



WORLDWIDE

**MEDICAL RESPONSE FUND**

WORLDWIDE

**CORONAVIRUS  
RESPONSE**

# NEWS BRIEF

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2021



# SOME THINGS *never change*

“ Covid has taught us all what it is to live with uncertainty, change and loss. However, for some of our partners, only just feeling secure after the challenges of 2020, 2021 has brought even more chaos and confusion.

We've had to respond reactively to rapidly changing circumstances. Our preference might be for carefully planned programmes with agreed dates, but we're learning again that sometimes it's not possible!

Thankfully, however, some things never change: We know that prayer is central, that relatively simple interventions can have a huge impact, and that lives can be transformed. So we'll keep on doing what we do, responding to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable. Thank you so much for standing with us. ”



John White, CEO



## COVID

Our partners in Kolkata were caught off-guard by the severity of India's second wave of coronavirus.

“Our cities are suffocating under a pall of gloom, sadness, helplessness and despair,” they wrote in May. “Escalating numbers of infection and death are causing an acceleration of fear and dread in the hearts of people. Despite paying huge bills for ICU care, people are dying. In the midst of this panorama of pain, extortionists are taking full advantage of exploiting desperate people. The panic in the eyes and hearts of people is almost palpable.”

Having welcomed children back to the Pavement Club, and to Calcutta Emmanuel School (CES), the team

had to return to home learning and emergency feeding.

Thankfully, a previous grant from Global Care had improved the ability of CES to deliver online learning, including providing mobiles for four pupils without access to a smartphone.

Pavement Club children are receiving study assignments along with food parcels, until it is safe to reopen.

Global Care has funded masks, sanitisers and food parcels for 430 pupils at CES, and masks, sanitisers and food parcels for 167 children from the Pavement Club, at a total cost of £6,762.

In Patripul, near Mumbai, the team were less surprised by the impact of the second wave, as this slum community had taken such a battering in the first wave.

However the second wave has brought new tragedies (see \*Rebekah's story), and the team were sad to close the GCare centres only two weeks after reopening.

Global Care is funding food parcels for Patripul families from April – July. When the centres re-open the funding will be used to fund food parcels for children attending the centre, to incentivise a return to education. (see page 8-9)





## \*Rebekah's story

Disabled \*Rebekah, orphaned by Covid, may have died without the intervention of our partners in Patripul.

12 year-old Rebekah first came to their attention in 2018. Her Dalit father committed suicide after his employer refused to pay his wages for four months, and then had him beaten when he demanded payment. His destitute family took to the streets to beg, where they met our partners. Mum was encouraged to send the children to the GCare centre, where they would be safe.

However, Rebekah's brother continued to beg and in March 2020 he disappeared. His body was found on a rubbish dump a few days later. No-one has ever investigated his death.

The grieving mum and daughter were supported by Global Care with food parcels throughout the first lockdown, but in India's second wave of coronavirus, both became ill. Mum died at home, after being turned away by hospitals because she was undocumented (like so many Dalit families).

Our partners found Rebekah ill at home, alone. Initially they paid neighbours to provide food, but when her condition deteriorated, they paid for private hospital care as she needed ventilation.

Rebekah's relatives in the family's village initially refused to take her in, and the authorities have now taken responsibility for securing this young girl's future.

# MYANMAR COUP

**"Please pray for the safety of the children, and for us to get real democracy, so they can have a better future."**

This is the plea of our partner, Sam, in Yangon, in the aftermath of the military coup which is threatening to push Myanmar back into civil war.

The team at Grace Children's Home sent all but six of the children back to Chinn State in the early days of the coup, as Yangon grew increasingly dangerous. Thronged with protestors, the military were shooting on the streets indiscriminately.

However, fighting has now broken out in several ethnic states, including an area through which the children must travel to return.

Sam says the atmosphere is one of fear and despair: "It's very difficult for us, especially the minorities and the Christians, we had to be very scared. We were just getting back on our feet after Covid, and now this."

