Humanitarian Private Sector Partnership Platform (HPPP) – East Africa

Photo Credit: EnezaEducation & Slum Child Foundation

Contents

COVID-19 RESPONSE.................................................................................................................................2

COVID-19 Response in urban high-density population areas - by Slum Child Foundation .........................3
Creating Education Impact continuity and complementarity – despite closed schools – Eneza Education & Safaricom ................................................................................................................................................5

Mobile Network Operators working with humanitarian actors as back-bone of the COVID-19 response – mobile money cash transfers........................................................................................................6

NEWS/ EVENTS ............................................................................................................................................7

HPPP becomes an official member of the UNDRR ARISE (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies)........................................................................................................................................7
TIFA Research on Impact of COVID-19 in urban low-income areas ............................................................8
HPPP at the Annual Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) Meeting.............................................................8
HPPP Advisory Group......................................................................................................................................9
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Equity Group Foundation Partners with Mastercard Foundation On COVID-19 Response in Kenya

- *Equity Group Foundation, with support from Equity Bank, Mastercard Foundation, and the family of Dr. James Mwangi is committing Ksh 1.1 billion to support COVID-19 Response in Kenya.*
- The commitment includes a Ksh 300 million contribution from Equity Bank, a Ksh 500 million from the Mastercard Foundation, and a Ksh 300 million contribution from the family of Dr. James Mwangi, Equity Group Holdings Managing Director and CEO.
- The funds will go towards the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline medical personnel dealing with COVID-19 patients in public hospitals in Kenya.

Equity Group Foundation (EGF), with support from the Mastercard Foundation, recently announced a commitment of Ksh 1.1 billion to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline medical staff dealing with COVID-19 patients in public hospitals in Kenya. The commitment has been provided by Equity Bank (Ksh 300million) and the Mastercard Foundation (Ksh 500million) – a long-time trusted partner of EGF who are providing support as part of their *Mastercard Foundation COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program.* The funding also includes a donation of Ksh 300million from the family of Dr. James Mwangi, the Founding Chairman of EGF and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Equity Group Holdings Plc.
EGF will work in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund in this endeavour. This will ensure a coordinated effort on the national priorities of combating the pandemic, reap the benefits of economies of scale, maximise resource allocation and avoid duplication of efforts in the provision of PPEs.

Equity Bank (Kenya) Ltd. Chairman Professor Isaac Macharia said, “The Board of Equity recognizes the vital role of health care workers on the frontline and is proud to partner with universities and public hospitals in ensuring the safety of our health care workers.” Dr. Mwangi has thanked the Board of Equity Group Holdings, Equity Bank (Kenya) Limited, and the Board of Equity Group Foundation for their contribution and support of the investment.

President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation Reeta Roy said, “Health care workers are at the frontlines of caring for all of us, safeguarding community health. We must keep them safe. We are grateful that this partnership meets the immediate needs precipitated by COVID-19, which the Foundation is prioritizing through our Mastercard Foundation COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program.” Expressing appreciation to the Mastercard Foundation for their many years of true partnership and trust, Dr. Mwangi said that their generous contribution has made it possible to scale up the investment to the national level to provide PPE’s to medical staff attending and caring for COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 Response in urban high-density population areas - by Slum Child Foundation

Early March, the Government of Kenya took several measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 which include: closure of schools, people to work from home, people to use masks, avoid irrelevant gatherings, keep social distance and promotion of hygiene through hand washing practices at all levels, curfew from 7pm to 5am and counties’ full and partial lockdowns. This has limited movement of people and work relations, and business, as it has limited operating hours substantively for business (with exceptions during curfew only to essential service providers, e.g. medical staff).

The impact of these measures resulted in many people losing jobs, with others having to cope with salary reduction that affected many families, especially those coming from low-income groups living in informal settlements. The challenging impact across these communities has been that families and especially their children have been affected by the pandemic, restrictions and socio-economic impact, both psychologically as well as physically, as a result of many not being able to access their daily meals for a number of days.

Slum Child Foundation is a non-profit social service and community-based organizations with a special status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and an active HPPP member, and has been working with other like-minded organizations and business in Korogocho, Kariobangi, Mathare, Mukuru and Baba Dogo Slums to respond to the COVID-19 situation on the ground, assisting vulnerable families and small business owners through:

- **DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPORARY HAND WASHING POINTS** - provided more than 60 water jerry-cans with modified taps that can be used for hand washing in the meantime as they work towards receiving water tanks that can supply more than 20 liters of water per day at one particular point.

