

Ref.: C.L.47.2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to congratulate Member States and partners for the advancements that are progressing through their engagement on the WHO COVID-19 Partners Platform (or “Platform”). The Platform is the first digital platform where national authorities, UN agencies and partners can plan together and view all information in real time.

Since its inception on 16 March 2020, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO), the Platform has facilitated the coordination and scaling-up of emergency preparedness, readiness and response actions, based on the nine pillars contained in the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). It is being actively used by 149 countries and US\$ 7.5 billion in contributions have been committed and are being tracked on the Platform. Given the positive feedback, WHO wishes to encourage Member States to begin or continue using the Platform to share preparedness and response actions being planned and implemented; identify and update resource needs and gaps related to the response at national and subnational levels; and track relevant contributions committed in the context of this pandemic.

Several key functions have been developed for the Platform that facilitate coordination, transparency and collaboration:

Action checklists can be used to track activities at national and subnational levels. These activities are aligned with international COVID-19 operational guidance and the SPRP, enabling planning and monitoring of actions across the eight pillars of the public health response and a ninth pillar on maintaining essential health services and systems.

Transparent resource needs can be shared and updated when funds are not available at country-level, including requests for critical supplies. By enabling real-time visibility of these requests, donors and partners can better align their contributions by country and need.

Donor and partner contributions that support country responses can be tracked, improving coordination and limiting duplication.

Data Visualization Dashboards can provide detailed analysis of data available on the Platform. Information can be downloaded to facilitate country-level planning, monitoring and advocacy.

A dynamic costing tool will soon be available on the Platform to anticipate and better estimate financial needs associated with full implementation of the response actions across the nine pillars of the SPRP based on epidemiologic forecasting.

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The Platform was created to assist the global partnership in responding to health emergencies, including COVID-19 as well as other outbreaks and disasters. To date national authorities, United Nations entities, and partners have been effectively utilizing the Platform during the COVID-19 response. The COVID-19 Partners Platform continues to facilitate access to the COVID-19 Supply Portal where Member States and partners are welcome to request supplies as noted in the C.L.13.2020 (11 May 2020).

Member States are invited to request access to the COVID-19 Partners Platform web-page (<https://covid19partnersplatform.who.int/>). Access is provided through a unique identification and password protected system. Further questions about the Partners Platform may be addressed to the dedicated team (covid19-platform-support@who.int).

This new way of working, through transparent, real time online collaboration, resonates now more than ever before. The COVID-19 Partners Platform enhances cooperative partnerships and reinforces existing national and local capacities – helping to not only combat the COVID-19 pandemic but also strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities for the future.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 14 October 2020