

Assessing COVID-19 Pandemic Palliatives in Lagos State

August 2020

LAGOS CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (LACSOP)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

BUDGIT FOUNDATION

Index case of COVID-19 in Lagos State

25 February 2020

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) ordered the closure of schools for an initial period of two week

27 March 2020

30 March 2020

May 4, 2020

Lagos State government, the most impacted state had unveiled an economic stimulus package for the indigent and most vulnerable people in the state

Nigeria lifts coronavirus lockdown

Institutional contributors to this research

Joint National Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD)

Community Development Committees, Shomolu, Bariga,
Mainland, Surulere

Lagos State COVID-19 CSO's Emergency Intervention Group
(CEIG)

National Council of Women Society (NCWS)

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

Lagos State Ward Health Committee (WHC)

Lagos Civil Society Participation for Development (LACSOP)

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)

BudgIT Foundation

Introduction

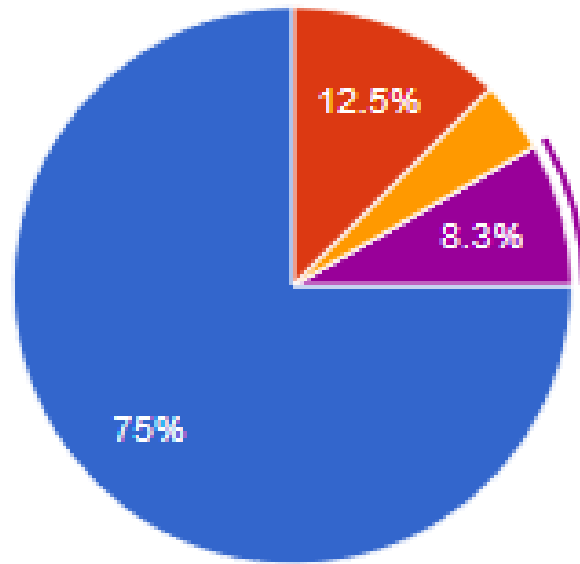
One month after the index case of COVID-19 was recorded in Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) ordered the closure of schools, organizations and businesses in FCT, Lagos and Ogun States effective from 30 March 2020 for an initial period of two weeks. FGN subsequently announced several measures and directives on healthcare, border security, and fiscal and monetary policies in response to the pandemic.

On March 27, 2020, the Lagos State government, the most impacted state had unveiled an economic stimulus package for the indigent and most vulnerable people in the state to cushion the effects of the 14-day stay-at-home directive occasioned by the spread of the dreaded coronavirus disease in the state.

The Lagos Civil Society Participation for Development (LACSOP) in partnership with Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project and BudgIT, is tracking government's palliatives' intervention during the COVID-19 lockdown period from 25th of February 2020.

This assessment is being undertaken after the fact in order to present lessons learnt to the Lagos State Government and to contribute to a collaborative response strategy. Our approach was simple. (1) Identify, search and pull together CBOs, NGOs, association, religious bodies that have been part of (whether observing or active) the palliative distribution. (2) Harvest information from target groups through FGDs, key informant interviews and collect data from a Google Form Questionnaire. LACSOP assessed sources, the type and numbers of palliatives shared and gender and inclusiveness implications.

This report documents our findings.



- Non governmental Organisation
- Government ministry, department or agency
- Faith based organisation
- Community based organisation
- Network or association

Findings

LACSOP engaged with a cross section of CBO members who had been part of the distribution of palliatives in the State. Of this number majority (91% were women) from 10 LGA – Agege, Amuwo Odofin, Badagry, Ibeju Lekki, Ifako-ljaiye, Igando-Ikotun, Kosofe, Mainland and Shomolu.

What palliatives mean in Lagos State

In Lagos State, palliatives takes on different dimensions and meanings.

Under the Governor's Emergency Food Response Programme:

- Food markets
- Food stimulus

Indirect/cost saving initiatives for the private and informal sectors.

