Situation Update

On February 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed an official name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus: Covid-19. The acronym stands for coronavirus disease 2019, as the illness was first detected in December 2019. As of February 13, Covid-19 has infected more than 60,000 people, spanning 25 countries. The number of deaths attributed to the illness is 1,370, with the majority of deaths reported in the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The death toll has surpassed the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) pandemic of 2002–2003, which resulted in more than 8,000 cases in 26 countries and led to more than 770 deaths.1

In the past 24 hours, no new countries have reported cases of Covid-19. WHO has stated that among the 24 countries outside of PRC, the majority of cases are linked to an exposure in China. In addition, of the total worldwide 60,000 confirmed cases, WHO has classified more than 8,200 cases as severe. For the elderly and those with underlying heart disease, diabetes or other health conditions, Covid-19 can be quite severe.

Technical Guidance
WHO Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Technical Guidance landing page:

CDC update and interim guidance on the outbreak:
https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00427.asp

FAST FACTS
• As of February 13, Johns Hopkins University reports more than 60,000 laboratory- and clinically-confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), in 25 countries.
• 59,826 of the reported cases are in the People’s Republic of China (PRC).
• 1,370 deaths have been reported, with the majority occurring in PRC.
• The number of confirmed cases outside of the PRC has increased to 537.
• No new countries reported cases of Covid-19 in the past 24 hours.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

International Medical Corps is responding in five high-risk countries, where we have field teams and are working with national and local partners to address preparedness issues for Covid-19. These countries—the Philippines, Ethiopia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria—are considered high-risk due to their limited public health capacity. To efficiently address critical response needs, International Medical Corps has launched emergency programming to rapidly expand local capacity to address the threat of Covid-19. This approach consists of technical assistance and equipment related to infection prevention and control (IPC); case management; train-the-trainer sessions on communicable disease prevention; establishing emergency coordination and partnerships; and proper use of and access to personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Philippines

As of February 13, the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) has recorded a total of 441 suspected cases of Covid-19. Of the 441 suspected cases, three have been confirmed, 208 have been negative and 230 are still awaiting lab results. In anticipation of cases, the DOH has identified four hospitals that may act as testing facilities. The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine is preparing to equip the DOH with subnational reference laboratories with the capacity to perform testing for Covid-19.

Given the confirmed cases, International Medical Corps has deployed experts in logistics, training and operations to Manila to support the field team and local partners’ preparedness activities. On February 12, the team delivered 200 PPE kits to the Manila Health Department, which will disseminate them to six public hospitals in the city. Each kit includes masks, gloves, goggles, gowns and other critical items that have become scarce during the Covid-19 outbreak. In the coming weeks, International Medical Corps will procure additional PPE and supplies to support IPC and preparedness activities in the region.

International Medical Corps also is working with the Manila Health Department to finalize a training-of-trainers curriculum related to management of emerging infectious diseases by health facilities. Participants will include health professionals from the city’s six district health offices and hospitals who will use the knowledge and tools they gain to train staff in the city’s 58 health centers. Additionally, the trainers will also host training sessions for emergency response teams that have been established in the city’s barangays, or wards.

Ethiopia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria

International Medical Corps country teams are working with the various Ministries of Health and health partners to support infectious-disease response planning and preparedness. Specifically, our local and regional teams are coordinating their efforts within the key areas related to IPC, training and risk communications as the emergency develops. In these high-risk countries, Covid-19 transmission has not yet been confirmed, highlighting the importance of disease-control preparedness activities and enhanced disease monitoring.

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