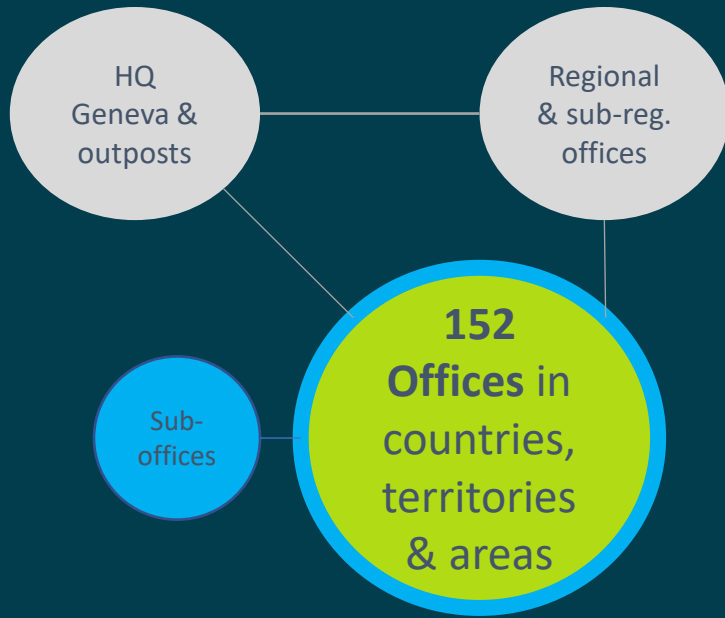




# Responding to COVID-19: WHO's Presence & Action at the Country Level

MS COVID-19 Briefing, 13 May 2021

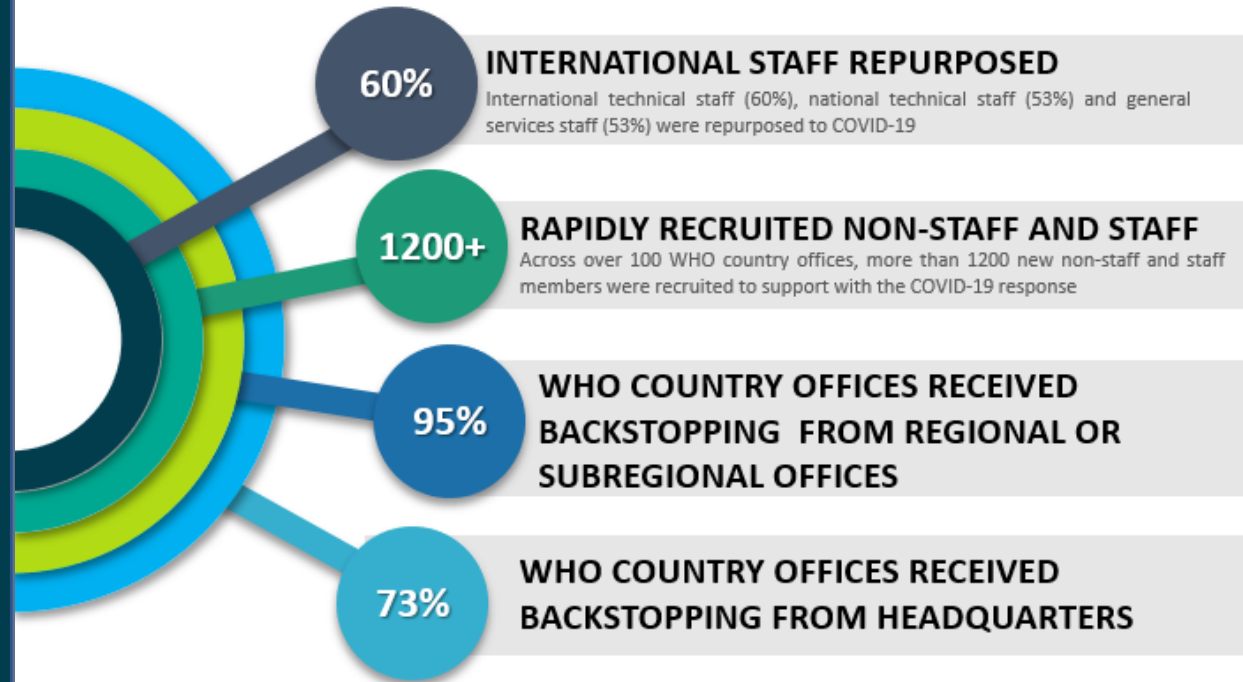
# WHO's Global Architecture to support 194 Member States



