

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Situation Report 27 Philippines 4 May 2020

Data reported by the Department of Health on 4 May 2020

Highlights

- **Out of the total 9,485 confirmed cases reported in the Philippines until today, 54% are male, with the most affected age group 30-39 years (20.4%) followed by 20-29 (17.2%)**
- **66.3% of cases reported from National Capital Region (NCR), followed by CALABARZON (12.9%), Central Visayas (10.8%) and Central Luzon (4.1%). 90% of all cases reported in Central Visayas originate from Cebu.**
- **Out of the 623 confirmed deaths, 66% are male, with the most affected age group over 70 years (34.9%) followed by 60-69 years (34.4%)**
- **70.7% of deaths reported from NCR, followed by CALABARZON (13.2%) and Central Luzon (4.4%)**
- **According to the Department of Health (DOH) among all confirmed cases, over 84% are mild**
- **The current transmission classification in the Philippines is identified as clusters of cases with evidence of community transmission in highly urbanised areas of NCR, Cebu and Davao**
- **Currently 22 laboratories testing over 5,300 COVID-19 samples per days: the latest 2 laboratories are the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) Medical Research Laboratory and the Singapore Diagnostic Laboratory.**
- **Total cumulative number of 1,772 health care workers tested positive for COVID-19, with a reported decrease in the past week. Investigation is ongoing in clusters of confirmed health care workers in different health facilities**
- **Over 5,200 hospital workers and community health workers trained on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) through online trainings throughout the country**
- **DOH warns against stigmatizing healthcare workers**

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Beat COVID-19 Today

A COVID-19 Philippine Situationer

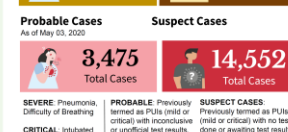
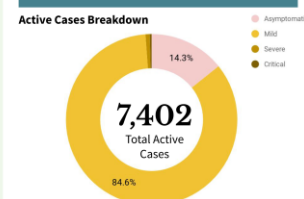
Issue 07 | May 04, 2020

Highlights and Recent Updates on COVID-19

- DOH recorded 7,402 active cases as of May 03, with the majority of the patients exhibiting **mild symptoms** (6,226, 84.1%).
- DOH remains committed to reaching the following goals to combat the threat of COVID-19: (1) increase resilience, (2) stop transmission, (3) reduce contact rate, (4) shorten duration of infection, and (5) enhance quality, consistency, and affordability of care provision.
- **Twenty-two (22)** licensed laboratories across the country are now equipped to perform the RT-PCR tests.
- DOH appealed to the public to be very careful in sharing claims about COVID-19 cures and treatments, especially now that the country is entering the New Normal era. With this, DOH encourages the public to **practice responsible sharing on social media** to help us beat COVID-19.
- DOH reiterated the need for the public to get used to the New Normal setting. In this renewed consciousness, the public has to keep in mind that their practices and behaviors should lead to improved health.
- To provide guidance for sectoral planning on the implementation of **non-pharmaceutical interventions** as minimum public health standards to **mitigate the threat of COVID-19**, DOH issued Administrative Order 2020-0015 or Guidelines on the Risk-based Public Health Standards for COVID-19¹

Case Summary

As of May 03, 2020



<https://covid19.healthphilippines.ph/>

<https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>

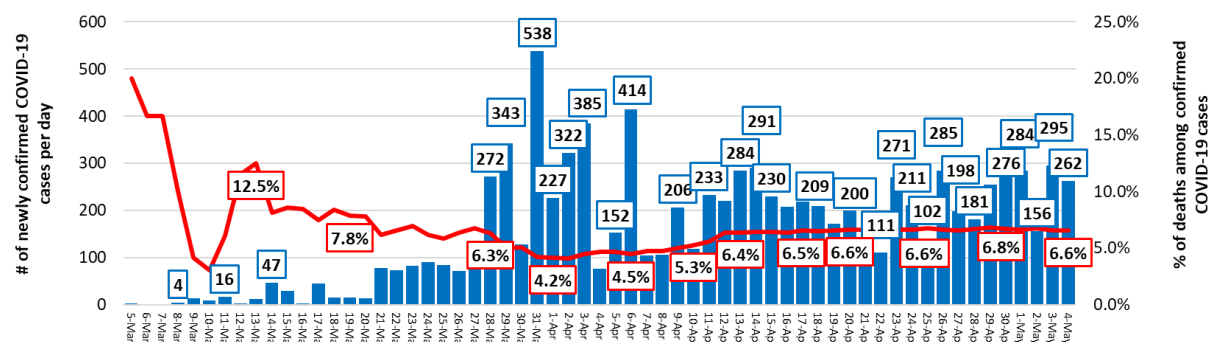
<http://www.covid19.gov.ph/>

Current Situation

As of 4 May, a total of 9,485 confirmed COVID-19 cases including 623 deaths have been reported in the Philippines.

Daily reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines

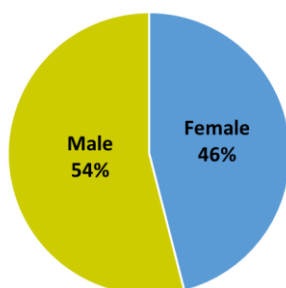
5 March- 4 May 2020 (N=9,485)



Among the 9,485 confirmed cases, 5,122 are male (54%) and 4,363 are female (46%). The most affected age groups are 30-39 years (20.4%) followed by 20-29 (17.2%).

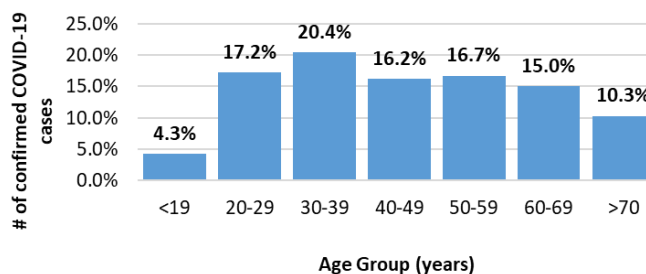
Gender distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %

18 January-4 May 2020 (N=9,485)



Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %

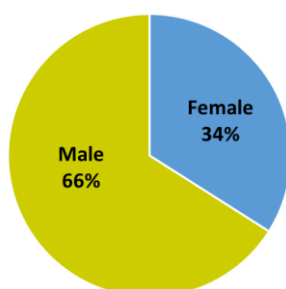
18 January-4 May 2020 (N=9,485)



Out of total 623 confirmed deaths, 66% are male, with most affected age group over 70 years of age (34.9%), followed by 60-69 years (34.4%).

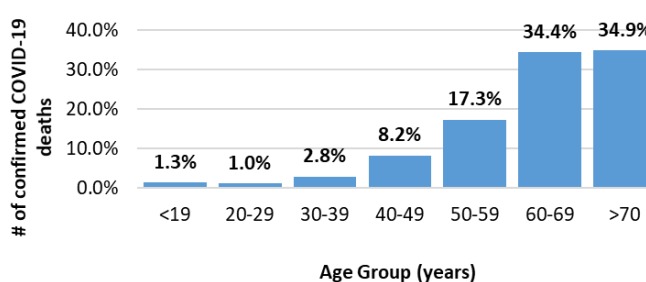
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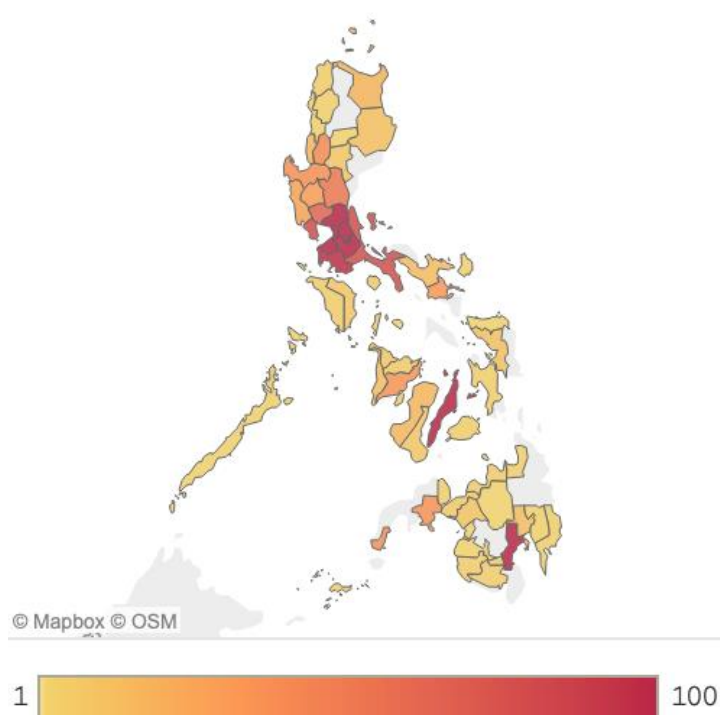


Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines in %

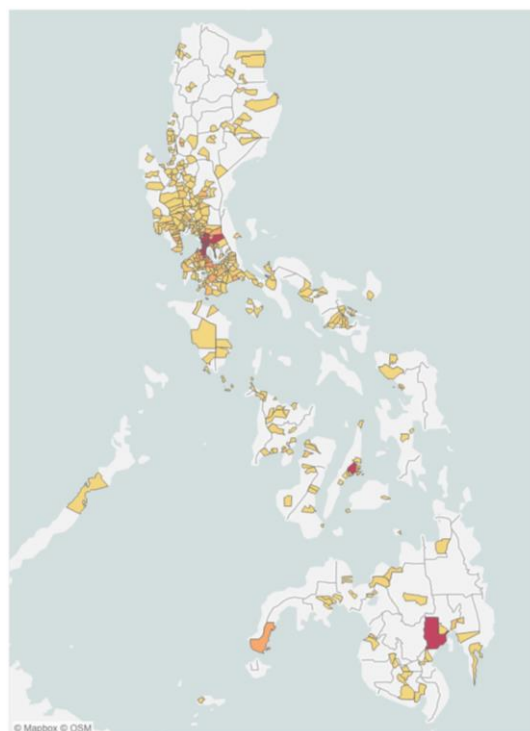
18 January-4 May 2020 (N=623)



Map of confirmed COVID-19 cases by province
18 January-4 May 2020 (N=9,485)



Map of confirmed COVID-19 cases by province
18 January-4 May 2020 (N=9,485)

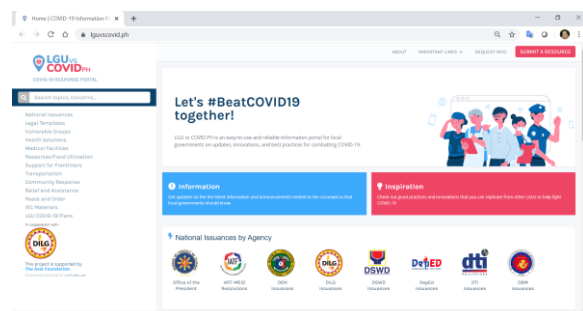


Country readiness and response operations

Country-level coordination

The LGU vs COVID PH website was launched by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Asia Foundation with support from the Australian Government. The website is an easy-to-use and reliable information portal for local governments on updates, innovations, and best practices for combatting COVID-19 and provides access to most of the government's relevant issuances.

<https://www.lguvs covid.ph/>



DOH issued Administrative Order 2020-0015 Guidelines on the Risk-based Public Health Standards for COVID-19, with guidance for sectoral planning on the implementation of Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) as minimum public health standards to mitigate the threat of COVID-19.

