



**WHO NAMIBIA  
COVID-19 BULLETIN:  
NOVEMBER AND  
DECEMBER 2020**



# Situation Update

191,362

**Tested**

19,984

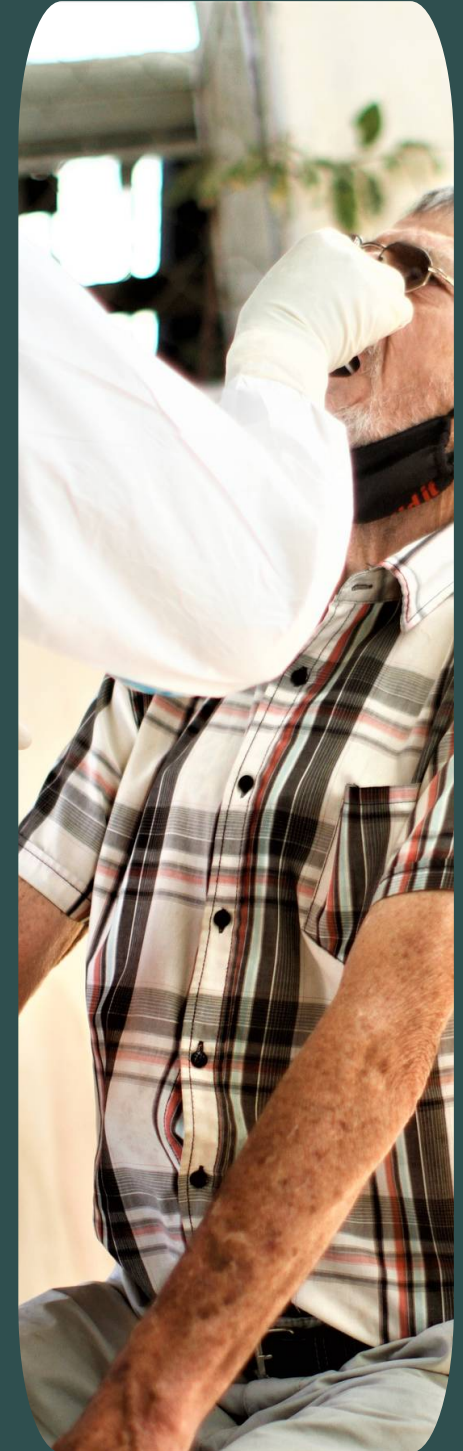
**Confirmed**

2,906

**Active**

183

**Deaths**



**Namibia  
COVID-19  
Response:**

**Key milestones**





## Preparatory phase:

**Dec 2019 – 13 March 2020**

- National Health Emergency Committee transition to focus on COVID-19.
- MoHSS Executive Director co-chairs National Disaster Risk Management Committee with the Secretary to Cabinet including other key government ministries Executive Directors.
- Military mobile hospital erected at the Hosea Kutako International Airport as an isolation facility.
- Clinic at the Hosea Kutako International Airport re-purposed to be an isolation facility.
- COVID-19 National Health Emergency action plan approved.
- Formation of COVID-19 Response Pillars in line with WHO recommendations.
- Incident Manager and Deputy Incident Manager for COVID-19 appointed.

## First cases:

Namibia reported its first 2 confirmed COVID-19 cases on 13 March 2020:

A Romanian Couple who visited the country as tourists

**ISOLATION WARD**

**STOP**

**DO NOT**



State of Emergency  
declared

on 17 March 2020

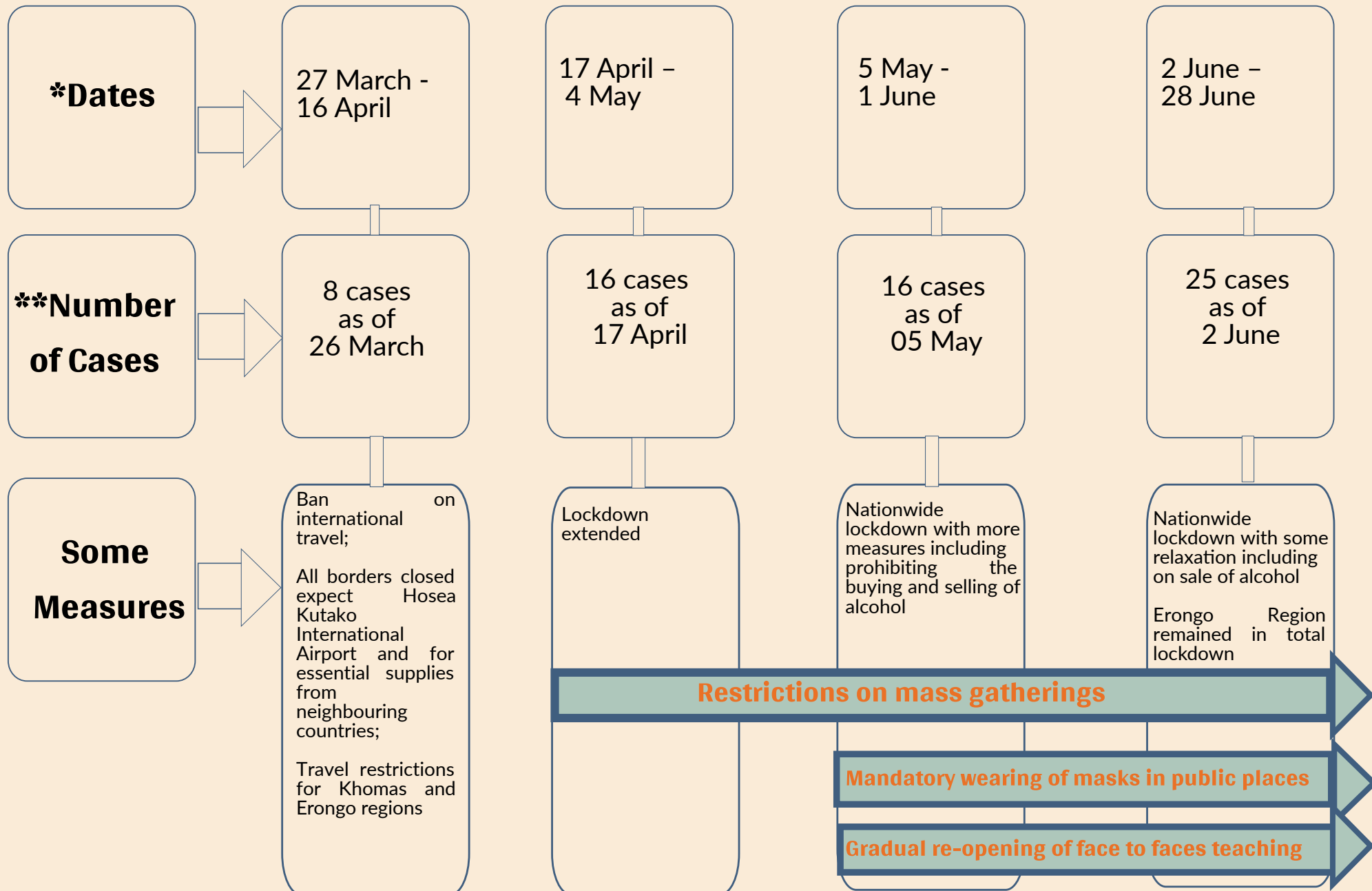
# Financial support to the Response

- Government availed N\$ 727 million (approx. 45 million USD ) for the COVID-19 public health emergency response of which over 90% have been utilized.
- The United Nations in Namibia repurposed its staff for the COVID-19 response and reprogrammed USD 3'725'530.00 (approx. NAD 59 million) within the UN Partnership Framework to ensure that service delivery is adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and to complement the government's emergency preparedness and response plan.



