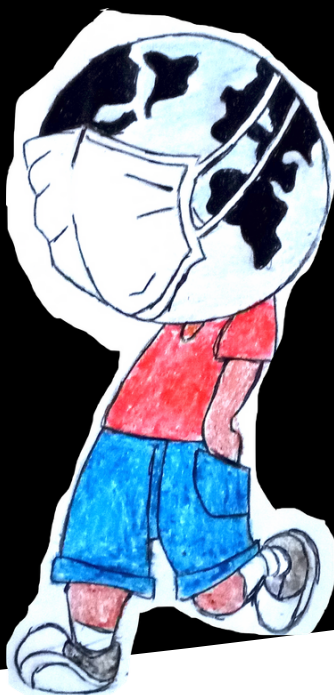




Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



# UNSTOPPABLE STARTS WITH U

*A compilation of creative  
poems, text and drawings by  
UNDP Uganda CO*



# POETIC PULSE

# GLOBAL IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

## **Oh what an impact, the Novel Coronavirus had globally!**

It disrupted the world order and stimulated global cooperation and new innovations

It limited human physical mobility and increased human virtual engagements

It stopped many social activities and created stronger family bonds

It halted certain work and created new ways of work

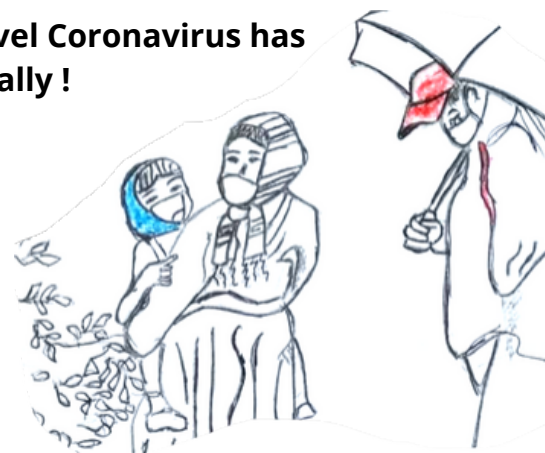
It raised public health costs and made the rich donate to meet public food and health needs

It closed places of worship and opened more people to worshippers of God at their homes

It killed many human lives and led to healing of parts of planet earth

## **Oh what an impact, the Novel Coronavirus has created globally !**

**Daniel Omodo McMondo**



## REFINED

When Covid is done,  
We shall bask in the Sun;

Wipe away the tear's,  
Brought by all the fear's;

Covid taught us by any measure,  
Life is our most important Treasure;

Its not what we have in our lives,  
But the lives that we have;

Family & Friends we cherish the most,  
Money & possessions their value is lost;

I AM my brother & sister's keeper,  
Knowing that my life's meaning is deeper;

Covid will NOT define Me,  
Covid WILL REFINE ME;

And when it is done,  
WE SHALL BASK IN THE SUN...

**Sheila Ngatia**



# PANDEMIC!

One day, the world is awash with news  
Covid-19 Virus is around  
It is deadly; how deadly?  
Nobody knows!  
But I'm thinking it maybe manageable  
I am wrong!

The world is shaking,  
Media reporting only Covid-19  
I am thinking somehow  
There might be a solution  
Am I wrong again?

Death is looming, death is happening  
What do we do?  
Wash hands, social distancing, stay home...  
Oh! These are manageable  
I hope I'm not wrong

Unbelievable! Covid-19!  
New term, new virus, deadly too  
Loved ones lost, new ways of living  
Oh Covid-19!  
The world will never be the same  
Wash hands, social distancing, stay home  
Save life!

**Janet Asinath Anyango**



# CORONA THE NEW STORY

Together we stand; our fore father's once preached  
But now, it's said we must stand apart  
in order to survive

Suddenly,  
Corona like a sad song across the land breaking the  
fibers of society we know and writing the new story  
that no one wishes to read

Corona virus, your family member HIV/AIDS has been here for awhile  
but heard our cry and now responding to ART and your cousin Ebola  
stirred rapidly but packed and went

And now you, you Corona, leave us and our generation alone  
so that we start writing a new story  
about our future after you

