

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROPOSAL.

## **Project Title:**

Piloting a Faith-Led Response to COVID-19 Pandemic in Siaya & Rarieda sub Counties in Kenya.

*(This pilot plan to be rolled out within our chapters in parts of Uganda, Tanzania & Rwanda)*

## **Context Analysis and Need Assessment:**

The world is experiencing a global outbreak of coronavirus disease discovered in 2019 (COVID-19) which the World Health Organization (WHO), have classified and declared pandemic and a crisis. Currently the disease is crushing human lives across the world, with already 15,000 deaths confirmed, 300,000 infected and now affecting all countries around the World, as business and economic activities at their knees, (24th March, 2020).

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, Central China, and has since spread globally, resulting in the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The disease has no cure or vaccine at the moment.

While Europe and China are the current epicenters of this deadly pandemic, Kenya and her neighbours including Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, etc are already identified by World Health Organization (WHO) as high risk countries which needs careful attention and precautionary measures due to their densely populated cities, poor health systems, degraded slums, poverty, among others challenges.

On 13 March, 2020, the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Kenya and by today March 24th, the total confirmed cases are 16, with over 90 patients isolated, and about 360 individuals suspected to have been in contact with the same patients are being tracked for isolation and quarantine. The danger which faces Kenya and East Africa in regard to the spread of COVID-19 is eminent and worrying. If prevention measures are not put in place as soon as possible, the world in few weeks or months time will witness a crisis of full outflow on COVID-19 in the region with reports of thousands if not millions of lives lost due to the pandemic.

Bondo and Rarieda sub Counties for which this emergency project targets are among the high risk areas/regions already identified by the government of Kenya after a local Catholic priest from the area who traveled from Italy Rome two weeks ago was today (March 24) confirmed infected case after he had mingled with people and crowds, celebrated Holy Eucharist in the church, and attended/presided over a funeral in the area. The Government is following contacted persons for isolation, however this seems too late. Bondo and Rarieda have a total population of about 800,000 people according 2019 census and covers about 996.4 square kilometres

Economic situation in Bondo and Kenya as a whole is getting worst as many businesses are crushing down, more entry border points being closed, and flights grounded. But most disturbing is the fact that more women are becoming vulnerable to COVID-19 as compared to men. In

Kenya and most part of East Africa, majority of women are the ones leading small businesses in the cities, towns and villages and therefore are mostly found in crowded places which have become highly vulnerable. Women attend hospitals and other health facilities for pre/post natal clinics as compared to men, places now deemed high risk areas. And, majority of women also work on small scale farms to provide daily bread/food for their children and families, and therefore current orders for isolation and quarantine negatively affect women more than men. While culturally, men are known as bread winners and providers for their families, this is no longer the case as women take lead but with no voice and share power/responsibility

The government is putting measures in place to safeguard the spread of the disease across the country including closure of all schools and colleges, border entry points, and social gatherings, but the challenge is that churches in Kenya are still adamant pulling out large gatherings on Sundays for prayers, big crowds being witnessed in funerals, in market places and in social outings

### **Our Emergency Response Plan on Preventive Measures:**

On this emergency response plan, IFAGE is seeking opportunity to support local health providers under the Ministry of Health (MoH), in Bondo and Rarieda sub Counties by; Raising awareness on COVID-19; Giving right information on how to help stop the spread of the disease in the majority populations; and to Report suspect cases.

Awareness creation and preventive measures are key in our intervention in order to educate and influence people on these rules; stay home, avoid travel and public activities, wash hands with soap and warm water often and for at least 20 seconds, practice good respiratory hygiene and avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. The CDC also recommends proper hand hygiene after any cough or sneeze. Social distancing strategies aim to reduce contact of infected persons with large groups is already ordered by the government of Kenya, i.e. by closing schools and workplaces, restricting travel, and canceling mass gatherings. Social distancing also includes that people stay 6 feet apart.

#### **a). *First Intended Approach/Activity;***

In partnership with local medical/health providers (Ministry of Health), IFAGE intend to train and empower 40 Public Health Officers (PHOs) both from Bondo and Rarieda Sub Counties, 60 Community Health Assistants/Volunteers (CHA/Vs), and 60 Clergy/Faith Leaders, both from Bondo and Rarieda regions both on; raising awareness, educating on preventive measures and reporting of suspected cases to the Ministry of Health (MoH - Bondo and Rarieda).

In order to avoid collecting a big group of people at once during trainings of PHOs, CHA/Vs, and Clergy on COVID-19, the MoH Bondo and Rarieda together with IFAGE plans to have group of 18 people per training for two days in the open spaces. Trainings to be conducted in Maranda division, Nyangoma Division, Usigu Division, Madiany Division and Rarieda Division which are sub regions within Bondo and Siaya sub counties. (Rev. Domnic Misolo and the MoH officers in charge of Bondo and Rarieda have discussed this and requested for permission from local government authorities/authorities to hold trainings for the same). These training are to be led by Bondo and Rarieda Health sub Counties officers with risk factors taken into considerations.

