

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Situation Report 7 Philippines 20 March 2020

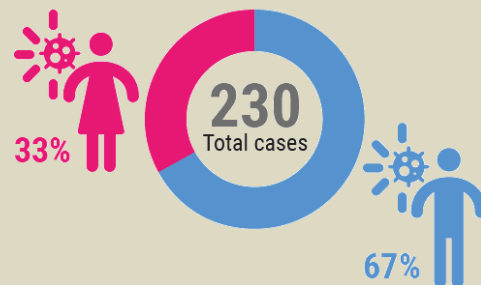
Data reported by the Department of Health on 20 March 2020

Highlights

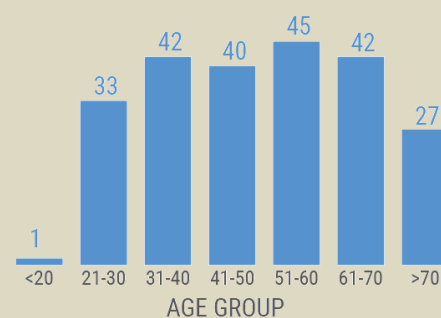
- **28 new cases tested positive for COVID-19 and 1 additional death was reported since 18 March 2020**
- Out of 230 confirmed cases, 30% are imported from outside of the Philippines or categorised as localized transmission, with remaining cases unknown or under investigation.
- Department of Health (DOH) streamlining an online case investigation and contact tracing system with Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at regional, provincial, city and municipal level to speed up data collection and sharing.
- Ministry of Health in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) finalizing its response plan jointly with partners upon 1 confirmed death in Marawi from a confirmed case with recent travel history to Malaysia.
- **Luzon-wide community quarantine** in place with many parts of the Philippines taking similar measures.
- DOH preparing four hospitals in National Capital Region (NCR) dedicated for COVID-19 patients: Lung Centre (400 beds), Philippine General Hospital (400 beds), Dr Jose M Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (75 beds) and Las Piñas General Hospital (75 beds)
- **Community quarantine measures aimed at decreasing stress on health facilities through minimizing risk of infection, potentially resulting in lower morbidity and mortality. Key focus on at-risk groups including elderly and people with underlying health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension**
- Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) currently testing 450 samples for COVID-19 per day, supported by 4 sub national laboratories in Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila. Private hospital laboratory assessment ongoing
- Global shortages of urgently needed supplies seriously impeding ongoing procurements.
- Costed Humanitarian Country Team Response Plan being finalized to further align ongoing efforts to support the government in responding to the outbreak.

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



18 deaths (1 new)

506 admitted Persons Under Investigation

6,321 Persons Under Monitoring

1,269 samples tested

<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

DOH COVID-19 HOTLINE

OPEN TO ALL CALLERS NATIONWIDE:

(02) 894-COVID

(02) 894-26843

FOR PLDT, SMART, SUN,
AND TNT SUBSCRIBERS:

1555

We're working to have the 1555 hotline accessible for all.

