

First report Macheo Corona Relief efforts

15th June 2020



OUR MISSION

The mission of Macheo is to empower and protect vulnerable children and their communities so that they can lead a bright future.



OUR VISION

Our vision is a society where children live happily in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.



OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to release restrained potential in children.

Introduction

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Kenya in March, Macheo had to react quickly. Our first priority was to secure the children's home and keep all children safe. This basically meant a lockdown. We are very proud of our team of caregivers and other staff members who joined them voluntarily to make this possible. The personal sacrifices of this team have been very impressive. Some staff members were not able to see their loved ones for 3 months.

Once everything was in place in the children's home, we focused on the provision of services by phone to the most urgent cases. This included counselling services and we tried to keep on encouraging, guiding and supporting the beneficiaries we had in our teenage mother program, malnourishment program, the adolescent girls we sponsor through their education, the reintegrated children and many health and protection cases that still came to us! Helping while keeping distance was difficult and not always as effective as we had wished, but we did what we could and were still able to help much. Another focus was on keeping our colleagues employed and we are happy that, especially the most vulnerable employees, the cooks, have still been paid although the schools closed. Here is a quote from one of Macheo's employees to illustrate the importance of the salaries now.

Hi hope you are doing well I want to share with you my story, before corona my salary was upon 4 people and loan deduction and am single parent, after corona things now am feeding my 4 family members and my elderly parents, my mental sick sister and her son , previously we were sharing responsibilities with my other siblings but after covid 19 they lost their jobs so they depend on me fully.

The fundraising has been successful. And for that we thank all 300 different individuals who have contributed to our fundraising appeal. We are so grateful to all of you! Donations came from Kenya, Netherlands, UK and USA.

Several staff members contributed also voluntarily from their salaries.

In this report we will inform you about:

- 1) The delivery of essential, non-financial services
- 2) The delivery of essential, financial services
- 3) We will look forward to what we expect of the period between now and september
- 4) The financial overview

Delivery of essential non-financial services

Since the start of the pandemic the Government had forbidden much movement in the country, so we could not do our normal way of working, where we visit clients at home and go from one house to the next. We therefor had to reinvent the way we operate.

We tried to follow up with our clients by phone as much as possible. This gave a lot of challenges since many people didn't always have phones, or were sharing phones. Or they were maybe not always able to have phone conversations in places where we could fairly judge the level of privacy.

Later, we found a way out of this by creating a separation between ourselves and the clients we were serving, we made a glass construction on the desk so that it would be safe and people could not spread any possible virus. This works well, and we will now extend this way of working to several new "satellite" offices form where we can reach more people.

People have been struggling, especially with regard to getting access to health care and we have also seen a sharp rise in malnourished children.

Our counsellors have seen increasing anxiety and stress levels due to the uncertainty people experience about whether they will be able to feed their children. The statement in the picture on the right is actually a true statement of an inhabitant of an informal settlement who was very happy when she heard Macheo's counsellor was around.

This means a lot in a country where still mental health issues are sometimes stigmatized... Luckily our counsellor, Sarah, is able to help her and is continuing having sessions with her.

"I need counselling! I feel like my head is about to burst"



The cry for help when one of our counsellors arrived today... The stress -levels due to economic insecurity and fear of Corona are extremely high in the communities we serve.

// MACHEO CORONA RELIEF

Delivery of essential financial services

We have been quick to reconsider the way we help and the shift to providing caregivers with cash to continue taking care of the children has been a good choice. The fact that the caregivers can choose themselves how to use the cash has been very useful, because many of them used it in ways that made perfect sense but that we could not have foreseen. The funds were used for food, rent, medication, school supplies, but also to move to the countryside where they felt safer.

But another very important aspect is the dignity that needy people are still able to make their own decisions!

After all, if we would ever found ourselves in this situation, how would we really be helped?

In total Macheo helped 8,673 times a caregiver with a cash transfer of 250 Kenyan Shilling per child per week!

"My neighbours have stopped looking down on me"



One of the mothers after receiving cash transfer last week.

// MACHEO CORONA RELIEF

Between now and September....

The Government of Kenya is predicting that the peak of the corona virus will be in August and September.

Schools are now most likely to have a gradual opening on 1st of September, probably starting only with the classes with the candidates for final exams for Primary and Secondary School.

Macheo is anticipating a different way of working also until 1st of September.

We are opening satellite offices where we can still safely receive clients, we are hoping this will help us serve caregivers and children better when they face issues regarding health, psycho-social needs, abuse or neglect, malnourishment or teenage pregnancies.

The demographics and weather in Kenya seem to be causing less seriously ill people, but cases are rising steadily and now in all parts of the countries. Experts predict a less steep curve but much longer and protracted.

It is such a complicated situation that we are reluctant to make predictions, but most experts predict big consequences regarding:

- The economy: the hardship from the crisis has disproportionately fallen on the poorest and the most vulnerable households in Kenya. Many of these depend on farming (for the rural), self-employment and informal wage (for the urban).
- Hunger: the combination of locusts and Corona can lead to an increase from 20M people being food insecure to 43M people in the region of East Africa in the coming months
- Teenage Pregnancies: due to so many youth being idle, we fear a big increase in the number of teenage pregnancies. This is still an expectation based on previous experiences, we don't see this effect yet.
- Health damages: mostly the risk of postponing vaccination campaigns. Just a few days ago a child we were helping died of measles in Kiandutu. Worldwide 178 million people are now at considerable risk of missing their measles shots in 2020.

Financial information

The support has been overwhelming and is ongoing, we have been humbled by the trust of so many different people in Macheo that we could actually make a positive impact in these difficult circumstances. It has been motivating for us to see how people have pulled together to stand with (fellow) Kenyans in need.

Macheo Corona relief efforts Incomes				
	Actual	Budget	Actual (€)	Budget (€)
Staff voluntary deductions	80,000		€ 695	
KE Donations ¹	310,135		€ 2,696	
Funding through Macheo NL	3,633,862		€ 31,585	
Re-allocations ²	1,130,886		€ 9,830	
Donation from USA	131,626		€ 1,144	
Total Incomes	5,286,509	5,059,667	€ 45,950	€ 44,383

Macheo Corona relief efforts Expenses				
	Actual	Budget	Actual (€)	Budget (€)
Child Protection-Rescue & individual counseling	499,439	499,439	€ 4,341	€ 4,381
Assist teenage mothers	64,000	64,000	€ 556	€ 561
Area Social Workers	752,208	752,208	€ 6,538	€ 6,598
Residential Home	1,744,020	1,744,020	€ 15,159	€ 15,298
Cash Transfer	2,168,280	2,000,000	€ 18,846	€ 17,544
Mpesa charges for CT ³	58,563	-	€ 509	€ 0
Total Expenses	5,286,509	5,059,667	€ 45,950	€ 44,383

1 These are donations from within Kenya, mostly raised by Macheo's staff

2 Re-allocations means we have, in consultation with our funding partners re-allocated some funding from other interventions to our Corona relief efforts

3 M-pesa is the mobile banking system in Kenya that was being used for cash transfer