



Final report to Fondation Eagle – July 2020

Covid 19 emergency: providing emergency food aid, hygiene products and clean water to support vulnerable street children and families in Naivasha, Kenya

Fondation Eagle Reference: FF 534 -20

Name of Charity: Footsteps International (UK registered charity number 1091026)

Introduction

On 1st April 2020, Fondation Eagle accepted our project proposal and awarded a grant of £27,388 to Footsteps International in response to the Covid 19 emergency. The project was in response to the Covid 19 crisis, and its aim was to provide emergency food aid, hygiene products and clean water to vulnerable street children and families in Naivasha, Kenya for 3 months. We received the grant on 3rd April 2020.

The first case of Covid 19 was recorded in Kenya on 13th March, and the ensuing lockdown resulted in immediate mass unemployment as the flower farms shut down, tourism stopped and schools and children's centres were closed. This situation has continued throughout the period of the grant, and life in Kenya has become even more difficult by the imposition of night curfews and travel restrictions.

The 140 (former) street boys that Footsteps International cares for had to return to their homes, putting them back in the situation they ran away from, and increasing the chances that they would revert to the streets.

Families of students who normally attend the Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI) and Bishop Wambari Girls Secondary School suffered as unemployment rose, and people's income reduced as a direct result of the lockdown measures. Within the wider population of Naivasha, hotel, restaurant and church closures resulted in workers losing their jobs and church ministers finding their income severely reduced. Those who survive on casual labour such as quarrying and vegetable packing saw their meagre incomes reduce, making it even harder to survive than normal.

The grant from Fondation Eagle enabled us to launch a rapid and effective emergency aid programme which we have maintained for three months. The crisis is on-going and is unlikely to alleviate significantly before September 2020 at the earliest.

The emergency aid was distributed primarily from the Sunshine street boys' rehabilitation centre just outside Naivasha, and the Naivasha Technical Training Institute and Bishop Wambari Girls Secondary School in Naivasha town. These facilities are walled or fenced, and have security guards which enabled us to distribute the emergency aid safely to those who needed it.

Upon receipt of the Fondation Eagle grant, our partners in Naivasha set up a Covid 19 emergency response committee chaired by Rev Simon Kinyanjui and attended by senior staff members from the three institutions. This is a report on what they achieved in the period from April to June 2020 with support from Fondation Eagle.

Sunshine street boys Rehabilitation Centre:

Budget ref 1.1, 1.2, 1.3: Our first aim was to distribute emergency food and hygiene products to our (former) street boys, in order to stabilise them and minimise the risk that boys would migrate back to the streets. As we could not simply provide emergency aid to a single boy within a family, we extended the help to each boy's immediate family (the typical family size is 6).

Each emergency aid pack for a family for a month was made up of: 3.2 kg of Porridge (Millet) Flour, 10 kg maize, 6kg of wheat Flour, 16 kg of maize meal, 6 litres of cooking oil, 4 large bar-soaps and 1 kg of kale or spinach from the Sunshine Centre farm.

At the Sunshine Centre we care for 140 former street boys, with several sets of brothers, so in total we provided emergency aid packs to 102 families - a total of 669 beneficiaries. We recorded the details of each beneficiary and gave hygiene advice and encouragement when they came to collect their emergency aid packs.

The result of this effort has exceeded our expectations. To the best of our knowledge, none of our boys has gone back to the streets and none has suffered from Covid 19 (staff members have seen some boys herding cattle and sheep, but this is a safe and helpful way to fill in the time until normality returns).



Food and hygiene emergency packs ready to distribute from the Sunshine Centre



We provided transport to ensure the emergency packs arrived home safely. This mother is disabled due to an accident before the Covid 19 emergency



We made hand sanitizer available to beneficiaries, along with health and distancing advice



Five former street boy (all high school boys) collect their families' emergency packs from the Sunshine Centre. This was an opportunity to check they were safe and well and not abandoned.



Former street boy Elijah Thumbi at home with his family's emergency pack



Former street boy Eric Chege prepares a meal for his family. Eric is at university but is now at home waiting for it to re-open

One of the challenges we met was how to reach boys and their families who live a long way from the Sunshine Centre. Street boys are very mobile, so many of our boys have come from remote areas of Kenya, 100 or even 200 km from Naivasha.

In April, we reached these families by delivering emergency packs in vehicles, but this is expensive and, with increased travel restrictions, became impossible in May.

