ChildFund International

Humanitarian Situation Report Template

Humanitarian Situation Report [# 12]
COVID-19 – [The Gambia]
[June 17, 2020]
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[Date Range Covered by Report: June 10-17, 2020]

FOR UPDATES, PLEASE HIGHLIGHT UPDATED SECTIONS IN RED

Part 1: The Overall Situation
COUNTRY

Total Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
34	1	24
SOURCE: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6		

ChildFund-supported areas (Provide only if you have reliable data on this. You can report on a consolidated basis or by program state/region/province/etc. if you have this detail.)

Geographical area (country or state/region/province	Total Number of COVID19 Cases Reported	Number of Deaths	Number of Cases Recuperated
West Coast Region	3	0	3
Lower River Region	0	0	0
SOURCE: National Ministry of Health or other reliable source			

- Any relevant background information about areas affected.

The Gambia's Ministry of Health through the Minister has confirmed that the country has registered its first case of the COVID 19 virus on Tuesday March 17, 2020. The said case was a young Gambian lady who travelled into the country from United Kingdom via Dubai and Cassablanca. On March 22, 2020, the Minister announced another case after death. This one was a Bangladesh, who arrived in the country on March 13 from Senegal, and stayed at Marakas . The deceased was sick and received treatment for diabetics. As his health condition worsen, and was being transported to the main referral hospital, he passed on in the ambulance. The third registered case was a 71-year-old man from France who came to The Gambia on March 17, 2020 and stayed in a village in the Upper River Region. He was confirmed positive for corona virus on March 23, 2020. A fourth case has been registered on Sunday, March 29, 2020 involving a 53-year-old Gambian man who arrived in the Gambia from France on March 15, 2020. On Saturday, April 11, 2020, the Gambia registered 5 new confirmed cases out of the 76 new samples tested. 70 tested negative while one test case is

incomplete, and the sample will be retested. 2 out of the 5 news cases are local transmissions. This brings the total confirmed cases in the Gambia to 9. Again another new case have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health and this take the new total to 10.

As the Gambia registered more cases, the Government made declarations. Among them was suspension of all social and other related gatherings to promote the social distancing strategy. Initial 14 days quarantine imposed on arriving passengers from certain countries, and later closure of air space, expect for medical cargos, and border closure with Senegal except for essential services. All schools including universities are closed for the next 21 days and ban on international travels for Government officials effective March 18, 2020.

With the registration of an additional case, a state of Public Emergency has been declared on Friday, March 27, 2020 by the Government throughout the country. Among the declaration statements are:

1. Scale down of government operations: All heads of institutions including private sector and other institutions have been instructed to scale down their activities, with minimal staff to perform basic services. Where feasible, staff can work from home.

2. All public transport shall carry half of the total number of passengers they can transport by law.

As a result of the above, ChildFund the Gambia is observing partial shutdown effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

The Gambia government continues to take measures to stop the further spread of COVID-19. The National Assembly have on Friday 3rd April approved an extension of the State of Public Emergency across the country for a period of 45 days. This extension which expires on May 17, 2020, was further extended by the President for another 21 days. This extension expires on June 9, 2020. On June 10, 2020 the President of the Republic further extended the state of emergency for additional 21 days which will be expiring on June 28, 2020.

With technical support from the WHO Country Office, The Gambia has developed a national COVID-19 preparedness plan (for one year). The plan worth about 8.8 million Dollars has been circulated to partners for possible support. As part of overall national preventive, and response measures, the health ministry is engaged in various activities such as awareness raising and provision of supplies to points of entry. Furthermore, trainings have been organized for officers including public health, clinical health care, immigration, food safety and quality authority, phytosanitary, fire and rescue services and Gambia Revenue Authority on infection prevention, control and proper use of personal protective equipment.

Despite these efforts at the national level, the porous nature of Gambia's borders with Senegal, lack of test facilities in the country except at the Medical Research Council The Gambia Unit, social interactions especially those using public transport systems, the crowded community markets, dissemination of mixed messages among other things, will still put the country at risk of more infections.

Confirmed Cases

The Gambia has 34 confirmed cases, 24 recovered, 1 death and 9 active cases. 33 new tests conducted

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works

Partner Organization (Use Salesforce identifying code/name.)	# of Enrolled and Sponsored Children		COVID19 Cases Reported in ChildFund Communities (Y/N/Unknown) Provide number if available.	Number of Enrolled Children Reported with COVID19 (If available.)	Number of enrolled children diseased as result of COVID19
	Sponsored	Enrolled			
FDDF	3812	5802	0	0	0
SKF	3681	5619	0	0	0
DDYF	2924	4611	3 (already recovered	0	0
etc.					

Child deaths: List any sponsored child (with Partner organization and child ID from salesforce) diseased as a result of COVID19. (Note: These need to be reported immediately following the regular sponsorship protocols.)

