



# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT

AUGUST

**Funded by**

Salesian Missions

**Implemented by**

Don Bosco Networks Tanzania in collaboration with Don Bosco Didia, Dodoma, Mafinga secondary schools, Oysterbay

VTC

and Upanga youth Centre

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Covid-19 emergency relief project implementation started May 2021 following the continued prevalence of Coronavirus pandemic outbreaks worldwide. The project was implemented in five Salesians centers of Don Bosco Didia, Don Bosco Dodoma secondary, Don Bosco Mafinga secondary, Don Bosco Oysterbay VTC, and Don Bosco Upanga as emergency relief to the targeted group.

The project was funded by Salesian Mission and implemented by Don Bosco Networks Tanzania in partnership with five (05) centres namely Don Bosco Dodoma seminary, Didia secondary, Mafinga seminary, Upanga youth centre and Oysterbay Vocational training centre (VTC). The project touched four regions of Tanzania, namely Shinyanga, Dodoma, Dar es salaam, and Iringa. The project target beneficiaries were marginalized youth who are enrolled at Don Bosco's institutions in the five (5) Don Bosco centers, youth from surrounding schools and communities who access Don Bosco Institutions for various oratory and extra curricular activities like games and sports.

The project's main focus was limited to (i) Production and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) i.e., face masks, handwashing soaps, and permanent handwashing stations. The project mainly boosted production capacity of implementing centers to locally produce most of the items (ii) Health & security—the project supported two round medical sessions in the five (5) project implementing centres which were conducted by qualified medical doctors who deeply discussed needed Covid-19 information among youth. The sessions content covered proper usage of personal protective equipment (PPE), general Covid-19 information including vaccine, nutrition, mental health and reproductive health (iii) The project enhanced life skills training to help target beneficiaries to maintain social connections. During medical sessions, principals and teachers were also invited to share encouragement messages to the young people that they should not lose hope by losing maybe their dependants or parents because of Covid-19 or by being affected with the social-economic impact of Covid-19. This element was crucial as ever during such difficult moment given most of youth have been observed to be stressed and many counting themselves off to their personal goals.

The project has made a huge difference in terms of community hygiene awareness and practice changes. The centers have been equipped with handwashing slabs, improved production units capacities, etc. The knowledge and skills learned during the production of PPE items will potentially be turned into income generation activities in the future.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SDB-Salesians of Don Bosco

FMA-Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

NGOs- Non-Governmental Organizations

VTC's- Vocational Training Centres

OVC- Orphans and Vulnerable Children

DBYES-Don Bosco Youth Educational Centers

TVET-Technical Vocational Education Training

PDO- Planning and Development Office

QT-Qualifying Tests

WHO-World Health Organization

PPE- Personal Protective Equipment

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND:

This report presents the final narrative report of Covid-19 Phase III project. The project implementation started on May and completed as of August 2021. The project implementation involved five (5) Don Bosco centres namely Don Bosco Didia Secondary, Dodoma high school, Mafinga Seminary, Don Bosco Upanga youth center, and Oysterbay Vocational Training Center under the supervision and coordination of Don Bosco Network Tanzania (DBNET). The project envisioned to support the listed communities to construct permanent handwashing stations, produce and distribute personal protective gears (PPE) and conduct medical sessions to create Covid-19 awareness among youth.

### 1.2 PROFILES OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTING CENTRES

#### **General background of Salesian Community**

The Salesian Society is one of the largest orders of the Catholic Church that provides education and human development programs for poor, disadvantaged, and abandoned children and youths across the world. The Society was founded in 1859 and now includes over 20,000 priests and brothers (Society of St. John Bosco, SDB) and 17,000 sisters (Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, FMA). In furthering their vision and reaching out to more young people in need, they are assisted by thousands of lay supporters and employees in over 135 countries. To date, Salesians run more than 3,500 Salesians schools that include formal and non-formal secondary schools, vocational-technical schools, agriculture schools, orphanages, and youth centers. In addition to the various institutions, Salesians have a wide variety of youth programs for character development organized across their provinces. Headquartered in Rome, Salesians are highly decentralized with each province being highly autonomous. Most provinces are locally registered as NGOs.

