



## OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE AROUND THE WORLD

As Episcopal Relief & Development continues its global response to the ongoing pandemic, our focus is on preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19. Equally important, we're partnering with communities to strengthen economic and social safety nets to help them withstand this crisis. Here are a few examples of our coordinated pandemic response around the world.

**Colombia** | The Episcopal Diocese of Colombia mobilized a rapid response team of 25 people to coordinate with local authorities to provide direct support to over 800 vulnerable women and men, particularly the elderly who are prohibited from leaving their homes. The response teams partnered with city service providers to advocate for proper sanitation to prevent the spread of the virus and to distribute food to the most at-risk populations, delivering life-sustaining items to homes.

**Philippines** | The Episcopal Church of the Philippines is mobilizing local assets and resources in Manila to meet personal protective equipment (PPE) and food needs. The Church also partnered with a community supported agriculture organization to provide organic farmers with materials for the production of kimchi, pickles and other fermented foods, so food can be stored safely until markets reopen. The Church is also

coordinating community safeguarding plans and distributing food to vulnerable households.

**Burundi** | Our partner, the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi (PEAB), is supporting 12,000 women and 8,000 men through its network of community groups (including savings, health and literacy groups), farmers, youth and disaster committees. Using a training-of-trainer model, community leaders and pastors are equipped to inform communities on methods to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, PEAB focuses on the most vulnerable households to ensure access to information and needed prevention materials.

**Ghana** | The Anglican Diocesan Development and Relief Organization (ADDRO) is working with the Ghana Health Service to support the communication of health messaging to remote regions of the country and the procurement of PPE for frontline health workers. ADDRO has extensive experience mobilizing during a health crisis. They successfully distributed over one million bed nets and malaria-prevention messages in one week under our *NetsforLife*® program. ADDRO is working with frontline health workers and volunteers in facilitating the transition to remote engagement.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP: **WHAT WOULD LOVE DO?**

The rising death toll from COVID-19 across the country and around the world shakes us and our faith as never before. The protests and calls for justice following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others are reshaping and heightening the public debate about race relations in our country. We are living through a polarized political season unlike any before in modern times. God both challenges and guides us during this time of unprecedented pain and turmoil.

As I wrote in my April 2020 Word to the Church, God's rubric of love shows us the way through these tumultuous times, transforming them into something closer to the Kingdom of God on earth. Indeed, the question we should all be asking is: *How can unselfish, sacrificial love get us through what we are facing and bring us to a better place?*

*What would love do?* Love is the community praying together, in ways old and new. Love finds a path in this transformed world to build church communities around being in relationship with God. Love supports Christians in spiritual practices. Prayer, meditation, study. Turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest.

*What would love do?* Love calls us to care for our neighbors *and* for our enemies. Love calls us to attend to those in prison, to those who

are homeless, to those in poverty, to children, immigrants and refugees. Love calls us to be in relationship with those with whom we disagree.

*What would love do?* To you, who so generously support the transformative work of Episcopal Relief & Development, love calls you to continue to sow seeds of lasting change. It calls you to give children and families around the world the assistance they need to flourish, now and for years to come.

The love I'm referring to isn't a feeling; *it is a choice*. And it's one we make over and over, every day of our lives. That is how we are going to get through our present crises and build the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church



# STORIES FROM THE PANDEMIC

News of the pandemic is filled with numbers and statistics. But behind these numbers are individuals and families, many of whom have been struggling during this crisis. Here are three families your gifts have touched.

Brazil has been hard hit by the pandemic, and food insecurity remains an ongoing challenge. We're partnering with the development arm of the Church of Brazil to provide food baskets to vulnerable families. When volunteers arrived at one house with food, the children were crying with hunger. It had been 24 hours since their last meal. Their father, the family's sole source of income, was bedridden after an accident, and his wife was taking care of him and their three children, ages 5, 8 and 11. The family had no access to the Internet, which meant they were unable to apply for government assistance. The food basket filled with fruit, vegetables, meats and medicines was a lifeline for this family. The volunteer also helped connect the family to emergency government assistance.

As if dealing with the pandemic weren't enough, the Western and Nyanza regions of Kenya were hit with torrential rains this spring, displacing more than 100,000 people. Homes and crops were devastated – all against the backdrop of the COVID-19 crisis.

Working with our local partner, the Anglican Church of Kenya Development Services-Nyanza (ADS-Nyanza), we've provided aid and relief to



families impacted by these crises. Mrs. Bodo, who received emergency aid, was grateful for the support. "I have received maize, beans, rice, sugar and a bar of soap," she said gleefully. "We have received this aid because we were badly affected by the ongoing flooding in our homes. We also lost our crops that were swept away with the raging flood waters. I am happy because I have received food which I am going to prepare for my children."

And in Bangladesh, the miracle of life goes on. This spring, Alpona, who lives in the northern part of the country, was pregnant with her fourth child. She needed health care, but due to the pandemic, most of the hospitals near her were closed. Our local partner, the outreach arm of the Church of Bangladesh, ensured she got the prenatal care she needed and helped deliver Alpona's healthy daughter on June 19.





## BETSY'S CORNER: YOUR IMPACT IS FELT FAR AND WIDE

Life today has changed the way we interact with one another at home and around the world. Yet our work at Episcopal Relief & Development continues.

Still in the middle of a global pandemic, we see the burden of vulnerability being pushed onto the people living in the margins. The most at risk in these vulnerable communities are children.

Through our partners' exceptional work and that of my gifted colleagues, we are adapting, moving forward, delivering life-giving, transformational opportunities to children, their families and their communities. We are accomplishing this safely and in innovative ways.

Never has ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE been more necessary than in this moment. Now more

than ever, we must help children thrive and reach their full potential.

Our work with women also continues with vital programs. Our Savings with Education and Kitchen Gardens help women generate income, support their families and increase their self-sufficiency. This year we will again participate in the global 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness about violence against women.

Fall is here and with the Christmas season on the horizon, I hope you'll consider **Gifts for Life** for those on your list. These gifts are an uplifting way to share your compassion and sow seeds of hope and resilience.

## SUSTAINING YOUR LOVE FOR THE WORLD

Every day we heed Jesus' call in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger, as we help communities around the world reach their full potential.

Many compassionate Episcopal Relief & Development contributors have chosen to become members of our **Sustainers Circle**, whose regular monthly gifts ensure our readiness when we're needed, where we're needed ... and guarantee that we're in it for the long haul. Amid the world's current challenges, monthly gifts are especially important.

**Sustainers Circle** support helps fund our efforts to respond to the pandemic and other disasters and emergencies with food, water, medicine and shelter. It helps fight chronic poverty and hunger ... promote quality health care and prevent common diseases that kill millions of people each year ... protect children and build communities ... and so much more.

**Please join this group of special friends today.** Your monthly donation will give Episcopal Relief & Development a consistent and much-needed source of dependable support to fund new projects and quickly respond to disasters.

Your monthly gifts will be tax deductible, and you can revise your commitment at any time. Don't hesitate – please join the **Sustainers Circle** today!

TO LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP, VISIT [SUPPORT.EPISCOPALRELIEF.ORG/SUSTAINERS](https://support.episcopalrelief.org/sustainers).