



## How Young people are Building Resilience Over Covid-19



# NEWSLETTER

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## Message from E.D.



I have come to believe that a secret of change is in one's ability to adapt, influence but stay focused. As we are all aware that CSO operation during the new normal has never been normal, with restricted CSO operating space, this made us as CIDD-UG to re- think our strategic interventions so as to adequately serve our contingency.

During the third quarter, CIDD-UG strengthened her relationship with partners and worked together towards making life better for the communities. Our efforts were also doubled towards accelerating approaches to end child marriages and teenage pregnancies in Uganda as a strategy to secure the future of the young people and so we take this opportunity to share with you our work for third quarter kindly read it.

On behalf of CIDD-UG, I wish to thank you for staying safe amidst the COVID19 Pandemic. But also wish you and your families' better health and safety in these difficult times.



## (1). The Complementary role of CSOs on the District COVID-19 Task Force

### CIDD-UG engages the District COVID-19 task force to consider enhancing community copying mechanism in the wake of the second wave.

As a result of the second wave of Corona virus in Uganda, the president who chairs the National COVID-19 Task Force clamped down a series of restrictions designed to mitigate the surge in community infections. At the Local Government level, the District Task Force (DTF) headed by the Resident District Commissioner was to spearhead enforcement of the restrictions. These include total lock down, closure of schools, courts of law and places of worship, monthly and weekly markets, suspension of public Transport, meetings, closure of non-critical businesses and Shops save for retail shops and those dealing in food items as well as dusk to dawn curfew among others. These restrictions were meant to be in Place for 42 days as health experts analyze community response to the

established safety precautions and progress in checking the surging community infections. However, there was increased violation and abuse of human rights at the initial stages of implementing the Presidential pronouncements and Ministry of Health guidelines but also corruption among the leaders on the resources meant to support mitigation measures. During the quarter under review, CIDD-UG being a representative of CSOs on the Pallisa District Task force continued to engage the committee to consider the following; First, community engagement to enlist local and context specific solutions to prevention and control of COVID-19 responses. Secondly, to prioritize blended approach of community education and enforcement then thirdly re-

minding the DTF to prioritize accounting diligently for all the COVID-19 support received. CIDD-UG equally engaged Members of Parliament (MPS) from Pallisa to negotiate with the National task force to expedite the process of functionalizing and strengthening the village and Parish Task Forces so that they do not only

engage in COVID-19 mitigation but also be transformed into monitors of development initiatives at the grassroots as well as structures for initiating policy reviews for rapid economic recovery.



CIDD-UG during engagement with Pallisa COVID-19 DTF

As a result of CIDD-UG engagement, a number of CSO proposals were picked up and implemented by the Pallisa DTF something that increased CSO relevance in the DTF

## (2). ENHANCING EFFECTIVE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND REPRESENTATION WITHIN COVID

### 19 - CIDD-UG

#### CIDD-UG engages Kibuku local councilors for effective representation

Councilors operate in a dynamic and often turbulent environment. They are truly faced with the need to constantly reassess what they are able to do to bring about change and to work around the constraints and challenges they face in the course of exercising their mandate. CIDD-UG is quite aware that the activities councilors carry out relate to their roles in regard to four dimensions: first is place, secondly policy, thirdly people and Processes

Therefore, the dynamic nature of local government, the new and emerging problems of localities as well as the local manifestations of cultural, political, economic and socio-demographic issues require that councilors are continuously updated on what they do and how they do it if the citizens are to benefit from their representation. It's from such background that CIDD-UG during the quarter under review organized one day public service and effective representation reflection meeting with the new District Councils of Pallisa, Kibuku and Budaka whose objective was to increase dispensation of councilors' roles and responsibilities for effective and efficient citizen representation.



All together 90, councilors benefited from this engagement. With more support, CIDD-UG is planning to engage more than 10 councils in eastern Uganda as a strategy to increase the effectiveness of representation activity by the newly elected councilors.

The fight against COVID-19 is over. The pandemic hasn't ended. Until there's an effective vaccine and treatment, everyone remains at risk of #COVID19.

#StaySafe





## CIDD-UG in partnership with UWEZO carried out national assessment on learning competencies of children in numeracy and literacy.



