



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Faith-based Organizations Responding to COVID-19

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Catholic Relief Services

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their partners are working in more than 30 countries to support high-risk populations, especially elderly people, vulnerable children, and caregivers.

- In Bangladesh, CRS is following government guidelines to work with Caritas and traditional leaders to promote COVID-19 messaging. CRS and Caritas are assisting in the design of temporary triage structures for health centers, as well as temporary isolation structures and options for shelter modifications to accommodate home quarantine as needed. As the monsoon season approaches, CRS and Caritas are also preparing to make modifications that might be needed for evacuation activities and shelters.
- In Nepal, CRS has already promoted and distributed 11,500 brochures and 200+ banners with COVID-19 messaging across four districts via local community leaders. CRS will also leverage its *Baliyo Gjhar* project—a Nepali television series focused on safer reconstruction of Nepal—to promote government-approved messages.
- In Lebanon, CRS is supporting 12 local, faith-based clinics to launch awareness campaigns and provide safe, quality care for patients. CRS partners have begun procuring additional protective equipment and cleaning supplies, as well as putting in place prevention measures to ensure the safety of medical staff, volunteers, and patients.
- In Liberia, CRS has launched programming to support the National Catholic Health Council to equip their health workers and facilities, and conduct community awareness campaigns. This will support 23 health facilities, 667 health workers, and more than 279,000 people—the same network that played a major role in CRS' Ebola response in West Africa.
- In Kenya, CRS has completed the first round of COVID-19 training in Nairobi for 3,000 health care workers and plans to extend to Kisumu.
- In Guatemala and Mexico, CRS is working with partners that manage several shelters along the migrant routes and on the U.S.-Mexico border. Efforts are underway to improve awareness and to adjust Standard Operating Procedures in line with COVID-19 guidance.



Islamic Relief USA

Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) provides relief and development regardless of gender, race, or religion, and works to empower individuals in their communities and give them a voice in the world. IRUSA has built a \$2.5 million COVID-19 emergency response fund to support several initiatives, including:

- Working with partners and communicating directly with community leaders to devise a robust response to assist the most vulnerable.
- Providing food pantry grants and delivering Ramadan food boxes to replenish deteriorating food supplies for low-income and impoverished families in the U.S. They are also helping the Islamic Relief global family deliver these food aid boxes to families in need worldwide.
- Supporting neighbors in need who have been affected financially by the pandemic.
- Delivering hygiene kits for communities, mosques, and partners to distribute.
- Producing, presenting, and participating in informational COVID-19 webinars. A schedule is available on IRUSA's website.





Jewish Distribution Committee

The Jewish Distribution Committee (JDC) is a leading Jewish humanitarian organization working in 70 countries to lift lives and strengthen communities. They rescue Jews in danger, provide aid to the vulnerable, develop innovative solutions to Israel's complex social challenges, cultivate a Jewish future, and lead the Jewish community's response to crises. JDC is currently addressing COVID-19 worldwide.

- In Argentina, JDC is providing food, medicine, and monetary assistance to elderly Jews, people with chronic diseases, and families with children at risk.
- In Central and Eastern Europe, Jews face looming poverty and increasingly turn to local welfare organizations for aid. JDC is supporting those communities by working with local partners to provide special services for the elderly, recruit volunteers, launch hotlines, and deliver food packages for families in need.
- In Ethiopia, JDC is training key organizations and institutions in the lifesaving practices of hand washing, proper hygiene, and social distancing. Further, JDC is establishing hand washing and hand sanitizer stations in areas with limited or no access to clean water and soap, as well as equipping two central health facilities in Addis Ababa with medical supplies.

Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse is an international Christian relief organization that has, since 1970, helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine. Samaritan's Purse has been actively responding to COVID-19 in their field offices around the world as well as in northern Italy and New York City.

- In their 16 field offices worldwide, Samaritan's Purse is training their teams to stay safe, continuing humanitarian efforts where access allows, engaging local government and religious groups to coordinate response efforts, and providing COVID-19 information and supplies to the communities they serve.
- They have established a 68-bed Emergency Field Hospital in New York City's Central Park to provide critical care for COVID-19 patients.
- Samaritan's Purse was the first international organization to provide emergency medical relief to families impacted by the outbreak in northern Italy. They deployed an Emergency Field Hospital and more than 60 disaster response specialists—including doctors, nurses, lab technicians, water and sanitation specialists, and other support staff—to set up a medical facility outside of Milan, Italy, where the pandemic has overwhelmed the local medical capacity.



Corus International

Corus International is a family of faith-based organizations committed to ending poverty and building healthy communities in the world's most challenging places. Longtime International NGO partners Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and IMA World Health (IMA) founded Corus in 2020 to spearhead new collaborations across the development, aid, public health, and private sectors.

Corus is drawing on IMA's extensive health crises experience, including their responses to the last four Ebola outbreaks in Africa. IMA has well-established partnerships with governments at both the national and sub-national level, as well as health care networks across sub-Saharan Africa, such as the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform. Additionally, IMA is deeply embedded in local communities, providing services designed to strengthen social cohesion and mobilize faith leaders.

- Building on IMA's lessons learned, Corus is working to improve the preparedness of healthcare networks in sub-Saharan Africa by tapping into its existing relationships with 45+ health care networks in 33 countries in the region. Together, these health care networks operate more than 5,000 primary health care clinics and hospitals in rural and urban settings. Most of these networks are faith-based, with deep connections in communities that make them a trusted resource for millions of Africans.
- To address immediate needs, Corus is developing a model designed to scale as resources allow. Starting with partners in Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya, Corus is developing and deploying technical assistance and material supplies. Through existing networks, this support can be scaled across sub-Saharan Africa as the pandemic progresses.



