



UPDATE: May 2021

What is being done to look after sponsored children during the pandemic?

Around the world, Compassion staff and local church partners are supporting sponsored children and their families. Many Compassion projects are temporarily closed to group activities, but not all activities have stopped.

Some local church partners are carrying out home visits, phone calls or WhatsApp messages to check on the welfare of children and their families. They have been delivering medical supplies, hygiene kits, extra food, water, and other resources to help during this crisis. In Honduras, with special government permission, Compassion's church partners are delivering daily food packages to 10,800 families currently unable to work due to COVID-19 restrictions.

For Ivis and his grandmother, Renia, the food package containing 15 days of supplies came just in time. "Renia broke down in tears when we delivered the groceries," explains Nifa, a Project Director. "They had just run out of food and had no one to turn to. I was moved to tears as well. If not for Compassion's rapid response, Ivis and his grandmother would have been left adrift like so many in our country."

How are they prepared to deal with a crisis like this?



For example, in the Dominican Republic churches have been distributing leaflets and posters to educate the community about preventing COVID-19.

How is Compassion equipping local communities to cope with COVID-19?

Like the programme that sponsored children participates in at their local church, Compassion's response to COVID-19 is contextualised to fit the needs of each church partner and their community.



In El Salvador, where nearly a third of the country's

population lives in poverty, local church partners have been holding educational sessions for children and their parents to teach them how to prevent the virus by maintaining good hygiene.



How is sponsorship money being used during the crisis?

While projects are temporarily closed to large group activities, project staff and volunteers are finding creative ways to support children and deliver the Compassion programme and meet the urgent needs of families by providing necessities such as food, clean water, shelter, clothing, household items, and even medical care and trauma counselling.

In [Honduras](#), Jeffry, a Compassion tutor, has been finding innovative ways to share his project lessons during lockdown.

"Some of our youths have access to mobile phones," shares Jeffry, "so I started recording and narrating Bible lessons. After wrapping my videos, I send them to the families. For the younger children, I've developed handmade visuals and colouring pages which I take to their houses."

OUTWARD GIVING

Our role is to provide a bridge between our church and its members, mission and the groups we support and pray for.
See bhcgodalming/mission/outward-giving

If you would like to be involved in this group or would like to find out more about our bursary scheme for short mission projects, please contact mission@bhcgodalming.org

Great challenges remain... so Compassion have also launched a COVID-19 Emergency Appeal to equip them to go further in supporting vulnerable families. Donations to the appeal will enable Compassion's church partners to give further emergency hygiene, food and housing support, including to children and families who are not registered in Compassion's programmes. <https://www.compassionuk.org/>

What can sponsors do?

For those with sponsored children do keep writing to them. It means a lot to know that they are not forgotten at this difficult time. If you can, send a small family gift that can also make a world of difference and enable them to buy more food or other necessities. One sponsored child whose family received a family gift were able to buy a bicycle meaning the mother could take her produce to town to sell as there were few customers passing their village during the pandemic.

Above all pray for-

- Protection from the virus for all children registered with Compassion and their families.
- Churches running the projects and doing their best to support the families and their communities, and witness to God's love in very practical ways.
- Children longing for a sponsor to be encouraged, loved and cared for during this long wait.
- Sponsors and their families who have been impacted by the virus.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

1. By BACS transfer:

Bank: NatWest, Godalming Branch

Sort Code: 60-09-04

Account name: **Busbridge PCC**

Account no: 00705349 | Ref: <charity>

2. www.bhcgodalming.org/giving

3. Cheque payable to Busbridge PCC.

Please use the giving envelope available from both churches!

4. The GoodBox contactless card reader at Busbridge Church. Donations made via the Goodbox during and over Easter, Harvest and Christmas will go to OG Appeal.

