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MINISTRY OF HEALTH-ETHIOPIA  
የዜጎች ጤና ለሃገር ብልጽግና  
HEALTHIER CITIZENS FOR PROSPEROUS NATION



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ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE DAILY SITUATION REPORT ETHIOPIA

(Data reported as at 16:30hrs EAT (GMT+3), 19 March 2020)

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- There is a total of six COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia. All of them are on medical care. Those who have been in contact with the case are being traced and quarantined.
- Weekly Technical Task Force meeting has been undertaken.
- Commercial Bank of Ethiopia has donated 10 Million ETB to support COVID-19 preparedness and response activities
- Frequent hand washing practice is ongoing within the government agencies premises
- Today 23 rumors received from all sources. Of these, 17 satisfy the suspected case definition
- A total of 241 contacts of the confirmed cases have been traced. About 200 of them tested negative.

635,093

PASSENGERS SCREENED

ALL POEs Starting from 24 January 2020

10,477

PASSENGERS SCREENED  
FROM COVID-19 REPORTING COUNTRIES

1,266

TRAVELERS  
UNDER PHONE FOLLOW UP

242

RUMORS/Alerts  
RECEIVED and INVESTIGATED

119

SUSPECTED CASES  
DETECTED

94

Suspected cases  
Tested negative

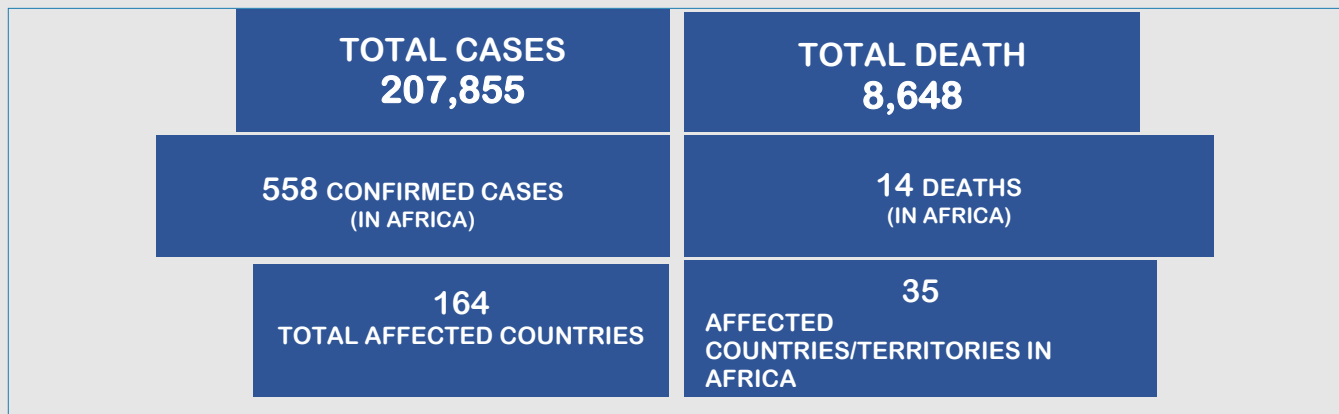
6

TOTAL CASE  
CONFIRMED

21

SUSPECTED CASES IN THE  
ISOLATION UNIT

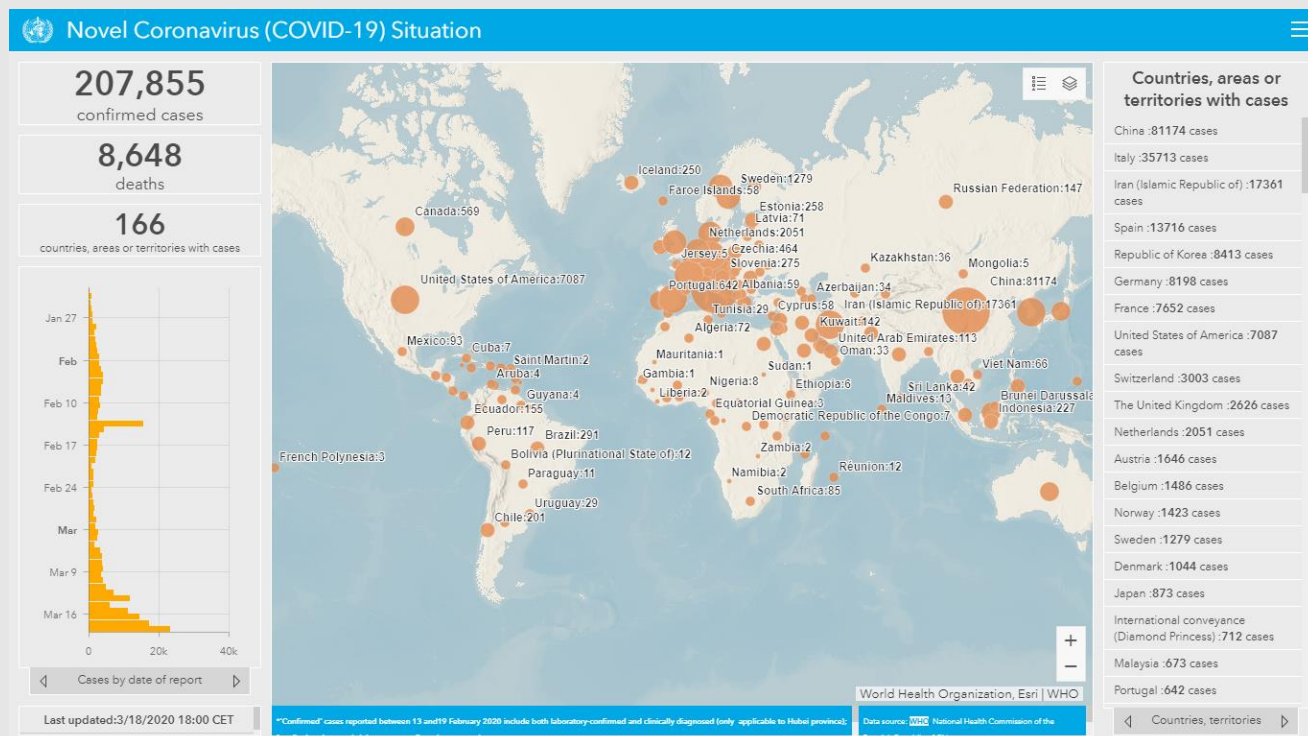
## COVID-19 GLOBAL UPDATE



## COVID-19 GLOBAL UPDATE

Access link for WHO COVID-19 monitoring dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd>



