

2020 MID-YEAR REPORT

Q1/Q2

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

JANUARY - JUNE 2020



WORLD BICYCLE RELIEF®



Q1/Q2

THE NUMBERS

The communities we serve are extremely vulnerable to the current global health pandemic. Frontline health workers mobilized with a bicycle play a critical role in how these regions are able to prepare, respond, and recover from the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Prepare

Containment and spread-prevention are particularly critical in regions with overburdened health systems, scarce access to water, and poor sanitation. Bicycles are critical for frontline health workers to reach these communities with education on proper hygiene and prevention methods, and how to care for those who contract the virus.

Respond

Bicycles are necessary for frontline health workers to take on more homecare patients than ever before. COVID-19 requires health workers to expand their treatment offerings, including pre- and post-natal services, delivery of antiretrovirals and medicines, delivery of food and goods, and transportation of patients when necessary.

Recover

While we work to address the immediate impact of COVID-19, we're already preparing for the long-term ripple effects of the public health crisis. Frontline health workers will be critical to accelerate back-to-care interventions for those battling HIV/AIDS, chronic diseases, and for those who were driven into extreme poverty due to COVID-19.

WBR'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, World Bicycle Relief's Bicycles for Educational Empowerment Program (BEEP) has been paused until schools reopen and each country indicates it is safe to resume operations.

In response to the pandemic, World Bicycle Relief's health program partners urgently required more bicycles for healthcare workers who are the first line of defense in rural communities. There was an urgent need to disseminate accurate information to avoid the spread of false information and stigmas around the virus. Health volunteers are often the only reliable medical providers for families in need, traveling long distances to provide information, prevention and treatment.

Since March, we have ramped up our health programming and distributed Buffalo Bicycles to health workers and volunteers through a number of new and existing health partnerships in all five of our countries of operation. To date 2,150 Buffalo Bicycles have been distributed to health and other essential service workers to help them perform their duties during the COVID-19 pandemic.



2,150

EMERGENCY WBR FUNDED
BICYCLES DISTRIBUTED (Q1 & Q2)



500
KENYA



500
ZIMBABWE



500
ZAMBIA



300
MALAWI



315
COLOMBIA



HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS IN HWANGE, ZIMBABWE

KENYA

KENYA RED CROSS

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) works at the community level through the Kenyan Ministry of Health's Community Health Strategy. Through community health volunteers they provide health services such as immunization, nutrition support, hygiene education, maternal and child health and referral services among others.

Each community health volunteer provides support to 100 households and reports on a monthly basis. One of the challenges that many of the volunteers face in delivering their services to the vulnerable communities is that of mobility. Some have to cover long distances of up to 10 kilometers (one way) to reach the most vulnerable community members.

COVID-19 Response

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, World Bicycle Relief partnered with KRCS to support 500 community health volunteers with Buffalo Bicycles to enhance their mobility. The bicycles enable them to easily access their clients to provide essential health services and undertake community education on COVID-19.

The Buffalo Bicycles were distributed in Kilifi, Mombasa, Tana River, Homa Bay, Migori and Siaya counties. These counties were chosen due to the communities' challenges with accessing healthcare facilities and the fact that the areas were affected by COVID-19 or at high risk of outbreaks.



ZIMBABWE

GREENLINE AFRICA TRUST

Greenline Africa Trust is a local community based organization working with youth, women and children in the Hwange district of Zimbabwe. They develop, implement and support sustainable projects focusing on livelihoods, health, education and biodiversity management.

COVID-19 Response

Fifty Buffalo Bicycles were distributed to Village Health Workers, borehole minders and headmen in the rural areas of Hwange (near Victoria Falls), Zimbabwe.

Village Health Workers are responsible for visiting homesteads to provide primary health services and to react to any health issues, disseminate COVID-19 awareness and education on hygiene and preventative measures, and report back to the local clinics. They follow up regularly with the households, and monitor and report cases.

The area is very dry and the communities depend on boreholes as their main source of water. Borehole minders are responsible for overseeing the provision of water at boreholes and managing the provision of soap for purposes of hygiene during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Headmen (community traditional leaders) have also been tasked with coordinating and providing awareness and COVID-19 prevention education to the communities.



I AM ZIMBABWETRUST

I AM Zimbabwe Trust is a registered NGO, founded with a vision of nurturing healthy, educated and empowered children and youth.

