



International

UPDATES FROM
ALL OUR
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
WORK

YOUR IMPACT REPORT

SPRING 2020

WELCOME TO YOUR IMPACT REPORT.

Hello, and a very warm welcome to an extraordinary edition of **Your Impact Report**. We've never sent you an update like this. For the first time in ADD International's history, all our teams are united in a collective response to one global crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic - and doing all we can to ensure that people with disabilities receive the support and priority that they need.

The last few months have been extremely challenging.

Our global teams have been working around the clock - juggling home working, home-schooling, connectivity issues, caring responsibilities, typhoid outbreaks, floods and typhoons - to deliver our COVID-19 response. I am delighted to share with you a snapshot of the life-saving work that your support is helping to achieve.

And it truly is live-saving. From emergency cash support to food and medical supplies, our work is saving lives this very minute.

I am in awe of my colleagues across the world. Their resilience, focus and dedication makes me prouder than ever to represent this exceptional organisation. And of course, we are indebted to every one of you reading this. Our work is not possible without you. Thank you for your faith, belief and support in what we do.

We hope this update makes you proud to be alongside us. The last few months have galvanised an exceptional solidarity throughout our organisation. Together we stand, shoulder to shoulder, ready to protect every life that we can. This pandemic is far from over, but we will continue to do all we can to support people with disabilities for its duration.



Jimmy Innes,
Chief Executive, ADD International.



Everyone featured in this booklet has given their consent to share their story and image. Due to the global pandemic, it has been hard to access high-quality photos. Some of the images in this report are of lower quality than we usually share. Still, we wanted to give you a sense of the work that is happening at the moment in these incredibly challenging circumstances.

FOUR STEPS TO SAVE LIVES.

Working alongside our disability activist partners we are delivering the following 4 steps to save lives.



1. LIFE-SAVING INFORMATION.

We make sure people with disabilities receive accessible and accurate information on how to protect themselves and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.



2. SOCIAL SUPPORT.

We identify people with disabilities most at risk and ensure necessary supplies are safely delivered. We will utilise remote peer-to-peer support mechanics to reach those most isolated.



3. ACCESS TO MEDICAL SUPPORT.

We help support people with disabilities to access COVID-19 testing and treatment services. We will work with health providers and governments sharing our lessons on how to do this with maximum impact.



4. LONG TERM PROTECTION.

We support powerholders to create inclusive alternative livelihood options for people with disabilities and implement emergency social protection schemes.



1. LIFE-SAVING INFORMATION.

Across all of our country teams, we have been working to re-divert funds and produce emergency life-saving information on COVID-19 in disability-inclusive formats.



SUDAN.

In Sudan, we are in daily contact with our disability activist partners through phone calls, WhatsApp groups and social media.

Activists are producing accessible information - short videos, audio messages, information sheets - that are circulated to disabled people in their communities.

They are also working to ensure all essential information and updates reach local members who might not have smartphones so that the most marginalised and poorest are not left behind. Activists are sharing messages on local radio shows and even travelling around villages, making public announcements from their cars using microphones.

PHOTO: Activists from the Sudanese National Society for the Deaf produced a video explaining COVID-19 symptoms and prevention measures including social distancing, hand washing and to stop shaking hands.





CAMBODIA.

In Cambodia, our first priority has been to keep the most vulnerable disabled people alive. We reallocated project budget to allow us to print accurate, relevant information about COVID-19. We printed 500 copies detailing hand washing and other measures to prevent the spread of the infection. We shared the materials with disability activists, who distributed to women and girls with disabilities.

TOP PHOTO: Cambodian staff share information on COVID-19 prevention with disabled women at high risk.



UGANDA.

Activists shared disability-inclusive COVID-19 information on radio programmes. By the end of the shows, a well-wisher pledged 7 million Ugandan Shillings (£1,500 approx.) to provide food and emergency supplies for disabled people. Many other people called in during the show to express solidarity with disabled people and demand more to be done to protect all lives.

BOTTOM PHOTO: An activist presents the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people.





2. SOCIAL SUPPORT



UGANDA.

On government instructions, Buikwe district went into lockdown to contain COVID-19. The government has been providing food relief to the people there since.

Local disability activists have mobilised to ensure that disabled people are included.

