



Activity Highlights

April - June 2020

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The focus of this project was to spark conversations and inform the masses within and beyond Uganda.

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Dear KAS friends and family,

Since its outbreak, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated our lives. It has threatened our lives, livelihoods, our individual and democratic freedoms. It has jeopardized our economies, our security and social stability.

In these unprecedented times, we as Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, remain steadfast in our mission and the core pillars of our work. In fact, the challenges that we currently face, reassure us of the importance of dedicating ourselves to the topics of democratic presentation and participation, security and innovation.

As you might have already learned from our website and social media channels, we have been closed to the public during these last weeks. This, however, does not mean that we have not been active. Quite the opposite is the case!

As part of our contribution to the fight against COVID-19, we released a publication series on the social, economic and political implications of the pandemic. We also run a series of citizen webinars in conjunction with the Ministry of ICT to raise awareness around COVID-19. Prompted by the lockdown, we ventured into new areas and conducted our first KAS webinars. In all this, we sought to

not only maintain our networks but also strengthen and enlarge them by accepting new promising talents and young change-makers into our Youth4Policy fellowship and KAS scholarship programme. Finally, our Project, *"Strengthening Performance and Accountability through Community Engagement"* kicked off in cooperation with our regional partners and the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda.

Last but not least, Mathias Kamp who wholeheartedly directed our office for the past five years, ended his tour of duty and handed over his responsibilities to Anna Reismann. As of July 1st, the new Country Director will be assuming her duties from Germany until she can relocate to Uganda. Mathias Kamp, in turn, will stay connected to our work through his new position as Policy Advisor East Africa at the KAS headquarters in Berlin. *"Shaping. Democracy. Together."* is our motto and makes us stronger.

We hope you stay healthy and safe during these challenging times and invite you to join our activities online. Enjoy the insights into our work and let's keep in touch!

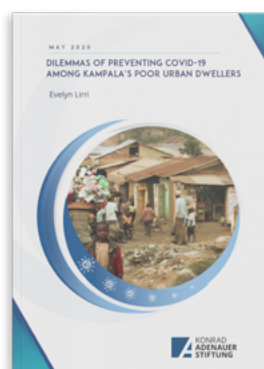
With a special thanks to our team and best regards,

Mathias and Anna

Focus on COVID-19 New publications

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging worldwide, Uganda has not been spared from facing severe disruptions in the economic, social, cultural and medical field. To give a voice to those affected but also to shed light on some crisis-related issues, we compiled a publication series illustrating the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that by these insights, we will inform policy debates during and post COVID-19.

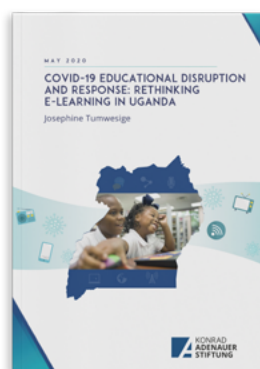
Here is a brief overview over some of the publications of the series.



Dilemmas of preventing COVID-19 among Kampala's urban poor dwellers

By Evelyn Lirri

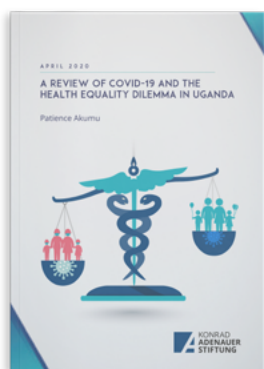
A review of the COVID-19 preventive measures implemented among urban poor populations such as the effectiveness of social distancing. The paper establishes the need to conceptualise a feasible workplan to protect Kampala's urban poor.



COVID-19 educational disruption and response: rethinking e-learning in Uganda

By Josephine Tumwesigye

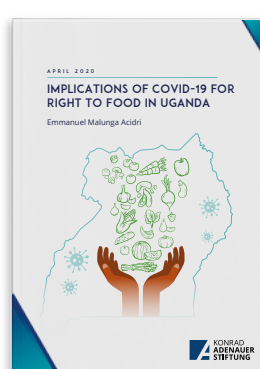
An outline of the controversies that lie in the COVID-19 shock waves which have rattled the Ugandan education system and sparked questions on the current style of learning. There is need to embrace more information technology in the education system.



A review of COVID-19 and the health inequality dilemma

By Patience Akumu

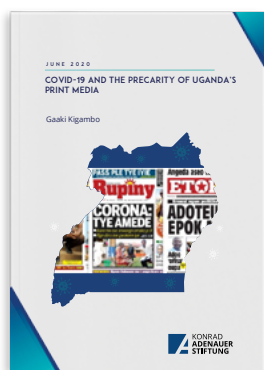
Lessons from Uganda's ongoing COVID-19 response and suggestions for sustainable measures to address the imbalances of health care after the pandemic.



