

UNITED IN THE COVID -19 FIGHT

Responding to the Hunger Crisis in Central America

Waving a White Flag

In towns all across El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, thousands of people are signaling their plight. Hungry families with nothing to eat are raising white flags in the hope that their need would be seen.

We do see. We are taking notice of the white flags and the people that are waving them. These are our brothers and sisters in North America, and we are committed to standing with them. Will you become part of a movement to bring hope to those facing hunger?

New research from the United Nations warns that the economic devastation caused by Covid-19 could push an additional 500 million people into poverty, reversing 30 years of economic improvement. Prior to the pandemic, Central America was already one of the most hungry regions in the world, and now the extreme lockdown measures are pushing people to the edge.



Will you join us?

Extreme lockdown measures due to COVID-19 have unleashed a hunger crisis for millions of families in the Northern Triangle of Central America. Convoy of Hope, ENLACE, Tearfund and VIVA are uniting with local Central American churches in the fight to provide food and hope to the most vulnerable. **Would you consider joining us as we work as one church to deliver 5 million meals to the families that need it the most?**





Extreme Lock Down in Central America

Central America is experiencing one of the most restrictive lockdowns in the world because the national healthcare systems do not have the capacity to respond should an outbreak occur as large as that experienced in the U.S. and Europe. Right now in Central America, families are nearly three months deep into this reality. In Guatemala, people have only two hours a day to go out, and in El Salvador only a single family member is allowed out once a week to purchase essentials.

The daily reality for millions in Central America is that they work in the informal economy and if they don't work today, they don't eat tomorrow. Reserves and safety nets are extremely limited, and those are now all gone or have nearly disappeared. In a world of social distancing and quarantine, it doesn't take long for loneliness and hunger to set in. When daily life is suddenly turned upside down – with no sign of returning to normal – it can feel like a hopeless situation. But we can help bring hope!

Responding Together as One Church

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are known as the Northern Triangle of Central America. For several decades prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, this has been a region characterized by the highest violence rates in the world, chronic poverty and hunger. The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and compounded what was already an enormous crisis.

Local Central American churches are doing what they can, sharing despite their own poverty, but their resources are overwhelmed. With millions of people going hungry, the scale of the challenge is far beyond the capacity of local churches to address.

We can help. Our four organizations are coming together to equip local churches to provide food aid and hope to the most vulnerable. Churches know their communities, they are trusted, and they are there for the long haul. Churches in our networks are committed agents of transformation, helping people lift themselves out of poverty. If we can stand behind those churches now, they will be in a position to lead their nations in the long-term climb out of this pandemic crisis.

As Nigel Harris, Tearfund CEO put it, we are **“daring to dream that this could be the opportunity in our generation for the Church to be known globally for its brave and compassionate response, putting the needs of others before our own, just as Jesus did.”**



Unified Response = Increased Impact

Working together makes it possible to:

- Strategically coordinate the purchase of the best priced resources
- Increase accountability to serve those communities that have the greatest needs
- Eliminate the duplication of efforts in the same communities
- Support one another with the management complexities related to shipping and logistics during times of crisis

5 Million Meals!

Together, we are committed to providing 5 million meals and pastoral support to 30,000 of the most vulnerable people in the Northern Triangle during the months of June, July and August. These months will be very difficult as the crisis lingers. We have worked together with churches in our network to identify the most vulnerable families. These include the elderly, the chronically ill, the disabled, single mothers with small children, pregnant women, and those who can't access jobs. Local church leaders have cultivated trust and deep relationships with their neighbors, and have been trained to impartially select beneficiaries and manage the distribution of support.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BUDGET			
	EL SALVADOR	GUATEMALA	HONDURAS
Convoy of Hope	417K meals	208K meals	625K meals
ENLACE	833K meals	417K meals	0
Tearfund	0	625K meals	625K meals
VIVA	417K meals	417K meals	417K meals
# of People	10,000 people	10,000 people	10,000 people
# of Meals	1.67 million	1.67 million	1.67 million
Cost per meal	\$.30	\$.30	\$.30
Total Costs	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:			\$1,500,000

Heroic Church Leadership

Pastor Byron Ramirez started the Comunidad Christiana Mana Church in the community of Villa Hermosa in 2012. Villa Hermosa is a large, sprawling urban community of over 50,000 people located on the outskirts of Guatemala City.



Over the last three years, Pastor Byron and his congregation of 60 members have worked with community and business leaders to host community fairs, entrepreneurship workshops, computer classes, and feeding programs for school children. The church's arduous and effective work to befriend and partner with their community has now positioned them to rally community, business, and government leaders to address the needs of the most vulnerable families.

To date, they have provided food and hygiene aid to over 250 families or 1,250 people. They have also identified 53 especially vulnerable families that will need critical support with basic necessities over the next three months. These families are comprised of elderly members and single-mothers, all of whom are severely under or unemployed. Along with meeting their physical needs, Pastor Byron has also trained his church leaders to provide emotional and spiritual support. And with a long-term vision, the church is already working with community leaders to create urban home gardens and business development training to micro and small businesses. Pastor Byron and his church are deeply committed to providing strategic and effective care for the short and long-term needs of most vulnerable families of their communities.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the Central American churches who are on the front lines in responding to this crisis, and for the pastors who are leading them.
- Pray for the health and spiritual well-being of families in Central America that are hungry right now.
- Pray for all four organizations, staff, and Church partners. Pray that they would have the wisdom to know how to respond to this threat. Pray that through the responses, Jesus' love would be evident.
- Pray for wise leadership at every level from the National governing bodies of all three Central American countries to the smallest local municipalities and committees. We pray for safety and health.

WILL YOU GIVE?

You have the opportunity to stand with your neighbors in Central America and reduce the impact of hunger and malnutrition caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Alongside other generous donors, you can help in two ways. Firstly, you can pray for the situation in Central America. Secondly, you can give financially. Your support can make a huge difference!

Together, we can reach our goal to provide 5 million meals to people in extreme need. Please support as much as you can.

[DONATE HERE](#)

Thank you!

Funds will be collected by Life.Church and distributed among the 4 organizations accordingly.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Austin Taylor

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