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Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Elawad, Hagir <helawad@akingump.com>
Subject: Update: UAE Embassy Local Response to COVID-19



UAE Local & International Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 April 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Happy Tuesday to you all and I hope you were able to rest this weekend. Following up on the e-mail I sent a few days ago regarding the UAE's global humanitarian assistance, I also wanted to share that while the UAE is working to support UAE nationals and residents abroad to help contain the spread of COVID-19, it is also partnering with Washington, DC organizations and charities to support local communities confronting medical and economic challenges caused by this public health crisis. The partnerships includes the Children's National Hospital, a long-time UAE partner, Good Food DC and Oasis Community Partners, World Central Kitchen, and Feed the Fight DC. Through generous donations, the UAE is helping these local organizations continue working to keep families safe by providing essential meals and medical care.

For further details regarding the UAE's support for local communities in Washington, DC, kindly continue reading below or on the [UAE Embassy Website](#).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Warmest,
~Hagir

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LOCAL ASSISTANCE



Children's National Hospital

The UAE Embassy is a long-time partner of Children’s National Hospital in Washington, DC and is supporting its efforts to keep children and young patients in DC safe during the Coronavirus health crisis.

In March, Children’s National Hospital launched DC’s first drive-up/walk-up COVID-19 testing location at Trinity Washington University. This site offers specimen collection for children and young patients who are showing symptoms and have been referred by their primary care doctor for virus testing.

- The testing site will be able to test between 80 and 100 children per day.
- Testing results should be available in three to five days.

Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba and his wife Abeer Al Otaiba are among the donors who helped jumpstart the program.

“The drive-up/walk-up site and other urgent needs are made possible by the generosity of philanthropists who raised more than \$1 million. It was jumpstarted by Scott Nathan and Laura DeBonis and matched by the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, the Bharti and Raj Shah Family and Abeer and Yousef Al Otaiba.” – [Children’s National Hospital Press Release](#)



Good Food DC and Oasis Community Partners



Ambassador Al Otaiba and his wife made a donation to support local grocery store Good Food Markets in Washington, DC. In response to COVID-19, [Good Food Markets](#) is safely distributing free shelf-stable grocery items to DC residents in need. UAE support will help GFM stock up on their emergency food supply and build out the logistical infrastructure to facilitate grocery delivery to vulnerable populations in DC.



World Central Kitchen

As part of Chef Jose Andres’ ‘Chefs For America’ initiative, [World Central Kitchen](#) is working with partners to safely distribute 50,000 individually packaged fresh meals each day to communities in need. Ambassador Al Otaiba and his wife are supporting these efforts in Washington, DC through a pilot meals distribution program. 2



Feed the Fight DC

Ambassador Al Otaiba and his wife Abeer are supporting [Feed the Fight](#), a grassroots organization that is paying for meals and distributing them to health care workers and first responders in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC area.

“We are incredibly grateful to Yousef and Abeer Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States, and the Embassy here in Washington, DC for this generous donation,” said Elena Tompkins, founder of Feed the Fight. “Thanks to the growing support for this initiative, we are having a dual impact on the community by helping local restaurants remain operational and expressing gratitude to the nurses, doctors and other health care staff who are working around-the-clock during the COVID-19 pandemic response.”

Social Media

UAE Embassy US | April 8| 

Join us in supporting Feed the Fight DC! @UAEEmbassyUS is matching donations up to \$10K to meet the needs of dedicated local medical, EMT & Police through restaurants delivering meals to COVID-19 front lines. Donate here → <https://feedthefight.org/> #UAEUSA @communityfndn

Feed the Fight | April 6| 

Your Support is Now Worth DOUBLE!

Beginning at noon on April 6, the UAE Embassy in Washington, DC will match dollar for dollar for the next \$10,000 we raise. Donate today at <https://feedthefight.org/donate/>

UAE Embassy US | April 6| 

Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba and his wife Abeer are supporting @WCKitchen and @chefjoseandres as they safely distribute fresh meals in cities across America. In this time of crisis, the UAE is proud to stand with US partners as they provide necessary support to communities in need. Visit wck.org to learn how you can help.

