



POLICY BRIEF

Gendered Impacts of COVID-19: Proposed Interventions for Vulnerable Groups

May 2020



Published by CEPA
P.O Box 23276, Kampala
Email: info@cepa.or.ug
Website: www.cepa.or.ug

By Anthony Masake

Citation: Masake A, (2020), Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Gendered impacts of the pandemic in Uganda and proposed interventions for PWDs, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. CEPA Policy Series Paper Number 6 of 2020.

© CEPA 2020

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the publisher.

Executive Summary

The novel coronavirus is sweeping across the world in a wave, leaving behind untold loss of life and suffering. The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province in China, in December 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) [declared](#) the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a pandemic – the first coronavirus pandemic.

As of May 19, 2020, the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 [live map](#) indicates that the deadly virus has infected at least 4,817,105 and caused the death of 318,599 people globally. According to the Ministry of Health, Uganda has 260 confirmed cases, with 63 recoveries. 32 are foreign truck drivers who tested positive and were turned back to their home countries. No registered deaths so far.

The Ugandan government has since initiated nationwide [crisis management measures](#) including suspension of gatherings of more than five people, night curfews, suspension of public and private transport, closure of markets and businesses dealing in non-food items, suspension of non-essential services, among others to flatten the curve. These measures are [generally welcome](#) given the unprecedented public health crisis we are dealing with and the global technical guidance for governments.

However, the emergency responses and measures have gaps that form the basis for this policy brief. Firstly, under the 1995 Constitution,¹ the President of Uganda, in consultation with the Cabinet was expected to declare a state of emergency to implement the emergency measures in a structured and institutionalized manner instead of centering all the powers in the presidency. This has resulted in gaps in the measures, though well-intentioned. Secondly, the measures ignore fundamental human rights-based approach principles. They are general in nature and fail to take into account the unique challenges faced by women and girls, people with disabilities, refugees, informal workers, factory workers, elderly people, sexual minorities, sex workers, and prisoners (hereinafter referred to as vulnerable groups).

Consequently, the emergency measures expose women and other vulnerable sections of the society to negative impacts such as rise in maternal mortality rates, challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health services, domestic violence, and gender-based violence. The lockdown is exacerbating inequalities, which may continue to persist even after the restrictions have been eased.

The Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) has developed this policy brief to guide on key issues that the Parliament of Uganda needs to consider during the exercise of its four functions of representation, legislation, oversight over the executive and the judiciary, and protection of the Constitution and promotion of democratic governance of Uganda during the government response to the outbreak. It contains an analysis of the government's response thus far, the emerging gaps, and identifies policy proposals for consideration. The brief proposes reforms aimed at building more equal, inclusive, and sustainable economies and societies.

In terms of content, the brief presents an overview of the responses taken by the government so far, analyses the context for impacts related to economic, social, health, and gender-based violence, and proposes policy reforms.

¹ Article 110

To achieve the proposed policy recommendations, there is a need to ensure the following framework is in place:

- That women, [people with disabilities](#), and other vulnerable groups have equal representation in all responses to the containment of the pandemic and recovery efforts;
- Take steps to strengthen efficiency and expand social protection and recovery programs to support vulnerable communities;
- Enable protection of right to fair hearing and access to justice by making legal services essential at all times; and
- Ensure that women and other vulnerable groups are targeted in all efforts aimed at addressing the negative impacts of the pandemic.

COVID-19: An overview of Uganda's response

On March 18, 2020, the government, through presidential directives, imposed emergency measures to slow the spread of the virus. Most of the directives have since been provided for in law under four statutory instruments.

This overview analyses the Government of Uganda's key legal and policy responses in three strands namely the legal response framework, fiscal policies, and monetary and macro-financial policies.

I. Legal Response

In this brief, the analysis of the legal response is structured in two aspects – the law and enforcement of the law.

Under the law, the government has two options under which it can base its emergency response plan. The first is through the minister of health's statutory instruments and the second is through a declaration of a state of emergency.