- **IDENTIFICATION OF TANK HAND WASHING POINTS** - working with community structures to identify hand washing points, where communal water tanks provided full access to clean hand washing water can be placed and managed by community members. By early May, Slum Child Foundation had identified 10 hand washing points in Korogocho and each of the five slums they are working in.

- **DISTRIBUTION OF LIQUID SOAPS** - Slum Child Foundation also supplied liquid soap (total of 400 ltrs) to all the temporary hand washing points that distributed water jerry-cans.

- **PROVISION OF FACE MASKS** - Queens Life Skills Project has been working to produce face masks that were provided to needy people who cannot afford to buy them, so far, 1,500 pieces have been distributed, but still require logistics’ support to ensure more materials and masks can be supplied.

- **VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION** - Before the GoK banned food-in-kind distribution in urban high population density settings due to risk of violent social unrest, Slum Child Foundation had
distributed food to more than 1,000 households in Korogocho. Slum Child Foundation has been working on door-to-door deliveries and where it does not work, in collaboration with local business, they issue supermarket chain (Naivas) shopping vouchers, as this the closest supermarket for this community. Community members present themselves at the supermarket to collect food worth the established amount on the voucher. So far, Slum Child Foundation has been able to serve more than 100 households with this approach. More voucher assistance is urgently needed for vulnerable families as in-kind assistance is not feasible and due to security concerns.

Making sure that local SME can continue business while mitigating against COVID-19 infection and that local vulnerable families can continue to consume local goods & services through vouchers, reducing the harsh economic impact on families and business owners.

Photo Credit: Slum Child Foundation
Creating Education Impact continuity and complementarity – despite closed schools – Eneza Education & Safaricom

Kenya’s first school term was brought to a sudden halt after the government announced the closure of all learning institutions to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has forced parents and students to look for alternative learning channels to continue with their learning while waiting for school to resume. The challenge is that not all students have access to revision materials during this stay at home period.

There are also various challenges that learners encounter while learning at home like being stuck when they have challenging questions or not understanding why their answer is wrong. This makes it difficult for them to study. However, great stories have emerged from learners who have been using Shupavu291 to learn during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the schools were shut down, Eneza Education partnered with Safaricom (both active HPPP members) to provide Shupavu291 and Shupavu Web for free to students in primary and secondary for 60 days ending May 31st 2020. Students are able to receive revision lessons and interactive quizzes and revision papers. They can also ask any difficult academic questions through our unique Ask a Teacher feature.

Eneza Education talked to a few of their users and their parents to find out how they are using Shupavu291 and here are their stories. Rose Akinyi, a parent from Kayole is happy that her children have been able to access free revision materials to help them keep up with their studies. “Thank you for your good work. My children are not idle at home as Shupavu291 has been keeping them busy ever since the schools were closed in March.” said Rose.

Titus has been one of the super users of the platform even before it was made available free. He says that despite the fact that he is missing his classmates and the school setting, Shupavu291 is helping him catch up with school work with schools being closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Titus will be among the class 8 candidates who will be sitting for this year’s KCPE exam and he is determined to be ready by October. Over the course of the last month, Eneza Education has seen a huge increase in the students subscribing and learning on Shupavu291. As of 15th May, Eneza Education had over 1 million students subscribed to Shupavu291. An average of 200,000 students are active on the platform every day, receiving an average of 19,000 questions on “Ask a Teacher”. This has been really encouraging for the team as they can see the impact they are creating during this pandemic.

“With Shupavu291, I feel like I’m in a classroom. There is enough content for me to revise all day. I like the Ask a Teacher feature as I am able to ask any question that I am not able to answer and the Shupavu291 teachers always respond to me.”

Titus, Class 8 Candidate for KCPE, Kenya

Learners can access Shupavu291 via USSD by dialing *291# or Shupavu web at mwalimoo.com/m/start
Mobile Network Operators working with humanitarian actors as back-bone of the COVID-19 response – mobile money cash transfers

World Vision Kenya COVID-19 response aims to contribute to the well-being and reduction of life threatening effects of COVID-19 on health care workers, children and communities in Kenya by September 2020. The response objective is being addressed through: promoting preventive measures through awareness raising for enhanced family and community hygiene and sanitation behaviours; promoting holistic multisector support to children and their families impacted by COVID-19; supporting national and county level health systems and workers by providing them with personal protective equipment; engagement, collaboration, including working with local business and advocacy to ensure vulnerable children are protected and reached by the COVID-19 Response.

