

Introduction:

The monthly sitrep shows the LWF interventions and other on-going activities in all the subprograms during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, the Coronavirus confirmed cases stand at 911 in Uganda.

Sub program - ADJUMANI

- LWF continues to support the most vulnerable families with conditional cash grants, to meet the basic needs of life during the COVID-19 lock-down. In June, **71** PoCs were verified across Ayilo1 &2, Alere, Mirieyi and Maaji 1, 2 & 3 settlements to ensure the grant support benefits the most vulnerable families.
- LWF supported inmates at Openzinzi and Olia farm prisons with essential items (toothpaste, razor blades, boxes of sanitary pads, knickers, laundry soap and board games) as the inmates' family and friends could not support them due to the restricted movement.
- 75 children at risk in Ayilo 1 & 2, Nyumanzi, Alere, Baratuku, Elema, Agojo, and Pagirinya settlements were subjected to Best Interest Assessment (BIA) to improve their well bein.
- LWF continued to participate in the quarterly Protection Working Group meetings to review the implementation of protection activities alongside national guidance on COVID-19 prevention and response.
- To avert the likelihood of mental illness resulting from the effects of COVID-19, members of the Community Support Structure (CSS) groups conducted several voluntary door to door sensitization sessions in Olua II, Ogojo and Pagirinya I settlements, on how to manage stress.
- Also, **06** more road drives were conducted in the different settlements of Alere, Maaji 1 and Maaji 2, Ogojo and Boroli to create awareness about the risks of COVID-19.



LWF and other partners training stakeholders in Kyangwali refugee settlement how to sew re-usable pads while observing COVID-19 guidelines

- To ensure continued access to water used by the PoCs for handwashing as a COVID-19 preventive measure, more repairs were done along water distribution lines in Maaji II & III settlements including **03** leakages. The water is now flowing well and the refugees are fetching from the available tap stands within the settlement.
- Furthermore, **1280** litres of diesel fuel were delivered to **10** motorized water pumping stations to ensure uninterrupted access to water .
- An additional **244** jerry cans (of 20litre) of liquid soap were distributed at water points (boreholes and tap stands) to promote the practice of hand-washing.
- More audio messages for COVID-19 awareness were translated into three different languages of Acholi, English and Arabic to ensure effective communication. The messages also continue to be played on Aulugo FM.
- LWF and other partners contracted more than 500 tailors from the refugee and host communities to sew cloth masks for over 271,000 refugees living in settlements in Adjumani and Lawo districts. Each tailor receives UGX 500 for each mask produced and makes approx. UGX 37,500 a day.

Sub program - MOYO / OBONGI

- As part of the continued efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, LWF reached **45,493** persons from **9172** households with messages on preventive measures against the pandemic. The door to door sensitisation campaign was conducted using the community-based facilitators while observing the presidential directives and Ministry of Health guidelines on COVID-19.
- To ensure supply of water which is essential in the prevention of COVID-19, a total of **07** water pump generators were serviced in the settlements of Ibakwe, Belameling, Dama, Kali pump IV, Abio, Waka, and Dongo reception centres, basecamp zone I, II and III.
- Meanwhile, LWF supplied 5,365 litres of fuel to **12** backup generators that pump water to reservoir pumps to enable continued flow of water and access by the communities.
- LWF continued to participate in COVID-19 taskforce coordination meetings. The team participated in 4 meetings at Obongi districts headquarters and 4 others in the settlements.



LWF conducting community based psychosocial support training for the community structures in Lamwo

- In response to the increased cases of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic period, **36** victims (including those of physical assault, rape and denial of resources) were supported with psychological first aid and counselling.
- Also, **09** cases of attempted suicide and emotional abuse were identified and through mediations, the case of a domestic dispute was resolved and suicidal attempt clients were enrolled into personal psychotherapy.
- Similarly, 27 para counselors were trained in community-based psychosocial support needed in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused many negative effects on communities and individuals, such as loss of employment .

Sub program - LAMWO

- In response to the increased disputes caused by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of **50** persons were equipped with skills in dispute resolution. These included; LWF staff, refugee welfare committee leaders, child protection committee members, and volunteers across the settlement.
- LWF also intervened and offered basic counselling, assessment, and referral of **11** cases of SGBV which is on the rise during the COVID-19 period. The cases were reported by community activists and refugee welfare community leaders.
- LWF supported the communities in making face-masks not only for use in the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic but also for income generation.
- To ensure the stable supply of water during the COVID-19 period, **13** taps were replaced in zone 1 and 4 of Palabek settlement. Also, **08** other bore holes were repaired within the settlement and the host community .
- Additionally, LWF distributed **57** (of 60-liter capacity) hand washing containers and **340** litres of liquid soap for health centres and market places etc.
- Road awareness drives to sensitise PoCs on the proper use of face-masks while in public places to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 are ongoing. In total, **04** road drives were conducted in Palabek settlement in June .
- LWF continued to participate in all the COVID-19 taskforce meetings at the district, sub-county, and settlement levels.

