

Update from David Kereto

In the Maasai Mara - the region where MEA work - most of the income comes from tourism. The Maasai people used to trade cattle in markets that have been closed down due to Covid-19. People are no longer earning and they are starving.

A way to make an income is to marry off daughters for a dowry. A typical dowry would be three cows, a sheep, a sack of sugar and some Maasai blankets, which is equivalent to \$1500 (£1116).

We are now seeing a sharp rise in teenage pregnancies and an increase in sexual abuse in the area. In Narok County where MEA operate, the highest number of cases have been recorded in the whole Country.

The acceleration of female genital mutilation (FGM) is fuelled by girls staying at home due to School closures.

They are coming of age. Secondly, they are being married off. These marriages are happening more and more quickly. Thirdly, campaigner's movements are restricted due to the coronavirus crisis so their work is restricted. FGM is a rite of passage into womanhood before getting married. That is how it is traditionally treated.

Figures show 152,000 reported teenage pregnancies in the last 8 Months of the Coronavirus crisis in Kenya - a 40 per cent increase. The rise is alarming and the situation is out of control. The Coronavirus crisis has completely wiped off all the progress we have made advancing girls education and gender equality and we will need to double our efforts to get back to where we were.

If you would like to make a donation to David Kereto's work there are several ways of doing it.

Cash may be given to Celia or a cheque made payable to A C Naisby. Celia will then send that directly to David before the end of December in time for the start of the new term.

Or you could make a bank transfer to All Saints account, indicating that it is for David Kereto. That may take a little longer to get there but Ian will be able to claim gift aid and add that to the amount for Kenya.