



Alliance
World
Fellowship

Relief & Development

GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID – 19 PHASE 1 REPORT

ALLIANCE WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Since the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Alliance World Fellowship, along with CAMA Services (C&MA United States) and Justice and Compassion (C&MA Canada) began working together to mobilize a global response to COVID-19, following the example of Jesus, a compassionate savior who calls us to action. They gathered to pray and felt a responsibility to seek a quick and effective response to the needs of the most vulnerable among those served by Alliance churches around the world.

Compassion ministry has been central to the Christian and Missionary Alliance Missionary Movement since the beginning. CAMA Services (USA), Justice and Compassion (Canada), CAMA Zending (Netherlands), and Hong Kong Alliance Mission have been on the frontline of this ministry. As the Alliance movement has grown, we are seeking the engagement of more national churches to multiply its resources and enlarge its reach.

To offer a unified response from the Alliance, we invited the National Church Presidents and Directors of the Relief and Development departments to meet in May, in different languages and time zones. The objective of the meeting was to collect information about the needs of the most vulnerable communities served by the Alliance worldwide and discuss responses that are fast and well-targeted. The two-hour meetings were held in English (two meetings), in Spanish, and in French, from May 11 to 13.



During one of the four meetings that were held to organize what was the AWF Global Response to COVID-19 - Phase 1, the president of an African national church told us: *"We cannot help everyone, but we can help those whom they have nothing"*. This summed up our leaders' understanding that the challenge before us was beyond our ability, but that God would provide the necessary provision for His people and we were willing to share it with those most in need in the communities we serve.

In the first step toward a global response to COVID-19, nearly 100 representatives from 38 AWF member countries came together in four meetings from May 11-13 to share their views and experiences; then, on May 15, a task force formed by the representatives of the Relief and Development ministries of United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and others met with the Executive Committee of the Alliance World Fellowship to consider which would be the next steps.

After these meetings, we asked the pastors of the local Alliance churches that sponsored Relief Projects to answer the Relief Projects Questionnaire, a very easy one that the group of experts developed and had to be filled out by the end of May 2020. The prayer of AWF was that the information that would be received would be of help to strengthen the hands of those in the field in a meaningful, productive way and to sow seeds of the testimony of God's love and thus provide us with specific information about each project. The forms were available for filling on our website and social media.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the church with a great opportunity to express God's care and compassion for all people. Caring for people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs is a directive for God's people expressed throughout the biblical narrative. By thinking of tangible ways to love our neighbor, as taught, and illustrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The collected information was consolidated by the AWF Relief and Development Office and sent to the presidents of the national churches as part of the analysis and decision processes for the meetings that were scheduled for June 1-4, 2020.

The AWF Relief and Development Office received more than 230 relief project proposals for the Phase 1 of the AWF Global Response Program to COVID-19. These projects represented only a small part of the effort that the AWF family has been making around the world to support the most vulnerable communities.

The Global Alliance Family has been serving thousands of vulnerable communities in more than 50 countries since the pandemic began. Local churches distributed food, masks, soaps, and medicines, and raised awareness about proper hygiene habits and the use of protective measures. AWF Global Response to COVID-19 helped those local churches with more funds to reach more people who experience God's love and mercy through the hands of his servants.



Some project proposals included valuable information on the nature of the response. Bikash Adhikari in Nepal stated that *“by doing this we will be avoiding hunger, weakness, and vulnerability to disease and even people from committing suicide; families will receive money to rent their room so they do not run out of physical space during this time of pandemic; marginalized families, including families with disabilities, would get enough food”*. The leader of a ministry in the northeastern part of India told us that *“after approaching three months since the national shutdown began they were more aware that many local communities were without food, most of the people living from day to day to day they had been unemployed and therefore income during that time, they were running out of supplies quickly. The need was so great that they wanted to provide essential food kits with rice, wheat flour, lentils, and oils to 600 more families in communities with which they are associated and 150 families of children who are under their sports training program”*.

The AWF Global Response team met on June 8-9 to decide about the projects and amounts to be awarded. The projects were chosen based on their relevance, impact, viability, and local commitment. Projects from Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea, Honduras, India, Italy, Jordan, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, and Peru were selected.

