

LeSEA Global

FEED THE HUNGRY

A full life feels good.™

REACHING AFRICA

How has life changed
in the wake of
coronavirus?

FIELD REPORT

SUMMER 2021





Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

REACHING AFRICA

The UK is one of the countries leading the way out of coronavirus. It's been an uphill slog, but after months of vaccinations, it feels like a corner has been turned.

However, while the light at the end of the tunnel appears to be growing brighter in the UK, for millions of people around the world, especially in lower-income countries, there is still a long way to go.

In this Summer Edition Field Report, we speak to some of our partners around the African continent and explore how life has changed for them, their ministries and the children and communities that they support. We also look at how donors like you have helped to supply vital equipment to give hope to poor communities in India, as they've faced a devastating wave of covid.



Gwyn Williams
National and International
Operations Director

IN THIS ISSUE...



4 Reaching
Zimbabwe



6 Reaching
Burkina Faso



11 Reaching
Kenya

FEATURE



8 India & Nepal
Update

By feeding the hungry together, and delivering it in the name of Christ, you are joining with Feed The Hungry to help change people's lives for the better, for the future and for eternity.

Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry. To donate, phone 0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport

Feed The Hungry UK is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (5537293) and a charity registered in England and Wales (1112955). Registered Office: Charnwood House, Harcourt Way, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1WP



REACHING ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe has struggled economically for several years, with high rates of inflation and low rates of employment. In the last year, this financial hardship has been compounded by coronavirus and lockdowns. We spoke with Pastor Elna Mukamuri about the situation that many Zimbabweans face.

FTH: How has the last year been for you? What has changed in that time?

Elna: In March 2020, Zimbabwe went into total lockdown. That meant that people had to stay at home. Most people in Zimbabwe are in 'informal employment' - they trade whatever they can to make a little bit of money; often only enough to cover their costs for that day. Being told to stay at home meant that people could not trade, which meant they could not afford to eat. People

were starving in their homes because of the lockdown restrictions. We are aware of cases of people dying from starvation in their own homes because they could not get food.

FTH: How were the feeding programmes affected by the lockdown?

Elna: Our feeding programmes in schools needed to stop, so we had rice meals in storage that we weren't expecting to have at that time. It felt wrong to have this food, knowing that people were struggling. With approval from Feed The Hungry, The Joseph Foundation was given special permission from the Government to go and distribute food, so we went to the poorest area of Harare and gave out the meals to people. The Police came to provide security for us while we gave out the food. It was a big job

and took several days but we were able to help over 1,300 families this way, including the families of children who would normally have been fed through the schools.

FTH: How are things now?

Elna: The situation is better now that the lockdown has lifted but people are still struggling financially. It's going to take a long time to get better. There isn't support from the Government like there has been in the UK - there isn't support for salaries or foodbanks that can provide food. The people who do informal trading are disliked by the Police, who see it as illegal. The traders will go into the towns and cities and set up make-shift shops on street curbs. The Police will come along and try to move them along, but it's the only way that some people can make money. It's difficult for many, many people.

FTH: And how are the schools now?

Elna: Schools stopped during the lockdown. Some schools, who had the ability, provided learning online but that only benefited students who had internet access. Many poor students don't have that facility. But there hasn't been any special allowance for students who weren't able to do their studies during lockdown. Exams went ahead as normal and lots of students failed their exams. This may well affect students for years to come - they've not been able to get qualifications and that might affect what they can do in the future - either in further studies or getting jobs. What this is really



doing is creating a wider wedge between the rich and the poor - those who could afford internet access and those who couldn't. It's wrong really. However, schools are now open again and we have resumed the feeding programmes. We have food containers coming from Feed The Hungry - we've had two already this year and have two more on the way - so things are getting back to normal in that regard.

FTH: Is there anything that we can pray for you at this time?

Elna: It would be good if you could pray that the food keeps getting through to us easily. It has got harder to get the rice meals into Zimbabwe. Pray for the Government's favour and cooperation. We are so grateful for the support of the people in the UK, who help us in God's mission to feed hungry people and share the love of Jesus Christ with them.

To find out more, visit
fth.org.uk/zimbabwe



REACHING BURKINA FASO

Pastor Joseph Koomson leads Victory International Ministries in Burkina Faso. Although there are cases of coronavirus in Burkina Faso, the impact has been low compared to other countries. A far bigger issue that the country faces is that of militant and radical extremists.