## MAJOR COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS IN ETHIOPIA

### BACKGROUND

Ethiopia activated its IMS under the national PHEOC. WHO and its partners are currently supporting in scaling up preparedness efforts and implementation of related recommendations suggested by the IHR Emergency Committee. Different layer so coordination platform revitalized and the PHEOC is working collaboratively with various agency representative, Partners, Embassies, hospitality sector, Industrial parks and others. There is strong communication and updating from other countries through IHR-NFPs. The sub-national level is well engaged in the preparedness and response efforts. Joint regular media briefing sessions are being conducted.

### COORDINATION and COLLABORATION

- PHEOC operationalization and coordination optimized by the staffs surged from various government sectors/agencies and Partners to enhance COVID-19 preparedness and response activities
- Weekly Technical Task Force meeting led by the EPHI DG was convened.

- Daily follow-up meeting led jointly by the MOH Minister and EPHI DG being conducted every other day
- Discussion held with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) and financial support obtained from the bank

## EPIDEMIOLOGY and LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE

### CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES and CONTACT TRACING

- There are six confirmed COVID-19 cases. All are currently on medical care in a pre-designated isolation facility and those who have been in contact with the cases are being traced.
- On today 24 new contacts traced. So far, a total of 241 contacts have been traced. Of these, 23 contacts completed follow-up for the maximum incubation period.
- So far, about 200 samples collected from the contacts of the confirmed cases tested negative for COVID-19

### Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- Today, 23 new rumors/alerts received from all sources. Of these, 17 alerts fulfilled the suspected cases. So far, 242 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 119 rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected cases.

### Call Centers Update

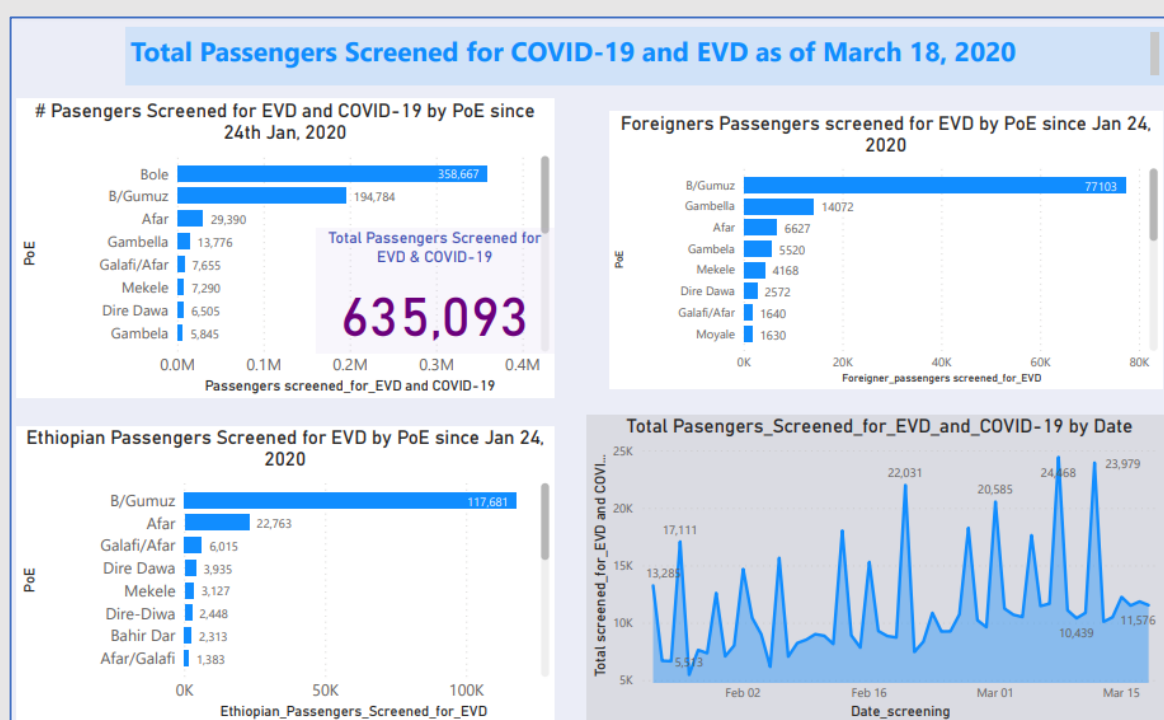
- Today, a total of 3,378 calls were received via the call centers. Among the received calls seven rumors were identified and linked with the rumors/alert's investigation team.

### Phone Follow-Up of Travelers from Affected Countries

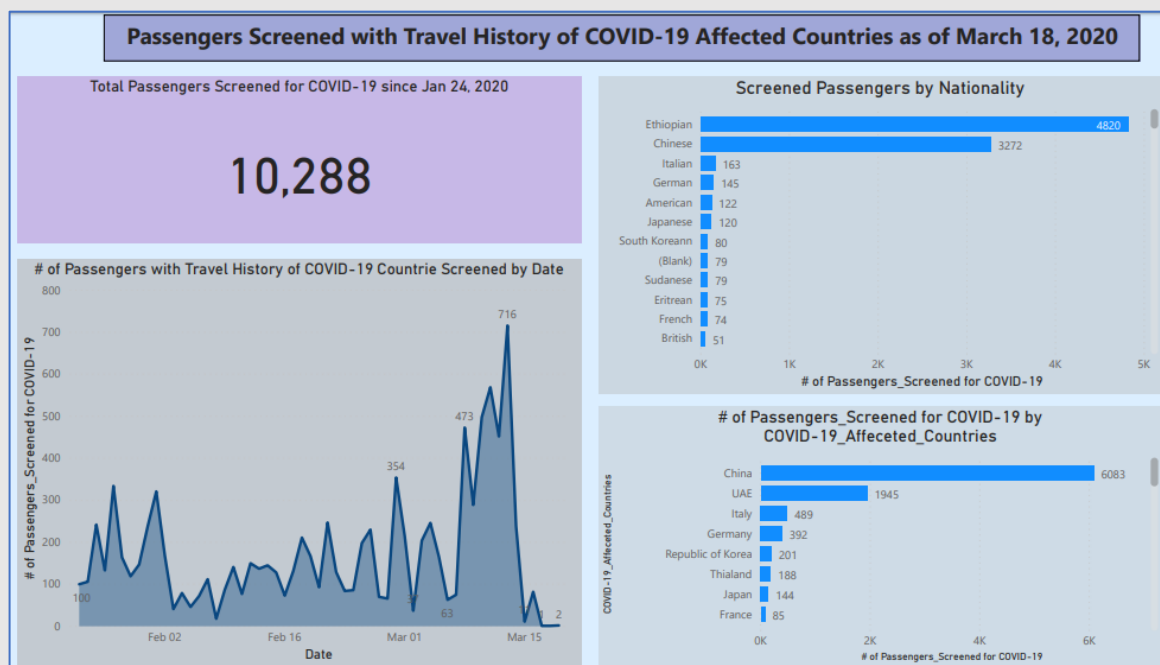
- As of the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020:
  - 1,444 travelers are under follow-up. Of these, 394 were newly enrolled.
  - 624 travelers (8new) that were under follow-up departed back.
  - 1,652 travelers (157 new) have completed 14 days of follow-up and graduated.