# Lockdowns

## Key Milestones



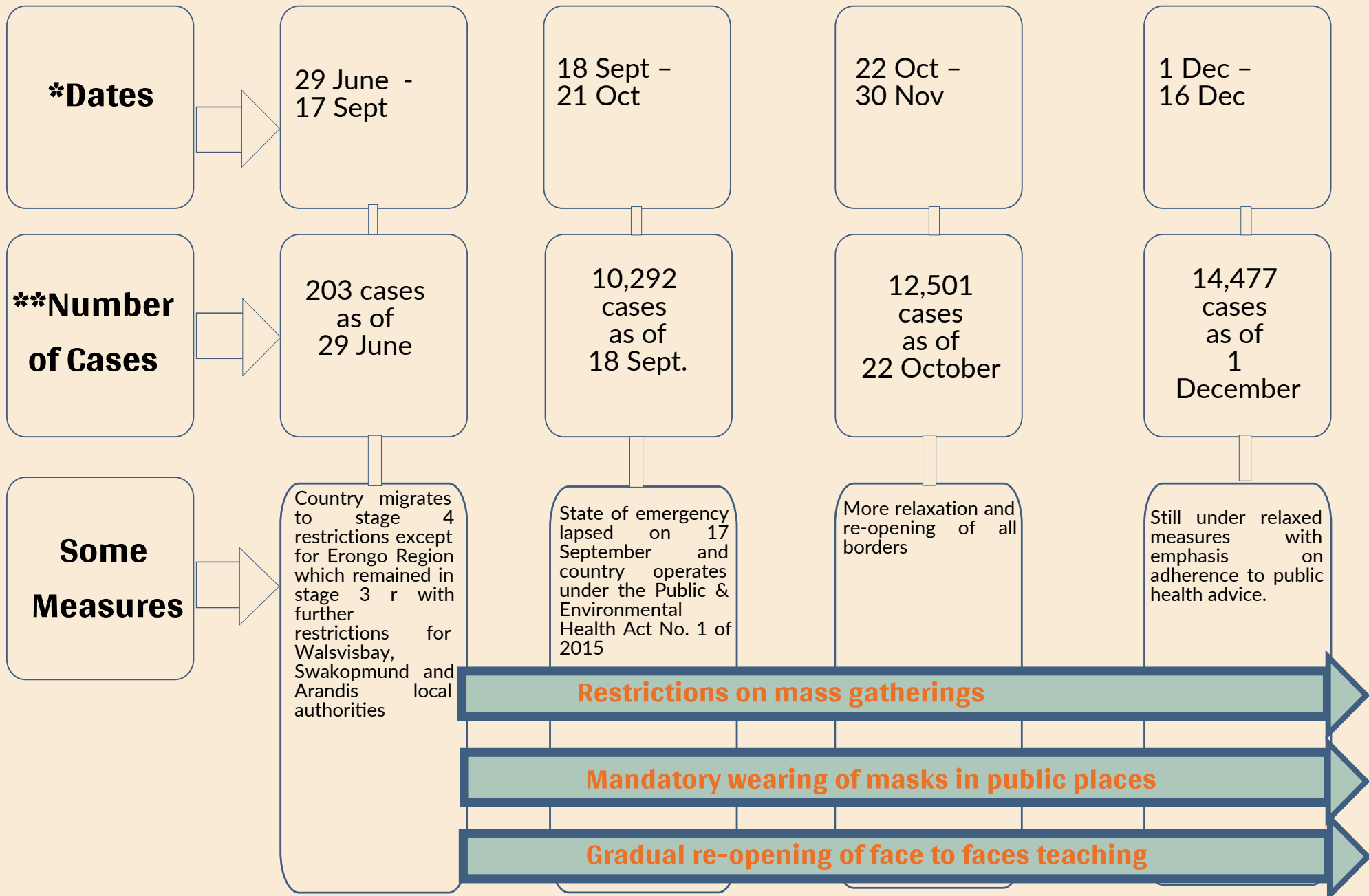
\*The dates and measures were being adjusted as the situation was evolving and may not be accurate as these were extracted from different speeches and social media platforms. They could not be officially verified before publishing

\*\* Number of Cases are taken from the Namibia COVID-19 Situation Reports numbers 9, 31, 48, 76, 105, 184, 218, 250 and 273



# Lockdowns

## Key Milestones



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# Lockdowns

The Head of State announced additional measures on 16 December for 14 days due to rapid increase in number of new cases daily.

Wearing of mask in public remains mandatory and mass gatherings are reduced to 50 indoors and 100 people outdoor.

As new cases continue to increase and on delegation of the Head of State, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, announced stricter measures on 23 December.

He reported a 68% increase in COVID-19 cases since after 16 December; and an 71% increase in hospitalization due to COVID-19 and 55% increase in COVID-19 related deaths in just one week.

The wearing of masks in public remains mandatory and public gatherings are reduced to 50 per event.

The measures are effective immediately till 13 January 2021 and include further restrictions on sale of alcohol and a curfew of between 9 pm to 4 am across the country.



President of the  
Republic of  
Namibia  
His Excellency, Dr.  
Hage Geingob



Minister of Health  
and Social Services  
Hon. Dr. Kalumbi  
Shangula



Minister of Justice  
Hon. Yvonne Dausab

Pictures contributed.

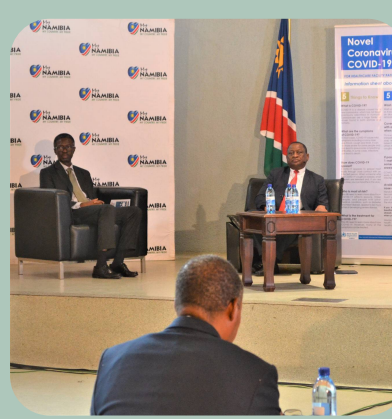
## Providing a cushion for the economy



- An Economic and Stimulus Relief Package was introduced on 2 April to support core economic activities, formal and informal, and to ensure to the extent possible that essential financial services continued uninterrupted.
- The total Package amounted to N\$8.1 billion, comprising of N\$5.9 billion as direct support to businesses, households and cash flow acceleration payments for services rendered to Government and
- N\$2.3 billion additional support, guaranteed by Government, but off-balance sheet Government liabilities to further support loan uptake on preferential terms by business and individuals.

## Addressing infodemics and keeping the public informed

- Government launched the COVID-19 Communication Centre on 2 April and since then approximately 269 daily panel discussions were hosted covering over 150 topics and having over 247 institutions represented.
- The sessions were streaming live on different social media platforms including that of the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Namibia Broadcasting Cooperation (NBC), and Ministry of Health and Social Services.
- Several other media houses also streamed the sessions on their social media platforms especially during the hard lockdown period.
- In addition, NBC broadcast the sessions live on NBC TV 1 and all 10 radio stations daily.
- Over 700,000 IEC materials were printed in English, Afrikaans, Otjiherero, Oshiwambo, Khoekhoegowab, Setwana, Zilozi, and Rukwangali.

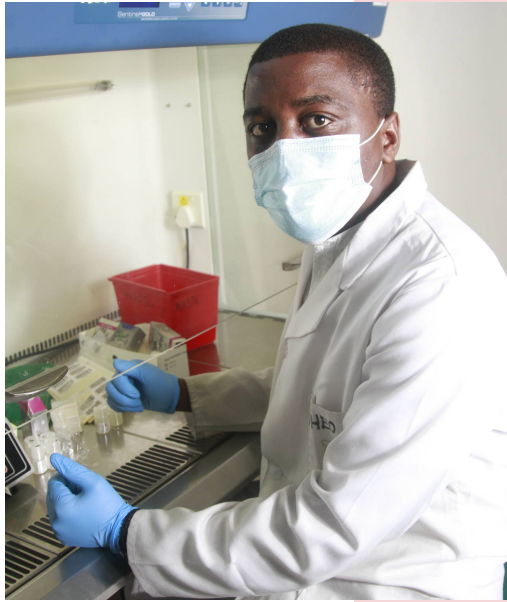




### Ensuring protection of health care workers and Improving laboratory services

First medical equipment donations arrived in country with the WHO/WFP Solidarity Flight on 17 April 2020.

- Since then the UN donated N\$13,693, 143.82 (85,522 USD ) worth of PPEs.
- In addition WHO donated N\$2,279,004.46 (148,955 USD) worth of laboratory supplies and equipment





## Improving the management of COVID-19

Head of State inaugurated the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital on 3 June 2020

Current bed capacity for treatment of COVID-19 Intensive Care Units and High Care is 96 and counting;

an increase from only 4 beds at the onset of the outbreak.

## Namibia Tourism Revival Initiative



Hosea Kutako  
International Airport  
re- opened as part of  
the International  
Tourism Revival  
Initiative on 1  
September 2020

## Strengthening the capacity of the response team



- The Infection Prevention and Control Pillar conducted 24 trainings with a reach of approximately 1583 health workers working on infection prevention and control.

