



Local volunteers in Hubei Province, China help distribute 36,000 N95 masks in response to China's shortage of personal protective equipment. These masks will be used by healthcare workers in the two public hospitals in Wuhan. (February 2020)

Large-scale infectious disease emergencies have disastrous impacts on families, societies, systems, and economies, and the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. As NGOs transition to new ways of working, and respond to heightened risks and increased government/travel restrictions, there is a need for agencies to review their internal capacities and operational platforms across all areas of programming. COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis for the humanitarian community and presents a unique challenge for all NGOs. As such, it is critical for agencies to review and develop program adaptation plans in each of their countries to critically review how to protect their staff and keep programs operating in each altered country context. READY, a three-year global initiative to augment global capacity to respond to major disease outbreaks, aims to strengthen humanitarian NGOs' knowledge of and response to COVID-19 through a series of readiness workshops.



COVID-19 Foundational
Knowledge



Operational and Program
Tools and Resources



Regional and National NGO
Coordination

READY's COVID-19 Readiness Workshops aim to strengthen operational capacities and program adaptation frameworks among humanitarian NGOs to support a holistic, integrated response to the COVID-19 outbreak focusing on immediate readiness for a rapid escalation of this pandemic. Workshop content is presented through a mix of latest COVID thematic foundational sessions and interactive exercises. Several of the workshop themes align with key pillars in WHO's COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, including risk communication and community engagement and infection prevention control (IPC) at facility and community level. Workshops also review latest NGO preparedness practices for COVID-19, including staff health & wellness, business continuity, and program adaptation. COVID-19 Readiness Workshops use up-to-date standardized tools and resources developed by READY and the wider humanitarian community to simplify and operationalize technical content for immediate NGO planning, and connect NGOs with regional and national coordination mechanisms, to ensure that the right actors are contributing in the right ways, at the right time.

Given travel and large gathering restrictions, COVID-19 Readiness Workshops have been amended to be delivered entirely online and remotely.

COVID-19 Readiness Workshops are designed for operational decision-makers and other leadership from country and regional-level humanitarian NGOs. For more information on READY's COVID-19 Readiness Workshops and to register for the next workshop, visit our website at ready-initiative.org, or contact us at ready@savechildren.org.