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- * On **5 February**, UNOSSC formally expressed to the Permanent Mission of China to the UN its solidarity and willingness to support China's efforts in responding to the outbreak. [p. 1](#)
- * On **22 and 24 February**, UNOSSC-donated 15 medical respirators and 1,000 protective suits reached Wuhan City and Yuxi City in China. [p. 4](#)
- * On **24 February**, the UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and Pacific released a video message by UN colleagues based in Bangkok expressing support in 22 languages. The team also started to explore ways to support the Islamic Republic of Iran through coordination with the UN RC Office. [p. 5](#)
- * On **9 March**, Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (MCSR CA) Business Council, a Quanzhou City-based NGO and UNOSSC Silk Road Cities Project partner, pledged and donated over 80,000 surgical masks to its partner city Isfahan, the Islamic Republic of Iran. [p. 7](#)
- * In February and March, city partners including Khajura, Nepal, Koidu, Sierra Leone, and Yuxi, China expressed support and solidarity to the Cities Project. [pp. 8-10](#)
- * On **22 March**, UNOSSC partner Henan Province of China donated urgently needed medical supplies, worth approximately \$360,000, to its Air Silk Road partner Luxembourg. [p. 11](#)
- * By **8 March**, through a joint call of actions by UNOSSC and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) on South-South Galaxy, personal protective equipment (PPE) including 5,000 items of medical protective clothing and funds for insurance for 30,000 personnel had been donated by partners. [p. 12](#)
- * On **2 April**, UNOSSC committed \$100,000, through the South-South Cooperation Poverty Eradication Facility supported by the Government of China as an immediate response to support African countries' efforts in mobilizing urgently needed medical supplies. UNOSSC is coordinating with the UN, UNDP, the African Union, and the African Union Development Agency to deliver support through its Regional Office for Africa.
- * On **2 April**, UNOSSC conducted a mapping on South-South Galaxy of responses and efforts of health authorities, mainly the Ministries of Health across countries of the global South, to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [p. 3](#)
- * The Innovative e-Learning Approach for Health project supported by the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is now providing training modules on COVID-19 responses developed by WHO with the support of Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HPMU). [p. 6](#)
- * In the coming days, over 100,000 masks donated by MCSR CA Business Council and its members will be shipped to Bergamo, Italy.



UNOSSC AND PARTNERS IN ACTION FOR GLOBAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19

António Guterres

Secretary-General
of the United Nations

*“This is, above
all, a human
crisis that calls
for solidarity”*

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. Since it emerged in December last year, the virus has spread to every continent except Antarctica and has become a defining global health crisis of our time. The United Nations Secretary-General calls for world leaders to come together and offer an urgent and coordinated global response. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to helping countries to urgently and effectively respond to COVID-19 as part of its mission to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience to crises and shocks.



Achim Steiner
UNDP Administrator

“We are already hard at work, together with our UN family and other partners, on three immediate priorities: supporting the health response including the procurement and supply of essential health products, under WHO’s leadership, strengthening crisis management and response, and addressing critical social and economic impacts.”

Several countries of the global South have already demonstrated effective responses to contain the outbreak and mitigate its impact. Apart from the immediate demand that is already being expressed by countries from their partners of the South, going forward, least developed countries (LDCs) and other less developed countries of the South will want to learn and exchange lessons with countries that have demonstrated efficient health



systems, effective governance mechanisms, leadership, coordination, communication, and community cohesion during the crisis. It is clear that South-South cooperation is and will be more important than ever before.

This newsletter showcases the efforts made in the past two months by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and its partners to respond to the pandemic.



Jorge Chediek

Director of UNOSSC and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation

Video message transcript originally published by People's Daily on 22 March 2020. It is also available on South-South Galaxy.

I would like to first commend China for how it has fought this pandemic, this virus, this sickness, this coronavirus. This slowing of the virus' spread is particularly remarkable as it was achieved, while China at the time continued to make progress toward its ambitious poverty eradication goals.

