

COVID-19 CWC Task Team – Minutes of Meeting on 13/07/2020

Participants: CARE, CECI, DRC, FCA, HI, IRC, Oxfam, UNHCR, YSAT

Main Points of Discussion	Action Points
<p>1. Rumours collected through the rumour tracking pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rumour Tracking Sub-Team (Rick) gave an overview of the main trends of rumours collected through the rumour tracking pilot in Kyaka II and Rhino Camp settlements, as well as other sources (FRRM helpline and data that had been collected earlier by IRC). The rumour tracker can be accessed at the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13GQm_Cu-TtLURNZJQbS8GMBBNLXsaoh9/view?usp=sharing where all future versions of the tracker will be uploaded. • The summary table shows the high-level categories of rumours, including down-play (e.g. the virus is not dangerous), up-play (e.g. COVID-19 is a biochemical weapon), origins, transmission, prevention, cure, partner / government responses, symptoms, etc. The highest number recorded so far was the “down-play” category, which is dangerous and risks creating harm if not addressed. • When comparing the findings in Rhino Camp and other locations in West Nile with those from Kyaka II, the percentage of downplaying in the West Nile is relatively low compared to Kyaka II where the figure is higher (38%). This may be attributed to the fact that there were early scares of community transmission in the West Nile region, which reduced the risks of downplay. • In the dashboard, the above high-level categories are further categorized at secondary level. They can be filtered by location, gender and age. Filtering for Kyaka II shows that common rumours are about origins and downplaying (e.g. Africans are immune to COVID-19). • When we dive into specific narratives, it is possible to see distinctions between women and men. In Kyaka II, men were more likely to share rumours on conspiracy theories, bioweapon and downplaying, while women shared more rumours on ways to cure or prevent the virus. There is not much distinction by age group. • Rumours about government response, such as forcible repatriation of refugees found positive, campaign to spray off the settlement, etc were also recorded. • The rumour tracker will track how the rumours evolve • There was an anecdote in one location where a spike in people claiming the COVID-19 is sexually transmitted was observed, and that spouses should sleep in different rooms. After digging deeper, it was found that VHTs were using messaging to avoid MEN (avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose) as an acronym to remember, which 	

<p>created a misunderstanding. After following up with VHTs to adjust the messaging, such rumours dropped significantly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the completion of the pilot, the plan is to roll out the system in other locations and it is hoped that other organizations will join the effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners that can support to reach out to Anna (anna.christensen@drc.ngo) and Rick (rick.bartoldus@rescue.org)
<p>2. COVID-19 Responders Platform – COVID-19 Response Information Hub (RI Hub) (U-Learn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U-Learn supported MoH on their dashboard – one for the general public and a second dashboard as an information hub for responders. The Response Information Hub can be accessed at this link: https://covid19.gou.go.ug/. It includes various resources, statistics, 4Ws, partner mapping, pillar specific dashboards, etc. • The link to pillar resources has resources of specific pillars, including the Risk Communication, Social Mobilization and Community Engagement (RCSMCE) Pillar that is of interest to the CwC Task Team. • The 4Ws is a compilation of information based on a survey conducted with partners in April – May. MoH will send out another call for information soon, and it will be updated on an ongoing basis. From the 4W, one can see which partner is implementing activities in which district. The link is https://covid19.gou.go.ug/partner.html • The questionnaire to provide inputs to the 4W: https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/oLNMkLn1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For further information, partners can contact U-Learn at info@ulearn-uganda.org • Partners that have not yet filled in the questionnaire for the 4W are encouraged to access it to provide updates to the 4W.
<p>3. Field Updates (Kiryandongo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners are on the ground and are present. Recently, fighting among tribes of Nuer ethnicity has arisen, and there was a need to engage in mediation among clans. With COVID-19, the rate of child pregnancy has increased, and increased physical assaults and fighting between youth has increased. • Regarding COVID-19 risk communication, CTEN is conducting community drives using pre-recorded messages and songs. Radio shows have been conducted by TPO, BRAC, ACF and SCI. Awareness-raising at water points and dissemination of IEC materials are also ongoing. DRC and other partners are conducting community dialogues. Songs are also played with messages. CTEN has also sms in various languages. 	
<p>4. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to change the frequency of CwC Task Team meetings to every two weeks. 	

- A schedule for field updates in the coming meetings will be developed.
- Reminder to continue updating the mapping of CwC activities for continuous updating of the CwC mapping.
- Next meeting: 27 July at 11:30-12:30.

- Members to share updates to CwC mapping with Ann (ann.mbeiza@rescue.org).