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# IAVE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND REPORT

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IAVE





*Photo top left*  
Zimbabwe.  
Volunteers dispensing and distributing hand soap to members of the community.

*Photo bottom left*  
Georgia.  
Youth volunteers distributed PPE to homeless women and youth.

*Photo right*  
Overview of volunteer efforts funded by IAVE's COVID-19 Response Fund.



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## COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

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### The Fund

In response to the outbreak, IAVE launched the IAVE COVID-19 Response Fund to support volunteer-led preparedness, containment, response and recovery activities. This Fund helped ensure volunteering organizations had resources to keep critical volunteering efforts strong in times of such great need.

Distribution of hand soap



Food delivery to vulnerable people



Disinfection of public spaces



Creation of low-cost tech solutions



Distribution of PPE



Online learning and tutoring for youth



Training of frontline volunteers



Awareness raising on prevention methods



## The Grants

Grants were small, one-time only, cash awards of under \$500 given to a volunteering organization for an impact-oriented project focused on COVID-19 support. A total of 8 grants were disbursed.

## The Beneficiaries

The awarded volunteer projects came through member organizations of IAVE's Global Network of Volunteering Leadership (GNVL), focused on valuing, supporting and developing volunteering in their countries and regions. The projects focused on assisting the most vulnerable people.

## The Efforts

### Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado (CNV), Mozambique

CNV used the grant to support its *Volunteer's Response Plan to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, a national effort developed in partnership with the State Secretariat for Youth and Employment (SEJE), helping volunteers carry out actions to combat the direct impacts of the coronavirus, emphasizing prevention and mitigation.

The main actions carried out by the volunteers under the Response Plan were:

- People sensitizing, including the dissemination of toll-free phone lines, websites and other user support services, combating misinformation and fake news about COVID-19.
- Disinfection of passenger and private vehicles, as well as public spaces (markets, transit stops, squares, shops, etc.).
- Supervision of compliance of the measures imposed by the Government (use of the protective mask, social distancing, mandatory quarantine, flow of migrants at the borders, prices of goods and services, etc.), and reporting of violations, including the abuse of power by the police authorities.
- Production and distribution of masks and soap for underprivileged and vulnerable people.
- Creation and/or provision of low-cost, sustainable technological solutions. This is a transversal component to all the areas of intervention and CNV has devoted special attention to it, as it drives innovative processes.

**The full report of the initiative is [available here](#). A press release on the official efforts to continue the Response Plan is [here](#).**

*Photo top right*  
Mozambique.  
Volunteers holding awareness seminars, educating the public on preventative measures to avoid transmission.



*Photo middle right*  
Mozambique.  
Volunteers disinfecting public commuter buses.



*Photo bottom right*  
Rwanda.  
Volunteers delivering food to low-income families who are at risk of food insecurity after losing their jobs due to the pandemic.



## Rwanda Volunteer Network (RVN), Rwanda

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many Rwandan families to lose their main source of income from curtailed business services and production. As a result, the country's food assistance organizations have been coping with a tremendous surge in the number of families with food insecurity.

In response to this, the Rwanda Volunteer Network established a *COVID-19 Food Security Bank* to expand services for direct-to-resident home food delivery as one of several methods being used to overcome

growing food needs. IAVE's grant helped increase a number of volunteer-based home delivery methods to meet the needs of families facing the impacts of the coronavirus, especially those in low-income and low-literacy groups, as well as those residing in day care, developmental disability care and senior care facilities, as well as other group homes.

**The full report on the initiative and key takeaways on RVN's pandemic response is available [here](#).**



*Photo top  
Rwanda.  
Volunteers working  
with the COVID-19  
Food Security Bank  
to deliver food to  
vulnerable groups  
in special care and  
elderly care facilities.*

## Volunteers Involving Organisations Network (VIONet), Sierra Leone

VIONet Sierra Leone used the grant fund to develop community awareness efforts, explaining the need to implement enhanced hygiene practices. The organization developed a 2-day community sensitization program in Aberdeen, Tengbeh Town and Wilberforce communities in the western area of Freetown from May 10-11. Twenty young volunteers, ten females and ten males, committed their time to vigorously disseminate information to the communities on proper COVID-19 prevention. More than 5,000 people were reached through this effort.

Key messages were shared to the communities, emphasizing on symptoms, preventative measures and control of the virus. The use of face mask in public places, handwashing with soap and clean water, social distancing and staying at home, were highlighted to help contain community transmission. Veronica buckets, 500ml bottles of hand soap, awareness posters and megaphones were donated to each of the communities to be placed at strategic locations where every member of the community would benefit from their use.

Read the full report of VIONET's work [here](#).



