

A Day in the Life

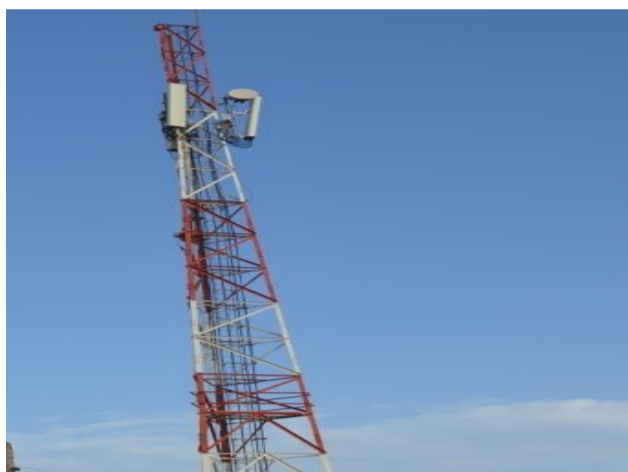
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My name is Samson Ayuba and I am a Social Science Researcher at Sightsavers, working on the COUNTDOWN project in Nigeria. I coordinate field activities and co-analyse data collected under the PGP Scale up component of the project. I have taken these photographs to represent a day in my current life as a researcher during COVID-19 pandemic.

In the image above, this is my reading table, the laptop and a copy of the Participatory Guide for Planning (PGP) represents my job and the other textbooks are for my children. The new reality for me is reconciling the role conflict of a 'researcher- teacher- father' status. Their class work are sent online and I have to guide them to do it while I also do my work.

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There is an increase in internet traffic during this pandemic as a result of the lockdown which has caused the transfer of many services to online platforms, so it takes longer time to upload and download files. This is particularly challenging during meetings as the connection keeps failing. Fluctuating network service reduces productivity, and because of this I am missing the office and hope the lockdown will be over soon.

My area of residence has limited number of transformers, so the few ones installed are carrying loads that are above their default capacity; this result to low current that may not be able to power some electronic appliances.

So, though electricity is distributed, it does not serve the desired benefit. For efficiency and effectiveness, institutional structures alone are not enough without provision of adequate resources.



"Selecting a conducive venue for meetings is important in ensuring concentration and comprehension"



This is a closed door, I took this picture when I was about to lock out family members to have an uninterrupted virtual meeting. Selecting a conducive venue for meetings is important in ensuring concentration and comprehension.



I was about to lock out family members to have an uninterrupted virtual meeting

The COVID-19 lockdown provided opportunity for a lot of learning for me, for example I am seeing the value of spending time together with my family, the value of savings for a rainy day and the danger of not preparing ahead seeing the fact that the health system in my country is poorly equipped in terms of resources to fight a pandemic like COVID-19.

"I am seeing the value of spending time with my family [and] the value of savings for a rainy day"



A bicycle is made up of interconnecting parts; each has a function for an effective ride. I took this picture after a deep thought about the classification of services as essentials and non-essentials during the lockdown as the result of COVID-19 pandemic.

Health services for example are termed essential and so health workers are exempted from the lockdown, but quite a number of them do not own private cars and therefore need the services of commercial motor cycles and tricycles which are termed non essentials; fuel stations secretly open to sell fuel to security and health workers. Is any service really non-essential?

"Fuel stations secretly open to sell fuel to security and health workers. Is any service really non-essential?"