

PMEL News flash 2020: COVID-19

Some interesting facts on the COVID-19 indicators.

Most of 2020 was taken up by COVID-19, which greatly affected the people in developing countries and also affected the projects of Help a Child. The PMEL desk of Help a Child compiled and analysed the data concerning the COVID-19 response in the different project areas. Here are some interesting facts and figures based on the data received.

As there was a difference in implemented activities among the countries, partners and projects, the COVID-19 indicators were not mandatory. The data is collected for Burundi, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda¹, and each country and partner collected data that applied to their specific context. The different activities implemented are clustered in the following five categories: awareness raising, education, food security & livelihoods, protection and WASH activities.

Awareness raising

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners of Help a Child organized sessions to raise awareness of COVID-19 and its preventative measures. Almost **150 thousand community members** in seven countries were reached by these sessions. Figure 1 shows how many community members were reached per country and shows that in Kenya almost 39 thousand community members were reached by awareness raising sessions. In South Sudan more than 31 thousand were reached.

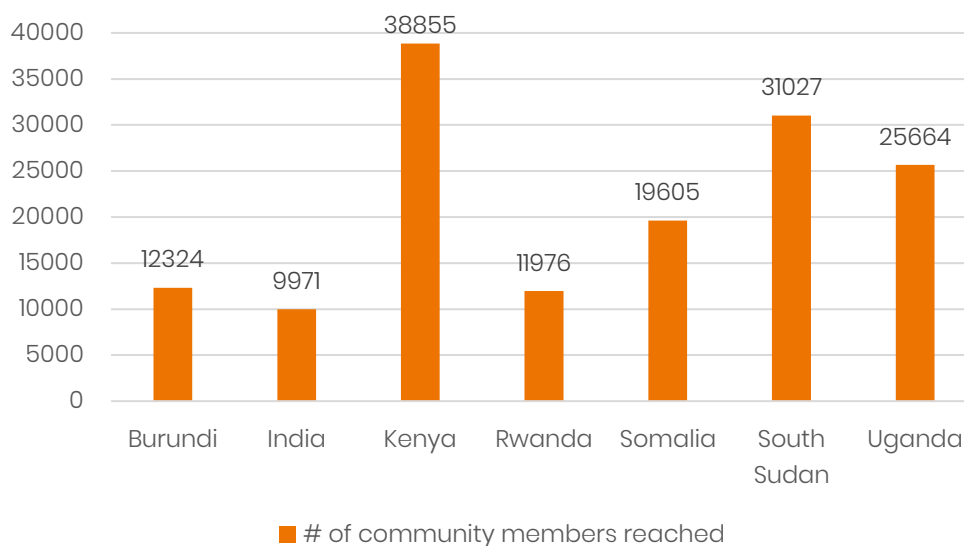


Figure 1: number of community members reached

¹ Due to the changes in the Country Office of Malawi, data with regards to the Covid-19-projects wasn't submitted, however, they did a lot of good working as well!

WASH activities

Next to raising awareness on Covid-19 and its preventative measures, our partners also enabled the community members to protect themselves against Covid-19. More than **318 thousand family members** and more than **51 thousand children** benefited from WASH related activities, such as the distribution of soap, sanitisers, handwashing facilities, face masks, gloves and training on COVID-19 awareness. In Somalia, alone, already more than **two hundred thousand people** benefited from these activities in the regions of Banadir, Middle Shabelle and Lower Jubba.

As shown in figure 2 Help a Child distributed an extensive amount of soap, almost **60 thousand** in total. Also the number of facemasks distributed is impressive; more than **40 thousand** were distributed in the countries we work.

