



Dear Donors and Supporters,

This coming Saturday (July 18th) marks the 4th month since we started our Karimu Covid-19 task force to help the communities of Arri and Ayalagaya prepare for the arrival of the pandemic that is devastating the world. The work has been intense. We met 7 days a week, racing against the clock to devise and implement a comprehensive response in close collaboration with the government, partners, and our dedicated local staff. I won't describe what we have done in this email as it is nicely summarized in the [Karimu's COVID-19 Response](#) video available in our YouTube channel and in the landing page of the [Karimu Website](#). I will simply say that the hard work paid off. We are unsure of the total number of cases in Tanzania because the government has not released aggregate numbers on COVID-19 cases or deaths since April 29. However, unofficially, we know that the impact of the pandemic in the country has been (and continues to be) significant. Despite that, Tanzania has reopened for almost a month now. Businesses are operating, transportation is running, students are back in school, etc. As of today, we have no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Arri or Ayalagaya. It is obviously possible that we have asymptomatic cases that we don't know about. However, we do know that no one in our areas died of Covid-19 (even though there have been confirmed cases and, sadly, deaths in the surrounding counties). Fingers crossed that it stays this way! I am, therefore, very proud of what we accomplished and extremely thankful to everyone who helped us. I know we saved many lives! Thank YOU!

I consider our work on Covid-19 preparedness mostly finished. We will remain supportive of the communities, but will not be proactively driving additional initiatives.

Our operations in Tanzania have to follow the local directives and are, therefore, also restarting. We are reopening the Karimu office next week and will restart our 2020 projects in full gear on August 1st. So, let me give you an update on our 2020 projects.

## Health & Sanitation

**Dareda Kati Primary School bathrooms** - the building is done, walls are drying, and we are now working on the interior.



**Doctors and Nurses Housing** - construction for the Doctors and Nurses housing at the Dareda Kati dispensary is done and we should have the doctor and some nurses moving in very soon.





**Phase 1 of the expansion of Dareda Kati Dispensary into a Health Center** - the construction will start in 2 weeks and we will be building

- A toilet for patients,
- A sink for hand washing,
- A laundry,
- An incinerator,
- A placenta pit,
- A fence around the complex, and
- A covered walkway between the different builds.

We expect the construction to be completed this year. As part of the Covid-19 task force, we already addressed the non-construction items of Phase 1, i.e., the installation of a sterilization room with an autoclave, wall mounted heaters in the prenatal, labour, and postnatal areas, and a TV to run educational videos at the reception.

**Implementation of medical interventions recommended by the World Health Organization** - During the Covid-19 task force we implemented two critical interventions: hand washing and patient screening and intake at clinics. They were very effective and implemented them not only at the two dispensaries in Ayalagaya (Gajal and Dareda Kati), but at all four dispensaries in Arri. We are now preparing the implementation of 5 more interventions to be executed before the end of the year.



**Water system maintenance** - While it is not a project in the same kind of sense, it is a critical area for us to ensure the community is effectively maintaining the water assets. This project is an incredible success story:



maintenance checks of all assets (10 tanks, 107 public water points, 10+ km of pipes, etc.) are conducted quarterly; 92% of all issues resolved by the community without Karimu's involvement; the community now manages all keys of all lockers of valve chambers, gates, etc.; the management of the water resources now also includes all 576 Private Water points installed in Ayalagaya (this is the source of income for the maintenance of the project); all water points now have a water champion - a community member responsible for it and to ensure water is not wasted.



## Income & Education

### Re-construction of Primary Schools

- **Dareda Kati Primary School** - we are about to start the construction of 2 school buildings totaling 6 classrooms and 2 offices. We hope to complete this in 2020.
- **Haysam Primary School** - this would be the next school and we still hope to start the reconstruction this year.
- **Reconstruction of Gajal Primary School and Remodel of Ufani Primary School** will most likely be done next year.

**Transformation of Ayalgaya Secondary School into a High School** - we are currently in discussions with the government to ensure they open the high school if we address half of the requirements in 2020 and the remaining ones in 2021.

**Computer training** - the computer classes for a new set of teachers and the Gajal medical staff will start in August (as you may recall, earlier this year, we completed the training for medical staff of Dareda Kati dispensary and the teachers of Bacho Primary School). We will be installing electricity and a computer and printer in Bacho within the next month based on their teachers successful completion of our computer training. And notably, the next class will be taught by our own KAHESO staff.

**Furniture for Ayalagaya schools** - delayed until we reopened, we hope to still finish this project before the next school year starts in January, 2021 to provide

- Student desks to reach a ratio of 2 students per desk
- One desk and one chair for each classroom for the teacher
- Cupboards & shelves to keep school books,
- Goals in the soccer field and posts for netball

**Income generating projects** - we are very bullish about three new projects to help improve the income of farmers in Ayalagaya which will start in September:

- **Vanilla Plantation** - we have an agreement with a social enterprise (NEI) in Tanzania specializing in plantation and export of vanilla to bring that crop to Ayalagaya. Vanilla is a very profitable crop which, when cultivated well, can significantly increase the income of farmers. NEI will transform the Agricultural Institute that we, Karimu volunteers, use as our base when we travel there, as a center of excellence for vanilla. The institute will train and support the local farmers. Karimu will pay for the cost of the project until it becomes self-sustaining (about 3 years when the first vanilla harvest is expected).
- **Training on organic farming** - this training will be provided by the Agricultural Institute and sponsored by Karimu to help farmers reduce the cost of their agricultural products by using organic planting methods.
- **Training on milk-generating and disease resistant cows** - also provided by the Agricultural Institute, this training will teach farmers how to best take care of cows and increase their milk production. Karimu will sponsor the training and will donate a female calf to each farmer graduating under the condition that its 1st calf will be donated back to this program. This way the project becomes self-sustaining in about 24 months.

## Financial Services

**Training of Ayalagaya Savings Groups** - we will restart our training in August and also the focus on the creation of new savings groups in the region.



Finally, we will restart our plans to further expand Karimu's projects into Arri Ward. We completed the door-to-door survey just before the pandemic broke and will now conduct a series of interviews with community leaders to collect a comprehensive list of all challenges and needs. We hope to complete this in 2020 in order to prepare a multi-year plan for Arri that will be used as a basis for discussion with the community as soon as we can travel back to Tanzania.

As you can see, Karimu has big plans for the 2nd half of the year. I miss traveling to Tanzania, but am thankful that the combination of video conferencing, online communication, and other technologies with our wonderful staff on the ground is enabling so much to happen.

Obviously, none of this would have been possible without your support.

Thank you very much! *Asante sana!*

Nelson  
Karimu, Chief Operating Officer



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