In the face of the COVID-19 epidemic: Let us not forget the planet’s most fragile. Appeal for a global mobilization.

France faces the violence of this pandemic, which now engulfs the whole world.

Thanks to the implementation of confinement measures coupled with advanced medical infrastructures, our countries will manage to face down this terrible epidemic, through much hardship. This reality applies to many of the richest countries.

Let us then imagine the situation of developing countries on other continents, less favored, sometimes facing conflict.

It is our duty as humanitarians to alert public opinion and governments about the impact of COVID-19 on the poorest and most fragile countries, where hundreds of millions of the most vulnerable already face humanitarian crises.

If here 15 percent of those diagnosed with the virus require hospitalization on average, it is with fright that we imagine how these countries will manage the influx of the sick, with sometimes 20 times fewer hospital beds and 50 times fewer doctors per capita than France. Let us think about the millions of people who live in war-torn countries and in refugee camps. They are already experiencing hell. Will they now have to face even worse?

It seems that confinement is today the only reliable mean to stop the virus’ propagation within a population. How will the poorest amongst these countries manage, when their economies are mostly informal, with poverty rampant, with the bulk of their population needing to go out daily to simply meet their most basic needs. When the state is fragile or failed, with very limited resources constraining its action.

We declare it solemnly: without a massive solidarity effort from rich countries, it is millions of men and women from the most fragile countries of the South who could die, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, amongst the most vulnerable populations such as internally displaced people and refugees.

We call for a massive mobilization to support them, as we did in the fight against Ebola.

We make this appeal as ACTED but also as Alliance2015, the network of eight European-based NGOs working in 95 countries, programming 904m EUR/year to reach over 40 million people, acting collaboratively to achieve greater impact in the face of poverty, hunger, inequality in the spirit of the SDGs.

Our response as Alliance2015 is to adapt our programming wherever we can to help the poorest and most vulnerable – who are the hardest hit - to prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19. As Alliance2015 we will share and use our years of experience in crisis preparedness and response, especially from the Ebola epidemic, to work alongside our partners and face this together.

We must commit once again.

It is our collective duty, let us act decisively!

To join this call, sign on www.acted.org.

[ACTED logo]
[Alliance2015 logo]