- Three months moratorium to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs that got repayable loans from Lagos State Employment Trust Funds (LSETF), deferring the payment of accruing interests by the loan beneficiaries.
- Ordering of the immediate release of all private and commercial vehicles impounded from March 1, 2020 for minor traffic offences by the police, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and Vehicle Inspection Agency to date.

LASG is not the only source of palliatives

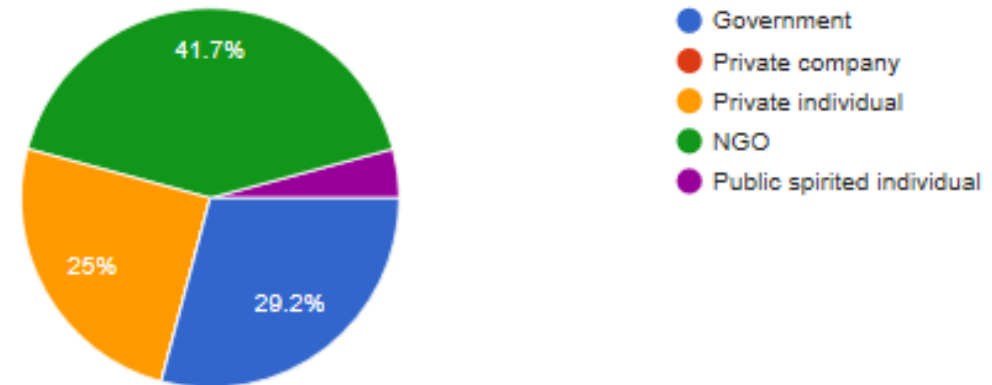
“A lot of the palliatives came from the NGOs, private organizations and individuals and it is more than those that came from the government. For my group, we know that we have distributed close to 10,000 palliatives came from Private organizations & NGOs, and still counting.”

– COVID-19 CSOs Emergency Intervention Group respondent

“We got only 60 Bags [of garri] from the Government. Private individuals gave more of the Palliative.” -

“The private sector was very supportive. For example, UNILEVER specifically gave their edible products to the programme.” - JONAPWD respondent

“The CDC worked with the Ministry of Agriculture & the Chairmenn of the LGA.” - CDC Respondent



How much did LASG spend on palliatives?

It is not clear how much LASG spent on the COVID-19 intervention. No government or news report has documented specifically how much was spent on government palliatives.

There are different accounts of what LASG committed to be spent

- **N20billion** - The passage of the Law to Combat and Stop the Spread of the CoronaVirus Pandemic in Lagos State and Connected Purposes empowered the governor to spend N20billion to combat the pandemic in the state
- **N10 million** - 57 local governments were rallied to assist the state with the Governors' stimulus programme in the sum of N10 million
- **Unquantified:** Private sector palliative contributions

Focus on the Emergency Food Response Programme

The governor's statements
initiatives revealed

The one meal per day to 100,000
youths

Unconditional cash transfer to
250,000 people

Food kitchens in all the local
government councils



What palliatives look like

“Today, I am pleased to announce additional palliatives for our citizens to further ameliorate the inconvenience occasioned by this extended lockdown. In the next couple of days, we will commence a daily ‘Food Kitchen’ programme with the target to feed about 100,000 people daily. This will largely target the youths.”

Sanwo-Olu Rolls out Palliatives as Lagos Begins Extended Lockdown, ThisDay Newspaper, April 15, 2020

“Ration for a household of husband, wife and about four children a minimum of 14 days so that our advocacy around 'stay at home', 'stay with your loved ones' will be respected.”

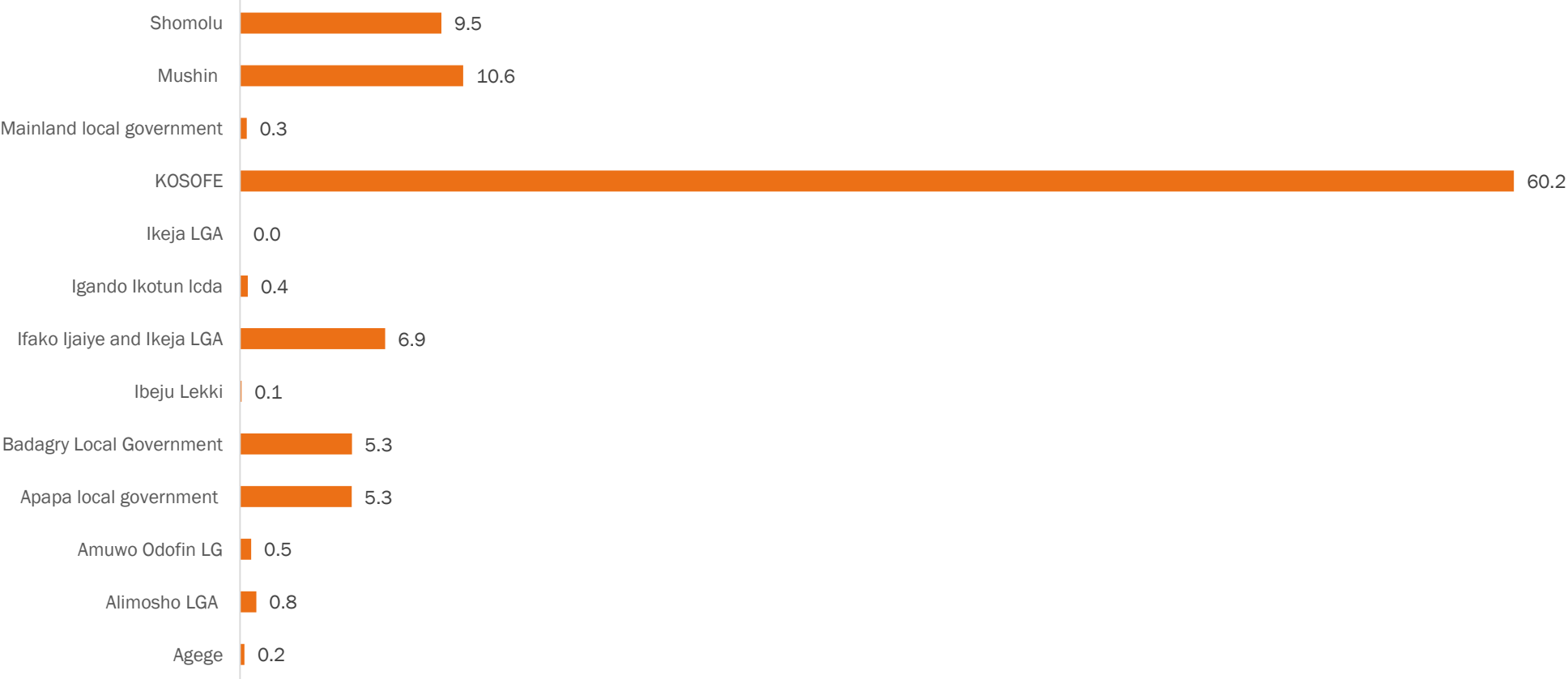
- Five kilogrammes of rice
- Five kilogrammes of beans
- Five kilogrammes of garri
- 2 sachets of tomatoes paste



