April Update: Together Fighting Covid-19 Crisis

Dear Friends and Partners,

It’s a fact that these moments are unprecedented and we are in crisis! Globally, we are being affected by this pandemic, but the truth is, we are not all impacted in the same way especially for those of us living in the Sub Saharan Africa. Apart from biting hunger and huge loss of jobs due to government lockdowns, curfews and restricted movements, we have noted with deep concerns the profound gendered impacts of COVID-19. We send this is special update and appeal, to inform our esteem partners and friends of the progress achieved so far and the next steps as we continue to fight this pandemic together.

Kenya confirmed its first Covid-19 case on 12th March, 2020 and the government provided guidelines through which our organization, Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment got space to collaborate with grass root health providers, including leadership from Public Health Officers, Community Health Volunteers and Clergy. With support from our partners Imago Dei Fund and individual friends’ donations, we successfully trained and empowered 40 public health officers, 60 community health volunteers, and 60 Clergy/Faith leaders from both Bondo and Rarieda Regions.
These early trainings and awareness creation on COVID-19 targeted key grassroots leaders to empower communities with right knowledge on preventive measures against the virus, fight stigma, channels to report suspected cases to the nearest health facilities, and to create grassroots linkages through which we are able reach out to vulnerable groups and populations in times of complete lockdowns and crisis.

COVID-19 TRAININGS HELD IN MARANDA, NYANGOMA, USIGU, MADIANY AND RARIEDA DIVISIONS IN BONDON AND RARIEDA SUB-COUNTIES

**UNCERTAIN TIMES MEANS MAKING NEW PLANS:**

Today, one and half months later, Kenya has over 350 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with the disease spreading to the rural areas as vulnerable populations are at risk of infection. Among the growing challenges the larger populations are facing includes lack of food as some families are lacking what to eat while adhering to the governments stay at home orders. *Hunger is sticking faster than the disease itself*. Millions of Kenyans live below the poverty line relying on manual jobs and with the government efforts focused on curbing the spread of COVID-19, proving food for
this population is hard. Many families have had to make a choice to buy protective masks or put food on the table, some surviving on one meal a day.

Our next plan of action:

• Support very vulnerable families who are not able to find food. We have also identified 500 households of the elderly and most underprivileged families that need immediate food assistance.

• Respond to increased cases of domestic violence. We are in the process of providing a 24/7 hotline to the community health volunteers and clergy to report cases of domestic, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence. This will be connected through police/security offices and children office departments.

OUR APPEAL:
We intend to provide Home Care Packages to 500 households and in addition provide 50,000 protective masks to Frontline Health workers and the most vulnerable to COVID-19 in Bondo and Rarieda regions.

#We appeal for your Prayers and Support to reach this goal by the end of the May 2020.

You can donate $10, $20, $50, or any amount to help our cause.

Give Now

Thank you for your Support!

Sincerely,
Rev. Domnic Misolo
Executive Director
Visit our [website](#) for more updates.

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