



July 11, 2011

News Editors,

UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH MONITOR PUBLICATIONS TO SUPPORT BOMB BLAST SURVIVORS.

Kampala: The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has today launching a partnership drive with The Monitor Publications Limited (MPL) to mobilise any financial and materials support for bomb blast survivors. The initiative to last until July 31, 2011 has been compelled by interests from well-wishers willing to support the survivors.

As part of this initiative, MPL will run a media campaign together with its sister media houses encouraging well-wishers to donate in kind and cash to support the bomb blast survivors. The Uganda Red Cross will act as a collection centre of all in kind and cash donations which will later be passed on to the survivors and their relatives.

URCS played a key role during the July 11, 2010 bomb blasts by deploying 55 staff and volunteers and four ambulances to transfer the affected victims to the nearby hospitals. In addition, URCS deployed 20 volunteers at the Mulago Hospital causality ward to receive, register and carry the survivors; provided tracing and family reunification to 46 people who had been reported missing; provided psychosocial support to 32 families; supported Mulago hospital with medical supplies and key essential items.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership at the Kyadondo Rugby Grounds in Kampala, URCS Under Secretary General Institutional and Organisational Development Richard Chaddy Amadro welcomed the partnership saying it is in line with the organisation's focus of saving lives, adding that the Red Cross is always committed to reach out to those in need where it can.

"The Uganda Red Cross has mechanisms of reaching out to the most vulnerable wherever they maybe at any time. Our network of volunteers and staff has been trained to always be the first on ground whenever an emergency or disaster occurs. We were informed of the bomb blast in the night of July 11, 2010. However due to safe access rules that guide our operations, it was not safe for our teams to move in immediately," he said. URCS could only respond in the morning of July 12, 2010.

Some of the needs of the survivors are:

- Continuous medical check-ups of injuries sustained. Many survivors cannot afford to pay for themselves.
- There are bone fractures, spines, ear impairments of survivors that still need medical attention.
- Deceased people left behind families whose relatives are now struggling to raise the children. Some of the families are very needy and cannot raise any funds.
- There is need for counselling.
- Some survivors are trapped in wheel chairs and in need of any support in form of food, tubes and bags for excretion, saline water to clean the feeding tubes etc.

MPL's Corporate Social Responsibility and Special Projects Manager Grace Nyamahunge Opiro said it is one year since the tragic incident and MPL thought it wise to dedicate the month of June to remembering the victims and survivors and their families that were affected.

"We are happy about the response. Monitor Publications commends all companies and individuals who have come out to associate with the 7/11 bomb survivors and families of those who are still suffering due to the bomb blasts," Opiro said

MPL hailed Uganda Red Cross Society for the partnership and also recognized the Uganda Counseling Association, Nytil Picfare, Phoenix Logistics and Warid Telecom who have supported MPL's initiative.

Donations can be channeled at URCS National Headquarters on Plot 28/30 Lumumba Avenue, Telephone: 256 - 41- 258701/2, 256-031-260615/6/7, Fax: 256-41 - 258184, Email:sgurcs@redcrossug.org

For cash donations can be made in the names of: **UGANDA REDCROSS FINANCE CORE**

Account Number: **0108213406901**

Bank Name: **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, SPEKE ROAD (KAMPALA)**

Swift Code: **SCBLUGKA**

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