The government has opted for the former, although it can be argued that we are, in fact, in a de facto state of emergency. To clothe the declarations of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng invoked her powers under sections 10, 11, and 27 of the Public Health Act, Cap. 281 to issue Orders and Rules aimed at recognizing the pandemic and combating it in Uganda.

The Public Health (Notification of COVID-19) Order, 2020

This was the first [Order](#) aimed at declaring COVID-19 a notifiable disease to which the provisions of prevention and suppression of infectious diseases under the Public Health Act apply. This paved way for the minister to make rules for control of the spread of the disease, order for quarantine of infected or suspected persons, disinfect premises, and other emergency measures.

The Public Health (Control of COVID-19) Rules, 2020

These [Rules](#) impose measures for the control and prevention of the pandemic, as largely enumerated by the President. It provides for restrictions on public gatherings, closing of schools and institutions of higher learning, closure of bars and cinemas, suspension of prayers in churches and mosques, suspension of concerts, public meetings, sports events, the procedure of disposal of bodies of persons who die from COVID-19, among others.

The Public Health (Prohibition of Entry into Uganda) Order, 2020

This [Order](#) prohibits the entry of any person, animal or article into Uganda through any of its borders except vehicles or aircrafts engaged in the conveyance of cargo and those of the United Nations Organizations or other humanitarian organizations from March 23 to April 23, 2020.

The Public Health (Prevention of COVID-19) (Requirements and Conditions of Entry into Uganda) Order, 2020

This [Order](#) provides for conditions for entry into Uganda. These include a requirement to undergo a mandatory examination before entry, mandatory isolation, categorization of all persons based on country of departure and transit, creation of offences for failure to comply with the Order, among others. The Order shall only expire on a notification from the Minister of Health.

Declaration of a state of emergency Vs minister's orders: What does the Constitution say?

As illustrated above, the minister has invoked her powers to put in place measures to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. However, there is another way the government would have responded to put in place those measures.

Under Article 110(1) of the 1995 Constitution, the President is empowered, in consultation with the Cabinet, by proclamation, to declare that a state of emergency exists in Uganda or any part of Uganda. The public health crisis caused by COVID-19 is sufficient for the President to make such a proclamation.

A declaration of a state of emergency is [preferred](#) because it would provide a transparent legal basis for effective state action in responding to the pandemic and it would encourage institutional response rather than presidential declarations. In such a legal framework, despite its potential negative implications for a state like Uganda, the Parliament would play an active role in influencing the emergency measures and oversight duties.

Brutality by security forces

During the enforcement of the emergency measures, security personnel often resort to using brutal force to enforce emergency measures. Pedestrians – including pregnant women, shop keepers, cyclists, and motorcycle riders were [whipped](#) for apparent non-compliance. Others were arbitrarily arrested and [herded](#) on large groups, in disregard of social distancing rules. [Women](#), informal workers, and other vulnerable groups were affected disproportionately. President Museveni has [called out](#) security forces on brutality but more needs to be done to end excesses. Justice systems are also failing to respond to the [spike](#) in domestic violence and gender-based violence cases.

Are legal services non-essential?

The government has listed services that are considered essential during the lockdown period. Legal services are not among them. In response to the demand to exempt advocates from the travel restrictions to enable them to serve their clients whenever necessary, the president announced that [30 advocates](#) should be issued with car stickers. That proposal falls short of achieving any meaningful objective. Clients have a right to choose any practicing advocate in Uganda. The restriction infringes on the inviolable right to a fair hearing. The Chief Justice of Uganda, in line with the National Policy Directives, also announced administrative and contingency [measures](#) to prevent and mitigate the spread of coronavirus by the judiciary.

