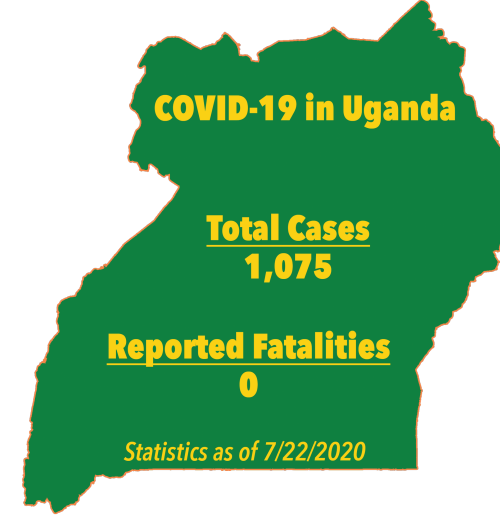




Education in Uganda During the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 cases in Uganda have continued to rise steadily, and the country's Ministry of Health is diligently updating the public. In addition to good public health messaging, they are also emphasizing contact tracing and testing to contain the virus. Several isolation centers have been created and visitors are quarantined. Uganda's districts most at risk may be those adjacent to other countries because of porous borders. Inner districts are beginning to gradually ease some lockdown measures, but many are still in place.

Schools remain closed and there is no indication yet when they will open this year. An estimated 15 million children are currently staying home – including the 56 children on our Road to Hope (RTH) program. This comes with its own risks as children lose focus on school and can become inactive or distracted with home activities. For vulnerable children there are more serious concerns of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and early pregnancy. Hunger is a major issue. Many of the RTH children come from very impoverished households and their biggest struggle during the COVID-19 lockdown is access to food. As is sometimes the case in the US, families rely on children receiving nutritious meals from school. PCAU is continuing to work with the families and other partners to find ways to help them access at least one meal a day while at home.



The Ministry of Education and Sports is trying to keep children engaged with their studies through radio and television tutoring sessions. They are also publishing home-schooling packages targeted at each class level in the national newspapers. Many of you are familiar with the situation in Uganda, and you can imagine these may not be the most effective strategies. PCAU is also creating ways to engage the children further. They are planning an essay competition for the older children – using the opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for palliative care. A local media personality has agreed to judge and publicize the winning essay. PCAU is also getting the children books to read and assessing the possibility of engaging tutors in the communities where the children live. We are working with PCAU to ensure they have some flexible funds to respond to these changing needs during the pandemic. Please read more at the end of this newsletter to learn how you can help PCAU support these children.

Click here to follow [Uganda Ministry of Health COVID-19 updates](#).

PCAU Staff Highlight: Lydia Nakawuki

Lydia Nakawuki is the program officer at PCAU, tasked with the responsibility of managing operations and grassroots activities of the RTH program. Lydia has worked with PCAU since 2017 and oversees the well-being of children on the program. She coordinates with local stakeholders who help identify and enroll qualified children on the program, and she oversees their progress in school. Lydia manages all activities for the RTH children including the empowerment retreat and children's camp.



Lydia Nakawuki,
PCAU Program Officer
Lydia's main role is to oversee the well-being of the children on the Road to Hope program

On a daily basis, Lydia's ears are on the ground to learn of developments with children in the program across the country. When challenges arise, she taps into her immediate network of palliative care personnel in a given region to help reach the child directly. It is no small task to oversee the well-being of 56 children located across the country, but Lydia works with her networks to stay updated and responsive to the children's needs. She mobilized the team immediately once schools shut down in March and not only made sure the children got home safely, but also equipped them with COVID-19 public health education and messaging to ensure they stayed safe at home. And she has led the charge to ensure they are fed and engaged in learning during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Lydia is no stranger to palliative care. Before joining the PCAU team, she worked for Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) – a member organization of PCAU – where she supported cancer and HIV/AIDS patients in working through family challenges. Her duties included managing a school tuition project (similar to the RTH program) – so her experience made her a good fit for PCAU. Lydia is a social worker by profession, and notes that the teamwork at PCAU is one of the reasons why she loves working there.

How You Can Help

Lydia and the PCAU team continue to keep in touch with all of the RTH children to help ensure they have what they need. Here are some ways you can help children on the Road to Hope program during the pandemic:

1. Provide basic needs for children
 - a. Monthly supply of food for a family of five – \$30
 - b. Monthly supply of sanitary pads for 15 girls – \$15
2. Enable learning at home
 - a. Monthly cost of newspapers for a child (2x/week) – \$5
 - b. Solar-powered radio for a child – \$10
 - c. Other reading materials (novels, textbooks) – \$3 - \$20
3. Support PCAU's outreach to the children
 - a. Daily delivery cost of food/supplies to children – \$15
 - b. 100 minutes of airtime for daily check-ins – \$6

You may make an [online donation](#) or send a check to the address below. For more details about the Road to Hope program, please contact Denis Kidde, International Program Coordinator at kidded@cfncare.org or 574.273.2754.

Thank you for supporting the partnership between Center for Hospice Care and the Palliative Care Association of Uganda!



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