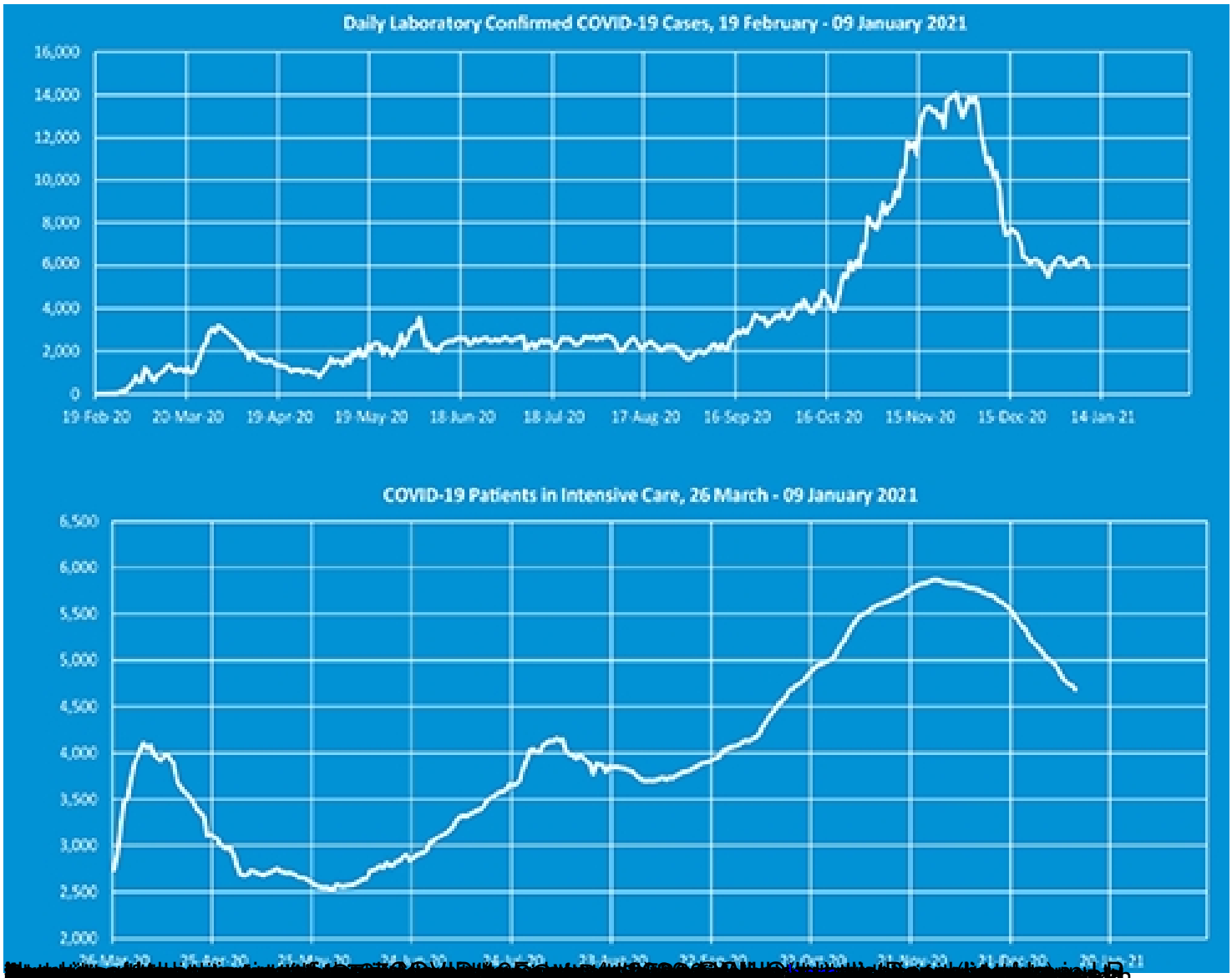
Tehran, 11 January 2021 - The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran have delivered life-saving medical and diagnostic equipment to public hospitals and laboratories across the country to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The procurement is part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (ICERP), a collaboration between WHO and and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education initiated on 16 June 2020 and funded at US $50 million in an effort to support the country's health care system in diagnosing and treating patients with COVID-19.

"We are facing even more risks in winter and urgently need more resources and more projects like ICERP to support the Ministry to scale up hospital and laboratory capacities serving all people in Islamic Republic of Iran, in parallel with all preventive measures and work towards a vaccine," said Dr Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Islamic Republic of Iran.

By its closing date on 31 May 2021, the project is planned to procure and deliver a total of 316 medical devices, including CT scanners, ultrasound machines, portable digital x-ray machines, as well as 135 diagnostic laboratory devices and their consumables. The devices are being distributed to 136 public hospitals and 43 laboratories across the country caring for COVID-19 patients.

The Ministry confirmed the country's first 2 cases of COVID-19 on February 19 in the city of Qom situated near the capital Tehran. Since then, 1 280 438 laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported and 54 100 COVID-19 related deaths as of 9 January 2021.


Daily Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, 19 February - 09 January 2021
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
19-Feb-20
20-Mar-20
19-Apr-20
19-May-20
18-Jun-20
18-Jul-20
17-Aug-20
16-Sep-20
16-Oct-20
15-Nov-20
15-Dec-20
14-Jan-21
COVID-19 Patients in Intensive Care, 26 March - 09 January 2021
6,500
6,000
5,500
5,000
4,500
4,000
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000

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