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QUESTION

1) There exists a sharp contrast between theories of public expenditure increase even as population increase while some opined that national expenditure increases in development stages. Are these statements true about Nigeria?

b) You had been contracted as chief economic planner of the state on the subject ‘corruption in Nigeria is endemic: challenges and solutions”, how do you intend delight your audience?

2) Conceptualize government failure. What are the scenarios in which it could occur?

b) Presently the global economic is witnessing a nose dive given the pandemic (covid-19), due to widespread shutdown of productive activities I big economies, restrictions of movement by governments, human capacity development inhibitions etc., and your home country has done same. As a social crusader and scientist will support the gesture in Nigeria? Justify your answer with practical examples.

ANSWERS

1) Firstly I would love to define public expenditure and this can be defined as the expenses incurred by the public authorities, the central, state and local government for the maintenance of the governments as well as for the benefit of the society as a whole. Some causes of public expenditure include: increase in population, development in a country etc.

Public expenditure increases as population increases: a high growth of population naturally calls for increase in the expenses as all state functions are to be performed more extensively. The expansion in administrative activities of the government has resulted in a growth of public expenditure in these areas.

Public expenditure increases in development stage: modern government has a great role to play in shaping an economy. Private capitalists are utterly incapable of financing economic development of a country. This incapacity of the private sector has prompted modern governments to invest in various sectors so that economic development occurs.

Economic development is largely contained by the availability of economic infrastructure. Only by building up economic infrastructure, road, transport,, electricity etc., the structure of an economy can be made improve. Obviously, for financing these activities government spend money.

In Nigeria the saying of public expenditure increases as population increases is not true reason being that rising population poses various problems in poor countries and Nigeria is among them. The state will have the added responsibility of solving problems as food, unemployment, housing and sanitation. Nigeria needs to check the population growth.

In Nigeria the saying of public expenditure increases at development stages is tu=rue cause at development stage infrastructures are built and a poor country like Nigeria will need to spend a lot on building infrastructure and also maintaining it. Roads are bad in this country so the government has to spend a lot in maintenance. This just goes to say at development stage in Nigeria public expenditure increase cause our government has to spend more than normal on building and maintenance of infrastructures.

1b) as the chief economic planner of Nigeria I would like to say that corruption is Nigeria's biggest challenge. It is clear to every citizen that the country has an extremely high level of corruption. Corruption is found in every sector of society. Critical examination of both small and large sectors reveals corrupt practices at every level

I would then like to define the term corruption. Corruption can be defined as the misuse of resources or power for private gain. It is also the illegitimate use of power to benefit a private interest ‘Morris 1991’.

I would like to review the corrupt state (Nigeria)

Nigeria, which is the most populated country in Africa, has consistently been ranked high in corruption by transparency international and other notable organizations that monitor corrupt practices around the world.

In the year 2000, transparency international conducted a survey on the corruption level of 90 countries including Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and others. Nigeria was ranked as the most corrupt and the country occupied the 90th position in terms of transparency.

In 2001, Nigeria was ranked the 91th position against Bangladesh which made us the second. This goes to show that corruption in Nigeria improved by one step from 2000.

Still from the same source in 2002 Nigeria was ranked the second most corrupt country in the world, after the organization survey 102 countries, Nigeria occupied the 101th position in terms of confidence interval.

In 2203 Nigeria maintained the same position as 2002 showing no improvement.

2004s ranking showed a little improvement when compared to the four years, Nigeria ranked the 3rd position in most corrupt countries of the world and it was among 146 nations that were surveyed.

In 2005 Nigeria improved again ranking number 8 among 158 countries surveyed.

Transparency international ranked Nigeria as the 21st most corrupt country among the 163 countries surveyed by them.

In 2007 among the 180 countries surveyed Nigeria ranked 33rd most corrupt country in the world.

In 2011 an analysis of the anti-corruption laws in Nigeria shows that the corruption will continue in site of the law because of the perpetrators do not fear any consequences.

In 2012 Nigeria was ranked one of the most corrupt countries in the world in 37th position among the 176 countries surveyed that year.

In 2013 Nigeria scored 25% out of 100 in transparency making us the 33rd most corrupt country that year among the 177 countries surveyed that year by the organization.

In 2014 Nigeria was ranked 136 out of 174 surveyed countries which show an improvement.

