

### **Update on GiveDirectly Uganda Operations**

As of September 11th, 2020, we've paused all our operations in Uganda, after being asked to do so by Uganda's NGO Bureau. This pause affects all targeting, enrolment, transfer, and follow up activities across our current operations.

We are working in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the NGO bureau to resolve this issue and have responded in writing to all of their concerns. We are optimistic that we will be able to resume operations soon.

While we are paused, we will not be able to reach out to or enroll any current or potential recipients, or pay any recipients. We know this might be disappointing but we do encourage recipients to be patient. Although we are not sure when we will be able to resume regular operations, we will continue to put **recipients first** through this closure, while working within the guidelines provided by the Government of Uganda.

We've received approval from the Bureau to communicate the pause to our current recipients and everyone who had previously consented to sharing their data with us but had not yet been enrolled. We will be updating these over 100,000 people, who will not be enrolled or receiving their scheduled payments until this is resolved, by SMS by 25th September. Our hotline number is still accessible at +256 800 220550 for any recipient questions.

With the continued support of our partners, we fully expect to resume payments to our recipients when the pause is lifted soon. We remain committed to supporting poor households in Uganda, and are encouraged by the support we've already received from our partners in government supporting the quick resolution of this issue.

### **About GiveDirectly's COVID-19 cash relief project**

GiveDirectly launched a relief program in 2020 to provide cash transfers to low-income households in Kampala, Lira, Mbale, Mbarara, Gulu, Kabale, and Moroto, with support from USAID and other funders. All enrolled individuals will receive three transfers of 100,000 UGX each via mobile money. The program was publicly launched on August 6th: so far, ~48,000 individuals have been enrolled and ~22,000 have already received at least one transfer, with an expected target of ~190,000 individuals. For this project, GiveDirectly is working closely with Ministries of Kampala, Local Government and the COVID-19 National Task force, as well as district leadership in each district, with MOUs in place and regular Technical Advisory Group meetings.

### **About GiveDirectly's work and the positive impacts of cash transfers**

Since launching in Uganda in 2013, we have supported more than 70,000 households, providing cash grants in the districts of Lamwo, Bukedea, Kyegegwa, Iganga, Kiryandongo, in Kampala in partnership with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and UNICEF, and in Lira and Mbale as part of our COVID emergency cash program with funding from USAID.

Cash transfers have been thoroughly and rigorously shown to reduce poverty and improve lives, with [dozens of high-quality evaluations](#) of cash transfer programs spanning Africa (including Uganda), Asia, and Latin America. Despite stereotypes that poor households will use cash transfers to buy alcohol, tobacco and other “temptation goods,” [studies consistently show](#) no significant impact or a significant negative impact of transfers on such spending. Similarly, [most studies find no effect](#) on the number of hours worked.

We work with researchers to study our work and the results, in Uganda and globally. For example, in Iganga, we [found that](#) cash transfers “meaningfully increased household spending (including on food), increased earnings, improved food security, and led households to increase their assets.” For all programs including our ongoing COVID-19 program, we follow up with all recipients during and after transfers, and provide regular updates to district leadership.

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