

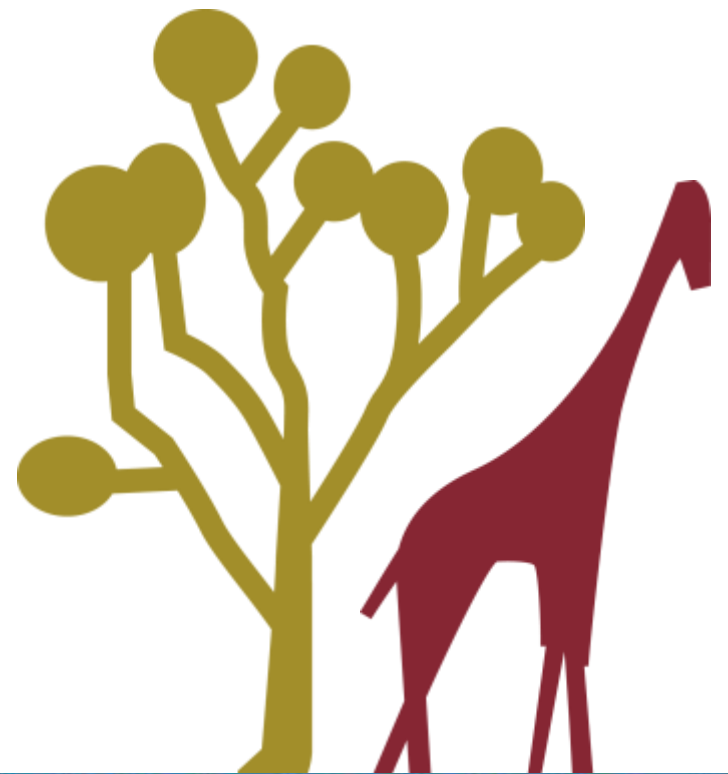


**Brighter
Communities**
Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Update on COVID19 response

August 2020



Creating Better Futures

We believe in strong, healthy communities and brighter futures. To protect the lives of the children, men and women we work with we are working together with passion and determination to keep them safe and keep delivering our life changing programmes.



COVID-19 Update from Kenya

- First case diagnosed in Kenya – 13th March 2020
- Countrywide Curfew in place since 16th March 2020 (9pm-5am)
- Schools closed since week of 16th March 2020 and won't reopen until January 2021 for a new school year
- Movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombassa and Mandera opened up on 07/07/2020 and numbers of recorded cases have multiplied since.
- Airports opened for domestic flights 15/07/2020
- International flights restarted on 01/08/2020
- People encouraged to work from home
- Restrictions of numbers on public transport
- National Youth Service protests and militant attacks threaten stability

COVID-19 Transmission prevention

The focus of the team in Kenya is to try to maintain essential services while supporting the COVID-19 fight and staying safe and well at the same time



COVID-19 Transmission prevention

- Best means of preventing transmission is hand washing so we secured delivery of 2,100 cartons of soap in March – this has been distributed to over 50,000 households, town centres, outreach clinics, health facilities and police stations. We have now ordered more soap so that we can replenish stocks.



Our COVID-19 “Pivot”

- COVID-19 hasn't eliminated the need for our community development programmes.
- In many ways it is creating a greater and more urgent need –we have been finding ways to ‘pivot’ or switch how we can deliver them so that they can continue while still observing restrictions that will keep the community safe from transmission of the virus.



Response to date - Communities

- 825 Community Health Volunteers trained as sensitisers
- 479 other volunteers trained as sensitisers to date (ongoing)
- Sensitisation of 45,000 households across Kericho County to date
- Provision of soap to almost 40,000 vulnerable households
- 22 town centres provided with handwashing facilities and soap





Response to date – Health Facilities

- 163 health facilities supported to date with handwashing facilities, soap, posters, banners, information leaflets.
- 28 outreach clinics have also been supported.



Response to date – Isolation wards

- We have supported Londiani Sub County Hospital with an isolation building which will hold between 5 and 8 beds.
- The building was renovated, covered walkways put in, bathrooms and latrines put in place, furniture made and installed, curtains, fenced and gated by BCW
- The function of this building is to isolate patients who are suspected to have COVID-19 while a test is carried out to confirm their diagnosis.
- If confirmed the patient will be transferred to Kericho County Hospital for treatment.
- Across Kericho County (with its population of almost 1 million) the Ministry of Health aims to have 300 isolation beds in place.
- The County has 6 ventilators in place to date.



