

NEWSBRIEF

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2020

INDIA

KALYAN, NEAR MUMBAI

TOO PRECIOUS TO POISON

One family with seven children in Patripul, a slum in Kalyan, near Mumbai, planned to poison themselves to prevent a slow death from starvation in lockdown.

They had used up every single rupee they had left, and when the husband went out to beg for money, he was beaten by the police. Then Global Care's local Christian partners arrived at their door with a food parcel.

They wept with joy. 'God has sent you to us', they cried. What an amazing opportunity to reach out to this desperate family. As Dalits, the lowest of the low in the ancient caste system, families like this know their lives are worth less than nothing in wider society.

Global Care's local partners instead demonstrated that their lives are in fact precious, and there is a God who loves and provides for them.



"We are doing something great in their lives, we are giving them hope."

GCare Foundation works in the Patripul slum, in Kalyan, near Mumbai. The GCare centres, which provide educational support for Dalit children, have been closed since India's lockdown on 24 March. The team have been feeding families hardest hit, with three separate deliveries of food parcels so far, as lockdown has been extended three times. Director Simon George, a former Global Care sponsored child himself, writes:

“When lockdown hit, we weren't prepared. Coronavirus has hit us hard in Kalyan.

The lockdown has been very strict. People are not allowed to go outside their homes, except to get food. If people go outside, the police will punish them. It is hard for everyone, but it is even worse for Dalit families. They are so low down in society that their lives are in real danger.

The families we work with earn money one day to spend the next day. If they don't earn money today, they can't buy food tomorrow. If they don't work, they don't eat. It really is as simple as that.



The government is providing some rations for poor families, but you need the right paperwork to be eligible. Most of the families we work with are undocumented, so they cannot apply.

I have heard some terrible stories from Kalyan. We know people are dying in the area. There is one family from our centre where the father has died of coronavirus. His wife can't work because of the lockdown and she has four children to feed.

We take food which is supposed to last for two weeks but they are making it last for three. We are providing for a total of 60 families, including that widow and her children, and we know it is making a difference.

It is dangerous work and our staff are scared for their lives. They wear masks and take hand sanitiser to wash their hands but just going from house to house, they are taking a big risk.

I worry about them all the time but they are feeling so sad about what is happening in the slum, they just want to get to the people and make sure the food packages get to where they are needed most.

It is impossible to know what the future holds. No-one can really say when all this will end.

But above all, we are very thankful to Global Care for continuing to help us through this crisis. Global Care is the only charity working in this area and there is no other help reaching these families.

These families have nothing and we are doing something great in their lives, we are giving them hope.

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"A good example for this world."

The efforts of the team to support these Dalit families in Patripul have not gone unnoticed, especially in the complete absence of any other support.

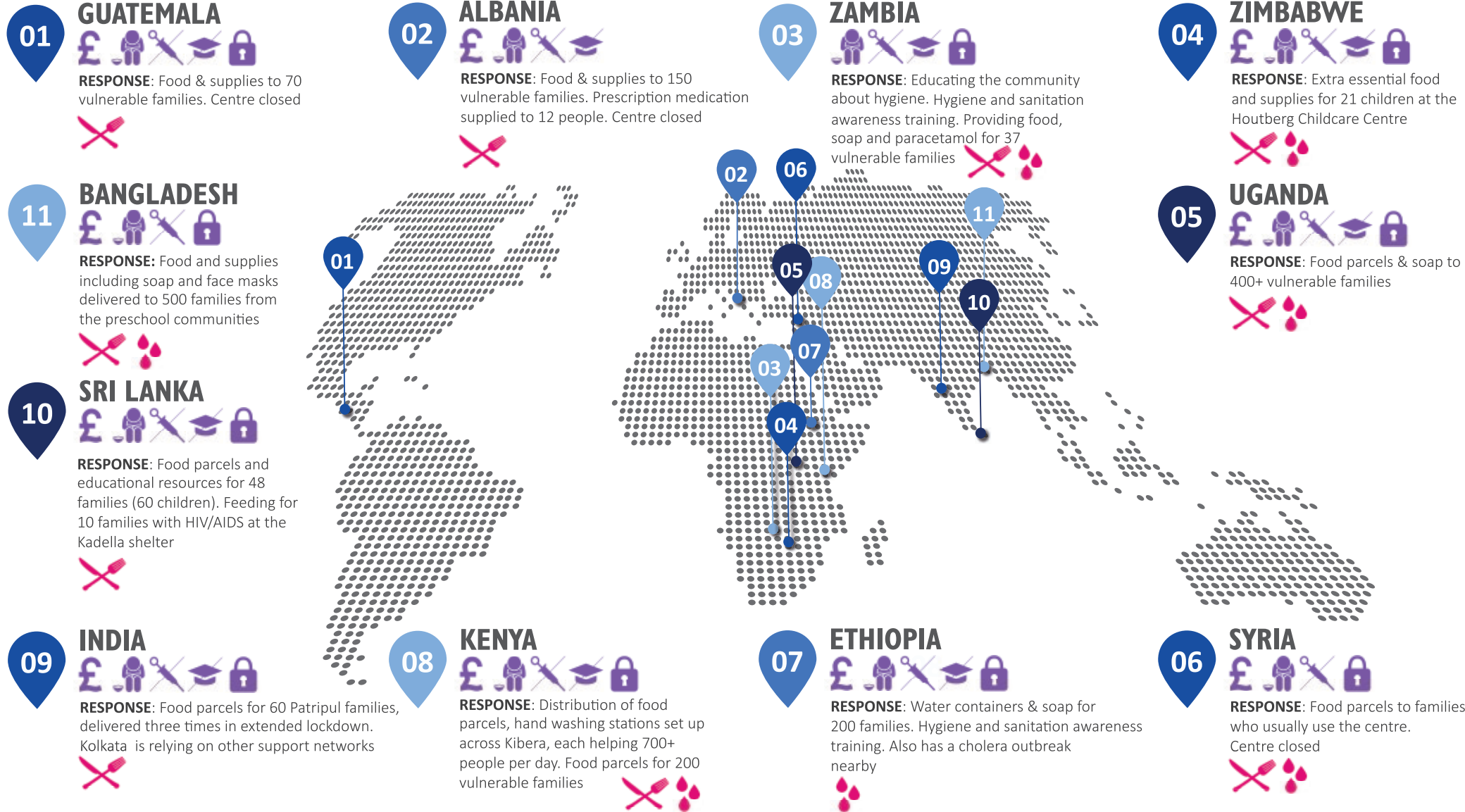
Our Muslim landlord refunded the entire rent bill for April, in recognition of their work. 'I cannot accept the rent from you, when I have seen what you are doing to help the vulnerable people here,' he said. "May God bless you."

In May, after India's lockdown was extended for a third period, a local TV station in Kalyan also highlighted the work.

The Hindu commentator said: "In lockdown labourers are facing one big question: How to live? ...This slum area did not receive any help from government or any other organization, but GCare Foundation distributed food packages, GCare Foundation distributed rice, dahl, oil, flour, vegetables... GCare Foundation is not just educating children, but caring for their health. GCare Foundation is a good example for this world."



CORONAVIRUS: GLOBAL CARE'S GLOBAL IMPACT



CRISIS: 🚫 Country in lockdown

RESPONSE: 🍴 Distributing food

£ Economic impact

💧 Water / sanitation supplies

🧑 Hardship and Hunger

🚫 Limited access to healthcare

🎓 Schools Closed

A word from the CEO

"If they can't work, they can't eat. It really is as simple as that."

“ The words of our partners in India echo around the world.

From Uganda and Guatemala, to Bangladesh and Syria, our grassroots partners tell us the same thing:

Lockdown hasn't made people in vulnerable communities safe at home. They are at risk of starving at home.

They are as scared of hunger as they are of the coronavirus. Tragically they are all too familiar with the need to fight illness without medical help, which is too often inaccessible or unaffordable. But they can't fight anything without food. It's as simple as that.

