CASE STUDY: COLLABORATING FOR COVID RESPONSE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	01
Case Study - Collaborating for COVID response in East Africa	03
Case Study - Collaborating for COVID response in West Africa	05
Case Study - Collaborating for COVID response in Southern Africa	07

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Overview of Members of CACOVD	05
Figure 2: Sources of amount collected; & Disbursement to various causes in Solidarity Fund	07
Figure 3: Overview of donors to the solidarity Fund, South Africa	07

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CASE STUDY: COLLABORATING FOR COVID RESPONSE

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has necessitated effective immediate action by governments, businesses and the philanthropic actors across the globe.

At the time of writing this research, the coronavirus was an imminent threat that had caused disruption in the economic and societal systems of all the countries in the world. The first COVID-19 case in East Africa was reported in Kenya on 12th March 2020, followed by Ethiopia and Rwanda on 13th and 14th March 2020, respectively. By the end of March, the virus had spread to all the countries in the region. By 7th September 2020, more than 107,000 cases were recorded in the 6 focus countries in East Africa, with Kenya and Ethiopia reporting the highest number of cases in the region at 35,460 and 60,784 respectively¹²⁹. More cases of the virus continue to be recorded on a daily basis as the countries expand their testing capability.

As has been the case in previous calamities that have befallen the countries, social investors have been at the forefront in establishing measures, and strategies to contain the impact of the virus; in most cases, the investors have been forced to re-align their programmes and commitments.

Social investors in the region have put together strategies to combat the impact of the pandemic on their portfolio companies. Some of the strategies adopted by select investors;

- AECF established REACT Relief fund to provide emergency grants and technical support ranging between to energy access companies supplying solar home systems and clean energy solutions.
- United States African Development Foundation (USADF) launched the USADF Capital for African Resilience-building and Enterprises Support (C.A.R.E.S)COVID-19 to build resilience among African enterprises and entrepreneurs while combating COVID-19 in Africa. The program provided funding and TA needed to help African enterprises and entrepreneurs mitigate the impact of the pandemic.
- Acumen established the Acumen Global Emergency Facility to support their portfolio companies serving low communities in 18 countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda where Acumen operates.

• The Asia Africa Investment and Consulting (AAIC), on the other hand, engaged with the Limited Partners (LPs) to discuss the possibility of extending the repayment terms.

THE POWER OF MANY: BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPISTS JOINING HANDS TO COMBAT THE PANDEMIC

Aside from the individual initiatives by various social investors, a unified and collaborative approach was also leveraged in Kenya to respond to the crisis.



Source: NBCC website accessed on $8^{\rm th}$ september 2020. Sum of commitments made between March and April 2020

The National Business Compact on Coronavirus (NBCC) in Kenya was launched in March - a few days after the first case was reported in the country. Convened by the Marketing Society of Kenya, the coalition consists of corporates in the hygiene business, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, AMREF, SDG Partnership Platform among others. Jointly with the government's National Taskforce for COVID-19 response, NBCC established a flexible emergency fund (Flexi Fund) to raise funding to support the work of the Ministry of Health in Kenya. The fund has been mobilizing contributions from the business community, philanthropists, and development partners and utilizing the funds on public campaigns to create awareness about the virus, community activation, support to frontline health service providers, and the purchase of basic equipment, supplies, or services needed to respond the crisis. During a convening of over 30 philanthropists brought together by EAPN, philanthropists also agreed to a coordinated approach and decided to join the efforts of the public and private sector by contributing to the flexi fund.

¹²⁹ Worldometer: Corona Virus Cases by country



CASE STUDY – COLLABORATING FOR COVID RESPONSE

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has necessitated effective immediate action by governments, businesses, and philanthropists across the globe.

At the time of writing this research, the coronavirus was an imminent threat that disrupted the economic and societal systems across the world. The first COVID 19 case in West Africa was recorded in Nigeria in February 2020, and, within one month, the virus spread to all other countries in the region. By 4th October 2020, more than 144,900 cases had been recorded in the six focus countries with Nigeria and Ghana reporting the highest case-load in the region at 59,465 and 46,829, respectively¹⁰². More cases are being recorded daily as the countries expand their testing capability. The pandemic has seen increased efforts by donors, the public and private sectors to enhance the response towards the crisis as well as cushioning the economy and the vulnerable population.

