

January - February - March 2020

# Quarterly Update





## HI 4AFRICA FAMILY,

How are you holding up? COVID-19 has thrown us all for a loop as we strive to care for ourselves, our families, and each other. None of us are quite sure what to expect from one day to the next, but we can **“know and rely on the love God has for us.”** (1 John 4:16 NIV)

Just like the rest of the world, East Africa is working to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus. As of April 23, 2020, there were 63 confirmed cases in Uganda and 4 in South Sudan. Both countries have instituted partial lock-downs.

However, East Africa presents a unique challenge: while remote communities in the region are spread out and have less contact with the virus, many lack sanitation facilities, medical access, protective gear, and proper hygiene practices to protect themselves. On the other hand, Yumbe District in Northern Uganda hosts one of the largest refugee settlements in the world. People live in very close quarters making social distancing next to impossible. Should an outbreak occur, the impact could be disastrous.

# BUT GOD IS GOOD

We’ve seized the opportunity this pandemic presents to demonstrate our faith to the people we serve. We can introduce them to the love and hope of Jesus and address their physical needs by doing what we do best – being the hands and feet of Christ!

<<< Health Trainer at Kei market with COVID-19 poster

E ya onizu drinia angiri, mi omve Arakala Akiataani Uganda ri s  
0800 100066, 0800 203033 kaniku mima si o duka di simi

Thankfully, 4africa has been recognized by the local government as an essential service provider enabling us to mobilize and respond to the communities' needs despite the lock-down. The local government has also asked us to take a leading role within the district's COVID-19 Response Task Force. Just as before, we're adapting to serve the most vulnerable groups.

Our work is the same, but our mandate has expanded to include a **Rapid Response Plan** aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 in East Africa.

We've partnered with the Yumbe District local government to:

- 👉 Expand water services to vulnerable groups by constructing and rehabilitating wells.
- 👉 Supply & distribute 5,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 👉 Install 130 handwashing facilities.
- 👉 Distribute soap in hospitals & markets.
- 👉 Conduct radio broadcasts about COVID-19.
- 👉 Deploy trained health specialists to educate people on basic prevention measures while overseeing and maintaining supplies at the handwashing stations.
- 👉 Disseminate general awareness, prevention, & protective measures through printed materials.

When you give to 4africa's Rapid Response Plan, Real Need, Right Now, **you are making an impact in the fight against COVID-19 in Northern Uganda.** A huge **THANK YOU** to those of you who have contributed.



^ Hand washing  
^ at Kei Market

## COVID-19 Rapid Response by the Numbers

# 5

water wells repaired in refugee settlement

# 130

handwashing stations distributed and set up

# 5

bi-weekly radio talk shows completed

# 126,001

people reached with COVID-19 awareness message

# 4leadership

## Leadership Development



## STORIES OF HOPE: GODLY LEADERS AMONG CHRIST FOLLOWERS

Setting academic goals often takes a back seat for many East African youth working to help their families make ends meet. Families need children to help with chores, watch younger siblings, and retrieve water. Even if they could find the time to attend school, public education isn't exactly free in East Africa. Students must pay for tuition along with their own books, supplies, and food – sometimes even water if the school does not have it available.

And we aren't just talking about pencils and paper. Some schools require uniforms and charge additional fees for simple things like toilet paper and soap due to the lack of educational funding. Many families don't make enough to cover the costs for multiple children to attend school from kindergarten through high school.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

**Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)**

This was the case for Ayii Gabriel:

“I grew up in Nimule, South Sudan where I completed my primary school before my family and I moved to Uganda. When we moved to Uganda, my family worked hard to put me through basic secondary education, but after finishing my fourth year, they were no longer able to fund me further, so I stayed at home for the whole of 2016 struggling to make ends meet. Just when I decided to make peace with my situation, I heard about the Leadership Academy of South Sudan (LASS), and everything changed. I decided to apply with the hope that God had a plan for me. When I got selected to attend the academy, it was the beginning of a new chapter in my life.”

The Academy was everything for Gabriel – here, he found a supportive community, challenging academics, lifelong friends, and most importantly, Jesus. As he learned more about Christ, he developed a personal relationship with Him and eventually surrendered his life wholeheartedly to God.

