



2020

Gratitude REPORT



international needs
transformed lives, changed communities



Dear Friends,

THANK YOU!

As I reflect on a year that was unlike any other in modern history, I stand in awe of the many ways God revealed his love through you and our partners around the world.

When the pandemic first hit, we knew the situation was going to be serious, and sure enough, the tragic stories poured in – children being abused, young girls being sold into child marriage, widespread food shortages, medical crises, and more. Poverty took a big hit, with decades of progress wiped out in just a few months.

We were encouraged to see our country partners jump into action, doing whatever they could to reduce the impact on children and families who were already extremely vulnerable. They found creative and innovative solutions to help the children and families deal with the economic and social fallout of the lockdowns.

We know that you were also affected by the pandemic, yet you stayed with us. Every time our partners asked for help you gave generously, and they're so grateful for your support.

In the following pages, you'll be able to read some highlights of the transformational (and lifesaving!) work that took place in 2020, thanks to your partnership and the grace of our loving father in heaven.

David Marshall
Executive Director, International Needs Canada

Financial Report

YOUR GIFTS

Donations to Projects & Programs \$2,255,932

WHERE YOUR GIFTS WENT

Uganda	\$592,755
Ghana	\$443,455
Bangladesh	\$380,616
Zambia	\$203,331
Kenya	\$165,330
DR Congo	\$170,804
Colombia	\$53,316
Nepal	\$51,664
Guatemala	\$50,804
Other Countries*	\$47,822
COVID Support	\$33,200

Total Expenses \$2,255,932

* Czech Republic, India, Phillipines, Slovakia, Turkey

2020 REVENUES

In 2020, more than 2/3 of Canadian charities reported a decline in donations*, so we were pleased that your gifts last year were comparable to what you gave in 2019. Much of our annual revenue comes from child sponsorships, so thank you for keeping your commitment to the children you support! To diversify revenue, we applied for more grants and launched the Champions program, the Youth Ambassador program, and the Group Empowerment program. We pray that these new streams will bear much fruit in the years to come.

* Imagine Canada's Sector Monitor Study



OVERHEAD EXPENSES

Just like for-profit businesses, charities have to pay salaries, rent, insurance, printing, promotion, and many other expenses. These administrative and fundraising costs are necessary (the children's programs wouldn't exist without funding). Of course, we always do our best to minimize how much we spend, and we were blessed again in 2020 to receive enough funds from some generous donors to pay all the overhead. This means all the gifts above, including yours, were sent to the projects and programs.



Serving

THE VULNERABLE THROUGH COVID

Your donations at work

Here are just a few ways your gifts were used to serve the vulnerable in 2020:



Distributed food packages to families who couldn't afford food



Installed hand washing stations to reduce the spread of the virus



Launched a group program so we could empower more children, more quickly



Supported students to encourage learning at home during lockdown



Rented and renovated a safe house location to get abused children to safety



Transferred funds electronically to support families in remote areas



BANGLADESH |

"The girls and their families are forever grateful to all the sponsors and donors of International Needs for the generosity you are showing." • MONICA MANDAL, HOME MATRON - SAVAR CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Bangladesh

HIGHLIGHTS

Naogoan Free School

Opened their new building in November and launched a new group program

Bethany Children's Village

Completed building repairs after damage from Cyclone Amphan

Savar Children's Village

Provided humanitarian services to students and their families

Dhaka Drop-in Centre

Distributed food to child labourers who lost their jobs and income

Jessore Slum School

Distributed food and made home visits to the children and their families

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

- Sent aid, personnel, and other resources to areas in need
- Implemented food security and health programs for sponsored children
- Communicated by mobile phone with caregivers and children
- Encouraged children to continue their studies at home
- Paid special attention to drop-in-centre kids, the most vulnerable in Bangladesh
- Worked to prevent domestic violence, physical abuse, and psychological trauma during lockdown
- Distributed 1000s of food packages to families inside and outside the school communities

"The family members and guardians are eternally grateful to the children's beloved sponsors. God bless you all."

• BINDU BAIRAGEE, HOME SUPERINTENDENT
AT BETHANY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



BANGLADESH
NAOGOAN SCHOOL

*"We are especially grateful
that due to God's grace and your prayers and support, we
were able to continue our work despite many difficulties."*

• MAC ADHIKARY, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL NEEDS BANGLADESH

Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS

- » **At-home learning** – Rose of Sharon School gave out weekly materials, sim cards and tablets so kids could complete their studies at home.
- » **Graduation** – 15 students finished high school with a small and simple ceremony; they are now looking forward to having access to college.
- » **Community outreach** – a daily evangelism program was delivered to the community via Facebook live and Zoom to make known the love of God.
- » **Food relief** – was distributed to families near the Mallorquín Swampland affected by heavy rains.
- » **Hurricane relief** – Provided medicine, shelters, healthcare, emotional therapy, and recreational activities for children after Hurricane Iota battered San Andres and destroyed 80% of Providencia, leaving hundreds of families homeless.

PRAYER REQUEST

We begin a new year, 2021, with great challenges. Companies are working at a slow pace, businesses are closing, government measures and curfews are strong. Two pastors, members of our council, died from COVID-19. We ask for God's protection over the school, church and community.

DR Congo

HIGHLIGHTS

CLINIQUE PAPILLON (MATERNITY CLINIC)

- » **Economic paralysis** hit the city of Lubumbashi in 2020, with an estimated 80% of the population unable to earn enough money for food and medical bills. Some used clothes and dishes to pay for their medical care!
- » **Loving service** – Despite immense financial pressures and soaring prices, the clinic served 600 patients a month (pregnant women, children, babies, and seniors), and delivered 75-80 babies each month.
- » **Pregnancy care** – The clinic received six young girls who became pregnant because there was no school, including one who had been raped.
- » **A new ambulance** was put into service and quickly resulted in many saved lives.
- » **Ministry to moms with HIV AIDS** – In addition to antiretroviral medicines, the clinic provided moral, psychological, and sometimes financial support to mothers with HIV AIDS.
- » **Clinique Papillon** was chosen by the government as the official centre in Lubumbashi for vaccinations and HIV care because of their highly qualified staff, abundance of water, mosquito nets, and excellent patient care.

"We have experienced stability thanks to the help we receive from our brothers and sisters in Canada, as we were no longer able to cover expenses during five months of confinement."

EPHPHATA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

The solar panels at the school are working very well, and fundraising for the third phase of panels is underway. The carpentry program is progressing well. Funds were sent for tools and machinery at the end of the year.



"Only God who touched your hearts knew the difficulties that would arise if your help had not reached us. Thank you for everything you do for Clinique Papillon." • GILSON KYUNGU, CLINIC ADMINISTRATOR

Ghana

HIGHLIGHTS

- » **Despite the pandemic**, International Needs Ghana was able to reach more than 60,000 people through education, child rights, gender and empowerment, health, and Christian witness programs.
- » **5000 children** had access to education, school feeding, WASH (*water, sanitation and hygiene*), and evangelism / discipleship support.
- » **15 Community Child Protection Committees** (CCPCs) were established and operated through COVID.
- » **The community of Nanankor** came together with Women Making a Difference to finish the first phase of the Safe Water project, and begin plans for Phase 2. Men and women from the community were involved in the decision-making process.
- » **The team launched community-based reading clinics for children**, distributed COVID relief to impoverished communities, and gave out Dignity Kits (three months' supply of sanitary pads and soap) to 6,700 adolescent girls.

"Growing up all I wanted was to become a nurse. I love the dedication and care attached to the work. I know one day I will become a great nurse." •

HANNAH – CONFIDENT PARTICIPANT

"I cannot thank God my father and International Needs enough for what they are doing for me. They are shaping me to become a great and respected woman in future. I promise I will not disappoint because I want everyone to be proud of me." • CHARLOTTE – HOPE-FILLED PARTICIPANT

Guatemala

HIGHLIGHTS

Our partner in Guatemala worked hard in 2020, determined to carry on through the pandemic. Despite decades of international aid, maternal and child mortality is still at an unacceptable level throughout Guatemala. Midwives attend more than 90% of births in the rural areas, and a significant number of deaths are connected to a lack of their knowledge in recognizing and handling high-risk pregnancies.

After making some safety modifications for COVID, the team launched their midwife training program in the Paquip region. Rather than hosting a full class of 40, the facilitators delivered the program in multiple locations, with just 5-6 midwives per class. The women have been engaged and responsive to the material, and the registered nurse who delivers the program is confident that the midwives are being transformed by the experience.

International Needs Canada visited Guatemala in January 2020, shortly before the pandemic struck, so it's very encouraging that the launch went ahead as planned. The program is a collaborative effort between Rotary Canada, Rotary Guatemala, UNAPER (*a group of neonatal physicians in Guatemala*), and International Needs Canada.

Two lives saved! "One of the midwives from our training program recently discovered that a pregnant woman under her care had critically high blood pressure. The mother was transferred from her rural village to hospital in Guatemala City, where she received an emergency C-section. Thanks to education and equipment, both mum and baby survived!" • INGRID FIGUEROA, COUNTRY DIRECTOR



SAMUEL (SPEAKING ABOVE) – a sponsorship graduate who went on to high school, is studying medicine, and has joined the health team to give back.

“Being part of the team for the health talk has given me the opportunity to impact lives by sharing my story and inspiring young children to also dream and look beyond their present challenges. In the near future, I hope to impact more lives; not just sharing my story but actually extending support to help transform the lives of others and the nation at large”

Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- » **Kenya experienced a sharp increase in sexual abuse,** teenage pregnancies, alcoholism, drug abuse, and crime during the pandemic. To support the children through the pandemic, International Needs Kenya provided proactive nutritional, educational, moral, medical, and psychosocial support.
- » **They launched a Virtual Learning Program (VLP),** Mental Health Program, and Teen Sessions.
- » **They hosted a meeting to encourage parents and caregivers** to stay vigilant and provide moral support to their children.
- » **In Kibera slum, the Youth Entrepreneurship Mentorship Project continued,** along with Bible Clubs for younger children and the Vertical Gardening initiative to enhance food security.
- » **The Home Visit Program resumed** with strict observance of health protocols. It became apparent that many first-born children are playing the role of parent, despite their tender ages.
- » **In Kawangware slum, The Real Hope Youth Community Organization** was busy with food distribution, water supply, and reaching out to the elderly.
- » **RHYCO** also relocated their drop-in centre and opened a safe house to rescue children who had been abused, often by relatives and people close to them.

Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- » **During the pandemic,** sponsored children in Nepal were “scattered throughout the country from east to west.” International Needs Nepal contacted the children and families frequently to motivate them to study, and annual exam failures decreased to nearly zero!
- » **Many food baskets, relief supplies, and financial support** were sent to the sponsored children and their families.
- » **The Lydia Vocational Centre** was closed much of the year, but the team provided remote support for their students.
- » **They also helped some of their graduates** (*many of whom are now entrepreneurs*) in their new business ventures.



"Thank you, our partners, for your support and prayer in 2020. As we look forward to 2021, we pray for you that God may keep you safe and sound."

• JOCELYN MURAYA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL NEEDS KENYA



KENYA
SAFE HOUSE

Uganda

HIGHLIGHTS

- » **Utilized technology** as much as possible to visit sponsored children and monitor their well-being.
- » **Distributed food packages to needy families and employees.**
- » **Provided nutritional and psychosocial support** to children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.
- » **Helped 203 sponsored children** and 1 parent who was HIV positive access medical services at our partner health facilities.
- » **Provided online counselling services** for bereaved children and families who were struggling with the loss of loved ones.
- » **Supported 17 churches to reopen** with personal protective supplies, such as hand washing stations, thermometer guns, and sanitizers.
- » **Distributed educational materials** from the government to allow 2000 children to learn at home.

IMPACT STORY – A FAMILY TRANSFORMED BY SPONSORSHIP

Sarah, a sponsored child, has always received additional gift money from her sponsor. With guidance from International Needs, her mother purchased a cow that has since birthed two calves. She sold the milk and the original cow, started a pig project, and built a permanent kitchen. The family now has two sources of income to meet the children's schooling costs and the basic needs of the family.

Zambia

HIGHLIGHTS

ZACTS AND EMELE SCHOOLS

- » **Distributed food baskets** to almost 200 sponsored children and their families
- » **Purchased and installed 10 computers**
- » **Began construction on a new classroom** to handle the rapidly expanding student population
- » **Scored 100% pass rate at grade 7 level**

ZACTS FARM PROJECT

- » **Grew and harvested 100s of bags of green and white maize** to help the school reduce feeding program costs.
- » **Poultry and rabbit programs continued**, with a goal of generating income.
- » **Funds have been raised to purchase a new tractor and a new truck** for the farm. This equipment will allow the farm to be more efficient and scale up production.





"As usual we express our heartfelt thanks to our committed partners in Canada and the USA for their special place in our ministry of meeting the great needs of our beloved Zambian children."

• REV. EDDIE M. JIBUSHA

ZAMBIA |



GHANA |

Thank You

This report is an expression of deep appreciation to all our donors, monthly partners, sponsors, champions, youth ambassadors, volunteers, employees, and partners. Your support has encouraged our partners to keep going, and motivated them to dream big dreams for the future, even in the face of the pandemic.

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

• HEBREWS 4:16



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