

CHASE-i

Centre for Health and Social Economic Improvement



Adherence, Lived Experiences and Resilient Transformation among “slumdwellers” (ALERTs) in COVID-19:

A study of Ki-Mombasa and Kabalagala-Kataba slums in Kampala

The research project seeks to develop evidence – from a sociobehavioral perspective – of how Ugandan COVID19 guidelines operate, are being perceived, experienced in practice and potential barriers to their adherence and compliance among urban slum communities in Kampala.

Study Partners

The study team comprises a multisectoral partnership with Co-Investigators from different institutions in academia, policy and programming or practice. Led by Makerere University, the Co-Investigators are from Gulu University.

Background

60% of Kampala's population resides in informal settlements, including slums. COVID-19 is a new epidemic and there is a dearth of knowledge on its clinical, economic, social and long-term effects and outcomes on the urban poor. High levels of non-compliance to preventive guidelines have been observed; as people in slums try to adjust lifestyles within their reality of largely impoverished and crowded living



circumstances. A possible explanation for observed non-adherence could be poor public perception and ownership of the national response, including related guidelines. Uganda's approach to containing COVID-19 has been described as largely top-down, limited in community consultation or participation. This study will generate evidence on the experiences of Uganda's urban poor during COVID-19, their perception of [COVID-19] risk, adherence to policy guidelines and local innovations for survival.

Research Strategy

This is a mixed methods cross-sectional study using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. It was conducted in two (2) Kampala slums namely Ki-Mombasa slum in Bwaise and Kataba slum in Kabalagala, recruiting 807 study participants. Methods include a community survey, interviews and focus group discussions (FGD). Study tools are questionnaires, interview and FGD guides. Quantitative data will be entered in SPSS, cleaned and analyzed using relevant descriptive (e.g. percentages and means), bivariate (e.g. Chi-square and t-test) and multivariable (e.g. multiple logistic regression) statistical methods. Qualitative interviews will be audio recorded, transcribed, coded and thematically analysed using Nvivo 12.

Study Objective and Outcomes

The Objective



The study focused on assessing pre-post knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) among slum dwellers¹; explored local perception of risk or exposure; describe implementation of Uganda's national response to COVID-19 guidelines; determine feasibility, adherence or compliance; identify existing systems in the COVID-19 response and determine their efficacy. It will also establish whether the contextual specificities of urban slum dwellers have a bearing on

awareness, feasibility, enforcement and compliance to COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

Expected Outcomes

1. The study will generate evidence on the COVID 19 pandemic among communities living in Ugandan slums.
2. Study findings will inform responsive policy and guidelines to improve their health and wellbeing.
3. Evidence from the study will inform the design of tailored and robust community-led interventions for health and wellbeing.
4. The study team will support community members and other key stakeholders implement these interventions in a sustainable manner
5. Creation of lasting, impactful and solution-oriented partnerships between academia and research institutions like Makerere and Gulu Universities with other key stakeholders working with and in Uganda's informal settlements.

ALERTs has a nested study on “**Education in COVID-19**” as described below;

The countrywide closure of schools was one of the very first actions taken by the Government of Uganda to prevent further spread and manage COVID-19. Following this the Government swiftly formulated and rolled out an Education Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) to ensure continuity of learning during the COVID-19 lockdown and amidst other restrictions. The focus of this study is to explore experiences and assess the effect of the EPRP.

Therefore, education in COVID 19 study focuses on exploring knowledge, perceptions and experiences of communities in slums populations in regard to EPRP rollout, understanding actors and processes surrounding the design and implementation of the EPRP and assessing the sufficiency of the EPRP in providing continuity of learning in these communities.

From this study we expect to; contribute to a much-needed body of evidence on the effect of COVID on the education sector – and more so among society's most marginalized groups. Moreover, this sub-study is expected to shed light on some cross-sectoral linkages and how these played out during COVID-19, for example link between education closure and reported increased violence against children or teenage pregnancy in Uganda. It is the study team's hope that study findings will help to inform education policy to guide necessary and effective reforms.



Project Team

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Research Implementing Partners



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