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Impact

AND RESPONSE



Introduction

Every year, the Itaka-Escolapios network conducts an international solidarity campaign to help, support, and sustain a Scolopi Mission project. There have been campaigns for Philippines, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

However, this year, Itaka-Escolapios has decided not to support just one single project, but the Scolopi Mission as a whole. Given the impact of the current pandemic, they want to help children and young people, especially the poorest or those in most need. They are going to help and support any or several projects which need help during this difficult time.

The pandemic is increasing vulnerability not only to people, children, or young people, but also to institutions and the specific projects that, as Scolopi missionaries, we are maintaining and supporting from Itaka-Escolapios.

That is why this campaign is seeking to **collaborate with the General Scolopi Mission** to help the poorest children from all over the world.

Then, this network must distribute the benefits of this campaign according to the needs and specific challenges.

Impact

During these past months of 2020, the health emergency has caused a loss of about 200 thousands euros for the Itaka-Escolapios Network. Sadly, in terms of external, public, or private contributions, we expect the worst is yet to come.

Africa

We are concerned about the potential effects of an outbreak of the disease, due to the weak health system and the existence of previous structural problems.

Western Africa (Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Senegal)

All schools, boarding schools, churches, and social centres are closed, but not everyone has the resources to continue their classes and exams online.

The situation of homeless children is very hard and, under these circumstances, they are even more vulnerable.

Central Africa (Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Gabon, DR Congo)

The weakness of the health system is alarming.

The educational resources available have not allowed the access of online education during the lockdown, so other alternatives had to be found.

In addition, in Northern Cameroon the situ-



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ation is worse due to armed warfare.

Mozambique

Infections were principally transmitted due to international circulation caused by the multinationals and major natural resources from the area. However, the country has a very poor healthcare infrastructure to face this situation.

The health and diet situation is alarming because many families live from a survival economy.

The worsening of the armed warfare is adding to the health crisis. This is causing the movement to our area of families who run away from violence, and need to be helped and fed in our church.

America

The pandemic crisis has affected each country very differently.

Mexico

We have been able to keep in touch with users and workers via social media and the Internet.

It is concerning the socioeconomic situation of a large number of families who depend on informal economy and maintaining Scolopi projects, during a crisis.

Venezuela

We have had to take care of the diet and health factors by delivery food at home. The access to fuel has become complicated. Several online training activities have been launched in order to ease the situation.

Bolivia

It is difficult to generalize the contact, al-

though it is maintained, between the educative community due to the lack of resources.

To solve the supply problems that there have been in cities, we have delivered food from our churches.

Our residence has been open to help children get access to the Internet, since they do not have it in their houses.

Generally, the concern about the nearest future has increased.

Brazil

The only place open has been Casa Lar to continue working as a home for those children who they provide shelter to.

Hunger is increasing in many families of our environment.

Asia

The aid promised by governments is not yet specified, while the situation is getting worse for the population.

India

A severe lockdown was decreed in an attempt to stop the virus from spreading in India, a country with over a billion inhabitants.

They do not know when the new school year will begin.

Indonesia

It is concerning, especially, the region's poverty situation.

Both boarding school and after-school projects are paralyzed.

Philippines

One of the severest and hardest lockdowns



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to comply was the one decreed in the context of a country where people live from day to day and earn a living daily in the streets. In this case, there have been very severe human rights' breaches reported.

The situation is worse in Kiblawan as its population was recovering from the earthquake that destroyed our school in December, 2019.

Europe

Assisting the educative and social needs from the most vulnerable collectives has been our priority.

Spain

Homes were still open following the sanitary measures.

Calasang Movement's activities have telematically continued and the camps have been adapted to the situation.

We have reached the most vulnerable families by phone, and we have been with those who did not have the possibility of continuing online classes.

We have tried to alleviate the "digital gap" from the most affected families.

Response

At Itaka-Escolapios, we have been working on solidary interdependence and global joint responsibility as our network's identity marks.

Which measures has the Itaka-Escolapios Network initiated to face the current crisis?

- **Assisting, when possible, people from our projects.** Adapting activities to their needs, even with the closing of schools,

social centres, and Scolopi projects. All of this while complying with the sanitary measures. Having also in mind the difficulty of working through the Internet in many cases, because the lack of access for many families and, even, in centers.

- **Identifying and supporting under new problems and needs worsen by the crisis.** Food and basic products aids, sanitary and hygienic equipment distribution, underage and families awareness on prevention measures.
- **Examine Itaka-Escolapios' budgets on each country and office and adapt them to the actual situation.** Unfortunately, some of the income for supporting projects is not coming in, so we are forced to reduce expenses in order to ensure the most essential coverage, and to hold back investment.
- **Intensify communication and joint responsibility feeling.** Within the network, especially in this situation, in order to share information, concerns, good practices, and hope.

Some solidary gestures:

- In some educative communities, extraordinary donations to the Scolopi Mission were made by PTAs, sporting clubs, etc.
- Some religious orders have minimized their personal allowance in order to distribute it into the nearest needs.
- Some fraternities have proposed to reinforce the solidary commitment beyond tithe in this situation of special need.
- People, whose income has not been affected, are willing to offer their bonuses as a special donation.