



star of hope Kenya

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MAY 2020 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

Dear Friends,

We hope you are doing well and staying safe during this coronavirus pandemic. Our commitment to ensure learning continues at home and relief food is delivered to our needy children has been ongoing throughout these tough times.



Figure 1 : STAY HOME STAY SAFE

The status update of the pandemic in Kenya as of 27th May, 2020 is as follows;

1. Confirmed Cases - 1,348
2. Recovered Cases - 405
3. Deaths - 52

In the end of April 2020, we received a report that one of our staff members who is on leave was suspected to have contracted coronavirus. The staff was put under isolation for 21 days together with the family members as further tests were being undertaken by the health authorities.

We are happy to announce that as of today, our staff was allowed to go home together with the family members after the test results read negative.

Throughout May 2020, Star of Hope Kenya has continued to reach out to the needy in our communities in Mombasa Kenya. Due to the heavy rains and the government restrictions on large gatherings, we opted to do door to door delivery of food packages to our children in their homes. We managed to visit 86 families where we delivered food packs containing rice, corn flour, beans, green grams and cooking oil.

Throughout this process, we experienced how our children spend their time at home during this pandemic. Here are a few stories we gathered;

DAISY AND THE BROTHERS

Daisy Akinyi is a grade 5 pupil at Living Word primary school. Her elder brother Raphael Owino is in grade 6 at the same school while Michael Odhiambo who is their eldest brother is a former pupil at Living Word Primary School. He is currently in secondary school in Kwale County.



Figure 2 :Delivering food to Daisy and family

These three siblings are being raised by a single mother under difficult conditions since the mother is their sole provider but unfortunately is also an alcoholic who most times does not make ends meet. The mother survives on doing laundry for other middle-class families to put food on the table for her children.



The Coronavirus pandemic has affected her source of income since at the moment the country's economy is not doing well and laundry jobs are no longer easily available. Mama Daisy is grateful to all well-wishers for supporting her during this dire time for her. Star of Hope team delivered, corn flour, green grams, beans, rice and cooking oil food pack to the family to last them the whole week.



Figure 3: Thank you for supporting us

CHARLES MWASYA - THE SUPERKID

Charles Mwasya is a grade 2 pupil at Star of Hope Nursery School. He has a baby brother called Austin who is one year old. They are being raised by their aunt in the slums of Ganahola in Mikindani. Their Aunt is sells groundnuts in the streets to earn a living. Charles' mother suffers from mental illness and is never around to raise her children. She left the two kids at their aunt's home and went missing till date.



Figure 4 : Charles at home

Charles Mwasya and his baby brother are living under dire conditions. Their house is filled with filth which poses great health risks to such young children. When we visited Charles at his home, their aunt was not around. She had left early in the morning to go and sell groundnuts in the streets. She had left no food prepared for the children to eat for lunch while she is away. This is because she cannot afford food sometimes, especially during this pandemic. Despite these conditions, we met Charles looking after his baby brother, at the same time fetching water and filling up the water tank to ensure they have enough water to use for their domestic needs.



Figure 5 : Charles from fetching water

The team from Star of Hope Kenya delivered corn flour, green grams, beans, rice and cooking oil food pack to the family to last them the whole week.



Figure 6: Charles filling up the tank



Figure 7 : Delivering food to charles and family



Figure 8 : Charles happy to receive food pack

We asked their neighbor to prepare the children some lunch while their mother was still away to which he agreed. We gave him USD 50 to cater for vegetables and cooking fuel while he prepares the meal for the kids. Thank you to all well-wishers for coming through for Charles and his baby brother when they needed you the most. God bless you. Charles would like to become a Serviceman in the future.

VISITING THE ABDULS FAMILY

Star of Hope Kenya team made its way to the deep ends of Ganahola Slums in Mikindani to visit Mohamed Abdul's family.



Figure 9 : Mohamed Abdul at home

We met his mother, Mwanajuma Rajab who told us that 8 of her children and her sister's have passed through star of Hope schools.



Figure 10 : Abdul's home

She said that the impact our organization has had in her life is enormous and no words can explain how much she thanks everyone involved in this work for being a great blessing to her.



Figure 11 : Receiving food pack

Our team delivered, corn flour, green grams, beans, rice and cooking oil food pack to the family to last them the whole week.



Mwanajuma was so happy to receive the food pack and admitted that she had no food to prepare for her family that day.



Figure 12 : Thank you for putting a smile on their faces

WORD OF FAITH CHURCH RELIEF FOOD PROGRAM

Word of Life Faith Church Mikindani is part of the Tent Mission work here in Kenya. The leadership of the church led by Pastor Gilbert Ochieng organized a relief food distribution program to the church members who are most affected by the coronavirus pandemic.



Figure 13 : Lining up for food packs

Many church members in dire need of the food pack showed up at the church sanctuary in Mikindani. Word of Life Faith church team delivered, corn flour, green grams, beans, rice and cooking oil food pack to the families to last them the whole week.











Figure 14 : Food deliveries

Among them was Jane Njeri who is the most affected by the current situation.



Figure 15 : Jane Njeri the troubled woman receiving food pack

Jane is unemployed and also a single mother. Her husband left her when she was 8 months pregnant in a terrible state where she could not afford food, house rent or even maternity services for her pregnancy. She was kicked out of her rental house but fortunately a good Samaritan decided to host her until she gives birth. She eventually gave birth to male twins in the house. Due to the poor living conditions and lack of medical attention, one of the twins died two days after birth.

Jane had a hard time raising the surviving child due to lack of food. The relief food program from Word of Life Faith church brought some relief to Jane. There was one other problem though, Jane's Surviving child was very ill on the day of this program. The church offered to rush the baby to a reputable hospital in Mombasa where the children was admitted with the doctors saying the baby was in a critical condition. Unfortunately after three days in hospital, the surviving baby succumbed to the illness. We pray the comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon Jane during this sad moment in her life.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US



Figure 16 : Thank you for your support

During these hard times, you have stood with us, you have displayed kindness, compassion and commitment to help the destitute in our communities here in Mombasa Kenya.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilbert Ochieng', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Gilbert Ochieng,
Operations Director,
Star of Hope International Foundation Kenya**