



COVID-19 Response Ghana's Experience

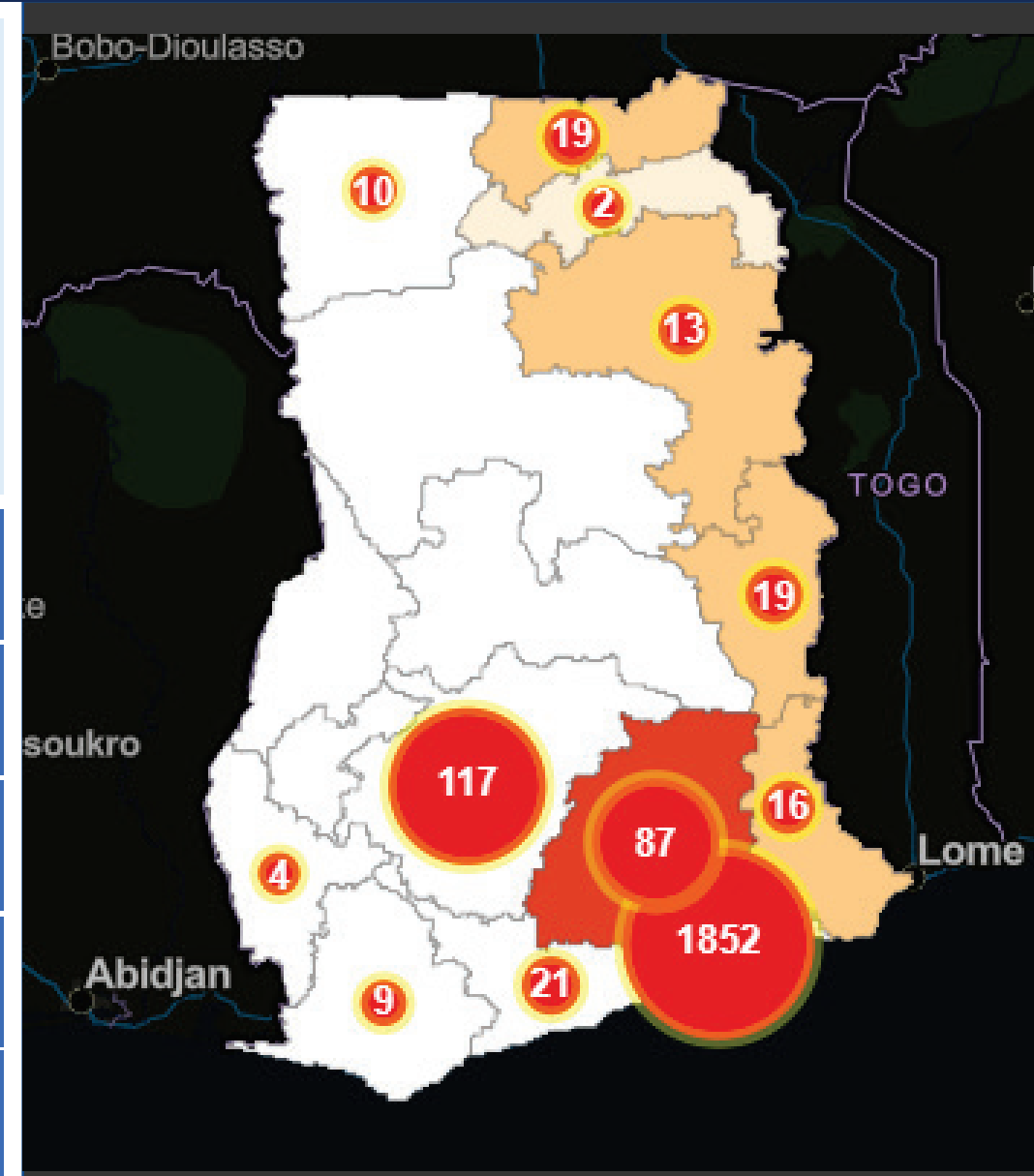
Kwaku Agyeman-Manu (MP)
Minister for Health



