Responding to the corona Pandemic by equipping schools

By KG Foundation

KG Foundation partners with like-minded individuals and organizations to improve the quality of education in underserved communities. Everything we do is focused on ensuring that children from low income families learn in a child friendly environment with access to tools and resources that uplift their quality of life and transform their communities.

We believe that education should be holistic, with an emphasis on critical skills that empower children to be creative thinkers and change agents and leaders. We achieve this by equipping teachers to provide holistic, life-skill based learning; improving nutrition and implementing programs that inculcate creativity, problem solving and social responsibility.

In February 2020, we geared up to roll-out a nutrition program in our 11 beneficiary schools in Machakos County. The intervention would provide a school meal to more than 2,400 pupils in 12 schools. A sustainable nutrition program boosts the growth and development of children as well as attendance and academic performance. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, schools in Kenya were closed and we had to postpone the launch of the highly anticipated feeding program. Many children from struggling families are missing out on a school meal.

The closure of schools and cessation of movement has also disrupted learning and other key projects. Teachers and parents are adapting to ensure
that pupils don’t fall too far behind due to the interruption of normal classroom learning. Lessons and assignments are now delivered online via internet and mobile phone apps.

Unfortunately, the pupils in our target population are from rural, low-income families that can’t afford a laptop or in some cases, even a smartphone. Another challenge these pupils have to grapple with is lack of support. Due to lower literacy levels in these communities, many children are not getting adequate guidance from parents as they work on assignments and lessons. They are therefore lagging behind their peers due to low access to technology and other resources. KG Foundation is engaging teachers and other stakeholders to address these issues and come up with solutions that give underserved students better access to tools and resources during this difficult period.

In the meantime, we too are adapting and modifying our interventions to support those impacted by the pandemic by providing food and hygiene items which are critical in ensuring proper hygiene and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

We have collaborated with other organizations to improve access to clean water in Thika prison and donated foodstuff, art supplies, books stationery and hygiene items to children in orphanages and prisons. These institutions are receiving less support due to decreased funding from their donors who have also been affected by the crisis.