



TransformWORLD
Million Village Challenge Report



The Million Village Challenge: Now More Than Ever!

The poorest of the poor, living in approximately a million villages, are crying out for help. Their suffering has been aggravated by COVID-19, pushing many to the brink of starvation and death.

On October 7, 2020, the World Bank reported that COVID-19 was expected to add as many as 150 million extreme poor by 2021. They predicted that the pandemic might push 1.4% of the world's population into extreme poverty. Just a few months later on December 3, 2020, the United Nations reported that the pandemic had already pushed more than 32 million people into extreme poverty.

The world's village poor suffer from multiple disadvantages at the same time –*poor* health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, food insecurity, and lack of education. These are the world's most vulnerable and will be the hit hardest.

Even before the pandemic, God raised up tens of thousands of Christian workers around the world to engage with these communities to make disciples while lifting their communities out of cycles of poverty and disease. You are likely receiving this letter because you are one of them.

If you are, you have probably felt the impact yourself. You may be grieving the pain of suffering friends or even your own hardship. You are not alone. Keeping transformational development ministries going has been difficult in the age of lockdowns. In a majority of places around the world, development work has been brought to an abrupt halt. For the first time in 20 years, extreme poverty is on the rise again globally.



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What can we as development workers do while we are “locked down”? In dark times, God’s light shines brightest. It is time for the church to rise. As development workers, we are the eyes and ears of the church. This is our time.

Together let’s sound the alarm and call the church to action. We will be putting up a Million Village Challenge website soon in multiple languages to help give you voice. It may take a little time, so stay tuned.

If you are looking for resources to address COVID-19 in rural poor communities, check out the home page of the Global CHE Network Website, www.chenetwork.org. Many are finding COVID-19 is an opportunity for expansion, reaching out to help multi dimensionally poor communities in their fight against the pandemic.

Stories to Inspire: Reaching Refugees in South Sudan



CHEs serve South Sudanese refugees bringing relief as food rations have been cut by 30%. Food, seed, soap and masks were distributed. They taught COVID-19 prevention and will continue to follow up in the community.



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Stories to Inspire: Expansion into Kosovo



Agron Aga, the director for CHEAL (CHE Albania) reports that teams have caught the vision of the Million Village Challenge. Even in these days of lockdown, CHE trainers are seeking to open ministry into new countries. Agron writes, "It's been a very intense period for me. The CHE ministry is spreading out in the Balkans, Central Europe and Eastern Europe. CHE leaders are organized in several working groups to respond to the dynamics of the ministry in our region." The team pictured above is opening new work in the country of Kosovo, in Eastern Europe.



Over 5,000 miles away, in Kosovo, South Africa, believers are pledging to pray for the CHEAL team! What an example of working together as the body of Christa cross the miles! Will you pray too?