COUNTDOWN
### Calling time on Neglected Tropical Diseases

A Day in the Life

NOELA GWANI
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER

My name is Noela Gwani and I'm a Social Science Researcher at Sightsavers, working on the COUNTDOWN project in Nigeria. I'm giving a glance of a regular working day during the lockdown of corona virus pandemic.

In the stir of the coronavirus pandemic, the Government in Nigeria imposed a lockdown at the end of March, this meant that all field activities and physical meetings were cancelled. As a researcher I never imagined working from home as we are used to travelling to study sites and meeting with implementers and stakeholders both in the State and local communities. I had to come to terms to the fact that the virus is real and the need to observe social distancing by staying at home and working from home.
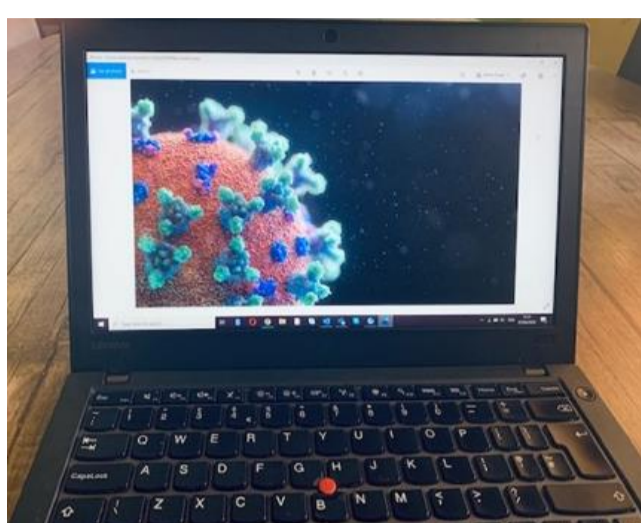
*"I had to come to terms to
the fact that the virus is real…"*

In the first week of the lockdown, I was so relaxed and never woke from bed early. I had to set an alarm to be able to set up and get ready for the days' work.
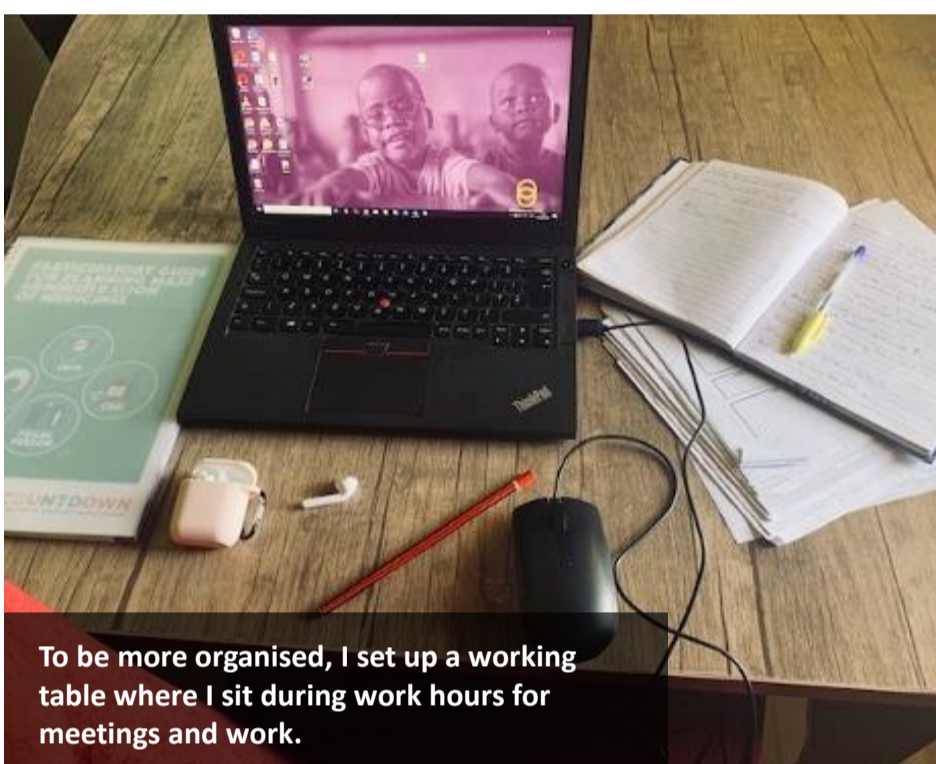
To be more organised, I set up a working table where I sit during work hours for meetings and work.

On working days, I spend most of my time on my computer screen either on zoom, Microsoft teams, skype or typing on word document. Social distancing has become the new norm by staying away from the office, family and friends.

*"Most of times during working hours there
may be power outage…"*

One of the challenges I face working from home is erratic power supply. Most of times during working hours there may be power outage and I'm not able to continue using my laptop as it may go off. To meet up with work, I use a fuel generator to generate power to be able to meet deadlines and attend virtual meetings and webinars. Due to the hot weather in the part of the country where I live, I also need to make myself comfortable by putting on the air conditioner which needs electricity to power it.

In order to be able to have a good and clear internet connection during meetings, webinars and sending emails I had go to the length of getting three different means of internet connection. I use two different modems and my mobile phone hotspot.

Social distancing has made everyone indoors. I make a lot of phone calls to my colleagues, research field team and NTD implementers to keep up to date with work and in a way to be connected even in the lockdown.

*"I make a lot of phone calls to my colleagues, research field team and NTD
implementers to keep up to date with work…"*

After long hours of spending my time on the computer screen, making phone calls, I take some rest by playing games and having a cold drink.

At the end of the day when I look at the hours spent working from home it's even more than when I'm at the office. The time I use to get dressed and rush to the office is now used to organise my makeshift work desk, check the fuel level of the generator, check my internet connection and make coffee.

*"One thing I have learnt during this period of the lockdown is the need to
explore different ways of doing things just in case we find ourselves in
this type of situation."*

COUNTDOWN
Calling time on Neglected Tropical Diseases