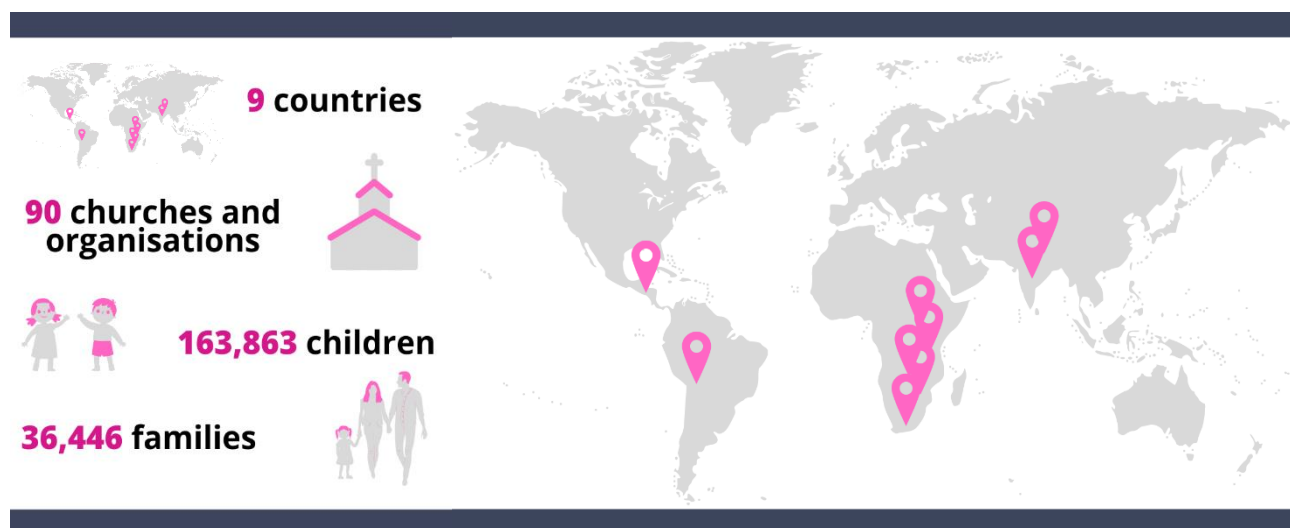


Global Report for Emergency Response Programmes 2022

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused significant difficulties for people all around the world. Over the last two years Viva partner networks have responded to the sudden impact of Covid-19 by providing funding for those who needed help to get through the pandemic.

A range of emergency response activities were implemented by Viva partner networks to help their communities worldwide. Although they were all unique, they primarily focused on food distribution, protection against Covid-19, child protection training and rehabilitation.

This report will focus on the emergency relief programmes which took place in **9 countries** through the work of **13 partner networks** across Latin America, Africa and Asia.



The programmes aimed to contribute to a number of **Viva’s child-focused outcomes** including:

- **Children** are protected and know how to keep themselves safe; they are educated socially, emotionally and spiritually; and they grow up in a safe and welcoming environment.
- **Families** are strengthened to increase care for and support children.
- **Churches** are united and committed to serving vulnerable children; they have strong, sustainable structures to achieve quality care for children; and they respond to children’s needs effectively through holistic, collaborative programmes.
- **Communities** demonstrate increased awareness and understanding of the value of children.



Why were the emergency response programmes needed?

The unexpected rise of Covid-19, its ongoing unpredictability and the severe dangers involved have made the last few years extremely difficult. As of July 2022, worldwide there have been approximately 550 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 and approximately 6.3 million people have died from the virus¹. Many countries have experienced unprecedented lockdowns which have severely impacted mental health and increased the likelihood of domestic abuse. People’s livelihoods have been threatened and those who quarantined after testing positive for Covid-19 could not go out to buy essential supplies including food and medicine. Due to its rapid transmission and unpredictability, there has also been widespread uncertainty and fear about Covid-19 and how to act safely. Viva partner network’s emergency response programmes were therefore set up to combat these issues.

Viva partner networks also had to change their usual working styles as meeting in-person with no safety measures was no longer safe. To overcome these challenges the partner networks responded creatively so they could continue to serve children while ensuring their safety against Covid-19. Amongst other initiatives, they utilised online platforms to hold group sessions online, share information and introduce Covid-19 safety protocols. Other approaches were also used, such as at **SCAR, Zambia** children’s workers went door-to-door (whilst ensuring social distancing and masks) to support families and to educate them on Touch Talk and Covid safety. Viva’s phone mentoring programme was also set up, which you can [read about here](#).

Key numbers

- Emergency response funding was issued to **13 Viva partner** networks in **9 countries**.
- Overall approximately **90 churches and organisations** were involved in these emergency response programmes, 68 of which were network members and 22 were external.
- They reached over **165,101 people**, including over **163,863 children**. Approximately 150,674 of these children were new to the networks.
- At least **36,446 families** were reached, of which approximately 30,089 were new to the networks.



How did the emergency response programmes work?

