



**Child Rights
International**



CRI COVID-19 COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL INTERVENTION RESPONSE PLAN

Partner:

MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL COCOA LIFE

Mondelēz
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CHILD RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL INTERVENTION RESPONSE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Since December of 2019, the spread of the pandemic COVID-19 has brought an abrupt stop to our way of life as we know it. Currently over 1 million people have been infected worldwide by the virus with the global death toll standing at over 70,000.

Unfortunately, the virus is present amongst us here in Ghana, and all citizens have in one way or the other been affected by it. As at Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 287 cases have been recorded with 3 recovered and sadly 5 deaths. The single largest quarantine recorded in history is underway as we speak with approximately a third of current world population under some type of lockdown. To combat the spread of the virus and protect citizens, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo, issued a nationwide lockdown for a period of two weeks.

Since the first case of the virus was recorded in our Ghana, the Ghana government in a bid to halt the spread of the virus has issued some government directives including;

- Lockdown on all international traveling.
- Contact tracing and testing on people who have come in contact with infected people.
- Risk communication activities have been planned and aspects of it has started such as granting radio and TV interviews to educate the public on the pandemic.

- Two weeks lockdown of Greater Accra, Kumasi and Tamale, to halt spread of the virus.
- Disinfection of market areas in the metropolitan areas.
- Close down of schools in affected areas.

As part of measures to enforce these directives, the Government of Ghana has developed certain national social intervention measures such as;

- Deployment of senior officials, provided with aide-memoirs, highlighting guidelines for operation.
- Sanctions for security personnel that apply excessive force against citizens in enforcing restrictions on movement.
- Provision of relevant tools and equipment to frontline health workers to help them work effectively.
- Personnel of Ghana Armed Forces involved in clean-up of drainage systems in market places.
- Extended closure of national borders for two-weeks.

- Provision of food for up to 400,000 houses in affected areas of restrictions.
- Presentation of Coronavirus Alleviation Programmer (CAP) to Parliament by Minister for Finance to protect households, micro, small and medium sized businesses.
- 105 travelers found positive through mandatory quarantine isolated for treatment.
- Government to absorb water bills for all Ghanaians for the next three months.
- Government engagement with local manufacturing companies to assist

them in domestic production of PPEs.

- Ghana Water Company and Electricity Company of Ghana to ensure stable supply of water and electricity.
- 350,000 masks, 558,650 examination gloves, 1,000 reusable goggles, 20,000 cover-all's, 7,000 N-95 respirators, 500 water proof gumboots, 2,000 reusable face shields, 2,000 gallons of hand sanitizers, 10,00 100mls pieces of hand sanitizers and 500 shoe covers distributed to district health directorate for health workers.

WHY OUR INTERVENTION

A lot of effort has been put into preventing and contains the spread of the virus in affected areas such as Greater Accra, Greater Kumasi jurisdiction and Tamale. We recognize the need for ensuring that communities presently unaffected by the presence of the virus possibly remain so. Child Rights International (CRI) recognizes the nature of these communities that the lack of health care facilities, personnel and equipment capable of effectively managing health care if the virus hits these areas.

In view of this, CRI, in collaboration with Mondelez International Cocoa Life, wants to carry out COVID-19 community based social intervention programs in Mondelez cocoa growing communities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify vulnerabilities in our communities that could enable spread of the virus and eliminate them.
2. Educate community members on how they can protect themselves from the virus.
3. Put in place social interventions methods that will keep communities prepared in case of an outbreak of the virus.
4. Put in place measures that will equip community members with the knowledge to help prevent the virus entry into their communities.
5. Continue with the provision of remediation and public education activities.

COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMS

1. Provision of Veronica buckets:

Veronica bucket is a sanitation set-up originating from Ghana with a bucket, a tap fixed at the bottom and held above a bowl. They will be placed at vantage points in the community to encourage frequent hand washing as part of measures to contain Covid-19.



2. Provision of Megaphones:

A megaphone is a portable or hand-held, cone-shaped acoustic horn used to amplify a person's voice or other sounds and direct it in a given direction. Megaphones will be used to educate the community on the protocols regarding Covid-19 and news regarding the pandemic. It will be a valuable asset during this period when every single member of the community has to be educated and informed about the virus. Megaphones will be used by members of Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs), farmer societies and community animators.



3. Procurement of Soaps:

Our hands are the front lines in the war against covid-19. Washing hands with soap under running water is the best way to prevent one from contracting Covid-19. When the hands are washed with soap and water, one is not just washing the viruses off the hands but actually crushing the viruses, rendering them impotent.



Soaps will be procured from women groups who are a part of CRI/ Mondelez livelihood support programs to create a source of income and job creation for them.

PROTOCOLS

Strategies are consciously kept solely to supplement the intellectual capacity of the children in the wake of the partial lockdown in the pandemic. They are:

A. Child Participation (Yeasi Nkonnwa) By Reading Club Members

This is an online discussion program where children meet to discuss a variety of issues that affect them and the nation at large. A maximum of eight (8) children participate in this activity with physical distancing duly observed. A facilitator moderates the interaction.



B. Book Review Session

All field officers are sent periodic book reviews to ensure uniformity among all communities in discussing interesting stories/ literatures. Usually a version of the book review session is available online on CRI social media platforms.

C. Remediation

Once cases are identified, all necessary attention and actions are put in place to resolve them. This regardless of the restriction by the pandemic goes on unabated.

D. Social Media Engagement

Programs have been developed such as book reviews, playtime with kids, Covid-19 news update and social media challenges that are geared towards engaging children currently at home due to the pandemic. We acknowledge that this engagement does not reach all children but making use of the internet to reach children who have access to the internet.



The following procedures shall be adhered to in all interaction during activity implementation:

- a) All participants and CRI staff are going to be provided with PPEs (Face masks and hand gloves).
- b) Hand sanitizers to be provided and used by all present at a common location.
- c) Physical distance of at least 1m – 2m is to be kept from one person to the other in all interactions.
- d) No gathering shall be more than 15 persons at a time.
- e) Permission and agreement must be settled on by group/community before any activity takes place.
- f) No clustering of communities or districts would be permitted in undertaking any activity.

CONCLUSION

We are living in unprecedented times. Globally, the impact of Covid-19 has been felt globally on several different levels, where children can no longer go to school and economics activities almost halted. The global economic repercussions of this pandemic are extensive and far reaching. This does not mean we stop. Rather we will employ all the weapons available in our arsenals to fight of this menace. No one group can do it by themselves and it is important that we all come together to fight this.

Here at CRI, we will start one community at a time, engaging all key focal groups in these areas such as CCPCs, community animators, farmer societies and women’s groups. CRI is committed to abide by the protocols and directives of the government of Ghana and the World Health Organization in implementing its activities in the communities amidst the pandemic/ lockdown.

Together is how we beat Covid-19.