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QUESTIONS: IDENTIFY THE ROLE OF SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION DURING THIS PANDEMIC.

pandemics are for the most part disease outbreaks that become widespread as a result of the spread of human-to-human infection.1 Beyond the debilitating, sometimes fatal, consequences for those directly affected, pandemics have a range of negative social, economic and political consequence.

On 31 December 2019, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** was informed of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China.

On 7 January 2020, the Chinese authorities confirmed that they have identified a new virus: a [coronavirus](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus)(CoV), temporarily named “2019-nCoV.” Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. The **novel coronavirus** (CoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

On 11 March 2020, **WHO** [declares the coronavirus outbreak a **global pandemic**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbT6AANFOm4).

**Common signs of infection** include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

 To respond to this complex global pandemic, governments are partnering with the United Nations to save lives, protect livelihoods and minimize potential social and economic setbacks. ILO predicts that up to 25 million jobs could be lost.

In [Small Island Developing States](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/tokelau-readies-covid-19), the UN is partnering with governments and all of societies for a coordinated response.

In [Argentina](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-1-tackling-covid-19-together-worldwide), the team is focused on health, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and food provision. “This response makes it evident that we are bridging the immediate health and humanitarian demands with the need to kick-start early recovery and place countries back on their track towards sustainable development,” said , UN Resident coordinator.

Led by the Pan-American Health Organization/WHO, the team is providing guidance and support on surveillance measures, laboratory diagnosis, infection control, health system preparedness and social distancing measures and with risk communication.

United Nations country teams are stepping up their support for national authorities. In Timor Leste, where one case has been confirmed, the United Nations is supporting Government measures to prevent a potential COVID-19 outbreak. Advised by the Resident Coordinator and WHO, the Prime Minister recently ordered to establish an Inter-Ministerial Task Force for coordinated activities to fight COVID-19. The UN team is also siding with a range of partners, including news outlets, civil society organizations, businesses, youth representatives, and women leaders for a whole-of-society approach to prevention, preparedness, and response against COVID-19.

In South Sudan, while there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases according to WHO figures, the UN team is working with authorities to support national preparedness and response plan for COVID-19. A laboratory with capacity to test COVID-19 has just been set up. The UN has also supported the construction of a multi-purpose infectious disease unit to isolate and treat suspected cases. Also, health workers have been trained to enhance surveillance and early detection, investigate suspected cases and manage patients with COVID-19 related symptoms.

In Argentina, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is supporting COVID-19 response efforts by helping to urgently procure 10 fully-equipped emergency modular units, which will provide 824 extra inpatient therapy beds. One-third of the space will be dedicated to intensive care units.

“Our team of qualified advisors, architects, engineers, project managers and specialists is eager to help countries, where needed, to address their health-related infrastructure needs during this crisis,” said UNOPS Director of Implementation Practices and Standards, Nick O'Regan.

UNOPS also stands ready to support partners' emergency procurement needs through its global e-commerce solution, UN Web Buy Plus. This includes the supply of ambulances, transportable biosafety labs, mobile health clinics and prefabricated buildings that can be used as temporary health posts.

 In several countries, even before COVID-19 cases were confirmed, UN teams were proactively working with Ministries of Health and other partners to prepare for the pandemic.

Before there were confirmed cases in [Malawi](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-4-strengthening-support-fight-covid-19), WHO and the UN Resident Coordinator, were already working together on the preparedness and response plan. Together, they are helping to build lab-testing capacity, recruit public health experts and engage local entrepreneurs to produce needed supplies. Additionally, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and WHO are supporting with supply chain and logistics, supplies procurement and water and sanitation repair. The UN and Government are also boosting economic efforts through temporary cash transfers and national identification programmes.

In [Zambia](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-1-tackling-covid-19-together-worldwide), upon the Government’s request, the UN team is helping to train health workers to care for patients with COVID-19, as well as themselves.  Also, the Resident Coordinator and WHO are working on resource mobilization and re-purposing previous funding to procure critical supplies for the country’s response

. The UN is establishing new streams of support by teaming up with private sector partners across the globe to help with the relief efforts.

In [Brazil](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-2-teaming-against-covid-19), the [UN Global Compact](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/) – a UN initiative that engages businesses in the COVID-19 response – gathers information on companies’ COVID-19 response efforts. The aim is to map and help address workers’ rights and safety. One example is one of the biggest beverage companies has shifted its production to make half a million alcohol-based sanitizer bottles.

In Nigeria, a container company, APM Terminals Nigeria, has contributed $200,000 towards the UN’s fund to help mobilize resources to boost the response efforts of the government. With the government, the UN is mobilizing funds to ensure access to essential health equipment needed for medical testing, quarantine facilities and healthcare services.

In [China](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-1-tackling-covid-19-together-worldwide), the UN team assists national and local efforts to share information on COVID-19 through offline and online media, including social videos that have reached more than 1 billion views. The team is also finding innovative ways to support the response through [artificial](https://unsdg.un.org/blog/new-approaches-tackle-new-virus)

The UN and its humanitarian partners are actively involved in camp coordination and camp management in IDP sites across northeast Nigeria, in support of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Key activities are being implemented jointly and under global guidance on COVID-19 Outbreak Preparedness and Response issued by the World Health Organization ([WHO](http://www.who.int/en/)).

COVID-19 has affected 12 states across Nigeria, with 139 cases recorded as of Wednesday, and the UN also plans to bring in vital health equipment and tools to prevent and treat the respiratory disease. The UN team in [Nigeria](https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/updates-field-4-strengthening-support-fight-covid-19) has mobilized $2 million to procure essential medical supplies to support the Government’s response to COVID-19. This will support the Nigeria COVID-19 Response Fund, which will help to coordinate partnerships and mobilize resources.

The UN team has developed messages, posters, videos and other communications aimed at raising awareness about COVID-19 among IDPs and other vulnerable people in the northeast. Sensitization campaigns are also reaching millions in various states through partnerships with major TV and radio channels.

The UN and the Network of People Living with HIV (NEPWHAN) also will launch a survey tool to understand challenges to continuous access to quality HIV treatment, care and support amid the pandemic response. In Kenya, the United Nations has offered five communications experts to support the Government’s efforts and met today with 25 business leaders to boost public-private partnerships to address COVID-19.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations communications experts are supporting the governments’ community awareness and risk communications efforts. In Brazil, the United Nations country team and national partners, in coordination with government authorities, have already activated the contingency plan in the shelters in the north and are disseminating prevention messages in Spanish tailored to communities of migrants and refugees who have arrived from Venezuela, in addition to the regular national campaign in Portuguese.

REFERENCE

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