



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY

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DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE UK'S URBAN
DIGITAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME IN RESPONSE TO
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN KENYA.

ON NOVEMBER, 11TH 2020

Her Excellency, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, Ms. Jane Marriott,
The Country Director for GiveDirectly, Ms. Lydia Muya,
The Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social protection,
Hon Patrick Ole Ntutu
Principal Secretary State Department for Social Protection Mr Nelson Marwa
Social Protection Practitioners joining us virtually,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

It gives me great pleasure to join you today, to officiate the launch of the UK's Urban Digital Cash Transfer Programme in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Kenya.

Let me start by recognizing the continued support your government has given to the Government of Kenya, especially in the implementation of Social protection programme which have continued to improve the livelihood of poor and vulnerable households.

Over the years, the Government of Kenya has continued to implement various social protection interventions that support the poor and vulnerable households in the community. In particular, my Ministry implements the Inua Jamii Programme which consist of three programmes; *the Cash Transfer programme for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Older Persons and Persons with Severe Disabilities*, to enable them meet their daily basic needs. These programmes provide safety nets in form of monthly stipend of **Kes. 2,000** per

beneficiary household, paid every two months to enable the beneficiaries meet their basic needs and to live a dignified life.

The Inua Jamii programme is a Flagship Project under the Social Pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030 and pursuance to Article 43(3) of Kenya Constitution. So far, this programme has disbursed a total of **Kes.166.9 Billion** to **1,233,129** poor households. These households include **353,000** Orphans and Vulnerable Children, **833,129** Older Persons and **47,000** Persons with Severe Disabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current Covid-19 pandemic has caused numerous challenges in the society and if one is not infected then they are affected. This pandemic has led to loss of lives, jobs, and slowed down economic performance, making millions of poor and vulnerable people across the globe to lose their livelihood. Like the rest of the family of nations, Kenya has suffered the adverse effect of the pandemic, especially among the poor, unemployed and those in informal employment.

In order to cushion the poor and vulnerable members of our society, who are currently not beneficiaries of the Inua Jamii Programme, the Government allocated **Kes.10 billion** during the Financial Year 2019/2020, through which, an emergency cash transfer programme was started in April 2020, to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic among the vulnerable households. Through this funding, a total of **333,200 beneficiary households** from the 47 counties have been supported with each household receiving **Kes.1000** on a weekly basis through mobile money transfer. In

addition, **Kes.1billion** was allocated to the Ministry under Economic Stimulus to support more poor households.

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's to supplement our Government efforts in providing cash transfer in response to Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

I am glad to note that the UK government availed a grant of 5 Million Sterling pounds (**Approximately Ksh 680 Million**) to finance a Digital Cash Transfer Programme. This programme currently ongoing, is expected to cover **52,700** vulnerable people living in urban informal settlements, in Nairobi and Mombasa. The programme planned to run for three months, will go a long way in improving their livelihood and wellbeing, and enable them to participate in rebuilding of our economy.

I commend **GiveDirectly**, the organization implementing this programme, for working closely with our Community Based Organizations, in identifying the beneficiaries and for leveraging on innovative technology that has ensured effective and efficient disbursement of funds to the recipients.

To echo the words of the former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, "*At a time of global economic turmoil and uncertainty, investment in social protection is necessary, feasible and effective*". Today, we have heard from beneficiaries and witnessed the transformation this programme has had in

their lives. It is therefore evident that cash transfer demonstrates a caring culture and has empowered families, saved livelihoods and restored dignity among the disadvantaged, the elderly, People with Disability and Orphaned Children in the society. Let us always remember that all men and women are created in the image of God and, their potential with the right support is unlimited

With those few remarks, it is now my honour to officially launch the UK's Urban Digital Cash Transfer Programme.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL