



## The Movement for Community-Led Development

### The Grassroots Perspective: What is a COVID Resilient Community?

*As food security, health, and other sectors urgently respond to the COVID situation at global and national levels, communities can help ensure aid reaches those who need it most-- and that nothing falls through the cracks over the months and years to come.*

Community-led programs and approaches which prioritise **participation, civic engagement, and local decision-making** will support COVID response, resurgence, and recovery through:

- Addressing **immediate economic, social, health, psychosocial impacts** for the poorest
- Addressing the **whole person, whole community impacts of the “new normal”**
- **Building social resilience and local capacities** for addressing ongoing effects of COVID, future crises, and development efforts

### Civil Society: Who participates in *community-led development* at the local level?

<b>Local citizens, every day:</b> including all genders, ages, abilities, backgrounds.	Women, youth, farmers, and other <b>common identity groups</b>	<b>Other local civil society groups</b> addressing needs and issues, including poverty, health, environment, rights, and much more
<b>Traditional and customary leaders</b>  <b>Local leaders and spokespeople</b> (often leading local groups)	<b>Community-led development</b>	<b>Local businesses &amp; entrepreneurs</b>
<b>Faith-based</b> leaders and groups	<b>Cultural groups:</b> dance, music, drama, celebrations, traditions, history, more...	<b>Local government:</b> Teachers, health workers, police, and other service providers, local officials



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**African community-based groups & civil society are rich with assets to address the many impacts of the COVID situation:**

Whole person, whole community perspective	Dedication Commitment Volunteerism	Local wisdom and insights	Social capital: relationships, bonds trust and good will
Facilitation and engagement skills	Real time data collection and analytic capacities	Deep roots Historical knowledge	Cultural sensitivity
Local experience	Psychosocial understanding and skills	Arts and Humor	Commitment

**African Civil Society: Who speaks for and supports community-led development across a country, a region, a continent?** (Examples from various African countries are included.)

<b>Representation, Thought Leadership, and CSO Capacity Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Zambian Governance Society</li> <li>- West African Civil Society Institute</li> <li>- East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum Country Chapters</li> </ul>	<b>Member Associations and Umbrella Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uganda National NGO forum</li> <li>- Movement for Community-led Development, National Chapters</li> <li>- Human Right Consultative Committee, Malawi</li> </ul>	<b>Accountability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, Uganda</li> <li>-CIVICUS, South Africa</li> <li>- Africans Rising, West Africa</li> </ul>
<b>Culture, tradition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ntlo ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs), Botswana</li> <li>- Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, South Africa</li> </ul>	<b>Across Africa, many stakeholders support <i>community-led development</i> nationally, regionally &amp; across the continent.</b>	<b>Donors, trusts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graca Machel Trust</li> <li>- African Women Development Fund</li> <li>- Praekelt Foundation</li> </ul>
<b>Faith-based</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN)</li> </ul>		<b>Private Sector Associations &amp; Companies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lusaka Chamber of Commerce, Zambia</li> </ul>
<b>Academia and Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- African Research University Alliance, Members</li> </ul>	<b>Media and Communications Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Africa International Documentary Documentary Festival Foundation, Nigeria</li> </ul>	<b>Sector experts and advocates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prévention Information et Lutte contre le Sida (HIV prevention, care) Mauritius</li> </ul>



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### Strategies to leverage *Community-led Development* during COVID era\_\_\_\_\_

- **Identify and support trustworthy, diverse community and civil society organizations.** As in all sectors, some bad actors undermine the credibility of NGOs and other civil society stakeholders.
  - During the COVID crisis, some communities are insisting their aid comes through local, trusted groups.
  - Groups like CIVICUS are addressing this through standards and accountability.
- **Forge innovative partnerships that leverage complementary capacities,** among civil society, government, private sector, researchers, others.
- **In order to maximise potential to respond, communities will need appropriate resources (financial, supplies to distribute, technologies, technical support).**
  - Many national and subnational grassroots CSOs were already stretched thin.

### What does a COVID resilient community look like?\_\_\_\_\_

**Its members are receiving and following tailored, up-to-date COVID guidance.**

- Practical and clear guidance, training and modeling of recommended practices and policies, derived from government and other trustworthy sources
- Protected from misinformation
- Adapted to context, e.g. addressing farming calendar.

