

CEHURD'S STRATEGY ON PREVENTION OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Embargoed: 20TH MARCH 2020

The Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) recognises the urgency of developing and implementing strategies for the prevention of the deadly pandemic of COVID-19. Our response is guided by the Ministry of Health of Uganda Guidance, the Statement of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the World Health Organisation Guidelines. Below is our response that takes into consideration both internal and external engagements, processes and activities.

1. **Planned Engagements and Meetings**

- Our Offices will remain open, operating according to the guidance from the Ministry of Health and any related further communication.
- Our internal meetings will continue guided by the precautions from the Ministry of Health and the Statement of His Excellency, the President of Uganda. Such internal meetings include management and board meetings, among others. External meetings with partners will only be held in situations where such a meeting arises and it is of essential nature.
- For legal cases we are handling, we will follow guidance provided in the Statement the Chief Justice.
- Our lawyers will remain at the service of our clients, providing legal support. Please reach out to them on our Legal toll-free line: 0800313131.
- CEHURD has cancelled all international and regional travels for staff.
- Essential Internal travel within Uganda will remain, as we monitor the situation.
- CEHURD will as much as possible minimize external interactions, and will make use of online platforms for most of its communication and work engagements.
- We have suspended all external meetings of more than 10 people, in compliance with the Presidential directive and national guidelines, as a way to make sure that we are all healthy, alive, safe and responsive to the COVID-19 management guidelines. This applies to meetings organised by ourselves and those on which we are invited to participate.
- We have communicated to our development partners and implementing partners to understand postponement, cancellation and rescheduling of planned events/program activities. As we do this, we are hopeful that the crisis will be arrested sooner than later and we will be able to catch up on programme implementation once the situation stabilizes and public gatherings are permitted.
- We will respect internal policy, guidelines and steps of our partners in relation to prevention of the COVID-19 Virus.
- In its capacity as a legal and human rights organisation, CEHURD will provide technical support to state and non state actors in ensuring a Human Rights Based Approach in COVID19 responses.

2. **Internal Precautions**

We have undertaken the following internal precautions:

- Placed sanitizers in all arrival and departure points at the office, and will continue to do so.
- Ensuring consistent water and hand washing soap supplies in the washrooms at the office.
- Placed paper towels in all toilets.
- Undertaking of constant Office disinfecting.
- Sensitizing CEHURD Staff on Government Guidelines for prevention of COVID-19.
- Each staff is encouraged to play a health intelligence role and update the entire team on new developments about the Virus.
- Staff, our partners and collaborators are encouraged to make use of Government Emergency Telephone lines to report any incidents relating the COVID-19 or seek for further information.

The Ministry of Health Toll-Free Lines are: **0800 100 066 / 0800 203 033** or **send a free SMS to 8500**

These internal CEHURD guidelines will be revised in line with the Ministry of Health further guidance.