UNICEF and URCS Sensitize Communities on Ebola.

Stories inside:

- Ebola Sensitisation in Communities.
- How Research is Supporting Sustainable Development.
- Landslide Victims receive non-food Items.
- Muslim Fraternity receives Food Items.
It's always exciting to share from my heart the stories around our communities. Our National Society reaches out to those in need and bring a smile to them. Here again we bring you the third issue of the Humanitarian, full of heart moving stories and our activities happening all over the country.

Thank you for your continued support.

We appreciate your responses, inquiries and engagement on our social media platforms. Your feedback is very helpful and much appreciated. As much as many of you reach out to us, we make time to respond to each inquiry and this is how others learn about Uganda Red Cross and what we do in Uganda.

I invite you to learn about First Aid and how skills trainings are impacting the lives of children in Schools, the traffic officers and other members of the Society.

We have partnerships that yield much fruit as we focus on meaningful activities that support and meet the needs of people.

With the increasing adverse Weather effects / Climate change, we are seeing a lot of devastation around the country coming from heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides. We have supported people but continue to appeal to you to support our activities to increase our capacity to respond to other areas where we haven't reached.

We have also highlighted our continued activities towards keeping the country Ebola free and the distribution of sanitary pads to girls in Mayuge District through our Keep a Girl in School campaign. Again, we continue to appeal to partners to join us in this life saving cause through cash or in-kind donation of pads. Special thanks to our Good Will Ambassadors and ladies of Valour who are championing this in the country.

Blood donation is going on well in the country. However, we all know that blood has shelf life. Keep donating to enable us meet the blood needs of people in critical conditions.

A colorful pictorial and more compelling stories included to interest you as you read on.

Enjoy.
Note From The Secretary General.

Our esteemed readers,

It is with great pleasure that I once again share an update with you since the last issue of the Humanitarian.

On behalf of the Board, Management, members and Volunteers of Uganda Red Cross, I thank all our partners for the support towards our work. Through partnerships, collaboration and coordination, we have been able to reach the most vulnerable and offer meaningful humanitarian support to the people we serve.

Through the initiative, Keep A Girl Child In School, we were able to distribute sanitary pads to 1,336 girls in five (5) Schools in Mayuge District in September 2019.

I would like to appreciate our different partners; dfcu Bank, Skyz Hotel, Fresh Diary, Stanbic Bank, Vision Group, Ecobank, PizzaHut, Audley Limited, VERITAS, DAS Handling, AFRIpads and Secrets for supporting this campaign. We are championing this initiative with the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Our goal is to raise 7,754,160,000Ugx that will help us effectively reach all schools mapped in our campaign. This is part of the bigger Menstrual Health Management Program which we are implementing around the Country.

As we continue to mitigate human suffering through implementing disaster Preparedness Programs, we have developed a three (3) months integrated emergency preparedness and response plan to respond and mitigate the impact of anticipated adverse weather events.

This response plan is guided by the seasonal rainfall outlook for September to December 2019 that was provided by The Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) and the Food Early Warning Systems.

We will focus on providing humanitarian relief to families affected by flooding and landslides arising from torrential rainfall. So far, over 12 districts have been affected and these include; Bulambuli, Butaleja, Bududa, Manafwa, Namisindwa, Mbale, Sironko, Amuru, Kasese, Nakapiripirit, Otkue and Bundibugyo districts; as well as response to confirmed cholera outbreaks in the four districts of Busia, Bududa, Kyegegwa and Isingiro.

We appeal to you our partners to stand with us as we strive to save the lives of the people in these districts.

With the support of Centenary Bank, URCS recently embarked on equipping students with emergency life saving skills (First Aid trainings). We have trained Schools around Kampala (selected by the bank) but we hope to expand this initiative even further to more schools up country in the first quarter of next year. We deeply thank Centenary Bank for their immense support.

In response to the Ebola epidemic, we continue to work with other partners in raising community awareness and training with heightened vigilance of the Ebola virus at the border entry points with DR-Congo and in our communities where the risk is high.

More of our activities and innovations in data research and collection are shared within the publication. I urge you to read on this Publication and appreciate the efforts of the National Society in saving lives and promoting human dignity.

