



Empowering Youth to Thrive



# COVID 19

EMERGENCY PROGRAM  
REPORT

OCT 2021-MAR 2022

# Introduction



YETU is not for profit organization working to transform the lives of rural youth through Health Care, Education, Agriculture and Financial Inclusion programs. The approach integrates service provision, capacity building and advocacy strategies. The aim is to reach the most vulnerable and at risk populations. YETU foster their resilience, build their capacity and provide them with resources to overcome barriers to better livelihoods.

## About the program

With support from Children Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF), YETU and YEA implemented a six month Covid 19 emergency program with 4 major components namely, support for 250 low income families, business restoration for 131 youth led businesses, PPEs support to 40 VHTs and creating awareness about abuse and violence against girls and women.





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- SUPPORT TO LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- BUSINESS RESTORATION GRANTS
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# Support to low income households

Covid 19 has severely impacted all areas of life, where as it is health crisis, it has become a social and economic threat, creating extremely challenging situations, especially for low income households. The pandemic resulted into the closure of schools, pay cuts for employees, collapse of businesses and total economic shut for several months in Uganda

The situation has been worse off for households including those headed by the elderly, those with chronically ill people, and those headed by children.

To support these households, with funding from CRVPF, YETU cluster identified and supported 272 homes with a Usd 100 to meet their basic needs.





## A case for medication

Samson (not their real name) lives with his wife and four grandchildren. Samson has diabetes and receives a monthly stipend from his children working in Kampala to buy medication and support the grandchildren. The family has a garden from which they get food. When the total Covid 19 lock-down was constituted, the children were unable to work or earn, and therefore there was no money to support their father with his medical needs. The family was worried that their father would die due to the lack of his medication. During mobilisation carried out by YETU and local leaders, the family was identified to be supported under the emergency. Samson was able to buy his drugs using the low-income household grant.







## Business Restoration Grants

The pandemic has impacted job prospects for the world's 1.2 billion people aged 15-24. Employment levels among this group have taken a major hit, with the statistics being 8.7% employment loss for youth versus 3.7% for adults (ILO 2021). With this impact to the job market, there is possible loss of potential lifetime earnings for youth.

Covid 19 has drastically forced several youths and women out of business. for some it was lack of transport, others limited number of customers. Majority used their business capital to meet basic needs during total lockdown.



YETU cluster identified 142 youth and young women whose businesses had collapsed due to Covid and provided them with between Usd 150-250 for business restoration.

### **Restoring a clinic to serve the community**

Patrick is a nurse and together with the wife, they operate a small clinic that services over 1,000 people in Luwero. When total lockdown was constituted especially the ban on transport, the number of patients able to access the clinic was reduced. He was further challenged by transport to purchase drugs in Kampala. Slowly the drugs in stock were sold out and the clinic was on its knees in terms of stock. Patrick received a business restoration grant of Usd 200 to re-stock drugs. currently he serves about 30 community members daily with hope of improving health outcomes for families in Mabanda village.





## Buidling resilient youth and women led businesses

Some of the business re-setablished by youth and women include food stalls, drug shops, grocery shops, mechanic shops, agribusiness among others. To ensure that these are more sustainable, the cluster organised entrepreneurship training where 139 youth and women acquired knowledge about marketing, savings, capital, financial planning, record keeping and key aspects like VSLA and group investments. When risks hits, the restored business will have support from structures like VSLA, SACCO and group investments.

## Business coaching and mentorship for sustainability



The coaching sessions were tailored to the needs of the 139 youth and women who received the business restoration grant. They do report more business confidence to seek business development services from other entities including banks, credit companies among

“I used the business restoration grant to purchase a sewing machine and fabric. I am able to make clothes and repairs within my compund as I expand to rent a commercial place. On average I earn about Ugx 15,000-Ugx 20,000 per day.”



# Personal Protective Equipment for Village Health Teams

2082

# of individuals who received health care/information from the 40 VHTs

892

# of households visited by the VHTs between Nov 21-Feb 22

1024

# of children 5 and below supported by VHTs

477

# of people who received sexual & reproductive health education

282

# of people who received family planning services

Village Health Teams (VHTs) are a voluntary Ministry of Health structure that offers last mile basic health health to especially remote households. Butuntumula Sub-county, Luwero District where the emergency program was implemented, VHTs were unable to continue their household level visits for safety of their lives. As the health sector was being ravaged by the growing number of Covid 19 patients.

Several structures of health were not supported including the Village health teams

YETU cluster with support from the District Directorate of Health and Sub-county officials identified 40 most active VHTs and supported them with PPEs to ensure their safety and the health of the families they are attached to. PPEs distributed included; sanitiser, masks, aprons, gumboats, bags, and gloves.

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When Covid 19 was declared in Uganda, we were very worried about continuing to visit families without having protection gear. We wrote to several agencies both public and private for support but our pleas did not yield much until YETU and the Sub-County officials mobilised us and supported us with PPEs

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## Prevention and response to violence

The pandemic and its interventions are fraught with complicated consequences, specifically factors that have motivated and multiplied the abuse of and violence against girls and young women. The odds of reporting sexual and gender-based violence during the first 6 months of Covid 19 were 1.3 times higher. The rate further worsened as strict measures were put in place to curb the spread of the virus. Challenges like school closure, loss of employment made girls and women more prone to abuse especially by relatives and intimate partners

Through 4 community human rights awareness dialogues, the cluster reached over 531 community members with knowledge about the rights of girls and women.

The cluster also trained over 20 VHTs to incorporate human rights education in their home-based visits.

Over 900 educational materials about GBV were printed and distributed in the community including key human rights messages, GBV referral pathways to ensure that victims would find redress and more so there will be reduced violence and abuse of women and girls' rights.

16 GBV cases were reported through the shared referral pathway and received redress.



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