

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS' CONTRIBUTION TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT IN KISUMU COUNTY KENYA

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ABSTRACT

The wave of Covid-19 brought a shock that harmed the worldwide economic system, disrupting the usual way of life. The inadequacy of governments to offer critical services necessitates the call for this gap to be filled by other non-governmental stakeholders like community-based organizations (CBOs). Self-initiated projects such as creating pandemic attention to minimize the scourge of the virus and offering different material help are a means through which CBOs can attain this task. Strategic Nyakach (SN) is the biggest, most active CBO with initiatives that have addressed various demanding situations within Nyakach Sub-County. This research analyzed the contribution of CBOs to promote community standards during the covid-19 pandemic in Kenya. The research used the Collective action theory, and resource Mobilization theory. The analysis sampled Nyakach Sub-County purposely as the place of study. Descriptive research layout and purposive stratified random sampling with varying proportion in line with stratum was applied and, 100 citizens of Nyakach Sub County were randomly selected for the reason of gathering the statistics required. For statistics instruments, the study used questionnaires and interview schedules. A Pilot study was done to test efficacy and dependability of the instruments. 5 non-randomly selected respondent residents of Nyakach Sub-county participated in the pilot study, carried out in 2022. Bar charts, figures and tables were used for visual comparison of frequencies. The qualitative non-coded statistics from the family respondents and KII interviews was thematically analyzed alongside the set objectives to present credence to the voices of the respondents. The researcher ensured that ethical concepts were followed and the respondents were privy to their rights. Study permit was sought from Kenyatta University and NACOSTI. Ministry of health Covid-19 pointers were followed throughout the study. The research findings identified the partnership interventions put in place by Strategic Nyakach CBO and other stakeholders and its impact in managing the pandemic. However, the study found that despite the great efforts and the positive impact it had on the locals, the Financial Aid Department was unable to meet the large support need due to the large financial support needed for the project. This calls for intrinsic partnerships with agencies in various governmental and humanitarian fields to achieve this goal.

Key Word: Social Outcomes, Support Programs, Partnership Interventions

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INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed Coronavirus a plague on thirty first December, 2019 after a severe respiration syndrome was observed in Wuhan city, China. At the time, the virus had attracted global attention, turning out to be an international pandemic and spreading through the globe with distinct mutations, Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) being identified as the causative agent (Lone & Aahmad, 2020).

The pandemic continued to generate sustained transmission in many countries throughout the globe, such that by March, 2020, Italy had 462 confirmed instances and 827 deaths. Quite a number of interventions including closure of colleges, bars and cancellation of big public gatherings were employed. Most companies entreated their employees to work remotely. Those measures had been aimed at lowering the virus spread, in order to limit mortality for the inclined population (Echevarria et al, 2020).

Salzer et al, (2020), posits that initial strain of the virus advanced at lower pace in Africa compared to other continents. However, the second wave was far more intrusive with many instances being pronounced in Africa. Until June 15, 2020, Nigeria confirmed 16, 085 instances and 420 deaths. The authorities maintained the containment measures with the entire shut-down of all learning facilities, regulated commercial enterprise places and inter-state tour regulations (Okoroiwu et al, 2020).

Controversial politics and restricted expertise on the virus clouded East Africa's reaction to Covid-19. Even as Kenya and Uganda spoke back with curfews and lockdowns and issued strict measures on social distancing, the late Tanzanian President John Magufuli, on basis of superstition, disregarded the pandemic as the work of the devil and locations of worship continued without regulations (Nakkazi, 2020).

The initial occurrence of Covid-19 case in Kenya was proclaimed as of thirteenth March, 2020. The government spontaneously took containment measures including enforcing after dark curfew and movement regulations in Nairobi and Mombasa, believed to be epidemic hotspots at the time. The lack of capacity of the Kenyan healthcare system and the groups of people most vulnerable to the epidemic is a major concern for the spread of the disease. (Ojal et al, 2020).

