



## COVID-19 Activities Statement

Since the COVID-19 outbreak started reaching the areas in which we work, we have been thinking responsibly about the vulnerability of many with whom we work. This led to a first phase of decisions relating to how we work across the 5 stages of our Project Co-ordination Cycle in March. This statement is the intended May 2020 update to these (significant updates or changes are highlighted in purple).

**Summary:** Since March 2020, we have taken the decision to cancel (or defer) 3 projects proposed for delivery in 2020 (1 in the UK and 2 overseas):

-  A conference in Rwanda, forming part of our offer of Local Partner Support and Support for Local Trainers
-  1 of the 4 proposed Introductory Skill-Sharing projects proposed for delivery in the UK this year
-  A conference in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, forming part of our offer of Local Partner Support

Despite this, it remains currently viable to work towards the delivery of **17 projects** benefiting people who live or work in **167 care settings** in **9 countries**. Subject to local Lockdowns and the burden of care our partners are carrying, our training or support could still reach as many as **427 members of staff** and create opportunities for up to **20,844** vulnerable children and adults to access music (42% in the UK, 58% overseas).

We are working hard to adapt proposed activities, to listen to our partners' current needs and ensure any support we offer is responsive and does not add to their burden of care.

*Information on the ways we have done this is typically indicated with this symbol  in our Activities in Detail information, pp.3-6.*

However, we know the development and/or delivery of at least 12 of these projects will be disrupted. They remain at risk of cancellation or deferral to 2021, subject to how the COVID-19 outbreak is contained in the different countries where their delivery is intended. Additionally, it is likely the level of enquiries for new projects will be affected. This could see our level of activity affected adversely by this pandemic into 2021.

*Information on the ways we have done this is typically indicated with these symbols   in our Activities in Detail information, pp.3-6.*

But the dedication of our team, project contributors and project partners means music hasn't and won't be silenced. We have recently published a blog reflecting on the importance of timing, patience and availability ([here](#)) And the opening page of the attached Activities in detail section is dedicated to celebrating some of what has been possible and what we will, in time, return.

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

Alexia Quin  
Director

## Celebrating what has been possible in 2020

### Music for people living with dementia (UK)

*"Edith responded to [the song] straight away adding the ends of phrases initially and gradually singing all the words... Kim told me the following week that she had begun to use that song daily as she helped with giving Edith her medicine. She commented to me that Edith had definitely become easier to work with since using the song...and that she was coming out of her room more."*

**Resident speaking to the tambourine during a session** *"Oh, you're lovely!"*

*"It's just amazing when people who can't speak to you burst into song, it's so inspiring. The music training was great - we've found it really helps with little things that can be challenging – like when you want to take someone to the toilet and they don't understand you, but you sing 'skip to my loo' and suddenly it's easier."*

### Music for young children

*"[I hoped to] share best practice, network, and collect SHAKERS! These events are important for keeping my practice relevant and professional."*

*'Really enjoyed attending this... as I attended the course a few years ago: I gained new info and ideas.'*

*"Thank you to you all, for your inspiring video and continued support to your Interactive Music-Makers! It was lovely to see your face this morning Alexia and to know that you are all still beavering away to ensure that everyone is supported and that Music as Therapy International keeps going."*

*"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."*

### Music for children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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

*"I think the activities helped the kids to discharge their energy and give them space to express their feelings in a safe atmosphere."*

### Music for young children with disabilities (Romania)

*"Thank you for this opportunity to get to know myself and to shape myself even better through this course!"*



*"It was a pleasure for my soul."  
(Staff feedback after delivering a music session)*



## COVID-19 Disruption: Activities in Detail

### KEY:

-  Cancelled
-  Disrupted
-  Vulnerable
-  Other information

### STAGE 1 Project Identification

 We continue to welcome enquiries about future project collaboration. 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). However, we appreciate the care sector worldwide is currently facing an unprecedented challenge and infection control and physical safety is of paramount importance. We anticipate this may have implications for the identification of future projects. Now is unlikely to be the time to be planning staff training. However, we welcome opportunities to support the emotional and social well-being of potential partners and the children and adults in their care when the time is right. This may involve the exploration of new models of training and new ways of working.

