

## YALA WIDOWS AND ORPHANS SUPPORT PROJECT

### COVID 19 PANDEMIC MITIGATION PROGRAMME

#### SUPPORT REPORT

YAWOSUP Community Based Organization is a registered C.B.O in GEM Sub County, Siaya County. The group was registered in 2008 with the Department of Social Services. It was mainly started to address problems faced by widows and caregivers of O.V.C's whose parents mostly died because of H.I.V. With the help of partners and well-wishers, we have managed to support orphans to access education, widows to get houses and to start income generating activities.

When the government announced covid-19 as a national disaster and locked down gatherings including churches, we realized that many needy people were suffering and needed immediate intervention. We changed some of our planned activities to address this problem that would seriously affect our community since many of the widows and caregivers do not access social media and may take it lightly. There was a need to sensitize them on how the disease spreads and how it can be managed. We used this opportunity to think of the way forward as we distributed food. By the grace of God, we covered the entire Siriwo Sublocation providing maize, sugar, salt and bar soaps to over 300 households.

The impact has been felt in the entire community and the Government has highly appreciated what we have done. The Area Asst.Chief attended one of our relief distributions days and appreciated the effort we made. He was impressed by the way distributions was done - health rules are strictly followed.



The area chief witnessing food distribution



Prayers is offered before distribution is done.



Sharing the good news of Jesus just before food distribution.

I was not aware but I was surprised that the radio press managed to get the information about our support and announced it over the radio.

### **METHOD OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTION DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Steps we follow:

1. Inform the area chief of our intention to distribute relief.
2. Identification of the beneficiaries.
3. Group the beneficiaries into smaller groups of 50 people is done.
4. Relief distribution timetable is made to avoid crowding.
5. Ministry of health guidelines of use of face mask, hand washing and social distancing is strictly observed.
6. We also use this time to sensitize the beneficiaries of seriousness of the disease and how to stop it from spreading.
7. On top of that, we give spiritual encouragement.

### **Distribution Day**

The groups are given different days for distribution.

1. Individuals are guided by their group leaders to follow health the rules.
2. Washing of hands is done at the entrance.
3. Keep of social distancing rule of two meters apart by making a straight line.
4. Each beneficiary is given a face mask.
5. Registration of the beneficiaries is done.
6. After the beneficiary has registered, she Picks the already packed donation.
7. Beneficiary leaves the center for home.



Hand washing



Putting on face mask



*Lining up, keeping social distance rule.*



*Beneficiaries Pick the donations on their own.*

**Note: there is no body contact as can be seen in the photos.**

Day one – Pastors fellowship



Christ Ministers Fellowship Pastors came to pick donations for their needy church members

Day two – Distribution for 5 groups from Kojuk village in Siriwo sublocation.



Day three – Distribution done 5 groups from Siriwo village in Siriwo Sublocation.



Day four – Individual church members of Sawagongo and Nyawara by Pastor Morris.



Day five – My personal visit to other needy members of the community.



Showing love to the hopeless. With the announcement by the government that all must wear face masks or else they face arrest, we had to go extra miles to provide face masks as the poor cannot afford to buy the mask if they lack even what to put on the table.

## WAY FORWARD

After the distribution of the relief food, I had a meeting with YAWOSUP representatives from various groups and villages to chat way forward as we still don't know how long the disease will take. We took time to discuss various activities we can undertake that are sustainable at this time when gatherings are still not allowed.

The following activities were proposed

### 1. INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

- Some of the widows have knowledge on knitting and tailoring. They seek support to get materials to make face masks and door mats (can be made by identified individuals at home]. The face masks are in high demand right now. The door mats can be sold later.



Meeting the group leaders.



This widow shows a door mat sample.

- **Sale of maize**

There is already food shortage in the country but we can get maize from a supplier in Uganda. We have already identified the group members who will sell the maize on behalf of the group. As they sell the maize for profit, we will be able to identify the members who are already in need and provide support out of the profit made.

### 2. FARM INPUT

Though gatherings are not allowed, individuals are still allowed to go to their farms and cultivate the land. We are proposing that if we get farm input for the widows, they will be able to plant their farms properly and get good yield which will help them later when this disease is gone. We provide them with enough farm inputs (fertilizer and seeds) they may be able to get surplus harvest that they can later sell to the community and get funds to boost their individual business.

We are blessed to have adequate rains in our country with farm and no farm inputs. There is going to be a major crisis in the next four months if the government does not provide any plan for sustainable development. The poor are likely to suffer more.

I am therefore appealing to our partners and well-wishers to consider helping us with start-up capital for the proposed farming and income generating activities to promote sustainable solutions to this pandemic.

Read: Psalm 41:1.

Pastor Edward Wata  
Director YAWOSUP