

# STORIES OF GIVING

IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS  
PANDEMIC IN TANZANIA.





# OVERVIEW

The statement, “We live in unprecedented times” has become a norm for anyone living post-2020. Our lives were disrupted, our health was under attack, and our economies struggled to keep the great depression at bay. We lost our loved ones. We lost our jobs. We lost a way of living we were accustomed to. We cried tears of grief. We were gripped with anxiety. And we had more questions than there were answers. All of this is due to the global pandemic, COVID-19. Yet, in this dark period, there was a beam of hope. Hope for survival. Hope for our economy. And hope for humanity.

The pandemic challenged people to love one another. To serve one another. To put others first. It showed us that humans are humane. Humans are resilient. And humans look out for one another. This publication is here to highlight the stories of these humans, their communities, institutions, and organizations. These are stories of people that responded with generosity and kindness at a time where it was easy to be selfish.

**Throughout the collection of these stories, we have seen individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty to give to other people.**

Atupelye is a good example. She is a young woman in her thirties who worked closely with an elderly colleague who lives in highly dense communities, neighbourhoods deemed the spreading hubs of the coronavirus. She realized how dangerous it was for her colleague to be that exposed considering she suffered from other chronic diseases. She then took a step of courage and generosity by moving her colleague and her family to an affluent neighbourhood where she can lower her exposure to the virus.

In her own words, Atupelye says, “I’m a problem solver by nature, so when I can find a way to solve a problem that can help someone, then that’s what I try to do... I was lucky that as a young kid who wanted to make a difference or help when I saw problems, my family never told me ‘you’re just a kid’ or ‘that’s not your problem’ but instead they encouraged me and helped me. And I think those early experiences gave me the belief that I can make a difference, and also a sense of responsibility that I should.”

***I have been appearing in many forums, in Tanzania and abroad, communicating what people needed to do to stay safe, however, the deaths of members of my family made this fight very personal – I do what I do now to find some meaning, so that their deaths may not be in vain.***

Dr. Mwidimi Ndosu

Atupelye is not alone. She is one of many individuals who sacrificed for others. Dr. Mwidimi Ndosu is another example of an individual who gave not from a place of values but from a place of grief. After losing his brother and mother to COVID-19. He has aggressively communicated strategies that people can employ to stay safe and slow the spread of this virus. "I have been appearing in many forums, in Tanzania and abroad, communicating what people needed to do to stay safe, however, the deaths of members of my family made this fight very personal – I do what I do now to find some meaning, so that their deaths may not be in vain," said Dr. Ndosu. His efforts led to the formulation and publication of the document titled, "10 Reasons to be Vaccinated.". This document has helped those skeptical about vaccines by debunking lies spread by those who do not believe in vaccination.

Communities also rose to the challenge. Tanzania prides itself in living out the Ubuntu philosophy. And this was seen by how community groups stood up to care for those affected by the pandemic.

The Ocean International Community Church is one such community. The church partnered with Water Mission Tanzania, which had a target of installing 1,000 handwashing facilities in multiple regions. The church raised 8.7 million for the project. It also provided transport for the water tanks and a technician to help with the exercise. "Our mission requires us to go to the communities to meet people's spiritual and physical needs. This is one of the ways we fulfil our mission and remain relevant as a church." ' says Gwantwa Kasamala, an administrator at the Ocean.

Exploiting technology was one of the ways communities remain resilient in this time. We see this with Readership and Learning Development. Despite the absence of a lockdown, the shopping habits of a large number of people changed. Traffic in highly dense marketplaces



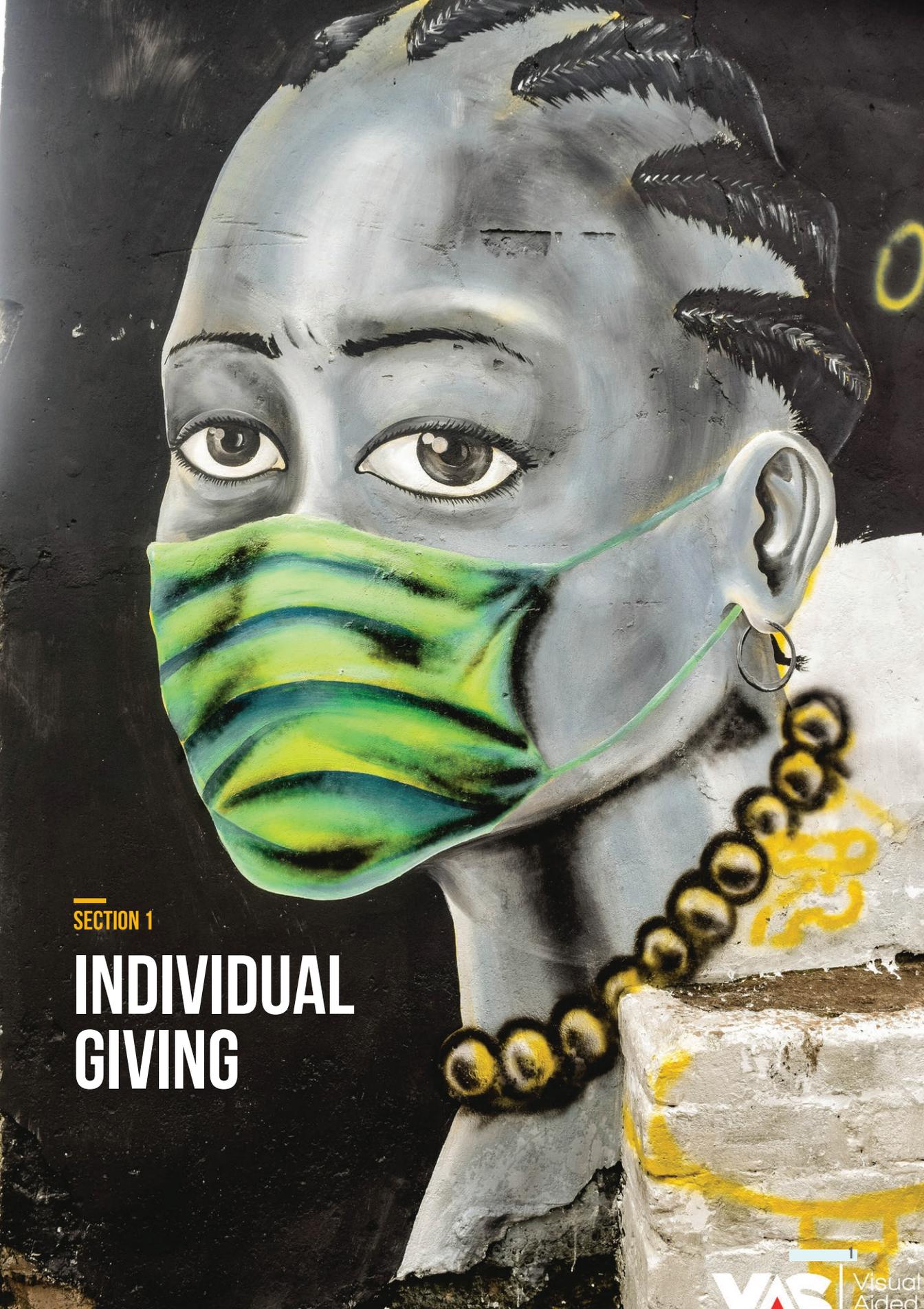
**1,000**  
hand washing



**8.7** million  
The church raised

reduced. And this was a problem for small-scale vendors who sell in markets. Fewer customers meant low sales which meant not being able to take good care of their families. To this cause, Demere Kitunga, CEO of Readership and Learning Development (RLD) saw a role she and others can play in helping the small-scale vendors, most of whom are women. In partnership with WFT, TUSONGE, WAJIKI, TGNP, and Msichana Initiative, they created MOBOSOKO, an application that connects small-scale vendors and customers digitally.

We have seen organizations look after their employees. We have seen organizations pivot in their mission to address the needs that arose as a result of the coronavirus. These are stories of resilience. Stories of the human family. Stories of Ubuntu. We hope these stories will inspire you to address the problems and needs within your community by offering a helping hand. We hope these stories will show you that, every single one of us can give, even in the midst of chaos and uncertainty. We hope these stories will show you that, we all need each other, and we can all be there for each other in life-altering ways.



SECTION 1

# INDIVIDUAL GIVING



**Mwidimi Ndosi,**  
PhD, a medical researcher and  
a Tanzanian diaspora in the UK

## Finding Meaning in Pain

For Mwidimi Ndosi, PhD, a medical researcher and a Tanzanian diaspora in the UK, the COVID-19 pandemic experience has been both personal and painful. That experience has catapulted him into the forefront of the fight against COVID-19 in Tanzania by championing a team that has published and is distributing a document called '*10 Reasons to be Vaccinated*'.

In January 2021, Mwidimi's brother fell sick. He was put under intensive care for 4 days. It was a big hospital, but the hospital didn't have oxygen concentrators. The hospital organised for oxygen to be brought from another city for Mwidimi's brother, but he didn't make it. A while later, his mother also succumbed to the disease. For Mwidimi, this made COVID-19 a very personal battle.

'I have been appearing in many forums, in Tanzania and abroad, communicating what people needed to do to stay safe', says Mwidimi, 'however, the deaths of members of my family made this fight very personal – I do what I do now to find some meaning, so that their deaths may not be in vain.'

In *10 Reasons* the authors provide many reasons why Christians should be vaccinated. One of the reasons is very practical: 'Christians conduct their services in places where many people congregate, where they sing, pray, and commune in close proximity. Without effective precautions, these services can become risky places for COVID-19 transmissions.'

The document has sparked heated debates within Christian communities in the nation due to divided opinions on vaccination- one of the very issues that motivated the authors to write.

Mwidimi isn't perturbed:

'Usually, a work like this is targeted to those who are still open minded enough to learn. The others are set on their ways – it's difficult to persuade them to change. We hope that those who are genuinely perplexed will find the answers they need in the document.'

Click the link: <https://udadisi.com/sababu-10-za-wakristo-kuwajibika-kupata-chanjo-za-uviko-19/>

# One Woman's Fight to Keep Friends Safe from COVID-19

One woman in Dar es Salaam has taken upon herself to make the lives of those around her safe from COVID-19.

Bahati M. Nyembe is a journalist by profession and mother of two teens. For 15 years Bahati worked with FEMINA as a media officer. There she found her true passion for community engagement as she tried to understand what made people do what they do. So, when Bahati got sick from COVID-19, she reflected on why people were rejecting vaccines despite deaths that were occurring around them. She decided that it was time to act.

*'When I announced to a group of 20 women that I belong to that I was going to get vaccinated, the response was shocking – many were surprised and expressed reservations. But some were less hesitant, and I felt that they needed some encouragement.*

*'So, one morning, I called one of them telling her that I was going to pick her to take her to a vaccination centre. She agreed. When I arrived, her husband who was ready to take the vaccine and was looking for an opportune moment also decided to join us. It was a roundtrip of almost 40km, but I returned three hours later with two friends vaccinated. Well worth the trip!'*

That's what Bahati has been attempting to do again and again. But when Bahati is not doing that, she is busy communicating the COVID-19 message by words and deeds. She is keen on social distancing, wearing masks, and using sanitisers. She is keen on getting her friends who meet once every month vaccinated:

*'We will all die at some point – but let it not be due to carelessness. Some of the women questioning the vaccines have many dependants, many say that they can't afford to stay at home. But they don't see the irony in their actions and the risk they are taking. People need education. That's why I won't hesitate to speak.'*

*"We are not an island," Bahati says. "If you are not vaccinated, you are not only at risk, but you are putting others at risk too. The sooner we understand that the better. That's what I tell everyone that would listen," she adds.*



As of 27 December 2021, a total of

# 2,431,769

vaccine doses have been administered in Tanzania

Source: World Health Organization

## Diamond-Wasafi

# Never forget your roots

Almost everyone knows his name, at home and abroad. He is an accomplished artist with lots of awards for his music. This is Naseeb Abdul Juma Issack, popularly known by his stage name *Diamond Platinumz*. Besides music, Diamond is a businessman. One of his enterprises is Wasafi Media. Despite the success, diamond has never forgotten his humble beginnings. This has been the underlying force that compels him to contribute to social causes. Soon after the COVID-19 outbreak, Naseeb acted promptly personally and through Wasafi to assist victims.

As a business, Wasafi felt the pain immediately. Hence it was easy to sympathise with others. Some parents started calling in for help. Wasafi responded by donating food parcels (sugar, salt, flour, etc.) to struggling mothers. Similarly, Wasafi paid electricity and water bills for at least 1,500 poor households for a couple of months. To keep their business afloat, Naseeb personally paid office rent for about 2,000 entrepreneurs. He also visited several patients in their homes to boost their determination while providing material support as well.

The company went further by suspending all outdoor media activities. For a particular soccer program, fans received protective items like sanitizers, masks, and soap and urged to stay at home. On top of this, Wasafi subsidised fuel to hundreds of bodaboda (motorcycle) drivers so that, in turn, they can charge less fare. Health experts were invited to various Wasafi Radio, and Television shows to educate the public about the virus.

