



Impact Report / Summer 2020

You Make a Difference





I Am Writing to You From South Sudan

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every facet of the personal and professional lives of people around the world. The trauma brought on by this virus for people from all walks of life cannot be understated. And we continue to live in a world where there is no cure or effective treatment for the disease yet.

At the government level, this pandemic has laid bare political, economic, and security vulnerabilities—especially in low-income nations around the world. In my home country of South Sudan, where health systems have been starved of investment; economic activity has been brought to a halt; and communication infrastructure such as telephone networks, radio, and internet are almost non-existent, the suffering is compounded. Places of worship, the one thing many people have to fall back on, have been shut down to avoid the vicious spread of the virus, putting a deep, spiritual strain on communities.

While the impact of the virus varies from country to country, it will more likely than not, increase inequalities at the individual, community, and national levels for years to come.

As a health organization with a critical mass of frontline staff, CMMB and its partners have mobilized resources to ensure our health facility staff are re-trained and provided with PPE. We have improved our technical infrastructure, allowing field staff to work remotely whenever possible. Moreover, patient protection has been at the heart of this resource mobilization. Throughout this publication, you will learn about the many interventions CMMB is implementing to protect the frontline healthcare workers, communities, women, and children we proudly serve.

The next few months will be a challenge as we focus on the implementation of the COVID-19 response plan and



continue providing critical health services to women and children living in extreme conditions. However, the resilience of those we serve compels us to stay positive and keep the faith. We are blessed to have your generous support.

Thank you,

Jacqueline George

Jacqueline George
CMMB South Sudan, Country Director

Working on Three Fronts in our Five Countries

Around the world, COVID-19 numbers continue to rise at alarming rates—especially in countries least equipped to respond to an outbreak. At CMMB, our current challenge is to urgently promote proven life-saving interventions while helping keep families and health workers stay safe from COVID-19 in the five countries where we work: Haiti, Kenya, Peru, South Sudan, and Zambia.

Toward that end, CMMB has focused on three strategic pillars:

1

PREVENTION:

Water, sanitation, and hygiene have long been a critical need in poor, low resource countries. Hand washing is a key factor in helping stop the spread of disease, and our generous donors have supported CMMB to provide **more than 100 handwashing stations** and soap to health facilities and communities. In addition, we have **trained thousands of community health workers**, who travel on foot or by bicycle to sensitize communities on the importance of handwashing for infection prevention.

2

PROTECTION:

CMMB continues to procure supplies for frontline healthcare workers to ensure their health and safety so that they may continue to treat those we serve and slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirators and hand sanitizers. In addition, we have arranged for **airlifts** to expedite the delivery, distribution, and use of supplies in-country. We are also exploring local manufacturing options to ensure a **sustainable supply of PPE** to meet the ongoing needs of frontline health-care workers.

3

PREPAREDNESS:

We continue working with national and local health leaders to maximize our impact with a coordinated response. Our participation reflects the value that host countries have put on our longstanding efforts to increase access to healthcare in the communities we serve. Additionally, community health workers have also been trained to support case screening and triaging, isolation ward set-up, and contact tracing.



1,800

health workers
equipped with
protective gear



6
months
of lifesaving
medicines



122
communities
provided with
hygiene
supplies



100
community
handwashing
stations



96
facilities
equipped

COVID-19 Interventions in Action

In each of the five countries where we serve, our field teams are working to prevent, protect, and prepare. As each country comes with a unique set of challenges and advantages, the strategy to combat COVID-19 must be tailored to fit their specific needs. Read about our progress in each of our countries as of June 1st, 2020.

HAITI

CMMB Haiti, Country Director, Dr. Dianne Jean-François' extensive disaster relief experience taught her the importance of early response and the difference it will make. By mid-April, Dr. Jean-François' team had already trained more than 1,000 health workers on COVID-19 prevention and interventions.



PERU

CMMB provided over 200 community health workers with PPE and is providing those with lost incomes with food support. In addition, CMMB is providing mental health workshops for healthcare workers as we care for those who provide care. Our Peru team also supplied soap and hygiene materials to over 1,500 people.



SOUTH SUDAN

CMMB has set up triage centers at Yambio State and Ezo hospitals, with another slated to open at St. Therese Hospital, where CMMB has recently completed a new operating theater, maternity ward, and blood bank. In addition, CMMB installed a permanent handwashing tap at the Yambio site that will last beyond COVID-19, making handwashing a standard protocol for hospital visitors. CMMB also coordinated an airlift of critical PPE and other supplies to South Sudan to ensure rapid delivery.

KENYA

To encourage handwashing and help improve overall hygiene, CMMB rapidly procured and installed 59 handwashing stations and rainwater harvesting systems for three health facilities and heavily trafficked public areas such as markets. Soap and hand sanitizer were also provided in these locations.

ZAMBIA

Adolescent girls in our DREAMS program began sewing masks for their community and are selling them in just the first week, they sewed 790 cloth masks and sold 270. In Mwandi, the site of many of our maternal and child health projects, 30 handwashing stations have been installed at key points and health facilities, and cases of hand sanitizer and soap have been distributed.



CHAMPS and COVID-19 Response

The long-term commitments to communities we make as part of our **CHAMPS** (Children and Mothers Partnerships) program are in complete alignment with slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases.

The programmatic efforts of **CHAMPS** are in complete alignment with slowing and stopping the spread of disease and pandemics.

