

Interview with Chibuike Alagboso

[00:00:12] **Speaker 1** Hi, and welcome to Module three of Solutions Journalism. New ways of elevating your reporting and engaging audiences. We are discussing organizing and telling solutions stories. At its heart, solutions Journalism is just good journalism. That said, solutions stories are often structured differently. In the first video of this module, we went over some key concepts to keep in mind and emulate. Now we are joined by Chubbuck, aka Bozo senior program manager with the Nigeria Healthwatch, who will speak with us about developing journalism collaboration for Local Impact. Welcome to Book.

[00:00:54] **Speaker 2** Thank you so much for having me here to.

[00:00:57] **Speaker 1** So the first thing I wanted to talk about was communities and funders are searching for ways to rebuild and strengthening local, local news to be more diverse, equitable, inclusive, impactful and sustainable to book. What can we learn from local journalism collaboratives that are using solutions journalism to catalyze change in their communities and local media ecosystems?

[00:01:25] **Speaker 2** We approach the important to top approach. That's the closest practices that we use. So instead of going to the stuff of say, oh, so, you know, apply to this as an approach to reporting or in reporting your end with just the training. You don't just train them and move on. So, we reached out to the management. If the publisher, senior editor, the editor in chief was they have that buy into saying, we want to be part of this. They now nominate journalists to be in a to support for supporting the initiative. And we train them and not just training them. We now support them over a period of time, six months to eight months, to be able to digest stories, because we believe in hands up, not just pitching, but also doing best of ways to imbibe the practice of submission to heritage. They understood the importance of accountability. Yeah. And in doing our communities, they realize that they can't just do this on the phone and that we're there to find those responses. And in another state is now collaborating with some of the journalists in the community and also in another state.

[00:02:43] **Speaker 1** And with sufficient time, resources and leadership, collaborative groups are using solutions journalism to work together in new ways and produce truly remarkable local journalism. Their collaboration is deepening their relationships, changing their mindsets, shifting their ecosystems, and paving the way towards change in their communities. Now let's talk about applying systems, thinking systems, thinking approach to solutions, journalism, unlocking new possibilities for the community, actors involved in the solution, journalists who report the stories and audiences who access those stories to book it. What has been your experience?

[00:03:26] **Speaker 2** So it's been interesting action so far for the work we do as an advocacy organization. We advocate on a lot of issues. One of them, one of the key issues that we advocate on is so much on our hands, you know, amplifying the issues that we face, but beyond the issues, also amplifying those responsible for solutions. And in doing that, there are so many areas, are so many things that can cause issues for women, and especially when it's as it relates to give. And that's okay. Maternal mortality is a big issue in different parts of the world that you have a large percentage of it, but there are so many parts to that. So, applying the systems thinking, know, mindset helps to not look at the whole picture. Just think of trying to find out who is addressing the issue of maternal mortality. All women. The issues that women are facing, applying a systems thinking approach helps you look at them. Can't be okay because they are little bits. They are little

units here and there that contributes to do a viral system. That's what the systems thinking approach does. So, for us in our, you know, India, in my experience reporting to the center, I think from a systematic approach, I look at those issues not too far. So, a good example is a study that we did. So, the colleague that did that story about women and women in the community try to address maternal mortality. Like I said, there are so many reasons why women die. Why give that? Okay. But these women in this community, what they try to address is, is one of the delays, which is getting to the health facility on time. There are so many things that they can do. We want to continue to try to give, but of course, talk about the quality of care they're receiving, the medications that they can get into the facility on time. It's one of the big issues. So, this woman in this community decided to address that issue, get together, got a vehicle like they're like an ambulance. I paid someone to take that went that's the budget. So, they are addressing just that part of the problem. And for me, that's a good example of systemic thinking. I also have the experience when we originally deal with the old way out of this, we always asked issues facing us. We always ask problems, you know, staring us in the faces. But I always tell them, look at your reporting, try to break it down in bits, look at it from a system thinking perspective. That issue I update sort of what's your advice or reports on climate change or trying to report on agriculture or trying to report on the economy or trying to put some out. It's a big issue and there are little things in those two factors or units that contribute to the overall system, which could be policy. It could be enough financing; it could be education. So, who are the people attaching those issues to those little pieces? Because improvement in that particular area can be through know an improvement in the overall system. So that's the way we look at it. Try to encourage look the IT and it's been helpful so far; you know getting them to look at those responses. So, the idea of blockchain using a system thinking mindset.

[00:06:40] **Speaker 1** Let's now talk about identifying the characters of a solutions journalism story. One piece of advice is to look for the unlikely characters. In fact, many times the so-called recipient can be the catalyst for a far more interesting narrative than the social entrepreneur or consider people within the organization, but those without positions of leadership. Many times, great characters are overlooked because they don't have CEO or executive director next to their names. What are your thoughts on the.