<http://www.covid19.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ao2020-0015.pdf>

Risk communication

UNICEF is finalizing the Filipino version of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) guide for community health workers for printing.

UNICEF also developed and disseminated 10-sec spiels on preventive actions, mental health, nutrition and healthy lifestyle, immunization, preventing violence against children, and parenting. Scriptwriting for the IPC training videos for home, community, and hospital settings is ongoing, as well as for RCCE.

Various communication materials such as interactive comics and flyers or inserts for food packs are also being developed by UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Council for the Welfare of Children, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, Commission on Human Rights, UNFPA, and UNHCR.

Surveillance

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCOR) jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) inaugurated the 110 bed isolation ward for the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa, with over 29,000 detainees. ICRC contributed with material support, IPC training and expertise on drafting comprehensive management guidelines.

ICRC continues to advocate for CoVID19 mass testing in prisons in close cooperation with concerned local authorities. ICRC also discussed general recommendations on decongestion of prisons including on releases with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Joint case investigation and contact tracing activities between ICRC, DOH and WHO into clustering of cases in prisons managed to establish a specific COVID-19 reporting mechanism for this special group. Clustering of cases in NCR prisons were picked up thanks to DOH's event-based surveillance and response (ESR) system, which captures reports of health events that could form an acute public health threat.

Additional clusters of cases are being investigated in Cebu and Zamboanga prisons.

Latest DOH situationers available here:

- bit.ly/COVIDPHSituationer005 2 May 2020
- bit.ly/COVIDPHSituationer006 3 May 2020
- bit.ly/COVIDPHSituationer007 4 May 2020

National laboratory system

The list of laboratories certified to conduct COVID-19 testing by DOH expanded to 22. The latest 2 laboratories added are the UP-PGH Medical Research Laboratory and the Singapore Diagnostic Laboratory.

The total daily testing capacity is estimated at more than 5,000 per day.

Random testing conducted by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in high-risk neighborhoods in Mandaluyong detected 55 positive cases for COVID-19 among 510 people tested (11%). Another 1,409 residents were tested in Tondo using rapid antibody tests provided by the private sector, detecting 109 positive cases (8%). As rapid antibody tests are not considered appropriate for diagnostics, samples were taken of all 109 cases for laboratory confirmation with PCR test. Results are pending.

DOH and WHO emphasize that PCR-based testing continues to be the gold standard for COVID-19.

WHO is continuing to support the RITM and DOH with procurement of essential laboratory supplies.

Out of 3,000 GeneXpert cartridges provided by the NGO Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) thanks to funding from the Global Fund, 1,100 were delivered to the Zamboanga City Medical Center laboratory along with PPE.



Inauguration of 110 bed capacity isolation ward in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa between the Chief of the Bureau of Corrections, Gerald Bantag, and the head of the ICRC delegation in the Philippines, Boris Michel



WHO polio consultant supporting laboratory assessment in Zamboanga with DOH Director Dr Gloria Balboa and Secretary Galvez, Chief Implementer of the National Task Force (NTF)

Infection prevention and control

Although health workers are prioritized for laboratory testing, the total of 1,772 confirmed COVID-19 cases among health care workers as of 4 May April is perceived as high (20% of total number of cases). A decrease in newly reported cases among health care workers has been reported in the past week. Investigation is ongoing in clusters of confirmed health care workers in different health facilities

IPC trainings for 2,500 community health workers organized by UNICEF are continuing and anyone can sign up for free at <https://forms.gle/WAVzGvMFC4geofdu9>. UNICEF also covered staff from 16 out of 17 Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) Regional Offices with the online IPC trainings.

IPC trainings for 2,700 hospital workers organized by the USAID-funded Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) program are continuing and anyone can sign up for free at [landing page for the virtual training](#)

- Module 1: IPC for Frontline Healthcare Workers in Facility (every Monday and Wednesday)
- Module 2: Healthcare Waste Management (every Tuesday and Thursday)
- Module 3: Emergency Supply Chain Management Preparedness and Response Training (every Wednesday and Friday)

So far, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) managed to import 40 tons of hospital-grade raw materials flown in for free by UPS. A garment manufacturing plant produced medical coveralls which have been delivered to hospitals like PGH and the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Besides addressing the continuing global shortages for PPE, the local manufacturing is also creating jobs.

Case management and continuity of essential services

DOH is in the process of updating its DataCollectApp to ensure more accurate information is available on COVID-19 cases treated in Local Isolation and General Treatment Areas for (LIGTAS COVID centers), which are community-managed facilities, as well as the Mega LIGTAS COVID-19 Facilities, which are managed by the national-level government.

The DataCollectApp also aims to reflect real-time data of donated and delivered supplies per hospital, indicating current and forecasted needs.



Arrival of raw materials for local manufacturing of PPE flown in for free by UPS ↑

Routine Immunization in the 'New Normal' in Puntod Health center, in Barangay Puntod, Cagayan de Oro ↓



WHO issued a **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Breastfeeding and COVID-19 For health care workers**

The USAID-supported ReachHealth Project is organizing Part II of the Webinar Series on **Ensuring Financial Risk Protection in Times of COVID19: Understanding PhilHealth Benefits for COVID-19: Hospital and Community Isolation Benefit Packages** on 5 May. Anyone interested can register [here](#).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Breastfeeding and COVID-19 For health care workers

(28 April 2020)



Preface

The WHO complements the WHO interim guidance: Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected (13 March 2020) (1) and the WHO interim guidance: Epidemiological management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected and provides responses to questions that have arisen about the recommendations.

The interim guidance and FAQ reflect:

- the available evidence regarding transmission risks of COVID-19 through breastfeeding;
- the protective effects of breastfeeding and skin-to-skin contact; and
- the harmful effects of inappropriate use of infant formula milk.

The FAQ also draws on other WHO recommendations on Infant and Young Child Feeding and the Interagency Working Group Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies. A decision tree shows how these recommendations may be implemented by health workers in maternity services and community settings, as part of daily work with mothers and families.

(2) [www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/covid-19-and-breastfeeding](#)

- Can COVID-19 be passed through breastfeeding?

The COVID-19 virus has not yet been detected in the breastmilk of any mother with confirmed/suspected COVID-19. It appears unlikely, therefore, that COVID-19 would be transmitted through breastfeeding or by giving breastmilk that has been expressed by a mother who is confirmed/suspected to have COVID-19. Researchers continue to test breastmilk from mothers with confirmed/suspected COVID-19.
- In communities where COVID-19 is prevalent, should mothers breastfeed?

In all socio-economic settings, breastfeeding improves survival and provides lifelong health and development advantages to newborns and infants. Breastfeeding also improves the health of mothers. In contrast, transmission of COVID-19 through breastfeeding has not been detected. There is no reason to avoid or stop breastfeeding.
- Following delivery, should a baby still be immediately placed skin-to-skin and breastfed if the mother is confirmed/suspected to have COVID-19?

