

COVID-19 CWC Task Team – Minutes of Meeting on 07/09/2020

Participants: DRC, Fin Church Aid, Ground Truth Solutions, Internews, IRC, UNICEF, WARCHILD, UNHCR

Main Points of Discussion	Action Points
<p>1. Review of previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any questions or concerns on the Bulk sms SOPs can be directed to Harrison, FRRM Coordinator (laniganc@unhcr.org). - Partners who attended the rumour tracking training to commence collection of rumours. Partners interested to participate to reach out to Anna (anna.christensen@drc.ngo) • Minutes endorsed. 	
<p>2. Field Updates (Nakivale and Oruchinga)</p> <p>Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH actors have been conducting mass community sensitization through bodaboda and tuktuk rides, for sensitization of the community on COVID-19 preventive measures. • Market committees were sensitized on COVID-19 and the prevention guidelines. Focus was on Rubondo, as it is a receiving zone. Oxfam has been leading these activities. • 252 VHTs were trained and provided with masks and hand sanitizers, conducting door-to-door surveillance and sensitization • Community members were trained in liquid soap making to empower the community to access soap. • Refresher trainings for health workers; prevention measures are emphasized in key activities • Key messages were recorded and are being aired during distributions. • Masks to be used when refugees receive food, and access protection desks and services. • 3 community radio talk shows are (regularly?) held in Nakivale. • Teachers are following up in the community to check up on children. Study materials were provided to the community. Distribution of WASH items at schools, in case students come to school for consultations. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community drives using pre-recorded messages on a weekly basis in all zones, that replaced village meetings. The community is informed by RWCs when the messages are spread in which zones. The vans provide information on COVID-19 and services provided. 	
<p>3. Rumour Tracking (Ground Truth Solutions & IRC)</p> <p>Rumour Tracking Bulletin and Dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin currently based on data collected by IRC and the pilot in a few locations. Data was collected reactively. Most rumours received from DRC and South Sudanese, and no big differences between number of rumours reported by women and men. Vast majority of rumours reported in Kyaka II. Key findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downplaying COVID-19: 35% of rumors (belief that Africans are immune; COVID-19 is used for political gain; COVID-19 is not dangerous) Origins COVID-19: 16% (Bioweapon conspiracies (most noted in Kyaka II); divine punishment; witchcraft) Partner and government response: 16% (reduction in food assistance: repatriation - that assistance will stop; belief that refugees will be sent back; Other: e.g. when schools will reopen, hospitals to close etc) Prevention of COVID-19: 11% (Drinking spirits; home remedies; praying; avoiding men; other: e.g. vaccine has been developed but not shared) Exaggeration of COVID-19: 9% (COVID-19 is near; COVID-19 is inevitable and cannot be contained; other: e.g. signals the end of times and everyone who supports refugees has died) COVID-19 cures: 8% (Home remedies; alcohol (confusion with alcohol-based hand sanitizers); chloroquine; praying; other e.g. Israel and China already have vaccine but not sharing it) Transmission of COVID-19: 7% (Eating wild animals spread virus; truck drivers; social media; staff and volunteers; foreigners; other e.g. spread through witchcraft, drinking dirty water, or use of menstrual cups) Rumour bulletin summarizes entire month of data received. Rapidly evolving situation so need more precise data on more consistent basis. Rumour bulletin will be updated monthly. Around 10 organizations are now on board, so now possible to collect data in multiple locations. Rumour Tracking Dashboard: Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13GQm_Cu-TtLURNZJQbS8GMBBNLXsaoh9/view?usp=sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations interested in joining the rumour tracking to reach out to Anna (anna.christensen@drc.ngo) or Rick Bartoldus (rick@ulearn-uganda.org).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend analysis: There seems to be consistency between locations around the topics about which rumors are reported most. There is a lot of comparability between the findings of the locations for which sufficient data is available. Raw data can be filtered by age, sex, period etc, which allows for identification of trends. We can see reductions or increases in certain rumors. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dramatic drop in type of certain rumors within downplaying (e.g. Africans are immune) and drop in rumor in the partner/gov response category; - Increase in rumors around the up playing COVID-19. Increase in rumors about the end of times. - Need to make sure we clarify alcohol-based sanitizers are to be used, not drinking alcohol. - Number of religious rumors increasing, so maybe engagement with religious leaders is needed. • Dashboard was last updated on 25 August. The next batch will be updated soon and includes more rumors from other locations such as Kyangwali. The dashboard will be updated every 1-2 weeks. 	
<p>4. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Child Holland: Did any partners already develop messages to tackle rumors/myths? War Child developed some messages and will share the document with the team. • Next meeting: 21 September 2020, 11:30-12:30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document developed by War Child Holland to be shared with the Task Team members. Please contact Parwez for more information or any comments. (Parwez.Anis@warchild.nl)