



Emergency food packets are delivered to vulnerable families, such as sponsored child Sharmila, at left, with her mother and brother. Below, left, Vadhya, another sponsored child, with his mother and father and a food pack. Training is provided to show proper handwashing.



Helping the most vulnerable

Vadhya, a nine-year-old boy living in Chittoor, India, is one of Children Believe's sponsored children, and one of the millions of children across India whose family is suffering during the current COVID-19 crisis and the strict lockdown mandated by the Indian government.

Both of Vadhya's parents are labourers who have been out of work due to the current lockdown. To make matters worse, with the shutdown of public transit, Vadhya's mother is stranded in another city.

As a result of this, Vadhya's family is left without a source of income to feed the household, which also

consists of Vadhya's older brother and great-aunt.

This scenario is playing out across India, especially in rural Dalit communities who face widespread poverty with no access to food or hygiene supplies.

Children Believe, along with their Indian partner ROPES, has been combatting this issue by providing families with food, masks, soap and educational leaflets, as well as organizing vans to drive by with announcers instructing villagers on proper handwashing techniques and the importance of physical distancing.



Nicaragua

Arlen and her youngest son prepare a meal from a food pack provided through Children Believe. Below, children receive training and hygiene kits to ensure proper handwashing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



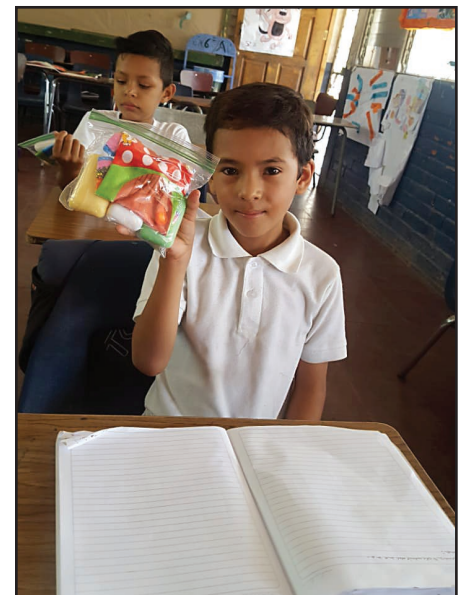
Support in a time of uncertainty

Arlen is the mother of three children, ranging in ages from 4-15 years old, all sponsored by the Children Believe program in Estelí, northern Nicaragua.

Arlen sells buñuelos (a traditional snack) on the streets so she can buy food for her family. When someone depends on this source of income to feed three children, staying home during COVID-19 is not

easy. It's the difference between being able to provide meals to your family or not.

Children Believe is helping the most vulnerable families such as Arlen's, to receive urgently needed support by providing children and their families with food packages and hygiene kits that help them to stay healthy.





Proper safety gear is worn while providing emergency food and hygiene kits to families and children.

Paraguay

Filling the gap for those in need

Children Believe and its partners on the ground are working to safely deliver nearly 3,000 food and hygiene kits, with instructions on proper sanitization practices, to families during this time of crisis.

These families are the ones that are not receiving food kits from the government or other organizations, including Children Believe sponsored families, single

parent families, and those whose head of household has lost their job due to COVID-19.

The words of one grateful recipient of a food and hygiene package: "Thanks to all who worked and joined together to send us this food in tough moments that we're going through due to the coronavirus. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."



Amadu, at right, with his wife and two of his children, was among those who learned from Children Believe-supported radio broadcasts, important facts about COVID-19. Below, a child can wash her hands thanks to water provided to her village.



Providing the facts on COVID-19

There are 1,279 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ghana, as of April 26, and misinformation and lack of access to hygiene products further complicates the issue for many people.

There are communities with limited access to clean water, having to walk long distances to retrieve it. This issue has become especially significant with the outbreak of COVID-19, as it prevented people in these communities from practicing proper hygiene such as frequent handwashing. And there is a problem with myths spreading that the virus can be washed away with alcohol that hinders containment efforts.

To address these issues, Children Believe has funded local projects to increase access to clean water for drinking and handwashing, and is also providing safety kits for community health centres. The organization is also conducting an educational campaign using radio stations to inform Ghanaians about proper sanitization and social distancing practices.

Listeners are able to call in with questions, and in the case of Amadu, a farmhand, have even been directed towards resources available to help them to locate family members who have been separated.



Burkina Faso



Rachelle cradles her young son in a displacement camp where she is able to practice better hygiene.



Boukaré, with other children in the camp, learned about COVID-19 from Children Believe.



Hamado lost everything and was driven from his home by violence, but has help from Children Believe.

Caring for displaced people

More than 800,000 people have been driven out of their homes/internally displaced due to ongoing violence and instability. Rachelle, Boukaré and Hamado all ended up in a city called Kaya.

They have varying degrees of knowledge about the current coronavirus situation – Rachelle, living in a displacement camp, has already been practicing regular hand washing to keep her 18-month baby, who is still breastfeeding, safe.

Boukaré, a 14-year-old boy also in a displacement camp, hadn't heard of the coronavirus before arriving at the camp, where he was informed of it by a Children Believe worker. He is eager for schools and public transit to reopen so that life can go back to as close to normal as possible.

Hamado, a 72-year-old man, was forced out of his community after it was invaded by gunmen who took all his possessions and burned what they could not steal.

He has only recently learned of the coronavirus, adding to his already difficult situation.

As of April 26, there are just over 616 cases of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso, but it has not yet reached Kaya. Children Believe is providing help in Burkina Faso by: educating people on the importance of social distancing and proper hygiene practices; sharing lessons with students through radio, TV, and the distribution of flash drives in remote communities; as well as providing food, hygiene kits and financial support to parents.

Ethiopia

Emergency food and hygiene packets are being distributed to vulnerable families in Ethiopia.



Education and healthcare equipment

As of April 26, there were 117 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ethiopia.

To mitigate the spread and reduce the burden that the virus has imposed on families and communities in Ethiopia, Children Believe staff have established an emergency team to track and evaluate the effects of COVID-19 in the communities where they work.

Preventive measures are being taught to all families and children, including handwashing, proper sanitization, social distancing and other measures to be prepared for the effects of COVID-19 on daily life.

As well, regular check-ins are conducted with school officials, education offices at district levels, and caregivers, for a status on children's education.

Children Believe has also distributed nearly 1,000 food and hygiene kits to vulnerable families who have been impacted by job losses or isolation.

Already, Children Believe has purchased and supplied educational materials to enhance a mass awareness campaign, providing facts on COVID-19, as well as extending the supply of health protection supplies, including sanitizers and protective eye goggles.

