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Since the declaration of covid 19 as a pandemic on the 11th day of March 2020 by the World health organization (WHO), several international organizations have taken up responsibility to combat this pandemic.

* The United States has been the largest supporter of the World Health Organization since its creation in 1948. **U.S. contributions to WHO in 2019 exceeded $400 million**, almost double the 2nd largest member state contribution. China, in contrast, contributed $44 million.
* WHO is coordinating the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is on the ground in 149 countries around the world. This broad-based effort would not be possible without U.S. support.
* The United States and other significant partners, such as Great Britain, Germany, Japan, and the Gates Foundation, have invested for decades in WHO’s emergency preparedness, response capacity, and expertise.
* The World Food Program, through its Humanitarian Response Department, has sent more than 85 shipments to 74 countries to assist in COVID-19 responses, including 1.4 million units of personal protection equipment such as health kits.
* In 2019, the United States provided 42% of WFP’s $8 billion in resources, making the U.S. the largest contributor, and four times the next largest member state donation. The PRC provided just $30 million.
* Even in the midst of the pandemic, WFP maintains its goal to reach 86 million food insecure people this year – thanks to American funding and food grown by American farmers.

**AstraZeneca donates 9 million face masks and announces new collaboration in support of UK effort to boost COVID-19 testing**

Following [their donation to the COVID Action Platform](https://www.astrazeneca.com/media-centre/press-releases/2020/astrazeneca-to-donate-9-million-face-masks-to-support-healthcare-workers-around-the-world-in-the-fight-against-covid-19.html) of 9 million face masks to healthcare workers, [AstraZeneca today announced](https://www.astrazeneca.co.uk/media-press-releases/2020/astrazeneca-gsk-university-of-cambridge-collaborate-to-support-uk-national-effort-to-boost-covid-19-testing.html#__prclt=8tNwRvDu) a collaboration with the University of Cambridge to boost testing for COVID-19 in the UK.

The UK government’s [national five-pillar plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day) aims to dramatically increase the number of people tested for COVID-19 – up to 100,000 people per day by the end of the month.

A new laboratory will be set up by AstraZeneca and other partners at the University of Cambridge. The facility will be used to process a high volume of COVID-19 tests and will also investigate the use of alternative chemical reagents for test kits, helping manage supply shortages.

Along with the collaboration to boost testing, AstraZeneca sent the first shipment of donated face masks to Italy in late March. The company is also accelerating the development of its diagnostic testing capabilities to scale-up screening and supplement testing where needed.

Organizations globally are invited to partner with the World Economic Forum’s [COVID Action Platform](https://www.weforum.org/platforms/covid-action-platform), which ensures global cooperation among governments, international organizations and the business community in response to the spread of COVID-19. Companies can join the platform, and contribute to the global solution through initiatives like AstraZeneca’s donation, [here](https://www.weforum.org/platforms/covid-action-platform).

**Coca-Cola re-deploys resources to make face shields for those on the COVID-19 frontline in North America**

Across North America, the Coca-Cola Company is re-deploying its resources to meet the needs of those on the frontline of the COVID-19 fight.

In Boston, the company has provided logistics and supply chain support to a not-for-profit, to help produce face shields for frontline health workers.

More broadly, the Coca-Cola Foundation [has awarded $13.5 million in grants](https://www.coca-colacompany.com/news/the-coca-cola-foundation-awards-additional--13-5-million-in-grants) to not-for-profit organizations responding to the coronavirus in North America and Canada. The latest grants support economically disadvantaged communities – with one grant enabling 200 food banks to feed vulnerable populations. Other grants are funding childcare for emergency health workers, mental health and counselling, and other emergency aid resources.

**What is the IMF doing to help countries during the coronavirus crisis?**

The Fund’s priority has been to respond to the extraordinary spike in requests for emergency finance, so countries can implement the necessary policies to protect the health of their people as well as their economies. The IMF has the following facilities and instruments to help countries respond to the economic impact of the coronavirus.

- **Emergency financing**. The recent [increase in access limits](https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/04/09/pr20143-imf-executive-board-approves-proposals-enhance-emergency-financing-toolkit-us-billion) on its emergency financing facilities will allow the IMF to meet the expected demand of $100 billion. 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. The RCF is interest-free and available to low-income members, while the RFI is available to all Fund members. Financing under the RCF and the RFI can be disbursed very quickly to assist member countries in implementing policies to address emergencies such as the coronavirus.

- **Grants for debt relief**. The Fund also has a [Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/16/49/Catastrophe-Containment-and-Relief-Trust) (CCRT), which provides upfront grants to cover, on behalf of eligible low-income countries, their debt service obligations to the IMF. This facility was used to support Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone during the 2014 Ebola outbreak. In a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCRT was recently enhanced to provide urgent debt service relief to the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries, thereby freeing up scarce resources for medial spending and health-related and other immediate needs during the pandemic. A fundraising effort is underway to replenish the CCRT so that it can provide debt service relief for up to two years.

More broadly, IMF member countries can also draw on the Fund’s overall firepower of [**$1 trillion**](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Where-the-IMF-Gets-Its-Money) by requesting new financing arrangements or augmenting existing financing arrangements. Working closely with its development partners—World Bank, World Health Organization, and many regional institutions —and other health officials, the Fund continues to provide timely policy advice, technical assistance, and financial support to its member countries.

**EU Commission State aid Temporary Framework proposal**

On March 16, 2020, the European Commission announced that it had sent for consultation to Member States a draft proposal for a State aid Temporary Framework (the Framework) to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Framework is based on Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which allows measures to be taken to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State. The Commission noted that the main fiscal response to the Coronavirus will come from Member States' national budgets and that the Commission will enable Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under EU State aid rules to tackle the impact of the Coronavirus on EU economies.

The new Framework will enable Member States to:

* establish and provide schemes of direct grants (or tax advantages) of up to EUR 500,000 to a company to address urgent liquidity needs;
* give subsidized State guarantees on bank loans; and
* enable public and private loans with subsidized interest rates.

In addition, the new Framework will also seek to support the banking sector, allowing banks to channel aid to final customers, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Framework emphasizes that the aid received should reach the final customer and provides guidance on how to minimize any undue residual aid to the banks in line with EU rules.

The draft proposal notes that new Framework would be temporary in nature and would complement the existing flexibility afforded to EU Member States under State aid rules. In this regard, the EU Commission press release on March 13, 2020 highlighted that measures introduced to date in Italy were permissible from a State aid perspective as the nature and scale of the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy allows the use of Article 107(3)(b) TFEU at this time. The Commission highlighted the impact being suffered by the European aviation sector, noting that urgent action was necessary to minimize the need for permanent redundancies and that the flexibility under existing State aid rules could be used to allow compensation to be provided to airlines under Article 107(2)(b) TFEU for damages suffered as a result of COVID-19, even if the relevant airline had received rescue aid in the last ten years.

The Commission also noted that it stands ready to work with all EU Member States to ensure that possible national support measures to tackle the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus can be put in place in a timely manner

REFRENCES

[**https://www.imf.org/en/About/FAQ/imf-response-to-covid-19**](https://www.imf.org/en/About/FAQ/imf-response-to-covid-19)

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