

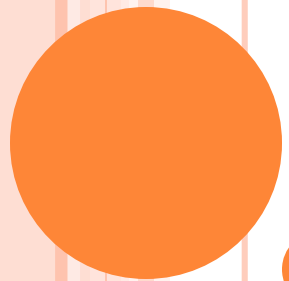
# **MUTOMO NOW,EFFECTS OF COVID 19 AND THE WAY FORWARD IN MUTOMO, KENYA**

**PRESENTED TO RC OF UPPSALA LINN'E ,  
SWEDEN**

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# ABOUT MUTOMO



*A photo of Mutomo in the tarmac with demolished buildings along the road before the rain season*



# MUTOMO NOW IN THE RAIN SEASON



*Nice look of Mutomo  
in the rain.*



# ABOUT MUTOMO

- Climate is semi-arid
- Size is 12,436Sq Km
- Population is about 200,000 people with 122,877 people living below poverty line
- Mutomo has 230 primary schools and 70 secondary schools
- Mutomo has 44 health facilities
- Mutomo has a tarmac road from Kibwezi to Kitui
- ✓ Many buildings were demolished to give way for construction of the road. Some business people relocated their businesses and others closed them down totally.



# SWEDEN MUTOMO PROJECTS

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- Water- 5 boreholes
- Education- 63 schools
- Agriculture/tree planting- Trained 25 groups
- Child sponsorship –Sponsored 79 needy children
- Family planning- Training in 6 regions and done a reproductive health camp
- Teenage mothers- 50





## PHOTOS OF SOME SMPI PROJECTS



*The above are faces of some of very needy children sponsored by SMPI for their education.*

*Teenage mothers*



# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CAMP



*A Reproductive health talk*

*A woman undergoing BTL  
/sterilization procedure*





# PHOTOS OF SOME SMPI PROJECTS



*Beans at Stig  
agroforestry  
land*



*Construction of  
Kaunguni primary*





# EFFECTS OF COVID 19 ON MUTOMO LOCAL COMMUNITY

- As the world responds to the current global health crisis, the effects of COVID-19 are far reaching. Apart from the direct health impacts of the virus, the associated economic, social and environmental effects are catastrophic.

## 1. Health

- How do the numbers look like in Kenya?
  - a) **Total number of people infected = 83,316**
  - b) **Number of people recovered = 54,975**
  - c) **Total deaths = 1,452**
- Mutomo has reported 13 cases of the virus.



## ...EFFECTS...

- Weak health infrastructure in Mutomo- lack of enough space in the hospitals in Mutomo forced the nurses to sit outside under trees to offer medical services to the population to avoid congestion.
- The nurses went on strike demanding better infrastructure, provision of PPEs and risk allowances. This means the people in Mutomo could not get medical services from the government hospitals and had to go to private hospitals which are expensive thus spending more money on medical care.



# .....EFFECTS....

## 2. Lack of access to education

- All learning institutions were closed since March 2020 and all students were at home until October when grades 4, 8, secondary and universities went back to school. Teenage pregnancies have increased in Mutomo due to this closure
- Many students in Mutomo have not benefitted with online education due to lack of electrical power and the digital gadgets required to access education online in Kenya.

## 3. Loss of employment

- The rate of unemployment is high in Mutomo. Most people move to other towns in the country in search of jobs. With covid-19 many people were rendered jobless, others had reduced working hours as well pay cuts .






# .....EFFECTS.....

## 4. Market closures

- Covid- 19 saw closure of restaurants, bars and the normal market days were disrupted. Police in Mutomo had to use tear gas to disperse people to avoid crowding during market days. Curfews and lockdowns saw business people losing incomes from their businesses as movement was restricted and working hours reduced. Some businesses have never recovered from this.

