

Nairobi, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## “I encourage Kenyans to remain peaceful despite the difficult situation.”

**Interview with Stephen Kadenyo, managing director of "Pamoja for Transformation". He is committed to reducing the severe consequences of Corona - such as hunger, poverty and violence - in Kenya's slums.**



**How do you experience the Corona crisis in your hometown Nairobi?** The crisis has denied us our social interaction, caused isolation and social stress. Further, the economic consequences are painful and has hit everyone hard: Due to the lock-down and curfew, many people have lost their jobs and therefore their income and have no money left to buy food. We are already reducing the number of meals we have in a day. We are afraid of a looming food crisis due to the excessive floods and the plague of locusts that have invaded the country's food basket. We see violence breaking out in families and crime increasing in the streets. We fear that our sisters will be sexually abused and exploited and boys might join crime and will drop out of school. I am scared and concerned about how dramatically the situation is fast deteriorating.

**What is your organisation doing in this situation?** Most of our activities have been halted, but we have integrated them in our “Tunza Jamii initiative” whereby we are delivering food and hygiene packages to the poorest families in urban slums through our community volunteers. We have set up a hotline where victims of violence in slums and violence-affected communities can report and reach us for psychosocial support. Our organization supports also small businesses to produce reusable facemasks and liquid soap for distribution. We have launched peace and safety radio advocacy campaigns.

**What is your advice to Kenyans in this situation?** I encourage them to remain peaceful and non-violent despite the difficult situation. Everybody should follow the government's advise to wash hands regularly and stay at home where possible. Above all report suspicious health, crime and violence incidences to the authorities.

**How can fellow Kenyans contribute?**

I wish to invite citizens and institutions who want to show solidarity with the poorest Kenyans in our campaign “Tunza Jamii” that delivers food to the poorest families in the slums. Donations are possible via M-pesa pay bill 877540 – account Tunza or our organization's bank account. Call us at 072 411 2005 for information. We appreciate your support!