



## Back to school - carefully!



Former street boy John Wainaina has returned to school after a 7 month break, but Covid cases in Kenya are rising.

## Current situation in Kenya

- As economic activity has started to pick up, new cases of Covid 19 are rising again (although reported levels are relatively low compared to other countries).
- The Kenya government has ordered schools to re-open for a limited number of classes (primary years 4 and 8, and final-year secondary)
- Our Sunshine Centre has also re-opened for these age groups.

## **This month**

- We provided aid packs from our Sunshine Centre to families of our (former) street boys, reaching 682 beneficiaries from 115 families
- We supplied aid packs from the Naivasha Technical Training Institute to 728 adults and children from 120 families.
- The Church on the Rock School team distributed aid packs to 106 families in the Nairobi slums.

## **How I managed during the lockdown**

We asked children returning from lockdown how they had managed. Here are replies from our Sunshine boys and the children from Church on the Rock School in the kwa Reuben slum, Nairobi.



**Eurelia Kemunto (class 8, Church on the Rock School, Nairobi):**

Sometimes I was feeling sick because there was no money and we lacked food. Then our house was flooded after heavy rain. My books sank in the water, so I was not able to study well. My mother didn't have enough money to pay rent, so we spent a week outside.

I missed coming to school and seeing my family, but we were given some good food (beans, maize, flour and cooking oil).



**Meshack Wakoli (Church on the Rock School, Nairobi):**

I missed my teachers and friends because there was no association with others. Unlike my friends, I didn't attend on-line classes.

There were some challenges at home because my dad whom we depend on lost his job, so we had a shortage of food to feed ourselves, but the school distributed some food to us.

**Alphonse Musinya (Church on the Rock School, Nairobi):**

My parents did any job they could find to earn money, and I kept myself busy with a small business selling milk. I had to sweet-talk the buyer so he/she would buy *my* milk.

I missed my role as President of the school, and school events like talent day, athletics and cleaning the compound.





**Joseph Chege (former street boy at the Sunshine Centre):**

I've kept safe and am thankful to God for the assistance with food and soap. I have been helping at home with domestic chores.

The worst of the lockdown was the closure of the church. I missed my youth activities at the church.

## **Tumaini children re-start school with strict hygiene measures**



Joshua and Derrick pose for a quick photo in the sitting room at the Tumaini Children's Home before heading to school for the first time since it closed in



March.

Schools in Kenya are having to impose social distancing - difficult when there are often 50 or 60 students in each class.

## **Our family aid programme continued, helping a further 1,900 adults and children...**



Left: When we started in March we distributed just a few kilogrammes of aid; this month, it totalled several tonnes. Right: Each beneficiary's temperature is checked on arrival to collect their family aid pack.



Left: Former street boy Peter Njenga gives Mama Chege a hug before heading home with his aid pack. Right: Samuel Njenga collects food from the local store to take home to his family. We pay for the food using Kenya's cash-by-phone system Mpesa.



Left: Caroline Kwamboka, a single mother with four children earns a meagre wage working in a quarry, so is grateful for her aid pack. Right: Wako Tume Hussein, a Form 2 student at Bishop Wambari School, collects her family's aid pack.



Banitater Musenya cooks the free school lunches for the children at Church on the Rock School in the kwa Reuben slum, Nairobi (see inset photo). So it makes a change for her to be receiving food rather than handing it out (main photo). When the school had to close in March as Covid arrived in Kenya, the staff had to be laid off without pay.

**As our projects start to return to normal, we are investing in Covid hygiene measures.**

**At the same time, we also need to continue providing aid packs to disadvantaged families (£30 buys flour, beans maize, cooking and soap for a whole family).**

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**The story of Mama Muthoni below illustrates what a difference the aid packs have made.**



## Your continued support has ensured our survival



We reported last month how Mama Muthoni was made homeless by floods and she and her two eldest children ended up working as casual labourers on a farm and begging from well-wishers for something to eat.

When Mr Njugi (the head teacher of Bishop Wambari School) delivered this month's aid pack to the family, he noticed that the children had so little to wear that the boys were having to wear girl's clothing.

Immediately, he organised a donation of new clothes and shoes for the family (photo above). To his astonishment, on receiving the gift, Mama Muthoni gave some to other needy families in her neighbourhood.

Mama Muthoni said. "I am so thankful for your continued support that has ensured our survival during this time of the pandemic. Barikiweni sana (may you be blessed abundantly)."

## **When clean water is an expensive luxury**



When you fall on hard times, even the cost of buying water to wash clothes and keep the house clean is a major burden.

When Monicah Gatabaki lost her income during the Covid crisis she was able to collect free fresh water from the Naivasha Technical Training Institute (NTTI) borehole.

She explained, "This has helped my family budget stretch further especially at a time when the amount of water we need has risen because the children have been at home all day. Bwana awabariki sana (God bless you greatly)".

Since March, we have issued over 280,000 litres of free fresh water to help families affected by the Covid crisis.

**A thank you from Simon Kuria - Sunshine Centre social worker**



"There are millions of reasons to thank God for the aid we have been able to distribute continuously since March.

Those who have helped us during this crisis have taught us that we, too, should give unconditionally, because love has no boundaries, physical, geographical, creed, or race."

The photo shows Simon Kuria (left) with former street boy Joseph Kiiru).

## Go M.A.D this Christmas

Give a gift that Makes A Difference



If you want to give a gift that really Makes A Difference this Christmas, why not give a MAD gift?

We have a new range of specially designed gift cards your family and friends will enjoy, knowing that your gift has helped a disadvantaged youngster in Kenya.

[Preview MAD Cards](#)

## What else you can do now

**Accept our thanks!** With your support, we have kept families healthy and intact, and reassured them that they have not been forgotten in their time of need. We add our thanks to those from all our partners in Kenya for the help you have given during the crisis.

**Forward this email to a friend.** We need more people like you to maintain and grow our work.

**If you are in a position to give (or maintain your existing giving), please do so.** We have started to invest to help our projects re-open while we continue to provide aid packs to families. Your gift of any size will help us meet these needs.

There is a donate button below and on the [home page of our website.](#)

[Donate now](#)

**If you pray,** please give thanks for the hope that you have given so many people over the past desperate few months. Please also pray for wisdom and safe-keeping as the schools, colleges and our Sunshine Centre start to re-open.



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