



COVID-19 UNION RESPONSE SURVEY

NARRATIVE SUMMARY – GLOBAL

11 May 2020

There has been a total of **212 answers from a total of 62 countries**. Around **167 trade unions** replied to the survey, broken down by region as follows:

- Africa & Arab countries - 48 replies from 21 countries
- Asia-Pacific – 83 replies from 14 countries
- Inter-Americas – 73 replies from 19 countries
- Europe – 9 replies from 8 countries

I. WORKERS

Have all **health workers** been provided with full and replenished Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizer, soap and water, cleaning supplies?

- Globally only **23.8%** report that **health workers have been** issued with full and replenished PPE – while **57.0% have not been** provided with adequate PPE. These figures vary according to regions and with a significant difference in the figures from the Inter-Americas with only 9.4% reporting full PPE provided.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 26.8% report full PPE - 53.7% report inadequate PPE
 - Asia-Pacific: 32.9% report full PPE 50.0% report inadequate PPE
 - Inter-Americas: **9.1%** report full PPE – 69.7% report inadequate PPE
 - Europe: 33.3% report full PPE - 44.4% report inadequate PPE

Have all **workers delivering public services** who could come into contact with infected people been issued with adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- Only **14.1%** of answers report that workers delivering public services have been issued with **adequate PPE**, while **64.1%** report that **public service workers have not** been issued with adequate PPE.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 16.7% report adequate PPE – 66.7% report inadequate PPE
 - Asia-Pacific: 20.3% report adequate PPE 51.4% report inadequate PPE
 - Inter-Americas: **6.0%** report adequate PPE – 76.1% report inadequate PPE
 - Europe: 12.5% report adequate PPE – 62.5% report inadequate PPE

Have relevant workers been provided with updated **Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training** and guidance on infection prevention and control and the use of PPE?

- **39.0%** of respondents report that **relevant workers have been given OHS training** while 33.2% report that they have not.

- Africa & Arab countries: 24.4% report OHS training while 31.7% have not.
- Asia-Pacific: 41.9% report OHS training while 31.1% have not.
- Inter-Americas: 46.0% report OHS training while 39.7% have not.
- Europe: 33.3% report OHS training while 11.1% have not.

Have all workers who have been required to self-quarantine been given **special paid leave**?

- **36.8%** report that there are **no provisions for workers** who have been required to self-quarantine; **37.4%** report **only for permanent employees** and **25.9%** report that workers are required to use sick leave entitlements.
 - Africa & Arab countries: **62.5%** report no provisions, 31.3% for permanent employees and 6.3% to use sick leave entitlements.
 - Asia-Pacific: 36.1% report no provisions, 44.4% for permanent employees and 19.4% to use sick leave entitlements.
 - Inter-Americas: 27.4% report no provisions, 33.9% for permanent employees and 38.7% to use sick leave entitlements
 - Europe: 14.3% report no provisions, 28.6% for permanent employees and 57.1% to use sick leave entitlements

[Some answers report that governments are announcing relief packages to provide support to workers whose work has been reduced or impacted by COVID-19 but have yet to be put in place.]

II. NATIONAL RESPONSE

On asked what was **hindering most a country's response**, respondents report:

	Global	AF	AP	IA	EU
Insufficient trained staff	54.9%	50.0%	57.4%	60.6%	14.3%
Not enough beds in appropriate wards in public hospitals	64.3%	62.5%	60.3%	71.2%	57.1%
Insufficient Personal Protective Equipment (ie masks)	86.3%	82.5%	86.8%	87.9%	85.7%
Not enough testing kits	79.7%	85.0%	77.9%	78.8%	71.4%
Not enough Pharmaceuticals/medicines	52.2%	60.0%	50.0%	56.1%	-

When asked what **actions governments had taken**:

- Overall, **36.0%** report that their government **imposed on private hospitals** the obligation to treat COVID-19 patients while 51.1% report that it has not.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 22.0% reply yes while 58.5% report not.
 - Asia-Pacific: 51.4% reply yes while 31.9% report not.
 - Inter-Americas: 28.1% reply yes while 65.6% report not.
 - Europe: 33.3% reply yes while 66.7% report not.

- **23.7%** report that their government has **attempted to contract foreign health professionals** –while 44.7% report that it has not.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 14.6% report yes while 53.7% no.
 - Asia-Pacific: 32.9% report yes while 28.9% no.
 - Inter-Americas: 17.2% report yes while 54.7% no.
 - Europe: 33.3% report yes while 66.7% report no.

- **48.1%** confirm that the government has **adopted tax benefits for business** while 22.5% report that it has not.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 24.4% report yes while 41.5% report no.
 - Asia-Pacific: 43.8% report yes, 20.5% report no.
 - Inter-Americas: 62.5% report yes, 14.1% report no.
 - Europe: 88.9% report yes, 11.1% report no.

III. UNION ACTION

Has the government in your country involved unions in the development of policy responses to COVID-19?

- Only **23.2%** of respondents report that **unions have been involved in the development of policy responses**
 - Africa & Arab countries: 27.3%
 - Asia-Pacific: 18.2%
 - Inter-Americas: 19.4%
 - Europe: 33.0%

Has your union been negotiating special leave or other entitlements to cover COVID-19?

- **48.9%** have been negotiating **special leave or other entitlements** to cover COVID-19
 - Africa & Arab countries: 22.5%
 - Asia-Pacific: 54.1%
 - Inter-Americas: 57.4%
 - Europe: 66.7%

- **79.3%** have issued **specific advice to members** about COVID-19.
 - Africa & Arab countries: 80.5%
 - Asia-Pacific: 75.3%
 - Inter-Americas: 82.0%
 - Europe: 88.9%

IV. WHAT CAN PSI DO?

The top 5 requests for useful additional materials or support that PSI could provide affiliates as part of the COVID-19 campaign:

1. Case studies from country responses in the region
2. Model leave clauses
3. Posters on health workers' rights in regional languages
4. Webinars from health workers and unions at the frontlines

5. Analysis on the impact of privatisation and austerity on public health responses

- Africa & Arab countries: Posters on health workers' rights come in first before Case studies and model leave clauses.
- Asia Pacific: Webinars come in 3rd after Case studies and model leave clauses.
- Inter-Americas: A Solidarity Fund comes in 3rd before Posters & Webinars.
- Europe: Case studies and Analysis on the impacts of privatisation are the two top items.

Summary reports:

- Global: <https://psishort.link/GlobalSurveySummary>
- Africa & Arab Countries: <https://psishort.link/AFSurveySummary>
- Asia-Pacific: <https://psishort.link/APSurveySummary>
- Inter-Americas: <https://psishort.link/IASurveySummary>
- Europe: <https://psishort.link/EUSurveySummary>