

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



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Dear family members, welcome to read the news from IOP Tanzania happened in the month of April 2020.

Articles

1. COVID-19 in Tanzania and effects to IOP
2. Sunflower Pre and Primary school Corona virus holiday
3. Lords Hill secondary School Corona virus holiday

COVID 19 IN TANZANIA AND ITS EFFECT TO IOP

In Tanzania, the first case of COVID -19 reported on March 16, 2020 in Arusha region. It was a woman aged 46 years who had travelled from Belgium to Arusha. After announcement of the 1st corona case, on March 17th, 2020 the Prime Minister announced a range of measures including closing out schools, colleges and universities, public gatherings together with football games. The number of patients and regions with infected patients kept increasing. This lead the government to put more restrictions including travelers from COVID affected countries to be placed in quarantine at their own costs for 14days. In April, cases had increased to 480 infected, 167 recovered and 16 deaths.

The increase of new cases in the country made the entire IOP staff and the community at large remain shocked because thousands of people all over the world were reported dying due to COVID -19. It was hard moment seeing and listening to the news that thousands of people are getting sick and dying. The big question was if the developed countries with good and advanced health system their people are dying what about Africa and Tanzania? What about Ilula? What will happen in the villages with no health facility, no medication, fewer medical personnel and the like. It was hard getting the real picture of the situation ahead us and everybody in the world. Due to this shocking news every morning and through whatsapp groups we reminded each other to follow instruction by the ministry of health. To start with, soon after closing the schools center girls were locked down inside the orphanage not to get contacts with staff. During the lock down girls got time to do their home packages, conducted debate, drawings, sang different songs and played games to refresh their mind.



Photo: Center girls studying during corona holiday

To avoid gathering, morning devotion/prayers and meetings have been cancelled. People are insisted not to shake hands when greeting each other. At IOP shops, bite café and sponsor office water buckets and hand wash soaps are placed outside for customers to wash their hands before getting services. IOP has distributed masks to all staff therefore wearing masks at IOP is a must. Together with that office sharing is prohibited therefore staff with offices at the center are distributed in various IOP buildings such as library, Cabin, Sponsor program office etc. Soap and sanitizers are found in all offices; staff are washing hands when entering the office and getting out. This is a new culture here; people are not used to but continue learning.

Due to COVID- 19, IOP had lost almost 80 volunteers who were supposed to come for doing volunteering work from March throughout April 2020 as countries all over the world have instructed their people not to travel. Shortage of volunteers, lead to loss of income to the center and volunteer project hence lack of salaries to staff working under these sections.

In IOP schools, due to closure of schools there is no income. School fees have been a good and reliable source of income to run the schools including paying salaries for teachers. Salaries are no longer available as no one can ask for school fees to parents while students are at home. Therefore, IOP is responsible for keeping paying salaries and other benefits to teachers as per their contracts. This has been a huge burden to IOP.

Internal fundraising such as '**Bite café family dinner**' organized every week on Friday and the market for selling items from the container donated by the Netherlands have been cancelled. To avoid gathering, we had to stop the very important events that treasured many customers around Ilula area.

Total lockdowns and close-out of boundaries in neighbor countries like Kenya have affected the economy of Ilula people. Most of the people living in Ilula area are farmers and peasants doing farming activities like growing of maize and tomatoes. The customers for tomatoes come from Dar salaam and Kenya. The month April throughout June is the high season for harvesting and selling tomatoes. Due to eruption of the covid-19 disease, many farmers could not sell the tomatoes with good prices because there are no customers from Kenya like other years.

SUNFLOWER PRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CORONA VIRUS HOLIDAY

Sunflower Primary School like other schools in Tanzania closed-out the school on March 17th, 2020; one day after official announcement of the first corona case in the country. The instruction for closing the school and other measures were announced by the Prime Minister with intention to avoid public gathering and rapid spread of disease.

Following the government instruction, the school administration convened a meeting to discuss issues and strategies for assisting pupils academically while at home for better performance when the schools opens. The strategies indent to help pupils at home stay safe and proceed learning. To start with, all teachers prepare homework packages to be send in soft copy to pupils through WhatsApp and other social media. Immediately, they formed a WhatsApp group/forum with parents/guardians in order to reach them. Question for all subjects has been composed and sent to pupils through parents in order to keep them busy all the time while at home.

During this holiday, teachers are preparing teaching aids and other teaching materials so that it may simplify work when the school resume especially in learning and teaching process. The work of preparing teaching aids is boring when done the whole day therefore teachers' use part of the time to clean the school environment by slashing grasses, watering flowers, sweeping the classrooms and marking of home packages from pupils. Parents and guardians bring the packages to school on behalf of their children.



Photo: In the left classrooms after closure of school and on the right sunflower teacher marking home packages during corona holiday.

THE LORDS HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL CORONA VIRUS HOLIDAY

During corona holiday, teachers compose home packages comprised of notes and questions for students to learn and perform while home. The home packages are shared to students via parent's phones through online social media like WhatsApp and manual approaches; where students and parents living near and around Ilula visit the school to pick-out packages every week.

It is important mentioning that, staffs at school devote their time on various school projects. Teachers and non-teaching staff are busy with preparing a garden and planting some, vegetables to assist the school reduce the cost of buying vegetables when the school opens. Since the cases of corona virus keeps increasing the school administration are not so sure, when the government will open the schools therefore if this situation continues and the vegetable have grown, the center girls shall use the harvested vegetables.



Photo: Lords Hill Secondary teachers working at the school vegetable garden established during the corona holiday

By the end of April the Lords Hill Secondary, teachers and non-teaching staff worked as team in harvesting maize. The teachers managed to harvest and hauled the maize to a storage room within few days. The maize harvested will help to feed the student when the school opens.



Photo: Maize harvested around the school compound during holiday

Furthermore, teachers arranged to start a farming project in Isagwa avocado farm, over 30kms from Ilula area. In the farm, maize and beans have been planted intending to have excess of food and reduce the costs for buying food for students. This is due to fact that food expenses to cater out all students per year costs a lot of money. Most of the time teachers used the motorcycle to reach the farm for doing all farm work like planting, weeding, spraying insecticides and pesticides.



Photos: Showing maize and beans farm planted at Isagwa avocado farm.

Though the school is closed, school environment must remain clean and smart all the time. The hostels rooms and classrooms fumigation was done on April after the closure of the school. The fumigation indent to kill the dangerous bacteria and insects inside the rooms and around the school compound. All these are initiatives taken by the school administration to ensure that the school compound is much safer to students when they are back to school. Together with that due to rain, season grasses are getting tall very fast; hence teachers and non-teachers cleared tall grasses around the school compound.



Photo: On the left technician preparing to start the fumigation and on the right are staffs clearing grasses around the school environment

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