THE COALITION AGAINST COVID (CACOVID) NIGERIA -THE POWER OF MANY

In Nigeria, the philanthropy and private sector actors have rallied behind the public sector and the international funding community to eradicate the pandemic in the country.

As is the case with similar national disasters previously witnessed, such as the Ebola outbreak, the philanthropy sector has been at the forefront in making donations towards the response to COVID. The Coalition Against COVID (CACOVID), led by Aliko Dangote, demonstrates how multiple philanthropy, private sector players, and governments can collaborate to reach critical objectives – combating the crisis in this case.

Figure 1: Overview of Members of CACOVID

The coalition focuses on pooling resources across industries to provide technical, operational, and financial support in the fight against COVID-19.

The coalition has targeted to raise ~US\$ 310Mn (₦ 120Bn), with about 22% of this amount already raised from more than 50 contributors. Some of the key achievements and ongoing support by the coalition include:

- Setting up testing facilities and treatment centres The first phase is the completion of isolation centers in six states and the second phase will be the creation and equipping of these centers in the remaining 30 states of the country. The equipment purchased includes beds, ventilators, PPEs, and testing kits. The coalition has so far purchased more than 650,000 molecular testing kits.
- Distribution of food relief packages to over 1.67 million households (10 million vulnerable Nigerians) nationally
- Contact tracing funding part of the Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System (SORMAS) and providing for logistics cost of ambulances and movement of patients.
- COVID-19 screening tool the group launched a screening tool to assist in the testing process. The tool helps in self-diagnosis and recommends the user.
- Advocacy and public enlightenment on the pandemic

CACOVID has demonstrated how immense network power, bringing together multiple stakeholders, can be leveraged to address social challenges at scale. Yet, like in previous disasters, the collaboration may not be sustained once the pandemic is eradicated as stakeholders usually go back to delivering on their objectives.



¹⁰¹ Worldometer: Corona Virus Cases by country



CASE STUDY: COLLABORATING FOR COVID RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a global health and societal emergency that has necessitated effective immediate action by governments, businesses and the philanthropic actors globally.

The first COVID-19 case in Southern Africa was recorded in South Africa on 1st March 2020, followed by Zambia on 18th March 2020. The virus had infected almost all countries in the region by the end of March 2020. In a little over 4 months, as of 3rd October 2020, more than 720,000¹⁷³ cases had been recorded in the focus countries with South Africa recording the highest cases (681,289), followed by Zambia (15,089)¹⁷⁴. With increased testing facilities, the number of cases being recorded every day has been increasing in the past month.

Overall, Southern Africa has received substantial funding from international and local sources. To fight the pandemic.

By 4th October 2020, a total of US\$ 306 billion had been deployed across 320 initiatives covering the entire Southern Africa region¹⁷⁵. Nearly 65% of these initiatives have been country specific while the remaining have been multi-region initiatives by various funders. Most of the funding has focused on equipping the government and the private sector to respond to the pandemic as well as initiatives to stabilise the economy. Besides different governments, major funders include The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), African Development Bank, and governments among others.

In South Africa, philanthropic organisations, corporate foundations, and individuals have all come together to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Different types of stakeholders in the country have come together to combat the pandemic through the Solidarity Fund, a vehicle that has been set up to facilitate and mobilize capital towards the pandemic. The Fund aims to collect US\$ 234 million (4 billion Rand), of which US\$ 159 (2.72 billion Rand) had been collected as of 5th July 2020 from large corporate foundations, local foundations, and individuals¹⁷⁶.

Figure 2: Sources of amount collected; & Disbursements to various causes in Solidarity Fund

SOURCES OF AMOUNT COLLECTED IN SOLIDARITY FUND (US\$ MILLION)



DISBURSEMENT TO VARIOUS CAUSES (US\$ MILLIONS)



Source: Solidarity Fund, South Africa

Figure 3: Overview of donors to the Solidarity Fund, South Africa



¹⁷⁵ Devex: Funding the response to COVID-19

^{173 2,09,759} in the 6 focus countries

¹⁷⁴ Worldometer

¹⁷⁶ Solidarity Fund, South Africa