

Situation Summary

- **Out of total 269,407 confirmed cases reported in the Philippines until today, 56 % are male, with the most affected age group 20-29 years (26%) followed by 30-39 years (24%).**
- 54% of cases reported from National Capital Region (NCR), followed by CALABARZON (16%), Central Visayas (8%), and Central Luzon (4.5%). Largest increase in new cases from NCR.
- **Out of 4,663 confirmed deaths, 61 % are male, with the most affected age group aged 60-69 years (33%) followed by over 70 (28%)**
- 49% of deaths reported from NCR, followed by Central Visayas (25%), CALABARZON (10%), and Central Luzon (3.5%). Largest increase in new deaths from NCR.
- **Department of Health (DOH) and WHO emphasizing the need for compliance to, and proper implementation of, national guidelines at LGU level**
- 100% of health facilities daily reporting to DOH's DataCollectApp showing 44.9% occupancy rate of ward, ICU and isolation beds for COVID-19 patients nationally. In NCR, out of 180 health facilities, 61.3% of dedicated COVID-19 beds are occupied. In CALABARZON, 263 health facilities report 56.6% occupancy rate of dedicated COVID-19 beds.
- **Currently 93 laboratories using RT-PCR are accredited for COVID-19 testing, as well as 29 laboratories using GeneXpert. 101 applications still in various stages of accreditation.**
- COVID-19 infection among UN agencies in the Philippines: WFP – 1 staff; UNICEF – 2 (1 staff, 1 dependent)

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Upcoming Events and Priorities

The government will add at least 5,000 beds in different isolation facilities all over the country, as Philippines ramps up efforts to test more Filipinos for coronavirus disease with the use of antigen tests - which are expected to deliver COVID-19 tests results within 15 minutes – thereby increasing the number of people needing to be isolated. The government earlier said the government is studying the possibility of using antigen tests to screen local travelers and returning Filipinos. The Department of Health also assured that they will only use antigen tests with at least 80% sensitivity and 95% specificity.

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) will push through with the easing of social distancing rules in public transport to accommodate more passengers. The guidelines approved by the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on COVID-19 provides that physical distancing in public transport will be adjusted to 0.75 meter from 1 meter. This covers all modes of travel including land, sea, or air. This means that modern jeepneys can accommodate up to 3 more passengers, while buses can increase its capacity from only 24 or 25 passengers per trip to as many as 36. The distancing can then be adjusted to 0.5 meters and later to 0.3 meters to "allow optimization of ridership." Reduced social distancing will also be enforced in local railway systems including Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) stressed that the closure of cemeteries during this year's observance of All Saints' and All Souls' Days is needed to curb the transmission of the COVID-19. The DILG noted that the public may honor their dearly departed loved ones in other ways like praying at home in the midst of the pandemic, adding that gatherings of people in cemeteries may result in massive spread of COVID infection.

National Transmission Assessment

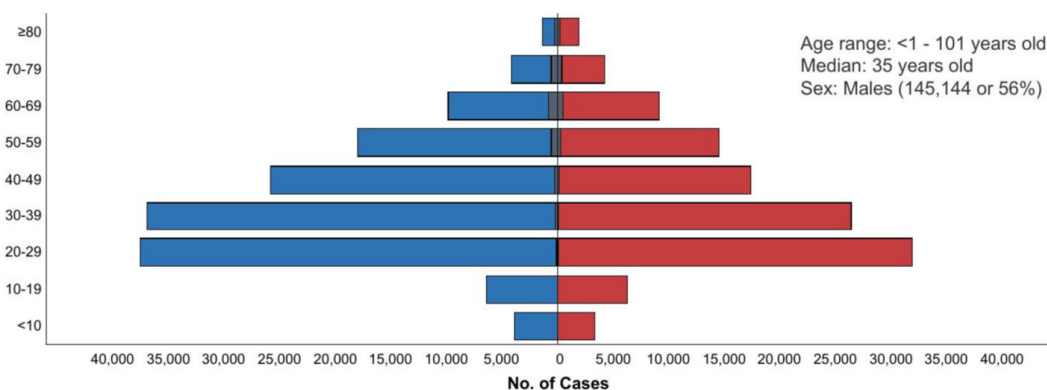
At national level, the Philippines remains in **Stage 2, localised community transmission** with some geographic areas showing higher transmission intensity and indications of wide spread community transmission. There is ongoing evidence of an increasing trend in the number of cases and higher transmission, especially in NCR, Region 3 and Region 4A. At national level, the bed occupancy rate for COVID-19 allocated beds is currently at 44.9% occupancy, with variation between Regions. Additional beds are being allocated for COVID-19 cases, as per the direction of the government. In the past weeks there has been a further increase in daily reported cases, deaths and recoveries. Recently DOH has changed the reporting of recovered cases based on the national criteria. Mild and asymptomatic cases are tagged as recovered 14 days after onset or specimen collection. Additional data validation and harmonisation efforts are ongoing. The government is responding across sectors, including through enhanced community engagement, targeted isolation and quarantine measures, expansion of contact tracing and continuous increase in laboratory capacity.

