

## The International School organizes a food drive



Recipients of the IITA International school food drive

To celebrate its annual community service project, the International School of IITA organized a food distribution event on 19 June to cushion the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on some of the Institute's staff.

The event, which was attended by some parents and staff, including the IITA Director General, Nteranya Sanginga, aimed to honor the staff members who worked effectively to

ensure that the environs of IITA are clean and well maintained.

In his remarks, DG Sanginga appreciated the effort of the school in showing such kindness to the staff, especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Derek Smith, Head Teacher, International School: "It is necessary to recognize those that work tirelessly to help maintain the

international standard of hygiene that is required. The 2020 Community Service Project is designed to appreciate staff who work very hard to keep our environment clean".

The recipients from the Facility Management Services (FMS) showed appreciation for the hospitable gesture demonstrated by the school.



Left: DG Sanginga and IITA staff at the International School food drive. Right: Food baskets for distribution to beneficiary recipients.

## Talking Drums: Readers' satisfaction survey

Once a month, Talking Drums—a human-interest publication—is published and disseminated to all IITA staff members across the Hubs and stations. The publication is part of efforts to ensure open communication and exchange of information, and facilitate internal communication among staff, units, and stations/hubs in IITA. It focuses on human interest stories, profiles, news, and announcements about staff activities and events in the Institute. The publication is jointly produced by Human Resources and the Communication Office.

The newsletter was first published in 2012 and a PDF version distributed to the hubs and stations, and other stakeholders. The PDF version continues to be distributed monthly to more than 3,000 recipients.

After almost nine years of continuous publication, there was a need to review the performance of the publication, hence, the publishers



undertook a “Reader Satisfaction Survey”. The survey provided an opportunity to help the editorial and production teams get feedback and insight on readers’ preferences and information needs.

The survey specifically aimed at eliciting responses on relevance, presentation, timeliness, and delivery of the publication.

Readers’ responses have contributed to helping the team improve coverage, enhance content, and get more insight to keep the publication fresh, current, and appealing.

A summary of the results of the survey is given below. On a scale of 1–5, with 5 highest:

- Talking Drums is “still relevant and interesting”; rated above 4
- “Stories on the Institute’s events” was also rated above 4
- 83% of respondents are satisfied with Talking Drums
- 60% of respondents prefer to continue to receive “Both PDF and Online” versions of Talking Drums

Overall, Talking Drums is perceived to be “doing well” and is liked by readers.

## IITA DG’s wife supports motherless babies’ home to ease the effect of COVID-19

IITA is in full support of humanitarian services. This has been shown in various ways over the years, including individual and group visits to orphanages.

On 1 July, Mrs Charlotte Sanginga, wife of the DG, accompanied by some friends and members of the IITA Women’s Group—Mmes Okike, Eguzozie, and Oluwadare—visited the Ibadan Home for Motherless babies (IHMB). Upon arrival, they were directed to wash their hands according to COVID-19 hygiene regulations. Physical distancing and wearing of face masks were strictly observed.

Although Mrs Sanginga has been visiting the motherless babies home for years, this particular visit is noteworthy because of the reason behind it.

IMBH is an NGO founded by the late Chief Mrs Rebecca Sholanke in 1960. It is a home for raising new-born babies whose mothers have died during childbirth. The children are usually brought in by their fathers and nursed in the home until they are 2 or 3 years before being taken back to their fathers. “There are about 20 children presently,” said Mama Comfort Oworemi Odeyemi, the Matron.

Being an NGO, the home relies on donations from individuals and organizations to take care of the babies and pay staff salaries. While relating the purpose of their visit, Mrs Sanginga said: “Knowing that most people making donations are business people



Mrs Charlotte Sanginga (second from left) with the IITA Women’s Group members.

and business is low this period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have decided to make an impact through this donation.”

Mrs Sanginga has always been passionate about helping motherless babies. “Wherever I go, the first thing I look for is a motherless babies’ home,” she said. Having been a leader of the IITA Women’s Group, Mrs Sanginga also introduced this to the Women’s Group. Visiting and supporting the motherless babies’ home monthly has been a major part of their activities since 1990. Mrs Sanginga also visits the home on her own regularly.

Aside from cash, Mrs Sanginga donated items such as face masks, a

handwashing station, toiletries, foodstuffs, and baby diapers and wipes to the home. It became evident how much this donation meant to the home when the Assistant Matron, Mrs Juliana Oke said: “The home is for you and I; whatever is donated is what we rely on to maintain the home.” Although Mrs Juliana mentioned that the fathers of these children are expected to pay a token of one thousand naira monthly, most of them have not been complying.

“I am always happy to be here,” said Mrs Sanginga. She also mentioned that she is open to partnering with individuals and NGOs in visiting and supporting motherless babies’ homes.

# COVID-19 update and hygiene

Increasing evidence of airborne transmission:

- Sars-Cov-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) was confirmed to spread primarily through droplets from the beginning.
- Droplets are excretions from the respiratory tract, which cannot stay suspended for long in the air and ultimately fall to the ground within 1

to 1.5 meters from where they are released.