II. Fiscal Policies

The Government of Uganda [has used](#) part of its Contingency Fund in the FY2019/20 budget to finance approximately USD 1.3 million of the Ministry of Health Preparedness and Response Plan

from January to June 2020. The government has also passed a supplementary budget of about US\$80 million to critical sectors that are at the frontline of battling the pandemic. There are however concerns of poor prioritization with more supplementary expenditure (29%) being allocated to security and health getting only (22%).

On mitigating the social and economic impact of the pandemic, the government is carrying out food relief distribution targeting vulnerable populations in urban settings. Although this is welcome, the description of the 'most vulnerable urban poor' fails to provide for the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups.

III. Monetary and Macro-financial policies

On March 20, the Bank of Uganda (BoU) announced a raft of measures in a [statement](#). They include putting in place mechanisms to minimize the likelihood of sound business going into insolvency due to lack of credit, provision of exceptional liquidity assistance for a period of up to one year to financial institutions that might need it, working with banks to guarantee the safety of customers and staff, among others. BoU is also working with mobile money service providers and commercial banks to ensure reduced charges on transactions.

The BoU has also reduced its Central Bank Rate (CBR) by 1 point to 8% to counter the deteriorating economy. This is aimed at ensuring the smooth functioning of the financial markets. The bank has also provided guidelines on credit relief and loan restructuring to be followed by commercial banks and other supervised financial institutions for the next twelve months.

I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The COVID-19 outbreak has brought major economic disruptions across the world. The containment measures aimed at slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus have slowed global trade by reducing and disrupting travel and economic activities. Suspension of flights, tighter border controls, shutting down of markets, and services dealing in non-food items, among other measures are crippling economies and slowing or halting production at factories. The global economy is falling into recession. In a recent Africa Pulse [report](#), the World Bank noted that the pandemic is likely to drive Sub-Saharan Africa into its first recession in 25 years. Economic growth is projected to fall from 2.4% in 2019 to as low as -5.1% in 2020.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) [estimates](#) that full or partial lockdown measures now affect almost 2.7 billion workers, representing around 81% of the world's workforce. In Uganda, factory workers and those in the hospitality industry and other services are affected by widespread redundancy. Many have been asked to take forced leave and take no or half pay. Employment contracts are not being renewed. The closure of salons, bars, and the public transport service industry has pushed many more into unemployment and threatened the survival of small businesses.

Women and other vulnerable groups in Sub-Saharan Africa are being disproportionately affected because they earn less and [over 70%](#) are employed in the informal sector which is less secure in terms of access to legal protection and social protection. Quarantines can significantly reduce women's economic and livelihood activities thereby worsening food insecurity and increasing poverty rates. Other vulnerable groups such as refugees suffer a similar fate.

There is therefore urgent need to provide for gender-responsive economic and social policies that place women and other vulnerable groups at the heart of the emergency measures and recovery plans. It is important for all economic recovery measures – for both immediate responses, medium-term, and long-term recovery – to incorporate sex dynamics, gender lens, and specific interventions targeting women and other vulnerable groups.

The [Senior Citizens Grants \(SCGs\)](#), the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) scheme, [the Youth Livelihood Programme \(YLP\)](#), and other social support programs need to be efficiently scaled-up. The government should also cover up for the [30% relief food reduction](#) if the World Food Programme (WFP) cannot suspend the reductions. The government has [secured](#) a US\$491.5 million (about Shs. 1.9 trillion) credit facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help finance the health, social protection and macro-economic stabilization measures. To achieve the desired results, the following policy recommendations need to be taken into account.