- Other trainings were conducted for surveillance, case management, risk communication and community engagement, psycho-social support and mental health, laboratory and points of entry.

- WHO recruited regional coordinators to support Erongo, Zambezi, Kavango East and West, Oshana and Kharas Regions.

- Additional technical support was provided to the national case management, surveillance, laboratory and coordination pillars respectively.



# Pillars' Updates for November and December 2020



## Leadership

- Visit to the Erongo region reflecting on the region's response during the peak of the outbreak.
- Launch the National Action Plan on Health Security.
- Continued to advise on public health measures to meet the changing dynamics of the pandemic in Namibia



## Pillar 1: Country Coordination, Planning, and Monitoring

- Coordinated Integrated regional supportive supervisory visits to all 14 regions.
- Coordinated Intra-action Reviews in all 14 regions jointly with all pillars.
- Supported the Hepatitis E Virus and COVID-19 response focusing on IPC and WASH.
- Continue to support the final preparatory work for implementation of sentinel surveillance testing for seasonal influenza by early 2021.
- Supported leadership training for Erongo regional health team, including district and hospital managers on leadership and management in public health emergency.





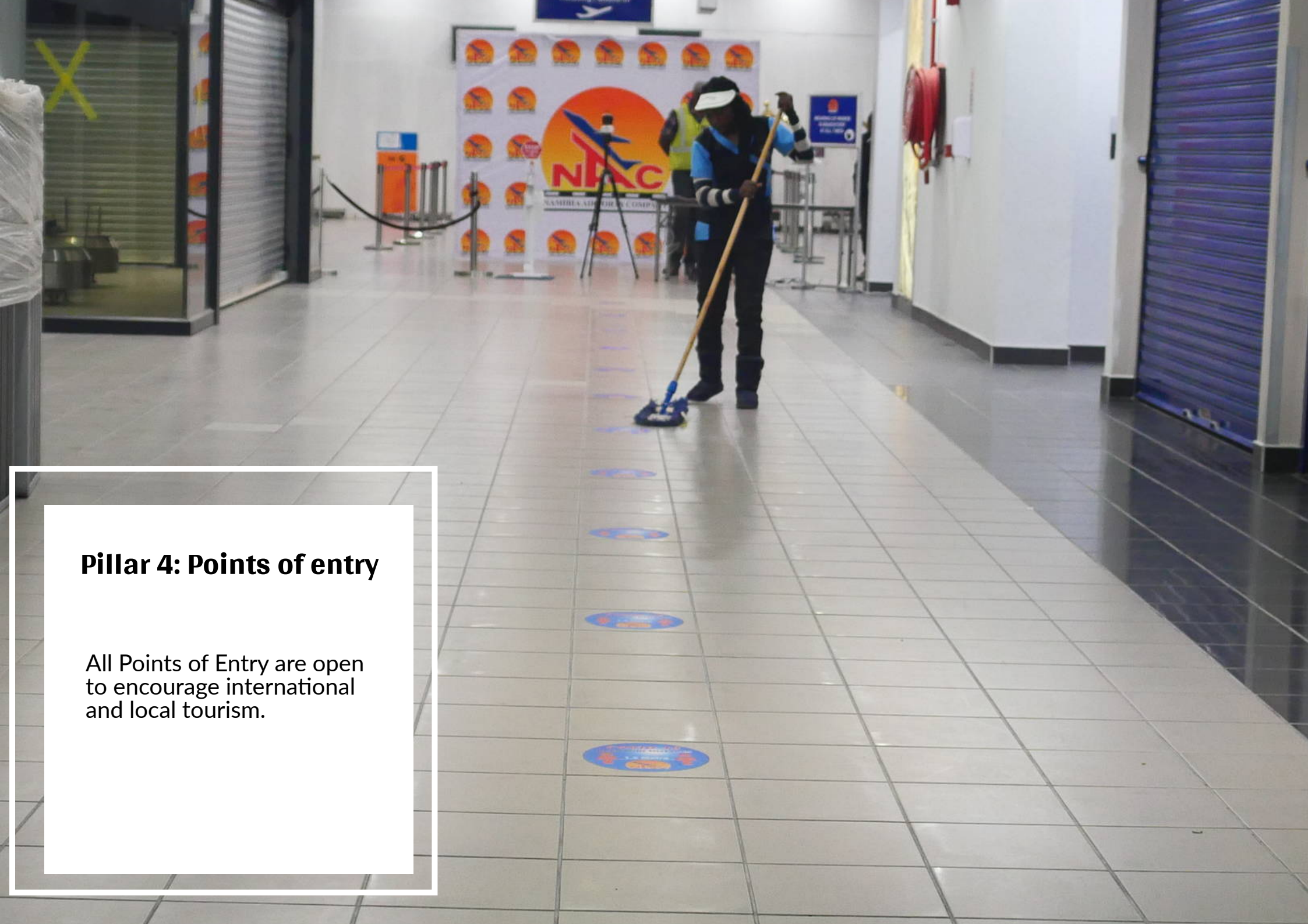
## Pillar 2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Promotion of mask use as part of the Africa Mask Week.
- Recorded influencers at national, regional, local authority and community levels on key prevention measures for the festive season.
- Intensifying awareness on adherence to public health measures through the COVID-19 Communication Centre, social media platforms and mainstream media.
- Printed 100,000 copies of the homecare leaflet.



## Pillar 3: Surveillance and Case Investigation

- Trained surveillance officers on GO. Data application and is piloting its implementation in the Zambezi region.
- Provided support in the revision of various surveillance guidelines.
- Developed a tool to assist in collection of data regarding Health Workers' infection.
- Conducted support supervision to Zambezi, Kavango East and West, Kunene, Omusati and Oshana regions where on-the-job trainings was provided during the visit.
- WHO team continued to provide technical backstopping at national level meetings and discussions.



## **Pillar 4: Points of entry**

All Points of Entry are open to encourage international and local tourism.



### Pillar 5: Laboratory Coordination

- WHO supplied COVID-19 External Quality Assurance (EQA) test panels to NIP Oshakati, NIP Windhoek and Pathcare laboratories to monitor the quality of the PCR testing in these laboratories.
- WHO put an order for 1000 Genexpert test kits (20,000 USD) through the UN supply portal.
- WHO solicited 800,000 USD from the Arab Bank for the procurement of COVID-19 laboratory equipment (high throughput PCR machine), reagents and supplies to be implemented through NIP.
- 3400 Automated Abbott PCR reagent test kits and RT-PCR machine ordered and paid for through the UN COVID-19 supply portal and to be delivered to Namibia.
- WHO supported the development of the draft national guideline for the implementation of COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests (Ag RDTs).



## Pillar 6: Case Management

Conducted a case management training for 30 medical officers and nurses from all 14 regions working in high dependency and intensive care units.





## Pillar 7: Infection Prevention and Control

- Conducted site support visits in Oshana and Oshikoto regions at Oshakati Intermediate Hospital, Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital, Omuthiya District Hospital, Ongwediva Medipark Private Hospital and Nehale Senior secondary School.
- Conducted a training on IPC and burial practices for 209 healthcare workers including Nurses and Environmental Health Officers in Khomas, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Kavango, Zambezi and Oshikoto regions. Districts are expected to cascade trainings in the health facilities.
- Conducted training for 92 Ministry of Defense burial team on burial management in Khomas and Zambezi regions.
- Printed 500 hand hygiene posters and 550 National IPC guidelines for the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

