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HABARI JAMII

News from the Community and Civil Society Sector's Response to COVID-19



A SURVEY ON COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS:

Experiences of FCS grantees conducting COVID19 interventions



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Greetings from Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)

Welcome to our seventh and final edition of the '**Habari Jamii Bulletin**', now that our country and economy have opened up a few months after the first coronavirus case in Tanzania. For the past 3 months, the bulletin has been highlighting the vital work of our grantees, the civil society sector and communities in the fight against COVID-19. Through the platform, our partners read inspiring community stories on what was transpiring during the unprecedented time. I thank the Almighty God for the cooperation and coordination we demonstrated during this time. The support of our donors, grantees and civil society organizations, '**together**' have considerably facilitated the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and for that, I am truly grateful and appreciative for our collective force.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in Tanzania, FCS has been working to ensure that mitigation strategies support communities in the country especially the marginalized population in grassroots communities and support government efforts in the fight against the virus. With approval from our donors, FCS' programmatic response towards COVID-19 allowed for the reallocation of 20% of grantees' project budgets for the year 2020, with a total worth of TZS 1.15 billion (approximately USD 500,000) to go towards COVID-19 interventions. This bulletin features highlights of the post implementation survey of the interventions. I am pleased with what the interventions have achieved. Our role as CSO is to reach many people in communities especially in rural areas, and to make a difference in people's lives.

As people adjust to their normal lives in their communities, our grantees and partners continue to work at ensuring that communities continue to take preventative measures against COVID-19.

Thank you for being a part of this informative platform.

Happy reading!

Francis Kiwanga

Executive Director
Foundation for Civil Society

Overview of COVID-19 Interventions



Team member from Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) raising awareness on the Coronavirus among Masai communities in Kiteto, Manyara. The project was supported by FCS

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) presented a major challenge for governments and civil society around the world. The strain on economies, healthcare systems and even social order resulting from the pandemic has been devastating. When patient cases were confirmed in Tanzania, FCS was at the forefront of efforts to rapidly respond and ensure civil society organizations, particularly its grantees in Tanzania, play their significant role of, not only raising awareness, but also providing the necessary material support needed to keep marginalized and vulnerable populations safe from the pandemic. This is due to the fact that the grantees have a wider reach in grassroots communities.

