

What can you do?



## What's at stake?

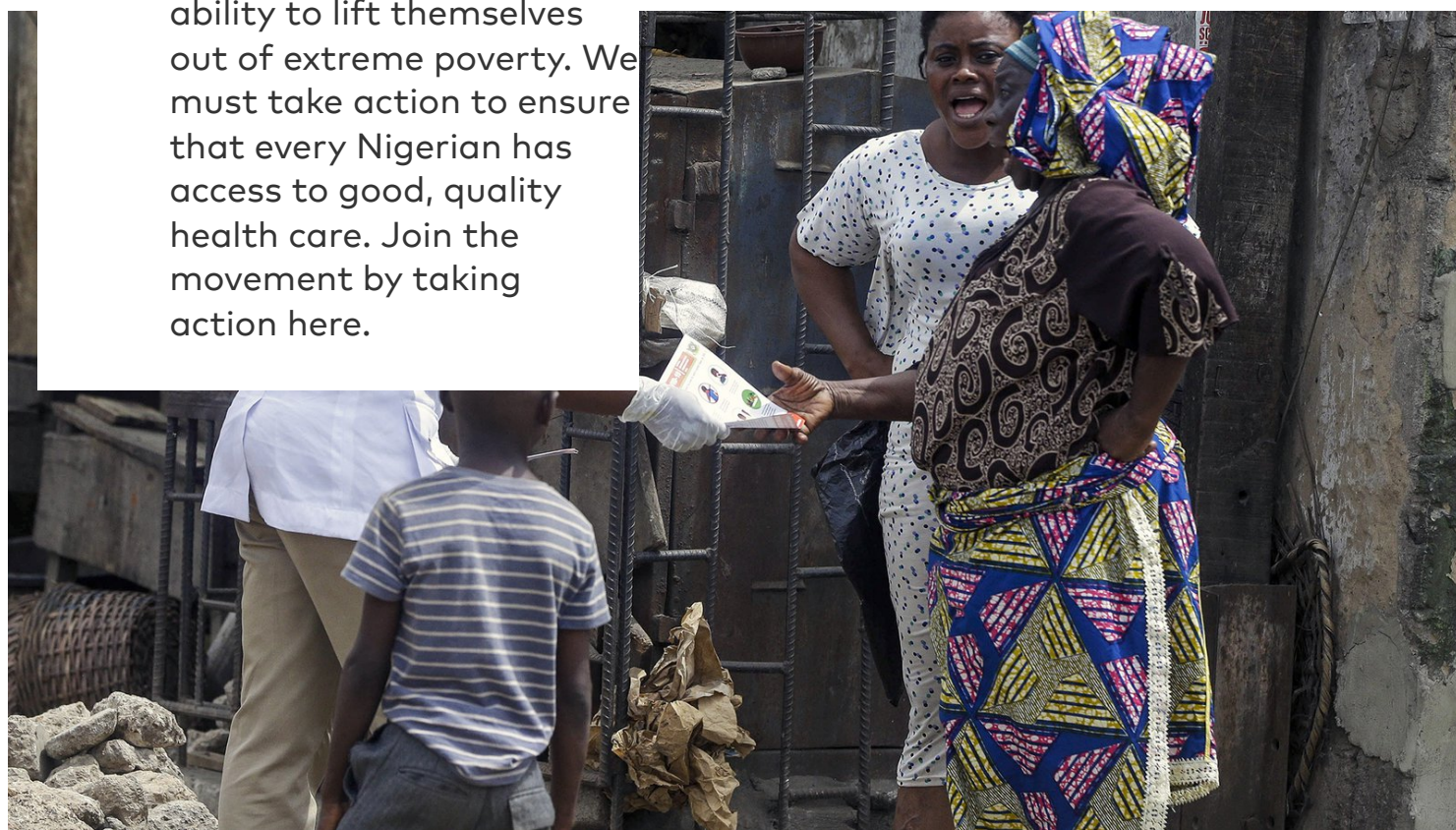
Due to systemic issues, coupled with the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of vulnerable Nigerians do not have access to quality health care — reducing their quality of life and their ability to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. We must take action to ensure that every Nigerian has access to good, quality health care. Join the movement by taking action here.

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he first step to taking action.

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A health worker hands out leaflets on how people should protect themselves from the new coronavirus, in Lagos, Nigeria, March 31, 2020 as the city faces a two-week lockdown with residents told to stay in their homes. | A health worker hands out leaflets on how people should protect themselves from the new coronavirus, in Lagos, Nigeria, March 31, 2020 as the city faces a two-week lockdown with residents told to stay in their homes. | Sunday Alamba/AP

By Akindare Okunola

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ne from being comparable to the rest of the  
ne of the world's most underfunded and least

n the world and Africa's biggest economy, the  
ects issues that exist across the continent.

Raise Your Voice for the Most Vulnerable Nigerians

TAKE ACTION

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Across many indices, health care in Nigeria falls short and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated those problems, signifying a turning point for action in the country.

Here are five facts about health care in Nigeria that every Nigerian should know about:

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a TV interview on April 24 that Nigeria has "more than enough" doctors, the

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of the Global Goals, a series of targets set by s should aim for a minimum of 1 doctor per

l need at least 200,000 doctors to sufficiently

**nderfunded.**

an heads of state — known as the Abuja % of their national budgets to health care, ice then have consistently allocated under 10%

20% of all maternal mortality globally and

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ase Control (NCDC) struggled on a ran \$4 million. In comparison, the US CDC's lion. The math comes to less than 0.02 cents h the CDC's \$33 per American.

**grossly underpaid.**

ligerian health workers have gone on strike at ounced for Sept. 14.

have include unclear information around the ary) announced by the Nigerian Minister of ort those working in dangerous conditions; and romised welfare packages to health care

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frontline workers. But a specific amount of by the health minister and nothing has been pharmacist at a public hospital in Lagos, told doctors emigrated to the United Kingdom to get better pay for their skills — an issue that also driving doctors to Nigeria's population.

### Health care in Nigeria is out-of-pocket.

Health care is out-of-pocket, according to the World Bank data, from 2017. This means that most of the cost of any kind of health care and the poorest Nigerians have to pay for it.

Article of the Journal of Public Health, "Policy to stop the high reliance on out-of-pocket health

care spending as a means of financing the Nigerian health system by increasing public health expenditure."

Meanwhile only 52 Health Management Organisations (HMOs) were listed on the National Health Insurance Scheme's (NHIS) website in 2018, highlighting a dearth of health insurance options and coverage for Nigerians.

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**Healthcare Workers in Nigeria as They Tackle**

**Healthcare is poor.**

There is no national social register and nearly all of the Nigerian health care system are done by manual record keeping and data collection on Nigeria's health care system are done by international nonprofits, and the WHO.

There are often gaps within the system. There are often government and institutional bodies, and there is a lack of Nigeria's health indicators.

Patient data often gets lost, misdiagnosis is common, and a lot of record keeping is usually repeated. There are also no comprehensive medical equipment registries and blood bank data is limited. While there are startups like [Helium Health](#) and [LifeBank](#) attempting to [use technology to change this situation](#), adoption and scale is quite slow.

*You can take action to help strengthen Nigeria's health care systems and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the country's most vulnerable by supporting the Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund (NSSF), a fund for Nigerians by Nigerians. The result of a partnership between Global Citizen and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), you can learn more about the Fund [here](#).*

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What can you do?



quality of life and their  
ability to lift themselves

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BY AKINDARE OKUNOLA

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BY AKINDARE OKUNOLA

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