

OUTREACH

NEWSLETTER



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Only a handful...

1 Kings 17: 12a New International Version “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug...”



Rosaliru (Left) and her two grandchildren pose with their food care package | Perusi (Right) joyfully carries her bag of maize flour which was part of her food package.

Imagine suddenly losing your source of livelihood at the time when you need it most. The unpredictable manner in which the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread has presented a growing food insecurity for our seniors and their families. In addition to ROTOM’s support, most of the older persons in our care also receive some help from relatives, friends and neighbors. This however suddenly stopped because of the Corona outbreak and resultant lockdown, as their benefactors also suddenly lost their livelihoods.

“What then? What shall I eat? How will I survive, especially during this tough time of the corona pandemic? How can this be happening?” This is the lament of senior Antoniyo Kilegeya, and this was a typical conversation with him as he wondered where his next meal would come from.

For many of the ROTOM seniors, the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and resultant lock-down in Uganda in March 2020 has had a significant

impact on their food security. For most of them, their household numbers have doubled because their children and grandchildren who lived in the cities lost their casual employment and many have returned to the villages.

Moreover, the prices of foodstuffs went high and our seniors could not afford the basic essential items that they needed. This created a shortage of food in many of the seniors’ homes and other members of the community. As a result,

some individuals resorted to stealing food from the gardens of others to survive the rough times. This did not exclude some of our seniors’ gardens like Antoniyo.

In responding to this critical food need of our seniors, ROTOM started a Food Campaign to provide food care packages to every senior household under ROTOM’s care.

Older persons living dignified and fulfilled lives!

It was a day full of smiles when Antoniyo received his food care package. The care package included: corn flour, beans, a packet of salt, matchboxes, sugar and a bar of soap which were answered prayer for him. Antoniyo said that the food he received from ROTOM mattered more even now, as the Corona pandemic had worsened his food situation. In his own words, Antoniyo said;

“I cannot wait to prepare my next meal. This food is going to help me so much in this great time of need. I had planted some beans but someone stole them from my garden. I was worried of how I would survive. But ROTOM has come to my rescue. I am so happy for the salt that you have brought. I love it but I cannot afford to buy it. My next meal is going to be so delicious. Thank you so much ROTOM for giving me food”.

The distribution of food care packages has been very critical in improving food security in our seniors’ households. ROTOM was able to give food care packages to **1,035** seniors and their families.

Truly, we are so grateful to each and every one of you who gave part of your financial resources to enable us reach our seniors with the food care packages. We offer our gratitude and appreciation for your support; it was more than we could ever ask for.



From the Founder and Executive Director
Kenneth E. Mugayehwenkyi

Dear Friends and Partners,
Greetings from ROTOM Global Family!
As I pondered about this time, I was reminded of the story of prophet Elijah recorded in 1Kings 17. During the drought, God provided for Elijah. First through the Ravens in Kerith Ravine and then through the widow at Zarephath. From this, I have learned that Elijah looked to God for provision.

He also listened to God’s instructions even when it may not have made sense to human understanding. We also learn that the widow in Zarephath obeyed God’s command through Elijah. We read that she had **only a handful** of flour in the jar and a little oil in a jug. Because of obedience, what she thought was enough for one meal for her and her son, was miraculously multiplied by God to provide for her, her son and Elijah till the drought ended.

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, we were worried for provision for the older persons we support. We wondered how they would find food. So, we made our worries known to God through prayer. And God guided us to ask you for support to feed the seniors in Uganda and Ethiopia till the situation normalizes. We hesitated because we knew that each one of you were affected yourselves and probably needed support. And like the widow, we knew that many had **only a handful** for your families. However, we chose to obey and asked. And when we asked, you obeyed.

Through you, God provided food care packages for 1,035 older persons we support in Uganda and Ethiopia for the months of April, May and June. We are forever grateful for your obedience. And we pray and know that God will in turn provide for all your needs according to His riches in heaven.

Thank you and God bless you!

SUPPORT A SENIOR

- For only US\$ 38, CAD\$ 38, €25, £27 or UGX 100,000 a month, you can support a senior in Uganda. Your friendship allows a senior to:
 - Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Participate in regular Christian support fellowships.
 - Receive bi-weekly home visits from ROTOM staff and volunteer counselors.
 - Receive free regular medical screening and treatment
 - Receive support to enable improvement in income and food security
 - Access safe and healthy water and housing
- Friends receive a photo, update report and letters every year from the senior they support.

If you haven’t donated yet to our Seniors’ Food Campaign, it’s not too late! The need for food for our seniors continues during this crisis. Your gift of any amount makes a huge difference!

Please visit www.reachone-touchone.org for ways to make your donation today!

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