

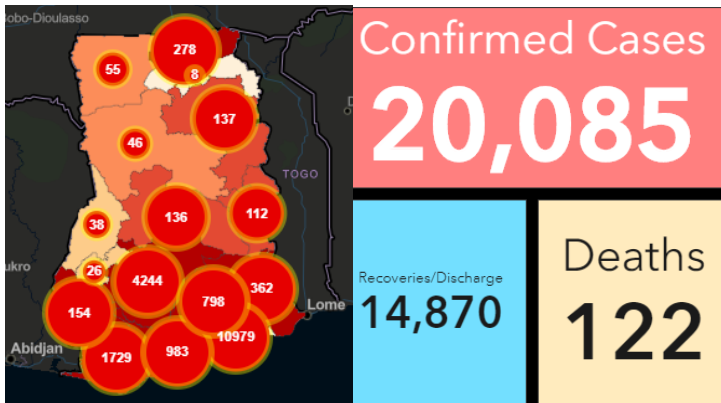


COVID-19 Update: 3

United Nations Support to the Government of Ghana

Coverage period: 20th May—21st June 2020

Situation Update (6th July 2020)



UN in Ghana Response Interventions

The Government of Ghana, like many other countries struck with the COVID-19 continues to garner support and resources to fight the pandemic. The UN Country Team (UNCT) continuing to provide support collectively through its expertise and resourcefulness to respond to both the Public Health Emergency as well as the immediate socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

WHO support made available evidence-based technical advice for surveillance and coordination to the Office of the President’s Coordinator for COVID-19 Response Programme and to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to strengthen areas such as epidemiological surveillance, risk assessment including contact tracing, epidemiological profiling, case reporting, quarantining

Key highlights

- WHO participated in supportive supervision visits to Ashanti, Ahafo, Bono and Bono East Regions to assess response activities in regions with confirmed cases and level of preparedness for regions without cases. Direct access to ground information and engagement with partners position the UN to respond better to the technical needs of the national response team.
- UNESCO is facilitating a partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Wikimedia Foundation towards the digitization of the curricular of various education institutions in the country under the contextualisation of the Global Education Coalition in Ghana.
- UNESCO and UNICEF supported the government of Ghana to secure the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) emergency Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Accelerated Funding Window grant (15 million USD) for the response in the Education Sector during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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WHO continues to make technical input into the daily situational report on the COVID-19 situation and response activities



WHO team debriefs Regional Health Directorate in Ahafo Region during visit



WHO team interacts with Deputy Regional Minister in Sunyani, Bono Region during the visit

within the country. The situational reports are shared with various stakeholders including partners.

WHO supported the setting up and coordination of weekly PHEOC meetings to discuss updates from the various thematic groups (surveillance, case management, risk communication and logistics) involved in the COVID-19 response. WHO also supports with the set up for the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC) meetings.

At national level, WFP is working with FAO, IFAD and other Development Partners (DPs) to provide technical support to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in developing an analytical paper on the implications of Covid-19 to the agricultural sector and the accompanying strategies for mitigation. UNICEF also supported the development of guidelines for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAHN) essential services in the context of COVID-19 and disseminated to health facilities across the country.

UNICEF supported GHS-National (Nutrition Department) to draft nutrition guidelines for COVID-19 isolation centres.

Gender-sensitive risk communication and community engagement. Situation Update (13th May 2020)

The GHS, in partnership with UNDP, has engaged the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations and the Ghana Prisons Service to work together to extend COVID-19 sensitization to vulnerable populations including persons with disability and the prisons.

WHO provided technical support to the Risk Communication and Social Mobilization (RCSM) Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop social distancing guidelines for different scenarios: Faith-based Organizations, basic schools, workplaces, supermarket and malls, food vendors and restaurants among others.

UNFPA used the occasion of International day of the Midwife to highlight, on local media, the role of midwives amidst COVID-19 and promote measures to safeguard the lives of both midwives and expectant mothers in the course of childbirth during the pandemic. The commemoration also featured a training for 3500 midwives, from across the country, and other stakeholder on how to protect themselves against COVID-19.



The Deputy Minister of Health at the commemoration of International Day of the midwife, organised by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA

A video message in support of national COVID-19 response efforts to protect women and adolescent girls, featuring key personalities, is being aired on various national television channels across the country. The video also promotes the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service dedicated hotline, which was secured in collaboration with UNFPA, for reporting abuse during COVID-19.

In response to the many challenges faced by young people in the COVID-19 era, the UN Youth Group in Ghana (UNYG) has launched an e-Youth Impact Series (e-YIS); a virtual capacity-building forum to increase the understanding of COVID-19, provide links to available resources, and hone solutions to address socio-economic backlashes of the pandemic. The maiden edition was organised under the auspices of UNFPA. Two more e-YIS have taken place. The first was under the auspices of UNESCO and discussed the effectiveness of the New Way of Learning of the virtual teaching programmes deployed by the government in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The second was organised under the auspices of UNDP on how to expand the space for youth innovations to thrive. Both events gained traction from a huge number of young people across the country.

UNFPA under its Youth Leaders Fellowship Programme engaged 96 youth volunteers to carry out a humanitarian youth outreach to increase awareness of SRH and SGBV issues amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Three communities in Accra were covered, reaching about 5,754 people with information and materials on COVID-19, SGBV and SRH. The team distributed 28,000 essential items including contraceptives, sanitizers and nose masks.

IOM, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), and the Delegation of the European Union to Ghana joined forces with artists from the Ghana Graffiti collective to use COVID-19 related street art to sensitize people about COVID-19 prevention, safe migration and solidarity.

