

Hunger Grips COVID-Ravaged India; GFA World Responds

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TOOWOOMBA, Qld -- India's devastating "second wave" of COVID-19 is overshadowing another deadly tsunami of suffering -- rampant hunger.

Global humanitarian agency GFA World (www.gfaau.org) reports growing desperation across India as it supports efforts to feed those facing starvation amid the pandemic's continuing onslaught. The Australia-based organisation has helped feed hundreds of thousands since the pandemic began.



"As COVID-19 ravages India, we're seeing hunger on a massive scale," said Bishop Danny Punnose, vice president of GFA World, spotlighting the accelerating crisis on World Hunger Day, May 28.

In the nation's pandemic hotspots, so-called "corona curfews" and lockdowns make it very difficult to get groceries -- even if people have cash to spend.

'Deep Silence' Everywhere

"Markets are closed... no shopkeepers are willing to open their shops. People are struggling to get grocery items. There's deep silence at all places," local relief workers reported.

In India's densely populated Uttar Pradesh state, local church members are going door-to-door, delivering free meals to COVID-impacted families in strict quarantine.

Many day labourers -- among the poorest of the poor -- have lost their jobs

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because of the pandemic, have no source of income, and no other way to get food.

Fear Grows

“The fear of going hungry, for many, is as great as the fear of the virus,” said Bishop Punnose. “Working alongside the government of India, we’re doing all we can to help relieve suffering and show people the love of God.”

Heartbroken parents were watching their children “starving to death before their eyes,” he said.

World Hunger Day -- an annual awareness event -- says 690 million people worldwide face chronic hunger, reportedly killing more than malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis combined.

For the latest information on GFA World’s COVID-19 efforts, visit:

<https://www.gfaau.org/press/WorldHunger>

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GFA World (www.gfaau.org) is a leading faith-based global mission agency, helping national workers bring vital assistance and spiritual hope to millions across the world, especially in Asia and Africa, and sharing the love of God. In GFA World’s latest yearly report, this included thousands of community development projects that benefit downtrodden families and their children, free medical camps conducted in more than 1,200 villages and remote communities, over 4,800 clean water wells drilled, over 12,000 water filters installed, income-generating Christmas gifts for more than 260,000 needy families, and teaching providing hope and encouragement available in 110 languages in 14 nations through radio ministry. GFA World has launched programs in Africa, starting with compassion projects in Rwanda. For all the latest news, visit our Press Room at <https://press.gfa.org/news>.

PHOTO CUTLINE: **HUNGER’S DEEP SILENCE:** On World Hunger Day, May 28, Australia-based humanitarian agency GFA World (www.gfaau.org) reports growing desperation in India as it supports efforts to help thousands starving in “deep silence” amid the pandemic’s continuing onslaught.

