

Collaboration in Response to COVID19

Collaborations in this moment are more critical than ever. We need the knowledge, expertise, and networks of those who have a health mandate in our areas to help us provide safe and effective care to the communities we work with. Here we are sharing an example from three organizations working in northern Kenya that are quickly finding ways to mobilize resources and leverage each other's strengths to help take action on COVID-19 in the communities where they work.

Following the example, we've outlined a few key points to consider and to help guide you when forming a collaboration in such an emergency.

Who we are:



Grevy Zebra Trust (GZT) promotes the conservation of that Grevy's zebra in coexistence with thriving, peaceful communities across healthy rangelands.



Ewaso Lions (EL) dedicated to conserving lions and other large carnivores by promoting co-existence in pastoral communities of northern Kenya.



Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT) supports underserved individuals and communities in fragile ecosystems across Kenya to access family planning through integrated health service using a population, health and environment approach.

Addressing COVID-19 in Northern Kenya: Action Plan

Overall Objective:

To equip the Community-Owned Resource Persons (CORPs) (community health workers overseen and supported by CHAT) in northern Kenya with the supplies and information they need to help communities respond and protect themselves from COVID19.

Roles:

CHAT

- Source of official information from all authorities on response, protocols, and processes being implemented so activities can comply with the government.
- Provide the key link to the CORPs who will deploy the sanitation kits and properly support communities within the guidelines and information set-out by the government.

GZT and EL

- Help catalyse immediate support in northern Kenya through potential financial support to CHAT.
- Activate their networks and connections to help source difficult to find materials and/or get donations of needed materials.
- Help advise and catalyze the support of vehicles on the ground (possibly conservancy, county, or other vehicles) to respond to high probability cases the CORPs identify.

What are the Needs:

Immediate needs that we are having trouble sourcing:

- Bullet Thermometers - ideally 50
- Sanitiser
- Masks

Potentially other materials/considered costs needed:

- 20L and 5L containers
- Soap
- Information materials (printing costs)
- Reliable transportation (fuel or payment to enable)
- Reasonable base overhead costs to facilitate CORPs and CHAT support staff

Actions:

- CHAT to pull together a budget and timeline. Also include physical location of all northern Kenya CORPs and the surrounding communities they reach. Kasmira is happy to support the review of a draft.
- CHAT to share official government materials which has been authorised for distribution.
- CHAT to share contacts of CORPs close to GZT and EL work for coordination and support.
- All to investigate possible supply chain sources of needed materials. This should include asking for in-kind donations from all suppliers contacted.
- EL and GZT to let the group know what they would need to help raise any funds needed. Kasmira would be happy to support the design of any communication materials needed around this if you want to promote on social media, contact private donors, etc.

Our partnership works because we trust in what each organization uniquely brings to the partnership.

Key Takeaways from this Initiative:

In order to have an effective collaboration in an emergency, you need to discuss and ensure clarity on the following:

1. Agree on your shared goal:
 - What do you want to do?
 - For whom?
 - Where?
 - For what duration of time?
2. Know your purpose – what do you want to achieve?
3. Know why you are stronger together. Be clear on:
 - What does each party bring to the collaboration?
 - What can you do together that you can't do alone?
 - How are you going to communicate in a timely manner and make decisions?
4. Have a plan. Amend the plan as you go. Keep the plan open and transparent with all collaborators.