Yemen – Rapid Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices related to COVID19 – Round 2
Objectives

- Monitor knowledge, attitudes and practice levels related to COVID-19 in Yemen, with focus on:
  - Knowledge of COVID-19 symptoms, transmission and prevention.
  - Sources of information.
  - Risk Perception.
  - Information gap of respondents.
  - Stigma due to COVID-19.
- Track shifts in practicing COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Assess the impact of interventions and address gaps.
Methodology

- Assessment was administered by partners through phone (in the south) or face to face interviews (in the north).
- Conducted during the first three weeks of July, 2020 in 22 governorates.
- 1312 respondents were interviewed for the quantitative assessment and 209 respondents for the qualitative assessment.
- The responses were collected and uploaded through an online tool (Kobo toolbox) for analysis in UNICEF-C4D.
Demographics

**Education level**
- College Degree: 43%
- Secondary: 25%
- Read and Write: 13%
- Basic: 9%
- Can't read and write: 8%
- Master or Ph.D.: 3%

**Occupation**
- Housewife: 18%
- Office or administrative: 17%
- Educational: 15%
- Student: 15%
- Unemployed: 10%
- Other: 9%
- Agricultural: 8%
- Handicraft: 7%

**Sex**
- Female: 39%
- Male: 61%
Knowledge about COVID-19

Have you ever heard of coronavirus disease?
- Yes: 97%
- No: 3%

What do you know about coronavirus?
- It's a virus that can cause a disease: 86%
- It's a TV/radio campaign: 6%
- Other: 4%
- I don't know anything: 3%
- It's a government's programme: 1%
Knowledge about COVID-19

The information you received about how to prepare for the outbreak:
- Informative: 35%
- Somewhat informative: 32%
- Very informative: 28%
- No information/not available: 5%

The information you received about the spread of the epidemic:
- Informative: 36%
- Somewhat informative: 32%
- Very informative: 29%
- No information/not available: 3%

Your knowledge about how to protect yourself from getting sick:
- Good: 28%
- Very good: 25%
- Need improvement: 24%
- Excellent: 23%

Your trust in official information about coronavirus disease epidemic from the authorities:
- Confident: 29%
- Little confidence: 23%
- Total confidence: 22%
- No confidence: 16%
- Can’t say: 10%

What kind of information have you received about the disease?
- Symptoms of coronavirus: 79%
- How to protect yourself from the disease: 78%
- How it is transmitted: 67%
- What to do if you have symptoms: 43%
- Risks and complications: 37%
Some respondents pointed out that WhatsApp and Social media are easily accessible all the time and do not require so much electricity or high internet speed. Some mentioned Radio as the only source available for them.

Some respondents mentioned posts on social media from Doctors or Health Workers as well as official pages and pages of international agencies.
Risk Perception

How dangerous do you think coronavirus risk is?

- Very dangerous: 46%
- More or less dangerous: 43%
- Is not dangerous: 10%
- Other: 1%

Do you think you are likely to become sick with coronavirus?

- Yes: 51%
- No: 16%
- I do not know: 32%
Risk Perception

(If No) Why do you think you are not likely to get coronavirus?

- I practice preventive measures: 31%
- I have a strong immunity: 20%
- There is no coronavirus in Yemen: 20%
- I am young: 10%
- I keep clean: 9%
- Only foreigners get Corona: 5%
- Other: 4%

* Out of the total respondents who said No

Who do you think is most likely to be infected with coronavirus?

- Elderly: 72%
- People with underlying conditions: 64%
- Health workers: 56%
- Pregnant women: 22%
- Children under the age of five: 16%
- Adults: 11%
- Youth: 7%
- Adolescents up to the age of 15: 4%

Many respondents said they will not get infected because they trust in God. Others mentioned that they already got infected and recovered.

Many respondents mentioned people with weak immunity. Other responses included foreigners, travelers, people who are psychologically fragile, people who are afraid from the infection or those who do not trust God.
Prevention Knowledge and Practices

- What have you and your family done to prevent becoming sick with coronavirus?
- How can you prevent coronavirus disease?

- Washing hands regularly using alcohol-based cleaner or soap / water: 87% (81%)
- Covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing: 71% (67%)
- Wearing face mask when out of the house: 70% (64%)
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough: 71% (61%)
- Stop going to social gatherings: 55% (50%)
- Avoid unprotected direct contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals: 17% (13%)
- Cook meat and eggs well: 11% (10%)
- Nothing: 6%
- Eliminate standing water: 7%
- Don't know: 3% (1%)

Some mentioned trust in God as a preventive measure.
## Prevention Practices

### Have you done any of the following in response to Corona Virus?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covered your face or worn a mask when outside your home</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practiced social/physical distancing</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoided social gatherings like weddings, funerals, parties</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated yourself voluntarily</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed away from the mosque</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been asked to quarantine at home</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted to call the hotline or 195 for help</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called the Rapid Response Team/Ambulance</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Which of the following prevented you from physical distancing from people outside your household

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need to earn an income</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to care for others outside your home (elderly parents)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not convinced of the effectiveness of these measures</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t want to miss certain social events/gatherings</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No one has told you to practice social/physical distancing</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preventive Measures in the Community

Do you consider it important to take action to prevent the spread of coronavirus in your community?

- Yes, 86%
- No, 4%
- I do not know, 9%

How appropriate are the current measures in your community to control coronavirus?

- Not at all appropriate: 38%
- Need improvement: 31%
- Good: 15%
- Can’t say: 10%
- Excellent: 6%

Some respondents said the measures are relatively appropriate given the situation in the country.
### Responding to COVID-19 Infection

#### What will you do if you or someone from your family has symptoms of this coronavirus disease?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would stay in self-isolation</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will go to the hospital / health unit</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will look for a more experienced relative to advise me on what to do</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will buy medicines at the market</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will go to the neighborhood nurse</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will look for the traditional healer</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some respondents said they will use herbs, vegetables, citrus that boost immunity. Others said they will do nothing, while some mentioned waiting for God will

#### Have you or anyone you know shown signs of coronavirus?

- Yes: 31%
- No: 66%
- Other: 3%
Trust in Health Services

When coronavirus symptoms shown, Did you or the person go to the hospital or any health facility?

- Yes: 22%
- No: 78%

If no, why did you not go to the health facility?

- The symptoms were mild: 45%
- I fear to get infection: 44%
- They cannot treat corona in the HF: 27%
- I heard that HFs are full: 12%
- I do not have the money/They charge too much: 11%
- The health facility is far: 8%

* Out of the total respondents who said No

Many respondents referred to the rumor about giving patients a lethal injection in hospitals (Injection of Mercy), others mentioned lack of care in hospitals.
Trust in Health Services

Please rate the ability of the health services in your community to deal with the epidemic

- No confidence: 31%
- Little confidence: 29%
- Confident: 18%
- Total confidence: 11%
- Can’t say: 11%

Please rate your own ability to protect yourself from the epidemic

- Confident: 28%
- Total confidence: 24%
- Little confidence: 24%
- No confidence: 16%
- Can’t say: 8%
Information needs identified included:

- Transparent information about the spread of the disease in Yemen.
- The real numbers of COVID-19 infections and deaths in Yemen.
- How to treat the disease using stuff found in homes?
- How to boost immunity against the disease
- Can the virus be transmitted through recovered people?
- Long term complications caused by the virus.
- When will coronavirus disappear from Yemen?
- When will life go back to normal?
- Vaccines or medicines for the disease.
- How to protect people who are not able to practice preventive measures?
Do you think the coronavirus disease is generating stigma against specific people?

- Yes: 19%
- No: 81%

(If yes) Which group is being discriminated against in your community because of coronavirus?

- Foreigners: 51%*
- Marginalized (Mohamasheen): 37%
- IDPs: 36%

* Out of the total respondents who said Yes
Stigma Due to COVID-19

Would you personally interact with someone who has recovered from coronavirus?

- Yes: 71%
- No: 29%

(If no) Why not?
- I don’t want to catch the disease: 86%
- Corona is a bad disease: 31%
- It is a disease of dirty people: 13%
- My neighbors will frown at me: 5%

How much you agree or not with these statements:

1. I get infected, I will be ashamed to tell anyone in my community
   - Strongly disagree: 44%
   - Disagree: 41%
   - Agree: 12%
   - Strongly agree: 3%

2. If I get infected, I will be afraid to tell anyone in my community
   - Strongly disagree: 42%
   - Disagree: 40%
   - Agree: 15%
   - Strongly agree: 3%
Sources of Information on Other Diseases

From where/who do you usually receive information on other diseases?

