

# ● IMPACT ON THE GROUND:

● WHO's action in countries, territories and areas



World Health  
Organization



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# INTRODUCTION

WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023 (GPW13) puts countries unequivocally at the focus of its work to drive impact at the country level. To measure its contribution to this process, WHO developed Results Framework that tracks the joint efforts to meet the triple billion target and supports governments in achieving health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Country case studies are one of three integral components of WHO Results Framework. Together with Impact Measurement and Output Scorecards, they paint qualitative picture of WHO's work at the country level and give narrative texture to [2020 WHO Midterm Results Report](#).

As a mainstay of GPW13 reporting, this publication presents a collection of more than 80 country case studies on WHO's role and its adaptability to drive public health impact in different country contexts. Case studies come directly from the field and highlight WHO's key achievements and impact realized during 2019-2020. Covering a wide spectrum of technical areas of the Organization's work in countries, territories and areas, these stories connect outputs, outcomes and impact of WHO's work. They illustrate a snapshot of the Organization's range of efforts to deliver on the promise of the triple billion target to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all.

Going forward, qualitative case studies offer examples of and experiences in how to strengthen collaboration and synergies with development and humanitarian national and international partners in health and how WHO can build and facilitate these alliances. Additionally, the stories elaborate on promising practices and best examples in support of governments and stakeholders to improve peoples' health.



### Responding to COVID-19 and Building Health System Resilience

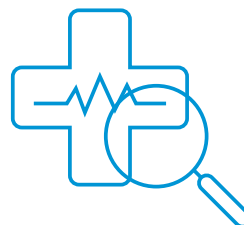
Afghanistan confirmed its first case of COVID-19 in late February 2020. The country's porous borders with early COVID-19 hotspots, particularly Iran, coupled with decades-long protracted conflict, high poverty rates, and a challenged health system contributed to quickly escalating COVID-19 transmission across the country.

WHO's support to the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) COVID-19 response commenced even before the first case was detected, to help Afghanistan get ahead of the COVID-19 curve and protect gains made in health. Building on successful practices during previous health emergencies and other countries' experiences, WHO started assisting the MoPH in January 2020. This support included the provision of technical guidance for pandemic preparedness, facilitation in the development of the National Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19, recommendations for implementing effective risk communications and community engagement and outreach to donors for aligning funds for the response.

Enhancing COVID-19 testing capacity across the country has been a core element of WHO's assistance. When the outbreak first began,

#### 2.3

Health emergencies rapidly detected and responded to



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