Project Name:
Leveraging on Women and Youth capacities in private sector to fight against corruption in Uganda.

Implementing organization; Action for Youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE)
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**Brief description of activities, target group and what happened during the implementation**

**Introduction**

Action for youth Development Uganda (ACOYDE) in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the objective of promoting the implementation of UNCAC and its review mechanism; The project has been implemented in the four months titled “*Leveraging on the women and Youth capacities in private sector to fight against corruption in Uganda*”

**Background**

With COVID-19 outbreak first reported in the People’s Republic of China in late 2019 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Uganda immediately went into a lockdown on 21st march 2020 which forced the Government of Uganda to respond rapidly by implementing a series of measures and developing national guidelines to prevent and respond to the spread of COVID-19

Due to the above impact the government of Uganda created a national task force to manage the situation at all district and national levels, Also came up with a fundraising team at the national level and also through the office of the prime minister (OPM) 50.6B UGX was allocated to the OPM to provide relief to citizens who depended on casual or daily wage to provide food and sustain their families during the lockdown. On the same note we have also noted the government of Uganda allocated COVID19 response fund to the Task forces and also many well-wishers have donated a lot food and cash to the respectful districts including Rubirizi district however this food we are not sure whether it has reached the targeted beneficiaries and as well if the funds allocated have been used effectively.

It’s also noted that Members of parliament of Uganda allocated 10B UGX to themselves each taking 20M UGX instead of allocating more to the health sector, this shows the unfairness of the current corruption within the system. Therefore this project was aimed at creating awareness on corruption, making leaders of the task forces accountable, tracking and monitoring the progress of the donations and also help to provide a comprehensive
report to the district departments through the use of community journalists and youth people in private sector using social media.

The project activities were to

1. To create awareness about UNCAC and the prevention of corruption among young and women in private sector for a transformed society
2. To Provide knowledge and build the capacity of Small and Medium Enterprises’ to work on the implementation of the UNCAC to achieve sustainable development goals.
3. To make leaders accountable using the citizenry raise voices approach

After carrying out the risk assessment on COVID 19 and implementation of the project the activities changed to the following:

The activities involved women and youth: ACOYDE used the youth led organization working on gender inclusion and social justice and as well the empowerment of Women that were affected during COVID19 lockdown. The project targeted the Youth and Women as part of the mobilization strategies and planning in the delivering the message. It also targeted community journalists and young women in business amidst covid29 challenges.

Activities were done through designing series of “Did you Know” Social Media Infographics. With a combination of images and text; comic and info graphic designed on corruption issues affecting young people. The Creation of “Did you Know” Social Media Infographics, included the combination of images and text; comic or info graphic on corruption issues with compelling messages against corruption ready for sharing through online peer groups to raise awareness about anticorruption with young people and spark debate on corruption.

Through Open space anti-corruption debates online with district stakeholders. Training on Anti-corruption of youth and Women in private sector as anti-corruption ambassadors online. This resulted to well-trained community Journalists and who later followed up and
tracked the donations that were made by the private people and government to the district task forces. The same trained youth became anti-corruption ambassadors. The survey that was carried out provided recommendations that will be very useful to current governments on fighting corruption. The generation of social media platforms sparked the online discussions as earlier proposed. The public debate on accountability of donated items in the district made local leaders accountable through a go budget app accountability platform.

Through training of selected Youth and women on anti-corruption and as well facilitating community Journalists on the anticorruption tracking and monitoring strategies. The Youth and Women were able to work together to fight against corruption in private sector and government on the provision of weekly accountability of the donations from the community, private sector and NGO’s on generated social media platforms through community journalists who sparked off debates online.

ACOYDE in partnership with Network for Active Citizens (NAC) facilitated the development of the community survey amidst COVID19 impact on youth and young women in private sector and development and the modification of the Youth Go Budget mobile to include Rubirizi Ristrict government public expenditure. Accountability from the rightful authorities and as well engaging citizens to respond directly online. Modification of the already existing YGB app to include Rubirizi local government feature for budget tracking and social accountability was done with a lot of challenges: internet issues, and lack of digital technologies by the participate however the survey worked so well for many people. The review meeting and final reporting was done online. This helped to share data, information, guidelines and Collaborative consortium working towards ending corruption in the district and at the National level.

