

# **NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PROTOCOLS DURING THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

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## **Proposed Strategies /Plans to Stabilize Staple Food Prices Under the COVID 19 Pandemic**

### **Introduction**

The global outbreak of Corona virus (COVID 19) has raised concerns regarding the likely impact on regional and national food supply chains. In response, the country has set measures to limit factors that may exacerbate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To address the emerging food security concerns, there is need to manage the food supply chain by ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability of safe, adequate and nutritious food for all Citizens. The food supply chain in the country consists of players in input provision, production, trade, processing, transport, logistics, handling and consumption. Key institutions involved in management of the food supply chain are;

- Input suppliers (distributors and agro-vets)
- Farmers, Pastoralists & Fisher folk
- Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk organizations
- Community food storage facilities
- Government food storage facilities (NCPB, KNTC)
- Food and feed processors
- Food transporters
- Food markets
- County Governments
- National Government ministries, departments& agencies
- Major food retailers and supermarkets
- Food supply chain service providers
- Development Partners & NGOs

To minimize interruptions within the food supply chain, the following protocols and guidelines have been developed to facilitate operations within the food supply chain. County Governments can domesticate the protocols and guidelines for implementation.

## **PROPOSED STRATEGIES /PLANS TO STABILIZE STAPLE FOOD PRICES UNDER THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC (TO BE SUBMITTED TO MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRIALIZATION AND COMMAND CENTER).**

The anticipated risks associated with outbreak of COVID-19 outbreak include food shortages, food access, market closures, social unrest and price shocks. There is need for an intervention plan to assure continued stability and access in Kenya's food markets. The following are the proposed strategies/plans;

1. County Governments to continuously sensitize workforce sustaining food supplies in various markets on COVID-19 to prevent panic and enable them to perform market functions in the long run.
2. Closure of food markets should be done in consultation with the Ministry of Health and the County Coordination & Food Supply Working Group. Alternative space should be designated to facilitate sale of food commodities.
3. To encourage compliance by food traders, fees charged by regulatory Government agencies should be suspended to enable their participation in market activities and inclusion in public health programs. Counties through the CoG have agreed to suspend Cess payments for 3 months.
4. Food supply chain service providers should accelerate adoption of e-commerce and ensure that urban estates are served with food supplies through online procurement and home deliveries.
5. Food distributors should inform GoK early if they're seeing stock rationed across the board by processors as an early warning system on food trade.
6. A policy directive by the Government on pricing at the processor and distributor level be made. While GoK should not enact price controls, action should be taken for those exploiting the COVID-19 crisis.
7. MoALF&C to establish a call centre and also utilize existing channels to collect and avail market information and price trends using ICT applications, media houses, social media, Government websites and Maarifa Centre page (CoG) as outlined in the COVID 19 response communication strategy.

8. National and County Governments should continuously support market sanitization programs through provision of sanitizers and spraying to ensure that food markets are operational.
9. Government should facilitate free movement of food commodities as captured in the guidelines and protocols for transporters.
10. Food supply chain service providers should adopt technology enabled early warning systems for food shortages and propose appropriate interventions.
11. County Governments should identify well managed and sanitized commodity aggregation centers where traders and transporters can access commodities in order to reduce direct contact at the farm level.
12. Transporters dealing with agricultural commodities should be identified and registered for routes and markets being served to ensure continuous supply of commodities and enhance monitoring.
13. All the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health must be adhered to (*see Annex I and II*).

#### RECOMMEND PRICES FOR THE STAPLE FOODS

Type	Commodity	Unit	Kg	Recommended price (KES)
Cereal	Dry maize	Bag	90	3,000
	Green maize	Ext bag	115	3,070
	Finger millet	Bag	90	6,000
	Sorghum	Bag	90	4,290
	Wheat	Bag	90	3,200
	Rice (Basmati)	Kg	Kg	170
	Rice (Non - Basmati)	Kg	Kg	100
Legumes	Beans canadian	Bag	90	5,880
	Beans rosecoco	Bag	90	8,400
	Beans mwitemania	Bag	90	6,800
	Beans Mwezi moja	Bag	90	3,800
	Green gram	Bag	90	8,800

