

# Weekly Operational Update on COVID-19

14 August 2020



Confirmed cases<sup>a</sup>

**20 439 814**

Confirmed deaths

**744 385**

Countries, areas, or territories affected

**216**

## Public health response and coordination highlights

During the United Nations Crisis Management Team (UN CMT) meeting on 12 August 2020, WHO briefed on the epidemiological situation and noted that some countries are observing a resurgence of cases and clusters following many weeks of virus suppression.

WHO emphasized the importance of continued vigilance and the need for sustained community engagement.

WHO welcomes all advances in COVID-19 vaccine research and development, and has been involved in guiding and accelerating R&D efforts since January 2020. The Chair noted that accelerating vaccine research should be done following established processes to ensure that any vaccines that eventually go into production are both safe and effective.

WHO also briefed the CMT on its recently updated public health considerations while resuming international travel, and advocates for countries to monitor international travelers using transparent criteria. During the meeting, WHO gave an update on the recent mission to China to develop plans with national authorities to investigate virus origins.

In addition, ICAO and IOM briefed the CMT on the work related to travel and trade, as well as the concept note on Evolving Public Health Surveillance Measures by States applied to International Travelers.

IAEA briefed on its COVID-19 response to date and presented its Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative that aims to support the early detection and prevention of future zoonotic outbreaks. FAO briefed on its assistance to countries to assess risk from animal sources, and proposed briefing the CMT on its One Health approach in September.

## Key Figures



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



7 137 194 Face shields shipped to 135 countries across all six WHO regions



3 486 216 Gowns shipped to 135 countries across all six WHO regions



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



More than 4.1 million people registered on OpenWHO and able to access 117 COVID-19 online training courses in 39 languages



1 031 915 Goggles shipped to 135 countries across all six WHO regions



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

a) See Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) [Situation Report](#) 13 August 2020 for further information



**World Health  
Organization**

HEALTH  
**EMERGENCIES**  
programme



## From The Field

### Inauguration of an Epidemics and Public Health Emergency Operations Centre in North Macedonia



*Dr Venko Filipce, Minister of Health of North Macedonia and Dr Jihane Tawilah, WHO Representative in North Macedonia. Photo Credit: WHO*

The North Macedonian Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health inaugurated a new Epidemics and Public Health Emergency Operations Centre in Skopje.

This emergency operations centre will provide centralized, real-time information, monitoring, reporting, and advice on the response to public health events and emergencies. The centre will improve surveillance and coordination among epidemiologists, laboratory staff and public health experts across the 10 other public health centres and 21 units in North Macedonia.

WHO is assisting in operationalizing the Centre by providing technical guidance and embedding a WHO public health expert in the national team. The new Epidemics and Public Health Emergency Operations Centre will contribute to building a national health emergency response framework and fulfilling the International Health Regulations (2005). Read the full news story [here](#).

## Partnership

### Emergency Medical Teams

The Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Network has been involved in the response to the Beirut explosion and has started the retasking of teams to begin support for the anticipated rise of COVID-19 cases in country. Teams are also looking into rehabilitation needs for both those affected by the explosion and post-COVID-19 rehabilitation needs.

**As of 13 August 2020** close to 9,000 augmentation beds are managed or supported by the EMT network in the Americas Region. Augmentation beds are additional beds to support existing health facilities and hospitals in the response to COVID-19.

In Africa, the operations supported by the EMT network continue to be focused on **Chad and Cameroon** where the assessment and support offered by Maltese EMTs have finished. In **Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ghana and Zambia** operations conducted by ALIMA and UKEMT are still ongoing.

Efforts have been oriented to direct clinical care, surge capacity and technical support to adapt triage and isolation areas, inpatient wards and overall re-organization of hospitals to the needs of the COVID-19 response. IPC - WASH screening and assessment have been also conducted.

In Europe the operations have been focused on the deployment of Italian EMTs to Serbia and Azerbaijan. Australia Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) is continuing to support Papua New Guinea in the Pacific Region.



