

I helped my mother's business of selling Omena (small fish). Since I am preparing for the National Examination, I also took supplemental classes for the exam. I want to enroll into the top high school in Kenya, so I wake up at 4 am and go to school. By 6 am, I am studying in the school. In the evening, I study before dinner and then go to bed at 10 pm. I would like to be a Bank manager when I grow up.

During the school closure, I played ball games with my friends in the daytime and studied at night. My favorite subject is Swahili but I do not like Mathematics. I want to become a police officer when I grow up.



**Emmacurate**

8th grade

Dr. Williams Primary School



**Jane**

2nd grade

Kageno School

# VOICE

## How did you spend time during the school closure?

In Kenya, many schools were closed from March 2020 to January 2021 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We asked students and parents about their daily lives during the school closure.



**Helen**

My grandchildren go to Dr. Williams primary school. I was worried my grandchildren would contract COVID-19 by playing with other children. To prevent being in contact with someone with COVID-19, I stayed home most of the time.



**Walter  
Ouma**

When our school was closed, I had a hard time feeding my children because my business went down. When the infection rate of COVID19 went down, my business started picking up. Children were playing football all day, then went to take bath in the lake. When they came home, they just ate and went to bed. I thought this was better than children idling in town.

## We asked school teachers:

### What were the challenges during the school closure?

When schools were closed, students lost their discipline. I am also a mother of 3 children. It was very difficult to teach my own children. They were not listening to me and telling me that their teachers taught them a different way! I think that TV and Radio programs by the government were not bad but only a few students studied using these programs.



**Evelyn**

Teacher Dr. Williams  
primary school



**Julius**

Deputy Head teacher  
Kaswanga primary school

During the school closure, some students were not eating well. Especially houses with single mothers had hard time. So I am glad that the school reopened and school lunch program started again. My family live in Mfangano Island. I came to Rusinga Island when I need to work. With my children, I made them to do house chores and gave them lots of homework to keep them busy.

## Rusinga is an 'Omena Island'

Rusinga Island is a Kenyan island located in the Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa. Lives of the island and coastal people depend on this lake. Kageno school is in Litare beach, a village with Omena fishing business.

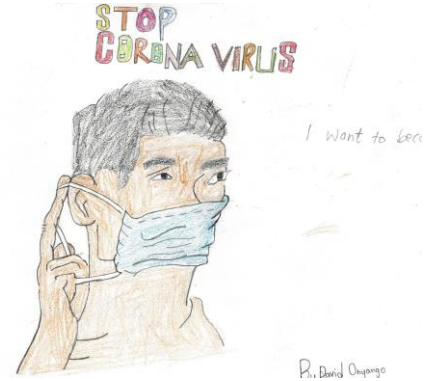
Every morning, women gather at the beach and wait for the fishing boats from the lake to arrive. Omena brought by the boats are washed and spread all over the village to dry them. The entire village smells like Omena. Drying and selling Omena is the work of women. Families of many students in Kageno school are engaged in the Omena fishing, so the number of students fluctuates with the Omena fishing season.



# Status of Vaccination of COVID-19 in East Africa

## KENYA

Kenya had experienced the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of COVID-19 in August 2021. Since then, the number of COVID-19 infections has declined and weekly average infection was around 60 in late November. On October 20, Kenyan government eased the COVID-19 restrictions such as night curfew between 10 pm to 4 am. The percentage of vaccinated adults with 2 vaccines is about 10% which is not high. The ministry of health plans to start nationwide mass vaccination campaign from late November. They set the rule that from mid. December, people were required to show their vaccination certificates when taking public transports or entering into public buildings.



Drawings by David of Dr. Williams Primary School. His dream is to become a medical doctor.

## RWANDA

COVID-19 vaccination is a mandatory in Rwanda. To attend events, weddings, funerals and meetings, people must be vaccinated. Already 3.2 million people have been vaccinated. Rwanda plans to vaccinate 40% of citizens by the end of 2021. The positive ratio of COVID-19 has gone down to less than 1 % in recent months, so the government closed COVID-19 medical centers.

But Rwanda is concerned about the new variant from southern African countries. The Rwandese cabinet decided to stop direct flights from southern African countries and people entering from these countries must be quarantined for 7 days.



President Kagame of Rwanda was the first present who received COVID-19 vaccine in East African countries.

## TANZANIA

The ministry of health in Tanzania is concerned about the risk COVID-19 as the vaccination ratio is low and the movement of people in and out of country would increase during the holiday season. The confirmed cases of the new variance Omicron was an additional concern. In Tanzania, people can receive the vaccination for free in hospitals all over the country, but still the vaccination rate is low as only 2.7% of total population has been vaccinated as of 28th November. President Hassan who received her vaccination right after she become president, strongly encouraged regional officers to increase the vaccination rates, especially in rural areas.