

Humanitarian Situation Report Template

Humanitarian Situation Report [2nd situation report]
[Epidemic of COVID 19 Virus] – [Rwanda / Reach the Children - Rwanda]
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■ Part 1: Overall Situation

○ Situation in the country (Target area)

- The Corona virus Pandemic has spread to all provinces of Rwanda since it's the first case was reported in Rwanda. Kigali, Rwanda's capital city has the biggest numbers of confirmed cases to date.
- As of April 21 2020, Rwanda has tested a total of 6,959 samples and have found 153 people positive of corona virus. With the current efforts that the government of Rwanda is putting in, more cases are being tested on a daily basis.
- Most of the 153 people who were affected with Covid-19 were treated at Kanyinya medical facility which still continues to treat the remaining 69 active cases in Rwanda. This facility is located in Nyarugenge district, Kanyinya sector along the Kigali-Musanze road.
- From Midnight March 20th, 2020, the government of Rwanda suspended all commercial passenger flights from and to Kigali initially for 30 days in a bid to curb the fast-spreading coronavirus in the country. RwandAir, Rwanda's national carrier suspended flights to and from China —the first country in the world to be hit by Covid. Rwanda then suspended Rwandair's flights to Israel and India, a decision that was taken few days before confirmed cases were reported in Rwanda. This suspension was extended to all commercial flights. On April 19th, this ban was extended until April 30th, 2020.
- Several quarantine centers in Kigali and in provinces have been equipped with medical supplies so as to take care of any emergencies that may arise. The authorities are also quarantining other suspected people in their homes where their contacts are taken and told to self-quarantine themselves for a period of 14 days. Recently, employees of a prominent bank (Bank of Kigali-Remera Branch) were all quarantined after one of the staff who had been receiving many people tested positive to Covid-19. The government is tracing all the people who went through that bank
- 2 Special Quarantine centers for truck drivers have been set up in Kabuga (Gasabo district) and Kagarama (Kicukiro district) to receive drivers of over 230 trucks that

transit through Kigali every single day. These drivers are tested as soon as I enter Kigali and are mandated to spend at least a night at this center. Nobody is allowed to spend a night in a hotel/guest house. This is because they tend to look for very cheap and crowded hotels which are high risk contamination areas.

- From March 9, 2020 all places of learning (schools) at all levels (from kindergarten to University) have been closed. Also, religious churches, Mosques, weddings and any other private gatherings are still prohibited. This ban has been extended till April 30, 2020.
- Morning sports for those who used to wake up early morning has been banned. People have been advised to do sports from their homes.
- Any form of public transportation is still banned until the lock down is over as a way to encourage people to stay home. Special transport arrangements have been put in place for people working in “Essential services” like medical care, security, and other very few sectors. Even those in essential services must have clearly labeled badges and travelling in car with clear sticker. Otherwise, there are big fines for violators of this directive.
- Since Monday April 20, 2020, every person moving outside the house must wear a protective face mask. This government directive has been enforced to places like markets where nobody is allowed to enter unless they’re wearing face masks.
- All border points remain closed except for returning Rwandans who automatically go into a two weeks quarantine upon entry into the country.
- In an effort to support thousands of Rwandans who depend on casual labor and other vulnerable people, the government of Rwanda in partnership with other well-wishers have started distributing good relief to people in Kigali. On Saturday April 25, 2020 another round of food will be distributed to vulnerable people in Kigali city.
- Government of Rwanda has continued to monitor businesses to avoid overpricing food produce and other essential items. Businesses that have exploited people have been given big fines.
- Coronavirus coincided with the 26th memorial of the genocide against the Tutsi which took place in 1994. The 100 days of the genocide started 7th April 1994. This quarantine affected genocide survivors in a hard way since this is the time they need people around them for counsel and Psychological support.
- Due to the bad weather of heavy rains and floods, a few rescue teams have been allowed to work. These include those working on roads to clean up the damage that rains have caused and teams to relocate people whose homes have been destroyed. Because of these times of bad weather, a few sectors have been allowed to resume work but keeping in mind all preventive measures like wearing face mask and keeping social distance.

- The government of Rwanda through the national police will process a travel for an individual or organization if they have valid reason to travel from one place to another. Otherwise, non-essential movements are prohibited and can lead to reprimand or punishment.

■ Part 2: Organization's Response or Plan for response

RCR works with vulnerable communities in Kigali and in the western province (Nyabihu district). These have been hit hard financially or otherwise because almost every beneficiary in our interventions can have a meal only when they go out to look for work. Failure to go out to find work has led to many cases of hunger and starvation.

Consequently, RCR has done and or intends to do the following

1. RCR has distributed food relief to 105 households in Kicukiro and Gasabo districts in Kigali city. The items donated include beans, corn meal (for food and porridge for the children), Rice, cooking oil and soap for hygienic purposes. To date, RCR has distributed 1.5 tonnes of Cornmeal, 1 tonne of beans, 1 tonne of rice.
2. RCR would like to give children especially those below six years with nutritious supplemental food especially porridge. This is because, where as there is a lot of campaign to get food for hungry households, there is no or very little talk about helping children not get malnourished. RCR therefore would like to ensure that children are supported. This will be done in Kigali as well as in Nyabihu
3. RCR would also like to give supplemental food to breastfeeding mothers with some nutritious foods so that children will not be affected in these times of Corona virus.
4. To sensitize the public especially in the project area of the covid-19. Hold door to door awareness campaigns. In these campaigns, RCR will provide easy to read posters in communities and these will be written in the local language.
5. Through the ministry of health and Rwanda Biomedical center, RCR will Partner with the local leadership in the provision of urgent equipment like infrared thermometers (to the various health centers and health posts as well as to our volunteers in the cell), soap, kandagira ukarabe, face masks, hand sanitizers and more to be used in the project area and beyond. RCR will work closely with Health Centers and health post centers.
6. Provide Covid- 19 Prevention kits to the volunteers who will in turn supply them to the community like face mask, sanitizers and small booklets on information of the virus.
7. Train volunteers and equip them to continue engaging the communities on better preventive measures

• Security and Logistics

The security situation in Kigali and in Rwanda at large. The only cause of alarm are people whose homes have been destroyed by rains and have no where to sleep nor what to eat.

There is also a big concern that due to Covid-19, many employees laid off their workers with absolutely no compensation. The most hit are hotels and generally tourism sector. Many places like banks and hotels, a few remaining workers work part time thus a reduction in their incomes.

Whereas some people have been encouraged to work from home, the internet has become more expensive and in many situations not reliable. The connectivity is very poor.

On the roads, traffic police as well as regular police patrol the roads to ensure that only essential service vehicles are travelling.

The logistics to ensure that people are well protected against Coronavirus are available in pharmacies and in a few select stores. The only challenge nowadays are the limited financial means to purchase them. This is also true with food in the market. Because people are not working, stores have food and there are few buyers. This is contrary to when the lock down started when everybody was rushing to stockpile food in their homes.

• Partnership and Coordination

RCR’s response for now has been in partnership with the government of Rwanda through the districts of Nyabihu, Gasabo and Kicukiro. In regards to Covid-19 response, RCR will continue to work with these structures as well as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local government as well as the Rwanda Biomedical Center.