The charity spirit is not limited to COVID-19 only. It has deep roots within Wasafi Media. Soon, a monthly giving program dubbed *Fanya Jambo* (do something) will be unveiled. The campaign aims at raising funds to support severe social problems like cervical cancer. An interfaith movement backs it. Therefore, special *sadaka* (offering) will be collected in mosques and churches.

*"Our work as a media house is so fundamental. We should utilise our power and influence as a link between the needs and solutions. Let us remain a voice to the voiceless,"* **Nelly Kisanga**, Wasafi Radio Program Manager.



1,500

poor households



2,000

entrepreneurs.



## GADIOS MANGANA

### Local innovation for local problems

**O**ftentimes, radical innovations come from seizing the moment to address an old or a new unsolved problem. With the outbreak of COVID-19, innovators across the globe threw almost everything into the fight against the disease - from software, robotics, and old-fashioned equipment. As the coronavirus spreads, so are innovations to combat it. Some worked, some didn't, and some are still in progress.

Tanzania is not renowned as a high-tech country. However, this has never thwarted local talents from attempting to discover ways of solving internal problems. As Gadios Mangana, a local innovator, remarks, "I am an inventor. The world, our country, needs people like us. We solve puzzles and social crises". Behind the achievements, there are always individuals utilizing their natural gifts to help.

Despite the technical challenges and limited financial resources, Mangana developed a technology to protect frontline workers. He is not shy to reveal that the idea originated from his friends who nudged him to do something. Within a week, a prototype was completed. It is simple to operate and runs on very little power. A

person stands in the middle of the open chamber; effortlessly, a valve opens up and releases medicated spray (disinfectant) across the body. Later, the inventor found out a way to reproduce at least 15 machines weekly.

A few units were donated to various government agencies with personnel in the frontline battling the pandemic. Also, an international development organisation purchased a few units. Currently, Mangana is developing a more technologically advanced machine which is soon to be unveiled. He implores stakeholders to invest more in local talents who have a deep understanding of the community problems hence are more capable of delivering reliable solutions.

**"I am an inventor. The world, our country, needs people like us. We solve puzzles and social crises"**



## Fighting the Pandemic Through Street Art

Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has made many artists who depend on tourists to sell their work redundant. This was true in Tanzania too since it lost over 90% of its tourists. But this was also an opportunity to bring those artists together for an even bigger cause.

'Zingatia Project' – zingatia is Swahili for 'pay attention' – was a youth-led collective effort to control the spread of COVID-19 through mural artworks in marginalised communities in the city of Dar es Salaam. It was organised by a 28-year-old creative entrepreneur by the name of Emmanuel Mushy.

*'Our intention was to mobilise the then redundant creative capacity to inspire the society in a different way,' says Emmanuel.*

The use of arts to inform, educate, and uplift a society is well established in art history. While some artists use art to display their culture, others use it to impact the society in a mixture of art and activism, that's activism. Different platforms can be used, but the organisers of 'Zingatia Project' chose street murals.

*'We brought about 15 artists in our creative hub – VAS (Visual Aided Stories) – where we talked about how we were going to do this effectively. We started by interviewing people to understand issues that needed to be addressed. When we had the communication touchpoints, we created a female character Karina who was going to be the face of our stories.'*

Five locations were selected based on population density and low-income characteristics. It was reasoned that the artworks would attract high visibility and achieve impact in marginalised communities. Thus, Kigogo, Ilala, Mwembeyanga, Mwananyamala, and Vingunguti were selected. And that is how Karina was brought to life in Dar.

*'The campaign went viral – attracting over 500,000 engagements across our different social media channels. The images were displayed in the Citizen newspaper. More still – our work won a COVID-19 Innovation Award and helped popularise the message even further.'*

The campaign also opened many doors for the artists themselves, including expanding their employment and networking opportunities. One of the artists, Ayubu Kimweri, was featured on Wasafi TV and got contracts to do more murals at the Jangwani junction. Others have had contracts in many prestigious offices.

*'There are those who are born artists, and there are those who are born with art. I feel that I embody the latter. I have developed the skills and creative routines to work in advertising and marketing by being around artists. 150 artists have gone through our creative hub and 1,000 more are in our network. These are all the outcomes of the Zingatia campaign.'*

# Life is in the Blood

A middle-aged patient is in a critical condition waiting for surgery at a major hospital in Dar es Salaam. The doctors haven't been able to operate on him because the patient needs blood but he has a blood group O negative which, is the rarest in the world, and they have none in reserve. For the patient, the clock is ticking. Incidents of patients losing lives because of lack of blood are not uncommon.

Only 6% of human beings have O- blood group. Moreover, despite the need for 600,000 units of blood in Tanzania, supply hardly reaches 350,000 annually. And the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation – blood reserves have gone down significantly across the nation. So, the odds are stacked high against the patient. Ultimately the hospital chooses to call one man they know can save the day. Hillary Kitumbo.

Hillary runs an organisation called ASBLA – *Ambassadors for Safe Blood*. ASBLA manages an informal network of at least 1,000 individuals around the nation who donate blood on demand. During the pandemic, ASBLA has not been able to do its usual region by region blood donation campaigns and has had to focus extensively on organising individuals on a case-by-case basis. Upon getting the call, Hillary sends an alarm across the network, and 9 people respond. To facilitate the process, Hillary connects the hospital with one of only three centres capable of doing the tests and stays there until the results are out. Only 2 of those who responded were actually O- but enough blood was collected for the patient.

At midnight, Hillary leaves the hospital – exhausted but knowing that another patient has hope for a brighter day.

This has been his life for years now – but more so at this point. Hillary lost his older sister in 2013 for lack of blood during labor. A year later he overcame his phobia for injections to honour his sister's memory by donating blood for the first time. To date, through ASBLA, he has organised events which have donated thousands of units of

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blood and saved hundreds of lives.

'You cannot pay a person who donates blood because they give something out of themselves. What we do is to recognise their generosity and thank God for them,' says Hillary. 'We need them since the demand for safe blood is quite high.'

None of ASBLA's work generates any money. At the core of their operation, they have a group called '*ASBLA Official Members*' who have committed themselves to make these events possible by giving cash. Therefore, it is their generosity that makes ASBLA capable of achieving all that it has done to date.



# KWAHERI / CORONA

Mrisho Mpoto ft. THT

Executive Producer: THT & Mpoto Gallery



@mrishompoto



## Mrisho Mpoto's anti-COVID-19 Musical Drama

Mrisho Mpoto is well-known in Tanzania for his music, poetry, and activism. His work focuses on promoting social change. During the pandemic, Mrisho joined the war by composing and performing a rousing song called 'Kwaheri Corona' to inspire and educate people to fight COVID-19.

In 'Kwaheri Corona', Mrisho was motivated by the panic that COVID-19 caused. He says:

'This is not the first pandemic that people have faced – these things come and go. But how do you fight things while you are not well equipped to fight? You need hope,' says Mrisho.

'Kwaheri Corona', Swahili for 'Goodbye Corona', was composed to bring hope. Using his unique performing style, Mrisho dramatizes the message by asking 'Corona, who are you? What has brought you here? What do you want from us for you to leave?'

'Kwaheri Corona' also carries the message of caution. The artist declares: 'We all have the responsibility to wash our hands, to protect our country, Tanzania.' This is quite direct – wash your hands to keep not only you but the whole nation safe!

With the success of 'Kwaheri Corona', Mrisho was chosen to form a 10 people team from the Ministry of Health that moved around the nation as part of a national anti-pandemic campaign. The campaign which initially targeted virus hotspots such as Dar es Salaam was later expanded to the whole nation. In total, Mrisho has carried the message of hope in 140 municipal councils across 20 regions in Tanzania.

'Kwaheri Corona' has had a profound impact in Tanzania's anti-COVID-19 campaign,' says Mrisho. 'At the beginning, the message of fear was more prominent, but that started to change. People started to believe in hope. Leaders acknowledged our contribution in reducing the element of fear – a factor that has saved many from unnecessary deaths.'

In 'Kwaheri Corona', the artist was very successful in highlighting that defeating the pandemic is more of a community effort than an individual one, it is a message that is very relevant, especially during the current vaccination campaign.



## GIVING IS LIVING

“Giving is Living.” Diana kept repeating these words. “Giving is living. Actual living is loving someone, giving to them and changing their life,” said Diana Mbabazi.

Diana is part of a foundation that serves women who are entrepreneurs. The foundation has invested in training these women and equipping them with life and business skills to help them reach financial independence. But with the onset of the pandemic, a lot of the businesses ran by these women died and the foundation couldn't do anything because the funds were approved for specific projects and not COVID-19.

Diana knew that if these women were left alone, they would be hopeless and all the amazing work the foundation has done would amount to nothing. She reached into her own pockets and financed the personal lives of these women. “There is no need of me having while someone else doesn't have,” said Diana. She continued, “Others have given to me before and I've seen how impactful their giving was and so I'm paying it forward.” In her effort to pay it forward, she also pardoned one of her tenant's 3 months' rent and forgave another tenant's 2 months' rent because their income was affected by the pandemic.

Diana says she is aware of the privilege she has. Her husband kept his job. Her kids continued to attend school. She knows she is blessed. So she can't just stand by and watch others struggle while she can help. She says her Christian faith is the foundation that allows her to recognize God's blessings and to share those blessings with those in need.



It's pointless for me to be  
wealthy if I am surrounded  
by people in dire need

— Diana



## A GOOD LEADER PROTECTS HER OWN



**Julie Robert**  
(Principal & Co-Owner)

When COVID-19 entered Tanzania in 2020, people experienced unprecedented uncertainty. This led to a great need for leaders who will prioritize their people. The same was true for teachers and staff members of Hodari Christian School.

Julie Robert says, when the pandemic hit Tanzania and schools were instructed to shut down, they experienced financial difficulty. Most parents couldn't afford to pay fees because their incomes were affected by the pandemic. Around the same time, other schools were laying off their teachers because the operating costs were high while income was low. But Julie says, "the thought of laying off some of our staff did not even cross our minds" instead of laying off her staff, she fought to keep them so they can continue to provide for their families. "We found a way to continue providing services at a reduced cost that our clients could afford amidst COVID-19, and only spent money on paying staff," said Ms. Julie.

The school lowered its fees so parents can still afford to send their kids to school and only spent money on staff salaries. Needless to say, all 21 staff members are still working at Hodari today.

Julie ties these actions to her understanding of true leadership. She says, "leadership is about taking care of those in our charge." She adds, "if we put our minds to it, there's nothing we can't achieve. Plus, there's truly always enough for everyone."

## TEACHING THE YOUTH TO FISH DURING A CRISIS

Many initiatives were started when COVID-19 hit Tanzania. Among the initiatives that focused on sustainability is one led by Mr. Courtney Veitch, a resident of Dar es Salaam. He realized that to thrive through this period people needed a new set of skills, especially young people. He says, "I realized there is so much potential among the youth. They are brilliant, entrepreneurial, and innovative. However, they lack some basic skills to engage in sustainable projects and grasp the many opportunities that exist in Tanzania to create wealth consistently. Hence, I developed a program to train youths on entrepreneurship, personal finance management, income diversification and social media marketing, and other areas"

Courtney and his friends invested time and resources to train over 80 young people. He is currently incubating and mentoring 5 entrepreneurs who are building their businesses during the pandemic. When asked why is giving

important to him, he said, "I am driven by the biblical scriptures that said 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. This was reinforced by my grandmother and mother growing up. I saw them giving generously and sacrificially to others, sometimes at the expense of our family."

David Boyd, a resident of Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam, is financially responsible for his siblings and parents. He sells clothing items in Makumbusho. He is one of the many businesses that were affected by the coronavirus. But he is also one of the fortunate young entrepreneurs being mentored in this program. He said, "This program has helped to expose me to seeing successful businesses and to see what others are doing." These are lessons he is taking and incorporating into his business so he can continue to take care of his family amid the pandemic.



Photo credit: Imani Nsamila

## I AM MY SISTER'S KEEPER

When COVID-19 safety precautions were announced the majority of Tanzanians living in Dar es Salaam were concerned. The sentiment was, washing hands is relatively easy, wearing masks is uncomfortable, but still, it can be done. But when people were told to distance themselves socially, the reactions varied from, "We will" to "How are we supposed to do that?" The majority of people from the latter are people who live in places where you simply can't social distance.

A large number of people in Dar es Salaam live in densely populated areas, known as *uswahilini*. When the first COVID-19 case was announced, most people believed these areas would become COVID-19 spreading hubs. These areas are so densely populated, social distancing is extremely difficult to practice. This was the case for Tumaini, a resident of Namanga.

Tumaini is in her mid-forties. She has a daughter and takes care of her extended family. Unfortunately, she has diabetes, high blood pressure, and chronic heart issues. This places her in a group that is at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. She is one of the people who live in these densely populated areas. "I was scared that I might contract COVID-19. My dad who was also diabetic lived with me, I was scared for him as well" says Tumaini. But as unfortunate as her situation was, she was fortunate enough to have a friend who, according to Tumaini's own words, "she loved me more than even my own family."

