



For Immediate Release

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InterAction

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EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 School Closures, New Innovations, and Girls' Protection

[InterAction](#) provides weekly tailored Media Alerts highlighting the work our Members are implementing around the world. **The theme of this week's Media Alert is education.** If you would like to learn more about any of the following information, please feel free to reach out directly to the POC provided.

Back to School Cancelled for Girls

More than 700 million girls around the world are out of school due to COVID-19. For many girls, an interruption like this can be devastating. Adolescent girls in vulnerable communities are the most at risk for permanently dropping out of school. Hear directly from girls about how their education is being affected. Interviews available. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Maria Holsopple, maria.holsopple@planusa.org, Plan International USA.

Avoiding Foggy Future through Education

The Education Support Program of HHRD encourages and empowers the minds and hearts of future teachers, doctors, engineers, and others, who will go on to influence the world. This program is active in Jordan and Lebanon for the refugees, child care centers for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as well as in Pakistan and Somalia. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Hafiz Amjad Saeed, hafiz.saeed@hhrd.us, Helping Hand for Relief and Development.

One million Pregnant African Girls Could be Blocked from Returning to School Following COVID-19

A report released today by global aid agency World Vision said as many as one million schoolgirls could be blocked from re-entry to school because they have become pregnant during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Aftershocks – Access Denied](#) warned that girls who have become pregnant, many because of sexual violence, child marriage, and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services, will now lose out on future opportunities because policies and practices in some countries across sub-Saharan Africa do not allow pregnant girls or young mothers to continue their education. COVID-19 has forced school closures in 194 countries, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners—over 90% of the world's school-going population.

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

Standing in the Educational Gap During COVID-19: Feed the Children Continues to Serve Students and Teachers for New School Year

As school districts around the U.S. continue to assess safety measures and make the move to in-person instruction, virtual instruction, or a combination of both learning environments, families are facing the reality that the new school year will look dramatically different. Even as many classrooms transition to full-time virtual instruction, students and teachers still lack the materials needed for proper development. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Samaiyah Islam, samaiyah.islam@feedthechildren.org, Feed the Children.

Innovating to Protect Our Shared Future

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is committed to assisting forcibly displaced students, and we're working on innovative responses and approaches to ensure that learning continues during the global pandemic. From radio broadcasts in the Central African Republic to WhatsApp lessons in Lebanon, our teams are innovating, overcoming obstacles, and continuing to educate refugee children. On September 1, JRS will host a live panel discussion on this response, the need to improve refugee access to education during COVID-19, and how the future of refugees must be protected. Learn more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Sarah Carroll, sarah.carroll@jrsusa.org, Jesuit Refugee Service USA.

Using Local Radio to Keep Girls Engaged in School

For many girls, the combination of sudden school closures due to COVID-19 and no or limited access to the internet at home is more than a setback—it presents as a danger to their futures. Being out of school means added household responsibilities, risk of early and enforced marriage, and more. That's why Mercy Corps teams are collaborating with government agencies and local communities to keep education on track by bringing education directly to girls. Across Nigeria and rural Nepal, thousands of students are tuning in to the radio for school lessons while lockdown measures prevent them from attending in person. Read more [HERE](#).


For more information, contact Grace Ndungu, gndungu@mercycorps.org, Mercy Corps.

As Schools Reopen, Secondary COVID-19 Impacts Are Still Felt by Students

As schools across West Africa prepare to open in the coming weeks and months, Catholic Relief Services staff remain concerned about long-term effects of COVID-19 induced school closures: drop-out rates, exposure to violence, exploitation, and more. While the McGovern-Dole Food for Education programs have been ongoing, issues in childhood nutrition and health have continued. Our experts in Sierra Leone, Mali, and Burkina Faso are available to discuss what they have seen on the ground and heard from families, teachers, school administrators, and local governments. Read more [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Brittany Wichtendahl, brittany.wichtendahl@crs.org, Catholic Relief Services.

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