Corona leave and go, go away, go for Good.  
Happy to see you go

**Florence Ochola**





# HOME IS WHERE LOCKDOWN IS

Wednesday blah blah 2020  
Time seems too fast and  
The schedule seems full  
The meetings are running with no reprieve and then  
The broadcasters announce a disruption  
The tight schedule won't matter in a few minutes

In one moment,  
In an instant  
Life changes  
So many little ways that the new normal has taken afoot

You could be stuck – on mission  
You could have a narrow window in which to get “home”  
You realize that time and not resources is the limitation  
You are advised to sit out and wait on a miracle; and  
You are lucky the institutions in which  
You operate can offer reassurances and full support  
You are not worry; but,  
You worry about so many that cannot count on the same

As days go by  
The new normal becomes humanity trying to survive  
The anonymous neighbor becomes family  
The job you agonize over is a lifeline  
The home – wherever that you are “stuck”- glares back, giving you  
The exact investment you made into it; however,  
The gratitude you feel - for being alive- is reinforced with

To a better world, starting with you  
To more compassion and respect for humanity  
To slow down, breathe, and appreciate  
To understand earth, and only act in haste  
To save or secure a life; you commit  
To do better, with the little you have and  
To ultimately, be better, do better and live better  
To make the world home - everywhere.

**Hope Kyarisiima**

## A CARETAKER'S POEM

When the lock down was announced abruptly, I got scared

I thought about my loved one whose medication was not delivered

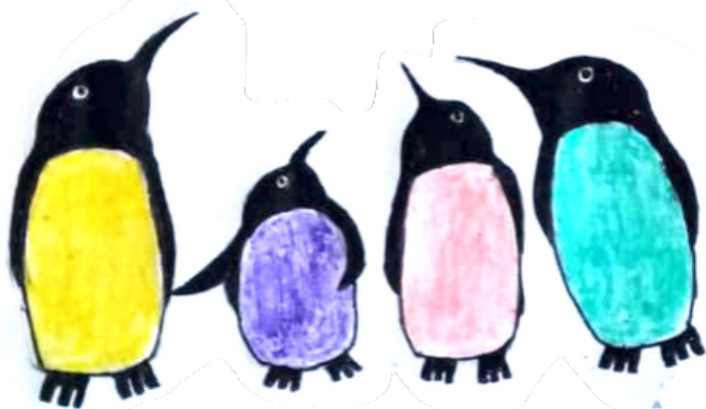
When I see them cry, I am scared

When they are not feeling strong physically and mentally, I am scared

When there is help, there is hope

Find your strength in art and loved ones around you, do not be scared.

**Prossy Nabiryo Kakeeto**





# COVID-19

Mr. Corona "COVID-19"  
I heard of you last year while in China & now  
you are every where.

You have killed many people & caused new  
ways of working but you seem not to care.

Corona! You are a bad disease to extent that  
you cause places of worship to be closed!

Oh my God, i need a future & the future of  
the next generation.

Am not meant to only stay at home under  
this crisis and or lockdown.  
Am not a slave Mr. Corona! Neither a person  
meant to watch others die.

Don't take me for granted please!  
I need a life & that of others.  
Don't break me off.

"God" is keenly watching you & can't allow  
you continue killing His people.

The world is watching you & the talk now is"  
re-programming, re-focusing and or  
re-thinking new approaches to development!

Thanks to UNDP for the 3\*3 aproach of  
Preparedness, Response and Recovery  
currently being adopted in Uganda

Hello Mr. Corona, we have prepared the UN  
appeal with the Government of Uganda. This  
will help reduce your burden on people!

Reconsider your thoughts or you get  
defeated for ever. Please ask  
your friends such as Ebola and HIV/Aids of  
what happended to them.

You can't defeat us Mr Corona.  
Take us back to our normal life. Trust  
a chance! Leave us alone.

You have made not to be clear when the  
current lockdown in Uganda will end! This is  
not easy for the ordinary Ugandan people  
especially Women & Children or people of  
concern/refugees.

We are under test! You have  
made us to demonstrate our resilient  
mandate! Mr Corona,  
you decided to add more food on the plate of  
Madam Elsie & others making  
them more extraordinary busy and or ever  
engaged in meetings both at HQ, RBA,  
UNCT & CO staff! Thanks to senior  
management & staff.

You thought  
that you would disorganise UNDP but it has  
managed to offer 10,000 zoom  
lisences to government and extended to staff  
internet data bundles allowing  
them work from home globely!

