Call to Action

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting communities everywhere and can only be tackled through cooperation and coordination at all levels. Global cooperation is essential, and the World Health Organization (WHO) is on the frontline of this effort.

In March 2020, the United Nations Foundation, at the request of WHO and in partnership with the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, established the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. The Fund allows companies, philanthropies, and individuals to contribute to the essential work of WHO and its partners — including UNICEF and the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) — to help countries to prevent, detect and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The response has been impressive, with hundreds of companies and more than 231,000 individuals contributing more than $140 million in the first three weeks.

Donations to the Fund are supporting WHO’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which is guiding global efforts to:

- Track and understand the spread of the virus;
- Ensure patients get the care they need and frontline workers get essential supplies and information;
- Accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatments for all who need them.

The Fund launched with major commitments from some of the world’s largest companies. We urge you to consider supporting it also. There are two immediate ways businesses can take action:

- Contribute to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, accessible at covid19responsefund.org. You can also contact our team directly about donations at covid19fund@unfoundation.org.
- Share this important giving opportunity with your networks, including employees or partners who may be eager to help. Many companies are offering employee giving and/or customer donation programs. A toolkit with simple language, digital and social collateral, and FAQs can be found here.

The Fund can accept online donations, wire transfers, and checks from around the world and donations are tax-deductible in the US. If you are based in Japan, Canada or Europe you may choose to give through our partners based there. Whichever mechanism works best for you, at least 95% of your donation will go directly to WHO and its partners.

Your support is greatly appreciated in this global effort to equip countries to respond to COVID-19. Please contact covid19fund@unfoundation.org with any questions.
Examples of Early Impact of WHO’s Response

The COVID-19 pandemic presents the world with an unprecedented challenge. To prevail, we need an approach that unites in common cause every individual and community, every business and non-profit, every department of every government and every international and regional organization, to harness their collective capacity into collective action.

The COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund supports WHO’s work across all countries to track and understand the spread of the virus; to ensure patients get the care they need and frontline workers get essential supplies and information; and to accelerate research and development of vaccines and treatments for all who need them.

Here are some early examples of what has been achieved:

**Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan aims to:**

1. Coordinate across regions to assess, respond and mitigate risks
2. Improve country preparedness and response
3. Accelerate research and development

**Data as of 7 April 2020 WHO has:**

- **Bought and shipped PPE to 133 countries**
  - 974,000 surgical and N95 masks
  - 1 million boxes of gloves
  - 115,500 gowns
  - 18,000 goggles
  - 34,000 face shields
  - Additional 2.8 million pieces of PPE are ready to be shipped to 79 countries.

- **Provided information to public**
  - 46+ technical guidance documents
  - Public advice, including:
    - Steps to protect yourself
    - Myth busters
    - Guidance for schools
    - Guidance for the workplace
    - Guidance for healthworkers
    - Guidance for parents
  - Combating misinformation through WhatsApp Health Alerts, interactive chatbot on Rakuten Viber and partnerships with social media companies.

- **Strengthened the laboratory capacity**
  - Supplied 1.5 million diagnostic kits to 126 countries to increase countries’ clinical management capacity.
  - Additional shipments are on their way to reach 10 more countries.

- **Built capacity to respond**
  - Developed multilingual online courses in 13 languages for #COVID19 on OpenWHO platform courses.
  - New COVID-19 Partners Platform rolled out

- **Launched the Solidarity Trials**
  - 74 countries have joined the trials to accelerate research to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19.