



The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 6 May 2021

Prepared by
Meagan Byrd
and the G7 Research Group

8 June 2021

www.g7.utoronto.ca
g7@utoronto.ca
[@g7_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

Contents

Introduction	3
Research Team	4
Summary	6
The Final Compliance Score	6
Compliance by Member	6
Compliance by Commitment	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members	6
Future Research and Reports	6
Table A: 2020 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*	8
Table B: 2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Scores	9
Table C: 2020 G7 Virtual Summit Compliance Scores by Member	10
Table D: 2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Scores by Commitment	11
1. Health: Public Health Measures	12
2. Health: Addressing Risk	50
3. Health: Protecting Health and Safety	74
4. Health: Strengthening Health Systems	114
5. Health: Data Sharing	139
6. Health: Coordinated Research Efforts	157
7. Health: Joint Research Projects	174
8. Health: Medical Equipment	187
9. Health: Online Platforms	211
10. Health: Supporting the World Health Organization	223
11. Health: Delaying the Spread of COVID-19	247
12. International Cooperation: Global Response	282
13. International Cooperation: Science, Research and Technology	315
14. Global Economy: Restoring Confidence and Growth	331
15. Global Economy: Economic Growth	347
16. Global Economy: Downside Risk	366
17. Global Economy: Restoring Growth	381
18. Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment	406
19. Trade: Addressing International Supply Chains	428
20. Trade: Facilitating International Trade	446

8. Health: Medical Equipment

“We will make efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”

G7 Leaders' Statement

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

On 31 December 2019, the China Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported cases of “pneumonia of unknown etiology ... detected in Wuhan City.”¹⁵⁸³ The virus would later be known as COVID-19.

On 23 January 2020, the Chinese government imposed a lockdown across Hubei province, including the city of Wuhan, in an attempt to contain the virus and limit its spread.¹⁵⁸⁴

On 23 January 2020, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, convened a meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee “regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus.”¹⁵⁸⁵ The committee did not recommend the Director-General to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern but expressed support of the “ongoing efforts through a WHO international multidisciplinary mission ... to investigate the animal source of the outbreak, the extent of human-to-human transmission, the screening efforts in other provinces of China, the enhancement of surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections in these regions, and to reinforce containment and mitigation measures.”¹⁵⁸⁶

On 30 January 2020, Dr. Tedros on the advice of the Emergency Committee declared “that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.”¹⁵⁸⁷ As of that date, there were 7,834

¹⁵⁸³ Pneumonia of unknown cause – China, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unkown-cause-china/en/>.

¹⁵⁸⁴ China virus death toll rises to 41, more than 1,300 infected worldwide, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/24/chinas-hubei-province-confirms-15-more-deaths-due-to-coronavirus.html>.

¹⁵⁸⁵ Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

¹⁵⁸⁶ Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

¹⁵⁸⁷ WHO Director-General's statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

confirmed cases in 19 countries.¹⁵⁸⁸ Dr. Tedros issued seven recommendations including an advice against “limiting trade and movement” and a call on the international community to “support countries with weaker health systems.”¹⁵⁸⁹

On 3 February 2020, the G7 health ministers held a conference call on the COVID-19. The ministers agreed to “coordinate their approach on travel regulations and precautions, research into the new virus and cooperation with the WHO, the EU, and China.”¹⁵⁹⁰

On 4 February 2020, the WHO issued a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan that “outlines the public health measures that the international community stands ready to provide to support all countries to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.”¹⁵⁹¹ Among other recommendations, the document stated that “measures that restrict the movement of people may prove temporarily useful at the beginning of an outbreak to allow time to implement preparedness activities, and to limit the international spread of potentially highly infectious cases.”¹⁵⁹² Dr. Tedros also asked UN Secretary-General António Guterres “to activate the UN crisis management policy.”¹⁵⁹³

As of 5 February 2020, more than 20 countries, including Japan, Germany, Britain, France, and Italy, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have donated “epidemic prevention and control supplies to China.”¹⁵⁹⁴

On 3 March 2020, the WHO issued a statement calling on “industry and governments” to increase production of personal protective equipment (PPE).¹⁵⁹⁵ The WHO underlined that shortages of PPE were “leaving doctors, nurses and other frontline workers dangerously ill-equipped to care for COVID-19 patients.”¹⁵⁹⁶

On 7 March 2020, the number of confirmed cases reached 100,000.¹⁵⁹⁷ The WHO called on “all countries to continue efforts that have been effective in limiting the number of cases and slowing the spread of the virus.”¹⁵⁹⁸

¹⁵⁸⁸ WHO Director-General's statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ihc-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ihc-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

¹⁵⁸⁹ Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

¹⁵⁹⁰ G7 health ministers agree on coordinated approach to coronavirus – Germany, Reuters (Berlin) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.com/g7-health-ministers-agree-on-coordinated-approach-to-coronavirus-germany-2020-2>.

¹⁵⁹¹ Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

¹⁵⁹² Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

¹⁵⁹³ Listings of WHO’s response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>

¹⁵⁹⁴ 21 countries donate medical supplies to China: spokesperson, Xinhua (Beijing) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/06/c_138758854.htm.

¹⁵⁹⁵ Shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide, World Health Organization (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-03-2020-shortage-of-personal-protective-equipment-endangering-health-workers-worldwide>.

¹⁵⁹⁶ Shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide, World Health Organization (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-03-2020-shortage-of-personal-protective-equipment-endangering-health-workers-worldwide>.

¹⁵⁹⁷ WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

On 9 March 2020, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, which was co-founded by the World Bank and the WHO, called on G7 and G20 leaders “to mobilize resources to fill funding gaps” as the world faces “the unprecedented rapid global spread of the virus and the profound health, social and economic impact.”¹⁵⁹⁹

On 11 March 2020, with the number of confirmed cases exceeding 180,000 and spreading across 114 countries, the WHO declared COVID a pandemic.¹⁶⁰⁰ COVID-19 pandemic is the first one “sparked by a coronavirus.”¹⁶⁰¹ Dr. Tedros reiterated his call on “all countries ... to activate and scale up ... emergency response mechanisms.”¹⁶⁰²

On 16 March 2020, the WHO and the UN Development Coordination Office started the COVID-19 Partners Platform that aims to provide a tool for “partners, donors and contributors to collaborate in the global COVID-19 response.”¹⁶⁰³

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency G7 leaders held a videoconference to respond to COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to work collectively to “increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”¹⁶⁰⁴ At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

Commitment Features

The commitment states that G7 members “will make efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”¹⁶⁰⁵ There are several components to this commitment.

First, “increase the availability” is defined as taking measures to increase supply of medical equipment through supporting industry in increasing production, removing import and export barriers, simplifying procurement procedures, and supporting an effective and efficient distribution of medical equipment.¹⁶⁰⁶ Examples of such measures are providing financial support to manufactures and removing tariffs for equipment import.

¹⁵⁹⁸ WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

¹⁵⁹⁹ Global Preparedness Monitoring Board calls on G7 and G20 leaders to support \$8bn call to scale-up global response to COVID-19, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (Geneva) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/pdf/COVID_19_Press_Release_GPMB_9Mar.pdf.

¹⁶⁰⁰ WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

¹⁶⁰¹ WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

¹⁶⁰² WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰³ Timelines: WHO's COVID-19 response, World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline#!>.

¹⁶⁰⁴ G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

¹⁶⁰⁵ G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

¹⁶⁰⁶ G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

Second, “medical equipment” is defined as any medical tool or device used for “diagnostic, therapeutic, and protective” purposes related to COVID-19.¹⁶⁰⁷ Such devices include personal protective equipment, ventilators, equipment for conducting tests, etc.¹⁶⁰⁸

Third, the commitment states that G7 members will work on making medical equipment more available “where it is most needed.”¹⁶⁰⁹ This portion of the commitment has domestic and international elements. Domestically, G7 members should take steps to increase the supply of medical equipment in regions most impacted by the virus and where there is a shortage of medical equipment. Internationally, G7 members should take steps to increase the availability of medical devices in countries at the epicentre of COVID-19 crisis (e.g. Italy and Spain in spring 2019) and in developing countries with weak health systems. Examples of such actions include donating medical equipment to other states and financing WHO or other international organizations’ programs that aim to increase the availability of medical equipment in developing states.

Thus, to achieve full compliance, a G7 member must take concrete actions to implement policies and programs designed to increase the supply of medical equipment domestically and support other countries experiencing a major COVID-19 crisis or having weak health systems. If a member makes efforts to increase availability of medical devices domestically but does not assist other countries directly or indirectly, a score of 0, or partial compliance will be assigned. Also, a score of 0 will be assigned to a G7 member that takes concrete steps to increase availability of medical devices domestically while only reaffirming its commitment increase availability internationally and vice versa.

A G7 member that takes no steps to “to increase the availability of medical equipment” neither domestically nor internationally will be assigned a score of -1, or no compliance.¹⁶¹⁰

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has NOT taken steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically OR assisted other countries where the equipment is most needed.
0	G7 member has taken steps to steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically OR to assist other countries where the equipment is most needed.
+1	G7 member has taken steps to steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically AND to assit other countries where the equipment is most needed.

*Compliance Director: Bogdan Stovba
Lead Analyst: Jessica Saini*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices for Use in Relation to COVID-19.¹⁶¹¹ The interim order creates expedited

¹⁶⁰⁷ Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, US Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring) 26 February 2012. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/medical-device-shortages-during-covid-19-public-health-emergency>

¹⁶⁰⁸ Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, US Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring) 26 February 2012. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/medical-device-shortages-during-covid-19-public-health-emergency>

¹⁶⁰⁹ G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

¹⁶¹⁰ G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

authorization pathways for COVID-19 medical equipment.¹⁶¹² This measure defines COVID-19 related medical equipment to include testing equipment, personal protective equipment, ventilators, sterilizers and decontaminators.¹⁶¹³ The expedited authorization pathways allow for faster and greater availability of required medical equipment.¹⁶¹⁴

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, which includes measures aiming to help industry "rapidly scale up production ... to develop products made in Canada that will help the fight against COVID-19."¹⁶¹⁵ The measure prioritizes the "procurement of essential supplies" by implementing key measures: capacity building, innovative solutions, procurement, and working with Canadian industry.¹⁶¹⁶

On 30 March 2020, Minister Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose in Relation to COVID-19.¹⁶¹⁷ It provides specific pathways to expedite the approval of COVID-19 medical equipment related to diet. This measure is aimed at meeting specific needs and shows intention to enable access to medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 31 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada is investing CAD2 billion "to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment."¹⁶¹⁸ The announcement also stated that the government would partner with nearly 3,000 companies to meet its goal of making equipment available.¹⁶¹⁹ This action is in line with the goal of increasing accessibility of medical equipment.

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced "further progress under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19" with the government working with 5,000 Canadian companies to build "a secure, domestic supply" of medical equipment and protective gear like medical gowns.¹⁶²⁰ The government

¹⁶¹¹ Interim order respecting the importation and sale of medical devices for use in relation to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.htm>.

¹⁶¹² Expedited authorisation pathways for COVID-19 medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

¹⁶¹³ Health Canada's regulatory response to COVID-19: Access to health products, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

¹⁶¹⁴ Health Canada's regulatory response to COVID-19: Access to health products, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

¹⁶¹⁵ Prime Minister announces Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/20/prime-minister-announces-canadas-plan-mobilize-industry-fight-covid>.

¹⁶¹⁶ New Measures under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/03/20/new-measures-under-canadas-plan-mobilize-industry-fight-covid-19>.

¹⁶¹⁷ Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices, and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose in Relation to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

¹⁶¹⁸ Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

¹⁶¹⁹ Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

¹⁶²⁰ Prime Minister announces production of more medical supplies and equipment in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/07/prime-minister-announces-production-more-medical-supplies-and>.

was also working with companies outside of Canada that are “interested or able to sell to Canada” aiming “to secure contracts and deliveries as quickly as possible.”¹⁶²¹ The prime minister also announced that the government is working with several Canadian companies such as Thornhill Medical, CAE, Ventilators for Canadians, and a group led by StarFish Medical to produce up to 30,000 ventilators.¹⁶²²

On 5 May 2020, the Canadian government lifted custom duties on imported medical equipment citing “a sharp increase in domestic demand for medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE).”¹⁶²³ This measure aims to “reduce the cost of imported medical supplies.”¹⁶²⁴

On 23 May 2020, Minister Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting Clinical Trials for Medical Devices and Drugs Relating to COVID-19.¹⁶²⁵ It expedites the authorization of clinical trials and their results.¹⁶²⁶ This increases the availability of medical equipment that is being trialed.

On 9 June 2020, the Government of Canada launched an online portal, referred to as a “web hub to bring together available resources for organizations buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE). As organizations re-open for business, they need reliable information on how to buy and sell the necessary supplies required to keep themselves and others safe.”¹⁶²⁷

On 11 June 2020, the Government of Canada contributed CAD7.5 million to the Pan American Health Organization.¹⁶²⁸ The contribution aims to support the COVID-19 response in 15 Caribbean countries and eight Central and South American countries.¹⁶²⁹ This goes towards increasing supplies of medical equipment in contexts outside of Canada.

On 24 June 2020, the International Coalition of Medical Regulatory Authorities, where Health Canada is an executive committee member, issued a statement on the importance of “global collaboration to facilitate and expedite the development and evaluation of diagnostics and therapeutics.”¹⁶³⁰ This emphasizes a commitment to common international regulation and collaboration.

¹⁶²¹ Prime Minister announces production of more medical supplies and equipment in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/07/prime-minister-announces-production-more-medical-supplies-and>.

¹⁶²² Canada working to produce up to 30,000 ventilators domestically: Trudeau (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ventilators-trudeau-1.5524581>.

¹⁶²³ Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19): SOR/2020-101, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-27/html/sor-dors101-eng.html>.

¹⁶²⁴ Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19): SOR/2020-101, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-27/html/sor-dors101-eng.html>.

¹⁶²⁵ Interim Order respecting clinical trials for medical devices and drugs relating to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/interim-order-respecting-clinical-trials-medical-devices-drugs.html>.

¹⁶²⁶ Interim Order respecting clinical trials for medical devices and drugs relating to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/interim-order-respecting-clinical-trials-medical-devices-drugs.html>.

¹⁶²⁷ Government of Canada creates a hub for organisations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-creates-a-hub-for-organizations-looking-to-find-resources-on-buying-and-supplying-personal-protective-equipment.html>.

¹⁶²⁸ Government of Canada contributes \$5.3 million to PAHO for response to COVID-19, Pan American Health Organisation (Washington, D.C.) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/11-6-2020-government-canada-contributes-53-million-paho-response-covid-19>.