Cheers!
The Ebola Viral Disease continues to remain a threat to Uganda due to the increasing numbers of cases and death in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. With about 2,837 cases and over 1,898 deaths reported by 13th August 2019, the epidemic has become one of the highest burdens within the neighboring country.

In August 2019, 1 case of Ebola was identified in Kasese at the border entry of Mpondwe. Tumwine Francis, the URCS focal person in Kasese branch explains, that the victim was a child who came with her mother from the Democratic Republic of Congo through the Mpondwe border entry where URCS screening team identified them and immediately put them into the isolation unit.

Tumwine also added that, “our major work at the border is to recognize ill travelers, immediately isolate, notify and give psycho-social support. Therefore I thank my fellow volunteers for the quick response about that case”.

On a similar note, Kagwa Mugaga from the Ministry of Health and coordinator of the Ebola Response Team in the Rwenzori region, also thanked Uganda Red Cross Society team at the border for being vigilant and taking quick and professional action with the confirmed case. Mugaga also promised a continued, smooth cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Uganda Red Cross Society at the different points of entry.

Due to these cases, URCS, with funding from UNICEF, prioritized risk communication and social mobilization activities within the districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Rukungiri, Ntoroko, Bunyangabo, Kisoro and Kanungu to improve on the district competences to response when an outbreak occurs.

Uganda Red Cross Society continues to do the Point of Entry (POE) screening as a means to limit suspected cases from entering the country unnoticed. Health promotion campaigns are also being done at the household level, promoting the awareness of the Ebola virus and symptoms of the disease. Personal hygiene is also being emphasized within the high-risk districts to galvanize efforts to increase awareness.

“Social Mobilizations like drama groups that easily attract the communities to come together, have been put in place to help increase awareness and understanding of what the Ebola Viral disease (EVD) is about,” says Eric Ofwono, Operations Manager EVD Program URCS.

Regarding our Ebola operations, we began in August 2018, when the 10th outbreak was declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Ministry of Health (MOH), through the national task force of which Uganda Red Cross Society is a member, did come up with an action plan.

So this action plan was to have a response to the Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) threat and it had some pillars of operations which URCS did support in a number of them. Among them were risk communication and social mobilization, surveillance at the border points of entry (POE), community-based surveillance, psycho-social support as well as learning how to carry out Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB).

The districts that were highlighted were those bordering DRC in the southwestern parts of Uganda. These are Kisoro, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Bunyangabo, Kasese, Kabarole, Kanungu districts. During these activities, over 360 volunteers were deployed to help in sensitizing people about the Ebola Viral Disease focusing on the signs and symptoms, how it is transmitted, and how it can be prevented. One hundred eighty-four volunteers were as well deployed at different border points of entry doing screening to the people that cross from DRC to Uganda. As URCS, we began with 7 points of entry but has the threat continued, and we increased to 28 points of entry.

In this struggle of fighting the Ebola Viral Disease we have managed to get support from our lovely partners, Ministry of Health (MOH), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization of Migrants (IOM) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As the Uganda Red Cross Society, we appreciate all the support our partners have given us in the Humanitarian struggle. Thank you.
Ebola Viral Disease Program in Pictures.

URCS team demonstrates safe and dignified burial.

URCS Volunteer carries out screening process at border point entry.

Ebola Viral Disease officer sensitises the community members about Ebola.

Mandatory washing of hands at Mpondwe border point.

URCS Volunteer sensitises community leaders on the Ebola Viral Disease.

Health worker explains good sanitation methods to prevent the spread of Ebola.
Uganda Red Cross Society Launches 1 billion Shilling Appeal

In the past few months, heavy rains have disrupted most parts of Uganda living devastating flooding and landslide events which have been evidently seen in Bulambuli, Butaleja, Bududa, Manafwa, Namisindwa, Mbale, Sironko, Amuru, Kasese, Nakapiripirit, Otuke and Bundibugyo districts.