On the 17th of March in 2020, the first COVID-19 case was announced. On that same day, Atupelye, who has been friends and colleagues with Tumaini

for several years made a trip to the densely populated area of Namanga. She managed to move Tumaini and her family to a nice apartment where they can social distance in Msasani. "It's been a year and a half, and I have not contracted COVID-19. Some of my close relatives who live in my neighborhood all got COVID-19. I was spared because I could isolate myself from people," added Tumaini. "To this day, she still takes care of me, she is paying the majority of the expenses so I don't have to worry about anything" Tumaini continued.

When asked what inspired her act of generosity, Atupelye said, "I'm a problem solver by nature, so when I can find a way to solve a problem that can help someone, then that's what I try to do. In this case, the need was so apparent, and the space (apartment) was available, so it was an easy decision. I was lucky that as a young kid who wanted to make a difference or help when I saw problems, my family never told me "you're just a kid" or "that's not your problem" but instead they encouraged me and helped me. And I think those early experiences gave me the belief that I can make a difference, and also a sense of responsibility that I should."

"Knowing how I have been a benefactor of the generosity of many young people. I urge all young people to look out for the vulnerable, especially the elderly. It doesn't have to be big, it can be something as small as going grocery shopping or going to get medicine for them from the hospital," said Tumaini.

## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GO WHERE WE CAN'T

When you go around Tanzania right now you are bound to see people wearing masks. You can't travel a long distance without seeing a shop selling masks. But things weren't always this way. At the beginning of the pandemic, starting in March 2020, Tanzania had a shortage of masks, and prices for masks were very high. Only a few could afford to buy. But this shortage was bearable because people believed there are other ways of protecting themselves. But one group couldn't live and conduct their affairs without this form of protection, our health care providers.

Throughout this pandemic, we've required healthcare workers to continue putting themselves at risk so they can care for and cure the growing number of infected people. Hospitals were flooding with patients at record high numbers, which made them high-risk areas for contracting COVID-19. The scarcity of masks made this an even more dangerous reality for healthcare workers, their families, and patients. And the high prices of masks made it even harder for our healthcare workers to purchase. Dr. Phillips says, "The masks provided by the hospitals weren't enough. We had to spend our own money to buy these masks. It was hard."

When Kim, who works for a donor agency heard of the struggles healthcare providers were going through. She took action. "Despite not practicing, a lot of my friends are in the wards and practicing. Right at the beginning of the pandemic, our priority was to protect healthcare workers because we don't have that many healthcare workers in Tanzania. In April 2020, the infections had spread across seven regions, and PPE's were in great need. I thought there was a need to fill the gap while we were waiting for the big batch of PPEs ordered to arrive"

Kim decided to take responsibility and donated her money to buy the masks. But that was not going to be enough, this was bigger than her, and she thought, "maybe there are other people who would like to give and are looking for an avenue." So she reached out to her colleagues and friends to join her in this initiative. They responded and donated to the cause. "We bought and distributed the masks to Muhimbili Hospital, Mbeya Referral Hospital, and Muha's MNH" added Kim. "When we received the masks, we were encouraged. We were motivated to continue because we knew that there are people who appreciate what we do and people who care" said Dr. Phillip.

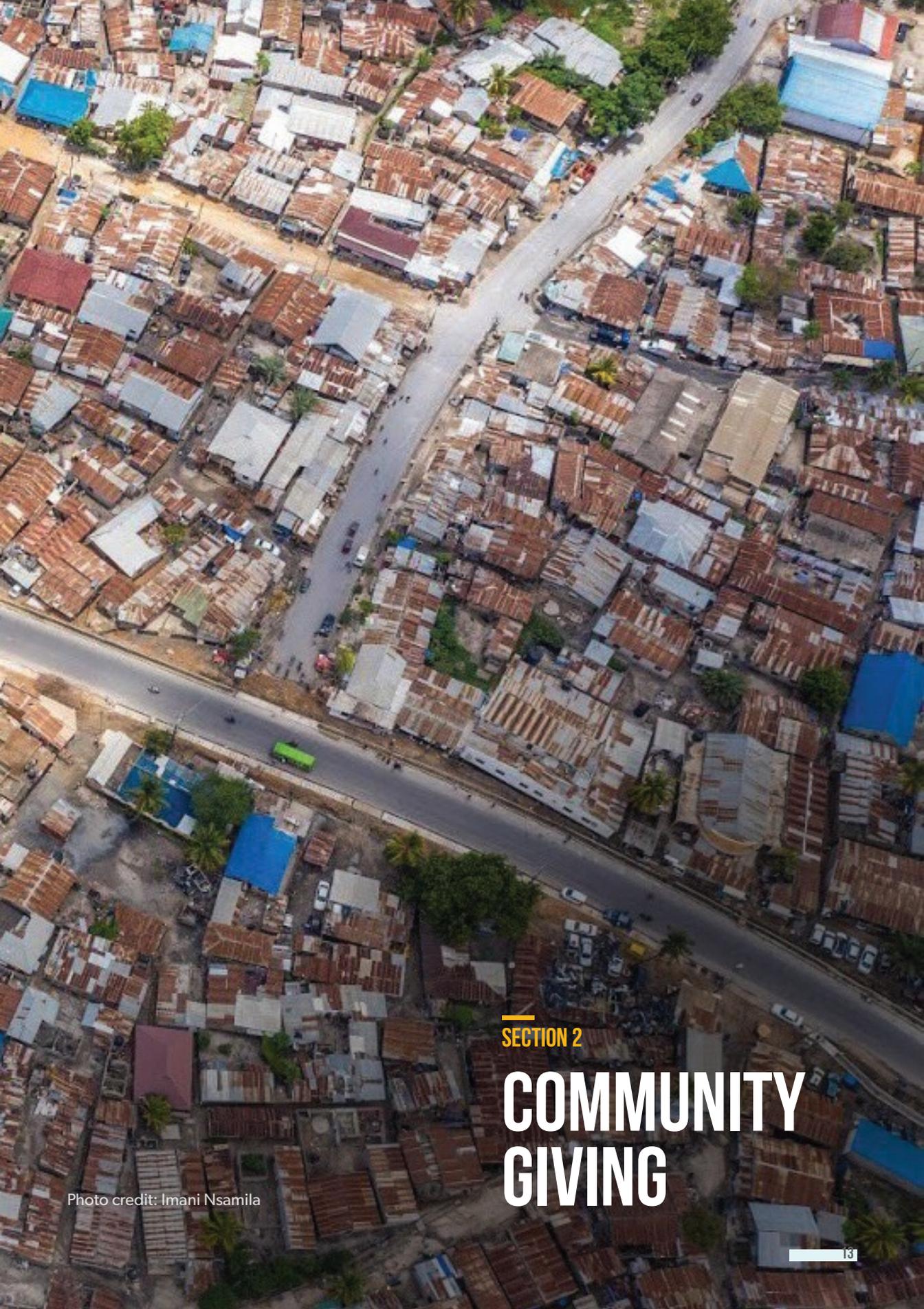
Kim and her friends raised TSH 2,676,420 through this initiative. Kim has learned that Tanzanians are generous and are willing to give to smaller initiatives, to people they know, people they can hold accountable.

*"We bought and distributed the masks to Muhimbili Hospital, Mbeya Referral Hospital, and MUHA'S MNH"*

**Kim**



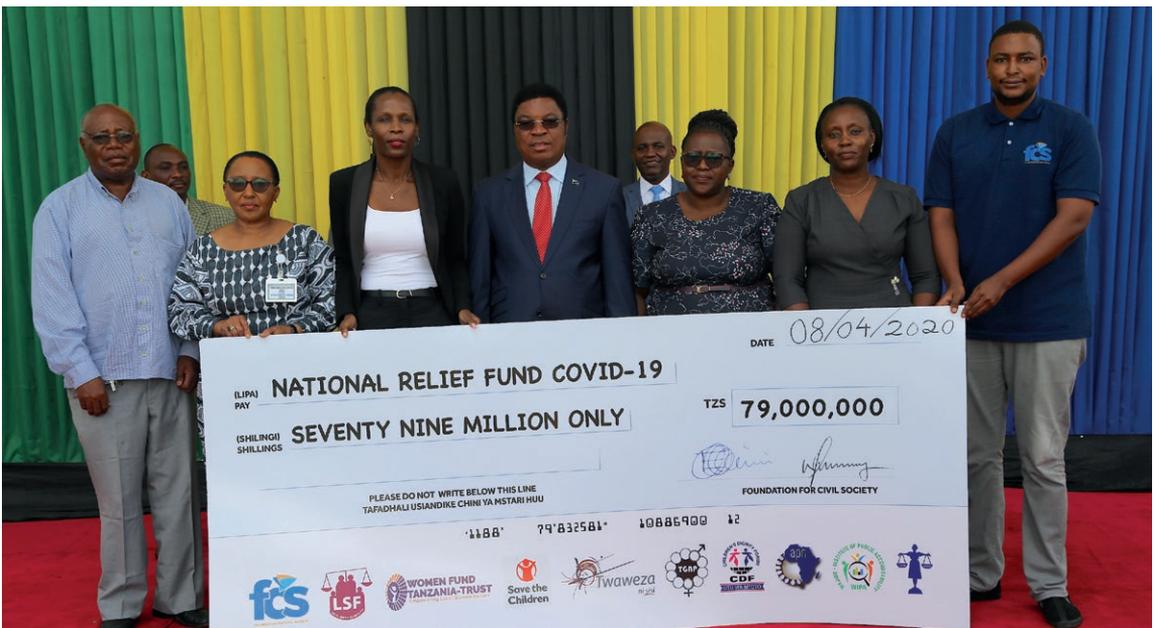
**2,676,420**  
TSH raised



SECTION 2

# COMMUNITY GIVING

Photo credit: Imani Nsamila



## CSOs

# Contribute TZS 79m to Govt for COVID-19 Fight

In April 2020, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) combined forces to support Government initiatives in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak in Tanzania.

Collectively the CSOs raised over TZS79 million. The funds were handed over to the National Relief Fund through the Prime Minister’s Office. The CSOs that contributed the funds are Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), Legal Services Facility, (LSF), Women Fund Tanzania Trust, Save the Children, African Philanthropy Network (APN), Wajibu Institute, Twaweza, Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) and Children’s Dignity Forum. This was a show of solidarity from the various CSOs, demonstrating that they too can come together to respond to the crisis that has hit the country.

During the short ceremony to hand over the cheque, the FCS President, Dr Stigmata Tenga, said, “The outbreak of the coronavirus globally and in Tanzania has introduced new challenges to the Government and the citizens. CSOs recognize efforts being taken by the Government to control the spread of the disease as well as other initiatives to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic. We as CSOs felt a need to support the Government in its efforts. We recognize that due to the virus, many marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, women, the elderly and our citizens in rural areas need even

CSOs Contribute TZS 79m to Govt for COVID-19 Fight more information on the virus and how they can prevent the spread. Our hope is that the funds will also assist in reaching the marginalized groups.” In relation to plans to support awareness initiatives, she said, “CSOs work closely and engage citizen especially at grassroots level during project implementation. We are further planning to work closely with our grantees at this level to ensure that the Tanzanian citizen and marginalized groups are well informed about preventive measure to take against the coronavirus.”

FCS Business Development and Partnerships Manager, Ms Nasim Losai said, “We have taken various preventative measures as an organization to ensure that our staff, partners, grantees are informed on the disease. The measures include reduced face-to-face meetings, sessions of workshops and training. The new mode of communication is the increased use of online platforms.

“At the same time, we are practicing social distancing; and most importantly, we encourage frequent washing of hands with running water soap. At our premises, we have installed hand sanitizers for everyone who enters the premises. We are in frequent communication with our grantees to see how they are coping as well as offering support to them,” she added.



## UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

### Standing in the gap with Intellectual solutions

The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted public life in ways never seen before in our country. The University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the largest research institution in Tanzania went into action fast. A team of experts was assembled to coordinate intellectual responses to the pandemic. The team drew scientists from different units who rushed into workshops and labs to conduct medical research, studies, experiments, and building equipment.

While global search for cure and vaccine were raging, UDSM managed to deliver initial products such as formulated essential oils for steaming (FUKIZA UDANOL), repurposed traditional medicine, and nutraceuticals. The herbal products boost the body's immunity system. Moreover, the university produced breathing aids like high-quality fabric facemasks. The products were sold at a low price, as profit was not the goal.

Regular hand washing has proven to be a simple way of preventing the virus. Hence, UDSM developed three types of hand washing machines - foot-operated, automatic, and vapour spraying. The latter releases vaporised sanitiser to a person in a booth to destroy pathogens. Several units were installed in different areas for public use. Some development partners like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) purchased and distributed a couple of units.

Instead of chemicals-based sanitizers, UDSM chose a different approach by going for locally available and environmentally friendly materials. The Department of Food Science and Technology succeeded in producing hand sanitizers from Aloe Vera extract. The achievement guarantees low prices to the products and markets for farmers.

