



Rise in Covid brings renewed disruption and hardship in Kenya

- our team in Naivasha re-starts the emergency aid programme as Kenya locks down again



An emergency pack of flour, fresh vegetables, cooking oil and soap brings a smile to the face of former street boy John Mbugua as the latest Covid restrictions come into force in Kenya.

On 26th March, Kenya's President Kenyatta ordered travel restrictions across 5 major counties and closure of hospitality businesses and places of worship, coupled with a halt to all in-person learning in Kenyan schools, colleges and universities.

The former street boys we care for at our Sunshine Centre, who had just settled back into school were sent home. Their parents, many of whom have lost their sources of income because of the restrictions, faced the impossible burden of feeding their boys for at least 7 weeks until the restrictions ease.

Our team in Naivasha immediately re-started the emergency aid programme which was so successful last year in keeping the boys and their families well-fed, and ensuring the boys stayed at home rather than drifting back into street life.



Left: Security guard Fred Mose checks Mama Wayne's temperature on arrival at the Sunshine Centre. Right: Peter Mutegi ready to head home with his family's emergency pack.



Left: Pamela Otieno gets a lift to make sure she gets home safely with her pack. Right: Simon Love and his grandfather receive their pack at home in Kipipiri.

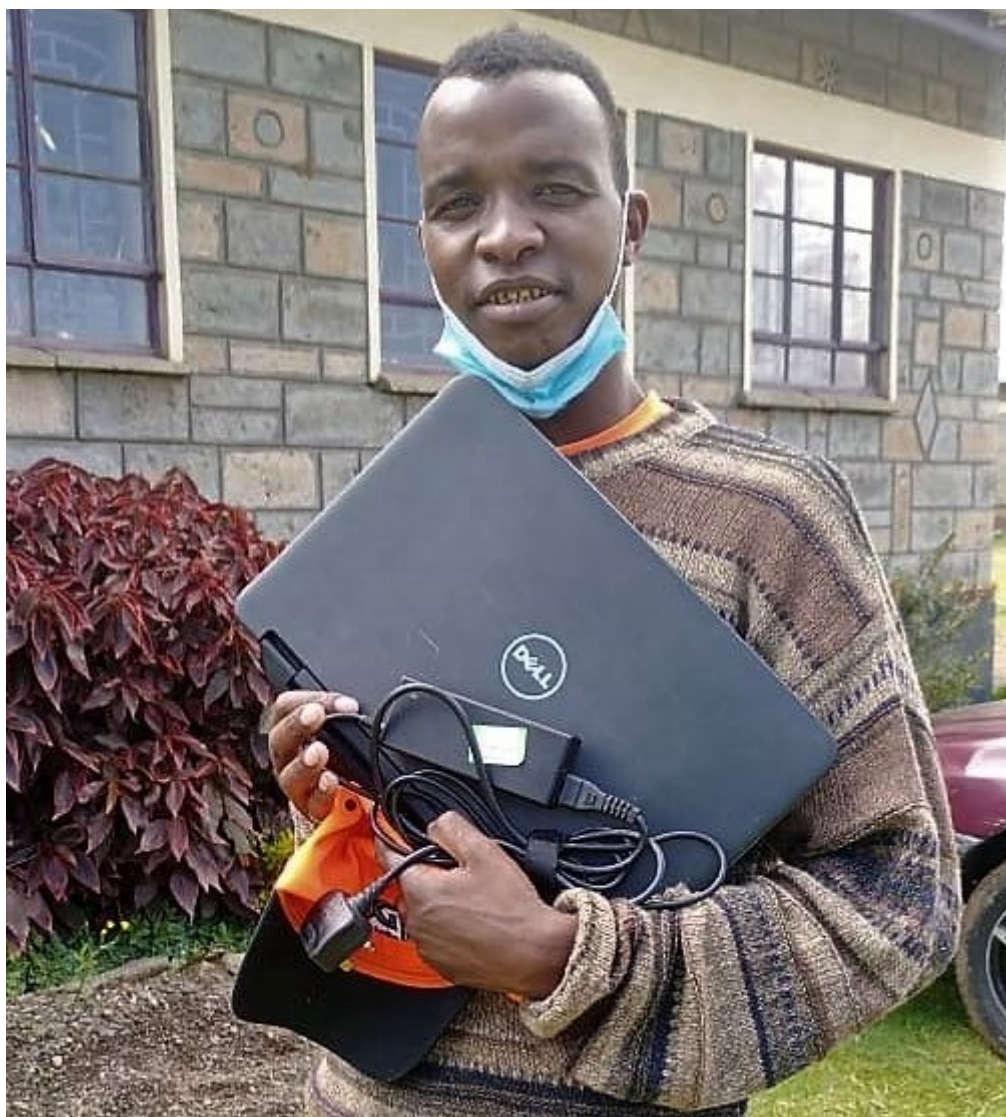


Mastin, Achaya, Nelson, Mary and Augustine safely home in Kinamba with their emergency food and hygiene pack.

In April, our team reached 112 families with emergency packs, a total of 678 individual beneficiaries. We increased the size of the packs to try to make them last until the Covid restrictions are lifted.

[Each large emergency pack cost £40 - donate now](#)

When he lived on the streets Ben had no shoes - now he is learning to make them.



A laptop is an essential requirement for a student, especially as a lot of teaching has moved on-line again during the recent Covid lockdown in Kenya.

Ben Ndichu is a former street boy who we took into our Sunshine Centre in

2009. He completed his school in 2019, but, like most young people around the globe, his education was then disrupted and he had to wait until February this year before commencing a vocational training course in leather and tanning technology at Kenya Industrial Training Institute in Nakuru.

Commenting on the fact that the college had now closed again because of Covid, Ben told us, "We are now doing our studies online, which we must follow because of the push of the syllabus. But I know it will come to an end and we will get back to our normal living - God will always be with us."

[To help educate a former street like Ben - donate now](#)