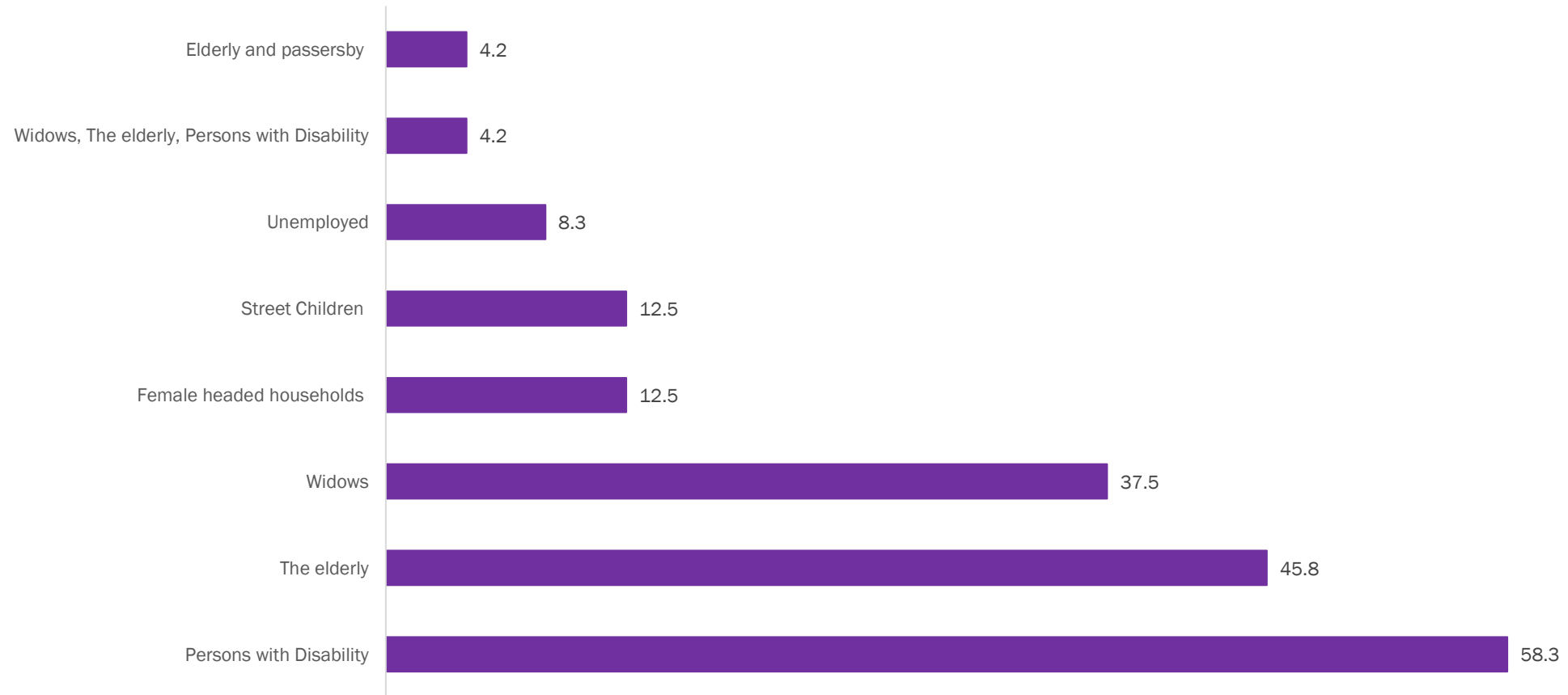


How did LASG perform on
their promise?

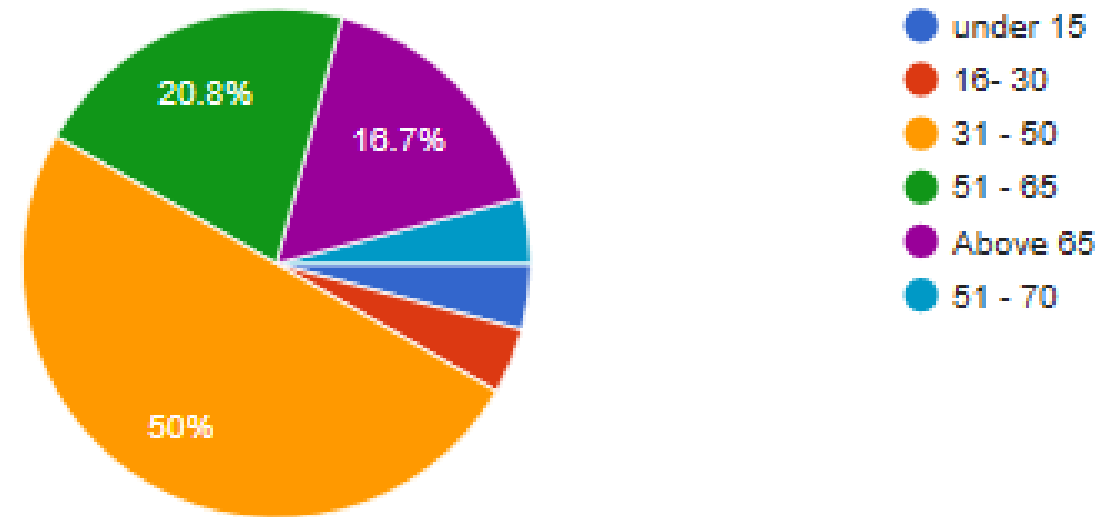
Reports on palliatives made available per LGAs



Reports of target group for palliative distribution by percentage in Lagos State



Age of beneficiaries



- The most served were persons aged 31-50years. Above 65 received 20%

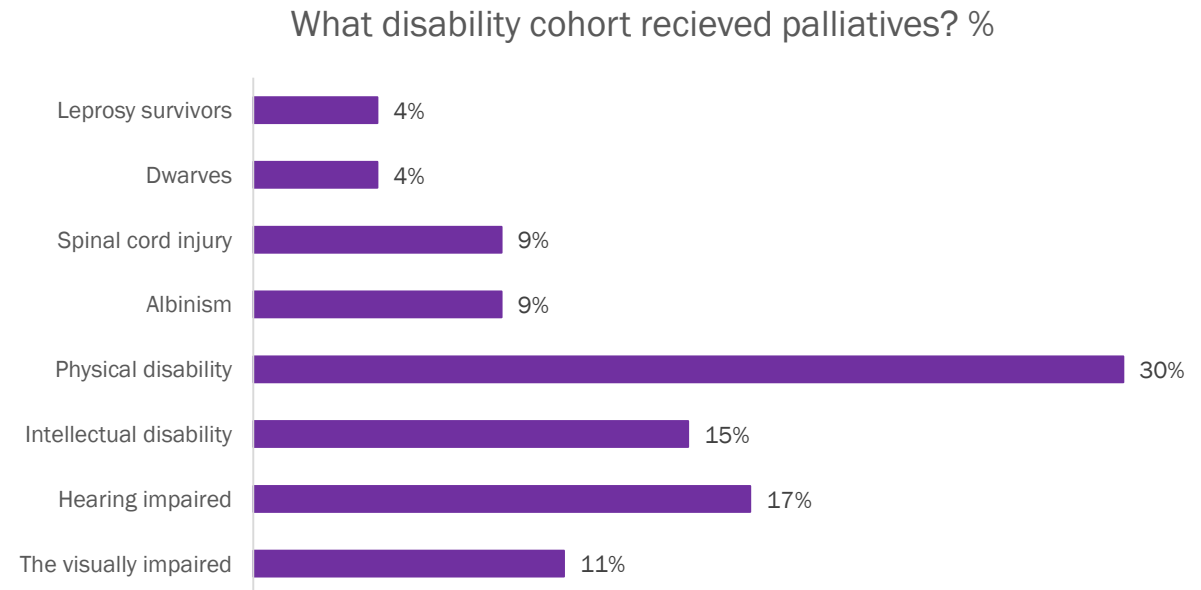
Issues of Gender and Inclusion

“I don’t see how they interacted with women and others to plan this thing from a gender and inclusion perspective. Men had more energy to fight for food than women. Should we have had to fight anyway?”

- NCWS respondent

There was no gender disaggregation in the distribution of palliatives.

The Joint Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD) pushed to gain access for their members who represent part of the vulnerable in the State. Palliatives shared to PWDs were disaggregated according to challenge but not gender.



