



**THE HUMANITARIAN  
PLATFORM** FOR LOCAL  
AND NATIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS IN UGANDA



OCT - DEC

**2020 Edition**



Localized Response for Covid – 19:

**HUMANITARIANISM IN  
COVID – 19 RESPONSE**



## Editorial

Dear Readers

Greetings from the Uganda Humanitarian Platform for Local and National NGOs Secretariat. As we committed to share information among members for better humanitarian preparedness, first and post recovery response; we bring you the 8th publication of the humanitarian platform Newsletter containing member engagements in the different spaces.

In this newsletter, we bring you our member initiatives and engagements during these Covid -19 times that have reached out to and positively impacted the lives of the vulnerable people in the rural districts of Kaabong, Yumbe and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in West Nile Region of Northern Uganda.

We so much appreciate the efforts by the platform member exhibited during these unprecedented Covid -19 times that have seen a contribution to supporting young girls be girls as

they keep home for safety, and also promote safe learning spaces from homes. Therefore we want to take this opportunity to thank Community Driven Network (CODNET – Uganda), Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment – AWARE – Uganda, and Vision For Humanity for investing time and resources to share with us what they have done for the communities they serve during the Covid – 19 pandemic while staying safe.

We would also wish to emphasise the need for humanity, neutrality and Independence as we advocate for localization and accountability.

We wish you the best for 2021.

*Kirande Emmanuel K*

Resource Person,

Policy, Advocacy and Engagement

Uganda National NGO Forum.

## Upcoming Events

13th October 2020, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. “ Good Disaster Risk Governance”

Designated for every 13th day of October by the United Nations General Assembly, This year’s theme is about conveying the message that many disasters can be avoided or prevented if there are disaster risk reduction strategies in place to manage and reduce existing levels of risk and to avoid the creation of new risk

#ItsAllAboutGovernance  
#DRRday

# Covid-19 Highlights The Relevance Of Localizing Humanitarian Aid



Oxfam initiated the Empowering Local and National and Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA) project in January 2016 with a vision to enable capable Local and National Humanitarian Actors (LNHAs) to play a leading role in humanitarian work, putting the interest of women, men and children affected by disaster at the center. ELNHA I focused on building capacity of the local actors and to consolidate the achievements of the ELNHA I, ELNHA II was developed to provide an opportunity for the LNHA's to demonstrate their capacity to competently design and implement quality humanitarian response through the **Humanitarian Response Grant Facility (HRGF)**.

Vision For Humanity (ViFoH) is a development & relief organization committed to transforming the lives of undeserved, marginalized & excluded communities such as women, youth, PWD's, victims of conflict (refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers) among others.

Vision For Humanity (ViFoH) was jumpstarted through targeted capacity development under this program from a little known organization with only two policy documents to a fully-fledged, thriving local humanitarian actor with full capacity to competently

design and implement quality humanitarian responses now engaged in development & relief initiatives in West Nile, Uganda.

As the COVID 19 crisis unfolded, it introduced unique challenges to humanitarian service delivery as a number of international humanitarian agencies got "lockeddown" and were "working from home". The local humanitarian actors were presented with this challenge & responsibility, yet an opportunity to offer quick and appropriate local humanitarian response. Perhaps COVID 19 justifies and should increase support for a shift of leadership, power and resources to local and national humanitarian actors

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as first responders when crisis hits.

Vision For Humanity (ViFoH) in consortium with PALM Corps, People Empowering People (PEP) designed and submitted a successful response proposal to Oxfam to improve emergency preparedness and response against COVID-19 among refugees and host communities in Rhino camp refugee settlement, hosting an estimated population of 86,975 as of June 2017 statistics representing 22,983 households with 17% of this population representing the host community. 80.6% South Sudanese, 17.7% Ugandan citizens, and 1.7% other nationalities.

We proposed interventions to support ongoing efforts contributing four (4) result areas namely: - **Strengthening community level surveillance on COVID-19 response** (Train VHTs, LCs & RWCs on COVID 19 response, Conduct COVID-19 risk mapping, Procure and provide assorted items to COVID-19 task force for surveillance). **Enhancing communication and social mobilization capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic** (Translate/Print and disseminate MOH approved IEC materials, Install signboards with posters about COVID-19 control, Conduct community perception tracking & Risk Communication, Conduct radio talk shows and spot messages in language on COVID-19 pandemic, Procure and distribute communication tools and equipment). **Strengthening WASH in the communities** (Procure and distribute WASH materials to targeted food markets in the refugee settlement, Conduct market based WASH awareness campaigns on COVID-19 in three food markets). **Enhancing safety nets (Social protection) for selected vulnerable households** (Train in Kitchen/ Back Yard Gardening (BYG), Procure and distribute agro-inputs, Conduct nutrition education, Provide hand washing soap and salt to selected vulnerable households using Cash Transfer Programming).