**Impact of covid 19**

Unlike the past pandemics, the COVID19 and ensuing of the preventive measures have triggered an unprecedented economic strain on African nations and across the globe. The
international labour organization (ILO) projections reveal that labor market recovery during the second half of 2020 will be uncertain and incomplete.

While government of Uganda has taken commendable steps to minimize the spread and effects of the virus the labor market has been massive blow. About 23% of the urban poor are at risk of losing 100% of their daily income. The impact on the economy from the movement restricts, lockdown and halting of economic activities had both immediate and lasting implications for many households, even for the deprived populace. UNDP social-economic impact of COVID19 in April 2020).

There is a surge decline in productivity associated with surge of operation costs resulting from complying with standard operation procedures (SoPs). This forced some businesses to terminate workers in the initial stages of the pandemic in the country. In fact by 22nd April 2020, economic activities, over 4200 business had halted operations and laid off their workers due to lockdown which also affected economic activities. The business climate index published by the economic policy research Centre (EPRC) estimated that 4,000,000 Ugandans could lose their jobs and source of livelihoods if the corona virus pandemic persists for the next six months. In June 2020 alone, platform for labor Action registered 200 labor disputes majority are for unfair termination.

National planning authority anticipates that the growth rate of the economy may go as allow as between 3-4 percent for FY 2019/20 and these effects will carry through to the next financial year as well. This is since Uganda average growth rate for the last 5 years was 5.2 percent. With no such negative occurrences the negative effects this pandemic has had on production, taxation, financial flows, employment, money markets, and poverty among others. Before COVID19, the country was struggling with unemployment at a rate of 9.7% with the current d=slow economic activities, business adoption to new innovative ways of doing business with less workforce, the abortion rate in the labor market has worsened.

Through various activities and initiatives this project, ACOYDE aimed at rallying on various objectives and activities of the African society including private sector, civil society, Youth and women in development. This project has helped to mobilize young and youth to address the urgent need to fight against corruption and impunity in the communities as a sustainable path to a prosperous and peaceful Uganda.

The challenges

Corona Virus has had a big impact on people both negatively and positively but with women it has been worse. It has shattered the imagination of women. It has affected the lives and livelihoods at an individual, community national and global levels. It has increased problems on education sector, domestic violence, on savings and investment and women in political wing that have been working very hard to influence issues of governance at local, national and global levels. John Ssenkuba Centre for basic research

It is very evident that COVID19 policies have not been very responsive to the needs of Ugandan women especially the grassroots and business. There is little evidence that suggests gender analysis to be applied in the pandemic interventions which may explain who women have been disproportionately impacted. Refer to the survey results and recommendations

The shutting down of public and private transport, closing of airspace and national borders. This negatively affected impacted the entire population of Uganda but women bore brunt of the COVID19 preventive measures.

The majority of these women live from hand to mouth and the closure of their businesses and workplaces left them destitute with little savings that had depleted in a matter of days. Distributing food in some areas of Kampala and Wakiso and small cities across the country did not add much value, the government had little to offer to vulnerable communities by way of policies to mitigate the situation.

Women rely on savings and credit Cooperative (SACCOs) village saving groups and money leaders for financial bailouts but with COVID19 all this came to the stand still survey report.
The conversation about provision of relief to those with active loans which cannot be serviced due to lack of incomes. Failure to service the loans might lead to loss of property and destitution.

The lack of clear bailout modalities for the informal sector is likely to be critical setback for women’s empowerment and gender equality with attendant effects on the rights of children.