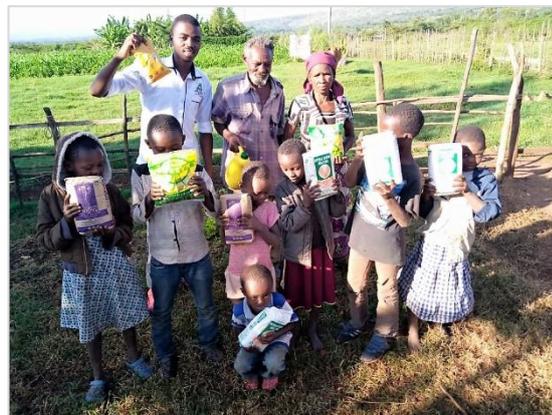
For the May and June distributions our team solved this problem by sending money to food stores near the boys' homes using Kenya's Mpesa (cash via mobile phone) system. The money arrived within seconds, and the families were then notified to go to collect their (already paid for) emergency packs.

We asked the families to provide photos showing them collecting the aid and arriving at home with it, although this was not possible in all cases as some families do not have access to a smart phone.

The photos below illustrate some of the families we reached this way.



Former street boys James Keoch (grey T shirt) and Moses Wambua (yellow T shirt) with their family and emergency pack in Subukia, 120 km from the Sunshine Centre.



Kelvin Kiplangat's (back left) home is in Rongai -120 km from the Sunshine Centre. He is with his grandfather, mother and brothers and sisters, holding up their food supply for the month.



Left: Peter Kariuki is delighted to pick up his family emergency pack in Kuresoi, 170 km from the Sunshine Centre

Centre: Samuel Kamau in the supermarket in Kiambu

Right: James Mwangi and Duncan Kiama at home in Sagana, 180 km from the Sunshine Centre in Kirinyaga County.

Budget ref 2.2, 2.2, 2.3: Our second aim was to increase crop production at the Sunshine street boys Centre by planting, installing drip kits for irrigation and bringing storm damaged greenhouses into service. This meant we could provide additional fresh vegetables for our street boys and their families, and support vulnerable households near the Centre.

In April, we purchased the materials and carried out the greenhouse repairs, and purchased and installed the drip hose (photos below).



In May, the repaired greenhouses and the land with the newly installed drip hose were planted out, and by the end of the month, the crops had begun to grow.

By the end of June, the new crops were growing well, and families were able to harvest kale and spinach to supplement the food in their emergency packs.



These improvements to the Sunshine Centre farm will provide benefits long after the Covid 19 emergency is over.

Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI)

Budget ref 1.4 and 3.1-3.3: Our target was to provide free sanitizers / soap for 100 vulnerable households in Naivasha town, and to issue clean water free of charge to encourage hand-washing.

In April, May and June we purchased food and hygiene products and arranged for safe distribution from the Naivasha Technical Training Institute (photo right).



The details of each beneficiary were recorded before they were given hygiene advice and issued with food and hygiene products.

In total we helped 100 families, with a total of 536 beneficiaries (the average family size is around 5). One beneficiary remarked: "We were scared that we would not have food for the children."



100 vulnerable families collected emergency packs from NTTI. They were also given hygiene and social distancing advice and provided with free water.

In common with governments around the world, the Kenya government has been promoting hand-washing as an effective method of combatting the spread of Covid 19. For poor people, this adds an additional financial burden that they can ill-afford



Over three months, we issued 99,200 litres of clean water from the NTTI borehole to disadvantaged families free of charge. Salome Mungai, who has two children and whose elderly husband is sick, commented to the NTTI staff on how helpful having access to free water had been.

The emergency aid packs and access to clean water have given practical help and encouragement to people who are struggling and increasingly desperate. As far as we know, there have been no reported cases of Covid 19 among the families we have helped, and we trust that this will continue.

The main challenges we faced were:

1. Avoiding a rush from people seeking help, which would overcome us. We managed this by operating from premises which have limited access and are guarded by 'askaris', by inviting beneficiaries to come at a specific time, and completing the aid distribution quickly before word got around in the community that there was help on offer.
2. Another risk identified was the availability of the items we needed to make up the emergency aid packs. We mitigated this by visiting suppliers and placing orders early, obtaining guarantees that items would be available on the required dates.
3. The third challenge was heavy rain that could adversely affect the emergency aid distribution. To offset this, we moved to distributing aid in the mornings only as the rains were more common in the afternoons.

After a period of heavy rain, the low-lying slum area of Kihoto on the outskirts of Naivasha was flooded in May, raising the risk of disease as pit latrines overflowed. This worsened the economic hardship already caused by Covid 19 for the (mainly poor) people living there.