*CIDD-UG Staff engages men in Kibuku to prioritize their children's safety and learning in the wake of COVID-19. Community approaches were a priority*

During the period under review CIDD- UG in partnership with UWEZO-UG planned and conducted national assessment with the objective of establishing the learning competencies of children between the age of 6-14 in numeracy and literacy, this exercise helped parents to understand their children's learning competencies in numeracy and literacy. The report from the assessment when shared is not only expected to help CIDD-UG to spawn critical debate needed to influence education policy and practice to ensure improved education outcomes, but will equally encourage parents to take full responsibility in their children's learning.

*CIDD-UG volunteer engages a child during assessment - Pallisa*

### (3) CIDD-UG PROVIDES Platform for Young Girls and Women to raise their voices on priority needs during COVID-19 Lockdown. August 2021

"We live in a country where young ladies who have recently attained the age of puberty cannot afford sanitary pads, but our men and women in public offices have

IPADS which they do not even know how to use"  
PLO Lumumba



in rural areas leaving women and girls struggling with both the pandemic and the challenges of access to this essential service. Ironically, most leaders focus more on how to contain the pandemic than prioritizing the integrated approach to managing the crisis.

and women in the crisis period. Teenagers also castigated high prices of the sanitary towels saying that their parents can no longer afford given the dwindling incomes and multiple responsibilities. As a result, our initiative was able to influence the District Task Force to take a decision to train VHTs on integration of proper hygiene management education to teenagers, at both households and health centers to salvage the situation.

For women and young girls around the globe, access to safe and dignified menstruation is a fundamental need. However, during pandemics like the current COVID-19, access to this ideal situation is limited, and it is even worse

In light of the above, CIDD-UG under her gender section was able to organize women and young girls and provided them with a platform on which to raise the voice over this critical need amidst the pandemic.,

During the engagement, girls were able to demand from government to prioritize among other challenges support and education on proper Menstrual hygiene management for especially teenagers something they said had proved a menace to their dignity as girls

Due to the rise in the number of young girls who have recently attained the age of puberty requiring sufficient information on their sexuality to enable them take the right health decision to be able to stay safe while waiting to resume studies when schools reopen, CIDD-UG under gender department has deliberately considered to implement integrated health service delivery Advocacy and ASRH education to cushion the health system from being overrun.





## (4) Built young people resilience to COVID-19 shocks.



Like the rest of the world, Uganda is dealing with a new enemy. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic comes as the country is grappling to ending other health threatening challenges like HIV/AIDS malaria among others. CIDD-UG is quite aware that more than 1.5 billion children and youth around the world are affected by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting over 91 percent of the world's student population. Learners already

vulnerable and affected by crises containment measures.

It is disrupting the delivery of routine health services and information to young people, sharply limiting their access to sexual and health services resulting into unwanted pregnancies poor access to health information and other related services which is expected to increase the number of girls expected to drop out of school.

CIDD-UG on her part during the quarter under review stepped up new methods of ensuring adolescent social safety nets through actions such as remote coaching or mentoring, to cover life skills, sexuality education and theoretical content peer to peer dialogues across three districts of Pallisa, Budaka and Kibuku, to keep young people engaged until they return to school, but also while representing CSOs on the District COVID-19 Task force, the organization also deliberately engaged the three District Local Governments to ensure that COVID-19 response plans are sensitive to adolescent and youth specific health-care need, including sexual and reproductive health, mental and psychosocial support. The above intervention is expected to improve on adolescent resilience and the delivery of services to young people in a medium and long term



### Useful Information



EJAUTENE FRED  
Executive Director  
**0781 389 258**

EMAIL:  
[info@ciddug.org](mailto:info@ciddug.org)

**0752 389 258**

Website:  
[www.ciddug.org](http://www.ciddug.org)

Whatsapp:  
**+256 781 389 258**

Other Email: [ciddug.org@gmail.com](mailto:ciddug.org@gmail.com)



*Raising numbers of street children due to COVID-19 shocks-pallisa*

"Providing critical protection and support to children in their diversity is to save the future generation. Let's ensure their protection," said ED CIDD Mr. Ejautene Fred during an engagement with police and probation in Pallisa District