COVID19 has had issues on many expectant mother and postpartum mothers in Uganda negatively impacting on the achievements of the goal 4 and 5 of sustainable development goals. Experts have warned that single minded focus on COVID19 by government is likely to do more harm than good as major killer diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB in a matter of days,

School closures to contain the spread of COVID19 pandemic have impacted almost 92% of the worlds student population. In Sub Saharan Africa, Uganda in particular the negative consequences of the confinement on health and wel being are heightened. COVID19 has not only interrupted the delivery of education, but it has also massively affected the provision of comprehensive civic education and businesses of young people. Effects of COVID19 have removed young people from these institutions, opportunities to engage in serious discussions.

Acknowledging that all individuals are right holders with entitlements to a dignified life, universal health care and universal social protection access, among others. We are all vulnerable to shocks, risks poverty, disability and vulnerability and as such, we all require the support of each other at a key moments across our lifecycles.

What recommendation do you suggest to mitigate future challenges?

Women leaders in parliament of Uganda and district local government need to make their voices heard on the impacts of COVID19 on women, men and children and make concrete proposals to address the plight of vulnerable groups like women and youth.
The government should reign on security forces from misusing heir mandates to violate citizens rights. The government through security organs should hold accountable perpetrators.

The government to ensure task force’s have a representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The government should set up a relief fund for businesses in informal sector especially women to ensure that they withstand the pandemic.

The public outrage by MPs award themselves UGX 10 billion from 304 billion COVID-19 supplementary budget was consequence of the pressure by incumbent MPs to remain visible and relevant to their constituency needs during the COVID19 pandemic. Hon. Solomon Silwanyi while being interviewed on NTV on the saga said that ‘All leaders should get involved in COVID19 fight. We should be visible, what shall we tell our people that we left them to die’

Performance of activities against the planned targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities/targets</th>
<th>Results Achieved</th>
<th>Variances if any and Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designing series of “Did you Know” Social Media Infographics.</td>
<td>Creation of “Did you Know” Social Media Infographics.</td>
<td>There was a combination of images and text; comic or infographic designed on corruption issues affecting young people which helped to create visibility about the people. the combination of images and text, comic and info graphic on corruption issues with compelling messages against corruption ready for sharing through online peer groups to raise awareness about</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social media platforms with a strong hash tag was created for usage during the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Open space anti-corruption debates online with district stakeholders.</td>
<td>Training of community journalists and facilitated them to follow up and track donations done by private sector and government to the district task force. Trained on Anti-corruption to the youth and Women in private sector as anti-corruption ambassadors online.</td>
<td>ACOYDE trained and facilitated community journalists that helped to reach more numbers in the community. More young women and youth are understand the anti-corruption issues through online usage. The mega phone from the community helped to amplify the message and information to the public. The district management helped to develop policy recommendations for implementations and other stakeholders. The social media platforms were created. The accountability on the donated items to the district and national task was done through online social media platforms and as well the survey exposed many of these things.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training of selected Youth and women on anti-corruption and as well facilitating</td>
<td>Youth and Women were selected to work together to fight against corruption in private sector and community journalists came together to mobilize the</td>
<td>Community journalists came together to mobilize the</td>
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<tr>
<td>community Journalists and train them on the anticorruption tracking and monitoring strategies.</td>
<td>government on the provision of weekly accountability of the donations from the community, private sector and NGO’s on generated social media platforms.</td>
<td>public and share information on corruption. The tracking and monitoring of public funds was done by community journalists.</td>
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<td>ACOYDE developing a partnership with NAC to facilitate the modification of the Youth Go budget and development of the survey.</td>
<td>Modification of the already existing YGB app to include Rubirizi local government feature for budget tracking and social accountability.</td>
<td>Developed the a COVID19 relief survey on women and youth for Rubirizi District. The modification of the Youth Go Budget mobile to including Rubirizi district government public expenditure was done. The district is now Accountable to the rightful authorities and its citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carrying out review meetings and final reporting online.</strong></td>
<td>A review meeting was done and as well facebook lives done to add on the voices of different citizens online.</td>
<td>Developed Guidelines and Collaborative consortium working towards ending corruption through the survey that was done.</td>
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What was your most significant outcome (milestone) achieved in this activity?