In 2015 with the emergence of a new political party and the transfer of power from the PDP to the APC Nigeria's believed that corruption will be eradicated completely because that was one of the campaign agendas by the president Mr. Muhammadu Buhari. Nigeria's became to worry and asked the president while nothing was done about corruption when it was his major campaign agenda when it was brought to light by the PDP 2019 candidate that nothing was done about it.

Irrespective of the campaign promises Nigeria ranked low in transparency in 2015 with the position of 32ndmost corrupt country among the 168 countries surveyed that year.

In 2016 was ranked 40th position among the 176 countries and territories surveyed that year.

In 2017 there was no remarkable improvement in transparency in Nigeria Compared to the former president’s result in 2014. Nigeria relapsed backward by 12 steps backwards from 136 to 148.

In 2018 Nigeria occupied number 144 out of 180 countries surveyed that year putting us at 36th most corrupt countries of the world.

Nigeria failed when it came to transparency in the country's government. Corruption in Nigeria hurts a lot of people, as the money that would have been used to reduce poverty in the country is being channeled into the pockets of a selected few.

FACES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

Corruption in Nigeria takes many forms and can be interpreted in many different ways. It is hard to enter any sector in Nigeria without observing one corrupt practice or another. In fact corruption is not only observed in the public sector and politics.

Let’s discuss corruption in:

i) Politics

ii) Universities and colleges

iii) The police force

iv) Nigerian football

v) Churches

vi) Online

vii) And in the custom service

i) Politics: this will be discussed under

a) Political corruption; books have been written and press companies have published articles about high level of corruption in Nigeria politics, yet the perpetrators pretend as though they are not the people being talked about. They believe they are above the law. But little do they understand the injuries they are causing to the country and the citizens.

Corruption takes many forms, starting with embezzlement, bribery rituals, and election ridging. In fact, corruption levels are highest In Nigeria's political system. In both the senate and the House of Representatives, corruption is seen as normal.

Where do we start among politicians? Due to the ‘wicked level’ of corruption, both the young and the old struggle to align themselves one political party or the other. They believe that once they take any position in politics, they will use corrupt tricks to fill their pockets with public funds.

b) Embezzlement: embezzlement of public funds is common. Many leaders have helped boost the economies of other nations by depositing embezzled money into foreign banks.

Political corruption is persistent in the Nigerian stare. Since the creation of modern public administration in the country, they have been cases of official misuse of resources for personal enrichment. After the death of the former president, Sani Abacha, an investigation was carried out to determine the amount of money he embezzled in gas pant construct in the country. The investigations led to the freezing of accounts containing about $100 million United States dollars that he stole.

Before now, some funds were returned to Nigeria by the Swiss bank in 2006 from the money stolen by the same former president. In 2006, US$723 million illicitly acquired by Abachas family was returned to Nigeria from Switzerland.

c) Missing children: as a few years ago, whenever it was time for an election in Nigeria, small children across the country began to go missing. Child kidnapping during that period was rampant and parents were usually advised to guard their children against ritualist. But why was it like that and what happened to the kidnapped children?

This is another face of corruption one that breaks the hearts of mothers. The missing children were used by contesting politicians to perform rituals killings in order to get protection and devilish powers that would enable them to win elections. This is corruption and wickedness in the highest order because it involves the termination of human life. These who take part in that practice have their own children at home, yet went on capturing and killing the children of others. This practice hasn’t stopped, but it has slowed down.

d) Election rigging: election rigging is not an unheard of phenomenon. During elections, the candidates hire thugs who go around the election polling stations to highjack the ballot boxes and when thy do that they write the names of the candidates that hired them then return the boxes back for counting. Some of the thugs even disrupt the process by scattering the place where voters are and beating up voters. The latest once now are to buy voters cards from people and give those who they feel will vote for them

e) Bribery: on many occasions, politicians have bribed top officials to commit illegal acts to their favor. Some political leaders, including governors and presidents, have been sued by opponents, but the sued were able to escape punishment by bribing attorneys and judges. At the end of the judgment, the leader who bribed someone won the case.

i) Corruption in universities and colleges

Nigerian universities rank low in the world and such is traceable to corruption in the land. It is not news to any Nigerian that corruption is rampant in universities and colleges. There are certain things most lecturers do that deserve ‘hot punishment’ most lectures use the opportunities they have to take advantage of others Harassment by lectures and pressure to sleep with them is common. Universities complaining about the number of funds allocated to them. How do some students find their way into the universities? Some are not by merit but through a kind of bribery called sorting

ii) Corruption in the police force

Bribery, intimation, sexual harassment of young inmates in prison, or the fact that they truths upside down? Nigeria police force has it all.

