



YOUR IMPACT REPORT

Summer Edition 2020: COVID-19

A WORD FROM CHRIS

When I wrote to you to share our impact in January, I could not have imagined where we would be six-months later. The Coronavirus pandemic has changed the world, and our work, as we know it. We have had to cancel a number of fundraising events and adapt our work, but thanks to you we will not cancel our mission.

In Uganda, Coronavirus cases remain fairly low yet are growing steadily. At the start of July, Uganda still has not recorded a Coronavirus related death, but has over 800 cases. In just the past few weeks, some lockdown restrictions have been lifted - yet the families we work with continue to be the most affected economically by the lasting impacts of lockdown measures.

Experts are projecting that at worst, millions of Ugandans will be pushed into poverty due to closure of businesses and restrictions of movement during this time. We know that poverty is a number one driver for families to place their children in orphanages. We also know that orphanages separate families, fracture communities, and ultimately harm children.

This has driven our team forward during this time. They are, day in and day out, putting children and families first. Our social workers are helping our community volunteers monitor over 900 children. This is crucial, as according to UNICEF 6,000 children could die every day across the world from preventable causes in the next six months as Coronavirus weakens national health systems and disrupts vital services.

For this impact report, we are taking time to give you a deep insight into how our work has adapted and thrived during this time.

Your help - and our work - is ensuring that no child has to grow up in an orphanage, even in the face of a global pandemic. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

With Love,



Christopher

Christopher Muwanguzi
CEO



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19



**Keeping children safe
and in loving families
remains our number
one priority**

In addition to our ongoing child protection work, we are using our unique position to mitigate the health and economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The consequences of the countrywide lockdown has been felt hardest by the most vulnerable. Many people will no longer have any means of earning a living with no welfare state ready to step in.

We are taking the following steps to ensure that no family has to make the heartbreaking choice of placing their child in an orphanage. At the same time, we are ensuring children living in orphanages are not forgotten.



**We are prioritising the safety of
children, families and our
beneficiaries**

Our team is monitoring over 900 children and families, as well as coordinating and responding to ongoing child protection issues with and through our network of community volunteers and local government partners.





We are supporting institutions and orphanages

We are in regular contact with the orphanages we work with, via phone, to make sure no child is left behind during the pandemic. We have also maintained contact with the government to advocate for children in institutional care, to ensure they are prioritised and not forgotten during and after this pandemic.



We are keeping our volunteers and staff safe



Our staff in the UK are continuing to work from home, following government guidelines. In Uganda, our staff are mostly working remotely prioritising visits to essential cases as they maintain regular telephone contact with the community volunteers who remain the first point of call for vulnerable children and families in the communities we work in.



We are working together with the Government of Uganda

We have been approached by the National Association of Social Workers in Uganda to be one of their key response partners in their coordinated approach with the Ministry of Health that will raise awareness about the virus and prioritise the social welfare. We will continue to develop our partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development during this time, as we support the National Child Protection Working Group to meet remotely.





We are taking extraordinary measures to support our community

Amongst the measure we have taken to adapt our work to reach many more, we have disseminated life saving public health information, supported families with money transfers to help them pay rent during this period when they are unable to work, delivered essential packages to make sure no family goes without food or medicine, and bought protective gear for our staff and community volunteers as well as provided safe transportation when it has been absolutely necessary to visit a community or family.



We have supported families by delivering food and health supplies to help them stay together during this pandemic. We have also been educating families on how to keep safe and encouraging children to stay at home and wash their hands to prevent catching the virus.

-Ali, Community Volunteer



OUR IMPACT DURING THIS PANDEMIC

For the last few months, we have worked tirelessly to adapt our work to ensure we continue to keep children and families safe. With your support, we have been able to support families in our communities since March in these ways:

858 children from 262 families were given support for essentials during this time such as food, medical care, and rent

♥ 3,779

additional children were helped by our established community networks, ensuring their safety in the face of a pandemic

564 children from 165 families received support in the form of counselling and financial management training

♥ 425

of our community volunteers supported were given health information and personal protective equipment to reach out to children and families in their communities

SUPPORTING FAMILIES DURING THE LOCKDOWN

We found Sarah helping her youngest daughter, Maria, complete equations in her math book. These days school sessions are now held at home around the table. The two are sitting close to each other, speaking in hushed tones as they solve today's math problems. This has been Sarah and Maria's morning routine since the countrywide lockdown that started in early March. "Being a teacher is hard," Sarah smiled at us.

Due to the pandemic, schools have been closed for the safety of the children. Many schools, like Maria's, have challenges setting up online learning and don't have the resources to ensure the students can access materials. "I have been helping Maria study every morning," Sarah tells us. After a while, this class of two is done. "That's her best part, the end of class," Sarah laughs as Maria darts off to play before mum can suggest more reading.

Homeschooling isn't the only challenge this family has faced, Sarah's business has been affected by the pandemic. In 2019, Child's i supported Sarah with a grant to kick-start her business of selling second-hand clothes. "Before the pandemic, my business had picked up. I could pay rent, school fees and manage to feed my family. With this lockdown, it's hard to imagine where to begin because I have dug into my capital to feed my family," Sarah tells us just how hard the pandemic has been on her family.

As we prepared to leave, Maria ran in, her mum got up to immediately help her wash her hands. "This is now the new normal, I have to keep an eye on her and make sure she washes her hands with soap every time she comes back from playing."

Because of you, Sarah received packages of food and health supplies to help feed her family during this period. Your support, and our work, is ensuring that many more families just like Sarah's are supported to stay together and healthy during this pandemic and lockdown.



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
ME FEED MY FAMILY
DURING THE LOCKDOWN.**

- Sarah

A CHAT WITH RUTH



We sat down with Ruth, one of our senior social workers, to hear first hand how the practice of social work has had to adapt and respond to the global pandemic.



When did the reality of COVID-19 hit?

When the Government announced the lockdown and we had to work from home, it hit that we had to quickly change the way we normally work. It would no longer be possible to physically visit families and check on them. We had to quickly adapt in a short timeframe because families needed our support.

How have you been supporting families?

We have had to rely on the community structures we have been putting in place, showing their strengths we always knew they had.

Our trained community volunteers have become our frontline staff, they have been delivering food and supplies to the most affected families in their own communities. We are making sure that the community volunteers understand the health risks and the Government directives so that they can in turn educate and raise awareness within their communities about COVID-19. They are also encouraging everyone to wash their hands and stay at home.

What has been the biggest challenge?

The stress and strain of the pandemic and lockdown measures put in place to



**SUPPORTING FAMILIES DURING
THIS PANDEMIC HAS BEEN
FULFILLING.**

-Ruth

control the spread of the virus led to many families we support to fall back into poverty. Seeing families that were beginning to get on their feet lose all progress because of the pandemic has been heartbreaking, their businesses have come to a complete halt. Parents who found financial independence have now struggled to feed their families. With the help of our community volunteers, we have been able to provide a lifeline of food and health supplies as well as pay rent for these families.

What has been your biggest achievement?

Seeing pictures of how happy families were to receive food and

health supplies - it reminded me of how much I love my work as a social worker, uplifting families and changing lives.

What key lessons have you learnt from the pandemic?

Child protection issues are a continuous challenge, especially in the face of this pandemic. I have learnt that it is important to ensure that community structures are set up and functioning on their own. When we could no longer visit families as social workers, the community volunteers who live within the communities were able to step in and visit families to make sure that they have everything they need to survive the pandemic.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Due to the initial public and private transport ban by the Government to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, it was challenging for our community volunteers to visit families who lived far away from them.

To address this problem, in June we partnered with The Rocket Foundation to equip an initial 15 of our trained community volunteers with bicycles, phones, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) materials to help them monitor and support more children and families in their communities during this pandemic and lockdown. The added mobility to the community volunteers is helping them cover more ground and save time, allowing them to check on more families who need support.

Our community volunteers have been delivering food and medicine to the most vulnerable families during the lockdown. Bwire is one of the community volunteers that have been provided with a bicycle. Bwire told us that previously he was only able to visit two families in a day, but now with the bicycle he can visit more families.

**WATCH THE
VIDEO HERE**



**THE BICYCLE HAS HELPED ME
REACH OUT TO MORE
FAMILIES THAT LIVE FARTHER
FROM ME IN THE COMMUNITY.
I CAN NOW VISIT FOUR TO
FIVE FAMILIES A DAY.**



Bwire



One of the families that Bwire has supported is Angela's family, who received food and health supplies during the Coronavirus pandemic. Last year, Angela's husband broke his back and could no longer provide for their family of six, making Angela the family's sole breadwinner. Child's i supported Angela with income to boost her small-scale onion business in the local market. With the proceeds from the business, Angela was able to pay school fees for her children and pay her rent bills. "I had begun to get on my feet before the lockdown, unfortunately, I had to close down my business and it was hard to feed my family," Angela told us.

