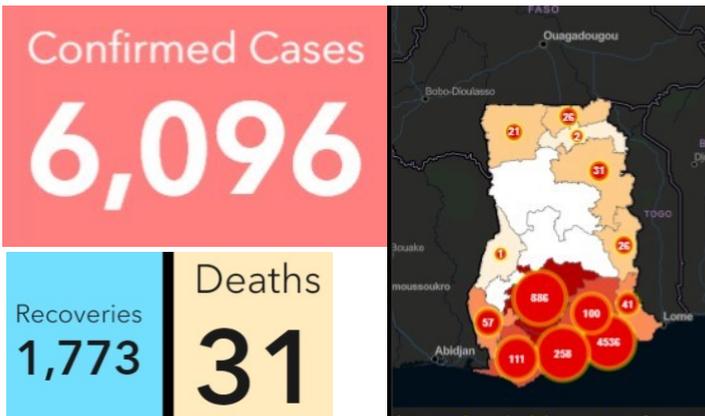




COVID-19 Update: 2

United Nations Support to the Government of Ghana

Situation Update (19th May 2020)



UN in Ghana Response Interventions

The UN Country Team (UNCT), since the first cases of COVID-19, is continuing to provide collective support to the Government of Ghana (GoG) 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 continues to provide technical support to improve the output of the national COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centre (CEOC). The agency has also recruited and deployed two officers specialized in data management and surveillance, to the Greater-Accra Regional Health Directorate, to support the finalization of Ghana's Country Response Plan. Funding support is also being provided to 4 regions (Greater Accra, Eastern, Ashanti and Upper East) to undertake COVID-19 related activities in the area of coordination, surveillance, social mobilization and capacity building. While UNICEF is providing technical and financial support to the government to convene WASH coordinating sector partners meetings via teleconferencing.

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

One of the critical components of public health response plan is risk communications and community engagement (RCCE). The UN is working with the Government of Ghana, through the Ghana Health Service (GHS), to disseminate accurate information on prevention and response and to ensure dialogue

Key highlights

- ◆ WHO provided funding to the Health Promotion Department (HPD) of the GHS to strengthen the GHS-COVID 19 website and for the production and translation of videos on contact tracing and self-quarantine into 8 languages.
 - ◆ WHO funded the Institutional Care Division of the Ghana Health Service to provide Infection prevention and Control (IPC) training for 750 health officials across five regions.
 - ◆ Several agencies, including UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNCDF, UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNESCO have developed information, education and communication materials to reach out to communities such as refugee camps and slums, with clear messaging on COVID-19 prevention.
- UNHCR, donated core relief items, including PPEs and hygiene products in support of the Ellembele District Health Directorate in the Western Region.

and participation of all stakeholders. The aim is to promote public education particularly to hard-to reach areas and to vulnerable groups.

WHO provided funding to the Health Promotion Department (HPD) of the GHS to strengthen the GHS-COVID 19 website and for the production and translation of videos on contact tracing and self-quarantine into 8 languages. WHO also provided technical support for the development of country guidelines on physical distancing in various scenarios such as in public transport, at the workplace and in supermarkets.

Several agencies, including UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNCDF, UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNESCO have developed information, education and communication materials to reach out to communities such as refugee camps and slums, with clear messaging on COVID-19 prevention. Additionally, gender-sensitive information on COVID-19 in accessible formats such as braille, audio and sign language have also been developed. Some of these materials are being transmitted through various media including Ghana Community Radio Network, local radio and community information centres.

Community engagement have also been undertaken to reach out to vulnerable persons of concern, especially refugee

women and children, young people, including those with disability to provide the needed support to ensure their situation is not exacerbated by the current pandemic.

The UN system is also leveraging its various platforms, including social media, to enhance critical information dissemination – both UN-generated and local – related to the COVID-19.

Through the Norwegian Teacher Initiative, UNESCO is supporting the National Teaching Council to develop a web portal to disseminate information to teachers in a timely manner, including COVID-19 education.

WFP supported the GHS to incorporate messages on COVID-19 in routine social and behaviour change communication activities targeting pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children 6-23 months.

Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation

WHO supported the development of COVID-19 surveillance guidelines and contact tracing protocols to provide guidance to the regions and districts on the implementation of strategies for COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing.

WHO also supported a training to leverage available Open Data Kit expertise and systems as well as existing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) platforms for Polio Surveillance to be adapted for COVID-19 contact tracing.

Case Management

WHO organised a training on COVID-19 response at the district levels for countries in the Africa Region. Regional and District directors from several countries in the Africa Region, including Ghana participated in the training.

With funding support from the UK's Department for International Development, UNICEF has handed over 10 oxygen concentrators and accessories to the Ministry of Health to boost the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Infection prevention measures

WHO funded the Institutional Care Division of the Ghana Health Service to provide Infection prevention and Control (IPC) training for 750 health officials across five regions.

UNHCR, donated core relief items, including PPEs and hygiene products in support of the Ellebelle District Health Directorate in the Western Region, Berekum West District in the Bono Region, Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem Municipal Health Directorate in the Central Region. These are health facilities located in the catchment areas of various refugee camps and provide

services to host communities and refugees to help reduce risk to COVID-19 infections.