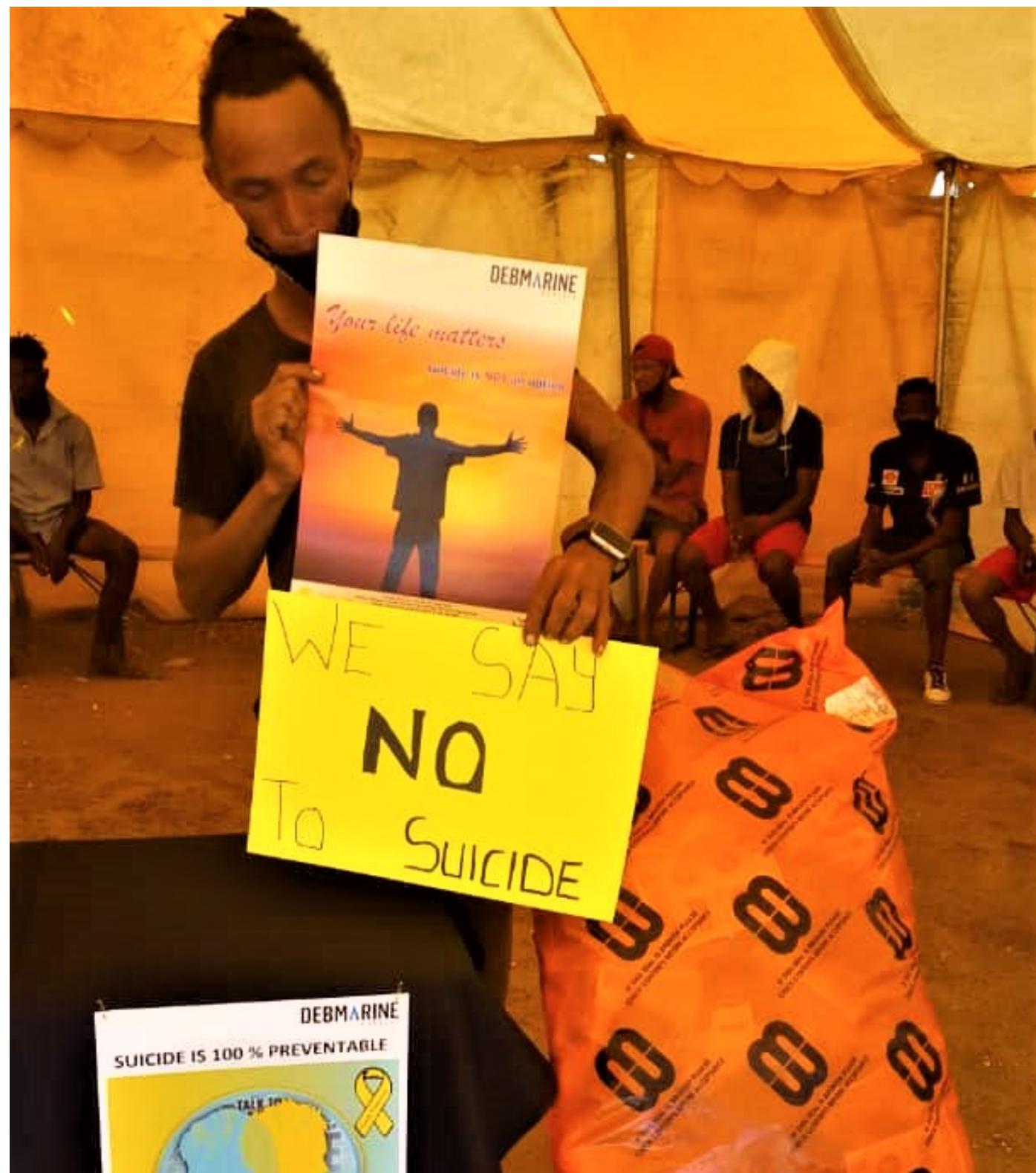


## Pillar 8: Operation and Support, Logistics

- Conducted supportive supervisory visits to Oshikoto and Ohangwena regions.
- Continue to facilitate the distribution of Covid-19 Supplies to regions.
- Conducted an assessment on critical needs for the replenishment of COVID-19 related medical supplies to all 14 regions for a period of 3 months. The supplies have been dispatched to most regions. The process will be completed before end of the year.
- Supported the international consignment for custom declaration and exemptions for consignments to enter Namibia, and to be cleared upon arrival as some consignment are cold chain and need to be stored in a cold room.

## Pillar 9: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Continued psycho-social support to bereaved families, those in isolation and quarantine.
- Continued support and intervention for persons without shelter across the country.



## Pillar 10: Essential Health Services

- Under the essential health services, support was provided to finalize the guidelines for essential health services in collaboration with other partners.
- Provided financial support to 3 regions to implement maternal and child health days as part of the essential health services to improve coverage for routine immunization.
- Monitoring of essential health services has been conducted.



# Partners in Namibia's COVID-19 Response



And numerous public and private institutions and individuals who provided technical, financial and in kind support to the government



**WHO Namibia, UN House, 2nd Floor, Stein Street 38, Klein Windhoek  
P. O. Box 3444, Windhoek, Namibia  
Tel: + 264 (61) 255 121/191**