



Key Takeaways

**Session Title: Adapting to COVID-19: The
Changing Face of Philanthropy**

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Session Rapporteur

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The session was moderated by **Mr. Eric Nee, Editor-In-Chief, Stanford Social Innovation Review.**

The panelists at this session were:

(1) Leong Cheung
Executive Director, Charities and Community
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

(2) Susan Bautista-Afan
Managing Director
ABS-CBN Foundation

(3) Maree Sidey
CEO
Australian Communities Foundation



Leong Chung (The Hong Kong Jockey Club)

- The Club responded quickly to the Covid-19 challenge with a total commitment of HK\$346 Million to support a series of initiatives since January 2020.
- Creative solutions are as important as quick responses and assistance.
- The Club provided free mobile internet data bandwidth to underprivileged primary and secondary school students to facilitate online learning during school closure period
- The Club also facilitated provision of free Zoom licenses to enable video conference online learning for 700 schools.
- These are examples of how innovative support and services needed to be provided according to the need of the situation.



Leong Chung (The Hong Kong Jockey Club)

Six learnings on the role of philanthropy in shaping an agile response and recovery

- **Speed over perfection:** Speed is paramount to support the community to cope with an uncertain and fast-changing crisis. Philanthropy can leverage its agility, creativity and audacity to mobilize resources through timely decision making, application processing and fund disbursement.
- **Empower grassroots organizations to help the most vulnerable:** Invited organizations which work at grassroots levels to come up with practical ideas to touch the daily lives of small but important niches across the territory.
- **Think beyond money:** Address digital divide and support online learning for less privileged students, promote mental wellness and support dissemination of accurate information and emotional assistance to the needy.



Leong Chung (The Hong Kong Jockey Club)

- **Leverage corporate expertise and network:** Leveraged global network and procurement capability to source face masks and sanitizers which are in short supply globally for the community and prioritize underserved segments based on data-informed needs assessment.
- **Think longer term – from response to recovery:** There will be prolonged socio-economic challenges at the recovery stage and we must think longer term to support the community in the recovery from Covid-19.
- **Think even longer term – start preparing for the next shock:** Must start to think of programs that support planning and preparation in advance of widespread outbreak to help communities and governments prepare.



Susan Bautista-Afan (ABS-CBN Foundation)

Some of the main pillars of their foundation are:

- (a) **Relief and Rehabilitation:** helping families at the time of disaster. In Philippines, there was a volcano eruption in January 2020. Before the eviction of victims and families, they had to also consider the pandemic's effects such as the newly unemployed; and
- (b) **Child Protection:** They have a hotline for children to reach out in cases of abuse. There has been a substantive increase in the number of children in Philippines who have reached out using the hotline during this period.



Susan Bautista-Afan (ABS-CBN Foundation)

- **Impact of Covid-19:** Noticed that families were reaching out for food supplies using the child abuse hotline. So clearly, flexibility in approach is essential to identify where support is required.

In response, they have broadened the hotline to cater mental health issues as well as assist in food requirements.

- Food supply requirements have been increasing. We need to address and tackle the issue immediately. Otherwise, it may amount to civil unrest.
- The Foundation has transformed their eco-tourism sites into community food banks. Again, an example of flexibility and need based response.



Maree Sidey (Australian Communities Foundation)

What groups are asking for support?

1. People under the Socio-economic disadvantage bracket (25%)
2. People affected by disability, illness and disease (19%)
3. Young people (17%)
4. People experiencing homelessness (12%)
5. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders (8%)



Maree Sidey (Australian Communities Foundation)

The Foundation's approach to Covid-19 involved:

- **Direct Relief to Vulnerable Communities:** The Foundation set up a “National Crisis Response Fund” enabling an effective and collective response to the pandemic.
- **Short-Term Rapid Advocacy Response:** The Foundation has also set up the “COVID-19 Rapid Advocacy Fund” which is a donor pool which can rapidly inject funds into strategic advocacy campaigns demanding ambitious policies in response to the pandemic in Australia.



Maree Sidey (Australian Communities Foundation)

- **Longer Term Systems Change:** The Foundation is focusing on welfare reforms, misinformation & digital rights, climate and health alliance and health rights which involves response to the dangers presented by the virus to vulnerable communities.
- **Infrastructure and Sector Support:** The Foundation has set up a national funding platform through which they bring together funders and fund seekers



Disclaimer: The intent of the Slides above is to merely share some of our learnings/notes from the session. We may not have covered all points touched upon by the panelists. Reader discretion is advised.