Epidemiology

As of 15 Sept, a total of 269,407 confirmed COVID-19 cases including 4,663 deaths have been reported in the Philippines. The proportion of deaths among COVID-19 confirmed cases is now 1.7%.

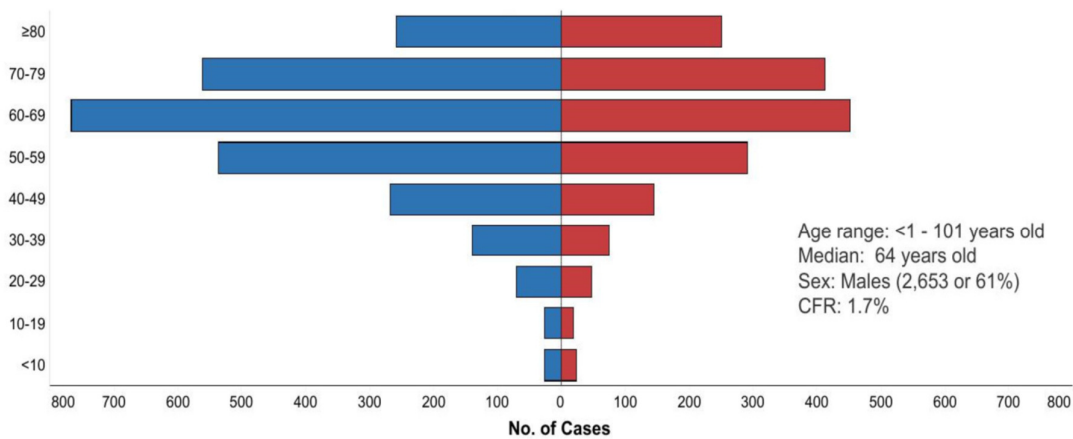
Epidemiological Update COVID-19	Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU
Data reported on 24 Aug 2020 compared with data reported on 17 Aug 2020 (% difference compared to previous 7 days)	292,702 Tests past 7 days	27,420 New cases past 7 days	747 Deaths past 7 days	50% ICU Utilization Rate past 7 days
	2,978,859 Cumulative Unique Individuals Tested	269,407 Cumulative Cases	4,663 Cumulative Deaths	1,931 ^{ICU} beds for COVID-19 patients
	10.6% Positivity rate			
Health Service Provision COVID-19	12,195 Health care workers trained on IPC	1,173 Healthcare worker cases reported past 7 days	1,909 Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	19,565 Non-ICU Hospital beds in hospitals
	11,223 Community workers trained on IPC			166,211 Hospital beds in TTMF

Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %
18 January- 15 September 2020 (N=269,407)

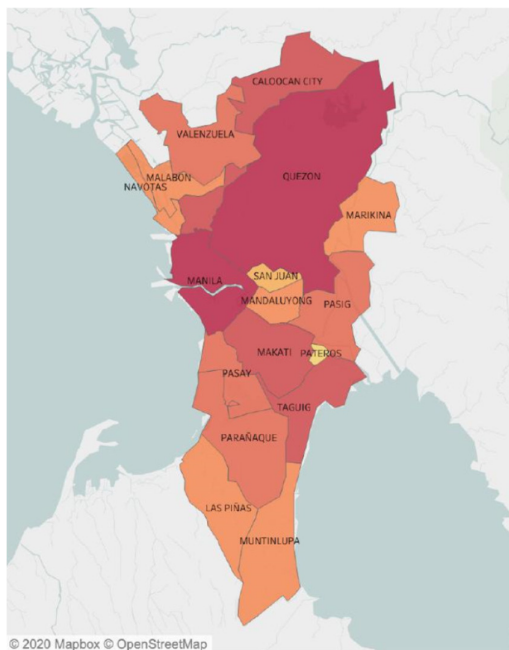


Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines in %

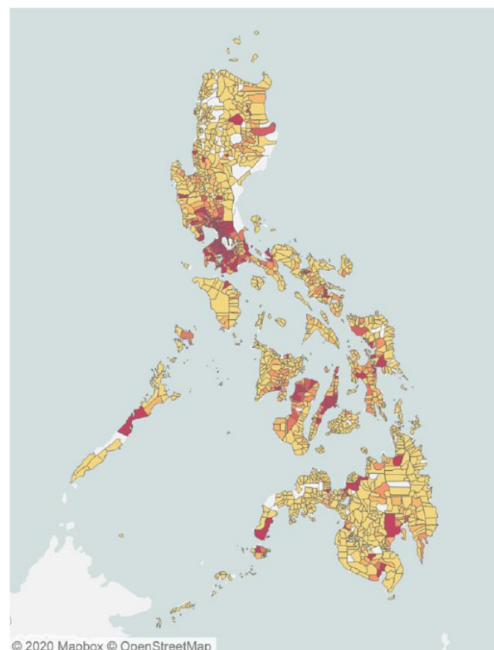
18 January- 15 September 2020 (N=4,663)

**Map of COVID-19 cases in NCR by city/municipality**

18 January- 15 September 2020 (N=269,407)

**Map of confirmed COVID-19 cases by city/municipality**

18 January-15 September 2020 (N=269,407)

**Strategic Approach**

The Department of Health on Friday said that the Philippines will only use antigen tests that are most accurate at detecting COVID-19. An antigen test, another type of test used to diagnose COVID-19, measures a portion of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using swab samples, similar to the gold-standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. While it is not as accurate as a PCR test, it is said to be better at testing patients than rapid antibody test kits. Antigen tests can also process results as fast as 15 minutes. Of the 8 antigen test kits registered with the Food and Drug Administration, two have already been validated with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

The Valenzuela City local government on Saturday launched ValTrace, a contact tracing platform aimed at speeding up the entry and exit of people in establishments in the city. ValTrace aims to eliminate the signing of contact tracing forms in indoor establishments in the city such as malls or eateries that allegedly cause clutter. With this, the City Government of Valenzuela established an automated contact tracing system through the use of QR codes to provide safe, timely, and more complete contact identification and follow-up compared with the traditional system. To use it, you need to register a resident on the website and fill in this information. The city also ensured that the data collected was "confidential". The applicant will then obtain a QR code, which he will be able to use at all establishments in the city. A QR code is provided for each person and registration is free.

The use of quarantine wristbands (Q-bands) in Caloocan City has allowed the local government to speed up efforts in tracing contacts of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) patients, city officials said Saturday. The local government can now monitor the movement or the whereabouts of probable COVID-19 patients wearing Q-bands through a geographic information system (GIS) installed in it. With this, they will know the location of the contacts of probable COVID-19 patients in case they test positive. Aside from probable cases or those who are still awaiting test results, some of the city's frontliners will likewise get Q-Bands. This way, they will be able to identify those who have been exposed to them should they test positive for COVID-19.

The Pasay City government is will launch Monday (Sept. 14), a contact tracing app for its employees accessible through Quick Response (QR) Code. The One Balikatan Tracing app is the latest addition to Pasay's comprehensive contact tracing system to boost other strategies rolled out earlier by the city government. Pasay City has around 4,000 employees, who mostly report for work while the rest work from home.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board announced on Saturday it will allow additional 1,159 traditional public utility jeepneys to ply 28 routes in the National Capital Region, starting September 14, 2020. PUJs operators were reminded of the health and safety measures to be strictly observed such as temperature checking, mandatory wearing of face masks and shield, wearing of gloves for drivers, and strict implementation of physical distancing. Meanwhile, the LTRFB on Saturday clarified that the installation of plastic barriers to enforce distancing inside jeepneys is not mandatory, adding that there is no official statement from the LTRFB, DOTr or the IATF with regard plastic barriers on jeepneys.

The province of Ilocos Norte has closed its borders to locally stranded individuals (LSIs) for at least six days due to rising coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases. The moratorium takes effect Sept. 13 to Sept. 18 to decongest quarantine facilities and allow front-liners to take a break for a few days. This means that LSIs bound for Ilocos Norte will have to cancel their trips even if they have complete travel requirements. On the average, border controllers reported there are close to a hundred LSIs that pass through the major provincial border in Badoc gateway, aside from returning overseas workers.

The busiest roads in this city are quiet and spacious this Sunday, the first day of the implementation of "No Movement Day" due to the Lanao del Sur province undergoing modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ). Only authorized persons outside residence (APOR) and emergency cases are allowed to appear on 'No Movement Day' or every Sunday that the province is under MECQ to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Establishments are also closed except for pharmacies and hospitals.

The Philippine National Police Academy in Silang town, Cavite was placed on lockdown after more than 200 cadets tested positive for the coronavirus. The PNPA director said 232 cadets and 11 personnel were confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19 and are now in isolation. The PNPA conducted 1,406 confirmatory tests and handed out face masks, face shields and sanitizers to each cadet.

Laboratory strengthening

There are currently 93 laboratories certified to conduct COVID-19 testing by DOH using RT-PCR technology, as well as 29 laboratories using GeneXpert, with an additional 101 public and private laboratories under assessment.

The Philippine National Police's (PNP) second coronavirus disease testing laboratory in Camp Crame is now operational and expected to boost the testing capacity for police front-liners. It was set up at the compound of the PNP Health Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City and inaugurated over the weekend.

The other laboratory is operated by the PNP Crime Laboratory, also in Camp Crame. Meanwhile, another RT-PCR laboratory in Cebu City has been constructed and is now in the initial stages of the licensing process. In total, the two Camp Crame-based laboratories and the one in Cebu City have a daily capacity of 150-180 tests.

In Lanao del Norte, swab tests for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases will soon be processed here after the Department of Health (DOH) approved the province-funded molecular biology laboratory at the Kapatagan provincial hospital for COVID-19 testing. Funded by the Bayanihan Grant Fund that President Duterte handed down to the province, the P30 million facility which was conceptualized in March at the height of the lockdown was completed in August this year.

Best Practices / Lessons Learned

UNICEF

Community Support

UNICEF continues to conduct training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for COVID-19 in Home and Community Settings, to date reaching 11,223 individuals (76% females, 24% males): 8,108 through online webinars and 3,115 through face-to-face training in 98 rural health units in BARMM. Registration is ongoing here: <https://forms.gle/WAVzGvMFC4geofdU9>



UNICEF continues to provide online IPC for cleaners and sanitary personnel of healthcare and quarantine facilities, public spaces and communities. A total of 2,148 people have been trained to date. The next webinars are scheduled on 16 and 30 September 2020. Registration is ongoing here: http://bit.ly/WASHIPC_Sept.

UNICEF continues to provide a webinars to support parents and communities in the continuation of early learning and the development of very young children during the pandemic. The second episode on 11 Sept had 2,557 peak live viewers, reaching 59,345 Facebook users. The FB Live was cross-posted on DepEd Philippines and ECCD Council Facebook pages and generated over 6,978 engagements with 422 shares. The session is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefphilippines/videos/1041113159681405/>

Registration for upcoming webinars is ongoing here:

https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tjSo6EhGSnSE7RtiEfSFDw.

The webinars are also livestreamed via FB Live on the UNICEF Philippines and DepEd Philippines Facebook pages.



UNICEF held an online event, 'Bata, Bakuna', on protecting children against polio. The event raised awareness on polio and polio immunization and urged parents to have their children immunized in the next round of the polio mass vaccination in Region III and the provinces of Cavite, Rizal, and Laguna in Region IVA. The event was held on 12 September and reached 71,170 people, with 3,785 engagements and 169 shares on Facebook. The event was also supported with sign language interpretation. The session is available

for viewing here: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefphilippines/videos/779036846222236>.

UNICEF has completed the development of an RCCE training video for COVID-19. The training video will be included among the courses available on the DOH Academy E-Learning Platform. This completes the set of training videos developed to support health workers and other frontline workers involved in the COVID-19 response. The other training videos are for Infection Prevention Control (IPC) for home and community settings and for cleaning and disinfecting in primary health care facilities.

UNICEF has engaged a research team to conduct an RCCE Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey to inform and refine strategies and messages on COVID-19.

UNICEF reached 4.1 million people via Facebook with news of almost 1,500 residents in Marikina receiving family and hygiene kits from UNICEF in partnership with Philippine Red Cross and Unilever. The post was shared over 770 times and garnered 150,000 engagements. The article is available here:

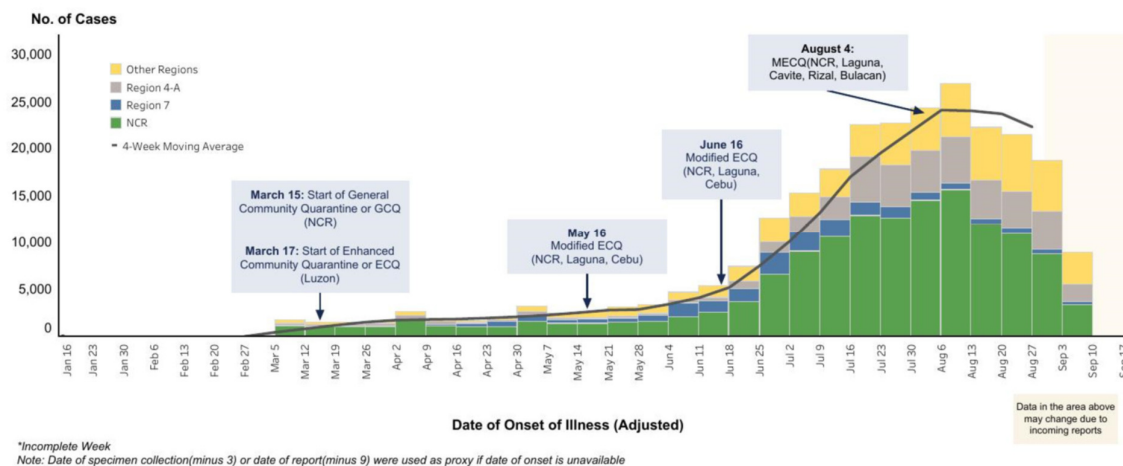
https://www.unicef.org/philippines/stories/families-heavily-affected-covid-19-receive-hygiene-kits?fbclid=IwAR2HsR1xmTJfKhjQYGo_GDSJUQlpBvkym4x6uNV7SCCDg1TMMYzayWEue4n

UNICEF reached over 600,000 people with the joint DOH-UNICEF campaign webinar on polio in the context of COVID-19. The webinar had 379 live views and was shared more than 1,300 times.

UNICEF Education Specialist guested on Al Jazeera English for a live interview on the challenges to education in the Philippines during the pandemic. The interview is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1deAztDkBtkztjslOIWd5JYnowhbQyfsH/view>.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

Figure: Timeline of NPIs with EPI curve combined with NPI implementation dates
16 January-15 September 2020

