

# StopCOVID: PIH'S GLOBAL RESPONSE

## WHAT MAKES POOR COUNTRIES MORE VULNERABLE TO COVID-19?



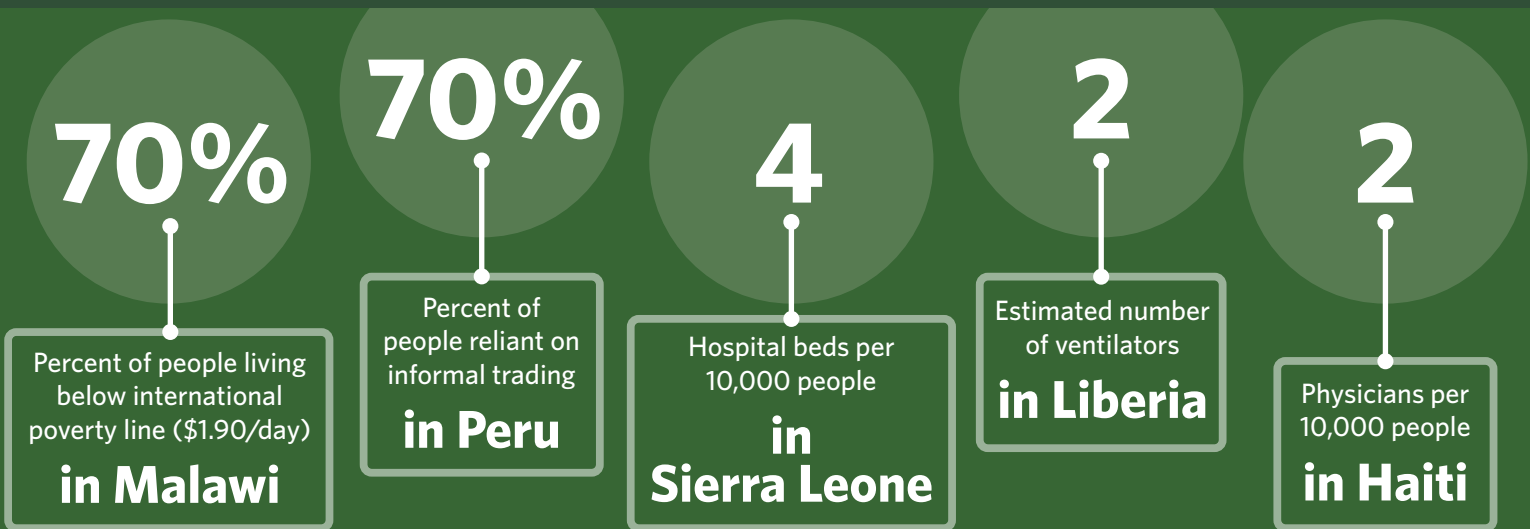
Lima, Peru

The novel coronavirus continues to spread, devastating even the wealthiest countries with the strongest health systems and emerging as a global, longstanding health threat. As with any illness, COVID-19 will disproportionately affect the poorest among us—including the countries where PIH works, characterized by weak health systems.

The virus itself will prove especially deadly in places where intensive care capacity is limited, at best; well-trained clinicians are few and far between; nearly all medical supplies arrive through international shipments, in a time of severe burden on global supply chains; and serious pre-existing conditions, from HIV to diabetes, too often go untreated.

Efforts to stop the virus' spread, such as social distancing and quarantine, present equally dire consequences in impoverished places with no formal safety nets. Many families live below the poverty line, share housing with extended family, and can't afford stockpiling goods. Staying home, realistically, is not an easy or lifesaving option. Meanwhile, families and governments must weigh the importance of preventative measures—as simple as buying hand soap to as complex as enacting countrywide lockdowns—against the importance of keeping essential businesses running.

## COVID-19 VULNERABILITIES, BY THE NUMBERS



## TOGETHER, WE CAN CURE THE INJUSTICE OF COVID-19

With more than 30 years of success fighting the deadliest epidemics in the world's poorest places, PIH has a plan to combat COVID-19 in the countries and communities it threatens most. Through the pandemic and beyond, our work to increase access to health care and break the cycle of poverty and disease presses on. We vow to not only stop COVID-19, but also to learn from this crisis as we continue building strong health systems that are durable enough for any such health challenge.

# StopCOVID: PIH'S GLOBAL RESPONSE

## TESTING

Widespread testing is key as not only the first step in getting patients the care they need, but also in identifying clusters, breaking chains of transmission, and containing the spread of COVID-19.

We're providing innovative Point of Care (POC) testing, including rapid diagnostic tests—which can be used at health centers or in communities and can return results in as little as 30 minutes—to screen more than 200,000 people across the poorest, most remote areas in eight countries. We're also supporting some national laboratories' overall capacities to test for COVID-19 using other methods like PCR testing.



Kirehe,  
Rwanda

## PROVISION OF CARE

Hospitals and clinics around the world are in need of additional staff, staff, space, and systems to handle the epidemic. We're helping PIH-supported facilities obtain the extra support they need—more personal protective equipment, new isolation procedures, special clinical training—to safely, effectively treat cases of COVID-19 directly or secure care for patients at nationally designated coronavirus treatment facilities.

Meanwhile, our critical, everyday investments in health care don't stop. We're working to ensure that routine health services are not impacted during the epidemic, and that all patients, suffering from COVID-19 or otherwise, receive the care they need at well-resourced facilities.

Haiti



## PIH'S StopCOVID Plan

## GOVERNMENT ACCOMPANIMENT

Our work never happens unilaterally—this pandemic is no exception. We're working in close partnership with ministries of health to bolster national response efforts where needed, and to ensure that the health facilities we support are following national guidelines established to contain the spread of coronavirus countrywide.

We're also working to increase our advocacy efforts in the U.S. to maintain and generate further commitments of long-term investments in health care as a human right.



Freetown,  
Sierra Leone

## MOBILIZE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

As trusted, well-connected community resources, our thousands of community health workers (CHWs) around the world are those best positioned to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

We're equipping all CHWs with the knowledge and training needed to protect themselves from the virus, educate the households they care for, and safely accompany patients who may need to practice social distancing or seek care.



Gallup, New  
Mexico  
Navajo Nation