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*The message is timely as a lot of us are yet to believe that COVID-19 is real and is impacting Sierra Leone.*

Abdul Kamara, member of the community, Sierra Leone



*Photo top  
Sierra Leone.  
Volunteer posting important information about the pandemic, including symptoms and preventative measures to control the virus.*

*Photo left  
Sierra Leone.  
Volunteers distribute liquid hand soap to members of the community, while spreading awareness on how to prevent transmission.*

## Association JSA, Togo

Last March, Association JSA started a series of communication efforts to inform vulnerable groups about COVID-19. Targeting homeless people, particularly children and young people living on the streets around Lomé's central market and its surroundings, JSA mobilized volunteers to support a number of activities to explain prevention practices.

The grant fund helped support the three stages of the project:

- Collecting data on the impact of COVID-19 in vulnerable communities, conducted by JSA volunteers.
- Awareness raising and supporting vulnerable groups, including street children, homeless youth, and women in areas in and around Lomé's major market.
- Monitoring and evaluating the actions carried out.

**The full report of the project, including samples of the promotional materials used for the awareness efforts, is [available here](#).**

## Helping Hand, Georgia

The strict lockdown in Georgia affected the most vulnerable groups: homeless youth and women were put at heightened risk of violence, leaving them without essential protection services.

The grant received by Helping Hand was used in a project that engages Georgian youth volunteers to support 25 homeless young people, providing them with primary hygienic packages and non-perishable foods. These packages were delivered with support of 10 Helping Hand volunteers equipped with proper personal protective equipment (PPE). All the efforts were recorded in a series of written stories, which became powerful storytelling tools to spread information on the needs of these communities, both to State agencies and the Georgian society at large.

The support provided by IAVE was recognized by UNICEF Georgia, resulting in the start of a partnership with Helping Hand to work with youth volunteers all over the country.

**Learn more about the growing efforts of Helping Hand on their [website](#).**





*Photo top  
Togo.  
Volunteer posting  
awareness posters  
about COVID-19 and  
prevention methods  
in low-income  
communities.*

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***Volunteering is the best way to unite people. COVID-19 has proven to us again how important the role of volunteers is in supporting our community members and even governmental efforts during times of crisis. When the lockdown was first announced I was scared. I didn't know how we could continue working. Volunteers were calling and asking how they could help others – Immediately my fears disappeared! I recognized that we have a huge responsibility to lead our volunteers and find the way to support homeless children. It was difficult process to adapt to in this new reality, but it sure was worth it.***

**Tinatin Meskhi, Director, Helping Hand**

## Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour le Développement, Niger

As part of the volunteer response plan to the coronavirus pandemic, the fund received by the Nigerien Volunteer Agency for Development (ANVD) helped equip 100 volunteers with masks and hydroalcoholic gel to carry out actions in three main locations across Niamey:

- The Seyni Kountche Stadium. 25 tents with 125 beds were set up at this site, to medically observe and follow-up potential COVID-19 cases.
- The Institute of Public Health. This site welcomed national health workers volunteering to analyze cases developed in three sub-sites: Seyno, Finifoot, and Sonrai.
- The General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC). Several toll-free telephone lines have been opened to the public in response to the pandemic. This DGPC welcomed ANVD volunteers to respond to calls from citizens across the country who suspected they had coronavirus.

Read the full report of ANVD activities [here](#).

## Volunteers Federation (VF), Zimbabwe

Using the IAVE COVID-19 grant, VF in Zimbabwe is piloting a response strategy in Glen View and Budiro communities in Harare. Volunteers in these two communities are undertaking awareness campaigns, managing water points, distributing liquid soap and undergoing impact surveillance and community-based communication efforts to mitigate the risks and impacts of COVID-19. Capacity building activities of inter-cluster frontline responders are also ongoing.

The *Zimbabwe National Volunteer Response Plan to COVID-19* included:

- Inspection, awareness raising and establishment of criteria.
- Training of volunteer leaders and trainers.
- Training of frontline volunteers.
- Frontline volunteers' engagement and placements.
- Frontline volunteer placement management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Zimbabwe National Volunteer Response Plan to COVID-19 adjournment.

To learn more about the VF response efforts and their implementation, read the full reports here: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

*Photo top*  
Niger.  
Volunteer healthcare professionals gathering at the Institute of Public Health to address cases developing in Seyno, Finifoot and Sonrai.



*Photo bottom*  
Zimbabwe.  
Frontline volunteers distributing liquid hand soap to members of the community.



## PROA, Peru

The grant funds provided to PROA helped them enable a series of actions for their #GuerrerosPorLaEducación (#WarriorsForEducation) program, an initiative of the #JuntosNosHacemosCargo (#TogetherWeTakeCare) national campaign, a volunteer-based collaborative project that raised over 3 million soles in donations to serve more than 85,000 vulnerable families all around the country. As part of their goal to assist affected groups, the program activated a digital volunteering branch, convening more than 400 volunteers to date.