- However, increasing evidence has emerged over the past couple of weeks that the transmission of Sars-Cov-2 may also be airborne, implying that the virus can be suspended in the air and transmitted over longer distances.
- This emerging information further underscores the importance of

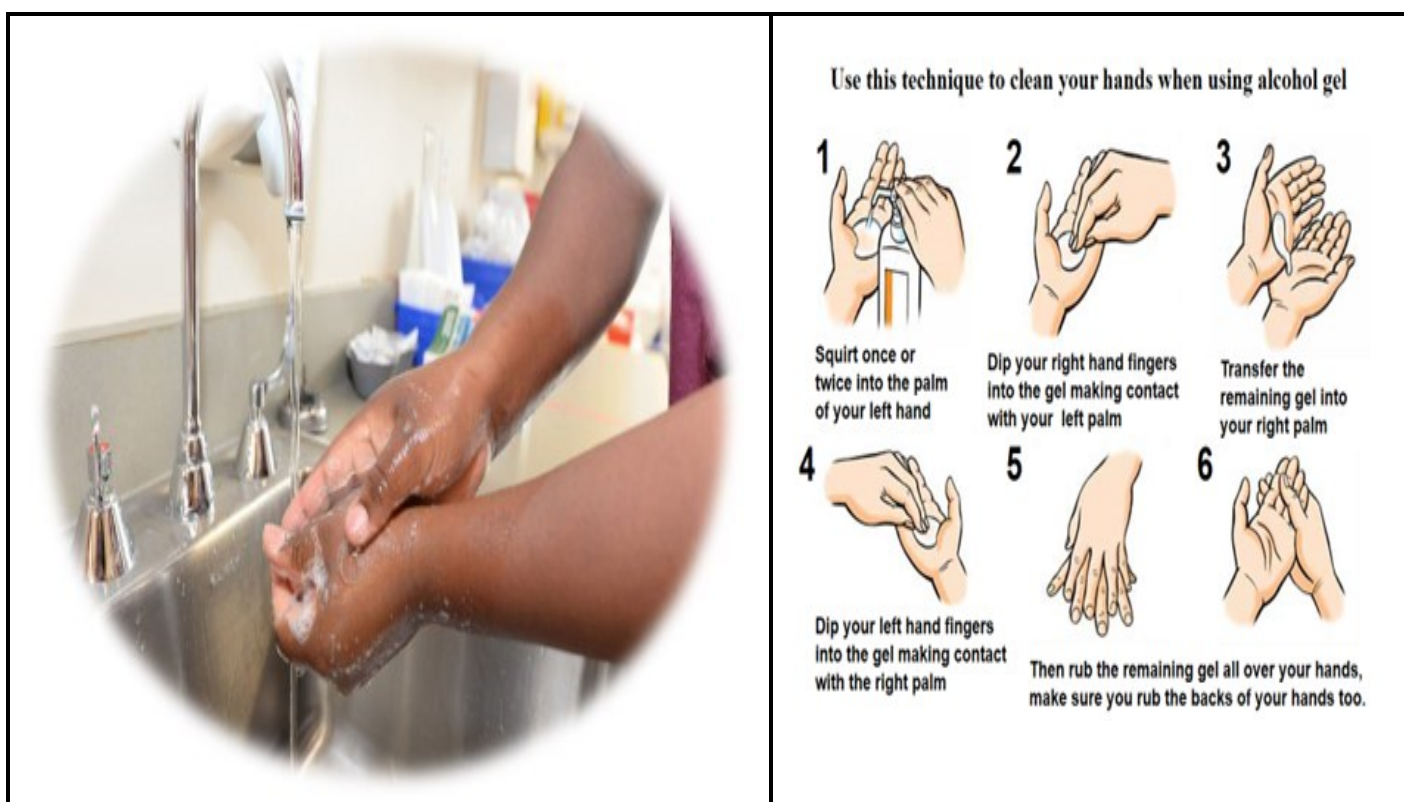
proper wearing of face masks in public spaces and adherence to physical distancing guidelines and other preventive measures.

- There should, however, be no cause for panic, as the possibility of spread can be kept under control when adherence to all the preventive measures outlined below is ensured, even if there is a chance of contact with infected persons.

## Hand hygiene

The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated fatalities are yet to abate as shown by this week's figures compared to last week.

Please be reminded of the need for regular hand hygiene (proper handwashing and use of hand sanitizer) as an essential measure for preventing COVID-19 and several other infectious diseases.



The practice of hand hygiene should be in addition to the other measures of proper wearing of face masks and physical distancing.

### Take personal responsibility:

1. **Wear face masks properly in public spaces.**
2. **Maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters.**
3. **Practice regular hand washing and sanitization.**
4. **Stay at home when sick with related symptoms.**
5. **Practice respiratory hygiene (Keep your cough).**

Please continue to stay safe within and outside the campus.

## Quotable quote

*"The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease."*

- Thomas Edison

## Newsletter staff

Editor: Helen Adeniji  
Associate editor: Yvonne Olatunbosun  
Contributors: HR & Communication  
Design and Layout: Ibukun Shodeinde, Adegboyega Juba, & Omolola Atunu  
Editing: Katherine Lopez  
Distribution: Ibukun Shodeinde & Dayo Oyewole  
Advisers: Lilian Mendoza & Katherine Lopez  
Contact: h.adeniji@cgiar.org