The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of our lives. And in the world’s poorest places, the impacts have been devastating. Food shortages are hurting families, who are also struggling to keep their children safe, healthy and educated during the crisis.

Joyce, 17, is a student who lives in the Kyankwanzi District of Uganda. After her mom lost her job as a result of the pandemic, she says, “We were eating one meal a day.” Thankfully, with your support, “We bought more food and soap since we must wash our hands frequently,” says Joyce.

Eight-year-old Morris and his family have also received desperately needed assistance. They too were running dangerously low on food and other essentials. “Mommy used the money from ChildFund to buy maize, flour, sugar and soap,” he says.

Joyce and Morris are so thankful to have a friend like you. And they’re far from being alone.

In fact, your response to the needs of children in these trying times has been unprecedented, and we are happy to report that you are making a life-changing difference!

Within the first few days of the crisis, we asked our friends to help provide handwashing stations to communities in great need. Your outpouring of support has been awe-inspiring. So far, more than 1,000 handwashing stations have been provided to eight of the hardest hit countries!

And as hunger has emerged as the crisis within the crisis – threatening to double mortality rates due to starvation – you’ve been there to help with lifesaving food assistance.

On Tuesday, May 5, we asked you to join us in meeting a very ambitious goal to raise funds to help hungry children. You stepped up in a big way, breaking our record for support raised in a single Giving Tuesday and providing thousands of families with the assistance they so urgently needed!

We can’t thank you enough for helping to save lives in the early days of the crisis.

And now, with your continued support, ChildFund is implementing the largest emergency response in our more than 80-year history.

The challenges facing families in the world’s poorest communities continue to evolve quickly. Thankfully, so will the opportunities to help!

With support from friends like you, more families can have the hope and help they need for better days ahead.

Thank you for being there for children when they need you the most!
Our local partner organizations are coordinating and working with schools and other groups to ensure that their most vulnerable families have access to food — through school curbside deliveries, take-away evening meals and through deliveries of food packets directly to homes. We are also texting and calling families to see how they are doing, give encouragement and provide tips to help children manage stress and stay safe.

**BOLIVIA** Our local partner staff remains in close touch with families, carefully abiding by COVID-19 protection measures. We are coordinating with local and national authorities to help families and children to the greatest extent possible.

**BRAZIL** Our local partners are connecting with families virtually, sharing information about how to protect themselves from COVID-19. We launched a “Néhther Virus nor Hunger Compassion Kit,” aiming to provide food and hygiene supplies, food, home learning opportunities while they are out of school.

**ECUADOR** Our local partners are safely engaging with families and coordinating with local and national authorities to help children and families stay safe, healthy and nourished throughout the crisis and beyond.

**GUATEMALA** Our local partners are in touch with enrolled families, monitoring them for needs including access to food, health care, hygiene supplies and clean water. We have also been providing families in need with vouchers to purchase food and other essentials.

**HONDURAS** Our local partner organizations are keeping in touch with families and sharing key messages about how to avoid infection. They are also providing stay-at-home and child protection measures.

**ETHIOPIA** We’re communicating and coordinating with national and local authorities to help children and families get the nourishing food they need and provide them with training and other resources needed to stay healthy and safe.

**GUINEA** We are sharing key prevention messages on COVID-19 in the communities we serve. We are also providing COVID-19 prevention kits and handwashing stations to families, staff and community health facilities.

**KENYA** Our local partner staff and trained community health volunteers are sharing key preventive messages and distributing hygiene kits to prevent infections among the communities we serve. We are installing handwashing stations, helping families keep food on the table and working with families to help children remain safe from violence. In addition, we are educating both parents and children on how to access learning through online platforms such as WhatsApp lessons, EDUtv and others.

**MOZAMBIQUE** We are collaborating with the government and local partners to share key prevention messages on COVID-19 and to supply soap and handwashing stations in operation areas and health facilities. We are also working to ensure that children get the food they need, stay safe from violence, and can access learning opportunities while they are out of school.

**SIERRA LEONE** We’ve donated essential medical and pharmaceutical supplies worth more than $1 million to support the ongoing fight against COVID-19. We are coordinating and working with local and national authorities to ensure that children have better access to the nourishing food they need. We are also providing families with solar-powered radios so they can stay informed and so that kids can follow educational radio programs.

**UGANDA** We continue to provide hygiene kits and handwashing stations and share COVID-19 prevention messages as well as information on child protection, parenting, and how best to engage with children. We have also provided vulnerable families with cash for food and other basic needs, and supported e-learning and radio platforms to help children continue learning.

**INDIA** ChildFund’s COVID-19 Response Plan in India is working to reach 300,000 children and family members across all program areas. So far, we have distributed 24,385 hygiene kits and over 8,200 materials about good hygiene and COVID-19 prevention. We’ve also distributed 17,990 food baskets to over 41,000 children.

**THE GAMBIA** We are ensuring that families are able to keep food on the table; for families headed by disabled or chronically ill parents, food supplies and basic items are being distributed directly.

**CAMBODIA** Local partners are fully operational and are able to visit most communities. Most national ChildFund programs are operational at the local partner level. Correspondence is being collected and delivered, but with a delay caused by the limited flights in and out of Cambodia. ChildFund’s focus is on COVID-19 preparedness and contingency planning.

**THE PHILIPPINES** We are coordinating with local and national authorities and working to ensure that children have nutritious meals and protection from violence. We are developing a learning curriculum to be delivered via text blasts, radio and online messaging platforms to help provide learning opportunities while schools are closed.

**THAILAND** We are coordinating with local and national authorities and continually working to help protect children and families from the effects of the pandemic, and to ensure that they have better access to the food and other essentials they need.

**VIETNAM** Distributions are underway to provide masks, hygiene items and water to children as soon as access to children and families is restored. We’ve also recently delivered stationery sets for children returning to school.

This work is only possible because of you!

Please help even more children and families in desperate need with your gift today.
LOOKING AHEAD

The needs remain great. That’s why your gifts are still so important.

For kids in poor communities, the dangers and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic go far beyond the disease itself.

We must continue to act globally, boldly and creatively to ensure that children and families not only survive this crisis, but come through it on a solid-enough footing to face the post-COVID-19 world.

Together, we can help:
2. Ensure that children get the food they need.

To find out more about our ongoing COVID-19 response — or to give an immediate gift of support — please visit ChildFund.org.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

It’s easy to share a heartfelt message with your sponsored child.

Cards, notes and messages from you can encourage your sponsored child to dream of a better future. Just think of how much that could mean to your friend right now. You can send mail directly to your sponsored child using the address information provided in your Child Information Folder. Or, for an even easier and quicker way to correspond, use our online letter writing function, e-write, at www.ChildFund.org.

Using e-write, it’s easy to …
• Exchange messages and even pictures with your friend right from your desktop or tablet.
• Send a special note of encouragement to your sponsored child.
• Learn more about your sponsored child’s community.
• Save time and postage costs.

Here’s how to get started:
1. Visit ChildFund.org
2. Click Manage Account and log in
3. Go to My Correspondence

WEATHERING HARD TIMES

Love and compassion mean everything.

Sam, who’s 12 and lives in Uganda, opened his heart to us in a poem he wrote about the sacrifices and acts of compassion that children are experiencing during this crisis. He went on to thank ChildFund supporters like you for the life-changing support you’re providing.

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED – AND ALWAYS APPRECIATED.