



**NCRC ADVISORY ON CONTAINMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC IN LOCAL CONTEXTS AND
REALITIES OF KENYA**

25TH MARCH, 2020

Globally, there are **438,749** confirmed cases of COVID-19; **19,675** deaths and **111,895** recovered (WHO, 2020; John Hopkins, 2020). In Kenya there are **25** confirmed cases (GoK) - with Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale and Siaya accounting for some of these cases.

It is against this background, that community based/local approaches should be considered to minimize the spread, deaths and societal disruptions from the pandemic. The government and other stakeholders should consider context specific interventions and not a one-size-fits-all in its efforts to contain the spread and in the management of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic. These should take cognizance of sensitivities and local realities of the Kenyan context where about 70% of Kenyans are in the informal sectors (daily wages/hand to mouth livelihoods); over 70% live in urban informal (slums) settlements; majority of the citizenry relies on public means of transport and where rural-urban disparities exists.

Total lock down in the country might lead to a rise in criminality as the poorer segments of the population might resort to acts of civil unrests like lootings and breakage into business premises, shops and supermarkets. The following are recommendations that can be adopted and adapted to specific local contexts and areas to assist in the containment and management the Corona pandemic in Kenya.

1. **Food rations/Relief food to address livelihoods of the most vulnerable:** The GoK to consider contingency measures on food rations supply to those in mandatory self-quarantine/isolation, vulnerable informal urban dwellers and specific rural areas. These could comprise among others, dry foods- maize, beans, and rice or military-type rations/biscuits.
2. Use **fire engines, police water cannons and military water bowsers** to supply water to urban informal settlements and use them to fumigate these settlements. County Government's fire departments can also be mobilized for these tasks. Explore the possibility of using police helicopters and military choppers to undertake aerial fumigation and disinfecting of village markets and public utility areas.
3. Government should mobilize **Private Sector Support** through their Corporate Social Responsibility to support in the containment of the corona virus pandemic. The private sector has not come out strongly this far to help address the pandemic. Telcos-Safaricom, Zain, Telekom;

EABL, Media-Nation Media, Standard Group; Banks- Equity, KCB, Absa; Philanthropies- Chandaria and Asian Business community and related industries; NGO's; millers; faith based organizations etc can support in different areas/ways provision of face masks, media sensitization, sanitizers, soaps, finances etc.

4. Channel more resources to **Public Education, Sensitization and Sanitization** especially in informal settlements and remote rural areas out of reach through TV, radio, newspapers. Go more for vernacular radio stations, NGAO-chiefs, village elders; opinion leaders. Sensitize on **soap** and **water** to sanitize for rural households.

4. Enhancing **National-County Government collaborations and partnerships** through whole of government approaches/frameworks that brings together NGAO and County government officers in planning and executing measures to contain the pandemic holistically in different counties as per the prevailing corona virus pandemic situations.

5. **Lock downs**- If situation of the pandemic warrants-consider specific area/context lock downs like major cities and towns like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru rather than a total country lock down. Can also consider public transport lock downs in worst hit areas/context. Can also regulate/control inter-county movements based on COVID-19 prevalence.

6. **Likoni Ferry Services**- Put in place sanitary measures at the ferry terminus and fastrack additional ferries to address heightened risk of infections and deploy police/military to manage numbers at crossing points.

7. Heightened **Surveillance and Screening** for the COVID-19 in the general population; in informal settlements; rural areas; public transport sector. Also consider provision of self-testing kits for Covid-19 for the general population.

8. The government to consider **subsidy** on some basic commodities used by most informal settlement dwellers and rural dwellers e.g Kerosene.