



For Immediate Release

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InterAction

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COVID-19's Threat to Global Food Security: Who's Most At Risk Amid Reduced Access to Food and Supplies?

[InterAction](#) will be providing weekly tailored Media Alerts highlighting the work our Members are implementing around the world. The theme of this week's Media Alert is food security. If you would like to learn more about any of the following information, please feel free to reach out directly to the POC provided. For more information, please contact Madaleine Weber, mweber@cadasta.org, Cadasta Foundation.

As Families' Incomes Plummet, Millions of Children Go Hungry, Forced to Work or Beg.

A new report from World Vision, [Out of Time](#), warned that global predictions of increased child hunger, violence, and poverty due to the economic impact of COVID-19 are already starting to come true. The report is based on assessments from 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. Please find the press release [HERE](#) and the report [HERE](#).


For more information, please contact Nicole Harris, nharris@worldvision.org, World Vision.

In East Africa: A Dual Plague of Locusts and COVID-19

A simultaneous emergency is playing out across East Africa as billions of locusts are devouring a critical swath of farmland stretching as far as 2 million square miles at the same time that thousands of farming families are going hungry as a result of the secondary impacts of COVID-19. While government and humanitarian efforts are underway, if the situation doesn't quickly improve, millions could lose their savings and potentially their lives as extreme food insecurity sweeps across already vulnerable communities. In Kenya alone, 26 counties have been affected. Organizations like Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are part of a coordinated humanitarian response; CRS operates large food security programs in Kenya, Ethiopia & Uganda and is supporting locust control efforts & public awareness campaigns. In addition, CRS is training young people equipped with smartphones to track the locust swarms.

For more information, please contact Nikki Gamer, Nikki.Gamer@crs.org, Catholic Relief Services.

New Streamlined Approach to Treat Acute Malnutrition Brings Same Recovery in Children at Lower Cost



Action Against Hunger, the International Rescue Committee, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine led the Combined Protocol for Acute Malnutrition Study (ComPAS)—one of the first trials to use one diagnostic criterion, one product, and one protocol to treat both severe and moderate acute malnutrition. Approaching moderate and severe acute malnutrition as a continuum, rather than two separate health conditions, eliminates the need for different products and protocols, potentially allowing for more cost-effective treatment, freeing up resources to treat more children.

ComPAS results, released on July 9, 2020, showed that this innovative protocol tested in South Sudan and in Kenya, was just as safe and effective as the current protocols while costing approximately 12% less per child. By improving value for money without compromising the quality of care, it may be possible to reach millions more malnourished children each year with lifesaving treatment. Please find the study [HERE](#) and the joint press release [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Emily Tyree, ebtyree@actionagainsthunger.org, Action Against Hunger, and Nicole Smith, nicole.smith@rescue.org, International Rescue Committee.

COVID-19 and Global Trade Implications for Food Systems and Healthy Diets

We are in an unprecedented moment in history, to be sure, which brings us unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The choices we as local, national, regional, and global actors make at this crossroads will have long-lasting impacts on our health, wellbeing, and the future of our food systems. The National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA)'s Technical Agriculture Advisor, Bryan Sobel, and Gina Kennedy from Global Alliance For Improved Nutrition co-wrote this piece on [how the pandemic is impacting global trade and food systems](#) at a local, regional, and global scale.

For more information, please contact Isabelle Shinsato, ishinsato@ncba.coop, NCBA CLUSA.

Local Organizations Can Provide Insight Essential to Mitigate COVID-19 Implications

The National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA) works with and through formal and informal community groups and associations to support resilient livelihoods and improve food security and nutrition at the household, community, and food system level. We know that it takes local commitment, knowledge, and empowerment to develop and adapt solutions to local contexts in order to be effective. Our field teams expect direct impacts on health and nutrition due to illness and death of wage earners, farmers, and care-givers. We also expect impacts on food supplies and food access. While encouraging social distancing, reduced crowds in public spaces, transport, and events, severely enforced 'lockdown' measures can disrupt livelihoods and drive hunger and malnutrition for those living on a daily earned income or with limited access to foods. Without national safety nets, many households are reliant on remittances. They are also at risk, as wage earners abroad lose their ability to earn income because of the pandemic's economic impacts. Please find the full piece [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Isabelle Shinsato, ishinsato@ncba.coop, NCBA CLUSA.

Sudanese Children Facing Extreme Hunger Doubles Due to Impact of COVID-19

Spiraling food prices, inflation, the impact of COVID-19 is devastating Sudanese families. As the country faces its worst food crisis in recent years, the number of children facing crisis-level food insecurity has doubled since 2019 to 1.1 million. In total, an estimated 9.6 million people do not know where their next meal is coming from. Save the Children is helping families through the food and COVID crises—providing cash grants to refugee families in Khartoum, distributing seeds and farming equipment in South Kordofan, and providing vouchers in Darfur and Kordofan. The organization also supports more than 100 nutrition centers in Darfur, Kordofan, Red Sea, and Blue Nile States to reduce malnutrition in children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers. [Read more.](#)

For more information, please contact Erin Taylor, etaylor@savechildren.org, Save the Children.

Lack of Tourism in the Caribbean Leads to Food Insecurity

Many people depend on tourism for their income in the Caribbean. Due to COVID-19, islands are not receiving visitors, and those employed at resorts or related businesses have been laid off. Young people in the Dominican Republic are particularly hard-hit. Plan International USA is providing cash transfers to young people who have been trained in hospitality, yet have been out of work for months. Interviews with young people on the effect of COVID-19 on their employment and lack of abilities to afford food are available.

For more information, please contact Bernice Morquette, bernice.morquette@planusa.org, Plan International USA.


Latin America, the Epicenter of COVID-19

Latin America is now the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. A health crisis on top of a food and nutrition crisis in places like the dry corridor in Central America and the border between Colombia and Venezuela is on the horizon. As many as 14 million people in the region could face severe food shortages by the end of the year due to COVID-19. COVID-19 may rewrite the future of Latin America—especially for Indigenous and Afro-Latino populations. Even before the pandemic, these populations were already experiencing higher rates of hunger and malnutrition as a result of centuries of discrimination.

For more information, please contact Heather Taylor, htaylor@bread.org, Bread for the World.

Tackling Food Insecurity, COVID-19 with Guatemala's Small-Scale Farmers

To help reduce hunger and child malnutrition in the dry western corridor of Guatemala, PCI, a Global Communities Partner, has been implementing ¡Ánimo!, or the “Encouragement” project. In addition to providing cash transfers, this emergency food security program promotes vegetable production through integrated farm models that equip families with supplies to produce organic fertilizers, vegetable seeds, rainwater harvesters, and eco-filters for safe drinking water. In 49 communities, the prevalence of underweight children has dropped from 13.5% to 2.5% in just over three years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 32 field technicians have also been working with small-scale farmers. These technicians have distributed seeds and provided one-on-one trainings to participating farmers while also



reiterating COVID-19 prevention measures. Training sessions have fostered family resilience in the face of the pandemic. Participants report having enough food at the household level and not having to rely on purchasing seeds to continue production in spite of lockdown measures.

For more information, please contact Maureen Simpson, msimpson@pciglobal.org, Project Concern International.

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