

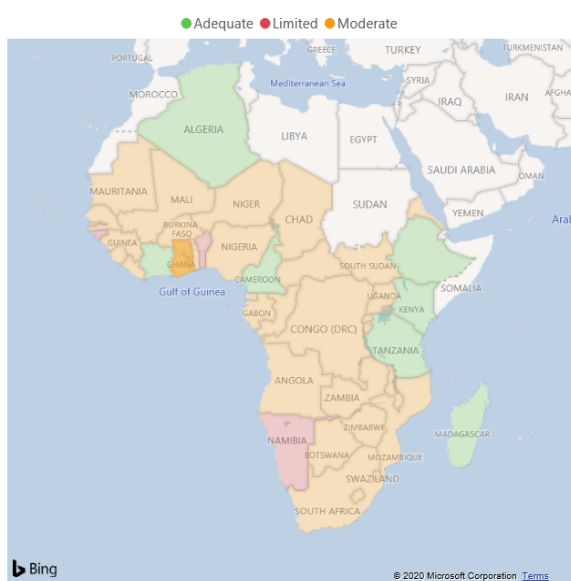
**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak –
Update on Ghana’s Preparedness as at 14 February 2020**

I. Highlights

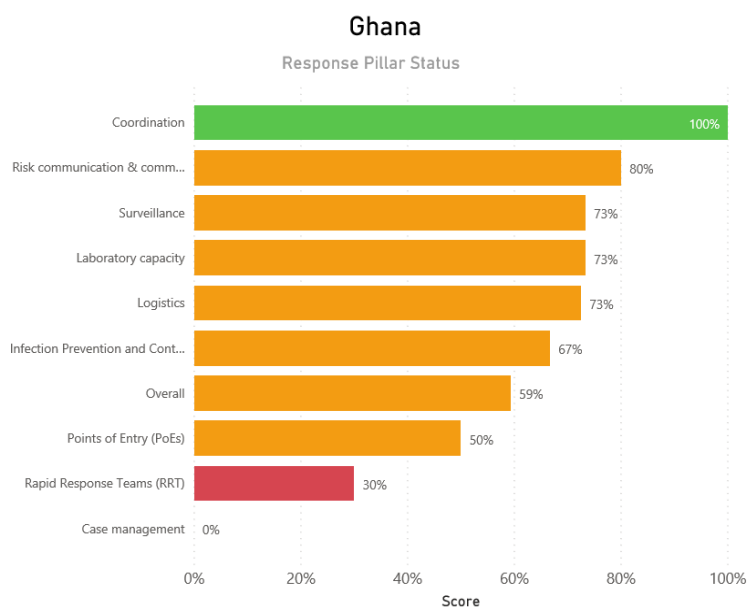
- Using WHO’s Country Readiness checklist, Ghana assessed its capacities to respond to any suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 and identified gaps to plan for preparedness, response and control activities.
- The Government of Ghana has committed 2.5 million Ghana Cedis to support preparedness.
- Various activities are being undertaken including strengthening surveillance to identify suspected COVID-19 cases for testing.
- There is capacity in country to test for COVID-19 disease (Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical research and Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research).
- So far, 15 suspected cases have been tested for with all 15 testing negative for COVID-19.
- Ghana is classified among Priority 1 countries in WHO Africa region for at being at risk based on flights and passenger volumes

II. COVID-19 Ghana Preparedness Status as at 7 February 2020

WHO African Region COVID-19 Readiness Status by Country



(select country on map to view the responses in the table below)



III. Ongoing Preparedness Activities



Coordination

- Two meetings of the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC) held to plan coordination and preparedness activities
- WHO preparedness checklist completed
- Draft COVID-19 preparedness plan developed
- Alerts issued by the Director General (DG) of Ghana Health Service (GHS) on the outbreak circulated to all regions to initiate preparedness activities and enhance surveillance for respiratory diseases.
- Meeting between DG of GHS with all Regional Directors of Health Services (RDHS) held to discuss and plan regions' preparedness for the outbreak
- Regional Public Health Emergency Management Committees activated
- Parliamentarians briefed on preparedness activities on 2 occasions
- Meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Ghana held to enhance information sharing and discuss monitoring/surveillance activities on returning Chinese Nationals to Ghana



Points of Entry (PoE)