The intention of these trainings is to empower health practitioners and faith leaders in order to further lead and empower local populations in their grassroots levels on awareness on COVID-19, to give right information on preventive measures, and report suspected cases to their nearest health facilities.

**b). *Second Intended Approach/Activity;***

In our next step, IFAGE intends to put up at least two hygiene demonstration points, i.e. washing hands demonstration points in Maranda Division, Nyang'oma Division, Usigu Division, Rarieda Division, and Madiany Division. These are smaller administrative units within Bondo and Rarieda. Our trained Public Health Officers, Community Health Assistants/Volunteers, and Clergy will lead these demonstrations. This practical shows and demonstration will cement right information.

**c). *Third Intended Approach/Activity;***

IFAGE also intend to launch public mass sensitization campaign through loud speakers around Bondo and Rarieda - in local markets, towns, and villages within Maranda, Nyang'oma, Usigu, Rarieda, and Madiany divisions. These public awareness campaigns will be led by our trained PHOs, CHAs, Clergy/faith leaders. 24/7 hotline numbers both at Bondo and Rarieda Referral Hospitals will be provided by the ministry of health (MoH) for ease of reporting, monitoring and monitoring of progress on the ground/field.

**d). *Fourth Intended Approach/Activity;***

After two to three months of creating awareness and put up preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19, IFAGE plans to induce Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) for 60 business women who are above 50 years of age to inject back fresh capital/blood into their business after weeks and months of self isolation and stay at home orders. This economic stimulus package will give women opportunity to gain back/resume their business and continue providing food and livelihoods to their families.

**Project Duration:**

Depending on the magnitude of the crisis, this project intend to take five months at most, i.e. April to August, 2020. The first two to three months will involve intensive trainings and raising awareness across the region. Then followed by economic stimulus package (ESP) for business women, and finally do evaluation of the whole program (M&E)

## Work Plan & Schedule:

Proposed Activity	When to Be Done	Who is Responsible
Key Stakeholders Meeting	March 22-27, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rev. Domnic Misolo - CEO, Institute of Faith &amp; Gender Empowerment (IFAGE)</li> <li>- Dr. Peter Amoth - Ministry of Health (MoH) incharge of Bondo &amp; Rarieda sub County Hospitals</li> <li>- Ms. Judith Ongeche - Sub Counties Public Health Officer</li> <li>- The Rt. Rev. David Kodia - Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Bondo/Rarieda</li> </ul>
Training of 180 professionals as ToTs including; 40 Public Health Officers (PHOs), 60 Community Health Assistants/Volunteers (CHA/Vs), and 60 Clergy/priests from both Bondo and Rarieda Sub Counties	April 1 - May 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoH Bondo and Rarieda Sub County Hospitals</li> <li>- IFAGE's Staff</li> </ul>
Hyegine/Washing Hands hands Demonstrations in Maranda, Nyang'oma, Usigu, Rarieda, and Madiany Divisions	May 20 - 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Health Officers (PHOs)</li> <li>- Community Health Assistants/Volunteers (CHA/Vs)</li> <li>- Priests &amp; Clergy</li> </ul>
Public/Mass Sensitization & Awareness Campaign through Loud Speakers - In Maranda, Nyangoma, Usigu, Rarieda, and Madiany	June 1 - 10, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Health Officers (PHOs)</li> <li>- Community Health Assistants/Volunteers (CHA/Vs)</li> <li>- Priests &amp; Clergy</li> </ul>
Implementation of Economic Stimulus Package for 60 business women, above 50 years old.	July 1-25, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IFAGE CEO, Staff &amp; Volunteers</li> </ul>
Continue Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation (M&E)	March 22- August 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Health Officers (PHOs)</li> <li>- Community Health Assistants/Volunteers (CHA/Vs)</li> <li>- Priests &amp; Clergy</li> <li>- IFAGE CEO &amp; Staff</li> <li>- MoH Bondo &amp; Rarieda</li> </ul>

Proposed Budget.

Activity	Cost per item @ (USD)	Number of Items/persons	Number of Days	Total Cost (USD)	Notes/ Comments
Training of 40 PHOs, 60 CHA/Vs & 60 Clergy	30	180	2	10,800	Funds to support lunches, drinks & snacks during training
Transport/travel allowances to the training venue	10	180	2	3,600	
Lunch & travel allowances 4 trainers	50	4	20	4,000	10 groups of 18 persons trained for two days Six trainers includes - MoH, PHO coordinator, & two IFAGE staff
20 large washing taps/ equipments & their stand	70	20	1	1,400	
60 jericans of 20 litres each	2.5	60	1	150	
100 Hand washing soaps	3.8	100	1	380	
18 alcohol hand sanitizers	8	18	1	144	
Day allowance for 10 hygiene/ washing hands demonstrators	50	10	1	500	
Public/Mass Sensitization & Awareness Campaign equipments/ Loud Speakers, & 24/7 Hotline Number	1,200	1	1	1,200	

Economic Stimulus Package	250	60	1	15,000	
General Operations for IFAGE	2,000	1	1	2,000	
GRAND TOTAL				39,174	

**NOTE:** *IFAGE wish to roll out the same plan through its chapters in Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania upon acceptance and approval of this proposal.*