Play your part and donate to the Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund (NSSF) to help boost the country’s Covid-19 relief response and rebuild Nigeria for a stronger, more united post-Covid future.

The stark consequences of the impact of Covid-19 and its related restrictions continue to be unveiled worldwide. Life in Nigeria has changed as virtually all sectors were adversely affected. Education, healthcare, employment and aid are just some areas worst hit.

When the lockdown of major cities to curb the coronavirus outbreak was declared, economic activity ground to a halt; the vibrant streets grew eerily quiet, kids were out of school, taxi drivers sat idly waiting for passengers who never arrived...

Help is needed
The Covid-19 pandemic is a global challenge that needs a collective response. While government has ramped up its efforts to contain the outbreak, much more needs to be done. Which is why International advocacy organization Global Citizen and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) have partnered to create the Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund (NSSF) – a fund for Nigerians, by Nigerians.

“We all have a part to play in improving the lives of our fellow citizens. Whether you’re a corporate or an individual, there is a role for you – now is the time that we can make a difference,” says Tijani Babatunde Folawiyo, Chairman Global Citizen Nigeria.

With an initial target of $50 million, the NSSF hopes to raise donations from Nigerians in the country as well as in the diaspora, multilateral organisations, philanthropists, HNIs, corporates, the public sector and international businesses.

How the funds will be used
Grants will be awarded to fund projects that support three core COVID-19 response, mitigation, recovery and resilience objectives.

These are:
1. Supporting the most vulnerable: Funds will be targeted at alleviating the challenges faced by citizens hardest hit; those most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, suffering from underlying health conditions; those with poor access to affordable health services; those in low-income, informal and insecure jobs or internally displaced persons; and those who are providing healthcare and other essential services.
2. Strengthening healthcare systems: Funds will help to build and upgrade existing health-care infrastructure and provide sustainable capacity towards future response efforts and containment.
3. Re-skilling and re-tooling Nigerians: There will be sizeable allocation to empower Nigerian youth and address the skills gap required to strengthen the nation’s labour market and meet the demands of a changing workforce in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transparency is key
The fund is governed by a Statutory Board made up of reputable board members who have given the assurance that it would observe the highest level of standard as it disperses funds. The NSSF is independently administered and transparently managed through a fund management system, which aims to ensure that all contributions are responsibly administered in order to have the greatest possible impact in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and lessening its effects.

“Our experienced team have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the necessary governance and procedures are in place for a transparent fund and to give all donors the peace of mind that their funds are going directly to the people who need it most,” says Uche Orji, Manager Director and Chief Executive Officer, NSIA. “We are proud of what we have created, and hope that all Nigerians will now support it,” he concludes.

Get involved. Here’s how:
“In order for this fund to be a success we need the whole country to get behind us and donate. This fund has been created by Nigerians, for Nigerians for the betterment of our country,” says Folawiyo.

Donate: Support the NSSF movement by making a donation at www.nigeriasolidaritysupportfund.ng
1. Share: Spread the NSSF message across social media and WhatsApp to amplify the mission and improve the lives of many Nigerians.
2. Pledge: Become an advocate of our mission and take a pledge to support the fund.
3. Corporate support: Corporate support is critical to the mission to change Nigerian lives. Visit www.nigeriasolidaritysupportfund.ng.

The fund will initially run for 18 months with strong plans to sustain its existence to ensure the overall objectives are met.