



# COVID-19

**Namibia WCO Bulletin**  
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President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Hage Geingob addressing officials at the Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA) after inspecting the 20 bed military mobile isolation hospital and 4 bed isolation facility of MoHSS.



President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Hage Geingob greeting WHO Representative, Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses at HKIA during the inspection of the military mobile isolation hospital and MoHSS isolation facility.



President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, using a hand rub to sanitize his hands.



Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations, Right Honorable Netumbo Nditua and WHO Representative, Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses at the HKIA point of entry inspecting the readiness of the airport for screening and isolation of probable COVID-19 cases.

# Overview

- Namibia adapts a whole government approach to the COVID-19 outbreak response
- Commits 8.1 billion NAD to the response including 750 million NAD to the health sector response







## **Pillar 1: Country Coordination, Planning and Monitoring**

### **1. Supported the MoHSS to:**

o develop a functional National Incident Management System (MS) for the COVID-19 response, by developing various structures and players and lines of communication for effective coordination.

o operationalize a National Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (NPHEOC) by developing the PHEOC organogram, roles and responsibilities of the different response pillars, particularly the coordination pillar.

o Come up with high level decisions – including the development of regulations, directives and guidelines required for the implementation and monitoring of the lock down.

Contributing to the finalization of the contingency/response plan, and activity budget for the national response.

**2. Contributing to modelling to project potential number of cases and to plan accordingly.**

**3. Supporting and contributing to building of the various pillars or sections of the NPHECO**

**4. Making technical contributions to development of SOPs, protocols/operational guidelines**

**5. Supporting the RCO in the coordination of the UN COVID-19 response planning, budget and monitoring of performance of all 8 pillars.**

**6. Guiding the implementation of activities**



## Pillar 2: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- RCCE committee sub-divided in 4 thematic groups: media relations, mass campaigns, community engagement and media monitoring
- RCCE SOPs and Strategy are in draft
- COVID19 Communication Centre launched for daily press updates
- Influencers identified and filmed for short television messages
- Leaflets and posters produced and are being translated in local languages
- Radio talk shows being held on all major radio stations and languages
- The only two mobile phone providers sending sms daily with COVID19 messages to all subscribers
- Regional, constituency and grassroots level leadership engaged to support COVID 19 messages
- Community Health workers and Community volunteers trained and are conducting door-to-door health education sessions
- Community Conversation toolkit finalized
- Communication materials targeted at the San Community in draft and will be translated in two san languages



AS FROM 03/02/20	NIP	Private	Total
Total samples sent to lab	206	156	362
Total samples tested	158	154	312
Total results received	157	154	311
Total results positive	9	6	15 <sup>#16</sup>
Total results Neg	147	148	295
Total <sup>with</sup> results pending	1	0	1
Inconclusive/Indeterminate	1	0	1
Tested Today	6	0	6
New <sup>⊕</sup> ve cases	2	0	2
Total samples cancelled	28	2	30
Invalid	0	0	0
* Case # tested in RSA	① 04/04/20		
* CD = Case Definition			

### Pillar 3: Surveillance, Case Investigation

- COVID-19 case definition developed and disseminated; plans underway for review based on evolution of outbreak
- Development of surveillance pillar organogram and terms of reference
- Development of Surveillance and contact tracing standard operating procedures and reporting tools
- Development of Rapid Response Team operational guidelines
- Members of National and regional RRT identified; awaiting training. National RRT actively involved in COVID-19 investigation
- Identification and investigation of suspected cases through the hotline, community, laboratories and health care settings.
- Training of 35 hotline operators on operations of the hotline centre; some the participants were deployed to the regions
- Trainer of Trainers training of 65 surveillance, port health, environmental health officers on Surveillance SOPs and tools; training including exercises for participants to gain practice and gain confidence.
- Regular pillar meetings are conducted to review operation needs; gaps are forwarded to management for follow up e.g. equipment and human resource needs
- Daily sitreps are developed and submitted to government, WHO, CDC and Partners
- Electronic dashboard and electronic data entry/recording systems under development
- Monitoring all the people placed under quarantine
- In the process of initiating active case search in health facilities; SOPs and tools underdevelopment





## Pillar 4: Points of Entry

- Regular meetings conducted everyday for Points of entry with set agenda and activities
- Final draft of the Points of Entry and Quarantine standard operational procedures
- Monitoring and evaluation forms drafted for points of entry, check points and quarantine
- Visits conducted to the 4 check points around Khomas region and draft report available with recommendations



## Pillar 5: Laboratory Coordination

- SOPs for handling COVID-19 specimens in place and over 408 samples have been tested with 16 positives
- Following up timely reporting of COVID19 test results to surveillance pillar
- Weekly stock monitoring of monitoring of COVID19 laboratory test reagents and supplies by NIP
- Streamlined the laboratory test result information flow so that surveillance team receives results on time
- Arrangements made with UNAM for using the university laboratory for COVID19 testing and agreements reached between NIP and UNAM





## Pillar 6: Case Management

- Out of the 16 confirmed cases, three cases have been discharged after their tests came out negative at recovery
- The 12 bed Prefab facility at Windhoek Central Hospital designed to manage moderate to severe case is almost completed
- A total of 10 newly procured ventilators have been delivered at Windhoek Central Hospital and will be installed for management of critically ill cases of COVID-19
- Robert Mugabe has been designated to screen for, manage critical as well as moderate to severe cases of COVID-19.
- Over 400 health workers including Doctors, Nurses and other cadres have under taken training in various modules of Case Management and IPC using the ZOOM Platform.
- SOPs for management of COVID patients have been developed.



Simulation for Regional Response Teams in Swakopmund.

## Pillar 7: Infection Prevention and Control

- Estimate of Facility checklist has been drafted to assess the readiness of facilities in terms of protocols and PPE supplies.
- Engaged City of Windhoek to work together to assess the shops and public places on IPC preparedness for COVID19.
- Guidance on the standards for IPC in public places (e.g. for sanitizers hand hygiene) is drafted for dissemination.
- SOP for IPC finalized and shared with Regional Focal points for IPC
- Posters for IPC adapted from WHO generic and finalized and printed.
- Training and tracking of health care staff on IPC for COVID19 response is underway.
- Students from UNAM have been trained to support the process.



Simulation for Regional Response Teams in Swakopmund.



## Pillar 8: Operations and Logistics

- Namibia received medical supplies (PPE's and test kits) to help fight COVID-19 from the Jack Ma Foundation and People's Republic of China respectively.

- WHO also donated medical supplies to the government through the Ministry of Health and Social Services. These include PPEs and diagnostic reagents.

- WHO recruited a logistician to support supply and logistics during the outbreak in collaboration with government and partners.

- WHO gave 5 laptops to the EOC for use during COVID-19 to support data capturing and analysis.





## Pillar 9: Mental Health and Psycho-social Support

- Providing counselling to all in mandatory quarantine and isolation
- Arranged temporary shelter for over 200 residents of Windhoek in need of shelter
- Mobilized corporate sponsorships and church donations for tents, blankets, food, water, sanitation and other basic necessities



Photos provided by the Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support Pillar team members



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