This month marks 2 years since we launched our first course introducing learners across the globe to the then novel coronavirus. That course, which has been updated 13 times to reflect the latest evidence, is now available in 45 national and local languages and has surpassed 1 million enrolments.

Overall, OpenWHO hosts 40 COVID-19 courses and 91 courses on other key health topics, with more than 6.2 million total course enrolments. At the centre of this work, OpenWHO continuously seeks to advance equity in the pandemic learning response.

"Everyone deserves access to knowledge to protect their health and the health of their loved ones," said Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. “Providing open-access online learning is an integral part of capacitating countries and communities to prepare for and respond effectively to health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.”
Learning response evolves with pandemic need

To address the shifting learning needs during the pandemic, OpenWHO has focused on key thematic areas to shape our production strategy:

In 2020, our core focus was on providing information for mass audiences and health workers so they could protect themselves and others, including basic information about COVID-19 and infection prevention and control.

In 2021, we prioritized learning support for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, providing essential information for health workers and national planning.

This year, we will work to expand support to countries by providing localized learning based on WHO guidelines and developing additional channels for country-originated learning content.

Early months of COVID-19 pandemic brought more learners to MERS courses

OpenWHO enrolment numbers show that the COVID-19 pandemic has stimulated learners’ interest, not only in COVID-19, but also in related respiratory diseases. For example, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a resurgence in enrolments in the courses on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), at a time when much was still unknown about the then novel coronavirus, now known as COVID-19.

The 2 MERS courses available on the platform – Introduction to MERS and MERS: methods for detection, prevention, response and control – have garnered more than 20 000 total enrolments across the three available languages (English, French and Arabic). Saudi Arabia, which has had the highest number of MERS cases and deaths reported worldwide since the disease was first identified in 2012, is the country with the second-highest number of enrolments in both courses, accounting for 8.2% of total course enrolments.

Coronaviruses have, particularly in recent years, demonstrated the threat they pose to human health: from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus epidemic of 2002-2003, the identification of MERS-CoV in 2012 and now the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, first reported to WHO in December 2019. Overall, enrolments in coronavirus-related courses make up 81.9% of total enrolments on the OpenWHO platform.
OpenWHO.org: 2 YEARS OF PANDEMIC LEARNING RESPONSE

- 27 March 2020: 1 million course enrolments and 20 languages
- 30 Jan 2020: Declaration of Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- 12 June 2020: 3 million course enrolments and 30 languages
- 3 March 2021: 30 COVID-19 topics on the platform
- 1 Jan 2022: 1 million enrolments in 1st COVID-19 course
- 8 May 2020: 10 COVID-19 topics on the platform
- 10 March 2021: 5 million course enrolments and 50 languages
- 5 Dec 2021: 6 million course enrolments
- 14 Dec 2021: 60 languages and 40 COVID-19 topics on the platform

TOP COUNTRIES ON OpenWHO BEFORE AND DURING THE PANDEMIC

**January – December 2019**

1. United States
2. India
3. Nigeria
4. United Kingdom
5. Dem Rep of Congo
6. Portugal
7. South Sudan
8. Kenya
9. Netherlands
10. France

**January – December 2020**

1. India
2. United States
3. Ecuador
4. Mexico
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Bangladesh
7. Philippines
8. Pakistan
9. United Kingdom
10. Nigeria

**January – December 2021**

1. Ecuador
2. India
3. United States
4. Mexico
5. China
6. Philippines
7. Indonesia
8. Canada
9. United Kingdom
10. Pakistan