Therefore, guided by seasonal rainfall outlook for September to December 2019 provided by the Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) and the Food Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) in addition to country’s experiences in the past.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has developed a three (3) months integrated emergency preparedness and response plan to respond and mitigate impacts of anticipated adverse weather events; including flooding and landslides arising from torrential rainfall that has affected over 10 districts; as well as response to confirmed cholera outbreaks in the four districts of Busia, Bududa, Kyeggewa and Isingiro.

Recently, the Ministry of Health confirmed cholera outbreaks in four districts Busia, Bududa, Kyeggewa and Isingiro. So far, a cumulative number of 229 persons are affected, with confirmed 02 deaths.

We the above, Uganda Red Cross has developed an emergency preparedness and response plan that requires total resources worth UGX 1,655,832,900/= targeting 5000 severely risk and mostly vulnerable individuals in 1000 households. The target population includes those affected by landslides, floods and cholera in the 15 districts above.

The funds will support families with emergency relief non-food items temporary shelter for displaced people, health and life saving interventions, hygiene promotion, access to safe and clean water, early warning sensitization for communities on climate and potential disease out breaks, training of more disaster response volunteers, offering psycho- social support, among other immediate needs.

The Secretary General of Uganda Red Cross Society Mr. Robert Kvesiga notes that “climate is a global concern, for Uganda it is becoming our reality as we have had challenges of un – anticipated weather changes despite guidance and predictions from the weather experts. we cannot wait to see experiences like cyclone Idai that hit Mozambique in March this year where over 1000 lives were lost. Uganda needs to take on preparedness as opposed to struggling when unprecedented disasters hit.
On the 20th of August 2019, four parishes of Busiya, Bugatisa, BunasufwaBumasamala and Bulago in Bulambuli District were devasted by a heavy downpour. This downpour triggered a landslide that left one person dead, five with serious injuries and over 93 households displaced; and items like crops, houses and animals destroyed.

Immediately Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) stepped in and carried out a ground assessment that revealed over 100 people affected by the landslide. URCS then distributed non-food items like blankets, jerry cans, tap lines, tents, plates, soap and saucepans to help bring some relief to their immediate needs.

While speaking to mudslide victims during delivery of items at Bulago sub-county head offices, James Wesswa; the Sironko and Bulambuli Red Cross Branch Manager, reiterated that the purpose of this donation from URCS was to help the victims to get shelter and a few items for daily use in their homes as they wait the Government to respond.

Sam Nabende, the LCII chairperson of Bunasufwa parish, who is also one of the affected mudslide victims, thanked URCS for always responding to disasters in the country. Nabende also explained that most of their crops like bananas, cassava, coffee, houses, and domestic animals were all washed away by the landslide.

James Nagimesi, one of the affected residents from Busiya parish said that since the disaster, they had received rice from The Office of the Prime Minister. He added that each household had received only two (2) kilograms of rice, which are not even enough to cover this season until the next harvest.

Silaji Wamayi, the Bulambuli district LC5 Vice-chairperson says, “we as a district are grateful to always work with Uganda Red Cross Society in disaster preparedness”.

Story continues to next page.
Wamayi appealed to the Government under The Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, to expedite the process of relocating people living in disaster risk areas in Bulambuli district to Bunambutye nearby. The Government resettlement plan is on-going. They resettled the first phase of 100 families living in disaster risk areas in March this year from Manafwa, Bududa, and Sironko districts. Due to these adverse weather conditions, fears of an outbreak of diseases like cholera and other hygiene related diseases are rising.

Innocent Wandabwa, the Bulambuli District Environmental Office, attributed the frequent occurrence of mudslides in Bugisu sub-region to poor farming methods like bush burning, deforestation, among others. Wandabwa added that the district would distribute over 1500 tree seedlings of different tree species in the next month. These tree seedlings would be given to people living in hilly sub-counties to plant so that they can help to improve on the environment and combat the adverse weather conditions.

Residents of Bulambuli District receive relief from URCS and Belgian Red Cross.
Residents of Bundibugyo Receive Iron Sheets.

Targeting 333 households, Uganda Red Cross Society distributed 5000 pieces of iron sheets to families affected by the adverse weather effects that left many homeless in Bundibugyo district. Many houses lost their roofs during the heavy rains that occurred recently.