[00:07:15] **Speaker 2** Totally agree with that. I remember some of my photos with the way you talk about reciprocity. So many reports on this on the show. It's always good to see that from a business person, from the personal stories of those benefit benefits and not necessarily from the from the angle or from the side of the implementation. It's always interesting when you start the story from focusing a lot more on does benefiting, you know, what are the experiences, how has that particular intervention impacted them? What was it like for them before? What is it like now, that intervention? So yes, I really agree that though when you're talking about contrast in that in that it's always good to focus strongly. Yes. The people intervening to talk about it, but it's always important to focus more on the people who've been affected because as a character on that story, I think that the good thing about that is also when you do that, you're giving the best agents the okay to be part of the story, to define how their story is told and not necessarily from the person implementing the submission that's there to see or the executive director or the best thing, the community member. That's a mind that change that man or that young person who has been impacted positively by that. So, their stories make for a strong narrative change off stage that you know, the person who is bringing up the position or who is simply behind strength. So, for me, I think they're the likely characters. And also, I know that I'm not that categorical, usually referred to as the unlikely characters, other people not involved with the response, because a lot of people say, oh, how can you be objective in your report that

I tell people, we usually tell people when we do something in training that, look, they're not training or this is not a different form of journalism. This is just an afterwards. So, all the same ethics of journalism applies. You have to be objective and but then you have to be practical in the same way. So, to do that, that's one of the alexia paths as that was. I didn't log introducing the client that meets is the person who is not involved with the story. So maybe a spot for another community member who didn't benefit or maybe who wants that? Who is looking for what is that intervention being implemented in their community. So, they are not attached to the idea that and that's to be able to give feedback on thoughts without any bias. So, they are also important to more likely participants to figure.

[00:10:04] **Speaker 1** Reporting solutions focused story requires, as we know, time-based sources and often a lot of patience. But a good story doesn't always need to have words. Images can supplement and strengthen good reporting. Recently I saw a post on the global food crisis in Nigeria food insecurity suggesting five areas Nigeria can act, connect on, or to attain food security and ensure sustainable development goals by 2030. Can you tell us about this initiative and the importance of packaging solutions journalism across many different platforms?

[00:10:45] **Speaker 2** Thank you for that question. So essentially, like I said, we advocate around so many issue areas because even though we really focus primarily on health, there are so many things that impact health care policy wise. If in education, climate change, in the environment, all of these impacts on health. So, when we talk about nutrition as well, if that. Prompts food security, because if every country, most food secure, people are not going to happen. But it does need to have enough to eat before you can start getting into the competition. Or once you have enough, enough component like the companies, what exactly are they consuming? So as far as food security is concerned, one of the things that we proposed in both leaderships, I think, was poverty reduction. And also looking at that, you see that break out of what to do to address insecurity. It also takes if you look at it, we take that distance thinking afterwards, we have a mission and the questions I ask. So, these are so many things that because it's not a switch and magic wasn't that you just wait until food insecurity is addressed. But when you look at them in in this in bits in this part. So how do you reduce poverty? Make sure that people you have a box in the two those points to buy food. How do you have what policies they need to put in place? What do you need to do? What activities you need to make sure that people are able to afford food. That's getting to that point where people are food secure. How do we improve agricultural productivity? Is it to see what people are planting? So, all of these we can add them in in a system up or so. Whoever wants to report spending on food insecurity, they don't have to you know, they don't have to go. I think it's already looking at these and addressing inequality to find stuff as it does component help ensure that as food security, how do we ensure that there's quality? Because I think you got to you are always taught by the British people have been helping us up looking forward to your food. You make sure that you have wonderful people. How best which stays in good shape is to the guests and they find out this nation, the people who use the people cause Jimmy do ensure that. And then eventually how do you address climate change issue? Because it affects insecurity, food security a lot. So, you see, when you look at this component, it's like looking at IT systems. Are you able to look at it in bits and logic? The overall picture of food insecurity, it's so overwhelming. That's the good thing about this initiative, ideas, recommendations. But again, in packaging these studies, they you ask, it's not always it's not best. So, some of the conversations and some of the nights that you can push them better in other formats using produce, using pictures, using body influence and that I think we've seen with the initiating customer that, you know, will the budget that we implemented because we didn't just focus on best breed to generate our life publications,

it's a mix of everything. We worked with journalists who work with you, who work for you online video to use a mix of all of these formats, either using the storytelling to get across the ideas as people connect differently with these issues, even infographics. So that's the beauty of solutions. It's not the meat that again, like I always tell people. So, this idea, I think it's got all the results and I think that people to you use all forms even if there is if we use the illustrations and the visuals and all to pass along those messages in the audience targets. So, the same applies to the challenge, and I think it's always important to show as much as possible, as much as you can, depending on the capacity of individual or, I think, visual. It's always important to show that you show the four pillars that I'm sure you've already mentioned, so people connect and will see this to take away those insights, to help them address the challenges that they are having by thinking through these. So, I'll get to the point I would make the what the result is, which is where we are driving about.

[00:15:18] **Speaker 1** In this particular piece from the Nigeria Healthwatch. I really appreciate it. I saw it on Twitter and I thought the use of art and the use of. Even the tech, the type of text really helped for me quickly understand what the story was about and really actually inspired me to read more about the story and learn more about. About that solutions journalism story. This is solutions, journalism, new ways of elevating your reporting and engaging audiences, said Ogbomoso, the senior program manager with Nigeria. Healthwatch discussed how the role of collaborative scaffolding and solutions journalism is changing local media ecosystems to book it. Thank you so much for your time and for your insights.

[00:16:16] **Speaker 2** Thank you so much for having me here. I hope to add some value to the course of the participants. Thank you so much.