	Cowpeas	Bag	90	5,860
	Fresh peas	Bag	51	3,970
	Groundnuts	Bag	110	13,700
Roots & tubers	Red irish potatoes	Bag	50	2,600
	White irish potatoes	Bag	50	2,400
	Cassava fresh	Bag	99	1,900
	Sweet potatoes	Bag	98	4,350
Horticulture	Cabbages	Ext bag	126	2,400
	Cooking bananas	Med bunch	22	530
	Ripe bananas	Med bunch	14	593
	Carrots	Ext bag	138	4,050
	Tomatoes	Large box	64	5,660
	Onions dry	Net	13	1,170
	Spring onions	Bag	142	2,890
	Kales	Bag	50	1,120
Eggs	Eggs	Tray	Tray	290
Milk	Milk (raw)	Litre	litre	60
	Milk (UHT)	Litre	litre	120

## **ANNEX I: MINISTRY OF HEALTH GUIDELINES ON COVID-19 MANAGEMENT**

Considering that the COVID-19 disease has now been classified as a pandemic we are taking precautionary measures. All Kenyans should observe the following:

- i. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ii. Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (5 feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- iii. Persons with a cough or sneezing should stay home or keep a social distance, but avoid mixing with others in a crowd.
- iv. Maintain good respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose while coughing and sneezing with a handkerchief, tissue, or into flexed elbow.
- v. Stay at home if you feel unwell with symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty in breathing.
- vi. Suspend all public gatherings, meetings, religious crusades games events etc. Normal church services can go on provided they provide sanitizing/and hand washing.
- vii. Suspend all inter - school events, but keep schools open.
- viii. Public transport providers are directed to provide hand sanitizers for their clients and regular cleaning of the vehicles. Matatus should carry the required passengers to maintain social distance, provide sanitizers and their vehicles should be disinfected regularly.
- ix. Temporary suspension of prison visits for the next 30 days.
- x. Kenyans must not abuse social media platforms or indulge in spreading misinformation that can cause fear and panic.
- xi. Travel restrictions outside the country unless absolutely necessary and no travel to disease epicenter countries.

xii. All persons visiting public places such as supermarkets, open air markets, public transport should at all times wear a face mask to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus.

xiii. Utilize the call line facility number 719 to report on any cases regarding the disease and \*719# to receive the correct messages.

## **Annex II: East African Guidelines of Free Movement of Cargo**

The Guidelines are to facilitate the movement of cargo across official border points as follows:

- 1.1. Fumigation of all containers and trucks at point of departure in line with Ministry of health existing directives.
- 1.2. Monitoring of Cargo Crew moving cargo across the border -
  - a) All trucks to have a maximum of two (2) cargo crew consisting of the Driver and the Loader.
  - b) Designating Government recommended hotels/ Lodges within designated trading centers along the transit route for the Cargo Crew.
  - c) Fumigation of Designated hotels/ Lodges and its environments.
  - d) Provision of sanitizers, disinfectant and clean water to enhance hygiene.
  - e) Screening of the Cargo crew from the point of departure, designated screening points along the transit route and point of exit by Port Health officials or such other designated officials.
  - f) To address the fourteen (14) day quarantine requirement and facilitate a quick turn-around of the Cargo crew, designate hotel destinations in other countries.
- 1.3. Designation of fuel collection points from Kenya to other countries destinations shall be limited to Kisumu and Eldoret fuel depots.
- 1.4. Ensure Twenty-Four (24) hours operations at all official border points and enhance resources of the Agencies at the borders for increased efficiency. Where possible, agencies are encouraged to undertake advance processing and clearance of cargo.
- 1.5. In collaboration with the private sector, ensure training of cargo crew on safety precautions to be taken to avoid any spread of Corona (COVID 19), self-monitoring of symptoms and reporting mechanisms.
- 1.6. Enhance information dissemination strategies on Corona (COVID 19) through various media platforms.

1.7. Ensure strict enforcement of relevant Health Declarations by Ministry of Health especially for COVID 19 at all official border points.