### STAGE 2 Project Development

 During the current crisis, progressing staff training is unlikely to be a priority for our partners and timeframes for Project Development will be 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:** Advertising for the next Interactive Music-Making course will begin within our existing network, but wider promotion and any paid advertising will be determined in consultation with our existing Early Years partners. It is possible the start date for delivery of the course (September 2020) will need to be deferred.

*Action: We will consult our existing Early Years partners on marketing timeframes and IMM course delivery timing; We will market the course to our existent networks and through established (free) channels based on UK partner guidance; paid advertising and/or PR activity will be reviewed following UK partner consultation. We will review the start date for delivery of the course on 1st July.*

 **Introductory Training (Tadworth Children's Trust School):** We are awaiting a start date for this project from our partners and are aware this may now be later than anticipated or postponed.

*No action required from us at present*

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

*Action: Monitor lockdown restrictions and partner interest to consider viability and best format for providing support in Fort William in the autumn.*

 **Follow Up Visit (Moss Park):** The Follow-Up Visit was due to take place between June-Sept 2020. This is now postponed and will be reconsidered subject to when/how the Moss Park Introductory Training Project is concluded.

*Action: Monitor completion of Introductory Training Project to determine timeframe for/relevance of a Follow-Up Visit.*

 **IMM CPD Events:** Two IMM CPD Events remain scheduled for 2020 on 16th June (at Ethelred Children's Centre, Kennington) and 18th November (at James Wolfe School, Greenwich). Subject to lockdown measures in place nearer the time, the June event may be offered online. Promotion of this will start in mid-May. The viability and best format for the November event will be assessed later in the year.

*Action: Decide format and promote the June CPD Event to our Interactive Music-Makers (15/05/20); Monitor lockdown and social distancing measures in the following months to consider viability of the November event.*

 **Rwanda Programme:** Restrictions to international and local travel mean we are unable to provide music therapists to undertake our planned Local Partner Support and Strengthening Local Training activities in Rwanda this summer. We will now consult our Local Partners to see if there are linked activities they would like to undertake locally with our guidance and support, or if they would prefer to defer investment in this aspect of their work until 2021.

*Action: We will undertake a local consultation to determine the shape of viable locally-led activities this year and the scope of activities deferred until 2021.*

 **Local Partner Support (Occupied Palestinian Territories):** Current school closures and Lockdown will make preparation and planning difficult, even though it isn't scheduled for delivery until September. We are also unlikely to have certainty regarding international travel and/or access to the country for some time yet, which could ultimately limit our ability to provide music therapists to convene the intended conference. We will now consult our Local Partners to see if there are linked activities they would like to undertake locally with our guidance and support, or if they would prefer to defer investment in this aspect of their work until 2021.

*Action: We will undertake a local consultation to determine the shape of viable locally-led activities this year and the scope of activities deferred until 2021.*

 **Local Partner Support (Georgia):** We are seeking clarification regarding a local requests for support. These include an invitation to participate in the national conference in November. If the conference proceeds, our presence could also allow us to undertake a Feasibility Study for an Introductory Training project at a new setting.

*Action: We will review the viability of travel to Georgia on 01/07/20.*

 **Local Partner Support and Introductory Training (Ethiopia):** Although this project is not scheduled for delivery until October 2020, uncertainty with respect to potential restrictions to international travel and/or access to the country limits our confidence that it will be viable.

*Action: All further planning for this project is on hold until 01/07/20.*

 **World Congress (South Africa):** The World Congress of Music Therapy in South Africa has been cancelled and we will not be attending or presenting as planned.

#### 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:

 **Interactive Music-Making 2019-20:** To ensure our students' achievements are still validated and that their learning is complete we have put in place the following contingency arrangements: Although many students' Practical Assignments have been interrupted, all will still document their achievements to date in Practice Portfolios

as normal. Their Presentations will now be self-recorded for submission by 22nd May and will be moderated by the tutor team as normal. At this point we will provide guidance to students with respect to how their Practice Portfolios will be moderated. This will be informed by the extent to which they have evidenced their learning and practice to date, and the extent to which lockdown measure may require contingency arrangements for Portfolio moderation. If Lockdown persists and students cannot post their portfolios to us, we will create an alternative mechanism for students to submit a streamlined version of their portfolios for final moderation. If students feel their grade (a combination of portfolio and presentation) does not represent their achievements, they will have the option to invite their tutor to view their full portfolio and/or observe an additional IMM session they deliver at a later date.

