

DADY DAN GWAKCHANG

18/SM09/027

IRD 202

World Health Organization (WHO)

The following are the ways the world health Organization have responded and are helping to fight the Covid 19 pandemic globally:

1.Helping countries to prepare and respond. The world health organization has issued a response plan identifies the major actions countries need to take, and the resources needed to carry them out.

The plan, which is updated as fresh information and data improve World health Organization 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, the world health Organization 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 who need them.

With donations from governments, the private sector and individuals, more than \$800 million has been pledged or received for the response so far.

2.Providing accurate information busting various myths.The internet is awash with information about the pandemic, some of it useful, some of it false or misleading. In the midst of this "Pandemic", the world health Organization 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 dangerous myths.

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, World health organization set up a team to give everyone access to timely, accurate and easy-to-understand advice, from trusted sources. In addition, daily situation reports and press briefings, as well as briefings with governments, are keeping the world informed about the latest data, information and evidence.

Many social media and tech companies are working closely with WHO to aid the flow of reliable information, including Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok; and chatbots on the Whatsapp and Viber platforms have gained millions of followers.

3. Training and mobilizing health workers. The World Health Organization is aiming to train millions of health workers, via its OpenWHO platform. Thanks to this online tool, life-saving 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 the rapid sharing of public health expertise, and in-depth discussion and feedback on key issues. So far, more than 1.2 million people have enrolled in 43 languages.

Countries are also being supported by experts, deployed around the world by the WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). During outbreaks, the network ensures that the right technical expertise and skills are on the 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.

4. Helping the poorest and most vulnerable. On his 8 April press briefing, Tedros said that WHO is involved with many other initiatives and actions, but all of them come under these five essential pillars.

The agency's focus, he said, is "on working with countries and with partners to bring the world together to confront this common threat together".

A particular concern, he added, is for the world's poorest and most vulnerable, in all countries, and WHO is committed to "serve all people of the world with equity, objectivity and neutrality."

As a specialized organization for health affairs within the United Nations (UN) system, WHO shoulders significant responsibilities in early testing and warning, coordinating prevention and control strategies, sharing treatment and organizing international assistance of infectious diseases, and plays a vital role in building a global public health emergency response mechanism featuring risk sharing and common security.

UNITED NATION

The following are some the ways the United Nation have responded and are helping to fight the covid 19 pandemic globally

1. Funding the fight against the Covid 19 in the worlds poorest countries .

The United Nations is calling for solidarity and increased funding, as some of the world's most vulnerable countries scale up their efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, the virus is arriving in countries already in the midst of humanitarian crises caused by conflicts, natural disasters and climate change," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as he, together with three senior officials, launched a \$2 billion global humanitarian response plan to fund the fight against COVID-19 in the world's poorest countries.

"These are places where people who have been forced to flee their homes because of bombs, violence or floods are living under plastic sheets in fields or crammed into refugee camps or informal settlements. They do not have homes in which to socially distance or self-isolate", he said.

Coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), this inter-agency plan brings together existing appeals from the World Health Organization and other UN partners, and identifies new needs as well.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The IMF is providing emergency financial assistance and debt relief to member countries facing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The tables below include emergency financing approved by the IMF's Executive Board under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI), as well as augmentation of existing financing arrangements. Debt relief grants, financed by the Catastrophe .

The IMF is responding to the coronavirus crisis with unprecedented speed and magnitude of financial assistance to help countries protect the lives and livelihoods of people, especially the most vulnerable. The Fund is at the center of the global financial safety net – and is deploying its entire lending capacity of USD 1 trillion at the service of its membership.

In addition to providing policy advice and technical assistance, the Fund's actions are focused on five tracks:

1. **Emergency financing** – The IMF is responding to an unprecedented number of calls for emergency financing from 102 countries so far. The Fund has doubled the access to its emergency facilities the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) allowing it to meet the expected demand of **about \$100 billion** in financing. These facilities allow the Fund to provide emergency assistance without the need to have a full-fledged program in place. Financing has already been approved by the IMF's Executive Board at record speed for over 20 countries. Please see the COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance tracker where you can find all approved emergency financing.

2. **Grants for debt relief** – The IMF Executive Board recently approved immediate debt service relief to **25 countries** under the IMF’s revamped Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) as part of the Fund’s response to help address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This provides grants to the Fund’s poorest and most vulnerable members to cover their IMF debt obligations for an initial phase over the next six months and will help them channel more of their scarce financial resources towards vital emergency medical and other relief efforts. The Fund is working to almost **triple the CCRT** from about USD 500 million **to USD 1.4 billion to extend the duration of relief.**

3. **Calls for bilateral debt relief** – The IMF Managing Director and the President of the World Bank recognized the heavy burden this crisis is having on Low Income Countries and, on March 25, called on bilateral creditors to suspend debt service payments from the poorest countries. This would serve as a powerful, fast-acting initiative that will do much to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of millions of the most vulnerable people. The G20 responded to this call on April 15 by suspending repayment of official bilateral credit from the poorest countries. The International Institute for Finance, too, responded to this call urging private-sector creditors to forgo debt payments until the end of the year without declaring borrowers in default.

4. **Enhancing liquidity** – The Fund has also approved the establishment of a Short-term Liquidity Line (SLL) to further strengthen the global financial safety. The facility is a revolving and renewable backstop for member countries with very strong policies and fundamentals in need of short-term moderate balance of payments support.

5. **Adjusting existing lending arrangements** – The Fund is also augmenting existing lending programs to accommodate urgent new needs arising from the coronavirus, thereby enabling existing resources to be channeled for the necessary spending on medical supplies and equipment and for containment of the outbreak.