"More than 318 thousand family members and more than 51 thousand children benefited from WASH related activities"

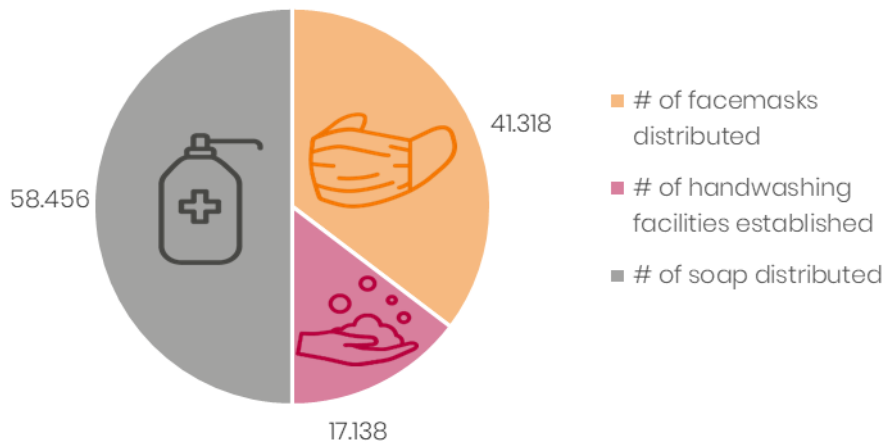


Figure 2: distribution of facemasks, handwashing facilities and soap

Figure 3, 4 and 5 highlight the details per topic for the different countries. In Burundi more than **28 thousand pieces of soap** were distributed and in India more than **20 thousand**. Also, in Burundi more than **15 thousand handwashing facilities** were established. In India more than **25 thousand facemasks** were distributed. (Figures about the distribution in Somalia are not available.)

