

Discover Newsletter

April 2020



The impact of corona in Uganda

Dear Friends,

Everyone the world over is suffering, but some are suffering more than others. Especially those who are poor and those who already suffer health problems.

It is bad enough for the poorest people in Europe and for those who are losing their jobs. For many in Africa it is a catastrophe.

Today I received a letter from our colleague Kenja Thomas in Uganda. He is the one who is managing the fishpond project I wrote about in the last newsletter. He wrote:

- Public transport has been stopped and markets and small shops have been closed.
- The lockdown means that people cannot leave their homes. Casual work is impossible and so families have no income.
- Families are already short of food. Now they cannot buy seeds for their gardens, which will inevitably result in starvation.
- People are suffering and occasionally even dying from diseases such as malaria, wounds and diarrhoea. Several pregnant women have died in Uganda because they could neither get to the hospital nor afford hospital fees.

Thomas appeals for support so that he can provide seeds and some essential items to the worst hit 300 families.

Workshop for making face masks

Eric Kihuluka in Kaliro District, Uganda, has responded to the crisis by coordinating a team of 14 volunteers who are sewing face masks. Their aim is to make 10,000 masks which will be given to health care workers, police officers,



prison

staff, market vendors, shop owners, boda boda drivers (motorcycle taxis), restaurant waiters and local leaders.

We want to support this splendid initiative. They need materials, food for the volunteers and transport. Each of the 10,000 masks costs about 25 cents.

Eric and his team have also been distributing food donated by businesses to the neediest in the community.



The first face masks being handed over to the District Covid 19 Task Force.

Email: Keith@discover-src.net Home-page: www.discover-src.net/en/.

UK donations please via "Stewardship": <http://www.stewardship.org.uk/>, From elsewhere via Paypal

Tippy-taps for key service agencies in Soroti, Uganda

Obaikol Gideon of the Angicunak luko Teso project used his carpentry skills to construct very substantial tippy-tap frames. They were first supplied to schools, but since they have been closed the tippy taps have been provided to the District Health Offices, the District Police Station and other key institutions.

Treating cough

Felly Namuli of Vumbula Kaboyo invited Rehema Namyalo to conduct a one-day training – many in her community were suffering coughs. She wrote, "All neighbours who had severe coughs are now rejoicing after recovering – they are amazed at the medicine I prepare. In this pandemic, lemon juice, ginger, moringa powder, hibiscus juice, artemisia tea mixed with lemon grass and a steam bath is the diet for all neighbours. We make simple tippy taps for washing hands." Those who have attended Discover training seminars have productive gardens and are much better able to survive this crisis.



Tree planting at the Sacred Heart Primary School near Mutare, Zimbabwe. Joachem Nyamande is here encouraging the children to be model tree planters in their communities. On 21 March Discover Zimbabwe planted 100 croton trees and 20 water berry trees.

Tree planting and Mubuku forest reserve

March 21 was the International Day of the Forest. Many Discover partners planted trees. Many other partners had planned to plant trees with school children and teachers but had to postpone these events because the schools were closed.

Discover will continue to support tree planting – for many reasons. Now from the corona crisis we are learning that when natural ecosystems are destroyed, the few animals that survive are those most likely to pass on disease to humans. It is therefore imperative, not only for the climate but for the health of humankind to protect natural parks, natural ecosystems and forest reserves. Discover will therefore support further tree planting, particularly by Bumbura Maliba and the Open Community Foundation in Uganda, who are working to protect the Mubuku Forest Reserve which is being destroyed for firewood.

Please help us to support these initiatives!

Wishing that you and your families remain safe and healthy,
Keith Lindsey