

Information I

An Update to our Staff regarding the works of Mukuru Promotion Centre and the CoVid 19 Pandemic

As we see the coronavirus pandemic unfolding around the world, we trust that you and your family are safe and are able to manage the inconveniences it is causing in your daily lives.

We have received several emails from people wanting to know how MPC is managing the crisis in the slums. The daily bulletin updates from the health and government authorities is no different from any other country in the world. Wash your hands, keep social distances to 2 metres, work from home and if sick definitely stay at home.

Our situation in the slums is unique compared to most developed countries. Our people do not have the funds to buy water to wash their hands. Most of our families live in a single 2 or 3 metre room / shanties with between 5-10 persons. The social distancing is not an option for them. The alleys and walkways in slums range between 1 to 3 metres. With a population of over 600,000 persons contact is unavoidable. To compare the density rate with some countries: USA 36 persons per square kilometre; Australia 3; Ireland 71; United Kingdom 278; Austria 106, Kenya 94. In the Mukuru slums the rate is more like 83,000 people (source: <https://www.populationof.net/kenya/>)



The majority of people in slums do not have secure work, they are casual workers, selling vegetables, washing clothes, or selling simple foods such as boiled eggs or chapatis when possible. The slum economy is a subsistence economy. There is no welfare system to support them during this crisis.

The Government ordered the closure of all schools and centres last week. This means that 62% of our staff will not be at work. Our funds from donors support a host of activities in the primary schools, high school, vocational training centre, disabilities centre, rehabilitation centre and clinic. These vital activities will be placed on hold. Our clinic and rehabilitation centre will remain open as they are essential services. We have decided with the Sub-County Childrens Office to remain open as the boys have nowhere else to go.

On Wednesday 25th March we distributed food parcels to hundreds of families who have not eaten in days. The vast majority of our children come to school and receive their first and only meal at 1 pm. Unfortunately, at one place the riot police had to attend and disperse the crowd with tear gas due to the sheer numbers of people needing food. People saw that our families were carrying empty bags and realised that something was happening.



Of the five phases of pandemic levels, Kenya is currently at phase two. This involves reported cases and various restrictions from the Government to contain the spread of the virus. It has 31 confirmed cases, 1 death, 745 are being monitored out of which 98 were discharged after the 14 day quarantine, and 15 pending results. We know that these figures will change rapidly. The country will receive 25,000 new testing kits in the coming days.

We realise that many people around the world have lost their jobs and are able to access their country's welfare benefit system. Kenya does not have a welfare system and because of this we will have thousands of persons in the slums dying from starvation and dehydration as well as the coronavirus. We can't do anything about the space and density rate, but we can do something with their immune system. If you would like to help sponsor an "immunity boost parcel" that contains kale, oranges, maize, water, amaranth flour, disinfectant, paper towel and soap donations can be made direct to the Commonwealth Bank. The long term option will be added to the new website which is being developed.



Immunity Boost Parcel



All local donations can be sent via **Mpsea**
Pay Bill No. 600100
Account No. 0100 004 198 233
Direct Mpsea line: 0719 847 588

International donations on-line
www.mercymukuru.co.ke

For 1,000khs a very needy Mukuru family can receive a booster parcel. Please help.

Thank you for your support.

Sr. M. Killeen

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