University similarly served the public through the provision of facilities and information. One of its hostels was selected to host people who were quarantined. Furthermore, a scientific study to assess public perception of the pandemic was carried. The findings indicated Tanzanians beliefs on the pandemic, attitude towards government interventions, preventive measures, and other public choices. Lastly, UDSM, other Higher Learning Institutions, and the Ministry of Health established an online helpdesk to fight misinformation.



## LADIES JOINT FORUM

### Next Gen business hustlers

Disasters are like robbers. It is how people feel about the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has ravaged lives. When families' incomes decline, other painful episodes follow. Lack of basic needs like food, rent, inability to pay utilities, school fees, etc., amplifies relationship tensions, especially in families. During the first wave of the pandemic, there were reports of a sharp increase in domestic violence, physical abuse, and teen pregnancies globally. Sadly, women and children were on the receiving end.

Out of concern, Ladies Joint Forum, a civil society organisation, decided to assist victims. The organisation had no resources, but through personal ingenuity, the management was able to secure limited funds from some friends in Germany. Running a fundraiser during the pandemic was not an easy task.

With the available funds, the organisation selected 100 small businesswomen and 20 people with disabilities in Vingunguti, Ilala district. Beneficiaries were first equipped with knowledge about COVID-19 so they can protect themselves and their families. The training was arranged with the help of Community Health

officials. To empower them economically, modern business skills such as e-commerce, saving and investment were administered.

After the training, beneficiaries were split into groups and received seed capital. The organisation made periodic follow-ups. The business included selling hand washing plastic buckets, and later was diversified to include facemasks, sanitizers, and foodstuffs such as snacks, cassava, fruits, and vegetables. The preliminary evaluation has displayed promising results. Some groups have redoubled and reimbursed the capital so that other people can benefit too.

The main lesson from this is that socio-economic needs from disadvantaged groups are still enormous. With or without COVID-19, the society as a whole must render a helping hand. Some people are ready to work out of their predicaments, but they need a little push: essential skills and capital. Also, domestic abuse is directly correlated with household economic status. Hence, the best way to end it is to empower women with the right tools, together with awareness.





## INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL: **MOVING TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**

FCS delivers Masks and Sanitizers for People with Disabilities to SHIVYAWATA.



Foundation for Civil Society has been working hand in hand with People with Disabilities (PWDs) to advocate for their rights and engagement in the community. With the rise of the novel coronavirus outbreak in Tanzania, FCS has seen a need to address the issues around inclusivity of people with disabilities in the fight against COVID-19.

At these uncertain times, FCS' focus is to see an inclusive environment which involves making sure information is well communicated in friendly formats i.e. Braille, large fonts, sign language; and making sure protective gears i.e. masks, sanitizers, etc are available to people with disabilities.

In May 2020, FCS handed over 10,000 masks and 2,500 sanitizers worth TZS 20,000,000 for People with Disabilities to the Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYAWATA). Speaking at the event, FCS Executive Director, Mr. Francis Kiwanga said that one amongst the priorities of FCS is to work with disabled groups and to ensure that they access their rights and to make sure that no one is left behind in the fight against COVID-19.

Also, the chairperson of SHIVYAWATA Ms. Umy Nderiananga expressed gratitude to FCS for the support because of the marginalization of disabled people in the society. Ms. Nderiananga promised that the masks along with the sanitizers will be distributed to people with disabilities through their branches. An emphasis to other stakeholders on continuing to support people with disability was a key theme of Ms. Nderiananga's message.



# HOPE AND HEALING THROUGH MUSIC



In battling the pandemic, musicians around the world have created and performed attractive songs to sensitise their communities to take precautions against the pandemic.

In April 2020, a group of eight Tanzanian musicians released a song called 'Songa Mbele' (Keep Going). Composed by a renowned guitarist Leo Mkanyia, the song was inspired by the deaths of two African giant musicians, Aurlus Mabele and Manu Dibango, who succumbed to the virus in the early days of the pandemic.

Its primary theme is that people must not lose heart. The theme is captured by the chorus saying '*Janga la dunia, funga mkanda mama; Sukuma, sukuma, maisha yaende mbele*', which, translated, reads '*The world is in crisis, stay strong; Never lose hope, life must go on*'.

This theme is developed as the song progresses, firstly by highlighting that it is pointless to lose heart. The artists say: '*First let's ask ourselves what have we done to protect our lives; If we wake up health and sound it's then by God's grace, we are not different to those who passed away.*' Such words are well chosen and are bound to strongly resonate with many highly religious Tanzania.

After that introduction, listeners are reminded that '*Crises are everywhere in the world*' and that they should '*Arise and shine, together as one.*' While this cements that message of hope, it acts as a transition to the next theme highlighting that for life to go on people must fight the disease as one. '*Take precautions, the situation is worsening; we see hundreds dying.*' This message is developed through multiple sections – emphasising the artists' point that this is not a joke and that people of all backgrounds and from all locations must act together to stand a chance.

The practice of creating music for specific interventions plays a significant role in helping communities come together. Music helps not only to record the history but also to mobilise the community for specific actions. Leo Mkanyia's bold musical creation is a testament to that. 'Songa Mbele' is now available on Spotify and Amazon with the proceeds going to those affected by the pandemic.



## BUILDING SELF RELIANCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

“I wonder what would have happened if I did not have the money to pay for the hospital expenses during my wife’s delivery. It would’ve been a disaster” This is what Fidel Emanuel, a resident of Kasulu said when asked how different would his life be if he didn’t receive help from Caritas International and Norwegian Church Aid during COVID-19.

Everyone was affected by COVID-19, including farmers. Yet, everyone had to continue living and paying their bills in the middle of the pandemic. Among those affected during COVID-19 were residents of Kasulu in Kigoma. This lack of economic self-reliance had to be combated. Norwegian Church Aid in collaboration with Caritas International saw this as an opportunity to give and empower people and community groups.

The communities in Kasulu are mainly agrarian. Caritas saw it fit to capitalize on the trade and skill sets they have. They trained community members on smart, cost-effective ways to farm and cultivate commercial crops in the backyards of their homes.

“When a crisis happens we do our best to offer our help to alleviate the impact of the crisis. And in this time of COVID-19, we have partnered with NCA to help households living in poverty fight this economic difficulty by training them and equipping them to start horticulture projects in their backyards. We have helped 50 households in Kasulu to implement this. Now they can eat

and sell the crops. This has helped them fight the economic difficulty, especially in this time of Coronavirus.” said Mr. Benedict Gwimo, a programs manager for Caritas International.

Mr. Fidel Emmanuel who is one of the people who benefited from this initiative says, “The first day of harvest I went to the market in Kasulu and made 51,000 shillings, and at the time my wife was pregnant and about to give birth. This money helped me pay the bills for the care of my wife and child. The second time I sold my harvested crops I made 40,000 shillings, and I used that money to expand my horticulture garden and added 8 nursery beds of vegetables. And now I have 10.”

When asked why they chose to respond to the pandemic with this project, Mr. Benedict continued, “Because we were asking ourselves how do we help these communities build economic self-reliance and curb the impact of COVID-19 as the world is dealing with the economic impact the pandemic has brought”

# SOS Children's Villages

## Saving and serving precious souls

Globally, children have been less affected directly by COVID-19 infection compared to adults. However, there are subtle effects of the pandemic on children. The adverse effects manifest through socio-economic impacts on communities. Disadvantaged families were hit harder with financial setbacks because of the disruption to their businesses and jobs. Poverty, stress and discrimination, in turn, increased the decline of parental capacities and childcare. Also, loss of income disturbs food security, healthcare, and nutrition.

To fight the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, SOS Children's Villages, an organisation dedicated to children's protection switched into an emergency mode. The priority was to shield the children who are under the organisation's care. During this period, SOS managed to rescue several abused children. At the same time, most SOS staff was urged to work remotely. A care package with facemasks, sanitizers, and detergent was provided to each team.

To reach the general public, SOS worked with the government. Outreach teams canvassed streets with loudspeakers raising awareness about the danger of the virus. In other areas where SOS had no active projects, the organisation donated 1,414 litres of fuel to the government Social Welfare team. The public campaigns were able to reach more than 126,076 adults and 27,904 pupils directly.

Apart from public campaigns, the organisation donated protective items such as water containers sanitizers, liquid soap, and facemasks directly to communities. However, donations were prioritised

to institutions that deal with children's affairs daily, such as health centres, schools, Police stations, and other government agencies.

Since schools were closed for a few weeks, SOS donated learning materials to 13 families and 112 children in orphanages. The support enabled students from poor households with no access to distance learning infrastructure (computer and Internet connectivity) to continue their studies without being left out.

The interventions were halted by June 2020 due to a shortage of funds. However, the organisation gathered solid lessons. As Kayange Elamu, SOS Program Manager, reflects,

*"Covid-19 was an eye-opener. The pandemic revealed how our societies are vulnerable to disasters. Government, Civil Society Organizations, and families must henceforth build a culture of allocating emergency funds. We must improve our preparedness policies". Nevertheless, life must go on. Society must adapt while maintaining the resolve to battle against the pandemic.*

112   
CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES

13  1,414  
FAMILIES LITRES OF FUEL

REACH MORE THAN

126,076  
ADULTS

27,904  
PUPILS DIRECTLY.

## Saving lives through a feminist lens

For many years, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has advocated for women’s rights and wellbeing in Tanzania. The organization strives to contribute to building a vibrant, transformative feminist movement. When the COVID-19 outbreak was reported, it was clear that women and marginalized groups likewise were not immune from its effects. The effects were direct and indirect.

*“So, when news came in, our organization immediately took action to protect our people. An internal committee was formed without delay to coordinate our interventions. Then we moved on to protect our staff, partner organizations, and the society at large,”* states TGNP Advocacy Manager Ms. Joyce Mkina. Later, the organization also picked reports of increased gender-based violence (GBV) across the country.

To ensure the safety of women and adolescent girls, the organization responded by offering reproductive health education and other essential skills. Teleconferencing technology (zoom) and live stream through Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram became practical tools to achieve this goal without human contact. The same technology was deployed to other programs such as the weekly Gender and Development Series (GDSS), as well as local and international workshops. Usually, hundreds of activists attend GDSS meetings every Wednesday. Health experts participated in these sessions to educate the community. A toll-free number for reporting GBV was set. In these set-ups, the organization continued its work without putting anyone at risk.

Through the Coalition of Women and the Constitution, the organization contributed funds to the government. This was another room to support the general public. Also, with support from Development Partners, TGNP purchased and distributed handwashing facilities to various public hospitals in Kishapu, Kasulu, Kigoma DC, Tarime, Serengeti districts. However, the facilities were explicitly directed to women’s hospital wards.



To tackle misinformation about COVID-19, the TGNP organized several virtual training sessions for its employees, affiliate organizations, and the public. Similarly, public health messages were distributed through roadshow campaigns, bulk SMS, and audio-visual public announcements. The latter was shared widely through social media and was available on larger platforms such as television and radio stations. Through radio stations alone, about 5.5 Tanzanians were reached.



## LHRC | Protecting human rights amid the COVID-19 crisis

One of the unexpected outcomes of COVID-19 is how organizations were compelled to change their courses of operations. Since 2020, new realities have demanded unorthodox approaches to work. Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) likewise was caught in this predicament. They are finding the balance between confronting the pandemic while maintaining service to underprivileged populations. LHRC has a good link with communities at the grassroots level and provides service via programs such as paralegal training, village legal workers training, and human rights monitors.

First and foremost, LHRC complied with national and international COVID-19 guidelines by ensuring wearing masks and hygiene practices are widely adopted in offices. All employees were urged to take care of themselves and their families. By creating a coronavirus-free environment, the organization managed to protect other members of the society in the process. However, at the pandemic's peak, some services like legal aid provision were suspended; hence, many clients went down. This intervention minimized the risks of virus infection and circulation.

Engagement with Paralegal in improving access to justice amid of COVID-19 continued although by different approaches. Instead of face-to-

face training, LHRC empowered paralegals coordinators through virtual meetings. Legal officers were encouraged to adopt technology (email, WhatsApp, Zoom, etc.) and phone calls to provide services to clients -- to avoid regular contact. LHRC ensured the availability of all necessary resources. In cases where physical meetings were mandatory (due to the nature of legal issues in question), social distances and protection were emphasized.

Knowledge is power. However, *proper knowledge* is even more powerful. To inform the mass regarding the COVID-19, LHRC implemented various campaigns highlighting the nature, effects, and protection against the pandemic. LHRC tailored the contents of its campaign to suit the context and address human rights challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. The promotions were dubbed *Simamia Haki*, *Utawala wa Sheria*, and *Aminia Usawa*. LHRC also invited experts from the Ministry of Health to its weekly television program at Star TV to educate the public.

As a response to the government appeal for assistance, LHRC contributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gowns (300pcs) and N95 masks (300pcs). The donations benefited frontline health workers.



