



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-74

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

972 303 confirmed (75 853)

50 321 deaths (4822)

Western Pacific Region

108 930 confirmed (1304)

3760 deaths (37)

European Region

541 808 confirmed (38 802)

37 103 deaths (3499)

South-East Asia Region

5881 confirmed (557)

245 deaths (29)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

62 236 confirmed (4068)

3438 deaths (159)

Region of the Americas

247 473 confirmed (30 561)

5600 deaths (1061)

African Region

5263 confirmed (561)

164 deaths (37)



China announced on Tuesday that a lockdown would be lifted on more than 50 million people in central Hubei.

LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES

Global News

- Chile's president sparks outrage with visit to quarantined protest square.
- US Coronavirus Deaths Hit New Daily High Of 1,480 In 24 Hours: Report.
- Thousands of Central Americans detained for flaunting coronavirus rules.
- Russian ventilators sent to U.S. made by firm under U.S. sanctions: Russia newspaper.

Global Response

- Trump says 3M 'will have a big price to pay' over face masks.
- As coronavirus surges, non-COVID medical emergencies take a back seat, putting patients at risk.
- Coronavirus India: Government puts curbs on exports of diagnostic kits with immediate effect.
- China stops for three minutes to remember the dead.
- Russia uses facial recognition to tackle virus.
- Google data shines light on whether coronavirus lockdowns worldwide are working.

Local News

- Govt tells SC number of coronavirus cases expected to rise to 50,000 by April 25.
- Sheikh Rasheed says Railways incurring more than Rs1 billion losses each week due to lockdown.
- Stranded British-Pakistanis: Labour MPs write to British foreign secretary seeking to return home.
- 11 more tested positive for COVID-19 in twin cities, 4 in critical condition.
- Punjab Rozgar Scheme worth Rs9.5b approved.



