



COVID – 19 Newsletter Update

April 2020 | COVID-19 Emergency Update | Roko 20 Academy, Kambirwa, Murang'a

Kenya's reaction to COVID-19

Kenya's Government was quick to act to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

On 16 March, at a time when the country had only 3 confirmed cases of the infection, schools were closed, and large gatherings banned.

The following week international flights were suspended.

Two weeks later a curfew was introduced between the hours of 7pm to 5am.

Further measures included the mandatory use of masks in public places and a ban on movement by road, rail, or air in and out of the Nairobi metropolitan area.

Border controls were put in place on 5 counties.

As of 25 April, figures show 343 confirmed cases and 14 deaths.

What are the challenges for our families?

- The majority of the parents and guardians live a **hand-to-mouth existence** depending on casual work as laborer but due to the current situation these jobs are no longer there.
- Handwashing is problematic as some families have to make the choice of **buying a bar of soap or food**.
- **Supplies of water can be erratic** and will be cut off for periods of time. There are many who have to walk to the river for fetch their water.
- **At school pupils are guaranteed to eat three meals a day** now they are lucky if they get just one meal.
- **Masks are mandatory** but many family members are **going without** due to the cost.



One parent receiving food supplies and soap



A parent tasked with making masks





Food distribution underway at school

Cutting costs

Due to the UK ban on public gatherings our planned fundraising events have had to be cancelled.

We have therefore had to make temporary cuts in expenses.

From 1st May until the school is fully operational, we will:

- Cut staff salaries by 20%; and
- Remove staff responsibility allowances

What we are doing

- We are supporting 46 families, 92 pupils and 31 elderly ladies.
- We are distributing soap, vegetables, maize and beans, flour, salt and cooking oil.
- We are creating some work opportunities, employing one parent to produce masks and another has a job of selling them. Some parents are selling vegetables and limes grown at school.
- We are planting vegetables at school to supply those families most in need and selling the surplus to buy food.



Oil, soap, and salt supplies



It is due to your support that families who are hardest hit by this pandemic will not go hungry.

THANK YOU!

