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IFRC COVID-19 Emergency Decree Pro Bono Research: Ethiopia

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1. Is there coordination between state and non-state actors, e.g. through a national emergency response mechanism?

Yes.

Ethiopia has also undertaken measures to stabilize the economy by working with private financial institutions and controlling the pricing and supply of consumer goods.¹

Ethiopia has submitted a “Three Points Proposal” to the G20 requesting an emergency financing package totaling USD \$150 billion, a health emergency package consisting of support to the World Health Organization or the Global Fund, and a debt resolution and restructuring package.²

Ethiopia has also partnered with the Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation to combat COVID-19. These two groups are donating 1.1 million testing kits, 6 million masks and 60,000 protective suits to the 54 African countries, and Ethiopia specifically will receive 20,000 testing kits, 100,000 masks, and 1,000 protective suits.³ Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia has spearheaded this partnership.⁴

2. Is there mention of the role of Red Cross (RC) or humanitarian actors? In what areas/sectors? What responsibilities are ascribed to RC?

We have not identified any mention of the Red Cross. As stated above, there is mention of the Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation helping to provide testing kits and personal protective equipment.

3. Are there exceptions to travel restrictions that will facilitate the movement of RC/humanitarian relief teams and/or aid across borders? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

Borders have been closed by the National Defense Forces, but there is an exception for “incoming essential goods to the country,” which is not explained further but presumably includes humanitarian aid.⁵

All incoming travelers must quarantine themselves for fourteen days in a designated hotel at their own cost.⁶ If travelers cannot afford to quarantine themselves, they will be quarantined at the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University.⁷

Ethiopian Airlines has ceased flight operations to 30 countries.⁸

¹ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1243495056360845312/photo/2>.

² <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1242326805903785989/photo/1>.

³ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1241663078778929154/photo/1>;
<https://twitter.com/JackMa/status/1239581509125726210/photo/1>.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50704526/cambodia-almost-sealed-off-after-borders-close/>.

⁶ https://twitter.com/lia_tadesse/status/1241610916736663558/photo/1.

⁷ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1243495056360845312/photo/1>.

⁸ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1241313604919603200/photo/2>.



4. Are there exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other restrictions on movement that allow RC/humanitarian organizations access to vulnerable populations (including for psychosocial or non-medical aid)?

Apart from the mandatory quarantine for travelers entering the country, there are no mandatory quarantines, curfews, or other restrictions on movement within the country at this time.

5. Have any special legal facilities or exemptions been put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items or personnel (International Disaster Response Law)? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

There is a tax exemption for the import of materials and equipment to be used in the prevention and containment of the virus.⁹ There are no quarantine requirements attached to it at this time.

6. Is the RC (or humanitarian organizations) categorized as 'essential' or 'emergency' services, for the purposes of exemptions to restrictions on business operations and opening hours?

Besides the measures identified in response to question 7 below (none of which should apply to humanitarian organizations), there are not currently any restrictions on business operations and opening hours.

7. What other measures are provided in the emergency decrees? (for governmental actors, for communities, for health workers, etc).

The federal government has issued the following orders:

- Citizens must practice social distancing.¹⁰
- Large gatherings and meetings, including those at religious institutions, must stop.¹¹
- Public transporters must cease overcrowding.¹²
- All schools, including higher learning institutions, must close.¹³
- Night clubs and bars must cease operations.¹⁴
- Government employees must work from home.¹⁵
- Federal courts are partially closed.¹⁶

Other coronavirus measures focus on identifying quarantine, isolation, and treatment centers¹⁷ and on ensuring economic stability.¹⁸

⁹ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1243495056360845312/photo/2>.

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/AbiyAhmedAli/status/1242040780614709253>.

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1242034044017299456/photo/2>;
<https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1241313604919603200/photo/2>.

¹² <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1242034044017299456/photo/2>.

¹³ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1241313604919603200/photo/2>;
<https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1239483664926457856/photo/2>.

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1241039238986072064/photo/3>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1242429644567126017/photo/1>.

¹⁶ https://twitter.com/ashenafi_meaza.

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/AbiyAhmedAli/status/1243138059480293376/photo/1>.

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1243495056360845312/photo/2>.



8. Have restrictions been adopted or put in place that ban the export of protective medical equipment?

We have not identified such a provision, but, as of March 25, Ethiopia was directing substantial efforts to establishing a “national emergency stockpile.”¹⁹ The government is working to find “materials like beds, mattresses, bed sheets, ventilators and other medical and non-medical supplies.”²⁰

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/AbiyAhmedAli/status/1243138059480293376/photo/1>.

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/PMEthiopia/status/1243495056360845312/photo/1>.