¹⁶²⁹ Government of Canada contributes \$5.3 million to PAHO for response to COVID-19, Pan American Health Organisation (Washington, D.C.) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/11-6-2020-government-canada-contributes-53-million-paho-response-covid-19>.

¹⁶³⁰ ICMRA statement on clinical trials, International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (Ottawa) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. http://icmra.info/drupal/en/news/statement_on_clinical_trials.

On 29 June 2020, the Government of Canada donated CAD4 million worth of N95 and medical masks “or COVID-19 preventive and control measures” to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations and its secretariat.¹⁶³¹

On 21 August 2020, the federal government and the Government of Ontario announced a joint investment with 3M to expand its Brockville manufacturing facility for N95 respirators.¹⁶³² This CAD70 million investment agreement will secure 50 million N95 respirators annually “to help health care workers, first responders and other essential workers with the equipment they need to continue their vital work.”¹⁶³³

On 27 November 2020, Health Canada announced transition regulations regarding the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices (COVID-19).¹⁶³⁴ This is the Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022, which comprises a proposal for the medical equipment industry to ease out of the interim orders after fall 2021.¹⁶³⁵ It includes both international and domestic regulatory cooperation efforts in the meantime to make sure equipment is readily available, accounting for the impacts on different actors.¹⁶³⁶

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by working with the industry domestically, expediting the authorisation process, and speeding up the process with targeted interim orders. Canada has also assisted with increasing the availability of medical equipment abroad by donating equipment to other states directly or via international institutions.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Stuti Roy

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 23 March 2020, the French government announced the order of 10,000 respirators, of which 1,500 were standard Monal T60 models and 8,500 were the emergency Osiris model.¹⁶³⁷ Combined with pre-existing supplies, this purchase was strategized to bring total capacity to exceed 30,000 ventilators by the end of June

¹⁶³¹ Canada donates personal protective equipment to ASEAN for COVID-19 prevention, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Jakarta) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://asean.org/canada-donates-personal-protective-equipment-asean-covid-19-prevention/>.

¹⁶³² New investment to secure made-in-Canada supply of N95 respirators to protect health care workers, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/08/21/new-investment-secure-made-canada-supply-n95-respirators-protect>.

¹⁶³³ New investment to secure made-in-Canada supply of N95 respirators to protect health care workers, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/08/21/new-investment-secure-made-canada-supply-n95-respirators-protect>.

¹⁶³⁴ Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

¹⁶³⁵ Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

¹⁶³⁶ Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

¹⁶³⁷ Press Release: 10,000 respirators order, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/commande-de-10-000-respirateurs>.

2020 and is part of France's vision to mobilize medical equipment "for the benefit of France's partners abroad" once the domestic French supply is secured.¹⁶³⁸

On 23 March 2020, the French government granted departmental prefects powers to requisition raw materials needed to manufacture protective face masks.¹⁶³⁹ This measure was repealed on 11 May 2020.¹⁶⁴⁰

On 31 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron stated that French priority is to increase production of protective equipment in France and in Europe, aiming to achieve full production independence by the end of 2020.¹⁶⁴¹ The president also underlined that EUR4 billion were provide for the Public Health Authority to purchase additional equipment.¹⁶⁴²

On 30 June 2020, the Agence du développement française (AFD) signed an agreement with Rwanda to provide a EUR40 million loan to support "tackling Covid-19."¹⁶⁴³ Part of this loan will be dedicated to increasing Rwanda's "diagnosis capacity (tests, laboratory equipment), infection prevention in health centers (setting up isolation centers, personal protective equipment)" and patients treatment.¹⁶⁴⁴

On 4 July 2020, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health pledged to increase medical aid to the French overseas territory of Guiana to cope with epidemic progression, primarily by increasing the availability of diagnostic tests.¹⁶⁴⁵ This provision also pledges to provide resources to increase the capacity of large hospitals by providing tent beds.¹⁶⁴⁶ The state also pledged to uphold regular deliveries of personal protective equipment (PPE), although made no specific commitments to increasing quantity.¹⁶⁴⁷

On 15 July 2020, the AFD announced the provision of emergency funding of EUR2 million for 12 Pacific Island countries and territories, funneled through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.¹⁶⁴⁸ In the

¹⁶³⁸ Press Release: 10,000 respirators order, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/commande-de-10-000-respirateurs>.

¹⁶³⁹ Décret n° 2020-545 du 11 mai 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire, Légifrance (Paris) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGIARTI000041859140/2020-05-11#LEGIARTI000041859140>.

¹⁶⁴⁰ Décret n° 2020-545 du 11 mai 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire, Légifrance (Paris) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGIARTI000041859140/2020-05-11#LEGIARTI000041859140>.

¹⁶⁴¹ Amid criticism, Macron vows to raise medical gear output to tackle coronavirus, Reuters (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-masks-idUSKBN2111PU>.

¹⁶⁴² Amid criticism, Macron vows to raise medical gear output to tackle coronavirus, Reuters (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-masks-idUSKBN2111PU>.

¹⁶⁴³ AFD RETURNS TO RWANDA TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

¹⁶⁴⁴ AFD RETURNS TO RWANDA TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

¹⁶⁴⁵ Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

¹⁶⁴⁶ Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

¹⁶⁴⁷ Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

short-term, these funds will be used for the acquisition of medical equipment that specifically targets COVID-19, including respirators, oxygen, and PPE for medical staff.¹⁶⁴⁹

On 23 September 2020, the AFD announced that it will mobilize EUR5.3 million to assist Cuba with tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶⁵⁰ Specifically, the funds will be used to provide “76 ventilators, 180,000 protective kits and supplies to develop diagnosis tests.”¹⁶⁵¹

On 8 December 2020, the French Senate approved a measure in the 2021 finance bill to reduce the value-added tax on all diagnostic medical devices including antigenic and nucleic acid COVID-19 tests and antibody detection tests.¹⁶⁵² This measure reflects the French government's efforts to mobilize in favour of developing diagnostic capabilities by removing economic barriers and will apply retroactively to all transactions from 15 October 2020 to 31 December 2022.¹⁶⁵³

On 15 December 2020, the AFD announced that it would provide EUR2 million to 12 Pacific island countries and territories to assist them with responding to COVID-19 crises.¹⁶⁵⁴ Funding will be dedicated to providing “equipment to health facilities in the region” including respirators, oxygen, and PPE.¹⁶⁵⁵

On 22 January 2021, the Minister of Solidarity and Health announced a third mass distribution of masks to vulnerable populations. 45 million masks will be provided by the government and distributed to 7.3 million French citizens.¹⁶⁵⁶ This measure is intended to provide medical equipment to those who “may have financial difficulties” acquiring masks in adequate quantities.¹⁶⁵⁷

France has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by purchasing and distributing medical equipment as well as removing financial barriers to said purchases. France has also assisted other countries through various AFD projects.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sophie Stojicevic

¹⁶⁴⁹ Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

¹⁶⁵⁰ Cuba: Concrete Action Against COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19?origin=/en/actualites>.

¹⁶⁵¹ Cuba: Concrete Action Against COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19?origin=/en/actualites>.

¹⁶⁵² Press Release: A 0% VAT rate on COVID-19 screening tests and vaccines, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/un-taux-de-tva-a-0-tests-de-depistages-covid-19-et-vaccins>.