*Action: We will support students to complete their videoed presentations and meet the submission deadline. We will provide moderation materials and guidance to the tutor team to enable moderation of the video presentations (22/05/20). We will provide students (and their Managers) with updated guidance on submitting their portfolios and/or work with the tutor team to design an alternative mechanism to collect materials from the students required for final moderation (05/06/20). Video presentations will be shared with individual students' Managers and, where consent allows, between students (05/06/20). Deadlines for final submissions and moderation will be set and communicated to all (05/06/20).*



**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 deliver the cancelled final week of this project or complete the staff's training as most appropriate. Funding is available for a further two weeks' input from us for this. Additional support may be provided in the interim.

*Action: We will continue to check in with Moss Park Partners, either directly or via Music Therapist Clare Reynolds, to ensure we are locally informed as to what support we might offer and/or when the time is right to resume the project.*



**UK Partner Newsletter/Opportunities Fund:** The first of our proposed UK Partner Newsletter was replaced with a more direct, easy-to-read email inviting our partners to tell us if there is anything we can do to support them during the COVID-19 outbreak. This was positively received and we will continue to provide regular 'Partner Communications' to reiterate our availability for support and share ideas with - and inspiring stories from - our Partners. Using Mailchimp to distribute these will provide analytics regarding reach and apparent relevance to our partners. We will draw on our Opportunities Fund to provide tailored support on Partner request. To date this has included the provision of new musical instruments to an interactive music-maker, devising guidance on infection control and social distancing in music sessions, and a quick guide to planning spontaneous, meaningful music sessions to less familiar children within key care provision during lockdown. We will share two new Musical Activity Booklets for people working with Adults with Learning Disabilities and those living with dementia.

*Action: We will continue to consult Partners and MTs as to how we can support them during the crisis and provide tailored responses drawing on our Opportunities Fund. We will reassess the role of our UK Partner Newsletter on 1st July.*



**Distance Learning Programme 2020 (Romania):** Although our students' participation in this project is currently focused on online tutorials and written assignments, there may be some assignments which are difficult to complete given school closures. Practical Assignments will not take place until September, so there is no immediate threat to these. However, the situation should be reviewed in the summer when contingency planning might be needed.

*Action: Review potential impact of COVID-19 on Practical Assignments. (01/07/20)*



**Blended Learning Programme (Occupied Palestinian Territories):** One student has completed her Practical Assignment and will be moderated as normal. However, the remaining students' Practical Assignments have been disrupted school closures and the transfer of children from care placements to their homes. We are currently discussion contingency plans with our partners, Musicians without Borders, to ensure our students' achievements are still validated and that their learning is complete. It is likely students will be offered recognition for their theoretical learning to date at this point, and the opportunity to complete their Practical Assignments and gain recognition for these separately, when they are able to return to work.

*Action: Action contingency plans with our partners (Fabienne van Eck and Ahmad Al-Azzeh) and project contributors (Magda Pata and Cathy Rowland).*

 **Music in Dementia Care Online Training Course (India):** The creation of this new course was working towards its pilot delivery in the autumn. Much of this can continue as planned. However, anticipated field work for filming and the commission of illustrations have been affected by COVID-19 disruption. As a result the delivery date is likely to be deferred to 2021.

*Action: Continue to develop course content monitor potential for field work and/or consider contingency options for filming; seek local guidance with respect to pilot timing.*

 **Distance Learning Programme pilot (Myanmar):** The creation of this new course is working towards its pilot delivery in the autumn. Much of this can continue as planned. However, potential restrictions to international travel and/or access to the country and local school closures could yet jeopardise the timing of its delivery.

*Action: Continue to develop course content; review restrictions to travel/access and local school closures in September and monitor whether the course pilot may need to be deferred to 2021.*

### **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> July 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 the importance of timing, patience and availability ([here](#))*