As of April 16, 2020, Kenya has registered 234 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 11 deaths. The number of cases is expected to increase, as more testing is done. The Kenyan government has suspended all international flights indefinitely, and the President has issued a nationwide curfew from 7pm-5am starting 27th March 2020. All field activities and group gatherings are suspended until further notice, and all physical offices have closed.

Impact on women and on peace and security:
The COVID-19 is expected to have a devastating impact on the informal sector economy in Kenya, which will have disproportionate adverse effect on women, who constitute the majority of informal workers.

The quarantine measures are being enforced with the support from the police and military, raising concerns about the possibility of abuse of the police and military power during the crisis. On Saturday, 27 March 2020, two priests, several nuns and over 40 parishioners have been arrested for “defying the law which aims at reducing and preventing the spread of coronavirus.” To date, no cases have been detected among refugees living in the refugee camps and host communities in Kenya.

Response by women peacebuilders:
GNWP’s partner, Rural Women Peace Link is conducting sensitization on safe practices and hygiene through short radio messages translated to local languages and passed to women in rural areas. The messages specifically target women, as they are at a higher risk due to their roles as primary caregivers for the sick and the elderly.