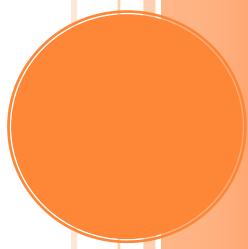


2021 COVID UPDATE

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QUESTIONS

1. Is Uganda on lockdown and how is the situation generally?

Yes, Uganda is still on a mini lockdown. We have curfew and a few places like schools are still closed. Schools have only been opened for the candidate classes.

Public transport and personal vehicles are fully working now but we still have to observe the Ministry of Health guidelines.

There is still a limitation of public gatherings. We can only gather 200 people at a time while observing Covid 19 SOP's.

2. What are the Health requirements?

The ministry of Health requires us to wear masks when in public places, observe social distancing and sanitize or wash hands regularly. That remains a requirement till today.

3. Are many Ugandan people affected?

We recently had elections and because of the large gatherings our numbers are on the rise and we have experienced quite a number of deaths but we thank God that He has kept us safe. No SOHA child or guardian has suffered from Covid 19 and we know God will keep it that way.

4. When did schools close and when are they expected to open?

Schools closed in March before the end of the first term 2020. Candidate classes have gone back to school, they resumed last year in about September. But they are the only ones allowed so far, all other classes are studying from home or online.

5. Is there any e-learning going on or are all exams postponed?

The Ministry of Education has released materials for learning to the public and classes are on radio and TV. No exams have taken place for all other classes, their fate and way forward is still very unclear.

These efforts are good but leave out the majority if not all of our children. The new ways of learning since Covid 19 require one to have a radio or TV for a start but also require the help of a parent or guardian. Most of our parents and guardians are illiterate and therefore I can't begin to imagine how they are handling.

Materials released were done so online. Our parents do not have access to internet let alone smart phones in order to get that material. They are at a huge disadvantage.

6. In what way can we support the team?

First of all, a big thank you to CKS. The Donations received throughout 2020 have helped a lot and our families have been greatly helped. The latest being the Christmas packages that went out to the families to give them a smile and a warm meal for Christmas. The below still remain a need in our SOHA community.

1. Micro grants

I know many businesses have suffered in this season and business owners have had to eat their profits or capital. Re-boosting (refinancing) the small businesses owned by our parents would go a long way to help get them back on their feet.

2. Health & Sanitation

We have received reports that in this season most of our girls have been without the basic sanitation needs like sanitary towels. Due to the fact that their parents haven't been working, it hasn't been a priority.

We have distributed 'Days for girls' packs (last year) but received feedback that it caused burns. We will need to think of how we can intervene in this situation.

On a Sad note...

On 15th January 2021 we lost one of our children Shamma Kemigisha. She was 17 years old and had been on the program from 2013. She was a sickler, had sickle cells and succumbed to the illness. She had been receiving treatment but this time unfortunately, the treatment didn't work as usual and we lost her.

As SOHA we visited the family and comforted them and stood with them concerning burial arrangements. She was buried on 16th January 2021. Let's continue to keep her family in our prayers.