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## Information Bulletin Novel Coronavirus

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">EP-2020-000012-CHN</a>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 30 January 2020
<b>Date of emergency onset:</b> 31 December 2019 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Point of contact:</b> Nelson Castano, Manager, Operations Coordination
<b>Number of people affected and at risk:</b> 6,065 confirmed cases (as of 29 January 2020) <sup>2</sup> , very high risk in China and high risk regionally and globally	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> TBC
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, government health authorities in affected countries	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is releasing 1 million Swiss Francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support preparedness and response actions in countries which are most vulnerable to the ongoing outbreak within the Asia Pacific region and positioning surge technical specialists where needed to analyse, design and implement relevant actions to prepare for, prevent and respond to the outbreak. A global Emergency Appeal will be issued shortly.*

## The situation

On 31 December 2019, China reported cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, of unknown pneumonic disease. On 9 January 2020, the virus was identified to be a coronavirus – a virus from a broad family that can range from less severe cases similar to the common cold to more serious illnesses including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). This novel coronavirus is temporarily named 2019-nCoV. As of 29 January, 6,065 cases are confirmed globally in 16 countries, out of which 5,997 cases confirmed in China with 132 deaths. Below is the chronology of the outbreak since 31 December 2019:

<b>31 December 2019</b>	The government of China reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, Hubei Province.
<b>1 January 2020</b>	The market suspected to be the origin of the outbreak is closed.
<b>9 January 2020</b>	WHO announces that the outbreak in Wuhan is caused by a previously unknown type of coronavirus. The virus is temporarily called 2019-nCoV.
<b>11 January 2020</b>	The first death of coronavirus was declared by Chinese health authorities.
<b>13 January 2020</b>	The virus spreads cross borders for the first time as Thailand and Japan announce their first cases, in individuals who travelled from Wuhan.
<b>19 January 2020</b>	First reports of infection in healthcare workers caring for patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV
<b>20 January 2020</b>	China's National Health Commission confirmed that human-to-human transmission of the virus has been observed.
<b>23 January 2020</b>	Emergency Committee of the WHO is convened under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), and determines that the event does not constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

<sup>1</sup> On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus on 7 January 2020 (Source: [WHO](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Globally confirmed cases (Source: [WHO](#))

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The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee reconvenes to assess whether the nCoV outbreak now constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

**The Red Cross Society of China** has sent information to all branches to help prevent further spread. Headquarters and all branches are posting critical risk communication information on social media. **Japanese Red Cross Society** and **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** are preparing to mobilise assistance. **Philippine Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society** and **Myanmar Red Cross Society** have shared prevention messages on social media.

As most of the confirmed cases are in Asia, the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur, through IFRC country office and country cluster support teams, is monitoring and assessing the situation and taking steps to help National Societies in Asia Pacific prepare for the outbreak and manage risks. Reflecting upon the lessons learned from SARS and MERS outbreaks, it is important that all Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are prepared and ready to respond as within their capacities and mandates.

Acting within their capacities and mandates to respond as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the prevention and alleviation of human suffering, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Asia Pacific have an important role to play in controlling this outbreak, both at the country and international levels. National Societies can engage people and communities, online and offline, in promoting behaviours that reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the virus, facilitate community understanding and acceptance of infection prevention and control measures, and help to prevent misinformation, rumours and panic. It is also imperative that they take steps to protect their own staff and volunteers from exposure in the line of duty. As the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, the Red Cross and Red Crescent can play a unique role in reaching communities with these critical interventions.

A further risk of global spread of the novel coronavirus is also foreseen, with five countries outside of Asia Pacific in Europe (France and Germany), Middle East (United Arab Emirates) and the Americas (United States of America and Canada) already confirming cases. The outbreak is expected to continue to grow, with the WHO rating the global risk as 'high'. The IFRC Secretariat in Geneva is coordinating a global operation and sharing information to support 192 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through its five regional offices in Asia Pacific, Africa (Nairobi), Middle East and North Africa (Beirut), Europe (Budapest) and the Americas (Panama).

IFRC is releasing 1 million Swiss Francs from DREF for preparedness and response actions of National Societies in countries which are most vulnerable to the ongoing outbreak, with a current focus in the Asia Pacific region, as well as measures to prepare and respond globally as the outbreak evolves. With the risk of rapid spread of the outbreak in the region and around the world, this DREF allocation will allow for initial surge resources to be mobilized, deployed, and repositioned based on outbreak dynamics within the region, as well as the preparation and implementation of key information and translations for newly impacted countries as the situation continues to evolve.

A global Emergency Appeal to support the planned response is being prepared and will be launched soon.

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## Contact information

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.