

Humanitarian Relief Operation “Do Not Abandon Them” Activity Report - May 28, 2020



The relief operation **Do Not Abandon Them** was launched on Friday, March 27, 2020. Since then, financial funds, medical items and volunteer efforts have been continuously mobilized in order to meet the campaign goals in Uganda, Kenya and other African countries. **To date, over 80,000 \$ have been distributed by the campaign partners as direct aid, and through medical supplies to various target communities and institutions.** This report focuses mainly on the activities executed in **Uganda**.

Introduction

By late February, Uganda and many other African countries started to witness the economic impact of the COVID 19. After the shutdown of all institutions, markets, business, etc. there was a dramatic downfall in the income level of weak households.

Predominantly, the majority of the poorer populations in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda live hand-to-mouth, making their daily living for example from riding motorcycles, driving taxis, farming, and carrying cargo. The pandemic created a most difficult economic situation characterized by the collapse of trading systems, extreme increase in severe poverty, hunger and access to vital and life-saving health systems.

Operation Goals

The overall goal of the operation was (and still is) to aid children and communities living under conditions of extreme scarcity and poverty and support local medical systems in East African countries:

- 1) Distribute funds for basic food items, as well medical supplies and to provide essential medical care to children, mothers and families living in extreme poverty in **Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda** and other African countries. The aim is to raise \$1.00 per day for a child to receive the food and primary medical care that they need.
- 2) Provide support for the medical systems in the target countries, first and foremost to the projects in which Israeli volunteers and organization have been involved for years - including the *Israeli Medicine on the Equator* project, which operates in the *Kiboga* hospital in Uganda.
- 3) Manage volunteers and local organizations in the various target areas, primarily the staff of “Topaz Uganda”, “Tag Kenya” and “Inspiration Uganda”.
- 4) Raise support and funds from the Israeli, American and global society in order to achieve the operational goals.
- 5) Recruit partners supporting all the aspects of the relief operation.

Strategy and Implementation

Since the end of March 2020 all public and private transportation have been halted and educational institutions, including kindergartens, schools, boarding schools and academic institutions, as well as much of the commercial and business infrastructure, have been closed. To date it is not yet clear when these institutions will reopen (possibly on July 1, 2020).

As a result of the steps taken by the local governments, a severe shortage of essential food and medical items among the already poverty-stricken population was created. Many families live now day to day, from hand to mouth. Soon the children, who until recently were served nutritious meals at their educational institutions, are at risk of starvation. The public system is not able to provide assistance to populations living in slums, suffering from extreme hunger.

The relief operation **Do Not Abandon Them** set up a variety of intervention strategies:

- 1) Recruit and manage a large team of volunteers in Israel to organize and run the operation.
- 2) Guide and supervise the local teams in Uganda and Kenya (employees and volunteers) to work systematically and professionally in order to help thousands of children, mothers and families who are under their responsibility.
- 3) Raise funds by using crowdfunding methods, as well as private and public supporters for the campaign.
- 4) Raise donations and purchase medical supplies in order to ship them from Israel and China to Uganda (and later to Kenya and other African countries as well).
- 5) Purchase and distribution of food under supervision to the target communities.
- 6) Transfer money (\$20 - 30 every few days) via mobile phone to families living in slums for essential food purposes.

Uganda Report:

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are children, women and poor households living in the suburbs of Kampala in Uganda, the Kiboga district in North West Uganda and participants of Topaz Uganda programs throughout the country. We reach out to the children and

families through our local partners and local projects. Some of these projects include the Mirembe women skills training, Nazareth Nursery School and AFAAYO children scholarship.

General Methodology

Due to the complex situation created after the lockdown in Uganda, with all public and private transportation halted, and suspension on buying large amounts of food, the local partners of Topaz association, Brit Olam and Little Light developed different systems of operation to ensure food supply to our poverty stricken children and their mothers.

1. We formed a team of 6 local volunteers to aid the distribution of foods to the beneficiaries in their areas of residence.
2. We buy reasonably small amounts of supplies from the closest markets, which are distributed by the volunteers to the families of our beneficiaries.
3. In Uganda, like in any other African country, it is common to use mobile phones to transfer small amounts of cash. We send small amounts of monies between 50,000-100,000 UGX periodically to support children and families to buy food and essential medical goods.
4. Our coordinators at the various distribution points invite families in small numbers of 4-5 in order to provide them with the donated foods. This mechanism was applied in order to help keep social distance and avoid disease contagion.
5. On some occasions and only when possible, our volunteers give direct cash to families of children whose homes are known and are reachable. Parents/guardians are made to sign for these funds by putting their signatures or fingerprints against the sum of shillings received.