#ChefsForAmerica #uaeusaunited

UAE Embassy US | March 26 

We are proud to support the team at @GoodFoodDC who are providing free shelf-stable grocery items to DC residents today from 10AM to 2PM. Learn more and see how you can help at: <https://bit.ly/3dwIBKk>

Children's National Hospital | March 23 

#COVID19 testing now available for children and young adults. Here's what you need:

- Get approved referral from your doc
- Photo ID
- Drive or walk up to our testing site (referring doc will provide directions)
- Results in ~3-5 days

All info: <https://childrensnational.org/visit/resources-for-families/wellness-resources/coronavirus>



NBC Washington | March 24 

Children's National hospital opens first coronavirus drive-thru testing site for kids



FOX 5 DC | March 24 

Children's National Hospital opens drive-up COVID-19 specimen collection, testing site <https://bit.ly/2QJirKq> 3



WUSA 9 | March 24 

Children's National Hospital begins drive-thru pediatric testing for coronavirus

UAE Embassy US | March 24 

Children's National Hospital is now offering drive-through COVID-19 testing for children and young patients in Washington, DC. Thank you @ChildrensNatl for providing this critical service to our local community.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The UAE government is working to support UAE nationals and residents abroad, it is also providing humanitarian assistance to other countries to help contain the spread of COVID-19, and as of April 22, the UAE has provided more than 270 metric tons of aid to 26 countries in need, supporting more than 270,000 medical professionals in the process. Specifically, the UAE has delivered medical supplies, supplied donations to local initiatives, made UAE-owned facilities available to local governments, and assisted in the repatriation of foreign nationals.

Additionally, the UAE business community is supporting the humanitarian effort. Both [Etihad Airways](#) and [Emirates](#) are bolstering their fleets of freighters to keep critical commercial goods like pharmaceuticals and medical devices moving and to assist in the delivery of international relief assistance overseas.

For further details regarding the UAE's humanitarian assistance to the international community, kindly continue reading below or on the [UAE Embassy Website](#).

**United States**

The UAE government and national airlines have worked with the US Mission to the UAE to repatriate a total of 733 American citizens back to the US. Additionally, Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE Ambassador to the US, met with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and [conveyed](#) a message of support and solidarity from UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah. The Nevada COVID-19 taskforce has established a partnership with the UAE to rollout high-volume testing throughout the state.

Ambassador Al Otaiba and his wife Abeer were initial donors to [Children's National Hospital](#), which launched DC's first drive-up/walk-up COVID-19 testing location for children and young patients. The Ambassador and his wife provided charitable support to Chef Jose Andres' [World Central Kitchen](#), which is distributing 50,000 packaged fresh meals to communities in need. Ambassador Al Otaiba is also supporting Feed the Fight, an organization distributing meals to health care workers and first responders, and Good Food Markets, which is providing groceries to Washington, DC residents in need.

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

The UAE is working with WHO to combat the virus and support countries in need. The Dubai International Humanitarian City (IHC) houses the [WHO Operations Supply and Logistics Hub](#), a facility that is instrumental in supplying countries with required medical supplies and [protective equipment](#).

The [IHC](#) has [facilitated](#) the distribution of over 85% of the World Health Organization's 'Global Medical Response in the Fight Against COVID-19,' including much needed medical supplies, such as masks, gloves and surgical gowns. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, has publicly expressed his appreciation for the UAE's international humanitarian response to the pandemic.

**South Africa**

The United Arab Emirates [sent](#) an aid plane containing seven tons of medical supplies to South Africa on April 20. The aid will assist approximately 7,000 medical professionals as they work to contain the virus.

**Mauritania**

On April 19, the UAE [sent](#) a plane carrying 18 tons of medical and food aid to Mauritania as a gesture of solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The shipment, which contained testing kits, medical devices, and food supplies, will assist approximately 10,000 healthcare workers.

**Somalia**

The United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), [dispatched](#) an aid plane carrying approximately 27 tons of medical supplies to Somalia on April 14. The aid, which consisted of seven tons from the UAE and 20 tons from WHO, will help approximately 27,000 healthcare workers.

**Cyprus**

On April 14, the UAE [sent](#) an aid plane carrying eight tons of medical supplies to Cyprus, benefitting nearly 10,000 healthcare professionals in the country.

