A URCS volunteer disseminating COVID – 19 messages to a Refugee settlement in Bidibidi camp
Contents

1. COVID — 19 highlights
2. Operational Updates
3. Project re-purposed activities
4. Challenges and Recommendations
The Red Cross team at Nakawa market successfully helped a mother deliver a baby during the lockdown period. #COVID19Response
COVID — 19 Highlights

Global
Cases 4,425,485
Deaths 302,059

Africa
Cases 78,280
Deaths 2,624

Uganda
Cases 227
Deaths 0
Recoveries 63

Source: World Health Organization, 1.30pm on 16th May 2020 and Ministry of Health Uganda
Ministry of Health — Uganda (MOH)
- In response to the COVID-19 global outbreak, the Ministry of Health - Uganda developed a National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan to respond to the evolving pandemic, modelling data and new evidence aimed at reducing the importation, transmission, morbidity and mortality as well as economic social disruption.

Uganda Red Cross Society
- Uganda Red Cross Society mandated by an Act of Parliament by the Government of Uganda developed a six months COVID-19 Preparedness and response plan (Jan to June 2020) aligned to the MOH National COVID – 19 response priorities.

URCS COVID — 19 Preparedness and Response Plan
- Intervention areas:
  - Risk communication
  - Community engagement
  - Surveillance (including contact tracing)
  - Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) safe & dignified burial (SDB)
  - Psychosocial support (PSS)
  - URCS Capacity strengthening
  - Ambulance services for referrals
  - Developed SOPs for food distribution
  - Co-chair National vulnerable groups sub-committee
Red Cross volunteer handing over relief food to an elderly lady during the ongoing food distribution exercise in Kampala

Operational Updates

- Livelihoods
- Health
- WASH
- Communication
1) Livelihoods — Food relief distribution

URCS supports Government's efforts in food distribution through mapping and verification of the most vulnerable countrywide. Below is a summary of food distributed thus far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Tonnes/Milk in Litres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>3,518,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>1,759,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdered Milk</td>
<td>17,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>15,336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020
URCS has reached 214,212 households with COVID – 19 relief food items (Population: 588,798) in Kampala metropolitan

- East: 120,956 households, 44,617 disease cases
- West: 106,482 households, 42,969 disease cases
- South: 120,020 households, 37,721 disease cases
- North: 183,678 households, 67,388 disease cases
- Central: 57,662 households, 21,517 disease cases

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020

URCS has also distributed household and food items to other regions since our members and volunteers are part of various district task forces:

- Total number of households reached in other regions: 21,264
- Food items distributed in other regions: 6,584
II) Health

URCS complements Government’s efforts to manage screening, contact tracing, psychosocial support and emergency care services for COVID – 19 affected individuals as indicated below:

- Truck drivers screened: 5,949
- People screened at POE: 4,305
- People screened at markets: 94,836
- People reached through risk communication: 204,191
- Communities/ villages reached through risk communication: 2,089
- Alerts: 11
- Liters of disinfectants sprayed: 1,520
- Quarantined individuals reached with psychosocial support: 458
- Volunteers deployed: 496
- COVID - 19 contacts traced: 114
- People reached with ambulance services: 33
- People trained on COVID - 19 response: 203
- PPE distributed: 556

Through our health services, URCS has reached 329,978 people during the past week.

- Highest number of truck drivers were screened at Elegu border point: 2,634
  - Males (2,443)
  - Female (191)
- Highest number of people screened were recorded in markets around Kampala.
- Various PPE’s were distributed to Points of Entry and markets.
Blood donation

URCS also mobilizes voluntary blood donors to donate blood during this COVID – 19 period. Below are the details on the units of blood mobilized during the past week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units of Blood</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units of blood mobilized (11th - 15th May 2020)</td>
<td>2,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Targets: Units of blood</td>
<td>430,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020
III) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

A number of WASH interventions have been implemented across all the URCS branches, and more specifically in markets and refugee settlements to promote hygiene and sanitation in the fight against COVID-19.

- A total number of 90,600 people have been reached through our WASH interventions over the past week.
IV) Communication

- A total of 8,310 people have been reached with Information Education Communication materials and Radio talk shows on COVID-19 messaging.

