

SALCET



Website: www.salcet.com

E- mail: chrisjagger42@gmail.com

Dear Supporter,

SALVADORIAN CHILDREN'S EARTHQUAKE TRUST (SALCET)
Registered No: 1111287

On behalf of the Trustees I am writing to thank you for your ongoing support for SALCET during this extremely challenging year for all of us. The worldwide Covid 19 pandemic has hit us all hard, but for those in countries like El Salvador and Uganda where so many are already in extreme poverty, it has been devastating.

Despite restrictions on travel, we have been able to keep in close contact with our friends and projects in both El Salvador and Uganda, and support them prayerfully and financially through their 'lockdown' experiences.

El Salvador, along with all the Central American/Caribbean region has experienced its worst hurricane season on record. As we reported to you in June, when Storm Amanda caused such havoc in El Salvador, SALCET was able to provide financial support which was used for emergency food parcels and repair work to homes in San Carlos and Panchimalco (see attached photos). The situation was exacerbated because of 'lockdown' as people could not leave their homes to work or buy food, and so the provisions they received were absolutely vital. The Community House in San Carlos (financed by SALCET) became an emergency shelter once again and has been a place of refuge and safety throughout the last 6 months. The rainy season has been relentless this year culminating in hurricanes Ita and Iota in November, but Ruth Cruz reported to us last week (30th November) that the dry season has started now and the sun is shining.

El Salvador was in total lockdown for 80 days (the longest of any Central American country) and reports just under 40,000 cases of Covid 19. There have been 1,153 deaths to date, and the effects on the economy have been catastrophic. The schools will re-open at the beginning of February 2021, (the beginning of the new school year.) Our Salvadorian field worker, Ruth Cruz, continues to inform us of people needing ophthalmological treatment, and as hospitals and clinics begin to function again SALCET is financing cataract surgery, prescription spectacles etc for those in need. Please continue to hold the people of El Salvador and their government in your prayers.

Uganda, too, has suffered greatly due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown. The Ssunga Twezimbe Women's Group that SALCET supports had just got their poultry project to the point of producing eggs for sale in the local market, when everything was closed down! They are very resourceful ladies and despite everything report that they have been able to sell eggs locally and keep the chickens well-fed and healthy. The dairy cow and calf, as well as the pigs are thriving and due to a good wet season sweet potatoes and maize are growing well. SALCET has sent some financial support to help them through this unprecedented time, and to encourage them as they have set up their own savings' scheme.

Schools in Uganda closed when lockdown was enforced. This is devastating for the children as school normally provides them with a good meal each day as well as education and safety. The headmaster at Bright Future Primary School in Masaka wanted to send lessons home for the children and so St Bartholomew's School in Haslemere (with some help from SALCET) raised money for the purchase of a photocopier/printer. In July 2020 this was

purchased, enabling the Ugandan pupils to receive printed copies of their lessons, so they could study at home. Schools in Uganda re-opened in October 2020, but because of Covid restrictions, many children have not returned yet. The total number of Covid 19 cases in Uganda is 22,000 but only 200 deaths have been recorded. Again, it is the economy and education that have suffered most during this unsettling time.

The main prayer for Uganda at the moment is that the unrest and violence which is surrounding the build-up to the Presidential elections in January 2021 will cease. Our contacts tell us that the situation is very tense, and they are fearful. On top of all the other hardships of 2020, this is very sad and needs to be recognised more at an international level.

SALCET is pleased to report that there is still plenty of work for us to do as a charity and we are grateful for your continued support.

We wish you peace and joy this Christmas-time, as we celebrate and remember Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Maggie Jagger. SALCET Treasurer)