

EAST AFRICA CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT TRUST FEEDING PROGRAMME



A month ago Kongonis members worldwide, and other well wishers received a letter about the plight of families struggling to feed their children in Kenya as a result of losing their jobs during the Covid 19 Crisis and an initiative instigated by the East Africa Character Development Trust. [EACDT]



EACDT works with up to 4,800 boys and girls each week teaching/coaching Character Development through cricket in 15 schools in 'slum' and socially deprived communities in and around Nairobi. Since March 15th the Covid Crisis has resulted in lockdown with Nairobi

cut off from the rest of Kenya, nightly curfews and, like elsewhere in the world, a catastrophic effect on employment in both the formal and informal sectors.

With no tangible government supported welfare or benefit system the impact on families working in the informal sector who normally only earn enough daily to feed themselves was immediate. Within a week our EACDT coaching team reported increasing cases of genuine hunger amongst the children we work with.



A few of our EACDT team got together to buy some food for 6 of the families they knew were desperate and the idea to ramp up the scale and reach of the feeding programme was born.

Fast forward a month and as a result of the wonderful support and generous donations [including 3 individual donations of \$1,000] from Kongonis members, other well wishers and one of EACDT's main sponsors COSARAF we have so far managed to distribute 261 food packages each weighing 16+Kgs, which should feed a family of 4 for up to 10 days. AND the donations are still coming in.



Each parcel contains: 4 kg maize meal, 2 kg wheat flower, 2 kg Green grams, 2 Lt cooking oil, 2 kg beans, 1 kg sugar, 2 kg rice, 2 bars soap, 1 pack of sanitary pads, & 2 face masks.

Each one of the families receiving a food parcel is extremely grateful and also has a heart-breaking story to tell. One young boy from Musa Primary School in Isinya walked 8km to get to the distribution point...we arranged a moped lift home for him to his village.

One of the mothers, a widow, supports her five children and recently lost one of her daughters. She is now jobless as the informal laundry she worked in no longer operates. Another, a single mum suffering from Aids, supporting four children, lost her job as the informal nursery school she worked in has, like all other schools in Kenya, closed. Her local church used to support her with medication but that too has closed so she no longer has money for food or medication or rent. Her daughter collected the food parcel and broke down in tears of gratitude.



These are not isolated stories amongst the recipients of the food distribution, nor the countless others that our resources do not allow us to support.

Due to the government restrictions on movement our coaches have, to some extent, been confined to the areas in which they live. This has allowed them to promote the Character Development message and the relevance of the 8 traits to the current pandemic situation with in their local communities. Posters, individual Character Cards and assisting with community projects like open drain/sewer cleaning have become the norm. During these activities they came across a young man called Steven. He is physically handicapped and lives, as you can see below, in a modest dwelling with no running water. Despite this he somehow ekes a living from repairing worn out shoes. Determination, perseverance, positivity are all character traits that Steven has in spades. We were humbled to be able to hand over a food parcel to someone who proves that Disability certainly does NOT mean Inability.



All the funds donated specifically for the feeding programme are ring fenced and allocated only for that purpose. Records are kept and each family receiving a food parcels signs to say they have received it. Funds received since the 2nd distribution food was purchased will currently allow the purchase of a further 225 packages and these will be distributed in around 2 weeks time.



Once more we thank you for your much appreciated support. There is no doubt that each and every family that has received a food parcel has banished the hunger pains, at least for a while. They too are very grateful for your help.





If you have not yet contributed and wish to support this scheme and live in Kenya you can deposit money directly into the Foundation for Youth Cricket and Education in Kenya Charitable Trust account via Mpesa: Please use Paybill number **303030** and our account number **2030675021**.

If you are in UK please use the following bank details: Barclays Bank, Account Name: East Africa Character Development Trust, Account No: 10392588, Sort Code: 20-84-20

David Waters MBE
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