COVID-19 SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS (as of 13 May 2020, 11:00 AM)

GLOBAL: 4,215,915+ Confirmed Cases 287,809+ Total Deaths

AFRICAN REGION: 69,579+ Confirmed Cases 2,402+ Total Deaths

CAMEROON: 2,865 Confirmed Cases 128 Total Deaths

SOUTH WEST REGION (as of 12 May 2020):
35 Confirmed Cases 322 Total Tested 01 Total Deaths 150,000 + Total Passengers Screened

NORTH WEST REGION (as of 12 May 2020):
20 Confirmed Cases 153 Total Tested 04 Total Deaths 140,000 + Total Passengers Screened

COVID-19 CASES PER SEX IN NWSW REGIONS:
74% Male 26% Female

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:
The Laboratory for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the University of Buea is operational for COVID-19 cases testing in South West (SW) region.
- The Secretary of State for the Ministry of the Health paid a visit in SW Region to appreciate the COVID-19 response on 07 May 2020.
- The WHO is supporting the Cholera programme for Toki Health district, in SW region.
- The WHO Incident Manager from AFRO region and Polio Programme Coordinator from Yaoundé on mission to SW region to support the COVID-19 response.
- The Health Cluster and SW regional delegation for health rolled-out a Rapid assessment of all health facilities capacity for COVID-19 response.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:
- The region is still in need of more personal protective equipment;
- A training for Mortuary attendants and council staff in the safe management and burial of bodies of COVID-19 related deaths;
- A training of the Community Health Workers (CHWs) on IPC in communities, and the follow up of contacts in COVID-19 affected health districts.
- Triage and screening points require at the entrance of health facilities in both regions.

CHALLENGES:
- Insufficient stock of personal protective equipment to meet with the huge demand in the regions.
- Majority of the Health Districts are still to be capacitated and empowered to carry out contact tracing.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly spreading with an upsurge of cases in both regions and in Cameroon”
KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN SW REGION (focused on COVID-19):

- A total of 363 persons suspected of COVID-19 have been tested and 35 confirmed positive.
- 03 deaths have been recorded so far due to COVID-19 (01 within, and 02 out of the Region)
- There are 13 active cases in the Region and 04 referrals have been done out of the Region
- Through contact tracing, a total of 242 contacts have been tested and 17 (7%) confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- The Laboratory for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the University of Buea started testing for COVID-19 on the 05th of May 2020, and so far, 10 samples have tested with 02 declared positive cases.
- An Ambulance donated by the Chinese Government to the Buea Regional Hospital to assist in the transportation of cases.
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Coordination

- A team from the Central Level is in the Region to supervise the various aspects of elements COVID-19 response (coordination, management units, testing sites, Incident management system etc.) at the SW delegation of health in the area of contact tracing and reporting.
- Weekly meetings are held between the Regional Incident Management team and partners involved in the fight against COVID-19 to follow-up and strengthen the Regional response plan. Recommendations from this meeting are channelled to the Regional Scientific Committee through the Regional Delegate.

Surveillance / Contact Tracing

- Case definition has been contextualized; anyone reporting with difficult breathing, body weakness or flu-like symptoms such as cough, fever, headache, sneezing etc., of unknown origin, accompanied by travel history to an exposed area or having made contact with a confirmed case from the 20 February 2020 (Source National SOP).
- The case definition has been made available to all health districts to enable tracking of suspected cases; however formal training is still being awaited.

Laboratory

- The Laboratory for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the University of Buea, one out of the two facilities recently selected by the Ministry of Health for COVID-19 testing went operational on the 05 May 2020.
- Results for 40 specimens are still being awaited from Yaounde.
- MSF is assisting in transporting the samples from Mamfe and Kumba to Buea.

Case Management

- There are 13 active cases in the Region, all of them are in Limbe.
- At the moment, there are 02 suspected cases at the COVID-19 Centre of Buea Regional Hospital, 01 on Oxygen
- 06 cases have been referred out of the Region for better management.

Communication

- Training of some media organs on COVID-19 was done at the Region on the 07 May 2020.
- On the 11 May 2020, the Region received 2000 posters and 2000 flyers on COVID-19 from UNICEF.

Sensitization

- The Norwegian Refugee Council has trained 20 Community Health Workers on sensitization and WASH in Limbe, Muyuka and Tiko Health Districts and they provided Soaps, posters and sensitization materials.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN SW REGION (focused on COVID-19):

Sensitization
- Screening and sensitization are ongoing at the Mungo Bridge with over 150,000 persons screened already by three Health Districts in alternation (Muyuka, Buea and Limbe).
- More than 3000 people have been sensitized by some local NGOs and associations carrying out sensitization activities in Buea, Limbe, Tiko and Kumba Health Districts.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- A training on IPC is being planned for sanitation officers of Buea, Tiko, Limbe and Kumba Councils as well as mortuary staff.
- The Councils have set up hand wash points at different locations of their municipalities.
- Some local NGOs and associations have been doing a lot in terms of IPC, distributing masks in some communities in Buea, Limbe and Tiko and also installing hand wash points.

