

## **Roles of the NGOs and the Media in Developing Resilience on the Weather, COVID-19 and the Consequences**

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**Abstract:** Identifying the effects of the weather conditions on the COVID-19 is essential in developing resilience strategies to the pandemic. The pandemic having unprecedented impact on all aspects of life; economic, social, and political has prompted response to mitigate the spread, impact and casualty. What effects has the weather conditions on the transmission of the virus is among many questions asked about the behavior of the pandemic. This paper has examined the roles of NGOs and the Media among other stakeholders in building resilience to the weather, COVID-19 pandemic and consequences. Protection and control measures are essential to curb the spread of the pandemic. It has reviewed relevant papers on the effects of the weather on the COVID-19 and has recognized the effective works of NGOs and the media in developing resilience to the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Roles, NGOs, Media, Resilience, Weather, COVID-19.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The COVID-19 emerged in December 2019 and on the basis of "alarming levels of spread and severity, and the alarming levels of inaction", on 11 March 2020, the Director-General of WHO characterized the COVID-19 situation as a pandemic. It is expected that all regions and countries will be affected. It had led to a shut-down of all sectors in the world leaving tales of grief and broken economies. Researches have tried to investigate how the CORONA virus acts in different weather conditions and have presented different views to that. While some of the studies have found out that the spread of the virus is determined by weather conditions, and that increase in temperature and humidity decelerates the spread of the virus, others are of the opinion that weather conditions have no effects on the spread of the CORONA virus. According to the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), people with these symptoms may have COVID-19: fever or chills cough, shortness of breath or difficulty

breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or running nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. In a research article by Ogaugwu et al, it revealed that many respiratory viral infectious diseases such as those caused by the human respiratory syncytial virus (RCV), influenza virus, and human coronaviruses show seasonal oscillation and are prevalent during winter. Transmission of influenza was found to increase in colder and drier conditions. In addition, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV 2, is affected by temperature. The fact that SARS and COVID-19 are caused by coronaviruses and the outbreak of both diseases started during the winter seem to suggest that winter conditions could be promoting transmission of these

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infections . In Nigeria, factors that may contribute to a spread as listed by the UN HRP are a weakened health system, multiple disease outbreaks, high population concentration in urban centers, lack of access to potable water, insufficient sanitation infrastructure, inadequate awareness of preventive measures, and traditional practices.

The United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) with its three (3) strategic priorities; to Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and decrease morbidity and mortality, Decrease the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion and livelihoods, and Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced people, migrants and host communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. The HRP has recognized and integrates inputs from the humanitarian NGO community that has also captured the perspectives of local organizations

When countries have taken drastic measures of isolation to avoid the increase of cases, the media and the NGOs were at the peak of supporting the government with enforcement. The roles of the NGOs in its purpose and scope include those of reaching out the remote and most vulnerable.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Methodology used in this paper is review of related literature on the subject matter using solely secondary data as the type of data and the data source. It reviews literatures on the effects of the COVID-19 at different weather conditions, and the contributions of the media and non-governmental organizations in containing the pandemic. Researches used are restricted to those from the outbreak of the pandemic in 2019 to 2020.

## **RESULTS**

The result of the study revealed that since different researches are directed towards different perspectives of believes that the weather conditions can or cannot determine the spread of the virus, though a great homogeneity was observed in most findings regarding the effects of weather conditions, especially temperature and humidity on the spread of the COVID-19. The temperature has

a major impact on the living environment of people in different parts of the world under different climatic conditions, which can play an active role in the epidemic development and control in public health<sup>4</sup>. Cold and dry conditions are determinant factors on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NGOs and the media have gone a long way sensitizing the world to help control/contain the pandemic together with adoption of effective preventive measures of frequent washing of hands, physical distancing and wearing of masks, until an effective treatment or vaccine is developed and/or the body system has gain immunity of the virus.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2 – 24 days after exposure to the virus.

Not overlooking the importance of media and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in terms of sensitization and awareness creation, both are capable of influencing organizations to consider developing resilience as it is a tool for surviving during crisis as well as for thriving. This is to minimize the effects of the pandemic on the day to day activities of individuals and organizations as a means to come out strong. The United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on COVID-19 has considered NGOs to have been key in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the HRP, NGOs and NGO consortiums have been instrumental in helping shape the plan and conveying local actors' perspectives, and they will play a direct role in service delivery. NGOs will be able to access funding mobilized in the framework of this plan and related country plans through partner arrangements with UN agencies, through pooled funding mechanisms, including Country-Based Pooled Funds, and through direct donor funding.

## **CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Nigeria as a country has its share of the negative impact of Covid-19 despite its advantages in some cases. These impacts are however, predicted to get worsen with time necessitating more serious measures to be

taken by the government and the citizens. The study concludes that Roles played by the NGOs and Media in developing resilient on the weather, COVID-19 and the consequences cannot be over emphasized and should be taken advantage of, as they are able to generate funding to support local communities especially, to curb the negative economic impacts as a result. They also create awareness to the populace with respect to what coronavirus is all about as well as on preventive and control measures. The research therefore concludes that the national center for disease control should create offices across the thirty six states of the federation for a rapid response to cases. More so, establishment of more testing centers by the government as undiagnosed cases are not reported will go a long way in curtailing the outbreak of the pandemic. The government should therefore strengthen partnerships with NGOs and the Media who are already established in quick response to humanitarian needs when it comes to disaster management like that of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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