

Hello from Kenyan Kids!



News about the Coronavirus in Kenya

All schools have been closed throughout Kenya until at least January, 2021. With little testing, the first case of the virus in this remote area of Rusinga Island on Lake Victoria was only found in July. It is feared that the people may be ill prepared for any further spread of the virus. A few possible reasons follow:

- Widespread local belief that this coronavirus is a hoax by the Kenyan government to get more money. People who share this belief would have no reason for using masks, keeping one's distance, or extra hand washing.
- World news reports that there has been little preparation for the virus by local hospitals and clinics in remote areas of Kenya.
- There is a culture of togetherness, especially in this rural area, to include shaking hands with everyone, large gatherings in churches and at the frequent funerals, which can last for days.

We also deduce that masks, and medical care in general, can be a luxury where there is food insecurity. As for togetherness, one could be shunned for refusing to participate in shaking hands and gathering with others. Shunning can be a significant deterrent to behavior in any rural, closed community.

What's Happening at Safe Haven

International Day of the African Child (DAC) 2020:

The Day of the African Child was celebrated in June, and this event was support against the virus.



Above: Using their masks are Nish, Ruth, and John.

Left: Children had guest speakers to provide them with masks and to teach them about the virus.

What's Happening at Safe Haven

Candidates for the 8th grade comprehensive exams:

Four of the children were expected to take a comprehensive, national 8th grade exam this October, which would determine their chances for a high school. With schools all closed until at least January, 2021, the kids have to retake the entire 8th grade work and wait until October, 2021, for their critical exam. We continue to assist them with their studies at Safe Haven.



Left: Josephine is a volunteer and role model for all the children, having had her own physical challenges, and having been with these children for years, since her own completion of high school through this program. She also continues her studies at university. Thank you, Josephine!

Plans for more study during this 2020 year without school:

All of the children need to continue their studies. There are tentative plans for a few children at a time to attend each week for specific tasks, working to recall what they have learned so far and moving forward. There are plans to continue this throughout 2020.

Upcoming Plans for the Girls, and for the Boys:

While Safe Haven children receive food and medical care, they have little else during these harsh times. In addition to some continued academic studies throughout this year, *there are also plans for a special program for the girls, then soon after a similar program for the boys.* Girls will be given encouragement and information on caring for themselves, along with being provided with necessities such as soaps and oils (they live on the Equator) and sanitary napkins. There are plans for the boys, with a similar role model, encouragement, information and necessities for personal care.



Idah with new study materials.

Thank you for all you do for the children in their time of need!



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