That's where Global Care stepped in.

Because we work through grassroots partners, who live in the communities they serve, we didn't have to set up a network, or fly in a consultant. We were able to act, without delay. It's as simple as that.

We have fed thousands of vulnerable, hungry people in ten countries, on four continents, and provided soap and hygiene tools to help keep hundreds more people safe.

I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved, working together. We're not a huge charity, but our global footprint has never been more clear.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without you, our donors. We recognise that many of you here in the UK are struggling too, so we are even more thrilled by your generous response.

“AS SIMPLE AS THAT”

At the time of writing, you have helped us raise **£60,001**, which our partners are using to save and protect countless lives. It's as simple as that.

Thank you.

I wish I could say 'well done, it's all over now.' Sadly, I can't. The challenges for vulnerable communities continue.

Some are still experiencing the impact of lockdown, with restricted movements, no income and separation from key support networks. Others are emerging from lockdown into a new world where old ways of earning a living are no longer viable, or safe, and where food shortages and soaring prices bring new challenges. Still others are preparing for the potential medical crisis still to come.

We are committed to doing all we can to help our international partners weather this pandemic, and the mass misery it has inflicted.

If we truly believe that every life is precious, on every continent, then we must act on that belief. Thank you so much for standing with us. It's as simple as that.

CEO John White



GUATEMALA

NOTHING TO DO, NOWHERE TO GO

Food parcels and rent payments have been at the heart of the response by our partners Street Kids Direct, helping disadvantaged families trapped by lockdown in Guatemala.

They also started a board games library to help bored children stuck in tiny shacks or cramped rented rooms for hours each day, without access to any of the digital distractions used by parents here in the UK.

Guatemala went into lockdown on 17 March, with a nationwide curfew imposed. El Centro, the day centre run by Street Kids Direct, had to close, and the team reached out to the families they were supporting.

Our partners say: "We planned food parcels, but soon realised some could not pay for the rent of their rooms. We covered this rent and continue to see each week how we can help.

"We also discovered that some children were suffering mentally for being enclosed for very long periods, especially those in tin shacks. The board games library has helped greatly increase mental health and has also brought families closer together."



GANG FREE

***Kelvin, aged 14, has been in the mentoring programme for four years. When he started, he was very street-connected.**

He lived with his parents and sisters in a small room in La Terminal, a disadvantaged area of Guatemala City, where drugs and gang activity are common. Keeping young boys free of these influences is a major challenge for families.

His mum fought to get her children into school, but was struggling with Kelvin. However, support from the mentoring programme really helped settle him. His school grades improved dramatically as he found a new direction in life.

As his parents saved and spent well, they were able to rent a large room, then a much larger room, eventually putting a deposit on a tiny plot of land on the outskirts of the city, away from La Terminal.

Recently the SKD team helped the family move to the tin house they have built there: "It's basic but it is theirs, and they are proud of what they have."

Kelvin is doing so well in school that through Global Care's sponsorship programme he was able to go to a private school last year, where he is benefitting from a much higher level of education and support.

Our partners say: "The blessing of the food, together with the board games library, has been a lifeline for the family, and the mental and physical health of the children is good."

KENYA



Helping Hand-Hygiene

"FEEDING - WE CANNOT IGNORE IT"

Lockdown was swift in Kenya, including some regional lockdowns and a strict curfew.

Unfortunately this left the guardians of 35 pupils at Spurgeons Academy stranded outside Kibera. Their children were left almost entirely dependent on the school, which was also closed in the lockdown.

Usually Spurgeons' pupils eat two meals a day at school, a service which families rely upon to feed their children, so staff were keenly aware of the need to continue feeding the children.

Spurgeons staff identified the 255 most needy families, including these 35 newly child-headed households, and those taking ARV medication for HIV/AIDS, where nutrition is essential for survival, and began arranging food parcels.

They had permission for families to collect food from the school, and in some cases were able to supply food vouchers. Once they even had a police escort

during curfew to collect food in bulk from supermarkets.

