



For Immediate Release

July 29, 2020

InterAction

Morgan Martinez

Director, Communications

mmartinez@interaction.org

InterAction Weekly Media Alert: Food Insecurity, Human Rights, and COVID-19's Threat to the World's Most Vulnerable

[InterAction](#) will be providing weekly tailored Media Alerts highlighting the work our Members are implementing around the world. If you would like to learn more about any of the following information, please feel free to reach out directly to the POC provided.

More Needs to Be Done To Address Food Insecurity in Minority Communities

Federal data have shown wide disparities in food security—or lack of it—along racial lines. Black and Brown Americans are increasingly likely to suffer from food insecurity than white families. This op-ed by Islamic Relief USA's CEO, Sharif Aly, explores this issue and possible legislative solutions to address it. Please find the op-ed [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Syed M. Hassan, mhassan@irusa.org, Islamic Relief USA.

Survivor Voice: Luzmila, Afro-Colombian Community Leader

When asked about the persecution of human rights defenders in Colombia, particularly those of Afro-descent, Luzmila says, "I've been facing threats and persecution all my life. Violence against community leaders is nothing new. For decades, being a leader has meant living a life filled with intimidation from various directions and groups. But, I carry the title of leader with pride. I carry the title of Afro-Colombian leader with immense pride." Read Luzmila's story of survival, resilience, and advocacy [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Dani Silva, dasilva@heartlandalliance.org, Heartland Alliance International.

Surging COVID-19 Infections Among Migrant Workers Threaten the Global Remittance Economy

The economic fallout of COVID-19 in the developing world has prompted a global conversation about increasing aid for developing countries. However, few have acknowledged that government assistance pales in comparison to remittances from family members working abroad. The pandemic is sapping these remittances at a devastating rate. The World Bank estimates that international family remittances [will fall by 20%](#) in 2020,

resulting in \$110 billion in lost income for families living close to the poverty line, meaning they survive on \$1.90 a day or less. Learn more in an article featuring Concern Worldwide CEO Colleen Kelly [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Ed Kenney, ed.kenney@concern.net, Concern Worldwide U.S.

The COVID-19 Burden of Disease on Refugees and Immigrants

Refugees and immigrants have had to bear the burdens of COVID-19, ultimately affecting their finances, families, and mental wellbeing. Tarik Endale, program manager of the Kovler Center Child Trauma Program with Heartland Alliance International, [comments on their experiences](#) following the shelter-at-home order that has temporarily closed the doors of the center, suspending the provision of in-person services in the community, and forcing the program to become remote overnight. Learn more [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Dani Silva, dasilva@heartlandalliance.org, Heartland Alliance International.

Floods, Locusts and Food Insecurity put Children's Lives at Risk in Somalia

Heavy and erratic rains over the past weeks have sparked the third flash flood in nine months in the southern states of Somalia, [displacing almost 150,000 children](#) with their families. The recurring and erratic floods, combined with recent swarms of locusts and the loss of livelihoods, have pushed tens of thousands of people into food insecurity, as food prices have soared and food production has plummeted by 30-40% in parts of the country. Save the Children is expanding its existing programs to support the new arrivals in Mogadishu, as at least another 1,000 households who left their areas because of the floods are expected to arrive in already overcrowded camps for internally displaced people.


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

New COVID-19 Battleground Emerges in Nine-Year Long Syria Conflict

A new battleground in the nine-year conflict in Syria opened last week with [confirmation of the first case](#) of COVID-19 in war-torn Idlib Province. On July 9, a doctor at the Bab al-Hawa Hospital, situated at a crucial border crossing with Turkey, tested positive for the virus. By July 12, there were three additional cases confirmed. The consequences of an uncontrolled COVID-19 outbreak in northwest Syria are almost too terrible to contemplate, with around 2.3 million of the 4 million population in the opposition-controlled area displaced from their homes, living in overcrowded temporary shelter and all dependent on aid. If the medical infrastructure in some of the world's most advanced countries has been overwhelmed by the pandemic, how could the shattered and threadbare health system in Idlib cope?

For more information, please contact Vanessa Tobin, vtobin@us.goal.ie, GOAL USA.

Ten Years after U.N. Declares Water and Sanitation a Human Right, Access Remains a Challenge for Millions



Ten years after the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized the human right to water and sanitation, 1 in 10 people—785 million—still lack access to clean water close to home. One in four people, or 2 billion in total, do not have a decent toilet of their own. WaterAid is using the 10th anniversary of the declaration to ask governments to double their investments in providing clean water and good hygiene amid the COVID-19 pandemic to those most in need. “Governments and service providers—like utilities [and] small businesses—need to understand their obligations and responsibilities to reach everyone with water and sanitation that is safe, accessible, affordable, available, and culturally acceptable,” says Louisa Gosling, senior WASH manager at WaterAid. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact Emily Haile, ehaile@wateraidamerica.org, WaterAid.

###

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people. Our Members are premier international global development, humanitarian, and sector-supporting organizations that work in almost every country and manage more than \$15 billion in programs worldwide. [InterAction.org](https://www.interaction.org).