OFONIME IME AKPAN

18/SMS09/010

13/04/2020

IRD 202

ASSIGNMENT

Identify the roles of specific international organization in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic globally

ANSWER

World health organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of United Nations UN it was established in 1948 to further the international cooperation for improved public health conditions. It inherited specific tasks relating to epidemic control, quarantine measures, and drug standardization from the health organization of the league of nations (set up in 1923) and the International Office of Public Health at Paris (established in 1907), WHO was actually given a broad mandate under its constitution to promote the attainment of “the highest possible level of health” by all peoples. Each year WHO celebrates its date of establishment, April 7, 1948, as World Health Day. It has its health quarters in Geneva, and it has its areas of involvement which are; Public health, AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, dengue, pandemic and also epidemic. The governance of WHO operates through the World Health Assembly, which meets annually as the general policy-making body, and through an Executive Board of health specialists elected for three-year terms by the assembly. The organization is led by a director general nominated by the executive board and appointed by the world health assembly. They also sponsor measures for the control of epidemic and pandemic diseases by promoting mass campaigns etc.

In March 2020, WHO declared the global outbreak of COVID-19, a severe respiratory illness that first appeared in Wuhan, china.in late 2019, to be a pandemic. The organization acted as a worldwide information center on the illness, issuing regular situation reports and media briefing on its spread and lethality, etc. the organization has been involved in so many activities since the pandemic. For instance

**HELPING COUNTRIES TO PREPARE AND RESPOND**

WHO has issued a COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan, which identifies the major actions countries need to take, and the resources needed in order to carry them out. The plan, which is updated as fresh information and data improve WHO’s understanding of the characteristics of the virus and how to respond, acts as a guide for developing country-specific plans. The health agency’s six regional offices, and 150 country offices, work closely with governments around the world to prepare their health systems for the ravages of COVID-19, and to respond effectively when cases arrive and begin to mount.

With partners, WHO set up the COVID-19 solidarity Response Fund, to ensure patients get the care they need, and frontline workers get essential supplies and information; and to accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatments for all those who need them. With donations from governments, the private sector and individuals, more than $800 million has been pledged or received so far.

**PROVISION OF ACCURATE INFFORMATION AND DEBUNKING MYTHS**

There are a vast information about the pandemic, some of it useful, others false or misleading. WHO is producing accurate, useful guidance that can help save lives. This includes around 50 pieces of technical advice for the public, health workers and countries, with evidence-based guidance on every element of the response, and exploding false Intel. The health agency benefits from the expertise of a global network of health professionals and scientists, including epidemiologists, clinicians and virologists, to ensure that the response is as comprehensive, authoritative and representative as possible. To ensure information is correct and helpful, WHO set up a team to give anyone access to timely, accurate and easy to understand advice, from trusted sources. In addition, daily situation reports and press briefings, as well as briefing with government, are keeping the world about the latest data, information and also evidence.

**ENSURING VITAL SUPPLIES REACH FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS**

Personal protective equipment is essential to ensure health professionals are able to save lives, including their own. So far, WHO has shipped more than 2 million items of personal protective equipment to over 133 countries, and is preparing to ship another 2 million items in the coming weeks. More than a million diagnostic tests have been dispatched to 126 countries, in all regions, and more are being sourced.

However, far more is needed, and WHO is working with the international chamber of commerce, the world economic forum and others in the private sector, to ramp up the production and distribution of essential medical supplies. On April 8th, WHO launched a ‘UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force’, which aims to dramatically increase the supply of essential productive equipment where it is needed.

**TRAINING ANDMOBILIZATION OF HEALTH WORKERS**

WHO is aiming to train millions of health workers, via its OpenWHO platform. Thanks to this online tool, lifesaving knowledge is being transferred to frontline personnel by the Organization, and its key partners. Users take part in a worldwide, social learning network, based on interactive, online courses and materials covering a variety of subjects. OpenWHO also serves as a forum for rapid sharing of public health expertise, and in-depth discussion and feedback on key issues. So far, more than 1.2 million people enrolled in 43 languages.

Countries are also being supported by experts, deployed around their world by the WHO’s Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network ensures that the right technical expertise and skills are on ground where and when they are needed most. Emergency Medical Teams are also an important part of the global health workforce. These teams are highly trained and self-sufficient, and are sent to places identified as disaster or emergency zones.

**REFERENCES**

* <http://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/10661412>
* http://www.britannica.com/topic/World-Health-Organization