I would also like to recognize China for what you are doing right now in terms of cooperating with other countries in the spirit of South-South and global collaboration. Today – in (the Islamic Republic of) Iran, in Iraq, in Italy, in the Philippines, in Serbia, and Spain, among many other countries – China is contributing with donations of medical supplies, sending health workers to bridge unprecedented gaps in capacity, and sharing lessons on how to flatten the growth curve of the virus as China has done.

We commend private philanthropists also, like Jack Ma, the (co-)founder of Alibaba, who donated test kits, masks, and protective suits to all 54 countries in Africa, a real example of South-South solidarity.

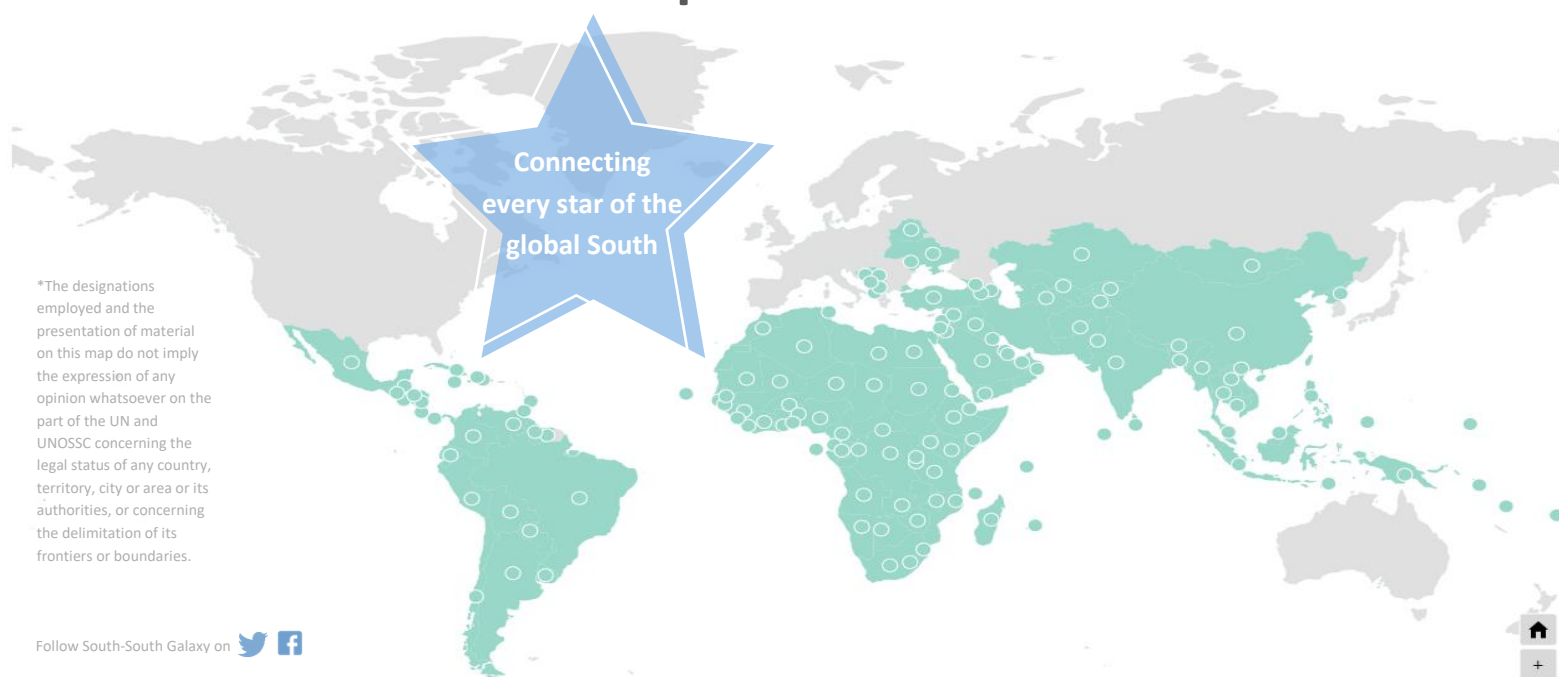
Our office, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, is proud to have been working closely with its partners in China since the onset of the outbreak to mobilize needed resources.

