



# Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

## June 2020



### Block Making

During the month of June, three teams of students participated in our block making Project - 5 students from Loreto Primary School, 7 students from Loreto Girls Secondary School and 5 students from La Salle secondary school. The teams made 300 blocks per day and these will be used to build a wall between the garden and animals housing, to prevent goats from entering the garden and eating the crops! The students have completed the block making training and will soon begin their training in brick laying towards the construction of the wall.



### Covid 19 shutdown

To combat the spread of covid 19 in the community, Loreto Rumbek has recently locked down its compound. Our cooks have gone for paid leave and the staff living on the compound have taken on the task of food preparation. Each group is assigned a specific day for preparing meal for everyone in the compound. This has a novel experience for local male residents on the compound because food preparation is usually a woman's task in the local culture. The men have responded well and are completing the tasks with pride. We hope that they will continue to work to break negative local perceptions and practices related to gender roles in household and workplace.

### Counseling

Many people in our community, and the world at large, are struggling with fear and anxiety related to covid 19 pandemic. To help those working at Loreto Rumbek cope the anxiety brought by this crisis, Sr Petra has been providing group and individual counseling sessions. The goal of these sessions is to help clients find a healthy coping mechanisms that work well for them during this time. Some strategies for coping includes playing sports, drawing, talking with others and spending time in reflection. As we all deal with the physical and mental effect of the pandemic, the mental health support provided by Sr Petra has been invaluable.



**A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.**

**Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.**

**For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: [loretorumbek.ie](http://loretorumbek.ie) and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/LoretoSchoolsRumbek)**



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## Covid-19 update - June 2020



### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Recently, our staff at the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre (PHCU) were happy to receive new personal protective equipment. In June, a truck filled with medicines, medical equipment, and supplies arrived on our compound after a long journey from Nairobi, Kenya. The new PPE are essentials in our fight to prevent and limit the spread of the covid 19 virus. Our community is also facing high incidence of malaria and related illness, and the medicines and care we provide are important health interventions. Our staff are committed to ensuring that our community members receive the highest quality of care as we combat covid 19 and other life threatening health conditions.



### Covid 19 Contact Tracing Education

As the number of cases of Covid 19 infections have risen in South Sudan and in Rumbek particularly, our staff have pursued opportunities to educate themselves on the pandemic. In June, Nine of our staff members enrolled in the covid 19 contact tracing course offered online by Johns Hopkins University (USA) through the Coursera open learning platform.. This course provides participants instruction and training on the infectious period and clinical presentation of covid 19. Participants also learn how to undertake contact tracing towards minimizing the spread of covid 19. Most of our staff participant successfully completed the training within two weeks and earned their certificates of completion. We expect more to complete the course in the weeks ahead.



### Social Distancing at PHCC

At the Mary Ward PHCC, we are providing essential health services to our community during the covid 19 pandemic to deal with other prevalent health concerns such as malaria. To practice social distancing and minimize crowds of clients, we have implemented a system of outdoor tents. When a client enters the compound for the medical care, s/he is ushered to the first tent, where s/he receives health education related to covid 19. The client then proceeds to the second tent, which is a waiting area before moving to the third and fourth tent for health screening. S/he then receives medical care in the clinic. The process of streaming clients through the outdoor tents to allow for social distancing, has enabled PHCC staff to provide vital support in a safe manner during the pandemic.



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