Gabriel is a natural-born leader, and with the Holy Spirit inside of him, he has become a leader for Christ. At the Academy, he served as an active member of the Voice of LASS and Pillars of Peace. Gabriel excelled through the Academy and was quickly accepted to a Ugandan university.

“This last year at college was such a fulfilling journey. I had the opportunity to practice what I learned at the Academy by staying connected to my classmates through regular visits, and I continue to work hard at my studies so that I can realize my dream of becoming one of the greatest leaders that South Sudan has ever seen!” Gabriel declared.



Nothing I have experienced in the past couple of years would have been possible without the opportunity to attend LASS. I will be forever grateful to my teachers at the academy and 4africa. LASS is the hope of South Sudan and will always be my home.



**Ayli Gabriel**



While the Leadership Academy of South Sudan is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 (along with all schools in Uganda and South Sudan) we are praying the virus will be contained and our students will be able to return by the time the next term begins.

The Academy is a place of peace, comfort, and stability for many of our students. Please join us in praying for the health and safety of our students as they wait to return to the Academy.

Although the semester is postponed, we are praying every student will be able to return once the pandemic passes and the Academy is reopened. You can help facilitate this by supporting our work. Visit our [Donate](#) page to learn about giving opportunities.

Leadership by the Numbers

**52**

new students enrolled

**48**

returning 2nd Year students

**1**

alumnus graduated university

**45+**

trained Youth Running Club coaches

# 4water & 4health

**Water Access, Sanitation & Hygiene (W.A.S.H.)**



“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

**Luke 12:6-7 (NIV)**

## PREPARING FOR HOPE

Our teams spent January and February laying the foundation to get safe water access to communities who need it most. With the news of COVID-19 making its way to East Africa, it’s imperative that we reach communities with extremely limited access to safe water sources. The risk of virus transmission greatly increases when community members must travel far distances to find water and wait in long lines to retrieve it. Using contaminated water weakens the immune system and puts people at risk for contracting other waterborne illnesses.

So, our teams worked hard to sign 16 new partnerships with communities with limited access to safe water.

13 hydro-geological surveys were completed, enabling us to begin drilling new wells. We praise God for new opportunities and communities who are eager for clean water!

So far, our teams have completed 8 new wells, providing 2,400 people with clean water access – with a LOT more in the works! While they work, our team conducts health and sanitation sessions, provides maternal health resources, and demonstrates how to construct latrines and handwashing stations – all conducive to preventing the spread of COVID.

Thanks to an exemption from the government allowing us to continue operating as an essential organization, we are able to continue working to bringing safe and clean water to communities who need it most!

We will keep you posted on our progress. We’re excited about our brand-new partnerships and expect great things in the coming months!



“ I used to spend a lot of money treating my family from commonly occurring diseases like typhoid, and my children could not go to school because they were sick. Little did I know that I was the problem because I didn't have a latrine. I want to thank 4africa for helping me make my home a comfortable place to live. I am not ashamed of hosting visitors because I have a latrine, and my children are now free from disease. Thank you so much!

**Geoffrey**  
ABOA VILLAGE

### Water & Health by the Numbers

**133+**

hygiene promoters  
trained

**2,400**

reached with clean  
water access

**1,072**

attended Sanitation  
& Hygiene sessions

**8**

wells  
established

# All4God

## Ministry



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Romans 15:13 (NIV)**

## A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

During these unprecedented times, we introduce a hope and a Savior people can cling to. We love to see community members establishing deep, personal relationships with God and using their faith to love their own family members and neighbors. Isaparu Agnes, a Discovery Bible Group (DBG) leader, explains:

“I used not to read God’s word, but today, I spend time in prayer and prepare adequately because the people in my DBG depend on me to be disciplined. I memorize scripture and feel empowered to overcome temptations and challenges through the encouragement I get in scripture. I keep growing spiritually day by day, and I have been challenged to go out and make disciples. Many people in my village are now fully engaged in our Bible groups. My prayer is that the Lord grants me boldness and confidence to disciple others. I want to see my entire village having a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

We believe that godly leadership often begins in the home. Families who serve the Lord together shine bright, and Tom Abema, who is also a Discovery Bible Group leader, couldn’t agree more:

“I continue to grow in my faith as the spiritual leader of my family. My spiritual leadership has caused many people in the community to respect me and seek counselling from me during difficult times. I currently have two Discovery Groups and hope to have more soon. My biggest testimony so far is that one of my Persons of Peace who had been a nonbeliever started attending a Discovery Bible Group. Through it, she chose to follow Jesus Christ and got baptized – Praise the Lord!”

