

# KENYA COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECT (CHERP)

*Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Kenya*

MARCH 2021 EDITION

## The Challenge

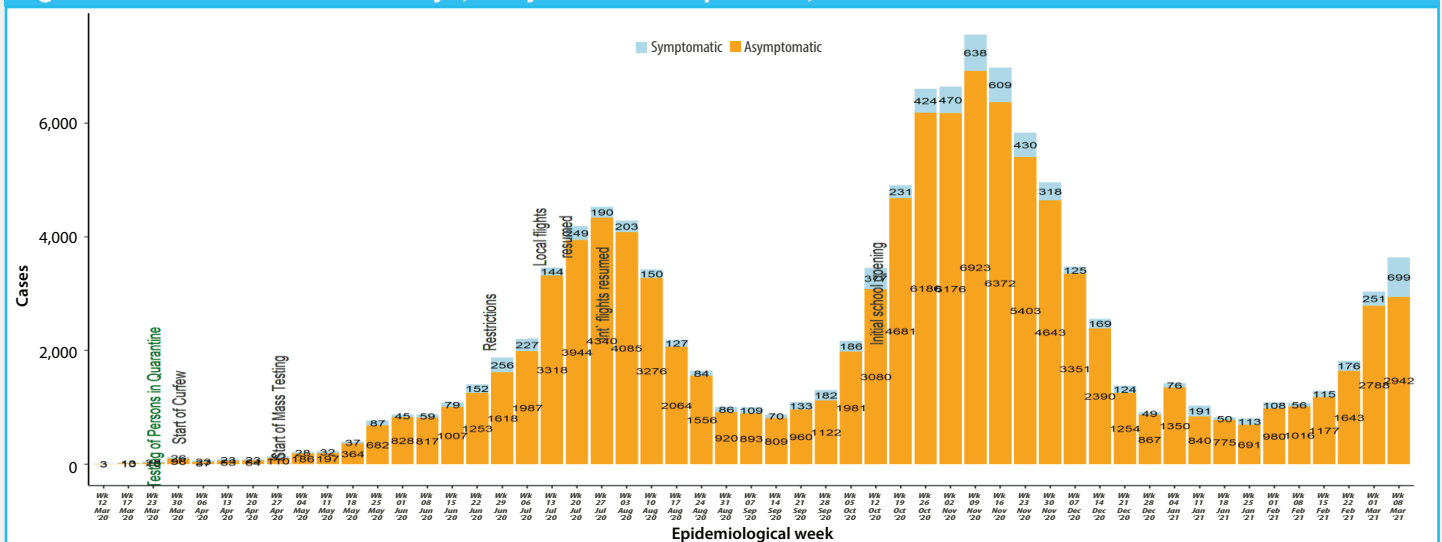
Kenya confirmed its first COVID-19 case on March 13, 2020. The Government of Kenya (GoK) has responded to the pandemic through health and non-health interventions such as expanding availability of testing, enhancing case management capacity, restrictions on movement to slow disease transmission and economic incentives to businesses and firms. As of March 13, 2021, exactly a year after confirming its first COVID-19 case, Kenya had reported 112,805 cases and 1,908 deaths.

**Total Cases**  
**112,805**

**Male 71,134**  
**Female 41,671**

**Deaths**  
**1,908**

Figure 1: COVID Outbreak in Kenya, Daily Situation Report 361, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Garissa County Referral Hospital handwashing facility - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



Health workers at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) being trained on the ventilators use.