The country's first open elections were held in 2015, resulting in a landslide victory for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. The coup happened as the new parliament was due to sit, following a second election victory for the NLD in December 2020.

Sam says: "In the last five years we have had a real democracy. If we don't have it, there is no point the children coming to Yangon for education – I don't want them to have the kind of education I had. That's what I am afraid of."

Our partnership with Grace Children's Home was due to end in December 2020, as two new initiatives improved self-sufficiency – a shop in Yangon and a tourist venture in Chinn State. Because of Covid, these initiatives were delayed, and we've extended our support for a further six months. The shop reopened in May 2021, but the coup means the tourist venture may be mothballed for some time.



# Global Care's Coronavirus Response

£182,911 raised at 12/05/2021

Beneficiaries including  
13,068 children

19,408\*  
19,408\*  
19,408\*

13,068\*  
13,068\*  
13,068\*

Food parcels (4,016)  
Meal boxes (1,970)

5,986\*  
5,986\*  
5,986\*

Improved Hygiene

24,000\*  
24,000\*  
24,000\*

Back into learning

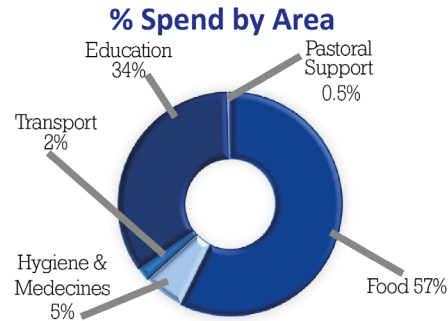
4,227\*  
4,227\*  
4,227\*

Rapid response &  
partnership in action...

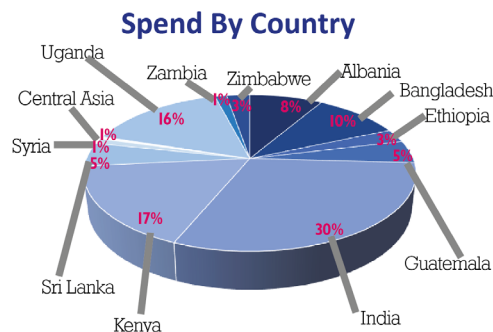
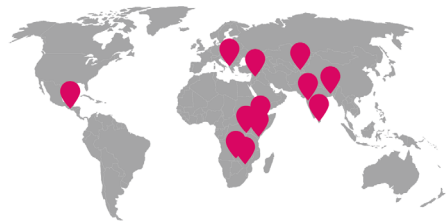
Funded by the  
generosity of donors

Delivered through  
grassroots partners

Rooted in prayer



12 Countries: 20 Projects



Ongoing needs - Recovery phase



\*Confident estimate



## Life-changing COVID

Thank you for supporting our Lent Appeal! You raised a wonderful £22,088, which has funded educational support programmes in Guatemala and Bangladesh.

Ten year-old \*Almika couldn't read, despite attending school and 'passing' each year. But after just three months of the tuition programme funded by our 2021 Lent Appeal, she is reading simple sentences.

Almika's school in Guatemala has been closed for 14 months. Like most street-connected children, she couldn't access online learning and had little encouragement to try.

But as a member of our partners' mentoring programme for high-risk children, Almika can attend small-group tuition, several days each

week. And her learning is taking off!

"Almika is finally getting the attention she needs to catch up," say our partners. "She has not missed her lessons for a single day."

"this project can...  
protect this generation  
and preserve  
their future"





## \*Amrito's story

Amrito joined the preschool in 2019 and thrived. He loved the classroom, loved learning and made new friends. "Everything was going well," say our partners.

But in lockdown, Amrito struggled. His behaviour deteriorated and he wouldn't engage in anything positive. He lost his appetite and wanted to sleep all day.

Whenever they saw the preschool team, his worried parents would ask 'when will you reopen, because my child is not well.' When the team launched home tuition, Amrito's parents offered the use of their courtyard.

