

Weekly update on COVID-19

2 – 8 May 2020



Snapshot
As of 8 May 2020

Confirmed cases

3,726,292

Confirmed deaths

257,405

Countries &
territories affected

214

Public health response and coordination highlights

Third meeting of the Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of COVID-19

The WHO Director-General convened by teleconference the [third meeting](#) of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) regarding the COVID-19, on 30 April 2020. Upon the advice of the Committee, WHO declared that the COVID-19 outbreak continues to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Tracking Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM)

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, several organizations have begun tracking implementation of PHSMs around the world, using different data collection methods, database designs and classification schemes. In collaboration with partners*, WHO has launched a [project](#) to bring together these datasets together, using a common taxonomy and structure, into a single, open-content dataset for public use.

Update of the Preparedness and Response Status list

The country categorization list of [Preparedness and Response Status](#) for COVID-19 was updated as of 4 May.

The COVID-19 Partners Platform

The [Platform](#) was launched as a tool for all countries, implementing partners, donors and contributors to coordinate and collaborate in the global COVID-19 response. It features real-time tracking of planned activities, implementation and resourcing of country preparedness and response plans. We are working closely with many key partners including the European Commission, World Bank, ADB, Global Fund and Gavi and many country contributors including Kuwait, Japan and Germany to align contributions to the public health needs and emergency response activities being implemented.

To date, 104 countries are actively using the Platform; 116 “response plans” have been uploaded; 50 donors have entered their contributions, totaling USD5.8 billion. The COVID-19 Supply Portal is now also available through the COVID-19 Partners Platform. It enables national authorities and the implementing partners supporting them, to request critical supplies.

Click [here](#) for more information.

* WHO (Geneva, Switzerland), ACAPS (Geneva, Switzerland), University of Oxford (Oxford, UK), the Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN) of Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa, Canada), the Complexity Science Hub Vienna (Vienna, Austria), and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, Atlanta, USA). Other organization interested to join can contact PHSMCOVID19@who.int.

International Pledging Conference to support Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)

Leaders from 40 countries participated in the [international pledging conference](#) hosted by the European Commission to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The aim of the conference was to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus. €7.4 billion in pledges were made from donors worldwide.

Collaboration for acceleration of investment in health preparedness

WHO and the European Investment Bank signed a collaboration agreement to accelerate investment in health preparedness and primary healthcare in countries most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first phase will strengthen primary healthcare in ten African countries.

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

EMT operations during the reported period have been focused mostly on preparations for new deployments in the AFRO region that will complement the 19 international missions that have already been carried out since February. The number of national operations supported or complemented by EMTs has increased to 37. The EMTs has been supporting the need to scale up bed capacity and up to May 6th more than 3.600 beds have been managed. Additionally, over 500 national teams have been mobilized using the EMT methodology.

Training continues to be one of the key pillar of work with 348 different trainings delivered and almost 11.000 front line responders trained.



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Releases

Interim guidance

[Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Operational considerations for COVID-19 management in the accommodation sector](#)

Scientific Brief

Read [Scientific briefs](#)

Strategic Supply Chain

All information is available [online](#), including a guide to requesting and receiving supplies and frequently asked questions. A video explaining the process will soon be posted.

A catalogue of items that can be requested is available [online](#) and is broadly divided into three categories: Personal protective equipment (PPE), Diagnostics and Clinical Management.

COVID-19 supply shipped as of 1 May 2020

SHIPPED	Mask, Surgical	Mask, N95	Gloves, Examination	Gown	Goggles	Face Shield
AFRO	1,403,750	24,150	386,300	45,579	6,930	30,910
EMRO	381,250	26,520	567,000	72,122	5,520	20,800
EURO	211,080	6,750	249,100	25,148	4,100	7,000
PAHO	74,000	2,440	76,000	12,916	1,300	7,900
SEARO	422,000	39,065	350,500	24,600	9,450	12,836
WPRO	164,550	8,465	128,000	6,690	3,907	1,580
TOTAL	2,656,630	107,390	1,756,900	187,055	31,207	81,026

Appeals

Global Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan (SPRP)

WHO has been engaging donors and the public to mobilize support for the COVID-19 response against the SPRP and many donors have contributed to date. The status of funding raised for WHO against the SPRP can be found [here](#). The 2nd iteration or updated SPRP has been presented to donors and Member States on 7 May. It estimates that WHO requires a total of US\$ 1.7 billion to respond to COVID-19 across the three levels of the organization through till December 2020. The resources will be used to implement priority public health measures in support of countries to prepare and respond to coronavirus outbreaks, as well as to ensure continuation of essential health services. The US\$ 1.7 billion required under the updated SPRP takes into account the funds that WHO has received to date against SPRP (see table 1), thereby leaving WHO with a funding gap of US\$ 1.3 billion for 2020.

Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)

The 2nd iteration of the [GHRP](#) released on 7 May 2020 is a joint effort by members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), to analyse and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of COVID-19, particularly on people in countries already facing other crises. US\$6.7 billion are required through till end December 2020 for additional humanitarian interventions, above and beyond existing humanitarian needs, due to COVID-19.

As part of GHRP, WHO is appealing for **US\$550 million of which only some US\$ 184 million has been pledged and received**, leaving WHO with a funding gap of \$366 million – or some 67% - for operations in countries affected by humanitarian crises.

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.

WHO funding mechanisms

[COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](#)

With support from the Solidarity Response Fund, the diagnostics consortium has secured 4 million manual PCR tests for \$49 million, and initiated purchase orders for allocation and distribution to 135 countries for the month of May. These initial purchases will serve as a catalyst for securing supplies for additional procurement, as payments from countries receiving these deliveries will provide additional funding for procuring more supplies and equipment for allocation and delivery in the coming months.

The WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (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.

Global Research Highlights

The Solidarity Trial of COVID19 potential treatment options has been initiated and the [Solidarity Vaccine Trial protocol](#) developed. WHO is now seeking [expressions of interest](#) from vaccine trial sites around the world to take part in this protocol which will include several candidate COVID19 candidates that meet WHO prioritization criteria.

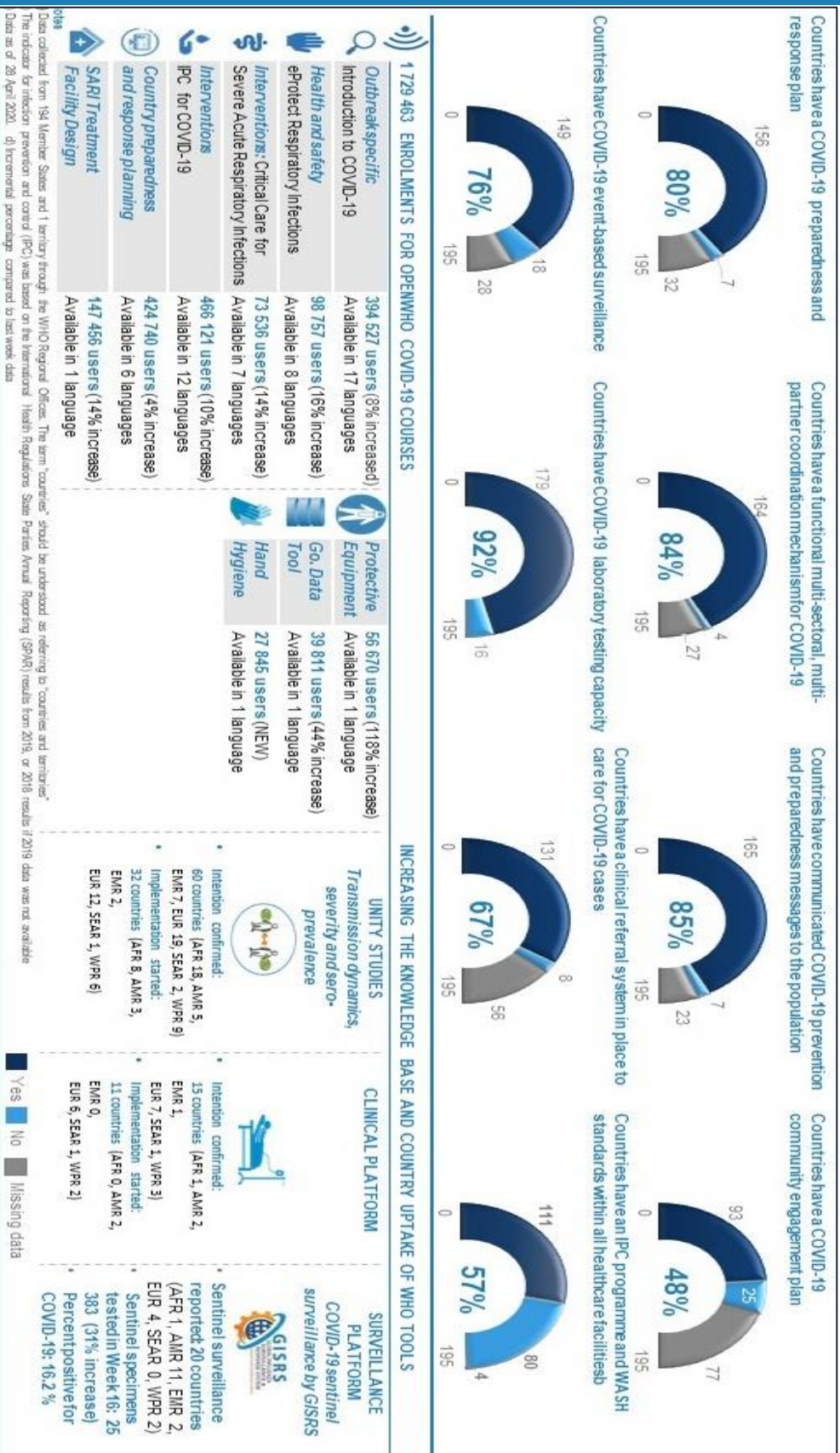
Additional medicines were sent to Iran for its participation in the [Solidarity Trial](#); four re-purposed medicines – Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Interferon (β1a), and hydroxychloroquine – are being evaluated.

