



CARITAS GHANA COVID 19 RESPONSE: SITUATIONAL REPORT

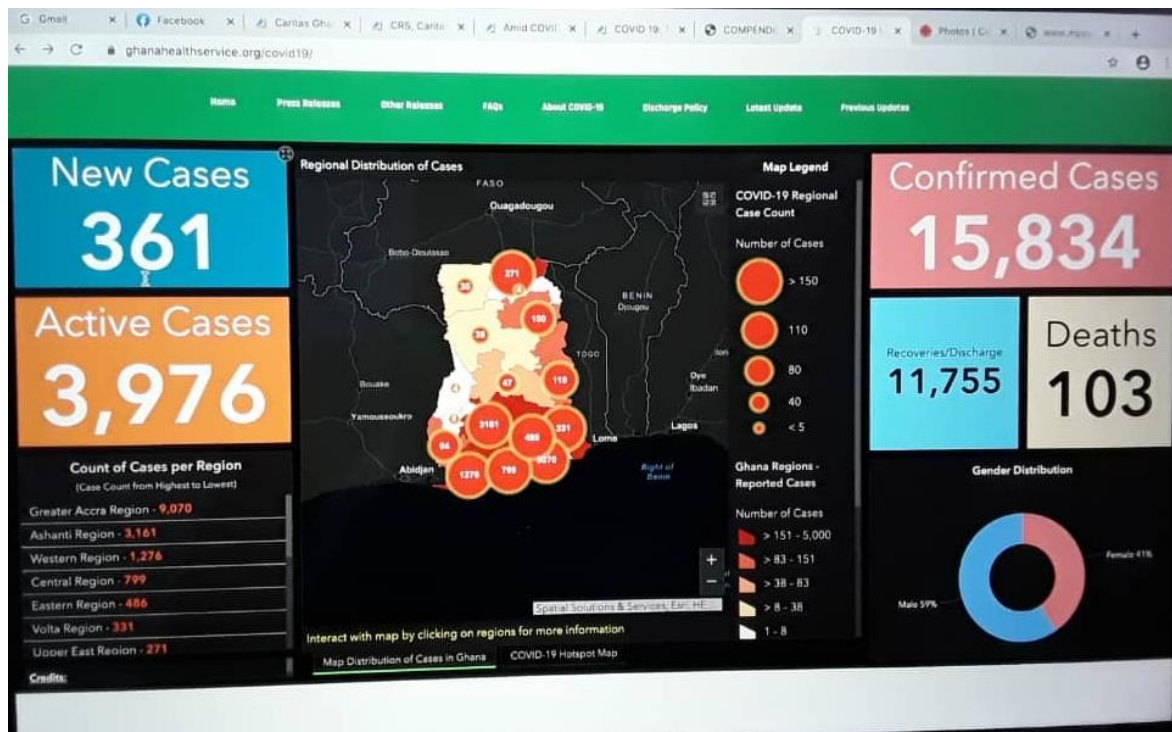
BACKGROUND OF COVID 19 IN GHANA

Ghana recorded its first COVID-19 on the 12th of March 2020. Since the first recorded case of the virus in Ghana, the country has since transitioned from the stage of importation to the stage of community transmission, in some occasions, the source of transmission is untraceable.

The current (27/06/20) figures of COVID-19 infected persons stands at over 15,834 cases with 11,755 recoveries and 103 deaths. As part of the containment measures, the Government of Ghana banned all public gatherings including conferences, workshops, funerals, festivals, political rallies, church activities with maximum people in attendance to 100 in other to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Ever since the virus started to spread into the Regions of Ghana, The President of Ghana announced a two-week partial lockdown to aggressively stop the spread of the Corona Virus Disease. Some of the restriction has since be lifted. Mandatory use of face masks is enforced in Ghana.

Below pictures shows a graphical chat of COVID situation in Ghana.



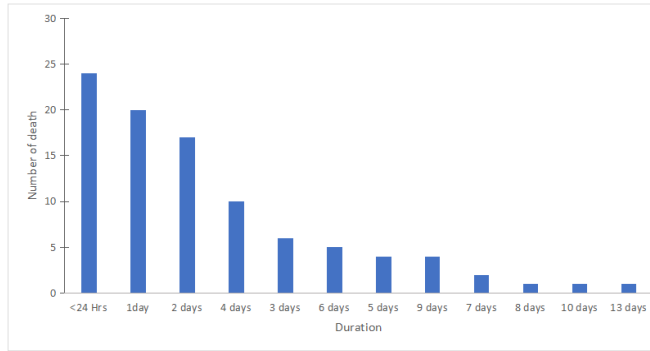


Figure 8: Distribution of COVID-19 related death in Ghana by duration at treatment center (date of reporting to date of death) , March - June 2020

Source: <https://ghanahealthservice.org/covid19/>

Table 4: Summary of Recoveries/Discharges by Region, March – June 24, 2020

Region	Cases	Recovered/ Discharged	% Recovered/ Discharged	Active Cases
Ahafo	8	6	75.0	2
Ashanti	3,161	1,996	63.1	1,128
Bono	4	2	50.0	2
Bono East	47	16	34.0	31
Central	799	743	93.0	52
Eastern	486	295	60.7	189
Greater Accra	9,070	6,811	75.1	2,206
Northern	100	63	63.0	35
North East	4	2	50.0	1
Oti	110	79	71.8	31
Savannah	38	37	97.4	1
Upper East	271	133	49.1	136
Upper West	35	35	100.0	0
Volta	331	284	85.8	46
Western	1276	1,187	93.0	88
Western North	94	66	70.2	28
TOTAL	15,834	11,755	74.2	3,976

THE ROLE OF THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE (GCBC)

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference has urged all members of the church to comply fully with the directives of the Government on the coronavirus pandemic. In compliance to the Governments directives, the President of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference; Most Rev. Philip Naameh issued a statement directing all Archbishops, Bishops and Priests to suspend public spiritual programmes such as retreats, devotions, meetings, confessions, pilgrimages, among others. Also, all Catholic schools were closed until further notice except final years students who are called back to prepare for their final exam.

As the President of the Republic has eased certain restrictions placed on public gatherings the Bishop has also issued a statement for resumption of liturgical celebrations with a maximum of 100 people at a time. The Bishops Conference also donated GHC70,000 (\$13,000) to the Government Covid-19 Trust Fund (CTF):<https://www.cbcbgha.org/index.php/2020/06/04/safety-guidelines-for-resuming-public-worship-in-the-midst-of-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic/>

CARITAS GHANA INTERVENTION SO FAR

Over the last months, Caritas Ghana has been collaborating with other Faith Based Organizations under an interfaith alliance initiative in 8 out of the 16 Political Regions of Ghana while supporting all 20 Diocesan Caritas Organizations. Caritas Ghana's has focused on three broad results areas as follows:

- Result 1: Improved access to accurate, reliable and timely COVID-19 information for citizens using the interfaith Alliance network (FAITH in Ghana)
- Result 2: Improved access to Emergency and Relief support services by COVID-19 lockdown induced vulnerable populations
- Result 3: Enhanced accountability and responsiveness of government and its agencies on COVID-19 actions to citizens.

CARITAS RESPONSE / ACTIVITIES

Caritas Ghana has adopted a nine-month Emergency Response Plan provided by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference, to ensure that the poor and vulnerable receive critical and essential services during this challenging time of coronavirus pandemic.

Caritas Ghana staff are spearheading awareness campaign, psychosocial support, food supply, financial assistance, health and team leadership to help manage effective preventive and response plan for the country. The team has been at the helm of affairs to:

1. Contribute to the national response to COVID-19 Pandemic, support all Catholic health facilities to manage COVID-19.

2. Reach the faithful with spiritual and psychological support and ensure basic needs support to vulnerable persons and households in some restricted environment.
3. It is in times of humanitarian crises like this that the dignity of the poor must be upheld, promoted and protected. Caritas Ghana is working with the Caritas Diocesan officers to mobilise humanitarian services for the Homeless and most vulnerable who are hardest hit.
4. Caritas Ghana invokes its safeguarding policy to ensure that no harm is done to its team and vulnerable people by ensuring their safety and dignity is respected and protected.
5. Caritas Ghana assisted in preventing mass exodus of people, especially Kayayei (Female Head Porters mainly from the north of the country) to travel back to the north in the heat of the lockdown.
6. Caritas Ghana anticipates a more dire impact on the survival of Kayayei and requires actions to safeguard them and their destination communities from the risk of infections.



