

# ANADACH GROUP

ANALYZE | ADVISE | ACHIEVE

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We hope you and yours are safe and well. These are unprecedented times, with almost 50% of the world's population under some sort of lock down/movement restrictions as the growing COVID19 pandemic continues, resulting in unparalleled restriction/unwillingness to engage in international travel in recent history. So this quarter, our newsletter will focus on COVID19, including inviting several guest writers to provide their personal views on the situation.

Different countries have responded differently to the virus within their borders, as it has been transported mostly by air to now over 180 countries, and affecting more than 1 million people. Unfortunately, COVID19 infections have continued to grow exponentially with increasingly shorter doubling times. Countries' responses appear to have been based on strength of health systems - especially existing public health structures, political leadership, economic strength, previous experience of pandemic/epidemic (especially respiratory) and mostly focused on urban areas. In many countries, community spread complicates management with wider socio-economic groups, and also rural and isolated populations.

There has been a strong international response led by WHO, responding quickly to engage lower and middle income countries in getting prepared for the pandemic before it arrived - usually through the airports. In almost all countries the pandemic has had wide ranging economic impact on trade, movement of people and goods, reduced demand etc. Even before its arrival had slowed economies, resulting in an almost synchronized global economic depression. Several countries have responded with economic policy packages including economic stimulus, protection of vulnerable segments of the population, supported by responses from multilateral institutions including budgetary support for low and middle income countries.

All these has placed, the health sector at the front line - everywhere. For once, all countries are looking at their health systems as the pandemic exacerbates existing flaws and weaknesses in the system. Health workers everywhere are at the front line, protecting populations with their bravery and hard work, and all too often - even their lives. It is important that countries prioritize protection of their health workers, not only by ensuring adequate PPE and equipment to work with, but they need to make sure that health workers are not overworked, and they and their families are protected from any financial hardships resulting from sickness, injury or death.

At Anadach, we are working to support our clients, several leaders, governments, organizations and health workers on COVID19. as well as, on various assignments related to improving access to health - as this takes on even more importance. We also believe that countries need to respond with customized responses that take their own unique health systems and its history, societal organization and economic realities into account. Countries also need to plan for the impact of cross-sectoral actions today e.g. widespread closure of educational institutions may affect training of future health workers, learning outcomes and nutritional status. We suggest epidemiological models need to take into account, the current demographic profile, and as we learn more about COVID other factors that appear to affect outcomes. We have heard of several product and process innovations, including leveraging of technologies which we believe is key to changing the curve. The one thing projections cannot fully estimate is the ingenuity of the human mind - under

pressure.

All our regular annual events for 2020 have been postponed - both on Health Quality, Pharmaceuticals etc., and we will definitely keep you informed on new dates. However, we will be working with various partners to organize virtual events to help transfer knowledge, experience, innovations and stimulate new ideas. We look forward to engaging with you on these platforms. The first event co-hosted with the Economic Commission of Africa - **Webinar for African Urban Leaders -- Looking at Covid19 Responses from Asia** will be held at **11.00 am -12.30 pm GMT on April 21st** with guest speakers from across Africa, and Asia. Further information on the webinar and registration will be available on [www.anadach.com](http://www.anadach.com) and our social media platforms. The second webinar will be on April 29th - **COVID-19 in Africa: Leveraging the Private Healthcare Sector - please save the date.** Do feel free to approach us for new assignments, innovative ideas and projects.

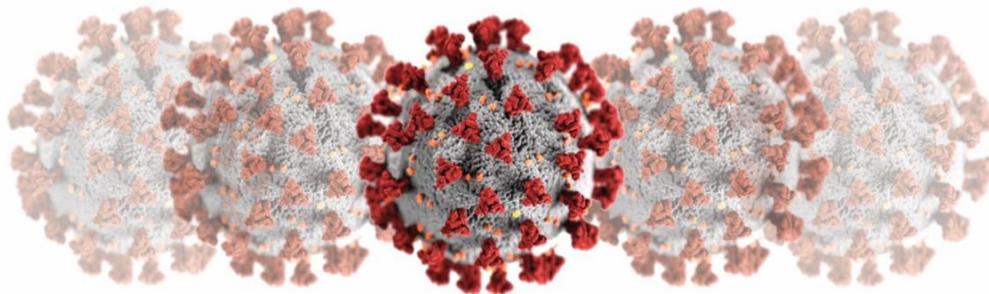
As we conclude this section, we would like to share with you @DrTedros of WHO's twitter quote to the G20, which we regard as our call to action:

1. *Fight like our lives depend on it, because they do.*
2. *Unite. We will only get out of this together.*
3. *Ignite a global movement to ensure this never happens again*

This we regard as our call to action, and we at Anadach will do our best to contribute. We hope you and yours keep safe in this period, as we all take personal responsibility for social distancing, washing our hands and reducing community transmission by following the guidelines in our various countries.

*Best,  
The Anadach Team*

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## **Independent Reflections on Covid-19**

***As COVID 19, in many countries has started out as an urban disease and there is concern about how some of the megacities in the Global South will effectively address the issues, we are delighted to invite Dr. Jide Idris, previous Commissioner of Health in Lagos, who led the Ebola response in Lagos State to be a special guest writer to share his independent views.***

Covid-19 appears to reflect the WHO's prediction of Disease X since it attained a pandemic status. Its impact has been enormous ranging from health systems destruction, threats to national and international security, raising scientific challenges, severe global economic damage to several industries etc. This underscores the importance and reality of the cliché that "Health is Wealth" and the need to look at Health as a Security issue.

Back in Nigeria, our response to this pandemic, especially between Lagos State and the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) teams has so far been commendable. It shows that we learnt a few lessons from the Ebola outbreak of 2014, especially the importance of Preparedness. It would also appear that apart from Lagos and very few other states, most states in the country are not ready

and prepared.

However, considering the mode of spread of this virus, our response needs to be modified especially in view of the gaps we have as a country, as highlighted by both the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and the Global Health Security (GHS) Index scores for Nigeria. Top amongst these is our fragile health system. A key component of this is the severe shortage, quality and capabilities of our health work force in some key specialty areas. A major concern is our seeming inability to handle a surge (with complications) when it occurs. Therefore, there is a need to increase our surge capacity by training our health workers (both public and private) on emergency respiratory care (ventilator care), Intensive Care etc.

Also important is the large number of vulnerable groups like people with Tuberculosis, Sickle Cell Disease, Malnutrition, Cancer, Cardiovascular diseases, the increasing number of slum areas, our communal living style, especially as it relates to the military and police barracks etc. These represent the vulnerable segments of our population. All these require us to review our response strategies, more so as it would appear we already have community spread of this virus now. Perhaps, we should consider decentralizing our detection strategy by creating specialized centers where more rapid screening, using test kits can be carried out.

In the same context, there is also a need to review our concept and implementation of “social distancing” if we consider the less privileged people living in the slum areas (the face-me-I-face-you) type of housing, people living in the barracks etc. Furthermore, there are many communities with little or no access to safe water supply. This also, is a reflection of our mitigation and preparedness status. If we want to encourage the culture of hand washing, perhaps governments should consider the provision of bore holes in those communities.

As a country, we have many factors (e.g. the environment, population explosion, social migration and conflicts, food, agriculture and animal industry etc.) that render us vulnerable to biological threats. Lassa fever is currently taking its toll in the country, in addition to the current Covid-19 pandemic. So, we must continuously review and update our level of preparedness and response strategies nationwide. Health must be taken as a security issue.

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## **The COVID-19 Pandemic: Another Test of Resilience for Front-line Health Workers**

***We believe that protecting health workers is at the core of any country's effective response to the epidemic, so we have requested Dr. Akan Otu, Infectious Disease/Public Health Specialist in the United Kingdom to share his perspectives on this issue.***

