSOs in Nigeria can become data harvesters, working with the NBS on this.
- There is a need for the Government to engage NGOs and CSOs to support their effort
- With the individuals we have been working with, giving food during the pandemic, we are looking at how to integrate them into the economy.
- We are also proffering solutions based on what each community needs. We understand that each community is different and a blanket solution would not be ideal.
- In achieving the SDGs, we must engage key players.
- The mind-set of the average Nigerian is geared towards competing with the other person. This is contributing to the failure of organizations to collaborate.
- It's easy to compete when you're not committed to the work you are doing. An understanding of your real motive for social activism would enable you see people as partners in solving the issues you're working towards.
- COVID is shaping how NGOs and CSOs see data.
- We are working with individuals in communities, empowering them with critical skills.

16 ON THE FRONT LINE: LAGOS STATE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Session focus:

There have been varied responses to the pandemic across the globe and in major cities that have been hit, we have seen coordinated interventions. In Nigeria, the Lagos state government has been commended for its efforts in mitigating the effects of the virus in the state and how it has handled its response team. This is no mean feat especially with the population size of the state. This session is geared towards highlighting the efforts and experience of the Lagos state government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



NINIOLA WILLIAMS

(Managing Director, Dr Ameyo Stella Adadevoh Health Trust)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Lagos has been flexible and nimble in response to COVID-19 looking at its size, complexities and population. In achieving this, there has been multi-sectoral collaboration.
- In responding to COVID, African countries including Nigeria took lessons from Ebola. Some of these include:
 - Setting up Emergency Management Response Structure in every state. This allowed for easy mobilization of resources (people and equipment) at the outbreak of the pandemic.
 - We also had practical experience on pathways to involve private sector response during a pandemic. This allowed for Nigeria to easily activate the private sector partnership mechanism.
- As an organization, DRASA's focus is on:
 - Infection control/treatment especially as it relates to frontline responders. We are building the capacity of all front line workers to be safe as they carry out their responsibilities.
 - We are also supporting the government with returnees. Supporting efforts to quarantine them for the required 14 days' period and ensure they are in a safe facility and well looked after.
 - Facility assessment of isolation centres.
- We are building capacity beyond COVID in preparation for future pandemics.
- We successfully trained non-clinical workers to help in the response. This process has boosted the readiness of other personnel to join the response team across the country.
- Technology has played a crucial role in tracing and tracking exposed individuals.
- In our response strategy, the tech from other sectors has been adopted to supplement the response.
- Deep cultural beliefs are fuelling misinformation and lack of belief in the reality of the virus. However, getting religious involved has helped in convincing people.

MENTAL HEALTH, GLOBAL GOALS AND COVID-19: BUILDING RESILIENCE TOGETHER

Session focus:

The inclusion of mental health in the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nation highlights the need to constantly ensure that we have a world where physical, mental and social well-being of individuals is assured. In light of the recent pandemic, the fundamental question we are faced with is: How do we ensure that people's mental health is protected? What do we need to put in place to ensure there is no increase in mental health cases as society reopens for activities? This becomes crucial as we need people to be of sound mind if we are to stand any chance of achieving global goals.



ANGEL YINKORE

(Counselling psychologist and Life coach)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- Where you live has an effect on mental health. People living in war-torn countries have a higher chance of suffering from PTSD.
- As a result of the lockdown, there has been an increase in mental health cases recorded by Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative (MANI). There has also been a spike in gender-based violence as reported by Stand to End Rape (STER).
- No one has a template on how to handle a pandemic and this has impacted how we mentally respond.
- You have to take care of you before you can take care of the world. This emphasizes people have to be conscious of their mental health.
- The change in lifestyle, remote work and other impact of the lockdown have contributed to making people unstable and thereby affecting mental health.
- The rate of uncertainty has led to increased anxiety and this is contributing to clinical depression and feelings of depression.
- To combat the overload and feelings of depression, it is important for people to have limited exposure to certain information and this starts from knowing yourself. To be in a state of wellbeing, people need to balance pleasure, connection and achievement.
- In response to the lockdown and COVID, private organizations set up Mental Health support systems. MANI set up projectcovid.ng to help people through their day during this period.

