



## There is Great Opportunity of Reaping from ICT Investment for Fighting COVID-19 in Africa

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### Editorial

In Africa, some countries have made notable investment for their telecom industry. This is a great opportunity for tackling COVID-19 replacing face to face service delivery by the digital service. Further, the digitalization of the service could be strong foundation to make the economy resilient of coronavirus disturbance. As an example, there are technology Applications (apps) adoption in Kenya, Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Rwanda; telephone-based apps, drones spreading messages, medical sample test result and medicine, respectively. In other fifteen African countries, there are self-diagnosis applications that expedite the required service [1]. In Tanzania, there are quiet significant demonstrations of successful mobile applications' services that may include secondary schools eLearning services that connect teachers and students, social safety net service delivery (food and non-food services), mapping the effects of coronavirus assessing the social media data.

Based on those practical experiences and projects implementation, organizing benchmarks from developed countries to scale up their ICT best practices to control COVID-19 for African countries would be plausible to recommend. The delivery of basic services (education, health, water bills, electricity bills ... etc.) for African citizens through online would secure paramount benefits for them as the developed countries' citizens enjoyed [2]. We could not identify complete ecosystem of digital service delivery for benchmarking which could be remedial for tackling coronavirus and create resilience for the economic damage already happened due to the virus though there are a few projects in several African countries that try to give online services. Hence, I recommend African to make benchmarking of developed countries on how to use ICT for fighting COVID-19 such an example could be South Korea. It has published the two versions of the country's experiences on how to prevent and control coronavirus cases highlighting the demonstration how ICT helped on responding to the pandemic. Those reports are how Korea responded to a pandemic using ICT: Flattening the curve on COVID-19 and National Policy Transition in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era: Responding to Grand Challenges. The author recommends such benchmarking should be taken as priority not only addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 but also creating resilience of the economy which is deteriorated due to the virus. It can be initiated as the collaboration between the benchmarked country and African member States through the African Union (AU) leadership. Here, the role of African Union can be huge on mobilizing financial and technological resources from UN institutions and developed countries based on the feasibility and benchmark studies. This in turn could serve as catalyst project for African prosperity and socio-economic transformation.

In conclusion, COVID-19 has brought devastating socio-economic impact on the developing countries social and economic development ecosystem. To cope up with this the global unavoidable causality and the attainment of SDGs, the better positioned global community has the moral responsibility to support less developed countries ever more than any time before [3]. To have a successful initiative towards addressing the strategic challenge, developing implementation plan tailored to the respective African countries' context is decisively important. To embark upon the support global communities, need to have feasible and sustainable projects with evidence based plausible plans appealing to the supporting countries [4]. I hope this concept note provides insights about the importance of the benchmark identification and collaboration to tackle the challenge and move forward!!

### References

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