



Food packages are delivered to a Compassion-assisted family in Mexico.

Meeting Critical Food Needs in Mexico

A proposal for Disaster Response during COVID-19

In March 2020, as worldwide COVID-19 cases and deaths began their alarming rise, Mexico joined other nations to mandate the closure of businesses, marketplaces, schools, churches and other gatherings. Its thriving tourist industry, the lifeblood of Mexico's economy, was also shut down completely.

Millions of jobs were lost. The resulting unemployment and shortages especially impacted families who live in extreme poverty. Many parents and caregivers, already struggling to provide for their families, lost their income sources entirely — leaving them **unable to pay rent or provide sufficient food.**

For Compassion-assisted children, the quarantine closed all child development centers at our Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) —denying children the safe and loving environment in which to learn and grow. They would no longer have access to the meals and snacks that supplemented their nutrition or medical checkups.

Fear began gripping the hearts of our children and their families. **Our faithful church partners stepped up — and kept the love flowing.**

“ ... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

—Matthew 25:35,40, NIV

Responding To Crisis in Mexico

Despite the pandemic, our frontline church partners are checking on registered children by phone and safety-conscious home visits. They've delivered rent assistance, supplemental food, hygiene kits and preventive education. And they are conducting video classes and supplying educational and Bible-learning materials for the children at home.

Staff members also provide emotional and spiritual support to help parents deal with the stress of their economic and personal losses — and to help guard against intra-family abuse during the quarantine.

Our Frontline Church Partner staff are heroes!

But today, they face a new challenge. The staff at 175 of our 220 Mexico FCPs have alerted us to an urgent, critical need affecting several thousand of their registered children and family members.

The need? Food. Basic-but-nutritious food, daily, for 4,171 children and family members recently identified as “most vulnerable” to food insecurity during the pandemic. **We must help these families now.**

This critical intervention will enable staff members from these 175 FCPs to gather and distribute emergency food packages to their 4,171 registered children and family members in the coming months. **This is their top Disaster Response priority during the fourth quarter of 2020.** Each food package supplies enough food for two nutritious meals per day, per family member, for at least five days. This provision of food will add a critical supplement to the dietary needs of each family — made necessary by the loss of income during this pandemic.

But to meet this need, **we need your help.**

MEXICO AT A GLANCE

Population: **128,649,565**

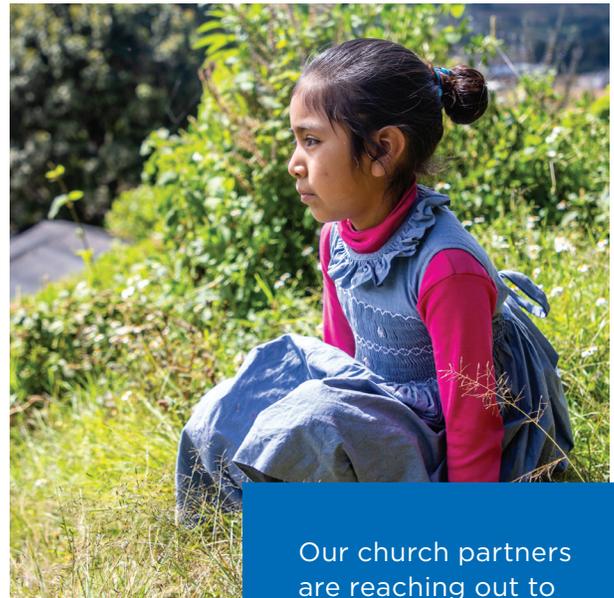
Living in Poverty: **52.4 million people**

Chronic Malnutrition Under Age 5: **10%**

Compassion Start: **1979**

Children Currently Served: **59,136**

Frontline Church Partners: **220**



Our church partners are reaching out to children digitally to deliver encouraging safety messages.

Fall 2020 Disaster Relief Priorities

The Church’s response to disaster combines heart and hands. God’s people prayerfully seek the Lord’s strength, compassion and empathy for those suffering, and seek His guidance on providing relief.

The critical needs brought about by the coronavirus present clear opportunities to serve those living in extreme poverty. Vulnerable populations struggle daily under normal circumstances to provide food for their families. Due to COVID-19 these everyday trials are amplified.

Driven by COVID-19 and its fallout, our Frontline Church Partners in Mexico have identified these critical disaster relief needs in the final months of 2020, **with priority emphasis on food security:**



Health

- Continue delivering hygiene education and supplies as needed to protect children and families against COVID-19
- Monitor health of beneficiary children and their families; arrange for medical and/or palliative care as needed



Child Protection

- Provide robust emotional and spiritual support to 100% of beneficiaries who suffer abuse
- Educate and provide emotional/spiritual support for parents and caregivers to help mitigate stress and anxiety that could lead to abuse



Household Security

- Reduce risk of malnutrition by delivering food packages to 4,170+ of the most vulnerable beneficiaries and their families
- Support entrepreneurial efforts among beneficiary families to help them replace lost income sources

In addition to urgent disaster relief due to COVID-19, Compassion’s church partners in Mexico have identified the following long-term needs:

- Support for about 7,000 Un-sponsored Children, representing a need of **\$1.78 million** over a 12-month period
- Assistance for mothers and babies in Mexico’s Survival program at a cost of **\$368,336** over the next year
- Implementation of essential health, education and development interventions that remove hurdles for children in poverty, projected at **\$147,929** over the next year



Church partners are delivering hygiene supplies and instructions on how to stay safe.

You Can Make a Big Difference

The need is great, and the need is now. More than 4,170 of Compassion's most vulnerable children and family members in Mexico are in critical need of nutritional food packages ... and with your help, 175 of our Frontline Church Partners will fill that need.

Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to help fund this intervention. Together, we can make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of children and family members in Mexico, in Jesus' name. Thank you and may the Lord bless you.



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