What database informed sharing palliatves?

1. Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA).
2. Lagos State Offices of Disability Affairs (LASODA)
3. Community Development Associations and Committees
4. Ministry of Agriculture Programmes

Reports show that distribution of relief materials needed better coordination





WHAT WENT WRONG?

What our research tells us ...

Politicians hijack of packages at the local level

Implementation of distribution outside available data

Absence of a criteria definition of vulnerable person. Therefore we found that not all food package recipients are vulnerable or poor.

Quality of food distributed and food portions were small

The absence of a collaborative and inclusive coordinating body for the for multiple players without agreed standards

Distribution methods flouts all Covid 19 safety rules

- Pulled people out of their homes defeating the stay at home order
- social distancing of 6feet not observed even by distributors
- Methods lacking dignity

Learning from distributors

“There were problems of distribution as some clusters got more packs than others, and, the whole process became chaotic. Some clusters got angry because of this.

“We risked our lives. We risked exposure. We had to sort out our own PPEs.”

“No visitation to the remote areas, although, they gave the palliative to those that really needed them.”

“In shomolu, the palliative team went to 7 streets, because of the small measure and number, it was easy to reach out”



Learning from distributors

“There was the issue of coordinating with the PWDs. Better result would have been obtained, if there had been a relationship with JONAPWD, and LASODA. The synergy was clearly absent. Identifying who to give the palliative would have been easier, if the synergy was there.”

“A previous list to be used was jettison by the government, which was not communicated to us. What members got came majorly from private organization and NGOs. In fact, a member got just a bottle of water.”

“I know people living at Victoria Island got palliatives even when they did not need it. The database itself was flawed.”



Learning from distributors

“The stadium trucks was supposed to be for the PWDs at the Stadium. But the argument is that, there was lockdown at this period, how will they find their way there?”

“Less 50% of members collected palliative. Some of the government officials insisted on seeing the children of the PWDs despite their disabilities, and the difficulties in moving around with their children.”

“Ikorodu was totally excluded.”

“Government says you are targeting the elderly, women and persons with disability. How do you expect them to go through the crowd to fight to get food at a central place?”



Learning from distributors

“There was no inclusive Planning on the part of the Government. If the planning have been inclusive, it could have turned out better. There was haphazard planning by the government. It could have even been better, if the whole process have been monetized.”

“Make the process transparent so that people have confidence that somebody is not chopping the money somewhere. Build trust. “

“We had to remove 100 pieces for politicians. From a truck of 450 pieces what will be left for the people?”

