



## COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS) UPDATE

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

The second wave of the COVID-19 virus continues to have a devastating impact on Uganda with cases rising daily. As of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Uganda has registered 55,511 confirmed cases compared to 53,961 by 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021. A 2.9% increase in 4 days. The recoveries are 44760 and deaths have also increased to 402 compared to 383 on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021. While the total numbers are still low in comparison to the region and other places, the current wave is spreading more aggressively than before. Also the test rate is very low at only 1,160,001 of the estimated population of 41.6 million (Uganda Statistical Abstract 2020). The second wave is spreading faster in the communities especially among the young people which continues to cause fear and panic.

On 6/6/2021, the president of Uganda, announced a 42 days lockdown . Below are some highlights of the lockdown.

- ❖ Schools were closed effective 8th June, 2021 for 42 days
- ❖ Inter district travels is banned effective 11/6/2021 except for heavy goods vehicles, tourist vehicles, emergency vehicles and special purpose vehicles.
- ❖ Places of worship like churches and mosques are closed for 42 days.
- ❖ All social gatherings like fellowships, weddings, meetings and others were put on hold until further notice. A maximum of 20 people allowed to attend weddings and funerals.
- ❖ Public transport like buses, taxis and motorcycles allowed to operate on half capacity with SOPs within districts.
- ❖ Public curfew from 9:00pm till 5:30am across the country. All businesses except factories to close at 7:00 pm.

### The Situation at ROTOM

Covid-19 pandemic has now hit home with **Edith Kazimba**; our Program Director testing positive for the virus. She is in self isolation, with mild symptoms and receiving treatment from our health team. Three of the older persons that we support in Mukono have also tested positive. Their cases are mild and being cared for at our Mukono Health Center. Both Edith and the supported older persons are responding well to treatment.

With the increasing cases, we know all health facilities will be overwhelmed. We have built the capacity of both ROTOM Health Centers to manage mild cases. Both ROTOM Centres have provided isolation rooms for patients that test positive.

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Most of the supported older persons (over 75%) and staff (app. 80%) received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. Management team has received the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and we are working hard to get every one fully vaccinated. This is currently difficult because of limited supply of vaccines in the country.

In response to the new COVID-19 pandemic situation, and inline with the Presidents directive, ROTOM has adjusted its operations as follows:

### Office Work:

- Staff will continue to work from home and have been provided with airtime and internet. Only the health workers and the management team and area leadership for Muhanga come to ROTOM premises regularly. Other staff come to the office once a week on days assigned by their supervisors or manager. Staff will also be provided with a vehicle for organized field activities.
- Communication and program updates are facilitated through WhatsApp groups, emails and conference calls.

### Older Persons supported by ROTOM Canada, ROTOM USA, ROTOM UK, MFB and SLF

- Seniors' fellowships (group support meetings) that had resumed have been put on hold. Seniors will have village volunteers visit them and share scriptures given to them by evangelists.
- Home visits: These will continue to be carried out mostly by the village volunteers and field assistants and some by ROTOM staff when need be.
- Health: The Field nurses will continue to make regular visits to the seniors' homes. They will continue to make calls on a daily basis to the village volunteers to check on the seniors' health.

### Grandchildren supported by ROTOM UK, SLF and MFB

- As the president directed, all schools have been closed and all school children sent home for 42 days.
- Supported children have been encouraged to stay in their homes and be monitored by the field implementers/officers.

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### ROTOM Health Centers

- ROTOM health centers continue to remain open during this period of COVID-19 pandemic to attend to beneficiaries, staff and private patients. Patients with mild symptoms of COVID-19 are treated at ROTOM Health Centers and complex cases are referred to hospitals for further management.
- The field nurses with assistance from the field assistants and volunteers will continue to deliver refills of medicines for chronic illnesses like Hypertension, Diabetes and HIV among others to various homes while observing all the precautions. The field nurses will make calls and field visits to check on the senior's health.
- The Health Team are making efforts to have all supported seniors and staff receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The ROTOM health centers have been equipped with capacity to screen for COVID-19 using the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing kits, with results within less than 30 minutes. All positive cases are then referred to the national laboratory for the confirmatory PCR tests that takes over 24 hours to have the results. This has improved early detection and proper management / isolation of confirmed cases.

### The ROTOM School

- The ROTOM School has stopped all school activities. Home schooling will be on hold until teachers receive FULL vaccination.
- School Work packages will be prepared by teachers and delivered by the village volunteers and field assistants for the children to do from home. The same mode will be used to bring the completed work back to teachers for grading. The volunteers and field assistants are regularly trained to observe SOPs and will be helped to access the second dose of the vaccine.

### The ROTOM Champions

- Like high schools and primary schools, the president directed, all universities and colleges to close and students were sent home for 42 days. All students benefiting from ROTOM Champions Project were facilitated with transport to go back home. The facilitation was necessary because the costs of transport suddenly went up and students were unable to cover this from their stipend. While at home, students at the university with internet access will attend online lectures. ROTOM supported students whose universities and colleges continue to offer classes online will be supported with internet data to be able to continue lecture.

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- The Project Manager and Graduation Preparation Coordinator will continue to follow up on students through phone calls, text messages and WhatsApp to encourage them to work on their assignments and start income generating activities in their homes.
- Most of the projects will be done virtually like devotions, mentor-ship, monitoring, skills training and learning.
- A vehicle will be provided to staff for home visits when need be.

### Finance & Administration

- The finance and administration department will continue to work and ensure all departments receive funds needed to carry out their work activities.

We continue to stand in prayer for all those that have been affected by the Corona-virus during this period and pray that our beneficiaries will continue to be protected and stay in good health.

Please keep us in your prayers too, especially our staff and seniors that have already tested positive.

Stay Safe,

Kenneth. E. Mugayehwenkyi  
Founder and Executive Director

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