[Updates on current research and development](#)

Health Learning

[OpenWHO](#) is now hosting 9 different COVID-19 courses in 20 languages, the newest being in Bengali and Polish. The platform has more than 2.4 million course enrolments of which 85 % on COVID-19 courses.

Global Indicators (as of 5 May 2020)



REGIONAL UPDATES

African Region (AFRO)

WHO AFRO has developed an infection and prevention control (IPC) assessment framework of healthcare facilities, aimed to reduce the high rate of infection among health workers.

Since the beginning of the pandemic: 7 127 healthcare workers (948 more than last week)

were trained in I as well as 993 IPC trainers (331 more than last week).

The mapping of diagnostic platforms in the region to facilitate the planning required to expand testing capacity has been completed.

Eighteen countries have trained risk communication and community health teams.

Twenty-seven countries have identified and trained community influencers on preventive measures. Seventeen countries have trained traditional leaders and traditional health practitioners to practice community guidance on preventive measures. Twenty-eight government and relevant authorities have engaged and supported Risk Communication actions.

A strategic and operational partnership has been established between the WHO Regional Office for Africa and partners (NGOs, African academic institutions and the African Partner Outbreak Response Alliance (APORA). Discussions are still ongoing for the collaboration. Further discussions are continuing with NGOs and French-speaking academic institutions. An evaluation of partners' project proposals was conducted on Tuesday, 5 April 2020 to pave the way for collaboration. The mission of Chinese experts in Burkina Faso has come to an end after providing technical assistance to the country. Cuban medical brigades (EMT) have been deployed to Togo and South Africa to support clinical care of COVID-19 patients. There are ongoing discussions with International EMTs to respond to the request for support coming from Member States in the WHO AFRO Region.

WHO is working with research institutions to select traditional medicine products which can be investigated for clinical efficacy and safety for COVID-19 treatment.

Read full statement [WHO supports scientifically-proven traditional medicine](#)

For more details see AFRO [situation report](#)

Americas Region (AMRO/PAHO)

A [hub for COVID-19 epidemiological data](#) from the Americas has been launched. This dashboard presents epidemiological data updated daily, showing cases, doubling time, and other key figures by country and sub region. This cumulative, updated data promotes international coordination and awareness of the region's situation.

PAHO activated its partnerships with the Barbados Defense Force (BDF) and the Caribbean's Regional Security System (RSS) to dispatch 162 boxes of PPE from its hub in Barbados to ten countries and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In Costa Rica, PAHO collaborated with other UN agencies to produce a children's book in Spanish, [The Days that Everything Stopped](#). It explains the pandemic in easy-to-understand language and includes essential messages on hand washing, physical distancing, and other measures to curb the spread of the virus.

PAHO trained Colombian indigenous leaders in risk communication; Belize in disease modeling, El Salvador, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela in laboratory testing; Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, and Mexico in estimating PPE needs; Belize, Haiti, and Venezuela in infection prevention and control; Colombia in alternative medical care sites; and Ecuador in health systems planning.