- TV: 62%
- Social Media other than WhatsApp (Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, etc.): 55%
- WhatsApp: 54%
- Volunteers of UNICEF or any other organization: 34%
- Friends: 32%
- Community health workers: 30%
- Family members: 30%
- Religious Leaders: 27%
- Radio: 26%
- Health unit/Health care worker: 22%
- Community leaders: 11%
- A person from the community: 9%
- Traditional midwives or traditional healers: 3%
### Trend Analysis: Knowledge about the Virus

#### Heard about coronavirus

- **Round 1**: 83%
- **Round 2**: 97%

#### Know it is a virus that can cause disease

- **Round 1**: 85%
- **Round 2**: 90%

* Out of the total respondents who heard about the virus.
Trend Analysis: Information Received

How to protect yourself from the disease? 75% (Round 1) 78% (Round 2)
How it is transmitted 70% (Round 1) 67% (Round 2)
Symptoms 68% (Round 1) 79% (Round 2)
What to do if you have the symptoms 49% (Round 1) 43% (Round 2)
Risks and complications 44% (Round 1) 37% (Round 2)

Information received about the disease
Trend Analysis: Knowledge of Transmission

How does coronavirus spread?

- Direct contact with infected people: 84% (Round1), 79% (Round2)
- Touching contaminated objects/surfaces: 60% (Round1), 66% (Round2)
- Droplets from infected people: 41% (Round1), 50% (Round2)
- Airborne: 43% (Round1), 40% (Round2)
- Contact with contaminated animals: 12% (Round1), 12% (Round2)
- Eating contaminated food: 14% (Round1), 12% (Round2)
- Drinking unclean water: 12% (Round1), 9% (Round2)
- Sexual intercourse contact: 12% (Round1), 7% (Round2)
- Blood transfusion: 4% (Round1), 5% (Round2)
- Mosquito bites: 2% (Round1), 4% (Round2)
- Don't know: 4% (Round1), 2% (Round2)
Trend Analysis: Risk Perception

- **Believe that coronavirus is very dangerous or somehow dangerous:**
  - Round 1: 90.5%
  - Round 2: 90%

- **Do Not believe they are likely to become sick with coronavirus:**
  - Round 1: 14%
  - Round 2: 16%

- **Believe they are likely to become sick with coronavirus:**
  - Round 1: 38%
  - Round 2: 51%
Trend Analysis: Knowledge of Symptoms and Prevention Practices

Knowledge of Symptoms Index

- Round 1: 61%
- Round 2: 59%

Prevention Practices Index

- Round 1: 56%
- Round 2: 66%
Trend Analysis: Responding to COVID-19 Infection

What will you do if you or someone from your family has symptoms of this coronavirus disease?

- **64%** I will go to the hospital / health unit
- **49%** I would stay in quarantine
- **15%** I will look for a more experienced relative to advise me on what to do
- **4%** I will go to the neighborhood nurse
- **4%** I will buy medicines at the market
- **23%** I will look for the traditional healer
- **25%** I will go to the neighborhood nurse
- **24%** I will look for a more experienced relative to advise me on what to do
- **51%** I would stay in quarantine
- **2%** I will buy medicines at the market
- **1%** I will look for the traditional healer
- **4%** I will go to the neighborhood nurse
Summary and Key Points

- Knowledge on COVID-19 generally improved compared to round 1.
- Top 3 main sources of information remain TV, WhatsApp, Social Media
- Most trusted sources are TV, Social Media, WhatsApp, volunteers, health workers.
- Percentage of respondents who would go to health facilities if COVID-19 symptoms shown has significantly decreased from round 1.
- Only 29% of the respondents were confident of the ability of the health services in their communities to deal with the epidemic, while only 21% think the measures in their communities to control the disease are appropriate.
- Percentage of respondents who think they will likely to be infected with the virus has increased.
- Gap between respondents knowledge and practice of COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Majority of the respondents would not be ashamed or afraid to tell anyone from their communities if they got infected with the virus.
Implications for RCCE Response and Way Forward

- Study factors for non-use of health services and motivations for adoption of prevention practices.
- Further analysis of the assessment to identify governorate and district level gaps.
- Address identified areas of concern
- Facilitate partner and key stakeholder engagement on assessment findings.
- Review/revise messages and interventions in districts with significant knowledge gaps or poor adoption of preventive measures.
- Continue mass and social media engagement – (TV, social media, WhatsApp etc.)
- Scale-up interventions to promote Home-based care; continuity of services and prevention of self-medication
- Support community and household level behaviour adoption (production and distribution of reusable cotton masks; handwashing soap by Field Offices.
- Empower CVs (with aids – face masks, soap, sanitizer to continue interpersonal communication actions)
- Continue work on Shielding