



# WORLD HARVEST

impacting the world through creative community, education, and media services

Second Quarter 2020

## Pandemic Relief Campaign for India



A Couple in the Slum of Mumbai Ecstatically Received a Sack of Basic Food Supplies

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures to contain it have caused the greatest economic disaster since the Great Depression almost a century ago. An IMF (International Monetary Fund) research paper published on May 11 states that this crisis will cause the world's poor "further disadvantaged" as they are the most vulnerable population in regard to income inequality and employment prospect. A brief from the World Bank dated July 8 asserts that in many countries "loss of income and remittances" of the poor and vulnerable are creating further food insecurity.

Unfortunately, reports that we received from many countries in which we operate confirm this sad reality. In late May, our U.S. office received the grim news from Mumbai, India that a whole family living in the slum area had committed suicide because of hunger and their desperate inability to obtain food for weeks. Typically, people living in these areas are migrant workers who leave their villages in the countryside for a chance to find work in the big city. But the lockdown has virtually stopped their streams of income.



A Family of Three Received a Sack of Food Supplies with Gratitude

As you will learn from our newsletter, the loss of income that the poorer populations have had to endure is not isolated to a specific region or country. In countries with little or no social safety net, poorer families are especially the hardest hit. In India, families living in other slum areas are dying from hunger and suicide at a much higher rate than that from COVID-19. In Sierra Leone and Indonesia, there are no end in sight to the economic challenges that the poorer neighborhoods have had to experience, exacerbating the food insecurity situation they were in even before the pandemic. (continued on pg. 2)

But in the face of this sobering outlook, we are grateful for the generosity of our friends and donors who enable us to respond to these economic challenges. In May, we rapidly launched a relief campaign and sent more than **\$20,000** to provide immediate help to **300** families living in Maharashtra District in Mumbai, Central India, as well as **150** families in North East India. In addition, **100** families in Andhra Pradesh region in South India have also received our help. They received approximately 15 to 30 days of basic



WorldHarvest Volunteers in Mumbai, India Getting Ready to Distribute Basic Food Supply

food supply such as rice, flour, dried beans, oil, salt, sugar, and spices. Many received these supplies in tears. "During the lockdown, I have lost my job; and I don't have any daily income to feed my wife and my child. I have been sleeping for 4 to 5 days without food," a father said during an interview with Mr. Asaram Kamble,

WorldHarvest community leader in Mumbai.

Although hundreds of families have received help in the form of short-term food supply, the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic makes us realize that it is impossible to continually help these families in the long run. For this reason, we are currently researching and testing **Sack Farming** method. Our goal is to develop sustainable way for families living in tight spaces like in the slum area of Mumbai to produce and secure their own source of food. They could plant potatoes or other high-calorie grains in only 2 or 3 rice sacks with minimal amount of water.

If you would like to partner with us in testing this Sack Farming method, please go to [www.worldharvest.cc/pandemic](http://www.worldharvest.cc/pandemic) or contact us at [contact@worldharvest.cc](mailto:contact@worldharvest.cc).



Various Basic Food Supply Ready to be Distributed to the Families in the Slum of Mumbai, India

## Join Our #stophunger Campaign

WorldHarvest is currently launching our #stophunger campaign in continuation of the Pandemic Relief campaign held in May. The goal of this campaign is to equip the economically vulnerable population with the basic knowledge and skill to grow their own



A Sack of Seed Being Planted and Tested for Yield

food supply and protect their food security. We are currently testing sustainable method called "**sack farming**" that is easy to replicate in many parts of the world. There are many advantages of this method especially for families living in tight spaces and experiencing water scarcity. Some of the benefits are as follow:

- minimal land & water needed
- minimal labor
- environmentally friendly
- high yield or productivity

If you have an interest in gardening or planting and would like to participate in this sack farming "test run" in your home, please email us at [contact@worldharvest.cc](mailto:contact@worldharvest.cc). This do-it-yourself project is a fun activity for your entire family to get involved in with the potential of saving many lives. Together, we can #stophunger.

## Lost Hope Found Through Worldharvest

In Indonesia, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the society's poor the most. Take for example Mrs. Radiah, a 55-year-old woman from Neuheun, a small village about 45-minute drive from Banda Aceh, the capital city of Aceh Province in Indonesia. A widow who first signed up her three children for WorldHarvest's Sponsor A Child Program last December, Mrs. Radiah works as a day laborer for a local farmer. But her main income comes from her home-business of making bricks.

Because of the continued lockdown measures from COVID-19, her business has come to a halt; no one has bought any bricks from her in the past 3 months. She lost her main source of income in a matter of days. To make matters worse, no one knows when things will go back to normal. The current situation has caused her to lose all hope of providing for her children.

In the midst of this uncertainty, Mr. Saputra, WorldHarvest community leader in the area, gets the opportunity to visit Mrs. Radiah. He also brings along some basic food supply for her entire family. This timely help not only cheers her up, but also gives her hope to continue to look for work and provide for her family. She feels very fortunate that someone still cares for her family. She said, "I really thank and appreciate Mr. Saputra and all WorldHarvest donors who care to help poor people like me and my family."



Mr. Saputra of WorldHarvest Visited and Provided Some Basic Food Supply to the Family of Mrs. Radiah

The second story comes from another resident of Neuheun village. Mr. Saiful is a 60-year old father of 6 children who works as a day laborer for a local mining company.



Mr. Saputra of WorldHarvest Distributed Some Basic Food Supply to the Children of Mr. Saiful

He began suffering from asthma 3 years ago preventing him from having a stable job. Because of this health condition, he was furloughed when the "stay home order" started in Indonesia.

With the meager social safety net from the government, it has not been easy for Mr. Saiful and his family to survive in the past 3 months. That is why when Mr. Saputra, WorldHarvest community leader in Aceh, visits his home and brings supplies of food, Mr. Saiful gets very emotional and is grateful

# Eco Farm in Sierra Leone Responds to Covid-19 Crisis

As the coronavirus cases continue to rise around the globe, it has become clear that poorer neighborhoods have fewer options to respond to the economic disaster caused by the continued lockdown. Many people have lost their jobs and therefore face enormous difficulties to provide for their family.

But in Sierra Leone, the **Eco Farming Project** that started last year has proven to be a life saver for many families in the Gbangbayela region on the outskirts of Freetown, Sierra Leone. This community farm with 7-acre of vegetable and fruit seedling was established in 2019 with the goal of providing nutritious food supply at an affordable or even no cost to the families in



Organic Corn Field of the Eco Farm Project

have lost their jobs causing food insecurity for many families, the produce harvested from this eco farm has become a lifeline to **168 people** who participate in this project.



Cassava Field of the Eco Farm Project

What is unique about this project is that it also educates the participating families not only to harvest but also to care for the farm. These families are trained to nurture and improve the biodiversity of the soil. So far, 2 full baskets of okra, 3 bags of cucumber, 4 bags of corn, and 14 bushels (350 kg) of rice have been harvested and shared among these participating families. In addition, they have had the opportunity to share the harvested produce with their other neighbors. For more information on this project, please contact our office.

this neighborhood. Who would have thought that the farm has now become a stable and affordable food supply during the pandemic in Sierra Leone? While many bread winners



Cucumber Harvested from the Eco Farm Project



Sharing Produce from the Eco Farm Project with the Neighbors



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