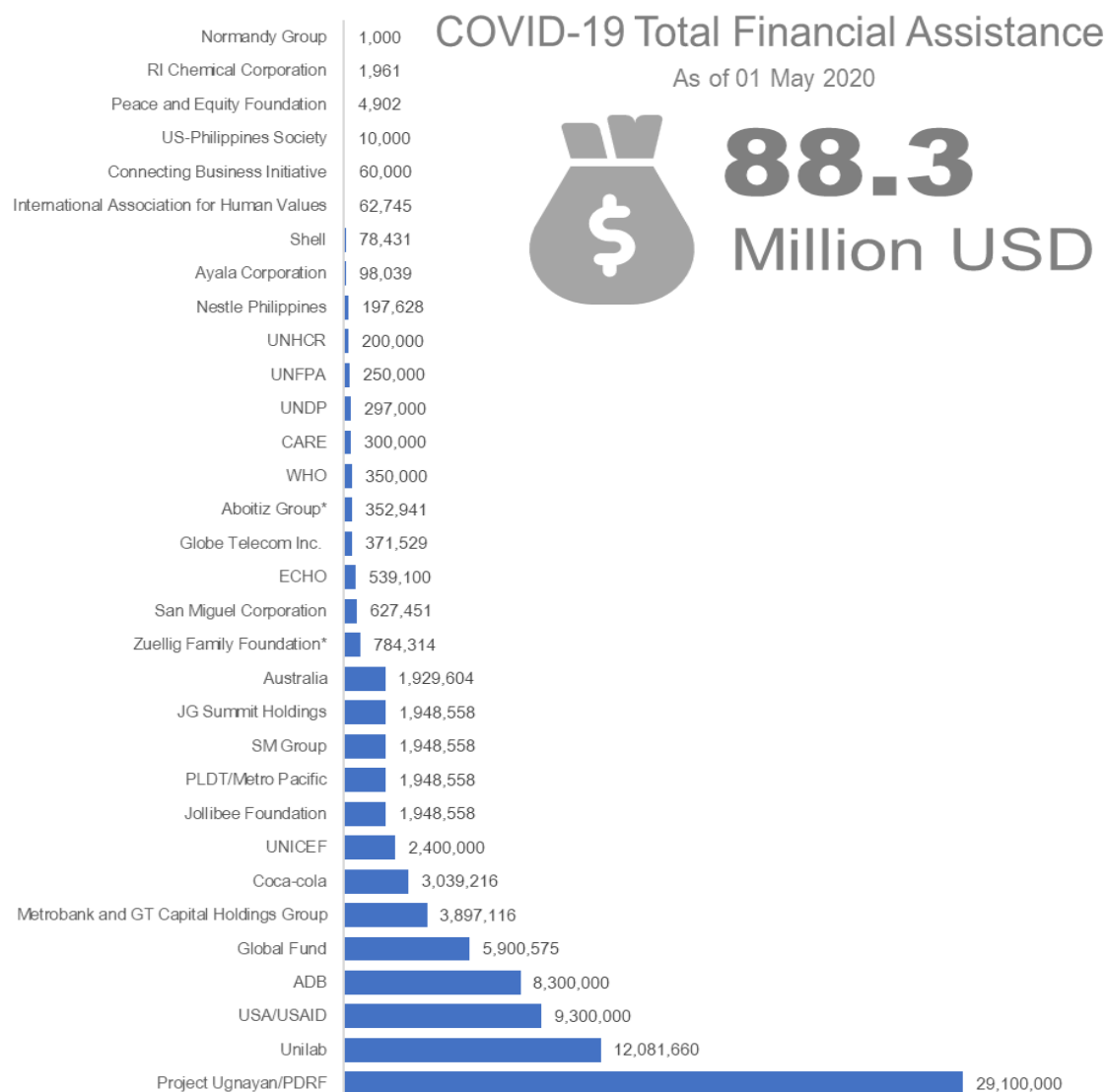
No. Immediate and continued skin-to-skin contact, including kangaroo mother care, improves thermal regulation of newborns and several other physiological outcomes, and is associated with reduced neonatal mortality. Placing the newborn close to the mother also enables early initiation of breastfeeding, which also reduces neonatal mortality.
- If a mother is confirmed/suspected to have COVID-19, should she continue breastfeeding?

No. The transmission of the COVID-19 virus through breastfeeding and breastfeeding has not been detected. While breastfeeding, a mother should still implement appropriate hygiene measures, including wearing a medical mask if available, to reduce the possibility of droplets with COVID-19 being passed to her infant. Mothers and families can be advised that among the few cases of confirmed COVID-19 infection in children, most have experienced only mild or asymptomatic illness. In contrast, there is high quality evidence showing that breastfeeding reduces neonatal, infant and child mortality including in high resource settings and improves maternal health and development in all geographies and economic settings.

