Taking action against the Coronavirus
Residents of Kampala, Kyotera and Tororo responding to Covid-19

This factsheet presents the experiences of residents of Kampala, Kyotera, Tororo in response to Covid-19, including actions taken to prevent transmission of the virus. The data comes from a special round of Twaweza’s Sauti za Wananchi survey, a representative mobile phone panel survey of citizens’ views and experiences. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

Insight 1. Citizens focus on hand hygiene and mask wearing as measures against Covid-19

The two main actions citizens point to as things they and others can do to reduce transmission of Covid-19 are hand hygiene and mask wearing. Nine out of ten residents across Kampala, Kyotera and Tororo point to these actions.

Other widely noted actions include staying at home as much as possible, maintaining a 2m distance from other people, avoiding contact with members of other households, avoiding public places and gatherings.

Unproven remedies (lemon, ginger, steam inhalation, etc.) are more popular in Kampala than in the other districts surveyed.

Insight 2. Citizens point to the same things (hand hygiene and masks) as the actions they have actually been taking

Citizens report taking a wide range of actions to protect themselves against Covid-19, led again by hand hygiene and mask wearing.

Some actions are performed less in practice than in principle: while half (47%) in Kampala said people should maintain 2m distance from other people, fewer than this number (32%) report actually doing this. Similarly, fewer people report avoiding public gatherings and public transport in practice. These patterns are consistent across the three districts surveyed.

Insight 3. The main motivation for adhering to advice on protecting against Covid-19 is to prevent illness and death

Across the three districts, the main reason given by citizens for adhering to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is to protect against contracting Covid-19. This is followed by fear of possible fatal consequences.

Wanting to avoid spreading the virus to others ranks third on the list in all three districts, while fear of security enforcement ranks low.
Insight 4. Citizens point to work settings and urban areas as higher-risk locations for Coronavirus transmission

Across the three districts, the place highlighted most commonly as a high-risk site for Coronavirus transmission is work. This is followed by large urban centres in general.

Schools and other education facilities, and public gatherings such as political rallies are also widely cited as higher-risk locations. These are followed on the list by border points and densely populated residential neighbourhoods.

Cold areas rank relatively high in citizens’ perceptions of risky places, while in contrast, social gatherings and shops rank very low.

Insight 5. Half of citizens report they would contact a health worker or facility in case of a suspected Coronavirus case

Half of citizens across the three districts report that they would contact a health worker / facility in case of a suspected Coronavirus case, more than any other person. This is followed by the LC1 chair, and relatives or friends.

Relatively few say they would contact the Covid Task Force (2-10%) or the Village Health Team (1-7%), while a significant minority in some areas say they don’t know who they would contact.

Insight 6. In case of a possible Coronavirus case, most citizens say they would visit a health facility

The top action citizens in all three districts say they would take if they personally experienced Coronavirus-like symptoms is to visit a health facility.

This is followed by self-isolating at home, and a range of self-medication options including self-treatment with herbal remedies, steam inhalation, and over-the-counter medication.

Insight 7. More than a third of households in all three districts report that one or more household member has taken a Coronavirus test at some point

More than a third (34-40%) of households in the three districts report that someone in the household has taken a Covid test at some point. This figure shows a steady increase over the course of the pandemic.

Source: Sauti za Wananchi, special Kampala, Kyotera and Tororo round 3 (June-July 2021)