Roads leading to Islamabad sealed- Photo by *Muhammad Asim*

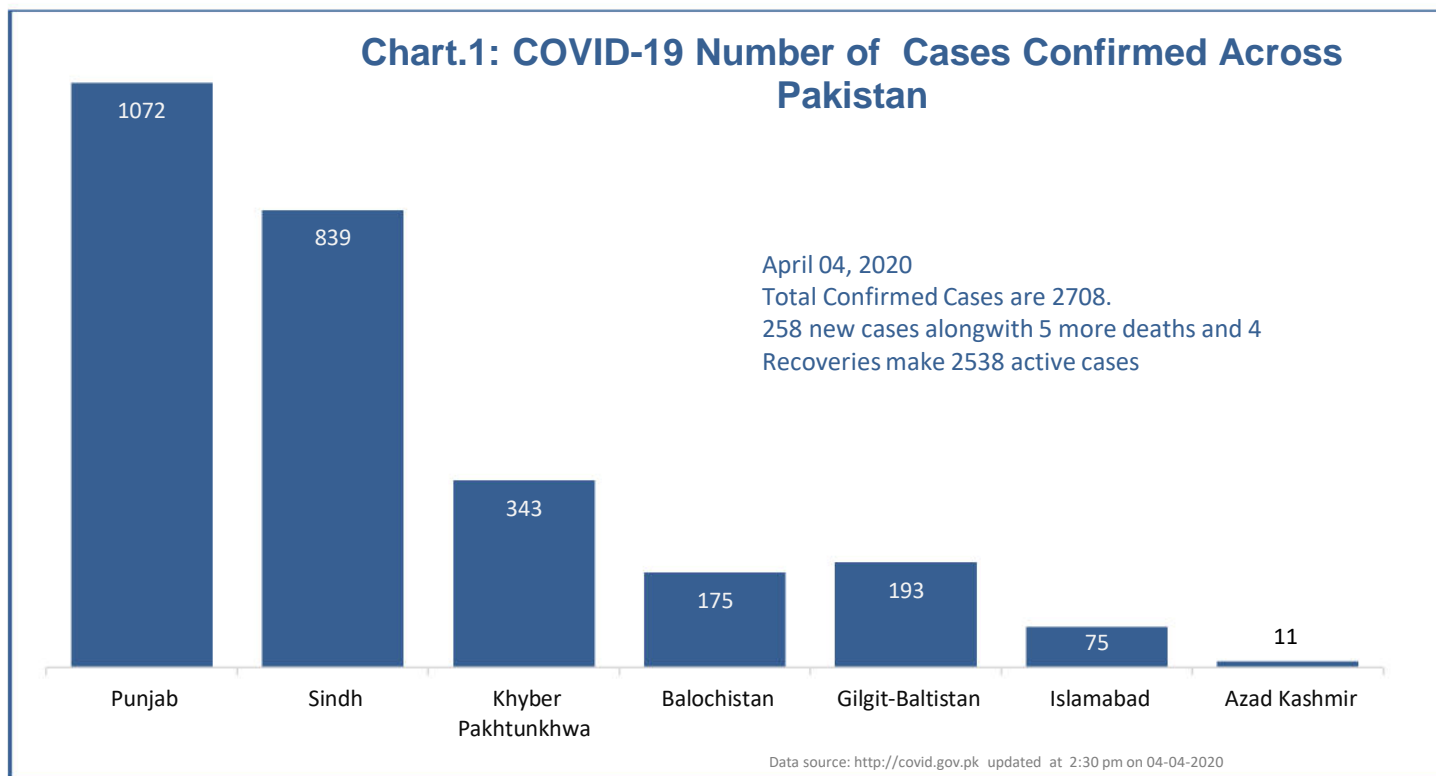
Local Response

- Sindh extends lockdown till April 14.
- Workers at graveyards designated for COVID-19 victims get safety gear.
- Rs30 billion was being given to the Naya Pakistan Housing Project to spur the construction activities across Pakistan amid corona crisis.
- Pakistan walking a 'tightrope' to ensure balance between lockdown and economy: PM.
- NUST develops bilingual app for coronavirus screening.
- Money Changers allowed to open outlets for five days amidst lockdown.
- Pemra asks cable operators to facilitate Punjab govt's 'Taleem Ghar' plan.

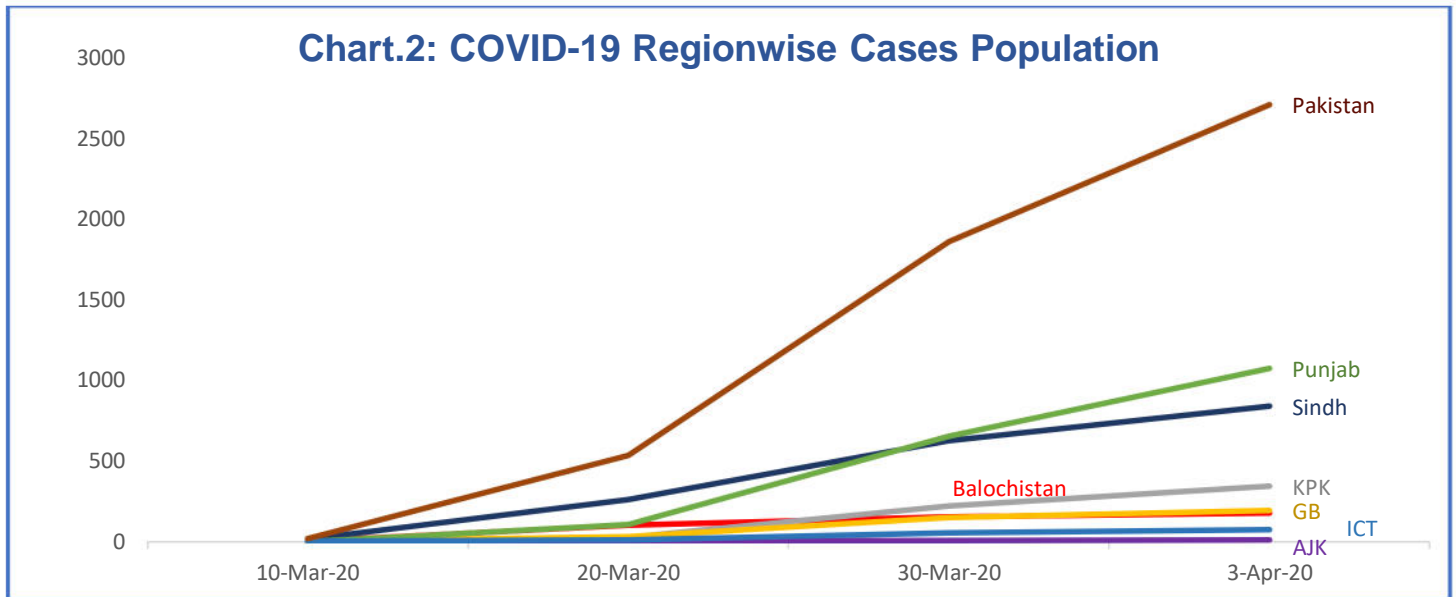


Disinfection taking place in Rawalpindi—DAWN

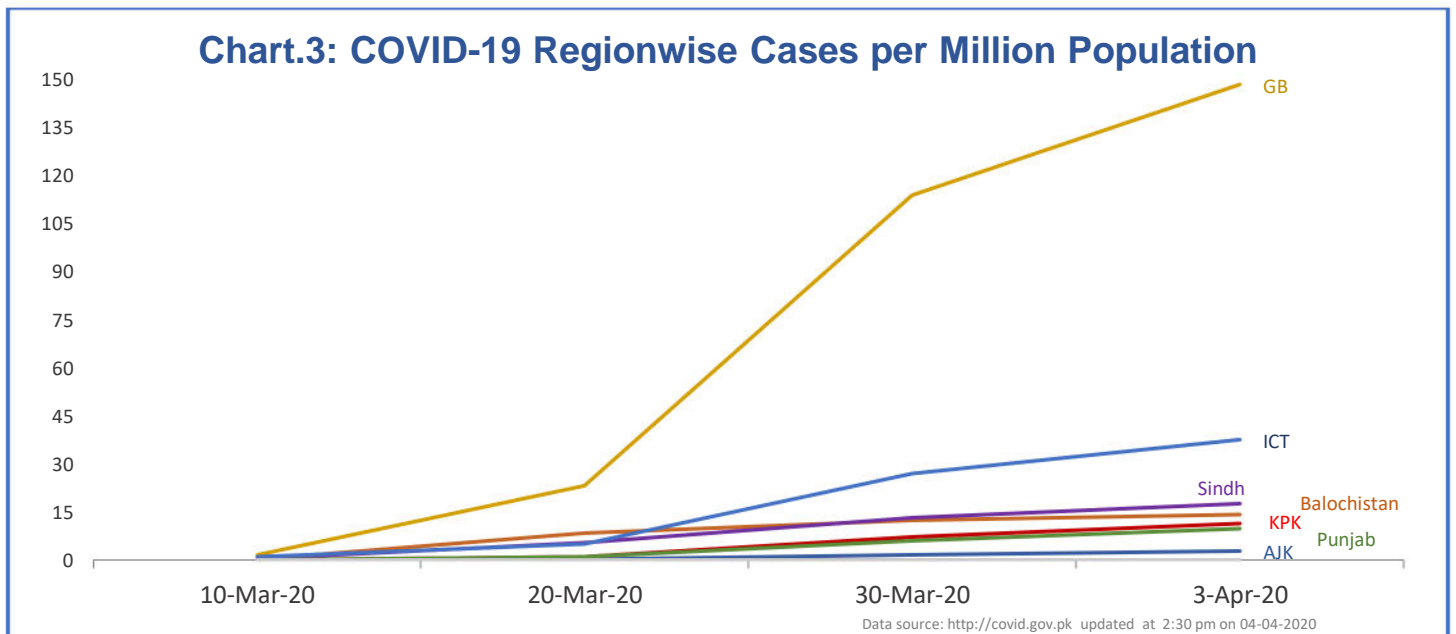
During the last 24 hours, 258 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2708. Three deaths from Sindh and two from KP have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 40 deaths and 130 recoveries across the country are reported. The current impact of the disease in Pakistan has been declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1.



The COVID-19 case count in Pakistan is constantly rising since the report of the index case on March 27, 2020, but the case occurrence pattern is not uniform across regions. Up till March 15, 2020, the number of infected cases remained in single digit across all regions of the country except Sindh. However, the count increases manifold after mid-March 2020 across all regions except AJK region (see Chart.2). Federal and Provincial governments have reacted adequately within their available resources to reduce the impact of the Pandemic. Although the current intensity of disease in Pakistan is much lower than many other countries but this requires constant effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 enough so that health sector can deal with the patients coming in.



In order to curb the outbreak, measures ambitious in their scope and reach are much needed. Observing the number of COVID-19 infected cases regionwise indicates that although the absolute counts per region remains high in Sindh and Punjab but as a matter of fact, these two provinces hold the majority of country's population. Analysing the number of COVID-19 infected cases per million population indicates that the Gilgit-Baltistan region is handling the highest per million occurrences with Federal capital following next (see Chart.3). Since, the country is not exercising national lockdown, looking at the number of confirmed cases per region with respect to the population of the region, possible plans and actions regarding general public awareness, social distancing and extensive restrictions can be adopted to minimize the enormity of the disease rampaging across the globe.



Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Healthcare Professionals

The Novel Coronavirus, which originally emerged in China, has now spread to more than 170 states. Even the western countries with the best healthcare systems are facing serious challenges to cope with the current situation. The only remedy to contain virus till now is social distancing. That is the reason behind lockdowns all over the world.

Hundreds of quarantines have been set up for the suspected patients. Healthcare workers are considered as saviors of the nation, especially in Pakistan. White flags were hoisted in the honor of healthcare workers. Doctors combatting coronavirus were given Guard of honor in Punjab and Balochistan but what they need more desperately is the Protective Equipment because they are frontline warriors against COVID-19. The Personal Protective Equipment includes protective mask, goggles, gloves, gown and shoes. As of now, healthcare workers are left exposed to coronavirus and are seen working with a single mask in most cases. A young Doctor, Osama Riaz from Gilgit-Baltistan, died of COVID-19 and scores of others have been quarantined/ isolated. Similarly, a Swabi based physician Dr. Amir Khan's photo got viral through social media while he was performing his duty wearing a polybag as a protest for not having equipment. Instead of providing him with equipment, he was sought explanation over his behavior from the competent authority¹. Another photo from Central Punjab made rounds on social media where commissioner was wearing N95 mask while Doctors had simple surgical masks during an inauguration ceremony. Moreover, spokesperson of Sindh Government took twitter to share that our country needs ventilators and protective gears for medical staff. These healthcare workers, if left exposed like this, have a strong tendency of becoming potential virus carriers and super-spreaders. So it must be the top priority of the government to provide the healthcare workers with PPE, only guard of honor and white flags are not enough. Government should suspend the development activities for time. Development budget allocated for the members of lower house should be diverted to fulfill the essential requirements of healthcare workers to the maximum capacity. The head of World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for a stepped-up production of medical equipment and supplies. As the pandemic is global, we are not facing these challenges alone. The "just in time" approach has been working well before the crisis. **(Zohaib Mehmood Awan, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

¹ KP's doctor up in arms against PPE shortage, The Express Tribune, 27th march 2020

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan. 28, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2020)

Jan. 28—WHO's Tedros meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing to discuss the latest developments in the 2019-nCoV outbreak. China agrees for WHO to send in international experts to help increase global understanding of the outbreak and guide response efforts.

Africa prepares for the potential spread of 2019-nCoV as the number of confirmed cases in China rises to 5,974 with 132 deaths. Confirmed cases globally now total over 6,000.

Jan. 29—Tedros decides to reconvene the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Thursday for advice on whether to declare the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The announcement comes just a week after Tedros initially refrained from declaring the outbreak an emergency. As 2019-nCoV cases grow in number and spread to more countries, the virus reaches the Middle East for the first time, with the United Arab Emirates reporting imported cases in a family of four. Finland also reports its first confirmed case.

Meanwhile, several countries prepare to repatriate people from Wuhan, and multiple airlines suspend or restrict flights to and from Chinese cities, just as confirmed cases in China continue to rise, now at 7,711. Globally, total confirmed cases are now at 7,816, with 170 deaths.

There are, however, some positive developments, as Australian scientists announce they have successfully grown 2019-nCoV in the laboratory, which can be helpful in improving diagnosis of the virus. Through his foundation, Alibaba Founder Jack Ma also donates 100 million Chinese yuan (\$14.4 million) to help fund the development of a vaccine for the 2019-nCoV.

Jan. 30—WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declares the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, noting the potential spread of the virus to countries with weak health systems. The decision comes as more countries outside China

report cases of infection, including the Philippines and India. Both confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases. Total confirmed cases in China reach 9,692, with 213 deaths. WHO recommends “2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease” as interim name for the disease.

Jan. 31 —More countries are applying border control measures against foreign nationals with recent travel history from China, just as confirmed cases in China reach 11,791, with 259 deaths. The U.S. declares the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency domestically. The U.K., Russia, Sweden, and Spain also confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>



A migrant worker resting outside a loom amid global lockdown—*Reuters*

Experts' View

If Covid-19 deaths remove the denialism blindfold on the transformational value of cooperation lost in conflict, the two nuclear neighbours can agree to a calibrated lowering of tensions, which include steps on Kashmir, where thousands suffer a double-burden of security-curfew trauma as well as coronavirus shocks. The Siachen glacier, which has the dubious distinction of being the highest altitude battlefield in the world, remains a surreal low-news reminder of how both India and Pakistan continue to lose soldiers' lives from temperatures, not bullets. What the indication of flexibility by New Delhi on Kashmir may do is improve confidence levels in dialogue between two neighbours whose conflict has held back any regional dividends of economic growth, energy connectivity, trade optimization to reduce poverty, climate cooperation on water, air and carbon negotiations at all forums. **(Sherry Rehman, THE NEWS)**

Unlike developed countries, our ability to maintain food security may be more challenging. To ensure subsistence and equal access to food and healthcare for all citizens, we may have to resort to war-time consumption and rationing temporarily in the absolute worst case scenario. I hope we don't have to. But we should prepare for that scenario. Chiefly, the lesson from China is that coordination works. We need our central government to act in concert with provincial governments, leading a coordinated national effort. On a global level, we have to pursue the IMF and World Bank for concessions. Encouragingly, the IMF has indicated that it is ready to mobilize \$1 trillion for coronavirus lending. We need to lobby for more money with fewer public spending restrictions. Global solidarity combined with state action should define the path forward.

No Pakistani can be left to starve or die of disease. That is the promise of our constitutional right to life. Pakistan is because Pakistanis are—the poor, the old and the sick too. **(Morial Shah, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

Constantly hearing about the pandemic can be very disturbing. It is helpful to take breaks from watching, reading or listening to news stories, including social media. It is also necessary to make some time to unwind and spend time doing activities one enjoys. Reading, music, reflection, writing, meditation are just a few of those things that one may wish to rediscover. While we recharge ourselves, connection with others remains integral; talking with people, sharing concerns, and communicating our feelings and thoughts and maintaining healthy relationships prevent loneliness and despair. Social distancing, mandated with the outside world, gives us an opportunity to slow down and reconnect with close family and friends using available technology. In this era of growing information, it is worth finding one or two trustworthy resources to watch or read for news updates. Global crises are breeding grounds for rumours, misinformation and sensationalism. It is vital to always check on sources and avoid forwarding or sharing information that does not have a dependable reference. And while we are finding our own ways of coping with this situation, there is a need to keep things in perspective. While some things are obviously beyond our control, there are guidelines we can follow, useful information we can access and share, relationships we can nurture, and memories we can create. Let's focus on that. **(Ayesha Mian, DAWN)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

You can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19. To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

FACT:

Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25C degrees DOES NOT prevent the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)



#Coronavirus #COVID19

COVID-19 READS

1. **Who are the workers already impacted by the COVID-19 recession?**
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/who-are-the-workers-already-impacted-by-the-covid-19-recession/>
2. **Africa Roundup: Africa's tech ecosystem responds to COVID-19**
<https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/31/africa-roundup-africas-tech-ecosystem-responds-to-covid-19/>
3. **COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Get Money To People Faster With Digital Dollars**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lawrencewintermeyer/2020/03/30/covid-19-economic-stimulus-get-money-to-people-faster-with-digital-dollars/#1456a8931fc9>

4. **Explaining Policy Judgements In Covid-19 Times**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lbsbusinessstrategyreview/2020/04/03/explaining-policy-judgements-in-covid-19-times/#4073790f1bab>
5. **COVID-19 pandemic proves the need for ‘social robots,’ ‘robot avatars’ and more, say experts**
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/03/covid-19-proves-the-need-for-social-robots-and-robot-avatars-experts.html>
6. **India COVID-19 lockdown means no food or work for rural poor**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/india-covid-19-lockdown-means-food-work-rural-poor-200402052048439.html>
7. **More Covid-19 patients needed for drug trials, says Matt Hancock**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/03/more-covid-19-patients-needed-for-drug-trials-says-matt-hancock>
8. **Coronavirus vaccines: Drug trials, chloroquine and treatments for COVID-19**
<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/coronavirus-vaccines-drug-trials-chloroquine-and-treatments-for-covid-19/>
9. **COVID-19 pandemic is testing world leaders. Who's stepping up?**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/covid-19-pandemic-testing-world-leaders-stepping-200402201221844.html>
10. **FDA authorizes first antibody-based test for COVID-19**
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/2/21204478/fda-authorization-coronavirus-antibody-test-diagnostic-covid-19>
11. **You’re a parent with COVID-19. Your partner is also sick. What do you do?**
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-03/coronavirus-partner-sick-parents-kids>
12. **Restaurant Operators On Life Before, During And After COVID-19**
<https://www.pymnts.com/coronavirus/2020/restaurant-operators-on-life-before-during-and-after-covid-19/>

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