COVID-19 Response

Seventy five Buffalo Bicycles are being used by volunteers for COVID-19 awareness campaigns and the distribution of hand sanitizers, hand soap and food packages to vulnerable people in both rural and high density urban communities. Due to the lockdown in Zimbabwe, the bicycles serve as vital transport for health volunteers and social workers who rely on public transport, allowing them to access the most vulnerable members of the community. The bicycles also help them maintain social distancing (avoiding congested buses).

The bicycles were distributed in Mbare, Chitungwiza Epworth, Kuwadzana, Kambuzuma, Masasa, Chipinge, Domboshava, Bindura, Mupandawana, Mutoko, and Murehwa districts.



COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH

The Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) is a network civic / community based organization that was formed in early 1998 to take up health issues of common concern. They aim to increase vulnerable rural people's access to health services in Zimbabwe.

COVID-19 Response

At community level, CWGH is working with Community Health Workers (CHW) (including Village Health Workers, Peer Educators, Health Literacy Facilitators, Community Health Monitors, City Health Promoters and Health Center Committees) to disseminate COVID-19 prevention and management information to households in their health facility catchment areas. CHWs use the 75 bicycles to support health facility staff through identification of cases, monitoring of patients under self isolation and provision of support to recovering patients. Strategic distribution of masks and sanitizers to high risk communities and populations has also been undertaken in order to strengthen prevention of the spread of COVID-19.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS/AMALIMA PROGRAM

International Medical Corps is a global humanitarian, non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programs. Established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses from the United States, International Medical Corps' mission is to improve quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in areas where few organizations dare to serve. Their programs complement the efforts of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health and over the past few years have focused on sustainably improving the Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Health of people living in deprived and impoverished communities. Their current programming, including the Amalima program, is supported by donors such as USAID Food for Peace and private foundations.



COVID-19 Response

Three hundred Buffalo Bicycles will allow Village Health Workers and Community Volunteers to have the mobility they need within their communities to deliver key COVID-19 prevention messages that the Amalima program has developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Examples of the messages include: 'what is COVID-19 and how is it spread', 'you can protect yourself by keeping your hands clean by washing them with soap at all times', 'when coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or a tissue and throw the tissue into a refuse pit or latrine.'

ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Zambian Ministry of Health utilizes Community Health Workers (CHWs) to enable access to high-impact primary health services in remote areas across the country. The goal of the Community Health Worker Strategy is to ensure a cost effective, adequately trained and motivated community based health workforce that will contribute to improved management of common and preventable health conditions in Zambia.

COVID-19 Response

The Ministry of Health is currently training their Community Health Workers on COVID-19 prevention and treatment. Community Health Workers will be utilizing the Buffalo Bicycles to conduct their routine health visits at the household level, as well as to disseminate COVID-19 information to their communities, to track active cases and to follow up with households that have been affected by the virus. The 500 Buffalo Bicycles are being prepared for distribution by the Ministry of Health, and we expect more information in the coming months



MALAWI

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Malawi, with funding from Global Fund, is implementing the Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) project in Thyolo district of Malawi. The project aims to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the district using community-based structures such as in-school and out-of-school girls-only clubs, male "champions", mother groups, and Parent Teacher Associations and School Management Committees.

COVID-19 Response

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Malawi has integrated COVID-19 into their program and is utilizing their network to educate the communities and promote COVID-19 prevention methods like social distancing and handwashing. The 50 Buffalo Bicycles are being used to reach more households.



MOTHERS2MOTHERS

mothers2mothers (m2m) employs women living with HIV as Community Health Workers called Mentor Mothers. m2m Mentor Mothers work both at health facilities and door-to-door to improve the health of communities across nine African nations. They deliver life-changing services to women, children, adolescents, and entire families.

COVID-19 Response

Once it is deemed safe to do so, Mentor Mothers will use the 100 Buffalo Bicycles to go out in a concentrated effort, to reach all those clients who had become lost to follow up as a result of the movement restriction brought about by COVID-19. They aim to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on treatment for HIV positive clients by accelerating back to care interventions for all clients that missed appointments due to the lockdown period.

SAVE THE CHILDREN MALAWI

Save the Children has worked in Malawi since 1983. They seek to ensure that children in need are protected, healthy and nourished, educated and live in economically secure households, while helping communities mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS.

COVID-19 Response

Save the Children Malawi aims to support the Government of Malawi, and the Protection (Child Protection), Health and Education clusters to ensure that COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response activities in Malawi are child

sensitive, support the most vulnerable children and communities, and address secondary impacts related to health, education and protection. They are using the 100 Buffalo Bicycles to mobilize community structures and institutions to support this strategy, with focus on communication for vulnerable community members.



