



Uganda during the Corona Pandemic

Interim report on the situation - May 2020

Your contact to us

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Dear sponsors, donors and interested people!

as we could learn from many questions in the last days and weeks, many of you are thinking about how the people in Uganda are doing during the Corona Pandemic. That is why we are sending out an interim report by e-mail this year. If you know godparents, donors or other interested parties who are not included in our mailing list, we would be pleased if you would forward this information to them privately.

For this already once a many thanks!

1. General situation:

As you may have read in the press, Corona has also reached the African continent. In contrast to many other African countries, Uganda is not yet strongly affected by the pandemic with 212 confirmed cases of infection (as of 25 May). Due to the low number of tests, however, it can be assumed that the number of unreported cases is much higher. For this reason, our contact persons on site are monitoring the situation very critically.

Even before the pandemic reached Uganda, the government decided to close all schools and universities from 20 March. This was followed shortly afterwards by a complete lockdown. This affects all businesses, with the exception of the grocery store, restaurants and hotels as well as industry and commerce. Religious, political and cultural events are also prohibited, and public transport has been completely shut down (including motorbike taxis). Masks are mandatory in all public places and streets. Unfortunately, the military and police enforced these measures with brute force, especially in the beginning.

About two weeks ago, the strict measures were relaxed a little. Now more shops are allowed to open again, and individual businesses can operate again.



Many Ugandans are illiterate, which is why the government uses posters like this one to illustrate its infection control measures.

2. Patent children:

Our sponsored children, most of whom are (half-)orphans, were all able to return to their home villages after the closure of schools and universities and now live with their remaining relatives as if on holiday. There they help with field work, household duties or fetching water. "Learning by distance", as we are currently practising it in Germany, is not feasible in Uganda. They also do not have to eat regularly at school, which is an additional burden for their relatives.

There are no clear statements on the duration of the school closure. According to initial considerations, teaching for the examination classes is to be resumed at the beginning of June, provided that the number of infections permits this - but even that is not yet assured. We have to wait and see how things develop.

In individual cases, we are currently unable to follow up the family situation of the children, but we are aware of the extreme poverty of the families of our godchildren, who usually do not have the financial means to buy articles of daily hygiene, for example. To support the sponsored children in this special situation and to signal to them that they are not forgotten, we will send them the following things:



Packages with the basic equipment of products for daily hygiene

Primary School: All children will get backpacks sewn by our contact person Waltraud Ndagijimana. These are filled with soap, washing powder, toothbrush, toothpaste, Vaseline and a washable textile mask. In addition, the children will receive a set of changing clothes produced by the local tailor. Unfortunately, he is slowly running out of material and the textile shops are not yet open again.

Secondary School and students: The older sponsored children receive sanitary bags, which are also filled with hygienic articles, as well as laundry bags for selecting the clothes they are wearing. In addition, these sponsored children regularly receive a pocket money for each term (the school year in Uganda is divided into three terms), which they can use for themselves.

As the schools will remain closed for a longer period of time, at least for most of the children, we will send the things to the sponsored children by other channels. Together with our local contact persons we are currently considering how this can be done without coming into conflict with the ban on assembly.

In addition, all sponsored children will receive food (beans, vegetables, corn flour).

3. Hospital

St. Francis Hospital in Mutolere is the only hospital in the district to be certified by the WHO for the treatment of corona cases. So far, however, only one suspected corona case has been treated. The patient has tested negative and has already been released from the quarantine. It is clear, however, that all corona cases in the region must be treated in this hospital. The hospital has already prepared itself on its own initiative, equipped hospital rooms accordingly and purchased protective clothing and oxygen in specialist shops. The state support was limited to one box each of masks and gloves, two protective suits and two pairs of rubber boots.

Since the first loosening of the rules, the shops for building materials, among other things, have been reopened so that the renovation of the laboratory at the hospital could begin. Especially in the current situation, the importance of a properly working laboratory for the hospital is becoming evident. Corona tests may only be carried out in Uganda in a special laboratory. In Mutolere, however, tests for other infectious diseases, such as malaria with fever, can be carried out. Many patients can be sure that they are not suffering from Corona. 25,000 euros are needed for the needed renovations, 15,000



Because of the non-compliance with standards, the laboratory was threaten-

euro have already been made available to the hospital from donations.

4. Orphans' meeting and help for the poor

Since larger assemblies of people are not permitted, the orphanage meetings on Saturday will unfortunately have to take a break. In order to support the children and their families, all 325 regular participants will receive a package of food and hygiene products, financed from the funds that were originally intended for the weekly meetings.

The financial support for especially poor families will be provided as usual by our local helpers.

5. Schools

Shortly before the start of the lockdown, the construction of the two classrooms at the Kagera primary school and the installation of two water tanks at schools were completed.

Without our network of local volunteers the contact to the sponsored children and a continuation of the project work in times of pandemic would not be possible! At this point we would like to thank them as well as all sponsors and donors who give us the financial resources for our work.



Some of our partners for advice in Mutolere.

Our work on site is more important than ever during the Corona crisis. We would be delighted if the people in Uganda and St. Francis Hospital could continue to count on your support right now!

Ngahoo – until soon,
please stay healthy

Anja Mecking

Vorsitzende