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MARTIC NO: 18/SMS09/043

COURSE CODE:IRD 202

QUESTION: Identify the roles of specific international organisation in responding to COVID-19 pandemic globally

According to World Health Organization (WHO), coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

These viruses were originally transmitted from animals to people. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. The name coronavirus comes from the Latin word corona, meaning crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, the virus looks like it is surrounded by a solar corona

International organisation can be defined as an organisation established by a treaty or other instrument governed by international law and possessing its own international legal personality, such as the United nations, the world health organisation, nato etc

The COVID-19 pandemic is straining health systems worldwide. The rapidly increasing demand on health facilities and health care workers threatens to leave some health systems overstretched and unable to operate effectively previous outbreaks have demonstrated that when health systems are overwhelmed, mortality from vaccine preventable and other treatable conditions can also increase dramatically

WHO is a United nations agency working to build a healthier future for people around the world. Its primary goal are to combat communicable and non communicable diseases everywhere.

To help countries navigate through these challenges, the world health organisation has updated operational planning guidelines in balancing the demands of responding directly to COVID-19 while maintaining essential health services delivery and mitigating the risk of system collapse. This includes a set of targeted immediate action that countries should consider at national, regional, and local level to reorganize and maintain access to high quality essential health services for all.

Countries should identify essential services that will be prioritised in their efforts to maintain continuity of service delivery and make strategic shifts to ensure that increasingly limited resources provide maximum benefit for the population. They also need to comply with the highest standard in precautions, especially in hygiene practices and the provision of adequate supplies including personal protective equipment .This requires robust planning and coordinated action between government and health facilities and their managers.

Well organized and prepared health systems can continue to provide equitable access to essential services delivery through out an emergency limiting direct mortality and avoiding increased indirect mortality.

The guidelines stress the importance of keeping up to date information. This requires frequent transparent communications with the public, and strong community engagements so the public can maintain trust in the system to safely meet their essential needs and to control infection risk in health facilities. this will help ensure that people continue to seek care when appropriate and adhere to public health advice.

WHO as issued a COVID-19 strategic and response plan, which identifies the major actions countries need to take, and the resources needed to carry them out

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 to accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatment for all who need them

Providing accurate information

To ensure information is correct and helpful, WHO set up a team to give everyone access to timely, accurate and easy to understand advice, from trusted sources. In addition, dialy situation reports and press briefings, as well as briefing with government, are Keeping world informed about the latest data, information and 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 two million items of personal protective equipment to 133 countries and is preparing to ship another two million items in the coming weeks

However far more is needed as WHO is working with the international chamber of commerce, the world economic forum, and other in the private sector, to ramp up the production and distribution of essential medical supplies

On 8 April, WHO launched a “UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task” ,which aims to dramatically increase the Supply of essential protective equipment where’s it is needed

* The search for a vaccine

Research is underway to find a vaccine against the coronavirus., Laboratories in many countries are already conducting tests that, it is hoped will eventually lead to a vaccine.

To better understand the virus, WHO has developed research protocols that are being used in more than 40 countries, in a coordinated way ,and some 130 scientists, funders and manufacturers from around the world have signed a statement committing to work with WHO to speed the development of a vaccine against COVID-19

Management science for Health(MSH )is a non profit international health organisation composed of more than 2500 people from more than 60 nations. Its mission is to save lives and improve the health of the world poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health

As an organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of the most vulnerable people worldwide, MSH is deeply concerned about how COVID-19 is threatening so many of the communities we support. MSH’s work includes preventing the spread of infectious disease, including COVID-19.

As COVID-19 spreads rapidly, MSH continues to share our expertise and resources in infection prevention and control, emergency preparedness planning, advocacy and stakeholder coordination, surveillance, leadership development, and overall health systems strengthening with a wide range of institutions and agencies responding to the pandemic.

The [USAID Medicines, Technologies and Pharmaceutical Services Program](https://mtapsprogram.org/), led by MSH, is on the frontlines, supporting high-risk countries. The program’s COVID-19 approach includes two important strategies: implementing end-to-end infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in health facilities, including precautions and procedures; and strengthening commodity management to ensure access to a steady supply of medicines, masks, and hygiene products

* STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS TO CONTAIN OUTBREAKS

MSH works to address critical gaps in health system infrastructures that hinder the prevention and early detection of and response to infectious disease outbreaks. It work to ensure quality service delivery, improve infection prevention and control measures in health facilities, enhance community engagement, build a skilled health workforce, support robust information systems, and contribute to effective pharmaceutical and supply chain management

* ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

MSH works on its own and in collaboration with global non profits, academics organisations and the private sector to educate policy makers on the importance of funding global health importance of funding global health security, and COVID-19 response in particular ,MSH has engaged new advocates through our breakfast series,MSH has called for adequate funding for COVID-19 through emergency supplemental funding requests, as well as helped members of Congress communicate about the virus to their constituents. MSH staff frequently communicate to the media about COVID-19 and the importance of health systems strengthening to prevent and contain infectious disease

IOM international organisation for migration, this helps to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people

**IOM’s strategic response** focuses on reaching the vulnerable and building operational capacities to address the mobility dimensions of this pandemic. These actions include:

* CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION

and capacity building to strengthen health surveillance at entry and exit points (airports, seaports and land border crossings) in dozens of states, including along Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan and Iran. IOM is providing a daily Global Mobility Restriction Overview, as well as Country-Level Restriction Mapping, outlining new and complex travel restriction measures to support colleagues across the organization.

* **TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

IOM has previously undertaken trainings on Standard Operating Procedures at point of entry during health emergencies in the context of Ebola response, in Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Senegal. This is can be extended to address COVID-19 operational needs and be done virtually.

* **ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE, AND WASH SERVICE**

IOM is increasing water access and hygiene measures at scale across its operations, to minimise the risk of contagion. In other locations, and across Asia, all migrants undergoing health checks at IOM centres receive information, hand sanitizer and tissues.

Across all of IOM’s activities, priority is given to mainstreaming protection concerns within the COVID-19 response to **ensure that our efforts are people-centred, inclusive and do no harm to the populations we assist.** Thus far, the following actions have been taken:

* **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF IOM RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMING**

in coordination with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Resettlement, however, remains a life-saving tool for many refugees. IOM and UNHCR are working with states to ensure movements can continue for the most critical emergency cases wherever possible.

**SUSPENSION OF A NUMBER OF MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS PROGRAMMES, AND OPERATIONAL REDUCTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND HUMANITARIAN VISA PROGRAMMES**

Where operations continue, IOM has adopted a number of precautionary measures, including the development of specific Standard Operating Procedures for COVID-19, health education and counselling for migrants, and strengthening of pre-embarkation checks.