NAME: OMOROGBE JOHANNA

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ASSIGNMENT

Identify the roles of specific international organisation in responding to COVID-19 pandemic global.

**ANSWER**

**INTRODUCTION**

**WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?**

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. The corona virus has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as it not only troubles a part of the world but has now spread to the nook and cranny of the world today causing the unusual to happen around the world today like lockdown of schools, markets, cities, churches, and many other busy places that keeps the nation running. The corona virus broke out in a city in China, Wuhan, it was said to be an animal market where bat and the likes were sold and because these animals are mostly consumed by them it spread faster than normal before other places started to take precautions and closing their border to prevent further spread of the virus, after seeing the deadly nature of it. Due to the virus spreading so fast than not, the world population can be said to have reduced drastically, because of the number of citizens that have died in the past five months. Countries today are now taking drastic measures to prevent more spread and death of the virus in their various countries as well as international organisations around the world. Countries that is well to do have taken it upon them to help weak states in combating this pandemic. Countries are racing to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and cancelling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, and schools. The United States is by far the most generous and reliable contributor to crisis response and humanitarian action through the United Nations and dozens of international organizations. U.S. assistance, monetary and in-kind contributions, expertise and technology, are indispensable to the effort to combat COVID-19.

The various international organisations are working tirelessly to contribute their own quarter to ensuring that more lives are not claimed due the pandemic. Without international organisations states cannot function properly and so the international organisation plays a very important role in combating the pandemic rampaging the world today.

**THE UNITED NATIONS CONTRIBUTION**

Despite some restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on their activities, United Nations peacekeeping missions are continuing to carry out their mandates while also helping countries in their coronavirus response. Meanwhile, the United Nations is taking stringent measures to ensure that peacekeeping personnel remain free from COVID-19. The United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation have created the solidarity fund to support WHO and partners in a massive effort to help countries prevent, detect, and manage the novel coronavirus – particularly those where the needs are the greatest. The UN agency for Palestine refugees has developed a COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and launched a COVID-19 US$ 14 Million [Flash Appeal](http://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/covid-19-response-unrwa-flash-appeal-immediate-needs) for Palestine Refugees. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the unique common service of the United Nations that mobilises over 8,000 UN Volunteers a year and promotes volunteerism worldwide. UNV is actively joining the UN COVID-19 response by recruiting UN Volunteers with expert capacities for over UN entities. UNV also has 600,000 registered online volunteers, ready to take on task-based assignments remotely to fight COVID-19. FAO works closely with its partners in supporting member countries to anticipate and mitigate the pandemic’s impacts on their populations’ food security and livelihoods; contribute to discussions on mitigating COVID-19’s impacts on global food trade and markets; and support countries and research institutions in on-going investigations to identify potential animal hosts of the virus and reduce spill over effects to humans. As we respond to the emergency and start to recover from the socio-economic shock, we must work together to ensure that the recovery will focus on building inclusive and sustainable economies that are more resilient in facing pandemics, climate change and many other global challenges. Here, UNIDO has much to offer in terms of rebuilding supply chains, creating decent jobs for women and youth, transferring technology, including advanced digital production technology, industrial upgrading, resource efficiency and cleaner production, to name but a few. In Asia and the Pacific, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have reverberated among a population of more than 4 billion and in economies vital to global supply chains.

**HOW THE INTERNATIONAL MONENTARY FUND CAN HELP COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ECONOMICALLY BY THE CORONAVIRUS**

A global health crisis, such as the coronavirus, inevitably can have an adverse economic impact, and it is part of the IMF’s mandate to assist countries through policy advice and lending. The institution is working closely with its development partners—World Bank, World Health Organization, and Asian Development Bank—and other health officials to provide timely policy advice, technical assistance, and financial support**.** The IMF has the following facilities and instruments in its toolkit to help countries respond to the economic impact of the coronavirus.

**Emergency financing**: The [Rapid Credit Facility](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/02/21/08/Rapid-Credit-Facility) (RCF) and [Rapid Financing Instrument](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/02/19/55/Rapid-Financing-Instrument) (RFI) provide emergency financial assistance to member countries without the need to have a full-fledged program loans—which could amount up to $50 billion for low-income and emerging markets—can be disbursed very quickly to assist member countries implement policies to address emergencies such as the coronavirus. Emergency lending to low-income countries available under the RCF is about $10 billion, and for emerging markets under the RFI it could amount to about $40 billion. In 2016, the IMF provided an RFI emergency loan to Ecuador after one of the strongest earthquakes in decades.

**Augmenting existing lending programs**. The IMF can modify as needed existing programs in support of countries to accommodate urgent new needs arising from the coronavirus. The IMF was the first international financial institution to swiftly provide additional financing for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in 2014 to fight the Ebola outbreak. The [IMF’s response](http://www.imf.org/external/np/fad/ebola/) helped these countries make room in their budgets for critical health spending, and served as a catalyst for donors, whose assistance was largely directed at health spending.