## 5. Rising cost of living

- Food prices have skyrocketed in Kenya and in Mutomo. For example a kg of maize which is the staple food consumed by the locals is going for Kes 30/40, and Kes 120 for beans. Public transport cost has gone up. People are required by law to wear masks which is an added cost to families
  - Due to paycuts across many sectors, some people working in Mutomo town could not manage to pay house rents, others had to shift to cheaper houses and others had to go back to the village.
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# .....EFFECTS.....

## 6. Increased insecurity and social instability

- People in Mutomo are worried of the future. Parents are afraid that when schools reopen, their children may contract the virus as the government is doing gradual opening of learning institutions. The casual jobs are becoming scarce and parents are worried about how to sustain their families as well as keep their children in school.
- Cost of education is going up as parents are required to provide masks and other items in school to comply with the ministry guidelines. Government funding for education is never adequate.
- Most of the social events like going to church, attending weddings, burials and dowry ceremonies have been adversely affected. The order of carrying out these cultural activities has changed and adopting in the new way is not an easy task.
- Police brutality and arrests during curfew hours worsened the situation for many people. Some people died and others were critically injured by the police.



# .....EFFECTS.....

## 7. Loss of aid/tourist support

- Since Covid-19 was a worldwide pandemic, there is a reduction in funding from donors. Tourists were not able to travel to Kenya and this means loss of income to many people from Mutomo who work in this sector.

## 8. Gender specific impact

- Curfews, lockdowns, paycuts, loss of employment brought about increased gender based violence in families. Women and children suffered the most as women in Kenya are less employed and less paid compared to their male counterparts. High numbers of teenage pregnancies have been recorded in Kenya and in Mutomo





# HOW MUTOMO IS OPERATING DURING THE PANDEMIC

## ○ Social and health measures

- ❖ The government through the Ministry of Health promotes basic hygiene which includes washing hands, using hand sanitisers and ensuring social distancing at all times.
- ❖ Public gatherings are allowed, religious services, political gatherings are going on with wearing of masks as mandatory to all attendees,
- ❖ Schools for the other grades/colleges are opening on January 4, 2021.



## ..WEARING MASKS.. NEW TOUGH NORMAL



*A church session in progress with people on masks and at one metre distance*



## ...HOW MUTOMO IS OPERATING.....



*Hand washing facility  
outside SMPI office*



*Families receiving food support  
during the pandemic from  
Better future and SMPI*





# HOW THE FUTURE FOR MUTOMO LOOKS LIKE

- Mutomo has a majority of the population being young people who are hard working and resilient. About 70,000 of the population is between 15 yrs -35 yrs
- If the present generation is given quality education, then the families would change their economic status. Education by itself is a change agent.
- Mutomo has a very good tarmac road from Kibwezi to Kitui and will be a business hub in the near future. Business opportunities will open up post covid



## ... THE FUTURE FOR MUTOMO..

- With SMPI and other development partners in Mutomo implementing life changing programs, the overall positive impact of these programs will be evident in the near future
- Projects like family planning that SMPI has aggressively campaigned for, will see families reduce their household size which shall translate to improved living standards.
- SMPI in collaboration with the Ministry of health is working on teenage mothers clubs project that will heighten the fight against teenage pregnancies. If teenagers in Mutomo understand reproductive health issues, then Mutomo will succeed in educating its present generation.



# THE FUTURE FOR MUTOMO

- SMPI's agribusiness and agroforestry projects will be used as learning centres to demonstrate to the young people that agriculture and trees can generate incomes and can change livelihoods.
- Schools are required to have adequate classrooms and dormitories for the boarding schools in order for the children to stay a metre apart. I hope the government will put in more resources in education than it has done before.





# HOW ROTARY CAN ASSIST MUTOMO TO ACHIEVE HER FUTURE

- By fundraising for projects to be implemented through SMPI in Mutomo.
- Designing an exchange programme for students between Kenya and Sweden. There is so much that our young people in Mutomo can learn from Swedish young people in many disciplines. E.g in farming, planting of trees, medical
- By being our ambassador in your country and to your contacts and the countries you visit in the world



THANK YOU.