Twelve of the families we supported with emergency packs and fresh water came from the Kihoto area (a total of 70 beneficiaries).

Bishop Wambari Girl's School:

Budget ref 2.4: The aim was to install two rainwater collection tanks to boost vegetable and dairy production on the school farm plot, which would provide food and milk to vulnerable families near the school.

In April, the tanks were purchased and installed, and had partly filled up with rainwater.



In May the tanks were full and operational, and the ground was put under cultivation.

During June, vegetables already growing on the school plot were available to distribute with the emergency aid packs, with the promise of more to follow in the coming months. We have been able to sell milk to local people, putting the income towards farming expenses and farm labour.



Expenditure summary

Our estimated cost for the project was 3,478,300 Kenya Shillings (KES), and we used a rate of GBP 1 = 127 KES for our initial budget. The funds were transferred in 3, monthly instalments with an actual exchange rate varying between GBP 1= 128.05 KES to GBP 1 = 130.15 KES, resulting in a saving of GBP 410 due to favourable exchange rates.

The project team kept tight control of expenditure, and kept costs down by delivering aid packs using the Mpesa system. The nett result was an underspend of 27,557 KES (GBP 210).

The tables below provide a more detailed summary; there is an itemised cost breakdown in the Annex.

Budget and grant request				
Date	GBP	Exchange rate	KES	
31/03/2020	£27,388	127	3,478,300	
Remittances to projects in Kenya				
Date	GBP sent	Exchange rate	KES received	Destination
06/04/2020	£7,456.31	128.75	960,000	Sunshine
06/04/2020	£2,679.61	128.75	345,000	NTTI
06/04/2020	£2,511.07	128.75	323,300	Wambari
22/04/2020	£4,456.40	130.15	580,000	Sunshine
22/04/2020	£2,650.79	130.15	345,000	NTTI
22/05/2020	£4,529.48	128.05	580,000	Sunshine
22/05/2020	£2,694.26	128.05	345,000	NTTI
Total	£26,977.92		3,478,300	
Project Expenditure (KES)				
	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1. Provide emergency food aid and hygiene products				
		2,220,000	2,211,043	8,957
2. Increase food production				
		703,300	646,640	56,660
3. Provide free water and sanitizers				
		285,000	303,040	-18,040
4 Logistics: travel, fuel, transport, airtime				
		270,000	290,000	-20,000
Totals (KES)		3,478,300	3,450,723	27,577
Balance	GBP	Exchange rate	KES	
Exchange rate saving	£410.27			
Underspend	£210.51	131	27,577	
Balance	£620.79			

Results

Asset	Situation in March 2020	Achievement by end of June 2020
Sunshine street boys Rehabilitation Centre	<p>140 former street boys had been sent back to live with their families, placing them at high risk of reverting to the street for survival.</p> <p>Many of the boys' families found their already meagre incomes reduced.</p> <p>The families lacked knowledge and resources to combat Covid 19</p>	<p>By safely distributing emergency aid packs of food, fresh vegetables, hygiene products and healthcare advice for 3 months, we kept 102 families (669 beneficiaries) in good health and Covid-free. To the best of our knowledge, none of the (former) street boys we care for had reverted to street life.</p>
	<p>Increase crop production by planting, installing drip kits for irrigation and bringing storm damaged greenhouses into service</p>	<p>We repaired 2 greenhouses, bringing them back into full production, and installed drip kits to increase the area under cultivation. With extra vegetables becoming available, we were able to provide 102 families with cabbages in May, and kale in June to supplement the food in their emergency packs, helping them maintain a healthy, balanced diet.</p>
Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI)	<p>Kenya's Covid 19 lockdown resulted in closures of hotels, restaurants and bars. All education institutes were shut, and travel restrictions imposed.</p> <p>This resulted in high levels of unemployment and reduced incomes for many people living in Naivasha who were normally employed as former flower farm workers, workers from hospitality field, former bar waiters, quarry workers, market stallholders and casual labourers. These people were immediately at risk of hunger and disease.</p>	<p>We supported 100 families with emergency packs of food, hygiene materials and vegetables.</p> <p>The food distribution days provided an opportunity for prayers, and advice about social distancing and health care, helping keep families strong and healthy during the crisis.</p> <p>We stabilised the families, provided food for their children, and reassured them that someone cared for them in their hour of need.</p> <p>We provided hope to our needy students and trainees of Bishop Wambari Girls School and NTTI, and with their families.</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge, none of the families we have supported has been affected by Covid 19, and, while still struggling financially, they are surviving.</p>
	<p>As there is little piped water in Naivasha, most people have to buy water from boreholes and vendors. For poor people, the cost of extra hand-washing to combat Covid 19 would be prohibitive.</p>	<p>By providing nearly 100,000 litres of safe borehole water free of charge to 100 disadvantaged households, we ensured that the families could increase hand-washing as a means of combatting Covid 19.</p>
Bishop Wambari Girls School, Naivasha	<p>The school was closed, but the small farm was available to support the emergency relief effort.</p>	<p>We installed 2 rainwater storage tanks which are now helping irrigate the land which is producing vegetables which are included in the emergency aid packs distributed from NTTI.</p> <p>We have made milk available, benefitting local families and helping offset the farming costs.</p>