¹⁶⁵³ Press Release: A 0% VAT rate on COVID-19 screening tests and vaccines, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/un-taux-de-tva-a-0-tests-de-depistages-covid-19-et-vaccins>.

¹⁶⁵⁴ Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

¹⁶⁵⁵ Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases?origin=/en/actualites>.

¹⁶⁵⁶ Press Release: Olivier Veran announces the third massive distribution of protective masks for precarious audiences, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-annonce-la-troisieme-distribution-massive-de-masques-de>.

¹⁶⁵⁷ Press Release: Olivier Veran announces the third massive distribution of protective masks for precarious audiences, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-annonce-la-troisieme-distribution-massive-de-masques-de>.

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 19 March 2020, the Foreign Office announced lifting the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment (PPE).¹⁶⁵⁸ This ensured that exports of PPE within the EU internal market are no longer subject to authorising.¹⁶⁵⁹

On 21 April 2021, Minister of Health Jens Spahn announced that an additional EUR7.8 billion will be dedicated to procuring “masks, gloves and other protective gear for medical practices.”¹⁶⁶⁰

On 7 May 2020, the federal government reported that since March it procured 114 million protective masks, bringing the overall stock of masks available for distribution to 152 million.¹⁶⁶¹

On 20 May 2020, the federal cabinet amended the Foreign Trade and Payment Regulation, expanding the “list of companies for which the acquisition of a stake by a purchaser from outside the European Union can be examined.”¹⁶⁶² Included in the expanded list are companies that “are indispensable for the maintenance of a properly functioning health system in Germany, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), drugs and vaccines.”¹⁶⁶³

On 22 June 2020, the German government issued a policy paper titled “An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19.”¹⁶⁶⁴ In the document, the federal government committed to “comply with requests from other states for assistance in the medical sphere, such as for protective clothing, medical equipment, testing or advisory services,” however, the document underlines that Germany would provide assistance while “taking into account German and European needs.”¹⁶⁶⁵

On 20 September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered COVID-19 supplies, including PPE, to Libya.¹⁶⁶⁶ These supplies were procured and shipped “using funds provided by the Government of

¹⁶⁵⁸ Federal Foreign Office on the lifting of the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2321960>.

¹⁶⁵⁹ Federal Foreign Office on the lifting of the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2321960>.

¹⁶⁶⁰ Policy responses for Germany, COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (Copenhagen) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/germany/livinghit.aspx?Section=2.1%20Physical%20infrastructure&Type=Section>.

¹⁶⁶¹ More protective masks for medical and nursing staff, The Federal Government (Berlin) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/beschaffung-schutztausruestung-1751334>.

¹⁶⁶² Protection for the health system, The Federal Government (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/aussenwirtschaftsverordnung-1754400>.

¹⁶⁶³ Protection for the health system, The Federal Government (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/aussenwirtschaftsverordnung-1754400>.

¹⁶⁶⁴ An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

¹⁶⁶⁵ An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

¹⁶⁶⁶ Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

Germany, the Government of Italy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.”¹⁶⁶⁷

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy issued a funding directive to support companies creating new or expanding existing facilities for production of COVID-19 antigen tests.¹⁶⁶⁸ Under this EUR200 million plan, eligible companies will receive up to EUR30 million each.¹⁶⁶⁹

On 30 December 2020, Germany delivered 84 ventilators and 100 pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health of North Macedonia.¹⁶⁷⁰

On 4 January 2021, representatives of Germany joined the local WHO office and handed over pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health in Montenegro.¹⁶⁷¹

On 14 January 2021, Germany delivered 5,000 pulse oximeters and 200 ventilators to the Ministry of Health and the University Clinical Centre in Kosovo.¹⁶⁷²

On 15 January 2021, Germany delivered 1,000 pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health in Albania as well as 50 ventilators and 10,000 pulse oximeters to Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹⁶⁷³

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by supporting the industry domestically, reducing the barriers to accessing medical equipment within the European Union and in Germany, and providing equipment to countries where it is most needed.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

¹⁶⁶⁷ Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

¹⁶⁶⁸ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, The Federal Government (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>.

¹⁶⁶⁹ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, The Federal Government (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>.

¹⁶⁷⁰ The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

¹⁶⁷¹ The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

¹⁶⁷² The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

¹⁶⁷³ The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

On 17 March 2020, the Government of Italy issued Law Decree 19 articles 15 and 16 that specified different types of derogation procedures to allow the production of surgical masks and personal protective equipment (PPE).¹⁶⁷⁴ The procedures issued required companies to send a self-certification that describe the technical characteristics of the masks and declare that the masks meet all safety requirements.¹⁶⁷⁵

On 23 March 2020, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister's Office) issued Ordinance 4, Benefits of Companies During the COVID-19 Emergency, to enter into effect in Italy.¹⁶⁷⁶ The ordinance, which appropriated an initial amount of EUR50 million, was to provide aid to Italian companies that manufacture and supply medical devices and PPE.¹⁶⁷⁷

On 26 March 2020, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a Protocol for the prevention and safety of health workers from COVID-19 with three trade unions.¹⁶⁷⁸ The Protocol ensures health workers the “adequate quantity” and supply of PPE and medical tests to diagnose COVID-19.¹⁶⁷⁹

On 19 May 2020, Law no.77/2020 came into force granting value-added tax (VAT) exemption “for the supply of goods necessary/useful to combat the COVID-19 pandemic” including PPE, test kits, and medical equipment.¹⁶⁸⁰ The law also provided for temporary VAT exemptions for goods “made for COVID-19 purposes” which are imported into the country on request of states, organizations, or charities.¹⁶⁸¹

On 30 July 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with coordination of the Civil Protective Department, sent a team of seven doctors and nurses and a cargo of 500,000 masks to Tirana, Albania.¹⁶⁸² This action demonstrates an effort to increase availability of PPE internationally.¹⁶⁸³

On 20 September 2020, the World Health Organization delivered COVID-19 supplies, including PPE, to Libya.¹⁶⁸⁴ These supplies were procured and shipped “using funds provided by the Government of Germany,

¹⁶⁷⁴ COVID-19: in Italy emergency supply of medical devices and personal protective equipment, Therna-Med (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.thema-med.com/en/covid-19-in-italy-emergency-supply-of-medical-devices-and-personal-protective-equipment/>.

¹⁶⁷⁵ COVID-19: in Italy emergency supply of medical devices and personal protective equipment, Therna-Med (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.thema-med.com/en/covid-19-in-italy-emergency-supply-of-medical-devices-and-personal-protective-equipment/>.

¹⁶⁷⁶ Presidency Council of Ministers: The Extraordinary Commission for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiological Emergency, Gazzetta Ufficiale (Italy) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/24/20A01824/sg>.

¹⁶⁷⁷ Presidency Council of Ministers: The Extraordinary Commission for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiological Emergency, Gazzetta Ufficiale (Italy) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/24/20A01824/sg>.

¹⁶⁷⁸ Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323>.

¹⁶⁷⁹ Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323>.

¹⁶⁸⁰ New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO Tax News (Zaventem) October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

¹⁶⁸¹ New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO Tax News (Zaventem) October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

¹⁶⁸² Coronavirus: an Italian medical team in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html.

