



World Humanitarian Day #RealLifeHeroes

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on August 19. On this day the world commemorates humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work. This year, the EPA joins in honouring all aid and health workers, who continue despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people who are most in need. **Thank You!**

Background

The terrorist attack which hit the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people in 2003, day seeks to raise including Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN's top representative in Iraq; prompted the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution 5 years later, designating August 19 as World Humanitarian Day. While this is just one day, we can't ignore the plight of millions of people around the world. This awareness on these issues is an effort to expedite the necessary interventions. (United Nations).

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As the world continues to battle the novel COVID-19 pandemic, aid workers are overcoming unprecedented hurdles to assist people in humanitarian crises around the world. Let us pay special tribute to these real-life heroes who have committed their lives to helping others under these extreme circumstances.

The climate change crisis made worse by COVID -19

As the world battles to emerge from the COVID -19 pandemic, we cannot ignore the fact that climate change is also a humanitarian crisis. Undoubtedly, the impacts of climate change are the worst for the poor and vulnerable. Increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have increased risks to food, security, health, water, security, energy and livelihoods. Think about how many people are displaced due to climate change and now have to battle this dreaded pandemic.

According to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Overview report (2020), in 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world, and is the highest figure in decades. Funding of \$28.8 billion is needed to enable the United Nations and our partner organisations to reach nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people with life-saving assistance. Given this stark revelation, urgent and collective efforts are needed to rescue and restore humanity.

We join the campaign to recognize the selfless humanitarians who continue to save and protect lives despite conflict, insecurity, lack of access and risks linked to COVID-19. Additionally, we continue to applaud the efforts of aid workers who are bringing relief in the midst of an environmental crisis exacerbated by COVID 19.

The focus of this year's campaign

The campaign showcases many inspiring personal stories of humanitarians who are treating and preventing COVID-19 effects, such as, providing food to vulnerable people in need, providing safe spaces for women and girls in lockdown; delivering babies; fighting locusts and running refugee camps, all amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has been the biggest challenge to humanitarian operations around the world. The lack of access and restrictions placed by Governments around the world has resulted in communities, civil society, religious bodies and local NGOs being in the frontline as responders.

During this humanitarian crisis, the EPA remains committed to supporting all policies and guidelines to ensure not only our employee's safety and health, but also our customers.

We're doing our part and we encourage all of Guyana to continue to wear your face mask, wash your hands, and stay at home when possible, if you must go out practice physical distancing.

Photo credits: 2016 International Coastal Cleanup, the U.S. Embassy's Youth Action Network.

Sources

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: The Environmental Protection Agency, C/O Communications Department, Ganges Street, Sophia, GEORGETOWN, or email us at: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.