

# RESPONSE

ISSUE TWO 2021

*NO Child* LEFT  
BEHIND

P.2 CEO MESSAGE  
P.3 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND  
P.5 VILLAGE SCHOOL PROGRAM EXPANSION

 **AsianAID**  
Give Hope **TODAY**

# Dear SUPPORTERS

Once again we would like to thank you for your grace and generosity in supporting Asian Aid. Your priority as well as ours has been to protect the disadvantaged and vulnerable children we support. This need has been amplified as a result of COVID.



Our primary focus throughout 2020 has been to ensure we mitigated the risks of our sponsored children falling through the cracks, as lockdowns commenced and children were returned home. In considering that home is not always the safest place, the following objectives were implemented:

#### FOOD SECURITY

Through our Family Food Fund we have managed to support thousands of children and their families. This year we will implement a program that aims to improve nutritional outcomes for children and their families in order to improve diets and create sustainable options for families across all our projects.

#### CHILD SAFETY

Through our welfare checks and family visits we have identified families that will

require additional support for both the child and their family. These families have been identified as being at a higher risk of not returning to school because their ability to learn was restricted at home during lockdowns. We have launched the No Child Left Behind campaign because additional funding will be required to ensure we don't lose them out of the system.

#### EDUCATION

Our priority has been to keep our children in the education system, that is why we moved our focus from Return To Learning to Back to School and in this newsletter we will be launching a new campaign called Back at School to ensure the children have an enhanced school experience increasing participation and attendance.

We are also pleased to announce our Communities with Adventist Schools in Bangladesh project will be expanding to

another three village schools. This will not only impact the school itself, but this will also benefit the Adventist families and communities that surround those schools.

We take our responsibility as a supporting ministry seriously as we continue to grow as an organisation. Our aim is to ensure all children and their families not only have the opportunity of education and improved financial circumstance, they also have greater opportunities to grow in faith.

Thank you again for your support and ongoing prayers.

Paul

Paul Esau, CEO



## NOTICE

Sanjay and Karan are in grade 10 and who, like many sponsored children, without your support would never have returned to school.

**B**oth boys went home during the recent pandemic. Sanjay helped his parents in the fields while Karan helped his father look after their cattle. Because he lives in a remote part of Nepal, Sanjay had little fear of COVID-19, however Karan was in a region where COVID-19 was rampant and lived in constant fear of catching the virus.

Both boys worried about their future, wondering if they would ever get to study again and return to normal. Unfortunately Sanjay and Karan did not have access to the internet and were unable to connect to school for online classes.

### HOW WE HELPED

Our Partner has been working closely with their parents to ensure they were financially supported and regular checks were made on the children's welfare. Now with your assistance, they are back at school and we are providing additional support so they can catch up on classes that they have missed while at home. They are happy to be back and reunited with their friends.

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“As children start to return in person, our Partners have identified that many minor medical issues were not attended to during COVID-19. Health checks and additional medical assistance have been provided to ensure children remain happy and healthy.”

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We warmly invite you to the 2021 Asian Aid Annual General Meeting in Cooranbong at 10 am on Sunday, 1st August 2021 in the Avondale Memorial Church Hall. If you would like to be more involved in our work, you can become a Member. For a small yearly payment, you will have the opportunity to vote at the AGM. Visit [asianaid.org.au/faith-in-action/member](http://asianaid.org.au/faith-in-action/member) to apply.

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# GETTING CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL



2020 was **undeniably the year of change** – we had to change to create opportunities, plans and possibilities.

**T**his year has enabled us to restart our programs and schools. As a result we are moving forward our focus from food relief and getting kids ready to be back to school to now creating COVID-safe spaces and providing educational support for the children at school.

### Nepal schools are back up and running

In our school in rural Nepal the children have been attending classes since December. Our school in Kathmandu opened in January following Government guidelines. We started with part time classes without any

problems and now regular classes have begun. The students have been overjoyed to return to school full time. Proper precautions and safety measures are being observed

“The students have been overjoyed to return to school full time. **Proper precautions and safety measures are being observed** including messages of COVID awareness displayed around the school.”

including messages of COVID awareness displayed around the school.

Children have been taught to wash their hands frequently with soap and water and all the students

and staff wear masks when they can't socially distance. The teachers are making sure that not too many children are in the playground at once.



# ANOTHER CHILD BACK IN EDUCATION

In India too, we see our projects and schools opening, the children are getting ready to go back to their schools. For many of them, this comes as a much needed relief.

**C**hildren like Satya, who was studying in Grade 10 before the lockdown. After losing his father in 2019, his mother was already struggling to support the family as a newly single mum. During the lockdown their position became so dire that Satya had to go to work in an incense manufacturing factory loading and unloading materials. He worked for nine hours each day. Satya says that he found it difficult to lift heavy materials but received no help from anyone.

Throughout this challenging period, our partner staff in India worked to support Sathya. We provided food relief to ease some of the family burden, and helped him prepare for his board exams through online help. Staff have encouraged him to complete his homework and keep studying. Although working to help support his family, Satya studied during the nights and early mornings. In December when schools reopened Satya attended three hours of classes and then worked the rest of the day.

“Being part of the after-school program has taught me the importance of supporting each other. And especially after the pandemic and in the absence of my father, I feel that it is important to work to support my family. But because I have learnt the importance of education I have made up my mind not to discontinue my studies.”

Though it is challenging, Satya is determined to complete his studies to create career opportunities and, as a result, change his circumstances for himself and his family.