**Ethiopia**

The UAE [dispatched](#) a plane carrying medical supplies to Ethiopia on April 13 to assist approximately 33,000 healthcare professionals. The aid plane transported 15 tons of aid provided by the UAE to Ethiopia, as well as three tons provided by the UAE to the African Union and 15 tons of aid provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) to help Ethiopia and other African countries combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Thanks to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its generous support of this operation, WHO's regional logistics hub in Dubai has played a key role in making sure these supplies are prepared and shipped to where they are most needed. This is by far the largest single shipment of supplies since the start of the pandemic, and will ensure

that people living in countries with some of the weakest health systems are able to get test and treated, while ensuring that health workers on the frontlines are properly protected,” [said](#) Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Bulgaria



On April 12, Bulgarian Minister of Economy HE Emil Karanikolov [met](#) with UAE Minister of State HE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh in Abu Dhabi to discuss further cooperation between both countries.

Ukraine



On April 10, the UAE [dispatched](#) an aid plane to Ukraine carrying 11 tons of medical supplies. Salem Ahmed Al Kaabi, UAE Ambassador to Ukraine, also noted that the aid plane repatriated 113 Ukrainian citizens from the UAE as a result of coordination between Emirati and Ukrainian authorities.

Colombia



A UAE aid plane carrying 10 tons of medical supplies was [dispatched](#) to Colombia on April 8. UAE Ambassador to Colombia Salem Rashid Al Owais also noted that the aid plane succeeded in repatriating 63 Colombian citizens from the UAE as a result of coordination between Emirati and Colombian authorities to ensure their safe return.

Kazakhstan



On April 8, the UAE [delivered](#) approximately 13 tons of medical supplies to Kazakhstan to assist the country in [combating](#) the COVID-19 pandemic.

Italy



An aid plane from the UAE carrying approximately 10 tons of medical supplies was [dispatched](#) to Italy on April 6. The medical supplies benefitted over 10,000 healthcare professionals.

“We are currently experiencing a phase that can only be described as war against an invisible enemy waged by our medical personnel, and the personal protective equipment provided by the UAE to Italy is our weapon in this battle. We consider this gesture to embody solidarity in practice and on-ground assistance. Italy will never forget the countries that supported it during this difficult period, which is not only a health crisis but an economic and community one as well.” – Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio.

Pakistan



The UAE [delivered](#) a first batch of crucial medical supplies to Pakistan on April 2. UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Alzaabi [tweeted](#): “Our commitment for humanitarian approaches and principles to help people in delicate situation has no limits.”

On April 6, the UAE [delivered](#) an additional 11 tons of medical supplies to Islamabad International Airport. The delivery included 20,000 Covid-19 test kits, 500,000 gloves, 30,000 protective gowns and facemasks and 10,000 sanitizers. Ambassador Alzaabi [tweeted](#): “We renew commitment to stand by world against the exceptional circumstances and challenges.”

Brazil



On April 1, UAE airline Emirates [flew](#) 500,000 COVID-19 test kits from China to Sao Paulo. It is the first of two special Emirates SkyCargo charters carrying medical supplies to Brazil.

Malaysia



The UAE sent medical equipment and supplies to Kuala Lumpur on March 29. Malaysian Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein and UAE Ambassador to Malaysia Khalid Al Ghaith came together to [share](#) best practices in addressing the pandemic.

**Serbia**

The UAE [donated](#) a total of 10 tons of equipment to Belgrade on March 29. The first part of the donation from the UAE included 13,750 protective suits, 15,000 hospital suits, 500,000 gloves, 30,000 shoe protectors, 20,000 masks and 6,000 sanitizers. Ventilators will arrive in the next delivery. The shipment was [received](#) by Serbian Minister of Defense Aleksandar Vulin, Minister of Health Zlatibor Loncar and UAE Ambassador to Serbia Mubarak Said El Dhaheri.

**United Kingdom**

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has been working with the British government to repatriate UK nationals. On April 5, a chartered Emirates plane [flew](#) 345 British citizens from the UAE back to the UK. On April 8 and April 10, more than 200 Britons in Nepal were [flown](#) home through the UAE.

ExCeL London, a convention center owned by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), was provided by the Abu Dhabi government to the National Health Service (NHS) and [turned](#) into an emergency field hospital for the treatment of patients infected with COVID-19. Named the NHS Nightingale Hospital, the new facility will have a capacity of 4,000 beds and will be able to provide a comprehensive range of medical support facilities.

**Seychelles**

The UAE [donated](#) 11 tons of medical supplies to the Seychelles government to assist their fight against COVID-19. The humanitarian aid included coveralls, isolation gowns, gloves, masks, and other medical items. The shipment from the UAE arrived on March 25.

