The National Situation

On the 4th April 2020, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania instituted additional measures with a goal of limiting the spread of coronavirus in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Prime Minister’s recent updates on the status of the Coronavirus in Tanzania indicates that the total number of Covid-19 patients who has been admitted at both public and private hospitals and health centers from 10 regions in Tanzania makes a total of 66 patients. In the remaining 16 regions in Tanzania, no Covid19 patient has been admitted. (source - Prime Minister’s speech at the parliament on 16th June, 2020)

Following a recent decreased trend of admitted COVID-19 patients in the country, the Government has eased restrictions and allowed some adjustment:

- Reviewed the Travel Advisory No. 2 of 4th April 2020 to accommodate measures related to international travel e.g. All travellers whether foreigners or returning residents entering or leaving the United Republic of Tanzania will be subjected to enhanced screening for COVID-19 infection. The 14 days mandatory quarantine upon arrival has been removed. (TRAVEL ADVISORY NO.3 OF 18TH MAY 2020)
- Effective from 18 May 2020, the Government has lifted the suspension of international scheduled and non-scheduled passenger flights in and out of the United Republic of Tanzania which has been in effect since 11 April 2020. This therefore means, international commercial flight operations are resumed.
- On 20th May 2020 the President of the United Republic of Tanzania his excellence Hon. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli announced the government’s decision to re-open high school (Form 6). Colleges and Universities with effect from 1st June 2020. A guideline was issued on this (MWONGOZO WA UDHIKITI WA MAAMBUKIZI YA UGONJWA WA CORONA (COVID-19) KATIKA SHULE, VVUO NA TAASISI ZA ELIMU NCHINI).
- Allowed also sport activities to resume from 1st June 2020 with associated guidelines for prevention.

On 16th June 2020, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellence Dr. John Pombe Magufuli ordered the reopening of schools at all levels as of 29th June 2020 and announced that social gathering that were closed due to the outbreak of the pandemic, should resume. He also encourage the general public to keep observing hygiene and exercise all precautionary measures, as instructed by the health authorities. (source - President’s speech on 16th June 2020 at the Parliament)

Impact on Programmes

- Programme activities postponement/delays due to ban of public gatherings. Most of AATZ programmes require physical interactions with huge number of stakeholders including communities, local government authorities and local CSOs, but due to the current situation this has not been possible and hence efficiency and performance of 2020 plans is largely affected.
- Pandemic posed response obligation to the organization, hence the LRP’s were called for development of LRP’s contingency plans to respond to COVID-19.

Impact to Women, Children and people with disability

- Increased burden of care work to women which leads to physical distress and prevent them from accessing and engaging in economic and political opportunities.
- Health tips on hygiene control are not disability friendly hence puts more risk to PWD.
- Due to closure of schools, children especially in rural areas are not learning and some are engaging in petty businesses which puts them in risk of violence/sexual violence, dropping school etc.
AATZ Response Plan & Priorities

AATZ focus has been on protecting staff, volunteers, and communities where it works against covid-19. Therefore, Country office and LRPs offices are still operating virtually.

Major programming priorities:

- **Awareness** on preventive measures to help in behavioural change to curb the spread of the pandemic.
- **Direct support** to partner’s/health workers and community members working with AATZ.
- **Advocacy** Working with people living in poverty especially women and young people to hold the government and other actors accountable.

Current Interventions

**Awareness:**
- In all LRPs, ActionAid in collaboration with District health departments, women and youth groups continued with awareness raising programmes on COVID-19 to different groups in the communities including boda boda riders, religious leaders and other community members using Public Address System posting and distributing some IEC materials on COVID-19 to people in the public areas, e.g. evening talk centres/markets, and bus stand.
- In Pemba, Youth led COVID-19 awareness using roadshows, door to door visit in hard to reach areas and radio programmes.
- In Unguja special TV and Radio programmes have been organised with youth organisations - JUVIEKA and JUVIKUKA where the issue of COVID-19 and its impact to youth employment were discussed.
- In Kilwa the LRP extended awareness initiatives to remote areas in 9 wards.

**Direct support:**
- Distribution of 64 water tanks (1000ltrs, 500ltrs, 50ltrs, 20ltrs) and other hygiene materials such as face masks, hand washing soap and 20 foot operated hand washing machines. (Mafia 3 tanks, Kilwa 3 tanks, Singida 14 tanks, Chamwino 14 tanks, Pemba 30 buckets. The tanks were allocated to public places (markets, bus stand), health centres, primary & secondary schools, fish markets etc. to help community members wash their hands regularly while in their normal businesses.
- Supported 100 PPES (gowns) for health frontline workers in Chamwino and Singida. 11 Pemecarens (Mafia -3, Unguja 8) which they will be distributed in the identified places by district authorities.
- Women in Mafia, Singida and Chamwino were trained and supported with sewing machines and other materials to produce locally made face masks to boost availability in the local areas hence protect community members.
- All items under the direct support worth TZS 65.7 Million

**Advocacy:**
- Supported Media Survey on supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in rural Areas During COVID – 19. The aim was to assess government response in terms of ensuring health workers protection through supplies of PPEs in health facilities and share the gathered information to government, and other stakeholders through published stories.

Challenges and Call to Government

- Due to government announcement to ease restriction, members of public in some places believe that COVID-19 pandemic is no more existing and therefore tend to relax in adhering to the basic preventive guide. Government leaders need to emphasize continuation of preventive measures, as directed by health experts.
- Inadequate access to public supply of water in most of villages limits people to regularly wash their hands and adds burden of water collection to women and girls. Government should ensure sustainable supply of water to the public up to the village level.
- COVID-19 pandemic has affected many sectors including education, economy health. The government needs to engage and include various multi sectoral actors into coordination and impact mitigation. It will add value to the battle as they have different experiences.

Funding

Due to unplanned emergency funding, the organisation is forced to integrate COVID-19 response activities into other regular programmes.

The team has continued with different efforts to secure more funding that will be directed to COVID-19 response including taking part in development of multi-country projects/concept notes.

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