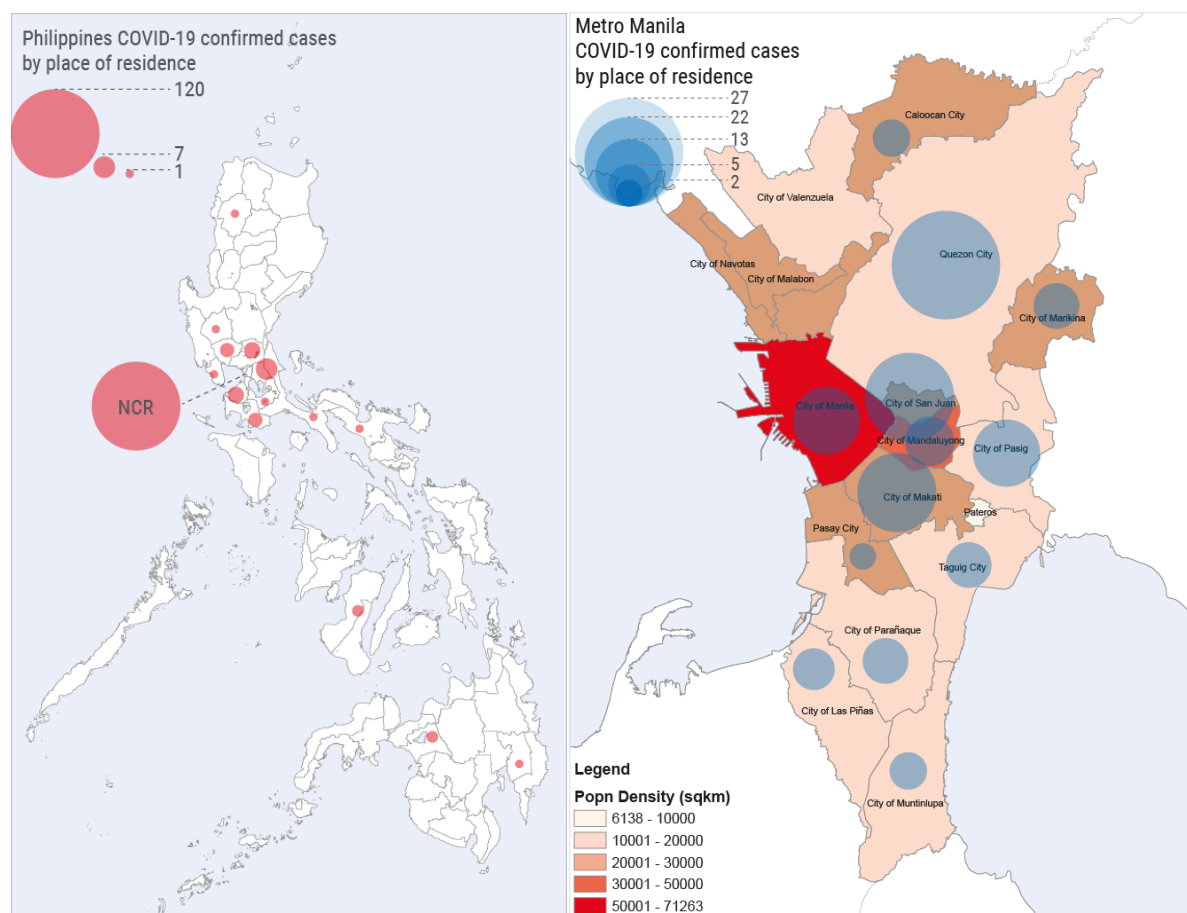
Current Situation

Between 18 and 20 March, 28 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Philippines, and one additional death, totalling 230 confirmed cases, including 18 deaths.

Out of total 18 deaths, 81% are male, and the majority are 60 years and older, ranging between 39 and 88 years of age with a median age of 66. 93% of deaths had either one or several known co-morbidities including diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension.

76% of all cases are located inside Metro Manila. Active contact tracing and case investigation is ongoing, looking for clustering of cases.

Among the 230 confirmed cases, 153 are male (67%) and 78 are female (33%). The most affected age groups are 51-60 (20%) followed by 61-70 years and 31-40 years (both at 18%)



© Maps prepared by OCHA. Source: Department of Health

Country readiness and response operations

Country-level coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Response Plan for COVID-19 is being finalized. The final version will be shared with the government to ensure alignment with partners' commitments.

COVID-19-related restrictions are hindering many NGO partners in ongoing operations to provide support to displaced populations affected by recent disasters. WHO is advocating with DOH for supporting partners' exemption requests for increased access.

The BARMM Ministry of Health (MOH) finalized its response plan, with support from humanitarian partners including UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and the World Bank. MOH BARMM activated its EOC and is using daily reports.

The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos issued a memorandum circular on the temporary suspension of religious gatherings in areas with community quarantine in place

OCHA is supporting WHO in mapping all partner interventions.

All relevant guidelines, issuances, and documents from key government departments on actions taken so far are available online at bit.ly/COVIDPH.

Risk communication and community engagement

NGO partners like Americares are supporting with dissemination of unified video messages on handwashing, social distancing and others using social media platforms.

Americares has been disseminating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) guidelines and messaging in Cebu and Leyte for local health workers, volunteers, Local Government Units (LGUs) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices (DRRMOs).

All official DOH communication materials are available at: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov/infographics> and <https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/Gabay-sa-Publiko>

Surveillance

DOH has set up an online system to speed up data collection on confirmed and suspected cases as well as contacts from Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at municipal, city, provincial and regional level. Further rumour-based investigations are ongoing to look for clusters of unknown diseases.

DOH is also enhancing its surveillance of Influenza Like Illness and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness to actively find suspected COVID-19 cases.

National laboratory system

RITM currently testing 450 samples for COVID-19 per day, supported by 4 sub national laboratories (Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila), soon to be followed by the University of the Philippines National Institute for Health (UP-NIH). Private hospital laboratory assessment ongoing

Global shortage of key supplies is resulting in serious delays with delivery of reagents, primers, probes, extraction kits and transport media. WHO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are supporting DOH with the sourcing of urgently required laboratory supplies.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a [list](#) of 8 commercial COVID-19 PCR-based reagent kits certified for use in the Philippines.