The Office provided medical protective suits and non-invasive respirators, and mobilized donations from partners, for Yuxi City in Yunnan Province and Xiaogan City in Hubei Province. A long-standing partner of the Cities Project, the Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance Business Council (Quanzhou, China), mobilized a donation of over 80,000 surgical masks from its members around the globe – including from Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Viet Nam – to assist the Isfahan city of (the Islamic Republic of) Iran and other cities of (the Islamic Republic of) Iran, one of the most affected countries at this stage of the outbreak. In addition, our South-South Galaxy platform is also publishing calls for donations of personal protective items jointly with our partner the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation.

Moving forward, through the South-South Cooperation Facility for Poverty Eradication, we will continue working with China and other development partners from across the global South to facilitate connections and sharing of home-grown solutions, including through digital innovation.

We stand ready to join hands with all developing countries and partners to respond to the pandemic. We need to do it. This is a global threat. We need a global response that is an expression of solidarity, and win-win collaboration. We want to thank China for your contribution and your example. We look forward to working together to defeat this serious enemy. Together we will do it.

Southern Countries Response to COVID-19 Pandemic



From early March to now, South-South Galaxy has been sharing knowledge products and experiences of epidemic responses to the current COVID-19 and previous H1N1 and Zika outbreaks. Those were publicized and shared via social media channels.

