

BCC Africa Update July 2020

(BCC Africa is a registered charity based in Tasmania that supports Bethlehem Community Centre in Kenya, 2 children's homes and a school for orphaned and vulnerable children.)

Kenya currently has diagnosed 10,000+ COVID cases with about 3,000 deaths. Their first case was March 13 and by March 16 they had shut schools and Universities, imposed travel restrictions and placed strict curfews. Children at children's homes were sent back to guardians where possible.

BCC Africa had 3 major concerns:

1. Children were in the homes because guardians could not afford to care for them and now they had to accept the children back without any support.
2. Young adults at Uni had to leave and return to guardians or find their own accommodation and provide for their own needs. Others who had finished courses were not able to find work or could not run their businesses.
3. Teachers at the school were sent home without any pay.

We have been able to send two lots of funds for guardians and young adult students and past students. We also sent support for teaching staff.



Collecting food from Mwea with their guardians.

Samuel, the Manager of the home in Mwea wrote:

"Hi Christine. Hope you are all well and keeping safe. All children at the children home send warm regards to you all. Members of the staff send their regards too. Here we are approaching the coldest month of July in the year and June too has been cold. Below are pictures of the children at the children's home. Mainly they spend half of their day doing studies in the Library and the rest of the day playing and doing washing."



The situation does not look promising as the government has said schools will not return until Jan 2021. Some young adults are able to do online courses but lack of computers or internet makes it difficult. There is no government support and because of shut downs, restrictions of movement and curfews employment is hard to find.

We are planning to send further funds at the end of July.

We have not been able to hold our usual fundraising events but are very grateful for many who have made extra donations at this time.

We anticipate that our Open Garden at Kandos Drive in Otago Bay will go ahead on October 10th as well as our High Tea by the Sea at Carlton on Nov 29th.

If you wish to make a donation to BCC Africa you can deposit funds into our BCC Africa Society Ac BSB 064404 Ac 10472560 Tag with your name and let me know if you need a tax receipt.

For more information please contact me.

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Cheers Chris Bennett (Chair BCC Africa Inc)