Implications of COVID-19 for right of food in Uganda

By Emmanuel Malunga Acidri

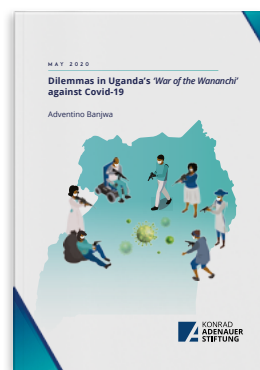
A close look at the reality of the poor when trying to access food. From a humanitarian angle, the text unearths how the COVID-19 crisis has added fuel to the fire of the previously existing food security problem.



COVID-19 and the Precarity of Uganda's Print Media

By Gaaki Kigambo

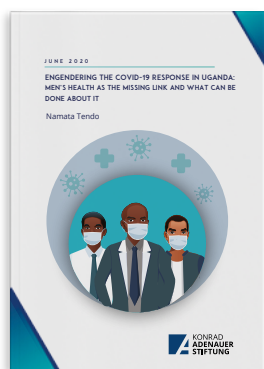
Insights into the struggles of print media and how these have developed under the pandemic. The piece emphasises that print media is, however, still very relevant and must be saved.



Dilemmas in Uganda's 'War of the Wananchi' against COVID-19

By Adventino Banjwa

An introductory reflection on the popular metaphor of war from the Ugandan point of view, where measures to address COVID-19 have been said to stand for the war of the ordinary people against the pandemic.



Engendering the COVID-19 Response in Uganda: Men's Health as the Missing Link and What Can Be Done About It

By Namata Tendo

This publication unveils men's high exposure rates to COVID-19 in Uganda and calls for the refinement of men's health needs using a gendered analysis.

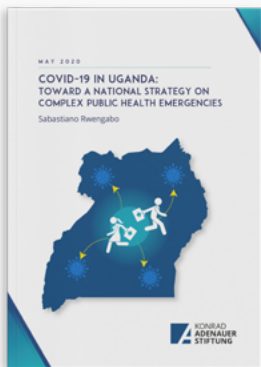


The Opportunities COVID-19 Presents to Rejuvenate Uganda's Manufacturing Sector

By Oscar Olaro

Whilst there were a number of setbacks on various sectors of Uganda's economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this article discloses opportunities to revitalize our manufacturing sector and boost local investment as a bounce back.

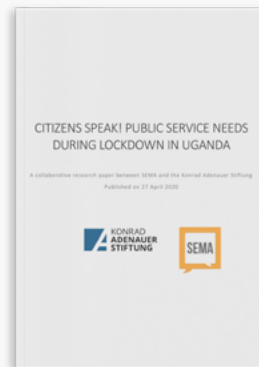




COVID-19 in Uganda – towards a national strategy on complex public health emergencies

By Sebastiano Rwengabo

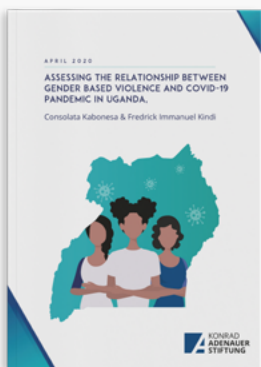
Insights into the government's agility in its response to the pandemic and a review of the state-public liaison that was used to implement the national strategy on complex public health emergencies.



Citizens Speak! Public service needs during lockdown in Uganda

By SEMA and KAS

Highlights of the public service needs that are rendered essential by different societal segments. The text emphasises citizen's current and necessary engagement in the fight against COVID-19.



Assessing the relationship between gender-based violence and the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda

By Consolata Kabonesa & Fredrick Immanuel Kindi

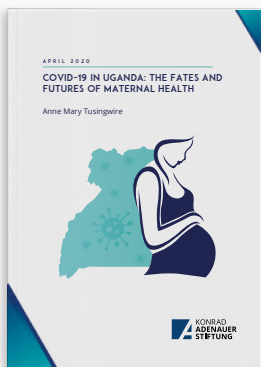
The article unmasks the correlation between gender-based violence and the lockdown in Uganda. It sheds light on women's inability to temporarily escape brutish partners and revisits the stigmatisation of COVID-19 survivors.



What could the COVID-19 pandemic mean for the 2021 elections in Uganda?