Key policy recommendations

- **Gender-sensitive economic policies:** Provide effective representation and oversight to ensure that gender and vulnerability dimensions are integrated into all assessments to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the economic situation of women and other vulnerable groups. This is crucial in identifying appropriate responses that are sensitive to the needs.
- **Put money in the hands of women and other vulnerable groups:** Legislate to put money in the hands of women and other vulnerable groups through existing and new programs. Urgently scrap mobile money and social media taxes.
- **Reduce tax rates and offer tax breaks:** Introduce measures to provide support and reliefs for smaller businesses during and for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, alleviate the tax burdens through a reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) and suspension of charges for late VAT filings. For long-term incentives for the non-agriculture informal sector, offer tax breaks for small businesses to prevent job losses and present them a chance to bounce back and ultimately contribute to the tax revenue of the economy. To benchmark, this, [click here](#).
- **Extension of payment deadlines and waiver of tax penalties:** Engage the Uganda Revenue Authority to extend the deadline for filing corporation tax returns, including Pay As You Earn (PAYE), VAT, Local Excise Duty, Withholding tax, lottery and gaming returns, beyond the April 15, 2020 extension deadline and waive tax penalties.
- **Reduce operation costs for homes:** Engage the executive to implement measures that will result in low transaction costs for homes e.g. consider suspending water bills and offer electricity tokens for three months of April, May and June 2020, to cater for many vulnerable Ugandans who have lost their jobs and other sources of income.
- **Social protection and recovery programs:** Ensure social protection programs and other recovery projects adapt community-led and inclusive methodologies to cater to the interests of women and other vulnerable groups in a sustainable way.

- **Take action to guarantee basic income security:** Take action to ensure basic income security, in particular for vulnerable populations whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the crisis.

Unemployment benefits to workers facing loss of earnings: The government should take measures to provide financial benefits to workers who are facing the loss of earnings. This may necessitate amending the National Social Security Fund Act (NSSF Act) and any other necessary policies to facilitate workers' ability to access their partial payments of up to 20% of their savings to support their families and dependants. This is crucial because many workers have lost their jobs and or will suffer the negative impacts of the crisis for at least a year.

- **Access to education for children:** Engage the Ministry of Education to ensure that online instructions and materials are accessible to children with different disabilities and those who do not have access to the internet. Government should also put in place measures to ensure that all students in candidate classes and in their final year of studies safely access their schools. There are serious concerns that the restrictions on public transport and the curfew may expose the students to rights violations.

II. IMPACTS ON HEALTH RIGHTS

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)² specifically obliges Uganda, as a state party, to protect the 'right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health' by taking effective, concrete and targeted steps. Uganda's legal and policy framework also enjoins the government to implement measures to protect public health. The measures put in place by the government to combat the pandemic have been enumerated in the previous sections.

Although Uganda appears to be successful in managing the current wave of the virus, its health facilities have a lot of gaps. The country has 6,937 health facilities of which the government owns 3,21 facilities (45%). There are a total of 48,231 beds across all levels of health facilities, representing a deficit of 118,569 beds according to the Ministry of Health's projections.³ In terms of Intensive Care units (ICUs), Uganda has only 55 functional ICUs out of the required number of 25,020 ICUs – translating to a deficit of 24,965 ICUs.⁴

In 'normal' circumstances, access to health services for most women and other vulnerable groups in Uganda is limited. During a health pandemic, the barriers increase. In his paper⁵ on COVID-19 response, Prof. Ben. Twinomugisha asks the following questions, "When the government imposes a lockdown and isolation of people, it means well since the intention is to protect the life and health of the people. But... What about persons living with HIV and AIDS who may need access to ARVs? What about a pregnant woman that may need emergency labour and delivery care? What about persons with disabilities? How do they survive during the lockdown, isolation, and curfew?"

² Article 12(1)

³ Ministry of Health, 2019, Annual Health Sector Performance Report for FY2018/19

⁴ Atumanya et al, 2020, Assessment of the current capacity of intensive care units in Uganda: A descriptive study. *Journal of Critical Care* 55 (2020) 95-99

⁵ Ben Kiromba Twinomugisha, Public Health, Human Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda, p. 4

The bans on public and private transport which have resulted in unreasonable movement restrictions on people who have urgent health needs increase the risk of preventable death and suffering. This is especially critical for women and other vulnerable people who need essential and urgent healthcare. Women and girls, for example, need access to sexual and reproductive health services, which include maternal health care, access to menstrual hygiene products, access to contraceptives, and facilities that promote safe sex life, and emergency healthcare when they suffer gender-based violence. Failure to access timely transport services for medical care for women and other vulnerable groups have resulted in [preventable deaths](#).