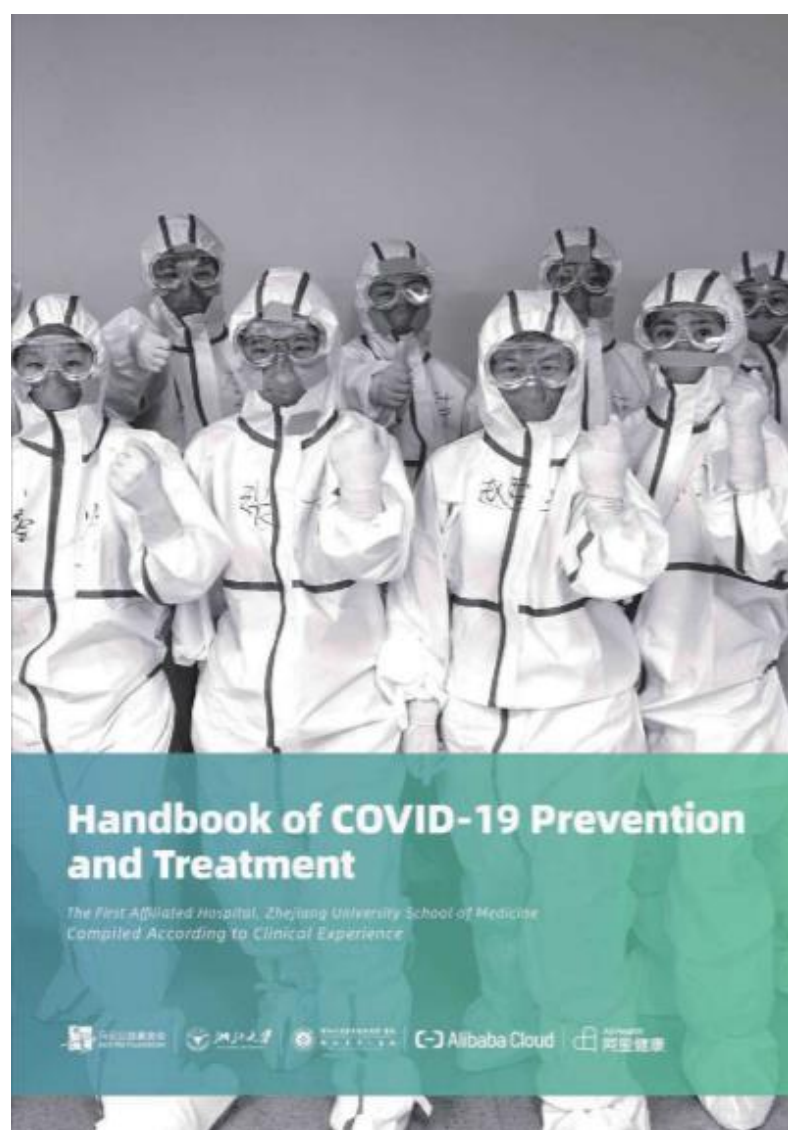


On 2 April, UNOSSC conducted a mapping on South-South Galaxy of responses and efforts of health authorities, mainly the Ministries of Health across countries of the global South, to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of the mapping is to provide a dynamic repository of efforts in addressing the outbreak and enable countries to quickly access information, compare practices, and learn from one another through South-South knowledge exchanges.

The mapping also includes official donation platforms established by governments, where available. This will facilitate the scaling up of efforts and enable countries of the South to adequately mitigate the risks of the pandemic ahead of time.

Additionally, the mapping includes examples of subregional, regional and interregional organizations that are serving as important platforms for coordinating South-South cooperation efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.





Urgently Needed Medical Supplies Donated by UNOSSC Arrive in Wuhan and Yuxi

South-South Solidarity for Frontline COVID-19 Responses

Urgently needed medical respirators and protective suits worth \$100,000 donated by the UNOSSC reached the cities of Wuhan and Yuxi on 22 February and 24 February, respectively, to support local efforts in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Since the onset of the outbreak, UNOSSC has been closely following the situation and stands firm in demonstrating solidarity and enhancing cooperation with all partners in response to this “human crisis that calls for solidarity”.

After receiving the urgent request for medical supplies from a project partner in China on 6 February, following consultations with the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, UNOSSC reached out to the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in China, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, and the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence in China for advice on applicable procurement channels.

15 urgently needed non-invasive respirators and 1,000 medical prot-

ective suits worth \$100,000 were procured through UNDP in China and reached the city of Wuhan on 22 February and the city of Yuxi, a project partner, on 24 February.

Respirators are crucial to the treatment of patients whose conditions are severe, and medical protective suits remain the most difficult items to source. All the respirators have arrived in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province and the epicenter of the outbreak, thanks to the Government's fast-track logistics channels.

Yuxi has been a partner of UNOSSC through “South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development” project (UNOSSC Silk Road Cities Project). It has hosted a study visit on agricultural value-chain development and solar-power-driven irrigation schemes for city partners from Nepal.

To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy.



22 Languages One Message

UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Action

Starting in March, the UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and Pacific has been working with the UN Resident Coordinator Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen its capacity for needs assessment of the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic to the country. Moreover, on 24 February, the team published a video message in which Mr. Denis Nkala, Regional Coordinator of the Office made a speech and colleagues from UN agencies based in Bangkok spoke up for affected countries in 22 languages.

"Every day, countries in the global South face challenges, climate changes, disasters, disease outbreaks... These are some of them. Sometimes these challenges dent our people-to-people connectivity, generating fear and antipathy. In other cases, uncertainty is created, sadness at the loss of the loved ones. However, it is during these challenges that we also see the resilience and endurance of South-South cooperation principles of solidarity, empathy, and sharing of what we have regardless of how much we may or may not have with others in their hour of need. The staff of UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and Pacific and like-minded friends in a region which is the epicenter of the Coronavirus outbreak are putting this video to replay our empathy and solidarity, and just to say to all those affected in China and other countries. You are not alone. We are with you all the way and know that the sun will come out and shine again soon..." Mr. Denis Nkala, Regional Coordinator the Regional Office, UNOSSC



To find out more, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#).

"This IBSA-Fund-supported project introduced an e-Learning approach which could be easily replicated in the future without additional funding requirements. We are very pleased that the results achieved are being sustained and WHO and HPMU are utilizing the e-Learning platform to respond to COVID-19."

