

# ADVOCACY REPORT

Jan-Apr 2020

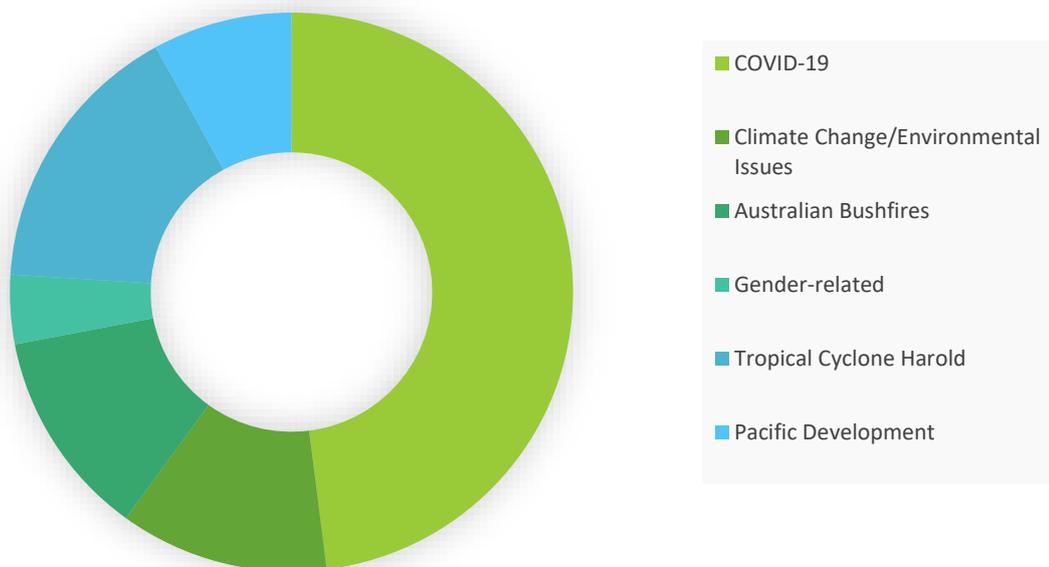


**COUNCIL** *for*  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

# Summary

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## Thematic Distribution of Members' Advocacy Activities



The January – April 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.

The most prominent theme of this period was COVID-19 related campaigns, making up almost half of the advocacy campaigns recorded in this report. The scope of advocacy in this thematic area primarily included activities related to awareness-raising in vulnerable communities, namely in the Pacific, and also domestic reform and campaigns in New Zealand providing support to those affected most significantly by the pandemic.

Emergency relief advocacy related to Tropical Cyclone Harold and the Australian Bushfires was also notable during this period, collectively making up 28% of Members' advocacy activities. A remarkable campaign was the Child-Friendly Spaces campaign conducted by Save The Children, focused on supporting children affected by the Australian bushfires.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen many Members forced to cancel planned campaigns and advocacy activities and adapt to the new climate, conducting new forms of support

from home. Consequently, there has been a drastic shift in Members’ advocacy priorities from previous periods, with less of a focus on climate change advocacy, which was recognised as the prominent theme in the previous Sept-Dec 2019 quarter.

This period also saw a rise in joint advocacy campaigns and collaboration between Members. One noteworthy advocacy activity was that of Environmental Groups, including CID Member WWF, producing a letter for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, proposing A Green COVID-19 Recovery.

Other thematic areas that Members’ advocacy activities engaged with included Gender Issues, and Pacific Development.

<b>Caritas</b>	Submission Reforming New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, COVID-19 Pandemic Appeal
<b>CBM</b>	Tropical Cyclone Harold Relief
<b>ChildFund</b>	Kiribati COVID-19 Preparation and Awareness
<b>CWS</b>	COVID-19 Refugee Support
<b>Engineers Without Borders</b>	Walk for Water
<b>The Salvation Army</b>	Emerging COVID-19 Underclass Report to Government
<b>UN Women</b>	International Women’s Day
<b>Oxfam</b>	Oxfam Report: Dignity Not Destitution
<b>Save The Children</b>	Child Friendly Spaces – Australian Bushfires
<b>The Leprosy Mission</b>	World Leprosy Day

# MEMBER Highlights

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## Notable Joint Advocacy Activities

### **Open Letter Seeking Urgent Humanitarian Assistance in Response to COVID-19**

A group of fourteen leading New Zealand international aid agencies wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters and Finance Minister Grant Robertson, expressing the need for an additional \$25 million in immediate aid funding for nations less well-equipped to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>

### **#foodforkiwifamilies**

UNICEF and The Salvation Army united in a campaign to support New Zealand families in need during the COVID-19 crisis, advocating for vulnerable families in need of food and hygiene supplies.<sup>2</sup>

### **A Green COVID-19 Recovery**

Environmental groups from across New Zealand, including WWF, have written to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern urging the government to focus on the restoration of Aotearoa in the economic recovery after lockdown. The letter highlights the need to invest in projects and jobs that looks after both people and nature, with various proposals included.<sup>3</sup>

