It is my pleasure to send sincere gratitude to my WHO colleagues, humanitarian workers, and especially to the frontline health workers who are working endlessly by putting their lives at risk in the war against COVID-19... not to forget those who work tirelessly from home to support the ongoing emergency response operations. We value and appreciate your sacrifices.

OUR HEALTH HEROES!

I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, healthy, and blessed EID AL-ADHA to our Muslim brothers and sisters.

EID MUBARAK!... SHUKRAN JAZEELAN!

Dr Boureima HAMA SAMBO
WHO Representative, ETHIOPIA
I want to be straight with you: there will be NO RETURN to the “old normal” for the foreseeable future. The pandemic continues to accelerate, but we are not its prisoners and every single one of us can make a difference. The FUTURE is in OUR HANDS

... that’s why we’re asking everyone to treat the decisions about WHERE they go, WHAT they do and WHO they meet with during this COVID-19 pandemic as life-and-death decisions — because THEY ARE!

Dr TEDROS Adhanom
Director-General,
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

I salute every healthcare worker on the frontlines of AFRICA’s COVID-19 response who have continued to make sacrifices

The pandemic has shown us that there is no health without health workers. They work day and night to take care of us all and in turn, we must APPRECIATE and PROTECT them

I call for solidarity and commitment to ensure equitable access to essential supplies, especially PPE

Dr Matshidiso MOETI
Regional-Director for AFRICA,
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

#ProudToBeWho #ThankYourHealthHeroes
When we have an effective COVID-19 vaccine, it will need to be rolled out at unprecedented speed & scale. Equity must be a central focus of our efforts. Too often, African countries end up at the back of the queue for new technologies. WHO is working with partners to raise awareness & support greater access to COVID-19 testing and care among vulnerable populations facing protracted conflict humanitarian & emergencies.

As part of the move to increase our current daily testing capacity, we have made orders to import one million COVID-19 testing kits... indeed we received the first installment this week. ETHIOPIA will start domestic Production of COVID-19 testing kits by October 2020.

Once again, I urge everyone to follow the simple guidelines consistently to protect YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY and COMMUNITY.

Dr ABIY Ahmed
Prime Minister,
Federal Democratic Republic of ETHIOPIA

Dr LIA Tadesse
Minister of Health,
Federal Democratic Republic of ETHIOPIA

... COVID-19 is showing a sharp rise in ETHIOPIA with big numbers of new cases reported for a single day. To curb this, we have to abide by the health rules, ALWAYS!
WHO leadership conducted a high-level mission to Amhara region to strengthen the regional COVID-19 response operations.

WHO in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), conducted active case search for COVID-19 in public and private health facilities in various urban cities of Somali region.

Supported the RHB and partners on joint missions to 13 major hospitals (non COVID-19 facilities) in SNNP region to strengthen compliance of health workers with existing IPC guidelines and protocols.

Facilitated weekly ICCG meeting with a focus on the response plan for immediate shelter, WaSH and health needs in 26 priority IDP sites to mitigate.

Supported house-to-house active case search and community awareness activities in Sherkole refugee camp in Benishangul Gumuz region.

Provided in-person MHPSS services in quarantine and treatment centers in Addis Ababa and Somali; and remote MHPSS services through 7666 helpline number in Gambela.
REGIONAL SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE

ADDIS ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION

WHO provided support in the preparation of COVID-19 laboratory improvement plan

Technical support provided in the implementation of the city health bureau’s decentralization strategies for surveillance, home based care, testing at sub cities and woredas of Addis Ababa

Support provided to assess implementation of risk communication activities in Bole Lemi Industrial Park

CONFIRMED CASES

RECOVERED CASES

TOTAL DEATHS
Dr Boureima, WHO representative, and his team conducted a high-level mission to Amhara region to access and strengthen WHO regional IMT coordination, partnership and provided guidance on continuity of essential health services.

The team also visited the Amhara Public Health Institute PHEOC and also paid a courtesy visit to the Regional President’s Office.

Supportive supervisions conducted to health facilities in North Shewa zone aiming at enhancing ARI/SARI surveillance, and supported provided in the training of 18 public health officers on COVID-19 surveillance and response.

Provided support on the second round of community surveillance for ARI in all zones of the region. A total of 2,040 ARI cases detected and 1,927 investigated by the RRT. For that, 680 samples were collected.
WHO continued provision of technical support on contact tracing, monitoring of events, case investigation, capacity building, and data management in all the regions through the regional IMTs

Facilitated contact tracing training in Adama and Asella towns for 75 participants from 12 towns and 6 zones from Oromia region

Continued technical support to Jigjiga University COVID-19 molecular diagnostic center (Somali region) on laboratory data management and data quality improvement

All 11 regions have reported confirmed covid-19 cases while 10 regions reported related deaths (except for Benishangul Gumuz region)
INFECTION PREVENTION and CONTROL (IPC) and CASE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

WHO provided technical support on the development of IPC | WaSH guidance documents for detention centers

Provided technical support to ASTU team in the process of making it a referral center within the community care approach for managing COVID-19 cases in Addis Ababa

Support provided in conducting Inter-Action Review (IAR) and 3L Emergency Medical Team meeting

Facilitated the first joint TWG session on robots for COVID-19 response

Facilitated training of health workers on IPC | WaSH along major transport corridors in Tigray and SNNP regions

Addis Ababa accounts for the majority of health care workers infections (followed by Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions). Nationally, a total of 444 confirmed COVID-19 infection have been reported among health workers. 258 (58%) of them have recovered
WHO and MoH jointly organized World No Tobacco Day 2020 award ceremony (16 July 2020). This year’s award recipient is Mr Wondu Bekele Woldemariam of Matiwos Wondu Cancer Society for his outstanding contribution to tobacco control in ETHIOPIA.

