



May-August 2020

ADVOCACY

REPORT

Summary

The May-August 2020 period saw a drastic shift in focus of the advocacy activities of CID members from previous periods, due to the current climate and recent events. This report compiles these activities, with a focus on the thematic distribution.

In the Jan-Apr 2020 period, the most prominent themes of Members’ advocacy activities were COVID-19 and environmental. As demonstrated above, members have shifted their activities to advocate for those impacted by the tragic Beirut blast in early August, as well as continuing to advocate for those worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environment-related advocacy activities have seen a drastic decline over the past two quarters, from 22% at the start of the year to only 4% this quarter, as Members have diverted their resources to what seem to be the more pressing challenges – COVID and the Beirut emergency.

This quarter also saw a rise in youth-related advocacy activities, with many Members recognising youth as the most vulnerable during the current pandemic. 25% of advocacy activities from this quarter were related to youth, with advocacy activities such as the joint press release by thirteen aid organisations warning that children in low-income countries will be the most affected by the global pandemic being a prime demonstration of this shift in focus[[1]](#footnote-1).

It is also pleasing to see the continuation from the beginning of the year of joint advocacy activities between Members. The ‘Big Hearts, Connected World’ Collective Resilience Plan petition, calling on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to increase overseas aid and climate action[[2]](#footnote-2), is an example of such activities.

Other thematic areas that Members’ advocacy activities engaged with included Pacific Development and Domestic advocacy.

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| ADRA | Responding in Beirut |
| Caritas | Facing the Pandemic in PNG |
| ChildFund | Vulnerable Children in the Pacific |
| CWS | South Sudan Appeal |
| Global Development Group | COVID-19 Response in Cambodia |
| Oxfam | Coronavirus Refugee Crisis Advocacy |
| Salvation Army | Housing Shortage in Auckland |
| Save the Children | * Beirut Explosion Appeal * Yemen Children Appeal |
| Tearfund | * Beirut Explosion Appeal * COVID Refugee Crisis Appeal * COVID Children’s Appeal |
| UnionAid | Safeguarding garment sector jobs in Bangladesh |
| VSA | Child Protection in the Pacific |
| World Vision | * Beirut Explosion Appeal * Children in Crisis |
| UNICEF | Supporting NZ Domestic Children in Education |
| WWF | New Zealand Submission on the proposed Southeast Marine Protected Areas |

MEMBER Highlights

Notable Joint Advocacy Activities

**Coronavirus and hunger will adversely impact poor children NZ aid agencies warn**

Joint Press Release - Thirteen NZ aid organisations are warning that children in low-income countries will be the most affected by the global pandemic and hunger, and they are encouraging Kiwis to help resource their global neighbours to deal effectively with the situation. The release of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World by the UN has prompted the call to action[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Big Hearts, Connected World**

Oxfam, World Vision, CWS and Anglican Movement are powering a campaign advocating for the implementation of a Collective Resilience Plan in Budget 2021, aiming to boost NZ’s overseas aid and climate action in order to meet the increased need for such action[[4]](#footnote-4).

Member Advocacy Activities

ADRA

**Responding in Beirut**

ADRA is advocating for families worst affected by the Beirut Blast. The team has been working tirelessly at the epicenter of the explosion and identified shelter, water, food, and support cleaning homes as some of the greatest needs. They are also assisting by distributing water, food, and emergency shelter kits to those in the community who need it most. [[5]](#footnote-5)

Caritas

**Facing the Pandemic in Papua New Guinea**

Caritas works with several communities in Papua New Guinea, and has been supporting their partners as they prepare for and respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of a Caritas solidarity grant, soap, laundry powder and water containers were bought and distributed to 371 families. In addition, the grant helped purchase two sewing machines to produce face masks to reduce the spread of the virus. [[6]](#footnote-6)

ChildFund

**Vulnerable Children in the Pacific**

ChildFund NZ is working hard to protect vulnerable children, especially in the Pacific. It is estimated that 3 out of 4 children in the Pacific already experience a high rate of violence and abuse in their homes. With the added economic stresses of COVID-19, children are even more at risk. ChildFund is focused on identifying those who are most vulnerable to abuse, providing vital information on how to keep children safe and training families on positive parenting techniques. [[7]](#footnote-7)

CWS

**South Sudan Appeal**

In South Sudan, the combination of war, widespread corruption and the near collapse of the oil industry that provides 98% of the country’s earnings are proving disastrous for local people. CWS are advocating for the people worst affected by this crisis, and supporting the Maridi Service Agency and ACT Alliance to do what needs to be done to save lives – water, shelter, sanitation and food. [[8]](#footnote-8)

Global Development Group

**The Response to Covid-19 in Cambodia and Liberia**

In Cambodia, GDG partner with United World Schools (UWS) to provide access to education for every child regardless. The UWS Covid-19 response has focused on 3 key areas: water and hand washing, awareness and education. [[9]](#footnote-9)

In Liberia, GDG partner with Refuge Place International (RPI) to focus on improving health outcomes for poor communities located in urban slums and rural areas. The project seeks to reduce the high maternal, neonatal and child mortality rate and make quality health care accessible to all. In response to the pandemic, a temporary triage has been erected to check the temperature all of patients and staff before they enter the main facility, and to regulate the number of patients entering the facility to avoid overcrowding. [[10]](#footnote-10)

Oxfam

**Coronavirus Refugee Crisis Advocacy**

Oxfam are advocating for Rohingya refugees who cannot take the necessary measures to stop the spread of COVID such as social distancing and hand washing[[11]](#footnote-11).

