



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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Information IV

Period 1st May – 22nd May 2020

An Update to our Supporters, Friends and Partners regarding the works of Mukuru Promotion Centre and the CoVid19 Pandemic

If a pandemic is not enough to deal with, Kenya is experiencing its worst invasion of desert locusts for more than 25 years, which has impacted on its food security as well as trying to cope with devastating floods. According to the Red Cross almost 200 people have lost their lives and hundreds of thousands have been internally displaced since the rains started in March. After a shocking year in 1992 Queen Elizabeth called the year her '*annus horribilis*', it looks like Kenya's 2020 will be the same.

The number of CoVid19 cases in Kenya is now 1,109 with 50 deaths and 375 recoveries. The last death was recorded on 16th May. The testing will be ramped up across the Nairobi County until the end of the month. We expect that the cases will increase with the testing. The President's Office has released details on Free Mass Testing for the metropolitan area starting on 20th May. The Reuben Centre will start first. The area for MPC is listed as Kayaba which will take place on Sunday 24th May and be coordinated by Dr Gichuki from the Ministry of Health. This will help us to know the situation better in the surrounding Mukuru slums.

The borders between Somalia and Kenya and Tanzania and Kenya have been closed except for cargo. There are huge queues at all the border points causing terrible traffic jams in the towns near the borders. All drivers are now tested before entering Kenya. As they have to wait for a day for the results and have to park their trucks, the congestion on narrow roads is shocking. Drivers have been found to be major carriers of the disease from one town to the next and from one country to the next. Tanzania is proving challenging. Kenya has found many positive cases coming from there. 182 Tanzanians have been deported recently from Kenya who allegedly tested positive. The Tanzanian President says that when the drivers mainly were tested in Tanzania, they tested negative. Germany has donated mobile testing kits to the Government so hopefully these will help drivers to be tested with less delay and reduce the traffic jams.

The Team Pankaj has have assisted us with food for the past month, has requested us to distribute food to various groups from Ruben village within Mukuru slums, after verifying if they were genuine. We advised them to deal with Br. Frank O'Shea (*Australian Christian Brother*) as he knows the villagers there and is present among them. Mr Pankaj contacted Br Frank and has since then supplied food packs to those without income. Team Pankaj also wanted information concerning groups from Kwa



Njenga. We referred them to the Medical Mission Sisters who have a clinic in Kwa Njenga. They started to distribute there last week.

Here in MPC they bring 300 food packs in a week. The social workers do the work of distribution in cooperation with and with participation from the local community health workers and administrators. They brought food for the street boys along with some treats.

Thankfully at the Clinic we do not have any suspected cases for CoVid19 in May. They have not noticed any change which could show a significant presence of CoVid19 among the community. Although there has been an increase of about 400 patients compared to last month at the same time, we believe this is because the Mukuru Kwa Reuben Clinic was closed due to CoVid19 issues. As an extra precaution we set up a tent outside the compound to screen peoples' temperature before they enter the Clinic.



The top three illnesses treated at the Clinic continue to be Acute Upper Respiratory tract infections, Gastroenteritis and Urinary tract infections accounting for 64% of patients so far this month.

We have seen that our patients have shown much gratitude on receiving the immunity booster packets and food parcels.

Station	No. Immune Booster Packets	No. Food Parcels	No. Other Items
Dunga Road - St Catherine's	52	335	
Likoni Road - Head Office		207	1
Kayaba – Mukuru		182	
Lunga Lunga - St Elizabeth		113	2
Dunga Road – MPC Clinic	332	337	
Aoko Road – Songa Mbele		98	3
Totals	384	1,272	6

*** Some of the items under 'other' includes baby clothes, clothes and rent for parents with disabled children.*

Waiting Bay at the Clinic





Women receive immunity booster packets and food parcels



Immunity Booster Packets ready for distribution to Patients



On the 7th May Eastleigh was locked in, also the Old Town in Mombasa. On the 16th May people anticipated with anxiety the President's National Address. He announced that the lockdown should continue for three more weeks together with the curfew. From Nairobi and Mombasa there is no travelling to or from other provinces, in an effort to curb the spread from those cities to the rest of the country. Many people were extremely disappointed, especially those who are stranded away from home or work. The Muslims, chiefly those in the Old Town of Mombasa and Eastleigh are sad as it is the last week of Ramadan. The Government is trying to stop communal gatherings and feasting which are normal in the evenings after the day's fast. It is felt that these practices spread the virus.

The closure of Eastleigh is causing havoc with traffic as all the roads surrounding Eastleigh are blocked by police. With special permission from the Police Commander of the Local police station

it is possible for certain emergencies to be given permission to pass the roadblocks. Although the President announced that the lockdown should continue, the people had started returning to their businesses in big numbers from around the 11th May. I see huge numbers of slum dwellers leaving each morning for work and returning in the evening as I come and go. The curfew, though, is very well kept. I travelled through the city on Wednesday 11th from South B to Aga Khan Hospital in Parklands and only saw 4 other vehicles on the road between 11pm and 2am.

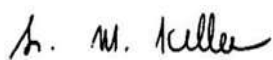
Some restaurants have opened keeping to stringent rules of complete deep cleaning of premises, handwashing, social distancing, disinfecting spaces every fifteen minutes, staff having a CoVid19 test certificate showing them to be free of the virus. For me it is good to see a number of unemployed people returning to work.

The Government had announced that schools would reopen in June. However due to the division of opinion among the public, they now decided to set up a special committee of various experts to advise on the way forward. The public have been requested to give their submissions. We have already given ours. Many teachers in private schools or those paid by the Board of Management in public schools have not received any salary since March and are unlikely to receive anything until schools reopen. They have to pay rent and eat. For them it is a catastrophe. Hotel workers, tour guides, a number of drivers and taxi men are all in the same situation.

The National Parks of Kenya are now in trouble as they do not have the gate fees to fund their operations. Poaching of animals has increased. The elephant sanctuary has appealed for help to keep feeding the orphan elephants as they also now lack income. If this crisis continues for long it will have devastating effect on the care of wildlife in Kenya. Mombasa is in a terrible state without tourists. It seems about 80% of the population there earn their living in ways that are connected to tourism.

The staff of MPC and the Sisters are all well. We rejoice in our ability to assist at this time.

Thank you for your support.



Sr Mary Killeen



Patients receive supplementary food parcels.



Kayaba parents receive food support