Although many countries experienced similar problems following the outbreak of Covid-19, each country had its own unique experience with differing needs. Viva partner networks therefore set up their own emergency response programmes to combat the needs facing their communities. The emergency response programmes collectively faced financial and mental health difficulties,

¹ BBC news, 2022. Covid map: Coronavirus cases, deaths, vaccinations by country. [online] BBC News. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-51235105> [Accessed 30 September 2022].

food insecurity, lack of health information, educational needs and child protection during lockdown. A range of relief supplies were distributed including food, clothing, masks, medical supplies, hygiene essentials and school supplies.

At **MCAN, Tanzania** 51 church leaders from 25 churches were trained on Covid-19 safety so they could implement safety measures including splitting their services into more sessions with smaller groups, installing water points on arrival to wash hands with soap and registering those in attendance. MCAN also printed 140 Covid-19 posters for 20 schools and 25 churches and they provided 20 water points in 10 schools for sanitisation. Radio stations also increased awareness of Covid-19 protection with an estimated 300,000 adults and 150,000 children hearing the messages.



Tanzania

CarNetNepal prepared food packages for families and mentors who needed them from the phone mentoring and Creative Learning Centres programmes. Despite lockdowns and excessive rainfall causing additional difficulties, 28 volunteers ensured that 130 phone mentoring families and 50 other families received emergency relief. The food packages included rice, oil, lentils, salt and soybean puffs.

Similarly, **Viva Network Zimbabwe** provided food relief for families struggling following droughts and the Covid-19 pandemic. 40 families received food hampers which consisted of household essentials such as cooking oil, sugar, rice, soap, salt and tea to feed a family of five for a month.

The **Covid-19 Collaborative Emergency Response Programme (CERP)** in **India** set up a helpline and created a database on the availability of hospital beds, medicine, meals, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, doctors, psychologists, mentors and ambulances to refer callers to available help. The programme started in **Viva Delhi Network** and after initial success they delivered training online for the networks in **Bangalore, Pune, Patna** and **Dehradun** who also wanted to implement CERP. Following persistent oxygen shortages and hospital overcrowding, the CERP team also bought 40 oxygen concentrators for the 5 network cities and they worked with doctors to provide zoom consultations for the home-based care of Covid patients. There were multiple reports of ill people receiving an Oxygen concentrator to their homes within an hour of contacting the CERP team. Funds were also used to assist with medicine and hospital fees and to provide food provision. Overall, through this programme 223 people received emergency medical support, 427 people received Covid-19 medical kits and 1,523 families received food relief and/or cash support from May–October 2021. Alongside these relief activities the phone mentoring programme continued to be used to provide emotional support and Covid-19 advice to 2,667 vulnerable families through weekly calls.



India

When Uganda went into a total lockdown when the second wave of Covid-19 hit the country, children living on the streets were left stranded with no shelter or food. Just 9 days after the lockdown was implemented a group of organisations including Viva's partner network **CRANE, Uganda** provided help and shelter for 233 children living on the streets. This included meals 3 times a day, teaching them about personal hygiene, healthcare and Covid-19 testing, devotions, life skills training, counselling and games sessions. Approximately 120 children were then referred for longer-term input including counselling, reintegration, schooling, and independent living and skills training.

The emergency response run by **Red Viva Guatemala** consisted of periodic food deliveries over a 6-month period, training for adult caregivers, teaching children about abuse prevention and reporting, Covid-19 vaccinations for approximately 50 people and entrepreneur training. Families were also trained on child protection, better treatment of children and protection against Covid-19.

As part of their emergency response programme, **SCAR, Zambia** ran Touch Talk sessions which is an interactive, puppet-based programme designed for children to try and prevent child sexual abuse by teaching children about appropriate touch, equipping them with self-protective behaviours and giving them the opportunity to report situations of abuse. These sessions were particularly important during the Covid-19 pandemic as abuse could increase during stressful lockdowns. SCAR held the sessions online, by going safely door to door, in schools and over the radio with child participation. Overall approximately 895 children were reached, plus an estimated 3,500 reached through the radio broadcast. Two children also created an introductory song which included key messages about Covid-safety. Each Touch Talk session started with information about Covid-19. 450 masks and 3 large spray sanitisers were also purchased for distribution.



Zambia

Connect, South Africa donated some of the emergency funding to the Village Care Community Centre who provided food and soup to the community twice a week which was very valued in such an uncertain time. They also educated people on Covid-19 while they waited. Children at the drop-in centre were also given regular food parcels to take home.

Red Viva Bolivia provided 65 food baskets to families in partnership with other organisations including the food bank, churches, shops and individuals. They also organised a national online event to train approximately 95 people on the needs of children in emergencies. At the end of this programme the network also organised a retreat for approximately 30 members of the team to share what they had achieved and plan for the future as well as spending time together in the presence of God. This was an important time to celebrate the team because in Bolivia many pastors and project leaders died from COVID-19 yet the team still continued to work to help children.

Were Viva's child-centred outcomes achieved?

