**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FUND (RIF)**

**BUILDING PEACEFUL URBAN COMMUNITES IN KAMPALA CITY AMIDST COVID-19 AND BEYOND.**

**Project summary**

The project was intended to understand and document the immediate consequences of COVID-19 on four (4) urban areas in Kampala: Katanga, Kikoni, Kivulu and Kisenyi. The project assessed how disharmony and social instability in Kampala urban slums have affected the residents there. Specifically, the project sought to understand how the traumatized and stressed population, especially the widows, orphans, child-headed households, women-headed households, the elderly, PWDs, and the terminally ill were coping with food insecurity, loss of income, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and social unrest.

The specific objectives od the project are: (1) to find out the types and nature of conflicts in Kampala’s slum areas as a result of COVID-19; (2) to strengthen the capacity of local leaders in Kampala’s slum areas to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the population in slum areas during COVID-19 and beyond; (3) to establish a community-owned mechanism for mitigation and resolution of conflicts arising from the consequences of COVID-19, now and beyond COVID19; and (4) to establish channels for information collection and dissemination to enable the local leaders and their residents to articulate their concerns, hence working towards inclusive societies.

The ressearch team interviewed 24 Key Informants (Kis) and also reached 148 respondents through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). To a large extent, COVID-19 has had negative impacts to the population in Kampala slums. The impacts have been experienced by both women and girls, and the men in these slums. These have been manly socio-economic impacts.The study found out that due to COVID-19, there have been increased cases of divorce or separation; increased early marriages; increased cases of unwanted/unplanned pregnancies among women and under-age girls; increased number of women-headed household; increased casese of commercial sex (prostitution); increased cases of rape and defilement; as well as increased sexual and gender-based violence. Further, there is an icnrease in the number of of families that have been abandoned by men as a result of failure to meet their obligations; denial of conjugal rights of men; as well as psychological torture and public ridicule as a result of their inability to meet their obligations as heads of households.

**The immediate consequences of COVID-19on the slum populations in Kampala**

In the medium term, COVID-19 had had numerous consequences on the slum areas in Kampala, notably: (1) loss of income since most residents of slum areas are no longer working; (2) high crime rates, especially theft because the number of idle and unemployed young men is very high; (3) school-going children have been denied a chance to study; (4) increased child labour as a means of survival and an attempt to supplement the meagre income of the parents; (5) increased SGBV and family break up; (6) patients with terminal illnesses have missed their treatment due to COVID-19 restrictions and transport challenges; (7) general inaccessibility to medical servicesduring the lockdown; (8) increased malnutrition and undernutrition; (9) increase in domestic conflicts and disputes as a result of increased interaction and interdependence of family members amidst resource scarcity; (10) food shortage and scarcity as a result of disruption of the food supply chains; (11) increased prostitution as a mechanism for survival and coping with the economic situation; and (12) early marriages, unexpected and unwanted pregnancies.

As part of its objectives, the project has nalyzed the types and nature of conflicts and social instability attributed to COVID-19; trained 60 local leaders in conflict resolution, advocacy and dialogue; trained30 local leaders as trainers of trainers (ToTs) in conflict resolution, advocacy and dialogue, and facilitated the establishment of a structure and mechanism for continous resolution of conflicts, dialogue and advocacy in slum areas.