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Subject: Message From APF Board Chair

TOGETHER WE WILL OVERCOME

As I write this, I am reflecting on how drastically lives are being changed and transformed by the effects of COVID-19. For many of us, when we are in crisis we like to congregate, but we can't. For others, when we are uncertain we like to get a hug, but we can't either. As philanthropists, leaders and individuals, we are at the center of making many difficult and complex decisions on a daily basis to keep ourselves, workforces, communities and homes safe, while also ensuring we give our resources and selves to addressing this challenge.

Critically important at this time is that we must recognize that we are all in a position to support the collective fight against COVID-19 – each and every one of us. These efforts range from the seemingly little decisions such as following guidance from public health authorities, to bigger decisions such as supporting the creation of vaccines, future pandemic response plans and building sustainable and reliable health care systems.

As countries close more borders to contain the situation and protect their citizens, we also must work within our communities and partner with national, state, and local governments, as well as public health agencies in responding now and building resilience for the future. Here are some steps we can take to immediately protect and support in this ever-evolving situation:

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



- The importance of washing our hands frequently with soap and water cannot be overemphasized when these are unavailable, use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Remember, hand sanitizers are not alternatives to hand washing.
- When coughing or sneezing, we must ensure we do not spread the virus by coughing or sneezing into bent elbows or tissue paper and immediately discarding it in a closed bin.
- Boost our immune system with healthy fruits, vegetables and vitamins.
- Leverage technology to reduce face to face interactions and provide resources to help modify how people work.
- Limit non-essential travel and have established quarantine procedures after travelling to high-risk areas.

COMMUNITY

Remember, when we help others, we are also helping ourselves. Let us support the communities around us by:

- Educating communities and individuals within our sphere of influence.
- Providing soap and water to those who lack basic amenities. Regular hand washing cannot be effective if the necessary materials are not accessible.
- Supporting the heroes among us - community-based organizations, hospitals and healthcare providers who are risking their lives to help others.
- Supporting government authorities closest to us and fighting the pandemic.
- Caring for the elderly and limiting their exposure to the virus.
- Providing support to businesses affected by the effects of the pandemic.

DO NOT PANIC

- Even though the virus is spreading at a rapid rate globally, what is worse is the spread of panic and fake news. Let us ensure that the information we are circulating is from legitimate and reliable sources.
 - The best way to hold off the panic button is to be calm in these trying times and avoid hoarding essential supplies. Every action and every thought can be a step closer to containing the Coronavirus, it starts with us.
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As an organization, APF takes its role of supporting members and members of the philanthropy community seriously and is ensuring we come together to address social issues especially in these uncertain and unprecedented times.

Recognizing there is a lot of noise out there, in the upcoming weeks we will be sharing reliable information and resources about updates on the issue. Our internal operational team will curate trusted, real-time facts and short videos on COVID-19, including insights and methods of staying safe. We have also taken steps to ensure we maintain the highest level of hygiene at our facilities and limit unnecessary travel and interactions.

As we have already seen with the virus, countries and communities bear immense human, economic, and social costs and we must come together committed to doing everything we can to ease that burden. If there are things you need from us or additional ways we can support you, please let us know. Do not hesitate to contact us at apf@africanpf.org or call us on +234(0)8037291889. Most importantly, we wish good health for you, your families and your communities.

As Nelson Mandela said "*It always seems impossible until it's done*". We are Africans and we are resilient. Together we can win this battle!

Best Regards,

Tsitsi Masiyiwa
Board Chair





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