



International Newsletter – December 2020



From the Trustees...

Like most organisations, IGI has been impacted by COVID-19. Our work in Africa involves much personal contact, and was constrained by the extensive restrictions imposed by governments to stop the spread of COVID. Fortunately, the disease seems not to have taken hold as strongly in sub-Saharan Africa as was feared. Attack rates are reportedly lower than almost anywhere else in the world. Although the figures may be underestimated, due to poor infrastructure, it is still a great mercy, considering the lack of healthcare capacity. Rwanda, in particular, has been a remarkable case, where prompt and drastic action by the government contained the outbreak at very low levels (56 deaths to date). In Kenya, however, the low figures, are still rising, and the general complacency worrying. For sub-Saharan Africa, the biggest risk may yet be the combination of the world economic crisis and the hindrance of humanitarian aid. The UN World Food Programme estimates a doubling of people on the verge of starvation worldwide (i.e. increases of between 100 and 150 million).



The fight against corruption is ever more vital. Corruption starves Africa of vital resources. This edition of the newsletter reports a major IGI investigation into fraud in official support for Kenyans affected by COVID restrictions, as well as positive developments in Cameroon, despite the continuing unrest and civil disruption..

If you want to help reduce the scandal of corruption in Africa, **please consider making a small donation**, either online at: www.igi-integrity.com/support/ , or by contacting us at accounts@igi-integrity.com . You can also still support IGI at no extra cost by purchasing your books from Amazon here: [Amazon Smile for IGI](#) .

We wish you a joyful and healthy Christmas, as you worship the almighty Creator, who came in mercy to Bethlehem, to share our pain and take our sin.

“Kazi Mitaani” in Kenya

The countries of sub-Saharan Africa were very worried about COVID-19 taking off, not least because of their lack of economic and healthcare resources to deal with it. Very stringent precautions were applied in Kenya, as elsewhere. In Kenya, as in much of Africa, casual work is a very large proportion of the economy. This made it particularly difficult for the poor in Nairobi when travel was curtailed and the hospitality sector shut down.

Because of the informal nature of employment, the government had to take a different

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approach from say UK or Germany. They instituted a scheme known as “kazi mitaani” – work on the streets. Money was allocated to local districts, particularly the informal settlements (“slums” in UK parlance), and the local officials told to recruit youths aged 18-35yr in their areas who had no work due to the impact of COVID.

As often the case, rumours started to go around that corruption was rife in applying the scheme – people being employed that did not qualify, money being syphoned off by officials, and so on. IGI Kenya has set up an investigation. Operating in three local areas (two in Nairobi, one in another town), members of the local IGI Community Taxpayers’ Associations have been trained in investigation and a network set up online to collect the results of their enquiries. Led by Sakwa and Joshua, the project is expected to report in the next few weeks, but all the signs are that significant corruption has been uncovered. If so, the next stage will be to publicise the outcomes, to bring the offenders to book, and to persuade government to improve controls on this and similar initiatives.



Figure 1: Kazi Mitaani youths clearing ground in an informal settlement, Nairobi.

This project is a good example of how a grass-roots organisation like IGI, with limited resources, can use local effort and local knowledge to expose corruption as it occurs. IGI in UK exists to support and facilitate this sort of self-help in communities in Africa.



Figure 2: Attendees at a recent BMF workshop, Cameroon.

Plans for student education in Cameroon

60% of the population of Cameroon is under the age of 25. These are the people who will determine whether in the coming years Cameroon becomes a stable, prosperous country, subject to the rule of law and free from corruption. So education has always been close to the heart of our leaders in Cameroon.

Stephen and the leadership in Cameroon are currently putting together a professional course which they hope will be delivered in collaboration with a major government-funded tertiary-level training institution. It will support the fight by the National Anti-corruption Commission of Cameroon against widespread corruption. The course will explore the theory and practice of corruption and integrity. It will enable students to understand why corruption happens and how it can be stopped. They will also carry out supervised projects to apply the tools learnt. The new course will build on some of the practical material currently delivered by IGI Cameroon under the local BMF..

Prayer points

- Praise for answered prayer in keeping safe of IGI members in Africa;
- Wisdom in reporting, and getting official action, on corruption in *Kazi Mitaani*;
- Success in teaching good governance to tomorrow’s leaders in Cameroon;
- Restoration of projects in Rwanda and DRC as they come out of lockdown;
- Financial needs of members in Africa, hit by the economic crisis.