



**For Immediate Release**

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InterAction

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**NGOs: COVID-19 Threatens Girls, Infants, Minorities, Health Systems, and 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.

**COVID-19 Puts Thousands of Migrant Girls in Latin America at Risk of Violence and Exploitation**

The Americas region is witnessing two of the worst migration crises in the world: the flow of Venezuelan people and the population of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras migrating to Mexico and the United States. As COVID-19 sweeps across the Americas, girls, young women, and unaccompanied children have been left particularly vulnerable to sexual and physical abuse, abandonment, discrimination, and forced labor in the wake of border closures and movement restrictions. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Bernice Morquette, [Bernice.Morquette@planusa.org](mailto:Bernice.Morquette@planusa.org), Plan International USA.

**COVID-19 Forcing Young Girls to Sell Their Bodies for Food**

We're hearing reports from our partners in the field that there is a growing number of [young girls across Zimbabwe](#) taking to the streets to sell their bodies to afford food for their families. COVID-19 has caused global hunger to spike, forcing these young girls to put themselves in dangerous situations. Catholic Relief Services is working with local partners to help provide food rations to vulnerable families as well as supporting various women's shelters across the country. By providing them with food parcels and a safe space, they no longer need to decide between protecting their body or feeding their family.

For more information, contact Dooshima Tsee, [dooshima.tsee@crs.org](mailto:dooshima.tsee@crs.org), Catholic Relief Services.

**At-Risk Infants and COVID-19**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, global guidance was available for nutrition programs, such as child wasting. However, field guidance was lacking for the management of at-risk mothers and infants under six months (MAMI). The U.N. estimates that only around 40% of the global population of babies within this age group are exclusively breastfed and that around 8.5 million infants are suffering from acute malnutrition. More detailed information relating to GOAL's support for MAMI in the context of COVID-19 can be found [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Vanessa Tobin, [vtobin@us.goal.ie](mailto:vtobin@us.goal.ie), GOAL USA.

### **How a Gender Equity Lens Can Help with COVID-19—and Everything Else**

The global response to COVID-19 needs to be about more than a virus—it must acknowledge and address long-standing health inequities. [We cannot talk about health without talking about gender.](#) Gender inequity and its underlying causes influence health-seeking behaviors, access to care, and potential exposure to disease. We see gender inequity play out in all our work at PATH.

For more information, contact Lindsay Bosslet, [lbosslet@path.org](mailto:lbosslet@path.org), PATH.

### **New COVID-19 Study Points to Systemic Racism in the U.S.**

Racism is an ongoing public health crisis that has inflicted trauma on Black bodies and forced a disproportionate burden of disease onto Black communities for centuries. Black Americans face higher rates of maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, injury, and death due to violence, injury, and death at the hands of police and many other structural disparities. [This study](#) uses spatial statistics to show COVID-19's effects on Black communities.

For more information, contact Lindsay Bosslet, [lbosslet@path.org](mailto:lbosslet@path.org), PATH.

### **When a COVID-19 Vaccine is Ready, World Be?**

Vaccine feasibility is only one piece of the immunization puzzle. We need to start solving for the rest right now. To mass produce, distribute, and administer the vaccine to billions of people—a whole host of other challenges [must be overcome](#).

For more information, contact Lindsay Bosslet, [lbosslet@path.org](mailto:lbosslet@path.org), PATH.

### **Easing the Oxygen Shortage for COVID-19 and Beyond**

Health systems in low- and middle-income countries struggle to supply reliable medical oxygen for their patients. [A new toolkit](#) helps ensure equitable access to this lifesaving resource.

For more information, contact Lindsay Bosslet, [lbosslet@path.org](mailto:lbosslet@path.org), PATH.

### **Testing the Tests: The Washington COVID-19 Biorepository**

From local COVID-19 samples, PATH is creating a global resource for the development of diagnostics. The lab has become an invaluable resource in the [development and validation of diagnostic tests for COVID-19](#).

For more information, contact Lindsay Bosslet, [lbosslet@path.org](mailto:lbosslet@path.org), PATH.

### **Syria on the brink of disaster**

World Vision warned that thousands are at considerable risk as COVID-19 cases increase in Syria, a country already demolished by almost ten years of war. This warning came as the NGO launched a report that documents the first 100 days of its global response to COVID-19. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Nicole Harris, [nharris@worldvision.org](mailto:nharris@worldvision.org), World Vision.



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