

# HEART Covid-19 Response FAQs

**Information retrieved through the U.S. Embassy in Kenya [website](#) and through conversations with our HEART staff in Kenya.**

## **How is Kenya handling the Covid-19 crisis?**

As of April 28, 2020 there are 374 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Kenya, with 124 recovered patients and 14 related deaths.

There is currently a mandatory, country-wide curfew imposed between 7pm and 5am. On April 25, 2020 this curfew was extended an additional 21 days

Movement restrictions were imposed in and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area on April 6 for 21 days. Similar restrictions were imposed to Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa counties on April 8 and to Mandera County on April 22. On April 25, movement restrictions into and out of these areas were extended an additional 21 days. The government however eased restrictions on restaurants and eateries by allowing them to open with conditions to abide with in prevention of the spread of covid-19 virus.

## **How are the WEEP Centers and Families?**

The WEEP Centers are temporarily closed. The heavy rains have begun in Kenya and many of the areas are now also dealing with flooding, which can lead to housing displacement, lack of crops and unfortunately an increase in diseases such as malaria. The WEEP families are receiving Emergency Food Deliveries purchased by HEART and distributed to the mothers at the centers while observing the government's directions on combating the covid-19 virus such as social distance and wearing of masks. For sustainability, WEEP mothers are provided seedlings and seeds etc. for planting both community and personal kitchen gardens. We are also giving two chickens to each Mom for eggs and reproduction. Coups for the chickens are being built and provided with chicken feed and training on more skilled care. We will continue to do this while there is a need. The Center Coordinators and HEART staff upcountry are able to serve the WEEP mothers while those working from Nairobi are communicating with WEEP mothers by text to make sure the families are healthy and encouraging them during this time of isolation.

## **Are Kenyans wearing masks?**

Persons visiting a supermarket or any open-air market are required to wear a protective mask that covers the mouth and nose. Users of public or private transport are also required to wear a protective mask.

Yes Kenyans are required to wear masks while in public places and failure one risks prosecution.

## **Are the HEART staff working and getting paid?**

Full time Kenyan HEART Project and Lodge Staff are getting paid. Project staff are working remotely from home and coordinating distribution of food, bed nets and information. Nicholas Kamauta, Kenya Director of Operations and a small group of lodge staff are working at the lodge as necessary and to keep it secure. We have no guests at the Lodge and Lodge Staff have been asked to take their annual leave now.

### **Are there are teams coming?**

We have had several team cancellations, but are hopeful the teams still scheduled to arrive later this year will be able to still come to Kenya. This is a big loss to the WEEP families as teams provide much needed resources, spiritual encouragement and even housing for the vulnerable families. We are encouraging teams who cancel to reschedule and support the WEEP families as they are able from afar.