A report by the New York Times dated 23rd July, 2021 indicated that the virus infections in Kisumu were spiking rapidly. The new mutation of the virus designated as Indian Delta Variant, perceived as extremely dangerous was first proclaimed in Kisumu, an instance that provoked health facility isolation units to strain beyond expected capacities. Since the advent of this variant, the document confirmed a worrying surge in infections and deaths within the county with the young people as principal casualties.

The underlying challenge with the Covid-19 has been the mode and velocity of its spread. People look up to their governments and other non-governmental groups for assistance to navigate through such instances as of epidemics. This global crisis brought about the urge for collaboration of entities and stakeholders in all respects (Tsai & Wilson, 2020). Community based groups are set up to promote living standards through local initiatives. Opare (2017) argues that CBOs offer services aimed towards growth and can channel resources crucial in enhancing living standards of the local residents.

Statement of the Problem

The virus outbreak imposed a terrible effect on the world health and monetary fronts. Governments and families are straining to offer primary desires due to its sustained spread. This inadequacy necessitates different stakeholders like CBOs to be opportunity marketers of offering these basic human needs to the suffering populace. Covid-19 has compelled community based agencies and other stakeholders to allocate limited sources to needy communities at the same time as adjusting their techniques and finances to meet their primary goals. This study emphasized the function of CBO's in impacting desirable consequences in communities in the course of the outbreak. Gladys, (2009) studied the place of community based groups to change people's lives. The study aimed toward setting up the ability of CBOs in advocating sustainable

development in communities. Molyneux, et al (2007) studied the duty of community agencies in family potential in affording medical services. The study centered at the challenges which can be of unique worldwide interest. Paul (2009) explored the position of CBOs and NGOs in global public health. This research established why understanding the roles of the various corporations of this quarter is vital in enhancing public health today. However, no particular study has been achieved at the contribution of community based organizations on pandemic control. This study sought to evaluate how CBOs may be liable for capacity-building solutions in partnerships with other stakeholders, to issues posed by Covid-19 pandemic. This study aimed to fill the knowledge gap in social integration. The statistics accrued sought to set up the function of community-based organizations in uplifting community standards throughout virus outbreak in partnership with other stakeholders.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the Research was to identify the partnership interventions between Strategic Nyakach and stakeholders in minimizing the negative effects of Covid-19.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researchers followed the descriptive design. The Covid-19 pandemic management, as the based variable, was a characteristic of the role of Strategic Nyakach community-based-corporation. This research sampled Nyakach sub-county with an area of 326.7km² as the study location. Nyakach is a delegated hassle place based on lack of security and a negative economic environment within Kisumu county. Scarcity of assets among others have consequently impacted negatively on the lives of the community participants in this region. Nyakach sub-county had an envisioned populace of 150,320 with 35,553 households in the 5 wards and twenty-two locations. (Population and Housing census, 2019). The study covered the general populace of Nyakach Sub-county and the 12 body staff of Strategic Nyakach (Human Resource Manager SN, 2022).

Standardized questionnaires using predefined knowledge, attitude and Practices (KAP) questions were performed to collate information on this. Know-how, mindset and Practices of a community was interrogated and measured. An interview manual was designed to aid in statistics collection from government officers, Strategic Nyakach CBO personnel, KenGen, Red-Cross and select households in Nyakach sub-county.

The goal of pre-study was to evaluate if the data gathering gadgets operated as intended. It was achieved via administering the questionnaires to twenty-five non-randomly chosen respondents from the five wards (5people per ward) of Nyakach Sub-county. This was 10% of the pattern length.

Thorough computer review and interpretation of current literature was done and subjected to content evaluation. This was the initial method used to gather first-hand data to help the researcher understand the task.

Descriptive statistics was done through frequencies, proportions and means alongside corresponding standard deviations and respective inter-quartile levels after scrutinizing for normality of precise covariates.

Questions in the questionnaire touched on the understanding, mind-set and exercise (KAP analysis) to reveal the respondents' know-how, mind-set and exercise with reference to Covid-19 and the way they perceived the role of SN CBO in the pandemic control. Suitable graphing was conducted for easy visible assessment of frequencies meanwhile a number of the qualitative information (non-coded) from the household respondents and KII interviews were thematically analyzed alongside the set goals to present credence to the voices of the respondents. This helped the researcher whilst drawing conclusions for the purposes of strategy creation and record production.