The most significant outcome was to develop
Training of community Journalists and facilitating them to follow up and track donations by private sector and government to the district task force

The Online open space debates about anti-corruption has been provided for community journalists to spark off the community debates, The online induction training and social media approach training has already been done. They have been provided with Mobile phones and Bicycles to reach more people.

However this has been associated with low network coverage because of the rural setting
Training on Anti-corruption of youth and Women in private sector as anti-corruption ambassadors online.

This will start on the tracking and monitoring the survey tool.

Generation of social media platforms, The project online hashtag was formed *RaisingVoicesCOvid19Ug, @UNODCCST @actionyouthdevt @OwaCarol @joshuakanyi @abenitwesheila @beinFredrick @oreen_asimwe

The Survey that was carried out

Why is this outcome important to our work? How do you know (evidence) or who told you so?

The message from participates online
It is evident that COVID 19 has ravaged a number of economies world over, including Uganda. This was as a result of series of lock down and restrictions in movements in a bid to control the spread. Also, the Government’s response mechanism to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the 2nd half of the FY 2019/20, which earned Uganda the 10th globally and best African country for managing the pandemic.
In our October Budget Trends Magazine, we look at 5 key things that our Government should do to address effects of COVID 19, revamp the economy and improve livelihoods. In our second story, we look at how debt cancellation is key in supporting Africa’s growth especially given the uncertainty of COVID 19, driven by the ever increasing rates of infections. Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG).


https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/oped/comment/not-even-covid-19-will-stop-the-corrupt-1665982

The report covers five key thematic areas: public procurement, infrastructure, state-owned enterprises, customs administration, and service delivery, and cross-cutting themes such as open government initiatives and GovTech, with case study examples from around the world. It will help equip public sector officials and civil society with a modular set of approaches and tools that can be drawn upon and adapted to their specific country context.

Curbing Corruption in the Midst of a Pandemic is More Important Than Ever, New Report Says


Media news about COVID19 pandemic and corruption from both community Journalist and the public.

https://www.facebook.com/379029332140270/posts/3493024297407409/?app=fbl

https://twitter.com/abenitwesheila/status/1337012466501496836?s=08
Research findings through online discussions and other partner’s.

The ministry of health and interventions responses
The Ministry of Health would like to respond and set the record straight on a report titled “COVID-19 Interventions Report Financial Year 2019/20” authored by a team of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit of Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). The monitoring team raised a number of issues which have since become a subject of seemingly planned and malicious attacks against the Ministry of Health in mainstream and social media. While we acknowledge that this is a Government report and we don’t want to be contradicting each other, it is important that the distortions are clarified for record purposes. Therefore, the Ministry of Health would like to respond to as follows:

Budgetary allocation and Expenditure as of June 2020 report:
The report states that MOH received UGX 766.7 Bn which was committed to the COVID-19 prevention and response. Interventions. It further states that by end of June 2020, MOH had received and spent UGX 264 Bn from both Gov’t and donors; UGX 119 Bn from GOU,UGX 55 Bn for Government World Bank’s Uganda contingency Response Component and UGX10 billion from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. Another amount totalling UGX 94.9 Billion was in the pipeline.
Ministry of Health would like to clarify that the UGX 51Bn from Islamic Development Bank loan, MOH would like to state that these funds are still with the bank.

National Medical Stores, Uganda is procuring medical supplies for the Response and funds will be expended as soon as supplies are delivered.

It is therefore not true that MOH received and spent the UGX 51 Bn from Islamic Development Bank.

Out of the UGX 55 bn from the World Bank, MOH had spent UGX 13Bn as of June 2020. This was largely spent on Health workers allowances and Medical Supplies.

The Global Fund initially committed to support the COVID-19 Response by providing UGX 28 billion in-kind. This meant that they would NOT provide money, instead, they would procure commodities and deliver them to Uganda.