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

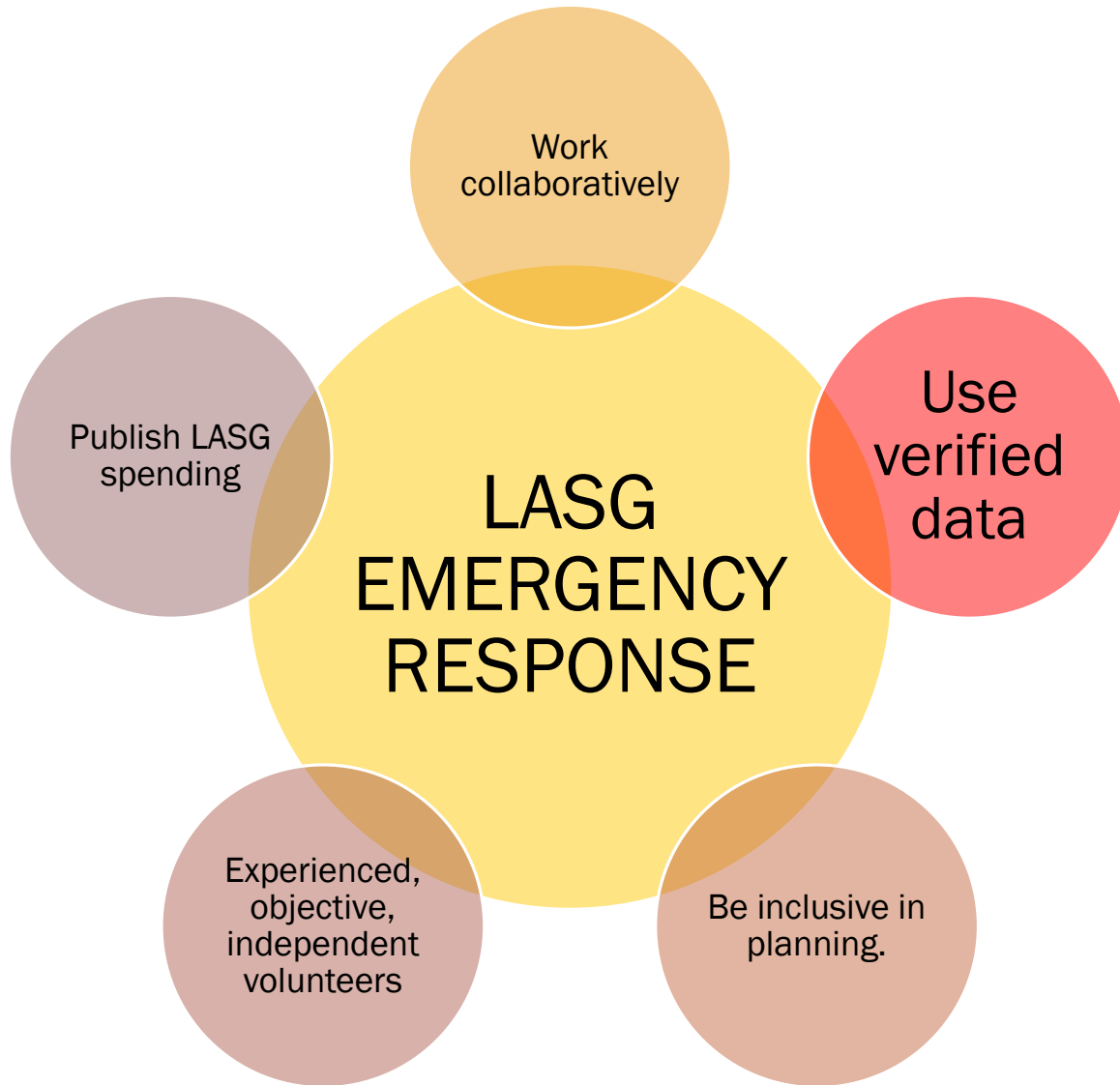


WORK COLLABORATIVELY

There is need for proactive measures by the government. There is need for joint planning between the government and the private organizations, NGOs, and Individuals. If there was joint planning, a better result would have been obtained

- CDC representative





USE VERIFIED DATA

Harmonize data to filter for real beneficiaries

So many data were discarded. LASRRA was set aside. The Ministry of Agriculture data was not used. CDA database is not comprehensive either.

