



*"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10*



**Kisiizi Updates**  
**April 2020**

## **"PRESSING ON..."**

*"I press on towards the goal..."*

*Philippians 3:14*

Dear Friends of Kisiizi...

What strange times we are in! So much has changed since our last newsletter – it divides into before and after the lockdown...

So let's start by remembering how life had been relatively normal in Kisiizi in February and early March...

### **VISITORS STILL CAME...**

We welcomed friends from Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading once again for a focus week on urology and, for the first time, hypospadias repairs. Our Consultant Surgeon, Dr Paul Matovu, co-ordinated the week and the outcomes were excellent with many happy patients discharged in the following days. We are grateful for the support and input of the team and for the equipment they brought that will help us to provide a higher quality service in future.



To make it all happen needs a lot of support work, for example the production of many jerrycans of distilled water.

We later enjoyed having Darren & Terry from Countess of Chester Hospital working with our Imaging team on ultrasound and x-ray with some very helpful input.







George & Doreen Wadsworth returned to Kisiizi bringing friends Sandy & Frances. Sandy & George did some work on assessment of ground conditions on the proposed site for our new Maternity ward block.



**STUDENTS STILL APPEARED ON THE WARDS AND IN CLINICS...**



**CANTEEN WORKERS STILL NEEDED A REST!...**

**THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN STILL ENJOYED LEARNING...**



**STAFF STILL MET IN CHAPEL EVERY MORNING...**



**THE PORTERS STILL CUT THE GRASS...**





## BABIES WERE STILL BORN! ....

*Congratulations to Dr Hilda and Dr Denis...*



*and to our resident cranes!*



## CHILDREN STILL PLAYED AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN RWENTOBO NEXT TO THE HOPE CLINIC RUN BY KISIIZI ...



...which recently had its first delivery of a healthy 3.2kg girl – normally we only do clinics as we don't yet have the back up for obstetric complications but the mum came in ready to deliver and thankfully all went well.



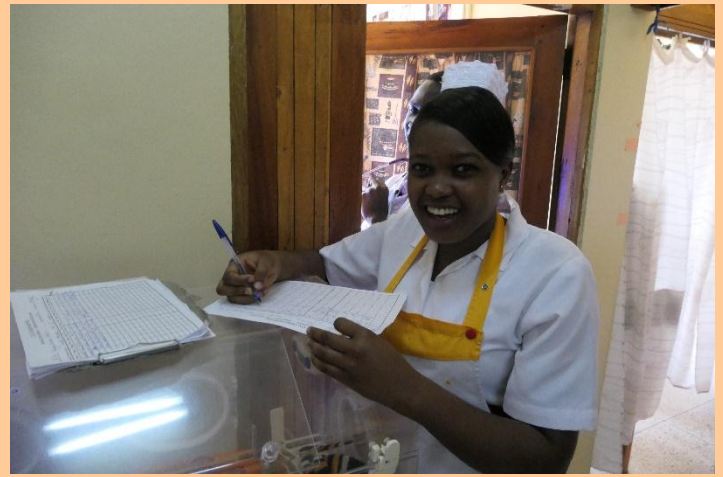
## STAFF SUPPORTED PATIENTS IN THE AHUMUZA CENTRE...>



<...MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS CONTINUED IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS...



WORK STILL CONTINUED IN SPECIAL CARE BABY UNIT...>>>



DR ALBERT, Medical Officer, STILL CO-ORDINATED CLINICS IN RUBAABO HEALTH SUB-DISTRICT AND ALSO THE RESULTS-BASED-FINANCING INITIATIVES...

BUT THEN.... EVERYTHING CHANGED!



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**THE DO'S AND DON'TS ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)**

**BACKGROUND**  
An outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was declared by the People's Republic of China on 31st January, 2020. This outbreak has now spread to all continents and 46 countries are currently affected. Many others may be affected too.