#### **Don Bosco's Background in Tanzania**

Salesians of Don Bosco arrived in Tanzania in 1980, settling first in the Oysterbay area of Dar es Salaam. To empower the young people in East Africa. The Salesians sought to establish vocational training, Secondary schools, and youth empowerment centers across Tanzania. Today, there are a total of 9 Salesians houses, with four located in Dar es Salaam (Oysterbay, Upanga, Kinyerezi, and Bunju) and the rest located in Morogoro, Moshi, Iringa, Dodoma, Shinyanga, and Mafinga regions. Across the country, Don Bosco's work/institutions are acknowledged and appreciated especially for youth formation programs, TVET training, and secondary education provision considered as a model by the Ministry of Education in Tanzania.

#### **Don Bosco Planning and Development Office-Tanzania**

Don Bosco Planning and Development Office (PDO) initially started as a Procure Office in 1992. In 1996, with the assistance of DMOS – COMIDE of Belgium, the Project Office was founded. After 18 years of successful program implementation, in 2014 the Project Office received a Charter from the Provincial Council to separate its Kenya and Tanzania activities, hence the full formation of Don Bosco NET-Tanzania. DBNET has a primary role of acting as a link in the activities, funding, and

support of projects favoring grass-root communities in Tanzania. Focusing on both small to medium-sized projects, mainly in the field of education, youth animation programs, street children rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS awareness program, Agriculture, and Microfinance projects identified by local communities on the ground.

### **Don Bosco Seminary-Mafinga**

Began in 1884 by Fr. Liptak an American priest as a pioneer. It is a secondary that admits students from a catholic background in order to prepare them, for religious, priestly life and as good Christians and honest citizens. The school offers academic studies up to form four, although the focus is formation. Students begin with a preparatory year (pre-form one) before they are admitted to form one, the school is unisex for boys only. The school enrolls youth of an average age of 15-25 across the country. Currently, the school has 314 scholars.

### **Don Bosco Didia Secondary School**

Was opened in 1995 as a response to the invitation by the late Bishop Castor Sekwa, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Shinyanga. The school serves mostly the peasant population roughly between 65000-70000 people, mainly made up of *Sukuma* and *Nyasnagi* tribes together with a small settlement of established Arab traders.

Today the school has about 1047 students doing their O–level (967) and ‘A’ level studies (81). It is a mixed school with boarding cum day scholars. The boarders are 829 and day scholars are 218. The school is one of the best schools in the region offering quality education to young people around the region. This has been reflected in the good results that the students are able to achieve in their National Examinations. The school was awarded the best performance certificate by the Minister of Education and Culture. We try to be faithful to the original idea of keeping this school for the locals and the poor.

The schools’ major population is comprised of marginalized youth with humble economic backgrounds. With the little funds acquired from the minimum scale school fees, the institutions mainly depend on subsists from agricultural activities which are seasonal given the climatic condition of the area. Thus, the stream of support to develop education endeavors is usually formed, different development partners.

### **Don Bosco Dodoma Seminary high school**

Began as a school with a curriculum based on the National Curriculum for Tanzania. Today the institution offers an inspiring and well-rounded education to students in forms 5 and 6 in both arts and science. The institutions’ focus is to educate today’s youth for tomorrow’s world”. Helping students fulfill their potential in all aspects of their development is the institution's key priority and over the years students enrolled at the institution have developed a keen sense of self–identity and positive self-esteem. The school offers a friendly and imaginative environment where students are encouraged to discover and develop individual talents, whether they are intellectual, creative, or sporting. The institutions’ current enrollment is around 75 students.

As part of extracurricular activities, the school promotes the students by giving them opportunities for sports activities, skills, and talent promotion in arts and music. Over the years the schools have been ranked among the best performing schools in the country. Its alumni are serving the nation in various aspects/capacities.

