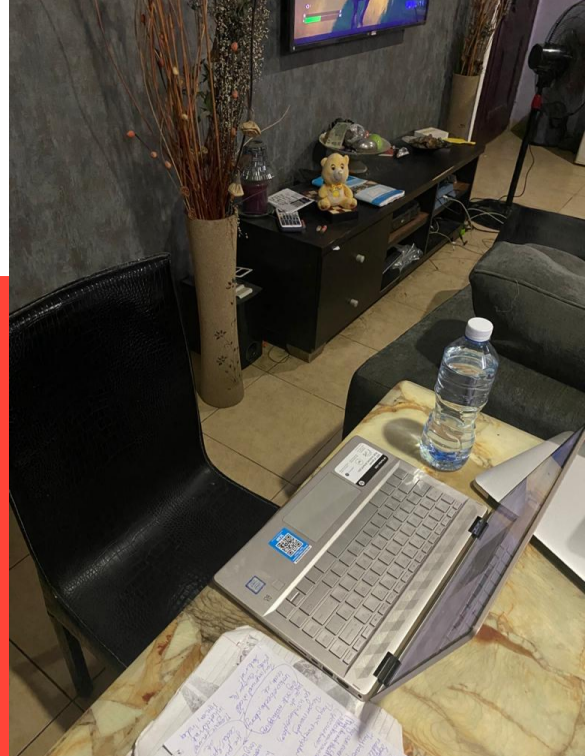


A Day in the Life

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My name is Adeleke Adedeji and I am a Social Science Researcher at Sightsavers, working on the COUNTDOWN project in Nigeria. I reside in Lagos-State, Nigeria. I'm presently residing in a state that is the epicenter of COVID-19 cases in Nigeria; Lagos is home to major economic activities in Nigeria, with a hub of businesses and industries, a major international airport, and seaport. This new way of life has made me as a researcher, who is used to physical contact during data collection and other methods of social research, begin to adapt to the virtual workspace and weighing out the pros and cons of working from home and tending to daily tasks online.

The present COVID-19 pandemic is affecting nations all over the globe due to lockdown measures and restrictions. These measures have affected our known way of life and are gradually leading us to evolve and adapt to the new changes in our environment. Few of the major adaptations include social distancing and getting used to the virtual workspace as physical contact and gathering of people in multitudes is now a thing of caution. It has been over 100 days since the first case of COVID-19 was recorded in Nigeria. Below are a few photos taken which document my experience as a researcher during this pandemic.

"These measures...are gradually leading us to evolve and adapt"



I took this photo to make the analogy of adapting and flourishing in a new environment

Plants mainly grow outdoors, in the forest or open field where there is adequate sunlight and rainfall but this plant has been placed in a pot, inside a house and although it is not in its natural habitat, it is not only growing well but it is also beautifying its environment. This can be related to our present working situation and environment with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing people to work from home but still getting the job done.

I am making use of what is available to get the job done. Working from home is a different workspace from the office we are used to. Everyone is having to make use of the little resources available at home coupled with other distractions, unlike the office where there is full concentration.

This picture was taken when I was taking an evening stroll in the neighborhood, the playground before COVID-19 was always filled with kids playing but now it is empty due to lockdown measures imposed by the government and people staying indoors to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Children now stay indoors and manage the toys they have and can't come out for a run with their friends at the playground. The facilities are there but there is no-one to utilize them. The same applies to our present research work, we are home making use of what we can virtually and online, but at present, we can't go out to the field.



"The facilities are there but there is no-one to utilize them"



This photo represents challenges around disconnection

Working from home can often be disrupted when there is power failure and poor internet connection as this is common in developing countries.

Sometimes when I'm ready to work, my laptop might not be charged and there won't be a source of power; sometimes the laptop is charged and there is a ready source of power supply but there won't be a good internet connection and sometimes, both events occur (power outage and poor internet connection).

While connection issues can be frustrating, it has made me realise the need to adapt and that working now requires flexibility as we adjust to new working conditions.

"sometimes, both events occur (power outage and poor internet connection)"

This lockdown period has actually created more time for me to spend with friends and family after working hours. This picture was taken late in the evening after the day's work.

When there was no lockdown, we would have travelled to different locations to work and might not see each other for a long time. However, since we are all working from home now, we are now able to spend more time together than we would have otherwise.



"This lockdown period has actually created more time for me to spend with friends and family after working hours"