Mr. Jorge Chediek

A participant learning through e-Learning for Health platform supported by IBSA Fund. Photo by WHO

IBSA-Fund-supported Healthcare e-Learning Platform in Viet Nam Used in Response to COVID-19

International Financial Institutes (IFIs) and Research Institutes in Action

An India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund)-supported key e-Learning project to improve health-care coverage and quality in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam that has proven to be successful in reaching health-care workers in remote medical settings, is now being used to respond to COVID-19.

From 2015 to 2019, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, the innovative IBSA Trust Fund, managed by UNOSSC and implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) Viet Nam, collaborated on a key learning project with Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HPMU) through the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam. The objective was to improve coverage, equal access, and quality of health-care services for the poorest and most vulnerable population groups in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam in the area of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Among other things, the project offered pre- and in-service doctors and other health care workers, including those at the primary-care level (frontline), access to online training in order to upgrade their skills and knowledge on NCDs.

In 2020, in light of the growing demand to increase the knowledge of the health workforce to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19, WHO and HPMU are jointly enhancing the e-Learning platform by adding online training modules on COVID-19 developed by WHO in areas such as clinical care for severe acute respiratory infections. The

modules are translated into Vietnamese to increase the reach of the training course to frontline health-care providers in the country.

"COVID-19 is a new disease and as such, it is critical that the best available information on this is delivered to our colleagues in a timely, convenient and user-friendly manner. We aim to bring the knowledge to the learners, instead of physically moving the learners to where the knowledge is. This strategy is especially important now that we are in the COVID-19 outbreak situation, when physical gathering is discouraged in line with the promotion of the practice of social distancing measures to control virus spread," said Dr. Kidong Park, WHO Representative in Viet Nam.





Worker Making Surgical Mask to be donated to the Islamic Republic of Iran in a Factory in Quanzhou. Photo by MCSR CA Business Council

Quanzhou Pledges and Donates Surgical Masks to Isfahan City Partners in the Islamic Republic of Iran

South-South Solidarity among Cities of the Global South

Following the call for donations of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPEs) initiated by the Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (MCSR CA) Business Council on 29 February, more than 80,000 surgical masks manufactured in Quanzhou City, China, were shipped to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 9 March in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak. In addition, the Quanzhou-based NGO is reaching out to more partners to invite pledges for critical medical supplies to affected countries.

According to the World Health Organization, as of 31 March, 41,495 confirmed cases and 2,757 deaths had been reported in the Islamic Republic of Iran, making it one of the most affected counties in the world.

In February, after receiving the request from the Iranian Chamber of Commerce in China, the MCSR CA Business Council released the call for donations among its members globally. By the end of the month, close to 52 members from Cambodia, China, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Viet Nam had pledged to contribute masks and disinfectants.

The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Guangzhou

assisted in the logistical arrangements from China to the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Ministry of Health of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce serving as focal points. Furthermore, the Business Council is mobilizing its members with manufacturing capacities to expand their production lines of high-quality PPE items and other needed supplies, such as sanitary pads for female health workers, to prepare for this global crisis. Per the requests of its members, the MCSR CA Business Council plans to extend support to city members of Italy and Japan.

MCSR CA Business Council of Quanzhou City has been a long-standing partner of the UNOSSC Silk Road Cities Project, which is supported by UNOSSC and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE). The MCSR CA Business Council's call for donations is still open. Please contact the Business Council through mcsrca-bc@qq.com, or Mr. Cangsong Chen, Director of the Secretariat of the MCSR CA Business Council, at +8613960288078, if you wish to contribute or share available procurement channels.

For more information, please visit South-South Galaxy.



“Let’s join hands together for the people of China and victims around the world”

Message from Khajura, Nepal

Mr. Kismat Kakshapati, Mayor of Khajura Rural Municipality, Banke District, No. 5 Province, Nepal

“Namaste. Today, I am really sad about knowing what’s going in China and the rest of the world. It started in Wuhan city, then all over china and now in different parts of the world. I want to convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family who lost their loved ones and pray to almighty to strengthen them so that they soon could come out from the hard time. It is a very difficult time for China. Every day, heartbreaking stories are forwarded in the global news presenting how severe, fearful, and painful situations are. Let us join hands together for the people of China and victims around the world to fight against this novel coronavirus. On behalf of the people of Khajura, I am with the people of China to help them by any means of support. I do hope soon the brighter morning will glow with a better today and future.”



Mr. Kakshapati and city council officials welcoming UNOSSC mission group. Photo by UNOSSC

Khajura Rural Municipality of Nepal expressed its demands regarding developing green agriculture to the Cities Project in March 2019. Subsequently, a five-day needs assessment mission to Khajura in June 2019 was organized jointly with the China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA), with local support from the UNDP Country Office in Nepal.

To find out more, please see our [news article](#) and [video](#) on this event.



"We did remember what China & the world did for us when Sierra Leone was going through the Ebola epidemic"

Koidu residents participating in consultations held by UNOSSC Silk Road Cities Project. Photo by UNOSSC

Message from Koidu, Sierra Leone

Mr. Sam Komba, Lord Mayor of Koidu New-Sembahun City, Kono District, Sierra Leone

"On behalf of the people of Koidu New-Sembahun City, I would like to extend our sincere sympathy and solidarity to the People's Republic China and other parts of the world that are currently going through a hard time in the hands of the deadly disease called coronavirus. We will continue to pray for you and campaign against discrimination. We did remember when Sierra Leone was going through the Ebola epidemic, what China and other countries all over the world did for us. At this time of grief, we stand by you to see the end of the epidemic. God bless China and the people of China."

Koidu New-Sembahun City was severely affected by the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014. As the capital of Kono District, Koidu provided patients with early medical care through its Ebola treatment centre, which was considered critical to the full recovery of many patients.

Upon the requests of Koidu, a one-week mission was organized by the Cities Project in November 2019 for needs assessment on agriculture, mining, waste management, and road infrastructures by experts from four UN agencies and city governments.

To find out more, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#).



Mr. Komba (m) and experts in needs assessment activities. Photo by UNOSSC



万众一心，抗击疫情。
武汉必胜！中国必胜！
United as one, we fight
against the epidemic.
Wuhan is surely to win!
China is surely to win!

Handwriting of Mr. Yao Xiaoyan,
Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of
the Government of Yuxi

Message from Yuxi, China

Mr. Yao Xiaoyan, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Yuxi, Yunnan Province, China

"Although Yuxi is not the most affected, it has been extremely difficult for us to obtain the needed medical supplies to halt the spread of the virus and treat patients infected, as the city is relatively small, and resources limited. UNOSSC supplies came at an opportune time and cheered everyone up in the city. We genuinely appreciate it."

Yuxi has been actively mobilizing resources for treating affected persons and containing the virus from spreading since January. Apart from UNOSSC, the city of Yên Bái, Viet Nam, which had signed a statement of intent to establish an "International Friendship City" partnership in October 2019, also donated 10,000 surgical masks to Yuxi. Yuxi believed that the donation made by Yên Bái had deepened the friendship and mutual trust between the two cities.

Yuxi has been a partner of the UNOSSC Silk Road Cities Project since 2019. Following the needs assessment of Khajura, with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP) China Center of Excellence and the China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA), the Cities Project identified the good practices in solar-power-driven irrigation and the value chain development of Yuxi.

To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy.



Yuxi Government officials unpacking UNOSSC-donated protective suits. Photo by Yuxi Daily / Li Ran



Henan-donated medical supplies ready to be dispatched to Luxembourg from Zhengzhou Airport. Photo by HNCA

Henan Province of China Donates Medical Supplies to Luxembourg through the Air Silk Road for COVID-19 Responses

A freight aircraft loaded with urgently needed medical supplies, worth approximately \$360,000 and donated by Henan Province of China to its Air Silk Road partner Luxembourg, took off from Henan capital city of Zhengzhou on 22 March 2020.

According to the World Health Organization, as of 26 March, 1,333 confirmed cases and 8 deaths had been reported in Luxembourg, making it the 14th most-affected country on the European continent.