In Phase 1 of the AWF Global Response to COVID-19, we were able to allocate \$ 110,900 USD in aid to meet immediate needs for congregations and communities. The generous donations came from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Netherlands, and United States. Thousands of people from vulnerable communities received food and hygiene products from volunteers from local Alliance churches.

We are infinitely grateful to God because this was a great blessing for the Alliance family, many countries participated and it allowed us to reach out with the tangible love of God to those who needed it most at the right time.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Burkina Faso:

- Helped 31 people from their church community by distributing cash to support the reactivation of economic activities of vulnerable people. The various beneficiaries injected their funds into animal husbandry, small business, sewing, and gardening activities.



DAH Olo: could re-start his chicken alive business after our intervention.



TANNIAGOU Rebecca in her sewing workshop.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Colombia:

- They helped 6000 people and 1900 families in their community and church, by distributing food in homes and shelters, hygiene supplies, construction, and social service. One of their pastors decided to cut the hair of people in their community whom they needed.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Congo DRC:

- They helped many people in their community to the point that they could not count them, they distributed masks and hygiene supplies.



Cote d'Ivoire:

They carried out an investigation to determine what would be the most pressing needs that they should cover, they made distributions in 8 regions.

- Helped 313 people, distributed 1,100 antibacterial gels and 1,152 liquid soaps.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

El Salvador:

Apopa Church:

- Helped 160 people in their community and church by distributing food.

C&MA El Salvador:

- Ayudaron a 150 personas de su comunidad e iglesia mediante la distribución de alimentos dos veces al mes.

Testimony:

"This month we have subsisted mostly with your help". Other recurrent have been grateful to the church. A parent (Mr. José) whose children attend Sunday school told us: *"We are very grateful for your help even though we never visit you in the temple".* A new sister in the congregation: *"I thank the pastor and those who make possible the help that they bring us from the food supplies. God bless you all and those who distribute it".*

A neighbor of the church whose family they have helped and who has never visited the temple said: *"Thank you, pastor, we have never visited you, but when all this happens we will".* Thanks to this help some people have returned to the church.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Gabon:

- Helped 30 people, including 15 children and 15 adults from poor backgrounds, all from the Outpatient Treatment Center (CTA) of the Nkembo Hospital, distributed food, masks, and hydroalcoholic solution.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Guinea:

- Helped 415 families in their community and church through the distribution of food, masks, biblical messages by SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook, radio, and awareness, monitoring of families, prayer cells, and economic allowances.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Honduras:

- Helped 60 people in their community and church by distributing food once a month. The national president was helping personally in the distribution.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

India Gujarat:

Dolka District:

- They helped 300 people in their community and Church by distributing food.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

India Gujarat:

Sharon Alliance Church:

- Helped 800 people in their community and church by distributing food.

With the grace of God, they decided to share the Gospel in a place close to the Church where there is a water canal, and many migrant workers remain on the edge of the canal. Most of them are poor and uneducated, the church took this opportunity to generously help its local community in this pandemic.

Through a survey of these canal residents, they found that there are massive numbers of people who could also help, they made the list, and they called everyone to church.

On the Church campus, they distributed 60 kits of necessities. And they prayed for them and shared with them about God and if possible, they will help them again. The church is incredibly happy about this harvest.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

India Gujarat:

Kheda District:

- Helped 300 people in their community and church by distributing 225 grocery kits among the 14 churches in the district.
- In the future, they are planning to go house to house and share the Gospel with these people and create new contacts.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

India Kolkota:

- Helped 7,500 people in their community and church by distributing food.

India Maharashtra:

- They helped 1000 people in their community and church by distributing food.

Italy:

- Helped 60 people in their community and church by distributing hygiene supplies.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Jordan:

Khalda Church:

- Helped 20 people in their community and church by distributing food; additionally, they bought a sewing machine to help one of the families to generate income.