Brief description of some of the aid recipient's people and programs

The *Children's Hope* daycare centers

The *Children's Hope* daycare centers are programs *Topaz – Brit Olam* volunteers initiated in Uganda in 2007. The first center was founded in the *Namungo* slum in

Kampala - The *Little Light* daycare center, to date, takes care for over 300 children every year.

The *Nazareth* Child Center was opened in **Namulanda**, 2011. The center is located in a poor semi-rural area, on the outskirts of the village, a former fishermen's settlement. To date, the *Nazareth* Child Care Center educates 10 children each year between the ages of 3-6. In *Nazareth*, the staff includes four teachers and a local volunteer coordinator.

Volunteers from Israel and other countries support the centers. A local volunteer coordinator takes care of all the needs of the volunteers throughout the volunteering period. Before mobilization, the volunteers go through various training activities. The courses cover topics such as early education, Ugandan culture and traditions, creative educational methodologies, and entrepreneurial studies.

The *Afaayo* sponsorship program gives vulnerable children from the most impoverished families of **Namulanda** the opportunity to pursue an education that will enable them to realize their full potential and build a better future for themselves. The children enrolled in the *Afaayo* program are graduates of the *Nazareth* Childcare center. The program matches an individual or a group of donors, with a child whom they support throughout their studies, from primary school to higher education (a total of up to 18 years of studies). The donors receive periodic updates, letters, and photos of the child and can track their progress throughout the period.



Mothers receive 100,000 UGX to buy foods for her children



Small amounts of food ready for pickups by some of the families



Humanitarian Aid Accountability

Aid:

Little Light Day Care Center has been assisting over three hundred families (support of over 1,800 children and mothers).

Nazareth Child Care Center and the **Afaayo Child Sponsorship Program**, both running in the Namulanda rural area in Uganda. Assistance to over 130 families of children. (support to close to 1000 children).

Aid in these programs is mainly given through food distribution and mobile money transfer.



Volunteer Distributing Cash Aid

The Israeli Medicine on the Equator Program

The program has been operating in the Kiboga district hospital since 2007. It is located in one of the poorest districts in Uganda, 120 km northwest of the capital city of Kampala. Kiboga District Hospital is a small government hospital, providing medical services to a population of around 400,000 people. The hospital has 120 admission beds, as well as an outpatient clinic. Both the hospital, as well as the outpatient clinic are severely understaffed.

Over the years, more than 180 Israeli and international medical personnel have volunteered in the program, Each team consisting of 4-6 doctors and nurses who volunteer for a period of three months or more. The medical volunteer teams provide medical care along with teaching hospital staff. It is a unique project in the Israeli development landscape, with its emphasis on sustainable capacity building of local communities.

An the end of March 2020, all volunteers were returned to Israel.

The program is operated in collaboration with various bodies, e.g., **Kiboga** district health authorities, the Uganda Ministry of Health, and the Israeli Medical Association. **IME is** managed by a voluntary board in Israel, made up primarily of graduates of the program. In addition, a part-time coordinator in Israel coordinates the various logistics and fundraising activities of the projects.

The **Israeli Medicine on the Equator** program has been supported for many years by the **SBI company** in Uganda and **The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MASHAV**.



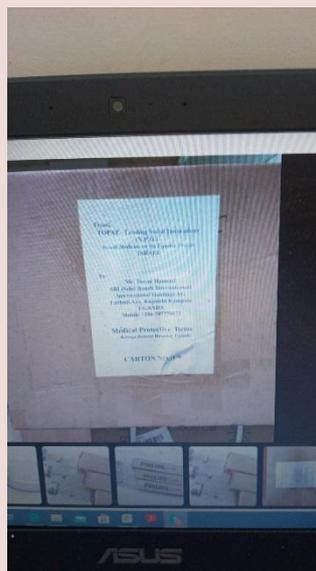
Medical Protective Items from Israel, Uganda and China

Aid:

Our initial concerns were related to providing food for malnourished children. Furthermore, we did continue maintaining the blood pressure and diabetes clinic. The clinics continued to conduct regular check-ups and delivery of drugs, treating 340 patients throughout the district.

The local team provided traffic permits to the patients in order for them to reach the clinic and receive the needed care. In addition, additional medicines were bought in order to preserve the therapeutic continuum. As part of the continuous assistance to the hospital, funds for food and medical care were transferred to the children's ward. The aid provides support for local children, as well as for refugee children from Rwanda being treated there. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – **MASHAV**- additional equipment was purchased to strengthen the activities in the diabetes and women's health clinic. **Similar support was provided by SBI International**

Furthermore, protective medical gear from Israel was sent to the hospital and a large amount of medical equipment was ordered from China and has arrived in Uganda .



