URCS continues to disinfect trucks at various border points of entry as part of infection prevention and disease control.
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1. COVID — 19 highlights
2. Operational Updates
3. Project re-purposed activities
4. Challenges and Recommendations
A URCS volunteer uses a gun thermometer to screen a fellow volunteer before granting him access to a market in Kampala.
COVID — 19 Highlights

Global confirmed cases: 5,851,494
Global deaths: 361,270

Uganda cases: 317
Uganda deaths: 0
Recoveries: 72

Dated: 29th May 2020

Source
- Global: World Health Organization
- Uganda: Ministry of Health - Uganda
This week’s COVID-19 case increase in Uganda

Source: Ministry of Health Uganda

Last week (25th – 29th May 2020) saw an increasing number of COVID-19 new cases mainly from truck drivers tested at Border Points of Entry, most especially at Elegu and Malaba borders. Other new cases were contacts to previously confirmed cases.
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
URCS officials handing over infection prevention and control materials to the leadership of Nakawa market as part of the efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
I) Livelihoods — Food relief distribution

URCS has reached a cumulative total of 663,531 households in Kampala metropolitan area with COVID-19 food relief items, equivalent to a population of 1,839,880 people. The table below indicates the Divisions served as of 27th May 2020:

- Food distribution is an initiative by Government of Uganda which is intended to offer temporary relief to the most vulnerable countrywide, in a bid to alleviate hunger.
- This primarily focuses on Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts, where the urban poor who depend on daily income were affected by the recently eased lock-down.
# Livelihoods — Food relief distribution

URCS reached a total of 43,473 households with food relief items, totaling to a population of 121,374 in Kampala Metropolitan area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize (Kgs)</td>
<td>845,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans (Kgs)</td>
<td>422,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (Liters)</td>
<td>2,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar (Kgs)</td>
<td>4,030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 27th May 2020
URCS complemented the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to distribute COVID-19 relief food items in Wakiso district as indicated in the table below, dated 25th May 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lugoba 2</th>
<th>Kazo Central zone 2</th>
<th>Muganzilwaza 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Households</strong></td>
<td>426</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household size</strong></td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>1,780</td>
<td>1,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maize flour</strong></td>
<td>7,326</td>
<td>10,680</td>
<td>7,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beans</strong></td>
<td>3,663</td>
<td>5,340</td>
<td>3,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Milk</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sugar</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nansana Division: 25th May 2020
URCS complemented the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to distribute COVID-19 relief food items in Wakiso district as indicated in the table below, dated 26th May 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lugoba 1</th>
<th>Lugoba 2</th>
<th>Kazo Central zone 2</th>
<th>Muganzilwaza 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>1,501</td>
<td>1,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize flour</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>7,548</td>
<td>9,006</td>
<td>7,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>3,774</td>
<td>4,503</td>
<td>3,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nansana Division: 26th May 2020
URCS complemented the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to distribute COVID-19 relief food items in Wakiso district as indicated in the table below, dated 27th May 2020.

- **Kazo Central zone 2**
  - Households: 101
  - Household size: 277
  - Maize flour: 1,662
  - Beans: 831
  - Milk: 1
  - Sugar: 1

Nansana Division: 27th May 2020
Other URCS branches distributed COVID-19 food relief items. Households reached (7,031), Food items distributed (31,916) as indicated below:

- This week, the following branches were involved in food distribution together with their respective district task forces include:
  - Kisoro
  - Jinja
- The food relief items were donated by various organizations.
II) Health

URCS complements Government’s efforts to manage screening, contact tracing, psychosocial support and emergency care services for COVID – 19 affected individuals. Last week, 304,812 people were reached with URCS health intervention services as indicated be

- Truck drivers screened: 4,037
- People screened at POE: 1,730
- People screened at markets: 21,035
- People reached through risk communication: 229,852
- Communities/ villages reached through risk communication: 101
- Alerts: 32
- Liters of disinfectants sprayed: 43,141
- Quarantined individuals reached with psychosocial support: 1
- Volunteers deployed: 447
- COVID - 19 contacts traced: 322
- People reached with ambulance services: 17
- People trained on COVID - 19 response: 167
- PPE distributed: 607

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
Health: Delivery on a Partnership call

• URCS in partnership with Total has supported the districts of Nwoya and Buliisa.

• Uganda Red Cross delivered a number of assorted Health items to support the districts of Nwoya & Buliisa in the fight against #COVID19.