# Working with Bodaboda Riders to Protect the Community

During the COVID-19 pandemic, professionals working with NGOs from around the world have contributed to keeping their communities safe through creative philanthropic initiatives. These professionals have engaged communities they serve to strengthen the message of practicing safety measures while taking steps to protect their livelihoods also.

In the Lake Victoria's shores town of Bukoba, members of Tanzania Agricultural Modernization Association (TAMA), decided to intervene to fight the spread of COVID-19 in Kagera region by working with motorcycle riders, popular as *bodaboda*. In Bukoba, like the rest of Tanzania, hundreds of youths provide transport services by carrying thousands of people every day through *bodaboda*. Left unchecked, these *bodaboda* and other public transport options can

become a major vector for COVID-19 transmission across the region.

Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Paschal Nchunda, TAMA's Executive Director, said, 'We understand that COVID-19 has impacted our communities in one way or another, and this support seeks to support women and children who mostly utilize bodaboda as a main means of transportation in Bukoba Municipal.'

To achieve this, TAMA used multiple strategies to educate, sensitise, and advocate for best practices. This was achieved through radio and TV programs focusing on the rights of women during the fight against COVID-19. TAMA also installed 25 hand-washing facilities in high-risk environments including markets, bus, taxi and 'bodaboda' terminals with

a regular supply of sanitizers, soaps, and water to ensure sustainability. Each facility was provided with 60 Litres of sanitizers, 100 hand washing liquid soaps, 20 water tanks, and 20 basins. The project reached about 6,600 people in Bukoba.

'The intervention has strengthened our district health systems by minimising transmissions and ensuring that first responders of COVID-19 are well protected'.

The most effective philanthropic initiatives usually seek to deal with issues at their roots. Focusing on high-risk environments highlights the potential that philanthropy can have in protecting lives and livelihoods in communities. By protecting those who are at most risk, the whole community becomes better off.



 **60** Litres  
of sanitizers

  
**20**  
water tanks

  
**20**  
basins

 **6,600** people  
reached in  
Bukoba

 **100** hand washing  
liquid soaps



## Binti Salha Foundation | Defending young girls future

COVID-19, like many other outbreaks, affects girls and boys, women and men distinctively. While children's health appears less impacted by COVID-19 than older adults, children's learning was interrupted, protective structures disturbed, and their families placed under health and financial burdens. Some groups, however, such as adolescent girls, experienced more significant risks when their education was interrupted. For example, it was reported that 100 girls in Tunduru District were impregnated during the school break.

To mitigate the effects of school closures on girls, Binti Salha Foundation (BSF), an organization that advocates for Adolescent girls' and Young Women's rights to education, health, and livelihood in Tanzania, took bold steps. The organization launched the *Bado Mwanafunzi* (Still a Student) digital campaign to advance access to education and health of girls and young women in Tanzania. The campaign focused on ensuring a safe environment for girls at home during the COVID-19 pandemic school breaks. Technology was a perfect choice because girls could not be reached physically and is a suitable medium to get them.

To supplement digital efforts, BSF was afforded opportunities to use traditional media as well. Television and radio gave the agenda wider reach, spreading awareness on GBV prevention, child pregnancies, and early marriages. Moreover, communities and parents were reminded to never use the COVID-19 as an excuse to marry off their children. Parents are the first line of defense against any form of violence.

Well-crafted graphics and comics accompanied the messages because the formats are more popular among the targeted age groups hence easy to pass on messages. About 100 posters and 50 comics were disseminated during the campaign. Besides, the posters carried an emergency response call 116 in case of any incidence of GBV. Through its social media accounts, Binti Salha Foundation reached a total number of 52,000 people. *"Giving back to the community is our priority. The community looks up to us in solving problems. It takes collective efforts to bring greater changes we all want to see."* explains Salha Aziz, Binti Salha Foundation Founder & Executive Director.



## The Ocean International Community Church Gives

When COVID-19 entered Tanzania, Pastor Ephraim Musiba of The Ocean International Community Church in Dar es Salaam quickly organised his congregation to give to support campaigns to control the spread of the virus.

After considering different alternative to give, the pastor led the church to partner with Water Mission Tanzania, which had a lofty target of installing 1,000 handwashing facilities in multiple regions. To the mission, Water Mission's plan looked very solid, and many communities were going to be impacted directly.

'Our mission requires us to go to the communities to meet people's spiritual and physical needs,' says Gwantwa Kasamala, an administrator at the Ocean. 'This is one of the ways we fulfil our mission and remain relevant as a church'.

43 percent of medical staff in developing nations don't have proper handwashing facilities, a necessary tool in protecting them, their patients, and communities at large..

The church raised 8.7 million for the project. It also provided transport for the water tanks and a technician to help with the exercise.

Esau Sanane, a church member, was sent to participate in the 'Hand Washing Stations' project, under the supervision from Water Mission:

'We installed 21 handwashing stations at Segerea prison and health facilities in Mzenga, Masaki, and Maneromango in Dar es Salaam and Pwani regions.

'The demand was so high that we had to change our initial plans and deliver more stations per site than originally planned. At Segerea Prison and health centre, we delivered 8 stations'.

'People were incredibly grateful – the government had done enough to sensitise the public on the value of handwashing, masking, and social distancing and this led to a positive response. When we went back some weeks later for follow up – people were still organising themselves to fetch water and refill the 2000 or 3000 litres tanks by hand.'

For the 550 members' community at The Ocean, the experience has helped them to deepen their community engagement. They have visited four prisons since then and are planning for more community engagement interventions.

## Mobosoko to the Rescue

Despite the absence of a lockdown, the number of people going to Dar es Salaam's marketplaces had significantly dropped by the end of 2020, and this was hitting those at the bottom the hardest. For Demere Kitunga, CEO of Readership and Learning Development (RLD), this was an opportunity to support the community to address the marketing challenge of small-scale vendors, especially women.

*'Women in marginalised communities were finding it hard to make ends meet, a situation which was making them and their families more vulnerable to other life shocks,' says Demere. 'The MOBOSOKO initiative was conceived specifically to address that challenge.'*

RLD, in partnership with WFT, TUSONGE, WAJIKI, TGNP, and Msichana Initiative, created MOBOSOKO, for Mobile-Sokoni. They collected data from markets in Dar and Kilimanjaro before developing a mobile app which was tested by the co-creators' stakeholders.

As an e-commerce platform, MOBOSOKO capacitates marginalized women and their community with a mobile supply chain for them to maintain a sustainable revenue stream. Through MOBOSOKO, buyers can find and purchase a wide selection of quality goods and services they need for everyday use from the nearby market at their fingertips.

Following a successful launch, MOBOSOKO conducted training sessions to help vendors understand how to use the app. Aisha Saleh, a 33-year-old mother of three and a small-holder vendor selling green vegetables produce from her small garden at Vingunguti, is one of those that attended the sessions. She has been using MOBOSOKO since April.

*'The application has brought such a relief to us. Instead of simply waiting for people to turn up, now you can even receive orders in your mobile phone, alhamdulillah!'* said Aisha

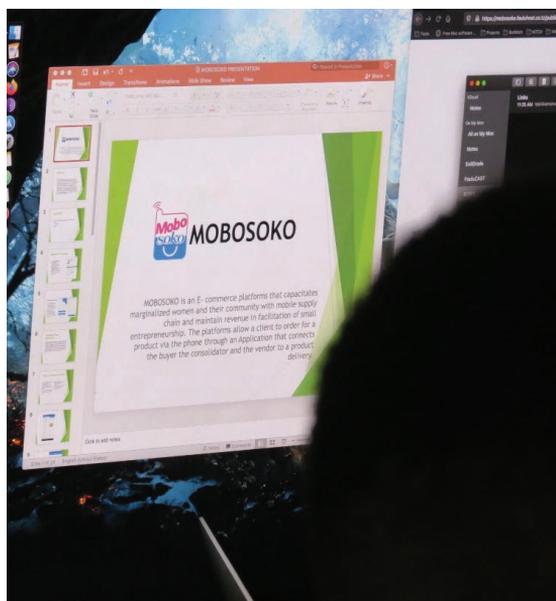
With the first phase completed, the creators are now looking at evaluating how the project is affecting the lives of its targeted clients. This will inform them on how to scale up the operation:

*"The idea now is to expand our scope by recruiting more vendors in and out of Dar es Salaam. This will bring more women into the fold, thus empowering them greatly,"* says Demere.



*"The idea now is to expand our scope by recruiting more vendors in and out of Dar es Salaam. This will bring more women into the fold, thus empowering them greatly."*

**Demere**



## IMA World Health | Longtime Partner

IMA World Health, a global faith-based non-profit that offers sustainable and efficient solutions to health-related problems in the developing world, has operated in Tanzania for years. Its Tanzania team works closely with the Ministry of Health and has forged solid and trusting relationships with its Ministry counterparts over time. Hence, when COVID-19 was reported in March 2020, the organization was well positioned to assist quickly.

IMA World Health worked with the Ministry of Health by setting up a call center that provides two-way communications about COVID-19. The center also collected information from callers through frequently asked questions, reported misinformation, and provided accurate and up-to-date information so that communities

could take proper protection measures. Information collected by callers was used to inform national messaging campaigns against the pandemic.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 6,000 people around the globe were hospitalized because of coronavirus misinformation in the first three months of 2020. Researchers say at least 800 individuals may have died during this period due to misinformation related to COVID-19. In the beginning, some people tried to discredit the threat of the virus. It is another tragic proof that acting on incorrect information can be fatal.

## Open Youth Opportunities Protecting the Young Generation

According to early international findings, the elderly and people with existing health conditions are more vulnerable to COVID-19. However, actual impacts and researchers have concluded later that the virus can affect other groups to a certain degree. Although young people possess strong bodily immunity, they can be carriers of the virus and transmit it to their parents and cause more problems.

When COVID-19 erupted in Tanzania, most efforts were placed in educating society about the pandemic and protective measures such as hand washing, wearing face masks, and observing social distance. However, during these initiatives, Open Youth Opportunities (OYO), an organization focused on young people, discovered that very little attention was paid to children and young people within the age range of 6-14 years. Such group forms around 40% of the population. In collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, OYO distributed 1,200 handwashing soaps to 10 schools in Dar es Salaam. The list of beneficiaries includes Mabibo Secondary School, Kwembe Primary and Secondary School in Kibamba, Muhimbili and Umoja was Mataifa Primary School, Lugureni Primary and Secondary School.

Children and youth are the future of this country, Open Youth Opportunities understand that. They must be at the centre of all decisions and strategic planning, including protection from the global pandemic. Rahma Mwita, the organization Director, stresses that a critical balance must be maintained to make the world a better place for children.

# JAMII FORUMS' SPACE

## WACHAGIZAJI



**EDMUND C. MATOTAY**  
Mratibu, Kamati ya Muunganiko wa Madhehebu ya Kimani (ISCEJIC)



**DKT. FRANCIS FURIA**  
Mhadhiri na Mtaalamu wa Magonjwa ya Figo, Hospitali ya Taifa Muhimbili

## UVIKO19 na Chanjo: Mjadala na Wataalamu

**Mahali:** Twitter Spaces (@JamiiForums)

**Siku:** Ijumaa, Agosti 6, 2021

**Muda:** Saa 12.00 Jioni - Saa 2.00 Usiku

## WAONGOZAJI



**DKT. MARIAM AMOUR**  
Mhadhiri, Chuo Kikuu Kishiriki cha Afya cha Muhimbili (MUHAS)



**DKT. OSATI ELISHA**  
Mchunguzi Mkuu, Mpango wa Kiswahili wa Corona, MUHAS



**CAROL NDOSI**  
Mwanuzishi Mwenza, The LaunchPad

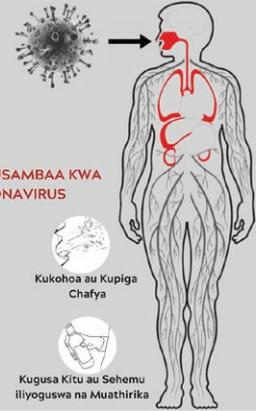


**AIDAN EYAKUZE**  
Mkurugenzi Mwendaji, TWAVEZA



## CORONAVIRUS

Coronaviruses ni kundi la Virusi ambavyo havisababishi tu Mafua bali pia magonjwa makubwa ya Mfumo wa Upumuaji



## COVID-19

Viligunduliika mara ya Kwanza Desemba 2019 huko Wuhan, China

Viligunduliika mara ya Kwanza Barani Afrika Februari 2020 huko Misri

Shirika la Afya Duniani (WHO) lilitangaza Virusi hivyo kuwa Janga la Kimataifa Machi 11, 2020

## NJIA ZA KUSAMBAA KWA CORONAVIRUS



Kugusana



Kukohoa au Kupiga Chafya



Kupeana Mikono



Kugusa Kitu au Sehemu iliyoguswa na Muathirika



## Jamii Forums

### Tackles COVID-19 Misinformation

People can only give what they have, whether it is their time, talents, or treasures. And COVID-19 has made people more creative in the way they give to their community than anything before.

