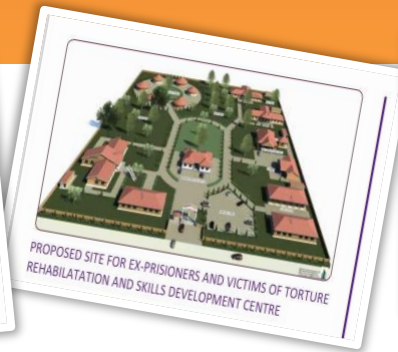


# Centre for Hope and Life in and after Prison Initiative - Uganda

## CHALAPI-UG – A VOICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



### CHALAPI have been busy during the Covid Pandemic

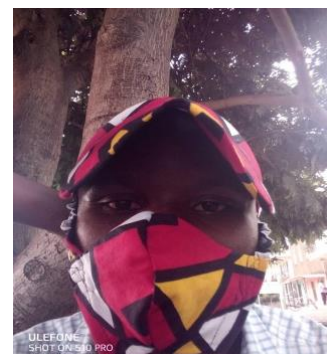


In April the Ugandan President, along with many leaders around the world, decreed that everyone should lock down to reduce the spread of the virus. This caused immense difficulty for many vulnerable folk who live hand to mouth in the Kasese district.

They were unable to work and so had no money coming in to buy food with, meaning many ended up starving. CHALAPI decided to buy the most vulnerable households fast growing, food providing, seedlings for people to grow in their small back yards. Some people got creative, putting soil and seedlings into plastic bags and even water bottles. Within 6 weeks, people were harvesting the first food from their crops!

The Kasese area came out of lockdown after about 3 months, but is under threat of it again because of a rising number of Covid cases in Kasese recently. This is going to cause continuing hardship for the most vulnerable. CHALAPI remain vigilant.

CHALAPI have been supporting the women ex-prisoners in making colourful face coverings. As well as protecting people from the virus, this initiative has also helped the women to buy food for their families



## Covid in the Prisons

So far there have been no cases of Covid-19 in the prisons in the Kasese area, although there have been cases within prisons in other parts of Uganda. However cases within the Kasese community are now on the increase. The risk of the virus entering the prisons is very high and plans have been laid to try and reduce this, including all new prisoners being tested and isolated in tents donated by UNICEF, strict isolation of prisoners at court and the local Magistrate is to consider bailing more people for committing petty crimes. Sadly these plans do include a ban on all visitors to the prisons.

With a kind donation, CHALAPI have been able to contribute towards the purchase of contactless thermometers to help monitor the temperatures of prisoners, so that sick prisoners can be identified and isolated quickly, thereby protecting everyone else.



Godfrey and the wife of the CHALAPI Chairman receiving the new thermometers

On June 22nd and 23, CHALAPI held two days of training in WASH (promoting awareness of water and water hygiene, and empowering local communities to solve their own water issues), and also training in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder following the floods. Health assistants from the flood affected areas attended and the training was 'overwhelmingly welcomed'.



## Kasese Floods

The floods and landslides that badly affected the area earlier in the year unfortunately have continued, even when the rainy season finished. It is believed that the snow on the top of the Rwenzori Mountains is melting due to a warmer summer, and the water is rushing down the valleys with little or no warning for the people in its path. Four more lives were lost in June when a family of four were swept away. CHALAPI were able to give some money to help the grandparents support the surviving children.

The work CHALAPI did during the flood crisis has meant recognition for CHALAPI from other NGOs, including Tearfund. Many of these requested that Godfrey attend the distribution of food and equipment to the displaced people because he is well known as an honest and accountable man.

CHALAPI were also mentioned in a report to the President on the crisis.

## A New Prison Initiative

Recently CHALAPI were given a kind donation which has allowed us to start a project in Rukoki Prison, teaching prisoners vocational skills that will help them rehabilitate back into the community more easily when they are released from prison.

Kasese is being considered for 'Mineral city' status this year, because of the wealth of minerals naturally available there. CHALAPI plan to teach skills for this industry that will enable prisoners to get jobs when they are released, including making compound paving for houses and streets, construction of culverts, ventilation bricks and decorative and facing stone for houses. With a generous donation we were able to buy the equipment needed to start this project off, and also buy some knitting machines to teach an alternative skill to those who are unable to do heavier manual work.

Godfrey has been very busy getting interested stakeholders on board to support, fund and offer training and jobs, in order to make this project sustainable. The launch of the project was on Wednesday 12th August, and over 24 stakeholders attended, including the Prison Regional Commander, the Mayor, the Bishop as well as interested business owners. Many commitments to support this project were made and CHALAPI were asked to particularly engage with the many young people who are in prison, with crime prevention education. Godfrey happily agreed to this request because this is at the **heart** of what CHALAPI do.

Please check out our website at <http://www.chalapi.com> for more information