World Vision

World Vision is responding to COVID-19 worldwide by providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations and collaborating with religious leaders to support faith-based communities.

- In Angola, World Vision plans to coordinate with church leaderships to create an interdenominational National Faith Leaders Council as part of their COVID-19 response.
- In El Salvador, churches have adjusted their strategies to reach more people with both a message of hope and COVID-19 guidance, well beyond their congregations, through radio and TV programs as well as a mobile app.
- In Honduras, parishes have begun fundraising efforts to provide basic food and health needs to the poorest members of their communities.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa, World Vision is procuring food and other essential items through their corporate partners and grants, and creating Family Emergency Kits. They then connect school districts—who identify the most vulnerable children and families in their communities—with local churches to serve the neediest families.
- USAID, World Vision, and the Australian Government have a program called *All Children Reading: a Grand Challenge for Development*. This program is designed to advance educational technology (EdTech) and research to improve literacy for children in low-resource contexts. The program is responding to the pandemic by highlighting innovative digital learning tools for children that are free, available in multiple languages and, when downloaded, do not require a continuous Internet connection.



Malteser International

Through initiatives that include USAID's partner Malteser International, the Sovereign Order of Malta is addressing COVID-19 worldwide.

- In Colombia, Malteser International has been tasked to develop protocols, coordinate response activities, and support entry screening in two departments serving host communities, migrants, Venezuelan refugees, and indigenous populations.
- Throughout Latin America, Malteser International Americas is making house calls to senior citizens to share COVID-19 preventive measures. Malteser is also providing the elderly with critical hygiene items, such as soap.
- In Italy, volunteers have helped set up a hospital and donated 260 ventilators to it. Volunteers are also assisting COVID-19 patients and those who have recovered but need further treatment. Malteser International is distributing food and medicine to the elderly or those in isolation.
- In Bethlehem, the Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital remains open to care for vulnerable mothers and infants in the region.
- The Order of Malta's association in Lebanon has launched awareness and education campaigns on preventing the spread of the virus in the outlying regions where the Order of Malta has health centers and mobile clinics.
- In Pakistan, Malteser International has intensified its hygiene information campaigns and established public hand-washing facilities.
- In Bangladesh, kits have been prepared to help contain the spread of the virus in cooperation with local partners. Existing programs providing healthcare, food, drinking water, and medical materials have been expanded.



PHOTO: MAGGIE MOORE / USAID



Adventist Development and Relief Agency

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is the international humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. Many of ADRA's international programs have been redirected to include a COVID-19 component, leveraging the infrastructure, personnel, and trust of the communities.

- ADRA is supporting vulnerable and under-served communities, especially low-income families, elderly people, individuals facing layoffs, and many more, to ensure they receive needed assistance. They are involved in the distribution of hand sanitizers, food kits, cash vouchers, face masks, as well as hygiene awareness and training.
- ADRA continues to deliver care, in partnership with Latter-Day Saints Charities, to help more than 77,000 households around the world where lives have been disrupted by the pandemic.
- In South Korea, ADRA is serving in the Bonghwa, Chungdo, Daegu, Andong, Ui-seong, Yeong-cheon, and Pohan in Gyeongbuk provinces to assess immediate needs. ADRA will provide cash vouchers to help those who have been displaced from their jobs as a result of the pandemic. In the Bonghwa and Chungdo provinces, ADRA has prepared and donated 500 food kits to treatment facilities, delivered 300 food kits to vulnerable families in Gyeongsan city, and distributed hand sanitizers.

CURE International

Since opening its first hospital in Kenya in 1998, CURE International has worked to help and heal children with physical disabilities in the world's poorest populations. CURE also aims to nurture disabled children's spiritual health since they have often been told their condition is due to a curse. Today, CURE has joined the global fight against COVID-19, addressing the crisis through their network of hospitals.

- On March 5th, CURE enacted initial COVID-19 guidelines for the CURE hospital network, taking precautions to keep their patients and staff safe. Preliminary measures include collaborating with the national Ministry of Health, wearing masks, reducing patient flow, contingency planning, hand washing, social distancing, and managing co-workers and patients to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- CURE has adopted a three-level response to the pandemic depending on the severity of in-country viral spread, with prescribed responses ranging from a minimal disruption of operations to a maximum reduction of hospital activities. They intend to provide pediatric surgical care for as long as possible.
- Having been forced to temporarily suspend surgeries since transportation has been shut down and patients are unable to get to the hospital, CURE Niger is hosting 26 guests (13 patients and 13 guardians) at their guesthouse until the state of emergency and travel ban is lifted.
- Due to safety concerns, CURE Philippines has temporarily suspended elective surgery but is working with the government of the Philippines to re-open at a reduced level and turn a portion of their facility into temporary dormitories for medical personnel. Due to increasing harassment of people in hospital uniforms in the city of Davao, CURE Philippines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southern Philippines Medical Centre (SPMC) to house their health professionals.
- Added safety measures and adjusted patient flow to prevent groupings have allowed CURE Ethiopia to maintain operations at "near-normal" levels. The team is in continuous communication with the Ministry of Health regarding their operations and capacity.





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