



ActionAid Nigeria

# C VID-19

## RESPONSE STRATEGY

This document summarises how ActionAid Nigeria proposes to contribute to the eradication of the COVID-19 pandemic

April - December 2020

**act:onaid**

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by ActionAid Nigeria,  
Plot 447, 41 Crescent,  
Off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue  
Gwarinpa, Abuja

P.M.B. 1890, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.  
Info.nigeria@actionaid.org  
www.actionaid.org/nigeria  
Phone: +234(0) 812 8888 825-7



## TABLE OF CONTENT

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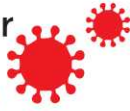
Context	1
Stages of Transmission	2
Why Should ActionAid Nigeria Take Action?	2
ActionAid Nigeria's Response	3
Goal	3
Specific Objectives	3
Key Actions	4-5
Opportunities	6
Who We Are And How We Are Currently Responding	6-7

## CONTEXT

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In December

**2019,**



the new strain of Coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Wuhan-China. It has since spread to all the continents of the world including Africa.



WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on the

**30th January**

**2020.**



As at 10th April, Nigeria has

**288**

confirmed cases spread across States of the nation.

## STAGES OF TRANSMISSION

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### Stage 1

Index cases with travel history to an affected country.

### Stage 2

Local transmission from the index cases to people they encounter, mostly friends, colleagues and family.

### Stage 3

Where the source of the infection is untraceable as people who have not had travel history begin to get infected by the virus.

### Stage 4

Where the spread is practically uncontrollable and there are many major clusters of infection all over the country.

## WHY SHOULD ACTIONAID NIGERIA TAKE ACTION?

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The World Health Organisation has declared it a pandemic with first level behavioural measures to contain its spread.

COVID-19 is lethal. There has been a daily increase in the number of infected persons from an initial one confirmed case to 288, 5 deaths and 33 discharged as at 10th April 2020. There is empirical evidence indicating that the numbers might increase in the coming days.

The pandemic is exasperating the existing vulnerability of the migrant population.

The pandemic is grinding almost all economic activity to a halt which is leading to unprecedented hardship on the poorest of the poor.

The pandemic is worsening the poverty situation in Nigeria and can also lead to Severe Acute Malnutrition.

Daily buying and selling is becoming difficult, and prices of goods and services have skyrocketed since the lockdown in most part of the country.



## ACTIONAID NIGERIA'S RESPONSE

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ActionAid as an anti-poverty and human rights organisation has a mandate to challenge all forms of oppression against people living in poverty and exclusion. This response is in line with ActionAid Nigeria's current Country Strategy "Social Justice to end Poverty" 2018 -2023.

### GOAL

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A Nigerian society where the health and socioeconomic status of the poor and vulnerable is not worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and any other related diseases.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

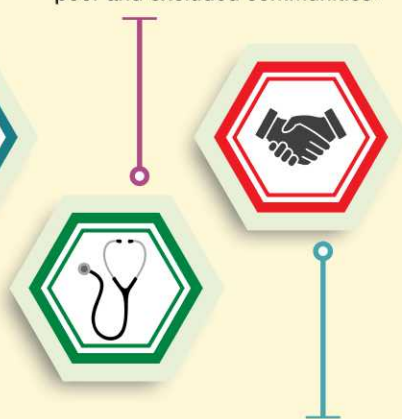
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Strengthen citizens' preparedness against COVID-19 pandemic and other related diseases across the country with focus on vulnerable population.



Strengthen vulnerable group protection livelihood and resilience against future epidemics.

Facilitate access to prevention and treatment information on COVID-19 across the country, particularly for the poor and excluded communities.



Deepen CSOs' collaboration with government at all levels and with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in addressing COVID-19 pandemic.

## KEY ACTIONS

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We will:

- Create access to correct, verifiable and relevant information on COVID-19.
- Facilitate access to treatment for the poor and vulnerable by sharing information on treatment protocols and centers.
- Facilitate mechanisms to prevent and address the risk of gender-based violence against women & girls and facilitate linkages to networks, legal services, relevant law enforcement agencies, health emergencies in case of any eventualities.
- Check and report violations of people's rights and security brutality in the course of ensuring citizens compliance with lockdown (stay at home) directives. particularly for women, children, Internally Displaced Persons and Persons with Disability.
- Facilitate learning and educational support for children at home during and after school closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Facilitate the setup of a COVID-19 situation room (both physical and virtual) that will coordinate the CSOs and citizens engagements and responses on COVID-19.
- Track and follow the money donated and allocated to combatting COVID-19 to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Mobilise resources and palliatives for the poor and vulnerable particularly women and children.
- Build capacity of community groups such as the Women Peer Education Group, Community Accountability Cells and the Community Development Committees in over 200 communities in 15 states across the country where ActionAid Nigeria works to create linkages from the national, state and the local levels for sustainable containment of the Coronavirus.
- Collaborate with the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), the Nigerian Medical Association and other stakeholders to create a quality and standard guideline for locally produced face masks and other locally produced protective equipment.

For this response, ActionAid Nigeria will utilise:



Our Uniqueness is community rootedness, strong connections with marginalised groups and hard-to-reach communities, local legitimacy and acceptance, and our cutting-edge approach in mobilising and empowering communities, challenging structural, hidden and obvious causes of poverty.

**Challenges** - Though ActionAid Nigeria has footprint in 36 states and the FCT, our programmes are operational in 24 States. This, however, poses a slight challenge to our ability to conveniently deliver projects simultaneously across the 36 states.

## OPPORTUNITIES

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This strategy provides an opportunity for ActionAid Nigeria to:

- Lead advocacy on health sector spending in Nigeria and effective implementation of the National Health Policy (2016), and Act (2014) which are geared towards achieving Health for All Nigerians.
- Mobilise more bottom-up citizens engagements to hold all tiers of governments accountable.
- Provide support to governments and other stakeholders to prevent the disease from spreading and causing a high magnitude of setbacks to people especially the poorest of the poor, and vulnerable who live in the rural settlements.

**POSSIBLE THREATS** – request for accountability and transparency on spending might be greeted with strong resistance like abuse of human rights, illegal framing, charges and intimidations.

## WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE ARE CURRENTLY RESPONDING

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### MISSION

To work in solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication.

### VISION

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

### VALUES

Driven by a passionate commitment to organisational values - mutual respect, equity and justice, integrity, solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion being the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality, courage of conviction, independence from any religious or political party affiliation and humility.



ActionAid Nigeria's approach to emergencies focuses on cultivating women's leadership and shifting power to local organisations and movements. ActionAid Nigeria is currently responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with 28 women led organisations, Activista Nigeria, a youth movement consisting 2957 youths, 12 Local Rights Programme partners in 12 states and the CSO Network on Social Protection consisting of 60 CSO groups across the federation.



ActionAid Nigeria is powered by the belief that a Nigeria without poverty and injustice is possible.

# act:onaid

 **Abuja**

ActionAid Nigeria  
Plot 477, 41 Crescent,  
off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue  
Gwarimpa, Abuja.

 **Lagos**

1A, Adeboye Solanke Street  
Off Allen Avenue (behind  
Zenith Bank)  
Ikeja, Lagos.  
Tel: +2348126644268

 **Borno Office**

Old G.R.A. Beside  
Lodge 7, Maiduguri.



+234 (0) 812 8888 825-7



ActionAidNigeria



nigeria.actionaid.org



ActionAidNigeria



@ActionAidNG