*UKEMT WASH screening for COVID 19 at Zambia border crossings*



## Partnership

### Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners and networks continue to provide technical advice across all health operation pillars, particularly clinical management, Infection Prevention and Control, laboratory and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE).

- As of 13 August 2020, 593 offers of support from 50 GOARN Partner institutions have been received and 96 people have been deployed. Operational factors that are limiting the deployment of international support include heavy travel restrictions and quarantine requirements related to international travel.
- Go.Data team continues to support global rollout of the Go.Data platform. Several implementation calls and activities took place during the week commencing 10 August, including a major virtual training in Spanish for the Ministry of Health in Mexico. The Go.Data team is currently supporting over 55 Go.Data projects worldwide, and is coordinating rollout activities in a close collaboration with the WHO regional offices.
- The main outputs from the RCCE collaboration include:
  - RCCE strategy is being updated to address next 6 months of the response, aligned to Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and Global Humanitarian Response Plan.
  - Three broad areas of misinformation, rumors and concerns have been identified based on community feedback and media monitoring data: treatment options, impending second wave and modes of transmission and protective behaviors and use of masks.
  - RCCE 'Collective Service' governance and functioning has been finalized and endorsed by the steering committee. GOARN will provide strategic, operational and technical support and guidance, as well as surge capacity and strong links with the training and social science research networks.
  - As part of a phased approach, two regional Collective Service hubs in the African continent (West / Central and Eastern / Southern) are being strengthened with dedicated staff.
  - The interagency RCCE technical working groups in the eastern, southern, central and western parts of Africa developed new guidance on community -ed interventions for COVID-19.
  - As a follow-up to WHO/GOARN's contact tracing consultation, a brief to inform on best practices for RCCE in the context of contact tracing is being developed.
  - A new survey is being conducted to understand community perceptions on contact tracing. The survey is being conducted in 27 countries by Imperial College (UK) and WHO.



## Operations Support and Logistics

The global COVID-19 outbreak has lead to an acute and drastic shortage of essential supplies, including personal protective equipment, diagnostics, and clinical management.

At the request of the UN Secretary-General and WHO Director-General and in support of the UN Crisis Management Team, a Supply chain Task Force was convened to establish the COVID-19 Supply Chain System.

The table (below) reflects WHO-procured items that have been shipped to countries to date.

Shipped items per 10 August 2020	LAB		PPE					
Regions	Swab	Test (Manual PCR)	Face shield	Glove	Goggles	Gown	Mask 3 plies	Respirator
Africa (AFR)	1,427,737	494,907	496,212	386,300	75,450	703,429	8,070,133	633,807
Americas (AMR)		6,528	3,799,911	88,000	328,008	1,212,257	61,393,636	10,130,335
Eastern Mediterranean (EMR)	383,736	848,867	789,285	724,000	113,660	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)	920,882	1,207,767	86,336	414,500	81,150	207,450	2,068,800	283,945
Western Pacific (WPR)	64,000	240,864	264,000	219,000	90,607	75,510	6,904,250	758,885

For further information on the COVID-19 supply chain system, see [here](#).

## EPI - WIN

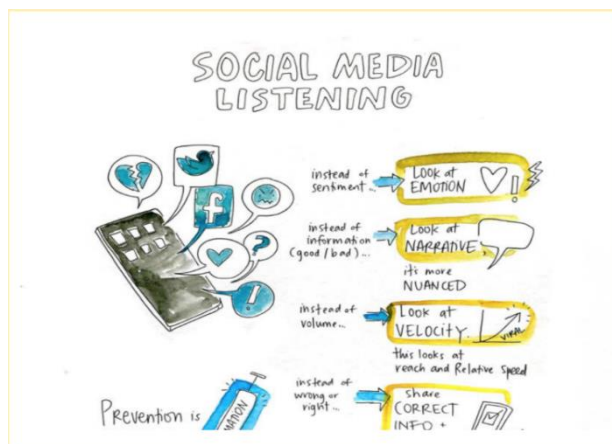


### Immunizing the Public Against Misinformation by [Sarah Alaoui](#)

August 12, 2020

WHO is tackling the rapid spread of misinformation, rumors, and conspiracy theories about the virus.