RESULTS

Response Rate

This study was based on a sample of 278 Nyakach County participants. However, out of 200 distributed questionnaires, 165 completed and returned the questionnaire, which corresponded to 82.5% of the questionnaire's response rate. This is a reliable answer for data analysis because 50% of the overall response is sufficient for analysis and reporting, 60% is good, and 70% and above is very good (Mugenda, O. & Mugenda, 2003). Twenty-five interviews were held with local leaders (such as chiefs, church leaders, Nyakach County Hospital) and 78 participants, 49 participants in 21 interviews. Responses to the interviews indicate that respondents are willing to participate in the research sought by this study.

Partnership Interventions

Needs Analysis

In addition, the study aims to explore the basic needs of the Nyakach community during the Covid-19 pandemic. The desktop review and respondents from Strategic Nyakach CBO office described the need priority as indicated in the figure below. It was clear that Food was considered to be the most important item, followed by Mask and Sanitizers. Awareness creation through SMS is the list prioritized by the residents. Melissa (2013) came to similar conclusions in her review of Disaster Research: Long-Term Disaster Prevention, arguing that meeting basic needs is simply keeping people alive and that the emergency recovery phase begins soon after a disaster. People need food, water, shelter and medicine. The table below indicates the priority needs per ward.

Table 1: Priority need per ward

Source: Field data (2022)

Ward	Hand washing facility	clean and safe water	Mask & Sanitizers	Food	Awareness via sms
Central Nyakach	82.35%	82.35%	70.59%	70.59%	52.94%
North Nyakach	81.82%	59.09%	59.09%	45.45%	40.91%
South East Nyakach	73.53%	67.65%	85.29%	82.35%	52.94%
south west Nyakach	39.02%	53.66%	72.50%	78.05%	19.51%
West Nyakach	45.95%	37.84%	40.54%	70.27%	21.62%
Nyakach sub county	59.60%	56.95%	65.33%	71.52%	34.44%
Rank in terms of need	3	4	2	1	5

Hand washing facility

The World Health Organization stressed the important role hands play in COVID-19 transmission as they come into direct contact with the mouth, nose and conjunctiva of the eyes, enabling the contraction of the virus. Thus, hand hygiene through sufficient hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizing is recommended as a tool to prevent the spread of the virus. The study discovered that Hand washing facility as the third necessary Item, with Central Nyakach leading at 82.35%. followed by North Nyakach at 81.82%. Rabie, et al. (2017) came up with similar conclusions reiterating that handwashing as a public health intervention is widely recognized, including for the control of respiratory disease. Handwashing with soap or use of hand sanitizer is therefore a mainstay of the guidance for controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Mask and Sanitizers

The study also discovered that due to the contagious nature of the virus, Masks and sanitizers was second in need priority. The CBO and its partners provided hand washing tanks, mask, sanitizers, hand washing liquid soaps and water to the community members in each household. Chen, et al (2020) found similar results while studying Hand hygiene, mask-wearing behaviors and its associated factors during the COVID-19 epidemic: A cross-sectional study among primary school students in Wuhan, China. They argued that hand washing has been at the core of recommendations and guidelines that aim to curb infectious diseases in general which has transformed into an individual behavior.

Clean and Safe Water

The study showed that a shift in clean and safe water demand was a major challenge during the pandemic. This was catalyzed by various factors including the lockdown, rising demand for constant hand washing and general hygiene. Howard & Bartram (2019) found the same results reporting that one-quarter of the global population uses water collected from off-premises water sources that are shared between households. Reliance on such sources creates two challenges to the pandemic response: sufficiency of water for handwashing and inter-household contact associated with water collection, the latter disproportionately exposing women and girls. They noted that these sources are unlikely to be sufficient to support the greater frequency and duration of handwashing required in pandemics and outbreaks. The research also indicated that it was rated fourth in the priority list. Ken-Gen supplied water to these regions using its vast transport resources and water boozers.

