

## Alliance2015 statement on COVID-19 emergency

Everyone everywhere is trying to make sense of COVID-19's immediate and long-term impact on all our lives. While it affects us all, those more vulnerable will be hit hardest, worst and longest – including by economic and societal effects in richer countries. It's a moment when **our deep roots and solidarity links, including as Alliance2015 matter more than ever**. They must now come into play as we try to support preparedness, response and long-term recovery in the countries where we work, as well as each other.

It is our duty as engaged humanitarian and development specialists to alert our publics about the enormous potential impact of COVID-19 on the poorest contexts, and the critical links between preparedness and short medium and long term response of everyone, regardless of their country of origin. CSO at all levels are a critical part of the joint response, ensuring the key link to most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach populations.

### What are Alliance2015 members doing to face COVID-19 emergency?

Alliance2015 members have a joint presence in 53 countries and of those, member operations are being reduced, suspended or closed due to COVID-19 in around 10<sup>1</sup>. Ongoing reviews are being carried out in each of the project countries to determine how to best adapt programming to COVID-19 needs, where the restrictions of host and donor governments allow.

Thanks to their experience of dealing with the prevention of highly infectious disease transmission (e.g. Ebola), Alliance2015 members are already training teams in some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries on COVID-19 prevention and response. They are working with local health authorities to ensure a coordinated effort across water, sanitation and hygiene (**WASH**), **community education**, **food safety** and **healthcare worker training**.

In general, the following activities have already been implemented in the different regions where Alliance2015 members are active:

#### **WASH**

- Installation of hand washing facilities, latrines and information stands.
- Raising awareness with local communities about correct hygiene practice to prevent spread of the virus and ad distribution of soap, disinfectant and masks.
- Sensitization about the importance of a safe management of healthcare waste.

#### **Community education and support**

- Supporting partner organisations and local authorities in the creation and use of educational material such as posters, radio spots, loudspeaker announcements.
- In conflict areas, new methodologies have been designed to move education and psychosocial support trainings online where possible.
- Supporting vulnerable households with tablets and connectivity kits to continue p online education.

#### **Food security**

- Food aid for people in quarantine, and support of vulnerable households with nutrition, education and health kits.
- Set up a delivery service for fresh food in urban areas and provide cooked meals to vulnerable families in rural villages.

#### **Awareness raising and trainings**

- Training community leaders and members to share information about the virus with the communities.
- Training of frontline workers, to be equipped to respond to COVID-19.
- Specific awareness raising campaigns to prevent gender violence during quarantine.

<sup>1</sup> In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria. This is an approximate number, as the world situation is continuously evolving: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>.

## Fundraising activities

Many national fundraising initiatives have been launched by Alliance2015 members, such as:

- the [SOS Czechia](#) fundraiser and a [fundraiser](#) in Slovak Republic (PIN).
- a [charity initiative](#) to raise funds for Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital and other health facilities in Bergamo, Italy (Cesvi).
- a [Facebook fundraiser](#) to support an additional 300 vulnerable households with kits in Mongolia (PIN).
- a [fundraising campaign](#) to provide cash transfer restricted to food items for people in quarantine (in Ecuador, Peru and 1.000 families in Spain, by Ayuda en Acción).

## Advocacy activities in Europe

- Efforts are underway among public donors to reallocate funds for use in COVID-19 prevention and the care of people in quarantine, and from our side to ensure more funding is made available to CSO who are the vital link to hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable populations on the ground.
- In Brussels, with our Brussels-based NGO partners, Alliance2015 is working to ensure the European Commission responds swiftly and optimally to needs in the Global South, promoting and modelling the collaborative approaches required to confront and recover from a pandemic.