



UK COVID-19 RESPONSE

IMPACT REPORT

October 2020
humanappeal.org.uk

CONTENTS

About Human Appeal	3
COVID-19 in the UK	4
COVID-19 in numbers	5
Human Appeal VS COVID-19	6
Human Appeal UK COVID-19 Response	7
Testimonials	8
Our Partners	12
Key Case Studies	14
The Next Steps	16

ABOUT HUMAN APPEAL

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, WE'RE HERE FOR EVERY HUMAN



We're Human Appeal, a non-profit organisation that works all over the world to fight poverty, social injustice and the impacts of natural disasters. Since 1991, we've provided immediate relief and self-sustaining development programmes. We seek to build strong, loyal, grassroots relationships with local, national and international partners so we can access the world's hardest-to-reach places at their most fragile and vulnerable moments.

During humanitarian crises, providing food, medical aid and emergency

shelter in the immediate short term is essential to saving lives. In the long term, a multidimensional aid approach can be critical to securing a more permanent recovery. Establishing stable healthcare, education, and livelihood support programmes paves the way for empowered, self-sufficient communities. At Human Appeal, we balance our work between emergency relief and long-term development based on the changing needs of each community.

COVID-19 IN THE UK

THE PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED HARDSHIP FOR THE UK'S WORST OFF

An unprecedented impact.

An uncertain future.

It's not just about the risk of catching the virus. Lockdown measures have aggravated existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in the UK. Older people were forced to self-isolate, having been classed as a high-risk group, and job centres reported a 126% rise in claimants since the start of lockdown. Moreover, there are documented increases in food insecurity, mental health problems, gender-based violence and homelessness. Parents whose earnings are reduced or completely absent struggle to provide basics such as food and home education, putting the growth, development, mental health and wellbeing of children at risk.

Economic hardship

Low income households have been the hardest hit. Entering the pandemic, 65% of families in the bottom income bracket already had either no savings or savings below £1,500. The pattern of employment loss and furloughing suggests the economic consequences of COVID-19 will be much worse for those on lower incomes.

Food inequality

The pandemic has had a catastrophic effect on the nutritional health of low income households, with as many as 1 in 10 forced to use food banks. The Food Standards Agency's latest survey shows that food insecurity doubled during the outbreak, with 16% of adults – around 7.8 million people – experiencing food insecurity in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Domestic abuse

The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated flaws in the UK's approach to domestic violence. Specialist domestic abuse services were already critically underfunded prior to 2020, and their services were in high demand during the pandemic, as the number of reported cases shot up. Charities also reported an increased lack of access to services for migrants and for and Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) women.

Vulnerable children

Campaigners have warned that the pandemic has exposed vulnerable British children to greater risks. Schools, social care networks, and charitable services have been overstretched and overwhelmed, and are struggling to adapt to social distancing, growing demand and fewer resources, leaving vulnerable children without these essential safety nets.

COVID-19 IN NUMBERS



22%

of adults reported impacted household finances



7.8 million

people are estimated to be experiencing food insecurity



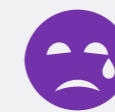
66%

increase in calls to domestic violence helplines



957%

increase in web traffic to domestic violence websites



67.4%

of domestic abuse survivors said abuse worsened during COVID-19



23%

of 16-24 year olds have used a food bank during the pandemic



76.1%

of gender-based violence survivors are spending more time with their abuser

HUMAN APPEAL VS. COVID-19



RESPONDING EFFICIENTLY, EFFECTIVELY, AND WITH EMPATHY

As vulnerable groups across the UK went into self-isolation, Human Appeal sprang into action. We knew many people didn't have access to food or essential items, but also that NHS workers were under increasing strain as the pandemic began to bite. Our response examined how we could support vulnerable groups and frontline workers simultaneously.

At the start of lockdown, we got in touch with key charities such as Age UK to offer our support. We immediately provided a range of essential food and non-food items to Age UK Leicester and Manchester, and also worked with local caterers to provide over 4,600 hot meals to vulnerable groups and key workers at NHS trusts across the North and Midlands.

In the first month, we delivered hot meals to key workers at over 25 NHS hospitals and health centres. But as lockdown continued, putting increasing strain on low-income families, we refocused our efforts on helping them to stay nourished. We provided over 4,400 food parcels across the North and Midlands, targeting vulnerable, homeless and older people in the UK.

We also packed and delivered over 2,400 parcels across Greater Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, Leicester, Coventry, Luton, Blackburn, and Glasgow. Each food parcel lasted two weeks and provided essential items such as long-life and easy-to-prepare foods like pasta, porridge, tinned soup, biscuits, cereal, tea, and baked beans. They also included staples, such as flour, sugar, powdered milk, jam, and juice.

