



## THE SITUATION

As of July 20:

Uganda reports 1,065 total cases of COVID-19—an increase of 242 since our previous reporting—and no deaths as yet. An overnight curfew from 11:00 PM to 6:30 AM remains in place for the indefinite future.

Nigeria reports 36,663 total cases of COVID-19—an increase of 20,578 since our previous reporting—and 78 related deaths, an increase of 369. Nigeria’s less stringent measures mean that individual states have greater responsibility to deal with the pandemic. The country is now well into its second phase of lockdown easing, which ended on June 29.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related responses continue to present refugee and internally displaced persons populations in both countries with increasing hardships, most significantly hunger. Shortages of basic hygiene and access to basic healthcare remain significant problems.

## ACTIONS

At the Malkohi camps in Nigeria, our team continues to lead hygiene training sessions and distribute hygiene kits. In order to follow social distancing guidelines, a maximum of 30 attendees are allowed per session for the time being.

Our agriculture programs are now in the planning stages; meanwhile, we continue to work to obtain and deliver emergency food and related supplies to the adolescent girls and boys we work with in Nigeria and Uganda. (See sidebar.) At Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Uganda, our full team is now back on the ground and carrying out activities, such as delivering emergency supplies, holding an increased number of sessions in small groups, and checking on the welfare of ChildVoice students.

## NEEDS

While we will continue to provide emergency assistance as long as it is needed, we are now in the process of getting our counselling, health, and life skills programs back up and running as restrictions are eased. To help us keep these programs running, please visit [childvoice.org/makeadonation](https://childvoice.org/makeadonation).



## FROM THE FIELD

As we’ve noted previously, the challenges faced by those we work with in the refugee settlements and IDP camps of Uganda and Nigeria have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. For Lukome Center students who had to leave the center because of mandatory restrictions put in place by the Ugandan government, life at home has been increasingly difficult as well, due to lack of food and basic medical care.

Lukome Center staff members have been diligent in keeping in constant contact with students, some of whom are struggling with depression, offering a much-needed lifeline of hope and emotional support – and also urgent food assistance.

Uganda team members like Michael Oyet and Aol Lois have been reaching out to Lukome Center graduates as far back as Class 1, many of whom have lost jobs or businesses and have burned through their savings to avoid hunger. But while the question “how will we recover” looms over these young women, Michael and Lois say that the message they are getting from them is this: *“We are so grateful to the ChildVoice team for continuing to work with us. We are also very thankful to donors who live so far away and have their own problems during this pandemic, but still think of us. We are praying that God will keep them safe and free from the coronavirus.”*

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