The pandemic has had far-reaching economic effects across Uganda and the world, but the hardest has been felt by the already vulnerable families. Because Bwire lives near Angela, he was able to deliver a three-month supply of food to help Angela feed her family and stay healthy. "I am glad that we have not slept hungry during this time," Angela said. With coordination from our social work team, our community volunteers have been key to supporting families and children in their communities get through this lockdown and pandemic.



MILESTONE

During the lockdown 427 families received life-saving support to help them keep safe and stay healthy.

ORPHANAGES ONLINE LEARNING AND EXCHANGE SESSION

We are continuing to sensitise and educate orphanages on the importance of pivoting to family-based care, and we are thrilled to see the tide turning in orphanages willing to repurpose their services. In June we held an online learning and exchange session with several of our partner orphanages. The session allowed orphanages that have had success resettling children back to their families share their experiences and challenges with fellow orphanages that are looking at starting the process of repurposing their services and placing the children in their care in families.

Pastor Ruth is the Director of Smile Africa Ministries in Tororo District, one of the orphanages we have worked with that has resettled all the children in its care back to families.

She shared her journey with the participants. "I had a lot of fear at the beginning since I was attached to the children in our care. But we had a lot of guidance and support from Child's i throughout the journey," Pastor Ruth share, "no orphanage can offer a family, the children do not have a sense of belonging and identity with their community."

Bread of Heaven in Mpigi District is one of the orphanages that we are working closely with to reunite the children back into their communities.

Together with our orphanage partners we are making sure that children are given the chance to grow up in families, not orphanages. We continue to change hearts and minds as more orphanages express their willingness to place children in their care back to their families.



**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
RESETTLING ALL THE CHILDREN IN
OUR CARE BACK TO THEIR
FAMILIES.**

- Bread of Heaven Orphanage



EMPOWERING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



In February, over 60 parents travelled miles from their homes to receive assistive devices to help their children gain independence. Lack of assistive devices for children with disabilities has been one of the biggest challenges faced by parents, as the devices are very expensive. But at the start of the year, that story changed.

We were able to distribute wheelchairs, tricycles, walkers, crutches, and other assistive devices to help their children move in the world safely and independently.

“Children with disabilities in the district will now be able to go to school, they will be empowered and will become self-supportive. It is a huge milestone,” Simon Peter, the District Chairperson Council for Disability, shared.

[READ FULL STORY](#)



Elizabeth and Calvin



THE WHEELCHAIR IS GOING TO CHANGE HIS LIFE. HE WILL LEARN HOW TO SIT AND STAND.

QUIZMASTER MR. O DOES IT AGAIN!

Our longstanding ambassador Richard Osman has participated in yet another challenge to raise much needed funds for our work. This time, we tested his knowledge in a TV show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

After another amazing performance, Richard has raised a whopping £32,000 for our work in Uganda to make sure every child grows up in a safe and loving family.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to Richard Osman for his continuous support from all of us here at Child's i Foundation.



**£32,000 TO SUPPORT
VULNERABLE CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES**



THANK YOU, MR. O!



CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY APPEAL

Now, more than ever, we believe that every child needs a loving family. We urgently need your help to support children families in Uganda.

It is only with your help that we can ensure that the vulnerable families can buy food to feed their children and keep a roof over their heads during these trying times.

**WE URGENTLY NEED FUNDS TO SEND
TO OUR FAMILIES SO THEY CAN BUY
FOOD, CHARCOAL, AND KEEP A
ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS.**

 **DONATE NOW**

[Watch our appeal video here](#)

Please note:

Your donations will go directly to support the children and families we work with through the COVID-19 emergency. If we happen to raise more funds than we need, your support will go towards the work we continue to do - making sure children grow up in loving families, not orphanages.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



RAISE MONEY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Are you a member of your local community or faith group? Would you like to introduce our work to your inner circle? Are you keen to organise a group of friends to raise money for a good cause? Get in touch and we will help you organise your special get together.



DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY

Make your birthday extra special this year by donating it to Child's i Foundation to support children and families in Uganda. You can set up your fundraiser on [Facebook](#), [JustGiving](#) or a platform of your choice.



DONATE WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE

Today, it is easier than ever to raise money while shopping online. Choose of the platforms listed below, set up an account and you'll raise a free donation for us every time you shop, it's that easy!

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[Give As You Live](#)
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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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