Iron sheets delivered to Bundibugyo residents

URCS team assesses people affected by the heavy rains.

URCS Kampala Central Branch Emphasizes Hygiene on the Streets.

Twaha Ayubu Branch Manager Kampala Central.

We do the community service activities monthly specifically every last Saturday of the month as Uganda Red Cross Society with an aim of doing community sensitization on hygiene. The activities are to target the business community especially with in Kampala Central division. Partnership with the management of Kampala City Traders Association (KASITA)

Besides the community services, we come in to promote our services such as blood donor recruitment where people come to do donate blood, Commercial and community based first aid.

This year, we have taken the services in Kamwokya, Ovino Mall, Nakasero Market, Kisenyi, and Arua Park.

URCS team helping in cleaning the streets.
In this quarter we have managed to do different activities, and among them we visited Sanyu babies home in Mengo to see the good work they do in looking after the babies. During our visit, we took supplies like milk, pampers, Vaseline, clothes and many more.

The branch normally visits Sanyu babies home annually and this year we are also planning to visit Kabowa Church of Uganda Primary School for the same cause. After the visit, we also managed to help in cleaning up of the children’s home so as to ensure proper hygiene.

In addition to that, we also managed to paint a zebra crossing at Kawala Good times Primary School. The activity was done in partnership with the Good Times school management. The main aim of the zebra crossing was to enable pupils to cross the road safely when going to and from school.

As way of teaching students what Red Cross does and how it works, we also visited St Mary’s College Namagoma to carry out dissemination.
URCS Team and Centenary Bank support Emergency Health Preparedness, Awareness & Response in schools.

In the previous months, Uganda Red Cross Society and Centenary Bank equipped schools with lifesaving skills in emergencies that occur while students are at school or anywhere they live.

Dr. Brian Kanaahe, the Resilient Manager at URCS, commended Centenary bank for its timely support towards this effort. Kanaahe also added that, “The initiative will see students and teachers trained in first aid skills to be able to handle common health emergencies. These are simple skills that a student/pupil can use to save a friend in an emergency.”

Among the accidents that were pointed out were, wounds and cuts, drowning, how to survive a fire accident and bleeding.

Uganda Marty’s Namugongo SS, Lubiri High School Mengo, Seeta High School, Namilyango College, Kampala Junior Academy, Hillside Nursery and Primary School Nalya and Mother Care Primary School were the schools that benefited from this first set of training.

Other topics covered included: aims & qualities of a First Aider, Cardio Pulmonary Resurrection (CPR), recovery positioning, managing fainting, managing Shocks, Burns & Scalds, handling fractures, bleeding, bandaging, and transportation of casualties, asthma attacks and drowning.

Mitl Lwanga, the Coordinator for First Aid and ambulance services at URCS, noted that, “We want to improve student’s preparedness on how to handle common emergencies in schools as well as to equip students with first aid knowledge and skills”.

Lwanga added that the services are not only done in schools but they have also trained several companies, hotels, and organizations in workplace first aid, in a bid to make workplaces safer for employees. Some of these organizations include; SogeaSatom, GIZ, Uganda Police (Traffic Department), Brac Uganda, ESL, Uganda Clays ltd, and Sheraton Hotel, Tugende Uganda Ltd, Civil Aviation Authority, DAS handling services and Mogas Uganda.

Beatrice Lugalambi, the General Manager Corporate Communication and Marketing at Centenary Bank says, “Centenary Bank is pleased to join hands with Uganda Red Cross Society on this noble cause because of its importance in promoting safety within schools in the communities”. She added the bank committed 10 million shillings which will be used to establish First Aid Networks and Clubs in schools countrywide, to help address emergencies and injuries.
The Bank's contribution towards this initiative is part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, through which it devotes up to 1% of the previous year's profits towards social transformation.

Drawing mandates from the Geneva Convention, Uganda Red Cross Society globally is the leading First aid provider in communities. First aid helps to preserve life, prevent the condition from worsening and promotes recovery. In Uganda, Uganda Red Cross trained first aiders are placed in communities to manage emergencies such as road accidents, community disease outbreaks, manage minor injuries, manage water injuries, and refer un-manageable cases to hospitals.

