



THE SITUATION

As of 10/30/2020:

Uganda reports 11,767 total cases of COVID-19—an increase of 10,072 since our previous reporting in July—and 106 related deaths. While lockdowns have largely been lifted, management at Imvepi Refugee Settlement have been given strict guidelines to help combat the spread of the virus.

Nigeria reports 62,224 total cases of COVID-19—an increase of 25,561 since our previous reporting in July—and 1,135 related deaths. Social distancing guidelines remain in place, allowing for programs to continue opening.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related responses continue to present refugee and internally displaced persons populations in both countries with ongoing hardships, chiefly hunger. Shortages of basic hygiene and access to basic healthcare remain significant problems, and the resulting unrest in Nigeria especially has given rise to sometimes violent protest.

ACTIONS

We are pleased to announce that normal operations at The Lukome Center have resumed, and nearly all of our students have returned to the campus. Two students remain missing; we pray that they are found safe and unharmed.

Meanwhile, programs in Nigeria have continued to open up. The teams have been able to carry out activities at the Malkohi displacement camps, with some adjustments made that adhere to the social distancing guidelines. Due to current circumstances, the team has been focusing on hygiene training to help promote safety in the camps. Field staff have also been able to run THRIVE activities in local schools; at special request of some local school councils, we have also distributed over 100 reusable pads. Sadly, issues related to pandemic relief have caused increasing friction and violence between police and local populations, leading state officials to announce an enforced nation-wide curfew on October 25. Programming will remain on hold until the curfew is lifted.

NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only disrupted the lives of those already marginalized – it has impacted our ability to provide them the vital rehabilitation programming they need. To help us keep these programs running, visit childvoice.org/makeadonation.



FROM THE FIELD

As the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, ChildVoice caseworkers at Imvepi Refugee Settlement are doing their utmost to maintain regular activities within the strict guidelines given to relief and development partners by resettlement management. In large part, we have been able to continue offering skills training and counseling with limited numbers of participants; however, activities such as dance, drama, and sports have been all been put on hold.

Skills currently being taught include hair dressing, tailoring, baking, and catering. But due in large part to food security issues that seem to have no end in sight, making agricultural skills training available to all of the adolescent girls in our programs is a top priority for ChildVoice's Imvepi field staff.

Said one Imvepi case worker: “The young women are responsible for much in their homes. Life is becoming increasingly hard in the settlement, they need a more reliable source of food and income to survive.”

One development that has the potential to create yet more hunger issues is flooding, which has made it impossible to plant crops currently. We pray that the excessive rain will abate soon.

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