



PROGRAM PLAN FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS CREATED BY THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH AID (HRCA) AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

Our charity service, especially in the entire Carpathian Basin, strives for charity in the crisis situation of the region, and it also ensures help for families and individuals to adapt to the temporary difficulties.

Among the settlements affected by our activities: the population under 5,000 has an increased geographical and economic handicap, poor public transport, infrastructure and services (eg post office, medical care, pharmacy, grocery store). However, there is a lack of professionals, which results in a heavy workload for social professionals, doctors, and nurses. Due to the large number of older people, it is particularly important to observe precautions and support the capacity of local social health services.

It is important that the HRCA, as a charitable actor, focuses primarily on adherence to protocols of health care, prevention, information to the general public, and on conditions that are meeting the needs of daily living, while the long-term of social and economic consequences of the epidemic, disadvantaged populations (low-educated, single parent, over 50, seriously ill, disabled, substandard) will be hit harder.

These characteristics and the emergence of the emergency situation justify that the following measures have been taken so far in disadvantaged municipalities, in consultation with local decision-makers. The measures were formulated in the light of HRCA Emergency Protocol:

- In the settlements where the HRCA is implementing a permanent charity program, the problems, needs, and measures that may arise are discussed with the mayors and public service providers.
- The emergency team of the HRCA, where necessary on a daily basis, shall agree on the necessary measures, tasks, and procurements.
- In the settlements, we help to inform the public about proper handwashing, prevention of infection and the 12 points of prevention.
- In each municipality, we help the population access to durable food and cleaning products to solve temporary food supply problems. In this context, it is important to reassure the public about avoiding 'panic shopping', as long-term food shortages are not to be expected. In the affected municipalities, we will contact the leaders of the local grocery stores and inquire about food security.
- As educational institutions are closed and the transition to digital education is not a solution everywhere, we are helping students and schools stay connected.
- For the operation of the Bethesda Children's Hospital, we provided equipment for on-site childcare and for the children of on-call medical staff to ensure sleep.
- In the municipalities there are health care/ nursing and basic social services are suspended, home help is in operation, but public service workers are overloaded and therefore they need support.
- Larger employers are closing their activities and most employers are severely affected by restrictive measures, so our Charity Service has created a crisis fund because of the expected loss of income of families.
- We provide families food carriers to ensure their child's meals.
- In the frame of rehabilitation employment, HRCA workers with disabilities produce face masks.
- 5,000 vitamin preparations have been distributed to boost the immune system of the population

Protective equipment and disinfectants are difficult to access, so the number of face-to-face meetings and physical contacts should be minimized for the safety of the public and staff. Our Foundation operates an on-call system, continuously receiving requests for assistance, ensuring that we do not abandon the families we are already in contact with.

Further plans:

At national level, distributing durable food packages and distributing hygiene equipment and medications via the regional offices of the Charity Service in response to incoming requests.





Establishment of a crisis fund with a specific amount for county offices in response to the declared emergency. Operate a preventive crisis fund to support unforeseen but emerging local needs, in exceptional cases where there is no other way to deal with the crisis.

Through our nationwide public employment program, we are present with local parishes and Reformed institutions in 300 settlements, with close to 1,000 employees, who can help deliver aid if it is needed. In addition, our volunteers help the elderly with shopping, buying drugs, so they don't have to go out to the street and put themselves at risk. Helping schoolchildren learn online with a used but still working laptop or tablet maybe a smartphone and related mobile internet.

As part of the preparation for the next school year, support for schooling by coaching with volunteer mentors before September.

In the face of expected economic problems and high levels of unemployment, we would launch a labor market program that would provide a range of complex services that would not only sharpen the participants' skills and abilities to make them employable but would also shape their appearance through a "Dress for Success" program.

At the same time, we would like to help families in need who have debt and their housing is in danger. Through our mentoring program, we help establish contacts with agencies, service providers, and lenders. The advisory activities of the program include participation in the social administration process, including the preparation of grant applications, the preparation of the arrears management plan, the exploration of the possibilities of applying for other resources and social benefits. The mentoring program also provides life support, which is primarily aimed at providing household management, planning skills and mediating rational patterns of consumer behavior. In this situation, we would help families who are trapped in their homes by producing enough food for the family in their home gardens. The program contributes to the quality of life, the development of competencies and skills, and the development of personality. Agriculture and backyard production can provide a solution to malnutrition and provide healthy, fresh produce to families involved in the program.

In addition, we are planning to launch a hand sanitizer production and a bakery operation in the form of social management.

Working together to create a crisis fund, we want to help the elderly, families and children in need in difficult life situations resulting from the epidemic. Donations are welcome at our bank account number and online donation interface.

Setting up a crisis intervention team, in order to ensure a fast and appropriate response to the challenges.

On behalf of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, we would like to express our gratitude for the support granted.