¹⁶⁸³ Coronavirus: an Italian medical team in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html.

the Government of Italy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.”¹⁶⁸⁵

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by specifying derogation procedures to increase domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment and by providing aid to Italian companies to manufacture medical equipment. Italy has done so domestically and internationally by providing PPE to Albania and Libya.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivia Leung

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced that it will proceed to secure and maximize the production of medical equipment.¹⁶⁸⁶ This includes the clarification of regulatory procedure for medical equipment such as the handling of drugs, medical devices, in-vitro diagnostic drugs, and respirators.¹⁶⁸⁷

On 24 April 2020, the MHLW announced it will be prioritizing the distribution of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) secured by the government for medical staff.¹⁶⁸⁸ This provision was to protect medical staff from infection, ensure a medical care provision system, and comply to the high demand for medical supplies.¹⁶⁸⁹

On 21 May 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to construct 2,000 new ventilators for coronavirus patients to build on the MHLW's plan to ensure nationwide safety.¹⁶⁹⁰

On 7 June 2020, the Government of Japan, under the terms of the Exchange of Note, extended to the Government of Maldives a grant of JPY600 million to improve health services at atolls and regional hospitals across the country and to strengthen their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶⁹¹ The grant also

¹⁶⁸⁴ Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

¹⁶⁸⁵ Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

¹⁶⁸⁶ Press Release: Clarified the regulatory procedures for medical devices including respirators, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10836.html.

¹⁶⁸⁷ Press Release: Clarified the regulatory procedures for medical devices including respirators, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10836.html.

¹⁶⁸⁸ Press Release: Emergency Response of medical supplies at medical institutions, etc., Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_11035.html.

¹⁶⁸⁹ Press Release: Emergency Response of medical supplies at medical institutions, etc., Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_11035.html.

¹⁶⁹⁰ Japan's Abe wants to build ventilators that hospitals probably don't need, Reuters (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-ventilators/japans-abe-wants-to-build-ventilators-that-hospitals-probably-dont-need-idUSKBN22X0CT?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>.

¹⁶⁹¹ The Government of Japan provides medical equipment worth USD 5.6 million to strengthen health care sector of the Maldives, Embassy of Japan in Maldives (Maldives) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00087.html.

included the procurement of medical equipment, including 10 bedside X-ray machines, 65 bedside monitors, 19 portable ultrasound diagnostic systems, 200 automated external defibrillators, and 160 syringe pumps.¹⁶⁹²

On 16 July 2020, Ito Naoki, the ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Fatima Yasmin, Bangladesh secretary of the Economic Relations Division in the Ministry of Finance, signed the Exchange of Notes on the JPY1 billion grant aid “Economic and Social Development Programme.”¹⁶⁹³ This grant aid provided medical equipment, such as computerized tomography scanners and X-ray machines, to strengthen hospitals and intensive care units treating COVID-19 patients in Bangladesh.¹⁶⁹⁴

On 15 August 2020, the first shipment of medical equipment, purchased with Japan’s JPY2 billion grant, was delivered to Myanmar.¹⁶⁹⁵ Equipment shipped included “10 sets each of a ICU bed, Syringe pump and Suction pump.”¹⁶⁹⁶

On 24 August 2020, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Japan donated 367,580 “sets of personal protective equipment (PPE)” to the Ministry of Health of Kosovo.¹⁶⁹⁷

On 12 February 2021, Ambassador Oka from the Government of Japan presented PPE to the National Disaster Management Agency through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.¹⁶⁹⁸ The PPE, which consists of 7,600 units of isolation gowns, 76,000 units of coveralls, 3,000 units of N95 masks, and 3,000 units of gloves, will be given to frontline workers such as the Royal Malaysian Police, Malaysia Armed Forces, and the People’s Volunteer Corps to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶⁹⁹

On 25 February 2021, Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kuri handed over diagnostic equipment, including digital X-rays, to the Ukraine Deputy Minister of Defense Antoli Petrenko in a ceremony at the Military Medical Centre in Irpin.¹⁷⁰⁰ The purpose of this handover is to “ensure that the hospitals in Ukraine receive the best equipment possible.”¹⁷⁰¹

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by increasing domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment, as well as by

¹⁶⁹² The Government of Japan provides medical equipment worth USD 5.6 million to strengthen health care sector of the Maldives, Embassy of Japan in Maldives (Maldives) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00087.html.

¹⁶⁹³ Japan provides medical equipment for Combating COVID-19, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Bangladesh) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/press160720-2.html.

¹⁶⁹⁴ Japan provides medical equipment for Combating COVID-19, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Bangladesh) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/press160720-2.html.

¹⁶⁹⁵ Provision of Medical equipment by the Government of Japan, Embassy of Japan in Myanmar (Yangon) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mm.emb-japan.go.jp/profile/english/press/20200815.html>.

¹⁶⁹⁶ Provision of Medical equipment by the Government of Japan, Embassy of Japan in Myanmar (Yangon) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mm.emb-japan.go.jp/profile/english/press/20200815.html>.

¹⁶⁹⁷ With the help of the Japanese Government, UNICEF provides the health workers with 367,580 sets of personal protective equipment, UNICEF (Pristina) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/press-releases/help-japanese-government-unicef-provides-health-workers-367580-sets-personal>.

¹⁶⁹⁸ Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Government of Japan to NADMA through JICA, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia (Malaysia) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/newinfo_11022021.html.

¹⁶⁹⁹ Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Government of Japan to NADMA through JICA, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia (Malaysia) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/newinfo_11022021.html.

¹⁷⁰⁰ Press Release: From the people of Japan: state of art medical equipment for the hospitals in Ukraine, United Nations Office for Project Services (Ukraine) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS_PressRelease_Irpin_230221.pdf

¹⁷⁰¹ Press Release: From the people of Japan: state of art medical equipment for the hospitals in Ukraine, United Nations Office for Project Services (Ukraine) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS_PressRelease_Irpin_230221.pdf

introducing regulations to speed up the availability of related products. Japan has also demonstrated compliance by providing and extending the procurement of medical equipment and PPE internationally.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivia Leung

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 30 March 2020, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency issued its expedited process for clinical investigations directly related to COVID-19.¹⁷⁰² The updated regulatory guidance emphasises a “flexible and pragmatic approach to regulatory requirements for clinical investigations.”¹⁷⁰³ This action involved easing the authorisation process for medical equipment, making it more accessible to where it is most needed.

On 10 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) released a three-step plan to ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) is distributed to where it is most needed.¹⁷⁰⁴ This builds on the “full, 24/7 military operation” to provide supplies with the PPE plan whose three stages include: guidance, distribution, and future supply management.¹⁷⁰⁵

On 17 April 2020, the DHSC announced it would extend polymerase chain reaction testing to cover more frontline workers.¹⁷⁰⁶ Those eligible include National Health Service (NHS) and social care staff; police, fire and rescue services; local authority staff; defence staff; and frontline benefits workers.¹⁷⁰⁷ This measure provides diagnostic equipment where it is needed.

On 9 May 2020, the DHSC announced it had contracted over 200 potential manufacturers to produce over 25 million items of PPE which the NHS and social care workers would be set to receive.¹⁷⁰⁸ The UK government’s partnership with several companies and new collaborations allowed for this increased supply and distribution of medical equipment.¹⁷⁰⁹ This measure thus increases availability of medical equipment.

¹⁷⁰² MHRA regulatory flexibilities resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19), Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mhra-regulatory-flexibilities-resulting-from-coronavirus-covid-19#medical-devices>.

¹⁷⁰³ Medical Devices and clinical investigations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/medical-devices-clinical-investigations-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

¹⁷⁰⁴ Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

¹⁷⁰⁵ Coronavirus (COVID-19): Personal protective equipment (PPE) plan, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-plan>.