They have lobbied the government district task force to make sure their response plans are inclusive. They also held a public fundraising drive to get more supplies for disabled people and raised enough money to buy 2 tonnes of posho (cornmeal).

As a result, disabled people in the community have received essential food relief.

PHOTOS: Disability activists distributing emergency COVID-19 food relief in Uganda





CAMBODIA.

We have been working to ensure disabled people receive access to basic survival kits, including food, sanitation and hygiene necessities.

We developed hygiene packs including soap, masks, alcohol, sanitisers and hand gel. To date we have distributed around 100 of these packs.

We have also distributed food packages of white rice, noodles, fish sauce, sunflower oil and canned fish, and provided 384 women and girls with disabilities with these basic survival kits.

30 key activists have been given smart phones to identify, share information with and support disabled women and girls at risk of domestic violence at this time.



Borithy Lun,
Country Director,
ADD Cambodia.
#ADDEmergency
#ADDCambodia



EMERGENCY RELIEF, BANGLADESH.

The situation is getting worse rapidly with the infection rate increasing fast. Widespread social and religious stigma is causing discrimination towards COVID-19 patients and their family members.

Relief distribution systems are failing to avoid large gatherings congregating at collection points. The government has announced emergency financial support packages, but this is mostly for businesses, and there is not enough provision for people with disabilities.

The economic picture is bleak – increased unemployment and low production – causing some to speculate about a future near-famine situation.

ADD Bangladesh has conducted four rounds of rapid assessment over the telephone with disability activists whose organisations represent 10,000 disabled people across the country.

Findings from these conversations show that many need continued access to survival relief and those who have accessed relief report that it is not enough. Response efforts should focus on ensuring relief is fast and comprehensive. The government needs to recognise the vital role disability activists and their organisations play in delivering support to their community. We are raising this message loudly and urgently with policymakers as well as supporting on the ground delivery of emergency aid.



**Shafiqul Islam,
Country Director, ADD Bangladesh.**

#ADDEmergency
#ADDBangladesh

575

disabled people have received emergency cash transfers via mobile banking.



3

inclusive handwashing units have been installed in communities without sanitation access.



16,000

disabled people have now received either survival packs, sanitation supplies or emergency cash support.





3. MEDICAL SUPPORT.

A HEALTH SYSTEM AT BREAKING POINT, SUDAN.

Sudan has a very fragile health system and community transmission is now widespread. In most cases, the transmission chain can't be established. The government lacks capacity to conduct community check-ups to get an accurate number of infected people. The Ministry of Health reports a widespread shortage of medicine and PPE. Testing labs have reached capacity. The Minister of Health is afraid that the health system could collapse.

We see a chronic shortage of medicine in pharmacies and drugstores. Drugs are sold on the black market at very high prices beyond the financial capacity of most people.

People are struggling to find spaces at hospitals for all illnesses, and we have heard reports of people dying in their cars while travelling between hospitals looking for treatment. People are trying to find Intensive Care support through social media, and there are stories of no ambulances being available.

Malaria and typhoid outbreaks are widespread. Three members of staff are currently off sick. Several of the ADD team have lost relatives in recent days as this crisis moves closer and closer to home. Our thoughts and condolences are with them all.



Siham, Bolad,
Country Director, ADD Sudan.

#ADDEmergency
#ADDSudan



THE POWER OF MOBILE PHONES, UGANDA.

We are hearing many stories about people critically ill with other conditions, such as kidney disease or cancer, dying because they can't access hospitals.

Disability activists in the hardest to reach areas are experiencing the most vulnerability. Floods and other natural disasters, as well as the scare of Ebola in neighbouring Congo, leaves disabled people in remote regions invisible to the national response system. Mainstream response teams are excluding leaders from organisations of disabled people which impacts the marginalisation of their members.

The destruction of infrastructure such as bridges and roads because of natural calamities has increased disabled people's survival challenges.

We recently created an online platform for disability activists to share information about what is working in their area and what critical needs remain.

Activists tell us that mobile phones are a vital source of connection during this crisis. Through the phone and Whatsapp groups, activists can keep in touch with disabled people in their community, understand their medical situation and orchestrate responses.

Computers, phones, internet and mobile data are vital tools for sharing information and maintaining community connection. These social safety nets are a source of survival for disabled people when disaster strikes.



Thomas Kyokuhair,
Country Director, ADD Uganda.