By end of Sept 2020, Global Fund delivered all these commodities to Ministry of Health. An additional grant of UGX 69.6 Bn was approved in July 2020 for procurement of PPE and test kits by Global Fund. This funding is still in pipeline. It is important to note that this money is not meant to come to MOH directly.

The support from GAVI was disbursed to UNICEF & WHO of the UGX 10Bn released by GAVI in June 2020, UGX6.5 Bn was disbursed to UNICEF to procure medical supplies while UGX 3.5Bn to WHO for test kits & others. It is clear that by end of June 2020 the UGX 10Bn had not yet been spent.

It is therefore pertinent to note that the total resources disbursed to MOH is UGX 174billion (UGX 119 billion from Government of Uganda and UGX 55 billion from World Bank) while the rest of the funding stated in the report did not come to MOH.
It is also worth noting that the other monies cited are either off-budget expenditure or future commitments. It should not be portrayed that all the entire money was disbursed by the Ministry of Health.

MEGAPHONES:

The Ministry of Health would like to state that the contract to supply the megaphones was worth UGX 2.9 Bn, (i.e. a total of 10,863 megaphones, 43,450 rechargeable and dry cell batteries) were procured. This is contrary to the number of 108,863 megaphones quoted by the monitoring team in their report, which implied that Government would have spent approximately UGX 25.47 Bn on the megaphones and batteries.

The monitoring took place at the time when the distribution of the megaphones was ongoing. The megaphones were delivered to the Ministry on the 21st September 2020. It is unfortunate that the sampled districts had not yet received the megaphones at the time.

So far, all districts except 10 districts have received the megaphones. The 10 districts include: Amudat, Bushenyi, Butaleja, Kaabong, Kamwenge, Kalangala, Karenga, Lwengo, Mitooma and Napak.

The Ministry of Health did not have funds to distribute the megaphones country wide. Therefore, it relied on using every opportunity that was available; either for the districts to pick them or to take advantage of any available means to deliver them to the respective districts.

EMERGENCY AMBULANCES AND BOATS:

The Ministry of Health would like to clarify that 33 type B ambulances have since been received at the Ministry and another 5 ambulances (3 water boat intensive care ambulances and two type C road intensive care ambulances) are going through the Customs clearing at the Kenya Port of Mombasa. It is also important to note that the presumed delay in delivery of the ambulances was due to the customized manufacturing process of the ambulances as per the contract specifications
and due to the global movement restrictions which also affected shipping of equipment and other commodities.

**BEDS AND MATTRESSES:**
The report alleges that Ministry of Health signed 3 contracts with Joint Medical Stores worth UGX 1.3 Bn to supply 1,000 beds and mattresses, 2,000 blankets and 2,000 bed sheets. However, during verification, the team only verified delivery of 331 beds and mattresses. The report further adds that ‘although 300 beds were moved from Namboole to Mulago, the latter acknowledged receipt of 290 instead of 300 beds. Mulago also received 108 mattresses which does not commensurate to the beds provided. Three of the beds were already broken and left at Namboole.’

The Ministry would like to categorically state that a total of 1,000 beds, 1,000 mattresses and 1,000 blankets were delivered to Mandela Auxiliary treatment Center in Namboole. Out of which, 700 beds were fixed in Mandela Auxiliary treatment Centre while 300 were re-located to Mulago National Referral Hospital and are being utilized by COVID-19 patients.

The items are available for verification at both sites. It is unfortunate that the monitoring team did not physically enter the hospital to view the aforementioned items at the hospital. Reason has it that since the team feared to enter COVID-19 treatment centers of Mulago and Namboole, the team ought to have trusted what our medical that provided information, rather than assuming that beds had disappeared, or they were not available.

**SPECIALIZED MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT PROCURED**

From the start of the pandemic, MOH carried out assessment of ICUs in all our hospitals. Currently, 143 ICU beds complete with ventilators, patient monitors and high flow oxygen therapy apparatus have been procured and distributed to the various facilities across the country.