Four months later, Amrito is making good progress. Multivitamins and supplements provided by the team have helped restore energy levels. The team say: "He is a happy and playful child again."



## New Classrooms for Spurgeons

**Children at Spurgeons Academy, in Kibera, Kenya, were able to return to school in a Covid-secure way, thanks to the generosity of our '50 Miles in 30 Days' supporters.**

Our January walking team raised a massive £10,594, funding the construction of two new temporary classrooms at Spurgeons, to meet new government protocols for social distancing at school. The funds also paid for additional work on the main building, flagged up by government officials conducting a pre-opening inspection.



Exam students returned to Spurgeons in late 2020. The school reopened to all pupils in January 2021, before closing again in March due to rising cases and a new lockdown. The school reopened again in the middle of May.

Huge thanks goes to our '50 Miles' walkers, who raised double the original £5,000 target: You're all amazing!

## RESPONSE

Almika is one of 40 children taking part, and one of nine, from grades 2-6, who could barely read or write. Already five of these children are working at grade-level and the others, including Almika, are making good progress.

"The main challenges have been the total demotivation of children for their studies, and low self-esteem," say our partners. "With love, hard work and perseverance, that has changed. Now each child explores, investigates, asks and works independently. The programme is having a huge impact."

Thanks to your generosity we have also been able to fund a similar initiative in Bangladesh, where our partners are supporting children's education with a home tuition programme.

Over 100 children aged four to eight are taking part, in 18 community based groups of 6-8 children. At least 50% are beginners who would have started preschool this year.

We funded a three month programme in January 2021. Thanks to your generosity at Lent, we were able to fund a further three months from April.

Our partners say: "The education improvement project can play a vital role to protect this generation and preserve their future."





# “WE KNOW THAT LIVES CAN BE TRANSFORMED”

## There is always hope: Susie's story



Seven year-old \*Susie has a rare genetic syndrome causing physical disabilities, including hearing and visual impairment, and learning difficulties. Our partners at the New Day Centre, in Albania, say she has the most complex difficulties of any of the children they support.

She also has a challenging home life: Susie, her widowed mum and siblings live with her grandmother, uncles and cousins, so only have one room. Her mum is unemployed and finances are very tight.

Susie started having therapy at the New Day Centre in November 2020.

Our partners say: “Although this syndrome has a difficult prognosis, we see positive changes in her. Now she has more social skills and has gained skills for independence – she can take her own clothes on and off. She can understand simple instructions, and that’s very encouraging.

“Her mother is very excited because we all had low expectations for progress. Susie’s story is one of those stories teaching us that with persistence and faith, things change. There is always hope.”

## Heena's New Start

**Do you remember \*Heena?  
We told her story last year  
– how she was abused as a  
bonded labourer, paying off  
her family’s debt, at just nine  
years old.**

In 2018, we paid her debt and Heena began attending the GCare Centre in Patripul, where she blossomed.

However, when Covid hit, the family moved to another slum and, tragically, her little brother starved to death. Heena’s grief-stricken mum suffered a mental breakdown, wandering the streets with her youngest daughter.



Our partners were able to move Heena to her aunt’s, and continued supporting the family.

Finally, in January 2021, they secured hospital treatment for Heena’s mum, leading to such good progress the family have been reunited.

Restored to better health, she has left the slums, the scene of so much loss and distress, and taken her daughters back to her village. She promises Heena will continue at school.

She had these heartfelt words to say: “Thank you for Global Care for standing with us, for paying our debt and sending my daughter to school. You heard I was on the streets, without food or clothes on my body, you took me to hospital and back to my sister’s house, fed us for months and arranged transport back to my village. Now I am safe with my two daughters. Many thanks to Global Care for saving me and my daughters.”





## A new home for Jaylon

**When \*Jaylon's father abandoned him as a tiny baby, his grandfather, Promoth, took him in. But some years later, Promoth lost his home to river erosion, an increasingly common problem in low-lying Bangladesh.**

**H**e set up a roadside tea stall, where the family also slept, but they often went without food. Worried about his grandson's health and education, Promoth approached our

partners at the Home of Love, and they took him in. Jaylon was seven years old.