Logistics
- The Region received some 30 gallons of Chlorine from UNICEF alongside some sensitization materials.
- Following the reception of a huge consignment of personal protective equipment from the Central Level, the Region has been distributing to the Health Districts and Health Facilities since the 04th May 2020; Tiko, Limbe and Mbonge Districts served already.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN NW REGION (focused on COVID-19):

- Coordination meeting chaired by the governor on 06 May 2020.
- Technical coordination meeting chaired by the Regional Delegate with the participation of NGOs and UN agencies (OCHA, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF).
- The region received various material in response to COVID-19 from Central level.
- ICRC made a donation of hygiene and sanitation materials (buckets, soap, sanitizers) as well as office furniture's (chairs, tables) for the screening station of Matazem.
- The construction of the Matazem screening station is completed and received two ambulances from central government.
- Transfer of 10 health personnel to the Santa Health District to contribute to the functioning of the Matazem screening station.
- The Regional delegate and seven other staff from the region have participated to a training on the use of CHWs for contact tracing in Bafoussam. They took this opportunity to get the experience of the West region on the response to COVID 19, including the set up of an Incident Command System (ISC).
- 04 old building of the regional delegation will be used to setup the incident command center.
- 40 calls received from the communities and the call centre continues to receive calls from the population.
- The laboratory has the capacity for testing the COVID-19 cases using PCR and the laboratory receiving samples from the Western region.
- More than 105,000 persons at Matazem and 6,800 persons in Widikum screened as of 05 May 2020.
- 106 suspected cases tested by the lab for the NWR.
- All positive cases presented no symptoms or mild symptoms and are in quarantine at Azam Hotel in Bamenda.
HEALTH AND WASH CLUSTER PARTNERS ACTIVITIES (COVID-19):

WHO organized the World Maternal Mental Health Day (WMMHD) on 6 May 2020 celebration at Kumba Baptist Health Center (KBHC), in the SW region. About 50 hospital staff and health workers participated in a celebration and a short training activity conducted.

Health workers and staff participated in the presentation on World Maternal Mental Health Day 2020. Presented and organized by Mr. Didier Demassosso, Clinical Psychologist/Mental Health Expert/WHO.

Screening of pregnant women presented with a social distance at the maternity during WMMHD 2020.

At the maternity the department, 29 women, mean age 23 years, with the youngest 19 years and oldest 36 years, were screened for perinatal depression. 18 out of 29 had perinatal or antenatal depression thus 62%. The screening of pregnant women presented with a social distance at the center during WMHHD 2020.

Superior Health Foundation (SHF) reacted to an outbreak of the pandemic (Covid-19) by partnering with local civil society (Local youth Corner), to start the campaign "Operation One Person & One Hand sanitizer". SHF started by transforming an office space into a rapid response laboratory-produced homemade hand sanitizers as per WHO guidelines. The process was controlled and validated by the Ministry of Health and UN clinic.

In the south-west region, SHF distributed 4000 hand sanitizers, in the Tiko Municipality, 2000 in limbe, 2500 in Buea (Molyko, Bwassa, Bokwai, Likombe, Buea Town), 600 in Kumba (Fiango), 100 in kwa kwa and 100 in Kombone. The distribution goes alongside sensitization using mass media, door to door sensitization and place door stickers on every house and at street entrances.
VALUE HEALTH AFRICA (VAHA) CAMEROON has been carrying out several activities ranging from community sensitization (both online and offline), capacity building, and technical support within the national territory. Below are highlights of some of major activities on COVID-19:

- 20 Community Health workers (CHWs) trained and equipped with reporting tools for community surveillance.
- A taskforce was formed to ensure the enforcement of recommendations (4 police officers, 3 municipal police and 2 members of VAHA Africa’s team) in Buea Sub-division.
- Technical support to the divisional office of the Buea sub-division for the fight against COVID-19.
- Installed 10 handwash stations in 10 communities in Buea Sub-division.
- About 500 people were thought of how to wash adequately their hands.
- Trained 20 journalists in the south-west region on the 7 May on risk communication of COVID-19.
- Community need assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on displaced population conducted in Littoral, Bamenda and Buea.

IRC reached around 8,637 people with COVID-19 message so far (4049 males and 4,588 females) in Tiko and Muea in Fako Division in SW region since 01 April 2020 and additionally the community health volunteers carried out sensitization in Bakassi health district.

"Community members are asking for the provision of masks as they seem to be sharing their masks with other family members at home. This is to avoid getting arrested when they move out of their homes during the day"