## Distribution of WHO Offices

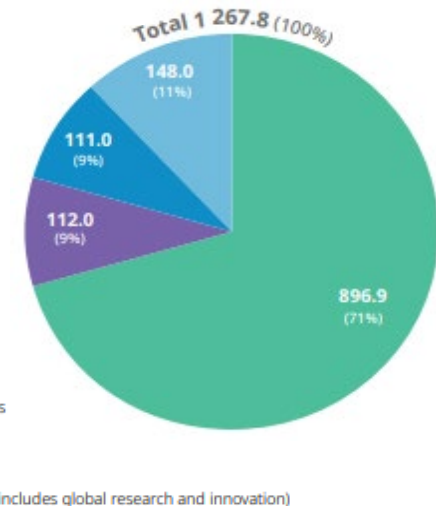
African region	47
Region of the Americas	27
Eastern Mediterranean region	20
European region	32
South-East Asian region	11
Western Pacific region	15

# 'Surge' in WHO's country presence for COVID-19




**217 MEDICAL TEAMS (EMT) AND GOARN DEPLOYMENTS INTERNATIONALLY (7 May 2021)**

**71% of WHO's 2020 SPRP FUNDS UTILIZED AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL (US \$896.9million)**



# WHO's Country Case Studies on COVID-19....



Add narrative 'texture' to global reporting




Highlight work with- & roles of partners



etc.



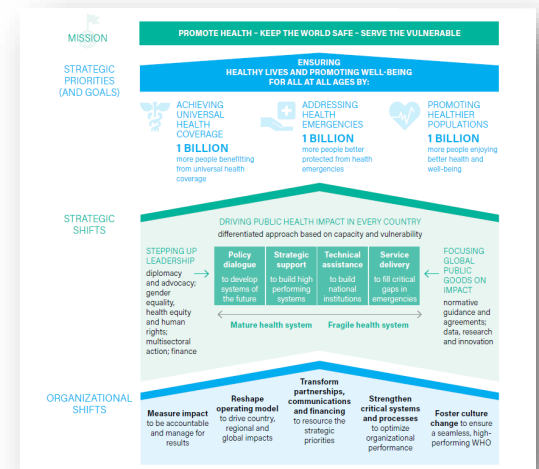
Foster organizational learning & sharing



Highlight challenges faced in countries

And....

Illustrate how WHO's Country Offices are delivering on the **GPW13 Strategic Shifts & Transformation Agenda** to support countries in the pandemic response





# Stepping-up WHO's leadership in Countries

Advocacy on equity, multisectoral action & resourcing for the COVID-19 response

## Initiating early action

**62%** of WHO country offices (WCOs) activated their Incident Management Support Team before the first reported case of COVID-19 in the country. **22%** WCOs activated IMST before COVID-19 declared a PHEIC (30 Jan)

By Feb 2020, more than half (55%) WCOs had initiated or supported MoH to initiate health sector / health cluster meetings

## Convening & leading partners

**87%** WCOs took lead role, (chairing or main technical partner) in the UNCT response & 60% concurrently led in the 'health first' pillar of the UN-SERF for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID

**Resource mobilization:** 84% WCOs raised funding for their work in 2019-20 - 46% of which was for COVID-19 response, and 21% for UHC.

59% WCOs played a lead role in the donor coordination mechanisms

**Supporting multisectoral action:** 97% Countries/areas reported functional multi-sectoral, multi-partner coordination mechanisms for COVID-19 preparedness & response

## Supporting country contributions to the global agenda

By May 2020, 68% of offices had initiated support to participate in R&D efforts – incl. Solidarity Therapeutics Trials & Unity Studies

**PAKISTAN:** Early action & coordination of partners & donors to mobilize required funds



**SOMALIA:** Leadership across Govt. entities & partners including the UN Country Team for coordinated preparedness & response planning

**COSTA RICA:** Leadership on gender, equity & rights here to address needs of indigenous people



**MALDIVES:** Supported multisectoral action & community engagement to address needs & manage risks of a large population of returning migrant workers

Full Case Studies [here](#)

# Differentiated approach to DRIVE IMPACT in countries

## Policy dialogue

to develop response policy / plans to meet countries needs & respond to global priorities

### Adapting global guidance to local contexts

By Feb 2020, **81%** of WHO Country Offices (WCOs) had initiated support for the development of the National Response Plan.

