

## *Update* **Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future**



*Some students and parents collecting their 45kgs of maize supplied by KKI*

### **The Covid situation in Kenya**

We are delighted to advise the COVID-19 virus has not reached the people of Agolomuok and Sori. And the Kenyan government has instituted a number of measures to counteract the spread of the virus. These measures include restrictions on travel, banning of meetings, school closures and a night-time curfew.

Recently the American Association for the Advancement of Science, reported that the pandemic appears to have spared Africa so far. The report went on to say:

"Although Africa reported its millionth official COVID-19 case last week, it seems to have weathered the pandemic relatively well so far, with fewer than one confirmed case for every thousand people and just 23,000 deaths so far. Yet several antibody surveys suggest far more Africans have been infected with the coronavirus—a discrepancy that is puzzling scientists around the continent.



*18 bags of maize are transported to the Covid Food Relief Distribution Point*

"We do not have an answer," says immunologist Sophie Uyoga at the Kenya Medical Research Institute–Wellcome Trust Research Programme.

After testing more than 3000 blood donors, Uyoga and colleagues estimated in a preprint last month that one in 20 Kenyans aged 15 to 64—or 1.6 million people—has antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, an indication of past infection. That would put Kenya on a

par with Spain in mid-May when that country was descending from its coronavirus peak and had 27,000 official COVID-19 deaths. Kenya's official toll stood at 100 when the study ended. And Kenya's hospitals are not reporting huge numbers of people with COVID-19 symptoms.

### **KKI Supplies Food Relief to 38 Families**

Back in July we learned the restrictions designed to stop the spread of COVID had severely impacted people's ability to work and obtain sufficient food.

One student wrote *"We are in a total lockdown and this makes my poor mother not to get for us food item"*.

Another wrote *"It has led to the increase of prices of some basic products like food, therefore sometimes I do sleep without taking anything, since there is no support from the government"*.

Yet another wrote *"Our staple food before was small fish and kale but now it is too hard to strive to make it. What we consume is just the black nightshade that is a natural food and grows on the riverbank"*.

[www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au](http://www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/424600111327095/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/424600111327095/)

Email: [rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au)

PH: +61 409413248

Mail: 27 Riverside Drive Mullumbimby 2480 NSW Australia





Water Board meeting at the main Kiosk after installation of new pump



6 New Solar Panels added to existing Panels

The KKI Board discussed the situation to see if there was any way we might help. KKI is not an emergency aid agency however we occasionally help with special needs in relation to food security, medical needs and shelter. The Board resolved to try and assist the 38 families KKI works with by providing each family with 45kgs of Maize (Corn), a staple Kenyan food.

We shared the proposal with our Kenyan partners, the Agolomuok Students Support Group, who welcomed this practical and

needed support.

**Due to Covid and Government restrictions families are going hungry. KKI supports 38 families each month with 45kgs of Maize.**

The ASSG undertook to purchase and distribute the maize on our behalf. Our appeal for funds to buy maize was successful and

KKI has provided maize to each family for the past 3 months. We hope to continue this effort for at least another 3 months.

### Water Project Update

The Agolomuok Community Water Project is designed to carry water pumped from deep underground to 4 distribution centres called Water Kiosks. Over the past few years KKI and a couple from Sweden have replaced damaged infrastructure so people can more easily access drinking water. Recently more improvements to the system were completed by the local County Government who supplied a new pump, power monitor and an additional 6 solar panels.

### Education on hold

Kenya's COVID restrictions have included the closure of schools and Universities. Some lessons are available on TV or mobile (smart) phones but none of KKI's students have access to TV or phones. In fact none of our students have electricity



New Control Panel Installed

in their homes. 2020 is shaping up to be a lost year of education for all Kenyan students.

Sponsors may be wondering about their sponsorship gifts. School fees are payable in 2 parts; the first payment is for January – May and the second payment is for June – October. The first payment is made in December of the preceding year of study and the second payment in April of the actual year of study. In December 2019 KKI made the first payment for January – May 2020 but not the second payment due in April.

On 12 October lessons resumed for Year 8 primary students and Form 4 secondary students. We are waiting to hear when schools will fully re-open so your sponsorship gifts have been reserved for your student's future educational needs.

### Special Need met

Earlier this year Monica, a mother of one of our students, was diagnosed with Level 2 Cervical cancer. Treatment was available in Nairobi (9 hours away by bus) but it was expensive. Monica's family and her church

managed to scrape a little money together to begin treatment but much more was needed.

We talked with the sponsor of Monica's son who undertook to raise funds from family and friends. With these funds and additional funds a Church in Nairobi donated, 100% of Monica's medical costs were covered. What a fantastic result!

Monica's treatment is progressing well. We understand her doctors anticipate a full recovery because of the prompt and specialized treatment she is receiving. Thank you to all those who contributed this special gift of healing for Monica.



Monica, front with 2 of her children

### Future Visits to Kenya

The COVID pandemic put paid to our plans to spend 3 months in Kenya in 2020. It also prevented 3 of our supporters from visiting their sponsored students. Given the current situation we cannot predict when it will be possible to travel and Kenya remains "out of bounds". In the meantime we remain connected using email and WhatsApp.



**Note: KKI has new email addresses - please update your records**  
[rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:rob@kenyakidsinternational.org.au)  
[rikki@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:rikki@kenyakidsinternational.org.au)