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Fondation Eagle Haller Covid 19 Programme Update Kisauni District, Mombasa, Kenya

28 May 2020

The Situation

The impact of Covid 19 is particularly hard on the rural communities in the Kisauni district who lack running water and so must congregate en masse at a single well. Many do not have their own sanitation and most live in single room houses making the concept of handwashing and social distancing almost impossible. Malnutrition and malaria are endemic, making the communities we work with particularly prone to this viral infection and they have no access to any form of safety net or effective health service.



Haller staff demonstrating hand washing

The Kenyan government reacted rapidly to the crisis and to date, the number of country-wide reported deaths has been relatively low. However, malaria seems to be far more prevalent than usual in the Kisauni district during the current rainy season, along with deaths relating to the disease, suggesting some possible co-morbidity.

Our Response

With your help we were able to put in place an effective support programme in the third week of March – and begin to educate the communities to behave in a way that was against their cultural norms and to encourage as much planting as possible before the imminent rainy season, when travel to isolated areas proves difficult. The aim was to support a fragile food supply chain and to protect the most vulnerable by avoiding a hunger crisis and the loss of livelihoods.



Community sensitisation session

The current economic shutdown, countrywide curfews and cessation of tourism has had a dramatic effect in the region, decimating incomes in this coastal area, where individual workers often support extended family groups. Food markets have been closed, leaving rural families dependant on growing their own food.

Local government ministries have had little manpower to assist, so Haller have been working with their approval, conducting sensitisation and awareness campaigns amongst the communities. They have embedded Covid 19 awareness into an **integrated health and farming outreach programme** for each community they visit, with expert Haller Kenya staff in attendance to help.

Our Focus

The main focus has been on using increased **hygiene** practices as a control measure. Haller manufactured detergents and sanitisers, masks and simple “tippy tap” handwashing stations have been demonstrated and distributed. Village elders, religious leaders and community chiefs have been mobilised to help encourage awareness of the dangers of the virus, its modes of transmission and of prevention. Myths and misconceptions have been dealt with, including the use of tea leaves to treat the virus! Educational leaflets have been handed out in all relevant dialects.



Tippy tap and sanitiser outside a homestead

During the outreach, a wide range of tools and **vegetable seeds** have been issued to farmers

We anticipate that there will be food shortages and we aim to encourage and support farmers to plant all available community land. Families living on the edge of town have also been supported, with the clearing of fallow land to provide **allotment** spaces at Haller’s Farmer Training Centre in Mtopanga. 80 x 1000m2 plots have been cleared, fenced and fertilised for families to rent the plots to plant and protect themselves again hunger. Each plot is big enough to feed a family of between 10-15 resulting in 1,500 direct beneficiaries from this programme alone.



Thank you, these initiatives would not have been possible without your generous support.



Covid 19 education leaflets in 3 dialects for community sensitisation

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