



APRIL 2020 Newsletter

**UGANDA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK
(UYDEL)**

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UYDEL COVID 19 RESPONSE

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This page contains information on the status of the COVID 19 Pandemic in the urban slums of Kampala District.

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This page elaborates UYDEL COVID 19 response efforts. It also shows how UYDEL is capitalizing on partnerships to support the most vulnerable communities that have been negatively impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic and Lock Down.

STATUS QUO

Following the Presidential directive to close all schools, centre and to respond to social distancing as a preventive measure, all UYDEL's physical activities in the youth drop-in centres and communities have been suspended for 30 days. A few skeleton staff is maintained to work closely with the National task forces and the community surveillance teams and some are responding to operational issues at the UYDEL secretariat but with the ban on use of public transport and private cars, majority of the UYDEL staff have now shifted to working at home. We check in daily with each member of the team to keep connected, keep morale up and remind them that we are in this together.

‘Together We Are Stronger’

Government recognizes the severe impact of COVID19 on all the people who live from hand-to-mouth in all districts of the country. Government, decided to begin with food distribution in all Hospitals, Special-needs-care homes and Orphanages across the country and Kampala Capital City and its surrounding Municipalities located in Wakiso District and a part of Mukono district.

Initially, Trucks made deliveries to the 134 hospitals, special-needs-care homes and orphanages across the country are being dispatched. Food distribution in Kampala was launched on Saturday 4th April 2020 and commenced immediately in Bwaise where government targeted majority people who live in informal settlements such as Bwaise, Katanga, Kikoni, Nansana, Makerere, etc.

UYDEL COVID 19 RESPONSE

UYDEL is excited to have provided two pick-up trucks to assist government to distribute food to the vulnerable populations as appeals were made by government for support to deliver food. Our 4 staff volunteered and worked closely with staff from Prime Minister's office and security agencies who solely receive and distribute food in the country. Interestingly food distribution started deep in the slums where UYDEL works and communities under lockdown whom majority are vulnerable. The poor youth were happy to see UYDEL cars as part of this noble cause. The distribution of food (i.e. powder-milk, sugar, maize flour and beans) in urban centres has reached almost over a million people. Government intends to scale this intervention up when more funds and food rations become available from different suppliers and well-wishers. UYDEL also is part of Kampala city Metropolitan COVID 19 Task force



Supporting Joint Response Efforts

We know that together we are stronger, and so the team is working closely with local authorities, community surveillance teams, the COVID-19 Response Task Forces, and other actors to coordinate response efforts in order to avoid duplication and make sure the most vulnerable receive help especially with the food portions being distributed by the Government officials.

Working with **IOGT –NTO East Africa** we have agreed to adjust the activities and increase our messages on how Alcohol affects immunity as well how gender based violence has escalated. We intend to increase our dialogues within Nansana communities via whats app platform, zoom meetings and media discussions. There appears to be an increase in drinking alcohol to deal with stress, violence has increased in families, though petty crime appears to be low.

Post COVID 19 Crisis

UYDEL is more worried about COVID 19 because many families are likely to become financially vulnerable and fail to meet the basic needs of children such as school fees and children are likely to drop out of schools. Many young people may fail to adjust and cope while others may seek out support from charities and NGOs for new vocational and survival skills to recover from the negative consequences of the pandemic. UYDEL is working with **OAK Foundation through its emergency funding** is providing some support to mitigate the negative impact and distress that may cause long term impact on children. They will provide food rations and emergency support for vulnerable slum youth and their families.

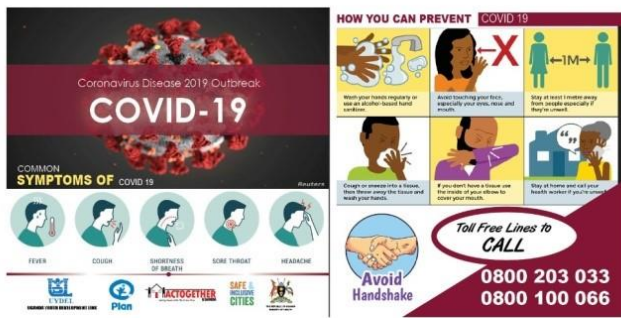


Figure 1: Sticker designed by UYDEL for Community Sensitization regarding COVID 19

Supporting Joint Response Efforts Cont'n'

Plan International has also as an emergency agreed to adjust the quarterly plans to include Payment of salaries for 28 staff and artisans for 3 months; Provision of Psychosocial support services and Temporary Shelter to Young people at the Masooli Centre and support to UYDEL drop-in centres; Support to Slum youth who have not been working to boost their business and support towards food and other basic items.

Lutheran World Federation has agreed an adjustment in some items of the budget to support and provide food rations and emergency support for vulnerable slum youth and their families under the project (food support, cash transfers/ cash subsidies to youth and families; fuel costs to support travels and purchases and distribution of supplies and equipment; Airtime and internet bundles for staff to support follow up of youth and beneficiaries based on case trackers and through peer educators on phone and messages.