

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

- The WHO Director-General said that **Europe has now become the epicenter of the pandemic**, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China. Many countries are now acting on the eight pillars of WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.
- A WHO high-level technical mission concluded a visit to Iraq to support the Iraqi Ministry of Health in their COVID-19 prevention and containment measures. The mission, which comprised experts from the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region and headquarters in Geneva, held a series of meetings with national health authorities to identify the disease detection dynamics and at-risk populations, in addition to providing guidance on strengthening response and control measures. WHO is working around the clock to establish 3 negative-pressure (contagious respiratory disease isolation) rooms in Baghdad, Erbil and Basra to accommodate patients who might require more sophisticated medical treatment.
- **China**, the original epicenter of the pandemic, continues to show decreasing trends in the number of cases and deaths. However, as of March 15, 132 out of the 150 affected countries saw an increase in the number of cases and/or deaths.
- **Myanmar government** on Friday (March 13) announced the restriction of mass gatherings and public events including the traditional Thingyan water festival until the end of April, according to an announcement issued by the President's Office. The move was made in light of the fact that the COVID-19 outbreak can rapidly spread through public gatherings, and the suspension period of public events will be extended if necessary, the announcement said.
- **Malaysia's Prime Minister Yassin** announced that all mass gatherings, including conferences, sports meet and religious events, should be cancelled or postponed until April 30.
- **New country with COVID-19 case/s**
 - Guam: 3 cases
 - The first three cases of COVID-19 were reported in Guam on March 15. Two of the affected individuals arrived in Guam from Manila, Philippines on March 2. The report also indicates that the third affected individual is a man in his 60's who has no recent travel history but details about the likely source of the infection have not been disclosed. All three confirmed COVID-19 cases have been placed under isolation at a local hospital in Guam and health authorities have begun contact tracing among all close contacts including the passengers of the flight from Manila, Philippines.
 - Central African Republic: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in the Central African Republic (CAR) on March 14. The affected individual is a 74-year-

old man who returned to CAR from Milan, Italy on March 8 and had symptoms onset on March 9. The report indicates that the World Health Organization was notified about this case on March 13 and since then mandated the isolation of the individual and the quarantine of his family and close contacts.

- Swaziland (Eswatini): 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Swaziland (Eswatini) on March 14. The affected individual is a 33-year-old woman who returned to Eswatini on March 8. Although there are limited travel details, the report indicates that she travelled to an unspecified location in the United States by the end of February and then travelled to Lesotho, where she remained at least for a week before her returning to Swaziland.
- Namibia: 2 cases
 - The first 2 cases of COVID-19 were reported in Namibia on March 14. The affected individuals are a Spanish couple who arrived in Namibia from an unspecified location in Spain on March 11 and had symptoms onset upon arrival.
- Rwanda: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Rwanda on March 14. The affected individual is an Indian citizen who arrived in Rwanda from Mumbai, India on March 8 and had symptoms onset on March 13. Upon onset of symptoms, the individual was tested and isolated at a local hospital.
- Saint Lucia: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Saint Lucia on March 13. The affected individual is a 63-year-old woman who arrived in Saint Lucia on March 7. The report indicates that she departed from London, England on February 29 and arrived in Grenada where she stayed until March 7. The individual had symptoms onset on March 11, and since then has been placed under isolation at a local hospital in Saint Lucia. As of March 15, 1 additional case was reported, bringing the total number to 2 cases.
- Seychelles: 2 cases
 - The first 2 cases of COVID-19 were reported in Seychelles on March 14. Both affected individuals returned to Seychelles from an unspecified location in Italy on March 11 and had symptoms onset on March 14. Both individuals were placed under isolation upon symptoms onset at a local facility in Perseverance Island, near the capital Victoria.
- Uzbekistan: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Uzbekistan on March 15. Although there are limited details available a media report indicates that the affected individual returned to Uzbekistan from France.
- Antigua and Barbuda: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Antigua and Barbuda on March 13. The affected individual is a woman who returned to Antigua from an unspecified location in the United Kingdom

on March 10 and had symptoms onset on March 11. She has been placed under self-isolation since then.

- Aruba: 2 cases
 - The first two cases of COVID-19 were reported in Aruba on March 14. Both affected individuals returned to Aruba from New York, United States, and have been placed under isolation.
- Cuba: 4 cases
 - The first cases of COVID-19 were reported in Cuba on late March 11. Three Italian citizens arrived in Havana, Cuba's capital city from Lombardy, Italy on March 9 and had symptoms onset on March 10. The report indicates that they had been in Trinidad, in Sancti Spiritus province, and upon COVID-19 confirmation they were all isolated at a local hospital in Havana. In addition, the fourth individual was confirmed in Cuba on March 13. The affected is in Santa Clara, Villa Clara, and is the husband of a returning traveller, who arrived in Havana, on February 24. No further details about this couple have been provided.
- Curaçao: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Curaçao on March 13. The affected individual returned to Curaçao from an unspecified location in the Netherlands on March 11 and had symptoms onset on March 12.
- Gabon: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Gabon on March 13. The affected individual is a 27-year-old man who returned to Libreville, the capital and largest city in Gabon, from Bordeaux, France on March 8.
- Ghana: 3 cases
 - The first two cases of COVID-19 were reported in Ghana on March 13. The one affected individual returned to Ghana from an unspecified location in Norway. The other individual returned from an unspecified location in Turkey. No further travel details were provided. In addition, the report indicates that both individuals are stable and have been placed under isolation. As of March 15, 1 additional case has been reported in Ghana, bringing the total number to 3 cases.
- Guatemala: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Guatemala on March 13. The affected individual is a man who returned to Guatemala from an unspecified location in Italy. The report indicates that the individual has been placed under isolation at a local hospital in the city of Villa Nueva, in Guatemala department.
- Guinea: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Guinea on March 13. A media report indicates that the affected individual returned to Conakry, the capital and largest city in Guinea from an unspecified location in Europe on March 9 and had symptoms onset on March 12. The report indicates that the individual is isolated at a local hospital in Nongo, a town in the northern suburbs of Conakry.

- Mauritania: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Mauritania on March 14. The affected individual returned to Mauritania from an unspecified location in Europe on March 9 and had symptoms onset on March 13.
- Puerto Rico: 3 cases
 - The first 3 cases of COVID-19 were reported in Puerto Rico on March 13. Two affected individuals are an Italian couple; a 68-year-old woman and a 70-year-old man, who arrived in Puerto Rico on the Costa Luminosa cruise ship on March 8 from Northern Italy and had symptoms onset upon arrival. They are both isolated at a local hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital and largest city. The third affected individual is a 71-year-old local man who had relatives that returned from an unspecified location abroad
- Suriname: 1 case
 - The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Suriname on March 13. The affected individual returned to Suriname from an unspecified location in the Netherlands.
- Venezuela: 10 cases
 - The first two cases of COVID-19 were reported in Venezuela on March 13. A media report indicates that one affected individual is a 41-year-old woman who arrived in Caracas, Venezuela's capital city on March 5 after travelling to unspecified locations in Spain, Italy, and the United States. The other case is a 52-year-old man who arrived in Venezuela from Spain on March 8. Both individuals are isolated in a local hospital in Miranda State (center of the country). As of March 15, 8 additional cases were reported in Venezuela, bringing the total number to 10 cases.
- Uruguay: 4 cases
 - The first four cases of COVID-19 were reported in Uruguay on March 13. All four affected individuals arrived in Uruguay from Milan, Italy between March 3 and 6.

- **Travel Advisories**

- The **Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand** has updated a list of countries with ongoing transmission, which now include Japan, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the UK and USA. Travellers arriving from the countries with ongoing local transmission are required to be under observation (supervision without quarantine) in order to ensure self-monitoring for 14 days until the end of the infectious period or the reason for suspicion.
- Manipur Chief Singh said that the **Myanmar's** international border including gate No. 1 and 2 in Moreh has been closed as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, Myanmar has imposed new restrictions as of March 15: travelers who have recently visited France, Italy, Iran, Spain and Germany will be placed in government quarantine facilities for 14 days upon arrival.
- **Brunei's Ministry of Health** announced that all Bruneians, permanent residents and foreign residents, are barred from traveling out of the

country to contain the spread of coronavirus effective on March 16. Permission for traveling is only applicable for urgent matters and need to be approved by the Prime Minister's Office.

- Last March 15, **Singapore** announced that all new visitors who have travelled to France, Germany, Italy and Spain within the last 14 days will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. And effective March 16, all travellers (including Singapore Residents, Long Term Pass holders, and short-term visitors) entering Singapore with recent travel history to ASEAN countries, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). Proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN is required. In addition, all short-term visitors who are nationals of any ASEAN country will have to submit requisite information on their health to the Singapore Overseas Mission in the country they are resident before their intended date of travel. The submission will have to be approved by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) before travel to Singapore, and the approval will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Singapore checkpoints. Short-term visitors who arrive in Singapore without the necessary approval will be denied entry into Singapore.
- **Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin** emphasized that Malaysia will maintain an inbound travel ban on the Chinese provinces of Hubei, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. Malaysia has also banned visitors from Hokkaido, Italy, Iran, South Korea and Denmark.
- **Cambodia** on Saturday (March 14) announced restrictions on visitors from five countries for a month in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Ministry of Health decided to temporarily ban foreigners from Italy, Germany, Spain, France and the United States from entering Cambodia for 30 days. It was announced that restrictions will take effect from March 17 midnight.
- **Philippines' Bureau of Immigration (BI)** said on March 14 that it is expanding travel restrictions for foreign visitors including those coming from Iran and Italy due to COVID-19 scare. Passengers coming from, or has transited through Iran and Italy in the last 14 days, shall be required to present a medical certificate issued by competent medical authorities within the last 48 hours prior to arrival in the country certifying that they are COVID-19 free. If passengers are able to present a medical certificate, they will be referred to the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) for a 14-day mandatory quarantine. However, if they failed to present a medical certificate, they will be denied entry to the country.
- **Foreign Ministry of Vietnam** announced that it will deny entry and stop issuing tourist visas to citizens from Europe's Schengen visa-free area and Britain starting from Sunday (Mar 15), amid concerns over the spreading COVID-19. As stated, "from noon Vietnam time, Mar 15, all foreign nationals will be refused entry to Vietnam if in the previous 14 days they have been to the UK, or any Schengen country, even in transit. This restriction will be in place for 30 days."

Cases and Deaths as of 16 March 2020

- As of March 16 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **165,331** confirmed cases, including **6,442** deaths.
- In **China**, there were **81243** confirmed cases with **3,199** deaths, including deaths in Hong Kong (4) and Taiwan (1). Confirmed cases in China include confirmed cases in Hong Kong (145), Macau (10), and Taiwan (59).
- **84,088 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in **146 countries** (other than China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau):

REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	CONFIRMED CASES/(Deaths)
ASIA PACIFIC	Thailand	13 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	114 (1)
	Vietnam	23 Jan 2020	14 Mar 2020	53
	Singapore	23 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	226
	Malaysia	25 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	428
	Cambodia	27 Jan 2020	10 Mar 2020	8
	Philippines	30 Jan 2020	16 Mar 2020	140 (12)
	Indonesia	02 Mar 2020	11 Mar 2020	117 (5)
	Brunei	10 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	50
	Japan	16 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	824 (31) 696 from quarantined ship
	South Korea	20 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	8,162 (75)
	Nepal	24 Jan 2020	24 Jan 2020	1
	Australia	25 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	299 (5)
	Sri Lanka	27 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	11
	India	30 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	107 (2)
	Afghanistan	24 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	16
	Pakistan	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	51
	New Zealand	28 Feb 2020	07 Mar 2020	5
	Bhutan	05 Mar 2020	05 Mar 2020	1
	Maldives	07 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	13
	Bangladesh	08 Mar 2020	08 Mar 2020	3
Mongolia	10 Mar 2020	10 Mar 2020	1	
Turkey	10 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	5	
French Polynesia	12 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	3	
Guam	15 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	3	

AMERICAS	USA	21 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	3,045 (60)
	Canada	25 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	255(1)
	Brazil	26 Feb 2020	14 Mar 2020	151
	Mexico	28 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	41
	Saint Martin	01 Mar 2020	01 Mar 2020	2
	Ecuador	01 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	28 (2)
	Dominican Republic	01 Mar 2020	09 Mar 2020	5
	Chile	03 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	61
	Argentina	03 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	45 (2)
	Peru	05 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	43
	Costa Rica	06 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	27
	Colombia	06 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	24
	French Guiana	06 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	6 (1)
	Martinique	06 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	10
	Paraguay	07 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	7
	Panama	10 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	43 (1)
	Bolivia	10 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	10
	Honduras	11 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	3
	Cuba	11 Mar 2020	11 Mar 2020	4
	Jamaica	12 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	8
	St Vincent and the Grenadines	12 Mar 2020	12 Mar 2020	1
	Saint Lucia	13 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	2
	Trinidad and Tobago	13 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	2
	Venezuela	13 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	10
	Guatemala	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Uruguay	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	4
	Curacao	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Puerto Rico	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	3
	Suriname	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Antigua and Barbuda	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Guadeloupe	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Cayman Islands	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Aruba	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	2
EUROPE	France	24 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	4,499 (91)
	Germany	27 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	5,426 (11)
	Finland	29 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	244
	Italy	30 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	24,747 (1,809)
	Russian Federation	31 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	59
	Spain	31 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	7,798 (292)

Sweden	31 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	961 (2)
United Kingdom of Great Britain	31 Jan 2020	15 Mar 2020	1,372 (35)
Belgium	05 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	886 (4)
Switzerland	25 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	1,376 (14)
Austria	25 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	602 (1)
Croatia	25 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	46
Norway	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	1,205 (3)
Romania	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	123
Estonia	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	135
Georgia	26 Feb 2020	14 Mar 2020	30
North Macedonia	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	19
Greece	26 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	228 (4)
Denmark	27 Feb 2020	12 Mar 2020	864 (1)
San Marino	27 Feb 2020	10 Mar 2020	51 (2)
Lithuania	27 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	12
Netherlands	27 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	1,135 (20)
Azerbaijan	27 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	19
Belarus	28 Feb 2020	10 Mar 2020	9
Iceland	28 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	161
Ireland	28 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	129 (2)
Monaco	29 Feb 2020	29 Feb 2020	1
Czech Republic	01 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	231
Luxembourg	01 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	59 (1)
Armenia	01 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	20
Latvia	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	30
Portugal	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	245
Andorra	02 Mar 2020	02 Mar 2020	1
Liechtenstein	03 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	7
Ukraine	03 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	3 (1)
Slovenia	04 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	181 (1)
Hungary	04 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	32 (1)
Poland	04 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	111 (3)
Faroe Islands	04 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	05 Mar 2020	12 Mar 2020	11
Gibraltar	05 Mar 2020	05 Mar 2020	1
Slovakia	06 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	54
Serbia	06 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	46
Vatican City	06 Mar 2020	06 Mar 2020	1
Malta	07 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	21
Moldova	07 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	12
Bulgaria	08 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	43 (2)

	Albania	09 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	33 (1)
	Cyprus	09 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	26
	Channel Islands	09 Mar 2020	12 Mar 2020	3
	Kazakhstan	13 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	8
	Uzbekistan	15 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	1
MIDDLE EAST	UAE	29 Jan 2020	13 Mar 2020	86
	Iran	19 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	13,938 (724)
	Israel	21 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	200
	Lebanon	21 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	99 (3)
	Kuwait	24 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	112
	Oman	24 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	21
	Bahrain	24 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	212
	Iraq	24 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	110 (10)
	Qatar	29 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	337
	Tunisia	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	18
	Saudi Arabia	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	103
	Jordan	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	7
	Palestine	05 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	38
AFRICA	Egypt	14 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	110 (2)
	Algeria	25 Feb 2020	15 Mar 2020	45 (3)
	Nigeria	28 Feb 2020	08 Mar 2020	2
	Morocco	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	28 (1)
	Senegal	02 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	24
	South Africa	05 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	51
	Cameroon	06 Mar 2020	07 Mar 2020	2
	Togo	06 Mar 2020	06 Mar 2020	1
	Burkina Faso	09 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	3
	Democratic Republic of Congo	10 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	2
	Ivory Coast	11 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	4
	Reunion	11 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	6
	Ghana	13 Mar 2020	15 Mar 2020	3
	Guinea	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Gabon	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Sudan	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1 (1)
	Kenya	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Ethiopia	13 Mar 2020	13 Mar 2020	1
	Central African Republic	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	1
	Seychelles	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	2
	Rwanda	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	1
	Namibia	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	2
	Swaziland	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	1
	Mauritania	14 Mar 2020	14 Mar 2020	1
				84,088 (3,243)

Map of COVID-19 Affected Countries: Global

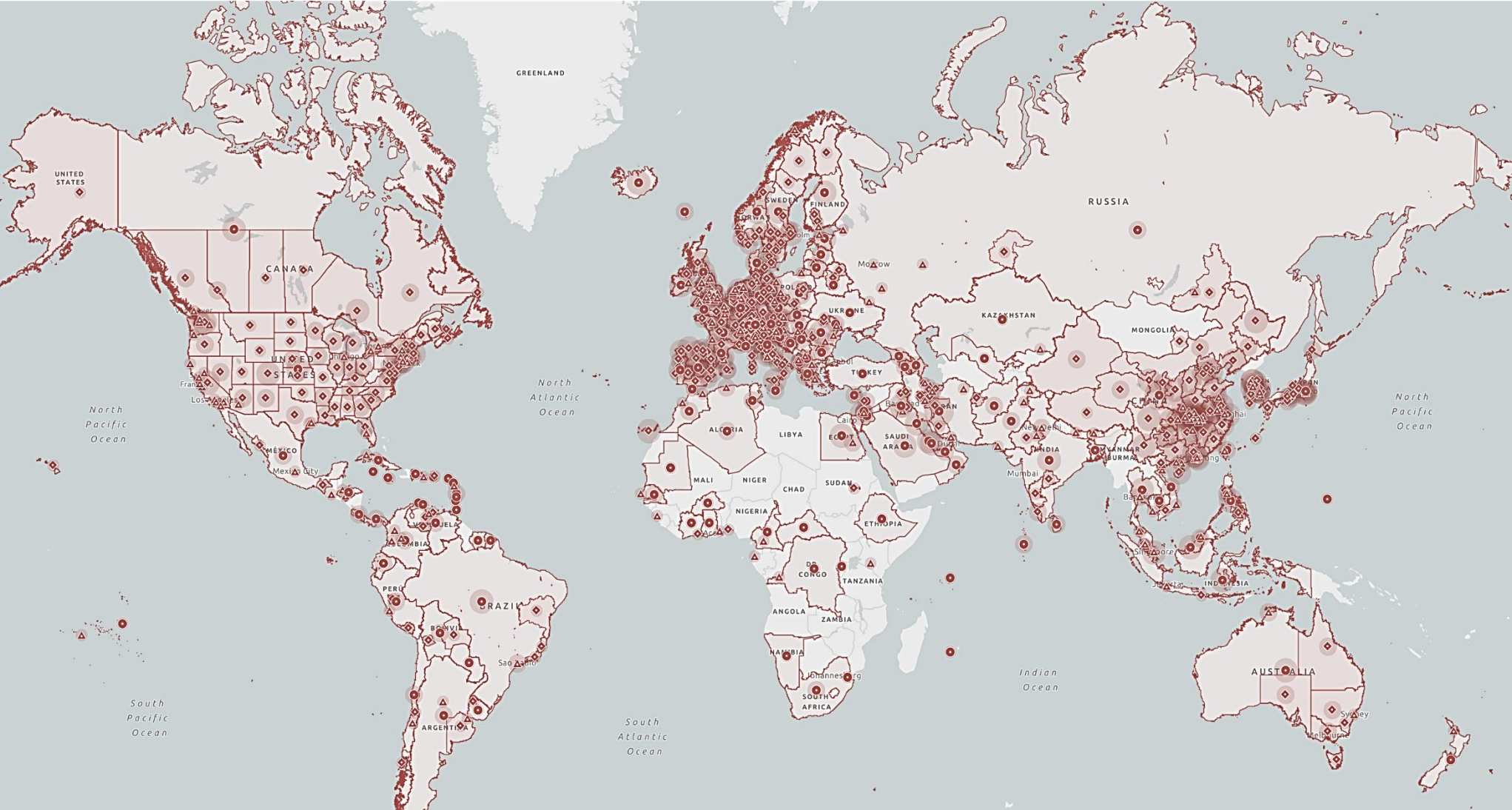


Figure 1. Global map of countries with COVID-19 confirmed cases as of March 16, 2020 (2 PM GMT+8)

Map of COVID-19 Affected Countries: ASEAN Region



Figure 2. ASEAN Region with COVID-19 confirmed cases as of March 16, 2020 (2 PM GMT+8)



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