

ALERT: A dramatic rise in food insecurity is intensifying childhood malnutrition. Compassion is leading a local-first response. Learn more at [**compassion.com.au/globalfoodcrisis**](https://compassion.com.au/globalfoodcrisis)



An Update from a Partnership Facilitator

Dear Friend,

Would you like to take a closer look at our local church partners' work?

We recently asked each of our partnership facilitators some questions about their local region. Partnership facilitators are Compassion staff that oversee a group of 10-15 church partners in their area. They encourage the vision of the local church, advocate for children in poverty and ensure program effectiveness and good stewardship of funding.

As you read, we pray you'll be inspired by the dedication of our church partners to see children thrive.

How are the child development centres using their resources to help children and their families?

Our amazing staff put fears and worries aside so that they can be completely sure that our beneficiaries and their families have been well-assisted these last two years. Besides distributing hygiene packs and food packs, we also made sure to assist our teenage beneficiaries through online meetings. Even at the peak of pandemic, our staff volunteered to assist beneficiary's families who were infected by Covid 19. They didn't hesitate to do it and kept adhering to strict health protocols. The staff still provided assistance and trained beneficiary families to use their yards to grow vegetables and raise chicken or catfish for their daily intake with natural protein. They really care about our beneficiaries, meanwhile being vigilant and taking care of their own families too.

How have program activities and letter writing been affected over the last two years?

The pandemic has greatly affected our ministry due to restrictions imposed by our government.

We were worried that we couldn't assist the children, however, various available technologies have allowed us to keep assisting our beneficiaries. Mentors can still communicate with our beneficiaries through online applications. By adhering to health protocols, we continue to make sure that our beneficiaries stay healthy. For the child letters, children couldn't attend activities at the center so they couldn't write letters to their sponsors. Even mentors couldn't help the children write letters at home because of restrictions on gathering. The conditions have been getting much better and children can now write letters in small groups at the centers, adhering to strict health protocols.

How is local life different now compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic?

The current life is totally different than the life before pandemic. School children could only learn online from home. Even though the situation has been getting better, every face-to-face class is limited to 50% of the total capacity. Parents have to struggle to afford their family's daily needs, as most of them lost their jobs in the pandemic and income is very limited in this current circumstance.

How are the church partners in your region impacting their communities?

The church plays a major role in the spiritual growth of the congregation and entire community. In a time when onsite service is still limited, our church partner continues to serve the congregation through online services and continues to be committed to providing devotional materials for use in family home services. The creative youth of the church provides reflections through short movies or praise songs uploaded to YouTube. This activity doesn't only help them grow spiritually, but at the same time, develops their creativity to share the truth of God through varied methods.

How can we pray for the churches, children and youth you serve?

I wish you to pray for the recovery of families who have been directly affected by Covid 19, so that they can get a job and continue their business again. Please pray for learning activities to resume normally at school and the center. Last but not least, pray that God grant our church leaders wisdom to lead their congregation and facilitate every family to continue to grow.

Warmly,

Raditya Paramandaru

Partnership Facilitator for IO0600



Thank you for your ongoing prayer for children in poverty