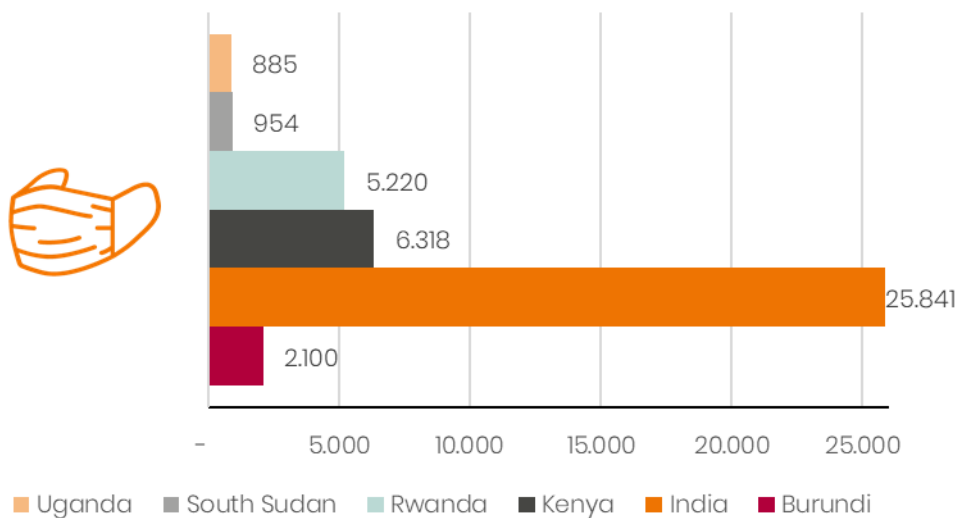


Figure 3: number of facemasks distributed

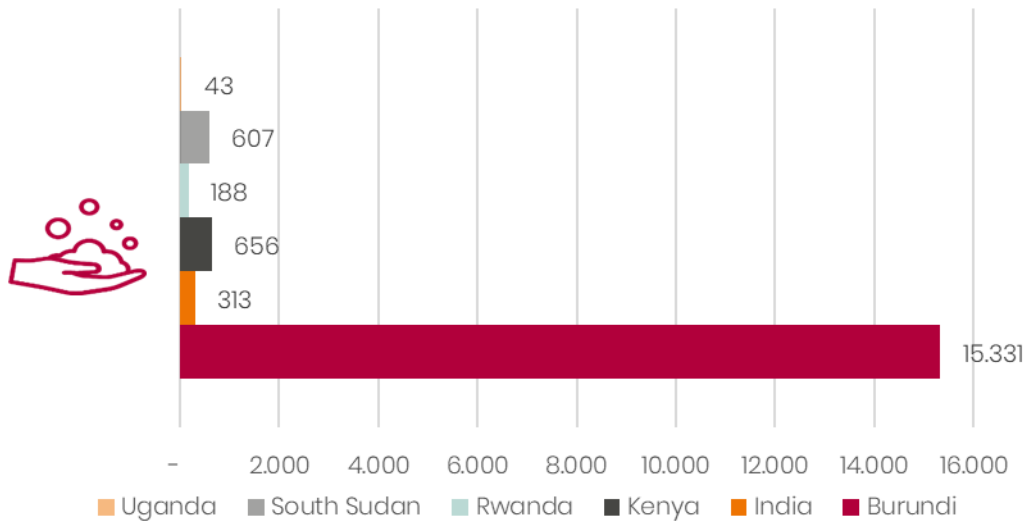


Figure 4: number of handwashing facilities established

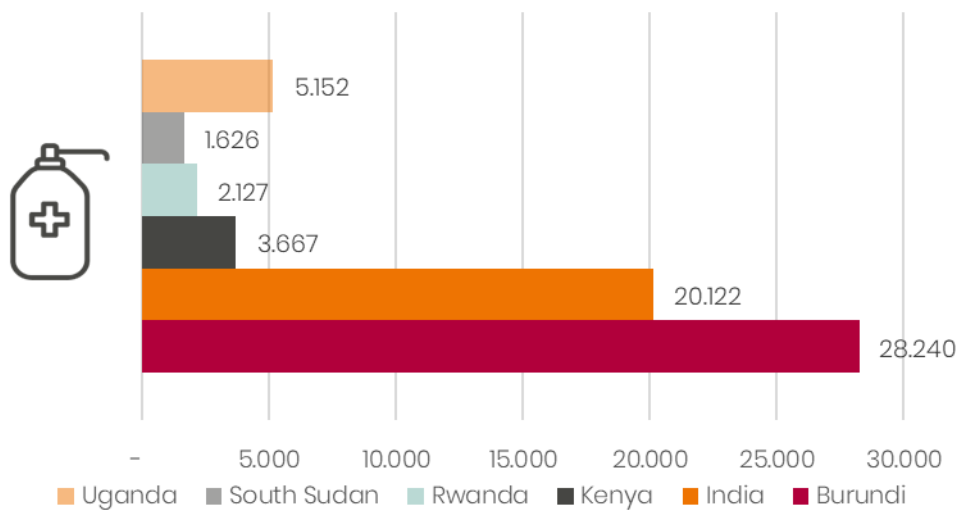
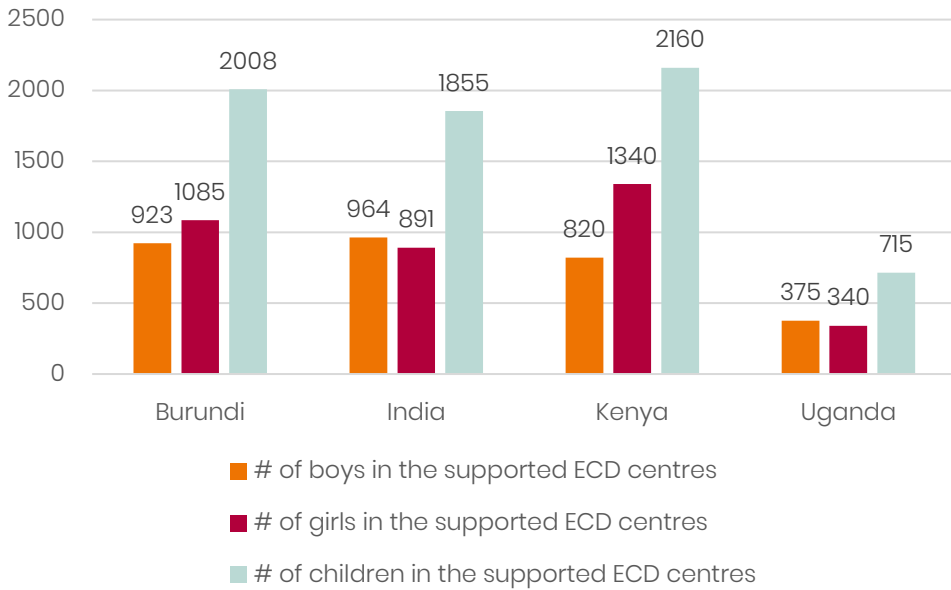