Providing healthcare that is accessible to all is critical for reducing morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19 and all pandemics. Building this infrastructure and expanding services are part of CMMB's long term strategy for addressing the basic and more complex health challenges in the communities we serve.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by poverty. Marginalized and vulnerable, their choices and options are limited. Strong health facilities and improved education are essential to long-term sustainable change, as they address the root causes that restrict women and children from living healthier lives.



These improvements include increasing access to essential health services, providing clean water to communities, eliminating malnutrition, strengthening local health facilities, and empowering local communities. At health facilities, CMMB focuses on ensuring that hospitals

and clinics are properly equipped and that health workers are trained to meet the needs of pregnant women and young children. Community health workers monitor the health of at-risk families and their access to clean water, nutrition, and health facilities.

A Catholic Response to COVID-19

These are uncertain and challenging times for the entire human family. The COVID-19 virus has tested our health systems, unraveled our economy, and turned upside down the social structures that define us as a community. The coronavirus poses a moral test for all of us and how we respond will reveal who we are, what we value, and whether we will act on our convictions in a time of overwhelming suffering and isolation.

“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” In (Matthew 25) Jesus tells us we will be judged by our compassion for “the least of these.”

— Pope Francis

Fortunately, our faith and our Catholic principles, as expressed through Catholic social teaching, provide us with a road map for navigating this pandemic. Central to Catholic social thought is the belief that human life and dignity are sacred and must be protected. Though it is alien to our sense of community and solidarity, the practice of “social distancing” and “sheltering in place,” while pragmatic to the preservation of our own health and those dear to us, are also moral imperatives. Ignatius Loyola said that love is shown in deeds not words, and so “social distancing” is an act of love to protect the health and well-being of those around us, especially the most vulnerable. So too are the actions of all essential workers, who place themselves at great personal risk for the greater good of us all.

Another tenet of Catholic social teaching is the “preferential option for the poor” among us. Pope Francis said, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” In (Matthew 25) Jesus tells us we will be judged by our compassion for “the least of these”.

At CMMB these two tenets of Catholic social teaching are at the heart of our mission and drive the programs we deliver in rural communities. COVID-19 poses the greatest challenge and threat to our brothers and sisters in the developing world, which, even in the best of times, are crippled by a lack of clean water and sanitation, under-resourced health facilities and health personnel, and weak government institutions and health policies.

Inadequate access to healthcare coupled with the spread of this global pandemic has made dire situations nearly untenable. Lacking protective equipment, testing, adequate oxygen, and suitable containment facilities, hospitals are woefully unprepared



Sr. Laura Gemignani, St. Therese Hospital

for the crisis, and the already limited health staff are at high risk of infection. A lack of education about the virus, a shortage of clean water and hygiene supplies and cramped living quarters make prevention a challenge and community transmission very likely.

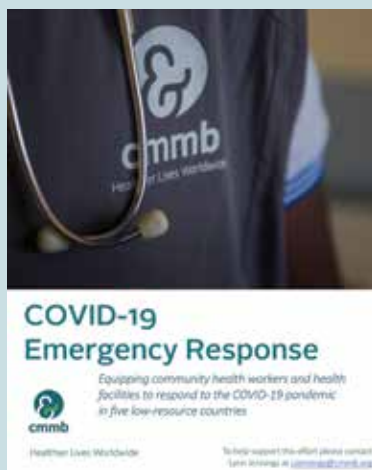
We are facing a calamity that is long in the making and it will be with us for months and years to come. CMMB is responding to the need in the communities where we work by reallocating existing resources and committing new ones to the relief and recovery effort. **The moral measure of how each of us responds to this pandemic is ultimately how we treat those who are most vulnerable.**

In times of great crisis, it is easy to turn inward and to focus on our needs and self-preservation. But our faith calls us to act in solidarity, as one human family. In the isolation of “social distancing” we must not become solitary and indifferent to the growing needs of others. If there is one lesson to be learned, it is that we are all in this together.



We Have a Way To Go

In March, as the COVID-19 pandemic quickly spread across the globe and into the communities where CMMB operates, CMMB committed to mounting a **\$1.9 million** effort to provide relief to our health partners and staff in five countries. CMMB immediately made \$450,000 available for the purchase of personal protection equipment and essential hygiene supplies. To date, we have secured \$800,000 in commitments towards this goal.



COVID-19 Emergency Response



The Mastercard Foundation Challenge Grant

The Mastercard Foundation has provided CMMB with a \$250,000 challenge grant to raise new resources committed to our COVID-19 response and a CMMB Board member has added an additional \$100,000 to that challenge making \$350,000 available to be matched. We invite you to help us meet this challenge



opportunity by adding your support to our crisis response. Your gift will be used to provide clean water to

health facilities, additional protective equipment, sanitation and hygiene supplies that will be required in the months ahead and on-going prevention initiatives including testing in communities.

We are grateful to the many CMMB supporters who responded so generously to our early appeals for assistance and ask for your continued support.



CMMB Rated
Four Stars,
Nine Years in a Row



Meets Better
Business Bureau's
20 Standards for
Charity Accountability



For more information please contact our Partnerships Team at 212-609-2597 or info@cmmb.org.



100 Wall Street, Floor 9
New York, NY 10005

Connect with us!

CMMBWorldwide

cmmbtweets

CMMB — Healthier Lives Worldwide

cmmbworldwide

cmmb.org

800.678.5659