

ARK Launches Corona19 Response Fund

– April 3, 2020

Focusing on locally sustainable approaches to effectively keep our vulnerable populations safe – and we need your help.

While COVID-19 has disrupted life globally, Africa is no exception. However, ARK is well positioned to respond effectively and quickly. We are fortunate that we already had an enabling infrastructure built over time from lessons learned over the last 25+ years responding to HIV/AIDS and education programming. Our approaches both short and long term use locally available resources. **Our goal is to Strengthen 4 Locally Identified Areas:**

1. **Prepare ARK Community Extension Volunteers (CEV) to handle COVID-19 prevention and dispel myths:** By the end of March, ARK had already teamed up with Public Health partners who provided 3-days of intensive virtual training to our 21 Train the Trainer volunteer teams in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The continuous support leverages readily available technology such as mobile based platforms, emails, and social media to provide on-going updates so CEV can pass it on to our vulnerable populations quickly. CEV play a pivotal role that include several important areas; teaching grandma families about the importance of proper hygiene practices, **building strong immune systems** using local foods, **personal protection/mask making**, and **Contact Tracing**.
2. **Continued Access to Educational Activities working with Foot/bike Solders:** School closures in the region are worsening the inequalities in access to education, Teens Against AIDS have developed a mechanism to keep our vulnerable students busy and stay on track so that when schools reopen they will be better prepared for exams. Our “foot/bike solders” visit families weekly while practicing social distance to continue to mentor students and deliver necessary household supplies to grandma families.
3. **Youth Innovation to Find COVID-19 Local Solutions:** ARK is providing small grants of up to \$300 to youth in the communities where we work. These are youth who work in teams of 3 or more researching on local solutions to fight COVID-19.
4. **Ensuring the comprehensive wellbeing and safety of our local staff and volunteers:** To accomplish our mission to grandma families, we depend largely on community volunteers. We have decided to provide a weekly stipend to our volunteers to continue who risk their lives to provide services to our home-bound grandma families.

From everyone on our team, we hope we all stay healthy and safe,