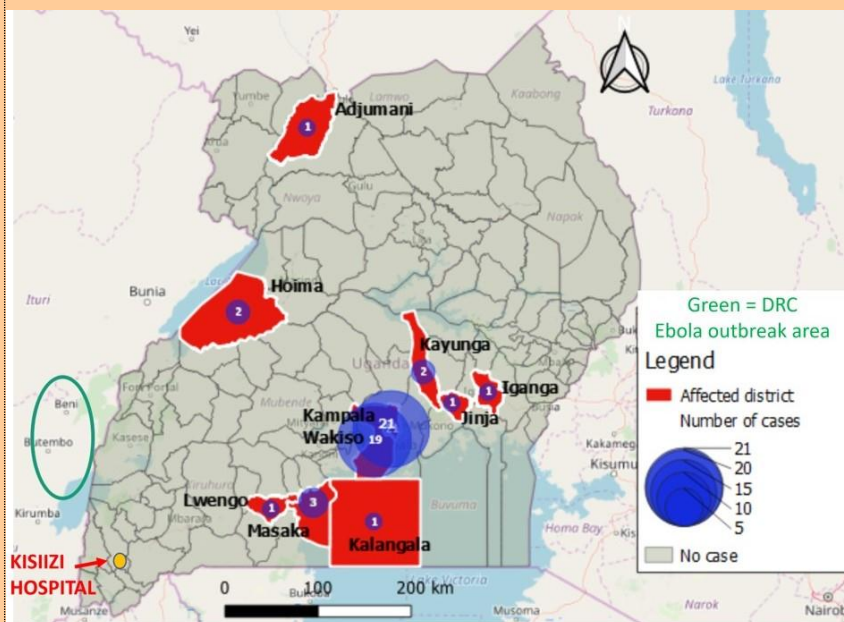
In Africa, Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria have already reported cases. The possibility of spread to other African countries, Uganda inclusive is extremely high. Although Uganda has no case of COVID-19, it is pertinent that the population remains on high alert and diligently exercise preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease.

The Ministry of Health has developed the following do's and don'ts to educate the public on how to avoid contracting the disease.

**WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)?**  
This is a highly infectious disease caused by the new Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is spread from person-to-person through sneezing, or coughing (droplets infection), human to human contact and contact with contaminated surfaces.

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty in breathing
- Other flu like symptoms like running nose, sneezing and body weakness



Kisiizi is in the south-west of Uganda (yellow dot). The green circle is the area affected by the **Ebola** outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. It had almost died out but then another case was identified at Beni.

The blue circles are **Covid-19** cases as at 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with the red areas showing the affected districts. 75 confirmed cases including lorry drivers from Kenya and Tanzania.

Kisiizi is quite close to the border with Rwanda who have reported increasing cases as have Kenya and Tanzania. Follow Covid-19 in Uganda on <https://covid19.gou.go.ug/> from Min. of Health.



The warehouse at Joint Medical Stores Mbarara branch has quite a lot of empty shelves as supply lines have been affected by the international shutdowns. Kisiizi has run out of some key items such as medication for some patients with mental illness but have managed to obtain some from other sources.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is short worldwide and we are trying to have a rational approach that protects our staff but doesn't use up our limited resources.



We have implemented first triage at the gate of the Hospital to check the temperature of all arrivals and some screening questions. Those screened positive are given a mask to wear and move to a more detailed secondary triage point in a cordoned off area of the Rehabilitation Unit dormitory building.



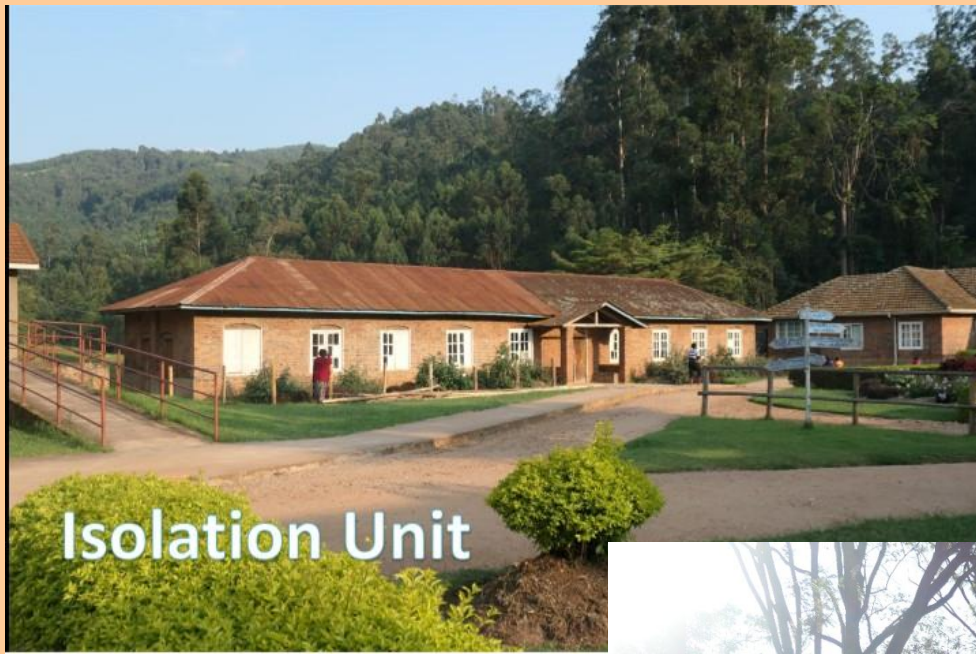
If they fulfil the WHO *Case Definition for Covid-19* they will go down to our Isolation Unit. This is the old Ahumuza ward that was emptied in 2017 when the new Ahumuza centre opened. It had been used for storage so has needed clearing and renovation and other work to ready it for the new role. This work has commenced so we can take patients but we are still working on some aspects including

provision should we receive any mothers who are suspects so cannot go to Maternity to deliver because of the risk of cross-infection.