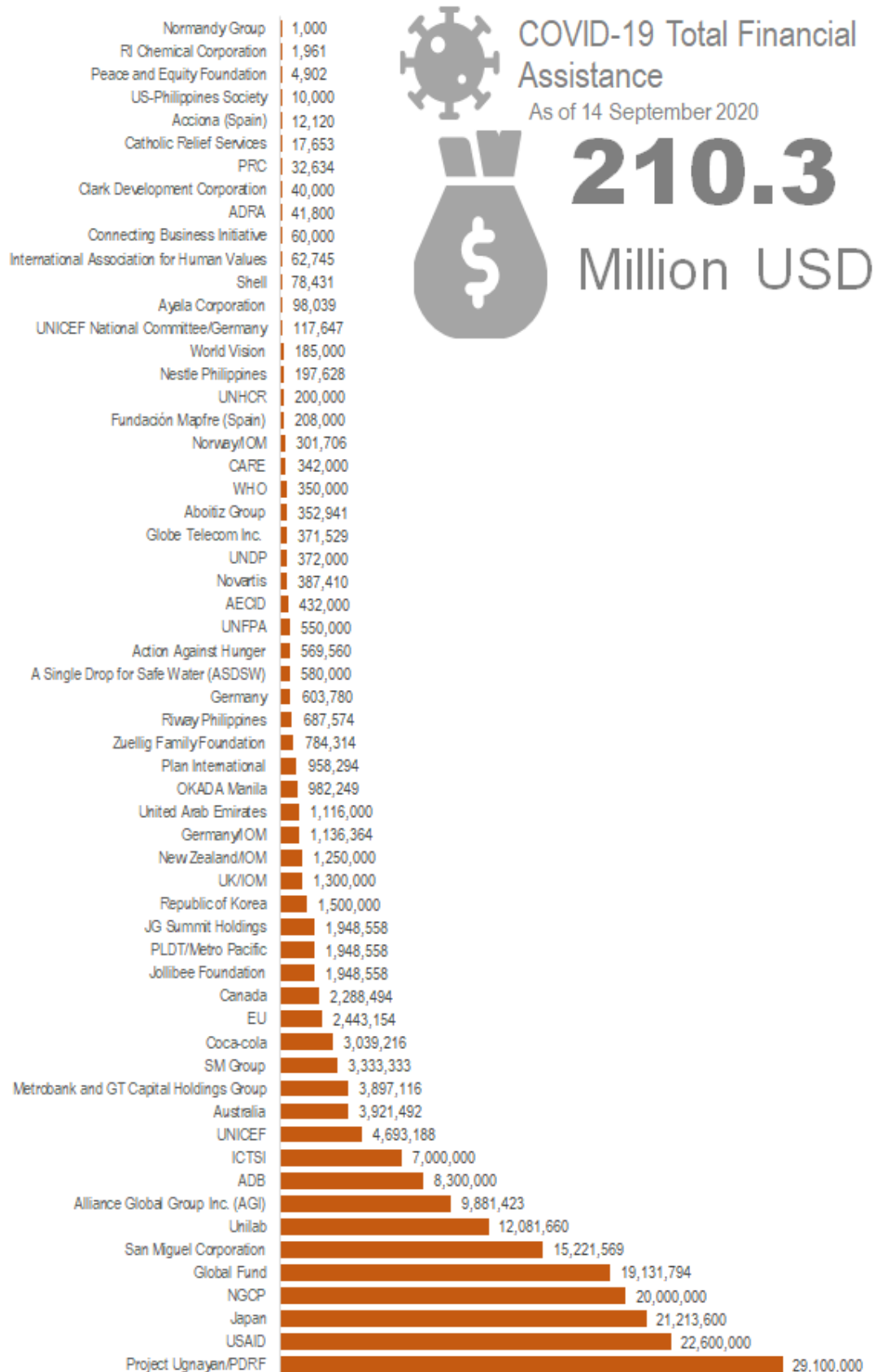


NPI	Monitoring status					
	Date first implemented	Date last modified	Implementation Geographical	Recommended /Required	Lifted for some areas	Lifted for all areas
Wearing Face Masks, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette	13 March	-	National	Required	No	No
School Closure	10 March – Metro Manila	3 June	National	Required	3 June with limitations	No
Workplace Closure	13 March	4 Aug	National	Required	15 May	No
Mass Gatherings	10 March – Metro Manila	4 Aug	National	Required	3 June with limitations	No
Stay at Home	13 March	4 Aug	National	Required	15 May	No
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	13 March	4 Aug	National	Required	1 June	No
Restrictions on International Travel	31 Jan - China	4 Aug	National	Required	1 June	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-

Important links:

- <https://covid19.healthphilipinas.ph/>
- <https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>
- <http://www.covid19.gov.ph/>
- <https://www.lguvsocovid.ph/>