Caroline and Naomi - hoping for good grades



Njagi and Constance are very proud of their family. Alongside their own children, they also care for four more very disadvantaged children, managing to

unite them into a single, happy family.

Caroline and Naomi (front right in the photo) have just completed their (disrupted) high school education at Tumaini Secondary School in Mombasa, and are waiting for the results of their KCSE exams. The grades they achieve will determine their next steps in life, so, understandably, they are rather nervous at the moment!



At the Sunshine Centre we provide for the boys' spiritual needs as well as looking after their physical well-being.

Under the guidance of the Sunshine Centre's Mama Chege and part-time chaplain Joseph Ndungu, 25 of our former street boys were baptised and welcomed into the Africa Inland Church.

The photo shows Sunshine Boy Kennedy Mbogo about to be baptised by Pastors Muruga and Joseph.

Remember the poor...

Last year's emergency relief effort put us in contact with many desperate families. When conditions eased, we continued to support several really desperate families.



Lydia Nyambura used to spend her time doing casual work to care for her disabled mother and aunt.

As part of a sustained aid package, we paid Lydia's fees so that she could start a course in plumbing and masonry at Naivasha Technical Training Institute (Lydia is the student in the big, red hat talking to director Simon Kinyanjui in the photo above left).

With her training course on hold because of the latest Covid restrictions, we have provided her and her family with an emergency pack that Lydia came to collect from the Sunshine Centre.

Covid levels are reducing in Kenya, so Lydia is hopeful that her course will resume by mid-May.

Virtual Kenya Marafun 26 June 2021



Anyone - Anywhere - Anyway

The boys from the Sunshine Centre will be running the Virtual Kenya Marafun again on 26th June. They would love to know you are supporting them by:

1. Taking part yourself - you can run, jog, walk, cycle any distance anywhere you choose (complying with any Covid restrictions in place at the time).

*[Email us](#) to let us know you plan to take part - the Sunshine Boys will be **VERY excited!***

2. Raising sponsorship or sponsoring the Sunshine boys.

The [sponsorship page](#) is ready to take donations.



We realised that this year was likely to be challenging. The latest Covid lock down in Kenya has been a big setback, but the young people and the staff who care for them have done a very professional job to keep our work on track until conditions ease.

Thank you for your support and prayers - both are much needed. Be blessed and stay safe!

Martin

Mary

Martin and Mary Print
Co-founders, Footsteps International

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