



# Buyamba News

Helping Uganda...one child at a time

## UGANDA LOCKS DOWN AGAIN

If the first lockdown in Uganda wasn't hard enough, the second lockdown, even though it's only set to last 42 days, has been brutal. The new directives sent all the children across Uganda home from school mid-term. The government imposed strict lockdown procedures in transportation, work, and all meetings, including church, weddings, and funerals. Food costs have gone up for the wholesalers quickly grabbed all the product they could as soon as the word was out. Worst of all, this second wave of COVID is leaving more children as orphans. The situation at hand is worse than last time.

One of our sources on the ground summarized:

***"There have been many deaths and sicknesses due to COVID-19. We are in another lockdown; this time, it is very tough. Many people are not working, and movements are limited. There is no public transport and no private cars.***

***This time it is infecting children and youths as it was not the case before. Some children came back from school when they were sick and infected their families. Many of the older family members are losing the battle to survive it.***

***The hospitals are full and running out of oxygen, and this is causing many deaths. Some people psychologically cannot handle it, and there are reports of more mental cases."***

It is difficult for the people in Uganda to lockdown in their villages or slum areas which is the home that is community to them. The families are communal and help each other survive ongoing... to stay in one's home is very unnatural to them, and many homes do not have running water or electricity. The lockdown, in most cases, can prove harder than the existence of the virus. Most choose to stay home if infected and ride it out with home remedies that have worked with the many other diseases they regularly face, like Malaria.

Daily we receive different messages from Uganda to pray... Although ALL our students are ok physically, death and loss of jobs and businesses are changes that are happening that are devastating families. In some cases, children are losing the only parent or guardian they have. Here are some of the most recent updates from our extended Buyamba family.



Empty streets in Kampala, Uganda

***Please pray for Susan in University. She has lost her father because of COVID. Please pray for her family.***

***"Although it's been so hard, God is comforting us, and He is with us. Please keep praying."***

***- Worship Byakika***

***Please pray. There are some past students from God Cares School who have graduated, and some even have families who have just lost their jobs. They are asking for food.***

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Buyamba has set up a communication station at God Cares Primary School. The students are encouraged to pick up their schoolwork as they come with their families to pick up food packages. The plan to meet the food crisis with our families is to have the social workers work through the student family phone list and call in those families to determine those in need. We will feed hundreds of families during this lockdown, for the need is so great.



The Buyamba Food Outreach took to the road with food in our tourist van and farm truck (which are still on the roads). We were able to supply 150 families in Jinja. Please pray for protection because many people are desperate in their quest for food, and we need protection for the team going out to deliver the food.

We are blessed to have food set aside already at the school for the current school term and more food harvested at the Buyamba Farm to share with our student families. This round, the families even received a carton of eggs each. Food costs are incredibly high. Since this is the second go-round, farmers and wholesalers have realized they can charge higher prices and get their asking prices. It is not helping that the US dollar has dropped in conversion rates to Ugandan shillings.

The government is not distributing food on mass; instead, they will give \$15 worth of shillings in mobile money to help each family meet the criteria with food for a month. But this is nowhere near what families will need to survive.

Worships said that it is so difficult that we cannot feed everyone for there is so much need around them, but they chose to focus on the school families, and God Cares graduates they can help; she is asking that we continue to pray.