Our partners say: "The challenge with feeding is that it is a continuous process, but we cannot ignore it." At the time of writing, additional funds have been sent to cover feeding until the end of May. We have also funded hand sanitiser and face masks for all 400+ Spurgeons pupils.



Kibera is home to thousands of people, crammed into back-to-back 10x10ft shacks, with no running water or sewage system.

Knowing that hand-washing is crucial in the fight against coronavirus, our partners immediately established a series of water points, with soap, at 25 strategic locations across the slum.

Each water point is enabling between 700-1000 people per day to wash their hands, at a cost of less than £5 per week.



It costs £17.50 to run one water point for 40 days. In late May we funded set-up costs for five new water points, plus soap and water for all 30 water points for the next 40 days.



In **Ethiopia**, our partners gave water containers and soap to 250 vulnerable families connected to the pre-schools, and ran an awareness-raising campaign, helping families understand how to protect themselves against the coronavirus.



A similar exercise was carried out by our partners in **Zambia**, who also provided families with masks.



In **Zimbabwe**, our partners provided 'hygiene kits' to 21 children, and staff and families, at the Houtberg Childcare Centre, including soap, tissues and a bucket.

ETHIOPIA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE



UGANDA

Lockdown in Uganda left millions unable to work and struggling to feed their families.

Global Care has provided food parcels for more than 400 families in Kampala, Rukungiri and Soroti.

Effects have been harshest in the capital, Kampala, where lockdown rules are stricter, and families don't have access to land where they can grow crops.

However, even as the government begins to find ways of easing the lockdown, new rules

create more difficulties, including a new requirement for anyone in public to wear a mask.

Prices have escalated beyond the ability of poor people to afford. But if they are to have any hope of earning money, they must leave the house.

People have been seen retrieving used masks from bins at the main hospital in Kampala, and attempting to clean them for re-use or sale, obviously at great risk of spreading the virus further.

Our Kampala team will purchase masks for all sponsored children as soon as schools re-open.

How do you 'do' social distancing on a boda boda (bicycle or motorbike taxi)? It's impossible!

A number of our families work as boda-boda drivers, a profession not only hit hard by lockdown, but by continued social distancing measures.

Even when they are able to carry on working, they will be at extremely high risk of catching and spreading the virus, due to close contact with passengers. It's a lose-lose situation.

Our partners admit: "The community needs to acquire new jobs to sustain themselves in the near future. Some of the old jobs are no more."



Five year-old *Penny's dad is a boda boda driver in Kampala.

He has not been able to work since lockdown, and is worried he will lose the bike, as he has not been able to cover his hire purchase agreement for four consecutive weeks.

Even if he keeps the bike and is able to return to work, he will not be safe.

Our Kampala team say: "When the family received the food package from Global Care it was a big relief. They are happy that they have food in the house for some time, and will not starve."



15 year-old *Troy lives near Soroti, one of a family of eight.

When lockdown shut the markets where his grandmother sold vegetables, and with all the children home from school, the only food they had was 'amukeke', a dried boiled potato normally used for breakfast, with occasional meals of cassava at lunch or supper.

The parcel of posho, beans, salt and soap delivered by Global Care's Soroti team, was warmly welcomed. Troy said: "Thank Global Care for giving us posho, which we had not eaten for a very long time."



WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Thirteen year-old *Hannah and her four siblings live with their mum in Kampala.

Hannah's father abandoned the family after becoming addicted to drugs, and as a result the family are stigmatised in the community. After a week of lockdown, life was becoming very difficult.

With movement forbidden and markets closed, Mum's work had come to a standstill. She could not look for casual work, clean in people's houses, or sell market goods in the evenings.

Without savings, they had no money to buy food or other essentials.

The food parcel from Global Care has been a lifeline. Our Kampala team say: "The food from Global Care is being used cautiously because the exact date of lifting the lockdown is not known. So they skip some meals and are happy to just have porridge during the day and a light meal in the evening. They are worried about what the future holds, but are so grateful for all the help."



