

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 16 April 2020

UN provides vital supplies for Nigeria Government's COVID-19 response

Abuja, Nigeria, 16 April 2020 – The United Nations today received delivery of vital health supplies to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria on a flight funded by APM Terminals.

The supplies, made up of 10,000 test kits, 15 oxygen concentrators, and various personal protective equipment (PPE), vaccines, IEHK/PEP kits, and other vital health supplies, will support the Nigerian Government's COVID-19 Response Plan and UNICEF's work with children and families in Nigeria.

The supplies will also support the Government of Nigeria, through the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in affected states across the country. The supplies are co-financed by the European Union (EU) and IHS Nigeria, the Nigerian subsidiary of IHS Towers.

Additional COVID-19 response supplies are expected in a UN joint flight to be delivered to Nigeria in the coming days.

The personal protection equipment (PPEs) will protect medical personnel and ancillary staff who are the first responders in the frontline, providing care and treatment to people affected by the virus. The test kits will enable healthcare workers to test those who suspect they may have the virus to verify their health status, so they can get treatment and protect their families and communities.

"We know that to limit the spread of the virus, it is important to test as many people as possible, especially those with recent travel history and those who came into contact with travelers. These test kits will support Nigeria's drive to control the transmission of COVID-19 infections and support the Government's ongoing strong efforts to protect the country from an escalating pandemic," said Edward Kallon, the UN's Resident Coordinator in Nigeria.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus in Nigeria in late February, the UN has been supporting the Government of Nigeria to respond to the pandemic through risk communications and community engagement, infection prevention and control, epidemiology/surveillance and management of coronavirus cases.

Working with government and other partners, the UN is developing and disseminating messages, infographics, and audio-visual material informing the public about the risks of COVID-19 across the country, and how to protect oneself.

"Working closely together with the Government and other partners, including the private sector, is the surest way of preventing and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for the support of the EU and IHS in getting these vital supplies to strengthen the UN's efforts in helping the Government of Nigeria to address the COVID-19 challenge," said Edward Kallon.

For further information, please contact:

Eliana Drakopoulos – Chief of Communications, UNICEF Nigeria | +234 803 525 0273 | edrakopoulos@unicef.org

Ngele Ali – Head of Communications, UNDP Nigeria | +234 907 031 1732 | ngele.ali@undp.org

Oluseyi Soremekun – National Information Officer, UNIC Nigeria | soremekun@un.org