As a sponsored child, Jaylon thrived, and for fifteen years benefited from good food and education.

Over the years Promoth scraped together money to buy a piece of land, but couldn't afford to build a house. However, in February 2021 he was told the family could no longer live at the tea stall.

Jaylon and three friends at the Home of Love were keen to help. With funds from our partners they hired a mason, purchased

materials, and provided the unskilled labour themselves.

Jaylon was due to finish sponsorship when he took his final exams, but these were delayed by Covid. In April our partners wrote: "Jaylon wants to go back to his grandparents' house to help them as they are very old – he thinks this is the right time to take responsibility for the family.

"We pray to God that He helps Jaylon in every step of his life. May this family never forget the love of God to them through Love Your Neighbour and the sponsor of Jaylon."

## Vera's story

**\*Vera's parents died of HIV/AIDS within seven months of each other, when she was just a little girl. The family of six siblings was split between relatives, and Vera went to her uncle in Kampala, Uganda.**

**B**ecause her uncle already had a large family, he sought help, and Vera was accepted onto Global Care's child sponsorship scheme.

14 years later, Vera has just completed high school (S4) and passed her O'level exams. She is the only one of her siblings to complete secondary education. One sister was married off while still in S2, and other siblings dropped out to earn a living as family members could only support them for a limited time.

Thanks to her sponsor, Vera has avoided these pressures. Our Kampala team write: "She has attended classes without any disruptions because Global Care paid her school fees, paid for her feeding at school and met all her school requirements for all the years."

Vera has been helping her aunt with her tailoring business, and hopes to set up her own business now she has left school and completed sponsorship.

As she steps into independent adulthood, she is confident that her solid education will provide a great foundation for her future hopes.





# Will you take on **THE SHACK CHALLENGE**



**Can you give up a little comfort, in solidarity with families living with less?**

**W**e're looking for people to take on our Shack Challenge this summer, to raise funds for families derailed and devastated by Covid.

By living in a Shack (or the smallest room in your house) for one day, OR eating a restricted diet (a 'Shack Supper') for five days, can you raise funds to help children and families who live in restricted conditions all year round?

## **WHERE WILL THE MONEY GO?**

We hope to raise £13,000 to support a short-term feeding programme in Patripul, a slum near Mumbai, where our partners have been a lifeline for children and families devastated by the coronavirus pandemic.

When our centres are able to reopen, our partners are concerned that many students will not return: They are working to support their families, or are demotivated by the long break from education.

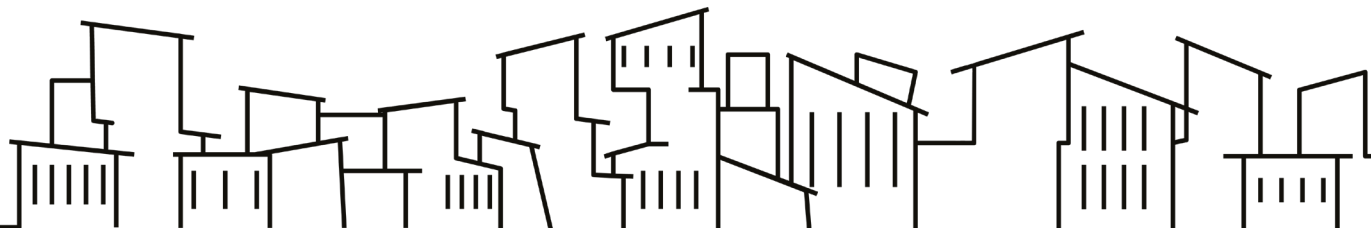
We want to encourage attendance by providing food parcels at the end of each week, as an incentive to the children who attend. We hope to re-engage families who have given up on education as a route out of poverty, and give them a good reason to stop sending their children out to work or beg. It will cost £13,000 to feed 150 families for six months.