"I am so thankful to the sponsors and supporters who have always stood with us in such difficult times." David, Soroti co-manager



"When we arrived with cars full of food, *Jimmy's mum went wild and started chanting the name of Global Care. In her own words she said 'I was badly off with children, little did I know that Global Care was thinking about us in this corona, thank you very much! May God bless you so much, Global Care Oyeee!!!!'"

“SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT”

Lockdown has hit hard in impoverished rural communities. Joshe Bose, of Love Your Neighbour, Global Care's partner in Bangladesh, describes how LYN has been helping:

“In the first week of lockdown, everything closed, including our pre-schools, and in the second week all the children in our homes had to be sent back to their guardians.

“We are very worried about the children. Most families are living in one tiny room. If one person gets sick, everybody will be sick.

“Most people here travel to the other side of the river for work, but the government won't allow any transport to cross the river. Even the fishermen have lost their work because the owner of the fish farm can't transport the fish to the big cities to sell. People could manage for one week but after that it became extremely difficult because they had nothing left.

“We have delivered 500 food packages to the sponsored children and to the children at our pre-schools. Because the road network is closed during lockdown, we had to deliver food parcels by boat.

“We have sent soap, and 50 kilos of food per family, including rice, lentils and spices. These families hadn't eaten properly for ten, maybe 15 days before this food arrived. They were so thankful.

“We do worry about the future. There is only one government hospital in every district in Bangladesh, with only 10-15 beds and 2-3 doctors.

“Social distancing is impossible because of the high density of the population and the lifestyle. There can be no social distancing in the marketplace, for example. Normally people go to the marketplace every day for food, to sell things, to have tea or even to find their next job. It's so busy, people are crowded together like crazy.

“We don't know what the future holds but our team is doing everything we can and we are all praying for our children. We are so grateful to Global Care for supporting us and for your special contribution at this time.”

The biggest cyclone in more than a decade made landfall in the Sundarbans, the coastal area of Bangladesh where LYN is based, in May. Villagers had the impossible choice of taking refuge in crowded cyclone shelters, where social distancing would be impossible, or braving the storm. Hundreds of people used the three shelters built by Global Care, and our partners are praising God, as damage was much less than expected. Thank you so much for your prayers.

SYRIA, SRI LANKA, ALBANIA

In **Syria** our partners distributed food parcels to families who usually attend our School Clubs, while the centre was closed in lockdown

In **Sri Lanka**, we funded food and educational resources for 48 families (60 children) who usually attend the Morning Star Care Centre, and food for ten families at the Kadella Shelter for people with HIV/AIDS.

In **Albania** we funded food parcels for 150 extremely poor families who usually recycle rubbish for a living.



THANK YOU!

the **2.6** challenge

Ten supporters undertook six '2.6 challenges' for us in May. Their creative combination of ideas raised over £5000*.

The 2.6 Challenge was a national campaign asking people to think of a fundraising challenge at home, or according to social distancing guidelines, in recognition of the large sums lost by charities due to cancelled mass fundraising events.

Our 2.6 team included Cathy, who walked round her garden for 2.6 hours, Anita, Charlotte and Josh, who climbed 260 flights of stairs, did 260 cartwheels and ran 260 lengths of the garden respectively, Jean and Nikita, who did a whole week of 2.6-themed challenges, and Fiona, who walked for 2.6 miles and climbed her stairs 26 times. Huge thanks to all!

Two supporters, Claire Martin and Sheila Cutts, brought a new meaning to 'lock(s) down' when they shaved their heads in support of our coronavirus response appeal!

Claire and Sheila, who live in Coventry, are long-term supporters and veterans of volunteer team visits to Uganda. Claire said: “Having visited Uganda, we know the difference a few pounds can make.” Their hair-raising 2.6 Challenge raised more than £2,600* for the appeal – well done both.



If you're inspired by these stories and would like to tackle an 'at home' fundraiser, let Anita know at events@globalcare.org

Out-of-practice cyclist Barbara Heyes cycled the equivalent of 2.6 marathons – over 108km – in a week.