¹⁷⁰⁶ Government to extend testing for coronavirus to more frontline workers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-testing-for-coronavirus-to-more-frontline-workers>.

¹⁷⁰⁷ Government to extend testing for coronavirus to more frontline workers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-testing-for-coronavirus-to-more-frontline-workers>.

¹⁷⁰⁸ Millions more items of PPE for frontline staff from new business partnerships, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>.

¹⁷⁰⁹ Millions more items of PPE for frontline staff from new business partnerships, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>.

On 15 May 2020, the UK government allocated GBP35 million to Wales.¹⁷¹⁰ The measure allows increased spending on medical equipment procurement and distribution in more remote parts of the country.¹⁷¹¹

On 6 June 2020, the UK government announced four new partnerships with UK manufactures to produce PPE.¹⁷¹² Under these agreements “millions more visors, aprons and gowns will be delivered to frontline health and social care workers.”¹⁷¹³

On 25 June 2020, the DHSC announced that two billion items of PPE had been delivered to the NHS and care services.¹⁷¹⁴ This included 341 million masks, 313 million aprons, four million gowns and one billion gloves.¹⁷¹⁵ The DHSC added that approximately 28 billion items had been ordered as part of a “herculean cross-government effort to future-proof supply chains.”¹⁷¹⁶

On 28 September 2020, the UK government published a new PPE strategy and confirmed that “[h]ealth and social care workers treating COVID-19 patients have access to an uninterrupted supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).”¹⁷¹⁷ It was also announced that because of the “unprecedented domestic production of PPE, for items such gowns and FFP3 facemasks, 70 per cent of the expected demand for PPE will be met by UK manufacturers from December.”¹⁷¹⁸

On 14 December 2020, the UK government committed GBP1 million to aid Egypt’s COVID-19 response via the World Health Organization.¹⁷¹⁹ The funds are aimed towards infection prevention and control, which includes the procurement and distribution of PPE, disinfectants, sampling kits, and rapid testing.¹⁷²⁰ The two governments said this was part of a shared fight against COVID-19 as well as maintaining trade relations.¹⁷²¹ This action demonstrates an effort to increase availability of medical equipment internationally.

¹⁷¹⁰ Extra GBP35 Million for Wales in fight against coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State of Wales (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-35m-for-wales-in-fight-against-coronavirus>.

¹⁷¹¹ Extra GBP35 Million for Wales in fight against coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State of Wales (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-35m-for-wales-in-fight-against-coronavirus>.

¹⁷¹² New UK deals will bring millions more PPE items to frontline healthcare staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-deals-will-bring-millions-more-ppe-items-to-frontline-healthcare-staff>

¹⁷¹³ New UK deals will bring millions more PPE items to frontline healthcare staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-deals-will-bring-millions-more-ppe-items-to-frontline-healthcare-staff>

¹⁷¹⁴ Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

¹⁷¹⁵ Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

¹⁷¹⁶ Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

¹⁷¹⁷ Huge increase in UK personal protective equipment production, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-increase-in-uk-personal-protective-equipment-production>.

¹⁷¹⁸ Huge increase in UK personal protective equipment production, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-increase-in-uk-personal-protective-equipment-production>.

¹⁷¹⁹ WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

¹⁷²⁰ WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

¹⁷²¹ WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

On 23 December 2020, the DHSC announced it would spend GBP149 million to increase care home testing.¹⁷²² This measure includes care homes in tiers one, two, and three, to access the increased supply and involves two rapid tests every week.¹⁷²³ This increases the availability and reach of diagnostic medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Defence announced that Armed Forces are working in hospitals and testing in all four countries within the UK.¹⁷²⁴ Over 5,000 Armed Forces personnel were deployed, including 800 defence medics. Half of the military personnel deployed to support distribution efforts are in England.¹⁷²⁵ This action shows the mobilisation of resources to increase availability of medical equipment.

On 19 February 2021, the UK government donated “20 mechanical ventilators, 40 non-invasive ventilators and 40 monitors” to Peru to support Peru’s capacity to respond to COVID-19.¹⁷²⁶

On 22 February 2021, the UK government announced that it would put “asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in place” for all schools and colleges from 8 March onwards to ensure a safe return to in-person learning.¹⁷²⁷

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by expediting the authorisation process and speeding up the process with partnerships and mobilisation to where medical equipment is most needed. The United Kingdom has done so domestically and internationally by supporting access to medical equipment outside the country in Egypt and Peru.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Stuti Roy

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 27 March 2020, President Donald Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum “directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use any and all authority available under the Defense Production Act to require General Motors to accept, perform, and prioritize Federal contracts for ventilators.”¹⁷²⁸ The

¹⁷²² GBP149 million to support increased care home testing, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/149-million-to-support-increased-care-home-testing>.

¹⁷²³ GBP149 million to support increased care home testing, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/149-million-to-support-increased-care-home-testing>.

¹⁷²⁴ Armed Forces now working in hospitals, vaccine centers and testing across all four nations, Ministry of Defense (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-now-working-in-hospitals-vaccine-centres-and-testing-across-all-four-nations>.

¹⁷²⁵ Armed Forces now working in hospitals, vaccine centers and testing across all four nations, Ministry of Defense (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-now-working-in-hospitals-vaccine-centres-and-testing-across-all-four-nations>.

¹⁷²⁶ UK donates equipment to Peru to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-donates-equipment-to-peru-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹⁷²⁷ Mass testing for secondary pupils as all schools and colleges fully reopen from 8 March, Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mass-testing-for-secondary-pupils-as-all-schools-and-colleges-fully-reopenfrom8-march>.

¹⁷²⁸ Statement from the President Regarding the Defence Production Act, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-regarding-defense-production-act/>.

Memorandum was issued to “ensure the quick production of ventilators.”¹⁷²⁹ The president also signed an Executive Order on Delegating Additional Authority Under the Defence Production Act with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19. It states that it is the policy of the federal government to “expand domestic production of health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, including personal protective equipment and ventilators.”¹⁷³⁰ It aimed, among other policy objectives, to “enable greater cooperation among private businesses in expanding production of and distributing such resources.”¹⁷³¹

On 2 April 2020, President Trump issued an Order Under the Defence Production Act Regarding the Purchase of Ventilators. The order authorizes the Secretary of Health “to use any and all authority under the [Defence Production] Act to facilitate the supply of materials to the appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of the following entities for the production of ventilators: General Electric Company; Hill-Rom Holdings, Inc.; Medtronic Public Limited Company; ResMed Inc.; Royal Philips N.V.; and Vyaire Medical, Inc.”¹⁷³²

On 2 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding 3M Company. The document authorized the Secretary of Homeland Security “to acquire, from any appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of 3M Company, the number of N-95 respirators that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.”¹⁷³³

On 3 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use. Under this Memorandum, the Secretary of Homeland Security was authorized “to allocate for domestic use ... scarce or threatened materials” including N-95 and other respirators, masks, and gloves.¹⁷³⁴

On 10 April 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a temporary final rule, effective from 7 April to 10 August 2020, to prevent the export of “scarce or threatened materials” without the explicit approval from the agency. This measure includes respirators and personal protective equipment (PPE), which under this rule are allocated for domestic use to bolster supplies.¹⁷³⁵

¹⁷²⁹ Statement from the President Regarding the Defence Production Act, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-regarding-defense-production-act/>.

