COVID 19 Q AND A

Caroline Mataze 29-Jun-20

# QUESTIONS

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

Yes, we are still in lockdown though the requirements have eased up a bit. Lockdown in Uganda started mid-March and it was total lockdown till about beginning of June.

Personal vehicles and public transport means are now back up and running but have to follow Ministry of Health guidelines and social distancing. This has enabled us to slowly get back into work mode.

There is still a limitation of public gatherings. We haven't been cleared to gather more than 10 people so everything we do is done in small numbers.

## 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.

If there is anyone experiencing Covid 19 like symptoms, they are advised to self-isolate and contact the helpline numbers.

# 3. Are many Ugandan people affected?

As of today, 29th June 2020 we have 859 confirmed cases, 794 recoveries and 0 deaths.

We thank God that We have not had any deaths and the recovery rate so far has been very good.

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

Schools closed in March before the end of the first term 2020. The subject of reopening school is still being debated by the authorities. There was a suggestion for candidate classes to start in July but that hasn't been confirmed as yet. We are still waiting for a final decision.

# 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. Exams being postponed isn't confirmed as yet.

These efforts are good but leave out the majority is 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. We received a donation from Jack and Mildred that has gone to buying food supplies for some of the SOHA parents who live nearby. This is a great help because people haven't been working for months and have therefore been living on close to nothing. This will help carry them along.

# 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. School Materials

Our students haven't been able to access any reading materials and I am not certain when schools will resume. We can find a way to print the material provided by Ministry of Education and avail it to the students. Maybe we just start with those in candidate classes coz they are the ones that need it the most.

#### 3. 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.