Those supplies included 4,500 medical protective suits, 500,000 surgical masks, 5,700 N95 masks, 100,000 pairs of medical gloves, 600 forehead thermometers, 20,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 1,080 pairs of medical goggles collectively donated by the Government of Henan Province and State-owned enterprises of Henan Province following a request from the Government of Luxembourg.

They were shipped to Luxembourg by Cargolux Airlines International (Cargolux), a cargo airline with its hub at Luxembourg airport, free of any charges, with the assistance of Henan Civil Aviation Development and Investment Co., Ltd. (HNCA), a State-owned enterprise based in Zhengzhou.

Henan and Luxembourg unveiled their cooperation in civil aviation in 2014, as evidenced by the HNCA acquisition of 35 per cent of the equity of Cargolux and the launch of the Air Silk Road which has

seen thousands of Cargolux flights transporting cargo between Henan and Luxembourg over the past six years. This route forms an integral part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and has been a pivotal economic corridor that links China's emerging markets with developed countries in Europe and the United States. This route has become a "bridge of friendship" connecting countries across the globe to combat the COVID-19 pandemic together.

"When one gives me a quince, I return with a jade," said the government of Henan, quoting from Shi Jing, a compilation of ancient Chinese poetry, to express its solidarity with Luxembourg in the time of COVID-19. Moreover, the Government affirmed that the current situation in Luxembourg had deeply concerned the people of Henan. In the spirit of solidarity, Henan plans to continue mobilizing and donating medical supplies to support Luxembourg.

Henan Province is a partner of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). In 2019, under the framework of the BRI, the Government of Henan Province, UNOSSC, and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) jointly announced the Air Silk Road South-South Cooperation Partnership Initiative, which aims at facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation among civil-aviation hub cities along the Silk Road to advance sustainable development.

To find out more, please visit [South-South Galaxy](#) and [Henan Daily](#).



Finance Center for South-South Cooperation Joins Hands with Partners to Fight the Coronavirus Outbreak

On 6 February, UNOSSC, jointly with the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC), published a call for donations of PPE items to China, on South-South Galaxy.

Soon after the call was launched, organizations including the Shenzhen Ordinary Hero Foundation, the Shenzhen Lexin Charity Foundation, the Green Hand Company, the Overseas Chinese Students Union in America and Real Intl. SCM Corp. reached out to FCSSC. FCSSC immediately set up a task force comprised of more than ten members from partner institutions to coordinate the sourcing, procurement, and logistics of medical supplies, especially personal protective equipment (PPE).

In mid-February, the Shenzhen Ordinary Hero Foundation and the Overseas Chinese Students Union in America were able to source and procure 5,000 sets of medical protective clothing worth 600,000 RMB. The Shenzhen Lexin Charity Foundation, the Green Hand Co., and the Real Intl. SCM Corp. offered to cover the cost of the logistical arrangement of delivery to Hubei, China.

As of 8 March, all the PPE pledged and procured by FCSSC and partners had been dispatched to 16 hospitals, two public-security bureaus, and one front-line journalist working station located in nine cities in Hubei Province, China.

Through the coordination of FCSSC, the Lexin Charity Foundation and the Shenzhen Ordinary Hero Foundation donated an additional 1.5 million RMB to provide insurance coverage for 30,000 personnel on the front lines of the coronavirus fight.

The first round of donations has now been completed in close collaboration with various partners but FCSSC and its partners are continuing to help more people to fight against COVID-19.

The Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC) is a non-profit international organization registered and founded in Hong Kong, China, and a founding partner of South-South Galaxy.



To find out more, please visit South-South Galaxy.



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation



About UNOSSC

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was established to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. UNOSSC, hosted by UNDP since 1974, was established by the General Assembly with a mandate to advocate for and coordinate South-South and triangular cooperation on a global and UN system-wide basis. UNOSSC receives policy directives and guidance from the General Assembly and through its subsidiary body, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. UNOSSC submits its strategic planning frameworks to the UNDP / UNFPA / UNOPS Executive Board for approval and funding. The Director reports to the UNDP Administrator and has also been appointed Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation. For more information, please visit www.unsouthsouth.org.

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