ONE COMMUNITY / JHPIEGO

One Community is USAID's flagship community-based response to Malawi's HIV epidemic. It is aimed at empowering priority populations with knowledge, efficacy and skills to effectively utilize HIV and social services, strengthening community HIV support and prevention responses and creating positive aspirations and future opportunities for those most affected by HIV in Malawi. The activity is funded by PEPFAR through USAID and is implemented by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (JHCCP) in partnership with Plan International and Project HOPE.

COVID-19 Response

In addition to their HIV support, One Community implemented measures to assist the Malawian Government in providing community members with accurate information on COVID-19 through their network of Community Based Organizations. A key directive of the Malawian Government on COVID-19 was the suspension of all gatherings to maintain social distancing.

The 50 Buffalo Bicycles are helping to increase the capacity of the Community Based Organizations to carry out community mobilization and outreach activities, increasing community awareness on COVID-19 spread and prevention.



COLOMBIA

Colombia has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for Buffalo Bicycles was greatest in the livelihood, food security and health worker safety program areas.

MICA SONRISAS

Mica Sonrisas is a foundation that has been donating bicycles to school children in rural and vulnerable areas of Colombia for the past six years.

COVID-19 Response

As the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Colombia, people working in the health sector were unfairly discriminated against. Doctors, nurses, administration staff, cleaners and security guards working in clinics and hospitals suffered a form of rejection in the public transport system due to the fear that they would spread the virus. This led to Mica Sonrisas shifting their focus and launching their '*Bicis por la vida*' (Bikes for Life) campaign, an initiative that mainly caters to health personnel who have difficulties in getting to work by conventional means. The 50 Buffalo Bicycles provide transportation to these workers. When the pandemic passes, the bicycles will be returned to the foundation to be redistributed to their education campaign.



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

The work of FAO in Colombia focuses on fighting food insecurity and malnutrition, incorporating a human rights perspective in policy frameworks and policies and encouraging the participation of civil society in capacity building within the cycle of policies on food and nutrition security. They also focus on preserving natural resources and governance of forests, land and water, adopting social and technological innovation for sustainable food systems (to reduce urban-rural gaps through processes of social and technological innovation), promoting public policies aimed at social and economic inclusion of family farming and risk management and rehabilitation of livelihoods generating resilience in vulnerable communities.

COVID-19 Response

Two hundred Buffalo Bicycles were distributed to rural farmers who travel between five and 15 km a day to take their products to markets and collection centers. Due to the absence of transportation as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, they were struggling to get their produce to market and earn a livelihood. The bicycles will also be used to transport water and food. The target areas for the bicycles were Bolívar, Sucre and La Guajira.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Active in Colombia since 1998, Action Against Hunger has worked with vulnerable communities displaced by conflict and political instability, as well as those affected by frequent natural disasters, such as recurring floods. Their long-standing activities in nutrition and health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and longer-term food security have provided life-sustaining support for tens of thousands of Colombians faced with humanitarian challenges. Their teams are committed to assisting Colombia's vulnerable communities in their quest for improved nutrition and self-sufficiency.



The current COB2AC Project (financed by USAID and OFDA) seeks to strengthen the resilience and response capacity of indigenous communities (Wayuu) and local authorities to face the climate variability that affects water supply and food security.

COVID-19 Response

Sixty five families from the indigenous Wayuu communities in the municipality of Manaure benefitted from the delivery of Buffalo Bicycles. Many families struggle with access to drinking water and have to manually transport water from wells that are far distances from their houses. For the most part, it is the children and women who are responsible for carrying the water, or the families need to pay for the transportation of the water. The bicycles will allow them to transport the water they require to guarantee hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having bicycles that allow them to carry water means a huge improvement in the quality of life of Wayuu families. The bicycles also help Wayuu communities access food and health services during a time where many means of transport are non-operational (due to lockdown) and roads are closed.



HELPING HIS COMMUNITY STAY SAFE FROM COVID-19

Amadu Meja (40) is a Community Volunteer in Norwegian Church Aid's (NCA) Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) project in the Thyolo district of Malawi. As a volunteer, Amadu visits households in his community four days a week, checking in with them and educating them on issues relating to maternal health, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Norwegian Church Aid Malawi launched a campaign through their program network, to share information about COVID-19 and how to prevent the infection and spread of the virus.