On April 19, 2020, the President declared that pregnant women will be exempted from the travel ban and will no longer be required to seek permission from the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) to seek health care services. Civil society organizations have called for [more to be done](#) for other vulnerable groups. ‘We need further action beyond this directive.’⁶

People with disabilities, including people with psychosocial disabilities, also face marginalization and stigma. They struggle with barriers to lifesaving information and healthcare; many have weakened immune systems and limited social support systems. Many suffer from underlying health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension caused or exacerbated by psychiatric drugs which are often administered against their will or under coerced consent. Without deliberate action to protect them, they remain [at serious risk](#).

Key policy recommendations

- **Ensure compulsory gender and vulnerability assessments in COVID-19 responses:** Engage the executive to ensure that gender and vulnerability assessments are integrated into all COVID-19 preventive measures to ensure that; (a) women and other vulnerable groups are not unfairly exposed to accelerated negative health impacts; and (b) exempt all people who are suffering from HIV or TB, cancer and diabetes from the transport ban.
- **Make public health messages accessible to all:** Provide effective oversight to ensure that women, people with disabilities, refugees, prisoners, and other vulnerable groups have access to COVID-19 public health messages. This includes ensuring that the messages are accessed by prisoners, refugees, and people with different disabilities. Provide sign-language interpreters for all presidential addresses on the pandemic. Communications should use plain language to maximize understanding.
- **Accessibility of regular health services:** Provide effective representation and oversight to ensure that regular health services continue to be accessible across the country, especially for sexual and reproductive health care and other underlying conditions such as cancer, diabetes, and hypertension.
- **Protect frontline health workers:** Recognize the challenges faced by women as frontline health workers in their various positions as doctors, midwives, nurses, community health workers et al. Ensure they have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) inadequate frequency and appropriate body size. Special attention should also be provided to care for their health, work environment, psychosocial needs, and transport needs. Reprisal attacks

⁶ Joint press statement, Civil society response to President Museveni’s directive that pregnant women will no longer be banned from using transport to seek health services during COVID-19 lockdown, <https://chapterfourganda.org/articles/2020/04/20/covid-19-csos-call-further-measures-beyond-exempting-pregnant-women-transport>

against women providing health services as we saw in the Arua district incident⁷ should not be tolerated.

- **Accessibility of clean water and soap for regular handwashing:** Take action to ensure access to sufficient and affordable water and soap for vulnerable groups of women, including in informal settlements, rural areas, refugee camps, and people with disabilities to facilitate regular handwashing. Additional guidelines and measures should also be developed for people with disabilities.
- **Move people with disabilities out of closed institutions:** Engage relevant institutions to move people with disabilities out of closed institutions to reunite them with their families. Those who cannot be moved can stay at the facilities, but new admissions should be stopped.
- **Support people with psychosocial disabilities:** Self-isolation and quarantine can be distressing for people with psychosocial disabilities such as anxiety and depression. Implement measures to ensure psychosocial support and crisis counselling programs are accessible to all.

III. GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The pandemic is exacerbating gender inequalities and violence against women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

It is noticeable that Uganda's emergency response measures to slow the pandemic do not include adequate safety measures for vulnerable groups, who are increasingly bearing the brunt of the lockdown measures. Before the pandemic, at least 46% of women experienced physical violence and reported living in fear of their current or more recent partners. These figures are bound [to increase](#) during the lockdown. Women are being trapped with abusive partners in situations where they cannot rely on their support networks or access essential legal, protection, and health services.

A wide range of sexual violence, including rape – including marital rape, sexual harassment, and abuse, defilement, denial of the right to use contraception, forced abortions, forced sex work, among others are bound to rise.