What next?

In March, we hoped that the effects of Covid 19 would subside after three months and that life in Kenya would return to normal. Sadly, this has not been the case, and, although the Kenya government has just announced some easing of restriction, we will need to maintain the emergency aid programme until at least September 2020.

Because Fondation Eagle responded so promptly to the emergency, the actions we took have inspired others to donate. For example, two UK-based Rotary clubs made donations totalling GBP 1,500. This meant we were able to extend the operation to deliver help to a further 77 disadvantaged families. Other donors have since contributed, too, and we have just sent funds to Kenya to fund aid for 200 families in July.

Acknowledgment

We are enormously grateful to Fondation Eagle for responding so quickly to the Covid 19 emergency. Your support enabled us to take rapid and effective action to minimise the impact of the pandemic for 200 vulnerable families (over 1,200 people in total) in Naivasha, Kenya. Our (former) street boys are safe and well, and their families, and many other disadvantaged families are surviving.

As well as providing vital food, water and hygiene products, you have reassured these people that they are not abandoned and forgotten.

Rev Simon Kinyanjui, director of our projects in Kenya, writes:

"On behalf of the Covid 19 Emergency Response Team and beneficiaries I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fondation Eagle for your provision. I am thankful to God, as through your support for the past three months, we have been able to reach out with emergency aid for three months, reaching 1,205 beneficiaries from 102 households, and supplying a total of 99,200 litres of free, clean water to vulnerable families."



Annex

The table shows our original budget, our actual expenditure and variances. The Sunshine Centre, NTTI, and Bishop Wambari Girls School have kept receipts and expenditure records that are available for inspection if required.

Eagle Foundation Covid 19 emergency grant, Naivasha						
<i>GBP 1 = KES 127</i>						
Item/Activity	Unit cost (KES)	Cost for 3 months	Total budget (KES)	Total budget (GBP)	Actual exp (KES)	Variance (KES)
1. Provide emergency food aid and hygiene products						
1.1 Emergency food pack for 100 street boy families	4,300	12,900	1,290,000	£10,157	1,280,506	9,494
1.2 Sanitizers/Soap for 100 street boy families	500	1,500	150,000	£1,181	150,000	0
1.3 Packaging for food packs for 100 street boy families	100	300	30,000	£236	45,000	-15,000
1.4 Emergency food pack for 100 households - Naivasha town	2,500	7,500	750,000	£5,906	735,537	14,463
Total emergency food / hygiene			2,220,000	£17,480	2,211,043	8,957
2. Increase food production						
2.1 Farm inputs, labour	80,000	-	80,000	£630	60,000	20,000
2.2 Drip kit for 1 acre including installation	150,000	-	150,000	£1,181	147,000	3,000
2.3 Repairs to 2 storm-damaged greenhouses	75,000	-	150,000	£1,181	117,000	33,000
2.4 Install 2 10,000 litre water tanks on concrete base and install gutters at Bishop Wambari School	161,650	-	323,300	£2,546	322,640	660
Total increase food production			703,300	£5,538	646,640	56,660
3. Provide free water and sanitizers						
3.1 Supply free borehole water from NTTI to 100 households to improve hygiene (electricity and water extraction licence)	500	1,500	150,000	£1,181	157,000	-7,000
3.2 Provide free sanitizers / soap for 100 households	250	750	75,000	£591	86,040	-11,040
3.3 Supervise issue of free water and sanitizers	20,000	60,000	60,000	£472	60,000	0
Total provide free water			285,000	£2,244	303,040	-18,040
4 Logistics: travel, fuel, transport, airtime	90,000	270,000	270,000	£2,126	290,000	-20,000
Grand total and request to Eagle Foundation			3,478,300	£27,388	3,450,723	27,577