WHO provided support in monitoring of continuity of essential health services in major public hospitals and HCs of several woredas across the regions.

Jointly conducted assessment of 18 IDPs and 8 refugee camps in Somali region. 6 additional IDP camps will be assessed next week.
WHO supported in mobilizing high-risk groups for COVID-19 testing and also provided COVID-19 health education to communities in Debre Markos town of East Gojjam zone (Amhara region)

Facilitated media engagement with ETV and Radio Fana (involving survivors) on promotion of preventive measures and importance of quarantine for COVID-19 response

Support provided to review media communication plan on promotion of social distancing, proper use of masks and importance of quarantine

Technical support provided in the development of a two months strategic plan to strengthen enhanced community-based approach and testing activities as part of the RCCE strategy
THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), United Nation’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Irish Aid, Department for International Development (DFID), USAID, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), and King Baudouin Foundation

Dr Boureima HAMA SAMBO
WHO Representative, ETHIOPIA
The pandemic has disrupted the lives of billions of people. It’s completely understandable that people want to get on with their lives ... but good to know that we will NOT be GOING BACK to the “old normal”!

Our lives have already been changed by the pandemic, and part of adjusting to the “new normal” is finding ways to live our lives safely ... highly depends on where you live and your circumstances ... it is all about making GOOD CHOICES

- Everyone should treat the decisions about where to go, what to do and who to meet as a matter of life-and-death exercise
- We must remember that most people are still susceptible to this virus ... as long as it’s circulating in the community, everyone is at risk
- Good to know that our choices could be the difference between life and death for someone you love, or for a complete stranger ... not only for our own selves
- Just because cases might be at a low level where we live doesn’t make it safe to let down our guard
- Don’t expect someone else to keep you safe. We all have a part to play in protecting ourselves and one another ... always keep informed about the situation in your surrounding and practice the required preventive measure
- No matter where you live or how old you are, you can be a leader in your community, not just to defeat the pandemic, but to BUILD BACK BETTER

... In recent years we’ve seen YOUNG PEOPLE leading grassroots movement for climate change and racial equality ... now we need young people to start a GLOBAL MOVEMENT for HEALTH - for a world in which health is a HUMAN RIGHT, not a privilege

... The best way to suppress transmission and save lives is by engaging individuals and communities to manage their own risk and take evidence-based decisions to protect their own health and that of those around them

Dr TEDROS Adhanom
Director-General,
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
In the African Region, over 10,000 health workers on the frontlines have been tragically infected with COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

- One of the biggest challenges in protecting health workers have been the global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Health workers have concerns about taking the virus home.
- Health workers also suffer psychosocial pressures from working around the clock.
- In some communities, health workers even face stigma and discrimination.
- The African diaspora has been significantly involved in helping to disseminate information, training, and improving skills ... they have also mobilized support for the response in the Region.
- The need for member states and partners to come together to ensure all our health workers are informed and protected is so massive.

... One infection among health workers is ONE to MANY. Doctors, nurses and other health professionals are our mothers, brothers & sisters ... and they are helping to save lives endangered by COVID-19.

We must make sure that they have the equipment, skills and information they need.

We all have a role to play in limiting the spread of COVID-19 ... wearing masks, washing hands, and physical distancing will protect our communities, so DON’T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

Dr Matshidiso MOETI
Regional Director for AFRICA,
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Safe Eid al Adha practices in the context of COVID-19
Interim guidance
https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1288874/retrieve

Considerations for implementing mass treatment, active case-finding and population-based surveys for neglected tropical diseases in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
Interim guidance
https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1289077/retrieve

Guidance for conducting a country COVID-19 Intra-Action Review (IAR)
https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1288630/retrieve

Preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services
Policy brief
https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1286427/retrieve

World Health Statistics 2020: monitoring health for SDGs
Summarizes recent trends in life expectancy and reports on progress towards the main health and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332070/9789240005105-eng.pdf?ua=1
Affected Countries in the WHO Africa Region

SOUTH AFRICA
337,628 cumulative cases (61.48%)
5,173 deaths
15,173 active cases
194,865 recovered

NIGERIA
37,225 cumulative cases (6.13%)
801 deaths
20,769 active cases
15,333 recovered

GHANA
28,430 cumulative cases (4.68%)
1,536 deaths
4,270 active cases
24,901 recovered

GLOBAL and AFRICA COVID-19 UPDATE
UPDATED AS OF 28 JULY 2020

GLOBAL
TOTAL CASES 16,301,736
TOTAL DEATH 650,069
TOTAL RECOVERED 9,611,336

AFRICA
TOTAL CASES 859,237
TOTAL DEATH 18,160
TOTAL RECOVERED 506,534

SITUATION by WHO REGION

Source: World Health Organization