HUMAN APPEAL'S UK COVID-19 RESPONSE



2,000

food parcels provided via Myriad Foundation and Kashmiri Youth Project

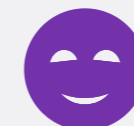


4,610

hot meals distributed to frontline NHS workers across 26 NHS sites and vulnerable groups

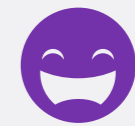


Our work focused on older people, domestic abuse survivors, vulnerable people, isolating people, homeless people, and low income families



69,000

bottles of juice distributed to organisations across the North



VIPS

VIPs engaged with including boxer Amir Khan, Liam Byrne MP and Claudia Webbe MP



50

partners worked with including Age UK, Viral Kindness Scotland, and Amir Khan Foundation to deliver meals and food parcels across the country

TESTIMONIALS



"I must say, hand-on-heart, if it wasn't for the food parcels from Human Appeal we would have had many homeless clients sleeping on empty stomachs. We are forever grateful for all your help and support during this very difficult time. I pray God blesses you for your kindness and rewards you all for your efforts. Thank you for everything."

– SELECT HOMES, BIRMINGHAM HOUSING AGENCY

"At home, we had to ask for permission to even eat. Human Appeal were complete strangers who have shown so much care. They are worthy of being called our family, May Allah keep them happy always."

– ANONYMOUS SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"Big thank you to Human Appeal for preparing and delivering fresh cooked meals for women and children. This is making a difference for families in self isolation. We are so grateful for the care and compassion."

– STOCKPORT WITHOUT ABUSE

"Human Appeal worked hard to deliver hundreds of food parcels in one day. Six of our families received food parcels. Some of the families had unwell children, family members undergoing cancer treatment or with mental health conditions. Human Appeal's support means a lot to them."

– WAITS (WOMEN ACTING IN TODAY'S SOCIETY)

"A massive thank you Human Appeal for our food parcels. These will help so many families in need."

– (OWLS) ONGOING WOMEN'S LOCAL SUPPORT



Packing family food parcels in partnership with Big John's and Anzal Begum Foundation

OUR PARTNERS

A TRUE TEAM EFFORT



KEY CASE STUDIES

WORKING WHEREVER WE'RE NEEDED

Age UK (Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester, and Bolton)

Thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, we were able to deliver food parcels to older people across Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester and Bolton. Each parcel cost £15 and contained essential items like milk, bread and biscuits. We delivered hundreds of parcels to some of the most vulnerable people in these communities, a lifeline for many.

Roshni (Birmingham)

Lockdown saw a sharp rise in domestic violence cases. Victims were stuck indoors with their abusers for longer periods, unable to distance themselves from them, which resulted in more reported cases of abuse.

The Roshni shelter provides refuge to women facing domestic violence, as well as vulnerable single women and mothers. During lockdown, residents needed immediate daily support. We provided the Roshni shelter with food parcels to help tide over the most vulnerable through these fragile times. Each parcel lasted approximately two weeks, contained long life items and was a vital lifeline to people who urgently needed it.

Orange juice distribution

McDonald's supplier, Martin Brower, had a large quantity of orange juice that was uncollected and destined for waste.

Human Appeal coordinated with partner organisations, delivering an initial 5,000 bottles to NHS workers; the remaining bottles we distributed to homelessness groups, soup kitchens, older people, and local organisations. We distributed every bottle within 24 hours, leading to Martin Brower allocating additional juice to our charitable efforts. In all, we distributed a total of 69,552 bottles of juice.

Amir Khan Foundation

Human Appeal has partnered with Amir Khan on a number of campaigns. During the pandemic, the Amir Khan Foundation worked with Human Appeal to pack over 2,500 food parcels which were distributed in Greater Manchester to Age UK, Trussell Trust, local mosques, refugee groups, homelessness organisations, mental health support groups and primary schools.



Working with Age UK to deliver essential food and non-food items

THE NEXT STEPS

A LOOK AHEAD

For as long as people need our support to cope with the pandemic, we'll be there for every human. Our upcoming plans include:

Wrap Up 2020

With the rise in relative poverty and threat of increased homelessness due to COVID-19, we will be launching our annual winter Wrap Up campaign in November 2020. Last year, in partnership with Hands on London, we provided 75,150 coats to vulnerable people across the UK to help them to stay warm through winter. Through the simple act of asking our community network to donate a spare winter coat, we provide warm clothing to local charities supporting homeless people, refugees, children living in poverty and those fleeing domestic violence.

Domestic violence survivors

The COVID-19 lockdown triggered a rise in reported cases of domestic abuse. According to a recent investigation, two-thirds of women in abusive relationships have suffered more violence from their partners during confinement. Domestic abuse charities across the UK have reported a sharp rise in calls to their helplines during the pandemic.

For the fortunate survivors who are able to flee their abuser, often with their children, refuges will shelter them while a more permanent solution is found.

Human Appeal will provide survivors of domestic violence with support packages containing non-food essentials to support the women during their stay at the refuge and in their future residence. This starter pack will take a significant financial burden away from survivors who are often left with little money, and very few items.

Birmingham and Manchester food parcels

Human Appeal will continue to fight food insecurity by providing food parcels to around 100 of the most vulnerable households per month, as well as key local organisations across Birmingham and Manchester.

WRAP UP 2019 IN NUMBERS



75,150

coats collected across the UK in partnership with Hands on London



61

items of clothing recycled in Manchester



363

hours given by our volunteers collecting and sorting coats



641

Collect Plus parcels received in Manchester and Birmingham



865

total square ft Safestore space donated in – kind for our Wrap Up Campaign



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