COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations Monthly Highlights, 28 February 2021

Top 5 highlights to know:

• In February, more than 3 million cases and 90,000 deaths were recorded in countries in the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO). South Sudan experienced more than 86% increase in reported cases and 36% increase in deaths.

• COVAX has allocated 73 million doses to 25 HRP countries in its first round. Deliveries are underway with Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Nigeria and Sudan receiving vaccines in the first few days of March. Outside of COVAX, we estimate that over 5.4 million COVID-19 vaccines were donated or procured in eight countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) by end of February.

• One year since the start of the pandemic, schools in HRP countries have been fully closed due to COVID-19 for an average of 21 weeks – more than two thirds of an academic year and 70 percent above the global average. Schools in seven countries remain fully closed, impacting more than 61 million children. Due to school closures at the national or local level, 22 million children in 14 HRP countries are missing out on school meals.

• Routine immunization campaigns are starting up again. In February, the number of GHO countries with zero campaigns postponed doubled compared to January. Despite good progress, at least 50 per cent of routine immunization campaigns remained postponed or cancelled in 17 GHO countries.

• The OCHA-HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer is now tracking COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in the 27 HRP countries.

1. Epidemiological Update

Globally, cases and deaths continued to fall in February. In the last week of February nearly 66,000 deaths were reported, a 20 per cent decline from the previous week. However, the global trend continues to hide disparities between countries, including those in the Global Humanitarian Overview.1

During February, more than 3 million new cases and 90,800 new deaths were recorded in the 56 countries covered by the Global Humanitarian Overview, bringing the total to approximately 28.5 million cases and 796,109 deaths. South Sudan experienced the sharpest increase with cases rising by 86% and deaths by 36%. A few other countries experienced a similar rise in confirmed cases: Mozambique (52%), Somalia (46%), Zambia (42%), Uruguay (37%) and Burundi (35%). As of 28 February, the six countries with the highest per day increase in the number of new cases per 100,000 people were Lebanon, Brazil, Jordan, Uruguay, Chile and Peru. Additionally, in Somalia and Mozambique the official COVID-19 death toll rose by more than 70%, with Lebanon recording the next largest increase at 51%. Fourteen countries experienced a rise in deaths of between 15% and 50%, and 37 countries saw a rise of less than 15%.

Testing continues to be inadequate in the 27 countries with a UN inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In the past seven days there is no testing data for 15 countries, ten countries recorded less than one test per thousand people, and two countries (Iraq and Palestine) recorded less than two tests per thousand. In comparison, Denmark conducted over 22 times the number of tests per thousand, the UK nine times and the US almost three times more than the two HRP countries with the highest number of tests.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The roll-out of vaccines continued to gain momentum and speed in February, with 249 million doses given and reportedly 54 million people that have been fully vaccinated, accounting for 0.69% of the global population. However, the largest share of those vaccinated remain in high income countries. For instance, the four countries/regions with the highest numbers of COVID-19

1 For a full list of the 56 countries in the Global Humanitarian Overview: Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 | Global Humanitarian Overview (unocha.org)

Sources: Epidemiological Update (World Health Organization, Global Health 50/50; Gavi and WHO – COVAX); Secondary Impacts (OCHA, World Bank, FAO, WFP, UNICEF; UNESCO); Funding Update (OCHA) as of 28 February January. For feedback, please contact: centrehumdata@un.org.
vaccine doses administered are the United States, China, the European Union and the United Kingdom, which together have inoculated over 172 million people, or roughly 70% of all vaccinations administered globally.

Despite the persisting vaccine inequity, there are glimmers of hope in many low- and middle-income countries as they commence their vaccination campaigns. The COVAX facility started delivering its first doses to Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) countries in late February (Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire). In the first couple of days of March, the first HRP countries also received doses through COVAX (Colombia – 117,000, Democratic Republic of Congo – 1,700,000, Nigeria - 3,940,000 and Sudan – 820,000). COVAX have allocated 74 million doses to HRP countries in its first round, estimated to be delivered by the end of May.

In addition to doses from the COVAX facility, many countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) have received donations of COVID-19 vaccine from other sources or procured vaccines themselves. As of 28 February, 5.4 million doses have been delivered to eight countries. Three countries – Colombia, Pakistan and Ukraine – have procured their doses. Five countries have received donations from India, China, Russia and the UAE. India has donated the most doses to HRP countries, with 2.5 million donated. Myanmar has been the largest recipient of non-COVAX doses (2 million doses). For the latest figures, visit the OCHA-HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer.

