

Uganda COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Assessment

Summary Factsheet

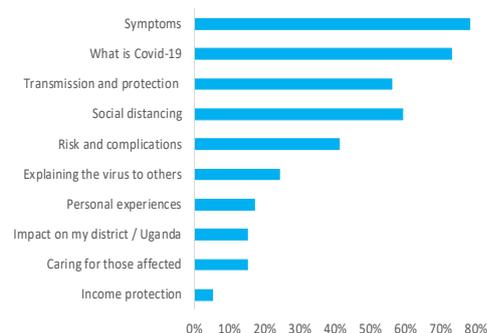
March 2021, Uganda

U-Learn conducted a mixed-methods assessment from August to November 2020 in Uganda. The assessment was to inform the successful delivery of risk communication and community engagement, and to understand if and how information about COVID-19 is accessed and interpreted by different community groups. Because remote non-probability sampling was used, all findings are indicative only. More information is available in the [full length report](#) for this assessment and in the [policy brief](#).

Information flow

1. Most received information is on COVID-19 symptoms, nature and transmission, and least received information is on income protection, district statistics and personal experiences of COVID-19 patients (See graph 1)
2. Radio is the preferred mode of communication across all population groups, followed by television and phone for Ugandans, and mobile loud-speakers for refugees
3. Trusted information sources for refugees are NGOs and UN agencies, followed by health workers and Village Health Teams (VHTs)

Graph 1: Information received by refugees



Risk perception

1. The majority of respondents consider COVID-19 a serious threat, but more from a social and economic perspective than a health perspective
2. Refugees feel particularly threatened by COVID-19 compared to host communities and high/low-risk communities
3. COVID-19 is perceived as a threat from outsiders rather than from within the community

"Participants said that there is no registered case in the district, so there is no need to start social distancing", - Male host-community FGD, South-west region

Behaviour change

1. Self-reported implementation of preventive measures is relatively high, but qualitative and observational findings show that these reported behaviors are not taking place consistently
2. Social distancing (61%), avoiding handshaking as a greeting (49%) and avoiding visiting crowded places (54%) were reported as the least observed preventive measures
3. Widely available information and a high reported threat perception has not been sufficient in promoting behaviour change
4. Authority figures setting an example and certain services and communal areas requiring preventive behaviours promote behaviour change

Image 1: Key Informant Interview in session in Nakivale settlement



Feedback mechanisms

1. 95% of the respondents are aware of feedback mechanisms — 86% of these use feedback channels
2. 92% of the respondents who submitted feedback have received a response
3. FGD participants tended to be negative about their ability to provide feedback to aid and health providers on the COVID-19 response, mostly because they felt they did not know how to

What is U-Learn?

The Uganda Learning, Evidence, Accountability and Research Network (U-Learn) is designed to promote improved outcomes for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

It is funded by UKAID and delivered by the Response Innovation Lab (hosted by Save the Children), in consortium with IMPACT Initiatives and International Rescue Committee.