

“We need to adapt from Western social security models to locally serviced security. Driven by models that are already on the ground, it should strengthen the solutions people have already put in place for themselves.”

– Amy JADESIMI, Ladol Free Zone, Nigeria

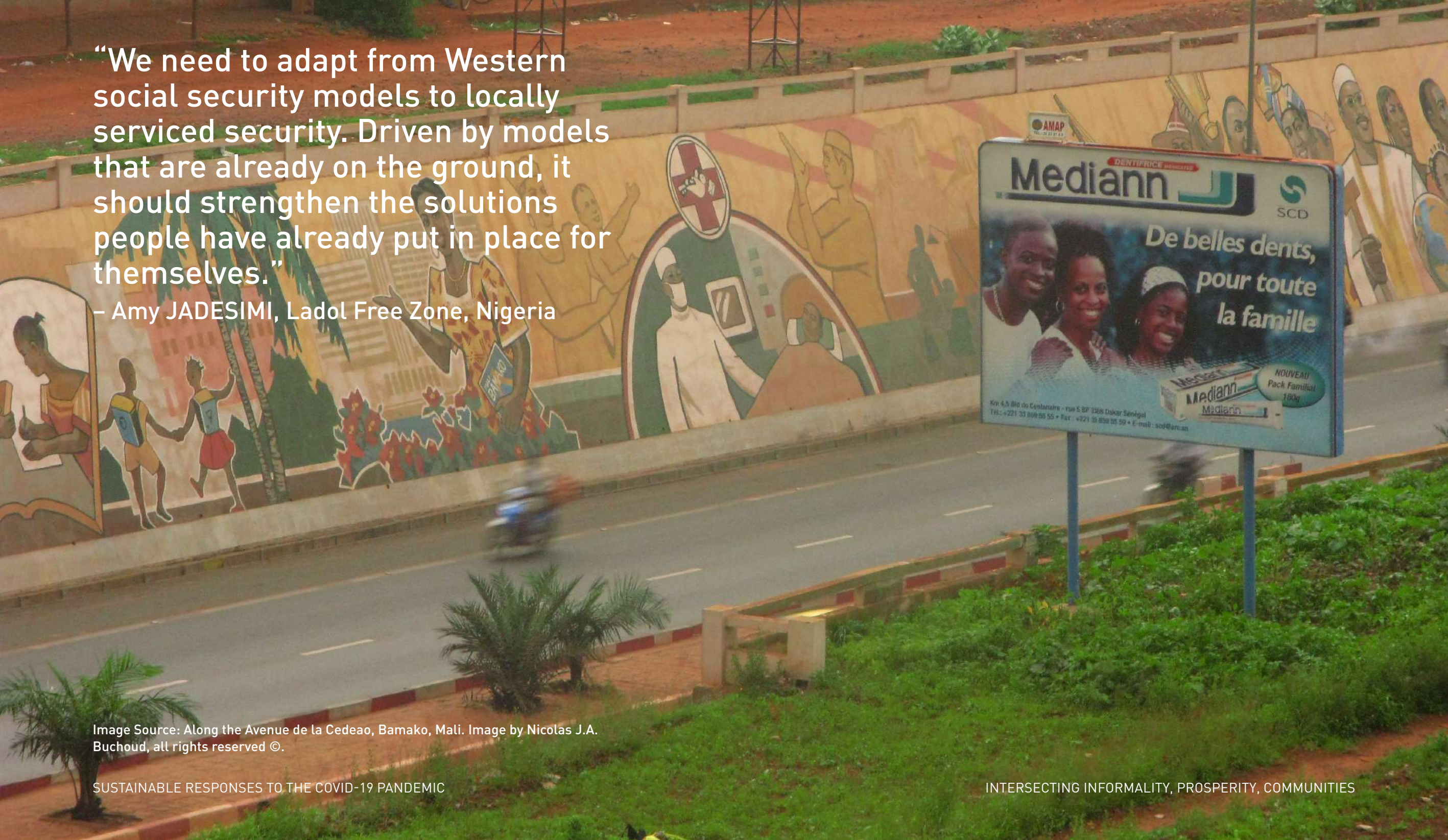


Image Source: Along the Avenue de la Cedeao, Bamako, Mali. Image by Nicolas J.A. Buchoud, all rights reserved ©.



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Food baskets and baskets of indicators: Actions by Casa Fluminense's network in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro

In light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Rio de Janeiro-based NGO Casa Fluminense, which brings together people and organizations to promote a more equal, democratic and sustainable metropolis, has been working with grassroots organisations to localize the SDGs and build Local Agendas in the outskirts of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area.

The process of developing a diagnosis of challenges faced by residents and choosing the priorities to be tackled

was undertaken in 2020 and led by black women and/or LGBTQI+ people from organisations in five different locations with support from Casa Fluminense. The diagnosis incorporated technological innovations, including the use of online questionnaires and digital communication tools, and the digital collection and analysis both of official and of citizen generated data (CGD).

After diagnosis and discussions, actionable solutions and targets were proposed and documented in the form of Agendas and will be used to influence public policies and strategies. This resulted in the Santa Cruz 2030 Plan, the 2030 Commitment Letter for Basic Sanitation in Maré, and the Japeri, the Queimados and the São Gonçalo 2030 Agendas, which were all pre-launched online last year. They are unprecedented in their respective territories and will greatly contribute to the public discussion around social justice at local - and potentially at national - level.

Immediate actions in response to the pandemic have gone side-by-side with the elaboration of the Agendas - all five grassroots organizations had to reorganize their activities in 2020 to coordinate distribution of basic food baskets during the pandemic in order to support families in their territories. Engaging people in the discussion about sustainable development demands their nutritional and health needs are properly met.

Casa Fluminense, as a supporting organisation, raised and

distributed financial resources to local organisations, destined both for the immediate purchase of food, cleaning and personal hygiene materials (making it possible to assemble and deliver around 30,000 baskets), as well as for fostering political incidence in their territories. The strengthening of grassroots organizations is sought not only for its political impact, but also for the potential income that might be generated from the promotion of local development and solidarity economy.

Casa Fluminense is currently seeking resources for the improvement and multiplication of the agendas, which will include the distribution of printed materials. Despite technological advances, this is important in face of the low levels of digital literacy and access to speedy internet in these territories, in addition to promoting trust in the work developed and ownership by local residents. Elaboration of the booklet “How to Make a Local Agenda” is also expected in 2021 to multiply the impacts of the efforts carried out in 2020, which will present guidelines for building new documents aligned with the SDGs and the expansion of a culture of citizen participation and monitoring of public policies.