Figure 5: number of soap distributed

Education

As shown in figure 6, the projects of Help a Child in Burundi, India, Kenya and Uganda were able to continue their support to almost **seven thousand children** in Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD). Overall the percentage of supported girls (54%) is slightly higher than the supported boys (46%).



"Help a Child supported almost 7,000 children in Early Childhood Development Centres and 12,000 children participated in e-learning"

Figure 6: boys and girls in the supported ECD centres

Because school were closed due to Covid-19 (for longer or shorter times), more than **nine thousands school packages** were distributed to children in India and Uganda, in order to enable them to keep up with their school work. Besides school packages, also online schooling session were organised. More than **12 thousand children** participated in the e-learning in Burundi (4527), India (3525; 1765 boys and 1770 girls) and Uganda (4206; 2043 boys and 2163 girls) (see figure 7).

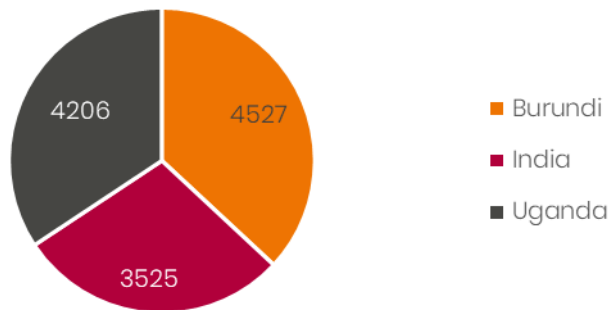


Figure 7: number of children participating in the e-learning

Food Security & Livelihoods

As you might know, Covid-19 had severe economic implications in the countries we work. In order to support the families in our communities in their daily survival food packages, farm inputs and other forms of livelihood support were given. As shown in figure 8, almost **25 thousand family members** benefitted from food distribution by the partners of Help a Child, mostly in India and Rwanda. In Rwanda **2053 food packages** were distributed among two thousand families (each package contained 10kgs of maize flour, 5 kgs (litres) of cooking oil and 5 kgs of beans). Depending on the context, other more relevant support for food security and livelihood support were given. In India for example, **893 families** received farm inputs and in Uganda 632 families were



supported with the same. In India **457 households** received kitchen and gardening training. For the three countries, almost **two thousand children** benefitted from farm inputs,

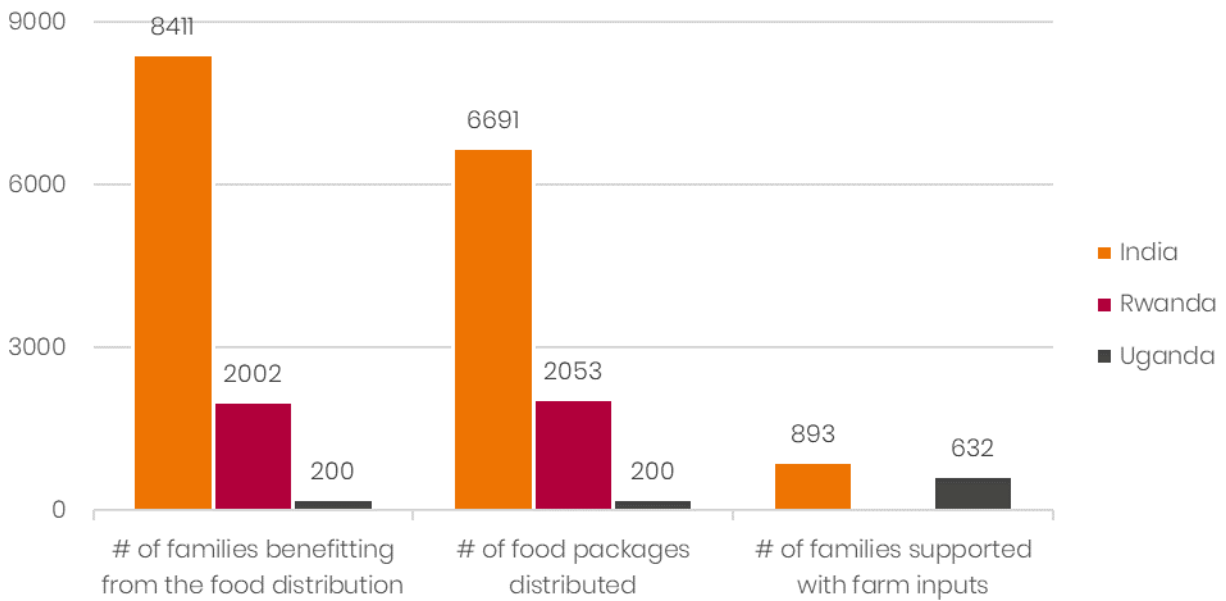


Figure 8: number families/ family members benefiting from food and livelihood support.

Protection

More than 500 parenting sessions were held in five countries (Burundi, India, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda) and more than **thirteen thousand parents** attended these sessions. Depending on the context, these sessions were either online or physical. The aim of the sessions was the same; supporting the parents in dealing with the stressful situation of COVID-19, and supporting these parents in raising their children in the absence of school or other daily routines. Figure 9 shows the attendees, distributed by fathers and mothers. It is remarkable that in all countries mothers are overrepresented, except for Rwanda, where more fathers attended the sessions. In total, almost **30 thousand children** were reached indirectly through these parenting sessions, as this is the number of children these thirteen thousand parents had to take care of.

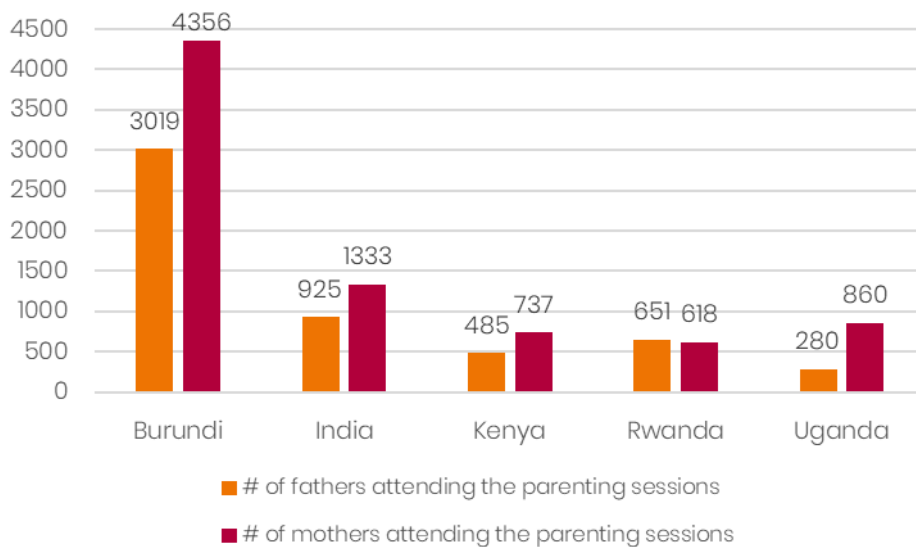


Figure 9: number fathers and mothers attending the parenting sessions