One of the biggest challenges faced during this season has been that of misinformation. Easy access to the internet has given room to regressive elements on the internet which have disoriented many. This has made COVID-19 so difficult to defeat.

When Jamii Forums thought of contributing to the pandemic control campaign, they considered what only they can do best – disseminating correct information about COVID-19, thus curing the evils of misinformation at their very sources. With 300 million pages being perused on their platform every single day, information is the domain where JF is the king in Tanzania. This gives it an unparalleled reach.

Maxence Melo, CEO and founder of JF and JF NGO, has interesting things to say about their COVID-19 campaign: ‘Go review the comments in JF – it hasn’t been easy. We were greatly opposed at the beginning. We were insulted but we didn’t waver.’

We addressed and tackled several issues. One of the issues that was very unique to Tanzania was nyungu (the use of steam inhalation therapy for COVID-19 management). ‘We chose to highlight and discuss the possible the side effects of nyungu. We asked the then Deputy Minister of Health Hon. Ndugulile to speak about this

“ People are now getting to understand the different types of vaccines and the importance of being vaccinated. ”



**Maxence Melo,**  
CEO and founder  
Jamii Forums

issue. Also, the anti-vaccination movement has provided the stiffest challenge yet.’ To address the challenge, JF started organising events on other forums too, such as Clubhouse and Twitter Spaces, where they attracted thousands of people to participate. ‘Pregnant women were rejecting vaccination – but our reports show that this is slowly changing.

People are now getting to understand the different types of vaccines and the importance of being vaccinated.’ JF formal partnerships with both Ministry of Health and WHO (Tanzania) have been instrumental. Relying on official sources only has made the platform very consistent, a fact which is acknowledged by its partners, particularly the ministry, according to Maxence.



Kalamu Ndogo

## How SOMA Kept Children Learning During the Pandemic

Soma Book Café (Soma) is a place where people go to read and have fun. Hosted in a garden lounge with a café and a bookshop, in Mikocheni, Soma provides an alternative public place for leisure, culture, and learning, Soma's creative formula for promoting a culture of learning in Tanzania.

When the pandemic forced the closure of schools in Tanzania in early 2020, about 12 million primary school pupils were sent home for an indeterminate duration of time. Given the educational challenges that many were already facing, this was going to exact a heavy price for them.

'Kalamu Ndogo' (Swahili for 'Little Scribes') was Soma's answer to the challenge. The goal was to engage children academically to avoid the dulling of their skills. Similarly, they thought that they could use the opportunity to sensitise them to the dangers of COVID-19 to keep them and their loved ones safe.

20 households were chosen to participate in the program. Children were asked to take part in a literacy competition by reviewing a set of questions, discussing them with their parents, then write essays about them which would be entered into a competition. Sample questions

were like 'Tell a story about how to keep your family safe through social distancing'.

'Children are natural storytellers. We looked at how to harness and develop that trait into a powerful skill which will make them great at influencing their world through compelling communications,' says Paulina, a finance and project officer at Soma.

'We sent materials for review every week. The engagement between parents and children was geared at getting parents involved in their children's learning. In the absence of teachers, that gap had to be filled.'

The program ran for almost two months until schools were opened in June. 'When schools were opened, children could no longer manage the workload from both their schools and from us, so we decided to wind it down,' says Paulina.

However, having seen the outcome, Soma initiated a similar program targeting the whole community, particularly writers, to create a compilation of artistic writings about COVID-19. Participation has been excellent, and now the writers are collaborating towards producing more memorable works.

An exciting way to survive a distressing period creatively.



## One Girl, One Bike Project



Despite taking lives and wrecking economies, COVID-19 has exacerbated cases of gender-based violence (GBV) around the world.

In Tabora, the region that is usually on the wrong end of GBV charts in Tanzania, the prospects of having more cases of underage pregnancies and child marriages was a cause for major concern. GBV cases tend to increase when girls are out of school. And one of the effects of COVID-19 was to push people out of schools.

*Msichana Initiative*, a local NGO focused on women empowerment, understood that one of the reasons girls drop out of school is the fact that their schools are located far from where they live, and that some of them are forced to walk over 10 kilometres every day to-and-from school. Their earlier work in Lindi had revealed that when girls are given bikes for school, they not only arrive early but their school performances dramatically improve.

*'Knowing what COVID-19 was doing to women around the world, we were moved to organise a giving campaign to help some of the most vulnerable girls in Tanzania. We called the campaign 'One Girl, One Bike', says Sarah Beda, a communications officer at Msichana Initiative.*

Being one of the GBV hotspots, Uyui district in Tabora was chosen. District officials

recommended two primary schools for *Msichana Initiative's* intervention – Mpyagula and Imalampaka. However, to get the right candidates for the donations, *Msichana Initiative* worked with teachers from those schools to develop a list of girls who were living more than 5 kilometres from the schools.

Then there was the matter of fundraising. *Msichana Initiative* reached out to members of the public through an online campaign calling for people to contribute to the campaign. Every bicycle costed about 150,000 shillings and *Msichana Initiative* managed to raise enough funds to give 50 bicycles to 50 girls on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

*'Our passion is to assist girls who are in vulnerable environments stay in school. We are quite fortunate to participate in a work that is greatly rewarding. Girls have so much potential for changing our communities if they are empowered. Let's channel our efforts towards achieving that.'*

## CHURCH RALLY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Many families were affected during COVID-19. Jobs were lost, companies were shut down, people starved and others were fortunate enough to get help. Among the lucky ones was Rehema Bakuza, a resident of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

When speaking of life during COVID-19, Rehema says, "Life was so hard, we had no work, but I had children to feed. My husband and I both didn't have work. I lost my job when COVID-19 happened." This was the experience for a lot of people in 2020. The pandemic slowed down the economy and many people lost their jobs.

Rehema was fortunate enough to have neighbors who would meet her needs. She is a part of a local church in Dar es Salaam, a church that lives by the principle, "love thy neighbor". When the church became aware of her devastating reality, it reached out to her and offered to pay her rent and bills for three months. The church went beyond that to coach her on businesses she can do to sustain her family during this challenging time. "The church held our hands and walked with us during this tough time, and we had hope in front of us," said Rehema.

The church said, "We were inspired by the fundamental message of our faith to love one another and our neighbor as ourselves, thus we responded to the needs of members adversely impacted by COVID-19". "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own". This initiative was also supported by the members of the church as well, "Church members were prompt in their response to contribute toward the fund to help others. The needs and challenges were varied. As some lost jobs, others went out of business. We supported members to pay rent, covered the cost of transportation to shift houses, raised funds for food and family upkeep, among other things. New business initiatives were also encouraged and supported by the church"

Members of this community live in peace because they know they have the support of their church even in times as hard as COVID-19.



## SAFE WATER TO THE RESCUE

When WHO and medical specialists around the world said washing our hands with clean water can help curb the spread of COVID-19, Water Mission responded. In a country where an estimated 4 million people lack access to clean water, and 30 million people lack access to improved sanitation, Water Mission’s response was heaven-sent.

Water Mission Tanzania is a nonprofit engineering organization that designs, builds, and implements safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) arrangements for communities in Tanzania. Water Mission Tanzanian office was opened in 2013 by its Managing Director, Benjamin Filskov.

When the first COVID-19 case was announced in March 2020, Water Mission Tanzania went to work. Powered by the unfortunate reality that clean and safe water is in short supply in many places in Tanzania. Add to this shortage the increased demand for it brought about by COVID-19. The shortage of clean water became even more serious. High-traffic areas like schools, hospitals, bus stands, markets, and prisons needed an intervention, and Water Mission came to the rescue. “After my team and I visited a few hospitals in Dar es Salaam, we

quickly realized the urgent need to respond to this matter because we saw there was no handwashing facility at the hospital,” said Benjamin Filskov.

Water Mission installed 800 large (250litre and 500litre) hand-washing stations in hospitals, health centers, schools, prisons, and many high traffic areas across the country working in partnership with the Tanzania government and the Grundfos Foundation. All this was done between April 2020 and July 2020. Thousands of people had access to clean water for washing their hands as an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

“Things were bad. We had a tap but the water supply was inconsistent and our school is large. But the solution Water Mission brought to the school was just great because students are now able to wash their hands whenever needed. Guests were also able to wash their hands as soon as they set foot in the school and before they left. These are things we weren’t able to do before due to the inconsistent water supply.” said Mohammed Song’ora, a teacher at one of the beneficiary schools in Morogoro, Uwanja wa Taifa Secondary School.



**JIKINGE NA MAAMBUKIZI YA VIRUSI VYA CORONA**

Kohoa au piga chafya kwenye kiwiko cha mkono au tumia tishu na kisha itupe kwenye chombo cha taka

Osha mikono yako mara kwa mara kwa maji tiririka na sabuni kwa sekunde 20

Tumia vitakasa mikono vyenye miminika vya dawa zaidi ya asilimia 70 (sanitizer)

KUTOA TAARIFA YA UGONJWA WA COVID-19 PIGA SIMU AU TUMA UJUMBE OFISI YA CHAVITA KWA NAMBA 0787-436-338 / 0737-731-341

## CHAVITA increases access to COVID-19 related information for the deaf

Tanzania’s association for the Deaf (CHAVITA) saw the need to raise awareness to their constituent communities about COVID-19. This led them to design a national level project to assist the deaf to take precautions against risks related to COVID-19 in order to protect, not just themselves, but also their loved ones.

The association has invested in a number of laudable efforts, such as creating posters, pamphlets and short videos with sign language and disseminating them in various places such as hospitals, bus stops, market places and on social media platforms including Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CHAVITA has directly reached about 1,600 women and 1,520 men in addition to thousands of other people that have been reached on national television stations such as ITV and AzamTV.

In a unique show of solidarity, CHAVITA has worked with multiple partners, including FCS, Abilis Foundation, I4ID and KKKT all of who have supported the association to expand its reach and achieve results in the interest of inclusion in access to information for the deaf.

**MAMBO YA KUZINGATIA UNAPOTUMIA BARAKOA YA KITAMBAA**

- 1 IVAE BARAKOA KILA UTOKAPO NYUMBANI
- 2 HAKIKISHA UNA BARAKOA 2 AU ZAIKI ZA VITAMBAA
- 3 USISHIKE MBELE, USISHUSHE BARAKOA NUSU PIANI
- 4 FUJA BARAKOA YAKO BAADA YA KUHTUMIA KWA MAJI NA SABUNI
- 5 ANIKA JUANI BARAKOA YAKO BAADA YA KUFUJA
- 6 PIGA PASI BARAKOA YAKO BAADA YA KUKAUKA
- 7 HAKIKISHA UNAFIATA MALEKEZO YANAYOTOLEWA NA ASASI ZA WATU WENYE ULEMUVA NA SERIKALI

KUTOA TAARIFA YA UGONJWA WA COVID-19 PIGA SIMU AU TUMA UJUMBE OFISI YA CHAVITA KWA NAMBA 0787-436-338 / 0737-731-341

**JIKINGE NA VIRUSI VYA CORONA**

Epuka mikusanyiko na misongamano

Kaa umbali wa zaidi ya mita 1 kati yako na mtu mwingine

Epuka kushikana mikono na kukumbatiana na mtu mwingine

KUTOA TAARIFA YA UGONJWA WA COVID-19 PIGA SIMU AU TUMA UJUMBE OFISI YA CHAVITA KWA NAMBA 0787-436-338 / 0737-731-341



## Water Stations in Public Markets

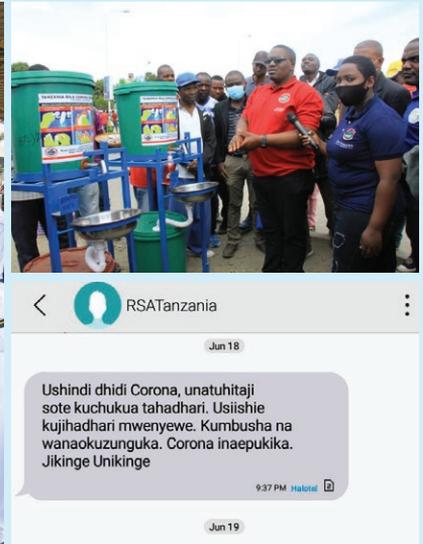
If you have ever travelled regionally within Tanzania, you soon realized that public water taps are a rare sight. If you needed to wash your hands, you'd need to go to a hotel or someone's home. Sometimes even public bathrooms don't have working sources of water. According to Water.Org, over 24 million people are impacted by The United Republic of Tanzania's water crisis; that's almost half of the population of Tanzania. Add to that the fact that over 43 million do not practice proper sanitation and you have fertile conditions for the spread of the coronavirus.

The World Health Organization gave advice for the public to "clean your hands frequently using soap and water" as one of the ways to protect yourself from contracting and spreading COVID-19. Other means of protecting included washing your hands using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Considering we have a water problem, the latter seems ideal, but unfortunately, at the beginning of the pandemic, hand sanitizers were hard to find, and they were expensive. So even though we have a water problem, water still

seemed like a better and more feasible strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19.

