



life around amari - april 2020



UGANDA IN COVID LOCKDOWN

On March 18th, it was announced that schools would be shutting on March 20th. And that was the beginning! *(Christopher, our lovely security guard who agreed along with three other staff to stay onsite with us while everyone else returned to their homes)*

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

Transport bans followed the institution lockdowns and gathering bans. Now only essential shopping and medical are allowed. (We had 2 hours notice for some of the regulations, such as the banning of movement in private cars)

- No institutions open. Borders closed
- No public or private vehicles on road except essential services
- No public exercising, and only to be out to buy essentials or medical
- Motor bikes only to carry cargo, and only until 2pm. Cargo carriers caught carrying passengers will be charged with attempted murder.
- Only food markets can remain open
- 7pm curfew. Houses cannot be bars.
- Can work, but must sleep there
- No gatherings, only 10 at burials.



IMPACT ON AMARI CHILDREN

We sent teachers home at around the same time as children were released, and then building staff off a week later as further social distancing measures were mandated. We could have kept some staff onsite, but felt it was important for them to be home with their children and families.

Our students were sent home with 'holiday packages' (photocopied work, seeing as online learning is not an option). We were planning to top that up this week, but further restrictions mean we can't. (*Duncan and his brother Innocent walking to school on Monday to check if new work was available*)



Fortunately we suspected lockdowns would happen, and got down to Kampala to purchase sanitizer etc. before travel was banned. At this stage, when schools are opened, classes will continue through the holidays. (*Jaz and Fausta killing time with some Australian schoolwork*)

We do want to say a big THANK YOU to those who have continued to support our children and Amari during this difficult time, despite your own hardships. This means our 50+ staff are still being paid, and not having to stress about where the next meal will come from. (*Joseph, who has remained onsite with us*)



Jaz, Fausta and Marita

We are so grateful that we are on a large property that runs off solar. Jaz and Fausta are doing Australian schoolwork, playing games, running around and indulging in some (well, more than some!) screen time. We have plenty of food, and four beautiful staff members who have stayed onsite with us.

Many families in our community will be feeling the pinch, particularly those who have elderly carers, who do not own gardens and those who have chronic illnesses in their family Also boda-boda riders, taxi drivers and informal sellers. We are monitoring some of our more vulnerable children and will assist where necessary.

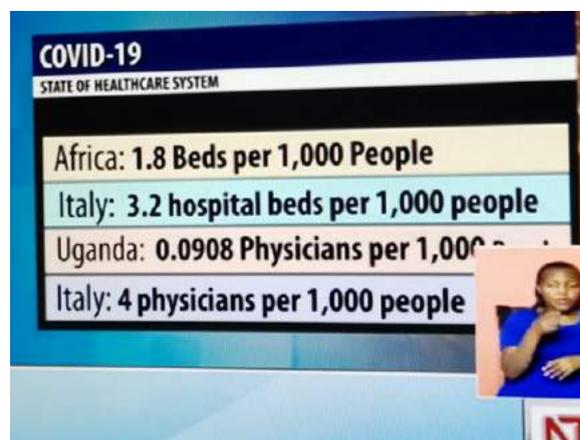


My take on COVID-19 in Uganda



I think President Museveni has done well putting proactive measures in place to stop the spread of COVID. He has been keeping the public up-to-date with cases and how they are being handled, is promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices, and is explaining why the restrictions are in place.

African leaders are well aware that they lack the medical resources of the west to be able to cope with mass hospitalizations. There are less than 5 ICU beds per 1 million population (Europe has 4000), and less than 2000 ventilators in public hospitals across the entire continent. (Daily Monitor 11/04/2020 - [Article here](#))





Daily earners, like taxi drivers and road side sellers are most impacted. Estimates are that 17 million Ugandans are now jobless and 8 million hungry. Patients can't get to hospitals, food prices have gone up. Corruption, domestic violence and abuse of power are also present (*Kampala taxi park before and bans*).

The positives! Ugandans are resourceful! No car? Let's improvise! So far, with around 1000 being tested each day, 55 cases have tested positive, with recorded no deaths. It has also been pleasing to see is donations coming into the national COVID task force funds from many companies, groups and individuals



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Praise & Prayer Points: We thank God for his hand on our property, and for those continuing to support us despite the crises in their own countries. Please continue to pray for the government of Uganda as they lead through the COVID crisis. Pray for staff and students safety as they stay in lockdown in their homes.

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About Amari Community Development Organisation

Amari CDO began in 2008 to help relieve the effects of poverty through the support of education, development and welfare programs conducted in Uganda. Amari has 40 acres of land at Kisiabi in Buliisa District. It is registered as an NGO (Non Government Organisation) in Australia and Uganda. Its' primary focus is the education and support of orphaned and vulnerable children. Amari aims to invest in them educationally and spiritually through quality Christian education.



Amari Community Development Organisation

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