*"We're not just battling the virus," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "We're also battling the trolls and conspiracy theorists that push misinformation and undermine the outbreak response."*



To learn more about how WHO is taking on the infodemic fight, the United Nations Foundation caught up with Tim Nguyen on the sidelines of the world's [first infodemiology conference](#), which brought together world experts to discuss the developing science of managing infodemics. Nguyen's team manages the Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN), which is leading WHO's work on managing infodemics.

Learn more about this aspect of the response, click [here](#).

## Health Learning

As of 14 Aug 2020

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

The OpenWHO platform was launched in June 2017 and published its first COVID-19 course on 26 January 2020.



**Real-time training for COVID-19**  
Free online courses from WHO

- Intro to COVID-19
- Health & safety
- Clinical care
- Prevention & control (IPC)
- Protective equipment
- Hand hygiene
- Other IPC topics
- Country capacity
- Treatment facilities
- Field data tool
- Mass gatherings

**OpenWHO.org**

39 Languages

1 million Certificates

117 COVID-19 Courses

16 Free Trainings

More than  
**4.1 MILLION**  
Course enrollment

**80% COVID-19**  
courses



### Medicines and Health Products

- In response to requests from Member States on how to manage blood systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, and on potential therapeutic use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma, an interim guidance on maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and on the collection of convalescent plasma was developed, and [updated](#) on 10 July.
- Two Question and Answer documents on the WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure have been posted. [The first Q&A](#) addresses issues related to the general guidelines on EUL for in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs), medicines and vaccines. [The second Q&A](#) focuses on vaccines specifically.
- On 29 July, the [2nd Edition of the Trilateral Study WHO-WIPO-WTO](#) on “Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections between Public Health, Intellectual Property and Trade”, was [launched](#). The updated study includes a special insert related to COVID-19, sharing practical experience and understanding of a wide range of policy instruments to help address the multi-dimensional challenges of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Technical Guidance and Latest Publications

- **Home care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and management of their contacts – [interim guidance](#), 13 August 2020**  
This document is an update of the guidance published on 17 March 2020 entitled “Home care for patients with COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms and management of their contacts”. This interim guidance has been updated with advice on safe and appropriate home care for patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and on the public health measures related to the management of their contacts.
- **Emergency Global Supply Chain System (COVID-19) [catalogue](#), 10 August 2020**  
The supply chain catalogue was updated this week and lists all medical devices, including personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medical consumables, single use devices, laboratory and test-related devices that may be requested through the COVID-19 Supply Portal.



## 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.*

**As of 12 August 2020**

### 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

**US\$1.7  
BILLION**

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

**US\$872  
MILLION**

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

### Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP)

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

**US\$10.3  
BILLION**

WHO's financial requirement under the GHRP

**US\$550  
MILLION**

WHO current funding gap

**US\$228  
MILLION**

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

## WHO Funding Mechanisms

### COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund

As of 12 August 2020, [The Solidarity Response Fund](#) has raised or committed

**US\$ 233 269 504**



**565,000** donors

individual

companies

philanthropies

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

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

**US\$ 10  
MILLION  
released**

The WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies 2019 Annual Report was published on 7 August. WHO is grateful to all donors who contributed to the fund allowing us to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging crises including COVID-19. Full report is available [here](#).





## COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Summary Indicators <sup>a</sup>

**Countries have a clinical referral system in place to care for COVID-19 cases**



**Countries have COVID-19 laboratory testing capacity**



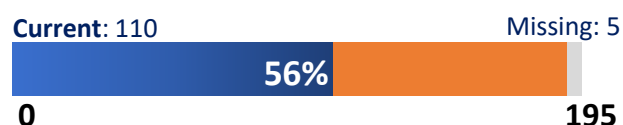
**Countries that have defined essential health services to be maintained during the pandemic**



