



Sight

The Global Newsletter of International Needs
JULY 2021

WELCOME FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ.

I'm pleased to bring you this issue of Insight, which gives you a glimpse into the activities of the global network. As you read the highlights from your Partners, I hope you'll join me in prayer for the health of our employees, volunteers, and beneficiaries, and for the effectiveness of our many programmes and projects.

Given the challenges in our world today, I'm so grateful for your commitment to carrying on with your ministry. Without exception, our National Directors and their teams have forged ahead in the midst of many restrictions and lockdowns.

But the impact of the pandemic has not all been negative; we've witnessed some innovative interventions and new ways of carrying on with ministry. The main focus of this newsletter is Education and Christian Witness, in support of the ongoing conversations in our Virtual Discussion and Learning Forum.

For the rest of the year, we look forward to deeper collaboration and stronger communication within the global network. There is more we can achieve together, so let's keep hope alive.

With much appreciation and gratitude to all.

Edmond Vanderpuye
General Secretary, International Needs



IN BANGLADESH



There is no end to God's blessing in our lives

On behalf of the International Needs Bangladesh family, we would like to convey our sincere Christian love and best wishes to every one of you. And we want to glorify God the Father.

INGAP: Children in Bangladesh face many risks from poverty, hunger, natural disaster, child labour, forced marriage and domestic violence. INCAP has been running here for 47 years, but there have always been many children who have never been sponsored. The new International Needs Group Assistance Program (INGAP) launched in 2020 with support from IN Canada for 150 at-risk children at Naogoan Free School and Jashore.

INGAP Activities: Although the schools have been closed, we have completed many activities under the new INGAP program: Home visits, medical services for children, hygiene training, food parcels for children and their families, distribution of educational materials to keep children engaged in learning.

Mental Health Support: Another area of great focus for INGAP has been to provide mental health support for children affected by the pandemic, exploitation, and abuse. Our goal is to help children grow up mentally healthy and strong, so they can be the future of the nation. The first work has started this year with many children at Naogoan and Jashore.

The story of John: When he was 3 years old, Jihan got typhoid fever that left him physically handicapped and unable to walk. He loves ice cream, and he loves to learn, which is why his parents enrolled him in Naogoan Free School. Now 9 years old, Jihan can't run and play with his classmates, but he has many dreams. When you ask him what he wants to be when he grows up, he says with a smile: I want to be a doctor so I can treat other children and they don't have to suffer like I did. His smile reflected his love for the future of the world.

IN BURKINA FASO



The spirit is alive and well

Education: Food aid has brought relief to many students and their families, and allowed us to achieve a 97% success rate in the exams. The Muslim community was afraid to send their children to our school because they feared we would evangelize their children. This fear has now disappeared and we are receiving many children who are ready to receive any kind of education. We now have about 700 students attending our school with an average of 50 students per class.

"Parents who have never been to school are proud to see their children go to school because it is surely for them the way to success for their descendants."

Gospel outreach: Sharing the word of God with all people is a mission of extreme importance here in Burkina. In the first half of the year 2021, two non-Christian communities have been touched by the word of God. About 20,000 people heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and about 3,000 gave their lives to Him. God glorified his Name, people who were blind from birth began to see for the first time; paralytics began to walk again; many sick people were healed. God has extended his Hand and at every stage of this crisis, we have seen his intervention. Our lives have been preserved and the poorest have had food.

IN COLOMBIA



Serving through multiple crises

Poverty and Protests! Our country has been suffering through the most significant year-over-year increase in poverty ever, thanks to the pandemic. At the same time, public protests have led to violent clashes with police, and the loss of life. The UN and European Union have called for dialogue to address the crisis unfolding in Colombia. We pray that with international help the parties will reach an agreement.

The Rosa de Saron school continues virtually due to government regulations. Students use tablets to complete activities, deliver presentations, and submit assignments. They long to return to face-to-face classes with their peers.

Food relief: 140 immigrant families from Venezuela received basic food baskets stocked with rice, pasta, oats, corn flour, wheat flour, whole milk powder, vegetable oil, brown sugar, salt, lentils, sardines, sugar, eggs and cookies.

Children's Day was celebrated in April. 170 kids, including elementary school students and children from the neediest communities, received happy meals from McDonald's. It was a wonderful day full of surprises.

IN CZECH REPUBLIC



Serving the community through COVID

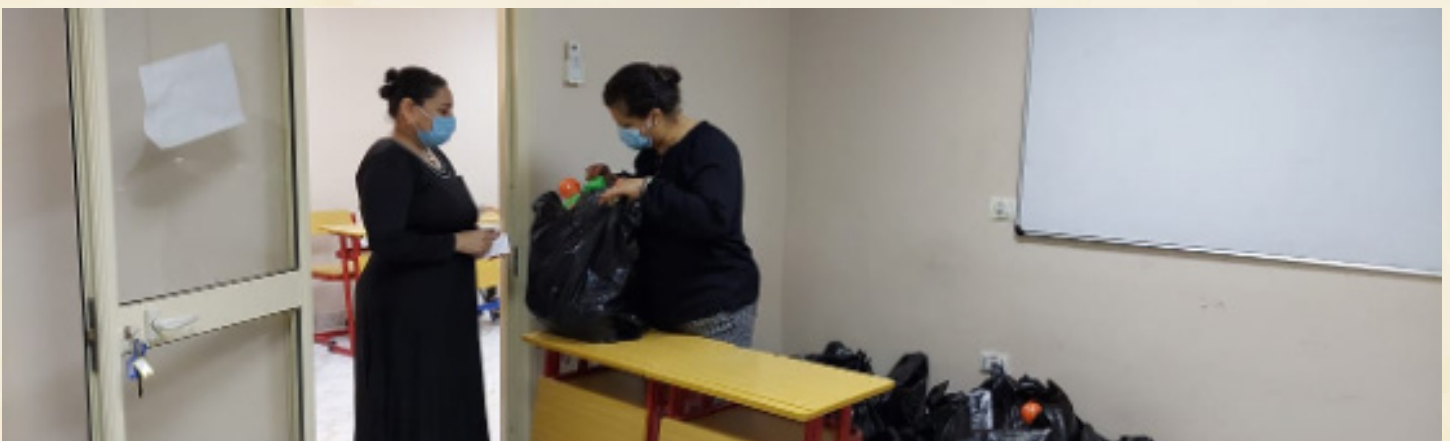
Online programs: During lockdown, Healthy Youth (HY) program workers created online versions of their programs for schools.

“The teachers are quite desperate for online education. Most of the children usually turn off their PC cameras and microphones. I am so glad that my online programs are different. Most of the pupils attending my online programs turn their PC cameras on and actively participate on the program. I am so glad that this possibility opened for us and our ministry.” • HY worker Jitka Kultova

Bringing the gospel to children through one-to-one meetings: Some HY workers preferred to meet directly with the children.

“We believe that the best way to present Jesus is through live face-to-face meetings. This way is complicated these days, but it is not impossible! Our leisure time club for children is listed also as a Social Service, so our clients are allowed to visit us personally. We took advantage of the situation and began a “one-to-one” tutoring program for children. As we are going through the learning materials, we always try to talk to each child openly. We encourage the pupils and show them God and his values. We meet many children with difficult life stories. So, we carry them and try to be their friends.” • HY worker Vaclav Jiricek

IN EGYPT



Finding ways to support people affected by lockdown

Covid-19 has affected many families. Many people lost their jobs and income during this long time of lockdown. Responding to these urgent needs, we provided hundreds of bags of food in addition to money to help people. We try to gather small groups in the center to have some time praying and teaching the gospel. We visited Syrian refugees. We had meetings with them to encourage them and share the love of Jesus in practical way.