• The delivered items worth Seventy Five Million Uganda Shillings (75 million UGX) included:
  • Disposable gloves, surgical gloves, heavy duty gloves, respirators (KN95), goggles, facemasks, overalls, surgical hoods, gumboots, face shields, protective gowns (suits sets), protective aprons, spray bottles, Hand sanitizers, liquid soap, Jik, bar-soap, pump sprayers, infrared thermometers, and batteries.
Health: 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>1,114</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units of blood mobilized (18th - 22nd May 2020)</td>
<td>1,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Targets: Units of blood</td>
<td>430,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
III) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

A total of 213,535 people were reached with URCS – WASH interventions over the past week

- A number of WASH interventions have been implemented across all URCS branches, with more emphasis on markets and refugee settlements.

- Wakiso branch registered the highest number of people trained in proper hand washing practices with a total of 190,000 people reached.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People trained in proper handwashing</th>
<th>Handwashing materials distributed to communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numbers 213,535</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
IV) Communication

Communication is a key tool used by URCS to disseminate COVID-19 messages. This week, these communication channels were used:

- A total of 3,047 people were reached with Information, Education and Communication materials.
- All radio talk shows were aired in local languages of the respective districts where they were held, specifically focusing on risk communication messages.
- The posters disseminated contained COVID-19 prevention measures and how it is spread.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio talk shows held</th>
<th>Radio spots aired</th>
<th>IEC materials distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
Continuous temperature screening both in markets and refugee settlements

Project repurposed activities into COVID - 19

- Austrian Red Cross (BIDISAWA project)
- German Red Cross (INFLWAHE project)
- ICRC (RFL project)
The BIDISAWA project supported the dissemination of COVID – 19 key messages to include: Modes of transmission, Barriers of transmissions, Presidential directives on COVID-19, unfavourable practices that can enhance transmission among others. URCS volunteers took part in various activities as indicated below:

- House to House visits
- Conducted sensitization at water points
- Monitored social distancing in markets and water points
- Conducted joint sensitization with RWCs to disseminate key Ministry of Health COVID-19 messages
- Distributed posters and leaflets that were received from Yumbe district health department

All activities conducted during the week of 25th – 29th May 2020
Austrian Red Cross (BIDISAWA project)

The BIDISAWA project has registered major improvements in Health during the COVID-19 sensitization as seen below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households visited</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing facilities found in place</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing facilities found in place that were using soap</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
German Red Cross (INFLWAHE project)

The INFLWAHE project also re-purposed its activities to support the dissemination of COVID-19 messages to the communities and refugee settlements.

- The IEC material distributed under the INFLWAHE project were obtained from the Yumbe district local Government and some partners.

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
ICRC — RFL Project

The ICRC — RFL project has also re-purposed its activities to support the dissemination of COVID-19 messages to the communities and refugee settlements.

- Face masks distributed to RFL volunteers: 320
- Number of people reached in Lamwo: 3,500
- Blocks reached with COVID-19 messages in Lamwo: 7
- Posters with COVID-19 messages displayed within the community: 31
- Posters with COVID-19 messages displayed within Kiryandongo communities: 32

Statistics: Updated as of 29th May 2020
URCS volunteers and staff are fully involved in the COVID-19 pandemic fight in Uganda.
Achievements

- Uganda Red Cross volunteers are deployed to support border points / points of entry to conduct risk communication, heavy goods truck disinfection and screening truck drivers at the following points of entry:
  - Busia, Malaba, Elegu, Mutukula, Mirami hills, Kikagati, Mpondwe, Cyanika, Bunagana, Busunga, Ntorko main, Trazami and other Points of entry (POE) around lake shores of Albert.

- Uganda Red Cross Society supported the Mutukula Point of Entry COVID – 19 working team with a standby fully facilitated ambulance that had a medical doctor to help in evacuating the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases from the border to the treatment centres.

- A number of evacuations were carried out both to Entebbe COVID-19 Treatment centre on 22nd May 2020 and also to Masaka regional referral hospital on 25th May 2020.
Challenges

1) Lack of support to increase man power to upscale risk communication across all porous border points in Uganda

2) Continuous movement of new people into Refugee Settlements, many of who, are not reported. For example, 1 new arrival reported in Ombechi but came from Elegu border point.

3) Increased expectations from the community and district for Red Cross support in terms of food and other necessities.

4) The Ramadhan period also affected the blood donor recruitment exercise since most Muslim blood donors were unable to donate blood because they were fasting.
Recommendaions

1) Partnership is key and imperative for easy implementation of COVID-19 activities / interventions.

2) URCS has prioritized procurement of more IEC materials translated to local languages to improve reach to more communities on the COVID-19 pandemic.

3) URCS continues to seek more support towards the strengthening of community preparedness in order to curb the spread of infections in communities.

A URCS volunteer uses a gun thermometer to screen a man before he could be granted access to a high risk market.
# Key Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
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