

Progressive report on Kiandutu (KOP)



The coronavirus pandemic has spread worldwide and affects everyone personally. But in fragile contexts, people are especially at risk. To control the spread of coronavirus, the Kenyan Ministry of Health COVID-19 Taskforce implemented initial prevention and mitigation measures. These included encouraging the public to wash their hands, wear face masks and staying at home. Many dwellers in Kiandutu are low income settlers and the slum is overcrowded, where sanitation and social distancing measures are near impossible to maintain. Their greatest vulnerabilities stem from the lack of the most basic public services especially access to water.

Macheo has put in all its effort to keep up with our interventions while protecting communities and our staff from the pandemic. At Kiandutu we opened our outreach centre after closing for two months to continue providing services to teen mums, malnourished children and counselling. At the centre we build a booth to enable the staffs and the clients to maintain hygiene as recommended by the ministry.

Overview of Interventions

1. Teen Mums Intervention



When covid 19 measures of social distancing, staying at home policy were announced by the government, many teen mums were unable to access hospital and clinic due to fear of visiting the hospitals, lack of transport to access the hospitals. As Macheo we came up with measures that would aid the girls to access the hospitals. For instance, due to the restriction on travel especially at night, we made arrangement with the local village elders and our service provider (Julia) on having a standby local driver who would offer transport services for the teen mums in-case of emergencies at night. We also made provision to help them with medicine and clothes when need be.

We have also been making follow ups at KOP to ensure that these girls who defaulted to visit the clinics have gone for follow up clinics. We continue making follow ups through phones and cash transfers. The girls are receiving counselling too.

2. Health intervention



Health intervention was one of the emergency intervention that we had strategized to continue offering services through a guided referral system. Our service provider (Gladys) referred clients to hospital and we would pay through mpesa (payment through mobile system). Follow ups on the intake of medicine was done through phone calls. During this time of Covid 19, we have recorded an increase in the number of health cases. We have also seen an increase in the number of emergency for broken legs and hands in children we suspect that the increase might be due to unsupervised play by their parents.

We also distributed masks to the community of Kiandutu and materials on corona virus, how it is transmitted and how to keep safe through proper wearing of mask, washing hands and social distancing.

3. Malnourished children



The intervention went on through calling on follow ups but in early May we made a booth that enabled the parents to come at KOP and have a one on one interaction. During the period we have seen an increase of malnourished children. We may attribute to the difficulties that many family are facing especially in feeding their children and also many parents not going for clinics for fear of being infected with corona. Many of the children that we have identified have been bought for medicine and nutrition supplements to boost their status. Their parents have been enrolled in the cash transfer intervention to enable them buy food for their children.

4. Counselling

Counselling has been one of the essential services that Macheo took to undertake since the outbreak of Covid 19. Counseling has been going on through phone calls but when we build a booth at KOP, Macheo's counselors have been able to meet the clients in Kiandutu. We have allocated three days for them to meet u with the clients.

Challenges

The people of Kiandutu have are not heading to the ministry guidelines on maintaining social distancing, washing hands or wearing mask. Water is also not available daily hence washing or maintaining hygiene is difficult for the residents here.

Strength

Macheo is issuing mask in the slums and putting emphasis on the beneficiaries visiting KOP to maintain hygiene. We have placed poster at KOP to remind everyone of corona. We have seen a change in attitude as people are coming at the appointment time.

Cash transfer is really transforming the lives of the beneficiaries. Every beneficiary has his/her own story of how they are using the money.

Seth