



SITUATION REPORT: CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

June 8, 2020 | No. 14

BY THE NUMBERS

7,038,942 CONFIRMED CASES WORLDWIDE

403,211 CONFIRMED DEATHS

188+ COUNTRIES WITH CONFIRMED CASES

Source: Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, Coronavirus Dashboard, 8 June 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) a global pandemic on March 11, indicating there is sustained transmission throughout the world. The virus is active on every continent except Antarctica. The WHO-assessed global risk is “very high,” particularly in East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America, with numbers expected to continue rising exponentially in the coming weeks.

Globally, large public gatherings of people were suspended by governments and private entities, including concerts, sporting events and rallies. In recent weeks, many countries and most U.S. states are attempting to reopen with restrictions in place, like at restaurants and other public spaces. In some countries schools are also reopening. However online-courses remain the most common method of instruction.

Without treatments or vaccines, public health measures remain key to fighting the rapid spread of the virus. In addition, limited testing capacities for the virus have contributed to underreporting of case counts, which are likely higher for many countries throughout the world. Numerous companies are working on a vaccine.

IMA WORLD HEALTH & LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

AFRICA

Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health are building on our experience in our response to Ebola in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, improving preparedness of non-governmental Christian Health Associations and other faith-based health care networks across sub-Saharan Africa.

In partnership with the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), we will assist in responding to COVID-19 in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria:

- Provide information, technical assistance, equipment and supplies to implement infection prevention and control in health care facilities;
- Develop and disseminate messaging on the virus to the public through churches, schools and community leaders;
- Supply health networks with curated and contextualized guidelines and best practices, both from national authorities and from the WHO on a centralized, accessible platform (via WhatsApp and email messaging);
- Facilitate inclusion of data from non-governmental health networks into national surveillance and disease detection systems;
- Assist in the procurement of personal protective equipment, hand washing stations, isolation units and other needs.

In Tanzania, thanks to existing funding and cooperation from UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), IMA World Health has been able to work quickly with Tanzania’s Ministry of Health to set up a call center that will provide essential health information about COVID-19 as well as counter misinformation about the coronavirus.

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In Kenya, IMA World Health is also working with the Christian Health Association of Kenya in holding infection prevention and control web-based training for two groups of healthcare professionals which will be cascaded to additional healthcare workers in their respective hospitals and facilities. Furthermore, IMA World Health's Afya Jijini team was awarded \$450,000 additional funds to support COVID activities. While continuing its primary health services delivery program in Nairobi, funded by USAID, the project will support technical working groups, supportive supervision, WASH, capacity building on infection prevention and control, and other community related activities, incorporating COVID-19-related interventions and integrating messaging on virus prevention.

LATIN AMERICA

In Peru, we are sending public health messages through the *VenInformado* digital platform, accessible through Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, helping Venezuelan refugees make informed decisions.

In El Salvador, the SOS disaster preparedness project has begun sharing information on COVID-19 with local communities and is distributing emergency food kits to families in need.

Through the USDA-funded MOCCA program's social media platform (Mobile Cacao), Lutheran World Relief is reaching thousands of cacao farmers with critical information on how to protect themselves from COVID-19. Farmers and extension workers are also using Mobile Cacao's social media networks to share agricultural information, even during the government-mandated quarantines throughout the region.

The World Cocoa Foundation and the Fine Chocolate Industry Association will contribute \$45,000 to Lutheran World Relief on behalf of the cocoa industry to support Ecuadorian cocoa

communities affected by COVID-19 with the provision of protective kits (masks, face visors, protective suits and boots); non-perishable food kits; personal care kits (alcohol, antiseptic soap and towels); and products for household disinfection. WCF and FCIA are also actively promoting Lutheran World Relief to their members and chocolate consumers for additional donations for cacao growers in the Latin America region.

MIDDLE EAST

In northern Iraq, 60 Lutheran World Relief-supported farmers are providing residents in three villages located near Mosul with fresh food delivered directly to their homes. A week after the lockdown in Iraq, the Ninewa farmers developed the service to meet the needs of families that are staying home and maintaining social distancing. Every day, the farmers provide doorstep delivery of a fixed-price basket with cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, potatoes and strawberries.

ASIA

The Transboundary Flood Resilience Program along the India-Nepal border has put its early-warning disaster system to work in advance of COVID-19. The network of SMS, loudspeaker and house-to-house information sharing normally used to give advance notice of flooding has provided information on prevention, safety and symptoms (from government channels) in coordination with the local government representatives, municipalities/blocks, security forces and health offices.

In Indonesia, Lutheran World Relief has been able to quickly draw on resources in our Kopi Nande women's leadership project toward our COVID-19 response, thanks to flexible funding from The Starbucks Foundation. This assistance will provide food distribution (rice, sugar and cooking oil), as well as hand soap and locally-made face masks for more than 2,000 households in coffee communities.



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