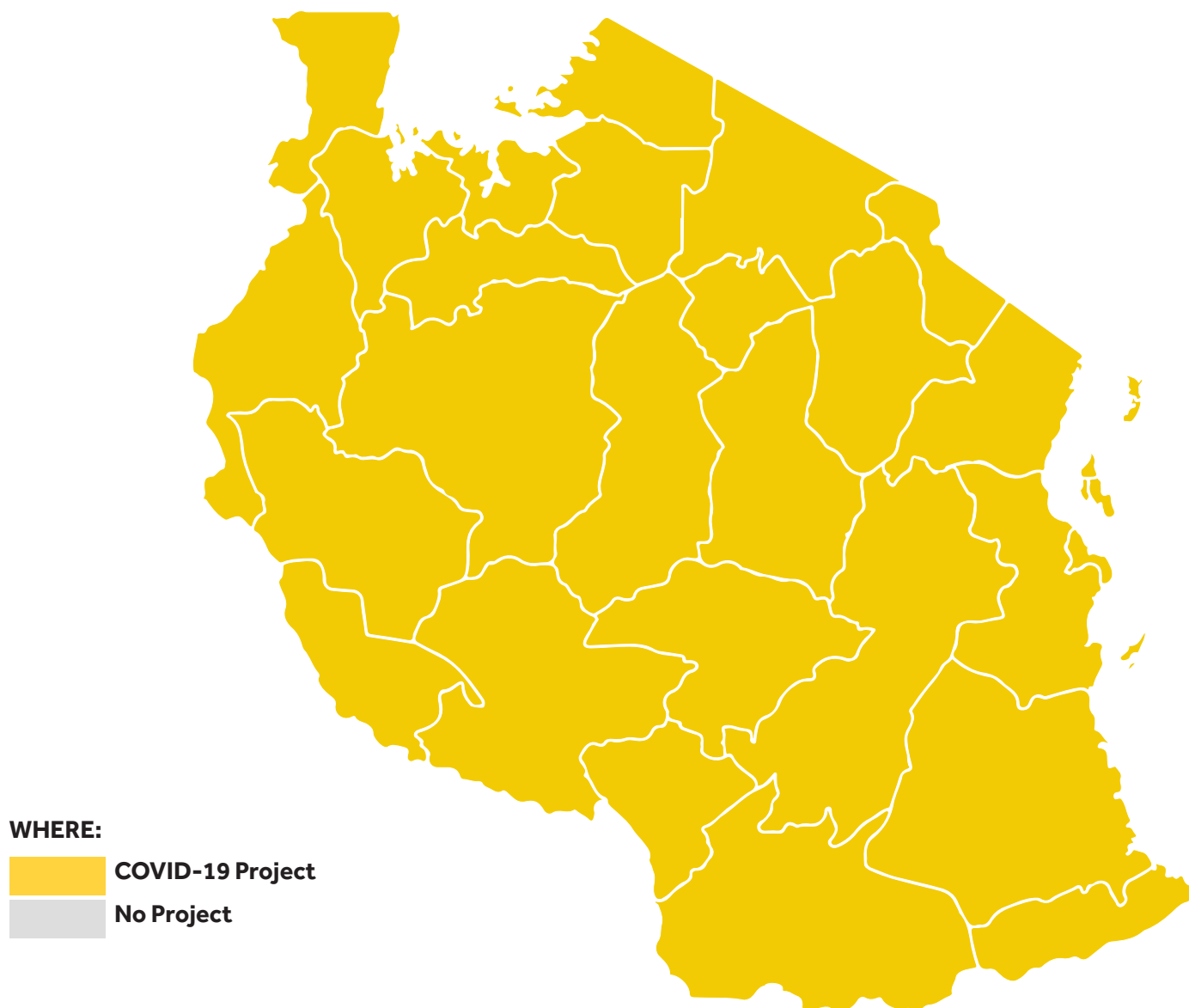
FCS carried out a number of initiatives towards COVID-19 response earlier this year in March. With approval from its donors, FCS's programmatic

response towards COVID-19 allowed for the reallocating 20% of grantees' project budgets for the year 2020, with a total worth of TZS 1.15 billion (approximately USD 500,000) to go towards COVID-19 interventions. The interventions aimed at ensuring effective and inclusive communication around the pandemic, improving access to healthcare, as well as managing escalating risks of gender-based violence and child abuse resulting from the pandemic.

The interventions benefitted vulnerable and marginalized groups including people with disabilities, women, and children, the elderly, pastoralists, hunter-gatherer communities as well as small entrepreneurs.

The accompanying map shows the projects' coverage across the country:

Reach of FCS Interventions on COVID-19



Coverage of FCS-supported COVID-19 interventions across Tanzania

The projects had a presence in all regions in the country, with the exception of Njombe where FCS did not already have an experienced partner to support.

Number of People Reached

A total of 682,407 people were reached throughout the country, 340,339 (49.9%) being male and 342,068 (50.1%) being female.

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A SURVEY ON COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS:

Experiences of FCS grantees conducting COVID-19 interventions

As part of our learning strategy, our Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) team designed and rolled out a post implementation survey on the interventions.

Key facts and insights from the Interventions

Interventions enabled the hundreds of thousands to practice safety guidelines

A number of materials were distributed, mainly to those who would otherwise not have access to them. These included:



More than 16,500 face masks



More than 515 pieces of hand washing buckets



More than 2,000 litres of soap and sanitizers



Other materials including water tanks, protective clothing and surgical gloves, Dettol, septol, thermal scanners.



Team member from Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) raising awareness on the Coronavirus among Masai communities in Kiteto, Manyara. The project was supported by FCS

LGAs were largely supportive in the implementation of the COVID-19 projects, communities a little less so.

In a post-implementation survey carried out by FCS, 36 grantees worked with LGAs in their implementation areas.

The nature of the support received from LGAs included:

- The LGAs provided health experts, social welfare officers and doctors to educate and raise awareness to the community.
- The LGA representatives joined and actively took part in the campaigns such as live radio programmes and conveying messages in open public platforms, regardless of whether it is a weekday or a weekend. For example, the special committee that was setup in Chamwino facilitated activities and even led the campaigns.
- The leadership of Roman Catholic Church Ushiorombo stopped the purchase of hand washing equipment in the church and instead purchased foot machines and those that were friendly for PWDs and correctly reflecting the messages affecting Covid-19.
- In Nyamagana ward, the local leaders after being sensitised, mobilized the private sector and managed to a number of them to place hand wash buckets outside their premises.

The communities cooperated during the implementation of the COVID-19 interventions in various forms, including:

- The community members received COVID-19 awareness education with a positive attitude and aspired to suggest that this education be sustainable as it has helped to make the community members overcome the culture of holding hands when greeting or hugging.
- The communities competed for leaflets to paste on residences as well as commercial areas. A resident of Msisi ward was also giving free cash to customers who disseminated corona-related messages with a loud speaker at his office.
- The local community contributed their efforts to buying a hand washing tanks and stands in every market and pledged to maintain and protect it. The government further supported this initiative, for example: MUWASA, came forward to pay for water supply infrastructure at the main stand of Moshi Mjini and markets in Mbuyuni and Manyema
- In parts of Zanzibar, the community provided information about any new foreigner that came in their neighborhood to their sheha so that precautionary measures are taken early

Strategic methods were used to optimize reach and impact of the messages vital

All grantees reported targeting strategic areas and influencers in their interventions as shown in the examples below:

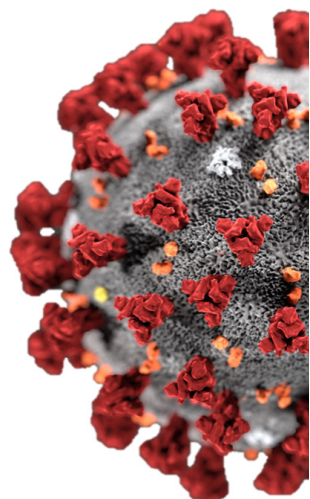
- Various cost-effective influencing methods were used such as: stickers and labels were stuck on Bodabodas, passenger cars, saloon cars, studios, local pubs and clubs, shops had loud speakers playing songs with messages to educate the community to take precautions against corona infections. Also advertising vehicles with passionate and animated speakers delivering important messages to villages.
- Social media platforms were relied up so for example, Wotesawa made online posts through using key social media influential personnel (Facebook, twitter and Instagram) reaching 1.9 million people who viewed the messages.

- Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) were posted in public spots such as market places, churches and bus-stands.
- The health experts, LGA representatives, religious leaders (Islamic and Christian), the elders of the community and villages were some among the many influencers who were used to reach out to the local community.
- Community Health Care Workers, Community level Animators, Land Rights Activities, Women Groups, PWD groups were some among the forums previously established by FCS led interventions that were used to disseminate information to the local communities.

Impact of the Interventions

The success of the interventions can be seen in:

- The partnerships formed with government, both at the central and local level, enabling CSOs to position themselves as important players in the citizen's affairs
- The impressive reach with both material and immaterial support to communities all over the country, bringing CSOs closer to the people and creating greater space for them to deepen their outreach and citizen engagement in future.



FCS Conducts Support Visits to Grantees Implementing COVID-19 Interventions

Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) visits its grantees in their operating context to share learning experiences, strengthen programme relevance and effectiveness with the goal of achieving the intended outcomes through the interventions. These visits are termed **support visits**. During the visits, FCS conducts case verification as an exercise to ascertain the cases of success from its implementing partners working closely with beneficiaries.

These visits are a crucial part of the communication and monitoring relationships between the organisation and FCS. The case verification exercise is conducted to confirm that what implementing partners reported is in-fact true, factual and evidence-based. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FCS conducted the exercise in August 2020 for implementing partners granted funds to support the fight against the COVID-19 in May 2020. The cases that are selected for verification are based on significance, impact, and validity in the community.

What do we do in case verification?

Partners implement projects in their localities and in the course of implementation achieve some successes. They share these cases of success with FCS whereby a few are selected to verify further before they are published. We learn through these cases that there are so many dimensions of success beyond what we can really measure and document. There are three levels of outcomes: initial, intermediate and long-term. Initial outcomes are the first benefits or changes beneficiaries experience; often these are related to changes in participants' knowledge, attitudes or skills. Intermediate outcomes are often changes in behaviour that result from the participants' new knowledge, attitudes or skills. Long-term outcomes are the meaningful changes for participants, often in their condition or status.

How do we do it?

When measuring project results, we choose to design methods that provide a qualitative and a quantitative evaluation. The evaluation methods we use for each project are decided during the planning process, before the project has actually started.

Qualitative measurements are rooted in direct contact with individuals involved in the program. We make visits to project sites and carry out interviews and hear testimonials from project participants, local government officials and other community partners involved. Quantitative measurements translate experience into units that can be counted, compared, measured and expressed statistically. These include statistical data that we collect from the field, through surveys or submitted by our grantees. Using a mix of qualitative and quantitative measurements, each team visiting our partners is able to answer the question, "Was this project successful?" and prove it. Sometimes we get more cases of success beyond what our partners have reported, when we make visits to the field. For FCS, it is critical to make verification of cases so that we are sure of what we put in our final reports and get to learn from such cases.

TANGA AND ZANZIBAR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS BUILDING RESILIENCE AMID COVID-19

To effectively contribute to the national effort in fighting the COVID-19 Virus during the wake of pandemic, in May 2020 FCS rendered small COVID-19 intervention grants to CSOs. The grants aimed at fostering innovative ways to reduce the effects and further spread of the disease through societal awareness on COVID-19 especially for marginalized groups like people with disabilities, Women and Youth.

Furthermore, the grants aimed at providing personal protective equipments (PPEs) to vulnerable individuals in the society such as frontline healthcare workers as well preventive aid materials like Soap, sanitizers, hand washing buckets etc.

The grants supported our partners' address the immediate socio-economic challenges posed by the unprecedented crisis, but also contribute to building more resilient social systems capable of effectively dealing with threat.

In order to strengthen program relevance and share learning experiences with grantees, in August 2020 FCS conducted a support and case verification visit to see progress of COVID-19 interventions that were implemented by grantees.

This article highlights key insights of COVID-19 interventions in Tanga and Zanzibar.

Community Radios and LGAS collaborate

During the support visit in Tanga and Zanzibar, FCS learned that community radios and local government authorities were the most powerful approach in implementing COVID-19 interventions in communities and helped get the needed outcome.



The power of local religious leaders

Due to limited use of digital communication like social media, the use of religious leaders and influencers assisted our grantees convince people to take preventive measures like washing hands and wearing masks. Since many people were unaware of how the disease spread and continued to gather in groups. Religious leaders supported the interventions and used their influence as opportunity to spread awareness on COVID-19 in mosques and maintain social distancing rules.



Sheikh Said Ahmada from the office of Pemba mufti explaining how their religious teachings have changed relatively to the pandemic. Sheikh Said also was agreed to the role social institutions have played in Pemba.

The power of community radios

Due to minimal use of technology, online information access was limited in Tanga and Zanzibar . Instead the use of local community radios proved to be very much effective in getting information on COVID-19 to the people. For instance, Korogwe FM which worked with FCS grantee TALISDA Foundation in Tanga region to air programs on COVID-19. The station also worked hand in hand with The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and children to air out COVID-19 awareness voice over clips for the public. Thus people in the community were well informed on the virus and how to take measures to prevent its spread. The broadcasters reported a daily feedback of over 100 replies.



Foundation for Civil Society MERL Senior Officer Imran Sherali with staff from TALISDA Foundation in the isles during his recent support visit

OVERVIEW OF

FCS' COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

FCS also made other efforts to contribute to the country's COVID-19 response. As highlighted below.



April 8, 2020



TZS 79 million



CSOs



TZS 11 million



PPEs



21 April to
5 May, 2020

- During the earlier On **April 8, 2020**, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), lead by FCS, joined forces to support government initiatives in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak in Tanzania by raising over **TZS 79 million** (approximately USD 34,000). The funds were handed over to the National Relief Fund through the Prime Minister's Office in Dodoma
- FCS ran a Giving Tuesday campaign from **21 April to 5 May, 2020** to support the protection of healthcare workers in Tanzania through the acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE). In the campaign, FCS invited donations from the general public, institutions and, organizations. FCS and partners collected **TZS 11 million** (approximately USD 4,700) worth of **PPEs** which were handed over to the Medical Association of Tanzania.
- FCS produced a series of **7 bi-weekly bulletins** capturing the organization, and the whole CSO sector's initiatives towards combating COVID-19. These bulletins were accessed on the organization's website: <https://thefoundation.or.tz/fcs-newsletter/> and were disseminated through to **FCS's mailing list** and social media accounts.



<https://thefoundation.or.tz>



FCS's mailing list



7 bi-weekly bulletins



**FCS
TRUST**



Martha Olotu
CEO- FCS TRUST LIMITED

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

We are a development agency specialized in the provision of advisory services in Tanzania. We offer a wide range of tailored solutions for the development sector, spanning from strategy creation, grants management, system strengthening, financial management, capacity assessment and other consulting services for civil society organizations. We are uniquely placed to create linkages and networks within the sector with access to hundreds of grassroots organizations across a vast array of thematic areas both on the mainland and Zanzibar.

WHY FCS TRUST?

We are a subsidiary company of Foundation for Civil Society; our experience goes back 18 years with proven record of executing projects of all size and other services in the sector across Tanzania. We have a wide array of partners, experts, tools and tested methods to serve you.

Our core values: professionalism, accountability, fairness and integrity.

ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

- We offer the possibility to use our infrastructure, systems and expertise for delivering support (funding) to CSOs in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.
- We have good knowledge of, and access to medium and small sized CSOs including local communities (we have wide knowledge of context, wide reach/ networks).
- We have impeccable track record and proven experience in specialized areas such as grant making, CSO strengthening, and partnerships building.
- We have systems and structures needed for effective delivery and accountability, suitable for grant administration (accountable, trustworthy).

GRANTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Our team have massive skills on grants management including:

- Grantees selection
- Screening of grant applications
- Due diligence and pre grant assessments
- Grants management training
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation including development of Monitoring and Evaluation systems.
- Develop grant management manual
- Fiscal agents and payroll management for civil society organisations

INSTITUTIONAL AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Our institutional and staff development programmes unlock the potential of individuals in the organization on the following areas:

- Financial management for CSOs
- Grants management
- Projects evaluation
- Social marketing for Civil Society Organizations

- Donor management
- Baseline surveys
- Compliance
- Report writing
- Cooperate governance
- Local resources mobilization
- Advocacy for change and many more.
- We also conduct training needs assessment/ organization Capacity assessment to civil society organizations

Our training approaches are participatory and action oriented.

OTHER CUSTOMIZED SERVICES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

We leverage our experiences and wide network of partners and consultants to offer customized solutions to a unique need. These may include

strategic planning, program evaluation, developing institutional policies, institutional system strengthening, Corporate Social Responsibility consultations, setting up of a Foundation, Project and Program Management etc.

Our clients

- Civil Society Organizations
- Government Agencies
- Private sector
- Private Foundations
- International Organizations
- Development Partners
- Academic Institutions
- Social Enterprises

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FCS IS A CORRUPTION FREE ZONE

Foundation for civil society has zero tolerance policy on all forms of corruption, both internally and in all its operations and services as well as externally to all persons and entities associated with FCS.

If you have any cause for concern on any individual or entity associated with any employee or person working for FCS , please contact the Executive Director in full confidence and report the issue without delay or report the matter through our confidential email address below

whistleblower@thefoundation.or.tz

FCS has a robust whistle blowing policy whereby all whistle-blower who volunteer to give information are protected

Issued by

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