

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOR THE 1ST IN THE SERIES OF CBI WEBINARS THEMED "THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN NATION BUILDING: CASE STUDY OF DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NIGERIA" WHICH HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020.

INTRODUCTION

The program was organised as an off- shoot of the 6th Regulatory Conversation series that held in March 2020 themed: "**National Identity Number: Matters Arising & Implications To Nation Building**". The relevance of the discourse in present day realities in the Nigerian socio economic sphere can only be imagined. Recent events in Nigeria have exposed the inefficiency in our Data Management strategy especially in the area of how to identify and capture the vulnerable in our society, their numbers and location. How do we plan adequately when we do not have accurate data providing basic information on citizens? All over the world, policy makers use evidence-based approaches for planning, evaluating and formulating policies.

OBJECTIVE OF THE WEBINAR

The Integrity Organisation/The Convention on Business Integrity in collaboration with ActionAid and Citizens Connect sought to bring relevant stakeholders in the civil society together to lead the advocacy on this issue by engaging and influencing policy makers as well as collating and crystalizing ideas to influence existing legislation and institutional arrangements.

ISSUES RAISED & PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION DURING THE WEBINAR

Issue 1: Based on the definition of the vulnerable, in the Nigerian context, how do we define/ identify the vulnerable?

Recommendation: The role of the National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO) should include active facilitation of collecting/updating data of the "poor and vulnerable" as part of its mandate.

Also, there is a need to have a national strategy on how to capture and collate data that would assist us to effortlessly identify the vulnerable in the country, specifying their ages, gender, numbers and location. For instance, one of the areas that should be reviewed as part of the national strategy is the issue of expiration date on the NIMC card; it is recommended that this document should be once in a lifetime with a unique number provided for all users of the card.

Issue 2: Data Issues such as:

- Citizens do not have access to government held data
- There is a dearth of adequate and reliable data
- Process of capturing data is slow and inefficient
- The process and agency with overall responsibility for updating data on births and deaths as well as capturing those who due to circumstances have become vulnerable after their data was initially processed are unclear
- There is no reliable information on how data is captured at the grassroots
- Harmonization of data collected- different agencies are capturing similar data at different times on different platforms – we do not have “one view of the truth”
- There is no identifiable strategy in the process of data collection and collation

Recommendation: Nigeria could adopt effective template(s) of other countries who have been able to capture data successfully; a centralized database system with a legal framework would empower a specific agency with this responsibility. Civil society should be more involved in the process of capturing data to ensure the integrity of the process.

Furthermore, there is need for collective action by civil society, private sector and public sector to ensure their involvement in the development/monitoring of the proposed national strategy for data capturing and management. Civil society and other public agencies vested with orientation/ information responsibilities should educate the public on the benefits of NIM’s registration to nation building.

Issue 3: The political will to capture and share the data captured stating numbers, location and gender of those who have been classified as being vulnerable (subject to data protection standards such as GDPR) is not evident.

Recommendation: Data is essential for Nation-building; consequently there is a need for the establishment and implementation of an effective policy protocol on data, concerning its collection, integrity, analysis, relevance, dissemination, and inherent inferences. Also, there is the need to have a centralized database where all the agencies can access data of all Nigerians regardless of who they are and their locations.

Issue 4: How do we monitor and track funding to the vulnerable when we do not have adequate data with which to control such activities?

Recommendation: The role of the World Bank with regards to funding activities in Africa should be investigated and they should be encouraged to adequately monitor the funds in achieving its set objectives. Civil society groups need to be more organized and focused in order to leverage their competence, capacity and resources to get involved in the research of ensuring that data captured is adequate, reliable and effective for specific and set purposes.

PANELISTS

Panelists at this first Webinar were:

1. **Mr. Soji Apampa** - *CEO, The Convention on Business Integrity*
2. **Ms. Francesca Kanayo-Chiedu** - *Executive Director, Citizens ConnectNG*
3. **Ms. Idayat Hassan** - *Director, Center for Democracy and Development*
4. **Mr. Newton Otsemaye** - *Manager SCRAP- C, ActionAid Nigeria*

STATISTICS ON ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

- Registered participants = Two hundred (200)
- Unique viewers = One hundred and one (101)
- Total users = Two hundred and fifty seven (257)
- Maximum concurrent view = Seventy-three (73)



NEXT STEPS

The second phase of the webinar series is to engage relevant Government agencies and policy makers on the outcomes and recommendations of this discourse with the objective of proposing legislation as well as influencing policy makers to take necessary action. In the meantime, these recommendations will be shared with all relevant stakeholders before the scheduled webinar. The date of the next webinar will be communicated shortly.