### **Don Bosco Upanga Youth Training Centre**

Don Bosco Youth Centre – Upanga is part of the chain of Don Bosco Institutions present in Tanzania and elsewhere in East Africa and the world at large. It is a Catholic, non-profit institution that works for young people irrespective of their race, religion, or culture. The Centre which is run by the Catholic Priests and Brothers and lay collaborators characterized by their outstanding youth charisma was opened in October 1982. For a long time, this center has been associated with empowerment programs for Youth in Dar es Salaam and in particular for our Upanga neighborhood. It is located at the heart of the city of Dar es Salaam. Every day a big number of young people especially secondary school students visit our campus for assistance in their studies. We avail our hall as a place to study and this place is busy from 7.30 am to 6.30 pm. Students come from many schools looking for a quiet place to study in their free time. Here they find a welcoming and youth-friendly environment. We also have sports in the afternoon; our compound is small so we have a small football ground and two basketball courts (one indoor and one outdoor). We start with the junior teams at 3 pm then the ladies' team and men's senior team (which plays for 1st division league) starts from 7 pm to around 8.30 pm. That is the activity that goes the latest on our timetable. We also have an HIV/AIDS awareness program.

Any youth regardless of their race or religious affiliation is welcome to the center to join any of the above-mentioned activities without any charges/fees. Don Bosco as an institution takes care of youth especially the poor and abandoned. Don Bosco himself used to say "it is enough for me to know you are young for me to love you very much". Thus, we can't introduce any charges because we are afraid the poor ones will not get a place to study or to play. We have dreams to increase activities in the center regardless of the limited space but we are limited in resources.

### **Don Bosco Oysterbay Vocational Training Centre**

Mainly focuses on providing TVET training primarily among the marginalized youngsters in Dar es Salaam and other small towns across the city. The marginalized youngsters trained at the institution mainly comprise primary school leavers and secondary school dropouts. Equally targeted are students who completed formal education but lacked the skills to secure their jobs. Currently, the institution has a total of about 249 students enrolled in different trades. Male trainees account for 64% of the institution's total population whereas Female trainees account for 36% of the total population. The Male-female ratio at the institution is 2:1

Don Bosco Oysterbay Vocational Training Centre is among the oldest and popular Vocational Training Centres in Tanzania. The Institution traces its history back to 1990 when the Salesians have handled the institution from the Catholic Parish of St. Peters. The institution was successfully registered to the Vocational Education Training Authority in 1990 and has grown in terms of students' intake, academic units as well as programs.

Currently, the institution specializes in the provision of 9 major courses which are VETA certified. Courses provided at the institution include electrical installation, solar energy, Motor vehicle mechanics, IT/secretarial, Fitter Mechanics, Tailoring & Screen Printing, Tiling and Terrazo, Carpentry, and Joinery as well as Welding & Fabrication. Through outstanding qualifications, the Centre has attained over years of operation, the Institution provides a holistic and diverse range of educational training among trainees. The latter has created and developed a wide range of career prospects which have in turn guaranteed high levels of employability as the result of outstanding qualifications the center provides.

### 1.3 COVID-19 PROJECT DETAILS

Don Bosco Network Tanzania has been funded by Salesian Mission to implement the Covid-19 project through a partnership with Don Bosco Communities in Tanzania. The project was implemented in five (5) Don Bosco Centres in four (4) different regions of Tanzania, namely Shinyanga, Dodoma, Mafinga, and Dar es salaam. The project target beneficiaries were marginalized youth who are enrolled at Don Bosco's institutions in the five centres, youth from surrounding community and schools who access Don Bosco institutions for extra curriculum activities including games and sports.

