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MINISTRY OF HEALTH - ETHIOPIA
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HEALTHIER CITIZENS FOR PROSPEROUS NATION



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ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE DAILY SITUATION REPORT ETHIOPIA

29 March 2020

ISSUE
NO

66

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five new COVID-19 cases detected in Ethiopia bringing the total confirmed cases to 21 in the country.
- Two of the COVID-19 confirmed cases have recovered.
- 26 new rumors /alerts were received. Of these, 11 of them fulfill the suspected case definition
- About 524 contacts of the confirmed cases have been identified.
- A total of 84 samples tested within 24hrs and all were tested negative
- There is an ongoing distribution of pharmaceuticals donated by the Jack Ma Foundation and Ali Baba Foundation for African countries.

COVID-19 NATIONAL UPDATE

731

Passengers
under mandatory quarantine at designated
Hotels

588

TRAVELERS
UNDER PHONE FOLLOW UP

525

RUMORS/Alerts
RECEIVED and INVESTIGATED

524

Contacts of the confirmed cases

257

SUSPECTED CASES
DETECTED

21

TOTAL CASE
CONFIRMED

0

TOTAL DEATH

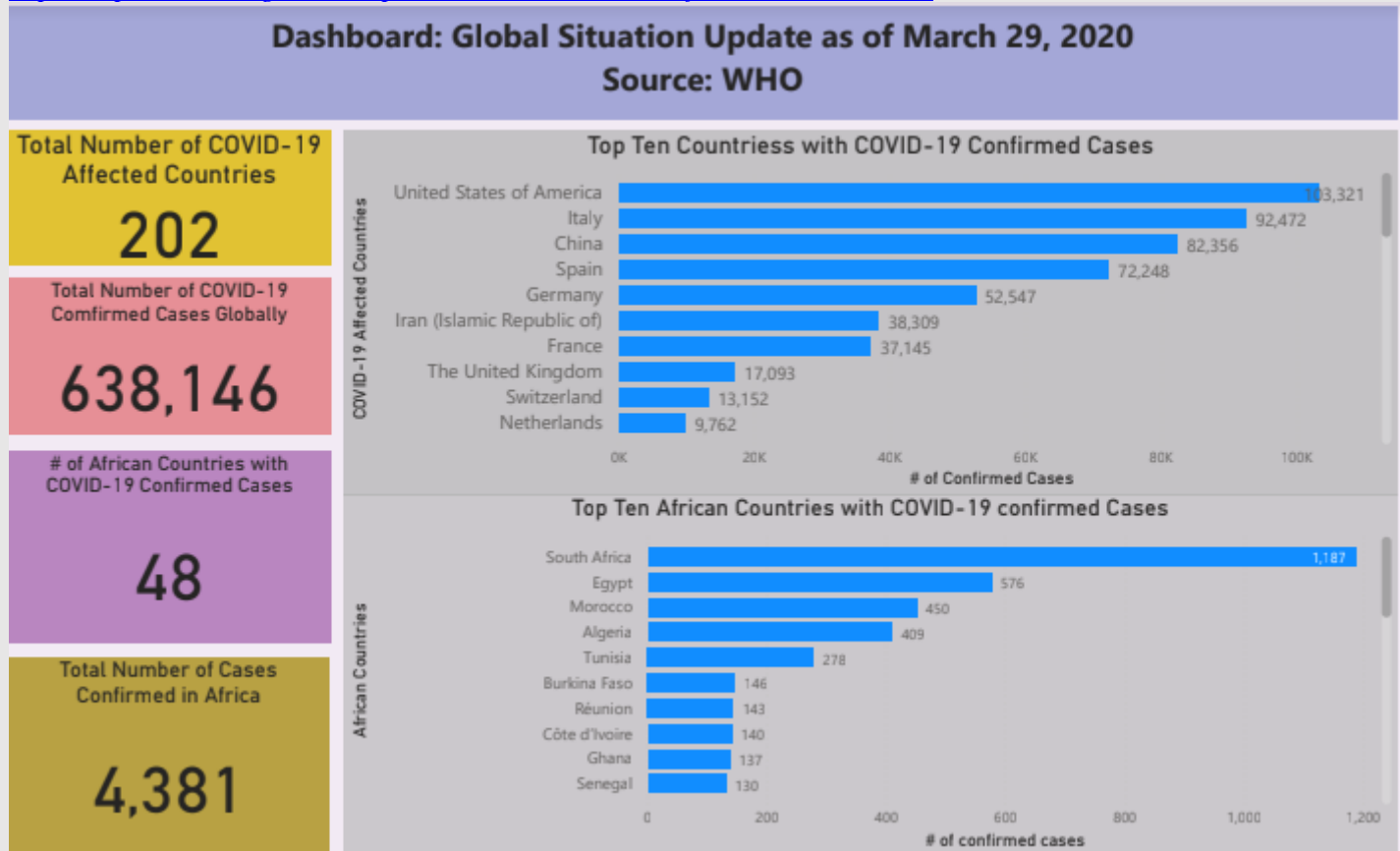
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TOTAL
RECOVERED

COVID-19 GLOBAL UPDATE

Access link for WHO COVID-19 monitoring dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beee1b9125cd>



MAJOR COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE 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:

- High level discussion is made with ORHB COVID-19 preparedness and response leadership
- High level discussion was made with Addis Ababa City Admin and hospitals
- Daily morning and evening briefing of the IMS core staffs being conducted on daily basis.
- Coordination meeting with immigration and nationality affairs, Ministry of labor and social affairs, Ministry of foreign affairs and IOM were scheduled to be held on 30 March 2020 to discuss on how to smoothly handle the returnees arriving in country via different PoEs

EPIDEMIOLOGY and LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE

Confirmed COVID-19 cases:

- Five additional cases of COVID-19 are detected in Ethiopia, bringing the total number of cases to 21.

- Three of the newly identified cases had travel history to affected countries and two of the newly identified cases were the close contacts of the previously confirmed case in Adama, Ethiopia.

Laboratory test

- So far, a total of 881 samples tested from suspected cases, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/Pneumonia from major selected hospitals in Addis Ababa and backlogged influenza samples.
- A total of 84 samples tested within 24hrs and all were tested negative

Contact tracing and follow-up:

- So far, a total of 524 (43 new) contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 180 (19 new) have completed the 14 days follow-up, while 338 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Among the contacts, fourteen (three new) contacts developed COVID-19 suggestive symptoms. Of these, seven (one new) contacts tested negative, one pending and six (two new) of the symptomatic contacts were tested positive, which are among the currently existing confirmed positive cases.
- There have been no contacts lost to follow-up.

Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- Today, 26 new rumors/alerts received (14 via call center). Of these, 11 of the alerts fulfilled the case definition of suspected cases.
- So far, 525 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 257 rumors/alerts have fulfilled the case definition of suspected cases.
- On 29th March 2020, a total of 4,123 calls received and responded via toll-free call centers.

Phone Follow-Up of Travelers from Affected Countries

- As of the 29th of March 2020:
 - 588 travelers and discharged suspects who were linked to the team are under follow-up.
 - 781 travelers that were under follow-up departed back.
 - 2,498 travelers (48 new) have completed 14 days of follow-up and graduated from follow-up.

Quarantined passengers follow up:

- As of 29th March 2020, a total of 731 passengers are under mandatory quarantine at designated Hotels. Of these 73 are new arrival
- Three alert cases are identified from passengers under quarantine.

PASSENGERS SCREENING

- Follow up of the mandatory quarantine implementation for passengers coming from abroad via BIA in ongoing.
- Health screening of arriving international passengers is ongoing.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC):

- As of 29th March 2020; there were 17 confirmed cases in the case treatment centers.
 - Two critical case in the ICU and the remaining cases are on medical care in stable condition.
 - Two of the COVID-19 confirmed cases has recovered from the disease.
 - Two of the COVID-19 confirmed cases were transferred to Japan previously
 - 10 suspected cases are admitted today

- 19 initially suspected cases are discharged after laboratory test became negative

LOGISTICS, ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- Priority purchase identified

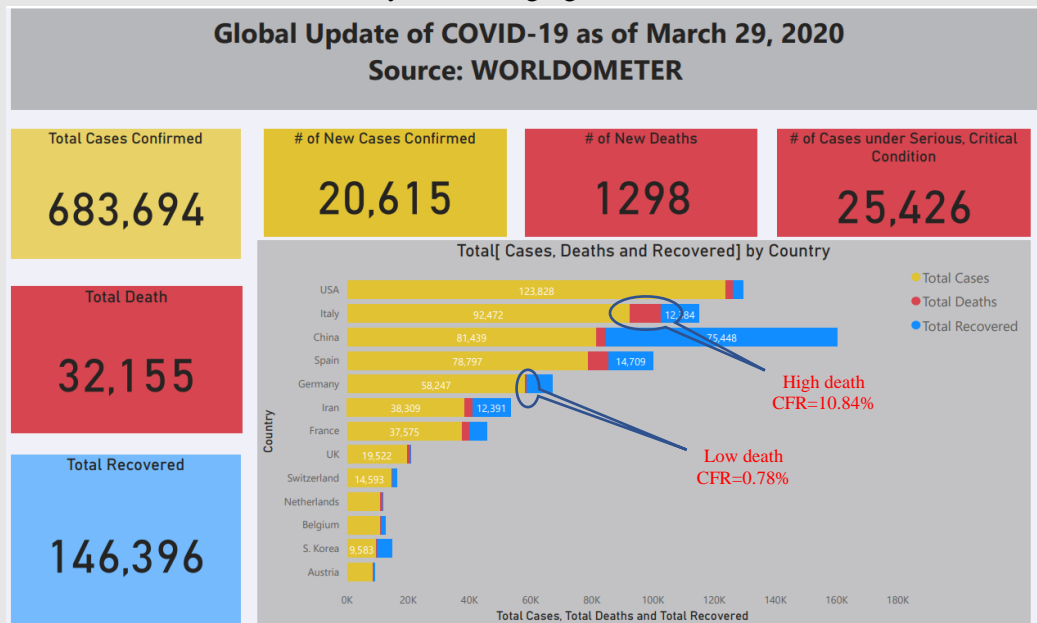
RISK COMMUNICATION:

- Press release on newly confirmed COVID-19 cases shared to public
- TOR for edutainment (educational and entertainment) production for artists was prepared and shared for comment.