There is a saying about police being your friend but in Nigeria it’s the opposite because they collect bribe and deny the truth. Nigerians now generalized all policemen both the good and bad as bad cause of their encounter with them and this is a shame.

Police officers who work at check points on the roads collect bribes from car owners. Their interest loses in collecting money from cars owners and not securing the road. Bribes become compulsory even when your particulars are in order. Bus drivers must offer money before they continue with their transportation business.

Some female inmates came out of prisons pregnant. This implies that the policemen sexual assault women who are imprisoned.

iii) Corruption in Nigerian football

Corruption is like a curse that’s been laid upon us, even football has corruption and this is sad. Layers are not chosen by merit but by who knows who in the society or who knows top political officials.

In the Nigerian football federation (NFF), corruption is the reason why Mr. A is elected as the leader of the group today and tomorrow the election is nullified and Mr. B will be chosen. Everybody wants to be art the head because they want to fill their bags with national cake. A BBC reporter said this: ‘a senior football official and a club administrator have been banned for 10 years following their involvement in corruption, the football authority announced’. This goes to show that there is corruption in the Nigeria football system.

iv) Corruption in churches

When churches are corrupt what hope do Nigerians have? Not all churches in the country that are corrupt, corruption are witnessed mainly in the new generation churches.

New generation churches in this context is referring to those churches that do not have a solid foundation. The so called pastors of now a days promise to free their members from financial problems which makes a lot of hungry Nigerians to yield but in the end he uses tricks to collect money from them and enrich their pockets.

Some of these pastors go to the extent of using magical and devilish powers to run their church business in the name of god’s power. They give the congregations what they want without them knowing the source of their powers.

Pastors have, on many occasions, been caught committing adultery and fornication. It is not new and it is certain that you as a listener have heard of some of these shameful accts. The immoral acts committed by Nigerian pastors have been observed through newspapers, radios, televisions, and other channels.

v) Internet fraud

This is so common in the youths of nowadays. Yahoo and yahoo plus is what most of them involve themselves in. Some Nigerians, mainly the youths like I said earlier, have been scamming their fellow citizens using illegal means. Some host websites online that claim to be giving jobs seekers, and scam any who fall prey to their tricks. They tell job seekers to make certain payments for processing documents without them knowing that they will not be issued any job. Some Nigerians have had money stolen by these cybercriminals.

vi) Corruption in the customs service

Are Nigerian custom really doing the job that they are hired to do? The customs service of Nigeria is the organization that is authorized to clear goods imported into the country. This group is not free from the menace of corruption.

On most occasions, you must pay bribes to customs before your goods are cleared. Many containers are held captive by customs because the owners are not willing to pay the large amount of money being demanded.

Now I would like to talk about the causes of corruption, and these are:

i) Greed

ii) Poor youth empowerment

iii) Poverty

iv) Unemployment

i) Greed

Greed has caused a lot of crisis in the world, including Nigeria. It is because of greed that political leaders embezzle the funds they are supposed to use for national development for their own selfish interest.

ii) Poor youth empowerment

Poor moral youth empowerment is a contributor to corruption. Internet fraud, sexual harassment by male CEOs, and other bad acts occur because Nigerians lack understanding of the importance of youth empowerment. When parents and governments empower youths both financially and morally, the level of corruption will diminish.

iii) Poverty

According to international standards of poverty, a person is said to be poor when he lives under $1.25 (n210, although it varies) per day. There are many poor people in Nigeria, and poverty pushes them into corruption. According to World Bank group, in 2004, 63.1% of Nigerians were poor. The poverty level increased in 2010. In 2010, 68% of the Nigerian population was estimated to be poor. A person can take bribes to commit crime because he is poor. It is one of the reasons why the poor youths in the country collect bribes to work as thugs for Nigerian politicians.

iv) Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the major challenges in Nigeria and does not need much explanation because it has broken the hearts of many citizens. People are pushed into corrupt practices because of the high unemployment rates. An unemployed citizen can indulge in corruption to make money and live better.

