Key findings

Ground Truth Solutions conducted phone interviews with community leaders from the ten most populous South Sudanese and Congolese refugee settlements in Uganda in April 2020.

- Most refugees and asylum seekers are aware of the guidance around COVID-19 and have received information from their most trusted information sources.
- While most are abiding by the COVID-19 guidelines, refugees find it difficult to keep at a distance from others, stay home, and wear a facemask.
- Some people cannot distinguish between facts and rumours surrounding COVID-19 and may be resorting to ineffective or dangerous home remedies.
- Nearly all of those in the settlements are unable to meet their essential needs.
- Social relations have become increasingly strained as people are no longer able to get emotional, financial, and food support from friends and family due to social distancing and loss of income.

Information

- Most community leaders said people in the camps have sufficient access to information to understand how to protect themselves from COVID-19.
- There are growing concerns about the spread of false information and misconceptions about contracting, avoiding, even curing the virus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trusted information source</th>
<th>Main information source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community leaders</td>
<td>News media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News media</td>
<td>National government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National government</td>
<td>UN/NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN/NGOs</td>
<td>Health professionals/ providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals/providers</td>
<td>Local government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic impact

- People are finding it challenging to meet their essential needs.
- Cutback in food distribution and loss of income due to COVID-19 preventative measures has created negative coping strategies.

Main survey results

- Do people feel they have the information needed to protect themselves from the virus?
- Are people abiding by the guidance/policies?
- Are people able to distinguish between rumours and facts around the virus?
- How has the ability to meet basic needs changed since the virus started spreading?

Behaviour

- The majority of community leaders said people are abiding by COVID-19 policies.
- Refugees requiring non-virus-related urgent care continue to visit their community health providers, although restrictions of movements is noted as making this difficult.
- Fear of contracting the virus at a health centre is also said to be a barrier to accessing healthcare for some community members.

Full report: [https://groundtruthsolutions.org/COVID_19_bulletin_uganda_may_2020](https://groundtruthsolutions.org/COVID_19_bulletin_uganda_may_2020)