Medical Protective Items from Israel, Uganda and China

Mirembe Program for Women Empowerment



Mirembe Women receiving food supplies

Mirembe is a social initiative of the Inspiration Movement. It focuses on empowering Ugandan women and their families from weak rural areas to overcome poverty and become economically and socially independent. The overall goal is to redesign the women's lives through art, social and entrepreneurial skills. By advancing fair trade strategies in craft and jewelry production, by offering microfinance opportunities and by endorsing sustainable employment opportunities and education, **Mirembe** improves the quality of life of poor and marginalized women, men, families, and communities in Uganda.

Each year over one hundred women participate in the program. The project operates in partnership with NIAAD, the Naggenda International Academy of Art and Design in Namulanda, Uganda. The program is implemented by the Topaz Country director in Uganda, local art teachers, and social workers and supported by the staff of the NIAAD Academy. An International Board of volunteers supports all training and operational issues concerning the program.

Aid:

Since the lockdown the program had to be put on hold. Food and financial resources were transferred to the women and their families. In addition, a budget

has been allocated in order to continue the creation of art products to ensure future sources of income for the women and their children. It is planned to promote the marketing of the products in the coming months and to enable the women to get back to work as soon as possible



Mirembe women receiving food supplies

Inspiration International Academy for Arts, Leadership, and Social Change

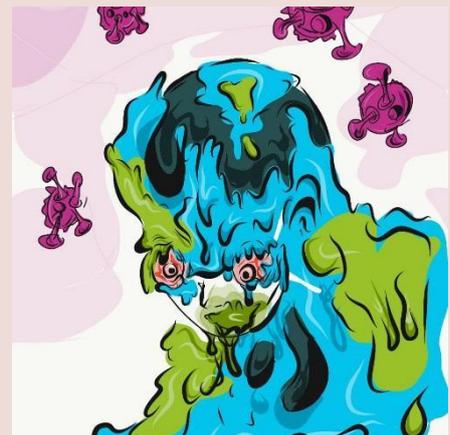
Inspiration International Academy for Arts, Leadership, and Social Change (I.I.A.) is an International Art and Leadership Educational program offering talented and ambitious students a unique chance to acquire a wide range of artistic and social leadership skills. The four-year program is a joint venture of ***Inspiration, Brit Olam, Topaz, and the Nagenda International Academy of Art and Design (NIAAD)***. ***I.I.A.*** builds upon the accumulated experience and expertise of Muse Uganda (2008-2015) and advances the initiative. The program was launched in August 2019. Twenty students from three East African countries, Uganda, Sudan, and Kenya, are studying in the program. Some of the Students are I.D.P. and refugees. The program includes two years of intensive extra-curricular studies in community development,

leadership, and social entrepreneurship. The program enables young artists to expand their expertise in a wide variety of social change methodologies embedded in creative artistic activities. The graduates will become creative and ecologically sensitive entrepreneurs. The young social-oriented artists will use their abilities to sustain themselves economically, enjoy a brighter personal future, and act as innovative, responsible, and diligent members of their society

Aid:

The students in the program mainly come from very poor economic backgrounds and a third of them are refugees from African countries in the region. As part of the relief operation, scholarship covering basic living and medical expenses were given to the students coming from poverty-stricken families to ensure their health, as well as their ability to return to school after the crisis.

It is planned to establish an international online learning center in May in order to continue to teach and guide the students online.



As part of the “crisis assignments” all students were requested to produce artistic works reflecting the COVID19 Epidemic. A few examples.

Management and Logistics:

The operation is managed and run by the nonprofit organization **Topaz**, its various divisions - **Brit Olam, The Israeli Global Initiative, the Improve and Inspiration**

Movement in partnership with **Tag**, an international development charity, based in the United States and supported by various public organizations, including **Solel Boneh International**, **SBI Uganda**, the **Ted Arison Family Foundation**, the NGO **A New Dawn in the Negev**, the NGO **Little Light** in Uganda, the **Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MASHAV** (for the **Israeli Medicine on the Equator** project in Kiboga, Uganda), the **OLAM** platform (as part of the **Olam in Motion** program) and more.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to all our supporters – individual donors, charitable foundations, businesses, and Governmental Organisations. Together, we have saved many lives.



Volunteer Staff and Activists of the Relief Operation

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