Through IOM and UN-Habitat, the UN has worked closely with the GHS to create localised awareness raising materials (posters, postcards, social media flyers) on COVID-19 prevention in five local languages (English, Twi, Ga, Ewe, Hausa). Over 4000 posters and postcards have been made available. These materials are being used in communities, including slums/informal settlements in Accra, and on social media while live Facebook engagement was organised to provide knowledge on how to cope with psycho-social effects of COVID-19. As part of its nutrition programme which supports pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children 6-23 months aimed at stunting prevention, WFP also continues to reach out to targeted audience with key messages in ongoing SBCC activities led by Government through the Ghana Health Service (GHS).

UNESCO and the National Commission on Culture in May 2020 supported the Ghana Culture Forum to organize a webinar for the culture and creative sector practitioners and stakeholders on the impact of COVID-19 on the sector based on the UNESCO global activity and campaign ResiliArt.

Suveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation

Technical support was provided by WHO for the development of draft guidelines to facilitate the transfer of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and contact between districts of testing. WHO supported the GHS to develop a guideline on inclusion of private laboratories in COVID-19 testing. This has fed into discussions on the streamlining of the process for private laboratory inclusion in COVID-19 testing and reporting. WHO provided technical support for the development of a draft monitoring tool for COVID-19 surveillance activities to guide monitoring of COVID-19 activities at subnational levels.

Case Management

The case management team reviewed the COVID-19 case management guideline with WHO support to include in changes in treatment protocol and a section on nutrition. The guideline is being finalized for printing and dissemination to treatment centres nationwide to guide management of COVID-19 cases.

WFP has provided support for the comprehensive care of COVID-19 patients in isolation facilities with a contribution of 10,800 bags of specialized nutritious food. These foods are highly nutritious, excellent made-in-Ghana products consisting of blended cereals and soy flour, mixed with extra minerals and vitamins. The added minerals and vitamins provide numerous health benefits including boosting the immune system to fight infections

Infection prevention measures

With support from UNDP, the Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA) of the Ministry of Health, is conducting monitoring in almost 800 health facilities in Greater Accra and Ashanti Region on their compliance with health and safety protocols in service delivery. Personnel from the Accra School of Hygiene have also been included in this activity, where they are providing on-the-spot training for frontline health personnel on Infection Prevention and Control and Health Care Waste Management. UNDP also provided support to Korle Bu Teaching Hospital for the production of 11,150 liters of hand sanitizers (5,000 pieces of 230ml bottles + 2,000 pieces of 5 liters refill bottles and 170 dispensers). They will be distributed by MOH to 21 health facilities across the country.

IOM donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), including veronica buckets, sanitizers, nose masks, disposable gloves, gallons of disinfectants, and sets of PPEs, to the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and to a partner NGOs, Don Bosco Child Protection Center, both run shelters for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) in Accra

IOM teamed with some local assemblies to provide innovative handwashing facilities by youth at city and household levels in slums in Accra.

National Laboratories

WHO supported national laboratories including Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, National Public Health and Reference Laboratory and other COVID-19 testing laboratories with sample collection kits and COVID-19 testing reagents to enable testing for COVID 19 with funding support from DFID.

FAO supported training on core tests for priority zoonotic diseases, with main emphasis on COVID-19. The training strengthened the capacity of staff of the Accra, Pong-Tamale and Takoradi veterinary laboratories participating in testing COVID -19 samples.

Operational support and logistics

The UN humanitarian hub in Accra, which is managed by WFP, continues to provide logistical and aviation services to the broader humanitarian community. Since operations began in May 2020, its passenger aviation service has transported over 1000 humanitarian workers to countries where they are most needed in Africa and dispatched needed medical items and other cargo to over 30 countries for their COVID-19 response. Meanwhile, logistics teams from WFP's headquarters in Italy and WHO, have completed the construction of the Accra Field Hospital. The facility will now be handed over for the management of the health component.

Socio-economic response

In continuation of their reintegration, IOM Ghana is guiding returning migrants to be innovative in their business plans and adapt to the new needs presented by the COVID-19 pandemic for example through the provision of face masks.

IOM continues to assist survivors of trafficking who returned to Ghana recently, providing them with food and hygienic supplies, and counselling them to set-up micro-enterprises as part of their reintegration. IOM is using simple and advanced financial services available in the Ghanaian market to ensure that assistance to beneficiaries is delivered timely. The support ensures that vulnerable community members receive support to navigate times of crisis and are not left behind in the COVID-19 response.

UNESCO is facilitating a partnership between the Ministry of Education and the Wikimedia Foundation towards the digitization of the curricular of various education institutions in the country under the contextualisation of the Global Education Coalition in Ghana.

UNFPA Ghana donated dignity kits to the patients being housed at the Pentecost Convention Centre, a government supported isolation facility. [PCC](#) .

UNESCO and UNICEF supported the government of Ghana to secure the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) emergency Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Accelerated Funding Window

grant (15 million USD) for the response in the Education Sector during the COVID-19 outbreak.

UNESCO initiated a process to support the Government of Ghana to establish an Open University in Ghana to enable students pursue higher education without the impediments of physical space.

UNESCO and the Ministry of Education have jointly designed a project to equip, in the future, Junior High School and Senior High School teachers with pedagogical skills in ICT. This will enable teachers to effectively facilitate teaching and learning using ICT tools and online resources.



Team inspects the new TB facility to be used as COVID-19 treatment centre, Kintampo, Bono East Region



COVID-19 isolation and treatment facility at Goaso Municipal Hospital, Ahafo Region