



**In just over a month, with the inclusion of Gift Aid, we have managed to raise over £40,000. This really is a wonderful result, and reflective of the loyalty and generosity of you, our supporters.**

Dear Supporters,

I hope that this message finds you, and those close to you, keeping safe and well in these exceedingly difficult times.

A month or so ago I wrote to you, our loyal supporters, regarding the impact of the pandemic in Kenya with the closure of schools and danger that posed to Karibuni sponsored children with the loss of their main source of food and nutrition. I asked for your help to raise funds urgently so that we could provide emergency foodstuffs to the family of each child, and thus ensure that at least the threat of starvation was reduced, as Kenya too grapples with this coronavirus pandemic.

Your response has been wonderful and so on behalf of the 700+ sponsored Karibuni children, I just wanted to say A HUGE THANK YOU!

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Following the one off grant which we provided to tide projects over for the month of April, we have now remitted funds to our partners in Kenya that should cover the cost of basic foodstuffs for each of our 700 families, for the next 4 months. This support will be distributed to families on a monthly basis, either in the form of foodstuffs or, in the more volatile areas, food vouchers which can be redeemed at a reputable supermarket.

I thought it might also be helpful to provide you with an update from on the ground in Kenya, which is provided. Whilst the number of cases reported to date is limited, we know that with so many underlying health conditions and weak public health systems, the Kenyan people are vulnerable and so we continue to pray that Kenya and other developing countries are spared the worst of this pandemic, pending development of effective treatments and vaccines.

As you can imagine, against this backcloth, the support that Karibuni Children has been able to provide has literally been a life-saver for these children and families, and I wanted to share with you some of the comments we have received back from projects in Kenya and some of the photos we have had.

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At the time of writing, Kenya has reported 607 cases of Covid-19, with 29 deaths. Nairobi and Mombasa have seen the greatest concentrations of cases, while rural areas have so far seen few reported cases. Whilst these numbers seem very low in comparison with our own, the impact of the control measures implemented to try to limit the spread of the virus has been significant.

A dusk to dawn curfew, in place since 27<sup>th</sup> March, has been forcefully administered by police, while schools, Colleges and Universities remain closed for at least another month. The casual labour market - washing, cooking, cleaning - has completely dried up, as better off Kenyans follow social distancing guidance and confine themselves to their homes. We know that most parents and guardians of Karibuni sponsored children depend on this unreliable income source to pay the rent on their slum dwelling and to provide food for their family unit. Food prices have jumped by at least 50% and many of the poorest Kenyans find themselves in the invidious position of trying to balance the threat of the virus, with the threat of starvation. In Kibra, a poorly organised attempt to distribute food aid (not linked to Karibuni) led to a stampede and the death of two women.

We will obviously be watching developments in Kenya very closely. Our best forecast remains that it will be September, at the earliest, before schools reopen but, like all countries, much will depend on what happens to infection rates when the Kenyan government starts to relax the current restrictions.

One thing is for sure, Karibuni will honour the commitment we made to these children when first sponsoring them and stands ready to respond quickly to ensure that we continue "To transform young Kenyan lives".

Thank you for your support



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John Cotton



*“Thank you very much for this kind donation for the orphans and the vulnerable children! We know also our friends overseas are experiencing the same or worse form of the problem, it is our prayer that the lord will help us all and we shall emerge more stronger. We are so thankful that we have friends like you praying for us and encouraging us through prayers and donations.”*

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*"I want to thank the Trustees for the generosity and most importantly, for their concerns for the poor children and families supported at the Wesley-Njoro project. It is at a time like now that one really gets to know who the true friends are. And these families now know they have a friend in the UK called 'Karibuni Children' who truly cares."*

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*“I wish to really thank the Karibuni Children for their love and generosity amidst so much challenges brought by this pandemic. A big boost to the poor families; when everyone works from home, the poor who survive on casual works stay at home unfed. Congratulations Karibuni Children for bridging this gap. Smile below the masks of the poor and vulnerable.”*

## **You can support our appeal by:**

**Making a bank transfer to Karibuni Children, Sort Code 20-03-18, Account number 70692697 (Please add your surname & initial as a reference and, if possible, notify us of this donation by emailing us : [office@karibuni.org.uk](mailto:office@karibuni.org.uk))**

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**Sending a cheque payable to “Karibuni Children” c/o Peter Wells, 13  
Tudor Court, Church Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth, HERTS, WD3 8PX**

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**Donating via our website: <https://www.karibuni.org.uk/donate>**

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**Ringling 01296 614887 and making a donation by credit or debit card**

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