

Monthly Report February 2020

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View from the Omni Med office in Makata

Students & Visitors

Dorelle Dushime: This month we said farewell to Dorelle, who was with Omni Med for one month to complete her practicum project. She will be graduating with a Masters in Global Health from Northwestern University this spring. While at Omni Med, she focused on the role of VHTs in encouraging community members to complete antenatal care for healthy pregnancy.

Eliza: Eliza has continued her work with Omni Med through the Uganda Studies Program at Uganda Christian Univeristy. She is with us twice weekly and is heavily involved in our afternoon field activities.

Dr. Lex and Dr. Kitte: Lex and Kitte joined Omni Med this month as volunteers for three weeks. After years of working with Omni Me d, Dr. Lex has returned to plan the implementation of the Mental Health study which will commence in the coming months. Both Dr. Lex and Dr. Kitte will be partaking in Omni Med’s daily activities with a focus on mental health and psychological distress.

Compound:



This month we fixed the road that leads to Omni Med in Makata Village. This improved road will allow visitors to access us during the rainy season and make for easier travel to our field activities.

School Program



We held two school lessons in local primary schools this month. One lesson focused on malaria and the other on pneumonia. Both of these diseases are leading causes of death in children in Uganda. At school visits, we educate children about transmission and prevention of disease. We were excited to see so many smiling faces and rewarded them with stickers at the end of the visit!

Community Health Talks

Community health talks allow Omni Med to directly educate community members in rural villages on important health topics and address questions that villagers may have. We held the following community health talks this month:

- 21 February – **HIV/AIDS** – Nakifuma West – 25 community members
- 27 February – **HIV/AIDS** – Bunankanda – 10 community members

Focused Group Discussions

Focused group discussions (FGDs) allow us to explore topics with VHTs and reach a better understanding of community needs. These discussions allow us to adapt our trainings to address more current needs as well as to develop new topics that are relevant. This month we held the following FGDs:

- 5 February - **Mental Health** – Mpatta Parish – 10 VHTs
- 5 February - **Prenatal Care/Healthy Pregnancy** – Mugomba Parish – 9 VHTs
- 6 February – **Mental Health** – Ngombere – 11 VHTs
- 10 February - **Oral Rehydration Tubes** – Namuyenje Parish – 12 VHTs
- 10 February – **Prenatal Care/Health Pregnancy** – Seeta Nazigo Parish – 16 VHTs
- 18 February – **Mental Health** – Lulagwe Parish – 4 VHTs
- 25 February – **Mental Health** – Wankoba Parish – 5 VHTs



Omni Med staff and VHTs after a focused group discussion on mental health

Cookstoves

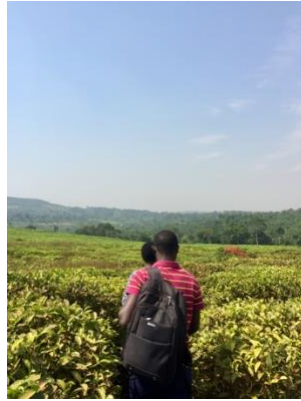


(L) Dorelle and MacKenzie assist community members and the Cookstove Master, an Omni Med VHT, in transporting clay for a new cookstove.

(R) Jen, the Cookstove Coordinator from the Cookstove Project, explains to the community the importance of cookstoves.

We met with our partners in the Cookstove Project this month at their new office in Kisoga. They are currently building cookstoves in Mpatta, Ntenjeru and Nakisunga. Cookstoves help to limit exposure to harmful smoke and toxins which may affect health. They also help to minimize burn injuries from open three stone cookstoves. We look forward to our continued partnership and common goal of improving health equity in the community.

Protected Water Sources (PWS)



(L) A boy fetches water from an unprotected water source

(R) Henry and Cissy walk to an unprotected water source where we plan to build a PWS.

This month we began construction of a PWS in Kakuba Village that will serve 40 households. We also explored sites for upcoming PWS's in Ntenjeru. This water source was donated by GW School of Nursing to serve the community.

Quarterly Trainings

In total, we trained **14 VHT's** on ICCM and additional topics.

18 February -Mbazi – Antenatal Care – 6 VHTs

25 February -Seeta Nazigo – Hypertension – 8 VHTs

Home Visits



(L) Henry and Dorelle speak with VHTs, Godfrey and Patrick of Ntenjeru Village

(R) Cissy helps a VHT of Nsanja Village to explain the importance of latrine covers during a home visit



This month, we held **17 home visits**. During home visits, we visited **51 VHTs**.

Breakdown of Home visits for February:

Average number of houses that each VHT serves in their village: **40**

Average number of years each VHT has served in their village: **8**

Topics that VHTs see a need for additional training on: **Hepatitis, Cough, Coronavirus**

4 February	-Kiwafu – 1 VHT
	-Ntenjeru - 3 VHTs
11 February	-Kito Kiganda – 1 VHT
	-Luga - 1 VHT
12 February	-Nsanja – 1 VHT
	-Gonve – 5 VHTs
	-Kikona - 1 VHT
18 February	-Kirondo -1 VHT
	-Kiteza – 2 VHTs
	-Buwaali – 3 VHTs
20 February	-Katosi – 5 VHTs
	-Kizaala – 8 VHTs
24 February	-Katuba - 6 VHTs
	-Kityabule - 3 VHTs
	-Mangaliba – 3 VHTs
26 February	-Bule Banga – 3 VHTs
	-Mubanda – 4 VHTs

Stories from the Field



During a home visit in Ntenjeru Village, Edward and Henry noticed that a woman was preparing lunch for the household over a 3 stone fire in the kitchen. Edward informed the woman that the smoke is dangerous to her lung health and even affects the eyes. He encouraged her to have a cookstove constructed when the Cookstove Project reaches her village. This will be a safer option for her health as well as the safety of her children.



Excellent to see drying racks and tippy-taps while on home visits! Drying racks allow dishes to dry outside in the sunshine. Tippy-taps are hand washing stations made from a jerry can and local wood!

AOB



This month, we hosted **Amy Krzyzek** from Child and Family Health International (CFHI) at Omni Med for several days. CFHI partners with Omni Med to connect volunteers from the U.S. with our programs in Uganda. While at Omni Med, Amy was able to meet the staff and observe all of our activities from quarterly trainings to cookstove demonstrations. We are thankful for our continued partnership with CFHI and hope to welcome Amy back soon!



An Omni Med volunteer, **Dorelle Dushime**, got married in Kampala on Valentine's Day! The staff was able to attend the wedding and reception. We enjoyed being a part of this memorable day and meeting her family that traveled from Burundi!

Omni Med research was published this month in the journal *Health Promotion International*. This paper focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Omni Med authors include Dr. James O'Donovan, Christina Stiles, Ken Kabali, Edward Mwebe, Henry Mugabi, Elizabeth Nalweyiso and Dr. Edward O'Neil. We are excited that this work is available for all to see and learn from !

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