

Engeye Clinic Report on Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic (May 2020)

We just had a modified board of directors retreat that included our Ugandan director, and some issues that were brought up included:

- fewer patients at clinic due to the transportation shut down
- patients not able to get meds due to the transportation shut down (John has been doing home delivery of meds for established chronic condition patients)
- limited PPE supplies (clinic has some on hand but will be limited if this drags on, and price gouging on purchasing more)
- can't meet to do VHT education in large group
- heavier burden on families with students all home from school, especially the Scholars (feeding happened at school but now families struggle to feed them w/everyone at home and having spent funds on school fees) and having to keep up with school tasks by internet (so they're coming to the clinic and John's house to work on homework)

Some solutions and current projects we're working on related to these COVID-19 needs are:

1) Medical & Health Committee:

- Working with the Ugandan clinic staff to modify the existing Ugandan MOH and WHO protocols to fit the clinic's needs for implementation. (Zoom is working great for this!)
- Planning education on use of masks and precautions for VHT training in smaller/individual groups since the clinicians have more down time and could split up the work.
- Community education plan (with the above 2 things)

2) Scholars Committee:

- Working with local artisans for making homemade masks - already made some samples from pattern, pending supplies and the education program before any distribution to ensure proper use and maintaining precautions.
- Working with local families about a feeding program to at least help some of the families with staple foods and things like soap.

It's an extraordinary time and it's so great to be able to work with extraordinary people! :)

-Kathy