We trained 74 VHT's, 18 LC/RWC's in Odobu Zone, Rhino Camp refugee settlement, Arua District.



We also supported the district COVID 19 Taskforce with fuel worth (2,000,000), 8 megaphones, 400ltrs of liquid soap, 10 hand washing facilities, 2 smart phones to set up an alert desk at the district surveillance center. Furthermore, we translated and disseminated IEC materials, installed 3 mass hand washing facilities, provided hand washing soap & salt ,trained 140 vulnerable households in kitchen gardening and provided agro-inputs. We conducted 6 community drives, 8 radio talk shows and 1 month spot messages (3times a day) for mass awareness & community mobilization

The VHT's/LC/RWC in 2 weeks for instance were able to sensitize 3,701 households with approximate reach of 36,260 people through water points, markets on facts about COVID-19, nutrition activities among others. Out of the 3,701 households sensitized, 2,401 (64.9%) installed hand washing facilities (tippy taps) in their homes. LC/RWC's, VHT's registered and monitored 81 new entrants into the villages. They suspected, provided alerts on 17 suspected cases through active surveillance. They also provided psycho social support to families of suspects sent to the Institutional Quarantine Centers.

We have worked collaboratively with the district COVID 19 taskforce, the health department and VHT's to date continue with weekly surveillance reporting to the district and other activities.

# CODNET – Uganda COVID-19 Response in West Nile Yumbe district

**C**ommunity Driven Network (CODNET) Uganda is a community development organization operating in Bunyoro region and beyond to conglomerate all NGOs and CBOs operating in the region. For over 18 years, CODNET Uganda has worked as a mouth piece for the excluded poor persons through by mobilizing them to challenge the non – pro – poor policies and demand for public accountability and transparency from the duty bearers especially government at different levels.

CODNET Uganda supported the Yumbe district education office to distribute learning materials from the Ministry of Education and Sports to the homes where there are children of school age going and also encouraged parents and guardians to support their children while at home.



CODNET-Uganda also supported 164 Persons Living with Disabilities, 94 Orphans and child headed families, 108 Elderly persons, 144 persons living with HIV and 372 refugees; with soap, salt, sugar, Jeri cans during the COVID-19 lock down for promoting hand washing and access to essentials and basic household items.



In the bid to support households cope with the Covid 19, the team provided psycho social support to patients in the treatment centers and stakeholders (medics) handling the Covid 19 patients. This was conducted under strict standard operating procedures to avoid re infections. This was done in partnership with TPO – Uganda, IRC, NRC, MDM, YDLG, Humanity and Inclusion Uganda. These partnerships were key in the response and provision of technical support to the district task force especially in the preparations and monitoring of new quarantine center isolation suspected covid-19 cases at Goboro in Kochi sub-county Yumbe district

# Students' rights protection in kaboong DISTRICT DURING COVID 19



The AWARE Project Manager having a conversation during a home visit

**A**WARE UGANDA (Action for women and Awakening in Rural Environment) is a group of Local rural women of Kaabong District in Karamoja region formed in 1989 to address gender imbalances, resulting in to high levels of domestic violence & GBV, family neglect, women and human rights abuses, cattle rustling causing high family death, highs levels of illiteracy among Karamojong women, primitive culture, and high levels of HIV/AIDS as a result of rural nomadic migration.

During the Covid 19 lockdown AWARE – Uganda implemented an Education project among the youth thru skilling and girl child rights awareness. This sponsored 35 students (18 girls, 17 boys) to enroll in Kaabong Senior Secondary School located in Kaabong District including one girl in tertiary.

The project conducted a series of home visits aimed at promoting positive parenting practices, avoiding early child marriage, promoting youth skilling to help parents better prepare their children for future responsibilities.



Komol Paska, Thatching houses

Between the month of October and November, a total of 35 homes were reached, (13 physically and 22 via telephone) and it was observed that some students fear speaking the truth on what is taking place at home during the lockdown; Most parents have resorted to taking alcohol as a way of coping with the Covid 19 uncertainties at the expense of providing food to their families; there is a great response in avoidance of early child marriages from parents and communities; there are elements of depression among parents due to poverty and the slow businesses and also the need for community sensitisation on the benefits of skilling the Girl child especially during this lockdown.

AWARE – Uganda embarked on mainstreaming these observations into priority interventions to support the young people in Kaboong District.



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