**Grants for debt relief**. The [Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/16/49/Catastrophe-Containment-and-Relief-Trust) (CCRT) allow the IMF to provide grants for debt relief to the poorest and most vulnerable countries with outstanding obligations to the IMF to help address disasters, including public health disasters. This facility was used to support Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone during the 2014 Ebola outbreak. The CCRT is currently underfunded with just over $200 million available against possible needs of over $1 billion.

**New financing arrangement.**The IMF can also provide support through a new financing arrangement under its existing facilities such as [Stand-By Arrangements](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/20/33/Stand-By-Arrangement), although some of the tools listed above would generally be preferable, including because they can be disbursed quickly to address the urgent financial need. The IMF will continue to support vulnerable countries through [capacity development](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/imf-capacity-development). Given the need to quickly redirect public resources, the IMF will remain closely engaged with the affected member countries and development partners, working as needed to reprioritize capacity development activities

**THE WORLD BANK ROLE IN COMBATING THE PANDEMIC**

The World Bank Group is acting quickly [to step up support as countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis](https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/news/coronavirus-covid19) and face a wide range of consequences, including the risk of global recession. With approval today from its Board, [the Bank Group is immediately launching emergency support through operations around the world.](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/02/world-bank-group-launches-first-operations-for-covid-19-coronavirus-emergency-health-support-strengthening-developing-country-responses) And this urgent help to governments and companies is just the start of a broader effort. Given the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 poses, the Bank Group expects to deploy up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. In stressing the vital role that the World Bank Group institutions can play, President David Malpass noted that “The poorest and most vulnerable countries will likely be hit the hardest.” He emphasized that “The World Bank Group is taking broad, fast action to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and we already have health response operations moving forward in over 65 countries.” [Special provisions for fast-track financing are allowing an initial group of World Bank projects totaling $1.9 billion to get underway quickly in 25 countries.](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19) Bank teams are also working with clients to rapidly redeploy a further $1.7 billion from existing projects to urgent pandemic response and recovery. This includes restructuring and use of projects’ emergency components as well as contingent financing instruments designed for catastrophes. The focus of these first efforts is to help health systems tackle the immediate challenges of COVID-19. For example, in countries ranging from Afghanistan and Haiti to India, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, the financing will help bring more medical staff on-board and ensure that they are well trained and equipped to deliver emergency care.  In countries like Ecuador and the Kyrgyz Republic, it will help ensure that public outreach that gets strong prevention and protection messages to citizens in the short and medium term.  And in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Yemen, among other countries, the increase in resources to fight the pandemic will also support long-term efforts that strengthen and build the capacity of the national health system. In addition to the World Bank projects, the emergency financing includes $8 billion from the [International Finance Corporation (IFC)](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/corp_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/home), where work is underway to help the private sector cope with the pandemic. Experience from previous shocks shows that keeping companies solvent is key to saving jobs and limiting the economic damage. In addition to new investments, IFC is extending trade finance and working capital lines to clients. Many Bank Group efforts will also continue to focus on smaller businesses, so that they can resume their key contribution to growth and jobs in many client countries. Supplementing the direct assistance to governments and private firms, the Bank Group is working to address disruptions in global supply chains, so that countries have access to critically needed medical supplies. The World Bank is reaching out to suppliers on behalf of governments to help ensure that suppliers can deliver throughout the global emergency. The Bank Group’s broader economic program is also quickly taking shape and could provide up to $160 billion in support to client countries over the next 15 months. One of its first components will be $6 billion for expedited loan guarantees from the[Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)](https://www.miga.org/). This will enable the purchase of urgent medical equipment and provide working capital for companies, including smaller businesses, while also supporting governments’ short-term funding needs. Through financing and a wide range of technical support, the Bank Group will work to help countries shorten their time to recovery and lay the foundations for future growth. And across all the efforts to combat COVID-19, the focus will be on solutions that can help countries ensure protection and restore opportunities for their poorest and most vulnerable people.

***CONCLUSION***

COVID-19, a new and sometimes deadly respiratory illness that originated in a live animal market in China, spread rapidly throughout that country and then to the world, with cases now being reported throughout the world. The novel coronavirus infections were at first associated with travel from Wuhan, but the virus has now established itself in 177 countries and territories around the world in a rapidly expanding pandemic. Health officials in the United States and around the world are working to contain the spread of the virus through public health measures such as quarantines and travel restrictions. Scientists are working to find medications to treat the disease and to develop a vaccine.

The World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak “a public health emergency of international concern” on January 30. On March 11, 2020 after sustained spread of the disease outside of China, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 epidemic a pandemic. Public health measures like ones implemented in China and now around the world will hopefully blunt the spread of the virus while treatments and a vaccine are developed to stop it. We are advised to stay at home, wash our hands regular and properly, use a nose mask if there are signs of the virus in your system which can lead to coughing also visit the hospital if signs persist, do well to stay indoors and isolated when symptoms are detected. The eventual cure of this pandemic starts with us as individuals.