

## ChildFund International

### Humanitarian Situation Report Template

Humanitarian Situation Report [# 19]

COVID-19 – [The Gambia]

[November 10, 2020]

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[Date Range Covered by Report: October 10 – November 10, 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
3696	122	3543
SOURCE: <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6">https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6</a>		

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	3201	85	3116
Lower River Region	60	7	53
SOURCE: National Ministry of Health or other reliable source			

West Coast Region Registered 86% of the cases. ChildFund is the only international NGO operating in this geographical region and as such Government through its line ministries have been and continue to reach out to ChildFund for support in the fight against the further spread of the virus. This reality poses challenge on the current CO budget and therefore request for RO and IO support in our resource mobilization efforts to curb the further spread of the virus. This challenge will be felt further now that reopening of schools has been announced. The junior and senior secondary schools are expected to resume on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, while the early childhood development centers and primary schools are expected to resume on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This will require providing more PPEs example face masks, hand sanitizers and even wash hand stations.

**The Government of the Gambia has lifted all the restrictions leading to all the schools reopening and economic activities commenced**

- 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 Casablanca. 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 has 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.

Reports from the Ministry of Health on public health indicators and the assessment of the operating environment indicates a decline in reported COVID 19 positive cases over the last week. Please note that the Ministry of Health did not publish any document, which announces a decline in COVID 19 positive cases. The data shows that on August 6 and 7, there were 1235 total active cases, 145 new cases, four deaths and 75 recoveries. Whereas on September 5 and 6, there were 3275 total active cases, 79 new cases, no death and 100 recoveries. This indicates that over a month period, 2040 new cases were recorded, and number of daily recoveries has improved. Nonetheless, as the country battles with COVID 19 pandemic, over 80 % of positive cases are within the West Coast Region; this is the location of the CO, all staff reside in this region, and it is our sponsorship operational area. Visit to areas where ChildFund works has stopped with very limited exception, some program implementation revised or on hold, and sponsorship activities have been scaled down.

Recently, the Country has began to witness drop in the number of new cases and deaths. For the past 2 weeks, the number of new cases is always under 5 and on some days, 0 cases and 0 deaths. This is a positive sign so far. Even though the state of public Health Emergency has been lifted by the Government measures such as wearing of face mask, handwashing, avoiding handshakes are being adhered to. Due to the continued trend in the reduction of cases in the Gambia, the Government of the Gambia through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education reopened all schools.

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	3561	5721	Unknown	0	0
SKF	3586	5726	Unknown	0	0
DDYF	2658	4443	Unknown	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	Operational		Suspended	Operational (Electronic)	Operational
SKF	Operational	Operational		Suspended	Operational (Electronic)	Operational
DDYF	Operational	Operational		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. With the current surge of cases, the children and their families in these areas are exposed to high risk of contracting the virus.

- 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	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	July - Dec 2020
	Preventive Measures against COVID-19 (masks, hand wash stations, temperature checks etc.)			
Partnership	LP Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicious use of resources to respond to COVID-19</li> <li>Resilient communities during the Pandemic</li> </ul>	CD/PSD/FD	July – Dec 2020
	CSO Advocacy Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with stakeholders on advocacy</li> <li>Review of policies/laws</li> </ul>		
	National Child Protection Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with CP stakeholders in creating a safe environment for children</li> </ul>		
	Local Education Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Education stakeholders in the safe school program during Covid-19</li> </ul>		
	Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical items donated through GIK</li> <li>Information materials donated</li> </ul>		

Key Strategies	Activities	Expected Results	Responsible Person	Timeline
Monitoring and Evaluation	Establishment of a task team	Data on cases and death compiled and reported  Sitreps updated and shared monthly		July – Dec 2020
Education	Support School Reopening activities	Ensure that all schools are safe and equipped with the right materials to facilitate learning as children return to school	CPAS/PS-ECD	October/November/December

### 3.a. Overall

- Who is or will be leading/managing the response? **Musu Kuta Komma – 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. Ms. Fana Maram Gaye represents ChildFund in the committee and they meet weekly under the leadership of the department of social welfare
5. CSO Advocacy Working Group: The CO has played a significant role in facilitating the continuous operation of the National CSO Advocacy group. This group has now shifted to look at specific advocacy issues during this pandemic to make sure while children are staying home, they are being protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

### 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 distribution of soap, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks to staff, children and their families and frontline health workers.

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

#### ChildFund’s Global Response Plan

Through the introduced Cash Transfer program, the CO together with the LPs reached out to the families with cash which is used by the families to facilitate the provision of food to children.

#### 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 and June 2020 subsidies to commence cash transfer using community credit unions. This already commenced on Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Due to the effectiveness of the program to support families during this pandemic, the CO has encouraged the LPs to priorities Cash Transfer for October, November and December.

#### Cash transfers or vouchers executed

Beneficiaries		Amount transferred (US\$)	Transfer mechanism (i.e. mobile money, banking system other financial service provider etc.,
Total	Gender (if available)		
	Female	Male	
2278	2714	1044	USD\$99,558.00 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

ChildFund in partnership with Department of Social Welfare have commenced work to strengthen the Community Child Protection Committees to serve as agents for the protection of children in their communities.

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

#### ChildFund's Global Response Plan

In partnership with Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, UNICEF and other actors, ChildFund is working with the LPs to provide support to schools as they are planned to open later in the month of October.

### 3.b.5. Other responses

#### Below Sections for Internal Use Only

#### Part 4: Office and Staff Status

Office Status (Open/Closed)	Number of Staff: 21				
	Diagnosed with COVID19	Diseased from COVID19	Working from Office	Working from Home	On Special Leave
Open	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	4 (Securities)	<u>8 (on rotational basis)</u>	<u>0</u>

#### 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.

The police and the military have launched Operation safe our Souls (SOS) in support of Government curfew (10pm to 5am).

- 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	Reduced	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	Y
ChildFund International	Real Gifts	USD150K	Y	Y
ChildFund International	Emergency Action Fund	USD150K	Y	N
<b>ChildFund Korea</b>	<b>Education and Child Protection</b>	<b>USD200K</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>

- Budget

- Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.
  1. Cash transfer to families
  2. Medical items donation to Government through the Ministry of Health
  3. Provision of handwashing stations and sanitary materials in communities and homes
  4. Contributing to National Emergency efforts
  5. Support National Education Strategy on COVID-19
  6. Provision of branded PPEs such as Face Masks, gloves and face shells
  7. Contribute to the safe school's project launched by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to facilitate safe learning for children when they resume schooling.

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.

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Languages: English, Mandinka, Wolof, Pulaar

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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.
- **Evaluation of the COVID-19 response including cash transfer.**
  - **Additional funding to support the CO Covid-19 Response Emergency Plan**