**Countries have a functional multi-sectoral, multi-partner coordination mechanism for COVID-19**



**Countries with a national IPC programme & WASH standards within all health care facilities**



**Countries have a COVID-19 RCCE Plan <sup>b</sup>**



**Countries have a health occupational safety plan for health care workers**



**Countries have a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan**



**Countries in which all designated PoE have emergency contingency plans**



**Countries have a national policy & guidelines on IPC for long-term care facilities**



Yes No Missing Data

### Notes

- a) Data collected from Member States and territories. The term “countries” should be understood as referring to “countries and territories.”
- b) Source: UNICEF and WHO reporting

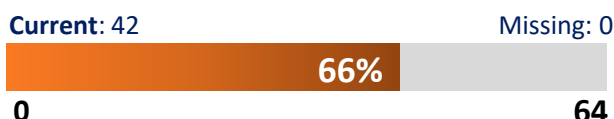
## COVID-19 Global Preparedness and Response Summary Indicators

Selected indicators within the M&E Framework apply to designated priority countries. Priority Countries are mostly defined as countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as included in the [Global Humanitarian and Response Plan](#). A full list of priority countries can be found [here](#).

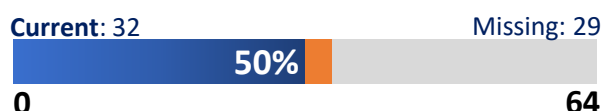
### Priority countries with multisectoral mental health & psychosocial support working group



### Priority countries that have postponed at least 1 vaccination campaign due to COVID-19 <sup>c</sup>



### Priority countries where at least one IMST member trained in essential supply forecasting



### Priority countries with an active & implemented RCCE coordination mechanism



### Priority countries with a contact tracing focal point



### Priority countries with an IPC focal point for training



## The Unity Studies: WHO Early Investigations Protocols

WHO has launched the Unity Studies to enable any country, in any resource setting, to rapidly gather robust data on key epidemiological parameters to understand and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the emergence of a new virus, there is a need to understand transmission patterns, immunity, severity, clinical features, and risk factors for infection. The protocols for the Unity Studies are also designed to facilitate global aggregation and analysis that ultimately supports global learning and decision-making.



**97 countries intend to implement at least one Unity Study protocol**  
AFR 26, AMR 10, EMR 9, EUR 31, SEAR 8, WPR 13

**49 countries have started implementation**  
AFR 13, AMR 4, EMR 3, EUR 17, SEAR 2, WPR 10

## Regional Highlights

### Americas (AMR)

#### National Laboratories

- Since the beginning of the Region of the Americas' response up to the date of this report, WHO has provided primers, probes and/or PCR kits for approximately 5.81 million reactions/tests. PAHO has also provided approximately 30,000 swabs, enzymes for around 990,000 reactions and 150 extraction kits/reagents, among other critical materials.
- During the week, the Regional Office of the Americas provided troubleshooting sessions and follow up calls regarding diagnostic implementation to Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, and Peru. Focused support was also provided to scale up COVID-19 testing at Jamaica's National Influenza Center.

### African Region (AFR)

#### Operational Support and Logistic

- The WHO team at Nairobi Hub and UNICEF are conducting quantification and forecasting of supplies for countries: data was presented by UNICEF and WHO on the demand trends of supplies in countries within the region. A strategic coordinated approach between WHO, UNICEF, and Africa CDC to contribute towards the gap, ensuring equitable access to supplies to countries within the region was recommended.
- A total of 4,290,358 of laboratory commodities have been delivered or shipped to countries within the region. An additional 2,372,208 commodities to arrive in the coming weeks. In the past week, 600 orders of supplies were processed.

#### Operational Support and Logistic

- AMRO has made quality assurance a critical component of its technical support to procuring goods, supplies, and equipment for the COVID-19 response. The Region of the Americas has trained country officials on key aspects related to quality assurance, regulations, and technical specifications for procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and biomedical equipment. Thirty-eight participants were trained from Belize, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean countries, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- In Trinidad and Tobago, AMRO partnered with the Canadian Air Force and the World Food Program (WFP) to transport 96 pallets of PPE to the country. These supplies are critical to protecting more health workers from infection as they work with confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases

#### Infection Prevention and Control

- Health worker trainings on IPC guidelines and implementation continue. To date, a total of 24,076 health workers in Kenya, 14,751 in Nigeria, 12,510 in Côte d'Ivoire and 6,329 in Zimbabwe have been trained.
- **News: South Africa steps up hygiene in health facilities to protect against COVID-19** 12 August 2020 . [Link](#)

## Regional Highlights

### Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)

#### Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams, and Case Investigation

- The national clinical management strategy for Yemen has been developed and endorsed by the local health authorities.
- WHO Country Office in Egypt continues to coordinate with the Egyptian Ministry of Health to strengthen response capacities for Rapid Response Teams in the country.