World Health Organization representatives have approved our plans and delivered some training sessions.







Isolation Unit

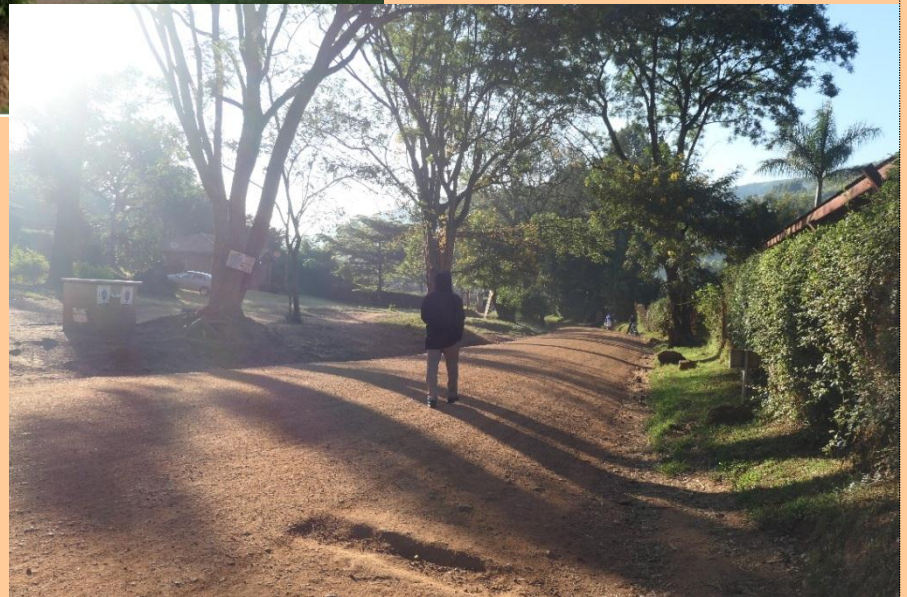


The lockdown does not include medical delivery trucks so supplies can still reach us.

Empty car park and road through Kisiizi as all transport except emergency vehicles and essential cargo has been stopped.

This means many patients are unable to reach us and we anticipate a surge once the restrictions are eased but unfortunately it is likely that quite a few patients will have deteriorated due to the delay.

Moses, our administrator, had to send a hospital ambulance out to collect a mother who had been reported to be in labour at the side of the road a few kilometres away but could not get transport to reach a clinic or hospital. Thankfully she and baby did well.



Water from our hydro-electricity generator in the early morning sun... which patients outside Ahumuza centre are also enjoying...







## CHALLENGES... "It's Friday...."



Sometimes it seems just one thing after another! In the space of three days we heard that our only x-ray machine was broken due to a fault with the circuit board of the Control Panel. Then two of our laboratory analysers also failed. We have also had some challenges with the hydro-electricity generator which needs replacement battery units that also support control systems. Some members of staff have had sudden calls to go and sort out family issues. Our HR Co-ordinator/Insurance scheme Manager resigned to take up another job with a higher salary in a private hospital. Etc.etc!

**Closed School of Nursing & Midwifery**  
> Loss of income

**Reduced exchange rate sterling to Uganda shilling**  
> Loss of income from donor support transfers

**Scarcity of some medicines & supplies**  
> Increased expenditure

**Closed Kisiizi Falls tourism**  
> Loss of income



**COVID-19 preparations Infrastructure, PPE etc.**  
> Increased expenditure

**Closed Guest House**  
> Loss of income

**Reduced patient numbers due to transport lockdown**  
> Loss of income

**No Sunday services or Elective medical Students**  
> Reduced Good Samaritan Fund income

**Patients under financial pressures**  
> Less able to pay hospital bills, more need Good Samaritan support and feeding while in Kisiizi

Although we have not had any COVID-19 cases, the impact has been massive. Normally this is the busiest time of year for visitors with many elective medical students and groups whose input helps the Good Samaritan Fund which supports the poorest patients (it is also supported by 25% of chapel service collections, proceeds from the Kisiizi Falls tourism park and donations).

Obtaining supplies from Kampala can no longer be done with public transport so we have to send a vehicle after obtaining special permits.