Although the plan and budget captured refurbishing of some ICUs in some hospitals before installation, it is important to note that funds to undertake this activity are yet to be obtained. Therefore, some of the equipment in some hospitals will be installed once refurbishing is done.
You may wish to note that the Ministry is expanding space to ensure that ICU equipment is installed at the earliest possible time.

**Oxygen Plants**
At the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda, the Ministry of Health undertook a needs-assessment, revised specifications and procured 7 oxygen plants, 450 oxygen cylinders, 5 filling stations and other accessories. Four (4) of the seven plants have been installed at Mulago National Referral Hospital while the two (2) have been installed at Entebbe Grade B and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. One (1) has been allocated to Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital.

These are high tech, high volume, high flow and high purity oxygen plants procured to ensure continuous supply of oxygen to patients, which is critical in the management of COVID-19, as we are now experiencing more patient’s progress from moderate to severe conditions.

The report highlights that the contract was signed in May 2020 and deliveries and installations had not commenced by September 2020. While the Ministry acknowledges that the contract was signed in May 2020, it is important to find out why the delivery and installations had not commenced in the agreed timeline.

The general public and the authors of this report are aware that Uganda went into a total lockdown in March 2020 and this greatly affected logistics among others. However, contrary to what the report stated ‘deliveries and installations had not commenced by September 2020’, the plants were delivered in August 2020. The four oxygen plants that were procured for Mulago required additional space, prompting the Ministry to quickly create space for them, hence, the additional required time. As a result, the installation and commissioning processes were finalized early October 2020. Suffice it to note that Mulago National Referral Hospital uses pure piped oxygen (99 -100%).
SLEEPER TENTS
The report states that 20 Sleeper Tents worth UGX 3.8Bn were procured from M/s Lumious Uganda Limited. The report further adds that ‘although the contract stipulated 20 tents, only 13 were signed and installed at Namboole by the time of monitoring in September 2020. The authors alleged that ‘all the tents procured failed and could not be used to accommodate patients as earlier anticipated due to their weak specifications and capacity.’

The Ministry would like to categorically state that the tents could not be erected in Namboole Auxiliary COVID-19 treatment Centre as this would damage the turf at the premises. Therefore, in order to expand capacity for COVID-19 treatment at district level, the tents were reallocated to the Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHs).

All the 20 tents have since been delivered, erected and are under use at the Regional Referral Hospitals across the country. For purposes of clarification, all the tents supplied meet the required specification.

MOBILE HEALTH FACILITIES ESTABLISHED AT BORDER POINTS OF ENTRY

On the above mentioned, the report noted that confirmation of land availability was not done prior to contract signature leading to resource overruns. ‘Equipment and human resource to run these facilities was also not planned’ the report added.

However, this is not true. Following the decision by Cabinet and the COVID-19 National Task Force to ease port health testing because of the long queues of truck drivers, the Ministry of Health contacted Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and the respective local governments at the various points of entry who agreed to avail land.

The truth is that the local governments delayed to identify land for the development. Although, they had earlier indicated willingness to provide land. Additionally, the contractor had fabricated 50% of the buildings by the end of June 2020 but land allocation delayed completion.
ACCOMMODATION HIRED TO QUARANTINE ABROAD RETURNnees AND COVID-19 SUSPECTS

The Government of Uganda instituted mandatory institutional quarantine for all returning travelers on March 17th 2020. In the same vein, Cabinet resolved to meet the costs of all the returning travelers until the airport was closed on March 22nd 2020 at designated Government quarantine sites.

However, when repatriation of Ugandans stranded abroad resumed, it was communicated that all returnees would meet their costs at the designated quarantine sites.

The report questions the engagement of Kirigime guest house in Kabale District and further asks why the same measures were not undertaken in other points of entry.

The Ministry of Health would like to clarify that this is because unlike other borders, 86 Ugandans were stranded abroad were dropped off at the border in Kabale District. It was more economical to quickly set up an institutional quarantine site rather than transport all of them to Kampala.

