COVID-19 Response
Ghana’s Experience

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Minister for Health
Background

Ghana Covid-19 Approach
• Current approach: All-of-Government Approach
  - Chaired by HE The President
• Presidential COVID-19 Coordinator appointed
  - Dr Asamoah Baah
• Inter-ministerial Committee set up (meets daily)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Cases of COVID-19</th>
<th>12 March 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases as at 3 May 2020</td>
<td>2,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Deaths</td>
<td>18 (0.8 case fatality)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Recoveries</td>
<td>229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests Conducted</td>
<td>Over 115,000</td>
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Trend of Cases

- Cumulative number of cases: N=1957 cases
- Ban on public gatherings
- Border closure and mandatory quarantine in Accra
- Hotel exit testing
- Partial lockdown in Accra and Kumasi and enhanced surveillance/testing

Dates:
- Ban on public gathering and border closure still in place
- Partial lockdown lifted
## Response Objectives and Measures introduced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Limit and stop importation of cases</td>
<td>• Border closure- land, sea and air</td>
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<td>• Flight suspension</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mandatory quarantine and testing of all arriving travelers</td>
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<td>2. Detect and contain cases</td>
<td>• Suspension of public and social gatherings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contact tracing and public education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Enforcement of social distancing rules and enhanced hygiene procedures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ghana COVID-19 Tracker App</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Lock down in 2 metropolitan areas + enhanced testing strategy – trace test and treat, community hotspot testing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quarantine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Wearing of masks in public places</td>
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</table>
### Measures introduced

<table>
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</table>
| 3. Care of the sick                                  | • Care in treatment facilities  
• Isolation facilities for mild cases  
• Tax relief and insurance package for frontline health workers |
| 4. Impact on social and economic life                | • COVID-19 fund set up  
• Coronavirus Alleviation Programme-support to households, relief for health workers, soft loans for micro, small and medium size businesses  
• Absorption of water bills and rebates for electricity |
| 5. Domestic capability and deepen self-reliance      | • Local production of PPE in garment factories  
• Local manufacture of sanitizers  
• Strengthen research, Develop Ghana CDC and infectious disease centres  
• This is in line with Ghana Beyond Aid |
Testing and Treatment approach

From 29th March
- Partial lockdown declared in Accra and Kumasi
- Extended testing conducted

By 20th April
- Partial lockdown lifted; > 100,000 tests done
- Immigration information data informs testing

Current testing approach
- Average of 100,000 tests/month (for next 3 months)
  + PCR testing sites increased to 9
  + Gene expert to 100 more sites (support PCR)
  + Mobile tests to border points
  + Rapid Test Kits (under discussion)

Treatment Team
- Treatment by Case Management Team

Treatment Sites
- Main treatment point in Accra - Ga East Municipal Hospital. Undergoing expansion.
- Mild cases housed in private sector facilities
- Treatment facilities designated in each region

Treatment
- All cases managed free at no cost to patient; in line with UHC vision
- Adapted treatment protocol in line with WHO guidelines and monitoring ongoing trials including Solidarity Trial
### Strengths and Innovations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Whole of government response</th>
<th>Public – private partnerships</th>
<th>Drone delivery of samples to testing centers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-sectoral Ministerial briefings of respective sector response at weekly press briefings</td>
<td>Isolation facilities: church, football association</td>
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<td>Multi-sector lab network mobilized</td>
<td>Local Private sector manufacture of PPE and sanitizers</td>
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<td>Products certified by Ghana FDA and Standards Authority</td>
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<td>Private sector putting up 100 bed treatment center</td>
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<td>Sequencing of the COVID-19 virus undertaken by Ghanaian scientists</td>
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<td>Rapid Diagnostic Test kit developed</td>
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<td>Enhanced testing strategy</td>
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# Challenges and Way Forward

## Challenges
- Illegal entries across the border source of imported cases
- Propagation of fake news
- Breaching of social distancing rules in some communities
- Keeping up contact tracing with increasing numbers
- ‘The Denial syndrome’ of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases
- Stigmatization of recovered patients
- Suspension of some public health response activities
  - Immunization campaign against circulating Vaccine Derived Polio virus

## Way forward
- Continue enhanced contact tracing
- Based on current treatment outcomes the plan is to classify COVID-19 cases in two groups: those with co morbid conditions and those without and manage them separately
- Identify more isolation and quarantine centres to handle the increasing number of cases and contacts
Support

• **Local resource mobilisation** for the ‘COVID-19 Fund’ established by Government

• World Bank support

• IMF

• Jack Ma donation
  • PPE, Test kits

• WHO, CDC, UN agencies, Partners

• UNICEF to support with the Gene Expert deployment

Thank You