

UK grants Kenya Sh.680 Million for vulnerable people in Mombasa and Nairobi urban settlements to counter Covid-19 pandemic.

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The United Kingdom government has availed a grant of 5 Million Sterling pounds (**Approximately Kes.680 Million**) to finance a Digital Cash Transfer Programme in response to the Coronavirus pandemic in Kenya, says the Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Simon Chelugui.

“This programme currently ongoing, is expected to cover **52,700** vulnerable people living in urban informal settlements, in Nairobi and Mombasa counties,” said the Labour and Social Protection CS when he launched the programme at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

“While we recognize that it is our mandate as a government to support the less fortunate in our society, the government of Kenya appreciates the partnership and assistance that it has continued to receive over the years from the UK government in support of its various programmes. As a testament of this cordial relationship, in June, 2020, the Ministry was informed of the intention of the UK Government to supplement our Government’s efforts in providing cash transfer in response to Covid-19 pandemic in the country,” said the CS.

He said that over the years, the government has continued to implement various social protection interventions that support the poor and vulnerable households in the community.

“The Ministry implements the Inua Jamii Programme which has so far disbursed a total of **Kes.166.9 Billion** to **1,233,129** poor households and they include **353,000** Orphans and Vulnerable Children, **833,129** Older Persons and **47,000** Persons with Severe Disabilities,” said Mr. Chelugui.

In attendance was the British High Commission, Development Director, Richard Erlebach and GiveDirectly’s Country Director, Lydia Wangechi.

Mr. Erlebach noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected both UK and Kenya in a significant way.

“I am pleased through our support and from experience of our social protection partnership in Kenya, we are greatly helping the most vulnerable respond to the adverse effects of the pandemic,” he said.

In her remarks, the GiveDirectly Country Director, Ms Lydia Wangechi said, “Many vulnerable Kenyans living in informal settlements are facing a crisis upon crisis. Before this pandemic, these families were already facing hardships.”

Ms Wangechi said that the pandemic is worsening these existing vulnerabilities to a dangerous point and that the direct cash transfer can have a rapid and profound impact in time of crisis to help these families to make ends meet.