Students of Namityango College School with Centenary bank and URCS team.

Pupils of Hillside nursery and primary school Naalya with the Centenary bank team and URCS team.

URCS instructor teaching students how to control bleeding.

Students learn how to remove gloves.

Pupils practicing first aid concepts.

Pupils of Kampala Junior School learn bandaging.
200 traffic officers from the Kampala Metro-Politan area have been trained in First Aid and emergency life saving skills by the Uganda Red Cross Emergency Health and Safety team. The training took place at Kololo airstrip on Wednesday 11th.09.2019. The traffic officers were grouped in 8 cohorts, each consisting of 25 members.

Uganda Red Cross Society Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mr. Paul Okot says this is a great opportunity to equip the traffic officers since we work together during emergency situations to save lives.

Among the skills the officers got included Emergency scene Safety assessment, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Bandaging, Excessive Bleeding Management, handling of fractures, Recovery Positions, Transportation of casualties, Helmet Removal, Airway, Breathing Circulation (ABC) management among others.

"Many times life could be saved, but fast responders may lack such skills. This training helps the traffic officers to have at least the basic skills needed to save a life in case of an accident on the road." Okot added.

Norman Musinga the Kampala Metropolitan Regional Traffic Commander thanked URCS for training the officers and urged the officers to put what they have been taught into action. Musinga also noted that the purpose of the training was to help traffic officers in refreshing their minds on how to handle fatal accidents so that loss of lives when accidents occur is reduced.
The Critical Role Research plays in Supporting Sustainable Development.

Uganda Red Cross Society, Humanitarian Open Street Map Team Uganda and Map Uganda joined to launch the AGRC 2019 that took place on 1st – 2nd August at the College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology (CEDAT) at Makerere University.

The Conference was officially opened by the Principal; CEDAT Prof. Alinaitwe Henry who highlighted the critical role research plays in supporting sustainable development.

Alinaitwe noted that the 5th biennial conference was yet another opportunity for Geospatial players in both the academia and industry to share knowledge and challenge one another in pushing further the initiatives that can connect knowledge and skills relevant in helping solve problems that fight sustainable development.

Prof. Dr. Mathias Schardt from Joanneum Research Company and Institute of Geodesy, Graz Technical University in Germany made the keynote presentation about Remote Sensing Based Methods for Forest Inventories.

Schardt showcased Time Series Analysis of Sentinel 2 – Data in Dry Forest of Malawi and proved that such analysis can be used for monitoring land cover changes that subsequently affect climate and ecosystems in various parts of the world.

Besides, more presentations that focused on humanitarian-related work included; Spatial and temporal trend analysis, in and dune migration and its potential impact on communities and livelihood.

The second day of the conference commenced with a presentation on Developing a Policy for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Uganda, by Prof. Moses Musinguzi. He explains the challenges faced in data management in Uganda and proposed a framework through which the different data stakeholders in the country can easily access and share geospatial data using common standards.

During the session, Lucas Wouters from the University of Amsterdam in Netherlands profiled the Innovative Approaches in Responsive Approaches (IARP) to participants and invited them to the Community Risk Assessment dashboard to probe and give feedback on how it can be improved through research initiatives.

In a nutshell, it should note that some of the Objectives of The Advances in Geomatics Research Conference (AGRC) 2019 were to Profile IARP/ IKEA project and URCS among a wider public, both national and international (Activity 1.B.2.4 Build relationships with data providers/stakeholders) and to bring together data generators and users to discuss the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) dashboard, data sharing and responsible use of data for improved decision making with a focus on humanitarian work (Activity 1.B.2.5 Overcome legal, Technical and Commercial Barriers to data sharing).
To help the girl child stay in school, Uganda Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, launched a Keep the Girl in School campaign (KAGIS) in March 2019.

The Campaign's target is to collect over 7,700,000,000UGX (seven billion and seven hundred million), for a year's worth of sanitary pads for 9,3336 (nine thousand three hundred thirty-six) girls in Uganda by 2021.

On Friday, 27th September 2019, the URCS and its team distributed sanitary pads to 1336 girls from five schools in Mayuge district.

