

CORONAVIRUS IN UGANDA - MAY 2020 UPDATE



Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni

Uganda faces another three weeks of lock-down and all social gatherings such as school and church are banned. The price of food has trebled and the poorest will suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Before the virus takes hold they expect a massive outbreak of diseases such as cholera and dysentery. It is said that there are only 70 ventilators in the whole of Uganda and these no doubt will be in the international hospitals in the big cities. As of 24th April the BBC News reports that the total number of coronavirus cases in the country is 74, but will steadily increase.

News from Kumi Hospital

In Kumi Hospital - hospital and patient facilities leave a lot to be desired, with most patients living hand to mouth without any available money for food or hospital bills. To help combat the virus, hand washing facilities have been situated outside every ward, department and at the hospital gate (see picture right). KCF sent NHS advice and posters to put up in all departments as well as a leaflet which, hopefully, they will print and distribute to staff and patients alike; power, paper and printing ink permitting. However, the hospital desperately needs infrared thermometers, boxes of soap for the inpatients and hand sanitisers for the staff. We have raised enough for 3 thermometers so far and they have just been delivered. It is extremely frustrating to have to restrict the fieldwork so much but none more so than for Ruth and Harriet out in Kumi.

In the UK fundraising has taken a huge tumble with the cancellation of all arranged events. Thank you so much for your support. Please would you help if you can so we can continue to support the hospital in this difficult time. Please click [HERE](#) to donate or send cheques to 'Kumi Community Foundation', 2 Upsall Drive, Darlington, DL3 8RB - Thank You!



Imagine facing COVID-19 with no soap or running water. In the remote villages of eastern Uganda, hand washing facilities are basic - and villagers are making 'Tippy Taps' out of Jerry cans (see left).