Partner Organization (Use Salesforce identifying code/name.)	What is the status of the program/sponsorship processes (operational/suspended)?					
	Program Implementation	CVS	M&E Level 2	Enrollment /Disaffiliation	Sponsorship Communication	DFC
FDDF	Operational (Modified)	Suspended		Suspended	Operational (Electronic)	Operational
SKF	Operational (Modified)	Suspended		Suspended	Operational (Electronic)	Operational
DDYF	Operational (Modified)	Suspended		Suspended	Operational (Electronic)	Operational
etc.						

Note: As a global measure, all sponsor visits have been suspended.

- What issues are children in these areas facing (food shortages, safety concerns, schools closure, etc.)?

With the continuous increase of confirmed cases in the Gambia and the pronouncements made by Government, ChildFund the Gambia is especially worried about the children and families we serve. These families already struggle to put food on the table, to find clean water, to access health care they need, most of them live in crowded conditions making social distancing a challenge. With the closure of schools, children are loitering in the streets which makes them to be very vulnerable in contracting Covid-19.

- Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis situation.

Covid -19 may affect vulnerable children and their families directly or indirectly through economic disruptions, which could cause devastating and exponential harm to the children. For example, the

closure of schools could lead to exploitation of children as they continue to be used as petty traders, child beggars, domestic workers etc. These among others, posed significant child protection risk to children.

Part 3: ChildFund's Response

Key Strategies	Activities	Expected Results	Responsible Person	Timeline
Communication **(Ongoing)**	Dissemination of key messages	All staff, children and parents acquire awareness of and are participating and supporting good personal hygiene during the COVID-19 period and beyond	Communications Specialist	June 2020
	Preventive Measures against COVID-19			
Partnership **(Ongoing)**	LP Engagement	• Judicious use of resources to respond to COVID-19 • Resilient communities during the Pandemic	CD/PSD/FD	June 2020
	Ministry of Health	• Medical items donated through GIK • Information materials donated		
Monitoring and Evaluation **(Ongoing)**	Establishment of a task team	Data on cases and death compiled and reported Sitreps updated and shared weekly		

3.a. Overall

- Who is or will be leading/managing the response? **Nfamara Dabo – Acting Country Director**
- How is ChildFund linked with humanitarian coordination structures, i.e., in which clusters or working groups do we participate? The most recent/next meeting and who is representing ChildFund? Donor meetings we have attended, or missions that we are aware of related to the response?

  ChildFund is participating in various working groups as below:

  1. **National Taskforce on Covid19: This was established by the Government of the Gambia under the leadership of Ministry of Health and Mr. Nfamara Dabo represents us in this taskforce**

2. **National Disaster Agency working group: This was established by the Agency to bring partners to look at specific sectoral responses and Mr. Bubacarr Jammeh represents ChildFund**
3. **Local Education Group: This group meets to discuss about the education implications of covid. Mrs Awa Minteh Represents ChildFund**
4. **National Child Protection Working Group: This group was recently formed to engage stakeholders to discuss about the effects of COVID-19 on children. Mr. Famara Fofana represents ChildFund in the committee and they meet weekly under the leadership of the department of social welfare**

3.b. Program Response

Please organize your program response report as per the 4 objectives included in our global response plan. You can add an additional category if you have response activities planned or executed that do not align with these objectives. For each objective use the questions below to guide your report.

- What kind of response activities or interventions have been executed? What support items are needed or have been collected/distributed?
- What is the current progress of implementation vs. the established response plan?
- Who are we partnering or collaborating with to provide our response?
- What kind of response activities are you still planning for the coming period?

3.b.1. Stop COVID-19 from infecting children and families

ChildFund's Global Response Plan To help children and families protect themselves from COVID-19, we have installed handwashing stands in communities; educating communities about symptoms, hygiene measures and where to get tested or treatment; and distributing soap, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks to families and frontline, health workers.

3.b.2. Ensure that children get food they need

ChildFund's Global Response Plan We have commenced the cash transfer programming delivering cash to approximately 2300 families

3.b.2. 1. *Cash Transfers and vouchers*

- The Gambia has finalized the Cash Transfer guidance and have successfully completed the engagement with Local partners and the beneficiary families. The CO has agreed with the LPs to use May 2020 subsidy to commence cash transfer using community credit unions. This is already commenced on Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Cash transfers or vouchers executed

Beneficiaries		

Total	*Gender (if available)*		**Amount transferred (US$)**	**Transfer mechanism (i.e. mobile money, banking system other financial service provider etc,**
	Female	Male		
2300	1495	805	USD$13,676.47	Local Financial Transfer (Credit Union)

3.b.2.2. *Other responses in relation to objective 3.b.2.*

3.b.3. Keep children safe from Violence: physically and emotionally

ChildFund's Global Response Plan
We are supporting community-based child protection systems that identify, respond to and refer cases of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation. We are providing hygiene materials, food and other basics. We recently joined the National Child Protection Platform are taken the lead in the community engagement subgroup. The subgroup has the mandate to engage communities to how to keep children safe especially during this covid pandemic.

3.b.4. Help children continue to do their job: Learning

ChildFund's Global Response Plan
While schools remain closed, we are supporting children's learning through radio and television programs. We are working with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, UNICEF and other actors to facilitate the smooth running of the national virtual learning program.