Seventh Circle:

- Helped 180 people and 45 families in their community and church by distributing food, gas, fans, rent, electricity, and water.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Liberia:

- They were providing food aid, distributing masks and soap to around 1750 people from the communities and churches.
- During their second distribution in Monsterrado County, they heard a beautiful testimony: a single mother with five children without any means of income received food and some Coronavirus-related items. The items she got were from the first distribution. Even though Marcus C. Kercula, National Relief Team Director, was very busy, she caught his attention. She tearfully told Marcus how the distribution he did in the Matadi Community saved her children's lives. Because on the day the items arrived, they had nothing to eat. One of her sons was almost dying of starvation. She said: *"The rice you gave me that day saved my children. Thank you so much for the help"*.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Mali:

- Were serving in Bamako, the most affected city in the country. Supported 168 households, around 1000 people from the church and the community by distributing rice, masks, hand washing kits, and liquid soaps locally produced. This lasted in a household from 7 - 9 persons at least for a month.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

México:

C&MA Church Aliento de Vida:

- They helped 120 families in their community and church by distributing food and hygiene supplements twelve times from April to the present, in the first months the bags included biblical literature and the plan of salvation.

From July 2018 to the present they have been developing a training class for women in the production of mouth covers - masks, through a ministry of the local church aimed at the needs of 75 - 100 women in need and single mothers, they are provided micro-business training that can be done from home. They acquired sewing machines, actually, they have 8 at their disposal thus creating an operational center.

As of April, they dedicated themselves to making mouth covers. Since the project began, they have produced more than 2,000 mouth covers. Each woman is currently managing to generate up to \$ 72 USD per month.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

México:

C&MA Vida Nueva Zapopan Church – Jalisco:

- Helped 100 people in their community and church by distributing food once a month for three months.
- Today they have 4 families who came to their community for the testimony of the pantries, some for the gratitude of having been blessed with a pantry, and others for seeing the action of helping.

C&MA Principe de Paz Church:

- They helped 78 families in their community by distributing food once a month for 6 months. It has given them the opportunity to interact more closely and empathetically with families and individuals in need, being able to experience their circumstances and problems closely, and this, in turn, has allowed them to develop a friendship relationship and an opportunity to share Christ with through mercy and being blessed to be able to represent Christ and his love in those places.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Myanmar:

- Helped 140 families in their community and church by distributing food and hygiene supplies.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Nepal:

- Helped 314 families in their community in 8 different locations around the country with food distribution according to their needs, and also room rent support.



Niru, 33 years old, currently living in a rented room in an area near a C&MA Church. Her native village is about a 5hours drive away from her actual place. She has two children. Her husband is an alcoholic and often beats her daily. It's being 1 year; she ran away from her husband with her two children. After that, she found a job cleaning houses. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was asked to stay at home and not to go to her job. One of the church members who knew her personally while working together asked the food support for Niru and her family. As understanding her problems, the church gave her a food relief package along with support for the rent of the room. When she got support, we saw tears in her eyes. She felt the love of Christ for the first time.

Our leader from that area started to follow-up with her counseling and sharing the gospel. After a few months now, she and her children are new believers and members of C&MA. She was very thankful to the church and navigating her to get her and her children's new life in Christ.

Countries to which aid was assigned:

Nepal:



Gita lives with her parents and one younger daughter. Now she is eighteen years old. Both parents are physically disabled and are not able to do any job. Her one elder brother is in India but he doesn't support anything including money. She is now in 10th grade but finding it difficult to continue the study, her younger sister already left the school due to unable to pay the fee. Both the sister works as a labor work of loading and unloading sand. While doing the job, the Tractor driver requested her to marry him but later on, she got pregnant without getting married and that guy left her.

When she shared with her parents, parents along with neighbors started blaming her and accusing her of such an act. She was thinking to do suicide, but she heard the gospel from a C&MA church pastor and she changed her mind to live a life for Christ. The pastor also requested not to abort the baby, and gave the birth of that baby and named him Jacob. Now, she is strongly living in Christ with her son. Due to lockdown, she was not able to manage the daily need. She was delighted to get food support and she heartily thanks the C&MA Nepal and AWF for this relief.



Countries to which aid was assigned:

Peru:

C&MA America Sur Church:

- Helped 50 families in their community and church by distributing food and hygiene supplies once for five months.

C&MA El Agustino Church:

- Helped 130 people in their community and church by distributing food.





Countries to which aid was assigned:

Peru:

