

WHO Namibia COVID-19 Bulletin

September - October 2020

127,359

Tested

12,935

Confirmed

11,036

Recovered

18,867

Quarantine

133

Deaths



Leadership

- Participation in a special public lecture as part of the Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture Series themed 'Role of small states in Global Health' organized by the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
- Joint WHO/UNICEF Presentation of PPE supplies for Health Workers to the Minister of Health and Social Services
- Launch of the Namibia Red Cross Society sub-project on community mobilization to address Hepatitis E virus outbreak in Khomas and Erongo regions



Pillar 1: Country Coordination, Planning, and Monitoring

- Facilitated the Regional Consultative Meetings for all 14 regions and national level pillars, to strengthen the coordination and other response pillars in the regions.
- Supported Interaction Action Review (IAR) for National Level and Erongo region. The National IAR was conducted in partnership with the Robert Koch Institute, covering only five (5) pillars. The remaining National Level pillars will be covered by MoHSS and partners during November 2020.
- Supported the IPC Simulation in all 14 regions.
- Supported the virtual training for National and Regional teams on the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC).
- Provided technical support to the MoHSS and government on the Post State of Emergency strategy – following the lifting of when the State of Emergency was lifted on 17 Sept 2020.



Pillar 2: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Finalized the COVID 19 homecare leaflet and guide and flyer on the most vulnerable (people over 60 and those with underlying conditions).
- Placement of COVID-19 messages in local print media.
- Facilitated media interviews and engagement of community leaders on COVID-19 related burials together with the IPC pillar .
- Increasing engagement through the COVID-19 Communication Centre and other media houses.
- Increasing support to regional RCCE activities.
- Drafting of the Communication Strategy for the introduction of the COVID-19 Vaccine.
- Recruited and trained additional community health workers especially for Khomas and Erongo Regions.
- Special outreach programme with taxi and public transport drivers on COVID-19 in Khomas Region and Northern Regions.



Pictures contributed by the Kavango East RCCE Team

BOARDROOM



Pillar 3: Surveillance and Case Investigation

- Continued to provide technical support to areas of cases investigation, contact tracing, data management, including analysis of data for decision making, contributing to several national documents.
- Continued to support the development and dissemination of the national COVID-19 Situational Report to stakeholders and partners and responding to feedbacks. 226 SitReps disseminated within MOHSS, other Ministries and partners.
- Supported the development of Post-State of Emergency (Post-SoE) activities in surveillance, covering all the sub-themes in the regulations.
- Supported the development, dissemination and orientation of the regions and districts for smooth implementation of the Post-SoE Testing Strategy for Namibia.
- Developed a detailed epidemiological analysis to look at the response and recommended what need to be done to better address the COVID-19 situation in the country.
- Distribution of laptops and tablets to the Ministry and budget for additional support has been approved
- Supported the organization of and participated in the National level Inter-Action Review
- Prepared and disseminated a business continuity plan in collaboration with MOHSS to reduce footprint at the surveillance pillar working rooms and ensure work continues should any personnel in the surveillance pillar be exposed to the coronavirus.
- Contributed to the development of the questionnaire for health worker infection assessment; this study will seek to identify some of the contributory factors to the large number of infections among health workers in the country. Questionnaire was uploaded on the Open Data Kit
- Training of surveillance officers at national level and in all 14 regions on the GO.Data data collection and management tool

Pillar 4: Points of entry

- Tourism Revival Initiative (TRI) was introduced during this time for allowing tourist entry into Namibia as well as the reopening of Hosea Kutako International Airport.
- Finalized the mobile application for reporting at points of entry.
- Finalized the training plan for Points of Entry and procured gadgets for data capturing and reporting entry points.
- The regional representative also started listing the hospitality facilities in their respective regions for assessment for adherence to COVID-19 prevention measure in preparation for to receiving tourists.
- Visited the Hosea Kutako Airport to assess the readiness for receiving departing and arriving travelers. A post-mortem meeting was also conducted after the first batch of travelers were received to discuss the next steps in addressing the challenges experienced.
- Contributed to the development of the draft guidelines and regulations for the entry and exit of travelers and tourists, including Namibians from October 2020 to end of January 2021. These regulations were approved and announced by the president in the third week of October 2020.



Pillar 5: Laboratory Coordination

- WHO donated 3000 COVID-19 PCR testing kits and 6000 swabs and viral transport media
- COVID-19 testing laboratories increased to seven (NIP Windhoek, NIP Oshakati, Pathcare, UNAM, NAMDEB, Namibia Poultry, Central Veterinary Lab) and the backlog of samples was completed and currently the laboratories testing in real time with improved turn-around-time
- On average about 1200 tests being conducted daily with results being reported within 48-72 hours after the samples reach the laboratories
- Color-coding stickers system introduced for prioritizing of testing of samples in the laboratories
- Efforts ongoing to automate notification of COVID-19 negative results to clients through SMS
- WHO submitted an updated proposal for Arab Bank funding for the procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies worth 800,000 USD
- Efforts ongoing for the selection and procurement of Antigen based COVID-19 Rapid Diagnostic test (AG-RDT) kits



Pillar 6: Case Management



- Home Based isolation was introduced as an option for isolation of confirmed cases to relieve pressure on designated isolation facilities following a surge in cases across the country.
- Designated isolation facilities were reserved for confirmed cases with comorbidities which required close monitoring and also for those who were unable to isolate at home due to other constraints.
- WHO provided guidance and technical support in the development of the Home-Based Care Standard Operating Procedure and monitoring tools as well as training of HCW involved in Home Based Care Monitoring of confirmed cases.
- During the peak of the outbreak, WHO provided Khomas Region with technical support to verify vital status of confirmed cases isolating at home and also supported the region to reconcile its statistics on mortality, active cases and recoveries.
- For purposes of continuous quality improvement of case management activities, support was provided to identify quality improvement indicators that would be used to assess performance.
- Developed data collection tools for case management indicators and supported training of Regional Case Management focal persons on how to use the tools.
- Supported data analysis exercise to identify gaps in case management



Pillar 7: Infection Prevention and Control

- Standard operating procedures (SOP) on the IPC practices in the aviation industry was finalized and disseminated to all airports, airlines, Namibia Tourism Board and travel agents.
- Revised SOP to guide the use of personal protective equipment by health workers considering areas of community transmission of COVID-19.
- Developed training materials for teams involved in burials – including the National Defence Force members. Approximately 50 officers, women and men from the National Defence Force from the Khomas Region were trained to support burials.
- Online training in IPC was conducted reaching over 400 health care workers in all the regions including private practitioners.
- Training of approximately 20 social workers in IPC and burial practices was conducted in Khomas Region to enable their effective engagement of communities and families.
- Regional teams were trained and oriented in IPC simulation exercise and the conduct in the regions. IPC simulation exercise has been conducted in Eongo, and //Karas Regions.
- Twenty-seven trainers from the National Health Training Centres, the Regional and District management teams from 13 regions were trained in IPC to support capacity building in their respective regions.
- Media engagements on burials within the context of COVID-19 were held to increase the public awareness and understanding.

Pillar 8: Operation and Support, Logistics

- Facilitate the Distribution of COVID-19 Supplies to the regions
 - Drafted the pick-up roster for the regions
- WHO Donated PPE's, Lab Supplies and Oxygen Concentrator
 - Facilitate international consignments/procurement



Pillar 9: Mental Health, Psycho-social Support



Drafted the following guidelines and SOP's

- i) Guideline and SOP on services to persons in quarantine and isolation and their families
- ii) Guideline and SOP on services to bereaved families of persons who died with COVID-19
- iii) Guideline and SOP on services to health workers (response team members)
- iv) Guideline and SOP on Pre- and Post-Test for COVID-19
- v) SOP on Services to Persons without Shelter (Homeless)

- **Services to persons in quarantine and their families:** continuous psychosocial support to persons and their families in all 14 regions

- **Services to persons in isolation and their families:** Social Workers rendered telephonic psychosocial support services to persons in isolation and their families in Khomas-; Karas-; Hardap-; Erongo-; Otjozondjupa-; Ohangwena-; Oshana- and Zambezi Regions. Patients are provided with basic needs and family members were supported and education on COVID-19.

- **Services to health workers:** 38 care packs were provided to staff members at Robert Mugabe clinic, airport isolation unit and Windhoek central hospital isolation unit.

- **Services to the bereaved families of persons who died with covid-19:** Psychosocial support services were provided to the bereaved families of persons who passed on with COVID-19. Information sessions were also conducted to families in different parts of the country.

- Regional and district social workers were training (virtual) on the MHPSS response to covid-19, as well as self-care.



Pillar 9 Continues

- **Services to persons without of shelter (homeless):**

- o Persons without shelter (homeless) were identified in Khomas, Erongo, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Karas, Zambezi and Kunene Regions.

- o **Khomas Region** identified 590 persons without shelter and placed them at the Katutura Multi-Purpose Youth Centre and the Khomasdal Soccer Stadium.

- o Provided tents, matrasses, blankets, clothes, food and water

- o Conducted as needs assessment to determine current needs and skills, as well as future plans of persons without shelter.

- o Instituted the following programmes:

- vocational skills training; fitness training; cooking and cleaning; effective parenting; health education; suicide prevention; alcohol and drug prevention and rehabilitation and relationship building. Programmes are provided by social workers, occupational therapists, nurses and volunteers.

- o In **Erongo Region** 175 persons were identified, 15 in Swakopmund and 157 in Walvisbay. Started a vegetable garden and do their own cooking and cleaning. Social Service offer different servces to the group.

Pillar 10: Essential Health Services

- Essential Health Services guidelines were finalized, approved and dissemination underway to the regions.
- Monitoring of essential health service delivery was supported through regional visits and data review.



Partners in the Namibian COVID-19 Response



UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA



And numerous public and private institutions and individuals who provided technical, financial and in kind support to the government



World Health Organization

Protect

and others from getting sick.

Wash y

- After coughing or sneezing
- When you are sick.
- Before, and after food preparation



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