18 RETHINKING WORKPLACE SAFETY

Session focus:

The workplace is changing in line with the changes brought about by COVID-19. We can no longer operate and carry out operations the way we have been doing. However, despite this reality, people are still not knowledgeable as to what is expected of them, how to respond and redesign the workplace environment.



TIMOTHY AKINMURELE
(CEO, Equitable Health Access Initiative)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- The virus has displayed a two-prong effect. Health and economy
- As economies are reopening, business owners need to reevaluate their business structures. Questions that help achieve this include: Can I categorize the level of risk of my business?
 - There are four levels of risk to businesses in relation to exposure to the virus (low, medium, high and very high risks).
- The best option for workplace safety or occupational hazard is to completely remove the hazard. But unfortunately for COVID-19, the hazard cannot be completely removed.
- Organizations need different levels of control to help with managing operations in response to COVID;
 - Engineering control: airflow and ventilation.
 - Administrative control: The fewer people in the workplace, the less the level of exposure and risk.
- It is important to explore technology in redesigning workflow and contact. Reducing the number of people coming into a certain space.
- In redesigning the workplace and ensuring safety, employers and employees both have responsibilities.

THE GLOBAL GOALS, GENDER AND COVID-19

Session focus:

Gender-based conversations are not new. However, one thing remains clear, we still need to do more especially when it comes to creating an equal and inclusive world where women related issues are seen as issues affecting everyone. Like every pandemic and disaster, women are always one of the worst-hit and it has not been different during the COVID-19 pandemic. This session is therefore focused on the realities faced by women in Nigeria during the present pandemic.



FABIA OGUNMEKAN

(Executive Secretary, Women in Successful Careers)

SESSION INSIGHTS

- In response to the pandemic and the commitment of WISCAR, the community was galvanized to raise funds and engage in food relief programs in communities across Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja.
 - Over 4000 individuals have been reached
 - PPEs provided to Primary Healthcare Centres in Lagos
- There is a need for a response from the Government to be holistic, including everyone and not relegating anyone. This is not the time for gender roles. Everyone needs to come to the table to discuss.
- Survey results from WISCAR showed the following
 - 48% of MSMEs are in the informal sector.
 - 82% of these MSMEs operating in the informal sector are owned by women.
 - There are more women in front line response in Nigeria. This means more women are at risk of infection.
 - There is a disparity in pay in healthcare workers. The most affected are women.



KEY RESILIENCE PATHWAYS



Note: Communication was a recurring theme across all the sessions.

COLLABORATION

- **Funding:** Funding plays a crucial role in achieving the SDGs. The amount of financial resources that have been raised in the fight against COVID-19 has shown what is possible when we all come together. There is a need to have a private sector funding structure for the SDGs just as it was adopted for COVID to raise the financial outlay needed to achieve the SDGs.
- **Co-creation:** The realities of the COVID-19 pandemic has foregrounded the need for grassroots community involvement. As opposed to NGOs, CSOs and development agencies implementing projects in solitary, there is a need to partner with communities to develop capacities and co-create solutions. This births new structures needed in our recovery process.
- **Knowledge sharing:** This is essential in order to influence the decision and policy making process. This was exemplified in the engagement of the Civil Society by the Nigerian Presidential Task Force on COVID-19
- **Youth engagement:** Experts have noted that young people have more access to communities and are eager to provide solutions. It is therefore essential to involve them in the design and implementation of recovery frameworks.
- **Faith-based dialogues:** Across the globe, religion plays a crucial role in the lives of many people, especially in developing countries. This structure can be explored in communicating the SDGs to communities by getting religious bodies and leaders involved.

DIGITAL RESILIENCE

- **Digital accountability:** The role of technology in the world is increasing. In the emerging world we find ourselves where accountability is needed, Nigeria needs to start exploring digital accountability tools, processes and mechanisms. This will also promote active citizens participation.
- **Digital advocacy** will continually play a crucial role in shaping society, this avenue needs to be further explored. Citizens and organizations need to be fully engaged and activated on this.
- **Innovation:** The future of development focused organizations and individuals, lies in how they adapt and use technology.
- **Localisation of Innovation:** In emerging economies, such as Nigeria, innovation has to be contextualized and designed to fit immediate reality.

