

From The Other Side of The Table (Appendix)

~Vol.33~

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To all of you participating at TABLE FOR TWO(TFT) programs:

Thank you for all your warm support to TFT programs! We truly appreciate your energy into this wonderful initiative. TFT has been focusing its initiatives on promoting healthy diet habits and food supply to our affiliated schools.

In this newsletter “The Other Side of The Table”, we hope to present to you the reality and changes at those schools.

TFT’s COVID-19 response

Starting early this year, our world has been affected by COVID-19, and all countries TFT supports are struggling to manage the situation. Since March, children’s lifestyle has changed dramatically due to the mandate from local governments to close all schools and kindergartens.

TFT staff have been keeping updated about local conditions through local channels and trying to take initiative to keep supply and food flowing in the hardest hit regions. In some regions, with the rise of food prices and unemployment, people’s daily life hasn’t been easier, and that’s when TFT feels even stronger responsibility towards providing abundant and nutritious food to those in need.

About our fundraising and awareness building activities

<Donations dated until today>

Total over **76 million (76,529,893) meals** (as of June 2020) to 5 Eastern Africa and Asian countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Philippines) of food supply at schools and support to the local vegetable farms.

<We renewed our website!>

To better promote our programs, we revamped our official website. We used to be known for our support at the cafeterias and vending machines, please take a look at website to see our new initiatives: <https://www.tablefor2.org/>

COVID-19 Sweeping Africa

360,000 people in Africa are reported to be diagnosed with covid-19.* Data from End of June has shown that 75% of new cases are from developing countries, and Africa is one of the most attention catching countries from the perspective of medical professionals.

Lack of equipment test and a lack of widespread treatment system in the rural areas are the biggest concern.

Meanwhile, in Eastern Africa, countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia are also going through a hard time from lack of food supply and rising food prices due to the locust swarm.

* Source: WHO, July 6, 2020



About 1.6 billion children have nowhere to go due to the school closure

Since March 2020 when local governments from all over the world have mandated “stay home” policies to prevent more new cases, 90% of the world student population, reaching 1.6 billion, can not go to school anymore due to COVID-19*.

Schools were forced to close in Eastern African countries as well. Children have lost not only their opportunity for education but also school meals, which has caused psychological and physical issues.

TFT staff persisted on delivering food supply to those who are in urgent need while making sure everyone in action was safe from the virus.



Supply of nutrition and food never stopped

In Banda Village in Rwanda, an alternative plan for food distribution was put in place immediately after schools were closed. From pre-school level and on, we started to provide them with take-home packages of raw millet, sugar etc., and distributed them to households with school age children.

At first, we were unsure of how much food to distribute for an extended period of time. However, after the first few deliveries, we decided 3 times a week would be best in order to ensure the quality of the food as well as the safety of our delivery people and the recipients.

From this initiative, we also managed to prevent our delivery people from losing their jobs.



Permitted to keep feeding programs in schools and kindergartens during lockdown

TFT keeps school feeding programs at primary and middle schools in Banda Village 3 times a week even during the school closure. They assign students to come to school in shifts, and students are asked to keep distance when having their meals. After each meal, students are encouraged to participate in community activities before they go home.

Starting May, kindergartens adopted this idea and started food supply to children too. Through this policy, parents were so much relieved from the food preparation burden. In addition. The local team can check on children's health conditions.



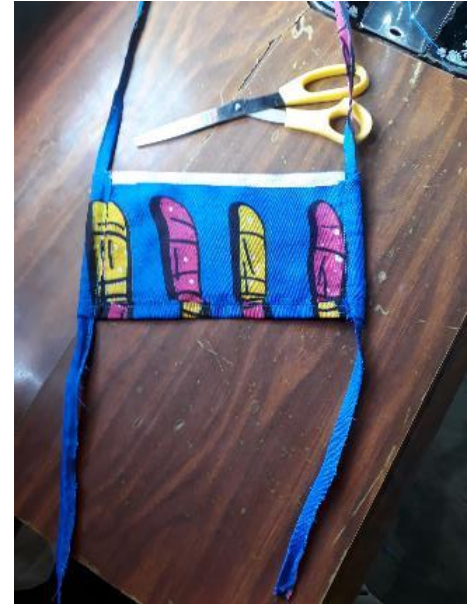
Children enjoying their meal.

Compared to when 8 children could sit at one table, now we restrict 1-2 children per table and in shifts; some children have to eat outdoors.

Sewing workers became mask craftswomen

Starting this April, Kenya, Rwanda and several other countries in East Africa mandated people to put on masks in the public. However, wearing a mask is not a familiar habit in the region, and there were not plenty of non-woven masks in the market. Therefore most people use cloth masks. Female workers who used to sew clothes got a new career: to make colorful cloth masks!

In Rusinga Island of Kenya, we distributed instructions on how to make and wear a mask correctly. One local made mask sells for about 25 US cents in the local market.



Setting up hand washing stations

Hand-washing is highly recommended as a preventative measure to COVID-19 in African countries. In our alliance regions there was not enough water supply infrastructure, and people have to collect water from rain, wells and rivers. Soap price is reasonable to local people, but washing hands with soap was not a common habit.

TFT is working hard to set up hand wash facilities in Rusinga Island and Mfangano Island.

Meanwhile, we also promote through illustrations on posters about the correct way to wash hands and the important steps on how to wash carefully.