#### Infection Prevention and Control

In collaboration with WHO's collaborating centre on infection prevention and control (IPC) in Saudi Arabia, WHO conducted a 3-day online training of trainers workshop for IPC practitioners in Iraq in late July 2020. 170 participants attended.

### European Region (EUR)

#### National Laboratories

#### **Opening of a new laboratory for COVID-19 testing in Tajikistan: 07 August 2020**

WHO Country Office Tajikistan and the Rapid Response mobile team from the Russian Federation (deployed through GOARN) supported the opening of a new laboratory to conduct molecular testing for the COVID-19 virus in the hard to reach Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region.

WHO provided recommendations on the location for lab, lab re-design to ensure adequate and safe flow of operations, equipment needed on site and laboratory specialist training. Lab testing has already started, with an initial 33 lab tests performed for patients with pneumonia from the Khorog regional hospital.

#### Infection Prevention and Control

#### **Infection Prevention and Control measures developed for school reopening in Serbia**

WHO Country Office in Serbia is supporting the National Institute of Public Health in the development of set of recommendations for a safe beginning to the school year. The recommendations made on infection prevention and control measures and WASH in schools will be presented to the Ministry of Education. Based on WHO recommendations, and the consultation with the Ministry of Education, a webinar will be held with school directors and local school authorities. In parallel, WHO Country Office in Serbia is developing an educational video for students that will help to explain the prevention measures put in place.

## Regional Highlights

### South-East Asia Region (SEAR)

#### Country-level Coordination, Planning and Monitoring

**The Regional Director in a virtual meeting with Ministers of Health on 6 August urged Member States to maintain essential health services during COVID-19 response**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, repurposing of health workers, cancellation of elective care, closure of outpatient services, insufficient PPE, and changes in treatment policy have significantly impacted delivery of essential services. Additionally, Routine immunization and supplementary measles and rubella campaigns were disrupted in eight of the Region's 11 countries. changes in health-seeking behavior, constrained physical access and financial hardship have also limited service uptake.

### Western Pacific Region (WPR)

#### Case Management

The third series of WPRO Clinical Management webinars were held 3 August to 7 August 2020.

Expert speakers from across the region shared their knowledge and expertise, with each webinar attracting over 500 attendees. The webinars included clinical-centered topics such as the update of clinical management and therapeutics, the use of oxygen therapy, and co-infections and the use of antimicrobials during COVID-19.

In addition, it also addressed important issues on infection and prevention control measures for patient safety and for healthcare workers, and the role of primary and community care in response to COVID-19.

Countries have been innovating: leveraging the potential of telemedicine; developing novel supply chains and medicine dispensary options; and better engaging the private sector and communities. Learn more: [Link](#)

#### **COVID-19 simulation exercises in Bhutan**

With the number of COVID-19 cases increasing in neighboring towns across the border, the Ministry of Health, [Department of Disaster Management](#) and the Southern COVID-19 Task Force conducted a table top simulation (TTX) to assess the preparedness plans and response readiness based on a scenario of community transmission in the Southern Dzongkhags. Simulators met in an informal, classroom setting to discuss their response actions and roles during an emergency. Similar exercises were rolled out in the 6 other Dzongkhags on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

#### Risk communication and community engagement

A meeting with the Regional Community Engagement Network was hosted to share information on challenges, changes and lessons learned in the pandemic.

The discussion focused on a revision of the global Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Strategy for COVID-19 response, practical tools, and the creation of a Western Pacific Region tailored [Community Engagement toolkit](#).