

UGANDA BOSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



"Let's join hands, together we succeed"

COVID-19 TASKFORCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2020

Introduction

On April 2, 2020 a cross section of concerned Ugandans in the Boston area, including religious, business and leaders of various community organization, requested the Uganda Boston Community Association to set up a Task Force committee for the purpose of handling and addressing emergency situations that may arise in our community. Its first assignment was to address emergency needs that would arise under the COVID-19 lockdown.

This report provides a summarized analysis of what was accomplished regarding individuals and families served by the Taskforce since its inception in April through the end of June 2020:

Data Analysis

Below is a summary of what has been accomplished by the Taskforce during this period:

- 59 families applied for assistance of which 58 families were provided assistance;
- The one application that was not assisted called in from out-of-state;
- The 58 families that were provided assistance included a total of 114 individuals;
- 26 families (45%) had more than 1 family member, 15 families or 26% were single men and 17 families or 29% were single women;
- 28 families or 48 % of families served included at least 1 individual who was COVID-19.positive;
- 30 families or 52% of families indicated lack of work or reduced hours of work as the reason for requesting assistance;
- 8 families or 14% of families assisted included at least one elderly family member;
- 21 families or 36% of families included children, many of these families were referred to seek government assistance;
- Of the 114 individuals served 34 of them or 29% of them were COVID-19 positive;
- 46 families or 77% of the families were at a minimum provided with some form of cash assistance;

Table 1: Family Category

Family Size	Number of Families	%
More than 1 Household Member	26	45%
Single Men	15	26%
Single Women	17	29%
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED	58	100%

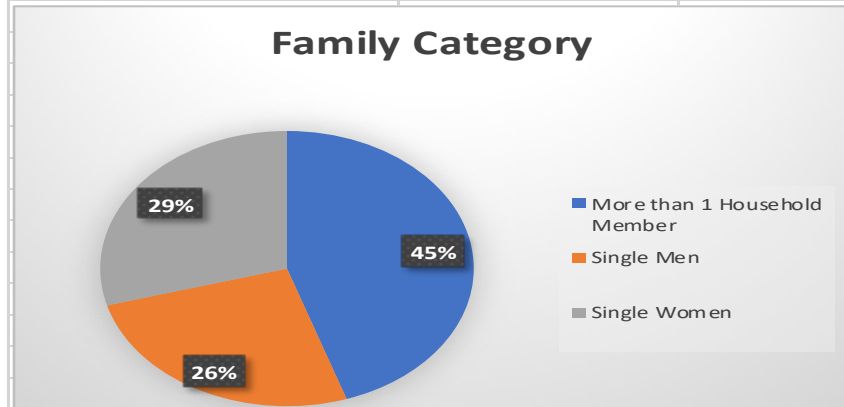
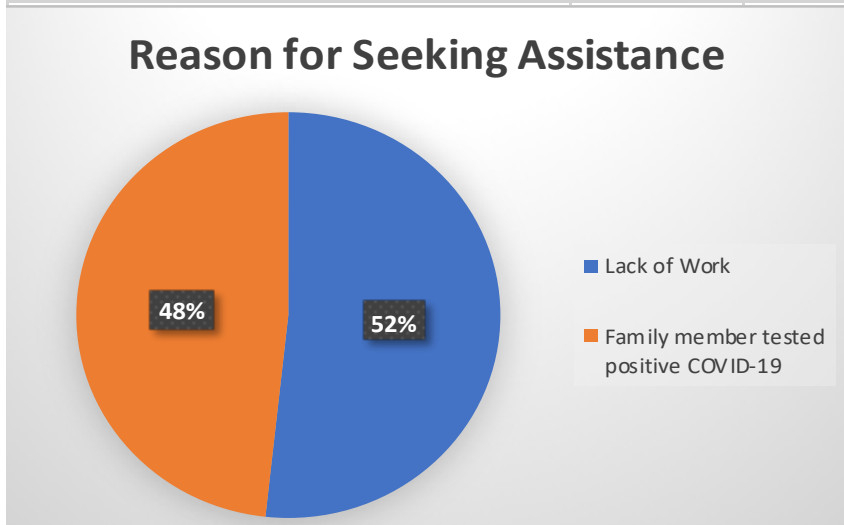


Table 2: Reason for Seeking Assistance

Reason for Applying	Number of Families	%
Lack of Work	30	52%
Family member tested positive COVID-19	28	48%
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED	58	100%

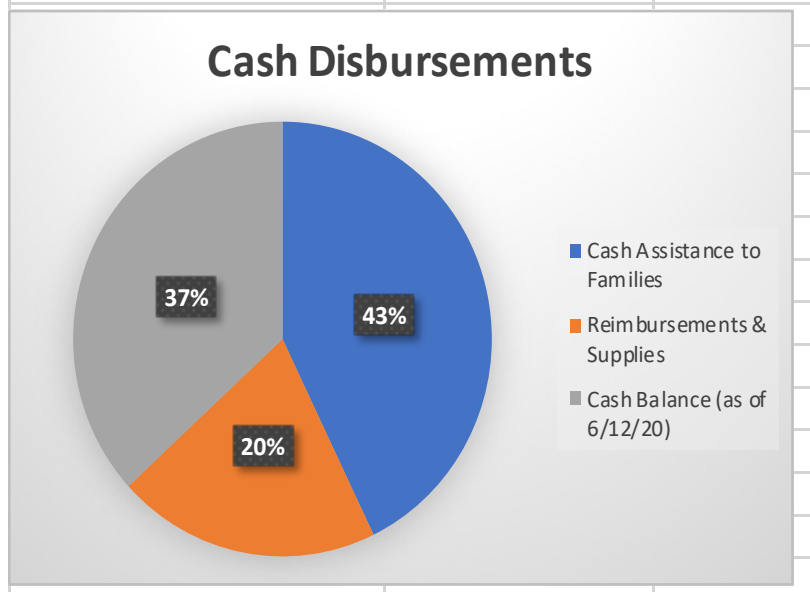


Donations

This effort has been supported by donations, in cash, food and essential household supplies, from a total of 112 donors, mostly from the Ugandan Community in Massachusetts as well as from friends and well-wishers. The Committee received a total of \$8,199 in cash donations of which \$3,512 has been handed out in cash assistance to families and individuals in need. An additional \$1,667.00 was expended on reimbursements, additional food and essential supplies, leaving a balance of \$3,020.00 as of June 12, 2020 .

Cash Disbursements

Item	Amount	% of Funds Collected
Cash Assistance to Families	\$ 3,512	43%
Reimbursements & Supplies	\$ 1,667	20%
Cash Balance (as of 6/12/20)	\$ 3,020	37%
TOTAL CASH DONATIONS	\$ 8,199	100%



Many families received food and essential household supplies . Some of the individuals who were COVID-19 positive received a home remedy juice mix, supplied courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Sebakka, to help boost energy and immune system. In addition, meals donated by Club Rendezvous and the Waltham Islamic Society in collaboration with UMMATI Foundation, Inc were crucial in providing meals to individuals many especially those who were self-isolating. We also distributed 31 masks that were donated by Health Action for Ugandans (HAFU).

Furthermore, this effort would not have been possible without dedicated volunteers including the efforts of members of the Task Force Committee who worked tirelessly to deliver items to those in need and the generosity of Mr. Isma Nasser Kasirye of Pearl of Africa Store who gave up space in his store for storage of food and essential supplies.

Challenges

- Due to lack of resources we could not assist families with rent and utility bills. This policy was in part guided by the fact that Landlords were not evicting tenants and utility companies were not terminating services during the Pandemic shutdown.
- There were challenges in organizing deliveries to COVID positive individuals isolating in their homes especially initially when volunteers had no personal protective equipment (PPE).
- In one instance we faced the challenge of having to relocate a COVID positive individual to a location where they could self-isolate without jeopardizing the health of roommates;
- Many people that were served, especially those that live alone needed counseling, prayer and moral support.

Recommendations

- 1) Cash balance will remain in a fund for use for future purposes;
- 2) Community leaders should encourage members of their organizations to continue supporting UBCA including contributing to the Emergency Fund to ensure funds are readily available for future such emergencies;
- 3) Seek additional partnerships/sources of funding, state or federal or private foundations;
- 4) Establish a database of volunteers and sponsors.

NOTE OF THANKS

The UBCA Taskforce Committee extends appreciation and thanks to all those who contributed cash, food items, household supplies, Personal Protective Equipment and their time and services towards this cause. Without the compassion and generosity of the Ugandan Community in Boston, as well as support from friends and well-wishers, this effort would not have been possible.

A special note of thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their support: Activated Massachusetts African Community (AMAC), Africano, Care with Care Home Health Care, City of Waltham, Club Rendezvous, Health Action for Ugandans (HAFU), Karibu Restaurant, Payson Park Church, Pearl of Africa Store, Radio Uganda Boston, Ugandans in Missouri Association (UGAMO), Uganda Catholic Community Association, Seventh Day Adventist New England Luganda Church, Vanny's Kitchen, Waltham Islamic Society in collaboration with UMMATI Foundation, Inc, Women of Purpose, Inc (WOPI).

It should be noted that letters of appreciation will be sent out to all the individuals who contributed privately to this cause.

This report is submitted by the UBCA Taskforce Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Geoffrey Nsereko, Chairperson UBCA
Mrs. Aisha Makumbi, Secretary UBCA
Owekitiibwa Kato Kajubi
Rev. Christine Nakyeyune Busuulwa
Mrs. Dorothy Sebakka
Ms. Rosette Sserwanga
Mr. Yusuf Lubega
Pastor Charles Bbosa
Mr. Isma Nasser Kasirye
Rev. Amos Kimera
Mr. Herbert Ddungu
Sheikh Rajab Mayanja