By Lillian Babirye

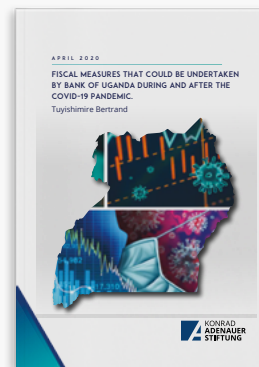
Explanations to the conundrum surrounding the 2021 elections in Uganda. The article elaborates on interferences of electoral proceedings by the virus and how this might affect political outcomes.



COVID-19 in Uganda – The fates and futures of maternal health

By Anne Mary Tusingwire

A summary of the strain on nationwide maternal health services due to the restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19. The recommendations in the article call for an equilibrium in the national pandemic responses and maternal health services in Uganda.



Potential fiscal measures by the Bank of Uganda – During and after the COVID-19 pandemic

By Tuyishimire Bertrand

A navigation through various fiscal policy flight paths that the Bank of Uganda may take to revitalize economic growth in the country. Policy makers, businesses and non-profit organizations are given a tow-path in making sophisticated financial decisions during and after the Covid-19 Crisis.



COVID-19 and its Impact on Uganda's Creative Industry

By Wabwire Joseph Ian

The write-up explains the impact COVID-19 had on Uganda's creative industry, owing to the restrictive measures which have compelled the players in the sector to explore and embrace innovation.



Uganda's Economic Response to COVID-19

By Max Walter and Juliane Bing

A proposal of various mechanisms for Government to shield vulnerable people from a potential sustenance tragedy underneath the COVID-19 lockdown. It underlines the need for swift relief and a practical roadmap that protects the unfortified population in Uganda.





The project aimed at initiating conversations and availing information about the pandemic to the masses and redirecting attention to planning for a new, progressive post-COVID-19 world for our respective communities and countries.



For several months now, the world has been faced by the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, there are an estimated 10 million confirmed cases of the disease and 500,000 reported deaths. Uganda being equally affected has had to put in place measures to curb the spread of the virus.

In several instances, some of these measures have not been met and understood by the population considering the wide circulation of fake news. In a bid to increase awareness and debunk myths surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, KAS in conjunction with the Ministry of ICT organised a series of webinars which contributed to the fight against the pandemic.

The citizen webinars were held on these three themes:

1. **The Science behind COVID-19**
2. **The Threat of Fake News during a Pandemic**
3. **Coping with Anxiety and Mental Health during Crisis**

The project aimed at initiating conversations and availing information about the pandemic to the masses and redirecting attention to planning for a new, progressive post-COVID-19 world for our respective communities and countries.

Besides being informative and enriching, the citizen webinar series also acted as a reminder and sensitisation tool for citizens to maintain the Government of Uganda COVID-19 guidelines advocating for social distancing and general personal hygiene.



Don Wanyama, Senior Presidential Press Secretary, and Awel Uwhanganye, Head of the Government-Citizen-Interaction-Centre in preparation for the Webinar on the Threat of Fake News.

The webinar series addressed the “infodemic” which remains the biggest challenge to combating COVID-19 and to re-shaping the narrative around the pandemic.

Additionally, the webinars put a spotlight on mental wellbeing and acknowledged the need to provide psycho-social support to citizens who were coping with anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Oftentimes, such anxiety manifests itself in fear and stigma, making a difficult situation worse and thereby not only unfairly targeting healthy individuals, but also witch-hunting those who may have contracted the disease.

The webinars also created a feedback loop for Uganda’s citizens. Their questions, suggestions, and concerns were listened to and responded to by the responsible persons. By and large, the COVID-19 webinars proved that citizen’s participation was essential to the collective response against the pandemic.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung looks back on a successful project with the Ministry of ICT. Vincent W. Bagire, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, reiterated that “the main aim of the partnership was to allow the citizens to interact with experts and get a better context of the pandemic and Government’s efforts to protect citizens against COVID-19.” Speaking about the partnership, Mr. Mathias Kamp, KAS Country representative for Uganda & South Sudan said, “the collaboration with the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance reflected KAS’ goal to contribute to informed dialogue and to curb the COVID-19 pandemic. This comes at a time when joining hands with the governmental efforts is paramount”.



The partnership between Government Citizen Interaction Centre and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has been a great opportunity to bridge Government and Civil society relations. In the past, there have been assumptions of tensions between the two, which is misplaced, given that civil society is meant to complement the Government’s work in delivering services to Ugandans, and the Government of Uganda provides the policy environment where Civil society operates.

So, as the unit in Government concerned with Citizen engagements, the collaboration with KAS offers a great opportunity to use civil society as a channel of engagement, which we are very happy about.





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN UGANDA
(DINU)



EUROPEAN UNION

In March 2020, the SPACE project was officially launched and Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Chief Administrative Officers of the target districts.