The Ministry of Education and Sports selected the most vulnerable schools for this distribution and these included; Bufulu SS in Imanyiro Sub County, Bukabooli Seed S.S. in Bukabooli Sub-county, Bunya S.S. in Mayuge Town Council, St. John SS Buwaya in Buwaya Sub-county, Wante Muslim in Baitambogwe Sub-county.

In attendance were local district leaders, local Non-Government organizations, Journalists, and Representatives from Parliament and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The heart of this campaign is to ensure that girls in rural schools get proper menstrual management health systems. This will reduce the dropout rate for girls in schools in rural areas.

Mugabi Fred, the headmaster of Bunya Secondary School, praised the campaign saying, "this campaign will truly keep girls in school because most of the parents here cannot afford to buy these menstrual hygiene products, some girls get exploited by shameless men. Where they get pregnant or catch deadly diseases."

Eng. Grace Kyagaba, the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) officer at Uganda Red Cross added, "The priority of this campaign is to reduce the dropout rate of girls in school and increase retention rate. Our main target is for Mayuge is 9370 girls." He also noted that the girls also need changing rooms, toilets, and incinerators to avoid the spread of infections.

Nangobi Esther, one of the beneficiaries, is grateful for the campaign saying, "I am so glad we now have access to pads. A friend of mine got a boyfriend who used to give for pads in exchange for sex and now she has HIV."

Story continues to next page
Research indicates Mayuge District has the most number of girls who drop out of school due to menstrual hygiene problems. The District Officer in charge of guidance and counselling, Margaret Tibenda, explained that "only 28% of the girls who start primary one complete primary seven. In case these girls learn to manage their menstrual cycle with school, the completion rate reaches up to 70.5% at senior four.

Among the significant challenges that are leading to the high school dropouts in our schools of Mayuge is poverty, where parents cannot afford basic needs for their children, including sanitary pads, Tibenda added.

Mrs. Cecil Lwanga, one of the Goodwill Ambassadors of the campaign, thanked the Ministry of Education for the confidence entrusted in Uganda Red Cross Society as an impartial and humanitarian arm to push and address the pride of the girl child regarding issues of menstrual hygiene.

**How to donate**

Account Name: URCS- Keep A Girl In School  
Account Number: 0040086101547513  
Bank: EcoBank  
Branch: Bombo Road  
Swift Code: ECOCUGKA

**Airtel Money**

- Dial *185#  
- Select Pay Bill  
- Select Others  
- Enter Business Number (700103)  
- Enter Amount  
- Enter Reason for Payment  
- Confirm Pay  
- Enter PIN to confirm.

**MTN Mobile Money**

- Dial *165#  
- Payments (No.4)  
- Next (No.00)  
- Goods and services (No.4)  
- Enter Code: red cross  
- Enter Amount  
- Enter the PIN to confirm.

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**Account Name:** URCS- Keep A Girl In School  
**Account Number:** 0040086101547513  
**Bank:** EcoBank  
**Branch:** Bombo Road  
**Swift Code:** ECOCUGKA

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**Keep a Girl in School**
Ugandan Muslim Fraternity receives food from Kuwait Red Crescent during month of Ramathan.

During the holy month of Ramathan in June this year, Uganda Red Cross Society partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent and distributed 1500 food items to over 1500 vulnerable Moslem families in Uganda. They reached out to a population of about 6,521 people who included orphans, widows and needy families.

The beneficiaries with over 70% females were selected from different URCS branches in Mbale, Iganga and Mpigi districts. Each family received a package containing sugar, beans, cooking oil, rice, maize flour and sweet nuts.

Sarah Mutegombwa, the Manager Health Services at URCS and one of the focal personnel during the distribution, thanked Kuwait Red Crescent for donating these items to the Muslim fraternity and urged Muslims to always fast during the Holy Month because Allah will grant them more blessings.

Mutegombwa also thanked the branch managers and volunteers of the respective branches for the effort they put in to see that the distribution took place successfully.

The distribution process was summed up with an Iftar dinner where 540 people in the respective branches of Mbale, Iganga and Mpigi were treated to a buffet.