Infection prevention and control

As soon as DOH finalizes its guidelines on IPC, training manuals will be adapted into online modules for public and private hospital focal points as well as for community health workers, focused on rational use of PPE, hygiene and waste management, supported by USAID's Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPs), UNICEF and WHO.



Social distancing in the queue for thermal scanning when crossing a checkpoint in Lanao del Sur (BARMM)



Americares donating 1,440 N95 masks to DOH

Case management and continuity of essential services

DOH is drafting a MHPSS response plan for COVID 19. WHO is looking into how to best support DOH with ensuring the continuation of essential health care services, including TB, HIV, mother and child health care, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, and routine immunization through use-friendly and practical guidance.

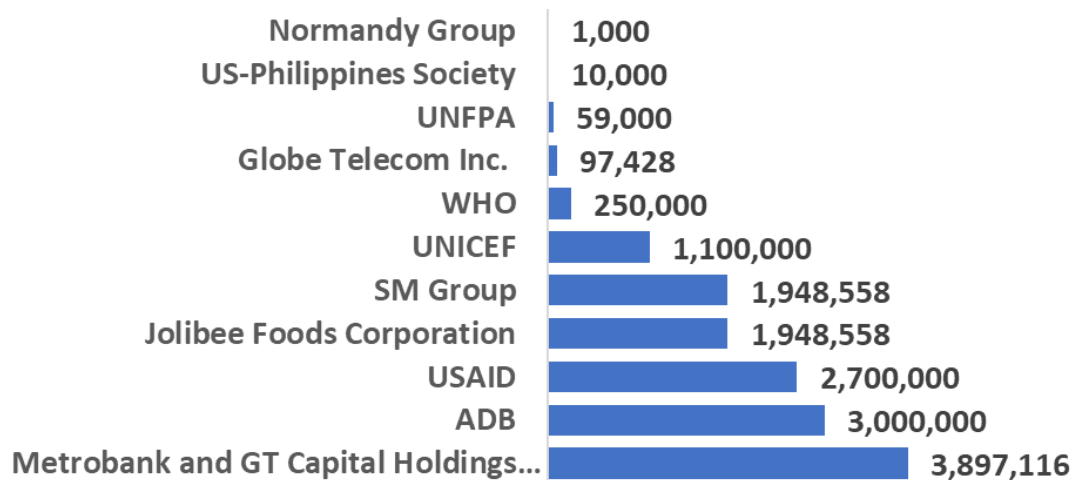
WHO is supporting DOH with preparing its 4 dedicated hospitals in NCR for treatment of severe and critical COVID-19 cases, to reduce the burden on other health facilities currently at risk of being overwhelmed.

Logistics, procurement, and supply management

Who	What		Delivered	Expected
Americares	N95 masks	1,440	DOH on 17/3	
PRC	Medical tents for isolation and treatment	30	In country	
	Face masks	20,000	Philippines General Hospital	
	PPE	2,000		
	Medical supplies, masks, alcohol, food		6 Manila district hospitals	
UNFPA	Face masks	100,000	DOH	
	Handheld thermometers	1,130		
	PPE	± 60,000 USD	For frontline health workers	
UNICEF	Tents for triage and isolation purposes	44	20 donated on 11/3	24 on 23/4
	Disinfection kits	44	In country	
	PPE sets for hospital workers (complete)	55,000		Ongoing procurement
	PPE sets for contact tracing (mask and gloves)	30,000		
USAID	N95 Respirators	1,000		Awaiting delivery
	Faceshield	2,500		
	Gloves, nitrile	20,000		
	Goggles, reusable	500		
	Gowns	1,500		
	Surgical Masks	20,000		
	Apron	2,500		
	Shoe Cover	5,000		
	Surgical Cap	5,000		
WHO	PPE	12,000	Donated to DOH	
	Laboratory supplies			
	<i>E-gene EAV kits</i>	115	Donated to RITM	
	<i>RdRP-gene kits</i>	95		
	<i>N gene/E gene/RdRp gene vials</i>	12		
	Universal Transport Media			
	<i>UTM Viral transport kit</i>	300		Awaiting delivery
	<i>Flexible Mini Tip</i>	1000		
	<i>Regular Flocked Swab</i>	1000		
	Extraction kits			
	<i>QIAgen QIamp Viral RNA Mini Kit</i>	18	17 delivered	21 on the way
	<i>SuperScript III Platinum One-step qRT-PCR</i>	20		
	World Vision	Mobile Storage Unit 10 x 32m	4	2 in Manila and 2 in Cebu
Tents (child-friendly space) 7 x 6m		17	Clark, Pampanga	

Resource mobilization

Grants



Loan



* Up to 20 March 2020