

Brief vanuit Kenia d.d. 12 december 2020

THE SITUATION IN THE PROJECTS DUE TO POST COVID 19 IN TURKANA

Since mid-March 2020, the corona virus hit our country Kenya, and from then the lifestyle changed completely. All was closed schools, restaurants and social places. This affected our projects very much because we were dealing with vulnerable groups like the multiple handicapped children and old people. They were at a very high risk of contracting the virus due to their vulnerability and the age of the old. So our programme also closed and the children stayed at home with their parents. The old ones also had to stay in their homes. This was not easy because the old ones had nobody to visit them as before because everyone was afraid of the disease. The multiple handicapped children also got problems because they lacked the attention and care from the office where they used to go be happy. They lacked physiotherapy exercise which they used to get from the office. Also the food was problem for them, some of them depended on the programme for good food. All these made the handicapped children go back to zero because they don't get attention fully, and the parents have no time to massage them and do exercises. This is because the parents have to go to look for something for the family.

After some time, the staff of Ewoi decided to be visiting the old people and multiple handicapped children. But they must follow the health precautions of wearing a face mask, keeping a distance and washing of hands. They did that for only a short time and the virus went even higher in our place Turkana. This time with most of health workers being affected. The worst part happened the staff of the diocese also died of the corona virus and it was closed but with a few people working in shifts. The hospital also was closed. Whereby the people suffered because they had no money to go the private clinics. Those in the wards had no doctor to attend to them and hence left to die there. No visiting of the sick who are admitted and this made the situation complicated. More people suffered because no caretakers and no doctors. At the moment the health workers in Turkana have their strike and nothing is happening again until now. We do not know when they will resume their duty and attend to the people.

Our country is facing a second wave of corona virus and the president in his address announced that schools and institutions will remain closed until January 2021. Some Classes especially examinable ones opened and resumed learning and they are in schools until end of December.

The projects for the old people and handicapped children are at a standstill. This is because we have to keep everybody safe, the old ones, the children and the staff. And they must follow the health precautions of wearing face mask, keeping a distance of 2 metres, washing hands and using sanitizers. We are hoping to start again with our projects in January if all will be well and safe.

We pray for all those who are suffering due to this pandemic and those affected by the corona virus, and those families that lost their loved ones to the virus.  
May God protect us all.

Agnes Mana