

Discover Newsletter

May 2020

Response to crisis in Uganda



Liebe Freunde,

We are very grateful for all the generous donations we have received which have already enabled our tireless partners in Uganda to help hundreds of families to survive this crisis. Just as we were beginning to relax a little, we have received news of repeated flooding in the Kasese District; 26 people were found dead in the river and many others made homeless. We have also received further appeals for help for food aid from partners in other parts of the country.

The lockdown is very strict. All public transport has been stopped, even the motorbike taxis. This will continue for at least another three weeks. This means that people dependent on casual work, who live from hand to mouth, can earn nothing. They and their families go hungry. It also means that people who are ill with malaria or another serious health problem have no means of reaching the hospital. These precautionary measures impact many families very severely.

Thanks to your donations, one way or another our partners worked round the travel restrictions and have relieved the suffering of many people. "You have saved lives" has even been said.

Enid Kiviiri in Kalerwe, Kampala, „I bought handwashing taps, food and bedding for those whose things were destroyed. My heart is filled with joy, because you made it possible for me to help the many who had lost hope. I explained to them the God sent an Angel who sent money and appreciated you sooo much."

Eric Kihuluka of Mikwano in Kaliro District, "We have been voted the best NGO because of our support in the Busoga region." Eric and his sewing team made 7600 facemasks. After the presidential directive (that everyone must wear a mask in public), Eric complained "I am almost going into hiding - everyone is on my head for masks!". This team also distributed emergency food aid, most of which was provided by the Covid 19 District Task Force, to over 1000 families.

Mikwano is seen as being the group best able to identify families in need.

Daniel Twesige and his colleagues in Jinja support the families of prisoners. One lady said, "Musomesa (which means teacher), for the past three days my children and I have been feeding on the young pawpaw fruits which I would cook and serve along with cassava flour porridge, but it is now all finished. Please help us". Daniel reports, "We were able to give Harriet 5kgs of maize flour, grain amaranth seeds, one litre of liquid soap and UGX 2000." The grain amaranth seeds will provide food in the future.



Judith Nambi in Kirimya is a primary school headteacher. She and her pupils appreciate Eric's facemasks.



Floods in Kasese – this house was home to a family with 9 children

Kasese Network: Even before the latest deluge, Kasese had suffered devastating floods. Four rivers burst their banks and some even found new courses. Their crops of maize and beans were washed away. The hospital had to be relocated and many people were made homeless. Our three very active partners, Kenja Thomas, Robert Bwambale and Emmanuel Masereka are helping some of those most in need.

Charles Olupot in Katakwi said, “I bought a bag of cow peas, two cartons of salt, one bag of maize flour and soap. I secretly distributed to eighty families. I bought

cow peas as they mature very fast, we eat their leaves and it is a cover crop. We have had more floods here; the situation is terrible. Please let us help another eighty families. So many have hunger.”

Gideon Obaikol provided food for 50 sex workers and street children in Soroti and will shortly start life skills training to enable them to produce items for sale or to find employment.

Christopher Nyakuni distributed food to desperate families in Nyirivu, including a lady of about 100 years old. A few days later he took her to the hospital after she fell into the fire and cared for her burns with aloe. Meanwhile his brother’s house was set alight and burnt to the ground.

Many groups are spontaneously saying that they are planting, or will plant, trees. The floods make it abundantly clear to all that trees are needed, if for no other reason, to help the rain to soak into the ground.

Immediately the lockdown is lifted, Rehema Namyalo will conduct two three-day training seminars in two separate locations where hunger, and therefore food security is an urgent problem. First and foremost, she will teach organic farming, in order that the communities are well prepared for future disasters.

In this time of crisis, our partners are more active than ever. They are responding to the immediate crisis with all the resources of time, skill and money they have. They are also planning to ensure that their communities are equipped to withstand the impact of the climate crisis and any future crises like corona. But they need more help now. Who knows how long this crisis and the associated lockdown will last? Let’s just hope that in the meantime there are no more floods or plagues of locusts to make the situation even worse!

We all hope that one day we shall be back, not to the old normal, but to a new, better normal.

Take care!

Keith Lindsey and the Discover team



One of many families that received food and soap. Families with many children or with disabled family members are particularly disadvantaged