Salvation Army

**Housing Shortage in Auckland**

The Salvation Army are advocating for those impacted by Auckland’s housing crisis, and is taking on Aotearoa New Zealand’s housing shortage with a programme of sustainable long-term rental accommodation construction. Building long-term social housing is an extension of The Salvation Army’s mission to give people a helping hand, and by doing so, offer hope. [[12]](#footnote-12)

Save the Children

**Beirut Explosion Appeal**

As stories emerge of children being separated from their parents after the explosion in Beirut, Save the Children is calling for the safety and wellbeing of children and their reunification with relatives to be a key part of the response. Save the Children are advocating for these children to be supported in finding homes, as it is estimated over 100,000 children have seen their homes destroyed[[13]](#footnote-13).

**Yemen Children Appeal**

With 11.3 million children in need of immediate aid, the Yemen crisis has been identified as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Save the Children are advocating for these children facing the ‘triple threat’ of airstrikes, famine and collapse in basic services[[14]](#footnote-14).

Tearfund

**Beirut Explosion Appeal**

Tearfund are advocating for the people of Lebanon impacted by the Beirut blast, who, after assisting the Syrian refugees with education and basic services, now need help themselves. Tearfund’s appeal is in partnership with the network on church partners on the ground in Beirut.

**COVID Children’s Appeal**

Children and families living in poverty have been identified as the most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID, and Tearfund are advocating for this community to be the focus of support[[15]](#footnote-15).

UnionAid

**Safeguarding garment sector jobs in Bangladesh**

UnionAid are advocating for people of Bangladesh working in the garment sector whose jobs and livelihoods are at risk.

World Vision

**Beirut Explosion Appeal**

World Vision have been advocating for and supporting Syrian refugees throughout these compounding crises; Syria's deadly war, the economic crisis, COVID-19, and now the aftermath of this catastrophic explosion.

The blast has damaged the World Vision warehouse in Beirut where supplies for Syrian refugees such as food, medicine, educational and hygiene supplies were stored. Resources are now being collected in an attempt to further help those most impacted by the Beirut Blast. [[16]](#footnote-16)

VSA

**Child Protection in the Pacific**

VSA has recognised that in the current emergency with lockdowns, school closures, and the increased stress on families, children are more vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as having to deal with their own fears and anxieties. VSA have partnered with UNICEF to advocate for children in the Pacific and provide the necessary resources. [[17]](#footnote-17)

UNICEF

**Supporting NZ Domestic Children in Education**

With COVID-19 significantly increasing education disparity amongst New Zealand’s low-income families and those with a more privileged upbringing, the immediate future of NZ’s most disadvantaged children continues to look bleak. UNICEF is advocating for these children (disproportionately Māori and Pasifika) through the release of Innocenti Report Card 16 [[18]](#footnote-18) and engagement with the government.

WWF

**New Zealand Submission on the proposed Southeast Marine Protected Areas**

WWF – NZ are advocating for the creation of a meaningful network of representative Marine Protected Areas throughout Aotearoa subject to the rights of indigenous people and local communities. Their goal is that the ocean is thriving and resilient, with at least 30% of each marine habitat within a network of highly protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. [[19]](#footnote-19)

1. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12347995> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.bighearts.org.nz/take-action/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12347995> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.wwf.org.nz/media_centre/publications/?16961/Submission-on-the-proposed-Southeast-Marine-Protected-Areas> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://adra.org.nz/beirut/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://caritas.org.nz/caritas-update-83-winter-2020> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.childfund.org.nz/campaign/keep-children-like-leinani-safe-at-home> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://cws.org.nz/what-we-do/emergencies/south-sudan-appeal/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://globaldevelopmentgroup.org/nz/cambodia-asia-the-response-to-covid-19/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://globaldevelopmentgroup.org/nz/liberia-africa-the-response-to-covid-19/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.oxfam.org.nz/donate/coronavirus-crisis/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/2018721391/new-social-housing-complex-a-dream-after-two-years-homeless> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO2008/S00038/save-the-children-urges-for-children-hit-by-beirut-blast-to-be-reunited-with-relatives.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://www.savethechildren.org.nz/what-we-do/the-solutions/emergencies/yemen-emergency/> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.tearfund.org.nz/we-rise-as-one> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.worldvision.org.nz/causes/emergency-relief/beirut-explosion-appeal/> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/news/supporting-child-protection-in-the-pacific-volunteering-remotely-during-covid-19/> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/series/report-card/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://www.wwf.org.nz/media_centre/publications/?16961/Submission-on-the-proposed-Southeast-Marine-Protected-Areas> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)