## Caritas

### **Submission Reforming New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme**

Caritas proposed a transformation of New Zealand's social and economic systems, with a need to recognise climate change as a symptom of interrelated crises, and to set a more ambitious provisional emissions budget to reduce emissions.<sup>4</sup>

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Appeal**

Working with partners on the ground in vulnerable communities, Caritas focussed on prevention, preparedness and response to COVID-19 through raising

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/04/30/1150558/how-nz-can-aid-the-world-in-the-covid-19-response?utm\\_source=Friends+of+the+Newsroom&utm\\_campaign=475afe3d49-Daily+Briefing+30.4.20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_71de5c4b35-475afe3d49-97846071](https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/04/30/1150558/how-nz-can-aid-the-world-in-the-covid-19-response?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Newsroom&utm_campaign=475afe3d49-Daily+Briefing+30.4.20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_71de5c4b35-475afe3d49-97846071)

<sup>2</sup> [https://covid19.unicef.org.nz/?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=hello\\_bar&utm\\_campaign=covid-19\\_appeal](https://covid19.unicef.org.nz/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=hello_bar&utm_campaign=covid-19_appeal)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wwf.org.nz/?16781/Recovery-for-people-and-planet>

<sup>4</sup> <https://caritas.org.nz/advocacy/submissions>

awareness and gathering resources and life-saving supplies for distribution in an effort to reduce the impact of the pandemic on local communities in the Pacific.<sup>5</sup>

## CBM

### **Tropical Cyclone Harold Relief**

In response to the widespread damage caused by tropical cyclone Harold, particularly in Vanuatu, CBM mounted a campaign to provide assistance to affected communities in need, highlighting a rising urgency for relief considering the impending COVID-19 pandemic and the associated challenges.<sup>6</sup>

## Childfund

### **Kiribati COVID-19 Preparation and Awareness**

In an effort to raise awareness and understanding of COVID-19 in the Pacific's most vulnerable communities, Childfund supported them by delivering supplies and informing about safe hygiene practices to prevent the spread of the virus, with a focus on Kiribati, one of the region's most densely-populated islands.<sup>7</sup>

## CWS

### **COVID-19 Refugee Support**

CWS identified a need to support refugees considering the impending pandemic makes them the most vulnerable, without the ability to self-isolate or conduct basic hygiene practices. CWS promoted the need for emergency food parcels and hygiene kits for these vulnerable communities.<sup>8</sup>

## Engineers Without Borders

### **Walk for Water**

Engineers Without Borders hosted an event involving a 6km walk through the Auckland CBD with participants carrying a 20L jerry can of water, to raise

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<sup>5</sup> <https://caritas.org.nz/covid-19-pandemic-appeal>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cbm-nz.org.nz/work/emergency-relief>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.childfund.org.nz/news-and-stories/childfunds-response-to-covid-19-in-the-pacific>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cws.org.nz/what-we-do/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal/>

awareness and funds for those without access to clean drinking water in vulnerable communities.<sup>9</sup>

## The Salvation Army

### **Emerging COVID-19 Underclass Report to Government**

The Salvation Army produced a report addressed to the government to acknowledge the growing underclass developing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who were recently unemployed, and household unable to meet their liabilities, and suggested actions to address this.<sup>10</sup>

## UN Women

### **International Women's Day**

UN Women celebrated International Women's Day in 2020 with the theme 'Creating an Equal and Enabled World', using the day as an opportunity to raise funds for the organisation's women's advancement projects, celebrate women's achievements and hear from speakers on issues that affect women.<sup>11</sup>

## Oxfam

### **Oxfam Report: Dignity Not Destitution**

An 'Economic Rescue Plan For All' has been proposed by Oxfam in an effort to tackle the COVID-19 crisis and prevent the spread of inequality. The analysis in the report estimates over half a billion people could be pushed into poverty unless urgent action is taken to prevent this.<sup>12</sup>

## Save The Children

### **Child-Friendly Spaces – Australian Bushfires**

In an effort to support communities affected by the devastating bushfires that ravaged Australia, Save The Children established spaces to provide support and

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.ewb.org.nz/w4w\\_2020](https://www.ewb.org.nz/w4w_2020)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/news/emerging-covid19-underclass-requires-urgent-and-radical-government-action>

<sup>11</sup> <https://unwomen.org.nz/international-womens-day/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org.nz/news-media/reports/oxfam-report-dignity-not-destitution/>

relief for children in these communities, recognising that they were the most vulnerable in the situation. Save The Children also campaigned for mental health support for affected children.<sup>13</sup>

## The Leprosy Mission

### World Leprosy Day

On the last Sunday of January, The Leprosy Mission celebrated World Leprosy Day with a campaign to raise awareness for the issue, hosting various fundraising events to combat the spread of leprosy in vulnerable communities.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.savethechildren.org.nz/assets/Media-release-Save-the-Children-sets-up-Child-Friendly-Spaces-to-help-bushfire-hit-communities.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://leprosymission.org.nz/world-leprosy-day>