#ADDEmergency
#ADDUganda



4. LONG TERM PROTECTION.



“People are coming under tremendous pressure caught between the health crisis of COVID-19 and the economic fallout.

People can not stay at home. We will see more people dying of hunger than from COVID.”

UPDATE FROM TANZANIA.

This is a worrying time for everyone. People with disabilities face the difficult decision of closing their businesses to remain safe at home with their families versus the fear of losing the income they rely on. Economically the situation is worsening and we also have to worry about people dying from not having food.

Along with other INGO partners we have created a ‘Disability-inclusive COVID-19 Coordination’ group to work collaboratively to secure funding to deliver disability-inclusive responses. We are working now to co-ordinate this work across the country, at the district level, working with our disability activist partners.



BANGLADESH.

The government has launched emergency financial relief for 5 million families most at risk. We are working with our disability activist partners to make sure that disabled people in the most precarious economic situations are included in this initiative. We are mobilising all our government contacts with a good understanding of disability inclusion to advocate for this issue.

Disabled, informal day labourers in Bangladesh are now without a livelihood. They have to rely on just over £16 a month to survive. Disability activists tell us: "Daily workers are living inhuman life. Getting a splash of help, but no permanent way."

One of our partners, SHIVYAWATA, are lobbying local government to support disabled business owners. They have launched a campaign for the local district to write off all debts owed by disabled people. During these unprecedented times, disabled people should be supported by the government to make a fresh start after COVID-19 without unfair debts burdening them.

The secretary for SHIVYAWATA told us: "the capacity building from ADD International has given us the confidence to raise issues regarding people with disabilities.

In the past, we would have kept ourselves silent, waiting for other people to support us.

But we are taking steps to take action ourselves.

We plan to influence the government and other stakeholders to support people with disabilities during this emergency pandemic.

With ADD's support, I am sure that together we will influence the government to forgo the small business loans owed to the District Council."



Rose Tesha,
Country Director,
ADD Tanzania.
#ADDEmergency
#ADDTanzania

SOLIDARITY FROM US TO YOU!

Thank you for all the wonderful messages of support that we have received from you, our incredible supporters. It really does give us energy and hope to hear what ADD means to you and to know that you are with us.

We have compiled your messages and shared them with the country teams and our disability activists. In the words of Wilfred, from our team in Uganda:



"Thanks so much for sharing these kind and encouraging messages, we really appreciate all the support and the strength that you always provide to the international teams. Many thanks to our supporters, we very much value their tremendous sacrifices they make to support us to stand more stronger."



In the dark days of COVID-19, there are moments of joy and the photo above was one for us as we hosted our first-ever all-staff Zoom meeting!

We shared updates from our 6 country teams and for the first time connected altogether online. It was wonderful to see so many ADD family faces. Inspiring, moving, hopeful. We are in tough times but the spirit of ADD and those who support us is even tougher. Our wonderful Bangladesh Country Director, Shafiqul Islam summed up the mood of the call perfectly:

"This is my family, this is our family. In solidarity."

COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL

THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

We hope the vital work you see in this Impact Report has inspired you. The communities we support need us more than ever. In the uncertainty that abounds, what remains resolutely clear is our need to double down on our mission. **If you haven't donated to our appeal and you have the resources to, please donate and help us fight to protect every life that we can. Thank you.**

WHAT A GIFT FROM YOU COULD DO:



£40

could pay for a community hygiene pack including 24 bars of soap, 2 litres of antiseptic, 2 litres of hand sanitizer, and 12 masks.



£85

could pay for a food package to support a disabled persons family including: 55kg Rice, 15kg Lentils, 5 litres Oil, 1kg Salt, 2kg Sugar.



£238

could pay for an accessible hand sanitation unit in rural Bangladesh.

To donate visit add.org.uk/covid-appeal or call 0203 752 5495.

JOIN US ON OUR SOCIALS!

Stay up to date on our COVID-19 response work by joining us on our social media channels. We are sharing regular updates from colleagues around the world. We would love for you to join the conversation.



[add.international](https://www.facebook.com/add.international)



[adduk](https://twitter.com/adduk)



[addinternational](https://www.instagram.com/addinternational)

THANK YOU

"Together we are protecting every life that we can, and I wanted to share this photo message with you from my heart."

Rebecca Nayiga,
Head of Finance and Operations,
ADD Uganda.



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