



Support to Police to Respond Effectively During the COVID-19 period

The past 3 years has seen IMLU in partnership with the National Police Service support 13 stations in select counties namely Isiolo, Nyeri, Nakuru and Kisumu to establish and operationalize the Community Policing Committees (CPCs) under a grant provided by DIAKONIA. This has led to the setting up of community policing structures driven by trust building and confidentiality between the communities and the police.

With the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Kenya in mid-March 2020, we donated personal protection equipment (PPEs) to the 13 police stations which included sanitizers, hand washing gels, disinfectants, facial masks, hand gloves, spraying cans among other items. They were well received by the officers commanding the stations and the CPC chairpersons who appreciated the move to prioritize their officer's safety in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PPEs have gone a long way in enhancing police

welfare which is a key pillar in the police reforms agenda, while appreciating the role they are playing to balance between provision of public safety and security.



Ward Commanders from Mukurweini and Kongoni police stations received the PPEs to support the fight against the spread of COVID-19 on 28th March 2020.

In solidarity with the Community in Mathare during the COVID-19 Pandemic

On 14th April 2020, we teamed up with the Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group, to set up 10

hand washing stations, in Mlango Kubwa, one of the local villages in Mathare slum with a total population of 75,000 residents. This was informed from the fact that most of our clients come from informal settlements and the hand washing points would ensure that they observe the guidelines as we serve them. Each of these stations operates between 8-5 pm daily and serve approximately 300 residents daily, totaling to an average of about 4,500 people daily.

Isaack Mwasa who is the founder of the Conservation Youth Group said that the hand washing stations have benefitted the residents of Mathare and ensured they wash their hands regularly as per the Ministry of Health guidelines. The Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group (MECYG) was established in 1997 with support from the Government of Norway and provides a safe and generative space for young men and women of the community.



MARCH – MAY 2020 UPDATES



Some of the community members consisting of men, women and children using various hand washing stations in Mathare, Mlango Kubwa on 14th April 2020

Call to Action!!!

On 28th April 2020, we issued a [press release](#) demanding police officers to uphold human rights standards while enforcing the dusk to dawn curfew which was initially affected on 27th March and run up to 26th April 2020. During this period we monitored and documented 41 cases of torture, cruel and inhumane degrading treatment perpetrated by law enforcement agencies and an assistant chief. Out of the 41 cases, 11 were deaths and 30 injuries from torture and ill-treatment.

The same day we formally [petitioned](#) the Inspector General of Police to investigate and bring to account all police officers found culpable for use of unnecessary excessive force leading to the injuries and deaths. This was followed by another petition to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) on 12th May 2020 to investigate seven cases of use of force by police.

On 22nd May 2020, we sent an appeal to the UN Special rapporteur on EJES to commence dialogue with Government of Kenya to ensure; the EJE cases are investigated in accordance with criminal law standard and international or national and prepare files to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings; and to facilitate strengthened judicial accountability, including identifying possible avenues for the administration of justice for those purposes at the national, regional and international levels;

Additionally, a brief was sent to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the status of torture and extra judicial executions in Kenya during the covid-19 period.

Know Your Rights!!!

Did you know that the Victims Protection Act 2014 provides for protection of victims of crime and abuse of power and equipping victims with better information and support services? Further, a victim has the right to be present either in person or through a representative of their choice throughout the trial. The Act also provides for compensation to victims and protection for victims? **Now you know...**

What is in June?

June is a special month for us as we commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture around the world on 26th June 2020. The theme for this year theme this year is about how survivors of torture are coping with COVID-19, and how we are responding. Keep it here for more information on the buildup activities towards that day and what we plan to do during the day itself.

For more information visit our website: www.imlu.org

Join us online:

Facebook: Independent Medico-legal Unit.

Twitter: @IMLU_org