¹⁷³⁰ EO on Delegating Additional Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/eo-delegating-additional-authority-dpa-respect-health-medical-resources-respond-spread-covid-19/>.

¹⁷³¹ EO on Delegating Additional Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/eo-delegating-additional-authority-dpa-respect-health-medical-resources-respond-spread-covid-19/>.

¹⁷³² Memorandum on Order Under the Defence Production Act Regarding the Purchase of Ventilators, The White House (Washington DC) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-order-defense-production-act-regarding-purchase-ventilators/>.

¹⁷³³ Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding 3M Company, The White House (Washington DC) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-order-defense-production-act-regarding-3m-company/>.

¹⁷³⁴ Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, The White House (Washington DC) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-allocating-certain-scarce-threatened-health-medical-resources-domestic-use/>.

¹⁷³⁵ Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington, D.C.) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/10/2020-07659/prioritization-and-allocation-of-certain-scarce-or-threatened-health-and-medical-resources-for->

On 10 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic. Under this document, members of the cabinet are ordered, among other things, to “assist with Italy’s urgent need for medical equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak,” to “encourage United States suppliers to conduct commercial sales of items requested by Italian authorities or healthcare providers,” and “to make US Department of Defence personnel and facilities located in Italy “available to assist Italy in its response to COVID-19” including by “facilitating transport and set-up of field hospitals and response equipment provided by non-United States Government sources.”¹⁷³⁶

On 15 May 2020, the United States donated 4,000 COVID-19 test kits and USD20,000 worth of PPE to Georgia.¹⁷³⁷

On 20 May 2020, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) issued a press release on Customers Reform Project. Working with Timor-Leste custom authority, the project team created “a fast-track clearance list for COVID-19 supplies,” expediting the flow of medical supplies through Dili seaport.¹⁷³⁸

On 22 July 2020, the United States government donated USD150,000 worth of PPE to the Maldives.¹⁷³⁹

On 6 August 2020, a presidential Executive Order was released ordering that essential medicines, medical countermeasures, and critical inputs were produced domestically to combat public health emergencies.¹⁷⁴⁰ Under section one, this involves the development of the United States’ industrial base to ensure efficient long-term production and prevent shortages.¹⁷⁴¹ Section one directs agencies and executive departments involved in procurement of medical supplies to create ways to maximize production and “increase domestic procurement.”¹⁷⁴²

On 9 October 2020, the United States government donated 100 ventilators to Vietnam “to support its ongoing response to COVID-19.”¹⁷⁴³

On 23 October 2020, USAID announced the issuance of a Temporary Final Rule amending regulations to allow USAID to waive certain rules “Source and Nationality” rules.¹⁷⁴⁴ USAID, in conjunction with the State

¹⁷³⁶ Memorandum on Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic, The White House (Washington DC) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-providing-covid-19-assistance-italian-republic/>.

¹⁷³⁷ U.S. Embassy donates Test Kits and Personal Protection Equipment to the Ministry of Health of Georgia, U.S. Embassy in Georgia (Tbilisi) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://ge.usembassy.gov/us-embassy-dtra-donated-test-kits-and-personal-protection-equipment-to-the-ministry-of-health-of-georgia-may-15/>.

¹⁷³⁸ U.S. Government Helps Critical COVID-19 Medical Supplies Flow Easier Through Dili Seaport, USAID (Dili) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/timor-leste/press-releases/may-20-2020-us-government-helps-critical-covid-19-medical-supplies>.

¹⁷³⁹ United States Donates Equipment for Maldives’ Frontline Responders to COVID-19, U.S. Mission to Maldives (Colombo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://mv.usmission.gov/united-states-donates-equipment-for-maldives-frontline-responders-to-covid-19/>.

¹⁷⁴⁰ Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

¹⁷⁴¹ Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

¹⁷⁴² Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

¹⁷⁴³ The United States Donates 100 Ventilators to Vietnam to Respond to COVID-19, USAID (Hanoi) 9 October 2020. Access Date: <https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/program-updates/oct-2020-united-states-donates-100-ventilators-vietnam-respond-covid-19>.

¹⁷⁴⁴ Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/23/2020-16475/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

Department, has established the Strategy for Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to Coronavirus Abroad, which includes the provision of essential medical supplies for overseas use that are expected to total up to USD137 million.¹⁷⁴⁵ This amendment is intended to allow for “increased flexibility, targeting, and speed of procurement” to deliver medical equipment to countries under the USAID program, which includes the World Bank list of developing countries.¹⁷⁴⁶

On 11 November 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced emergency authorization on the use of certain medical devices related to the COVID-19 health emergency.¹⁷⁴⁷ This includes emergency authorization for detection and diagnostic tests, personal respiratory devices, as well as “alternative products used as medical devices” given authorization by the FDA.¹⁷⁴⁸

On 8 December 2020, FEMA issued a notice activating a Plan of Action to establish a National Strategy for the domestic manufacture, allocation, and distribution of PPE to respond to COVID-19.¹⁷⁴⁹ Under a Voluntary Agreement entered by private sector actors, companies will optimize the manufacture and distribution of PPE based on observed or projected requirements and taking into account geographic (access and needs-based) factors.¹⁷⁵⁰ This is aimed at increasing the United States’ domestic production capacity of PPE and engaging the private sector to meet urgent requirements for PPE across the nation equally.¹⁷⁵¹

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security. It established the positions Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President, and Deputy Coordinator. Among other duties, the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator will be responsible for “coordinating the Federal Government’s efforts

¹⁷⁴⁵ Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/23/2020-16475/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹⁷⁴⁶ Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic; Correction, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/16/2020-27766/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic-correction>.

¹⁷⁴⁷ Authorization of Emergency Use of Certain Medical Devices During COVID-19; Availability, Food and Drug Administration (Washington, D.C.) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/20/2020-25603/authorization-of-emergency-use-of-certain-medical-devices-during-covid-19-availability>.

¹⁷⁴⁸ Authorization of Emergency Use of Certain Medical Devices During COVID-19; Availability, Food and Drug Administration (Washington, D.C.) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/20/2020-25603/authorization-of-emergency-use-of-certain-medical-devices-during-covid-19-availability>.

¹⁷⁴⁹ Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

¹⁷⁵⁰ Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

¹⁷⁵¹ Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

to produce, supply, and distribute personal protective equipment, vaccines, tests, and other supplies for the Nation's COVID-19 response, including through the use of the Defense Production Act."¹⁷⁵²

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by increasing domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment, as well as by reducing regulations to speed up the availability of related products. The United States has also demonstrated compliance by reducing regulatory barriers to the USAID program to increase the delivery of medical equipment internationally and donating medical equipment to other countries.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sophie Stojicevic

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission announced creation of “a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks.”¹⁷⁵³ The stockpile would be used to “support Member States facing shortages of equipment needed to treat infected patients, protect health care workers and help slow the spread of the virus.”¹⁷⁵⁴

On 20 March 2020, the European Committee for Standardization, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, and their members “agreed to immediately make available a number of European standards for certain medical devices and personal protective equipment.”¹⁷⁵⁵ This measure would “help both EU and third-country companies willing to manufacture these items to swiftly start production and place products on the internal market more easily while ensuring a high degree of safety.”¹⁷⁵⁶

On 22 March 2020, the European Commission announced that EUR50 million will be provided to Italy to “support the production and supply of medical devices, such as ventilators, and personal protection equipment, such as masks, goggles, gowns, and safety suits.”¹⁷⁵⁷ These funds will be available as grants or

¹⁷⁵² Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security, The White House (Washington DC). 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-organizing-and-mobilizing-united-states-government-to-provide-unified-and-effective-response-to-combat-covid-19-and-to-provide-united-states-leadership-on-global-health-and-security/>.

¹⁷⁵³ COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476

¹⁷⁵⁴ COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476.

¹⁷⁵⁵ Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502.

¹⁷⁵⁶ Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502.

¹⁷⁵⁷ State aid: Commission approves €50 million Italian support scheme for production and supply of medical equipment and masks during Coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_507.

repayable advances to companies which create new facilities, expand existing facilities, or repurpose existing production lines.¹⁷⁵⁸

On 30 March 2020, the European Commission announced that EUR38 million will be provided to the Western Balkans “to tackle the health emergency caused” by COVID-19.¹⁷⁵⁹ These funds will be directed to “supporting the supply of medical devices and personal equipment, such as ventilators, laboratory kits, masks, goggles, gowns, and safety suits.”¹⁷⁶⁰

On 2 April 2020, the European Commission announced that it would mobilize EUR3 billion which would be channelled through the Emergency Support Instrument and rescEU medical equipment capacity.¹⁷⁶¹ These funds would allow the European Commission “to directly purchase and produce emergency support on behalf of member states, as well as distribute medical supplies including masks and respirators,” as well as “financially support and coordinate the transportation of medical equipment.”¹⁷⁶²

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission approved temporary waivers of “customs duties and VAT [value-added tax] on the import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries in order to help in the fight against coronavirus.”¹⁷⁶³ Waivers will apply to “masks and protective equipment, as well as testing kits, ventilators and other medical equipment.”¹⁷⁶⁴

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission published a Temporary Framework Communication to ensure businesses that produce critical medical goods can “cooperate and do it in line with the European Competition rules.”¹⁷⁶⁵ The new framework provided “antitrust guidance to companies willing to temporarily cooperate and coordinate their activities in order to increase production in the most effective way and optimise supply of” medical equipment.¹⁷⁶⁶

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission announced that over 1.5 million medical masks will be delivered in the coming days to healthcare workers in member states and the United Kingdom.¹⁷⁶⁷

¹⁷⁵⁸ State aid: Commission approves €50 million Italian support scheme for production and supply of medical equipment and masks during Coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_507.

¹⁷⁵⁹ EU mobilises immediate support for its Western Balkan partners to tackle coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_561.

¹⁷⁶⁰ EU mobilises immediate support for its Western Balkan partners to tackle coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_561.

¹⁷⁶¹ Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_577.

¹⁷⁶² Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_577.

¹⁷⁶³ Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575.

¹⁷⁶⁴ Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575.

¹⁷⁶⁵ Antitrust: Commission provides guidance on allowing limited cooperation among businesses, especially for critical hospital medicines during the coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_618.

¹⁷⁶⁶ Antitrust: Commission provides guidance on allowing limited cooperation among businesses, especially for critical hospital medicines during the coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_618.

¹⁷⁶⁷ Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819.

On 21 May 2020, the European Union donated medical equipment worth EUR535,000 to Jamaica.¹⁷⁶⁸ The shipment included critical care electric beds, patient monitors, infusion pumps, defibrillators, transport patient monitors, and other equipment.¹⁷⁶⁹

On 7 June 2020, the European Union donated medical protective supplies to Botswana to support the country's fight against COVID-19.¹⁷⁷⁰ The European Union donated 40,000 surgical masks, 1,500 gowns, 40,000 examination gloves, 1,500 face protective glasses, 6,250 respiratory N95 masks, infrared thermometers, disinfectants, and sanitizers.¹⁷⁷¹

On 17 June 2020, the European Union announced a EUR60 million package to support the COVID-19 response in the Horn of Africa.¹⁷⁷² This program will focus on vulnerable groups and “deliver medical equipment, including more than 8.5 million items of personal protective equipment.”¹⁷⁷³

On 29 July 2020, the European Union delivered 41 tonnes of medical equipment to South Sudan as a part of the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge initiative.¹⁷⁷⁴ Under this initiative, over 1,100 tons of medical equipment was delivered “to critical areas in Africa, Asia and the Americas” since May.¹⁷⁷⁵

On 18 September 2020, the European Union announced that EUR150 million will be directed to support member states and the United Kingdom's effort to “transport essential medical items to Europe,” including personal protective equipment, medicines, and medical equipment.¹⁷⁷⁶

On 22 October 2020, the European Union sent 30 ventilators from the rescEU reserve to Czechia.¹⁷⁷⁷

On 20 December 2020, the European Union donated 500,000 face masks and gloves, 50,000 protective suits and special suits, as well as 5,500 goggles to Serbia.¹⁷⁷⁸

On 24 December 2020, the European Union joined efforts with the World Health Organization to donate 1 million examination gloves, 52 patient monitors, 258 nasal oxygen cannula, 258 venturi masks, 123 pulse oximeters, and spare parts for medical equipment to Azerbaijan's Ministry of Health.¹⁷⁷⁹ This shipment was

¹⁷⁶⁸ European Union delivers medical equipment worth \$80 million, Jamaica Information Service (Kingston) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-receives-80-million-donation-of-medical-supplies-from-eu/>.

¹⁷⁶⁹ European Union delivers medical equipment worth \$80 million, Jamaica Information Service (Kingston) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-receives-80-million-donation-of-medical-supplies-from-eu/>.

¹⁷⁷⁰ EU donates medical supplies to Botswana to fight against COVID-19, Xinhua News Agency (Gaborone) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c_139146604.htm.

¹⁷⁷¹ EU donates medical supplies to Botswana to fight against COVID-19, Xinhua News Agency (Gaborone) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c_139146604.htm.

¹⁷⁷² Coronavirus: EU supports with €60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1064.

¹⁷⁷³ Coronavirus: EU supports with €60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1064.

¹⁷⁷⁴ Coronavirus global response: 45 EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flights deliver over 1,000 tonnes of medical aid, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1424.

¹⁷⁷⁵ Coronavirus global response: 45 EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flights deliver over 1,000 tonnes of medical aid, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1424.

¹⁷⁷⁶ Coronavirus: EU allocates €150 million for the transport of essential medical items, European Commission (Brussels) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1671.

¹⁷⁷⁷ Coronavirus: first rescEU ventilators dispatched to Czechia, European Commission (Brussels) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1971.

¹⁷⁷⁸ EU makes another donation in medical equipment to Serbia, N1 News Channel (Belgrade) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://rs.n1info.com/english/news/a685661-eu-makes-another-donation-in-medical-equipment-to-serbia/>.

¹⁷⁷⁹ The European Union and WHO deliver medical supplies to the COVID-19 frontline in Azerbaijan, United Nations Azerbaijan (Baku) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/106308-european-union-and-who-deliver-medical-supplies-covid-19-frontline-azerbaijan>.

the fourth in a series of shipments of protective gear and medical equipment to frontline workers in Azerbaijan.¹⁷⁸⁰

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by supplying medical equipment to countries across the European Union as well as internationally. Through its emergency fund and the donations done around the world, the European Union has fully complied with this commitment.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

¹⁷⁸⁰ The European Union and WHO deliver medical supplies to the COVID-19 frontline in Azerbaijan, United Nations Azerbaijan (Baku) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/106308-european-union-and-who-deliver-medical-supplies-covid-19-frontline-azerbaijan>.