








## COVID-19 Activities Statement




Since the COVID-19 outbreak started reaching the areas in which we work, we have been taking responsible decisions relating to how we work given the vulnerability of many with whom we work. These decisions have been shared through Activities Statements published in March and May. This statement is the intended July 2020 update to these (significant updates or changes are highlighted in **purple**). Our next public update will be issued on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

**Summary:** Since March 2020, we have taken the decision to cancel (or defer) 5 projects proposed for delivery in 2020 (1 in the UK and 4 overseas):

-  Introductory Training in Ethiopia in Lebeza Psychiatry Speciality Clinic [*deferred to 2021*]
-  Support for our Local Partners in 3 settings in Ethiopia: Hospice Ethiopia, Fikir Ethiopian National Association on Intellectual Disability (formerly ENAID) and Gefersa Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre [*deferred to 2021*]
-  A conference in Rwanda, forming part of our offer of Local Partner Support and Support for Local Trainers [*cancelled*]
-  A conference in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, forming part of our offer of Local Partner Support [*deferred to 2021*]
-  1 of the 4 proposed Introductory Skill-Sharing projects proposed for delivery in the UK this year [*cancelled*].

However, although we have scaled back the number of projects we are striving to deliver by 20%, because of the emphasis we place on supporting our partners' own practice through local leadership, sustainability and capacity building activities, our widest reach is less impacted (reducing by only 16%). This leaves us continuing to work towards the delivery of **16 projects** in **166 care settings** and still reaching all **9 countries** in which we have active partnerships. These projects will provide training or support to **378 staff** and create opportunities for as many as **18,612** vulnerable children and adults to access music within their education or care. 47% of this group (and 32% of staff involved) are in the UK, which is a more local focus than anticipated at the start of the year.

It is increasingly apparent that as well as following international and national guidance, our ability to deliver our activities will be affected by extremely localised factors which will vary between authorities, between care settings and even between volunteers or project contributors. We know the development and/or delivery of at least 12 of ongoing projects will be disrupted, at risk of cancellation or deferral; it is likely the level of enquiries for new projects will be affected. This could see our level of activity affected adversely into 2021.

Information on how our work has been affected can be found in our Activities in Detail information, pp.3-6, with symbols indicating their status of each project.    

Unless significant changes are required earlier, this statement will next be updated on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Meanwhile, you can read more about the thinking which lies behind our activities statement in our blog.

Alexia Quin  
Director

Since our last update...

## UK PROGRAMME

### A digital solution to complete our Interactive Music-Making Training Programme

*"You all did excellently presenting via video, a skill in itself when you can't see audience reaction! [Our] children are very lucky to have such dedicated and skilled practitioners who obviously care very deeply about the early experiences they can offer them."* (Manager Feedback)

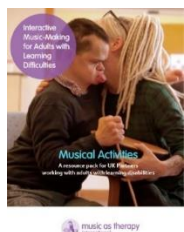


### Supporting our Partners to 'keep going' via our Motivation Programme

*"Thank you for your inspiring video and continued support... It is lovely to know you are all still beaver away to ensure everyone is supported and Music as Therapy keeps going."*

### Launching our Musical Instrument Fund to increase access to music sessions and help manage infection control.

*"We do have a large number of families wanting to access Interactive Music-Making, however, due to lack of resources, we are only able to offer a waiting list....Additional musical instruments will make such an impact for us."* (Kheima - IMM graduate, 2018)



### A stronger Resource Library with Activity Books for different client groups

*"Thanks for putting these guidances together, very helpful in helping our plans for restarting services in new ways."*

*"Thank you so much for the booklet on musical activities for people with dementia. This is exactly what I need ..."*

## International Programme

### Stronger Partner Relationships using video messaging

*"It is immense to hear from you once again. We are delighted that you have made a video script and sent it to us. Even if you were far and interrupted by pandemic, you have been thinking of Rwanda and put more emphasis on Music Therapists. ...It is noble to watch the video."* (Local Partner, Rwanda)

### Blended Learning Programme participants in the Occupied Palestinian Territories start to graduate

*"I felt more empowered in this session and could use music to serve me more in achieving many goals."*

### Continued development of our online training tool "Music in Dementia Care" designed for care givers in India.



*"There will be an increasing number of families who are now wishing that they could develop more caregiving skills and so programs like the one we are discussing will be well received. I look forward to helping you evolve a program which can empower families caring for dementia patients, enabling them to feel a little less helpless."* (Pavithra Gangadharan, Heritage Eldercare, Hyderabad)

### Continued participation in our International Partner Survey from partners worldwide






*"Music therapy was like a nice pebble that became so important in my life. Now I know that pebble is actually a talisman that helps not only others but also gives me personal development. That's why maybe we've been together for so long. Thank you for helping me find this talisman."*

### And all of this made possible with fantastic loyal support


1 New Legacy Pledge, increased corporate support from Capital Group and Vanneck Ltd, 3 donated laptops from Pure IP, £4,892.25 Gift Aid generated by our BBC Radio 4 Appeal, alongside retained support from all our regular donors.

## COVID-19 Disruption: Activities in Detail

### KEY:


-  Cancelled
-  Disrupted
-  Vulnerable
-  Progressing
-  Other information

### STAGE 1 Project Identification

-  Conversations about future project collaborations in the UK have gently restarted exploring new opportunities to support the emotional and social well-being of potential partners and the children and adults in their care.


Preliminary discussions are likely to take place by telephone or SKYPE, with face-to face meetings and site visits considered on a case by case basis (informed by local guidance). Infection control and physical safety remain of paramount importance the care sector worldwide which will continue to have implications for future projects and may involve the exploration of new models of training and new ways of working.


### STAGE 2 Project Development


-  It remains difficult for our partners to prioritise progressing staff training at the moment, so the timeframes for Project Development are still being extended. However, subject to local interest - and confidence in how/when a project can be delivered - we are available to continue project development activity. Timeframes will be informed by *MasT International* and Project Partners' joint consideration of the local implications of the COVID-19 outbreak and national/international guidance. There will be no face-to face meetings or site visits until further notice, which may further delay project development.


### STAGE 3 Project Planning

*MasT International* has reviewed all planned projects for 2020 in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak and has taken the following decisions:





-  **Interactive Music-Making 2020-21:** Recruitment to the next Interactive Music-Making course is now open, advertised across our existing network and more widely following consultation with our existing Early Years partners. It remains possible the start date for delivery of the course (September 2020) will need to be deferred and a decision on this will be taken in mid-August.

-  **Introductory Training (Tadworth Children's Trust School):** We remain in contact with our prospective partners in Tadworth, ready to agree a start date for this project when our partners and their children are ready.

-  **UK Partner Support (Fort William):** The support meeting with our partners in Fort William proposed for June 2020 was postponed. Viability will be assessed as lockdown eases, with scope to deliver this support in the autumn, in person or online.






-  **Follow Up Visit (Moss Park):** The Follow-Up Visit to our partners proposed for the summer was postponed. Viability will be assessed as lockdown eases, with scope to deliver this support in the autumn, in person or online.


-  **Interactive Music-Making CPD Events:** Following successful online delivery of our June IMM CPD Event, our final event of the year will go ahead on 18th November, online or in-person subject to viability.


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**Rwanda Programme:** Following cancellation of our scheduled fieldwork in Rwanda this summer, we undertook consultation with our Local Trainers and we are now working together to shape a proposal they have designed. Subject to viability, they are proposing to offer a 3-day introductory training event themselves to local practitioners working with people with disabilities later in the year.
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**Local Partner Support (Occupied Palestinian Territories):** Following deferral of our proposed conference in the Occupied Palestinian Territories this September, we remain available to our Local Partners to provide support from a distance in the interim.
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**Local Partner Support (Georgia):** We remain available to contribute to the proposed national conference in November, subject to viability in relation to COVID-19 considerations in both the UK and Georgia. If a field visit is possible, we would also like to undertake a Feasibility Study for an Introductory Training project at a new setting.
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**Local Partner Support and Introductory Training (Ethiopia):** Due to restrictions to international travel and UK and local considerations with respect to social distancing and working alongside COVID-19, we have taken the decision to defer delivery of this field work to 2021 (subject to its viability at that point).

## STAGE 4 Project Delivery

*MasT International* has reviewed all projects currently in delivery in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak and has taken the following decisions:

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**Interactive Music-Making 2019-20:** We are in the final phase of the course, having converted our Presentation Day to an online platform and reviewed our students' Practice Portfolios as normal. The ten participating early years practitioners will receive their final moderation and grades this month.
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**Introductory Training (Moss Park):** When it is safe and appropriate for non-essential workers to return to the care home, we will consider the relevance of returning to complete the staff's training as most appropriate.
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**UK Motivation Programme:** We replaced our proposed quarterly newsletters with a more direct, easy-to-read email bulletins and video messages, sharing resources and inviting our partners to tell us if there is anything we can do to support them during the COVID-19 outbreak. Web analytics and direct feedback indicate they are being widely accessed and positively received. We will continue with this approach, subject to review on 1<sup>st</sup> October. We have opened a Musical Instrument Fund to which our UK Partners can apply if they need additional musical instruments, considering heightened infection control measures and to increase access to music sessions. Our Online Partner Resources have been strengthened with new Musical Activity Resource Books for people working with Adults with Learning Disabilities and those living with dementia. Similar books for those working with children with disabilities and Young Children will be added over the summer.
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**Distance Learning Programme 2020 (Romania):** Our students' participation in this project to date has not been disrupted, given its focus on online tutorials and written assignments. However, following the summer break the students are due to begin Practical Assignments, when they deliver weekly music sessions to small groups of children with additional needs. Subject to local circumstances in September, this part of the course may be disrupted and timeframes for course completion may be affected. Additional teaching may be needed for students to work safely alongside COVID-19, on which we seek local guidance.
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**Blended Learning Programme (Occupied Palestinian Territories):** One student successfully graduated from the course, however the remaining students have not yet been able to resume or complete their Practical Assignments due to COVID-19 disruption and the end of the academic year. All 5 students have been given an interim grade reflecting their achievements during the theoretical component of the course. We will work with our partners, Musicians without Borders, to ensure our students' practical learning is complete and validated, when they are able to return to work.

 **Music in Dementia Care Online Training Course (India):** The development of this new course continues, working towards its pilot delivery in the autumn. There have been some delays to developing the course content and so the pilot delivery may be phased enabling us to start learning from local experiences of the course as each chapter is complete. In order to minimise delays and given potential relevance of this course to locked down care providers in other countries we are trying to source video footage to support the teaching content as a temporary alternative to the films we had hoped to record ourselves during the field work we had to cancel in India this summer. Until these materials are finalised, this project's delivery remains vulnerable.

 **Distance Learning Programme pilot (Myanmar):** The development of this new course continues to work towards its pilot delivery in the autumn, subject to viability nearer the time. This project is progressing well but remains vulnerable until we can confirm schools will be open and ready to participate in October and international access to the country will be possible in early 2021 (to deliver the Intensive Study Training component of the course).

### **STAGE 5 Reporting and Evaluation**

We do not currently anticipate any changes or contingency plans in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak however we are ensuring partners and donors are aware of changes to projects on which they are anticipating reports as they become concrete. It is possible timeframes for reporting and our evaluation methods will need to be adjusted in response to local experiences of the outbreak.

We will continue to monitor national guidance from the British government and our UK partners, and international guidance from the Foreign and Commonwealth office and our Local Partners worldwide.

Unless significant changes are required earlier, this statement will next be updated on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

In the meantime any questions or concerns should be addressed to [alexiaquin@musicasterapy.org](mailto:alexiaquin@musicasterapy.org)

*You may also be interested to read our blog reflecting on how the COVID-19 has brought two of our Core Values – Sustainability and Partnership - to the fore ([here](#))*