IN GHANA



The Kingdom work continues

Ministering to spiritual needs: Throughout the pandemic IN Ghana has found creative ways to carry on spiritual conversations, gospel presentations, fellowship, Bible studies, and prayer. We have reached thousands with the salvation message of Jesus Christ, sometimes using technology, sometimes in homes, and sometimes in gathering places wearing full protective gear.

Participating in God's mission: Despite the fact that we are not out of the woods, our commitment to mission work goes on unabated, including planting churches. We have used technology to build capacity in pursuit of effective Christian witness and offered virtual seminars for Sunday School teachers.

Experiences implementing INGAP: In November 2020, we launched a new INGAP program with 375 children organized into groups based on themes, such as special needs, creative abilities, and single parent homes. Each group is assigned a mentor. The selection process was exciting; parents were engaged, and it was an emotional experience for some of the children. The good news that they were going to receive support brought joy to them. They promised to do their best to make full use of the support.

One participant says: *"I like the INGAP because we have learnt how to communicate and socialize, and we have learnt Bible stories, like the good Samaritan who teaches that we should those in need whether they are our friends or not."*



Patricia's dream is alive! Patricia was enrolled in INCAP at age five and is now the first child in a family of seven to be in Senior Secondary School. Patricia said "I had the desire to be in Senior High School but I had no hope due to the financial challenges at home. I was hawking twice a day; early morning before school and right after school.

"She no longer hawks because her educational needs were provided. Patricia passed the Basic Education Certificate Examination with distinction and gained admission to Okuapeman Senior High school to study Business Accounting. "My aspiration of being an Accountant is still alive."

IN INDIA



Experiencing God's faithfulness

Education: Our experiences with INCAP have been very exciting and fruitful, and we have been able to reach many groups and communities during this pandemic. With help from our supporters and prayer partners, ACTS Himalayas has helped and guided the lives of more than 500 children in their online studies. We were able to get them readmitted to schools and online classes where children had discontinued due to the loss of their parent's jobs. We were also able to pay their entire year's fees for some of the children so they could continue their online classes.

Christian witness: It was very difficult to minister to the spiritual needs of the communities in the midst of the pandemic; however, we were able to do lots of relief work where people were suffering. While feeding and distributing medical kits, we ministered to more than 800 people and their families. This was a highlight of our Christian faith. God heals the broken hearted, and He has been standing with us all along through this pandemic!

The story of Lydia Tamang - A child who was always quiet and shy crowd was brought to us at the age of 2 ½ years. Praise God today she is half way through her nursing course. She is just so good, talented and happy now to have chosen this profession to serve the people. Her Principal says, *"She is so gentle and called to serve."*



Rahul John: From vision to real life at ACTS Academy - Rahul grew up in a farming community in South India, which means he worked hard for little pay. Seeking higher wages, he moved to Bangalore, which is a tech hub and city of dreams. After working for a while, Rahul joined the ACTS Academy of Higher Education, where he's been studying theology and life skills. Rahul has gobbled up every lesson and applied his learnings to everyday situations, such as repairing broken relationships and improving his family's water consumption. More recently, he practiced his new writing skills to apply for a scholarship. He also persuaded the District Collector to set up a Covid quarantine centre in the village, where isolation was impossible. Ironically, Rahul

fell ill and became a temporary resident of the centre. While it wasn't fun being sick, he was able to 'enjoy the fruit' of the facility he had initiated. Rahul is one of ACTS Academy's dream students, because he is a living example of transformation.

IN KENYA



Lives being transformed

Kibera: Maxine, like many teenage girls, found herself pregnant as a result of abuse during COVID-19. INKE has been following up with food hampers and baby clothes. Maxine will be attending a local school so she can continue with her studies after six months of staying at home taking care of the baby.

Limuru: Stacy has been a beneficiary of International Needs Kenya since 2017. In March 2021, she achieved her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), and would like to become a doctor when she grows up. Stacy is grateful that International Needs has been there to help her realize her dream: *“Without International Needs assistance, it would not have been possible for me to attain good grades to join a high-ranking girl’s National school in Kenya,”* Stacy’s favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”*.