3.b.5. Other responses

Below Sections for Internal Use Only

Part 4: Office and Staff Status

Office Status (Open/Closed)	Number of Staff: 24				
	Diagnosed with COVID19	Diseased from COVID19	Working from Office	Working from Home	On Special Leave
Open	0	0	24	14 (this includes those within the 24 working from office. We alternate working days	

				on weekly bases. Some will work from home for a week and then from office for another week)	

Notes:

- Any cases of staff diseased need to be reported immediately to RD and GHR.
- Special leave as per COVID19 Administrative Guidelines.

Number of staff/partner organization staff completed WHO COVID online training https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training/online-training.

Part 5 Human Resources

- Which visitors are there in the country? Please include names, functions, contact information and arrival/departure dates for both IO and RO staff (note: due to the travel ban, this will apply only once the ban has been lifted). **No visitors in Country**
- Any gaps in staffing/need for deployment from other COs or Global Teams? **NO**
- Are there any other major HR issues? **NO**

Part 6 Safety & Security

- Are police and other services functioning in the normal manner?

Operations and other services of the police and other service agencies are still going on smoothly with few or very minimal changes. The routine police patrol teams and strategic check points are still functional and helping to keep the social strata in motion.

Since after the Government's declaration banning public gatherings, courts suspend sittings in respect of such declaration. There is no definite time for the courts closure, but we are sure they will only open when the situation becomes under control.

As at now, there are no reports of increase in looting or crime rates. However, price hiking is threatening economic stability of families.

People have over the days requested the military to be deployed as back-up mechanism to enforce the ban on public gatherings. The military have welcomed this suggestion and are willing to support the country at this critical moment. However, lack of protective gears and official communication from the Government to that effect is what is keeping them in the barracks.

For now, none of our operational areas have reported any confirmed case. We only urge all to observe the personal hygiene methods and avoid gatherings of any form.

- Confirm the safety of staff and their families in the affected area.
- Have Safety and security risks/mitigation plans been updated to current environment?

- Recommendations around any upcoming travel planned for staff or donors (note: Only once global travel ban has been lifted)

Part 7 Grants

List all active grants:

Grant Job Code	Grant Name	Donor	Status of Implementation (Normal/Reduced/Suspended)	Any specific guidance received from donor? (Yes/No)
12-0449	Dream Reader Project	ChildFund Korea	Suspended	Yes

Provide any additional narrative on how the COVID19 crisis affects implementation of your major grants.
ChildFund The Gambia, in compliance with the Presidential directives, suspended all project activities under the Dream Reader Project, until schools reopen. This has been formally communicated to the donor.

Part 8 Funding

Provide information about potential sources of funding, including grant donors, subsidy, Emergency Action Fund, Alliance members, GIK, etc., for these emergency response efforts using the chart below:

Donor	**Program**	**Amount (USD)**	**Requested? (Y/N)**	**Confirmed? (Y/N)**
ChildFund International	Subsidy	USD30K	N	N
ChildFund International	GIK (20ft Container)	USD55K	Y	N
ChildFund International	Real Gifts	USD150K	Y	N
ChildFund International	Emergency Action Fund	USD150K	N	N

- Budget
  - Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.
    1. Cash transfer to families
    2. Production and distribution of infographics
    3. Medical items donation to Government through the Ministry of Health
    4. Provision of handwashing stations and sanitary materials in communities and homes
    5. Contributing to National Emergency efforts
    6. Support National Education Strategy on COVID-19
    7. Provision of branded Masks
    8. Establishment of child friendly spaces in isolation or quarantine centers

Part 9 Media/Communications

- List of media who will be or have been contacted with press releases.
  - Gambia Radio and Television Services
  - QTV and Radio
  - The Standard Newspaper
  - The Point Newspaper
  - The Fatu Network
  - Kerr Fatou Network
  - Eye Africa TV
  - Foroyaa Newspaper
  - Brikama Community Radio
  - Teranaga FM Radio
  - Bwiam Community Radio
  - Kaira FM Radio

- List of emergency CO spokespeople, including name, location, contact information, and languages spoken.
  Musu Kuta Komma
  Country Director
  Email: mkomma@childfund.org
  Tel: (+220)9958356/2207486
  Location: Manjai Kunda
  Languages: English, Mandinka, Wolof, Pulaar

  Nfamara Dabo
  Programs and Sponsorship Director
  Email: ndabo@childfund.org
  Tel:(+220)7522038/3632123
  Location: Farato
  Languages: English, Mandinka, Wolof

- Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, e.g., should an outside photographer be hired?
  As it stands, there are no plans to hire any outside photographer / videographer

- Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host-government sensibilities that must be considered.
  Adherence to proper handwashing with soap/hand sanitizer, Social Distancing, Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, Stay home, stay safe.
  Host-government sensibilities: Releasing information without being officially announced by the Government, specifically by the Ministry of Health.

- Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.
  - Global trends/updates on the spread of COVID-19
  - Infographics on the pandemic
  - Child-friendly messages/posters on COVID-19
  - IT Support