

LATEST POLICIES & NEWS

Côte d'Ivoire

Dr. Edith Clarisse Kouassy, Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, indicated that the evolution of the pandemic in Cote d'Ivoire is under control with below 5% positive cases, below 1% lethality, and nearly 99% active cases were declared as cured. [Read more.](#)

Fiji

Fiji's COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) announced the resumption of inbound passenger flights to Fiji after they have completed the assessment and review of the existing border quarantine procedures following the new coronavirus strain from the UK. CRMT released new safety measures for border quarantine protocols to be implemented starting December 29. [Read more.](#)

Haiti

Nearly 1,600 teachers in Haiti received checks worth 30,000 Gourdes (\$410 USD) from the Ministry of National Education as part of the COVID-19 response plan which aims to support the teachers affected by socio-economic situation brought by COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

Madagascar

The government authorities of Madagascar have allowed arrangement of special flights with Air Madagascar from December 2020 to January 2021 to accommodate family reunifications and professional obligations. The round trip flights were from Europe to Antananarivo. [Read more.](#)

Mexico

A national vaccination plan was designed by the Government of Mexico prior to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine through scheduled periods provided with trained personnel for proper handling and refrigeration of the vaccines. [Read more.](#)

Philippines

President Rodrigo Duterte, upon the joint recommendation of the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs, approved the travel ban to 21 countries, including the US, until 15 January 2021. Filipino citizens are exempted and required to undergo a strict 14-day quarantine period regardless of a negative RT-PCR result. [Read more.](#)

Sri Lanka

The Government of Sri Lanka will be releasing revised guidelines on repatriation in accordance with the discovery of the new strain of Coronavirus. In preparation, the existing procedure of getting prior approval from responsible authorities for all inbound travellers to Sri Lanka will be continued. [Read more.](#)

Turkey

Dr. Mehmet Serhan Kurtulmuş, a Turkish health specialist, invented a urine test kit for COVID-19. The urine kit uses a special reactant to be able to detect the presence of the virus within 15 seconds. The kit had already been approved and licensed by the Health Ministry of Turkey. [Read more.](#)

Vanuatu

President Tallis Obed Moses signed the extension of the State of Emergency throughout Vanuatu that will take effect starting 01 January to 31 July 2021. The extension was granted due to the new COVID-19 strain in the UK and to ensure that the country remains free from the COVID-19 virus. [Read more.](#)

[Link to previous country policies.](#)

COVID-19 Summary Statistics

As of January 15, 2021

Key Figures in 10 CBI Member Network Countries

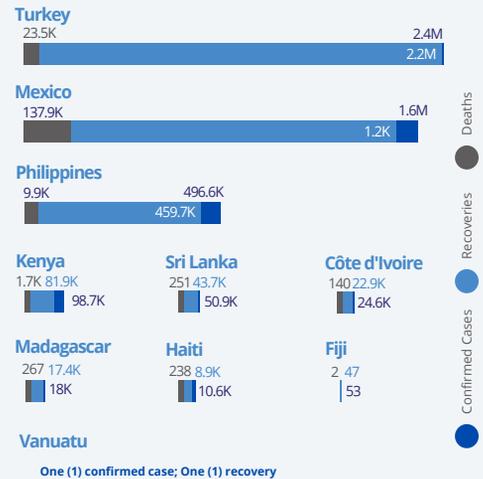
These figures reflect COVID-19 information within CBI countries only.

4,652,676
Confirmed Cases

4,057,230
Recoveries

173,908
Deaths

Figures for each CBI Member Network Country



Source: Johns Hopkins University

HIGHLIGHTS

Turkey records first cases of new UK coronavirus variant

Turkey confirmed its first case of the new highly infectious UK coronavirus variant on 01 January 2021. Fifteen (15) cases were detected from the passengers who recently arrived from the United Kingdom. Safety protocols and contact tracing have been implemented, while all entries from the UK and other high risk countries have been temporarily suspended. Aside from these tighter health measures, the existing local curfew ordinances and restrictions are still in place to avoid a new surge of COVID-19 cases. On the other hand, Turkey already acquired its first batch of three (3) million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine and is currently undergoing careful examination before its scheduled roll-out. [Read more.](#)

Philippines holds first-ever COVID-19 Vaccine Logistics Summit

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), National Task Force on COVID-19, Department of Health, in cooperation with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), AC Health, Unilab, and Zuellig Pharma organized the first COVID-19 Vaccine Logistics Summit last 16 December 2020. The summit was attended by over 700 participants, coming from both public and private sectors. It was divided into two sessions, wherein the first session talked about the latest developments of the COVID-19 vaccines, and the second session discussed the best practices in the distribution and allocation of the vaccines, as well as how the private sectors can use their own resources in the roll-out phase of the COVID-19 National Vaccine Roadmap. The summit showcased the close collaboration between the private sectors and the Philippine government in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

Mexico starts COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

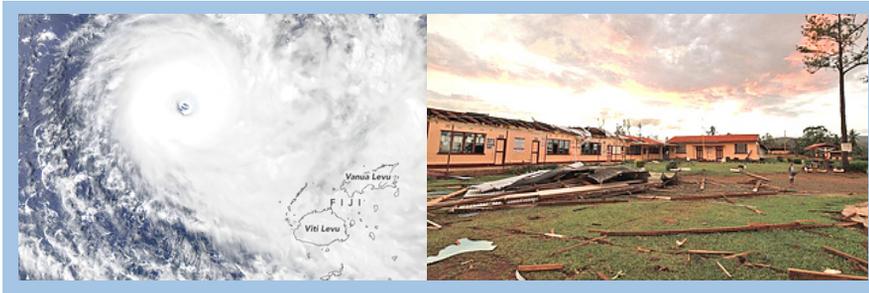
The first phase of COVID-19 vaccination in Mexico began on 24 December 2020, facilitated by the Government of Mexico with direct support from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The COVID-19 vaccine was acquired from the pharmaceutical company Pfizer-BioNTech, prioritizing the immunization to Mexican health frontliners who have direct exposure to the virus. Through collaborative efforts of the authorities in Mexico, they were able to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine and be among the first ten countries in the world to access and apply them. [Read more.](#)

With the current total of 53,625 doses of vaccines received by the Government of Mexico, and with more expected in the following days, the National Center for Childhood and Adolescent Health (CENSIA) emphasized that the necessary vaccines procured will be able to cover the vaccination of the rest of the Mexican population. However, the Secretary of Health, Jorge Alcocer Varela, reminded everyone to continue observing precautionary measures since the fight against COVID-19 is not yet over. [Read more.](#)



The doses of COVID-19 vaccines were received at the Benito Juárez International Airport of Mexico City. Source: [Government of Mexico](#)

HIGHLIGHTS



Satellite image of TC Yasa heading to Fiji Island. Source: [NASA Earth Observatory](#) (Left). Damaged school in Daku, Vanua Levu Source: [ABC Net](#) (Right)

TC 'Yasa' hits Fiji Island during COVID-19 pandemic

Tropical Cyclone Yasa, considered as the most powerful typhoon since Winston in 2016, ravaged through Vanua Levu Island, Fiji in the evening of 17 December 2020. The storm reached Category 5 with sustained winds of around 150 to 160 mph. It brought widespread flooding across low-lying areas and massive destruction to infrastructure and agricultural areas. Before the landfall, Fijian officials already declared a 30-day State of Natural Disaster and conducted emergency evacuation for people living near the coast. [Read more.](#)

As part of their preparedness measures, the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDR) has formed a Viber messaging group for the council for easier communication. They sent updates and helped disseminate severe weather bulletins and announcements from the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Fiji Meteorological Service through this group. A working group has been set up to coordinate response and recovery activities. [How to help.](#)

Connecting Business initiative (CBI) hosts webinars on COVID-19

OCHA and the UN Foundation co-hosted the ninth Global Humanitarian Policy (GHP) Forum last December 09 to 10. The forum was divided into four (4) sessions with one (1) session on COVID-19 beyond health, which focused on the "political, socio-economic, and security dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic." The webinar featured Nicole Clifton from CBI global partner the UPS Foundation, and Rene "Butch" Meily from the PDRF. [View the recordings here.](#)

United Nations Global Impact (UNGI), co-organized by CBI, conducted a webinar entitled "Fragility, conflict and COVID-19: A private sector approach" last December 14. The webinar talked about the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the private sector responses and contributions in maintaining peace and stability, and how the private sectors operate together with the government and other humanitarian actors in fragile situations and conflict-affected countries. The event was mediated by Michelle Breslau from UNGI, and featured Rein Paulsen from OCHA and Christina Bache from the Principles for Responsible Management Education Business for Peace working group. [View the recording here.](#)

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Knowledge Management

Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)

A webinar entitled "Disaster Preparedness During the Pandemic" was organized by Panahon TV, in partnership with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and other private organizations, last 22 December 2020. Some topics included in the webinar are: risk awareness and strengthening the role of women in disaster preparedness during COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

Turkey: Business for Goals (B4G)

On October 30, 2020 at 2:51 PM, an earthquake with a magnitude of Mw6.9 occurred in the Aegean Sea, 17.26 km off the coast of Seferihisar district of Izmir, Turkey, 11.8 km below the ground that caused the loss of lives along with physical and economic damages. In order to support local businesses that were affected by both the pandemic and the earthquake, Business for Goals Platform, in cooperation with TÜRKONFED, launched a Business Resilience Training Programme on 11 January 2021. Supported by CBI, the training programme is designed by Sağlam KOBİ and has four (4) modules focusing on Disaster Resistance Assessment, Fundamentals of Business Resilience and Emergency Action Plan Development.

Resource Mobilization

Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL)

In response to the second wave of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka, A-PAD SL collaborated with HSBC to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health and Disaster Management Center (DMC). This is to recognize the non-medical tools needed for the COVID-19 Centers in Sri Lanka to fully operate. With this initiative, materials were handed over and distributed among COVID-19 Centers. [Read more.](#)

Advocacy and Campaigns

Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)

Fernando Zobel de Ayala, the president and chief operating officer of Ayala Corporation and Co-chair of PDRF, vowed to secure 450,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, in which half of the supply will be donated to the government and the other half will be given to their employees. The country's leading private sector organizations through Taskforce T3 (Test, Trace, Treat) will be helping the Philippine Government in the proper distribution of the vaccines once supply is available. [Read more.](#)

General Confederation of Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI)

The Vice President of CGECI with Ivorian Group of Building and Public Works (GIBTP), chaired by Mr. Philippe Eponon, with other professionals, had an afterwork meeting wherein the future of the sector was discussed after facing the COVID-19 global health crisis. Sharing of experiences were exchanged, collaboration with Ivorian SMEs were tackled, and themes of women in the construction sector were also addressed. [Read more.](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

To access complete information on network activities

USEFUL LINKS[The Development of COVID-19 Vaccines \(WHO\)](#)[COVID-19 Science Update \(CDC\)](#)[COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#)[Vaccine Misinformation Management Guide \(UNICEF\)](#)**Engage/participate in the COVID-19 response and early recovery**

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic calls for a whole-of-society approach. The private sector plays a crucial role in resource mobilization and providing technical assistance in Community Resilience, Advocacy, and Knowledge Management. To capture the overall picture of private-sector actions, we encourage you to participate in the data collection and reporting.

Help Consolidate Information **CBI After Action Report (AAR)**

The AAR is a discussion of an action, activity, or project that allows a team to reflect on what happened, why it happened, what we learned, the follow-up actions to be taken, and how we can improve next time.

Download **COVID-19 VACCINE STATUS UPDATE****Côte d'Ivoire**

The vaccination campaign will begin on 15 February 2021 with the initial procurement of 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines, roughly targeting 100,000 at risk and exposed individuals. The COVID-19 vaccine that will be used for the campaign is not yet confirmed. [Read more.](#)

Fiji

Fiji's Vaccine Taskforce mentioned that vaccines are expected to be received early this year through the help of UN agencies. Once available, the vaccines will be given free of charge. [Read more.](#)

Haiti

No data available

Madagascar

The Malagasy government has expressed its decision to not participate in the procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine with COVAX. [Read more.](#)

Mexico

The National Vaccination Plan prepared by the Government of Mexico guided the vaccination that started last 24 December 2020, using the vaccine for COVID-19 acquired from Pfizer-BioNTech. [Read more.](#)

Philippines

In the stage of finalizing the procurement and financing process to acquire 25 million doses of China's Sinovac Biotech, to be received by early March. In addition, local and private organizations signed a deal for 2.6 million doses of AstraZeneca last November 2020 to be received in May or June 2021. As of January 14, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. The Philippines plans to secure 148 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines by 2021. [Read more.](#)

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan government partnered with the UN for secured acquisition of the COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX. Government's preparedness plan regarding distribution and vaccination was also discussed while the vaccines are still being sourced out. [Read more.](#)

Turkey

Turkey received its first batch of 3 million out of 50 million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine last December 30. Mass vaccination is scheduled after the completion of the 14-day test and examination. Turkish officials also announced that they will be purchasing another 30 million doses of BioNTech vaccine. [Read more.](#)

Vanuatu

The Director General of the Ministry of Health of Vanuatu expects to receive the COVID-19 vaccine this 2021. 20% of the population (border control workers, health workers and elderly) will be prioritized first. [Read more.](#)

To know more about the COVID-19 Vaccines:

[COVAX Explained](#)
[Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#)