FTH: Pastor Joseph, how have you found the past year?

Joseph: *The past 12 months have been the most challenging year for us; as a ministry, as a church, as a community and as a nation as a whole. We have religious extremists who are constantly attacking people and villages in the north of the country. As a result, we have internally displaced refugees who are fleeing their homes and are seeking refuge in the southern part of Burkina Faso. There are a lot of churches in the north that have been affected by this; Christians and Pastors are being killed. But the extremists*

are not discriminating against Christians - they will kill even more moderate Muslims who do not share their beliefs. There is a large Animist belief in Burkina Faso as well; they are also at risk. It is very, very difficult.

FTH: That sounds awful. Are you safe?

Joseph: *Yes, we are okay. Our ministry is based out of Ouagadougou, the capital city, although we travel to different areas to support people who have been displaced. Recently, there was a village in the North that was attacked by extremists, just as some Christians were about to hold baptisms. Almost 20 people were murdered there just last month. It's very challenging, especially in the midst of coronavirus. When the extremists attack an area, people flee from their homes and the extremists take their livestock. This way, people are being forced into poverty and the extremists are getting more resources. Hundreds of people have been killed by the violence.*

FTH: What support are you offering to those who have been affected?

Joseph: *We have several different arms to our support ministry. We are feeding children in schools - about 8,000 students. We are also ministering to the internally displaced refugees; we have four centres that care for these people. Combined, there are about 2,000 families that we are reaching out to; we're not sure of the exact number of people but it's estimated that there are between 12,000 and 15,000 people. Feed The Hungry has been helping us support these people with shoes, clothing and resources sent from the UK.*



Pastor Joseph has served in Burkina Faso for over 24 years.

FTH: What impact has coronavirus had?

Joseph: *I run a Bible school, and when Covid hit, we were forced to close. Like in the UK, Churches and businesses were forced to close. Also, markets and shops closed, which meant that people started to go hungry. Over time, the restrictions were eased. But people are still hungry;*

there is still a financial effect. People can't go to work; people can't do business. As a ministry, we have been walking by faith, not by sight. We trust that God will bring us through this time. But for many people, there is not that hope. For someone who is poor, they need food for a day; they do not care about coronavirus. If they do not have food, they are not going to be bothered about Covid restrictions or facemasks - they just need food to feed their family for that day. We have been trying to support people with food, but our resources are very limited. We have had containers from the USA and from the UK, but the supply chain has been affected by coronavirus too.

FTH: What can we pray for you at this time?

Joseph: *Please pray for the security of the nation; for stability, for peace and for the economy to revive. And please pray that the Church in Burkina Faso would be tenacious in our faith, and that we would be able to bring the Gospel to our villages and towns.*

To find out more, visit
fth.org.uk/burkinafaso

Editor's Note: At the start of June 2021, Burkina Faso had received just over 115k doses of vaccine. At the time of publication in June 2021, Burkina Faso had just started their coronavirus vaccination programme. The population of Burkina Faso is 21.5 million.

FEED THE HUNGRY IN AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

KENYA

ZIMBABWE

Approximately half of the countries that Feed The Hungry operate in worldwide are based on the African continent.

Central Africa faces natural challenges like high temperatures and low rainfall in one extreme, and high rainfall and flooding at the other. Many countries face economic problems, such as low rates of employment, low wages and unstable currencies. Civil wars and terrorism force some people to flee their homes in search of safety.



BURKINA FASO

Population: 21.5 million approx.

Life Expectancy: 61 (men) / 62 (women)

Partner Project: Victory International Ministries led by Pastor Joseph Koomson

For Prayer: Since 2015, extremist groups have terrorised the North of Burkina Faso, causing large numbers of people to flee their homes and find refuge in the South.

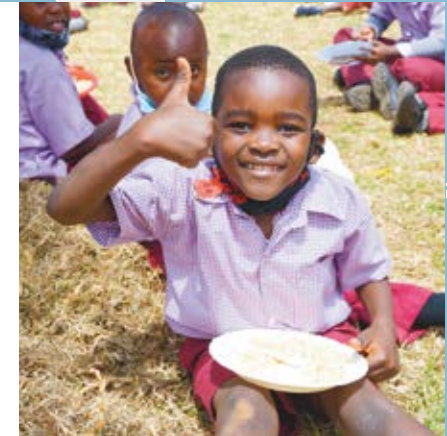
KENYA

Population: 52 million approx.