What started as an outbreak in Wuhan City of China in December 2019 has now spread across the globe with alarming rapidity. The novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was declared a pandemic on March 11th 2020. As at 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, there was a total of 1,204,246 confirmed and 64,795 deaths from COVID-19 disease. Looking ahead to the future weeks and months the prospects are frightening. As the health system becomes inundated with patients, the resources needed to protect healthcare workers from infection will become increasingly scarce. It is known that continuous exposure to large numbers of infected patients directly increases the risk of infection for healthcare workers. Also, pressure of work and lack of rest indirectly increases the probability of infection. Poor knowledge of infection control and a dearth of personal protective equipment (PPE) are problems that have been reported in healthcare systems across the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the weeks and months ahead, front line health workers will be required to rise above their fears and provide quality care to persons infected with COVID-19 in resource-constrained settings. It is important for health workers to adopt the strategies that have been proposed by the World Health Organization to maintain occupational health and safety namely:

- Learning to use and dispose of PPE properly.
- Using approved protocols to assess, triage, and treat suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Self-monitoring for signs of illness, self-isolating and reporting illness to managers, if it occurs.
- Identifying early signs of undue stress/burnout and seeking help.

The failure to take action and protect the healthcare workforce will have untoward consequences for humanity.

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## **Urgent Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals in Lagos**

YPO (Young Presidents Organisation) Lagos Chapter led by Mrs Fola Laoye (nee Elebute), Dr Richard Ajayi and Dr Ola Brown have put together a field hospital in a converted space of the Landmark Event centre, V.I to deliver testing, isolation and treatment (including intensive care) to Lagosians starting on Monday. YPO is implementing this through a public private collaboration with the Lagos state government. If you are interesting in finding out more about the initiative, or financially supporting the initiative, please click on the link below.

They are looking for intensivists, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, facilities staff, runners etc to staff 30 beds including 5 ICU (supported by a ventilator and significant oxygen supply) as from Monday and will subsequently roll out 40 additional beds with 3 more ventilators by the end of next week. All staff will be paid and significant investments have been made to guarantee staff and patient safety.

They especially want to work with private hospitals with acute capabilities in the city so that Covid-19 patients can be isolated and treated appropriately.

They would like acute hospitals to also be on standby to care for very acute patients on a referral basis.

Interested healthcare workers should reach out with their CVs and available work hours to Oyinkan via [oyinkanoladapo@hmarketsafrica.com](mailto:oyinkanoladapo@hmarketsafrica.com)

[Check out the status report on treatment/isolation center in Eti Osa Lga – Phase 1](#)

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# The State of Health Tech in Nigeria Report

In January 2019, Tech Cabal launched a report called '[The State of Health Tech in Nigeria](#)' at their TownHall meeting on health. The report gives a comprehensive overview of existing businesses in the health technology industry in Nigeria and profiles 75 active and 15 inactive health tech startups. It breaks them down into 12 major sub categories and includes access to the entire source data set of the research used to prepare the report. The report lists all the startups and groups them by subsector and geographical distribution, and is a very good place to start for information on current players in the health tech industry in Nigeria. Given the importance of innovative technologies to address health issues, including COVID19, Anadach is partnering with TechCabal to give you access to a 10% discount to purchase the report. See discount instructions below:

- You can go to the [sales link here](#) and use the code TCI001ANADACH.
- Or you can [use this direct link](#) for the discount to apply automatically. You 'll need to click through until checkout.

[TechCabal](#) provides insight into startups, innovation and technology in Africa. Its industry reports aim to provide actionable data on startups and the tech ecosystem in Nigeria and across Africa to investors, operators, regulators and other ecosystem players.

**Access to the Report  
today!**

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## Anadach is Recruiting on behalf of Clients

Our client is a growing facility in Lagos that places strong emphasis on the delivery of high-quality patient-centered care. They provide General Paediatric Services, Medical and Surgical Outpatient Consultations and specialized services for Adults.

As a result of expansion and strategic initiatives aimed at delivering increased value to patients' experience, career opportunities exist for high performing medical professionals that can contribute in rapidly growing organization.

**Position: Nursing Officer**  
**Reports to: The Senior Nursing Officer**  
**Location: Ikoyi, Lagos**

The Role:

The selected candidate will be responsible for the delivery of basic nursing care to patients. She will be responsible for ensuring uniformity in the delivery of professional and efficient nursing services to all patients, whilst upholding global standards enforced by management.

[Please find job description here.](#)

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