**NEW**  
**PROGRAM**  
**EXPANSION FOR OUR ADVENTIST SCHOOLS**

We are expanding our Communities with Adventist School program **into more village schools in Bangladesh** who we are currently supporting through paying teacher salaries and providing some resources.

**T**hese schools have been identified as an opportunity to improve circumstances beyond the classroom. The new expanded program will integrate education and awareness with improving the livelihoods of those families who attend our Seventh-day Adventist schools and create better outcomes for those in surrounding communities.

Currently the majority of these communities live below the poverty line. The literacy rate is under 15 percent with

only 25 percent of children up to Grade 5 being able to access education.

Girls, in particular, are unable to access education and decision-making. Many are forced to do household chores or go to work at a very young age. Our recent survey suggests that over 90 percent of girls in the communities marry before the age of 18. In addition, there is no access to health care, with the nearest government hospitals over eight kilometres away and the existing community clinics unable to even provide basic health care. With your continued support we can make significant change.

Our investment in quality education and adult literacy, as well as child clubs, awareness on women and child rights, livelihood training and healthcare will ensure holistic transformation of families and the communities:

- It will also mean better nutrition and care at home.
- Better healthcare and hygiene will improve parents' ability to work, in turn easing financial burdens as well as increase



attendance at school.

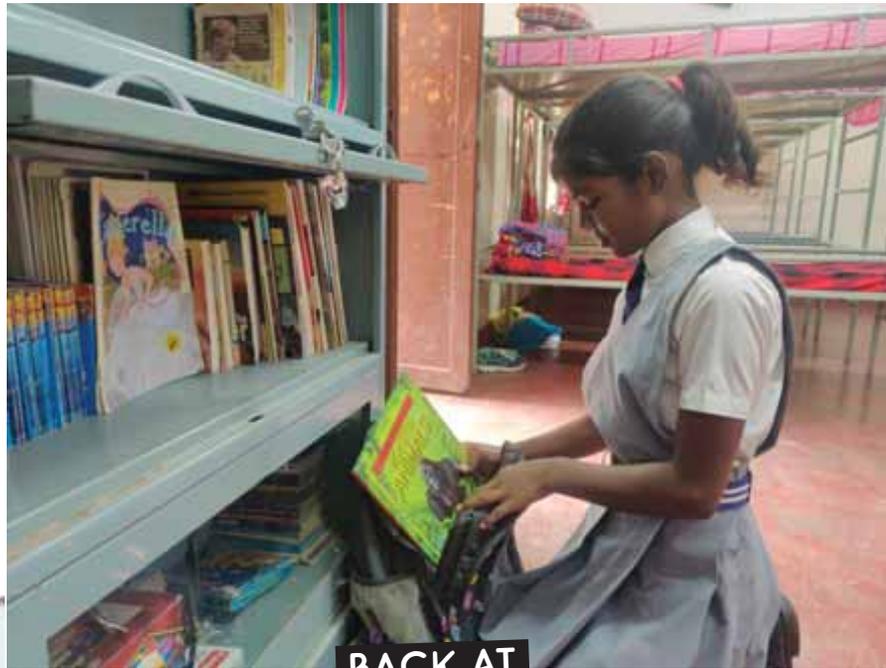
- Increasing incomes will enable parents to manage their own educational expenses and continue higher education.
- The school in-turn will be able to build the expertise and financial capacity to manage their own budgets, provide better facilities for the children and become self supporting in the long term.

These are just some of the long-term and sustainable outcomes we anticipate, helping children and their families to flourish in both their faith and future prospects whilst creating a legacy that will endure for generations.

AS WE MOVE TOWARD NORMALITY  
IN OUR PROJECTS AND SCHOOLS,  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT.

## ADVENTIST EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

You can help us increase the quality of life of children that attend our Adventist schools by improving their school and families' circumstances. Your donations go to improving educational resources, establishing child clubs, raising child rights awareness, teacher training and livelihood training for parents so children and the wider community are benefitted.



## BACK AT SCHOOL

Now schools are open and we aim to return children to a better environment they had than before. This can include additional infrastructure such as classrooms and toilets, fresh drinking water, increased hygiene practices, additional teacher training and support materials.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

We are excited to see our children returning to schools, but in many instances additional support for both a child and their family may be required because they have been identified from our welfare checks as being at a higher risk of not returning to school post-COVID. You can help us to ensure that no child loses their chance of an education.



## FAMILY FOOD FUND

Our Family Food Fund provided food security for families struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. Moving forward, we are incorporating into our Programs tools to improve nutritional outcomes for children and their families. Your support of \$40 per month will help improve diets and create sustainable options for families across all our Programs.



# SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Our Special Needs Schools help children who may otherwise miss the opportunity to be educated receive the help they deserve and hope for their futures. You can help us provide life-changing programs for children to transition towards meaningful and independent living as adults with practical skills.



## MEET-THE-NEED

In these uncertain times, unforeseen needs are constantly arising, including building renovations, new education programs to fight poverty, trafficking, new school resources and health assistance. When you donate to our Meet-The-Need fund, you allow us to quickly assist our children, families and communities when they need it most. We know circumstances change quickly so thank you for helping us meet the most pressing needs.



### I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (Please write project name below)

\_\_\_\_\_

- A regular donation of \_\_\_\_\_ a month
- A one-off donation of \_\_\_\_\_
- A one-off donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to #NoChildLeftBehind

### I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

1. CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
2. FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
3. CREDIT CARD

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="text"/>											
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Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / CSV \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

### YOUR DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ID \_\_\_\_\_

(if already a supporter)



**POST TO** PO BOX 333 Wauchope,  
NSW 2446, Australia

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