Figure 1. COVID-19 Vaccine Deliveries in HRP countries (as of 28 February 2021)
3. Secondary Impacts

Education

One of the longest lasting impacts of this pandemic will be the negative impact on children and young people’s education. At the peak of the first wave, around 1.6 billion children and young people were unable to attend school. Even today, over 500 million have still not resumed their education. The situation will be especially acute for children and youth caught up in humanitarian crises and emergencies. Children in some of the poorest countries have missed out on nearly a sixth of their expected lifetime education. A World Bank report estimates a loss of $10 trillion dollars in earnings over time for this generation of students.

Globally, schools were fully closed for an average of 3.5 months (14 weeks) since the onset of the pandemic in February 2020. This figure rises to 5.5 months (22 weeks) – equivalent to two-thirds of an academic year – when localized school closures are taken into account. For children in humanitarian crises the situation is even more dire. In HRP countries, schools were fully closed for an average of 5 months (21 weeks) and 8 months (32 weeks) with localized school closures, 70 percent above the global average. In several countries’ schools have been closed for almost the entire academic year (Myanmar, Iraq and Venezuela). Schools remain closed due to COVID-19 in seven HRP countries, impacting 61 million children and youth.

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Sources: Epidemiological Update (World Health Organization, Global Health 50/50, Gavi and WHO – COVAX); Secondary Impacts (OCHA, World Bank, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNESCO); Funding Update (OCHA) as of 28 February January. For feedback, please contact: centrehumdata@un.org.
In addition to impacting children’s learning and long-term earning-potential, the pandemic has also disrupted school feeding programmes. At the beginning of 2020, national school feeding programmes delivered school meals to more children than at any time in human history, making school feeding the most extensive social safety net in the world. At the height of the crisis in April 2020, 199 countries had closed their schools and 370 million children were suddenly deprived of what for many was their main meal of the day. With 97 countries continuing to have schools closed, some 300 million children are missing out on meals at school globally, and 48% are girls\(^3\). 22 million of these children are in 14 countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan. This loss highlighted the importance of school feeding as a social safety net which protected the well-being of the most vulnerable children and supported their future.

\(^3\) The other two countries not visualized are Palestine (137,000 children) and Mali (200,000).

Sources: Epidemiological Update (World Health Organization, Global Health 50/50; Gavi and WHO – COVAX); Secondary Impacts (OCHA, World Bank, FAO, WFP, UNICEF; UNESCO); Funding Update (OCHA) as of 28 February January. For feedback, please contact: centrehumdata@un.org.

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Figure 3.  
61 Million Children and Youth Impacted by Current School Closures  
(millions)

Impact of School Closures on School meals in HRP countries\(^4\)

\(^4\) https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/?_ga=2.38624547.1638056799.1585312246-1438041047.1585312246
Routine Immunizations

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a devastating impact on routine immunizations, interrupting supply chains, reducing access to health services due to lockdowns and people’s reluctance to attend clinics. In February, there was positive progress in resuming routine vaccines. In 34 GHO countries, the number of countries with zero vaccine campaigns postponed or cancelled more than doubled to 12 in February compared to January. The number of countries with 100% of campaigns postponed or cancelled fell from 16 to 13. However, despite good progress at least 50 per cent of campaigns remain postponed or cancelled in 17 GHO countries at the end of February.

![Figure 5. Routine Vaccination Campaign Status in GHO countries.](image)

None – references countries with all campaigns operating.
Some – references countries with greater than 0 but up to 50% campaigns postponed or cancelled.
Majority – references countries with greater than 50% but less than 100% campaigns postponed or cancelled.
All – references countries with 100% campaigns postponed or cancelled.

4. Funding Update

By the end of February, the Global Humanitarian Overview received approximately US$ 527 million dollars out of a total requirement of US$35.10 billion. This represents 1.5% of the total requested. Several High-Level Pledging Events are scheduled in the coming weeks, with the Yemen HLPE raising US$1.7 billion out of a requested US$3.85 billion on 1 March 2021. As the Global Humanitarian Response Plan was integrated in the Global Humanitarian Overview for 2021, funding for COVID-19 responses have been incorporated into broader humanitarian programmes.

5. COVID-19 Data Explorer Update

The COVID-19 Data Explorer is now tracking COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in 27 countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan. Updated daily, the tracker allows you to track overall and by country COVID-19 vaccinations procured, sourced through COVAX or donated.

For all the latest data on how COVID-19 is impacting countries with humanitarian crises visit the OCHA-HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer.

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5 The data is for 39 countries within the GHO. Full list of countries can be found at Immunization Campaigns Impacted due to COVID-19 Humanitarian Data Exchange (humdata.org)

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