Saying the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on families is putting things lightly. Jobs have been lost, opportunities are scarce and putting food on the table is becoming an issue for many. Thankfully, here at home, food banks and other ministries are ready to fill in the gap. But for the rural areas we serve, in places like Bolivia, safety nets like these are close to non-existent.

**Elva Argota and her family of five** (pictured above) know this first hand. The quarantine not only took her husband’s job, it made sure he was unable to find another in their small community of San Lorenzo. Months passed with no work. Eventually, food and money ran out. Things began to look grim.

**Then, your love arrived just in time!**

Through your support, Esperança was able to supply emergency food bags to starving families – staples like rice, sugar, oatmeal and oil. **Overall, we were able to provide hope and nourishment to 800 families in need** – Elva’s included!

It was enough to keep their family fed and safe as they completed a move to the city of Tarija in search of work. We’re happy to report that the move was successful; they found work almost immediately!

Today, Elva and her family live in the building they are renovating. The team of five prepare mixes of cement and sand, loading bricks, preparing iron bars to lift pillars and more.

Elva wants to express her infinite gratitude to those who have made it possible for this food aid to reach them when they needed it most. “I’m so thankful for the help,” says Elva. “not only for myself, but for the many other families who cannot find work and do not have anything to eat.”
Welcome aboard, Tami!

Esperança is pleased to announce Tami Bohannon, CFRE as Chief Development Officer. Tami has over 25 years of experience managing communications and fundraising for faith-based and secular organizations. As Esperança expands on the heels of its 50th anniversary, Tami will utilize her expertise to increase resources for domestic and international programs.

Tami also mentors at the Association of Fundraising Professionals and guest lectures at Arizona State University and the Sanford Institute of Philanthropy.

Welcome to the team, Tami!

Give Hope for Free?

Great news! If you are a resident of Arizona with a state tax liability, your gifts to Esperança’s Phoenix programs are now eligible for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit! That means, you can claim up to $400 in credits for those filing single or up to $800 for those filing jointly. A tax credit is different than a deduction. With the tax credit, you receive a dollar-to-dollar Arizona tax credit, which means you either get the money refunded during tax time or can use it to pay your Arizona taxes.

Have a tax bill of $400? Give a life-changing gift of $400 to Esperança’s Phoenix program. Now your tax bill is $0. Even if you don’t use the whole amount, your credit carries forward for five years. It’s like giving hope for free! Check out the new giving options on our return slip to designate your gift to our Arizona, LLC programs.

Please note: This is not professional tax or legal advice. Consult a tax advisor about your individual situation. For more information on the tax credit, visit the Arizona Department of Revenue website at www.azdor.gov.

Dedicated to Hope

Barb and her late husband Dave have been faithful supporters of Esperança for 28 years! When we asked what inspired them to partner with our work year after year, Barb had this to say: “Originally, Esperança appealed to me because you were just starting out, very small, but with this huge mission. I thought, ‘These people are really stepping out in faith!’ That spoke volumes to me. Now that I have retired and lost my husband, I had to cut out some of the charities that we always gave to. But Esperança, I love your work!” - Barb
Praying for Rain in Mozambique

Disappointing rainfall has made it difficult for crops to flourish

The threat of COVID-19 has brought everything to a standstill in Mozambique. Even the rain, apparently! The storms the Maciene people depend on to water their fields and grow their food have, for the past three months, been irregular and insufficient for growth.

Although this is a huge problem on its own, the danger is compounded by the fact that the South African borders have been closed. This makes it impossible for those who have husbands and other family members working there to send money back to their families.

Little money, uncooperative weather and a general distrust in the effectiveness of social distancing has left many families hungry, insecure and worst of all – isolated.

To protect this vulnerable community from the threat of COVID-19, Esperança’s in-country partners have put a halt on in-person classes and wellness checks.

But they’re not sitting on their hands! Far from it. Your support is still there to help our community health activists out in the field. They are working hard, caring for what little they have been able to grow – to make sure the produce is distributed to the more than 300 local families who need it.

Until then, everyone is holding their breath, praying that the rain will fall soon.

Irregular rain, coupled with the COVID-19 crisis, has made life difficult for people in Mozambique.

Although precious little rain has fallen in Mozambique, your support is helping our community health activists to keep crops growing and hungry families fed.
A Pipe Dream You Made Possible

Aura Gutierrez and her family worked hard maintaining their farm in the remote village of Kaskitas, Nicaragua. They planted and cared for basic grains, corn, and beans. Their 13-year-old son walked to school each day, helping his father on the farm when he returned. Aura spent many hours each day carrying plastic jugs up a hill to the nearest well, collecting contaminated water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning.

It was hard work, but it wasn’t too much of a burden, at least when Aura was younger. But as she neared her 40s, Aura was starting to realize what a toll this hand-to-mouth existence took on her body. When it got to the point that her son was forced to stop attending school to help with the daily water supply, she knew something had to change.

As if by fate, Aura soon heard of a community meeting hosted by Esperança to discuss the possibility of installing a water system in the area. Aura and her family attended the assembly and were overwhelmed by the enormity of the project that would eventually serve 96 families.

She, along with her husband, happily participated in the execution of the project, trenching, transferring and installing pipe. The water system is nearing completion now.

Your support has allowed Esperança to bring a life-changing water system to Aura and 96 families in Nicaragua.

In total, the price of renewed health, safety, and time for 96 families is $18,600, an unfathomable amount in the eyes of the Kaskitas community, especially amid threats of economic freefall from the ongoing pandemic.

Even amid a global pandemic, a project this big is still possible, thanks to friends like you. As the finishing touches are completed and the conditions allow, Aura’s son will soon be able to return to school.

“I am happy because now I see how the community is getting a better life with this water project that we needed so much,” says Aura. “Like me, the whole community is very grateful.”

The Esperança leadership team is here for you!

Have a question? Give us a call.