

Highlights

- Of the 60 confirmed cases, two patients have died, 18 have recovered and 40 are under follow-up. Most confirmed cases are in Tripoli (45 including 2 deaths) followed by Misrata (10), Benghazi (4) and Surman (1).
- Thus far, a total of 1181 samples have been tested (327 in Benghazi and 854 in Tripoli).
- At WHO’s urging, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has overturned its earlier decision to suspend almost all childhood vaccination for one month. Vaccination will resume with immediate effect.
- WHO continues to seek clarity over the LYD 500 million (USD 351 million) earmarked for COVID-19 by the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli. WHO has learned that the funds are earmarked for several sectors, not just for health, but still has no information about how and when the funds will be allocated.
- The 10-day lockdown imposed by the GNA will end on 26 April. Thereafter, a partial curfew (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) will be imposed for another 10 days.
- The fighting continues. GNA forces have launched “Peace Storm Operation” against Libyan National Army (LNA) soldiers in Tarhouna (80 km south of Tripoli). Shelling continues near Mitiga airport in Tripoli. According to the MoH, four health staff have been abducted from a hospital in Sirte.
- The residents of greater Tripoli continue to be affected by severe water shortages.

Collaboration with national authorities

- Both sides in the conflict have established high-level committees to review the science and establish policies. WHO is working with authorities in both the east and west:
 - The GNA in Tripoli has set up an inter-ministerial committee that reports directly to Prime Minister Sarraj. The committee develops COVID-19 policies and works closely with the scientific committee (SC) (also set up by the Prime Minister) and the MoH. WHO understands that the inter-ministerial committee is taking its cue and guidance from the SC. WHO attends the weekly meetings of the SC, where it is given ample opportunities to contribute to discussions.
 - In Benghazi, the supreme COVID-19 committee led by General Al Nadori is responsible for policies and works closely with the LNA scientific committee that is providing technical guidance. General Haftar (the head of the LNA) has made it clear that he looks to WHO for authoritative and impartial scientific and public health guidance.
- In Tripoli, the MoH and SC are reviewing the initial 9-pillar preparedness and response plan; they indicated to WHO that they were confident the plan would be approved and funding released in the next couple of weeks.
- The SC in Tripoli will nominate UN representatives to participate in each of the nine pillars of its preparedness and response plan¹.
- While the focus remains on the immediate response, both the GNA and LNA indicated that they would look to WHO for guidance on the post-lockdown phase.

Response

- WHO's response is organized around nine pillars:

Pillar 1: Coordination

- The health sector carried out a rapid survey of the impact of COVID-19 on health partners' operations in Libya. The results of the survey will be published in the next 48 hours.

Pillar 2: Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO has distributed eight different health awareness materials and disseminated them widely (west, south and east).

Pillar 3: Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has called on all municipalities to work closely with it on the COVID-19 response, especially for rapid response, contact tracing and disease surveillance.
- The MoH in Tripoli has made vehicles available to the NCDC to support the response.

¹ 1. Coordination and leadership: WHO. 2. Surveillance/RRT/case investigation: WHO. 3) National laboratories: WHO. 4. Points of entry: IOM and WHO. 5. Risk communications and community engagement: UNICEF. 6. IPC: UNICEF and WHO. 7. Case management: WHO. 8. Operational support and logistics: WHO. 9. Essential health services: UNFPA and UNICEF.

Pillar 4: Points of entry

- The government in Tripoli has announced it is finalizing procedures to repatriate Libyans outside the country. They will be required to travel through either Spain, Turkey, Tunisia or Egypt, where they will undergo mandatory testing followed by 14-day quarantine before being granted approval to return to Libya.

Pillar 5: National laboratory

- Of the WHO stocks that have arrived in Benghazi, 25 000 swabs and 200 PCR kits will be given to the laboratory in Benghazi. The remaining 25 000 swabs and 100 PCR kits will be sent to Tripoli. (Tripoli will receive the greater share of the donation from the Jack Ma and Alibaba Foundations, which has just arrived.)
- WHO's hub in Dubai is dispatching 20 000 surgical masks, 50 000 examination gloves, as well as laboratory, trauma and noncommunicable disease kits to support both COVID-19 and the ongoing health emergency in Libya.

Pillar 6: Infection prevention and control

- The MoH has delivered another shipment of PPE to the NCDC in Tripoli. The supplies include 1000 protective suits, goggles and face masks.

Pillar 7: Case management

- Case management (which initially focused on Tripoli) is being expanded to other parts of the country. The MoH in Tripoli is prioritizing Al Khadra hospital, Mitiga isolation centre, the ophthalmology hospital, Tripoli University Hospital, Central Tripoli Hospital, Abu Site hospital and Souq al Tulata isolation centre.
- The MoH is establishing/refurbishing isolation sites across the country to support a move away from home isolation to mandatory institutional isolation. It has informed WHO that final figures on isolation and hospitalization capacity are being reviewed and will be shared in due course.

Pillar 8: Operational support and logistics

- WHO will participate in the UN's recently established COVID-19 supply chain task force to provide countries with essential supplies. One of WHO's main roles will be to provide the task force with a dynamic understanding of supplies required to halt the spread of the disease.

Pillar 9: Maintaining essential health services

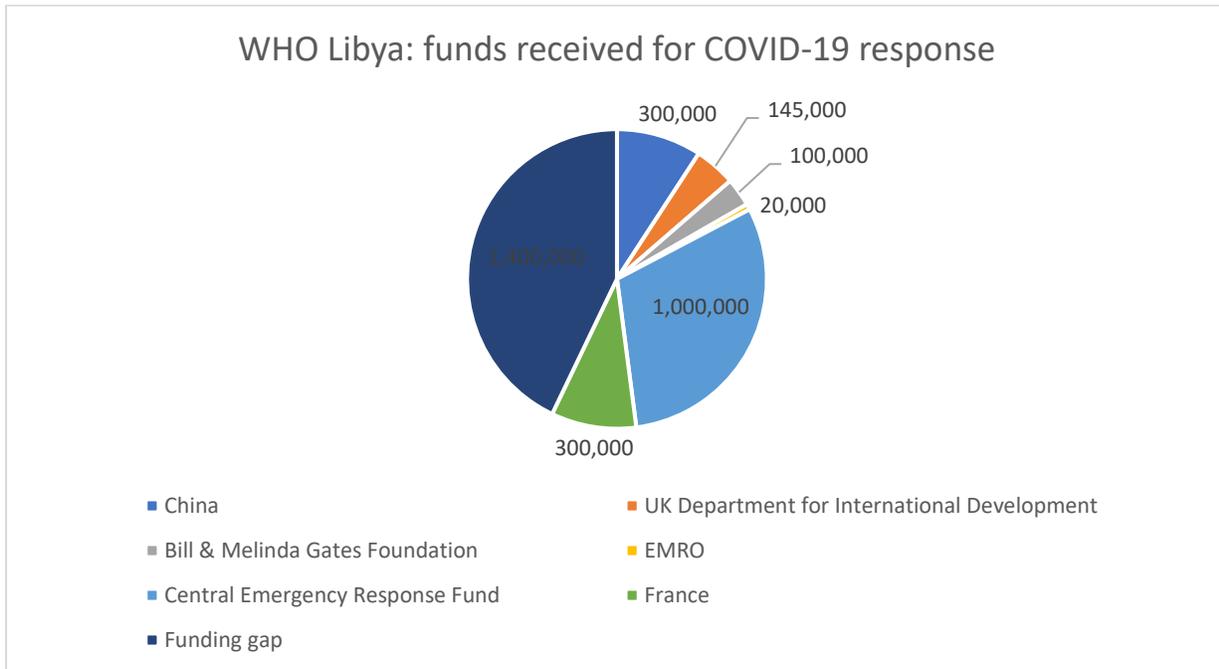
- WHO is preparing a distribution plan for 509 standard health kits that have been cleared by customs and are ready for dispatch.

Training

- Thus far, WHO has supported, conducted or facilitated COVID-19 training for over 1000 health workers. See Annex 1.

FUNDS RECEIVED BY WHO

WHO has requested USD 3 265 000 to support the response to COVID-19 in Libya. Thus far, it has received USD 1 865 000 in contributions and firm pledges. It is preparing funding proposals for the African Development Bank (USD 500 000) and the EU (EUR 6 million each for WHO, UNICEF and IOM).



ANNEX 1 – TRAINING

| TRAINING COURSES CONDUCTED, SUPPORTED OR FACILITATED BY WHO AS OF 22 APRIL 2020 | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| N° | Training topic | Dates | Location | N° of staff trained |
| 1 | Risk communication | 24-Feb-20 | Tripoli | 22 |
| 2 | Rapid response teams | 4-5 Mar 2020 | Tripoli | 17 |
| 3 | Rapid response teams | 11-12 Mar 2020 | Benghazi | 13 |
| 4 | Case management & infection prevention & control (IPC) | 14-15 Mar 2020 | Tripoli | 27 |
| 5 | Scientific day on COVID-19 in cooperation with the University of Tobruk | 10-Mar-2020 | Tobruk | 73 |
| 6 | COVID-19 case definition and IPC for health workers | 14-Mar-2020 | Tobruk | 45 |
| 7 | COVID-19 case definition, PPEs, and IPC for health workers | 22-Mar-2020 | Benghazi | 45 |
| 8 | COVID-19 case definition, PPEs, and IPC for health workers | 23-Mar-2020 | Albaida | 39 |
| 9 | COVID-19 case definition, PPEs, and IPC for health workers | 24-Mar-2020 | Derna | 32 |
| 10 | Education day on COVID-19: mode of disease transmission, preventive measurements and personal hygiene, targeting police and security force | 28-Mar-2020 | Tobruk | 130 |
| 11 | Life-saving skills for CHWs in IDP settings | 29-Mar-2020 | Almarij | 42 |
| 12 | Education for COVID 19 + IPC | 7-Mar-2020 | Sabha | 55 |
| 13 | IPC During COVID 19 | 18-Mar-2020 | Sabha | 20 |
| 14 | Education for COVID 19 + IPC | 19-Mar-2020 | Sabha | 10 |
| 15 | IPC During COVID 19 for medical doctors | 25-Mar-2020 | Sabha | 44 |
| 16 | Case management and ICU management for physicians | 26-Mar-2020 | Sabha | 43 |
| 17 | Optimum breastfeeding practices and safe motherhood with home precaution measures against COVID-19 | 30-Mar-2020 | Tripoli | 11 |
| 18 | Optimum breastfeeding practices and safe motherhood with home precaution measures against COVID-19 | 31-Mar-2020 | Tripoli | 20 |
| 19 | Training-of-trainers: rapid response teams | 6-Apr-20 | Tripoli | 25 |
| 20 | Case definition and IPC training workshop | 4-Apr-20 | Tobruk | 34 |
| 21 | COVID-19-oriented training activities | 4-Apr-20 | Briga | 86 |
| 22 | Case definition and home care for patients with suspected COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms, and management of their contacts | 4-Apr-20 | Al-Wahat "Shkhira" (South-East) | 99 |
| 23 | Case definition and home care for patients with suspected COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms, and management of their contacts (two groups) | 4-Apr-20 | Tobruk | 42 |
| 24 | Case definition and home care for patients with suspected COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms, and management of their contacts (two groups) | 4-Apr-20 | Tobruk | 38 |
| 25 | COVID-19 case definition | 20-Apr-20 | Tripoli | 20 |
| TOTAL | | | | 1032 |