

"I extend my appreciation to the WHO team for putting together this very important course for health workers like myself. This year has truly been a test of all realms of our beings as healthcare workers."

-OpenWHO user, COVID-19 vaccination training course

OpenWHO News

The latest from WHO's open learning platform

HIGHLIGHTS

Thousands turn out for interactive webinars to hear from WHO experts and partners (p.1)

Collaboration brings pandemic knowledge to remote Somali communities (p.2)

International Mother Language Day spotlights multilingual learning for COVID-19 (p.2)

COVID-19 courses available in 45 languages and counting, with 7 courses available in 10 or more languages (p.3)

Webinars bring together thousands across the globe

Shared commitment to learning during the pandemic took centre stage in February, as more than 3000 people joined the opening sessions of 2 new webinar series.

The first WHO [#LearningSavesLives webinar](#) was held 19 February ahead of [World Day of Social Justice](#) to hear from speakers in Kazakhstan, Somalia, Suriname and Tajikistan about their experiences reaching frontline learners.

"In this pandemic, up to now, it's our knowledge that's actually been the most important countermeasure. Knowledge has been the power that saves lives," said Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme.

The next session will explore the challenges women face learning in emergencies, marking International Women's Day on 8 March. Register [here](#) to join.

A series of virtual seminars on COVID-19 vaccination also launched in February, building on OpenWHO courses for [health workers](#) and [country focal points](#). You can register for the next sessions [here](#) and [here](#).

LATEST COURSES



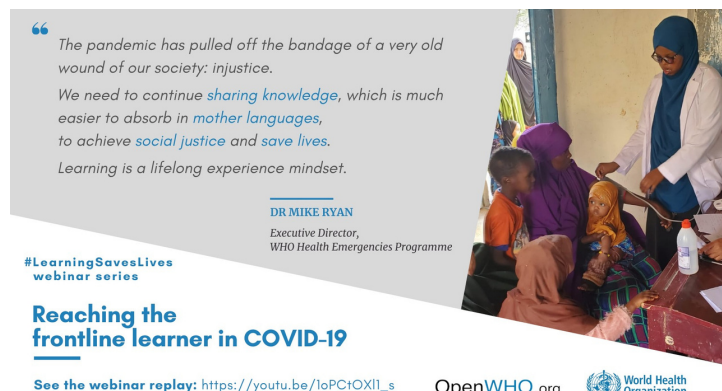
COVID-19 infodemic management: risk communication and community engagement challenges



Introduction to AFRO Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Technical Guidelines 3rd Edition



COVID-19 and work: Staying healthy and safe at work during the COVID-19 pandemic



Somali-language courses bring knowledge to remote communities

OpenWHO training materials in Somali are being used to benefit hard-to-reach populations in remote regions of northern Somalia during the COVID-19 pandemic through collaboration with local actors and partners.

The platform currently offers 4 Somali-language courses that provide an [introduction to COVID-19](#) and transfer essential pandemic knowledge on [infection prevention and control](#), [personal protective equipment](#) and [hand hygiene](#).

"Fortunately we have Somali versions of the online courses where health workers can easily have access," said Dr Mona Jamal, a family physician in Somalia.

The materials are being used as part of the establishment of the Sanaag Specialty Hospital, which will serve an underserved population of more than 600 000 people. There, the education of local doctors and frontline workers is being complemented and upgraded through the use of OpenWHO materials.

As beneficiaries of the training, some doctors not only deliver health care in one of the most remote parts of the planet, but also teach other health workers and educate communities. This experience shows how language matters for the frontline response.

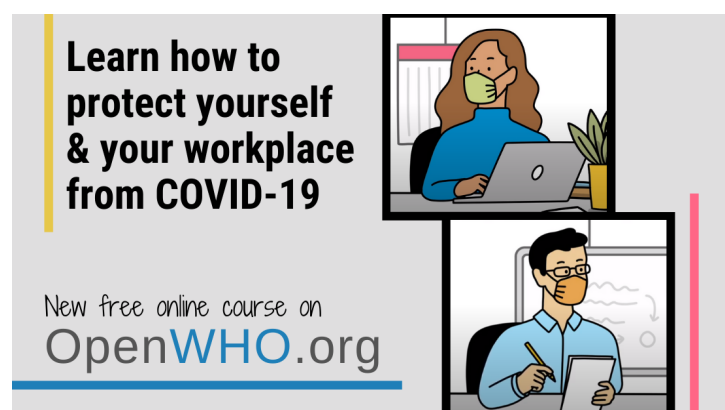
Celebrating International Mother Language Day

Learning is easier in your own language, which is why OpenWHO has prioritized the translation of courses into 48 diverse languages and counting from around the globe.

On 21 February, WHO marked [International Mother Language Day](#) by highlighting these multilingual learning resources for COVID-19 and other health emergencies on [social media](#). Course translations are provided by country and regional offices and volunteers worldwide.

"It is much faster and easier for anyone to understand knowledge when it is in one's mother tongue, especially in a pandemic," said Leah-Mari Richards, WHO Suriname, whose office has translated 5 courses into Dutch and has 4 more underway.

A language snapshot of OpenWHO's COVID-19 courses is available on the following page.



» Top COVID-19 course languages

The **top 10 languages** with the most enrolments on average per COVID-19 course are:

Rank	Language	Average enrolments per course
1	English	118 409
2	Spanish	57 607
3	Indian Sign	53 525
4	Hindi	40 873
5	French	11 794
6	Italian	10 779
7	Portuguese	7750
8	Arabic	7684
9	Indonesian	3552
10	Japanese	3272

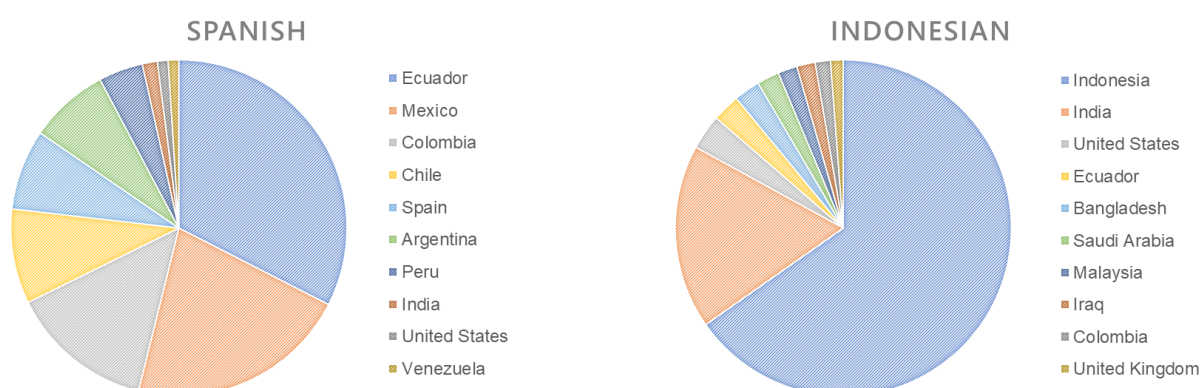
OpenWHO offers COVID-19 courses on **27 topics** across **45 languages**, with a total of **4.9 million course registrations** on the platform. On average, COVID-19 courses are available in **6.2 languages** each.

The [introductory COVID-19 course](#) is available in the 6 official UN languages, Portuguese and 30 other national and local languages (**37 languages total**).

The following courses are also available in **10 or more languages**: [infection prevention and control](#) (21), [ePROTECT](#) (16), [personal protective equipment](#) (16), [hand hygiene](#) (14), [treatment facility design](#) (10) and [clinical care](#) (10).

» Language use by country

- In terms of geographical reach, the UN languages are more evenly distributed
- National languages are more concentrated by region or country



Note: Graphs illustrate top known locations of language use