Excess funds will support children made more vulnerable through coronavirus in other slum settings, like the students of Spurgeons Academy, Kibera, Kenya, or the Pavement Club in Kolkata.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

Choose the Shack Shelter Challenge – perhaps with friends or family? Or tackle the Shack Supper Challenge. Or if you're really brave, do both!

**You can sign up at**  
[www.globalcare.org/shack-challenge-2021](http://www.globalcare.org/shack-challenge-2021)  
**Register for just £5 and commit to raising a minimum of £100 for Patripul.**

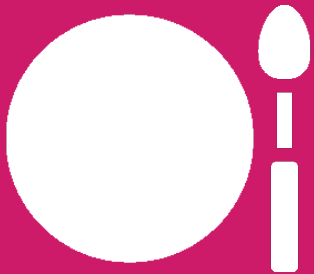






## Shack SHELTER

Build a temporary shelter approx 10ft<sup>2</sup> or use the smallest room in your house. Everyone taking part is only allowed to use this space, one toilet, and the outdoors, for either 12 or 24 hours. You have to fetch water, cook on a stove (or just one hob) and pay to use the toilet. Will your budget last the day? There are restrictions on what you can eat, the technology you can access, and the things you can do (but you can run around outside as much as you like – let's hope it's not raining!)



## Shack SUPPER

Live on the contents of the food parcels we have been providing in Patripul over the last year, for just five days. There are plenty of carbs, and some protein. You won't go hungry – but your choices will be limited. We'll send you a shopping list and some recipes. **Can you do it?**



## Voices and Stories from Patripul

You can see and hear more about Global Care's work in Patripul during the pandemic by watching our new 13-minute documentary-style film.

Few communities were as hard hit as the Dalit families of Patripul, near Mumbai. There we fed hundreds of men, women and children seven times over eight months in 2020, and as India staggers under the impact of a second wave of Covid, we continue to support them today.

We want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you - and to help you understand the incredible impact of this work. Please take a moment to watch this short film: It's a rare opportunity to hear directly from the people you have fed.

To watch the 13 minute film, go to  
<https://youtu.be/4eBjQPpXE5E>  
or scan the QR code.





# Access to medical treatment **WITHOUT DELAY**

Our **Medical Response Fund (MRF)**, now in its 12th year, continues to impact the lives of vulnerable children and young people needing urgent, unexpected or unaffordable medical treatment, all over the world. The MRF empowers our partners to step in and help children gain access to medical treatment, without delay. Run through our Children At Risk Fund, it's one of those initiatives where relatively small sums make a big difference.

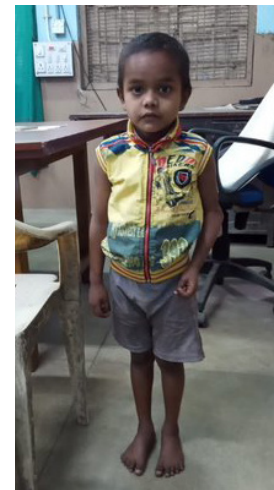
## **Staying alive**

19-year-old \*Judd's kidneys failed a year ago, and he needs twice-weekly dialysis. Judd, who is HIV+ has been sponsored since he started school, aged six. The family, including his older siblings, struggle to pay for treatment, and our Kampala team help cover the cost. In three months from Sept-Dec 2020, the MRF contributed 232,000UGX (approx £46). Our partners say: "The impact of this is that he is alive now. If he fails to attend, if the money is not available, then his life would be no more."



## **William's walking**

12 year-old \*William had a hernia which affected his walking, and his school and social life. Our Soroti team took William to hospital, where he received surgery. William stayed in hospital for four days, where in addition to the cost of surgery and medication, Global Care paid for his food, washing, and general care. The total cost of consultation, surgery, medication and welfare care was £77.16.



## **Travel covered**

Four year-old \*Sakash, from Kolkata, has physiotherapy to improve the use of his left hand, after a serious elbow injury. The MRF paid his travel costs for twice-weekly hospital check-ups, and the Pavement Club social worker supports his exercises at home, with regular visits. Travel expenses are a key MRF provision, as even when treatment is free, children from disadvantaged communities can't always afford transport to a clinic or hospital, and miss out on vital treatment.