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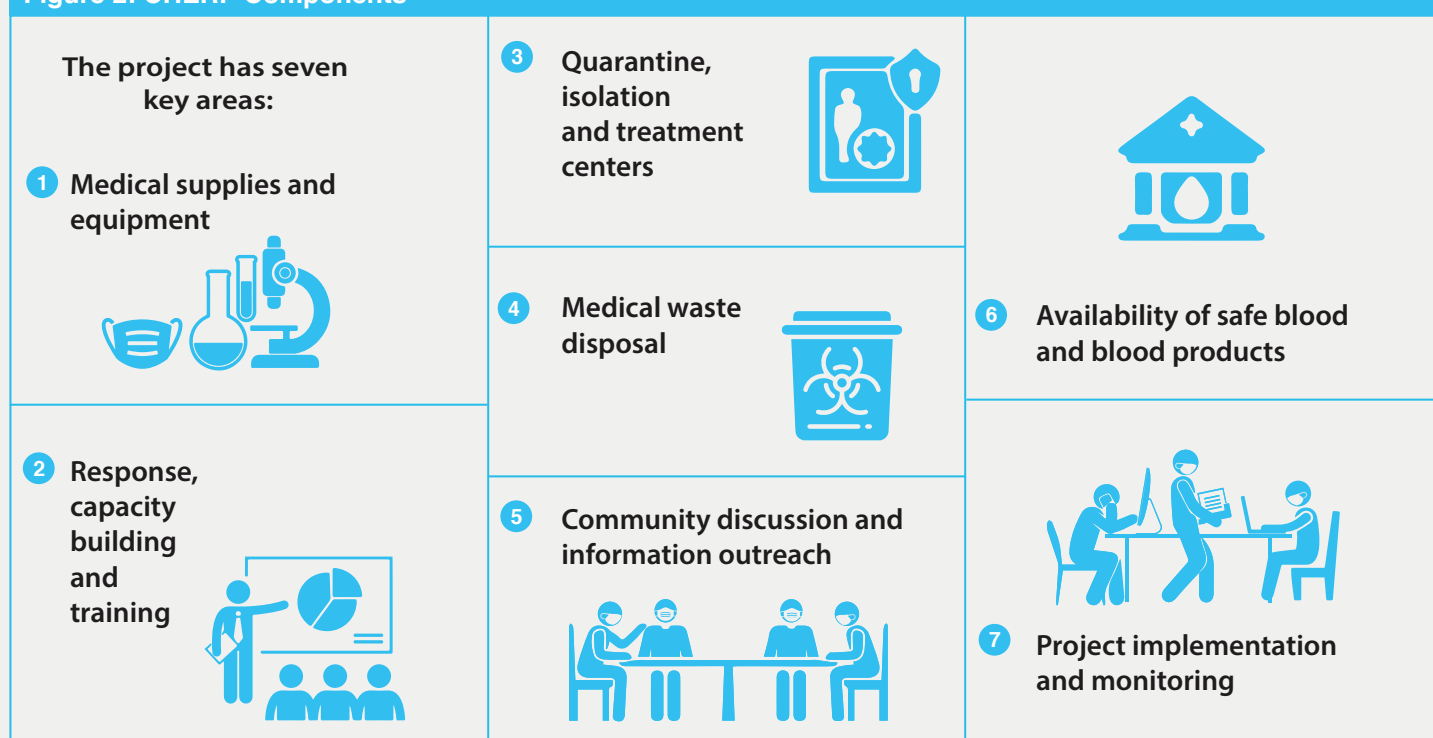
## The CHERP Project

The US\$ 50 million CHERP, funded by the World Bank was approved in April 2020. Aligned to the World Bank strategic priority of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity, the project aims to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health emergency preparedness. In addition, the GoK has drawn on its own resource and the support of partners to implement a range of health and non-health interventions.



A visit to Busia one stop border point where a team of Health workers were deployed under the CHERP (5 Medical Laboratory Officers, 3 Public Health Officers and 2 Nurses).

**Figure 2: CHERP Components**



Emily Kimosop the Social Safeguards officer CHERP guides Elizabeth Kileten, Nursing Officer/GRIEVANCE Redress Mechanism (GRM) Focal Person for Loitoktok Level 4 Hospital while Paul Olick, GRM Focal Person, Migori County assists Micah Nodoro the Migori County Referral Hospital GRM – 7<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.





## CHERP 1 Year At A Glance

Beneficiaries of activities implemented under the CHERP include at-risk and infected people, rapid response teams, healthcare workers, health facilities and laboratories across all 47 counties in Kenya. As of March 2021, one year since implementation, the project has been able to undertake the following:

- 1 Expanded capacity of COVID-19 testing through procurement and distribution of 3,467 test kits and equipping of 28 national and county laboratories for Polymerase Chain reaction (PCR) Testing. With this support, over 313,632 tests were conducted.
- 2 Reinforced testing, surveillance, screening, and treatment through deployment of 102 additional health care workers, comprising of Laboratory technologists, Public Health Officers, Nurses, Clinical Officers, and Clinical Psychologists, in 10 Ports of entry and 4 treatment centres.
- 3 Boosted efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission in health facilities through provision of 1,830 thermoguns and handwashing stations at the entrance of all the 366 public level 4 and 5 hospitals.
- 4 Strengthened treatment capacity of 22 designated COVID-19 management centres by purchasing and distributing 100 ventilators.
- 5 Supported implementation of the Ministry of Health Risk Communication and Community engagement strategy at the national level and in all 47 counties.
- 6 Strengthened capacity of 630 front line health workers responding to COVID-19 cases on Infection Prevention Control and case management.
- 7 Supported Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service with procurement of 53 murex blood testing reagent, with capacity to conduct 22,230 tests for blood safety.
- 8 Acquired 16 vehicles to supported contact tracing and logistical support for Rapid Response Teams at national and county Emergency Operations Centres.
- 9 Strengthened information systems for case management through provision of 75 tablets for data collection in 24 designated COVID-19 management centres across the country.
- 10 Conducted countrywide rapid assessment in health facilities to determine level of preparedness to COVID-19 response.



Infection Prevention and Control training (Donning and Doffing Sessions) Homabay County - January 2021.



## Moving Forward

For the last one year, the impact of COVID-19 has been massive, affecting social, economic, political, and psychological elements of individuals and countries. COVID-19 continues to threaten livelihoods, food security, nutrition and schooling, particularly in low-and-middle income countries like Kenya, where a majority of the population work in the informal sector. CHERP will continue to support Kenya's response to COVID-19 in the face of shifting challenges, evolving global knowledge and emerging interventions.