



HOW IS COVID-19 AFFECTING MY SPONSORED CHILD?

Due to lock downs and school closures across the world, many sponsors are wondering what is happening in their sponsored child's community.

—

IN SIERRA LEONE, each child sponsorship partner community received hand washing stations, soap, and prevention education information prior to school closures. Grades 6, 9, and 12 returned in July to prepare for national exams. WHI staff continue to monitor the safety and wellbeing of students for additional needs. WHI is actively involved in the COVID-19 surveillance and response with the Ministry of Health across the Bombali District. Rehabilitating and drilling new wells continue to be important, lifesaving work to prevent the spread of the virus. Enable the Children continues to support special needs families through distributing specialized equipment, educating and monitoring families, distributing food support, and hands-off therapy instruction with parents in weekly clinics. Announcements have not been made about the plans for reopening schools for all students for the 2020/2021 school year.

IN LIBERIA, two sets of latrines and two additional classrooms have been constructed to alleviate overcrowding at two partner schools. The PTA contributed supplies and labor multiplying the plans for one classroom to make two! These improvements as well as new desks and a new solar system to power classrooms and the digital learning system will be awaiting students when schools safely reopen! WHI has also been rehabilitating wells to improve critical access to water and distributing hand washing stations to support prevention efforts. In August, grades 6-12 are returning for in person instruction to complete the prior school year with distancing while grades K-5 will receive materials at home to continue learning.

IN THE PHILIPPINES, schools were scheduled to be on a break shortly after COVID-19 closures. They currently plan to reopen for the new year in late August. Teachers visited students outside their homes to share prevention information with coloring books, celebrate graduates, monitor children, and distribute vitamins. In one partner community, a collapsed footbridge was rebuilt eliminating the risk of children and their families crossing deep waters. WHI remains focused on the importance of continued protection work utilizing staff's experience with trafficking survivors to develop COVID-19 prevention education materials for children and a video training series, [Guidelines for Homes for Children and Residential Shelters](#).

IN ZAMBIA, grades 7, 9, and 12 resumed classes on June 1st since they are important national exam years. The school year runs January to December with three breaks. The remaining grades are awaiting announcements on when they can return.

IN HAITI, schools will reopen to complete the prior school year in August. The 2020/2021 school year will begin in November. Many children in densely populated communities traveled to stay with relatives in more rural areas. School directors continue to monitor the children's wellbeing and needs across their communities.

—



While some sponsored children's families have been quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19, no positive cases or related deaths affecting sponsored children have been reported. Challenges with food supplies, violence, and fear remain in many communities. Please continue to pray for the safety of WHI staff, school staff, and sponsored children and their families. Your continued financial support allows us to meet needs as they arise for families, provide important sanitation supplies, and prepare for how to best support educational access as decisions are made in each country. For the most up to date information, follow WHI online or visit the [COVID-19 FAQ](#).

@worldhopeorg on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram