

# Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19

July 24-31, 2020



As of 31 of July 2020

Confirmed cases  
**17 064 064**

Confirmed deaths  
**668 073**

Countries & territories affected  
**216**

## Public health response and coordination highlights

### Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator

During the United Nations Crisis Management Team (UN CMT) meeting on 29 July 2020, **WHO** briefed on the epidemiological situation and highlighted the emergence of transmission among a younger demographic and the challenge to prevent transmission from the young to the older population.

Countries need to 'localize' the response sub-nationally and use measures in a targeted manner.

On the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, the mass deployment of a vaccine will require careful and advanced planning. Current challenges for the ACT Accelerator include funding limitations and constraints in access due to high demand from national vaccine initiatives. WHO also reiterated the need to emphasize vaccine, diagnostics and therapeutics as an integrated package for response rather than focus on the vaccine alone.

On the Global Supply Chain side, US\$ 100 million in supplies have been delivered to 160 countries, US\$ 62 million are in transit while US\$ 80 million are planned. US\$ 130 million in demands remain in the supply chain portal. And on the Mass Gatherings side, the "Safe Eid al-Adha practices in the context of COVID-19: Interim guidance" has been published.

## Key Figures



WHO-led UN Crisis-Management Team coordinating 23 UN entities across nine areas of work



Incident –management support teams set up in 147 WHO Country Offices, six Regional Offices and HQ



More than 4 million people registered on OpenWHO and able to access 115 COVID-19 online training courses in 38 languages



805,709 Goggles shipped to all six WHO regions



6,284,867 Face shields shipped to all six WHO regions



3,005,183 Gowns shipped to all six WHO regions



2,090,900 Gloves shipped to 135 countries across all six WHO regions

# Weekly operational update on COVID-19

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## Public health response and coordination highlights

### With EU support, WHO enhances standard infection prevention and control practices in laboratories to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19

Over 50 health workers in Juba, South Sudan have been trained this past week with the aim to enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in laboratories and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and other infectious diseases.

To apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the training, participants conducted a desk review to identify gaps and develop action plans to improve IPC practices in their respective laboratories. [Link](#)

### WHO, WIPO, World Trade Organization launch updated study on access to medical technologies and innovation

On 29 July, the Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the WTO presented a new edition of the Trilateral Study on Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation.

The study discusses key factors determining access to medical technologies and innovation, including regarding medicines, vaccines and other medical technologies, such as medical devices and diagnostics. A COVID-19 section at the start of the publication provides a factual overview of the developments and measures taken to address this extraordinary public health crisis. [Link](#)

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## COVID-19 Partners Platform

Globally, 72% of countries/areas/territories (149) have been onboarded to the Partners Platform. 108 COVID-19 national plans have been uploaded and 72 donors have entered their contributions, totaling USD 6.4 billion.

The web-based [Platform](#) was launched to support interactive planning among national authorities, UN Country Teams and partners to enable the coordination and scale-up of efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It features real-time tracking of planned and implemented activities, requests for international support and donor contributions that have been committed in the context of this emergency. The [COVID-19 Supply Portal](#) is also available through the COVID-19 Partners Platform, enabling users to request critical supplies.

## From the field:

### PAHO, COICA and other indigenous groups seek to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on Amazonian peoples



Brazil, Colombia and Peru and rights groups in Ecuador are calling for scaled-up support and COVID-19 response efforts for vulnerable Amazon indigenous groups resident along shared borders.

The indigenous organizations expressed the need to be heard by national authorities in each of the countries. [Link](#)

### PM Barbados Accepts Donation Of COVID-19 Medical Supplies for CARICOM Countries



Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley chatting with members of the Canadian Armed Forces following their arrival at the Grantley Adams International Airport to deliver COVID-19 essential medical supplies for CARICOM countries. (C.Pitt/BGIS)

“In today’s world, many people repudiate multilateralism and cooperation. But we stand here today as a result of our commitment that by working together in partnership, through the institutions that have been established so to do, and also across institutions and across sovereign states, that partnership has made the difference for our ability to respond to what would come to be regarded as the most significant disruption of global society and the global economy in ... probably a century” –

**Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados**

[Link](#)

# Partnership

## Global Health Cluster



Photo credit: YFCA (Yemen Family Care Association)  
*Protecting essential health workers*

The [The Global Health Cluster COVID-19 Task Team](#) established four peer groups to develop tools and key messages on the following topics: gender-based violence and health, case management, prioritization of essential health services and an ethical framework for humanitarian settings. To further inform the work of the Task Team a survey will be administered to all partners and Health Clusters to identify operational challenges

and technical gaps in adapting existing guidance relevant to humanitarian settings.

In addition to this, the Task Team is currently conducting in-depth case studies in six countries to gather further insights. Task Team partner, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, will be conducting interviews in Arabic, Bengali, English and French with 10-12 key informants per country in Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Burkina Faso, Chad, Iraq, Nigeria (north-eastern region) and Yemen.

The GHC unit provides ongoing technical support to Health Cluster Coordinators via [thematic webinars](#) and bilateral support. Recent webinar topics include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in the COVID-19 context and the Health People in Need (PiN) guidance and calculator. The next webinar (4 August) will cover gender-based violence integration in Humanitarian Needs Overviews for the COVID-19 integrated 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan process. With the [Global Information Management, Assessment and Analysis Cell \(GIMAC\) on COVID-19](#), the GHC unit is responding to field requests from Ethiopia and Iraq.

## Emergency Medical Teams



*ESCRIM (France) EMT deployed in Guyane*

The EMT network is currently preparing for the deployment of experts and teams to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Papua New Guinea to support the Ministries of Health in their response to the increasing cases of COVID-19.

In collaboration with GOARN, 3 experts from the Polish EMT PCPM are being deployed urgently to Madagascar to support case management.

The national operations in the Americas Region continues to be focused on USA, Chile, Perú, and Bolivia. In the Americas 176 teams have been mobilized and close to one hundred community facilities adapted to treat COVID 19.

The EMT secretariat is also supporting the regional offices in EMRO and AFRO to deploy teams to Yemen, Chad, and South Sudan..

A second team rotation from Malteser has arrived in Cameroon as well as ISAR Germany which continues on its third week supporting Armenia



*Malteser International EMT assessment in Mbappe Stadium Cameroon*

## Technical Guidance and Latest Publications

- Guidance for conducting a country COVID-19 intra-action review [IAR](#), July 23
- Preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services: [policy brief](#) July 24
- Safe Eid al Adha practices in the context of COVID-19: [interim guide](#) July 25
- Considerations for implementing mass treatment, active case-finding and population-based surveys for neglected tropical diseases in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic - [interim guidance](#) July 27
- Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19: Interim guidance, 29 July 2020 (update to earlier version): [interim guidance](#)
- Public health considerations while resuming international travel, 30 July 2020: [Link](#)
- Travel Q&A for general public, 30 July 2020: [Link](#)

[Read all releases here](#)

## Health learning

WHO is expanding access to online learning for COVID-19 through its open learning platform for health emergencies, [OpenWHO.org](#).

Over  
**4 MILLION**  
Course enrollment  
-----  
**80% COVID-19**  
courses

**38 Languages**

**987 Certificates**

**115 COVID-19 courses**

**15 Free Trainings**

The COVID-19 courses cover the following subjects:



## Strategic Supply Chain

The roll-out of the Supply Portal continues. Countries continue requesting PPE, Lab Diagnostics, and Biomedical equipment through the Portal; the goal is to meet the full needs for the COVID-19 response, including the maintenance of essential health services. However, overall stocks available for distribution are limited, and shipping remains a challenge therefore, and full requests may not be met even if full funding is secured.

Shipped items per 29 July 2020	LAB		PPE					
	Swab	Test (Manual PCR)	Face shield	Glove	Goggles	Gown	Mask 3 plies	Respirator
Africa (AFR)	1,388,324	492,907	459,885	386,300	73,944	666,946	7,401,833	598,874
Americas (AMR)		6,528	3,307,211	88,000	258,308	1,012,557	35,046,836	5,504,115
Eastern Mediterranean (EMR)	382,649	848,763	789,285	724,000	113,6060	386,122	10,579,050	1,207,995
Europe (EUR)	33,987	339,775	1,701,450	259,100	343,040	901,448	9,950,100	5,020,950
South East Asia (SEAR)	410,382	1,207,767	17,336	414,500	10,150	26,600	482,000	43,065
Western Pacific (WPR)	55,000	240,864	9,700	219,000	6,607	11,510	334,550	16,365

# Appeals

WHO appreciates and thanks donors for the support already provided or pledged and encourages donors to **give fully flexible funding for the SPRP or GHRP** and avoid even high-level/soft geographic earmarking at e.g. regional or country level. This will allow WHO to direct resources to where they are most needed, which in some cases may be towards global procurement of supplies, intended for countries.

## Global Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan (SPRP)

WHO's total estimation needed to respond to COVID-19 across the three levels of the organization until December 2020

**1.7**  
BILLION

The status of funding raised for WHO against the SPRP can be found [here](#)

WHO's current funding gap against funds received stands under the updated SPRP

**890**  
MILLION

## Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)

Amount required by UN partners and NGOs until end December 2020 due to COVID-19

**10.3**  
BILLION

The United Nations released the 3rd update of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19. [Link](#)

WHO's financial requirement under the GHRP

**550**  
MILLION

WHO current funding gap

**228**  
MILLION

## WHO Funding Mechanisms

### COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund



\$5 million for Contact tracing for COVID19 control



\$5 million for COVID19 R&D Blueprint



\$1.15 million for COVID19 MEDEVAC Medical Coordination for COVID-19 Control



**562,000** donors

individual

corporations

foundations

**225**  
MILLION  
raised - committed

### The WHO Contingency Fund for Emergency (CFE)

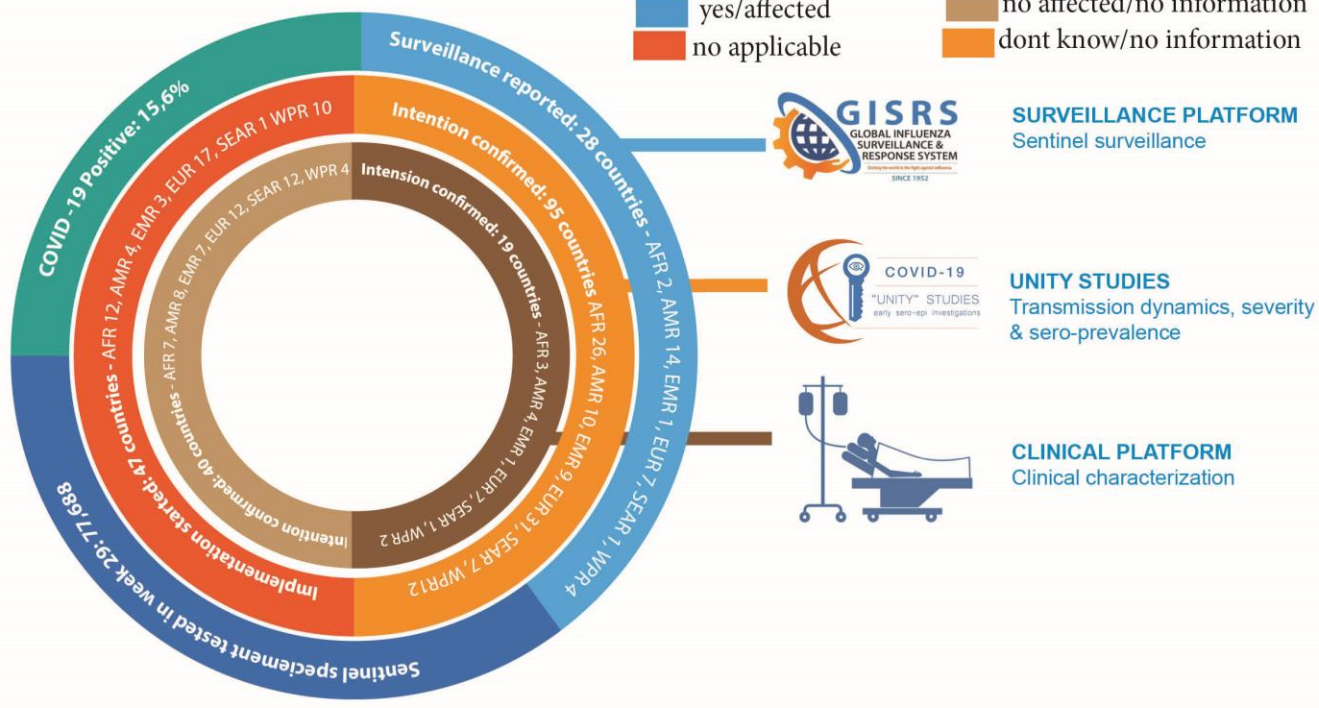
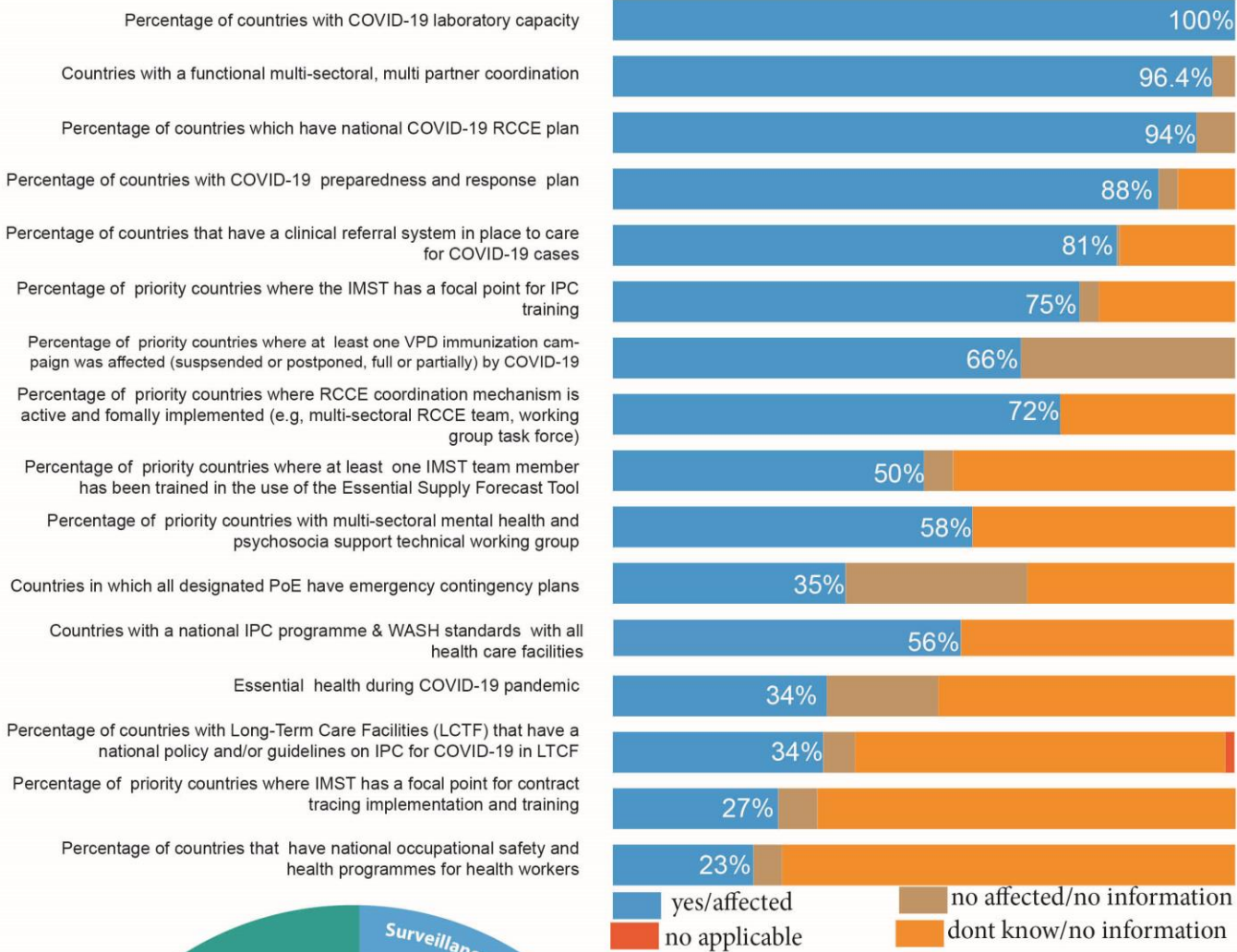
CFE enables WHO to respond in real-time, playing a critical role in responding to outbreaks around the world in the most vulnerable countries with weak health systems.

WHO has released US\$10 million for urgent preparedness and response COVID19 activities globally through the CFE and encourages donors to continue to replenish the CFE to allow WHO to respond to health emergencies in real time

**10**  
MILLION  
released

# COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Summary Indicators

Data as of 30 July 2020





# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Americas (AMR)

### Infection prevention control:



The team in Suriname trained 35 hospital workers in IPC topics, including PPE use, cleaning and disinfection, triage, and isolation. In Haiti 101 health care workers from 4 institutions trained in IPC measures including the appropriate use of PPE.

### Risk Communication & Community Engagement:

- *Stronger Together* campaign to highlight importance of psychosocial support during times of stress and crisis. [Link](#)

### Point of Entry

Since the reopening of Haiti's international airports, PAHO has collaborated with other United Nations agencies to support efforts to screen passengers and follow up with those who were quarantined. Additionally, the team has conducted training for medical personnel working at the border with the Dominican Republic to strengthen capacities in issues of gender-based violence.

### Operational support and Logistic:

- WHO, Jack Ma Foundation donate COVID-19 medical supplies for CARICOM Countries. [Link](#)

### Case Management

PAHO has released guidance explaining that based on existing evidence, the Organization would not recommend using products that contain chlorind dioxide, sodium chlorite, sodium hypochlorite, or derivatives for treating COVID-19. [Link](#)

### Maintaining Essential Health Services

The sub-regional team for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries produced a short [animation video](#) to encourage continued vaccination during the pandemic.

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

- The team in **Brazil** supported national partners to conduct technical analysis on the COVID-19 situation in indigenous communities. [Link](#)
- PAHO **Cuba** collaborated with international partners in a session to evaluate food security in the framework of COVID-19.
- PAHO collaborated with the United Nations teams in **Costa Rica** to revise and approve the care protocols for migrant children and adolescents.

### Surveillance, Rapid Response teams & Case investigation

PAHO continued its Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) while also supporting countries to boost their Indicator-Based Surveillance (IBS). Efforts continued to ensure that all countries in the Region integrate COVID-19 into their routine severe acute respiratory illness / influenza-like illness (SARI/ILI) surveillance systems.

To date, 20 countries have integrated COVID-19 surveillance into their SARI/ILI systems. PAHO also published weekly reports detailing trends in influenza and other respiratory viruses, as well as SARS-CoV-2 surveillance indicators ([available here](#))

### National Laboratories:

- PAHO has provided primers, probes and/or PCR kits for approximately **5.47million** reactions/tests as well as approximately 28,500swabs, enzymes for around 990,000 reactions and 150extraction.
- PAHO presented the updated [Laboratory guidelines](#) for the Detection and Diagnosis of COVID-19 Virus infection to professional in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Central American sub-region

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

- In collaboration with WHO's collaborating centre on infection prevention and control (IPC) in Saudi Arabia, 3-day online training workshop (Training-of trainers) was conducted for IPC practitioners in Iraq from 28 – 30 July, attended by 170 participants.
- Coordination is ongoing with the Egypt country office and the Egyptian Ministry of Health to strengthen response capacities for Rapid Response Teams in the country.
- WHO, UNFPA & UNICEF conducted a joint virtual meeting for the preparation of a virtual meeting with regional directors and ministers of health on the continuation of essential reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) care/ services in the context of COVID-19. Progress on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Project includes finalization of the modeling and documentation tools for RMNCAH data collection according to the five workstreams in Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen. WHO/HQ and WHO/EMRO maternal and child health team have agreed on the tools and training modalities for applying IPC & PPE to RMNCAH services.
- An assessment was conducted for Lebanon on RMNCAH services and adoption of Robson classification for optimization of cesarean section use.

### Risk Communication & Community Engagement:

- *Iraq: COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign targets more than 6 million people in Baghdad.* [Link](#)

### Case Management

A surge mission to Yemen in the area of clinical management is underway. A tailored clinical management training package has been developed with Jordan and Afghanistan .

### National Laboratories:

- The Regional Office contributed to a global review and update of the interim guidance on diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV in suspected human cases.
- Capacity building for RT-PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 was supported for north and northeast Syria.
- As part of the WHO External Quality Assessment Project (EQAP) for COVID-19, 30 labs from the Region participated, of which 20 labs reported results (18 labs scored 5 out of 5 and 2 labs scored 4 out of 5). Overall results will be shared next week.

### Operational support and Logistic:

- The supply chain Management Working group is providing routine technical and coordination support upon request. The webinar session on forecasting tool was shared with partners. Discussions are ongoing with UN Women and OCHA to establish a Regional Gender in Humanitarian (GiHA) Working Group where initial actions would focus on COVID-19.
- Most countries are now receiving their 2nd wave of resupply shipments from the logistics hub in Dubai.
- The Libya Charter flight has been postponed to 08 and 09 August.
- The Yemen Charter flight is proposed to use UAE military aircraft.
- The shipment to Iraq is expected following the Eid holiday, and the shipment to the occupied Palestinian territory has been shipped to Addis Ababa and awaiting onforwarding to Jerusalem.
- Over all, 636 purchase orders have been processed by the Dubai hub since February at a value of USD 50,142,475 .

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## European Region (EUR)

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

- The WHO Country Office in Tajikistan provided support to a school readiness assessment to mitigate the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak within school settings. The tentative findings of the assessment were presented on 28 July to the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES), Ministry of Health and the Development Coordination Council for Health, Education and WASH in Tajikistan. MOES will continue to work with partners (UNICEF and UNESCO) on preparing schools to follow several of WHO EURO's recommendations for the new schooling season.
- WHO urges Turkmenistan to activate critical measures to prepare for COVID-19 outbreak. [Link](#)

### Operational support and Logistic:

The Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and Removal Centres in Turkey is at the forefront of refugee and migrant health in the context of the country's response to COVID-19.

The Removal Centres are closed facilities where basic needs are covered during administrative detention and deportation of irregular migrants. According to the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP), pre-removal detention can last up to one year.

To support these centers in preparing for COVID-19, on 23 July, the WHO Country Office in Turkey procured and delivered to the DGMM logistics hub in Ankara, 1.8 tons of personal protective equipment (valued at 103.948 €) including 108,000 surgical and FFP2 masks, 3,000 goggles, 4,500 coveralls, and 250 thermometers.

These critical supplies will be further dispatched to removal centers around the country.



### Case Management

Following an online training course in April/May, the WHO Office in Gaziantep facilitated a follow-up face-to-face training with 70 medical doctors and 222 nurses and ICU technicians in Northwest Syria on case management, based on WHO guidelines.

The training topics focused on medical procedures including airway management, intubation, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation for COVID-19 patients. In addition, the training covered COVID-19 co-morbidity and medical conditions such as circulatory shock, severe pneumonia, sepsis, and acute respiratory distress syndrome and non-communicable disease management.

### National Laboratories:

On 23 July, the WHO Office in Uzbekistan organized a virtual workshop on Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) performance. International specialists and a laboratory biosafety expert from the WHO Regional Office for Europe led the sessions on BSC assessment and certification.

Laboratory workers and national engineers without BSC maintenance equipment experience were trained on the necessary minimum assessment and testing of BSCs, to identify risks and apply necessary mitigation measures in the context of COVID-19.

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## African Region (AFR)

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

An agenda was developed for documenting best practices and lessons learned in the response to COVID. A list of topics for best practices and lessons learned (collected through deep dive sessions, webinars and general interaction with partners and countries) and leads have been identified and the possibility of publication in a supplement of the Pan-African Medical Journal is being explored.

### Risk Communication & Community Engagement:

- The risk communication team at AFRO Developed Draft Guidelines for schools opening during COVID-19 pandemic
- With the support of the Communications team and other technical staff at WHO AFRO, the social media team has shared COVID-19 related messages that have reached over 150 000 000 people on French and English Twitter and Facebook pages.

### Surveillance, Rapid Response teams & Case investigation

- **WHO strengthens partnership with GIZ to scale up COVID-19 testing in Sierra Leone.** [Link](#)
- **Brazzaville/Cairo** – COVID-19 infections in Africa will exceed one million cases in the coming days as the pandemic surges in several hotspot countries. In a little more than three weeks, the number of cases on the continent almost doubled to 889,457, with 18, 806 deaths. [Link](#)

### Case Management

The team at Nairobi Hub developed Fact Sheets on case fatality ratios of COVID 19 as well as the status of research about therapies for COVID 19, based on RCCE feedback, to counteract the current rumors and misbeliefs on COVID 19

### Infection prevention control:

- Investigations of health workers exposed to COVID-19 patients is underway in Sierra Leone. A protocol for health worker infections was developed and approved by the Ministry of Health.
- The AFRO IPC team shared an IPC evaluation template with countries; only (55%) 26 of the 47 countries have provided data following a survey campaign that was concluded in June

### Operational support and Logistic:

- The AFRO logistics team is currently addressing issues regarding the use of the UN supply portal and also mapping out countries that are manufacturing supplies for COVID-19 and offering guidance to countries on how to procure supplies within the region.
- 2.2 million laboratory tests were shipped for a value of US\$ 16.7 million and 1.2 million laboratory reagents are in the pipeline. A total of 9.6 million PPE components were shipped for a value of US\$ 10 million and 33 million PPE components are in the pipeline. 2 500 oxygen concentrators were shipped for a value of US\$ 2 million and 600 units are in the pipeline
- A total of 629 requests were received from the 47 countries. These requests were worth US\$ 28.8 million including, laboratory supplies worth US\$ 16.7 million, PPE worth US\$ 10.1 million and another US\$ 2.0 million.
- Currently, 883 534 tests, 381 600 collection kits, 893 174 reagents and 620 oxygen concentrators are under procurement, 2 157 138 tests, 1 844 040 sample collection kits, 2 996 946 reagents, 9 596 482 PPE and 2 472 oxygen concentrators are being shipped.
- Supplies under preparation for shipment include 370 600 tests, 330 540 sample collection kits, 574 504 reagents and 33 039 567 PPE components

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Western Pacific (WPR)

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

- WPRO, in collaboration with SEARO, and UNESCO convened the Third meeting of the Asia Pacific Network on Ethics/Bioethics Committee (APNEC) working group on COVID-19. It was an opportunity for ethics country focal points and National Ethics Committees representatives to discuss priority ethics issues in relation to COVID-19. The next virtual meeting will take place in August to discuss online training and the provision of technical support on ethics during COVID-19.
- All Pillars are actively involved leading to the 3-day meeting (29-31 July 2020) where the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will discuss achievements, progress and challenges of the *Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies* (APSED) Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The framework provides an important collaborative platform for Member States, WHO and partners to work together to strengthen preparedness and response to outbreaks and public health emergencies.

### Operational support and Logistic:

Six Member States receive pre-advice for the receipt of bulk PPE shipment, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Viet Nam: for a total of 145,880kg, 1,467cbm, for a total value USD5,827,685.

77% of the Cepheid GeneXpert cartridges, of Batch 5 (5,790) were delivered, the remaining 1,410 will be delivered this week. 2000 cartridges for batch 7 were collected on 16th July and 2000 cartridges will be collected each Wednesday until the end of July.

