

Monthly Report March 2020

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Students & Visitors

Dr. Lex and Dr. Kitté: We said farewell to Lex and Kitté this month. We learned so much from them both and appreciated their daily participation in Omni Med activities. Dr. Lex is the Mental Health Director for Omni Med and is helping us to plan a new study on group support psychotherapy (GSP) within a general population in Mukono. Health centre workers and VHTs will be trained in GSP so that it can be practiced in the villages for those experiencing psychological distress.

Ben Chang: Ben is a fourth year medical student from Texas Tech in El Paso, Texas. He is doing an international rotation with Omni Med for two weeks. Ben will be starting a Psychiatry residency in July and is assisting in the implementation of our mental health research.

Cookstoves



Omni Med staff and volunteers participated in the construction of a cookstove in Namaiba. The cookstoves are built by VHTs that are elected cookstove masters (pictured) and trained by the Cookstove Project.

Protected Water Sources (PWS)

This month we finished construction of our 31st water source in Kakuba village. We also visited unprotected water sources in Ntenjeru, Namaiba and Banda villages to assess their status as potential PWS's.

Quarterly Trainings



Daniel Ssegwanyi, a psychiatric nurse at Kojja HC IV, leads a mental health training to VHTs in Nsanja parish.

In total, we trained **103 VHT's** on ICCM and additional topics.

3 March -Nsanja – Mental Health – 21 VHTs

5 March -Ntanzi (Mpumu) – Mental Health - 13 VHTs

-Ntanzi (Bugolombe) – Healthy Pregnancy - 10 VHTs

10 March -Wankoba (Mirembe) – Mental Health – 13 VHTs

17 March -Ssayi – Mental Health– 8 VHTs

-Terere – Mental Health– 8 VHTs

18 March -Kiyoola – Mental Health – 16 VHTs

-Katente – Mental Health – 14 VHTs

Home Visits



This month, we held **12 home visits**. During home visits, we visited **41 VHTs**.

4 March	-Kalengera T.C. – 2 VHTs
	-Bugonge - 2 VHTs
9 March	-Nakasuku – 2 VHTs
	-Kituza - 1 VHT
	-Ntumusi - 1 VHT
11 March	-Nangwa – 4 VHTs
	-Namuyenje – 14 VHTs
	-Kiwugo – 2 VHTs
12 March	-Kulubi – 6 VHTs
	-Kalagala – 1 VHT
16 March	-Kawuku – 1 VHT
19 March	-Kazo/Kibaale – 5 VHTs

*Due to laws from President Museveni banning gatherings of more than 10 people, Omni Med has had to restrict quarterly trainings and home visits for the time being.

Stories from the Field



Omni Med staff members (MacKenzie, Rebecca and Cissy) and volunteers (Kitté and Ben) made new friends after the Cookstove demonstration. We are always thinking about recruiting the next generation of VHTs!

AOB

Given the **COVID-19** global pandemic, Omni Med has trained 13 VHTs in our parish on coronavirus. So far, Omni Med VHTs and staff have built 9 tippy-taps in the villages of Makata, Seeta, Kiruhha-Butoke and Kavule for community use. The tippy-taps hold water and liquid soap for proper hand washing. Thank you, Dr. James O'Donovan for taking the initiative on these efforts to combat the pandemic in Uganda.



If you are interested in learning more, Dr. James O'Donovan wrote in article in the Boston Globe Stat News regarding our work in tippy-tap construction in Uganda:

https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/28/community-health-workers-lead-covid-19-fight-uganda/?fbclid=IwAR18-xBi70wD_vV3QUksKFUW38qS0kMKeioXwmKs8E3wnTYtHctSbT_KJFQ



Staff and Volunteers (Dr. Lex and Dr. Kitté) with **Daniel Ssegwanyi**. Dr. Daniel is a psychiatric nurse at Kojja HC IV that is helping Omni Med in facilitating mental health trainings in Mukono. He has been an excellent resource for providing culturally appropriate mental health guidance in the villages. We look forward to our continued partnership with Daniel and Kojja HC as we continue to educate VHTs on mental health, psychological distress and mental illness.