



## The Delta variant is rampant in Uganda!

### Interim Situation Report - July 2021

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#### Dear sponsors, donors and interested parties!

We had hoped that the February interim report would be the last report on the Corona situation in Uganda. At the beginning of March, the situation eased to such an extent that the country slowly returned to a more or less normal rhythm of life. As you could see from the news last week, the situation took another dramatic turn due to the rapid spread of the Del-ta variant in Africa.

#### 1. General situation:

Starting in the capital Kampala, the number of infections has been rising exponentially throughout the country since June. While no excess mortality was recorded in Uganda in the first year of the pandemic, according to official reports more than 50 people are now dying every day as a result of a Corona infection, and the number of unreported cases is probably much higher. If you look at the development of the 7-day incidence on the internet, it seems that the peak of the infection wave has already been passed. However, the numbers are deceptive: in St. Francis Hospital and many other clinics, tests could not be carried out in the last few weeks because there was a lack of material. Doctors and hospital management agree that the number of infections in the Kisoro region continues to rise. This assessment is in line with other independent reports on the pandemic situation in Africa, which have also been published in the German press.

ARD Mittagmagazin 29.06.2021: <https://t1p.de/awci>

ZDF Heute Journal 29.06.2021: <https://t1p.de/j2pe>

TAZ Bericht 05.07.2021: <https://t1p.de/vgp3>

Unlike in Germany, less than 2% of the population in Uganda have been vaccinated against Covid-19 so far. Due to the lack of vaccines, a large-scale vaccination campaign had to be discontinued; the government had no other choice but to contain the new wave with another lockdown. Since 7 June, extremely strict measures have again been in place to protect the population. Once again, the poorest are particularly affected, as the ban on street trading and markets denies them access to low-cost supplies.



All major events are banned or strictly regulated, public transport is suspended, and private car travel between provinces is prohibited. Masks are compulsory in all public places and streets. Unfortunately, all educational institutions are also affected by the new lockdown, and alternating classes at schools have been suspended. These regulations will initially be in place until the end of July, but all parties involved firmly expect an extension.

The government hopes to keep the situation under control, but the isolation stations are already full all over the country. Oxygen has become a scarce commodity. Doctors and politicians in the remote provinces are appealing to the government to supply oxygen there as well.

#### 2. Help for the for the St. Francis Hospital

In February, the renovation of the hospital laboratory funded by us was completed, we reported. The new laboratory is now also licensed for corona tests and vaccinations. Unfortunately, the necessary substances and vaccines are in short supply, so that only very few patients can be tested and vaccinated; nevertheless, the modern technology now represents an essential pillar in the treatment of corona patients.

In June, an isolation ward was set up at the hospital. One doctor and six nurses currently care for 13 Corona patients in shifts. All patients are dependent on oxygen for at least some hours. Thanks to a special donation, our association was able to purchase two oxygen concentrators for the St. Francis Hospital at the beginning of July. Already in March, 5,000 Euros were made available to the hospital for the purchase of protective clothing and disinfectants, but this amount has long since been used up due to rising prices.



Pontius Mayunga (head of administration) and head of the hospital, Dr Gerome, gave an impressive account this week of the tense situation at the hospital, where despite all precautions, 17 employees have already fallen ill with corona. A teacher at the nursing school died as a result of the infection. In their situation report, they urgently asked for financial support to buy oxygen, more oxygen concentrators as well as disinfectants and protective clothing for the staff. Mr Mayunga stressed that only with outside support could the hospital continue to cope with the delicate situation.

All the necessary materials are still available in Uganda's specialised trade - with restrictions on oxygen. However, the price increase poses an insurmountable problem for the clinic. Charging patients would mean that many poor people in emergency situations would no longer be able to access medical care. Therefore, the hospital is urgently looking for external donors to cover the additional costs during the pandemic and thus ensure medical care for the people in the Kisoro region.

### **3. Corona aid for sponsored children and orphans:**

We distributed aid packages to 350 sponsored children and orphans in the Mutolere region several times until the beginning of 2021. With the reopening of the schools, the distribution of aid packages was discontinued. Since then, our local contacts have been busy equipping new groups of pupils with teaching materials. Since the primary school also had to be run as a boarding school due to legal requirements, this involved a lot of work. In addition to school fees and teaching materials, all the children needed mattresses, blankets and mosquito nets.

If the school closures continue beyond July, we plan to distribute relief packs again, but this will be difficult due to the strict monitoring of the ban on assemblies. We are already in contact with our local helpers and together we are thinking about how the distribution can be done without endangering everyone and without violating the current regulations.

We are very pleased that despite all the restrictions, 22 sponsored children at the training centres (12), the universities (8) and the nursing school (3) were able to successfully complete their vocational training in spring. We congratulate all graduates and thank their sponsors for their many years of support.

### **3a. Hausbau für Stephania Ambazamaria**



Stephania with family in front of the old house      the new building on 01. Juli 2021

In April, we became aware of the unsustainable living conditions of Stephania's family. Already during the last rainy season, a wall of the old hut collapsed. Although the makeshift renovation with sheets and banana leaves protected the hut from the rain, it was not able to improve its statics. Thanks to donations, we were able to help the family with a new building at short notice. The family is now looking forward to moving into the new house when the plaster dries in a few days.

### **4. Kagera-Primary School**



Old classrooms

children in new classroom

Shortly before the new lockdown, the new construction of five classrooms and the staff room at Ka-gera Primary School was completed. The students are now looking forward to learning in the new rooms. We hope for them and their teachers that classes can resume soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all those who give us the financial means to carry out our work.

Our work on the ground is more important than ever during the Corona crisis.

**The people of Uganda and St. Francis Hospital continue to need your support!**

Ngahoo – till soon,  
please stay healthy

*Anja Mecking*

vorsitzende