UNFPA Ghana has donated relief items including hand sanitizers, soap and other hygiene products to the Henry Djaba Foundation and the Women in Leadership International to be delivered to persons living with disabilities and juveniles in prison.

UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health developed a simplified health care waste management (HCWM) standard operating procedures for the National COVID-19 Management Team.

To promote better healthcare, UNDP is also partnering with the Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA) to provide technical advice, monitoring and evaluation of the discharge of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) Policies and protocols in 793 health facilities in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions.

UNICEF supported the re-orientation of burial teams through the Environmental Health Sanitation Division of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development ((EHSD-MLGRD).

National Laboratories

UNICEF is supporting the GoG to increase the technical readiness, geographical reach and scale of testing. As a result, the Tamale Public Health Laboratory has started testing COVID-19 samples for Northern, Savannah, Upper West, Upper East and North East regions.



Lab technicians at the Tamale Public Health Reference laboratory test a sample for COVID 19

Operational support and logistics

UNCDF is supporting the digitalization of Government to person payments (i.e. medical workers, school scholarships etc) to maximize social distancing.

Accra is serving as one of the humanitarian air hubs which WFP is setting up around the world to support COVID-19 response efforts in all countries. A system of airlinks is dispatching essential medical supplies and cargo on behalf of humanitarian partners and transporting health workers where they are most

needed on the frontlines. The network is built on the UN Humanitarian Response Depots, including the depot in Accra, which are managed by WFP.

Socio-economic response

The Ghana Statistical Service, in partnership with UNDP has completed the first round of data collection on tracking the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on businesses and local economies. The data, together with the epidemiology data of the disease, will be important in informing measures to flatten the curve and mitigate further impact of the disease.

UNICEF and the World Bank are collaborating with the Ghana Statistical Service to conduct panel interviews to generate data for the analysis of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 on households.

UNFPA has launched the Youth Impact Series, an online platform to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on young people and to create a platform to tap into young people's perspective on addressing youth-related issues affected by the pandemic.

With the objective to offset possible rise in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) due to the COVID-19 lockdown/restrictions, while encouraging people to follow prescribed COVID-19 preventive measures, UNFPA in collaboration with the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service, organised an interactive online workshop with 250 participants from the general public with key resource persons to educate participants on SGBV.

UNICEF has also supported the Ministry of Communications and the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse Secretariat in promoting hot-line phone numbers related to sexual and gender-based violence and child protection.

UNFPA, in collaboration with Autism Ambassadors Ghana organized a twitter chat to reach 35,000 people, mainly young people and families of vulnerable groups who were specifically targeted with information on how to communicate COVID-19 prevention, including SGBV messages to young people with autism.

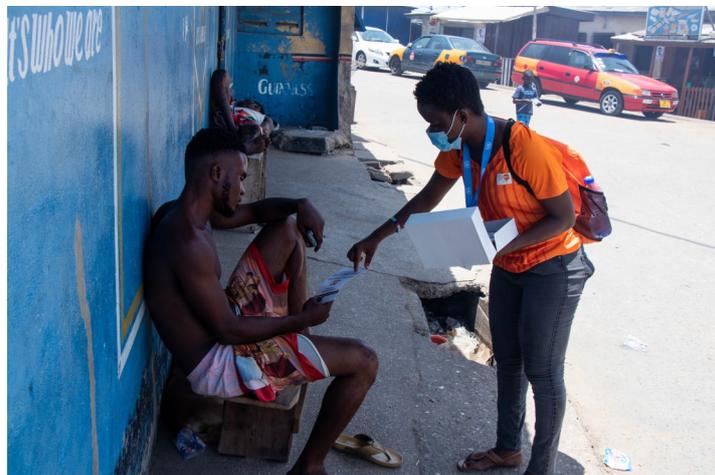
WFP, UNICEF, the World Bank and other partners are providing technical support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to prepare a Social Protection Response Plan which leverages social protection interventions to address socio-economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WFP is supporting the Statistical Research and Information Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to monitor food commodity prices in 32 districts across the 16 regions, using digital technology. This data has detected areas which have been hardest hit by price increases as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such data is useful for planning interventions.

The three Rome-based food agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, are supporting the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to develop an

analytical position paper clearly spelling out the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ghana's agricultural sector, existing capacity gaps of the Ministry and associated agencies such as the National Buffer Stock Company and propose short to long term measures to address the impact and gaps.

UNAIDS conducted a survey on the impact of the Government of Ghana lockdown on the ability of people living with HIV to access their supplies of antiretroviral medication.



UNFPA Ghana Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellows community outreach

GACA
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If you are harmed or feel threatened, intimidated or harassed, you have the right to reach out to seek help. Services may be limited due to #Covid19 but you can call below numbers for more information & support.
#ProtectOurChildren #GACA #ENDviolence #StaySafe #HelpLineOfHope
Ghana Police Service Ministry of Information - Ghana. Ghana Health Service
Cyber Security Ghana Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

COVID Hotline
Emergency: 112
General Information: 311

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE
NCSC Online Abuse Hotline
292

GPS DOVVSU Hotline
05 5100 0900

MoGCSF Helpline of Hope
0800 800 800
0800 900 900

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No violence against children is justifiable;
all violence against children is preventable

#GACA

Screen shot of promotion on GACA platform of hotlines related to gender-based violence and child protection