

ACTED • [Nigeria, Horn of Africa, Colombia, Lebanon and Central African Republic]

ACTED MEDIA NEWS

ACTED monthly Media News offers a selection of key media friendly updates, highlighting specific operations and activities worldwide.



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Supporting local tailors and protecting frontline workers in Nigeria

As the crisis evolves and with access to basic health care still extremely limited in Nigeria, its three North-eastern states appear extremely at risk: "*In Northern Nigeria, Covid-19 comes on top of a chronic lack of health care facilities, restricted access to food and medicine, exposure to existing disease threats, and ongoing threat of violence. The work continues now to ensure that we put in place robust processes that can support vulnerable populations through the global pandemic and beyond with the rainy season fast approaching in the Sahel*" states ACTED Nigeria's Country Director.

As a result, ACTED teams are responding to the pandemic across their areas of operations, notably through Urban Disaster Risk Reduction teams. In the neighbourhoods of Gwange, Sulaimanti and Goni Kachallari, field teams are supporting local tailors and stimulating the local economy by partnering with them to produce face masks. This protective equipment will be then distributed to frontline health workers as well as essential service providers to ensure their safety at work and prevent the propagation of the virus.



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Responding to the triple threat of locusts, COVID-19 and floods in the Horn of Africa

"The Horn of Africa faces a triple threat - locusts, COVID-19 and floods. These three crises are leading to a complex humanitarian situation which together exacerbate food insecurity as well as impact the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. More than 20 million people in the Horn of Africa are currently food insecure, and without immediate action to address the fall out of the triple threat, the number of food insecure people will rise" declared ACTED's Regional Desert Locust Alliance Coordinator.

Consequently, ACTED is mobilizing to support the communities affected by those crises. For instance, in Somalia, with the heavy rain season resulting in severe flooding, households were left without homes or livelihoods. As a response, ACTED is currently delivering unconditional cash transfers to flood-affected households in Bardera in order to help those families to meet their most basic needs amid the flooding.



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Life-saving financial support to vulnerable families in Colombia

A large number of households in Colombia rely on informal work as their main source of income. However, as a result of the movement restrictions implemented by the Colombian government to prevent the spread of the virus, those same families are now unable to work and are at greater risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

To compensate for these lost livelihoods in the municipalities of Fonseca and Riohacha, ACTED has been supporting vulnerable populations through cash transfers to help alleviate financial barriers faced by families. In addition, field teams are organizing nutrition awareness sessions with communities, paralleling the support to families which has ensured the covering of their most urgent needs, notably in food items.



Prioritizing the mental wellbeing of vulnerable groups in Lebanon

Many households in Lebanon are currently facing both the direct health risks of the pandemic as well as its broader socioeconomic impacts, with skyrocketing unemployment and a sharp rise in prices of basic goods: the circumstances of the lockdown have led to a 50% drop in purchasing power for families. These stressors have a severe impact on the mental health of people of all ages and backgrounds in the country, notably vulnerable groups such as the elderly, caregivers and women and girls.

In partnership with a local Lebanese NGO, ACTED is redirecting its existing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support intervention to the pandemic through the Embrace Lifeline, an emotional support and suicide prevention helpline with nationwide coverage. Thanks to the helpline, vulnerable individuals in quarantine and isolation can rely on essential life-sustaining services and access vital information on the virus.



CAR: Reaching communities from remote areas in the COVID-19 response

As the number of cases in Central African Republic (CAR) increases, ACTED teams are scaling up their ongoing response efforts and strengthening the water and hygiene capacity of local populations. Throughout Bangui, and its surroundings, as well as hard-to-reach areas in the Southeast of the country, ACTED is doing this through awareness raising sessions and hygiene kits' distributions.

That's why in the Basse-Kotto prefecture, prevention activities are implemented: in Simbi, hygiene promotion activities are held for local communities, and handwashing kits are also distributed. In addition, ad-hoc sensitization activities dedicated to the prevention of the virus around day-to-day measures are organized.

For further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at: medias@acted.org