- The adaptability of our business and economic institutions is crucial. They also need to be able to leverage the opportunities created by the emerging market to forge new line of products and services.
- Bridging the digital divide in the country to have a truly resilient framework equally spread across diverse areas and people.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Infrastructure
 - Creation and improvement of infrastructure to support action towards the SDGs.
 - Establishing structures and processes to enhance capacity of institutions.
- Institutions
 - Capacity of institutions: Policies play a major role in driving any process. Particularly, Government policies are fundamental. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of our institutions to deal with issues, formulate, implement and regulate policies.
- Human resource
 - Individual responsibility: Capacity building starts with each person taking responsibility for the recovery process in the community and taking action towards the goals.
 - Improving the ability of individuals, communities and businesses to cater to their needs.
 - Marginalised groups: empowering marginalised groups and individuals should be at the centre of our resilience pathway. This involves empowering women, girls and youth who are always on the lower end of the spectrum of society.
 - Mindset re-engineering, education and capacity building of officials in public institutions responsible for implementing the SDGs.
- Technology
 - Data collection and integration into planning, policies and implementation in MDAs.

BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND PILLARS

In working to achieve the SDGs, there are certain infrastructure and pillars needed in a country.

- Access: Individuals need to have access to basic aspects of the SDGs such as education and health.
- Supporting vulnerable communities to recover.
- Community involvement in the monitoring of implemented initiatives and programs.

INCLUSIVENESS

- Integration of equality and equity in any intervention or process in our resilient pathways. We need to ensure no community or household is left out.
- There is a need for diversity in the decision-making process. Women and youth need to be involved in the decision and policy-making process.

COMMUNICATING THE GOALS BETTER TO EVERYONE

At the centre of the resilience pathways is the need to improve all levels of communications amongst stakeholders. These include, listening, reporting accountability, shared values and other forms of communication. This plays a major role, because people can only take meaningful action on what they understand.



NOTABLE RESPONSES/ INTERVENTIONS

Novel interventions that have had a widespread reach in impact

HEALTH: Immediate Health Response

Dr Ameyoh Stella Adadevoh Health Trust: drasatrust.org

Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative: project-covid.ng

mDoc healthcare: Providing pregnancy delivery kits/PPE to pregnant women

SOCIO-ECONOMIC: Jobs and Inequality

FATE Foundation: fatefoundation.org

Act Foundation: actrustfoundation.org

Tatashe: tatashe.org/d/nigeria

HUMANITARIAN: Support For the Poor

Victim Support Fund: victimssupportfundng.org

CACOVID: cacovid.org

Project Ark: theprojectark.com.ng/

Lagos Food Bank: www.lagosfoodbank.org/

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS (SOCIALGOOD SERIES)

Nigeria Youth SDGs Network

United Nations Foundation

GirlzFTW

AR Initiative

Marketplace Innovation Africa

Egomonk

MEDIC

Arab Youth Climate Movement, Qatar

Connected Development

Consistent Energy Limited

Renewable Energy Association, Nigeria

ACT Foundation

OSSAP-SDGs

Alpha Reach

FATE Foundation

Fountain Initiative for Social Development

Dr Ameyo Stella Adadevoh Health Trust

Equitable Health Access Initiative

Women in Successful Careers



ABOUT

+SocialGood

+SocialGood is an international community where changemakers come together to share ideas and inspire solutions. Through partnership, collaboration and innovation, we know we can create the world we want by the year 2030.

+SocialGood works with the United Nations Foundation to connect people across geographic and sectoral borders with the work and mission of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Through online and offline conversations, the community works to contextualize global messaging and inspire local SDGs solutions.

SocialGood Lagos

SocialGood Lagos is a local chapter of the United Nations Foundation’s +SocialGood global network. We aim to build a community of professionals and thought leaders who are dedicated to using new media and digital technologies to enhance social good initiatives through partnerships, collaborations and innovation. A community United by a shared vision, leveraging on the power of new media and technology to make the world a better place.



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