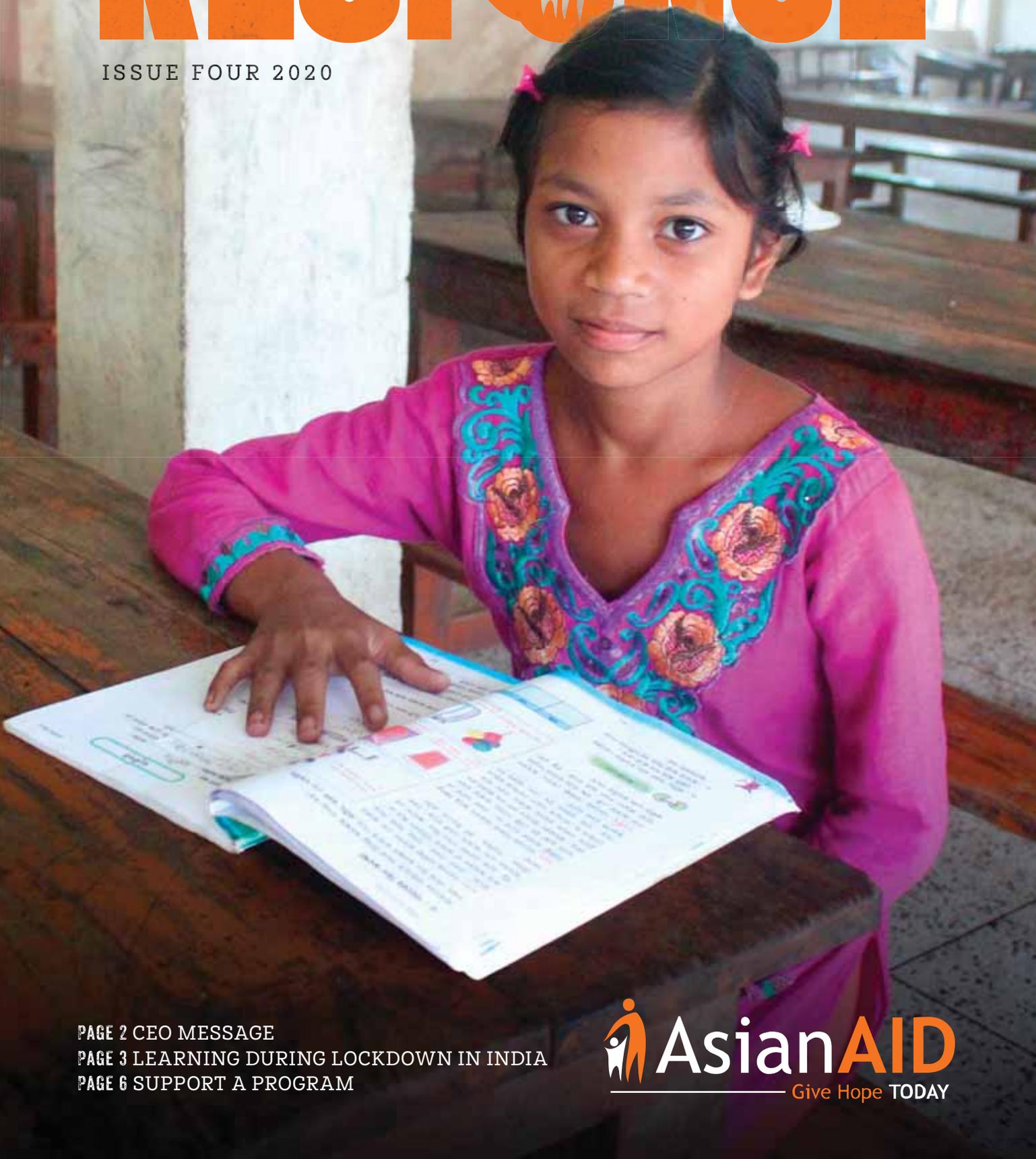


RESPONSE

ISSUE FOUR 2020



PAGE 2 CEO MESSAGE
PAGE 3 LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN IN INDIA
PAGE 6 SUPPORT A PROGRAM

 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY

FROM THE CEO



DEAR SUPPORTERS

AS WE HEAD TOWARDS THE END OF, WHAT HAS BEEN FOR MANY, THE MOST CHALLENGING YEAR OF OUR GENERATION, WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR HOW YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT US AND THE CHILDREN DURING THIS TIME.

Christmas is a time of faith, family, food and fun but this year, it may be celebrated differently in many parts of the world, as well as here at home, in Australia and New Zealand.

While food relief continues to be a focus, we have been working with Partners to see what 2021 will look like post COVID-19 and beyond.

This year's Christmas Appeal has two clear objectives: Back To School and Return To Learning.

What that looks like in 2021 in India, Bangladesh and Nepal will be based on the health, welfare and safety of the children you support and government guidelines.

The aim is simple. We want to:

- Improve school environments to ensure

that children will have a better experience at school when they return than they had pre-COVID-19;

- Wherever possible provide the tools, equipment, resources, technology, data and infrastructure to ensure that the children have the ability to continue to learn whatever the challenges that arise in-country during this pandemic.

We thank you sincerely and ask for your continued support in helping us return the children to a learning environment in 2021 and to remember the children in your prayers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

INDIA

THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT UP UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES EVERYWHERE, NEVER MORE SO THAN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE WE WORK IN INDIA WHERE SOCIAL DISTANCING IS A LUXURY NOT A RIGHT.

For parents, who are mostly daily wage earners and now have no income, worrying about paying for basic daily needs has become a bigger priority than before.

As well as providing food relief, our Partners have been keeping children engaged, implementing new ways to conduct classes and strengthening the learning environments both during lockdowns and planning for future learning post COVID-19.





LEARNING CHALLENGES DURING LOCK-DOWN

ARCHANA AND RAMAKRISHNAN HAVE TWO CHILDREN (DIVYA, 12 AND RAMACHARAN, 11) AND ARE FOSTERING HIS BROTHER'S CHILDREN (RAJA AND BHAVANA, BOTH 11) AS THEIR MOTHER PASSED AWAY. THEY ARE A HAPPY BLENDED FAMILY.

According to recent Indian research, almost 122 million people have lost their jobs linked to COVID-19, Archana's family is no different. She says, "My husband lost his full-time job and now he takes temporary jobs to make ends meet. We are living by borrowing money and any income he earns but we are in more debt than before."

Their family lives in one room in a medium sized house, in the other rooms live Archana's step-mother's family. She says, "It's very stressful as we have had issues with my step-mother's family previously and I worry about the children living in a chaotic environment."

With four children and no school things are difficult. Archana says, "It's not easy for

me, as I have to manage all of them, they play and fight all the time. It is a challenge but we go with the flow, I am very grateful because the children are pitching in."

Bhavana, 4th grader says, "It has been fun to be at home all day during the lockdown. I watch TV and love making miniature furniture with my siblings. I miss school but I am happy because I celebrated my birthday at home. Birthdays at school are no fun." She also misses the after-school programme at our Kannagi Nagar hub.

The children are watching the learning videos for English and Math that our before-and-after school care team share on Whatsapp groups during lockdown. Archana says, "The children are showing a lot of improvement in Math and are

learning English with the after-school programme."

Bhavana says, "The videos help us learn the alphabet, phonics and words in English. I liked the phonic video a lot!"

While Bhavana loves being at home, it's not the same for Ramcharan who is also in 4th grade.

He says, "It was initially fun but now I miss school." He struggles to learn the English alphabet without the teacher's help. "I practice my alphabet and words with the videos they send but I get confused sometimes."

For low income families with more than one child, depending on one phone with poor internet connection makes studying difficult. It can stagnate their future academic growth. Archana says, "It is very difficult to teach all four of them at home; we are eagerly waiting for schools to reopen, so that they can pick up from where they left off."

To bring some security to children and with your support, we are providing food packages but also emotional support. Archana says, "This helps a lot in our time of need, they listen to our struggles and show they care. We felt hopeless at the start of the pandemic and were scared for our family's safety. The food relief packages are a great help and we are very grateful to be receiving it."



NEPAL



FOR SITA, 16, BECOMING A CHILD ACTIVIST WITH OUR PARTNER FIVE YEARS AGO WAS A NEW AND CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE.

Having been born into a poor family of six, getting the opportunity to be educated and look towards the future was something she only imagined. Now she actively uses her new-found awareness to help her friends be brave and refuse child marriage and other stereotypical traditions. Little did she know that this year, COVID-19 would present other challenging conditions with Government lockdowns and school closures. Used to being outspoken in the community, Sita is speaking up. Aside from helping her parents with household chores, she has not stopped studying and has been reading and writing for two hours in the evening and in the morning. She has been encouraging her siblings and friends to develop the habit of reading during this time too. Other than studying, she has been listening to the radio regarding COVID-19 at home, and has kept her family safe by staying aware of what is happening. Despite the remoteness of her village, Sita has been in constant touch with friends, urging them to pay attention to hygiene during this time. She also speaks to her community about wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining social distance. We met with Sita and her family while distributing food relief and are pleased to also see her continuing work against child marriage, chaupadi (she used to practice menstrual isolation but doesn't anymore), and gender discrimination. Well done, Sita!

THE REMOTENESS AND DEPTH OF OUR PROJECTS IN NEPAL THAT RANGE FROM A SCHOOL IN KATHMANDU TO THOSE IN REMOTE AND RURAL WESTERN NEPAL MEANS ACCESSIBILITY AND LOGISTICS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A CHALLENGE.

Those challenges have been amplified during this difficult time, despite this our Partners have been able to step up to ensure the children you support and their families have been welfare checked and provided food relief. Furthermore, our Partners have taken the opportunity to establish and strengthen accessibility, expand infrastructure of schools and improve educational components that we offer our students.



A STUDY BY OUR PARTNER IN NEPAL FOUND THAT IT WASN'T JUST CHILDREN AND DAILY WAGE LABORERS BUT ALSO PREGNANT AND POSTNATAL WOMEN WERE MOST AT RISK DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

Despite this they pivoted quickly providing an emergency response. This included food relief assistance for those at-risk-mothers, beyond our children and their families in our Program, as well providing additional hygiene equipment and PPE for Health Centres servicing the remote villages where we work in coordination with local NGOs and Local Government.

- A total of 118 postnatal mothers were provided food relief. Without any family income to help them maintain an appropriate nutrition level and food consumption during their pregnancy and after birth. They were educated on how they can protect their baby and family from COVID-19 and maintain high hygiene practices at home.
- A total of 488 children and their families received the food relief, without any family income those children would have gone hungry without your support.

We want to acknowledge that all of this was achieved by our Partners despite food supply shortages in the country due to lockdowns and increased costs. In addition, our Partners have looked beyond basic staples and have now boosted the nutritional value of food provided in order to improve the immune system of each child and their family.



CHADNI SPENT LOCKDOWN IN SCHOOL

BANGLADESH

OUR SCHOOLS IN BANGLADESH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A HUB FOR A FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES, WITH CHILD CLUBS, TEACHER TRAINING, COURTYARD MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS GATHERINGS.

While our regular activities have had to be paused, our Partner has been able to channel funds and activities into school renovations creating better learning environments for our children, as well as providing food relief. Almost 200 families have been regularly supplied with food such as rice, dal, potato, oil, salt, onion, and garlic. They have also received hygiene supplies - hand wash, soap,

detergent powder, mask, hand gloves, toothpaste and brush. Puja Roy is one of our students studying in Grade 3. Her family live in a rented house. Her father works in a barber shop, and does not have enough income to meet the needs of the family, especially with everything closed the past few months. Our food packages have ensured her family has three meals a day.

CHADNI, IN GRADE FOUR, IS A GENTLE LITTLE GIRL LIVING AND STUDYING IN ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS IN BANGLADESH. SHE CAME TO THE SCHOOL IN 2013 BROUGHT BY ONE OF HER AUNTS.

Chadni couldn't go home when the lockdown was announced as her parents separated and she was abandoned as a child. She has two younger sisters who live with their grandparents but they are unable to support her as well although they both work in the fields. During lockdown, she has been attending the school's online classes regularly and in free time she plays on the beautiful campus grounds. She is excited to see the new school buildings that are taking shape with your support. She is eagerly waiting for school to officially open and her friends to come back in person rather than see them online.

"I AM ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE FOOD I HAVE HERE. IF I STAYED WITH MY GRANDPARENTS, I WOULDN'T GET THREE MEALS A DAY," SHE SAYS.

Chadni hopes to complete her education and go on to nursing. "I want to serve patients in poor communities like mine, to remove all suffering, be a light for society and show Christian virtues through my life and service", she said.



WITH THE WORLD CHANGING SO RAPIDLY AND THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN ALONG WITH IT, WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO CHANNEL FUNDS TO WHERE THE NEEDS ARE MOST REQUIRED, AND WHERE OUR CHILDREN WOULD BE BENEFITTED THE BEST.

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 TO SCHOOL

As we begin to look at how we return children to school when it is safe to do so, we want to focus on how we can improve our school environments, increase teacher training and support materials. We would like to see students return to a better environment than they had when they left.



RETURN TO LEARNING

While we remain positive we are also aware of the challenges of a pandemic in the developing world. Our aim is to, wherever possible, provide the tools, equipment, resources, technology, data and infrastructure to ensure that the children have the ability to continue to learn whatever the challenges that arise in-country.



FAMILY FOOD FUND

For just \$40 per month you can help provide food security for a family of four. This will ensure that while our sponsored children remain at home, they (and their family) have enough food to eat.

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Our Special Needs Schools help children who may otherwise miss the opportunity to be educated to 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, whether that be building renovations, new education programs to fight poverty, slavery and trafficking or new school resources or 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 #Meet-The-Need

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 _____

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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 _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



POST TO PO BOX 333 Wauchope,
NSW 2446, Australia

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

SPONSOR A CHILD

We currently have children under our care and because of the current situation impacting on all of us, **WE NOW HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 342 CHILDREN WHO NEED SUPPORT.** As the economic conditions worsen we expect this issue to increase.

Here are just three examples of why these children need your help.



ANGELA ROY
BBO1369 - \$55

Four-year-old Angela loves drawing and reading. She lives with her family of six, including three siblings, in a tin shed house located in low-lying land in Bangladesh. Her father is a day laborer and the family gets by with his meagre income. Will you fulfil her dream of becoming a teacher by sponsoring her?



SHYAM A
OIO1211 - \$55

Shyam is 8 years old and lives in India. His favourite activities are kabadi and hide and seek. He is part of our football program, which has also provided boys with an alternative to wandering the streets, instilling determination and discipline in a safe and supportive environment. We need a sponsor for him so he can continue his education and go on to make his dream of becoming a doctor come true.



LIKHON HALDER
A19177 - \$55

Sponsored since 2016, Likhon is a well behaved and happy student who enjoys school. Likhon likes to draw and colour. He wants to grow up to be a teacher. His father works as a rural day labourer but his small income only covers their daily meals, and he cannot afford to pay for his son's education. Now his sponsor has withdrawn his support because of unforeseen circumstances so we require a sponsor to ensure Likhon continues his education.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

- Sponsorship at \$49 a month
 Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

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

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____

Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

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All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible



YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



POST TO

PO BOX 333
 Wauchope,
 NSW 2446, Australia