With this, I have seen the UNDP Administer  
share his experience working from his home:  
this was inspirational! Thanks our boss!

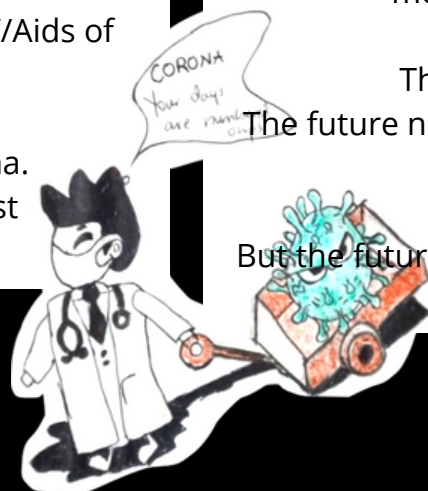
Additionally, UNDP Uganda SMT/staff show  
case their talent in the first week of lockdown  
in Uganda. This was interesting!

Amazing! You can't destroy me, UNDP and  
UN system. You are just joking Mr Corona.  
Instead you have made us more resilient. We  
shall not forget you.

We shall not run short of new ideas!  
Take me back to place of work to help the  
most vulnerable people.

The future needs me....  
The future needs UNDP and it needs the UN  
system.

But the future does not need you Mr Corona.



# STOP! BREATHE

The world has come to a halt.  
It's not World War 3, it's not  
Judgement day, it's a FLU that has put  
Brakes on the World!

It's telling us to stop & breathe.  
While it has separated families, it has  
also bonded them together.

While it has stopped us from spending,  
it has taught us the importance of saving.

It does not discriminate, be it race, wealth,  
young or old. Instead it has taught us that  
we are all equal.

It's telling us to Stop! Breathe.  
So let's stop and breathe, Mother  
Nature is realigning the world and we are  
going to come out happier.

**Jastine Kabirizi**



The image features a black background with abstract white and orange hand-drawn elements. On the left, there are several overlapping orange scribbles. In the center, there are several horizontal white lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, some appearing as if drawn with a brush or pencil. On the right, there are more orange scribbles, some overlapping the white lines. The overall style is minimalist and artistic.

# DAINTY DRAWINGS



Statement by UNDP Administrator  
Achim Steiner on UN COVID-19  
and the African Union

A sketch of UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner

Rose Wanyana



A painting using the Life Cycle of a Caterpillar to portray light at the end of a tunnel

Eyllaf Gubara



A sketch of RR Elsie Attafuah and her son

Sylvia Atugonza



A painting depicting the aura of tranquility coming from the calm in the world



A painting depicting the path between hope and pessimism

The background features a dynamic composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes in vibrant blue and orange, set against a solid black field. The strokes are layered and curved, creating a sense of movement and depth. A white, torn-edge banner is positioned horizontally across the center, containing the text.

# **BODACIOUS BLOG**



# WHEN LOCKDOWN IS NOT A LOCKDOWN

## A Blog By Elsie Gyekyawaa Attafuah

I am not sure if I should call it the 'Covid-19 Insomnia' but I wake up to the sound of croaking frogs and chirping birds in my neighbourhood. A sign of rich biodiversity in the beautiful Pearl of Africa;

I get up to draw my curtains to see the beautiful dawn break but it is still dark; I go back to lay in my bed. I am reminiscing as I lay in bed;

In my mind's eye, I see my beautiful garden, I see the flowers blossom. It is a sign of hope, it is a beauty to gaze at;

Morning will come soon. I am eager to go and walk in the garden. I will also pick slugs from my garden with my son and chase butterflies, something I have never done before. Kwabena, loves them and looks forward to such hunting times;

### *My Journey to the Unknown*

Today, 20th April 2020 is special, it has been three weeks of staying at home. Today is exactly three weeks that I left my office physically with my colleagues. My last day in the office before the "lockdown";

With a potential lockdown of the country in sight, call it premonition, I had to rent a car home, and leave the office that day with the car;

It is my first time of driving out of the office car park; it is also my first time of driving in Kampala;

As I drive off, Sheila, Ramlah, Anthony, Stewart, and Victor say good-bye, they giggle but they are more curious. They are nervous but hopeful that I will reach home safely. They have never seen me drive, in fact, they even take a video of me driving out. I laugh and wave at them as I say good-bye;

As I drive out, the usual hectic Yusuf Lule road is quite, in fact, dead quite, one could feel a pin drop. So unusual, so uncommon, so uncharacteristic and even unimaginable despite knowing the reason;

As I drive out, I feel the weight of the world on my shoulder, a shoulder to carry the office with me; to carry friends with me; to carry colleagues with me;

A weight to be able to inspire a team to a call unprecedented, a response unprecedented; and a devotion unprecedented in my sphere of influence. It was a reality that has dawned on me but not out of a stage managed high octane sci-fi movie;

As sense of urgency dawns on me like never before; a sense of urgency for my people, my beloved Pearl of Africa, my beloved Africa, and to the cause of the United Nations, an organization I have given my heart to;

As I drive home, I could only think about the journey to the unknown;

I reach home safely, I park my car and enter my home, and as always, I receive a warm welcome from my mother, Afua. Yaa (the name of a female born on Thursday in Ghana), Akwaaba (welcome), she says;

I look into my mother's eyes as she calls me Yaa. In our tradition, Thursday borns' are believed to be brave and strong. It reminds me of Yaa Asantewaa, the bold and courageous Ashanti Queen who saved her people;

Yaa, I told myself, you must be brave and courageous, you are Yaa as you lead your team in the days, weeks, months and years ahead. I am usually known to be bold and courageous but now even more than ever. The expectations are high;

In all these, there was a subtlety in my mum's message of the resilience of the African woman, and trust and unwavering support that we are in this together as a family, which extends beyond the four corners of my home;

### *Talents Unraveled*

Three weeks of home stay has been intense and interesting, encouraging and exhilarating, discovering and re-discovering uncharted paths;

As I look back into, I can only say it has been gratifying, humbling and I am grateful;

I have seen spark in the eyes of many people like never before. I have seen the energies of people ignite like never before;

As for the wonderful UNDP colleagues and staff of Uganda;

I have seen innovations like never before;



i have seen bonds grow like never before;

I have seen talents explode like never before;

I never knew Rose and Sylvia are artists, Sheila, Daniel, Hope, Sosan, Prossy, Jastine and Florence are poets;

I never knew Eyllaf could paint so beautifully, and depict the incredible space that we are all in, cocoons, and that we will fly out one day like the butterfly;

I never knew that Annette had a green thumb;

Mzee Kijana Gerald's tasty pizza is to 'die' for. Uganda Country office got great chefs;

And oh, we have sang together like never before during our Karaoke times;

We have virtually hugged together like never before;

We have looked after each other like never before;

I have also tried to unearth some talents out of my usual comfort zone, my blogging skill is back;

### *Unity of Purpose to defeat the Invisible hand*

I have seen dedication to a cause, a cause for our people, a cause for unity of purpose like never before;

We have sought solutions to development and humanitarian challenges like never before;

We have burnt the midnight oil together like never before;

We have conquered the invisible hand of the stranger, and yes, I call it a stranger, that has caused panic or insomnia in our world today, the pandemic that is here with us but which will be defeated;

Yes, no crisis lasts forever but this has fortified us as one global village more than ever prepared to face any similar challenge in the future;

And to borrow the good words of my friend Dominic Sam, my fellow Representative in DRC, we should work hard to stay ahead of the pandemic and not to chase the pandemic. This too shall pass as my 'Oga' Madam, Ahunna, UNDP RBA Director says;

And when my son Kwabena says to me, mummy, mummy, mummy! when will the lock down finish; I could only whisper to myself, I do not want it to finish;

Yes, I want to be able to walk down the streets and walk into the offices of colleagues;

But we must not lockdown or allow it to lockdown our talents, our energies, our hope and desire for a change;

We must not lockdown what has brought us together to work together like never before;

We must not lockdown the momentum we have created as we pave the way for the future of development;

As we wait for the stranger to pass over us, I chose to reminiscence about positive things;

Suddenly, I wake up with a jolt, it is morning, I have spark in my eyes;

I dash to my window to gaze at my beautiful garden. This time I see so many slugs on the grass; a sign of hope and life;

***So yes, we must never lockdown the potential in us.***

***Lockdown is never a lockdown.***

**Elsie Gyekyawaa Attafuah**