The project's overall strategic goal was to provide assistance support to the Don Bosco secondary school, and TVET students and affected families in response to the coronavirus pandemic in Tanzania. The project implementation approach, focus, and objectives follow into three (3) categorical areas below;

- Production and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to its primary stakeholders and the community—Through this project, Don Bosco secondary schools, TVET, and youth center institutions supported the students by producing and distributing PPE. The production of the PPE was mainly undertaken under implementing centres production units by leveraging their production capacity, purchasing needed equipment, and staff in paying a critical role in increasing the volume and reach of this effort.
- Health & security— qualified doctors and health practitioners are invited to conduct health sessions with youth in all the implementing centers. The ongoing exercises provide youth with the opportunity to share, discuss and ask questions on health and covid-19 related matters to doctors who visit them in their schools, the environments in which there are more comfortable to express their feelings, and experiences.
- life skills training to help to maintain social connections—life skills training is as critical now as ever, particularly those that can help young people manage stress, maintain healthy relationships, cope with uncertainty, and re-assess and set their personal goals. Some of the challenges young people are citing are depression, missing friends and family, not knowing when this will end, the stress of paying living expenses, and how to navigate the economic recession. Young Tanzanians are craving connection, positive messages, and psychosocial support to mitigate their feelings of isolation.



## CHAPTER TWO: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

**Objective One:** To support the targeted beneficiaries to mitigate the Covid-19 spread through the promotion of safe hygiene practice, mask provision, sanitizers, handwashing soap, and portable hand washing containers/sinks by September 2021.

- **Produced and provided masks**

The use of masks is part of a comprehensive package of the prevention and control measures that can limit the spread of certain respiratory viral diseases, including COVID-19. Masks can be used either for the protection of healthy persons (worn to protect themselves when in contact with infected individuals) or for source control (worn by an infected individual to prevent onward transmission). Given the people accessing the DB institutions, originate from different settings the centers have established face mask-wearing rules before anyone enters their compounds. However, to enable prevention mechanisms especially to the marginalized populations' Don Bosco institutions with this support produced locally made face masks and distributing them to the needy, including the enrolled students. Through this support, Don Bosco institutions have distributed a total of 3,600 face masks to the students, parishioners, youngsters accessing the Centres for oratory programs.

- **Provided Handwashing soaps**

The centers have managed to produce locally made handwashing soaps and place them at all established handwashing points. In total the five (5) centers have been able to locally produce 1440 liters of handwashing soaps. All students have been instructed to wash their hands after some hours and every time one enters the center compounds from home. The centers have installed several hand washing points within the compound, main entrance gate, playing grounds, and all points being placed with handwashing soap which are locally made.

- **Established Permanent Handwashing stations**

The application of hand sanitizers along with handwashing practices all provide effective mechanisms to kill viruses. With the support from these project, all five (5) centres have managed to construct atleast one permanent hand washing stations with atleast 3 water taps to provide running water. In total 12 handwashing stations, have been installed at the five centers with 62 water taps. The stations are permanently and will serve the purposes for several years to come.

**Objective Two:** To provide basic hygiene and Covid-19 information to the targeted communities through both print and electronic media, in-school medical sessions, our social media platform/posters/fliers by September 2021.

To achieve this objective, in-campus medical sessions were conducted whereby at every center two medical sessions were undertaken. The sessions were conducted by medical doctors who were divided into two; national teams and local. Local doctors came from nearby hospitals within the specific region. In total over 50 doctors were involved in the exercises whereby 21 attend Don Bosco Didia Secondary School, 7 Dodoma, 8 Don Bosco Mafinga, 15 Oysterbay VTC, and 5 Don Bosco Upanga. The number of doctors varied depending on the number of trainees/youth available at the specific center, etc.