Grace Empowerment: Michael grew up in a home with physically violent parents. After realizing they didn’t care about him, he left home, dropped out of school, and ended up on the streets, where his hunger drove him to become a beggar and drug addict. After many years in and out of prison, Michael decided he was ready to reform, and Grace Empowerment moved him into their halfway house, where he began a journey of transformation. He is now sober, healthy, and running his own business selling clothes.

“I am very grateful for the Program Pastor brought to us. It has really helped me to work on my sobriety and reintegration into society. I will work hard to avoid temptations, because life on the street is very hard and undignified. Thank you for the business grant and for lifting me from the street. May God bless Pastor and expand his boundaries.”

Safe House - Real Hope Youth Community Organization, Kawangware: During their street work, the team at Real Hope found small Briana on the streets of Kawangware, a victim of immense physical and emotional abuse. They brought her to the safe house and she is on the road to recovery. She is currently undergoing counselling and receiving care and support while at the safe house. She now has a promising future and through International Needs support our prayer is that she will be fully restored.

IN NEPAL



Salt and light for a difficult time

Nepal was hit very hard by the second wave of COVID-19. Many of our beneficiaries and program teams were infected by the virus, and Nepal has a very weak health care system, so it has been difficult. Some vaccines were received as a gift from India and China and provided to front line workers and old age people. The government is trying to manage vaccines, but most people have not yet been vaccinated.

Education: IN Nepal is currently sponsoring children from primary to college level. Most of our children come from poor, rural and under-privileged families all over the country. Through the pandemic, we have been providing them with monthly support for their educational needs. The government has asked the schools to conduct the final exams virtually, but this is not possible, as few of our sponsored children have access to the internet or devices. After completing their studies, our sponsored children are involved in various professions; some went abroad to pursue further education, while others are working and studying simultaneously. We are currently drafting a new strategic plan to include a Group Assistance Programme (INGAP).

Christian Witness / Gospel Outreach: INNP community workers have been busy as salt and light, serving the physical and spiritual needs of the vulnerable in the community, completely depending on God and seeking empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Churches have turned to virtual services and home/family church, small group fellowship, channel prayer, and fasting prayers. All our beneficiaries are aware that we are a Christian organization, even though some of them are not Christian. In a country dominated by other religions, by the grace of God we are accepted by our beneficiaries. And when government officials came to evaluate our work, non-Christian families defended us and praised our work. **This makes us believe that Jesus Christ is working through us to make an impact in their personal lives.**

IN UGANDA



Self-study, skills training, and spiritual growth

Education: When schools were locked down, International Needs Uganda adopted a home-based group learning approach for primary and secondary students. Students were grouped by village, and a teacher distributed self-study materials through the local village administrations. This approach helped us keep the children busy and their minds alert.

Outcome-based approach to programming and reporting: IN Uganda has been using the outcome-based approach to evaluate the actual outcomes of the planned strategies and activities for implementation. The approach has informed our ability to report the impact on both primary and secondary beneficiaries. Through the outcome-based approach, program impact assessments have been done routinely to ascertain whether International Needs Uganda's interventions are actually impacting the lives of beneficiaries, and comprehensive program impact assessment reports have been completed to inform future program interventions.

Practical skill building: Uganda's education system requires students who are engaged in formal education to also deliberately be initiated into practical skill building. As an example, International Needs Uganda enrolls girls into the Hope Vocational Institute for tailoring, salon, and hair dressing. Sponsorship has therefore impacted education and produced household economic improvement.

Christian Witness / Gospel Outreach: During these difficult times, one would expect people's lives to derail spiritually because they don't have the opportunity to congregate during normal Sunday church service and crusades. However, International Needs Uganda, through Buikwe Christian Center and church planters, adopted a new approach of preaching to the communities through Local Radio Ministry (LRM). During sermons, Christians call in with special prayer requests and to share testimonies. The LRM, combined with home visitations, has helped pastors stay in touch with their congregations.