# Gabriel's new glasses



17 year-old \*Gabriel is the older brother and a key financial supporter, of a young girl mentored by our partners, Street Kids Direct Guatemala.

Gabriel desperately needed new glasses, which he couldn't afford as they cost a total of Q1,500 (approx £150). Gabriel paid Q300 himself, the team received a donation of Q700 and Global Care's MRF paid the final Q500 (approx £50). Gabriel is delighted with his new glasses!

## Hope for Henry

12-year-old \*Henry is HIV+, and a dog bite last year compounded issues with his already compromised immune system. Recently he suffered from malaria, and the MRF paid 120,000UGX (approx £24) to cover his treatment. He has recovered well and is now back at school in Kampala.



## An unpayable bill

Eight year-old \*Evie, from Kibera, Kenya, has sickle cell anaemia and is HIV+. She spent three months in hospital in 2020 after contracting meningitis, leaving her family with an unpayable bill of over £4,000. The MRF paid her initial costs of £267, and our partners negotiated a reduction and a payment plan.



## Elliot's accident

9-year-old \*Elliot was scalded when an older boy slipped while carrying a bowl of hot water. Thanks to the MRF, Elliot was able to receive treatment without delay and was released from hospital to an isolation bed at the Home of Love, Bangladesh. Elliot continued to receive dressing changes from a qualified doctor, and was given extra nutrition and fruit to help the healing process. The total cost of Elliot's care was 23,892 Bangladesh taka (approx. £220)







## PRAYER IS CENTRAL

Please join us for our third Annual Day of Prayer on Friday 24 September. We will provide prayer resources, and details of virtual prayer gatherings featuring some of our international partners, to all our Prayer Focus partners. If you are not a regular prayer partner, but would like to receive this information, please register at [www.globalcare.org/prayer-day-2021](http://www.globalcare.org/prayer-day-2021)

## THANK YOU TRUSTEES

**M**ark Curran ended his term as a trustee for Global Care after many years of faithful service, including a long period as Chair. During his time as chair he guided us through some challenging times. We thank him for his careful oversight and warm support over many years, and pray God's blessing on him.

We have welcomed two new trustees; Dr Jonathan Foss, and Claire McCann.

Jonathan is a Teaching Fellow at the University of Warwick, working in Computer Science. He also has experience in the acquisition of research

and outreach funding, and developing collaborative international proposals. Jonathan has been a supporter of Global Care since childhood and lives near Coventry.

Claire is a corporate accountant at Greggs plc, as well as a former chair of governors at a special needs school. She is mum to teenage twin sons, and lives in Newcastle. Jonathan and Claire are both supporting the financial management of Global Care and our sister charity, GCV

A huge thanks goes to all our trustees for their willingness to serve, as volunteers, overseeing the work of Global Care.

## THE BIG GIVE PLEDGERS NEEDED



**Our Big Give match-funding campaign at Christmas aims to kickstart a new project in Sri Lanka, supporting women who have experienced domestic violence or trafficking, and those at risk of trafficking, and their children.**

**H**owever, in order to take part, we need 'pledgers' to provide the first part of the match-funding. Pledgers make a promise between **June and August**, to pay an agreed amount at the end of the Big Give in December.

In both 2019 and 2020, we raised over £40,000 for projects in Syria and

Ethiopia. In 2021 we would like to go one step further, and raise £60,000. To achieve this we must identify an initial £15,000 in pledges, of any amount of £250 or more. This sum is then matched by a Big Give 'Champion', providing a total of £30,000 in match-funding for the week of the Big Give Christmas Challenge.

'Pledging' is a little complex, but is a strategic way of giving, which effectively quadruples the value of your donation!

**If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact Clare or Jordan on 030 030 21 030 or learn more at [www.globalcare.org/pledger](http://www.globalcare.org/pledger)**

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

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