



**SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, MR. SIMON
CHELUGUI, DURING THE LAUNCH OF CASH TRANSFER
SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMME**

His Excellency EU Ambassador, Simon Mordue

His Excellency Hungarian Ambassador, Laszlo Mathe

Oxfarm Acting Country Director, Pieter de schepper

Oxfarm Humanitarian Director, Mat Cousins

Concern Worldwide Country Director, Amina Abdalla'

Wangu Kanja Foundation Chair, Rachael Muthogsa

CREAW Executive Director, Wangechi Wachira

ACTED Acting Country Director, Laura Simpson,

Government Officials present

Other Humanitarian organization present,

Invited Guest,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It is with great appreciation that I join you all in this occasion for the launch of cash transfer social safety net programme that is being

implemented by European Union,ACTED, IMPACT,CREAW and Wangu Kanja Foundation.

Our government started piloting the cash transfer programme in the year 2003 and since then the Government has invested approximately **Ksh. 151 billion** in the programme. These resources have gone along way in improving the livelihoods of the beneficiaries through enhanced household purchasing power; Increased savings and acquisition of household assets; Reduction of poverty ; Increase in food expenditures and dietary diversity; reduction in level of infant malnutrition ; Reduction in child labour practices; and contributed in making local economies vibrant.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years,the cash transfer programme has come a long way having started from a very manual system .Curently,this programme has transformed and made it responsive, transparent and efficient in the way its implemented.

Specifically in the recent past the Migration from a manual to an electronic bank account based mode of payment; and the cleansing of the payroll which removed over 16,000 beneficiaries who had passed on have been very critical.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The outbreak of covid-19 has affected many people world over and it is safe to say that if one is not been infected then they are affected one way or the other. As of June 10th 2020,the number of people globally who have so far been infected with the COVID-19 disease stood at 6,826,933 with 394,429 deaths. The numbers in Africa stood at 202,864 infected with 5,539 deaths while in Kenya the number of those infected stood at 3,094 with 89 deaths.This clearly show how serious this pandemic is in globally.

To contain the spread of this outbreak, different countries have put in place different measures to contain the spread of this disease,In our

country the government through the Ministry of Health has been implementing various measures geared toward stopping the spread of this pandemic. These include Stay-At-Home and Work-From-Home directives, Social distancing, closure of air travel, both locally and internationally, night curfew, and cessation of travel from and to the counties of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale and Mandera.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While these measures are effective in slowing down the infections, they have also led to unintended outcomes of job losses and significant loss of earnings by businesses hence creating a new group of vulnerable people who are now looking at the government for support.

During this COVID-19 pandemic the ministry of labour and social protection under the Inua Jamii has implemented the account based system of transferring money to the beneficiaries. All the beneficiaries received an SMS informing them that their money was in their accounts, hence reducing the need to congregate at paying agents and hence supporting the government protocol of social distancing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Inua Jamii cash transfer programme comprises of three categories of beneficiaries; Older persons currently totaling to 766,424; Person with severe disabilities currently totaling to 34,032 and; Orphans and Vulnerable Children currently totaling to 293,867.

The ministry has been distributing the cash benefits to the beneficiaries regularly. At the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic the ministry paid all the beneficiaries a total of KShs 8,000 for the four months January to April. Currently, the ministry is in the process of distributing May-June payments is targeting 1,094,000 beneficiaries who will receive a total of KShs 4.37 Billion.

To be in a position to reach out to all the beneficiaries, the Ministry would require an additional Ksh 5.348 Billion. Currently the available funds can only support 1,025,177 beneficiaries leaving out 198,452 beneficiaries.

The ministry is targeting to register an additional 250,000 beneficiaries older persons, 100,000 Orphans and Vulnerable children and 47,000 persons with disabilities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, the Government allocated through Supplementary II an additional Kshs10 billion to cushion the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable groups against the adverse effects of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The eligibility criteria for the target group include vulnerable households comprising of Poor Chronically Sick, Poor Widows & Widowers, Poor Child Headed Household (Orphans), Poor Elderly and Poor Persons with Disabilities. Others include the new vulnerable people who have lost jobs due to the pandemic like labourers in flower farms, tea estates, coffee estates etc, Hawkers, Mama Mbogas, Boda Boda riders, Fish Mongers and food Vendors.

The ministry is also targeting the needy children in institutions, Street families and homeless people, destitutes and beggars and people living in Burras and Mayattas in North Eastern. This intervention is intended to cover poor and vulnerable persons who are NOT benefitting from any other Government social welfare programmes notably Inua Jamii or Hunger Safety Net programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In identifying the beneficiaries, the Ministry is working through a Multi-Agency Team approach that brings on board, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection field officers, Office of the President NGAO, Nyumba Kumi Cluster heads, The National Treasury, Ministry of Health and Constituency Social Assistance Committees

A pilot phase involving the initial four Counties under cessation of movement namely Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale, was undertaken and a total of **108,199** households were identified. Currently the program is targeting **198,843 beneficiaries** in **21 counties** where each beneficiary is receiving **Kshs. 1,000** per week for a period of **3 months**. The money is being delivered through Safaricom Mpesa Systems.

To cushion persons with disability from the adverse economic effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic **Kshs. 500Million** was allocated out of which **Kshs. 300 Million** was allocated to payment of arrears for Persons with Severe Disabilities in the Inua Jamii Programme with **Kshs. 200 Million** being set aside to **cushion 33,333** persons with disabilities against the effects of the pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The government appreciate the support from our development partners. and am assuring you that my Ministry has put in place measures to ensure that there is a faster identification and registration of the recipients and also to guard against Double dipping.

The support from from the European Union, ACTED, IMPACT, CREAM and Wangu Kanja Foundation is a very welcome relief that will go along way to complement the government efforts.

My ministry remain committed to support all the vulnerable members of our community and continues to welcome all people of good will to join us and extend their support.

Distinguished Participants,

With these few remarks, I wish to thank you all for finding time out of your busy schedules to attend this launch.

Thank you very much and God bless you all!