### Data for decision making

By March 2020, **81%** of country offices had supported governments to establish the issuance of weekly Sitreps

### Reviewing & learning

**47** countries have now conducted at least 1 Intra-Action Review of COVID-19 response or equivalent

## Strategic support

to improve performance & sustainability of the response & protection of the health system

### Supporting whole of society approaches

**97%** Countries/areas have a national COVID-19 RCCE Plan

**90%** Countries/areas using risk-based approaches for managing mass gatherings during COVID-19

### Maintaining essential health services

**87%** Countries/areas have defined essential health services to be maintained during COVID-19

## Technical assistance

to address specific bottlenecks & build response capacity at national & subnational levels

### Building capacity

By March 2020, **79%** of WCOs (87% of FCVs) had already initiated capacity building efforts in key technical areas

### Targeted support to priority areas & countries

**100%** Countries/areas have COVID-19 laboratory test capacity in place

**100%** Countries/areas reporting routinely through established sentinel or non-sentinel ILI, SARI, ARI surveillance system

**89%** Countries/areas have clinical referral system in place to care for COVID-19 cases

## Service delivery

to provide services, supplies & logistics where needed

### Providing critical supplies

By March 2020, **83%** of WCOs (90% of FCVs) had initiated support for supply chain and procurement

19M PCR tests, 200M masks, 8.6M face shields, 45M gloves shipped globally

12,000 ICU Beds provided through WHO surge mechanisms

COVAX shipped over 59 million vaccines to 122 participants (as of 10 May)

# Country examples of WHO's differentiated approach

## Policy dialogue

to develop response policy / plans to meet countries needs & respond to global priorities

### IRAN: Coordinated policy advice from 3 levels of WHO



As a result of a WHO led an expert Mission to Iran in March 2020, and the sharing of experiences in China & elsewhere. national health authorities were able to act upon several priority areas for scale-up. WHO also provides daily epi and health promotion updates for the entire international community in Iran to support in Organizational decision making.



### MOLDOVA: WHO supports joint Intra-Action Review

The Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection. 100 national/sub-national institutions to review & document best practices & challenges in the COVID-19 response. Future actions have identified in areas of financing, capacity building, information management & development of supply stockpiles.

## Strategic support

to improve performance & sustainability of the response & protection of the health system



### SAUDI ARABIA: WHO support an 'event free' Hajj

The national Hajj committee conducted

a risk assessment & consulted WHO before putting in place comprehensive set of measures that were ultimately successful in preventing an outbreak during last years pilgrimage

### CAMBODIA: WHO keeps focus on Malaria elimination during the COVID-19 response



Despite COVID-19 & the mass movement of migrant workers returning from Thailand, strong national action and WHO support with the drafting of an operational plan, deployment of field epidemiologists and community efforts has ensured Cambodia remains on track to eliminate Malaria 2025. In fact, Malaria cases continued to decline during COVID-19 with 83% fewer cases in Nov 2020 compared to Nov 2019 and Malaria testing increasing by 40% over the same timeframe.

## Technical assistance

to address specific bottlenecks & build response capacity at national & subnational levels

### GUINEA-BISSAU: WHO's support to increase access to oxygen

A Biomedical engineer has been deployed to rapidly assess medical oxygen & biomedical capacity in 10 hospitals. Ongoing support, training & funding for the restoration of Oxygen Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) aim to improve future clinical outcomes for COVID-19 patients and create a stronger health system for future.



### SOUTH AFRICA: WHO deploys country office staff to worst affected provinces to support the country's decentralized response

In States of Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Free State, teams of WHO staff, consultants and epidemiologists have been stationed in the provincial "war rooms" to provide day-to-day technical support with a focus on collection & reporting of COVID-19 data.