"We are not able to gather people in groups to share health information because we are observing social distancing. Some people do not know what COVID-19 is because they do



NCA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER, AMADU MEJA

not have radios," says Amadu. "We now visit the community members in their respective homes and share COVID-19 preventive guidelines with them."

To ensure that volunteers are able to reach more households to share valuable information relating to COVID-19, World Bicycle Relief partnered with Norwegian Church Aid, providing 50 Buffalo Bicycles for the use of volunteers in the Thyolo district. Amadu is responsible for households up to

20km from his home and the bicycle helps him reach up to 10 households per day.

"The bicycle has really changed the nature of my job. I am now able to visit many more households than before I received the bicycle," says Amadu. "People in my community can also borrow the bicycle and take a person to hospital because the bicycle is so strong."

A LIFELINE FOR CLAUDIA



Claudia Ramirez (50) lives with her husband and two adult sons in the Ribera's del Río neighborhood of Colombia, 9 km from Bucaramanga. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her sons aged 23 and 25 have had to move back into the family home and depend

on Claudia financially after becoming unemployed. Her husband works as a messenger, but his job has been badly affected by the lockdown in Colombia and so Claudia has had to take on most of the household's expenses.

Last year Claudia started working for the Secretary of Health in Bucaramanga, in the role of Head of General Services.

"Among my duties is cleaning the offices and emptying the bins, and now with COVID-19 we also take care of disinfecting the areas," says Claudia. "We hope that people find their spaces clean and that they can work in a safe place."

Claudia's work day starts at 5:45am and she took the first available bus at 4:30am. The bus was often at capacity, but she would have no option but to take it to get to work on time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Claudia would be at risk of contracting the virus every

morning and every evening as social distancing was not possible on public transport. Workers in the health sector have also been unfairly ostracized by the public for the fear that they could be carrying the virus.

Claudia received a Buffalo Bicycle from World Bicycle Relief as part of the Mica Sonrisas COVID-19 emergency program, "Bikes for Life". The bicycle allows her to travel safely and quickly to work and home.

"Now with the bike, I leave at 5am and arrive even before the start time, I arrive at 5:35," says Claudia. "Back from work, at home, I'm doing really well. I can't tell you how happy and thankful for this bike I am, this time (and money) saving is huge for me."

In addition, Claudia's oldest son uses the bicycle to travel to Claudia's brother, who is helping the family with food and other groceries.



REACHING MORE HOUSEHOLDS WITH LIFE-SAVING INFORMATION IN ZIMBABWE

WBR PARTNERS WITH THE AMALIMA PROGRAM

Chakaha Tshuma (44) lives in Mwatsi village in the Bulilima district of Zimbabwe. She has been serving her community as a Village Health Worker since 2009. Village health workers are volunteers selected by their communities to serve as a key link between the community and the formal health system.

As a Village Health Worker, Chakaha offers healthcare services to 215 households, with 860 individuals, located within a radius of 5 km of Mwatsi village. She reports to health staff at Hingwe Clinic, located approximately 10 km from her village. There is no doctor stationed at this facility and all referral cases need to travel 90 km to Plumtree Hospital.

In 2014, Chakaha was identified by health staff and recruited to serve under the Amalima program as both a Care Group Volunteer and a Community Based Facilitator.

Amalima is a seven-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace funded intervention implemented in food and nutrition insecure districts of Zimbabwe (Bulilima, Mangwe and Gwanda in Matabeleland South and Tsholotsho in Matabeleland North). Amalima aims to improve household

food and nutrition security and health among pregnant and lactating women, and children under two years old.

Chakaha manages Care Group sessions at village level. Care Groups are community peer to peer support groups comprising of up to 10 pregnant or lactating mothers with children under two years old. Care groups sessions are conducted on a monthly basis and provide a platform for promoting optimal baby and toddler nutrition and health practices.

Chakaha also manages six Community Health Clubs (CHCs). These support the uptake of key water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) behaviors. Each CHC comprises of 15 to 30 members who follow a health curriculum over six month. During CHC sessions, members learn how to make practical adjustments to improve hygiene in the home such as constructing latrines, building "tippy tap" hand washing stations (a bucket water system that you tip to wash your hands), kitchen pot racks, and digging garbage pits. For CHC members to graduate, all club members must have made the improvements.