MEDIA / WEB SCANNING:

Reason behind Germany's low death rate and Italy's increased death toll:

- The number of deaths is the most important measure to define where COVID-19 pandemic settles in the line of previous catastrophic infectious diseases.
- Three countries namely, South Korea, Switzerland, and Germany had death rates well below the others.
- For South Korea, this, in part, is due to cases occurring in much younger people.
- For Switzerland, this is because the cases are only now emerging.



Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

CFR: Case Fatality Rate

- **Germany:**
 - Covid-19 mortality rate is about 0.4 – 0.5% which is one of the lowest death rates (1).
 - **Why low mortality rate:**
 - Germany started widespread testing comparatively early and therefore managed to identify and respond at an early stage of the outbreak (1, 2).
 - This may be helping to identify asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic persons unlikely to require medical care
 - Since many mild cases were detected from the beginning and included in Germany's statistics, the mortality rate fell proportionally.
 - More than half a million coronavirus tests have been done in the country (2).
 - **Health care system;**
 - Germany is better equipped to treat seriously ill patients, with 28,000 intensive care beds (1)
 - There are about 450,000 beds in all general hospitals in Germany. About 100,000 of these are empty.
 - Late beginning of the outbreak and early testing in Germany (1)
 - Gave hospitals in the country time to ramp up capacity,
 - Made separate areas to be set up in hospitals for coronavirus patients,

- Gave time to work in doubling the number of intensive care beds.
 - Non-urgent operations are being postponed and hospital staffs from other areas are being trained to care for COVID-19 patients (2).
 - Better staffing ratios, education level of practitioners and number of specialists and specialty beds, including those in an intensive care unit (1).
 - Germany has 13.2 nurses per 1,000 (echoing a trend for high nurse numbers throughout Northern Europe) far above the other heavily Covid-19 affected countries.
 - The median age of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Germany is 45 (2).
 - Chronic conditions: Hypertension or diabetes as well as diet are about two years higher in Italy, Spain, and France than Germany, which ranks 27th in the world (1).
- **Italy:**
 - Italy has reported a mortality rate of roughly 10% (Johns Hopkins University).
 - **Why high mortality rate**
 - The median age of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Italy is 63 (2).
 - **Health care system;**
 - Italy has only 5,000 intensive care beds (2).
 - In Italy hospitals did not have special areas for coronavirus patients (2).
 - This allowed the virus to spread further in hospitals and infect already weakened patients.
 - Italy (some regions); the number of severely ill patients has exceeded the number of available intensive care beds and ventilators (2),
 - Accordingly, doctors reported that they've had to decide which patients with the best chance of recovery can be put on a ventilator and who is left to die.
 - Italy focused its testing only on people showing severe symptoms in areas with high epidemic intensity (3)
 - Italy's healthcare system provides universal coverage and is largely free of charge (3).
 - There are many elderly people with numerous illnesses who were able to live longer due to extensive care who are more fragile than others.
 - 48 percent of the deceased had an average of three pre-existing illnesses.
 - **Italy's 'social contact matrix' (3)**
 - 23 percent of Italians are over 65 years old, the Mediterranean country has the second-oldest population in the world.
 - In Italy, 85.6 percent of those who have died were over 70, according to the National Institute of Health's (ISS) latest report.
 - Most elderly Italian people are not isolated. Their life is characterized by much more intense interaction with their children and younger population compared to other countries.
 - Information exchange
 - The Italian experience shows that even when health information infrastructure is optimal the accurate and timely information exchange by all responsible parties should be sufficient (4).

However, In Italy, 74% of those who've tested positive are over 50. In Germany, 82% of cases are people under 60. The prospect that the outbreak may shift to older people has German health officials worried, too (5).

References:

1. Why is Covid-19 death rate so low in Germany? By Kent Sepkowitz, March 25, 2020.
2. The mystery behind Germany's low coronavirus death rate. by Anna Noryskiewicz. March 28, 2020 / 2:31 Pm / CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-death-rate-mystery-germany-italy-covid-19/>
3. Why is Italy's coronavirus fatality rate so high? *Italy toll due to demographics and how deaths are reported, but experts say other nations could soon be in its position.* by Virginia Pietromarchi. 24 Mar 2020.
4. Covid-19: preparedness, decentralisation, and the hunt for patient zero (BMJ 2020; 368 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m799>)
5. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-24/coronavirus-less-deadly-in-germany-because-of-youthful-patients>



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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