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Speakers:
• Mr. Altaf Musani, Director of Health Emergency Interventions, World Health Organization
• Ms. Fatima Askira, Executive Director, Borno Women Development Initiative, Nigeria
• Mr. Samir Elhawary, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Venezuela

Moderator:
• Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Head, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) secretariat
COVID-19 IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS: IMPACTS & LESSONS LEARNED

Altaf Musani
Director,
Health Emergencies Interventions
World Health Organization
Globally, new cases and deaths remain highest levels since the beginning of the pandemic.

While some regions show decreased in new cases South-East Asia continues a worrying upward trajectory.

Cautious interpretation of data should be applied in settings with poor surveillance and testing capacities.

1,206,243,409 COVID-19 Vaccine doses have been administered globally. Only 17.2 Million in humanitarian settings.

Slow vaccine roll-outs amidst circulating variants of concern (VoCs) risk new wave of infections in vulnerable settings.

Circulating COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VoC) demand further capacities for testing and genetic sequencing, which is a challenge in most emergency-affected settings.
Overall, a recent decrease in new cases is seen. However, data should be interpreted cautiously. Poor surveillance systems in settings like Yemen, Somalia and unstable security situations in oPt and Afghanistan can complicate accurate interpretation.
## COVID-19 Variants of Concern in Emergency Settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variants</th>
<th>501Y.V2 (B.1.351)</th>
<th>B.1.617.2</th>
<th>B.1.617+</th>
<th>P.1 (B.1.1.28)</th>
<th>VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7)</th>
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Situation as of 14 May
Source: WHO
COVID-19 VACCINE-DERIVED IMMUNITY

Total vaccinations per 100 population (as of 10 May 2021)

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.
COUNTRIES WITH EMERGENCIES HAS 9% OF CASES & 7.5% OF DEATHS REPORTED GLOBALLY

• Poor health indicators and weaker health systems at baseline
• Poor living conditions and social determinants of health, high risk of epidemics
• COVID-19 testing capacities remain insufficient despite global scale up
• Reported COVID-19 cases and deaths not reflecting realities of transmission

Country classification based on epidemic hazard index, INFORM, 2021

Other more critical needs perceived
  o >400,000 malaria deaths, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa vs <100,000 cumulative COVID-19 deaths in the continent
• Heavy health and socio-economic impacts
  o >> people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021
  o Girls more likely to be out of school, women more likely to experience GBV (GHO)
• Conflicts are not stopping, funding is decreasing
REALITIES OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

- No explosive outbreaks reported so far
- Significant partner scale up
- High susceptibility remaining as per models
- Wide circulation of SARS-CoV-2 variants, but limited sequencing capacities
- Low COVID-19 vaccination coverage
- Disrupted health services delivery
- All determinants for uncontrolled transmission remain present

What if the next outbreak explosion happens in one of these countries?
COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLL-OUT & DISRUPTION TO VPD CAMPAIGN ROLL-OUTS HIGHLIGHTING INEQUITY AND VULNERABILITY OF COUNTRIES FACING HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

Total doses administered per 100 population

VPD campaigns postponed due to COVID-19 by antigen

DATA AS OF 05 MAY 2021

DATA AS OF 03 MAY 2021
22 OUT OF 25 COUNTRIES WITH FRAGILE, CONFLICT AFFECTED AND VULNERABLE SETTINGS SURVEYED REPORTED DISRUPTIONS IN AT LEAST ONE ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

Percentage of services disrupted per country (n=25)

Map: Disruptions to in-country supply chain systems (n=24)

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee
Equipment and supplies investment
• 60 PCR machines in 14 countries with humanitarian settings
• >140 million PPE supplies in 34 countries
• >11 million diagnostic kits in 34 countries and for UNHCR
• >17,000 biomedical equipment in 28 countries

Bilateral country support for COVID-19 response adaptation

TECNE support on COVID-19 treatment facility design in 7 countries

Capture of emerging needs and good practice from humanitarian settings (>20 countries)

Alert system to capture significant changes in pressure to health systems, notably hospital capacities in humanitarian settings

50+ IASC operational guidance documents
Universal health coverage is the key to manage epidemics, pandemics and provide health coverage to vulnerable populations.

- Ultimately, the greatest threat to global health security is the fact that billions of people lack access to essential health services. Universal health coverage and health security are two sides of the same coin.” Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization

- Strengthening health systems while responding to acute emergencies is critical for early detection and response to disease outbreaks – integrating emergency risk management within regular health systems work is critical to maintain service delivery during acute emergencies.

- The humanitarian, peace, security, and development activities addressed through the ‘nexus’ agenda can stabilize populations in fragile and conflict settings.
Upcoming IASC Briefings

Systemwide Efforts to Prevent Famine and Address Food Insecurity

Date to be announced soon on our IASC briefings page!
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-briefings-0

Questions? Email us at iascccorrespondence@un.org
The IASC Interim Guidance on COVID-19: Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings and other valuable resources can be found on the IASC website: [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/)
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