Once a week Chakaha conducts household visits where she conducts Growth Monitoring Sessions, weighing

children using salter scales and Mid Upper Arm Circumference tapes (MUAC). She refers all underweight children to the clinic. She conducts home visits to a maximum of 20 households per month to discuss health, nutrition and WASH practices with caregivers and to observe the cleanliness of their environment and availability of recommended WASH infrastructure such as latrines, tippy taps, refuse pits and pot racks.

In response to the COVID -19 pandemic, Village Health Workers like Chakaha have been tasked to widely disseminate information on the virus and how to prevent its spread. To make this task easier, World Bicycle Relief donated 300 Buffalo Bicycles to the Amalima program. These bicycles will help Village Health Workers reach more households.

"Thanks to Amalima and World Bicycle Relief for the bicycle donation, it will now be easy for me to cycle and cover more households than before, maybe I will reach 100 households per month. The bicycle will help me to conduct my duties easily and ensure that community members have correct information on COVID-19 and continue with Amalima health, nutrition and WASH activities," says Chakaha.



WBR NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

NGO DONATES BICYCLES FOR FIGHTING CORONAVIRUS IN HOMA BAY

KENYA NEWS - June 5, 2020



The World Bicycle Relief organization through the Kenya Red Cross has donated 100 bicycles for use by Community Health volunteers (CHVs) for sensitizing Suba North Sub County residents against the COVID-19.

Suba North MP Millie Odhiambo and Homa Bay County Commissioner Yatich Kipkemei launched the distribution of the bikes as well as hand sanitizers at Ogongo Health Center in Lambwe ward Friday.

[READ MORE - kenyanews.go.ke](http://kenyanews.go.ke)

AMALIMA AND WBR DONATE BICYCLES TO VILLAGE HEALTH WORKERS

CITE ZIMBABWE - June 11, 2020

Amalima in partnership with the World Bicycle Relief has donated a total of 300 bicycles to village health workers in four districts in Matabeleland to improve their mobility at a time when the world, Zimbabwe included, is battling the novel COVID-19 pandemic.

Amalima is a USAID Development Food Security Services Program (DFSA), which has been running in Zimbabwe since 2013 and is coming to a close this year.

[READ MORE - cite.org.zw](http://cite.org.zw)

WBR DONATES 100 BICYCLES TO SCALE UP M2M EFFORTS IN MALAWI

MOTHERS2MOTHERS - June 6, 2020

mothers2mothers (m2m) is pleased to announce that World Bicycle Relief (WBR) donated 100 bicycles to our program in Malawi through a new partnership. These bicycles will make it easier for m2m's frontline staff— Mentor Mothers and Expert Clients—to reach vulnerable women and their families affected by HIV during these unprecedented times.



m2m's success in Malawi has been driven by the regular home visits conducted by our frontline staff to monitor their clients' health and wellbeing. The in-person interactions, which often require them to walk long distances, have proven effective in providing women and adolescent girls, in particular, with the emotional support they need to stay on treatment despite the many challenges they face.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many countries and organizations to review how their programs are implemented. While many are relying on technology to deliver health and safety messages, this is sadly not possible in the most rural and remote parts of Malawi. [READ MORE - m2m.org](http://m2m.org)

VILLAGE HEALTH WORKERS KEY IN COVID-19 CAMPAIGN

NEWSDAY ZIMBABWE - June 4, 2020

In Zimbabwe, the ratio of healthcare workers to the population, at 1.23 per 1 000, is very low. Global requirements are that a country should have a minimum of 445 healthcare workers for every 100 000 people. But countries like Zimbabwe fall far short of this standard.

This has resulted in over-reliance on village health workers (VHWs) who are community cadres that work on voluntary basis to assist the Health ministry.

Over the years, these brave women and men have soldiered on and as the health delivery system continues to fall apart, they act as glue holding together the system.

The health village workers were key to Zimbabwe's successful expansion of primary healthcare in the early 1990s.

They played a central role in closing the gap between public health services and communities at local level, bringing health services to communities, and facilitating community roles in the health delivery system. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened their plight with many resigning and giving up, citing lack of protective clothing as well as being burdened by the ever-increasing demands stemming from severe hunger afflicting many villages.

[READ MORE - newsday.co.zw](http://newsday.co.zw)

Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) is currently training VHWs on COVID-19 as trusted sources of information for community literacy and to support case tracing.

To lessen the burden of walking long distances, the organization has entered into a partnership with World Bicycle Relief in their bicycle response against COVID-19 emergency.