Even in times of trial, God brings up servant hearted leaders to bring hope and restoration to the most vulnerable. We have watched as incredible people like Gabriel, Nancy, Agnes, and Tom go forth boldly to share their past experiences and new life in Christ wherever they go to make an eternal impact.



“

My prayer is that the Lord grants me **boldness and confidence** to disciple others. I want to see my entire village having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

”

**Isaparu Agnes**

### Ministry by the Numbers

**1,354**

heard the gospel

**25**

new Discovery Bible Groups

**92**

attended Disciple Making Movement trainings

# New Opportunities in 2020



## RUNNING THE GOOD RACE

Recently, we adopted a program called the Youth Running Club (YRC) to help young people in refugee areas keep their minds and bodies active. Youth participants meet with coaches weekly to learn athletic drills and play games – but most importantly, they learn about Jesus and his word.

The YRC has grown over the past few months, and it benefits far more than the youth who attend each week. Local churches serve as hubs. Parents often stay and watch, so it fosters multigenerational unity in the community. In fact, it's grown so big that we have over 45 coaches, many of whom are young people themselves in their late teens and early 20s. The impact on the coaches has been equally as transformative. Here's Juan Nancy's story:



"As a young person, the South Sudanese war really traumatized me, so by the time I came to the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement, negativity surrounded me. I was bullied in school before I came. My school mates used to call me ugly, so I grew up with the mindset that I wasn't beautiful.

"When I was chosen to be one of the YRC coaches for my church, I was told that one of the objectives of the program was to help traumatized children heal from their trauma but I asked myself, 'How can a traumatized coach help traumatized children heal?' It didn't make sense to me at the time until the program started, and miraculously, helping others heal from their trauma helped me heal from mine!

"One of the things that encouraged me when we were being trained as coaches was learning that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image, Psalms 139:14. Today, my life has completely changed. I have decided not to focus on the negativity I get from those around me and have shifted my focus to listen only to God's voice about who I really am in Him. God's word is my first priority these days. I want to thank 4africa for transforming my life so that I can contribute towards the transformation of others. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."

While YRC activities are temporarily on hold due to COVID, we expect the program to continue growing and impacting the youth and communities involved as soon as activities resume.

# WILL YOU PRAY WITH US?



## During the next few months, we're praying fervently for:



The health & safety of our in-country 4africa staff as they continue working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Protection of LASS students & staff during the Academy's COVID closure.



Healing for those affected by the virus.



Job opportunities for recent graduates as COVID restrictions lift.



Food security for those unable to work due to COVID restrictions.



Peace across South Sudan.

For more inspiring stories from Uganda and to learn how you can help, visit our [NEW BLOG!](#)

We would love to hear from you. Send prayer requests and questions about our programs to [connect@4africa.com](mailto:connect@4africa.com). Until then, stay safe, 4africa family. We are praying for you!

All to God's Glory,

# AMEN

"...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

### John 4:14 (NIV)

#### Learn

Learning about a situation is the first step to helping. Engage the situation by becoming informed through research, newsletters, and testimonies, and ask God to impress opportunities to serve on your heart.

#### Pray

Please keep our team in East Africa and in the U.S. in your thoughts and prayers for resources and wisdom to minister to others. That our local leaders maintain strength and faith through times of hardship. For lives to be transformed.

#### Give

Our commitment to focused stewardship ensures donors that every dollar they contribute to our mission will be put to excellent use.

## You can help today.

Your choice of ways to donate gives you the flexibility to be able to become an **agent4change** member in minutes from any one of our secure methods; regardless of the device you choose.

## 3 ways to give.

### Online

[4africa.com/donate](https://4africa.com/donate)

Use your mobile phone, tablet, or computer to visit our fast and secure donations portal to make your donation.

### By phone

817.502.2009

We can answer any questions you might have and accept your choice of credit card over the phone.

### By mail

4africa

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