A total of 17,00 swabs to support Covid-19 testing were successfully cleared through customs in Hawaii after intervention from PIHOA with support from the US FDA to release the goods tax and duty free (saving USD15,000 in taxes ) and will be distributed.

### Maintaining Essential Health Services

- Consolidation of consultation with Ministry of Health counterparts in Mongolia and planning next steps for strengthening the mental health care system by preparing for large scale community transmission of COVID-19. Finalization of the stakeholders mapping for the development of the online training of the “Basic Psychosocial Skills: a guide for Covid-19 responders”, in collaboration with University of Technology Sydney, WHO-CC.

### National Laboratories:

A briefing note on use of antibody RDTs and guidance for antibody tests to Philippines office was drafted. fortnightly meeting with CO laboratory teams are held. Participated in CO Philippines meeting with RD regarding the recent increase in cases within the Philippines. Discussions with CO PNG to strengthen EQA system within its laboratory network are ongoing. Preliminary presentation of laboratory diagnosis and strategies for APSED TAG meeting took place.

### Risk Communication & Community Engagement:

- Laos PDR: Working with communities to ensure early detection of potential outbreaks of COVID-19.** [Link](#)
- Philippines: Field visit to Baguio City and Benguet Province: Models for contact tracing and COVID-19 response.** [Link](#)
- Coordinated webinar between WPRO and SEARO held to share knowledge and experience on establishing the behavioral surveillance system for COVID-19 response. Attended by risk communication and community engagement specialist, the event focused on good practices in data analysis, practical examples and how to apply the analysis.

# REGIONAL UPDATES

## South-East Asia Region (SEAR)

### Country-level coordination, planning and Monitoring

#### WHO SEARO hosts a Health Partners meeting on “ Maintaining Essential Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

On 29 July 2020, WHO SEARO hosted a partners meeting to strengthen the collective commitment and alignment of state and non-state actors to maintain the essential health services at a time when the health systems are overwhelmed due to the multiple direct and indirect consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was attended by over 200 participants bringing together representatives from SEAR Member States with a broad range of partners including donor countries, multilateral organizations and non-state actors that are committed to ensuring essential health services for all during while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting included keynote presentations from the World Bank on the Economic Impact of COVID-19 and its implications for Health Financing, from the ADB on their response to COVID-19 in the health sector. A representative from the EU highlighted WHO's critical role in the governance of COVID-19 global response partnerships and reiterated their joint commitment to health system strengthening for UHC partnership.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share regional health best practices and lessons learnt and discuss strategic engagement with members states and partners to address the current and emerging challenges of the health systems.

#### ▪ **Indonesia: Stakeholder review of Operational Response Plan COVID-19.**

The Planning Bureau of the MoH introduced the Partners Platform; an online support tool for the coordination and monitoring of the COVID-19 preparedness and response plan at both the national and subnational levels. The Partners Platform has been used to host the COVID-19 response plan and to document the identified resource needs and gaps. [Link](#)

### Maintaining Essential Health Services

On 27 July, WHO participated in a meeting convened by the Directorate of Mental Health, MoH, to discuss the availability of MHPSS to children and adolescents and address the increasing concerns of mental well-being during the pandemic.

Professional organizations including associations for social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health nurses and public health practitioners joined the meeting.

The participants highlighted the urgent need to establish a coordination platform to provide MHPSS at subnational level and further engage community health centres (puskesmas), community health posts (posyandu), youth organizations and religious associations to reach those in need of support.



WHO field staff interviewed health worker in community health centre, Puskesmas Siko, Ternate, North Maluku. Credit: WHO

#### ▪ **East Timor: Swift action prevents community transmission of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste.**

Until the first confirmed case on 21 March 2020, Timor-Leste had no identified isolation and quarantine facilities, limited surveillance capacity and had just initiated in-country testing for COVID-19. The Ministry of Health acted swiftly and decisively to transform its fragile health system and prevent COVID-19 from reaching communities.

[Link](#)