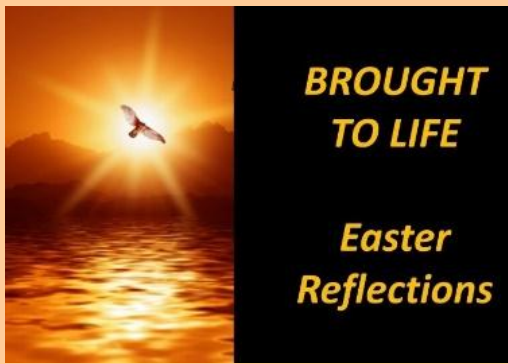
As part of our contingency planning the Hospital Management team have in faith gone ahead with starting renovations to

create the Triage and Isolation Units, extra cubicle provision on Children's ward etc. We have also invested in supplies and reviewed our stock of PPE and our tailors have worked on making more gowns, scrubs and headgear. We have produced some face visors utilising laminating pouches which seem to work quite well!

We are so grateful to those who have sent or promised support. We are working towards obtaining more equipment for High Dependency Patients including patient monitors, oxygen systems, syringe pumps for infusing iv medication safely etc. Unfortunately we have had to send some staff away on unpaid leave and will probably have to make further cuts in order to keep going through this time.

*(If you wish to help Kisiizi then please see details at the bottom of this letter, thank you.)*





**BROUGHT  
TO LIFE**

**Easter  
Reflections**

**“... but  
Sunday’s  
coming”**

With the lockdown  
we could not hold  
the usual services  
but we set up a

Staff WhatsApp group and shared Easter reflections during  
that period remembering the wonderful rescue plan that God  
put in place. After the dark Friday with all its pain and agony  
came the power and joy and transformation of Sunday...

After the rain comes the sunshine... we have a living hope that strengthens us to keep going day by day and we are given  
a peace that passes understanding.



Kisiizi Falls, Kabale, Uganda by Alan Smith

<https://landscapephotographymagazine.com/2020/kisiizi-falls-kabale-uganda-alan-smith/>

**CONGRATULATIONS to Kisiizi Partners Trustee Alan Smith for  
getting his photograph of Kisiizi Falls published on the website  
of Landscape Photography Magazine...**

### GOING HOME!

Gradius came to Kisiizi a year or so ago with paraplegia due to a spinal  
problem. She was in Medical ward for months then went home but came  
back with some pressure sores and stayed for a long time in our  
Rehabilitation Unit... and the photo with Dan, Physiotherapist on the left,  
shows her leaving to go home again. Her family are so happy to have her  
restored to them now able to move around.



**Twinning Partnerships  
for Improvement**

Mr Moses Mugume  
Senior Hospital Administrator  
Dr Ian Spillman  
Medical Superintendent

March 2020

### WHO / THET Webinar

Kisiizi had been asked by World Health  
Organization to participate in a global webinar  
to be run in conjunction with THET. This was  
postponed in the light of the pandemic but the  
three front-line programmes involved

including Kisiizi made 10 minute videos so you can access them on the THET website:

<https://www.thet.org/our-work/policy-work/quality-improvement/>



### LOCKDOWN WEDDING!

On 25<sup>th</sup> April we had the first lockdown wedding of  
Anatoli, clinical officer, and Olivious who recently  
completed her diploma in midwifery here. The Kisiizi  
Falls Visitors Centre was opened up again to hold the  
reception with 15 present including the happy  
couple!







Phionah\*, a 4 month infant girl with her grandmother... tragically the child's mother had HIV and TB and developed sepsis and died during emergency surgery... She was cared for in our Special Care Baby Unit and discharged with medication and support from the Good Samaritan Fund to provide milk.

The grandmother's home is a long way away so she has to walk a great distance to come to Kisiizi and cannot afford transport. Her husband is very old and she cares for other orphans, digging her land for survival. There is no contact with Phionah's father. Life is hard but without the Good Samaritan Fund Phionah would not have survived.

*\* not her real name*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT helping us to bring  
LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.**

To benefit from Gift Aid  
please give via Kisiizi Partners  
[www.kisiizipartners.org.uk](http://www.kisiizipartners.org.uk)



UK Hospital Account: Nat. Westminster Berkhamsted branch  
Sort code 55-70-10 Account: Kisiizi Hospital 06513123

Absa bank (previously Barclays): Kabale branch, Uganda  
Sort code 01-32-61 Account: COU Kisiizi Hospital 6003717303

We would be glad to hear from you ([khmedsup@gmail.com](mailto:khmedsup@gmail.com)) that you have safely received this newsletter. We think some copies may be disappearing in spam folders. If you wish us to update your email address to a more permanent one or remove you from our list please email us. IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR CONTACT EMAIL TO BE SHARED WITH KISIIZI PARTNERS PLEASE EMAIL US. Thank you.

[www.kisiizihospital.org.ug](http://www.kisiizihospital.org.ug)

[www.kisiizifalls.com](http://www.kisiizifalls.com)

[www.streamlinehealth.org](http://www.streamlinehealth.org)

*"Where does our help come from? Our help comes from the LORD, The Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1,2)*