## PASSENGERS SCREENING<sup>1</sup>

- Today, **530** travelers who have travel history to COVID-19 affected countries have been screened.



<sup>1</sup> The date is lagging one day back as most of the international flights are at night and the reports are compiled and count on the following date.



## OTHER POEs RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Supportive supervision conducted at BIA, Immigration, ARRA screening activities
- Follow-up on the POEs screening activities in Somali regional state

## CASE MANAGEMENT AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC):

- There are 21 suspected cases of COVID-19 in isolation center.
- Today, 15 confirmed negative cases are discharged and are linked to follow up team.

## LOGISTICS, ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- 31 health professionals deployed to the BIA screening site and 6 FETP residents moved to rumor/alert investigation team
- Need assessment and resource estimation was conducted
- 2000 bottles of alcohol hand rub are received from St. Peter Hospital

## RISK COMMUNICATION:

- Prime Minister statement implementation guide developed to follow the implementation
- Information pack for health extension workers is developed
- Social media pop message developed and released

## Region COVID-19 Surveillance Report

- Among the COVID-19 alerts received today, one report was received from Somali regional state.

## MEDIA / WEB SCANNING:

### News:

- Real-time training during global emergencies is critical for effective preparedness and response (1).
- More than 320,000 learners enrolled in the Open WHO Massive online COVID-19 courses. This Online Course for COVID-19 (at OpenWHO.org) provide learning resources for health professionals, decision-makers and the public (1).

- Scientists and senior doctors have backed claims by France's health minister that people showing symptoms of covid-19 should use paracetamol (acetaminophen) rather than ibuprofen, a drug they said might exacerbate the condition (2).
- Taking anti-inflammatory drugs could be an aggravating factor for the infection. The comments seem to have stemmed in part from remarks of a doctor from south west France who cited four cases of young patients with covid-19 (2).

### **Research findings:**

- Health care workers who worked in high risk department and those with suboptimal hand hygiene after contacting patients had a higher risk of COVID-19. Higher risk with longer duty hours was also found, especially in high risk department (3).
- Lockdown in china:
  - Findings from a study in china indicate a significant increase in doubling time from 2 days to 4 days after imposing lockdown. Moreover, the correlation between domestic air traffic and COVID-19 spread became weaker following lockdown (4).
  - A stricter confinement of people in high risk areas seem to have a potential to slow down the spread of COVID-19 (4).
- **Possibility of fecal-oral transmission of COVID-19 (caution: case report):**
- A case report of a 3 months old patient with COVID-19 suggests the possibility of fecal-oral transmission of COVID-19 for nearly one month. Oropharyngeal specimen showed negative result for SARS-CoV-2 on the 14th day after onset of the illness. However, anal swab was still positive for SARS-CoV-2 on the 28th day after the onset of the illness (5).
- After discharge, family members should pay very close attention to hand hygiene and avoid sharing a toilet with patients wherever possible or disinfect toilet (5).

### **Reference**

1. Rolling updates on coronavirus disease (COVID-19), WHO, 18 March 2020
2. Covid-19: ibuprofen should not be used for managing symptoms, say doctors and scientists. BMJ 2020; 368 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m1086> (Published 17 March 2020)
3. Qu R, Ling Y, Zhang YH, Wei LY, Chen X, Li X, Liu XY, Liu HM, Guo Z, Ren H, Wang Q. Platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio is associated with prognosis in patients with Corona Virus Disease-19. J Med Virol. 2020 Mar 17. doi: [10.1002/jmv.25767](https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.25767).
4. Hien Lau, BS, Veria Khosrawipour, Associate Professor, Piotr Kocbach, PhD, Agata Mikolajczyk, DVM, Justyna Schubert, PhD, Jacek Bania, Professor, Tanja Khosrawipour, MD, The positive impact of lockdown in Wuhan on containing the COVID-19 outbreak in China, Journal of Travel Medicine, , taaa037, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taaa037>
5. Anal swab findings in an infant with COVID-19. Qihong Fan Yan Pan Qingcui Wu Shan Liu Xu Song Zhongguo Xie Yang Liu Liang Zhao Zhonghong Wang Yifei Zhang Zuchuang Wu Lei Guan Xiaolong Lv: 17 March 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ped4.12186>

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**Call-Centers**  
**FOR MORE INFO and**  
**ALERT NOTIFICATION on**  
**COVID-19**



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available  
(<https://www.ephi.gov.et/index.php/public-health-emergency/novel-corona-virus-update>)

**DISCLAIMER**

Figures presented in this situation report are pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization, other sources from the web, as well as report compiled by the National Incidence Response Team

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