Handover of isolation ward to Londiani Sub County Hospital



Response to date – Isolation wards

- We have supported Ndubusat Clinic with its reconfiguration to provide 5 isolation beds.
- Provided beds, plumbing and all equipment to ensure the completion of these rooms.
- The clinic is now divided in two – one building is continuing with essential clinic services, and the other is the isolation wing.
- Triage of all those entering is done at the gate of the clinic.
- The function of this building is to isolate patients who are suspected to have COVID-19 while a test is carried out to confirm their diagnosis.
- If confirmed the patient will be transferred to Kericho County Hospital for treatment.



Isolation wards Ndubusat Clinic



Response to date Training for Health Care workers

We have supported the training of 426 Health Care Workers (across all cadres) who are employed across 105 health facilities in Kericho County.

Training included –

- Infection prevention & control
- Identifying, isolating and caring for patients
- Contact tracing
- Home based care
- Learnings shared between Ireland and Kenya





Impacts of COVID-19 on routine health services in Kericho

- 39% reduction in people attending outpatients in health facilities
- 12% reduction in women visiting health facilities for ante natal care
- 45% reduction in number of women visiting health facilities for post natal care
- 3% reduction in deliveries in health facilities

** Figures up to end March 2020*



Response to date – Essential Services - Immunisation

- The immunisation of children under 5 is crucial for their survival. It is essential that it continues throughout the pandemic.
- Across the region 66% of children are fully immunised
- In 2019 we supported 240 outreach clinics in partnership with the Ministry of Health which enabled essential health services to be brought to otherwise underserved communities.
- The provision of vaccine fridges is essential in this immunisation service.



Mother & baby welcome arrival of the new fridge at Sumoiyot Dispensary

Response to date - Vaccination Fridges



Earlier this month, we distributed fridges designed specifically for the storage of vaccinations to 9 health clinics across Kericho County.

Thank you to UCC Surgeon Noonan Society, Irish Aid and Electric Aid for making this possible.

Photo – Tabaita Dispensary



Response to date – Focus on Education

- School construction projects continue while schools are closed
- Access to “online learning” not a realistic option for children across Kericho
- Supporting local “book clubs” of 3 -4 children
- Supporting worksheet distribution and collection amongst children
- Provision of school books to children to enable them continue learning during this time.



Response to date – Focus on Education

- Kenyan school year runs January to December & schools will remain closed until January 2021. Children will have to repeat the current year.
- This will have a devastating impact on girls in particular who may never end up returning to school. Instead their path may take them into child marriage; there is already an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies in the region and concern is growing that the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will increase.



Response to date – Menstrual Health

- It is vital that COVID-19 restrictions won't stop girls and women from continuing to benefit from our Menstrual Health programme
- We have trained 130 volunteers to act as ambassadors and armed them with information packs and 1300 starter sanitary kits.
- Each starter kit contains some reusable sanitary pads plus instructions on how to make more using locally available materials.



Response to date – Menstrual Health

- Kenegut Community Health Volunteers have trained as Menstrual Health Ambassadors, completed their business training with us and set up an income generating project to produce reusable sanitary pads.
- Not only will their customers benefit from access to the low cost reusable pads, but they will also benefit from the knowledge and information that these volunteers have on Menstrual Health and how to promote best practice involving the whole community.





Other Impacts – Gender (“The shadow pandemic”)

- Some communities are shifting back to traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages.
- Women’s care burden has increased due to the closures of schools and as health systems become less accessible in the shift to COVID-19 responses.
- Women are at the frontline of the response as community health workers and nurses, which places them at increased risk and exposure to infection.
- Women’s economic and productive lives will be affected due to restriction in movement as most are engaged in informal trade, where they earn less and have no social safety nets. .



Next Steps

- Community learning groups to keep children involved with schooling to be escalated to reach more children.
- We will continue sensitising communities across Kericho County reinforcing the key messages of handwashing, wearing masks, social distancing, observing cough etiquette.
- We will continue our support of health facilities and have orders for PPE and other essential equipment underway. *E.g. there are 235 health facilities across Kericho county and right now they have just 500 KN95 medical masks in total to go around.*
- Training of Boda Boda drivers about COVID-19 prevention taking place - these are motor bikes used like taxi's to transport people across the region – high risk of transmission.
- Planning for how we can do Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) trainings as part of our Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment programme in December.

Do it all

“For now, stopping outbreaks comes down to the basics of public health and disease control.

Testing, isolating and treating patients, and tracing and quarantining their contacts. Do it all.

Inform, empower and listen to communities. Do it all.

For individuals, it’s about keeping physical distance, wearing a mask, cleaning hands regularly and coughing safely away from others. Do it all.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---3-august-2020>

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