



# THE ONITSHA COMMUNITY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

# NEWS LETTER

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The Onitsha Community COVID-19 Response Team (OCCRT) was established from a background of community resilience, to provide aid and address the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic within Onitsha metropolis. The response was initiated by the Onitsha Traditional Council in April 2020.

## Governance

At the apex is a Steering Committee, of which His Majesty, Nnaemeka Achebe, Obi of Onitsha is chairman. Implementation is undertaken through several working groups, comprising committed and supportive Onitsha indigenes at home and in Diaspora. These workgroups are as follows :

- Fundraising and Finance
- Field Operations
- Communications
- Medical Response
- Mobilisation
- Surveillance and Enforcement

The programme aims to support government's efforts in sensitising the Onitsha population about the required health and safety behaviour for mitigating the pandemic. It also aims at identifying and providing palliatives for a targeted population of the vulnerable, needy, and indigent in Onitsha.

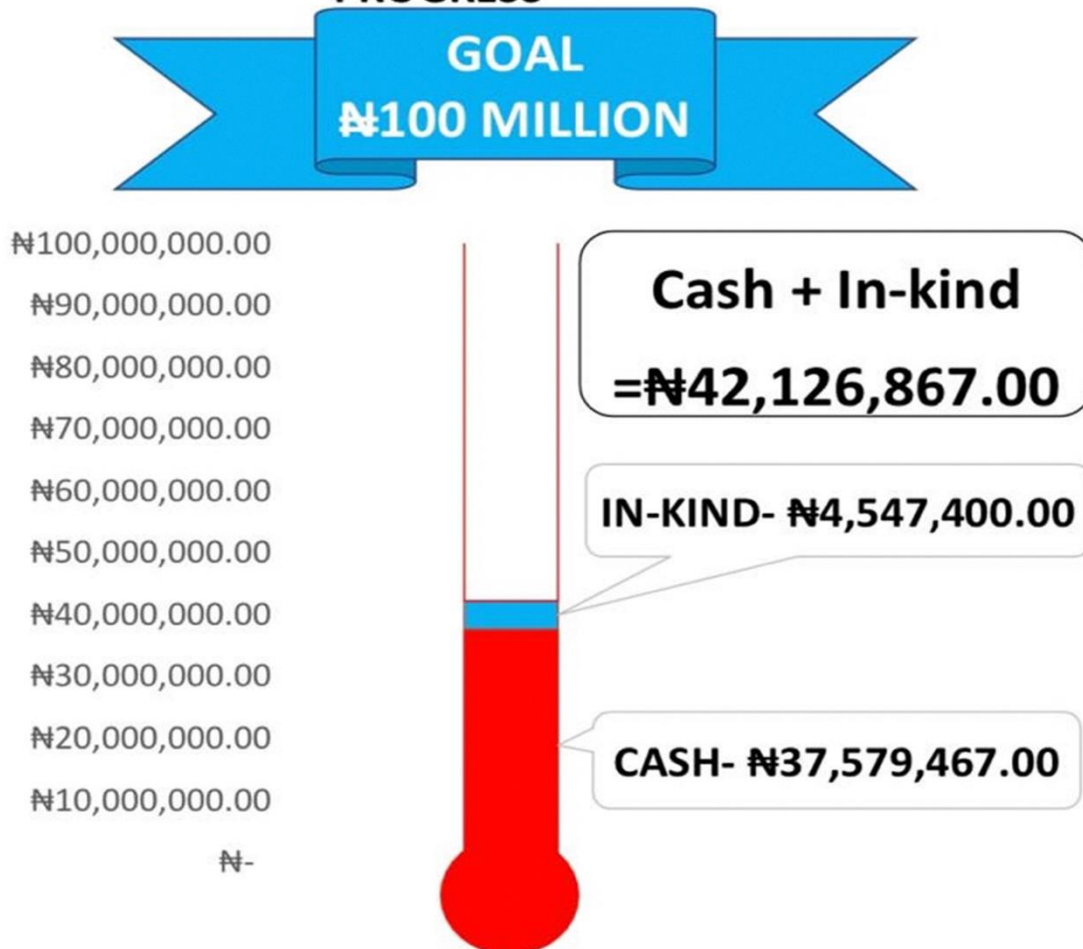


# Fundraising Target

A Fundraising target has been set at N100m. Onitsha indigenes far and wide have been encouraged to make donations. The underlying intent is that this project will also create an enabling environment for these indigenes, to feel committed towards supporting an Onitsha-focused initiative. The response has been very heartening. In the 9 weeks up till 12th June 2020 a total of over N42m has been realised from Onitsha people at home, around Nigeria, and abroad – brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. Donations have also been received from friends of Onitsha.

**ONICHA COVID RELIEF CONTRIBUTORS**  
**DAILY UPDATE – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

## ONICHA COVID RESPONSE - FUNDRAISING PROGRESS





# Activities and Results so far

In view of the COVID-19 lockdown, the working groups have held virtual sessions to deliberate on and implement the plans. Meetings, consultations, and activities have been continuous since inception. Key highlights include the following:

- Continuous development, expansion and refinement of a database of the vulnerable, needy, and indigent, as well as the elderly and the youths in the Onitsha community
- Funding the manufacture of sanitizers and facemasks and encouraging our kind spirited indigenes to acquire them in bulk and distribute freely to Onitsha indigenes, thereby recycling the funds towards more production.
- Handling and distribution of the Anambra state government palliatives of 400 bags of ten kilograms of rice to the elderly persons, and 800 bags of ten kilograms of rice to the youths in Onitsha North and South Local Government Areas.
- Purchase, packaging, and distribution of food items (rice, beans, cooking oil, tomato mix) to 1400 beneficiaries in the first tranche. The second tranche covering some 2000 beneficiaries will be undertaken during the week commencing 22nd June 2020 .
- Development and implementation of a Covid-19 communications masterplan to promote “free flow of ideas by word and image” for behaviour change and prevention, and to mitigate impact of COVID-19 in Onitsha.
- Development and implementation of sensitization and mitigation training programme for 20 wellbeing ambassadors and four supervisors to enhance individual responsibility for awareness and prevention of infection.
- In line with the Anambra State Government’s Covid-19 Protocols, proclamations have been issued on burials, weddings, and festivals.



## Financial Status

- As at 12th June a total of over N42m i.e. N37.6m in cash and N4.5m in kind (mostly foodstuff) have been received.
- The sum of N9.3m has been spent on palliatives, and preventive health sensitization, so far.
- The current cash balance stands at N28.3m



# Going Forward

The increasing number of COVID-19 cases, with the attendant health and economic implications, points to the need for a long-term perspective in managing the pandemic and its aftermath. Although considerable progress has been made in fundraising, the challenges ahead means that no effort should be spared in achieving the N100m target.

The OCCRT is confident that with the support of Onitsha people, and friends of Onitsha this would be achieved. With the funds raised, it should be possible to continue:

- Expansion and refinement of a database of the vulnerable, needy, and indigent.
- Purchase and distribution of food packages to these people for as long as the funds are available. Meanwhile, distribution of palliatives has been tentatively planned for four batches at intervals of four weeks.
- Communications to aggressively promote health-seeking behaviour change to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 within the Onitsha community.

Consideration will also be given to the following:

- Provision of medicines for interim support of some of the vulnerable, needy and indigent persons.
- Possible support for our small business entrepreneurs who may be adversely affected by the pandemic.

#NdukaifeNine

#Nduka

## COVID-19: Nigerian Overview

**Nigeria:** 16,085 infected persons and 420 deaths as at 14 June 2020, and the numbers are still rising. (NCDC)

**Anambra State:** 65 infected persons and 9 deaths, of which 4 deaths were in Onitsha South LGA as at 15 June 2020, and the numbers will rise distinctly with the planned aggressive testing. (Anambra State Govt COVID-19 Case Update)

“39.4 million jobs may be lost by end of 2020 due to the pandemic.”  
(Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo)



# PHOTO SPEAK