Annex: Resource mobilization



Logistics, procurement, and supply management

Who	What	Delivered	Expected
ADB	Laboratory facility for 45,000 tests	1	
Americares	N95 masks	73,120	33,800
	Surgical masks	17,500	36,500
	Face shields	60	
	Thermal scanners	3	
	Disinfectant alcohol (1 gallon)	6	
	Oxygen tanks with accessories	3	
	Water tanks	5	
CARE	PPE (full set)	2,029	
	Thermal scanners	23	
	Hygiene kits	9,364	
	Water station facilities	5	
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	
	Examination gloves	767,184	
	Surgical masks	666,200	
	N95 masks	150,445	
	Surgical gowns	5,115	
	Goggles	470	
	Electric fans	20	
	HTH Chlorine (Kg)	225	
	Stethoscope	2	
	Sphygmomanometer	2	
	Digital thermometer	6	
	Sprayer	2	
	Sanitizer (Lt)	225	
	Body bags	50	
	Hospital Beds	2	
	Cot beds	10	
	Breast milk container, 180ml	160	
	Electric fan	20	
	Scrub suits	90	
	Folding table, 72in x 30 in	2	
	Rubber apron	40	
	Stretcher	2	
	Metal bench, 3 seater	6	
	Tent, 6mx 10m, x 2m	1	
	Tent, 11ft x 11 ft x 7ft	2	
	Canopy tents, 3m x 3m	3	
IOM	Surgical mask	15,000	
	Gloves	5,000	
	Face shields	400	
	Isolation gowns and shoe cover	300	
	Suits/coveralls	300	
	Thermal scanner	50	
	Multipurpose tents	3	
Japan government	PPE	12,000	
National Grid	Decontamination chambers	2	
Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP)	Ventilators	12	
	Powered air purifying respirators	32	
	Closed suction system	200	
	Test kits	10,000	
	Gallons of 70% alcohol	42,000	
	Gallons of disinfecting solutions	3,800	
	Infrared thermometers	2,100	
	Hazmat suits	3,000	
	Goggles	45,000	
	Surgical caps	60,000	
	Full face shields	65,000	
	Disposable gowns	75,000	
	Pairs of shoe covers	85,000	
	N95 and surgical masks	3,300,000	
	Gloves	3,300,000	
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	
Samaritan's Purse	Medical tents for isolation and treatment	3	
	Mattresses	200	
	KN95 mask	1,300	
	Face Shield	1,300	

Who	What	Delivered	Expected
	Gown	1,300	
	Gloves	54,000	
	Surgical Mask	3,600	
	Hygiene kits	810	
UNDP	Ventilators		15
UNFPA	Face masks	110,000	
	Handheld thermometers	1,130	
	PPE (full set)	386,355	
	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	
	PPE	12,152	
	Sleeping mats	64	
	Hygiene kits	64	
	Blankets	64	
	Plastic sheets	1,020	
	Solar lamps	1,020	
UNICEF	Mosquito nets	1,020	
	Tents for triage and isolation purposes 72m² and 42 m²	74	
	Coveralls for health workers	20,860	51,520
	Face shields	33,000	
	N95 masks for health workers	35,680	
	Surgical masks	38,750	370,450
	Gloves, heavy-duty, rubber/nitrile	1,000	
	Goggles, protective, indirect-side-venti	500	
	Apron, protection, plastic, reusable	500	
	Boots, rubber/PVC, reusable, pair	500	
	Coveralls for cleaning and disinfection personnel	1,000	
	N95 masks for cleaning and disinfecting personnel	15,000	
	Cleaning and disinfection kit	500	
US government	Cots	1,300	
	Disposable shoe cover	14,000	
	Disposable head cap	14,000	
	Disposable surgical gown	12,600	
	KN95 mask	9800	
	Face shield	2800	
	Goggles	2800	
	Nitrile gloves	119,000	
	Pulse oximeter	210	
	Infrared thermometer	210	
US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)	Medical Mask		23,920
	N95 Mask		15,140
	Gloves (pair)		21,220
	Gown		12,000
	Face Shield		9,370
	Shoe Cover		1,640
	Alcohol (500ml Bottle)		5,590
WFP	Mobile Storage Unit	3	
	50 kVA generator	2	
	Shower/toilet unit	1	
	Laboratory supplies		
WHO (with USAID funding)	E-gene EAV kits	335	7
	RdRP-gene kits	99	
	N gene/E gene/RdRp gene vials	12	
	Sanger sequencing reagents vials	3	
	Universal Transport Media viral kit	89,350	
	Flexible Mini Tip	2,000	
	Extraction kits		
	QIAGEN Qlamp RNA Kit	235	
	SuperScript III Platinum One-step qRT-PCR	109	
	Goggles	1,200	
WHO (with DFAT funding)	Gloves	31,000	
	N95 masks	900	
	Surgical masks	100,000	
	Surgical gowns	817	
	Hand sanitizer	240	
	Face shields	640	
	Bio bags	400	
World Vision	Mobile Storage Unit 10 x 32m	4	
	Tents (child-friendly space) 7 x 6m	17	
	PPE (full set)	458	
	Disinfectant kits	30	