The youths, fathers, and mothers are seriously concerned about the negative impact of unemployment in their lives. Some have said that it is better to die than to suffer the torment of unemployment in the country. Words cannot explain the level of punishment the citizens of this country face as a result of this menace.

Now I would like to talk about the effect of corruption and they are listed below

i) Poor investment

ii) Rise in poverty

iii) Poor national development

iv) National crises

i) Poor investment

Unemployment in Nigeria would have been eradicated to some extent if only investors were attracted to doing business in the county. Companies that would have invested in Nigeria are afraid because they do not know if the corrupt practice will ruin their industries over time. Because of this concern, they refuse to invest in Nigeria.

ii) Rise in poverty

When the heads of public service are busy laundering money that is supposed to be used to create employment for the masses and reduce poverty, what happens is a rise in the poverty level of the country, just like the rise in poverty shown by the statistics between 2004 to 2008. Since the government is selfish and does not want to help the poor, poverty continues to rise in Nigeria.

iii) Poor national development

Any country with high corruption levels is likely to experience development bankruptcy. When some CEOs indulge in corrupt practices to make their money, economic development will suffer. When Nigerians keep on shifting the country’s currency to foreign countries, there will be less economic development in Nigeria.

iv) National crises

So many crises in Nigeria today are a result of corruption. The insecurity in Nigeria brought about by Boko Haram is a consequence of corruption. Corrupt politicians are fighting the then government of President Goodluck Jonathan using book haram as their agent because they did not want him to succeed. The attacks by book haram have caused disorderliness in Nigeria and seriously affected the country's economy.

Now I would love to discuss how we can eradicate corruption from our country

The points listed below are the ways of eradicating corruption in Nigeria

i) Self satisfaction

ii) Institution of strong anti-corruption groups

iii) Employment generation

iv) Proper government funding of schools

v) Treating all citizens equally

i) Self-satisfaction

Self-satisfaction in this context implies being content with what one has. When the leaders of Nigeria are satisfied with the salary they are paid and use public funds proper manner, the issue of embezzlement and money laundering will be history. Managers who are satisfied with what they are paid will not have time to indulged n corruption to make more money.

ii) Institution of strong anti-corruption groups

Creating strong anti-corruption institution is another arsenal to win the fight against corruption. This group is to work independently with the government to ensue transparency. Anyone who is caught engaging in corrupt practices by the group should experience the consequences decided by the anti-corruption agency. That he is a minister or governor should not be an excuse from facing punishment ha is to receive according to the constitution of the agency.

iii) Employment generation

The unemployed in the country find themselves involved in corruption mainly because they want to make money to meet the demand of the day. Governments and capable hands should endeavor to generate more jobs for citizens to get employed and paid in return. A busy mind may find it difficult to indulge in corruption because is being paid adequately.

iv) Proper government funding of schools

Understanding the importance of skill acquisition will go a long way to propel them to develop all the schools in Nigeria. When more attention is paid to the tertiary institutions in the country, it will produce graduates who are employable. Installation of the necessary machines needed in universities will help Nigerian graduates acquire skills and use them to generate income, even if no company employs them after graduation.

Self-employment will make graduates more determined in the work they do and will prevent them from corruption like internet scams, kidnapping and the rest.

v) Treating all citizens equally

Treating any offender in the country equally will help reduce corruption. Nobody is above the law and any who acts contrary to it should be given the punishment that he or she deserves. That she is the minister of aviation or governor of central bank of Nigeria should not count in this case. If any minister or head of state is given the punishment he deserves for corruption, others will learn and separate themselves from any corrupt practices.

2) Definition of government failure: this occurs when government intervention in the economy causes an inefficient allocation of resources and a decline in economic welfare. Often government failure arises from an attempt to solve market failure but creates a different set of problems.

REASONS FOR GOVERNMENT FAILURE

1) Lack of incentives: in the public sector, there is limited or no profit motive. Because workers and managers lack incentives to improve services and cut costs it can lead to inefficiency. For example, the public sector may be more prone to over staffing. The government may be reluctant because of the political costs associated with unemployment.

2) Poor information: politicians may have poor information about the types of service to provide. Politicians may not be experts in their department but concentrate on their political ideology.

3) Political interference: decisions made for short term political gain rather than sound economics, e.g., keep on unproductive workers, e.g., politicians may take the short term view rather than considering the long term effects.