- The role of URCS in the COVID – 19 fight in Uganda was also well articulated to the general public during a live interview on NBS TV.

- The posters disseminated contain information on how COVID – 19 is spread and its prevention measures.
A URCS volunteer disseminating COVID-19 prevention messages using a mobile activation rig in Kyangwali/Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.
The BIDISAWA project supported promotion of dissemination of key messages on COVID - 19

- URCS volunteers have also distributed 300 posters to the community members through Yumbe District Health Department.
- URCS volunteers with support of the local leadership have also conducted community sensitization.
- URCS volunteers took the lead in 2 mass COVID – 19 message sensitization sessions in Karunga trading Centre and Okubani main market using the mobile activation rig.
- Conducted 1 COVID-19 sensitization for water user committee on social distancing at the water sources in Ombechi Village cluster in Zone 5.

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020
A total of 35 volunteers and staff from Bidibidi zones 1 and 5 were trained on COVID – 19 and deployed to support the response.

- 51 branded (20 litres) hand washing jerry cans
  - 12 were given to the UPDF barracks in Yumbe and detachments manning the border points
  - 12 were given to Yumbe district task force
  - 2 were given to Yumbe Town Council market
  - 4 were given to Uganda Police Force units
  - 3 were given to the sub-county offices where URCS is implementing activities
  - 2 were given to Zombo district to support the UPDF barracks

- 4 branded (60 litres) plastic tanks
  - All were given to Yumbe Task Force

- 4 branded (10 litres) metallic buckets for water collection
  - All were given to Yumbe town council to manage waste water collection at Yumbe Town Council market

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020
ICRC — RFL project

The RFL project has re-purposed its services to support COVID–19 response activities in all refugee settlements. Last week’s activities are summarized below:

- ICRC supports URCS to conduct sensitization/risk communication targeting communities in refugee settlements across the country.
Swedish PREP

The Swedish PREP project has reached out to 17,179 people through risk communication COVID – 19 project support details are summarized below:

- People Reached (Female): 5,821
- People Reached (Male): 7,964
- Males reached from the settlement: 2,669
- Females reached from the settlement: 5,295
- People reached from the host community: 9,215
- Males reached from the host community: 3,152
- Females reached from the host community: 6,063
- Posters shared in both host and settlement: 2,011
- Posters shared in the host community: 1,114
- Posters shared in the settlement: 897

Handwashing facilities procured: Obongi DTF (10), Moyo...
Laundry soap boxes procured: Obongi DTF (10), Moyo...
Radio talk shows supported: Obongi DLG (10), Moyo DLG...

Statistics: Updated as of 14th May 2020
URCS volunteers mapping and validating information for a family that has received food in one of the Kampala communities.
Challenges and Recommendations

1) Teams have faced challenges of inadequate IEC materials on COVID-19.
   - Recommendation: Additional procurements have been placed to secure more IEC materials to support branches.

2) Insufficient PPEs for the volunteers such masks, goggles, attires, shields, reflector jackets and sanitizers among others.
   - Recommendation: To match the large number of volunteers deployed, URCS needs to increase the number of PPEs. To this end, URCS Programs have budgeted for extra PPE materials.

3) Some community members are neglecting the information given to them by the volunteers as they have a preconception that they know enough about COVID – 19. Some even go ahead and say that the disease does not exist.
   - Recommendation: URCS continues to sensitize them despite the negative perceptions and through Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), we are combating negative perceptions.
Key Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Kwesiga</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgurcs@redcrossug.org">sgurcs@redcrossug.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Josephine Okwera</td>
<td>Director, Health and Social Services/ URCS COVID – 19 incident commander</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jokwera@redcrossug.org">jokwera@redcrossug.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Nakasiita</td>
<td>Communications and Public Relations/ External partner liaison COVID - 19</td>
<td><a href="mailto:inakasiita@redcrossug.org">inakasiita@redcrossug.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Arnold Ezama</td>
<td>Coordinator COVID – 19 response</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aezama@redcrossug.org">aezama@redcrossug.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>