COVID-19
Situation Report #26
29 October 2020

Key Global Updates

- With generous support from AstraZeneca, Project HOPE is implementing three critical programs in Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC): 1) Project ECHO sessions on COVID-19 for Spanish and Portuguese-speaking health providers; 2) Training youth leaders in COVID-19 messaging in Mexico; and 3) Training COVID-19 community health workers in Ecuador to reach underserved and indigenous populations.

- Project HOPE recently delivered COVID-19 Mental Health and Resiliency training for health care workers in the Dominican Republic and Indonesia.

- Since June, Project HOPE has reached more than 2,400 participants from 18 countries across LAC with weekly COVID-19 ECHO sessions in Spanish.

- Project HOPE has procured and delivered more than 680,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Colombia.

- In Ecuador, Master Trainers in Project HOPE’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response curriculum from Catholic University of Cuenca trained 900 health and academic professionals in all eight modules.

- In coordination with Montgomery County Government in Maryland, Project HOPE has administered more than 2,140 COVID-19 tests through pop-up testing sites.

- In partnership with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and ECHO, Project HOPE is training Master Trainers in its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response curriculum. To date, trainers have been trained from Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, Zambia, Algeria, Mauritania, Sudan, Western Sahara and Egypt.

- In Indonesia, with support from the UBS Foundation, Project HOPE has trained 976 health care workers in COVID-19 and Infection Prevention and Control modules, reached 28,223 mobile viewers with IPC and COVID-19 treatment for women, infants and children information, and distributed 29,340 pieces of PPE to 16 hospitals.

COVID-19 Global Response Highlights

- 82,900+ health care workers and frontline personnel trained
- 3,115+ participants in eLearning curriculum
- 11 million+ PPE and supplies distributed in 14 countries, including:
  - 1.2 million+ respirator masks distributed
  - 7.4 million+ surgical masks distributed
  - 1.17 million+ gowns, coveralls and lab coats distributed
  - 1.2 million+ pairs of exam gloves distributed
Situation Update

According to the World Health Organization, the week of October 19 – October 25 represented the highest record number of new COVID-19 cases reported globally, amounting to more than 2 million. There are currently more than 44,229,000 cases of COVID-19 globally. The United States has the highest daily incidence, followed by India, Brazil, Russia and France. Of the global total, more than 45% of these cases are in the Americas (as regionally defined by the World Health Organization). The Americas currently represents more cases than all of Europe and Southeast Asia combined with countries like Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador reporting significant increases in the last seven days (26.43%, 19.24%, and 52.71% respectively). Brazil continues to have the highest number of confirmed cases in the Americas, besides the United States, and saw an 8.02% increase in the last week.

DEEP DIVE: Project HOPE’s Response in Latin America & the Caribbean

Project HOPE has been implementing global health programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for more than 60 years. Beginning in late February, when COVID-19 transmission was being confirmed in an increasing number of countries around the world, Project HOPE coordinated with partners and stakeholders in current program countries and began positioning to provide preparedness and assistance. Since then, Project HOPE has further expanded its response, reaching 24 countries across LAC with COVID-19 response activities with a focus on ensuring frontline health care workers the skills, knowledge, and equipment they need to safely respond to COVID-19. Below are highlights of some of Project HOPE’s achievements to date across the LAC region.

Training more than 3,800 Frontline Health Care Workers & Personnel in COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

Since late March, Project HOPE has been implementing its COVID-19 Preparedness & Response curriculum, designed in partnership with Brown University’s Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies with the Watson Institute, with health partners around the world. With support from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Project HOPE scaled up implementation of the training to health care workers and frontline responders across LAC region. Trainings have been implemented in Spanish and Portuguese, training cadres of Master Trainers who then cascade the training down throughout their networks. To date, more than 3,800 health care workers and frontline personnel have been trained in this curriculum across 15 countries and territories in LAC.

Currently, Project HOPE is coordinating with partners in Brazil and Ecuador to reach cadres of health professionals. In Ecuador, Project HOPE partnered with the Catholic University of Cuenca in August to host an "Academic Forum" through which 900 health professionals and academics completed all eight modules of the course. In Brazil, Project HOPE is partnering with ProEpi, the Brazilian Field Epidemiology Professionals Association, to deliver the training across the country. In late August, a cadre of 98 Master Trainers participated in the training. Beginning in September, ProEpi Master Trainers have cascaded training modules weekly to more than 430 participants to date.

“Participating in this course and being a trainer was a great opportunity to act against the pandemic, collaborating to save lives. This strengthens my conviction that in acting together we are stronger and that sharing knowledge helps us to be more effective and efficient in what we do. I also sensed how much health professionals, wherever we are, dedicate our lives to caring for others, regardless of time, and always step up to win the fight.”