4) No consistency: change of government often leads to change of approach and new political initiatives

5) Moral hazard: the government may offer a guarantee to all bank deposits to protect the financial system, but this could encourage banks to take risks because they know they can be bailed out by the government.

6) Regulatory capture: when government agencies become too friendly with business/groups they are trying to regulate.

7) Unintended consequences: policies to reduce relative poverty ‘means tested benefits’ can create ‘welfare dependency’. For those on means tested benefits, moving from benefits to work could lead to very little extra income because of lost benefits and higher taxes. Benefits can then solve one problem of relative poverty but create new problems of higher spending and lower levels of labor market participation.

8) Special interest groups: in the US, many types of business have special tax credits for their industry; this makes it difficult to reform the tax system, and leads to horizontal inequality business with same income can be treated differently. In the Europe, farmers receive substantial financial support from the EU, making it difficult to reform CAP. Once people are used to receiving subsidies it can be politically difficult for the government to take it away.

Scenarios in which government failure can occur are;

i) White elephant projects: Concorde supersonic airliner was a joint venture between British and French government. It was seen as a prestigious venture, so even when studies suggested it was uneconomic, politicians didn’t want to back track but kept pulling in public money. Developing Concorde cost the British and French governments E1.1 billion (about E 11 billion in 2003 prices) before it even went into service nearly ten times what the budget.

ii) Tax leads to fly tipping: a tax of rubbish is a policy to overcome market failure. To try and include the external cost of rubbish in the price. However, a tax on rubbish can lead to illegal dumping of rubbish on the roads. This creates a different problem of fly tipping

iii) Common agricultural policy: the CAP was intended to solve market failure in agriculture and protect farmers’ incomes, but the EU didn’t take into account minimum prices would lead to over supply; there were also unintended consequences of trade wars and environmental problems from farmers trying to supply as much as they could.

iv) Prohibition strengthened the mafia: when the government banned alcohol in the US, it caused the mafia to supply alcohol, leading to a rise in organized crime.

2b) The idea for Nigeria to practice lockdown like every other country is good to ensure that covid 19 doesn’t spread. However, the nation’s observing the lockdown has been able to provide their citizens with the basic necessities of life unlike Nigeria. With this it goes to say right now I do not support fully the idea of lockdown until things are in place. Nigerians who are observing the lockdown are scared that it won’t be the virus that will kill them but hunger and are coming out to protest against the government. Nigeria's federal and state governments should endure the rights to food, shelter, and other basic necessities for people losing jobs or income during the covid 19 pandemic. The economic assistance that the government has announced in response to the virus has exposed inadequacies in Nigeria's social protection systems and risks excluding country's poorest and most vulnerable people.

President Muhammadu Buhari announced on April 13, 202 that a lockdown, in place since March 30 in Lagos state, neighboring Ogun state, and Abuja, the nation’s capital, would continue for another 14 days. As at April 12, Nigeria had 343 confirmed cases. Several other state governments, including rivers, Kaduna, and Ekiti, have also initiated full or partial lockdown.

‘Millions of Nigerians observing the covid 19 lockdown lack food and income that their families need to survive’, said Anietie Ewang, Nigeria researcher and human rights watch. ‘The government needs to combine public health measures with efforts to prevent the pandemic from destroying the lives and livelihoods of society’s poorest and most vulnerable people’.

Nigeria has the biggest economy in Africa, with GDP per capita of $2,028 in 2018, more than twice that of its neighbors Benin, chad or Niger. It is also a highly unequal country. In 2010, the gini coefficient of income per capita that is used to measure inequality was 49, notably above the international alert line of 40 that warns about the negative social, economic, and political consequences. Economic data suggest that levels of inequality have not improved since.

The lockdown does not apply to those providing essential services, such as food distributors and retailers, including market stalls selling food and groceries, which the government has said can operate for four hours every 48 hours.

The lockdown, however, prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from travelling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their inability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings their only source of substance. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities.

“The vast majority of people outside of the formal system are hit devastatingly by the lockdown”, said Felix Morka, executive director of the social economic rights action center; a Lagos based nongovernmental organization. “Any disruption to their daily livelihood has a huge significant impact on their ability to meet their most basic needs”.