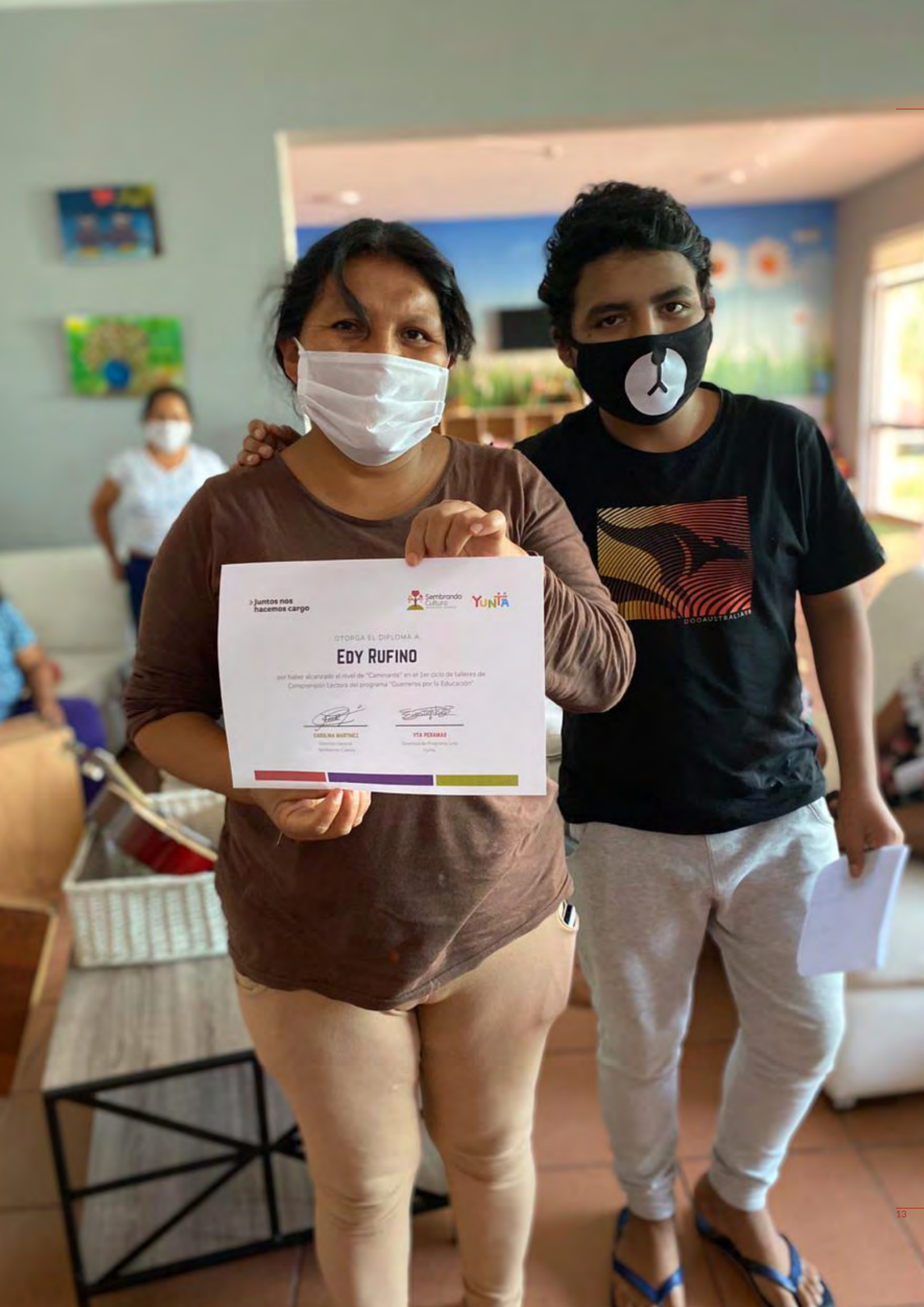
Using their digital platform, PROA connects volunteers with social organizations. Given the impacts of COVID-19, they have worked to adapt a number of volunteering actions to digitally expand acts of solidarity. #GuerrerosPorLaEducación was set to

train volunteer tutors to reinforce the education received by children and youth in the Aprendo en Casa (Learning at Home) program. Led in partnership with Makesense, #GuerrerosPorLaEducación connects organizations like Sembrando Cultura, Superminds and Yunta to create the content and methodology for online lessons, as well the Ronald McDonald Association and Turismo Cuida as the partners responsible for selecting the children and youth beneficiaries.

To date, 47 volunteer tutors and 75 children and youth have been part of the program. The goal is to have 8,000 beneficiaries by the end of 2020.

**More details, as well as promotional materials for #GuerrerosPorLaEducación, are available [here](#).**

*Photo next page  
Peru.  
Volunteer tutor of PROA's  
#GuerrerosPorLaEducación  
receives her diploma for  
successfully completing the  
training program.*







OTORGA EL DIPLOMA A  
**EDY RUFINO**  
 por haber alcanzado el nivel de "Camionante" en el 3er ciclo de talleres de  
 "Comprensión Lectora del programa "Guerreros por la Educación"

  
**CAROLINA MARTÍNEZ**  
 Directora General  
 Sembrando Cultura

  
**YTA PERINIAS**  
 Directora del Programa Leer  
 Yguay