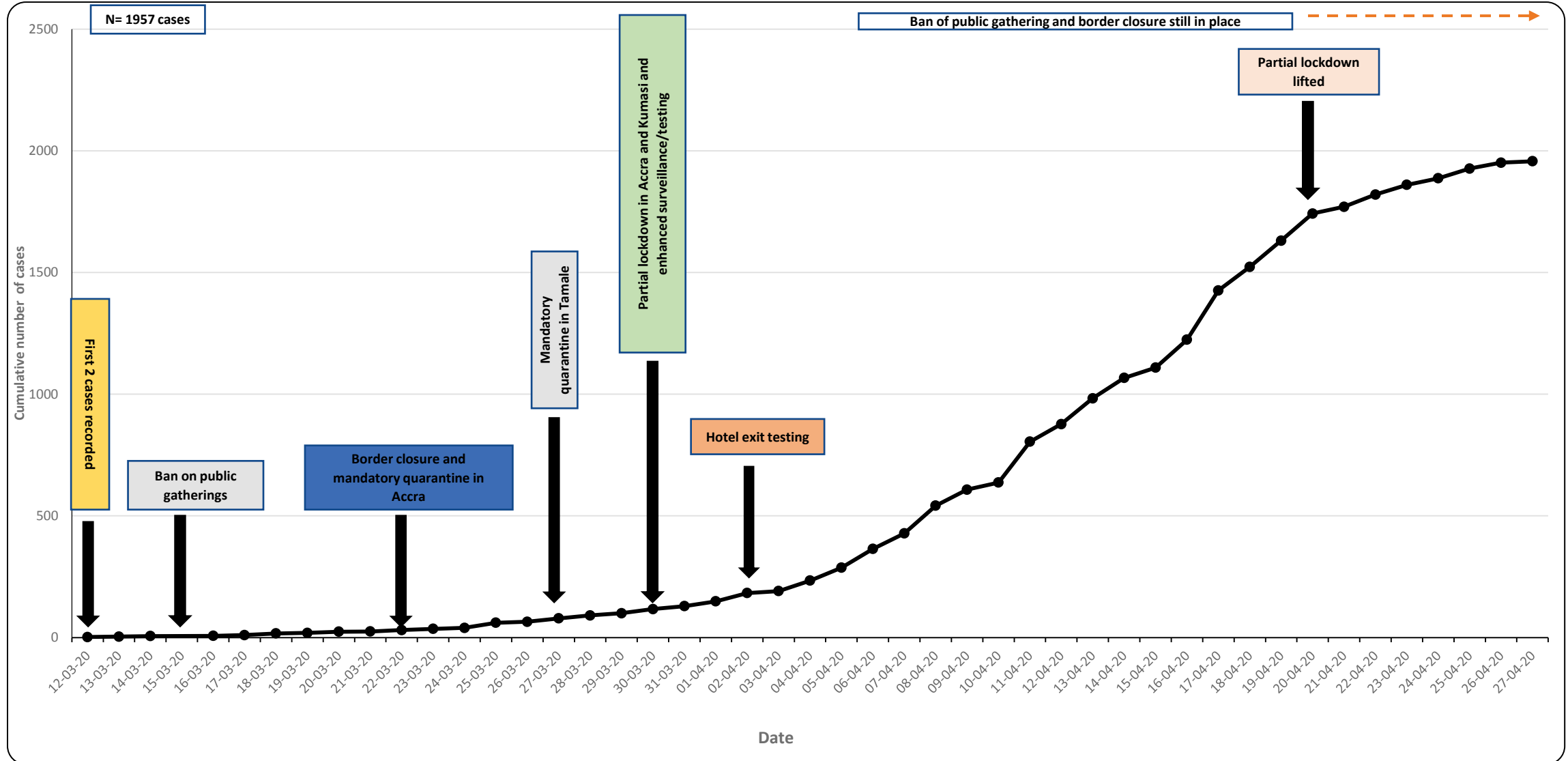
Ghana Covid-19 Approach

- Current approach: All-of-Government Approach
 - Chaired by HE The President
- Presidential COVID-19 Coordinator appointed
 - Dr Asamoah Baah
- Inter-ministerial Committee set up (meets daily)

1st Cases of COVID-19	12 March 2020
Cases as at 3 May 2020	2,169
No. of Deaths	18 (0.8 case fatality)
No. of Recoveries	229
Tests Conducted	Over 115,000



Trend of Cases





Strategies	Measures
1. Limit and stop importation of cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Border closure- land, sea and air• Flight suspension• Mandatory quarantine and testing of all arriving travelers
2. Detect and contain cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspension of public and social gatherings• Contact tracing and public education• Enforcement of social distancing rules and enhanced hygiene procedures• Ghana COVID-19 Tracker App• Lock down in 2 metropolitan areas + enhanced testing strategy – trace test and treat, community hotspot testing• Quarantine• Wearing of masks in public places



Strategies	Measures
3. Care of the sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care in treatment facilities• Isolation facilities for mild cases• Tax relief and insurance package for frontline health workers
4. Impact on social and economic life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 fund set up• Coronavirus Alleviation Programme-support to households, relief for health workers, soft loans for micro, small and medium size businesses• Absorption of water bills and rebates for electricity
5. Domestic capability and deepen self-reliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local production of PPE in garment factories• Local manufacture of sanitizers• Strengthen research, Develop Ghana CDC and infectious disease centres• This is in line with Ghana Beyond Aid



From 29th March

Partial lockdown declared in Accra and Kumasi
Extended **testing** conducted

By 20th April

Partial lockdown lifted; > 100,000 **tests** done
Immigration information data informs testing

Current testing approach

Average of 100,000 tests/month (for next 3 months)

- + PCR testing sites increased to 9
- + Gene expert to 100 more sites (support PCR)
- + Mobile tests to border points
- + Rapid Test Kits (under discussion)

Treatment Team

Treatment by Case Management Team

Treatment Sites

Main treatment point in Accra - **Ga East** Municipal Hospital. Undergoing expansion.

Mild cases housed in **private sector facilities**

Treatment facilities designated in **each region**

Treatment

All cases managed **free** at no cost to patient; in line with UHC vision

Adapted treatment **protocol in line with WHO guidelines** and monitoring ongoing trials including **Solidarity Trial**



• Whole of government response

- Multi-sectoral Ministerial briefings of respective sector response at weekly press briefings
- Multi-sector lab network mobilized

• Public – private partnerships

- Isolation facilities: church, football association
- Local Private sector manufacture of PPE and sanitizers
- Products certified by Ghana FDA and Standards Authority
- Private sector putting up 100 bed treatment center

• Drone delivery of samples to testing centers

• Sequencing of the COVID-19 virus undertaken by Ghanaian scientists

• Rapid Diagnostic Test kit developed

• Enhanced testing strategy



Challenges

- Illegal entries across the border source of imported cases
- Propagation of fake news
- Breaching of social distancing rules in some communities
- Keeping up contact tracing with increasing numbers
- ‘The Denial syndrome’ of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases
- Stigmatization of recovered patients
- Suspension of some public health response activities
 - Immunization campaign against circulating Vaccine Derived Polio virus

Way forward

- Continue enhanced contact tracing
- Based on current treatment outcomes the plan is to classify COVID 19 cases in two groups: those with co morbid conditions and those without and manage them separately
- Identify more isolation and quarantine centres to handle the increasing number of cases and contacts



- **Local resource mobilisation** for the 'COVID-19 Fund' established by Government
- World Bank support
- IMF
- Jack Ma donation
 - PPE, Test kits
- WHO, CDC, UN agencies, Partners
- UNICEF to support with the Gene Expert deployment



Thank You