Resource mobilization

Grant

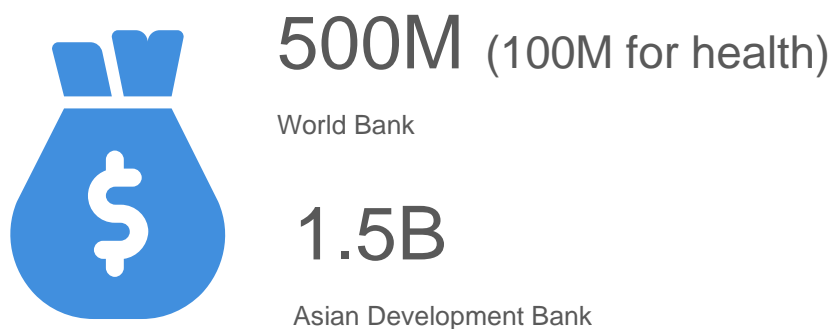
Overall donations received to date (data compiled by OCHA):



Please see for details of all items distributed so far by DOH: <https://bit.ly/DOHCommDistribution>.

As of 29 April, WHO received more than US\$ 405.7 million and an additional US\$ 302.2 million in pledges to its global appeal. This includes €114 million from the European Union to support 80 priority countries with weakened health care systems and capacity including the Philippines.

Loan



Logistics, procurement, and supply management

Who	What	Delivered	Expected
ADB	Laboratory facility for 45,000 tests	1	
Americares	N95 masks	22,320	34,600
	Surgical masks	4,000	
Chinese government	COVID-19 test kits	100,000	
	PPE (full set minus goggles)	10,000	
	N95 masks	10,000	
	Surgical masks	100,000	
IAHV	N95/KN95 Masks	34,922	
IMC	PPE (full set)	200	
	Surgical gowns	4,765	
	Examination gloves	33,869	
	Surgical masks	206,000	
	Goggles	30	
	Cot beds	10	
	Electric fans	20	
Japan government	PPE	12,000	
PRC	Medical tents for isolation and treatment	30	
	Face masks	36,000	
	PPE (full set)	2,000	
	Medical supplies, masks, alcohol, food	6 Manila hospitals	
UNDP	Ventilators		15
UNFPA	Face masks	110,000	
	Handheld thermometers	1,130	
	PPE (full set)	254,839	131,516
	Medical Triage Tents and equipment sets	4	2
	Hygiene kits for women	750	350
	Clean delivery packs		500
	Women Friendly Space Tents	1	2
	Women and Child Protection Unit equipment	1	
UNICEF	Tents for triage and isolation purposes 42 m ²	44	
	Coverall, protection, CatIII, type 4b		72,380
	Faceshield, fog-resistant, fullface, disp		33,000
	Mask, high-fil, FFP2/N95, no valve, nonster		48,000
	Mask, surgic, typellR, ear loop, disp.		409,200
	Gloves, w/opowder, nitr		100,000
	Gloves, heavy-duty, rubber/nitrile		1,000
	Goggles, protective, indirect-side-venti		500
	Apron, protection, plastic, reusable		500
	Boots, rubber/PVC, reusable, pair		500
	Sprayer, compression type, 7.4 litres		160
	Sanitation and cleaning kit		500
US government	Cots	1,300	
WFP	Tent	2	
	50 kVA generator	2	
WHO (with USAID funding)	Laboratory supplies	E-gene EAV kits	335
		RdRP-gene kits	99
		N gene/E gene/RdRp gene vials	12
		Sanger sequencing reagents vials	3
		Universal Transport Media viral kit	4,350
		Flexible Mini Tip	2,000
	Extraction kits	QIAgen QIamp RNA Kit	24
		SuperScript III Platinum One-step qRT-PCR	15
World Vision	Mobile Storage Unit 10 x 32m	4	
	Tents (child-friendly space) 7 x 6m	17	
	PPE (4 goggles, 4 aprons, 4 N95 masks, 200 surgical caps, 100 gloves, 200 shoe covers)	458	
	Disinfectant kits	30	