Food

Food was rated as the most demanded item with South East Nyakach taking the lead due to its semi-arid nature. The study noted shifts in consumer demand for cheaper food due to instability of food prices and presence of lockdowns and closure of markets and other social places. The CBO with its partners created emergency centers with the help of local authorities and village elders. These centers were used as distribution points for food and other basic needs. The study also showed that food consumed the greater chunk of the Covid-19 partnership intervention budget. Hunter, et al (2023) had the same conclusion while studying Changes in eating behaviors due to crises, disasters and pandemics: a scoping review. The analysis found that crisis events made accessing food more difficult and led to increased food insecurity. Home cooking, sharing food and eating together within households during the pandemic all increased during and after a crisis. Resources often reduced and needed to be pooled. Crises had a multi-directional impact on dietary patterns, and the motivators for dietary pattern change differ between populations and crises.

Partnership intervention budget for Covid-19 support

Table 2: Interventions at Nyakach sub-county to cushion local community against Covid-19

Mitigation	Materials/Item Description	Cost (KSH)		Unit Cost	Total Cost	Support from Strategic Nyakach CBO
		Unit	Qty			
Food	Maize	2Kg tin	130,000	120	15,600,000	3,900,000
Access	Cooking Oil	1 Kg	13,000	200	2,600,000	650,000
Support	Salt	500 grams	13,000	25	325,000	162,500
Provision of Hygiene	Hand washing Liquid Soap (Bar soaps)	Pcs	6,500	130	845,000	211,250
Enhancement	Hand Washing Vessels (4 outlets with metal stand)	N/A	100	2,500	250,000	0.00
Materials	Disposable non powder hand gloves (100 pc boxes)	Boxes	100	500	50,000	15,000
	Alcohol based hand sanitizers in 10lts jericans	Jericans	100	12540	1,254,000	125,400
	Disposable Face Masks - Medium Quality	Pcs	26,000	41	1,066,000	266,500
Hygiene Awareness and Sensitization	Promotion through FM Radio Interactive Sessions	Sessions	30	30,000	900,000	90,000
	Public Road Shows	Sessions	5	20,000	100,000	100,000
Access to Water	20 Lts Jericans	N/A	468,000	3	1,404,000	351,000
Logistics		1	1	2,439,400	2,439,400	580,000
Total Ksh					26,833,400	6,451,650

Source: Field data (2022)

SN CBO, together with its partners, developed new and unique content related to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially human health. The CBO support the supply and distribution of food and hygiene supplies, the overall response, and coordination of non-medical needs.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that the ability of the Nyakach community to resist the effects of Covid-19 has been improved thanks to the interventions and support provided by SN CBO in collaboration with Kenya's key government agencies, KCDF, World Vision and other ministries organization development. The CBO did very well in its resource mobilization campaign.

The study investigated the partnership interventions on Covid-19 to the community. From the findings, 64.9% of the residents noted that the material interventions provided by SN and partners had a great impact in the lives of the community members especially with the lockdown and curfew enforcements in place. With the

CBO's emergency center set up in collaboration with Ministry of health, Ken-Gen, Red-cross and local governments, material support also reached the needy in time and vulnerability analysis done from time to time.

Building a pandemic situational awareness is complex. It requires coordination of the public-private sector across the country. The COVID-19 crisis has led Strategic Nyakach to play a key role in both disease control and social protection in close coordination with Kisumu county government and other stakeholders including Ken-Gen, KCDF and Red-Cross. Working together, the CBO and partners can achieve goals that an organization cannot achieve alone. Community organizations can provide support that can help government agencies connect with their stakeholders. Local governments can provide support and provide links to various support resources. Most importantly, they can provide a foundation for overall performance improvement. Where CBOs play an expanded role, they mainly act as local government officials, providing them with certain services but with less public participation. Otiso, (2003) while studying the State, voluntary and private sector partnerships for slum upgrading and basic service delivery in Nairobi City, Kenya. Cities, came to the same conclusion arguing that collaborations are a promising way of tackling the problems.

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