The informal sector, in which more than 80 percent of Nigerians work, includes a wide range of occupations, from street traders, taxi drivers, tradesmen, and artisans to food vendors and hairdressers. In Lagos alone, according to research by non-governmental organizations, 65% of the estimated 25 million people work in the informal sector. Informal workers have lower incomes, often do not have savings, health insurance, or pensions that provide a basic social safety net, and 72% are poor.

When announcing the lockdown, president Buhari said the government would put in place measure to “preserve the livelihoods of workers and business owners to ensure their families get through this very difficult time in dignity”. He said that “the most vulnerable in our society” would receive conditional cash transfers from the next two months, while sadiya umar farouq, minister of humanitarian affairs, disaster management and social development said that food rations would be distributed to vulnerable households.

On April 1, the humanitarian affairs ministry began paying 20,000 naira (US$52) to families registered in the national social register of poor and vulnerable households set up by the Buhari administration in 2016 to combat poverty. The government said that each family o the register will receive monthly cash payments for four months.

These payments are likely to reach only a fraction of the Nigerians who will need economic assistance, human rights watch said. Farouq said on March 31 that the national social register included 11,045,537 people from 2,644,493 households, far fewer than over 90 million Nigerians estimated to live in extreme poverty, on less than $1.90 a day. Buhari said on April 13 that the national social register would be expanded from 2.6 million households to 3.6 million in the next two weeks.

The government’s failure to disclose key details of the cash transfer program has also cast doubt on how many people it includes and who will benefit, human rights watch said. On April 4, the social and economic rights accountability project (SERAP), a non-governmental organization, filed a freedom of information request seeking details on the government’s relief funds. “we are seriously concerned that millions of the country’s poorest and most vulnerable people have not benefited from the announced palliatives, donations, reported cash payments, cash transfers, and other benefits”, the group said. Under Nigeria's freedom of information law, the government must provide the information within seven days.

On April 8, the government announced that 77,000 metric tons of food will be distributed to vulnerable households affected by the lockdown in Lagos, Osun, and Abuja, but the modalities for distribution are not yet clear. Buhari has directed the humanitarian’s affairs ministry to develop a strategy to maintain the school feeding program that, before schools began closing on March 19, the government said fed 9 million pupils across the country. Lagos states government also said on March 27 that it would provide food packages to 200,000 households during the lockdown.

Nigeria's other major economic responses to covid 19 may not adequately protect the rights of the people most likely to lack adequate food, shelter, and other essentials, human rights watch said. Nigeria's central bank has announced a 50 billion naira (US$ 128.5 million) targeted credit facility “to support households and micro, small and medium enterprises affected by the covid 19 pandemic”.

The credit facility, through which households can potentially get up to 3 million naira loans, requires proof of collateral, such as personal property, which many poor families are unlikely to have. The loans also come with five percent interest initially and nine percent after March 2021. Only 40 million Nigerians, 25 percent of the population, have a bank account.

The House of Representatives on March 24, passed a the emergency economic stimulus bill, 2020 to provide a 50% tax rebate for employers and business owners who agree to not make staff cuts in 2020. While the bill, if it goes into effects, may prevent job losses in the formal sector, it contains no provisions for informal workers.

Under international human rights law, Nigeria’s government has an obligation to protect people’s right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food and nutrition, and highest attainable standard of health and the right to social security. In times of economic crisis, countries must demonstrate that they have made every effort to mobilize all available resources, including international assistance, and allocate them in the way that maximizes respect for human rights, including by taking into account the precarious situation of disadvantaged and marginalized individuals or groups. Governments are obligated to ensure access to food, water, health care, and other basic needs for everyone at all times, and in particular those subject to lockdown and other severe restrictions on movement.

Nigeria's federal government should urgently develop a plan to deliver social and economic assistance t the tens of millions of people who will loss income due to covid 19, particularly informal workers who lack an adequate social safety net, human rights watch said. Their exclusion from social protections violates their right to social security enshrined in international human rights law. This plan should develop in consultations with community based organizations with experience serving people living in poverty.

The government should also clearly communicate its economic relief plans to the public and clarify eligibility, timelines, and procedures.

“Nigeria’s federal and state governments have acknowledge the devasting impact that covid 19 will have on the food and livelihood sources of the most vulnerable Nigerians”, ewang said. “Now, they need to deploy more resources, creativity, and transparency to ensure the basic necessities of life for everyone”.