- Stakeholder engagements with the Ghana Airport Company Limited, Ghana Immigration Services, Customs Division of Ghana Revenue Authority etc. held to strengthen COVID 19 preparedness and surveillance
- Screening of arriving passengers using thermal scanning and a health declaration form (HDF) ongoing
- PoE staff sensitized on case detection and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- Holding room at the Kotoka International Airport utilized to hold COVID 19 suspected cases



Surveillance

- COVID 19 case definition adapted and disseminated to regional and lower levels
- COVID 19 case surveillance tools form adapted and in use
- National Rapid Response Team activated



Laboratory

- Testing of suspected cases ongoing at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research
- Out of the 15 suspected cases testing negative for COVID 19, 5 tested positive for Influenza
- Capacity to test for COVID 19 cases also established at The Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR)



Case management / Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- COVID 19 case management protocols adapted from WHO protocols
- Greater Accra Regional (Ridge) and Tema General Hospitals designated as treatment/isolation centres.
- Technical support visits undertaken by GHS Institutional Care Division (ICD) to designated facilities to assess IPC measures, logistics, etc
- Staff at the two identified treatment centres (Tema and Ridge) given preliminary training in case management and IPC
- Four other facilities (Ga East, Police, LEKMA and Korle Bu Teaching Hospitals) identified as additional facilities to support case management



Risk Communication/ Social Mobilization

- Media briefing on prepared activities conducted by the Ministry of Health
- Key messages and educational materials on Corona virus preparedness and preventive measures developed and disseminated
- Preventive messages on COVID 19 and related instructions to passengers broadcast on airport screens
- Four press releases on COVID 19 issued by the Minister of Health providing:
 - Information on evolution of the outbreak globally, clinical symptoms, directions on prevention and measures being taken within the country to early detect and manage possible cases
 - Updates on the country's preparedness activities and on cases suspected and tested
- Radio and television discussions/engagements on the outbreak and Ghana's preparedness activities by GHS officials ongoing



Logistics

- Five thousand (5,000) PPEs provided by the government distributed to all regions, PoE and treatment centres

IV. WHO Support for COVID Preparedness

Coordination

- The WHO Country Representative has co-chaired the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC) meetings
- Supporting coordination meetings between Ghana Health Service and other partners highlighting gaps in priority areas for support

- Supporting the country to complete their preparedness and response plans and to identify specific gaps requiring support
- Supported the country to complete its preparedness checklist

Surveillance/ Points of Entry

- The WHO Country Office (WCO) has shared WHO COVID-19 guidelines and tools on surveillance and points of entry
- Supported adaptation of case definition and POE screening tools
- Supported the country with adaptation of tools, such as the case investigation form and guidance on its application
- The WCO has shared situation reports to MOH, NTCC members, UNCT and partners highlighting the global situation daily
- Offered support to train Rapid Response Teams and points of entry staff in surveillance, rapid response and preparedness activities

Laboratory

- The WCO has shared WHO COVID-19 guidelines and laboratory protocols for testing COVID-19
- WHO has ordered reagents for COVID-19 testing

Case management/IPC

- The WCO has shared WHO COVID-19 guidelines and tools on case management and infection prevention and control for adaptation

Risk Communication

- Disseminated risk communication messages on COVID-19 for adaptation in Ghana
- Supported the country to develop risk communication messages on COVID-19
- Adapted and shared simplified presentation on COVID-19 for information sharing to non-technical audiences
- Released three media advisory notes

Other activities

- Briefing of UN heads of agencies on preparedness activities
- Supporting the filling of the 2019-nCoV preparedness and response checklist for UN duty stations
- Providing technical support to UN COVID-19 emergency committee
- Support the UN Clinic to sensitize staff of UN agencies on COVID 19

VI. Challenges

- Inadequate funding to implement the various preparedness activities planned.
- Support from Government so far has gone towards the provision of PPEs, coordination activities, health declaration forms.
- Additional funding will be required to implement remaining activities.
- WHO is supporting the country to identify priority areas as per the WHO national capacities tool to map out and access support for the preparedness process.
- Total budget for COVID-19 preparedness stands at 35 million Ghana Cedis. The table below presents funding gap for prioritised activities

Intervention area	Funding requirement (GHS)	Funding requirement (USD)
Capacity building	502,600.00	91,548.27
Surveillance	130,000.00	23,679.42
Risk communication	566,600.00	103,205.83
Equipment and logistics	2,505,000.00	456,284.15
Laboratory	497,367.00	90,595.08
TOTAL	4,071,567.00	741,633.33

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