Sub program - KYANGWALI

- LWF continued with door to door awareness campaigns to sensitise communities on COVID-19 preventive practices among other topics . A total of **22,024** people were reached during the campaign.
- To ensure continued water access **04** boreholes were rehabilitated in the host community in the areas of Kisaru, Kibararu, Muhwiju Primary schools, and Nsozi Health Centre.
- **169** other hygiene model homes were supported with water collection and storage containers (20-litre jerrycans and 10-litre buckets) each to motivate them and encourage other households to practice hand washing.
- The LWF team continued to participate in the COVID-19 District and sub-committee level task force coordination meetings held at Kikuube district local government headquarters to among other issues harmonise the COVID-19 response activities.
- Dongo at the Reception Centre, Basecamp zone; Zone I, II and III settlements) that pump water to reservoir pumps to enable a continuous flow of water and access by the communities.
- LWF continued to participate in COVID-19 taskforce coordination meetings. The team participated in **04** meetings at Obongi district headquarters and **04** others in the settlements to discuss the effects and management of COVID-19.
- In response to the increased cases of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic period, **36** victims (including those of physical assault, rape and denial of resources) were supported with psychological first aid and counselling.
- Also, **09** cases of attempted suicide and emotional abuse were identified and through mediations, the case of a domestic dispute was resolved and suicidal attempt clients were enrolled into personal psychotherapy.
- Similarly, 27 para counselors were trained in community-based psychosocial support needed in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused many negative effects on communities and individuals, such as loss of employment.



LWF conducting a focus group discussions in Kyangwali

- To spread the COVID-19 preventive message further, a total of **1,064** children were sensitised about their rights and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Another radio talk show communicating the risks of COVID-19 was facilitated on Kagadi-Kibaale community radio, targeting both nationals and refugees in Kyangwali settlement.

Sub program –KAMWENGE

- LWF continued with road awareness drives to sensitise communities on how to prevent COVID-19. A total of **07** drives were conducted in the areas of Kyempango, Nkoma C, Buguta A & B, and Waijagahe settlements.
- As part of the efforts to continue sensitizing communities on the COVID-19 preventive measures, LWF facilitated **06** talk shows at Nyumbani radio during which police officers educated communities about the pandemic.
- An additional **150** people with specific needs from Base camp II were supported with **01** bar of soap (to use for handwashing) and a kilogram of the immune booster foods each. Both efforts were intended to protect them from COVID-19.
- A total of **1,769** individuals from **453** households were also sensitized about gender-based violence which has been on the rise during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The door-to door sensitization was conducted by **28** GBV task force members in the Zones of Kaihora, mahega Nkoma, Ntenungi, Buguta, Mahani, Kyempango, Kikurura settlements, and basecamp.

Sub program –LUUKA

- LWF supported more other **60** farmer field schools (FFS) in the two new sub-counties of Waibuga, and Ikumbya, with each group given handwashing facilities (Jerrycans) and **02** bars of soap as part of efforts to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.
- **06** road awareness drives were conducted to sensitise communities on the COVID-19 preventive measures and Ministry of Health guidelines.
- To continue promoting the Ministry of Health guidelines on the COVID-19 preventive measures, **04** more radio talk shows discussing the same were conducted on Busoga One FM.

Sub program –KITGUM/PADER

- In preparation to help people recover from the COVID-19 related mental effects, a total of **35** Community Based Structures (CBS) in Palabek Gem, Palabek Kal, Palabek Ogili Sub Counties and Palabek refugee settlements were trained to provide emotional support to POCs.
- A total of **65** members of child protection committees were trained on child protection to strengthen their capacity in curbing the increasing violence towards children during this COVID-19 period.
- LWF offered mental health and psychosocial support to **63** COVID-19 suspects at Lamwo quarantine centre to help them cope during the isolation time.

Gaps / emerging issues

- As the crisis continues and lock down measures are maintained, the socio-economic impacts are intensifying. There is a need to further strengthen protection and livelihoods interventions with a focus on people at risk.
- There have been rising tensions between host and refugees communities as well as within refugee communities in settlements. There was a violent tribal fight in zone 4 Block 8A of Palabek settlement in Lamwo following a land conflict. As a result, one person lost their life and the other had their fingers cut off. The LWF peace team with other partners facilitated the mediation process aimed at managing the conflict and restoring peace.
- There is increasing miscommunication and myths around COVID-19 spreading among the communities, which need to be addressed to ensure that the results achieved thus far are not undermined. LWF continues to sensitise the communities to provide the right information on prevention and control of the virus.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