The medical sessions contents include (i) Assessment and promotion of COVID-19 awareness among students and staffs (ii) Assessment and promotion of reproductive health awareness (iii) Assessment and promotion of nutrition awareness (iv) Assessment and promotion of Mental Health awareness

Medical sessions approach and Methodology: Three approaches and methods were adopted during the medical sessions namely Presentations, group discussions, and Consultation. Details of the session as illustrated below

- **Presentations:** Two (02) presentations sessions were prepared and delivered through PowerPoint presentations which were displayed for all students to see and follow through. The first presentation gave students and staff a brief but informative overview on COVID-19, Mental Health, Nutrition, and Reproductive Health, and STI's. The second presentation was an in-depth presentation on COVID-19. Due to the rising mortality and morbidity rates of COVID-19, it was a necessary topic to ponder over and doctors had opportunity to hear participants views, myths, opinions and assess prevention practices among students at the school. During these presentations, students were given opportunities to ask and answer questions on areas of interest.
- **Group Discussions:** With the information gathered through the presentation sessions, group discussions were vital to conduct. Students were divided into groups with the consideration of age, and gender with each group having around twenty (20) students and one (1) doctor. The discussions were based on questions and answers, with students encouraged to ask questions on areas they felt were not covered during presentation or any related issues. The doctors answered questions to the best of their knowledge and experience.
- **Consultations Sessions:** During presentations and discussions, there were several students who felt the need for personal (one-on-one) consultations with the doctors, hence after group discussion students were given chance to talk to the doctors about the topics discussed and other areas of interests in personal. This session were vital for students to seek assistance on their health issues which they felt shy or uncomfortable discussing in the presences of others. The consultations were carried out with utmost privacy and confidentiality.

After the sessions with students and staffs, doctors held feedbacks meetings with center managements whereby they sighted and shared important observations that they had acquired during the sessions. Some of the issues that were raised as observations includes

- The majority of the students were aware of COVID-19 as pandemic disease, means of transmission, symptoms of the disease, and prevention.
- There were a lot of circulating myths on the origin of COVID-19 with most of the students believing it's a man-made virus to wipe out Africans.
- Only 2 out of 20 students assessed had the knowledge and the skills on proper means of wearing and taking off of a face mask.
- The majority of students had a myth that there is no Covid-19 cases or deaths in Tanzania
- The majority of young people believe they are immune to COVID-19 and are unaware of the impact of getting infected and spreading the disease.
- The students were aware of the presence of a vaccine however the majority of them have myths and speculations on the COVID-19 vaccine where most of them believe it's lethal and unsafe for use.
- Mental health issues also were indentified with most of the students observed to be stressed especially those from VTC.

**Objective Three:** Provision of life skills training to help to maintain social connections, help young people manage stress, maintain healthy relationships, cope with uncertainty, and re-assess and set their personal goals in light of the covid- 19 pandemic

In preventing the spread of the pandemic, access to quality, gender-responsive and accurate information is key to dispel myths, curb the spread of fear and ensure that the public has the facts to keep themselves and others safe from acquiring and/or spreading the disease. Through the implementation of the project, all DB centers (DB Didia, Dodoma, Oysterbay, Mafinga, and Upanga) have been passing the Covid-19 information to youth, enrolled students, parishioners, and the community surrounding the Don Bosco centers. The messages shared targets to inform about Covid-19 spread, prevention, and precautions to take, symptoms, and what should be done in case one feels the described symptoms. The extra curriculum hours have been used wisely to discuss and share the understandings, feelings, perceptions, and experience of Covid-19 among youth.

## SECTION FOUR: CONCLUSION

The outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has created a global health crisis that has had a deep impact on the way we perceive our world and our everyday lives. Not only the rate of contagion and patterns of transmission threatens our sense of agency, but the safety measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus. Within this context of physical threat, social and physical distancing, as well as a public alarm it was seemingly necessary for different stakeholders in Tanzania (hospitals, NGO's, religious institutions, mass media, etc. to also play a vital role in protecting, educating, and safeguarding the welfare of the country and complement the government's efforts to combat COVID-19. The COVID-19 emergency response project has so far made a huge difference in terms of community hygiene awareness and practice changes. The Don Bosco centers implementing the project have achieved an outreach to many youths with needs especially those who cannot afford PPE items for protecting themselves from the Coronavirus pandemic. The project has managed to reach and help people from diverse groups, age, income, etc whom all have been thankful for the services