Life Expectancy: 64 (men) / 69 (women)

Partner Project: The Soweto Academy led by Pastors Chris and Joanne Okumu

For Prayer: The Soweto Academy is based in Kibera, one of the largest slums in Africa. As well as economic problems, in the Spring, heavy rains cause flooding, which damages homes and businesses.



ZIMBABWE

Population: 15 million approx.

Life Expectancy: 60 (men) / 63 (women)

Partner Project: The Joseph Foundation led by Pastor Elna Mukamuri

For Prayer: Zimbabwe has an unstable economy and one of the highest rates of inflation in the world, causing some of the basics, like food, to rapidly rise in cost. This puts the most pressure on the poorest people, who are already struggling to survive.



INDIA & NEPAL UPDATE



In April 2021, the world turned to look at India as the rates of coronavirus skyrocketed into numbers far beyond the capacity of the Indian health system. A new variant of coronavirus spread quickly throughout every part of the country. Officially designated Covid hospitals were overwhelmed, leading the government to call on smaller rural hospitals. Despite this, ambulances were still being turned away and oxygen supplies ran low. Family and friends were forced to find their own oxygen supplies to keep their loved ones alive.

OXYGEN

As the virus continued to spread, India faced an acute oxygen shortage. According to PATH Oxygen Needs Tracker, in April and May, the country had the greatest demand for oxygen out of all other low, lower-middle and upper-middle-income countries.

Shankar Ramachandran, the Senior Administrator at Kachhwa Hospital

writes, *“We have an acute shortage of oxygen. Last night, we ran out of oxygen. By the grace of God, the two patients managed to get a cylinder through their contacts from 4 hours away. We have again sent our vehicles with cylinders this morning. Yesterday, we had the first Covid related death. She was critically ill and came with a saturation of twenty.”*

Hospitals could apply for oxygen generating machines, but these supplies were limited and took time to install. The quickest option for a hospital is



Poor families in Nepal have been supported with food and PPE.

to purchase locally available oxygen generating machines but the cost of these is high.

Feed The Hungry started working with Kachhwa Christian Hospital, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, to support them in getting this vital equipment. Thanks to the generous support of donors in the UK, we were able to help with the purchase of the desperately needed equipment for the hospital. We are also in the process of procuring 23 ventilators to send out to hospitals in Delhi, and also to our partner in Nepal.

NEPAL

Heartbreakingly, as the number of cases in India began to decrease, Nepal started going through a similarly brutal second wave of coronavirus. At the start of June, every day around 9,000 people were being infected and 300 were dying. Ambulances were constantly transporting patients or moving bodies. The country was on total lockdown to try and control the spread.

Feed The Hungry works closely with our partner in Nepal, Pastor Ruben. We set out to provide support to poor households and hospitals, to try and help get them through the second wave.

Pastor Ruben works particularly with poor families, who struggle to afford



the basics. He has helped with the cost of journeys by ambulance to hospital, as well as the cost of medicines and PPE. He has also provided food to families who have been forced to self-isolate, who otherwise wouldn't have anything to eat.

STILL NOT OVER

There's still the chance to support the efforts and the ongoing situation in both India and Nepal. We are still raising funds to purchase oxygen generating equipment, as well as medication, face masks, sanitiser and food packs. All of these things make a huge difference to individuals who have contracted the virus, and also to their family members.

Any donation is greatly appreciated and will continue to bring about life-saving change.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/oxygen



REACHING KENYA

Pastors Chris and Joanne Okumu have lived and worked in Kibera, the largest slum in East Africa, for over 30 years. They have seen huge changes in that time, but nothing like coronavirus.

FTH: Pastor Chris, how has life changed over the last year?

Chris: Things are hard right now in Kenya. The government put the whole country into lockdown last year, and lots of people have lost their jobs. In Kibera, a lot of people live hand to mouth, so the money they earn in a day will go to feed them for that day. If you have no work and no money, then you have no food. Although the lockdown restrictions have lifted, the economic impact is harsh and will be long-lasting. I wouldn't be surprised if it took 5 years for people to get back to where they were before coronavirus hit.

FTH: When you say things are hard, what does that look like?

