



Inside AAH

Volume 1 | Issue 2 | July 2020 | Agatha Amani House

Kenya's Situation amid COVID-19

The increase in reported cases of GBV and violence against women since the start of the COVID-19 crisis is driven by several factors. Financial hardship due to restriction of movement and curfew affects livelihoods, especially for those working in the informal sector.

There has been an increase in teenage pregnancies with the country reporting a total of more than 25,000 school going girls falling pregnant since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Agatha Amani House is currently remotely screening and advising survivors who reach out to us and ensuring that they are heard and provided with the necessary advice.

Highlights

1. In this issue you will see how AAH has been coping with Coronavirus.
2. We received a grant from Urgent Action Fund to build a new Biogas, cow shed and buy two additional cows.
3. 2 of our essential staff committed to staying at the safe shelter for 3 months in order to ensure the safety of the residents during this global pandemic.

Meet our animals..



Clockwise from Top left: Dolly& Dotty, Bunnies, Our Chicken and Our frequent loud visitor, Ibis Hedada.

“ I felt it shelter
to speak to you.”

Emily Dickinson

How have we been coping with Coronavirus?

We rely on our volunteers but without some during this time, we took the opportunity to tap into our own human resource and decided to clean up the safe shelter and ensure that it is well taken care of.

We have been observing the lockdown measures set along by the government in regard to keeping ourselves safe.

We have also been dancing a lot in the evenings and on Sunday we've been having our in-house Sunday service in the dining room.

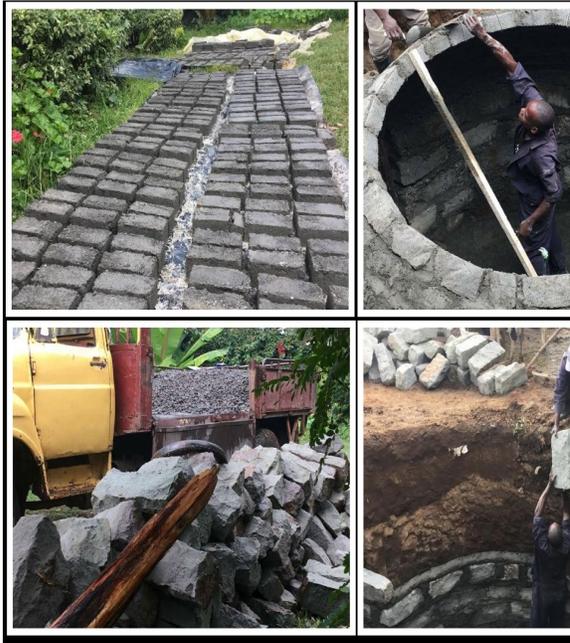
“We have about 10 unwelcomed Ibis Hedada Birds in our compound who have been eating our precious worms.”



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*Fun fact
The Hedada got its name
from the sound it makes
when taking off: haa-daa-aa*

Exciting update: Urgent Action Fund Africa funded the AAH Biogas Project. This will enable the shelter to use clean energy in preparing all our meals!!!!



Pictures of the biogas construction in progress.

Do you know that..

In Kenya, over 8,833 school-going teens have been impregnated during this COVID-19 time in Nakuru County alone?

Alumni Corner

Meet Imani* (not her real name). She came in with a one year old baby girl after being in an abusive marriage that left her broken and at Agatha Amani House, she was allowed an opportunity to heal and be part of a greater network of women who all share a common story of resilience, strength and the will to make a better life for themselves. One thing made Imani* different, was the fact that she was deaf, but this did not stop her from eventually becoming trained on various skills. She is now living independently and working as a creative in a small mini-factory which enables her to provide for her and her child's daily needs.

To support more girls like Imani through our Jijenge programme, please donate.



Imani in the creative workshop*



A message from Nyakio

Time is passing quickly at Agatha Amani House despite the lockdown response at the shelter to COVID-19. It seems like we just published the first issue of our AAH newsletter and now a new quarter has arrived and we are busy with our daily routine. Hard to believe we have been living in the shelter under lockdown for 3 months now.

We have not taken new survivors into the shelter since the virus breakout, as we cannot expose our current survivors, their babies, our live-in staff and I, to any risk of people who are infected bringing the virus into the compound. We are working on plans to build a very simple quarantine room separate from the shelter house where we can house and safely integrate back our staff members who have been furloughed and also any new survivor who needs our help.

We are excited to report that we received a grant from Urgent Action Fund-Africa for the construction of a new biogas digester and the purchase of two new cows along with funds to expand the cowshed to accommodate our new cows. We have been using a small biogas digester for several years but it is very limited in the gas volume it produces.

We are working diligently to find sources of funding to make up for the cancellation of a major fundraiser in the U.S. We know and appreciate that nonprofits worldwide have similar issues. We thank all that have helped us and ask all to consider a donation to our cause. Please click on the DONATION link on our website www.agathaamanihouse.org to make a donation.

I thank you all our dear supporters,

Nyakio Kaniu-Lake



Potty-training



Nyakio with the kids



2 month old Shanelle