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**HAI-MALAKIA RESIDENTAL AREA TORIT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BEHIND MANGA TEEN RESTURANT REG. NO. 060**

ACTIVITY NAME: Covid-19 awareness raising campaign

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Support Trust for Africa Development (STAD)

SUPPORTED BY: Support Trust for Africa Development, in the Netherlands (STAD)

LOCATION: Eastern Equatoria State- Torit

DATE: 2nd July 2020

CONTEXT UPDATE

Eastern Equatoria State particularly is at high risk of corona virus pandemic due it location in the boarder with Uganda and Kenya. It has many entry points I. e Nimule, Waligo through Owiny ki bul, Pugee thrugh Parajok, Awno olwee throggh Lobone, Tretenya through Ikwoto, and Nadapal through Kapeota. All these expose the state to high risk of contracting the virus. There is frequency movement of communities in and outside Eastern Equatoria State. The Community in Lopa/Lafon county also come in and out the headquarter to get essential goods from the state head quarter this also expose them to the high risk of contracting the virus.

SUMMARY

From the 11th to 16th June 2020 Support Trust for Africa Development (STAD) Voluntarily, implemented awareness raising campaign in Lopa/Lafon county. Covering Longiro, Lovirang, Tenet, Imehjek, Iboni, Ibaure and Loming Bomas. County Eastern Equatoria State-Torit on covid-19 prevention measures. The awareness raising campaign was made from Boma to Boma. 6 Boma were reached with the message and total of about 765 people benefited directly and indirectly from the awareness.

Key topics:

1. Finding out the knowledge of the people of Lopa/Lafon about Covid-19
2. Highlighting the danger of Corona virus
3. Encouraging the community members to avoid hands shake and anybody contact.
4. Encouraging hands washing practice
5. Encouraging community members to avoid social gathering

Purpose of the awareness:

- To find the understanding of the community about Covid-19
- To create enabling environment for prevention of corona virus.
- To highlight to the community, the danger of corona virus.
- To give preventive measures of the virus to the community of Lopa/Lafon county.

Key achievements:

- Over six Boma in the county of Lopa/Lafon had been reached with the message of Covid-19. Among other Boma reached were Longiro, Lovirang, Tenet (where I was attacked by the armed robbers), Imehejek, Iboni, Ibaure and Loming.
- Had meeting with the road robbers in presence of their area MP which had put an end to the case of robbing along Imehejek-Lovirang road up to date.
- Over six Hundred people had been reached with the message of Covid-19 prevention and good hygiene practice.

Key challenges:

- Lack of knowledge on the covid-19 making the community to not to pick so much interest in the awareness since they underscored it danger.
- Bad road making it very hard to reach in other areas.
- Armed road robbers hindered the awareness exercise in Tenet area.
- Lack of hands washing materials to help the community to implement the knowledge got.
- Interruption from rain
- Language barriers. Most of the people don't understand Arabic very well.
- Lack of transport to reach far places
- No financial support for awareness raising to meet the targeted number of beneficiaries.

Lesson learned:

- Community in Lopa/Lafon don't know the danger of the Covid-19 completely.
- Need for more massive awareness raising in all the Boma of Lopa/Lafon County.
- Cultural norm is still a barrier to avoidance of hands shake and social distancing at the grassroots level
- The community in Lopa/Lafon believed too much to their traditional believes hence making it hard to change their mind the Covid-19 is not spiritual bad virus.

List of planned activities:

1. More awareness raising campaign all over the Eastern Equatoria State more specially in the Counties like Lopa/Lafon, Kapoeta, Budi and Ikwoto county.
2. Train some local people within the community to help disseminate the message of the Covid-19 to the deepest part of the counties.

Activities photos

Awareness message to the children so that they should avoid coming to close contacts with any visitors who come in their community.



Awareness message to the farmers in their farms



Message to women and girls at a community center



Meeting with road robbers with their leaders to find out why they are robbing people on the road.