## Service delivery

to provide services, supplies & logistics where needed

### IRAQ: WHO supports the local development of testing supplies



Iraq's Basrah University and WHO innovate to overcome global supply challenges by developing & dispatching locally produced Virus Transport Medium in support of early national COVID-19 containment efforts in March 2020.

### YEMEN: WHO Brings in critical capacities & supplies to prevent a worsening humanitarian disaster

Despite travel restrictions & safety concerns due to the ongoing conflict, hundreds of specially trained rapid response teams were deployed to every district to support screening at POE, contact tracing & isolating of suspected cases. WHO fully capacitated labs for COVID-19 testing with training & supplies and 38 hospitals were upgraded with health workforce training & equipment including hundreds of ICU beds & ventilators.



# Perspectives of WHO's Representatives

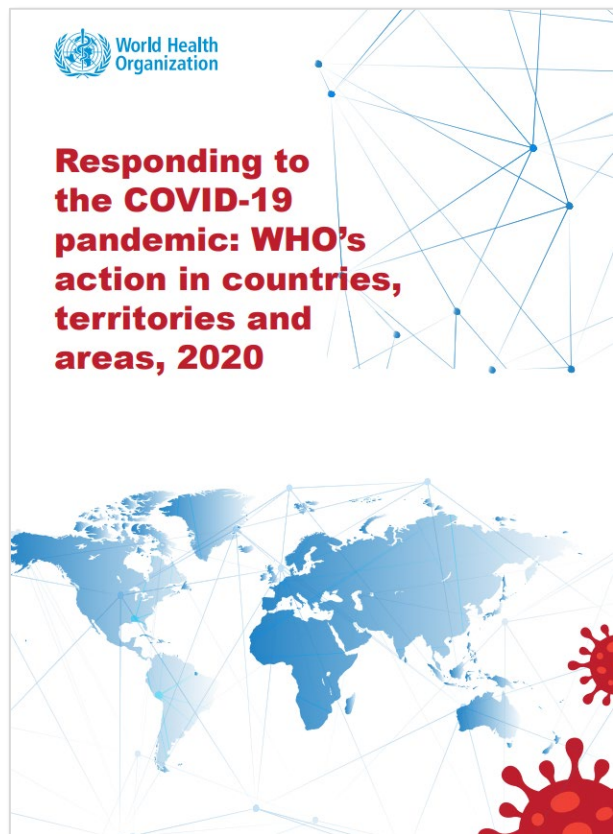
Key enablers & challenges in the COVID-19 response

	ENABLERS	CHALLENGES
INTERNAL (WHO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early repurposing of staff &amp; mobilization of funds</li> <li>WHO's leadership role &amp; partners' trust</li> <li>Quality of support from RO/HQ (incl. supply)</li> <li>Collaboration with the highest national authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Human &amp; financial resources to meet needs</b></li> <li><b>Difficult working conditions for prolonged periods</b></li> <li><b>Managing concurrent emergencies</b></li> </ul>
EXTERNAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective National leadership &amp; coordination</li> <li>Previous response experiences &amp; capacities</li> <li>Existing partner coordination – UNCT, Hlth Cluster</li> <li>Effective communication in place with the public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe disruption of the global supply chain</li> <li>Delayed/ limited access to data for decision making</li> <li>Sub-optimal multi-sectoral collaboration</li> <li>Limited emergency prep &amp; response capacities</li> </ul>



# More about WHO's presence & work in countries

## Country Case Studies 2020



<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240019225>

## Weekly Ops Updates


 The cover has a blue header with the title and date '03 May 2021' and 'Issue No. 53'. Below is a photo of a crowd. A blue bar shows 'Confirmed cases\* 152 534 452' and 'Confirmed deaths 3 198 528'. The main text discusses 'Addressing critical gaps urgently in India' and lists 'Key Figures' such as '17 646 017 PCR tests shipped globally' and '1 045 850 203 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered globally as of 2 May'.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

## Country Presence Report 2021



<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341308/9789240026360-eng.pdf>



# Introductions:

## Supporting the Republic of Uzbekistan



### Supporting the Republic of Mali



**Mbaranga Gasarabwe**

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator

**Dr Jean-Pierre Baptiste**

WHO Representative, Mali



**Dr Lianne Kuppens**

WHO Representative, Uzbekistan