The process of identifying a hotel (Kirigime guest house) was done by the Kabale District Taskforce to urgently accommodate the stranded nationals who returned through the Uganda-Rwanda border point at Katuna.

The Ministry of Health worked with the Ministry of Tourism to identify hotels that agreed to accommodate the COVID-19 suspected travelers.

MEALS PROVIDED FOR QUARANTINED INDIVIDUALS, COVID-19 SUSPECTS AND PATIENTS:

On the cost of meals for persons who were under quarantine, the BMAU report states that a unit cost of food (plate of food) at one of the hotels in Kampala cost UGX.105,000. This is not true.
The Ministry of Health would like to clarify that the quoted cost of UGX 105,000 was for full-board accommodation at the designated quarantine facility. It included the cost of accommodation and all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and not only ‘a meal’ as quoted in the report.

The Ministry of Health released funds to Regional Referral Hospitals and Local governments for meals for patients under isolation and persons who underwent quarantine. It therefore did not participate in selecting the suppliers.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROCURED AND DISTRIBUTED:

The report states that one of the suppliers for PPEs delivered 3,200 surgical masks expensively at UGX 4,946 each. The Ministry of Health would like to clarify to the public that there are different types of masks i.e surgical masks, N95 on medical masks which are all priced differently.

It is therefore disturbing that the report did not clarify the type of masks that were referred to. For avoidance of doubt, the average market price for N95 is UGX 5000. The Ministry of Health purchaseedit at UGX 4,946 lower than the market price. This price is much cheaper than what the global market offers at UGX 10,000 for the same mask. All masks supplied met the standards according to the Regulatory Authorities.

If the supplied masks were substandard as the authors state, one wonders how the authors established the quality of the masks when they are not experts in this area, and why the medical personnel who were using these masks in the ICUs were effectively protected from COVID-19. This makes one believe that this was mere hearsay and an inaccurate statement.

Non-medical masks
To-date, a total of nearly 29 Million masks have been delivered to 91 districts in the country. This includes: community and student masks. The variation of the price from UGX 1,000 to UGX 2,400 was as result of the suppliers complaining that the initial price of UGX 1,000 was not enough to cover their costs. This matter was subsequently discussed in Cabinet and Cabinet approved the variation to UGX 2,400.
The question of quality does not arise, since UNBS was involved and certified the specifications for the Masks. Even during procurement, any samples that were found not to be meeting the required standards, were always rejected.

On the issue of whether the masks were necessary, the Ministry of Health would like to state that this was necessary, since the use of Masks has been scientifically proven to have a preventive effect in the transmission of COVID-19.

Lastly, the delay to complete the procurement and distribution of the masks was due to insufficient funds to undertake these activities.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Health calls upon MoFPED and its other agencies for maximum support in the fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health believes in transparency and accountability for the all the funds disbursed to it for the various programs and activities from both government and development partners. In the same vein, accountability will be made available to the responsible bodies as constitutionally mandated. “COVID-19 DEBT ANALYSIS & POLICY OPTIONS” by Uganda Debt Network

Quotations and poems from communist journalists
“Covid 19 has highlighted the struggle for women to retain an equal footing in the economy and also borne the need for women to start Small micro business to support them in time for crisis”. Hedwig Community Journalist

“Covid 19 on women in business: The pandemic has recommitted and reinforced the strength and sacrifices of women to provide for their families through small startups”, Sheila aine mbabzi community Journalist.

“The pandemic has again re-communicated and raised a loud voice of women to authorities about the injustice and poor sanitation at places of work”. Beinomugisha Fredrick community Journalist
“There is a shift in focus of doing business to now technological innovation that excludes the majority of women-led businesses”. *Joshua community journalist*

[72x691]https://twitter.com/BlackGirlsareB2/status/1312029834982416384?s=08  Hedwig community Journalist on Twitter

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**IT IS NOT CORONA VIRUS**

Listen to the silence  
Walking on the sunken streets  
Stealthily as rocks undersea  
Empty sounds speaking alone  
Like a forgotten Melody  
And faraway beyond the reach  
Village children playing the twitch  
Between tall grass singing bush ballads  
And do they know an online class?