Chris: People are running away from their responsibilities. There are stories every week of people who have run away from their families; husbands running away from their wives and children, or mothers abandoning their families. Because there is no work and no food, people can not cope and so they run away. In extreme cases, people murder their spouse or their families because they can not cope with the responsibility of providing for them. It is horrendous but it shows that we are in desperate times.

FTH: Have you been able to keep the feeding programme going?

Chris: Mercifully, we have been able to keep the feeding programme going throughout the last year. The schools, which we would usually provide the food through to

our students, have been forced to close. However, we were able to give our food as 'dry meals' - we could give a family a few days of food at a time, which they can cook at home. We have a shipping container based on the site of our church building, which had food in it that we received prior to coronavirus. When this food started running out, Feed The Hungry provided money so that we could buy food in Kenya itself. It's more expensive to get food this way, but it means that we have not run out. We thank God for that.

FTH: Has anything positive come out of this time?

Chris: One of the things that has come out of the last 12 months is that people are coming to Church. There is no welfare provided by the Government - no safety net for people. So when they have no food and no support, they turn to the Church. We've seen our congregation grow. But while we can share with them spiritual truth, we are limited in what we can physically give them. There are people who have died because of coronavirus, but thankfully, our Church and schools have not had it.

FTH: Is there anything that we can pray for you at this time?

Chris: At the moment, everyone is in the same boat - we need help out of the pandemic. The UK is one of the countries leading the way in vaccinations; both vaccinating people in your country and in



During lockdown, students were given dry rations to cook and eat at home.

other countries. Because of my age, I have received a vaccine. But as of the start of June 2021, Kenya has vaccinated less than one million people out of 52 million people. Please pray that we get more vaccines quickly and that they can be distributed quickly. Because of the situation in India, some supplies that would have come to Kenya have been sent there. We understand that their need is great at the moment and we stand in support of them. But please pray that things will move along for us also.

Please also pray that we would use the opportunity we have to be able to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are calling out for help. These are difficult times and we want to do what we can. But physical food will feed a body for a day; spiritual food from Jesus will feed a person for a lifetime.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/kenya



SUPPORTING FAMILIES AT HOME

As the UK lockdown restrictions have lifted, Feed The Hungry's provision for those facing food insecurity as a result of coronavirus is becoming quieter.

Over the past year, we've worked with local councils to provide emergency food parcels for those needing to self-isolate. It's been a tremendous effort, carried out largely by volunteers wanting to help others who may be struggling.

However, the issue of food insecurity is not going away. The UK has been shaken financially, with 22%* of households reporting a loss of income since before the pandemic hit. Unemployment has risen in the last year, which has particularly affected 18 to 24-year-olds*. The Trussell Trust reported that those using foodbanks

has increased by 33%* in the year ending March 2021. All of this points to the next season being one that continues to be difficult for lower-income households.

Feed The Hungry is continuing to support those facing food insecurity in the UK through a large-scale food distribution network, operating out of The Halo Centre in Binley, Coventry. This network supports foodbanks, community supermarkets and emergency food providers, to make sure that anyone who needs it, can access food.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/uk

* The Food Foundation Surveys conducted between March 2020 and January 2021, Office for National Statistics Employment Rates and Trussell Trust End of Year Statistics, March 2021