For more details see PAHO [Situation Report](#)

REGIONAL UPDATES

European Region (EURO)

WHO EURO is providing technical support in a variety of areas aimed at strengthening health system response including: forecasting, surge calculation, quality assurance, hospital readiness, and infection prevention and control and clinical management of COVID-19 patients. Between 23 April and 06 May, capacity building webinars have reached more than 9,230 health care workers in more than 14 Member States across the Region.

WHO EURO kicked off a 3-day joint, virtual mission to Armenia in collaboration with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and the Armenian Ministry of Health. WHO and RKI experts will provide technical support on public health preparedness and response measures for COVID-19 as well as recommendations regarding the potential lifting of lockdown measures and potential improvements to Armenia's COVID-19 response activities.

At the request of the Government of Tajikistan, a WHO [COVID-19 mission](#) comprising public health experts and epidemiologists arrived in the country to support the authorities in managing the spread of the virus. Meetings with national authorities, experts and partners will focus on collaboratively understand the risks, the situation on the ground, and develop response mechanisms required to protect the Tajik people. More information about the mission to Tajikistan can be found [here](#).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), WHO and Israel held a joint virtual dialogue with Member States from the European Region regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to share experiences and strategies for response, transition and resilience. Read more about the dialogue [here](#).

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)

As Yemen confirms its first cases of COVID-19, WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean issued a statement stressing the need for collective action and commitment is the only way to mitigate the pandemic.

South-East Asia Region (SEARO)

WHO SEARO hosted 3 webinars for Member States and WHO Country offices of the Region covering topical issues under the thematic areas of risk communication, infection prevention and control and case management.

Understanding fake news and infodemics in the WHO South-East Asia Region hosted in collaboration with International Health Policy Programme (IHPP): addressing infodemics in SEAR. Experts from Thailand shared research launched by them on fake news and public ability to detect fake news for COVID-19. This also provided an open forum to discuss ways and innovative ideas to gather additional evidence on public response to fake news.

Celebrating nurses and midwives for clean care at the age of COVID-19: attendees were briefed about infection prevention and control (IPC) and hand hygiene, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response and as part of the WHO annual hand hygiene campaign.

Clinical management of COVID-19 patients in Sri Lanka, including clinical characteristics, national management considerations, challenges and lessons learned: sharing regional experiences, describing challenges encountered in the clinical management of COVID-19 patients, and sharing practices in SEAR Member States. It provided an opportunity for participants to gain knowledge on different medical countermeasures being implemented and country-specific lessons learned in this regard.

REGIONAL UPDATES

The Ministry of Health of Timor-Leste and the National Hospital (HNGV) in collaboration with WHO and partners kicked off a month-long hand hygiene campaign on World Hand Hygiene Day. The aim of the Global Hand Hygiene Day campaign was to recognize that hand washing is one of the most effective actions to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. With support from WHO and Menzies School of Health Research, the ministry updated the national guideline for surveillance and contact tracing and conducted refresher trainings for officers and staff in the municipalities and referral hospitals.

WHO has supported the government identify new sites for isolation and treatment facilities, that are now being refurbished to meet isolation facility requirements.

WHO presented the strategy on “Health Financing Response to COVID-19 and beyond” to the Government, the Integrated Centre for Crisis Management and development partners.

Western Pacific Region (WPRO)

Over 60 government, non-government, UN and multilateral partners joined the 2nd Western Pacific Region Virtual Partners Briefing held on 30 April. The meeting aimed to build a shared understanding of the current situation and an opportunity for partners to exchange lessons learnt and practices in response activities.

As transport and access have become increasingly challenging, WPRO OSL team have been looking at novel ways to make use of charter flights and national assets (e.g. military aircrafts) in collaboration with partners and commercial companies. To date, a total of 171,552 tests have been sent to 21 laboratories in 10 countries in the region. Procurement and distribution of lab equipment, including universal transport medium, swab kits and RT-PCR consumables continues.

Thanks to a partnership with Facebook, more than 250 million people across the Western Pacific Region have been reached with awareness material promoting key protective behaviours. Through a partnership with Twitter, people searching for information on COVID-19 in 11 countries and areas in the Region are being directed to localized information, in local languages, from WHO and national health authorities.

More than 1800 general practitioners, retired physicians, nurses residents, interns, non-ICU staff and volunteers participated in a week-long webinar on "WHO Clinical Perspectives on COVID-19", aiming to train additional staff to serve as back-up capacity in the Philippines.

Key links

[COVID-19 web page](#)

[Case dashboard](#)

[Daily situation reports](#)

[Donors and partners](#)

[Response in countries](#)

[Rolling updates](#)

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