**Croatia**

The UAE donated 13 tons of medical equipment, including masks, to Croatia following a recent devastating earthquake on March 22 that has been described as the strongest to strike the country in 140 years.

**South Korea**

On March 19, the UAE [facilitated](#) the evacuation of 80 individuals from Iran in response to a request by the South Korean Government. Among the evacuated individuals were 74 South Korean nationals residing there, in addition to 6 Iranian family members. The individuals were flown to the UAE and then traveled onward to Incheon International Airport in South Korea.

**Iran**

In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UAE [sent](#) an aircraft carrying 7.5 metric tons of medical supplies, as well as five WHO experts, to Iran on March 3. In a [March 15 call](#) with Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed affirmed the UAE's support to the Iranian people as they manage this crisis.

In the [second supply](#) of medical equipment to Iran on March 17, the UAE sent over 32 metric tons of critical medical supplies, including gloves and surgical masks, as well as other protective equipment. Aid to Iran was delivered with the aim of helping 15,000 healthcare workers and 100,000 people.

Commenting on the aid dispatched, Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, [said](#): "The UAE's efforts in carrying out a second medical aid flight to Iran are consistent with our country's founding humanitarian principles, which guide our belief that providing life-saving assistance to those experiencing distress is essential to serving the common good."

**Afghanistan**

The UAE dispatched an urgent medical aid shipment to Afghanistan containing 20,000 testing units and equipment to examine thousands of people.

**China**

Following the initial Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, the UAE provided medical supplies, including facemasks and gloves, to China. On January 26, H.H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, [tweeted](#): "We're closely following the Chinese government's efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus. We're confident in their ability to overcome this crisis. The UAE is ready to provide all support to China and cooperate with the international community to tackle this virus."

On March 4, as part of the UAE's Homeland of Humanity Initiative, the UAE [evacuated](#) 215 people of different nationalities from China's Hubei Province to the Emirates Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi, where they received necessary medical evaluation and care.

**Greece**

The UAE donated 11 tons of medical supplies to Greece on March 26, consisting mostly of special coveralls for medical protection, medical gloves, and sanitizers. In a statement, the Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis [remarked](#): "The friendship and trust we share with the United Arab Emirates are dear, and especially during these difficult times the solidarity of our allies is evident—also shown through the delivery of valuable medical supplies today."

Key Reactions

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization | Apr 14 | 

I thank the @_AfricanUnion Commission Chairperson @AUC_MoussaFaki the government of #UAE, #Ethiopia PM @AbiyAhmedAli, the @foundation_ma and all our partners for their solidarity with African countries at this critical moment in history. <https://bit.ly/2V5iyCP>

Luigi Di Maio, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs | Apr 6 | 

Volo con aiuti sanitari donati dagli Emirati Arabi all'Italia atterrato a Fiumicino. Grazie al collega [@ABZayed](#) per l'amicizia e la solidarietà dimostrata. Un gesto che non dimenticheremo.

Translation: Flight with medical aid donated by the United Arab Emirates to Italy landed in Fiumicino. Thanks to the colleague @ABZayed for friendship and solidarity shown. A gesture that we will not forget.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization | Mar 17 | 

Thanks #UAE and @MohamedBinZayed for your continuing support to the #COVID19 response. Solidarity among international communities is of the utmost necessity.

Randa Slim, Senior Fellow, MEI | 

#Kuwait #UAE sending supplies expressing solidarity with #Iran. Wish more #GCC emulate them. Such behaviors help create goodwill & more importantly reinforce perception this is one neighborhood that must be shared by all.

Tamara Qiblawi, Senior Digital Mideast Producer, CNN International | Mar 16 | 

For a 2nd time in a week, the #UAE sends medical aid to #Iran. On the weekend, FM Abdullah bin Zayed and FM Zarif spoke on the phone to discuss Iran's coronavirus outbreak. A significant, and dare I say, quite touching development.

Media clips

[United Arab Emirates donates medical supplies to Greece \(VIDEO\)](#)

27 March 2020



[Connect the World with Becky Anderson](#)

17 March 2020



[BBC World Service Radio](#)

17 March 2020



[In pictures: UAE sends second batch of medical aid to Iran](#)

17 March 2020