Friends and family were so impressed, she raised nearly four times her original £260 target, with the final sum reaching £965*.

TAKE A RISK 2021

'Take a Risk For Children At Risk 2020' has been postponed until 2021.



It's three years since we abseiled down Coventry Cathedral – next year we'll offer you an adrenaline-fuelled zipwire challenge at Rugby's Draycote Water. It will be long, it will

be high, and it WON'T be for the faint-hearted!

Charity Single

Watch out for the new single from singer-songwriter Rob Halligan, in support of Global Care's Coronavirus Crisis Appeal.

'The Other Side' is a beautiful anthem of hope, at a time when we all need encouragement!

The track is available from 22 June on all major download sites and also at www.robhalligan.co.uk. All proceeds go to Global Care.



*Including Gift Aid

We may need to continue supporting our partners through the pandemic for months.

The UN predicts the global economic downturn will increase numbers of people in extreme poverty by anything from 84 million to 132 million.

The World Food Programme expects that by the end of 2020, numbers facing acute hunger will double to 265 million.

These aren't just statistics. They represent lost lives, desperate families, children failing to flourish. 25 years of progress in lifting people out of poverty is being undone on a global scale. Our work is clearly more necessary than ever.

PRICE INCREASE

We're so grateful to those donors who have responded to our request to increase the 'price' of our sponsorship and project partnership monthly giving programmes, after eight years of static prices.

Letters are still going out, and we have been encouraged by how many positive responses we have had, even in the midst of the pandemic. Thank you for your faithful support.

SHOPS CLOSED

Our charity shops have been closed since 23 March, cutting off an important income stream. We know our wonderful teams of staff and volunteers are waiting impatiently to open up- we can't wait to welcome you back, hopefully in July!

Harvest 2020

We won't be running a separate Harvest Appeal in 2020, but would welcome Harvest contributions to our Children At Risk fund, to support our coronavirus response.

As this Newsbrief demonstrates, most of our work supporting vulnerable communities in the pandemic has involved feeding, making it particularly appropriate for the Harvest season.

No-one knows how long lockdown will continue in different nations. Even after lockdown, the disruption to food production and supply chains will create food shortages and price escalation, meaning vulnerable families may still struggle to eat.

If you run a Harvest event at your church or school, giving thanks for the blessing of abundant food, please could you consider supporting our Coronavirus Response Appeal, so we can keep feeding hungry families?

No Luxuries

Could you live for a week on the simple food parcel given to hungry families by our partners in Patripul, India? Are you brave enough to find out?

Look out for our Harvest Challenge later this summer: In a season associated with abundance, we will be reminded of our many blessings, and raise funds for our work supporting vulnerable communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Register your interest with Anita at events@globalcare.org

THE BIG GIVE 2020: PLEDGERS NEEDED



Our Big Give campaign at Christmas aims to kickstart a new project in Ethiopia, using microfinance to help women provide for their children's education and wellbeing.

However, in order to take part, we need 'pledgers' to provide the first part of the match funding. Pledgers make a promise in **June, July or August**, to pay an agreed amount (minimum £250), at the end of the Big Give in December.

As in 2019, when we raised £40,000 for a new project in Syria, we must identify an initial £10,000 in pledges. This sum is then matched by a Big Give 'Champion', providing a total of £20,000 in match-funding for the week of the Big Give Christmas Challenge.

As with everything else, the coronavirus pandemic has thrown this into disarray!

However we would dearly love to be able to continue, as this was key to our planning for the new initiative in Ethiopia.

We recognise it is a BIG ask for many donors, on top of the current appeal, and with financial uncertainty ahead. However if you can help, please contact Clare or Jordan on **030 030 21 030** or [via donor.relations@globalcare.org](mailto:donor.relations@globalcare.org).

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

Global Care, 2 Dugdale Road, Coventry CV6 1PB | Tel: 030 030 21 030
info@globalcare.org | www.globalcare.org

Registered Charity No. 1054008

