2020 has been a challenging year. The pandemic gripped the world, leaving no one unaffected. We're working hard to adapt, grow stronger and evolve to meet the needs of the communities we serve. And we're humbled by the continued support from our partners, donors and volunteers, which has enabled us to safely return to work.

In our last quarterly update, we announced that we'd be piloting DM12, a volunteer initiative designed to take into account the unique challenges that COVID-19 presents. This adaptation of our model enabled us to get back to work in September, and we now have active volunteer cohorts in The Bahamas, Texas, Florida and California. Check our volunteer page on the website - allhandsandhearts.org/volunteer - for new opportunities and DM12 updates.

As we enter 2021, we’re looking forward to increasing our support to communities disrupted by natural disasters in the following ways:

- Our Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART) is closely monitoring and remotely assessing, the recent natural disasters in Central America and Southeast Asia in order to understand how we can effectively support impacted communities.
- In The Bahamas, we’re remaining true to our model of arrive early and stay late, and we will expand our efforts to have two hurricane relief programs running simultaneously.
- We’ll restart the work to build disaster-resilient schools in Mexico this January, and in Peru and elsewhere as local conditions allow.
- We’ll restart our Bushfire Relief Program in Australia, and we’re currently assessing the potential to pilot a US Wildfire Relief Program in early 2021.
ACTIVE PROGRAM UPDATES

HURRICANE RELIEF

This year’s Atlantic hurricane season has been the most active in recorded history, with 30 named storms, 13 hurricanes and six major hurricanes. At the time of our last quarterly update, we had deployed our Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART) to Louisiana to support communities impacted by Hurricane Laura. As we write this update, Hurricane Iota has just devastated Nicaragua and Honduras. We are remotely monitoring the impact of the storms and needs of people in affected regions. Meanwhile, there are families in Texas who still need critical home repairs thanks to damage caused by Hurricane Harvey—which happened more than three years ago.

It can take years for communities to fully recover after a disaster. That’s why we remain committed to our model of arriving early, addressing immediate needs, and staying late. It’s how we help communities that are rebuilding to become stronger and more resilient. We currently have four active hurricane relief programs: The Bahamas, Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

COVID-19 RELIEF

We’ve safely launched our pilot COVID-19 Relief Program in Los Angeles, California to increase the capacity of our partner organizations, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE). With 30 volunteers, working alongside the volunteers of our local partners, each week we have been packing about 35,000 emergency meal kits, distributing 55,000 meals to families in need and facilitating 30,000 COVID-19 tests.

If you’d prefer to receive updates by email, please message us at Development@allhandsandhearts.org
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Ma Vi Secondary School, located in the rural district of Sindhuli, Nepal, was severely damaged by the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. We rebuilt this school to provide a safe, disaster-resilient campus for more than 200 students.

Ma Vi’s remote location meant a lack of power, which hindered their hopes of running a computer lab. All Hands and Hearts worked with a local energy provider to install solar panels. We also worked with our long-standing partner OLE Nepal, whose mission is to provide technical solutions to schools that otherwise would lack access to educational technology (EdTech).

Ma Vi Secondary School now has a consistent, renewable supply of electricity and a fully functioning computer lab that teachers and students can use to enhance their education. OLE Nepal knows that to be successful, educators need to understand how to incorporate technology into the classroom. This is why its software program is coordinated with the national curriculum. And why OLE Nepal provides teachers with two years of training to ensure that they understand the software and how to fully exploit its potential. We’d like to thank the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation for generous funding that has enabled All Hands and Hearts to implement EdTech in disaster-affected schools around the world.

IT ALL ADDS UP

We are humbled and amazed by the outpouring of support we have received for our mission from all over the world during our recent #GivingTuesday campaign. Thanks to all who donated and fundraised for our programs.

We are delighted to share that All Hands and Hearts Board members have committed to match all donations dollar for dollar, up to $125,000, between December 1st and 31st. Let’s come together to double our impact and exceed this goal. It All Adds Up!

Will you help us continue bringing relief to families impacted by natural disasters and COVID-19 in 2021?

give.allhandsandhearts.org/2020-It-All-Adds-Up