

PDIA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

NEWSLETTER | April 2020

Updates & Resources

[Public Leadership through Crisis series](#) -

This series offers ideas for leaders questioning how they can help and what kind of leadership is required in crises. Check out [The COVID-19 Crisis in Bahrain](#) on how their government is effectively managing the crisis.

[Podcasts: Season 4 - Leading Through Crisis episodes](#) - Interviews and recordings of discussions on the COVID19 Crisis & lessons to learn from past crises.

[‘Leading Economic Growth’ online.](#) - Register for a 10-week Executive Education course & an online session with faculty chairs Ricardo Hausmann and Matt Andrews.

[Leadership Through Crisis](#) - Register for weekly virtual discussions with PDIA Advisors and the global PDIA community on Leadership Through Crisis.

[Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

CoP Developments

We currently have four Regional Groups for those based in Nigeria, Africa, Asia & Europe.

The newsletter is one of diverse collaborative efforts across our community.

“Caring for others in uncertain times” - gathering of our CoP & PDIA advisors (image below)



Note of Encouragement

In modern history, there has never been a time that a health catastrophe has defined the world like what we are witnessing with COVID-19. The world has been disrupted and everyone has been affected. We now know that the world and the behaviour of those who inhabit it will not be the same again after the pandemic.

When such catastrophe occurs, everyone looks to the Government for solutions. Since COVID-19 is also a social disease, the issue of Trust has taken centre stage. Considering that many Governments have developed various strategies to address the pandemic, trust is connected in many things. For example (i) Trust and confidence citizens have in the government and health institutions (ii) The trust that governments have in their citizens to address the pandemic. Many governments have used force to ensure that the regulations are adhered to and (iii) The social trust among citizens.



Profiles - Meet the CoP Newsletter Team



Rosemary Okello-Orlale, Kenya

“Problems are key to make change happen, problems that matter. We should actually interrogate the problems, engage authorities, transition from problem analysis into a structured process of finding and fitting solutions.”

PDIA - Public Value project, 2018

[Read more >>](#)



Renata Petrevska Nechkoska, North Macedonia

“PDIA as a strategy for complexity amalgamates scientific & practical guidance on how to reason & carry out *your* strategy in *your* context with *your* stakeholders, in order to build, follow & boost *your* development curve using global & local knowhow towards *your* true North.”

PDIA - Air quality worsening, 2017 [Read more >>](#)

Since COVID-19 has affected every fabric of our society from political, economic and social, the trust issue is paramount and has to be driven with knowledge and data. This therefore requires all of us to just think outside the box and to prepare the world for post coronavirus by asking ourselves the following questions: What can we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and how can we build trust in the middle of a crisis?

At the moment, we are all required to take social responsibility in addressing the Coronavirus. This calls for hand washing, keeping distance and sanitising our houses, among other things. All these may seem basic but it has the potential of solving a complex situation.

Words of wisdom from our PDIA advisors

Dear PDIA alumni community,

Over the past several weeks, change has been the only constant force in our lives. Many of us have gone from what used to be our normal life (going to work, meeting friends, traveling, shopping, our children going to school) to our new normal of staying at home with much of our city shut down. New words have been added to our daily vocabulary (like social distancing, de-densify, self-quarantine) and we find ourselves stuck in front of the screen for way too many hours.

In these unprecedented times it is extremely important that you are clear about your values and that you use your “learning frame” to be flexible/ adaptive - your PDIA skills can be very helpful. Use this time wisely to build for the world post this pandemic because it will end, we just don’t know when. And don’t forget to take care of yourself and to connect with your families, loved ones and communities. Together we are stronger. Remember that this too shall pass.

Salimah Samji, Director, Building State Capability program, Harvard Center for International Development

First, I’d like to say a HUGE thank you to our Newsletter Team for putting this together! It has been a joy and a privilege working with you all. Second, thank you to all those who have been involved in our Community of Practice in some form or the other. You inspire me and those around you. The past few months have been difficult and scary, to say the least. We have all lost in different ways. One common factor is the loss of physical community - the ability to meet friends, family, colleagues. Social distancing and isolation have affected us all. This is just how it must be for a little while, but that doesn’t stop us from community and gathering online (thank goodness for technology!). So, I hope in some small way, our PDIA CoP will be a source of encouragement and support for all our members across the globe. We are in this together and we are here for each other. Please feel free to reach out with your thoughts, concerns, questions and encouragement - let’s use this time to care for one another!

Anisha Poobalan, PDIA CoP coordinator

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Rajeev Saxena, India

"I usually try to identify the challenges which restrict the project implementations such as isomorphic mimicry, governance and authorisations required for the 'different' approach required to adopt PDIA."

PDIA - Consultancy project, 2017
[Read more >>](#)

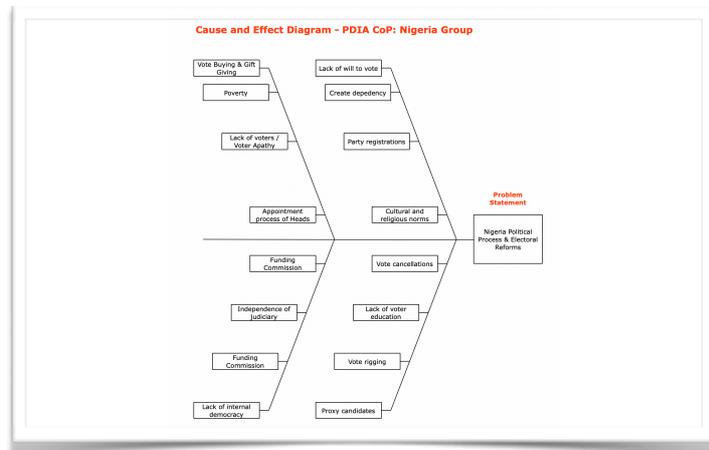


Nicholas Parkhill, Ireland

"Start with the problem! I'm sure people have become sick of me asking that question... 'what problem are we addressing here?', but it's so fundamental. Let's solve problems that people want solved."

PDIA in Action, 2016
[Read more >>](#)

Deconstructing complex problems



An example of a Fishbone or Ishikawa Diagram used to deconstruct complex problems. This was created by the Nigeria Regional Group during one of their monthly e-meetings.

Understanding and deconstructing complex problems is key to start making positive changes happen. Take a look at the *Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) Toolkit*.

Call for Logo Design!

The call for logo designs for our CoP newsletter is:



Use your imagination, creativity and design skills to project what the PDIA CoP represents and contemplate that into a nice visualisation we can use. Contact us for more information!

Get in touch!

If you are interested in joining the Newsletter Team or have suggestions/ideas (positive feedback is welcome too!) as we move forward, please contact the team *via Canvas* or Anisha at anishapoobalan@gmail.com