- Liudmila Miyar – Nurse and Master Trainer for the COVID-19 Response and Preparedness curriculum in Brazil, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic
In June, Project HOPE converted the live, virtual training into an eLearning platform in partnership with DisasterReady, to expand availability of the content. In late September, Project HOPE launched a Spanish version of the eLearning curriculum, which has been actively promoted to partners across the LAC region. To date, more than 230 participants across LAC have enrolled in and started the course in Spanish. Since June, more than 3,100 participants worldwide have participated in the e-Learning course.

**Distribution of 678,000 pieces of PPE to Latin America & the Caribbean**
Since the start of the pandemic, Project HOPE has been coordinating with donors and manufacturing partners to mobilize critically needed PPE and medical supplies for countries grappling with emerging outbreaks and spikes in infections. To date, Project HOPE has distributed 678,000 pieces of PPE to Ministries of Health and health partners in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico with support from Latter-day Saint Charities, the Ricky Martin Foundation, Charity Navigator, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. Project HOPE is currently coordinating an upcoming shipment of PPE to partners in Brazil, which remains an epicenter of the global pandemic.

With support from Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA), Project HOPE delivered 100,240 pieces of PPE to hospitals in the Dominican Republic.

**COVID-19 ECHO Sessions for Latin American Health Workers**
In June, Project HOPE, in collaboration with Project ECHO at the University of New Mexico, launched weekly COVID-19 Clinical ECHO sessions in Spanish and Portuguese for health care providers across the LAC region. These ECHO sessions aim to provide medical knowledge and develop specialty care capacity in underserved communities, with each weekly session addressing a different medical case management related to COVID-19. The sessions feature a panel of experts on the weekly topic and aim to build a community of medical practitioners to share best practices and generate dialogue on critical issues.

To expand reach to nurses on the frontlines of the pandemic, Project HOPE incorporated a separate series on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) offered in both Spanish and Portuguese. To date, more than 2,400 participants from 18 countries across LAC have participated through weekly ECHO sessions since June.
Training Youth Leaders in COVID-19 in Mexico
In Mexico, Project HOPE is helping ensure youth have access to appropriate and accurate information on COVID-19 as they navigate the complex realities of COVID-19 and its effect on daily life. With support from AstraZeneca, Project HOPE is partnering with Yo Quiero Yo Puedo, a Mexican non-governmental organization, to train youth leaders across the country in COVID-19 messaging and education. These youth leaders will then reach peers primarily through social media to spread awareness of accurate COVID-19 information and to encourage preventative behaviors such as wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Peer engagement strategies will include mass media campaigns, Q&A videos posted to social media and youth-led webinars. Youth leaders trained through the project will also be tasked with designing a micro community improvement project to encourage change within their own communities.

Training COVID-19 Community Health Workers in Ecuador
In Ecuador, Project HOPE is partnering with the Catholic University of Cuenca to establish a cadre of community health workers (CHWs) trained in disease prevention and health promotion with an emphasis on COVID-19. Through the project, Project HOPE and the University will develop an academic CHW curriculum that will be reviewed by the Ministry of Health and then delivered to a cadre of up to 500 CHWs initially.

The University and trained CHWs will coordinate with local partners to identify community leaders in at-risk communities, with a focus on indigenous populations including the Shuar and Kichwa, which have been largely unreached by COVID-19 initiatives to date. Within these communities, CHWs will aim to train up to 2,500 community leaders on COVID-19 prevention and risk communication in addition to implementing mass media campaigns. Training materials will be available in Spanish and then further translated into native languages.

Mental Health and Resiliency for Health Workers in the Dominican Republic
With support from the Abbott Fund, Project HOPE is piloting a mental health and resiliency training for health care workers responding to COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic and Indonesia. The training modules are adapted from New York City Health + Hospitals program, “HERO-NY,” which aims to provide stress management and coping tools for health care workers responding to the pandemic.

In the Dominican Republic, the program was translated into Spanish and adapted to the local context with review and approval from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Department of Mental Health (DOMH). The trainings were delivered virtually and follow a training-of-trainer (TOT) design. The first TOT session was launched October 7 with 67 health care workers from 10 hospitals across the country. Participants included approximately five representatives from each of the hospitals, which included hospital leadership and decision-makers, in addition to MOH and DOMH staff. These participants are now actively cascading the training to colleagues within their respective hospitals and will collaborate to strengthen health and wellbeing support programs within their institutions over the long-term.
SOURCES:
1 https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---27-october-2020
2 https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html
3 https://covid19.who.int/