Under normal circumstances, [sexual violence](#) and gender-based violence cases often go unreported and the abusers often escape justice because of the corrupt and inefficient criminal justice system. The pandemic [has worsened](#) the situation. Because of the lockdown, it is difficult to travel to police stations to report cases and receive the necessary attention. Because legal services are not considered essential services, it is also difficult to have the necessary legal support to report and obtain the necessary evidence to take legal action when the courts resume normal operations.

Key policy recommendations

⁷ Ms. Alice Akello, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Arua district allegedly harassed and summoned Doris Oku'dinia, an enrolled nurse at Ediofe Health Centre III for wheeling a patient for about 3 kilometers to Arua Regional Referral Hospital after an ambulance they had requested for failed to show up. Chapter Four Uganda provided first line legal response to push back against the harassment and intimidation. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, the Minister of Health later commended the nurse for her selfless service.

- **Prevention and response services:** Make prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of the national response plan. Provide oversight to ensure the integration of prevention efforts and services geared towards responding to violence against women into COVID-19 response plans. Increase advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- **Support domestic violence shelters:** Engage the executive to designate domestic violence shelters as essential services. Allocate resources to support the shelters, psychosocial care, online counseling services, and other related helpline services. Other facilities such as empty hotels should be considered to expand shelters for victims and survivors of violence.
- **Designate legal services as essential:** Engage the executive to ensure that legal services are designated as essential, at all times, to exempt lawyers from the travel restrictions.
- **Encourage use of safe spaces to report violence:** Require the police to partner with pharmacies, drug shops, clinics, hospitals, grocery stores, and other safe spaces to encourage women and other vulnerable groups to report violence.
- **Encourage the use of online platforms to report violence:** Require the police and other relevant institutions to move their services online to ensure that victims of abuse have access to legal and support services.
- **Avoid exploitation and harassment during the distribution of relief:** The government should put in place separate relief distribution plans for female and child-headed households, refugees, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups to ensure they receive the support promptly. Measures should be put in place to ensure women and girls are not exploited during the distribution of relief items.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic is shining a spotlight on the inequalities in our societies. It is important more than ever to put in place policies that will facilitate the recovery of failing or failed sectors and take prudent reforms to protect the gains.

To do this, it is clear that women and girls, people with disabilities, refugee populations – in settlements and urban places, elderly people, informal workers – including factory workers, sexual minorities, sex workers, and prisoners are ably represented during the decision-making processes and implementation.

We welcome the decision to pardon close to 1,000 prisoners from the overcrowded prisons but [more needs to be done](#). Occupancy levels of over 300% provide a dangerous breeding place for the virus and an outbreak within the prison walls would be devastating. It is also concerning that there has been a spike in re-trial detention as a result of a wave of arrests for violation of the emergency measures. The preventive measures put in place so far are welcome but are not sufficient to protect prisoners and detainees in prison. Prisoners also have the right to exercise social distancing and other protection measures.

We appeal to Members of Parliament to take action to legislate and advocate for the various policy reforms listed in this brief. We further appeal to the executive arm of the government to consider the policy proposals and implement them. The COVID-19 response plans need to provide appropriate measures for each vulnerable group beyond the blanket responses to ‘vulnerable urban populations.’

REFERENCES

Global Accessibility News (A statement by the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda – NUDIPU), *Uganda: Calls for Disability-Friendly Lockdown Measures*, <http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2020/04/09/uganda-calls-for-disability-friendly-lockdown-measures/>

Avalara VATlive, *World turns to VAT cuts on coronavirus COVID-19 threat*, <https://www.avalara.com/vatlive/en/vat-news/world-turns-to-vat-cuts-on-coronavirus-threat.html>

