Public health response and coordination highlights

**Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator**
WHO, with heads of states, global health leaders, private sector partners and other stakeholders launched the Access To COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration to fast-track the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

**Updated Country Preparedness and Response Status for COVID-19 as of 27 April 2020**
WHO published a preliminary categorization of countries to facilitate the global planning process including the identification of the overall response envelope required over time.

**WHO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Inter-Parliamentary Union collaborate to engage Parliamentarians**
WHO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Inter-Parliamentary Union are working in close collaboration to provide parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with key information about COVID-19. The first webinar on ‘lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic: parliamentary action to reduce risks, strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience’ was held this week, with 472 parliamentarians from 84 countries participating. The webinar looked at lessons learnt and best practices from this emergency and how to ensure enhanced disaster risk management, including preventive measures and preparedness, for effective response to pandemics in the future.

**Technical support for COVID-19 treatment centres**
WHO is supporting Italy’s Bologna and Puglia provinces design and install COVID-19 treatment centres in hospitals. In Nigeria, WHO has provided technical guidance for a proposed self-quarantine facility in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). WHO has also provided support for the installation of COVID-19 treatment facilities in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Australia.

**The COVID 19 Partner Platform**
The COVID-19 Partners Platform was launched as an enabling tool for all countries, implementing partners, donors and contributors to collaborate in the global COVID-19 response. The Partners Platform features real-time tracking to support the planning, implementation and resourcing of country preparedness and response plans. The [COVID-19 Supply Portal](#) has also now been made available through the COVID-19 Partners Platform. It facilitates national authorities and implementing partners supporting them to request critical supplies. To date, 92 countries have been actively engaged on the Platform 112 “response plans” have been uploaded, with 329 donors entering their contributions.
UN sets out COVID-19 social and economic recovery plan
The UN has developed a global framework that provides a strategy for the urgent socio-economic response to COVID-19. It is based on five critical pillars: protecting health services and systems; social protection and basic services; protecting jobs and small and medium sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors; macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and social cohesion and community resilience.

GOARN launches a knowledge hub
The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) has launched a COVID-19 Knowledge hub. The hub is designed as a central repository of quality public health information, guidance, tools and webinars which can be accessed freely.

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)
By 27 April, a total of 19 EMTs were internationally deployed and other 36 EMTs were supporting national operations in the response to COVID-19.
Releases
New guidance and guidelines issued and updated
COVID-19 and Food Safety: Guidance for competent authorities responsible for national food safety control systems
Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for the COVID-19 virus

Publications
Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings
The document was released by WHO to support local authorities, leaders and policy-makers in cities and other urban settlements in identifying effective approaches and implementing recommended actions that enhance the prevention, preparedness and readiness for COVID-19 in urban settings to ensure a robust response and eventual recovery.
Draft landscape of COVID 19 candidate vaccines
The document lists seven candidate vaccines in clinical evaluation, and 82 in preclinical evaluation
Ethics and COVID-19: resource allocation and priority-setting
A policy brief that answers a number of questions about the ethics of setting priorities for the allocation of resources during times of scarcity.

Scientific Brief
"Immunity passports" in the context of COVID-19
WHO has currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection, as some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could serve as the basis for an “immunity passport” or “risk-free certificate”.
Read more Scientific briefs

Strategic Supply Chain
COVID-19 Supply Chain System: Requesting and Receiving Supplies
A document published by WHO to bring clarity on the process of requesting and receiving globally sourced COVID-19 critical supplies that are currently facing constrained market conditions, through the UN COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS).

COVID-19 supply shipped as of 25 April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHIPPED</th>
<th>Mask, Surgical</th>
<th>Mask, N95</th>
<th>Gloves, Examination</th>
<th>Gown</th>
<th>Goggles</th>
<th>Face Shield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR</td>
<td>1,403,750</td>
<td>24,150</td>
<td>386,300</td>
<td>45,879</td>
<td>6,930</td>
<td>30,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMR</td>
<td>351,250</td>
<td>24,020</td>
<td>487,000</td>
<td>69,122</td>
<td>5,020</td>
<td>18,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
<td>171,080</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>189,100</td>
<td>21,148</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMR</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>9,916</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR</td>
<td>412,000</td>
<td>38,565</td>
<td>340,000</td>
<td>23,400</td>
<td>9,250</td>
<td>11,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPRO</td>
<td>151,050</td>
<td>8,050</td>
<td>126,000</td>
<td>6,563</td>
<td>3,703</td>
<td>1,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,555,130</td>
<td>100,375</td>
<td>1,596,400</td>
<td>176,028</td>
<td>29,303</td>
<td>71,266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Research Highlights

COVID-19 Experimental Treatments
WHO has published the ‘R&D Blueprint COVID-19 Experimental Treatments’ which lists drug and non-drug experimental treatments for COVID-19.

