THE U.S. GOVERNMENT’S COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BELARUS

The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has provided $1.7 million to help Belarus respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance is helping prepare laboratory systems, activate case-finding and event-based surveillance, support technical experts for response and preparedness, and bolster risk communications. Medical and technical experts are helping Belarus to prepare for COVID-19 cases, communicating accurate public health information to the public, and supporting community engagement activities with a particular focus on infection prevention and control, including the provision of medical supplies and ensuring access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in COVID-19 designated health care facilities, social service centers, and other government facilities.

USAID is supporting media campaigns to inform citizens on how they can help stop the spread of the virus.

In addition, USAID is helping to mitigate the secondary effects of the pandemic by supporting social and mental health support to front-line workers in addition to other social service activities.

We are also expanding our work to stop trafficking in persons to ensure vulnerable groups have access to vital public health information, including the design and distribution of COVID-19 prevention advice and healthcare service leaflets. Given the increased demand for migration and trafficking in persons advice services caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, USAID is strengthening its support to the safe migration hotline.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN BELARUS

- 9 educational videos on using personal protective equipment and improving assistance to patients distributed to all hospitals with COVID-19 infected patients;
- A series of webinars on the provision of emergency psychological support reached over 700 specialists who work with patients infected with COVID-19; ongoing video consultations have supported 54 professionals;
- Brochure on social distancing and two videos on prevention practices distributed for wide public use;
- 25,276 liters of sanitizer, 4,685 liters of antibacterial soap, and 2,235 elbow dispensers delivered to the Republican Transfusiology Center and the Emergency Response Center as well as to orphanages, institutions for children with disabilities, and Belarus' border checkpoints around the country.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT THE GLOBAL NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

- In June, USAID supported the delivery of priority laboratory equipment and consumables (250 oxygen concentrators, 118 pulse oximeters, 11 patient monitors, and 18,302 tests) to health facilities to enhance the capacity of Belarusian public health personnel to detect and treat COVID-19.

From June-September, USAID’s support will focus on the following tasks:

- producing educational videos and implementing online training on proper COVID-19 sample collection for primary healthcare workers;
- assessing and enhancing COVID-19 screening and testing at Belarus’ points of entry to address a possible second wave of COVID-19 infections after resumption of international travel;
- producing informational materials for travelers.

For more information about how USAID is responding to COVID-19 across the world, please visit www.usaid.gov/coronavirus.

For details on specific in-country response activities, please contact USAID at press@usaid.gov.

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