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Ministry during the COVID lockdowns

JUNE - JULY 2021

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Sharing with some community members who received masks and soap and encouraging them to engage in productive agriculture rather than loiter in trading centers during the lock down period.

Hello and Greetings from Kamwenge, Uganda. I trust that you are well and that the Lord is keeping you.

Gratitude in the midst of lockdowns

We thank God for keeping us in the midst of another COVID Lockdown. Kamwenge community is largely quiet. The lockdown has meant that many people are confined in their homes. There have been a few Covid 19 deaths largely of those who came from outside the district but the local fatalities are still minimal. It's a tough period nationally



Members of the community excited after receiving soap, masks and sugar to assist during lockdown

though with a number of prominent people falling to the disease and the healthcare systems becoming overwhelmed.

One of our brethren in PIM, Abraham Ahabwe lost his father mid this June alongside a number of prominent figures nationally and locally. Nonetheless, we're grateful to you brethren whose prayers and support has kept us going. Thanks for having us at heart and for all the support that energises us to make the most of this rather tough time

National Outlook

The cumulative cases through the second wave exceed 80,000 and the deaths are coming to 900. We pray for comfort and healing for all the bereaved families. We pray for healing for those in home and hospital care and even for God's provision and presence because the cost of COVID medication especially in High Dependency units is very high.

Community sensitization on COVID

We are sensitizing the community members through visits to some homes to encourage them to focus their time on agriculture and not loiter in trading centres. Through these visits we distribute masks, soap and some sugar. With decreased commercial activity, there are scarcities in a community that is already desperate with fear, trauma and the pain of loss of loved ones.

We hope to take the sensitization move further and use the local radio; Voice of Kamwenge (VOK) to share messages of encouragement to children and youths in the community to motivate them towards making this break from schools productive and living morally upright lives. We propose to also have talk shows there targeting parents and community members comforting them and motivating them towards productive use of this lockdown time. We hope to run these sensitization programs at least twice a week for the month of July which is entirely under lockdown in Uganda with intense movement restrictions that have strictly confined people to their localities.

Working with teachers/ staff

That aside, we're active with teachers at school involved in several agricultural activities. We have grown vegetables like cabbages, tomatoes, green peppers, onions etc. We are also looking after livestock like cows and pigs on a semi intensive scale and all these are keeping us engaged and productive.

We also recently started two saving groups; one among the staff and another among farmers in the community with whom we're in regular touch. These se apart designated amounts every month, some every week so that they can save for their future. The members in the group s are enthusiastic and we hope that these initiatives with enforce a savings culture among our people.

Clare weds

In other news, Clare our deputy head teacher for the secondary section wedded in a low key ceremony as is characteristic of the events in the lock down. It happened in Kabale district even though a number of us were unable to attend. But it was a successful ceremony.



Pigs in the sty at KSVS. This is one of the projects that is keeping us busy and productive in lockdown period



Yams in the foreground of the Pig sty at KSVS



Teachers and other staff share a meal in the field after a harvesting exercise in one of the fields near KSVS



Green pepper, onions and other vegetables growing around the STEM Center at the school



Cattle grazing at KSVI near the fish ponds area



Sugar, soap and masks being prepared for taking to some families for COVID support in the community



Teachers and other staff worshipping during a session in the modern dining at the school in lockdowns



Cabbages growing in the fields at the school



Tomatoes growing in the fields at the school



Together with farmers whom we have mobilised for a cooperative and savings group



Teachers doing ploughing in one of the fields around the school as they make the most of this season



Pupils at the Good Shepherd Kindergarten during a Sponsorship's registration exercise



Teachers clearing bushes around the school