The most vulnerable households in the informal settlements of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kilifi and Kwale with multipurpose cash assistance as well as those from the rural areas within WVK operation areas targeted with an array of interventions. Community based targeting criteria involving community leaders, faith leaders, local administration and WV staff jointly identifying and validating the most vulnerable household for the cash transfer. Until mid-May, 3,000 people from Changamwe (informal settlement in Mombasa) have benefited from total cash transfers amounting to USD 30,532. The one-off individual transfer value of USD 60 was guided by the COVID 19 Minimum Expenditure Basket assessment by the National Kenya Cash Working Group and the price monitoring feedback conducted virtually with the help of WVK staff in their programme areas.

Working in collaboration with Safaricom (a private mobile telecommunication company), the cash transfers are facilitated through the m-pesa platform, where funds directly get to the target customer mobile phone account. This is considered as instant and effective delivery mechanism in Kenya due to high levels of inclusivity, market penetration and transparency, as it reduces the risk of funds being intercepted through any forms of malpractices. A virtual Post Distribution Monitoring is conducted to obtain feedback from cash transfer beneficiaries to help improve on the service delivery as well as capture any protection issues.

WVK intends to continue and scale up mobile cash transfers, indicates their cash transfer lead, William Omole, due to the flexibility and freedom of choice for the individual and household in HH prioritizing to utilize the...
resource addressing their most basic needs, enabling supply and business continuity and therefore functionality of local markets, the readiness of the target persons to adopt cash transfer modality. This is all supported by the GoK’s very early decision to instruct Mobile Network Operators and Financial Service Providers at large to discount, if not waive mobile money transfer fees, and to encourage any business operator in Kenya to prioritise mobile (digital) money over cash payments in any business/ customer transactions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, since the pandemic reached Kenya in March. Cash transfers in this pandemic response are cost-effective and efficient as they require minimal logistical preparation. Injection of cash into the local economy has a positive impact on business enterprises due to increasing local market demand, directly addressing basic survival needs of vulnerable communities and indirectly helping vulnerable small traders in their business continuity, even as communities and local economies move towards a recovery phase.

NEWS/ EVENTS

HPPP becomes an official member of the UNDRR ARISE (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies)

ARISE leverages the private sector's expertise and ensures that business itself is fully aware of potential risks and acts to mitigate and reduce the future risks. ARISE advocates for risk informed development by encouraging and supporting the private and public sectors to put in place policies and practices to reduce disaster risk and losses. HPPP’s member experience and commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement will bring an invaluable perspective to ARISE, especially in the areas of local business in complex emergencies, business continuity and business in and with protracted displacement contexts. The partnership will embark on joint capacity building for local and regional business regarding DRR, business continuity and other aspects.
TIFA Research on Impact of COVID-19 in urban low-income areas

TIFA Research has conducted a survey among urban population in Kenya regarding the socio-economic impact (savings, lifestyle and basic needs spending, education, etc.) of COVID-19. Among respondents’ information on how “Ways One’s Daily Life Has Changed Since the Outbreak of the Virus: by the 94% who say it has changed at all”, over 92% indicated the challenge of reduced income/ loss of employment as a major disaster shock to cope with:

Further details and the full report can be found here:

HPPP at the Annual Connecting Business Initiative (CBi) Meeting

HPPP participated in the 2020 Annual meeting of the global CBi Networks as part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva in early February. The event provided again an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, approaches, business contacts with the other 16 CBi member networks globally, strategize in internal sessions facilitated by the CBi secretariat and member network partners, approaches to strengthen joint advocacy, business continuity and impact measurement of joint action.

HPPP with its Chairman, Mr. Kenneth Macharia, led the Speaker’s Corner Session on how to strengthen local business and community resilience in Fragile Contexts. HPPP also contributed to the panel discussion on “Leveraging Private Sector Capacities in the 2020s - Now what? – Next steps to further engage the private sector in manmade disaster contexts” – jointly with UNOCHA, ECHO.
HPPP Advisory Group

In line with our governance structure, we have formed an advisory group, whose role is to advise and guide the strategic direction of HPPP. We are very pleased to have the following individuals as part of the advisory group.

Together, they bring a range of skills and experiences representing key sectors and stakeholders in Kenya and East Africa, we are geared to work with and impact further with our work. The members are:

- Allan Waititu: HPPP’s first Chair and current Operations Director, Equity Bank
- Maggie Ireri: Managing Director, TIFA Research
- Maina Kingori: Associate Director, Disaster Management, World Vision Kenya
- Jaki Mebur: Market Engagement Manager, GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation Programme
- Mukunya Mugo: Oracle, Kenya
- Danya Kattan: Livelihood Officer, UNHCR, Kenya
- Kathryn Taetsch: Global Director, Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Based Programming, World Vision
- James Waweru: Franchise Lead Sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa, MasterCard
- Kenneth Macharia: Chairman HPPP and Executive Director, JustRich Limited