To the rescue came Tanzania Project, a non-profit organization headquartered in Norway with offices in Tanzania as well. They targeted people who are in the Nyasa district. They gave out 148 handwashing stations and 572 bottles of liquid soap. These items were received by the Nyasa District Commissioner Bi Isabela Chilumba. She then distributed the stations to the Kilosa market, Mbamba-bay market, a place where bodaboda drivers park to wait for their customers.

Bi Chilumba said, "I want to thank Tanzania Project from Norway for caring about the wellbeing of people in Nyasa enough to give us these water stations at such a time as this. We will distribute these amongst the people in public markets and educate people so they can be better equipped to fight this coronavirus."



## RSA Together as One

Dar es salaam, a city where 8,000 daladalas carry about two-thirds of the city’s inhabitants around every day, provides an excellent example of the challenge that people have on how to abide by coronavirus pandemic control guidelines without restricting their movements.

How do you do social distancing in highly packed buses and overcrowded terminals? How do you avoid touching surfaces when boarding and alighting from public transport? How do you ensure that people wash their hands before they board these buses? These are some of the issues that need to be addressed if one is to fight effectively against the pandemic.

This is the problem that Road Safety Ambassadors (RSA) decided to address. For six years RSA had been working with transportation stakeholders in Tanzania to protect the public from preventable accidents which make over 80% of all accidents that lead to injuries and deaths. They use both online and offline strategies to educate, sensitise, and advocate for best practices.

‘When COVID-19 entered, we realised that the public that we seek to protect would be at risk from the very transport tools that they use due to the virus,’ says John Seka, a former CEO and board member of RSA. ‘Therefore, we came up with a 4-months project dubbed ‘Jikinge

Unikinge’ to remind people that by protecting themselves they protect others.’

‘Jikinge Unikinge’ was geared at achieving three objectives: to provide education for bus drivers, to donate protective equipment, and to provide public education by distributing flyers and by mass media campaigns. RSA used bulk SMS to send text messages to all cross-country bus drivers every morning reminding them to protect themselves, to make announcements reminding passengers to follow government’s COVID-19 prevention guidelines – including washing their hands frequently and wearing masks. They also donated pedal-driven water buckets to provide water for people to wash their hands for every transport hub in the regions of Dar es salaam, Arusha, Tanga, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, and Mwanza. Through these means they ensured that all users of public transport were effectively protected.

‘Jikinge Unikinge’ piggybacked on the established networks of public awareness previously used to sensitise people for road safety to sensitise them for COVID-19 safety. We could rapidly scale our outreach to deal a major blow to the virus. This shows what we can achieve when we face a problem together as one.’



## Giving Life-Saving Oxygen to Critical Patients

The third COVID-19 wave has been ravaging several regions in Tanzania. This was to be anticipated following reports of dramatic increases of Delta-variant cases in Uganda, Zambia, and Kenya in May. As cases started to trickle into Tanzania, the government openly acknowledged the presence of the third wave by mid-June.

An official from Bugando Hospital in Mwanza talked to the media reporting that the hospital was short of 500 oxygen tanks due to highly increased number of patients needing oxygen support, that's when the scale of the problem started to be appreciated.

When *Kumekucha Tanzania* – a popular Clubhouse online community that draws at least 300 listeners everyday – discussed the issue on its daily breakfast talks, it was suggested that they mobilise themselves to raise the money to help Bugando.

'We already had multiple reports of many facilities not having adequate supply of oxygen tanks. Since we were just at the beginning of the curve, there was a significant risk that the situation was going to escalate. Something had to be done,' says Jones Mrusha, one of the hosts of *Kumekucha Tanzania*.

This was the genesis of 'Oxygen for Tanzania' campaign which was aimed at mobilising Tanzanians to contribute to save lives of those who face breathing difficulties during the pandemic. Each patient uses between 8 – 10 small oxygen tanks per day, so a supply of 500 tanks for Bugando would sustain up to 60 critical patients at the hospital.

'We needed to raise about 400 million shillings, but it looked like a small price to pay given how high the stakes were. And the response was amazing! We got tariffs-free Tigo Pesa and M-Pesa accounts from Tigo and Vodacom – and we received enough cash to purchase over 100 tanks on the first day!'

Within a short while, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), Tanzania's second biggest hospital also sounded an alarm saying that it didn't have enough oxygen tanks. So, it was apparent that the issue wasn't limited to Bugando only – so, despite the initial successes for 'Oxygen for Tanzania' campaign, it was decided to keep it going.

'To fight against the pandemic requires our collective effort. We need to stand together. We are doing our part.'



## Mo Dewji Foundation

### To whom much is given, much will be required

The Mo Dewji Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of underprivileged Tanzanians by alleviating Tanzanians from poverty and hardship through development interventions. Since 2000, it has made great efforts to develop and expand the company's Corporate Social Responsibility and its role in creating positive change.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Foundation coordinated with Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to provide critical supplies. The Mo Dewji Foundation built handwashing stations across the mentioned hospitals and donated hand washing liquid soap and sanitisers. The Foundation also donated washable face masks across different markets in Dar es Salaam to citizens at public bus stops and motorcycles drivers.

# GOT BETTER DURING COVID-19



The livelihoods of many people were affected during COVID-19. The larger global economy was affected while inevitably affecting national economies. This includes Tanzania. People lost their jobs and businesses shut down. Many people were and are still struggling to figure out where their next meal will come from.

Yet in such a desolate time, hope arises in Lindi, where Mwanahamisi Habibu lives with her five children. Mwanahamisi has five children with three different men. One man is dead, and the remaining two abandoned their children. When thinking of life before and during the early days of COVID-19, Mwanahamisi said, "I have five children, and I am on my own as a parent. Work was hard to find. At times we would eat one meal a day. There were times things were so bad I had to beg."

In this bleak state of life for Mwanahamisi and her family, hope was renewed through an initiative started by Bak-AIDS. Bak-AIDS is a non-profit based in Lindi. Bak-AIDS made an intentional decision in 2020 to empower families in remote villages through economic empowerment for community groups. If people needed to be resilient, they especially needed to do so during COVID-19. "As a response to COVID-19, we brought to the communities' poultry and horticulture projects. We did that to help poor households take care of their basic needs. We managed to help about 360 people through this project," said Mr. Kazi Ramadhani, a programs manager for Bak-AIDS.

Bak-AIDS implemented a poultry farming program where groups of 20 community members were given about 200 chicks to nurture, grow and eventually sell. Bak-AIDS incurred the entire cost of building the chicken huts, providing the feed, and training the community members on the necessary skills to grow the chicken. After two months, the chicks would be mature enough to be sold. And it is at this point Bak-AIDS takes a step back financially and allows the group to walk on its own.

Among the people who benefitted from this initiative is Mwanahamisi Habibu. She says, "After being part of this project now my kids study in peace (she can afford school supplies), and we are assured of eating as well. In the past, at times we would eat one meal a day but now my children can eat three meals a day."

She is not the only one who benefited from this, 359 more community members' lives were transformed through this initiative.





## 250,000,000 REASONS WHY

The Rotary organization exists to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

When a crisis hits, your values are always put to a test. Will you act as though you believe in your mission or will you cower away? When Rotary was put to this test at the beginning of the pandemic, they responded with deeds that shouted louder than their mission statement.

At the beginning of the pandemic, masks were hard to find, they were expensive and to say they were needed is a gross understatement. Doctors had to continue serving patients, social workers, national security officials, business vendors all had to continue serving the people and in doing so, they were putting themselves at great risk. So facemasks were essential in reducing the risk of spreading Corona and to this cause, Rotary gave 250,000,000 million shillings to the Ministry of Health to help purchase face masks in 2020.

Maggie Nnko, who is a member of one of the chapters was probed on why did she continued to give her time, energy, and at times resources during the troubling times. She responded, “We look forward to an opportunity to serve. We all want to serve, we’re not getting paid for this, we’re here to serve the community and it is so fulfilling.”

She continued to say that what bonds all Rotarians together is their desire to serve their communities and their love for people. You would think collectively giving 250,000,000 million would be enough, but no. Rotary clubs across the country went out and served their communities. An example of this is found in Mbezi Beach and Jangwani, Dar es Salaam where they provided facemasks, sanitizers, and disinfectants to Bajaj and Bodaboda drivers. And to this day they continue to commit themselves to serve others. “The needs are always there, you address one and you never feel like you’ve done enough,” said Maggie.



Khoja Shia Ithna

## Asheri Jamaat Gives Back to its Community

On 13th April 2020, Ebrahim Haji Charitable Health Center received a patient with high fever and with severe breathing difficulties. This was their first case of COVID-19. Clinicians worked hard but they could not save the patient – he succumbed to the disease the following day.

This was the beginning of the wave of COVID-19 cases which exposed Ebrahim Haji's inadequate capacity to deal with the pandemic – only two beds were available for COVID-19 patients. As more COVID-19 patients arrived, other wards had to be closed to accommodate other patients that needed hospitalisation. COVID-19 stretched the facility to the limit.

Ebrahim Haji usually serves members of 10,000 strong Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat (KSIJ) who observed these developments with great concern. When KSIJ COVID-19 taskforce consulted the community's leadership, the leadership made a visit to Ebrahim Haji to announce that they have decided to donate, revamp, and equip the building next to Ebrahim Haji to improve the facility's capacity to cope with the pandemic.

This was done swiftly: within 45 days, Ebrahim

Haji had a new structure with ultramodern facilities capable of taking in up to 55 patients at a time. All rooms were equipped with proper airway equipment including oxygen concentrators and mechanical ventilators.

'The effort that was done by the community has helped us to tackle the pandemic the right way. If the new wing hadn't been there, we would have struggled to admit people and give them oxygen. But we have a central oxygen system and without it I don't know how we would have survived the pandemic,' says Alihussein Moloo, an administrator at Ebrahim Haji.

The intervention currently benefits about 35,000 patients that Ebrahim Haji serves annually. COVID-19 patients who need hospitalisation are charged only 80,000 per night, including oxygen charges – a very low rate compared to other facilities. Members of the KSIJ community are accorded free oxygen services altogether.

This story reminds us how effective collective efforts can be when tackling significant societal challenges. United people stand, divided they fall.

SECTION 3

# CORPORATE GIVING



## CLOUDS MEDIA

### Creating a transformative giving culture

Deep down inside most human beings, there is an intense desire for a purpose. Charity works offer a reason for existence for some people. As long as a person is a member of a large community, they cannot escape some form of social obligation. Organisations likewise recognise the importance of contributing to a cause by giving back to the communities in which they operate.

This is how Clouds Media thinks, and that is how its *Radio ya Watu (the people's station)* tagline came to being. Immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic panic ensued; the station reacted in various ways. The first approach was to educate the public by dispelling false COVID-19 narratives by working closely with the Ministry of Health. The panic had unleashed the lightning-speed spread of dangerous coronavirus misinformation that could cause more risks to communities.

Moreover, Clouds launched a fundraising campaign to purchase and distribute protective items like sanitizers, facemasks, soluble soap, and hand washing equipment. The distribution focused on areas with a high concentration of people, such as markets, bus stations, and daladalas in Dar es salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, and Dodoma regions. In Dar es salaam, hand washing facilities were installed in Mabibo, Kariakoo, Buguruni markets. Public health officials were part of the core team and were responsible for delivering health education through high-

powered PA systems. The response from the public was positive. Big companies (telecoms, banks, etc.) started contributing funds to the campaign.

Profit is an end goal for nearly all businesses. But this doesn't absolve companies from contributing to social causes. As Rockfield, Clouds's Creative Manager, put it, "you cannot be a responsible organisation if all you care about is self-interests. Our company is part of the community; that is why we are always quick to respond to people's needs. I would advise others to follow. Go beyond the Corporate Social Responsibility. Set giving as part of your company's culture". If one looks around, society still agonises over much bigger social problems besides COVID-19. It doesn't matter the size of donations. Giving is relative. One's small amount can cover a more considerable need of another.

***You cannot be a responsible organisation if all you care about is self-interests. Our company is part of the community; that is why we are always quick to respond to people's needs. I would advise others to follow. Go beyond the Corporate Social Responsibility. Set giving as part of your company's culture***



## Puma Oil

### Partners in good and bad times

In every war, defeating the enemy requires unique strategies and collective efforts from diverse actors. COVID-19 pandemic is a universal threat. Virtually every nation was waging a war of its own when the pandemic emerged. Tanzania was not spared. The government knew from the beginning it was necessary to gather all available resources. Quickly, a National Committee against COVID-19 was formed. Its central role was to coordinate efforts and to raise funds from benevolent partners - individuals and companies.

Puma Energy Tanzania responded to the government's invitation. The company supplied 50,000 litres of fuel worth more than Tanzanian shilling 100 million. Such support was directed at improving health facilities' ability to respond to emergencies. When resources are available, it becomes easy to operate ambulances, transport medicine and doctors fast enough.

On top of that, the company understood well its responsibility to protect both employees and customers. So, Puma Energy distributed protective suits to its staff, installing hand-washing equipment at strategic points in its filling stations and offices. Station operators were mandated to wear facemasks and gloves all-time when serving customers.