Solidarity Trial
More than 100 countries have joined the Solidarity Trial in the search of a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, with 1,200 random patients from the first five countries that joined.

Updates on current research and development

Health Learning
OpenWHO has launched a new online course on Standard precautions: Hand hygiene. The module summarizes the WHO guidelines on hand hygiene, associated tools and ideas for effective implementation.

Global Indicators (As of 28 April 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries have a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan</th>
<th>Countries have a functional multi-sectoral, multi-partner coordination mechanism for COVID-19</th>
<th>Countries have communicated COVID-19 prevention and preparedness messages to the population</th>
<th>Countries have a COVID-19 community engagement plan</th>
<th>Countries have COVID-19 event-based surveillance</th>
<th>Countries have COVID-19 laboratory testing capacity</th>
<th>Countries have a clinical referral system in place to care for COVID-19 cases</th>
<th>Countries have an IPC programme and WHO standards within all healthcare facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 140 155 195</td>
<td>0 101 155 195</td>
<td>0 101 155 195</td>
<td>0 155 195</td>
<td>0 140 155 195</td>
<td>0 173 195</td>
<td>0 131 195</td>
<td>0 111 195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
a. Data collected from 194 Member States and 1 territory through the WHO Regional Offices. The term “countries” should be understood as referring to “countries and territories”.
b. The indicator for infection prevention and control (IPC) was based on the International Health Regulations State Parties Annual Reporting (SPAR) results for 2019, or 2018 results if 2019 data was not available.
c. Incremental percentage compared to last week data.
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 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.

**Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)**
The [GHRP](#) released on 25 March 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$2 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$450 million** of which only some **US$ 184 million** has been pledged and received, leaving WHO with a funding gap of **$266 million** – or some 60% - for operations in countries affected by humanitarian crises. These needs are expected to rise as additional countries are added to the 2nd iteration of the GHRP, which will be released on 7 May.

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**
As of 29 April, more than 280,000 individuals, and 115 corporations and foundations have contributed over US$200 million to the [Solidarity Response Fund](#) has been raised in support of WHO and key partners in the pandemic response.

**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 COVID 19 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.
REGIONAL UPDATES

**African Region (AFRO)**

*WHO urged countries not to let COVID-19 eclipse other health issues*

A training on COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing at district level was developed, in addition to technical guidance on contact tracing implementation and a user guide for the contact tracing tool.

The solidarity flight distribution supported by WHO and Jack Ma Foundation, resumed on 27 April 2020 and finished distribution of PPE and laboratory testing reagents to 51 countries in the region.

Two sub-regional logistics hubs, coordinated by WPF, are functional (Addis Ababa and Accra) and a third is in the process of being established in Johannesburg. These hubs, complemented by air transportation, will enable the distribution of supplies within the African Region and the transport of responders to COVID-19.

For more details see AFRO situation report

**Americas Region (AMRO)**

The WHO Regional Office for the Americas urged countries to strengthen vaccination against seasonal influenza and measles to prevent respiratory illness and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAHO has shared with Ministry of Health counterparts a tool to analyze needs for PPE, supplies, and medicine, and guide procurement efforts and distribution to appropriate facilities in the countries.

A document providing national authorities with a framework to inform their decision-making process, on considerations on the adjustments of social distancing and travel related measures was published as well as technical guidance on the strengthening of the first level of care in the COVID-19 context, selecting alternative health care sites (AHCS), and ethical guidance for the use of scarce resources in the delivery of critical health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click for more technical documents released by PAHO

For more details see PAHO Situation Report
REGIONAL UPDATES

European Region (EURO)

Countries working to sustain population immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases during COVID-19 pandemic
Countries across the WHO European Region are utilizing guidance from WHO/Europe to include immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) as an essential health service during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengthening and adjusting public health measures throughout the COVID-19 transition phases.
Policy considerations for Member States in the WHO European Region to help them decide on the modulation of large-scale restrictive public health measures, while strengthening core public health service capacities together with personal protective measures and individual physical distancing

Considerations for gradual easing of lock-downs and movement restrictions
Key considerations for the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions introduced by many countries in response to the spread of COVID-19 across the European Region.

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)

Pakistan launches COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
The Government of Pakistan launched its preparedness and response plan requiring US$ 595 million to strengthen Pakistan's capacity in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and relief and build health systems to mitigate the recovery from COVID-19.

South-East Asia Region (SEARO)

WHO convenes manufacturers, regulatory authorities meet on COVID-19 vaccines
World Health Organization organized a virtual meeting of vaccine manufacturers and national regulatory authorities from its South-East Asia Region. Leading manufacturers from India, Indonesia and Thailand discussed timelines and production capacity, while regulatory bodies deliberated on adjustments that would be needed in processes to make COVID-19 vaccines available.

Key links
COVID-19 web page
Case dashboard
Daily situation reports
Donors and partners
Response in countries
Rolling updates

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