1. Children are protected and know how to keep themselves safe; they are educated socially, emotionally and spiritually; and they grow up in a safe and welcoming environment

- **CRANE, Uganda** supported children who had been living on the streets, by providing for their needs, teaching them and where necessary referring them to further support.
- **Red Viva Guatemala** and **SCAR, Zambia** taught children about abuse prevention and how to report situations of abuse.
- **MCAN, Tanzania** put Covid-19 safety posters and provided water points for hand washing in schools to help protect children against Covid-19. Alongside **SCAR, Zambia** they also broadcasted Covid-19 safety information through the radio.
- Alongside others, partner networks in **India** used the phone mentoring programme to support and teach children.

1. CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED AND PROTECTED FROM ABUSE



2. Families are strengthened to increase care for and support children

- **CarNetNepal, Red Viva Guatemala, Red Viva Bolivia, Connect South Africa, India** and **Viva Network Zimbabwe** provided food relief for families.
- **Red Viva Guatemala** trained families on child protection and better treatment of children, as well as protection against Covid-19.
- **CERP, India** provided essential supplies, support and medical care to families to help them make it through the Covid-19 pandemic, including the use of the phone mentoring programme.
- Families could listen in on the Touch Talk sessions run by **SCAR, Zambia** outside homes and over the radio to help protect children.



2. FAMILIES ARE STRENGTHENED

3. Churches are united and committed to serving vulnerable children; they have strong, sustainable structures to achieve quality care for children; and they respond to children's needs effectively through holistic, collaborative programmes

- Churches worked together in **all of these partner networks** to provide all of the Emergency response activities in this report to protect children and their families.
- At **MCAN, Tanzania** church leaders from 25 churches were trained on Covid-19 safety so they could adjust their services and teach their congregations about Covid-19.

3. CHURCHES ARE EQUIPPED TO SERVE CHILDREN



4. Communities demonstrate increased awareness and understanding of the value of children

- **Connect South Africa** helped fund the activities of the Village Care Community Centre who provided food and Covid-19 information to families and children.
- A number of organisations joined together with **CRANE, Uganda** to support children who had been living on the streets.



4. COMMUNITIES VALUE CHILDREN

- **Red Viva Bolivia** worked in partnership with other organisations including the food bank, additional churches, shops and individuals to provide food baskets to families in need and they organised a national online event to train people on the needs of children in emergencies.

Impact stories:

Through the incredible work of staff and volunteers at Viva partner networks around the world, thousands of people have been helped to cope with the very difficult situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. From children living on the streets to families stuck at home, the emergency response programmes have had a tremendous impact.

Red Viva Cochabamba, Bolivia originally planned to help 10 families affected by Covid-19 with food baskets, but after sharing their plans with REVER and the Food Bank they received so many donations that they were able to provide food baskets to 30 families and provided specific foods to a further 45 families.

A girl who attended one of the Touch Talk sessions run as part of **SCAR, Zambia**'s emergency response programme was able to report abuse to receive help.

MCAN, Tanzania's Covid-19 awareness sessions were extremely important as it helped change many attitudes of those who did not understand the true risks of Covid as they thought it was just Western propaganda.

Some mentee families at **CarNetNepal** who were offered food packages actually chose to give them to other families they knew who were in greater need.

Following contact with the **CERP** programme in **India** one man exclaimed how he felt extremely touched when asked if he needed help because he felt cared for in such desperate times. The team arranged a hospital bed for him, food for his family, helped them cover the hospital bills and helped care for his family while he was in hospital. He said "they have helped me like we are their family – may God bless them". This kind of story was repeated many times, with people expressing how the CERP team had done more for them than their neighbours and family members. Two brothers also contacted CERP for food relief when they were stuck quarantining with both their parents in hospital with Covid-19. The CERP team provided food for as long as they needed and were able to arrange counsellors to help them cope with grief when both of their parents passed away from the virus. One man thanked CERP for the life-saving help they provided for his family, including food, support and oxygen, and expressed how grateful he was that "not a single rupee was taken from me for all the help that was provided".



India

City-wide impact

The emergency response programmes have helped the networks build relationships with families, churches and organisations and have increased Viva partner networks' presence in their communities. They have been able to build a positive reputation so they can have even more impact in the future and by demonstrating God's love by helping those in need they are demonstrating the gospel to non-believers.

MCAN, Tanzania found that working with Pastors to raise awareness on the dangers of Covid-19 and the necessary precautions worked well because pastors are trusted individuals who have the capacity to influence those in their congregations. They also found that using a radio broadcast was a good way to reach lots of people on a small budget.



Tanzania

The **CERP** programme in **India** joined together many NGOs and professionals who worked together to serve the community, including a community hospital, doctors, volunteer groups and a transport company. They helped take the pressure off hospitals and stepped in to help those who were isolated. The programme was also active in slum areas and reached remote regions which had difficulty accessing other forms of healthcare.

Red Viva Bolivia worked in partnership with other organisations including the food bank, additional churches, shops and individuals to provide food baskets to families in need.

The activities run by **CarNetNepal** led to an increase in the size of the network's membership and the Social Welfare Council (SWC) even recommended CarNetNepal as support relief for destitute families.

We are grateful to everyone who has been involved in these emergency response programmes which have positively impacted so many lives.



Nepal



Zambia