Some of the elderly people who received food items.

Food items delivered by Kuwait Red Cross.

Brian Kanaahe; Community Resilience Manager at URCS (2nd right) helps in food distribution.
On the 10th – 11th September Uganda Red Cross Society joined hands with Buganda fraternity to collect over 2000 units of Blood. The blood drive was held at Bulange gardens in Mengo where a number of people supported the cause.

The two day drive was officiated by Prince Cryspin Jjunju Kiwewa together with the 1st Deputy Katikkiro and Minister in charge of Technology, Prof Twaha Kaawaase in Mengo. Jjunju also noted that it is always good to have organizations like Uganda Red Cross coming up to help in saving lives and thanked the URCS team that was led by Sara Mutegombwa the blood donation manager at URCS. By the end of the 2 days drive 995 units of blood were collected.

Prince Jjunju urged people to always donate blood in order to save the lives of fellow Ugandans who are sick.
Restoring Family Links Programme is present in Kampala, all Refugee Settlements, and Transit Centers in Uganda. Over 100 RFL Assistants are deployed to assist those in need of restoring and maintaining family links with their family members who are living elsewhere. Among the services offered were free 3 minute phone calls where 25,688 (twenty-five thousand six hundred eighty-eight) Refugees were able to restore and maintain family links with their family members in the different countries. Those who did not have the phone contacts were given chance to exchange family news through Red Cross Messages which were delivered to their family members back home. The RFL services were offered depending on the need and the cases that were identified for handling by the teams who were deployed in Kampala, Refugee Settlements and Transit Centers to offer RFL Services.

- **2,048** Red Cross Messages were exchanged during the reporting period.
- **45,997** Refugees visited the Red Cross service points for phone service
- **25,688** Refugees were able to restore family links after making successful phone calls.
- **267** Cases were registered for handling out were as a result of temporary separations and among them included those that were handled in Kampala during the Annual Event of Martyrs Day Celebrations at Namugongo on 3rd June, 2019. Cases were concluded with the majority being positive.
- **220** Unaccompanied minors/children were identified in the Refugee Settlements.
- **548** Family re-unifications were conducted for children and vulnerable persons.
Mapping Plays A Vital Role In Disaster Response And Preparedness.

On 15th November 2019, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), organized an OpenStreetMap mapathon during the OSM GeoWeek. OpenStreetMap is a mapping platform that is used by many humanitarian agencies like Red Cross to create map data that, in case of a disaster, the data can be used in supporting the affected communities.

URCS volunteers during the workshop.

During this mapathon, Doreen Asasira, Vice-Chairperson Kampala West Branch noted “OpenStreetMap trainings would help me teach other volunteers in my branch in helping us to map those areas affected by floods.” The Mapathon focused on the Eastern and Western regions of Uganda since it had got the most recent flooding. Over 50 volunteers from different URCS branches participated in the training David Luswata GIS consultant at URCS, and the chief organizer of the workshop urged volunteers to use the mapping skills attained so as to help in disaster management the Uganda Red Cross Society.

An instructor guides a volunteer during the training.

Sara Amadi, Country Manager Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team explains that "The point of this mapathon is to connect dots between the volunteers who are supporting the work of URCS while managing disasters." It should be remembered that earlier this year, Bududa district was hit by massive landslides and many people lost their property and lives. On a similar note, recently, in October, Kasese district was also hit by landslides, so mapping helps to spot the affected areas to assist in disaster response and preparedness. Twaha Ayubu Kampala West Branch Manager noted that mapping is a great activity that not helps branch managers to mark disaster-prone areas but also helps volunteers practice humanitarian work.

Participants pose for a group photo after the workshop.
How to Support

MTN PROCEDURE

Dial *165#, Select Payments (No. 4)
Select Next (00), Goods and Services (No. 8)
Enter Merchant code: redcross
Enter Payment Reference: Your name
Enter Amount, Enter PIN to confirm

AIRTEL PROCEDURE

Dial *185#, Select Pay Bills
Select Others
Enter Business Number (700103)
Enter Amount/ Reason for Payment
Confirm Pay, Enter PIN

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