CBOs also have databases that are useful

Make data available in order to learn from mistakes and plan for the future

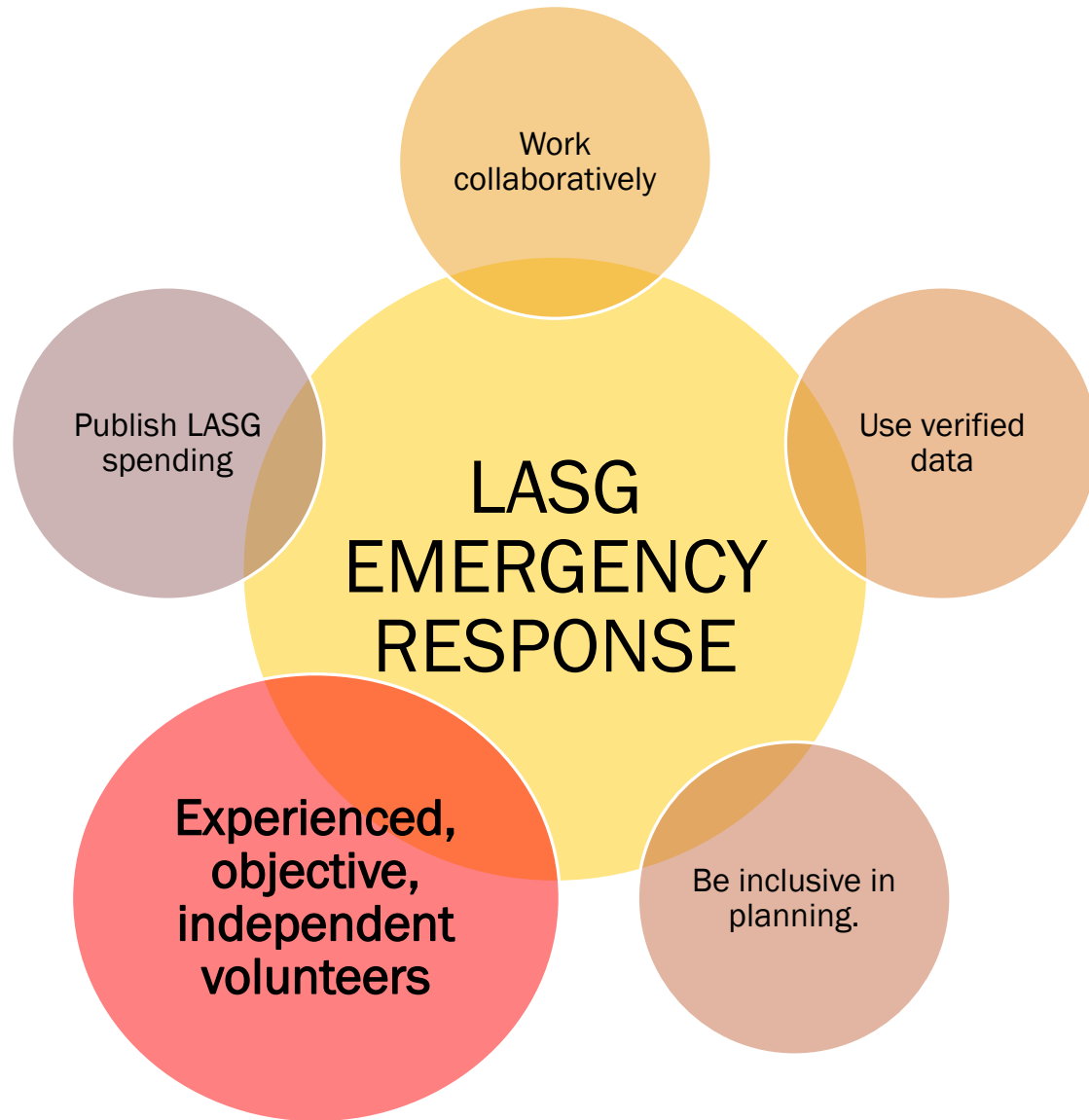
BE INCLUSIVE IN PLANNING

Adopt inclusive planning in an emergency response strategy.

Absence of inclusive planning excluded women, persons with disability

Establish a Emergency Food Plan designed by a collaboration of multiple stake holders.





ESTABLISH A ROBUST DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL

Work with non-partisan influencers

Get distributors that are independent, objective and detached from community

Leverage on traditional and religious institutions for distribution

Focus on only those who have been identified to be in the mainstream

PUBLISH WHAT LASG SPENT ON COVID PALLAITIVES!

Government owes the public transparency and integrity in the way money is spent and information and relief is distributed.



Lagos Civil Society
Participation for
Development (LACSOP)

Socio-Economic Rights and
Accountability Project

BudgIT Foundation

Supported by:

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Agents for Citizen-
Driven
Transformation (ACT)
Programme