

The coronavirus pandemic currently shocking the world gained entry into Nigeria with its first case confirmed on the 27th of February, 2020 in Lagos state. The discovery spiralled into a frenzy of misinformation as the NCDC and Federal Ministry of Health worked to allay citizens' fears and contain the outbreak. It is important that we all play a role in beating the virus by sharing only validated information and promoting effective preventive measures.

The Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC) gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nigeria to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm. Information sharing will be critical to defeating the virus, due to the diverse cultural backgrounds and drawbacks in national education. About 47% of the Nigerian population have access to internet services in according to a 2018 estimate by Statista.

COVID-19 Palliatives vs Conditional Cash Transfer

It is important for there to be accountability in the handling of COVID-19 donations for effective frontline response and social welfare efforts. An important aspect of this is creating awareness and educating Nigerians on the issue. Sources of funding as well as documentation of their use should be made transparent for public scrutiny.

As reported by the ANEEJ, the funding for the ongoing Cash Transfer Programme is from stolen public fund recovered from Switzerland amounting to \$322.5m. The Swiss government, Nigerian government and World Bank had entered into a facilitation agreement which was signed in Washington DC in 2017 in the presence of key Nigerian Civil Society actors including HEDA, SERAP, CISLAC, Centre-LSD, Policy Alert and CSJ. This agreement provided a framework on how the money would be used for a Conditional Cash Transfer for the poor in Nigeria under an existing Social Protection Programme managed by the Federal Government with support from the World Bank. This cash transfer programme is funded in 80% capacity from the recovered "Abacha loot" and in 20% capacity from the World Bank.

The institutional framework put in place for poor Nigerians to access the fund is the National Social Register (NSR) developed by the Federal Government with support from the World Bank. Each beneficiary is paid five thousand naira each month according to the NCTO payment framework. The entire Social Protection Programme was managed by the office of the Vice President until 2019 when it

was transferred to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. The monthly CCT payment was stopped in December.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the President directed that beneficiaries should be paid for four months at once (January to April) amounting to twenty thousand naira payments.

The Federal Government also assured Nigerians that separate COVID-19 palliatives would be released while the CCT payment was going on. The Nigerian public needs to be aware that the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme and the promised COVID-19 palliatives are two separate entities.

RUMOURS



VS



FACTS

Drinking disinfectants and sanitizers can cure coronavirus.

Disinfectants are toxic and should not be ingested or applied on the skin. Ingesting or injecting disinfectants or sanitizers could lead to severe health conditions including liver and kidney damage.

Drinking monkey tail (local gin) and ingesting Alligator pepper before 10am and laying down at 12pm can prevent COVID-19

There is no evidence that ingesting these substances can vaccinate against COVID-19 and they could result in adverse health conditions, weakening the immune system further. Physical distancing remains the best way of preventing COVID-19 transmission.

Nigerians are automatically healed a week after testing positive for coronavirus.

Different people have different rates of recovery from COVID-19 and in some cases, it could be fatal. Confirmed cases are advised to stay under medical supervision, and use prescribed medication(s) until they test negative and are discharged from the isolation centre.

RUMOURS



VS



FACTS

Drinking hot water will flush the COVID-19 virus to the stomach, then out of the body in its early stage.

Though it is recommended to stay hydrated, hot water does not flush coronavirus out of the body. Drinking liquids heated to scalding temperatures can result in personal injury and burns.

COVID-19 Palliatives vs Conditional Cash Transfer

As much as distribution of food palliatives is very commendable, it is also important that parties involved consider physical distancing protocols in order not to defeat the purpose of the lockdown effort.

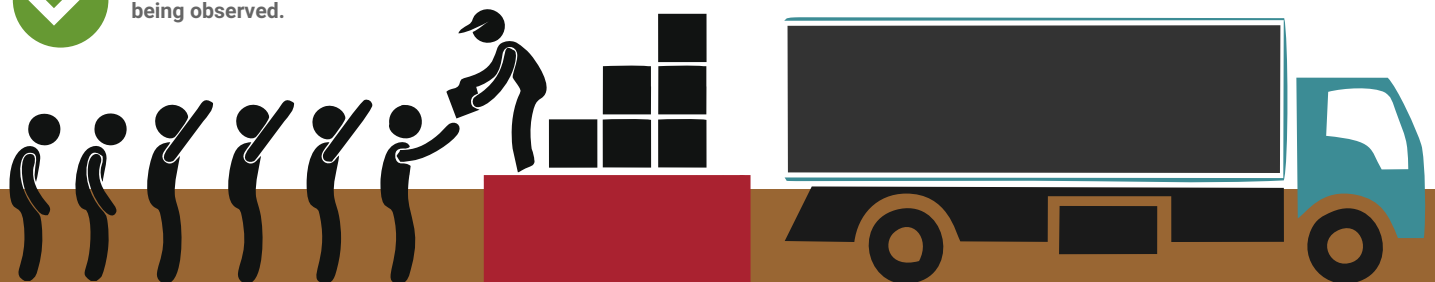
There have been reports that the process of distribution of food items from concerned individuals and institutions feature inadequate social distancing measures. Both distributors and beneficiaries of the relief materials, in some places, cluster to receive their items, increasing possible risk of transmission of COVID-19.



Physical distancing not being observed.



Physical distancing being observed.



It is important for concerned parties to consciously avoid crowds and clumsy methods of distribution that encourage individuals clustering around delivery trucks or distributing officials. Adequate coordination and strategizing with the chairmen of area councils, ward councillors and youth leaders for house to house distribution would be a more effective means of sharing palliatives and preventing community spread of coronavirus.



INFORMATION OVERLOAD
DUE TO THE
INFLUX OF NEWS
ABOUT **#COVID-19**
COULD LEAD TO
ANXIETY AND DISTRESS.

AVOID THIS BY SEEKING
FACTUAL INFORMATION FROM
VERIFIED SOURCES SUCH AS
@NCD CGOV, **@FMOHNIGERIA** AND
@WHO ONLY ONCE OR TWICE DAILY.



TOGETHER
WE CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF
#COVID19

#COVID19
#TakeResponsibility
#ResponsibleLeadership

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NIGERIA

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 29/04/2020

1532
CONFIRMED CASES

44
DEATHS

255
RECOVERED

12004
TESTED