The pandemic affected everyone. *"Our company sustained huge financial losses too. Despite that, we are operating among the community. We have a role in helping to defeat the enemy that is affecting us all. This is the reason why we heeded the government call for partnership in anti-COVID-19 drive. The company gave donations related to the pandemic to other non-government organisations as well."* - Goodluck Shirima, Manager of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Puma Energy Tanzania.



## USING PRODUCT DESIGN TO COMBAT COVID-19

How DIT Design Studio was positioned to use design to combat COVID-19 is a thing of fate. The technical college has been home to many inventions in the manufacturing industry and has made many products that have served SMEs and other commercial and social groups. The focus to invent was deepened with the launch of the DIT Design Studio in 2019 with the generous support of The Lemelson Foundation. The studio was launched to give students a platform and resources to solve problems using design. Little did they know in less than a year since the launch, the modern world will be facing one of the biggest threats its ever faced in the last 50 years. And DIT Design Studio was ready to respond.

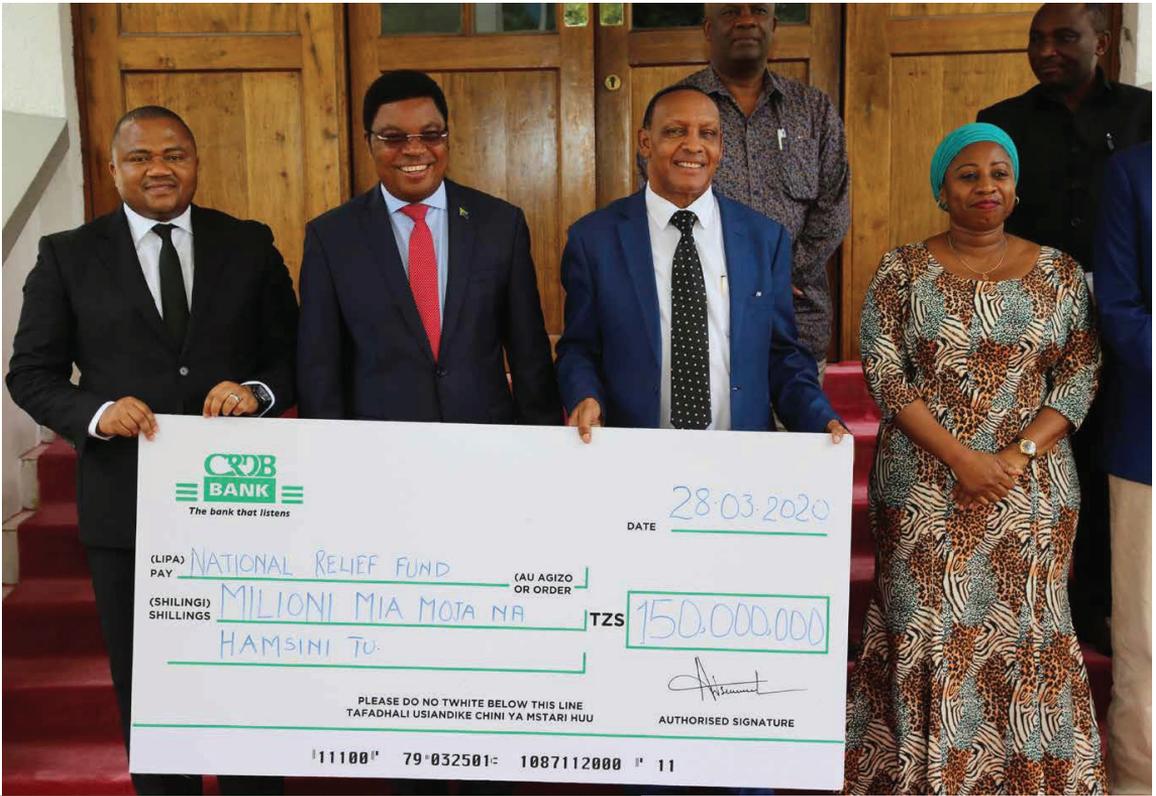
“Before COVID-19 cases were reported in Tanzania, our design studio staff began to look at what other innovation hubs were doing in response to the virus around the world. We also spoke to clinicians in hospitals around Dar es Salaam to find out firsthand what specific needs they had. We found that the need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was universal, and it became our first focus.” said Julia Jenjezwa, DIT Design Studio Coordinator.

The students who work at the studio quickly began manufacturing face shields. They collaborated with health care workers, who

helped give them feedback on the design and its intended utility. “To date, we have produced and distributed over 2,000 face shields to hospitals and healthcare workers in Tanzania. Beneficiaries include Amana Hospital, Aga Khan Hospital, Muhimbili National Hospital, and healthcare workers as far off as Arusha and Zanzibar,” says Ms. Julie.

“We have also designed an intubation box to be used to protect healthcare workers who must intubate COVID-19 patients. A prototype of this design was donated to Amana Hospital and to the Anesthesia and Critical Care Simulation Laboratory at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). Both these institutions will be testing the prototypes and will provide us feedback,” Ms. Julie continued.

In addition, the studio has launched an automatic hand washing machine. They have invested their support in the development of bag valve masks and automatic ventilators. And it is working to create ventilators, ultra-violet sanitizing, and Sun UV light-based sanitation for rural-based communities. As we continue to battle this global pandemic, we are grateful that innovators in Tanzania are at work to combat this invisible enemy.



## Leading by Example

# During the Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic came a-knocking in Tanzania, CRDB Bank's immediate response was to join other stakeholders in the fight against the pandemic by making donations to those who were at the forefront of this war.

A total of about 240m shillings was given to fight against COVID-19. TZS 150M was given to the National Relief Fund through Prime Minister's Office, other donations to the medical professionals and hospitals to complement their efforts in the struggle.





# NMB Bank People over profits

The COVID-19 pandemic required an emergency response to prevent the spread. As a bank, NMB collaborated with the national and local authorities to help prevent and protect the community from COVID-19. The Government had called for all stakeholders, including financial institutions, to join efforts to fight against the virus.

NMB bank managed to raise up to TZS 200 million for the cause. The resources were distributed in the following manner; TZS 100 million was donated to the national relief fund through the Prime Minister’s Office for Tanzania mainland. Another TZS 30 million was disbursed through the Vice President Office of Zanzibar to help combat

the pandemic on the island. On the other hand, the regional and district authorities received TZS 70 million through NMB zonal offices.

On top of that, NMB bank reached out directly to communities across the country by providing material assistance and moral support to prevent further transmission of the virus. Employees likewise mobilized themselves through the matching-up fund by donating personal protective equipment such as face masks, hand sanitizers, handwashing machines, and soap dispensers. All donations went to the most vulnerable groups in the society.

# Youth-led Innovation to Limit COVID-19 Transmissions

In response to the global campaign to curb COVID-19 infections, a group of young Tanzanian technologists came together in early 2020 to join the battle against COVID-19 by producing 3D-printed Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to protect frontline medical workers from COVID-19 infections.

Shaukatali Hussein is the director of Robotech Labs in Dar es Salaam. He championed this initiative in partnership with Bits & Bytes, Stic Labs, Uhuru Labs, Tanzania Makers Association, DIT Design Studio, and a team from Ireland. Using his labs at Robotech, he produced sample PPEs and got the design approved by the relevant medical board so that other makers wouldn't have to waste time to research, design, and seek medical approval.

3D printing is a high-tech solution that merges computers' 3D objects modelling capabilities with electro-mechanical machines that turn models into products using any material of one's choosing. Using 3D printers, for example, transparent plastic face shields can be designed, shared, and reproduced by anyone with a 3D printer, given the design.

In this initiative, the team mapped people with access to 3D printers in Tanzania and supplied them with open-source 3D designs for their use. Then they linked health facilities to the closest printers through SMS messages so that they can place their orders for face shields and get them supplied for free.

'We have printed and distributed thousands of 3D PPEs and there is a steady demand from hospitals



**3D Print for COVID-19 Tanzania**  
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requesting more', said Shaukatali Hussein.

'The beauty of this project is how we work together on different variants of an existing PPE and modify it for use based on the area and condition of deployment as well as an understanding of the needs from healthcare workers themselves.'

The novelty of using high-tech in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic aside, this case highlights the unique approach where resources located in different locations are mobilised for a common purpose. The strength of the initiative is not in the resources that everyone provides but is in the mobilisation which magnifies both the size and the impact of the engagement. Such is the genius of collaborative philanthropic efforts.



# MTABE

## Innovative Distance Learning

Like many countries across the continent, most children in Tanzania received little education as schools were briefly closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. The pandemic was unexpected; therefore, schools had not prepared to face the challenge. In the absence of teachers' guidance, most children relied on old notes and lessons. Some subjects and topics, however, are challenging to study at home without assistance. It was out of this desperation that MTABE, a technology innovation house focusing on educational technology and making education easy to access, came up with an alternative plan.

In collaboration with Facebook, MTABE created a platform that provides e-learning to students via WhatsApp. After subscribing to the service, students were able to ask questions and receive answers immediately. This enabled them to keep up because the content aligned perfectly with what was supposed to be learned in class on that particular day. Likewise, students could follow along and learn through the questions and

answers presented by peers. Access to resources like study notes was another amazing feature that was available. The program benefited about 5,000 students in the country. Even in times of crisis, students are willing to learn. What is required is the provision of quality content and the availability of proper delivery systems. Innovation can elevate education quality by aiding both students and teachers to achieve better learning outcomes.

***“What we need in our environment is to build easy solutions for our social problems. I am part of our society, so it shouldn't feel like a burden to practice giving. I fulfil that by making innovative products. The society, in return, should learn to reward and encourage good behavior.” says Given Edward, the founder of MTABE.***



# DO THE RIGHT THING

At the beginning of the pandemic when many organizations were losing money, there were a few that continued to do well. Among them was the law firm Clyde & Co. As a global brand, Clyde & Co had a prosperous 2020 considering the circumstances.

There are a few ways one can respond to success in such a time; they can save every shilling, after all, nobody knows when the world will go back to normal, or they can do the right thing and give back to all their employees, recognizing that their lives have been dramatically affected by Coronavirus. One of the impacts is financial. Luckily for Clyde & Co employees, Clyde chose the latter.

Asked why it was important for them to respond by giving, their Managing Partner, Mr. Peter Kisanda said, "The ethos of the firm is based on the premise of mutuality. Employees work very hard for us and its incumbent upon us in a time of unprecedented crisis to look after them. This is what we did"

Recognizing the risk this move poses to their bottom line, he said, "we haven't come out of COVID-19 and the situation economically caused by COVID-19 has not gone away, but what we decided to do is just do the right thing when we had the cash flow, we might not always have the cash flow but it did feel good to let our teams know that we had them in mind". Clyde & Co spent over \$80,000 in addition to the basic expenses. The funds were distributed to all employees to assist them with various pressing needs during COVID-19.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

"In the last month, we have been handing out cash contributions to drivers who have tested positive to COVID-19 and those advised to quarantine." This is a statement issued by Uber Tanzania. Uber understood that quarantining will greatly affect the livelihoods of their drivers. And so they decided to give cash contributions to help cover the living costs for the drivers and their families.

This was a generous act by Uber because most of their drivers live on what they make in a day. This ensured they could take care of their families in such unprecedented times. "When our communities are plagued by this catastrophe that has not happened for many years, we recognize your (driver's) work and the efforts you are making to provide essential services and we are ready to give you the support you need." said the official statement from Uber. This program was available to all drivers, even the drivers who had been with Uber for about 30 days. Financial assistance was given for up to 14 days (of not working due to the above circumstances) based on the income history of the specific driver.



## BOOSTING THE IMMUNITY OF THE NEXT GENERATION

The people who are affected the most by COVID-19 are people whose immunity is weak. This naturally puts old people and people with chronic diseases at a higher risk. But a group that is often overlooked is that of children living in highly populated orphanages. Kids in these orphanages don't control who is coming or going out and whether or not they take proper precautions against coronavirus. This exposure puts them at high risk.

In an attempt to lower this risk due to high exposure, one can do a number of things. One of the solutions is strengthening the immunity of the children living in these conditions; and empowering their bodies to fight this virus. And BF SUMA, a pharmaceutical and health products developer, manufacture and distributor, took charge to make sure the immunity of the marginalized children is strong. Inspired by their philosophy, "empowering communities to have a brighter life" they donated 30 boxes of organic immunity boosters called Pure and Broken Ganoderma Spores to the children and caretakers of Chakuwama Orphanage in Dar es Salaam. Each box is sold at \$60. On top of this, they donated items like masks and groceries with a total value of \$500.

**30** boxes of organic immunity boosters

**\$60**

Each box is sold at

**\$500** a total value

When their operations manager, Mr. Charles Mtemicha, was asked "Why is giving and responding to the needs of your community important to you guys?", he replied, "Involving our self with the community serves as an invaluable platform to build strong relationships with the community, support people in need, and change lives for the better."







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