Listen to the rock and roll  
Melodies of the lockdown heat  
Hungry intestines playing the grit  
Youthful and hand to mouth  
The pocket is empty  
And break tea is salty  
The stomach growls  
And the legs get loose

Listen to ghetto tunes  
Wrenched and wrinkled  
Reading the 8:00pm news  
Of the companies generously giving  
And the employees attentively listening  
Then the movie begins  
Comedians in yellow ties and white lies  
Parliamentarians passing 10b ruins

©*Fredrick Beinomugisha*  
Community journalist-Rubirizi

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**CORONA VIRUS**

I am Corona Virus, simple but factual  
And destructive like an intellectual  
I travel faster as a dog will lick a dish  
And shall impoverish big economies  
While Africa still undermines

I am Corona Virus please stop the circus,  
Focus and caucus before lives perish  
I hear you tag me to the elderly, and  
Prevent me with public health, merely  
I am watching your drama - really!!  
"constant sex kills Corona Virus purely."?  
Watch me, and I will expose Super Powers gruesomely.

To remind you; I am Corona Virus not Ebola,  
Marburg and other you call real pandemic horror  
You are still comparing statistics and  
Underrating my arithmetical power  
But I can kill big economies  
I pity you Africa colonies

I am Corona Virus not HIV/AIDS  
Please stay away from yourselves  
Pluck away your eyes, nose and mouth  
And the hands that touch north and south  
Stay on social media  
While you await me to reach your area

©*Fredrick Beinomugisha-community Journalist*
COVID19 AND THE GIRL CHILD: *The things gender advocates will not tell you.*

Empower the girl child against the world because we can never protect her from the world. This week a blossomed young girl approached me to access a public service - short skirts, sleeveless brouse and feminists can agree that she was very smart.

And while I was still sympathizing with her about the coldness (it was carelessly drizzling), my eyes accidentally landed on her bare thighs - you see! My fellow advocates will protect this as a gender right but mind you, EMPOWER THE GIRL CHILD AGAINST THE WORLD because we can't protect her from the world.

Fortunately, as I was still minding my boy's business whether to follow-stalk her or make the service she soughted about my mercy, my cowoker blatantly approached her and advised her about a better public wear so my brains were tapped back.

So, now, I want to ask, what has COVID 19 newly introduced that we can qualitatively say is an effect on the girl child? Has it just created men into the world that had been occupied by only females? Has it increased the gender appetite for the opposite sex? Has it given spouses much more energy to utilise it with family violence?

COVID 19 HAS JUST UNVEILED THE KIND OF THE WORLD THAT HAD BEEN LIVED IN LIMBO and this all unfairness against the girl child has been around-community Journalist

**Conclusions**

The Government of Uganda containment measures to curtail transmission of COVID 19 which include the following measures: like Closure of schools and other high concentration points, Freeze of public and private transport, Outlawing all mass gathering events, including for worship; overnight curfew, Closure of international airport and ground crossing points for passengers, A nationwide lockdown. Have made the situation once by increasing the Gender based violence cases, loss of business opportunities and making the opinion leaders cheat the citizens more than before. The woman and young women are the most affected during the COVID19 pandemic.

The Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) has continued to spread across the world leaving death and economic devastation in its wake. Although the number of confirmed cases in Uganda remain very low in comparison to other countries, the containment adopted to curb the spread of the virus have affected business operations. This report, based on a survey of firms using the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)’s business climate index (BCI) methodology, examines the effect of the risk presented by COVID-19 pandemic on Uganda’s businesses.
As COVID19 continues to strain health services and compromise our economies and essential services. Stakeholders need to come together have a workable solution for women on frontline and women in business especially those in informal sector by making their leaders accountable. Otherwise issues related to Gender Based Violence will continue to emerge which will affect development.

Infographs
THEME:
“THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN”

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COVID 19 AND YOUNG GIRLS ACCESSING HEALTHCARE