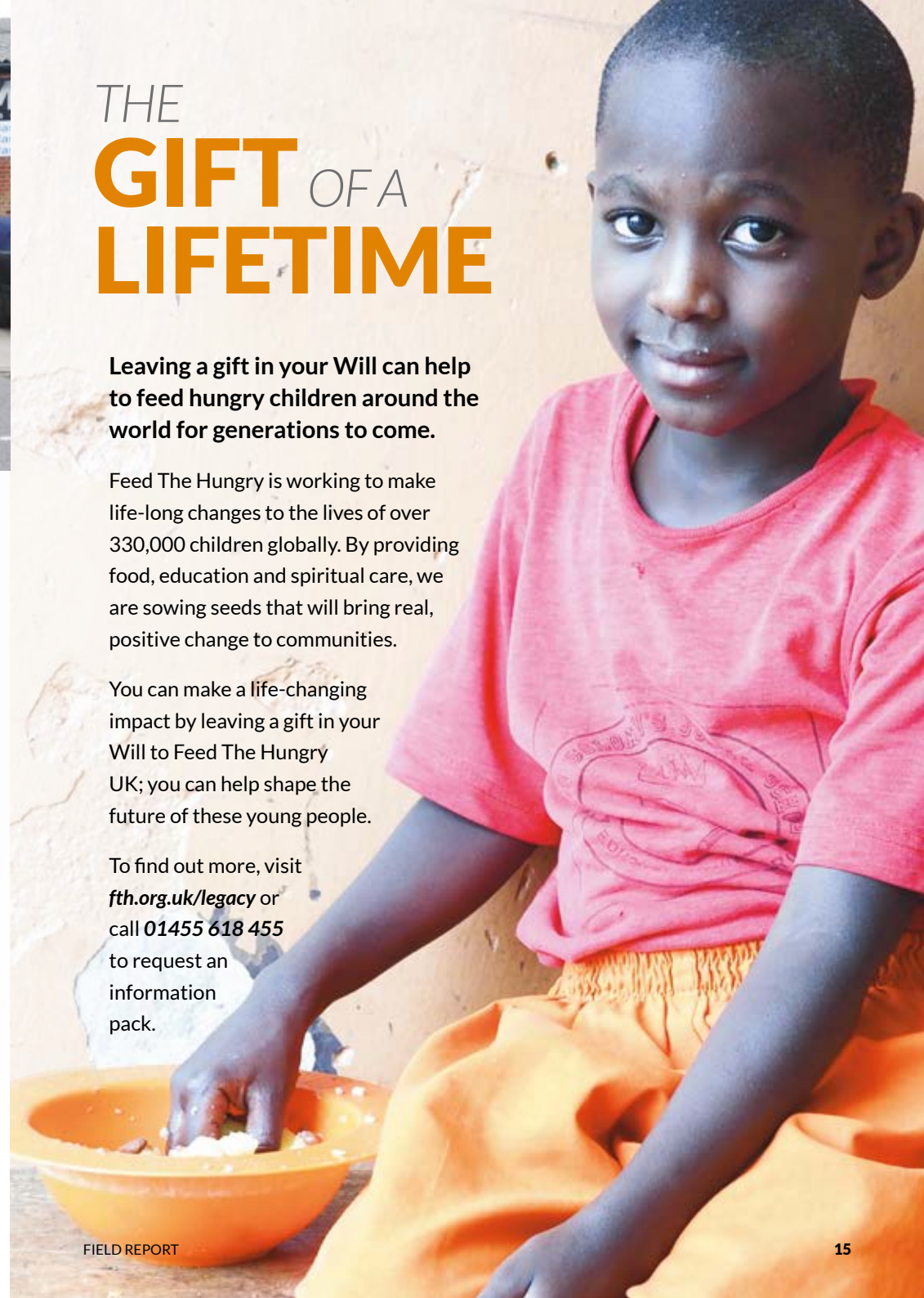
THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Leaving a gift in your Will can help to feed hungry children around the world for generations to come.

Feed The Hungry is working to make life-long changes to the lives of over 330,000 children globally. By providing food, education and spiritual care, we are sowing seeds that will bring real, positive change to communities.

You can make a life-changing impact by leaving a gift in your Will to Feed The Hungry UK; you can help shape the future of these young people.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/legacy or call 01455 618 455 to request an information pack.



NEWS

To keep up to date with all our latest news stories, go to fth.org.uk/news or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



MYANMAR DISASTER RELIEF

Myanmar is facing political and military unrest, as their armed forces are clashing with the elected Government. These clashes are causing large numbers of people to flee their homes. Feed The Hungry has been able to supply food to some of these refugees. One of the first distributions undertaken was to refugees hiding along the river in Thai. Pastor Charlie reported, *"We are reaching out to the thousands of people who are fleeing the danger in Burma. They are scattered along the Thai-Burma border, living in the jungle, along streams and in caves."* Without support from the Government, these people are left to fend for themselves.



PRAYER POINTS

If you feel able to, please support Feed The Hungry in prayer.

- Please pray for families affected by flooding in Kenya.
- Pray for our partners supporting internally displaced refugees.
- Pray for students sitting exams before the Summer.
- Please pray for the Covid-19 vaccination programmes being delivered around the world.
- Pray that doors would continue to be opened and that the transportation of resources internationally would become easier.

Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry. To donate, phone 0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport