



Save the Children®

APRIL 2020

# Our U.S., Global Teams Taking on Huge Challenge Of Sustaining Far-reaching COVID-19 Responses



A mother and son in Somalia wash their hands outside a Save the Children-supported health care post. Installing new handwashing stations and training all health and nutrition staff at facilities we support in COVID-19 awareness and prevention are among the ways we are helping the country's Ministry of Health prepare for the pandemic.

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COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis in the U.S. and around the world, threatening to undermine children's ability to survive, learn and be protected. It has the potential to permanently change the trajectories of millions of lives and unravel decades of progress in overcoming the most stubborn challenges facing vulnerable children and their families.

As of April 14, the World Health Organization reported 1.9 million confirmed cases, 123,010 deaths and 213 countries or territories with confirmed cases. The speed and spread of COVID-19 across the U.S. and to every corner of the world is taking us into uncharted waters – with borders sealed, travel bans and lockdowns, health systems overwhelmed, schools closed and the global economy suffering seismic shocks. It is projected that countries will experience up to three pandemic waves over the next 12 to 18 months, and a substantial proportion of people will become infected.

With our footprint in rural America and 120 countries, we are helping to reduce transmission of the virus, support families, reduce disruptions to children's education and support their emotional well-being.



**EDUCATION AND CHILD SAFETY:** We are helping U.S. families keep their children learning at home and are preparing to protect children from harm, abuse and the emotional toll of isolation and stress.



**WATER AND SANITATION:** We're enabling children and families worldwide to practice handwashing – the most important step to stop transmission – and raising awareness of COVID-19's dangers throughout communities and through churches and mosques.



**FOOD AND NUTRITION:** We are helping to feed children who depend on schools – now closed – for their daily meals, while also distributing food and vouchers to families at risk of going hungry.



**HEALTH:** From Guatemala to Kenya, we are strengthening health programs in low-income countries by providing Personal Protective Equipment to health facilities and advising government health ministries on their response plans.

In our 101-year history, Save the Children has never mobilized such a sweeping humanitarian response – one reaching vulnerable children and families simultaneously in the U.S. and around the world. Your generous support will help us sustain and scale up work that's absolutely critical in alleviating needs the pandemic has created.



## We are on the front lines in the U.S. and internationally, and we're prepared to go the distance in the fight to suppress the pandemic's impacts on vulnerable children.

### **A Lifeline to Those in the Rural U.S.**

In the 200-plus rural communities we serve in 10 states (*Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and West Virginia*), families struggled before COVID-19. Many were coping with risk factors such as food insecurity, unemployment, substance abuse and depression. Homes lack books, nutritious foods, computers and the internet. Compounding an already difficult situation, many of the children we serve are cared for by grandparents who are at risk of becoming ill.

We are keeping children and families from falling through the cracks while they are isolated from schools and neighbors and jobs. In these places, where we've worked for decades, our staff find new ways to collaborate with schools and communities to address needs that COVID-19 has created.

Our \$10 million funding goal supports our work today, and for when schools reopen and children will make up for lost learning in our in-school and afterschool programs. Our immediate response priorities include:

**Meals for Kids:** We're supporting schools as they sustain important meal programs children depend on – through grants to cover transporting food to isolated families to helping at “grab and go” meal pickups at schools. Our staff have even ridden school buses to deliver food to children waiting at their bus stops.

**Supporting at-Home Learning:** We're distributing supplies and books that families lack and are vital to help children learn at home. Our early childhood program coordinators, who normally make home visits, are reaching and supporting families by phone, offering tips on how to stimulate children's development and tips on local social services families may need. We're also making “doorstop drops” of games and educational toys to keep children occupied while families follow social distancing.

### **Around the World**

Our commitment to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 reaches over 120 countries and supports those affected, mitigating the long-term damage done to families who were already struggling. Wherever we are present, our staff are adapting programs and launching new work to address COVID-19's impacts. Our \$100 million funding goal supports five strategic priorities:

**Strengthening and supporting health systems** by providing the information, training and materials staff need to diagnose and treat COVID-19 infections. We also aim to expand the number, strengthen the capabilities, and extend the reach of community health workers to continue life-saving services. We will support our 500,000 local health workers and another 100,000 over the next six months with the resources, tools and skills to deliver essential services.

**Improving handwashing practices** communitywide through public education and making clean water and soap available to help reduce virus transmission.

**Helping children continue to learn** while schools are closed, with a special focus on making sure the most marginalized girls and boys don't miss out. We are collaborating with teachers, parents and supporting governments to deliver “distance learning,” appropriate to the context of the communities we are working in.

**Ensuring girls and women are protected** from harm and abuse. Our teams are identifying and monitoring vulnerable households and working to provide extra support, particularly financial support, to help women-headed families get through the challenging times ahead.

**Reaching refugees and displaced families** living in overcrowded, unsanitary camps where social distancing is impossible with information about COVID-19 and essential hygiene supplies.