



## COVID-19 Weekly Bulletin

### Just in time!

Almost all the project facilities have now received PPE and other crucial supplies through the IMA/ACHAP project. For one of the hospitals in Lagos State, Nigeria, the support could not have come at a better time. When the hospital received a suspected COVID-19 case the staff were able to safely handle the patient. Unfortunately, the patient passed on several hours after being admitted. It is no wonder then, that a number of other facilities under CHAN have requested for assistance with acquiring PPE. "We have been accused of showing interest in only some facilities. But we've told them we are looking for funding so that more can benefit," CHAN's Mike Idah said.

Across the continent, countries are beginning to lift some of the restrictions they had put in place to curb imported and community infections. In Kenya, while the curfew and movement restrictions on some counties are still in place, life seems to be going back to normal. Anne Kanyi of CHAK notes that a number of projects for example, have been resumed. As early as last week, Cameroon had eased its restrictions. Nigeria has followed suit.



Staff who attended to a suspect case at a project facility in Nigeria



Some of the supplies from the IMA project

"There is growing community transmission following the ease of lockdown, and because of the dense population in some parts of the country, transmission is rapid," noted CHAN's Kelechi Utoware.

Following a Cabinet meeting last week, for example, Rwanda is set to allow travel across provinces, and motorcycle taxis are also going to be allowed back on the roads. In Uganda, private vehicles as well as public transport vehicles are set to be allowed to operate from May 26, with some restrictions in terms of their carrying capacity. The easing of restrictions, if not followed by strict observance of health guidelines

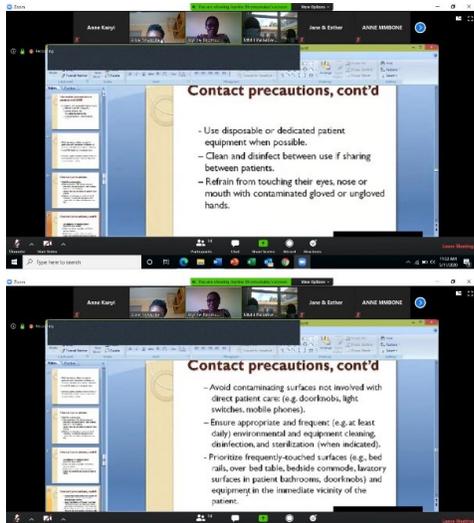
is likely to lead to spikes in the number of infections reported.

UPMB's James Mwesigwa conducted phone interviews with a number of health facilities to find out how prepared they were to handle cases. Only 2 out of the 18 hospitals had HDU or ICU facilities. The rest only had isolation rooms for managing cases as they process referrals to government treatment centres. The organisation will conduct a full assessment of member health facilities preparedness in the coming weeks.

It is therefore even more important now for CHAs to prepare their facilities in case there is a surge in numbers.

## Every day is a learning day with COVID-19

Every day we continue to learn about the novel coronavirus, and how best to take care of ourselves and our communities. It is for this reason that various CHAs continue to conduct training sessions for staff to enable them serve the public better.



A screen grab of the CHAK IPC training

At CHAK, the the first 10-day IPC training ended on May 20. A total of 17 health workers from 15 health facilities were trained. The training was done exclusively through webinars. Those who were trained expressed their gratitude, and said they were now better equipped to offer services. The organisation is also printing out community messages and working with CHVs to distribute them. CHAK also plans to print and disseminate IPC posters to the five hospitals in the project. "We are working closely with the trainer to identify the most relevant posters to print," said Anne Kanyi.

Those who have been trained in various countries have cascaded their learning to others, including the community.

Cameroon's CBCHS has now trained more than 1,500 staff on various aspects of Covid-19. "Some staff from member health facilities are going out to the communities with megaphones to cascade COVID-19 key messages," James Mwesigwa from Uganda said.

## Summary of cases and actions taken per country

### Cameroon

CBCHS response:

- Handled about 700 suspected cases: 450 tested; 14 staff infected.
- IMA/ACHAP support not delivered to all 5 facilities.
- Messages dissemination: 10 health workers; 10 faith leaders; 10 CHVs; all facilities sent out messages to volunteers.

### Nigeria

CHAN response:

- Facilities enforcing masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.
- 1 patient admitted but passed on. Her test results are yet to come back.
- Catholic Bishops met with government and offered facilities for isolation and treatment.
- Messages dissemination: 18 health workers; 10 faith leaders; 60 facilities sent out messages to volunteers.

Government response:

- Easing of lockdown ongoing.

### Kenya

CHAK responses:

- Training of health workers is ongoing.
- Printing out and sharing messages with communities.
- To print and distribute IPC posters to the 5 facilities.
- Had to repackage the support materials, distribution to be done this week.
- Messages dissemination: 180 health workers; 20 faith leaders.

Government responses:

- Reached an agreement with Tanzania on testing of truck drivers.

## Rwanda

BUFMAR response:

- All facilities have received hand sanitizer, surgical mask, infrared thermometer.
- Followed up with mobilization on site.
- Facilities have established isolation centers.
- Messages dissemination: 20 health workers; 30 faith leaders; 10 CHVs; 5 facilities sent out messages to volunteers

Government response:

- There are plans to ease restrictions.

## Uganda

UPMB response:

- Procurement of PPE and other materials for the 5 facilities completed. Distribution is ongoing but facing difficulties in some areas due to rains/flooding.
- Helped with food distribution at the request of the Inter Religious Council of Uganda.
- Messages dissemination: 5 health workers; 5 faith leaders; 5 CHVs; 2 facilities sent out messages to volunteers.

Government response:

- Lockdown to be reviewed on May 26.
- To give out free, standardized masks to the public.

## DRC

UPMB response:

- Daily staff briefings on safety.
- Plans to work with religious leaders to increase community understanding of disease and control measures.
- Messages dissemination: 15 health workers; 5 faith leaders; 5 CHVs; 5 facilities sent out messages to volunteers.

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Kindly share experiences and responses through email on [communications@afriachap.org](mailto:communications@afriachap.org) or via WhatsApp on +254726797558.