

AGES CONSIDERED (ACO)'S COVID-19 RESPONSE.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) out-break was first declared by the People's Republic of China on 31st January, 2020 (<https://bit.ly/31kH9Hk>). What was initially seen as a largely China centric problem is now a global crisis beyond the obvious public health crisis, the coronavirus is having a major impact on the global economy since this outbreak has now spread to all continents. On 22nd March 2020, the first victim was declared in Uganda and is already feeling its negative impact on the economy which is increasing every day. The restrictions we are seeing on the movement of people, goods and services, and containment measures such as factory closures, is creating a lot of uncertainty on the global economy, Uganda inclusive.

There are many challenges which have emerged from the Country lockdown since mid-March. These among others include; closure of businesses, schools, transport system, and imposed curfew hours. This has directly affected the marginalized groups of people most especially women and children. Limiting people to move has denied people a chance to look for food, access health facilities, paying back of loans. For the mothers that have tried to sell food stuffs to feed their families have been brutally punished. Indirectly women are also psychologically being traumatized with the fact that they cannot access medical facilities with ease, especially pregnant women. There is also rise in domestic violence due to the fact that men spend a lot of time at home and the fact that they cannot provide for their families. To date (17th/06/2020) a total of 724 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Uganda have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health. This has continued to create panic and fear as well as prolonging restrictions on the movement of people by government. This has led to a continued economic emergency leading to continued collapsing of businesses and social well-being.

The same crisis has affected the NGO work in terms of extending its services to the most affected during this pandemic. Movement has been a problem, work places closed yet there is a high demand for sensitization of the public about the effects and prevention of COVID-19. As **Ages Considered** (ACO), we have been inspired to start a social media campaign on Face book, twitter and our website to reach out to a portion of our target population by sharing messages pertaining COVID-19 to compliment government initiatives in combating this pandemic. By liking, sharing or leaving a comment you are greatly contributing to our objective of reminding the general public about the deadly diseases and how best to curb its spread.

Feel free to join and support our social media campaigns

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Facebook: Ages Considered

Twitter: @Agesconsidered

