

SEPTEMBER 2021

COVID-19 food relief in Brazil and Uganda

Brazil

"Jesus replied, they do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."



The COVID-19 pandemic increased the distress of poor families in Brazil. Most of them, who already lived from hand to mouth, doing informal or occasional jobs, collecting recyclable materials on

the streets to sell, suddenly saw their source of income disappear. Churches and individuals in Brazil and Emmanuel International affiliates decided to respond to that need. So, volunteers were mobilized to look for the poorest families among the poor and to deliver food baskets, hygiene kits, and one time treats for the children. We started helping 200 families, but soon we were reaching hundreds of them, in two indigenous areas, and in several communities in the north of Minas Gerais State.

Reports from the volunteers have been so encouraging:

"Thank you, I had almost nothing to give my family to eat."

"My children have never received a chocolate."

"I had prayed for food last night."

"May the Lord bless you all"

What we heard most of the times during the food distribution was

"Praise the Lord".

What God can do when we give a food basket to a needy family? In April 2020 one food basket was delivered at Louislane's home, the mother of Pablo and Yasmim, two children who crawled on their shack floor because they were handicapped since they were born.

The distribution team was shocked to

see the wounds on the children's legs and backs. The Montes Claros Church decided to do more than just give a food package. Two wheelchairs were provided to the children, but the house had no accessibility for them. So, the church decided to renovate the bedroom, the kitchen, and the bathroom. Now the children can freely move around in the house.



Only God can do this miracle: one food basket turns into the healing of wounds, dignity for a family and a big smile on Pablo and Yasmim's faces.

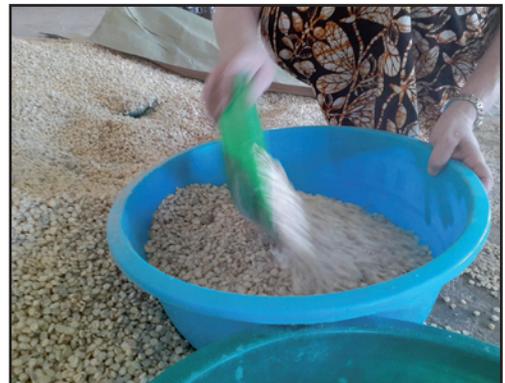
*Report by Fred Silva and Tarcísio Porto,
El Brazil*



Uganda



In June of this year Uganda went into a second, very strict lockdown as case numbers rose again. In Uganda we have been blessed, in that the number of cases and deaths has not been as severe as other parts of the world, but many have suffered from the economic impacts of COVID-19 – including the church leaders we partner with. Most church leaders in Uganda depend on agriculture together with the weekly offerings of their congregations. With church services currently prohibited and no means to collect offerings electronically, these church leaders have lost an important source of income. In addition to the economic effects of





COVID-19, the rains during the first season were very poor and many farmers in our region suffered a complete loss of their first crops. So we decided with our partner churches that we would support 100 church leaders that we would support 100 church leaders that we would support 100 church leaders with 10kg of beans, 25kg of maize, 3 kg of sugar and 2 bars of soap.

"I was left with only a small amount of posho (maize flour) in the house, and I didn't know what to do, but now I have enough. Thank you!"

"These food items are now helping me to focus on the ministry, because food in the home is cared for."

We also wanted to help our partner churches adapt their ministries to COVID-19 restrictions, as it has become increasingly clear that we should expect lockdowns to continue, so we used the distribution time to also train the church leaders in a simple, reproducible Bible study method called the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) method. The DBS method is very simple, and is designed to be multiplied as the members not only participate in the group but also lead, and build the capacity to start and lead their own DBS groups. We hope that this will encourage and equip church leaders to continue discipleship and fellowship during the lockdown, while also deepening discipleship and developing leaders in a way which will continue to have an impact after the lock-down is lifted and regular church services continue.

"I thought I was coming only for food items, but now I think the training I have received is even better and more important."

"This training can help us reach many Christians, and go deep with them. It will even help us when lock-down is over."

Report by Michael Botting, El Uganda Representative





Thank you!



In Memoriam



Longtime supporter of EIUK, Tony Old, has gone to be with our Lord on Friday 17 September 2021. We give thanks to God for his life's ministry. He will be greatly missed.



Our Emmanuel International Christmas catalogue will be issued in October!

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