Judiciary latest features, *Administrative and Contingency Measures to Prevent and Mitigate the Spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) by the Judiciary*, issued by Hon. Justice Bart Katureebe (Chief Justice of Uganda), [http://www.judiciary.go.ug/data/news/821/2184/Administrative%20and%20Contingency%20Measures%20to%20Prevent%20and%20Mitigate%20the%20Spread%20of%20Corona%20Virus%20\(Covid-19\)%20by%20The%20Judiciary.html](http://www.judiciary.go.ug/data/news/821/2184/Administrative%20and%20Contingency%20Measures%20to%20Prevent%20and%20Mitigate%20the%20Spread%20of%20Corona%20Virus%20(Covid-19)%20by%20The%20Judiciary.html)

The New Vision newspaper, *COVID-19 outbreak, and lockdown: Addressing impact on women, girls*, https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1518223/covid-19-outbreak-lockdown-addressing-impact-women-girls

International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Policy Responses to COVID-19*, (Policy Tracker, Uganda), <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#top>

Bank of Uganda statement, *Measures to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19*, <https://www.bou.or.ug/bou/export/sites/default/mediacenter/Otherspeeches/2020/Mar/Measures-to-mitigate-the-economic-impact-of-COVID-19.pdf>

Ben Kiromba Twinomugisha (2020), Professor and former Dean, School of Law, Makerere University, Public Health, *Human Rights, and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda*.

Busingye Kabumba (2020), Lecturer at Law, Makerere University, *The 1995 Constitution and COVID-19*, <https://observer.ug/viewpoint/64295-constitution-and-covid-19-are-presidential-directives-unconstitutional>

World Economic Forum, *Rethinking tax in Africa to respond to COVID-19*, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/rethinking-tax-in-africa-to-respond-to-covid-19/>

World Bank Group (2020), *Africa's Pulse: Assessing the Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Policy Responses in Sub-Saharan Africa*,

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33541/9781464815683.pdf?sequence=10&isAllowed=y>

The World Bank, Podcast, *AFRONOMICS: The Economic Impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Africa*, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2020/04/13/africas-pulse-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19-coronavirus-in-africa>

Brookings, *A policy framework for mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19*, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/04/20/a-policy-framework-for-mitigating-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19/>

International Labour Organization (ILO), FAQ, *ILO Standards, and COVID-19 (coronavirus). Key provisions of international labour standards relevant to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak*, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms_739937.pdf

UN Women, *Women and COVID-19: Five things governments can do now*, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/news-women-and-covid-19-governments-actions-by-ded-bhatia>

Human Rights Watch (HRW), *Protect Rights of People with Disabilities During COVID-19, (Ensure access to information, essential services for those most at risk)*, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/26/protect-rights-people-disabilities-during-covid-19>

Parliament of Uganda (2020), *Report of the Budget Committee on the Supplementary Expenditure Schedule No. 2: Addendum 1 and 2 for FY 2019/20*, April 2020

Ministry of Health, 2019, *Annual Health Sector Performance Report for FY2018/19*

Atumanya et al, 2020, *Assessment of the current capacity of intensive care units in Uganda: A descriptive study*, *Journal of Critical Care* 55 (2020) 95-99

The Daily Monitor newspaper, *Over 13,680 girls defiled in Uganda in 2019, says IGP Ochola*, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Over-13-680-girls-defiled-in-Uganda-in-2019-IGP-Ochola/688334-5536610-dfwonm/index.html>

The Nile Post, *328 cases of domestic violence reported during Covid-19 lockdown so far*, <https://nilepost.co.ug/2020/04/17/328-cases-of-domestic-violence-reported-during-covid-19-lockdown-so-far/>

Chapter Four Uganda and partners, *COVID-19: Human rights organizations call for the release of prisoners*, <https://chapterfouruganda.org/articles/2020/03/27/covid-19-human-rights-organisations-call-release-prisoners>

International Monetary Fund (IMF), *IMF Executive Board Approves a US\$491.5 Million Disbursement to Uganda to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic*, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/05/06/pr20206-uganda-imf-executive-board-approves-us-million-disbursement-address-the-covid-19-pandemic>

