



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

www.mercymukuru.co.ke

Information VII

28th July –7th September 2020

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

As at 7th September 2020, Kenya has a total number of **35,205** CoVid19 confirmed cases, **599** deaths and **21, 310** recoveries since March 14, 2020. The fatality rate is at 1.69% and the recovery rate is at 60.5%.

(Source: WHO).

In August, CoVid19 reported cases seemed to be increasing each day. Testing was done only in targeted areas where there was evidence of contagion. For most of August, the tests showed that about 10% of those tested were positive. Instead of being taken to quarantine centres, those with minor or no symptoms were allowed to self-isolate at home. This was a great challenge for those in slums and in very poor and crowded households in rural areas. Vomiting and diarrhea were found often to be symptoms of contagion as well as respiratory challenges and blood clotting.

According to Dr Patrick Amoth, Acting Health Director General, 27th July 2020, most of the dead suffered from the following underlying conditions:

- Hypertension 17%
- Diabetes 15%
- Chronic lung disease 10%
- Cancer 10%
- HIV/AIDS 4%

Some side effects of CoVid19 have been undoing gains in the fight against other diseases such as HIV; the majority of children not attending school; only a small percentage of school children able to follow on-line studies; increase in crime and teenage pregnancies and the slashing of new job opportunities by 58%.

Vaccine trials are taking place in Kenya on the drug “Remdesivir” in a number of hospitals such as Nairobi, Aga Khan, Moi and Kenyatta National, and Kilifi-Kemri-Wellcome. Sadly, with corruption, Kenya earlier paid more than double the cost for protective kits, through fraudulent procurement. At the beginning of August over 700 new cases were recorded daily. It seemed to be

increasing rapidly. One person who travelled from Nairobi passed it onto 48 extended family members. People are requested not to hold family and other large gatherings.

Concern was raised over the fact that some doctors were giving false negative results so that CoVid19 positive patients who died could be given a respectable burial according to the families desire and expectation, instead of being hurriedly buried without relatives attending, according to government requirements, to stop the spread.

The different results of tests from different hospitals is a matter for concern. Healthcare workers who were infected numbered 838 while 16 had died by 18th August. The healthcare workers were cautioned to take care at breaks and outside of work. Kitchen workers and cleaners who were positive caused a number of hospital kitchens to be closed. Hospitals had to procure food from outside caterers to reduce any contamination. There were many complaints about the quality of food. The meals were cold, tasteless and served in disposable plates and cups. The tea and coffee were cold and watery. It was not a good time to be a patient.

On 24th August Kenyans called for a probe into the tender scams for CoVid19 related items. A cabal of crooks made a killing. Among the plotters were top officials from the Ministry of Health. It seems the country has lost its moral conscience. The inquiry was initiated by journalists who are now experiencing attacks from the cartels. Police cells are over-crowded in poor areas with no space for social distancing. This is a danger to the inmates and the police guarding them.

The out-of-school children and youth deteriorated in behaviour. The Education CS (Minister) made a call for teachers to register with chiefs to do community teaching in their own local areas. This never really got off the ground. A parent brought the Ministry of Education authorities to court asking for the community teaching to stop so that the schools would reopen.

Since the announcement of the pandemic, Nairobi County has led the infection count, with Mombasa as runner up, with border towns also registering positive cases. Towards the end of August, it seemed that the percentage of positive cases was falling. On the 1st September, WHO urged the country not to celebrate yet. It also warned Kenya of the danger of idle children and youth. There is the neglect of other diseases during the pandemic which will cause huge challenges in the future. Among these is the lack of immunization of children and healthcare for infants under 5, tuberculosis, cancer, HIV, malaria, diabetes and hypertension. In some areas cholera was at times a bigger threat than CoVid19.

The loss of jobs in the private school sector is shocking for teachers. They have had to turn to other ways of earning their living. With 43,000 schools in the country and 17 million students that amounts to around 860,000 teachers. It was reported by the Daily Nation that approximately 114 private schools had collapsed while others are being used for purposes other than education.

The Ministry of Education has already procured the PPEs for the opening of schools. Bars and nightclubs remain closed and alcohol cannot be sold in hotels or restaurants. This has led to illegal wines and spirits shops operating within residential estates. Many customers turn up there to buy alcohol and some hang around together drinking. This behaviour weakens the fight against contagion. For the past week news of CoVid19 is disappearing from the airwaves and newspapers, as if it is no longer a news item.





Unfortunately, one of the Community Health Volunteers died during the month. Our Clinic staff went out into the community to do a follow up on the house bound patients. Janet has hypertension and suffered a stroke. Sadly, she had missed her medication for two weeks. The social workers accompanied the nurse on some home based visits. After some attention her health is improving.

According to Dr Odari from KEMRI (*Kenya Medical Research Institute*) analysis of the situation by scientists on the low number of cases and deaths in Kenya from March 2020 to September 2020, in spite of the low resources to fight the disease, is as follows:

- Cross immunity in the community from other corona viruses
- Youthful populations
- Temperate climate
- Community's exposure to diseases not prevalent in the West



At Mukuru Promotion Centre we continue to provide food for the emergency cases in the community only. The social office continues to disseminate blankets, clothing, sanitary pads, bedding and other household items. We are hopeful to have some local donors to assist with ordinary food parcels.



We will continue to keep you updated. Thank you for your support.

Sr. M. Killeen

Sr Mary Killeen