*Seated from left to right: The CAOs of Moroto, Lira, Napak, Gulu, Arua and Amuria.
Standing in the back: Bernard Mukhone (KAS), Pius Ongom (OPM), Racheal Okuja (KAS)*

To learn more about the project, you can now visit and follow the project website www.dinuspace.org and social media updates:

f SPACE DINU
@spacedinu
spacedinu

In the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic, the project team strongly adhered to the directives issued by the Government of Uganda through the President and the Ministry of Health while continuing to engage in permissible project activities, especially strategic planning, to meet the set objectives.

Five radio stations were identified to partner with the project during the period of implementation, to initiate grassroots level dialogue which can be stimulated through regular radio programmes. **The first radio talk show took place in the target districts and highlighted the project's main agenda. Additionally, citizens of the target districts were able to call in and pose questions on the SPACE set-up.**



Youth4Policy takes on a new shape - Coping with COVID-19

First Think Tank, then Y4P Cohort 1 and 2, now an online platform: Over the past years, the Youth4Policy programme, one of our prestigious youth fellowships, has changed its shape several times. The question of *“how can we support our fellows even better”*, merged with the current COVID-19 restrictions, steered the fellowship in a new direction, once again. Currently, fellows are studying through an online classroom. As inputs are accessible online, this gives them the opportunity to progress at their individual pace while at the same time being able to tap into the feedback of a strong alumni and facilitator network.

The call for the next Y4P fellowship intake will be announced on our website.

We encourage especially young women to apply!

We are introducing our new fellows!

Jacintah Akino

... is a Ugandan lawyer whose interests include health, financial inclusion, women's rights, social justice and advocacy. She has experience in community based activities through advocacy and provision of pro bono legal advice on various issues. She has also conducted research in the areas of freedom of expression and maternal health in Uganda.

Daniel Bill Opio

... is a Ugandan tech-Lawyer with 2 years of certified experience in cyber security, AI, digital rights and cyber law practice. He is analytical, a detail-oriented professional adept at conducting legal research, preparing summary depositions, settlement proposals and statements. He currently serves as the CEO of AddSecurity.

Gad Arthur Kisaalu

... is a public interest lawyer at Centre for Public Interest Law. His practice focuses on human rights, strategic litigation, legislative advocacy, research and social justice issues. He is also a seasoned commentator on social justice issues in leading dailies in Uganda. His research focuses on marital rape as a violation of women's gender rights in Uganda.

Barungi Ayesigye

... is a social worker with interest in public policy and governance. He has particular experience in the field of child protection. Barungi is a passionate scholar of public policy with interest in seeing how effective policy-making and its dissemination is at the core of transforming society. Driven by the desire to engage in constructive policy discourses, he wants to generate ideas to transform and shape society.

Ivan Okuda

... is a lawyer and freelance writer with Nation Media Group. In 2019, he was a KAS Media Africa Scholar at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg where he pursued a Master of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies. He recently co-founded the East African Center for Investigative Reporting, a non-profit investigative journalism organization based in Kampala and runs the consulting firm Panorama Press Limited.

Joshua William Mukisa

... is pursuing an LLB at Makerere University Kampala. He is passionate about the law, human rights, and advocacy. He is a meticulous researcher, prolific debater, mooter and the former Vice-President of the Makerere Law Society. He is zealous about youth leadership and is a strong Guild Presidential Contender in the Makerere Students Guild Politics.

Cohort 2 policy briefs now available online



Dear Cohort 2,
congratulations
on your policy
publications!









Proud alumni of Y4P, our 2019 graduates are now able to present their works to the public. KAS has recently published the policy briefs of (left to right) Tonny Okwir, Dinnah Nabwire, Harriet Kamashanyu, Sandra Namarome and Daniel Adyera. Our 2019 cohort focused on

- **Policy Options for Strengthening State-Citizen Information Flow to Foster Accountability at Local Governments (T. Okwir),**
- **Policy Options for Fostering Financial Inclusion of Disadvantaged Girls and Women in Uganda (H. Kamashanyu),**
- **Expanding the Psychosocial Support Policy to Address Sexual Violence in Conflict-Affected Contexts (D. Nabwire),**
- **Policy Options for Addressing the Entrepreneurial Skill Gap in the BTVET Programme to Increase Youth Employment (S. Namarome), and**
- **The Case for Robust Policy Options for Countering Criminal Radicalisation and Inter-ethnic Extremism among South Sudanese Youth in Refugee Settlements in Uganda (D. Adyera)**

The policy briefs can be downloaded from the Youth4Policy website.



New Faces in our Scholarship Programme

	Name	Course of study	University	Passionate about	Why did you apply with KAS?
	Jacob Ampeire	MA International Relations & Diplomatic Studies.	Makerere University	Improving myself and developing my future; Uplifting others (I subscribe to the school of thoughts that say "we rise by lifting others"); Learning by nurturing and growing my knowledge.	To complete my MA and to surround myself with KAS networks, which will enable me achieve my plans and dreams. Most importantly, equipping me with leadership skills and knowledge for my next leave of leadership in Uganda.
	Claire Atukunda	MA Food Security & Community Nutrition	Gulu University	Advocacy for universal food and nutrition security through social justice and evidence-based policy formulation and implementation	KAS provides a platform for the young thinkers who are driven towards developmental political change. I applied with KAS because it would give me an opportunity to work towards integration of political, social and economic systems for the achievement of universal food and nutrition security.
	Emmanuel Anur	MA Development Studies	Uganda Martyrs University	Empowerment of women in micro-finance and leadership development at levels of governance, especially in conflict-affected South Sudan	Becoming part of the great KAS family would help propel forward my goal of strengthening community development structures, empower women and community members to participate in local policy design and implement development projects at community level
	Harriet Kamashanyu	MA International Relations and Diplomacy	Makerere University	Girls' and women's empowerment.	KAS is keen on empowering youths to engage in public policy and governance to take lead in transforming our worlds. As a young social entrepreneur, this is my ambition. Am happy KAS I'm supporting me to achieve this.
	Tonny Okwir	MA Governance and Ethics	Gulu University	Well-being of the local people; Contributing to the achievement of the SDGs by contributing to the reduction in poverty, corruption, and social injustices	In the future, I would like to attain a senior management position working at the cutting edge of good governance, accountability, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy. Therefore, the MA programme is an essential qualification. I wish to use the acquired knowledge and skills to strengthen accountability at Local Governments in Uganda and contribute to improvement in public service delivery to the citizens.
	Ichumar Sylvia Lorot	MA Development Studies	Uganda Martyrs University	Education, youth development and children rights	I wanted to acquire knowledge and skills to transform marginalised communities through developing policy practice in education, youth development and child protection as well as build my networks through the rich KAS network.
	Victor Alex	MA Development Studies	Uganda Martyrs University	Community Integrity Building, Advocacy & Politics	I'm inspired by KAS work dedicated towards building sustainable democracy and good governance across the world, which attracted me to apply. I also have 4 years of engagement in KAS programmes that motivated and developed my passion to contribute to the socio-economic and political stability of my country South Sudan.
	James Achaye Ojara	MA Governance and Ethics	Gulu University	Education, debate and politics	I want to gain more knowledge about how government operates. As a teacher, I believe this knowledge will help me design programmes and activities to use education to ensure that students become active and engaged citizens.

From within



Anisha joins the team as an Interim Programme Officer in charge of coordination and implementation of KAS programmes with partners such as ACFODE, CDA and Leo Africa. She will also be working on the Youth4Policy Program and organising Alumni and scholars' events for the next 4 months. Previously, she worked as a Regional Programme Support Officer with War child Holland; an international organisation offering multidisciplinary expertise to support and capacity build all levels of leadership and organisation development. Anisha is passionate about youth development, civic participation and empowerment.

Voices of the KAS Network



Beatrice Nyangoma

How have women in particular been affected by COVID-19?

"Many women have lost their sources of livelihood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the eventual lockdown. Many cannot provide for their children or sexual and gender-based violence. We cannot ignore either that access to sexual and reproductive health services has been limited by the ban on public transport. We may see an increasing amount of unplanned pregnancies - for young girls, this could result higher school drop-out rates."



Micheal Niyitegeka

E-health and COVID-19: Has the pandemic become an incentive to re-think health care?

"The pandemic has validated what many have argued about the need to re-think health care. Whereas the opportunities that eHealth presents are known, there has been limited movement with regards to appropriate integration. What should be different from now on, is to not only re-think but to ACT."



Ernest Enzama

How will COVID-19 affect the rural population in the North and what must be done to minimize negative impacts?

COVID-19 may curb restoration of peace and gradual renaissance of social order and economic activities. Its impact is grossly adverse on the people in Northern Uganda. Up to 500 early pregnancies have been reported on the West Nile Humanitarian Platform social media network. We must protect women and girls from gender-based abuses and watch for exploitation of the young generation. Informal trainings and business opportunities that usher the female population in to meaningful economic activities will strengthen female economic empowerment and build their resilience in the face of the economic hardships posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and its scholars
and alumni wish you all the best and ...



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