Source: <https://www.caritas-ghana.org/index.php/photos/>.

Caritas Ghana, gave humanitarian support to 160 families made up of 630 people living at Old Fadama a slum areas in Accra who were recently rendered homeless after their places of abode were demolished during the COVID 19 lockdown. Each displaced family received a token amount ranging between GHc100 to GHc200 at a ceremony held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Derby Avenue in Accra. The total disbursement with support from Star Ghana Foundation was Twenty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc20,000.00). Prior to the demolition, on April 15, 2020, fire swept through the slum destroying hundreds of structures leaving over 800 people homeless.

Presenting the token to the beneficiaries who are mainly head porters and Okada riders, Mr. Samuel Zan Akologo, the Executive Secretary of Caritas Ghana, said the donation is part of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference's COVID-19 National Response Plan to the vulnerable.



Source: http://newswatchgh.com/crs-caritas-ghana-support-health-facilities-in-techiman/?fbclid=IwAR28M2y9ucAW7SuozxLpFePK9L4_bqQAf9D8RUmYxSjCF9R5gSxsb0tO8

Also, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in collaboration with Caritas Ghana, has donated items to the Catholic Diocese of Techiman in Ghana to support Catholic Health facilities in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in the Bono East Region of Ghana. The items include 100 hand washing buckets and accessories, tissues, hand sanitizers, bleach, liquid soap and visual education materials worth \$10,000.

Most Rev. Dominic Yeboah Nyarko, the Bishop of the Diocese, thanked the CRS and Caritas Ghana for the donation, saying that “these items have come at a very opportune time when the diocesan health facilities and many other health facilities in Bono East Region have almost exhausted all their resources in the fight against COVID-19.” Mr. Zan Samuel Akologo, the Executive Secretary of Caritas Ghana, noted that his office being the relief and humanitarian wing of the GCBC “sees the donation as a significant step to support many vulnerable communities in Ghana.”



Source: <http://newswatchgh.com/caritas-ghana-reaches-out-to-poor-families-adversely-impacted-by-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR2eABq4pg71KsNaYRxEaDANPIApDWt-sWoe9uvNerKx3HAKamHOhPc2rAc>

The Ghana Association of Bankers (GAB), donated seven hundred and fifty boxes of packaged food items to Caritas Offices in the Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Tamale Archdioceses for onward distribution to families and households who are most affected by COVID 19. “It is in response to the appeal by the Bishops that the

Ghana Association of Bankers made the donation to Caritas Ghana in mid-May to complement the Church's efforts in taking care of the poor and marginalized in the society. The boxes of items donated by the Association contained rice, beans, sugar, oil, tin fish, cassava flakes, spaghetti, tomatoes paste and soap which were delivered to the Ashanti, Central, Northern and Greater Accra regions on different dates in late May.



Source: http://newswatchgh.com/covid-19-taiwan-donates-100000-medical-face-masks-to-ghana/?fbclid=IwAR1uoKbXs9CJgUXgQcOSpW1-z2AzFq_68f5cQJ8agzM4ZID9_wLfoeW2F-g

His Excellency, Vincent Yang, the representative of Taiwan in Nigeria has on behalf of the Government and people of Taiwan donated 100,000 pieces of medical face masks to Caritas Ghana to support Ghana's effort to contain the novel Coronavirus. The donation was done on Tuesday, June 16, has since been distributed to all the 20 Diocesan Caritas Offices for onward distribution to frontline workers to complement Ghana's efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ambassador, also acknowledged the Vatican for their role in ensuring the donation was a success. Most Rev. Joseph Osei-Bonsu, Bishop of Konongo-Mampong Diocese and Episcopal President of Caritas Ghana on behalf of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference received the donation and thanked the ambassador and his country for the gesture of generosity.



Caritas Ghana is engaged in Advocacy by monitoring the impact of Government's Social Protection Programmes on the poor and the vulnerable. The framework applies Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation by citizens' groups".

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1130398063996523&id=1432427480331022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIGEARDLtps&t=2s>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=278960056822279>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNCRD_wZ13Y&feature=youtu.be

<https://www.facebook.com/392720347731675/posts/1182554155414953/>

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