**Its members have a mindset of strength, positivity, and collective capacity.**

Mobilized community leaders (of all kinds, formal and informal) are helping community members adopt a COVID resilient mindset: We can get through this, together. We will co-create, collaborate, and coordinate to create a way forward.

**Its diverse members come together to co-create a unified, inclusive voice, and take action.**

The community enables local institutions and services to support and innovate to meet communities' needs. Community-led development ensures gaps are identified and filled, including but not limited to partnerships among:

- NGOs and community groups
- Local government, including aid and emergency support
- Private sector including small businesses and markets
- Traditional leadership
- Faith-based groups
- Health services
- Agricultural services
- Educational institutions
- Other government services
- Microfinance and local financial services
- Others



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Its members meet the unique needs of all groups, including:

- **Infants and Young Children.** Physically and mentally safe and developing: exclusively breastfed and after six months also receiving complementary foods, good hygiene, and being nurtured.
- **Girls and Young Women.** Physically and mentally safe and developing: fed well, good hygiene, learning, reassured.
- **Boys and Young Men.** Physically and mentally safe and developing: fed well, good hygiene, learning, reassured.
- **Women.** Safe, fed, coping well, receiving health care..
- **Parents and households.** Strong and capable: managing basic needs and hygiene, coping psychologically, caring for children including education for boys and girls. Elders are protected, cared for, and heard as they contribute wisdom and stories. Low-resource households receive targeted support.
- **Specific populations.** These include vulnerable households; pregnant and breastfeeding mothers; people living with HIV; people with disabilities; marginalized groups.

**Every community should collectively ask themselves, how are they managing opportunities, risks and challenges of its diverse members? \_\_\_\_\_**

What is missing from this list for your country or community? What creative and innovative ideas can your community come up with to address these and other issues?

	Vision	Risks	Families and communities can ask, and answer:	Ideas from around the world
Girls & Young women	Safe: body and mind	COVID Anxiety & Depression COVID Sexual abuse and rape from men & boys Bullying Vulnerable when going about chores Early marriage	How can they be protected? How can they be reassured?	Locally produced / distributed COVID hygiene supplies.  Mobilize children to speak and act <a href="https://ncnworld.org/">https://ncnworld.org/</a>
	Education continues	Chores take up time and energy. Menstruation interferes		
	Positive biology management	Menstruation interferes with schooling Fears, myths, and taboos Anemia Other nutrition	What is our vision? Awareness and education. Change the norms, involving all: period positive Gender positive, inclusive	“Menstrupedia” program (India)  Women’s Choice Industries, Salama Pads: Locally produced menstrual supplies (Tanzania) Peer learning
Boys & Young Men	Safe: Body and mind	COVID Anxiety & Depression Bullying	What are our social norms? How can we protect	



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		Sexual abuse	boys?	
	Positive biology management		Puberty education Gender positive, inclusive	
Infants & Young Children	Early childhood development needs met	Poor nutrition Lack of engagement Absorb fear & anxiety	Guidance for families: talking, nurturing, feeding	Breastfeeding support for mothers
Women	Health needs met, safe, supported	Poor nutrition Domestic violence Extreme poverty		Domestic violence awareness, outreach Health services including family planning
Parents, Aunties, Uncles, Elders	Feeling well and positive Providing for and nurturing their children and family members	Food security WASH Other basic needs Anxiety, depression and mental health issues Strained relationships Addiction Domestic violence	Address isolation	Household gardens provide energy, vitamins (Uganda)
Neighbors and friends	Feeling connected Feeling optimistic Ability to get and give help as needed	Physical distancing and masks interfere with feeling connected.		
Special populations	Getting provisions, services, medical care	Normal services and support interrupted. Physically isolated. Need access to medicine.		
Households with scarce resources		No food Cut off: lack of phones (including airtime, access to cash transfers), lack of radio or TV. COVID Depression & fear Domestic violence Lack of other basic supplies Lack of light, electricity		

**This evolving document was created with input from across Africa and the world, including National Chapters of the Movement for Community-led Development in Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Liberia, the West Africa Regional Group, Mexico, and the Global Movement for Community-led Development's Research Working Group. Special thanks to the Zambia COVID task force and the Rwanda forum! **Input and adaptation is welcomed and encouraged!****

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