

Outbreak Brief #22: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 16 June 2020

7,833,243 cases and 431,795 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (9 June 2020), 813,112 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 30,776 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 7,833,243 COVID-19 cases and 431,795 (CFR: 5.5%) related deaths have been reported from 215 countries and territories. No new country or territory is reporting cases or deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 709,015 (9%), European Region 2,416,919 (30%), Region of the Americas 3,781,538 (48%), South-East Asia Region 471,392 (6%) and Western Pacific Region 199,736 (3%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports².

As of 9 am EAT 16 June 2020, a total of 251,866 COVID-19 cases and 6,769 (CFR: 2.7%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is about 3.2% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (9 June 2020), 55,612 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 27% increase in new cases reported compared to what was reported in the previous week (2-9 June 2020). The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 42% (23,481), Northern region 24% (13,354), Western region 18% (9,749), Eastern region 8% (4,613), and Central region 8% (4,415). Five countries account for 63% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Cameroon (3%), Egypt (16%), Ghana (4%), Nigeria (6%), and South Africa (34%). Djibouti (456), Sao Tome and Principe (302), Gabon (181), Cabo Verde (137) and South Africa (124) are the five reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Africa. Seven countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 5.5%. These are: Liberia (6.6%), Chad (8.6%), Algeria (7.0%), Niger (6.7%), Burkina Faso (5.9%), Sudan (6.3) and Mali (5.6).

Table 1 highlights the reported cases, deaths, and recoveries from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa. In addition, the table reports the phase of the epidemic each country is currently in. Africa

¹ WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

² WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

CDC is working with all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa³ 2-9 June 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	25,103 (4,415)	551 (114)	9,493	
Burundi	94 (11)	1 (0)	75	2
Cameroon	9,864 (1,804)	277 (71)	5,601	3
Central African Republic	2,222 (372)	10 (5)	382	2
Chad	850 (11)	73 (3)	720	3
Congo	779 (96)	27 (5)	391	3
DRC	4,778 (672)	112 (24)	613	3
Equatorial Guinea	1,306 (0)	12 (0)	200	3
Gabon	3,463 (216)	27 (6)	1,334	3
Sao Tome and Principe	514 (0)	12 (0)	177	2
Eastern Region	27,103 (4,613)	838 (176)	10,177	
Comoros	176 (35)	2 (0)	114	3
Djibouti	4,465 (187)	43 (12)	3,183	2

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (9 June 2020, 9am)

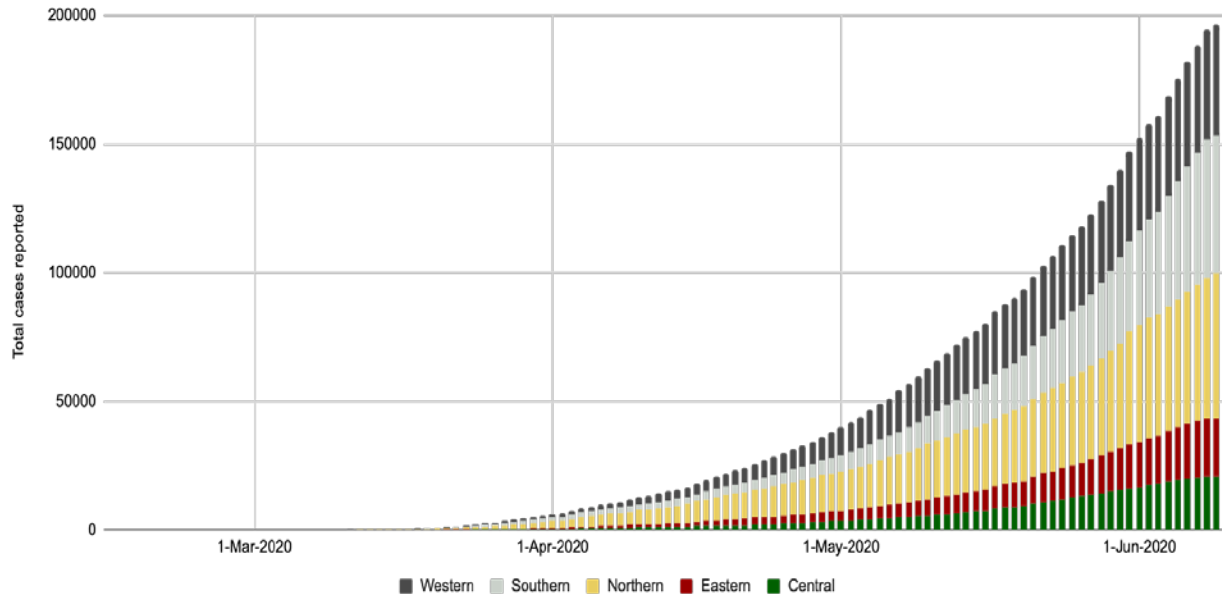
⁴ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing number of imported cases, increased local spread but all cases linked to known transmission chains, outbreak clusters with a known common exposure; **Phase 3 (Advancing outbreak)**: localized outbreaks start to merge, one or more cases or deaths occur outside known transmission, multiple generations in transmission chains, cases are detected among severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) case with no known exposure; **Phase 4 (Large outbreak with nationwide transmission)**: widespread sustained community transmission, multiple generation transmission chains can be identified but most cases occurring outside of chains, community-wide transmission throughout all or nearly all of the country

Eritrea	96 (55)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	3,345 (1,189)	60 (33)	620	3
Kenya	3,594 (732)	104 (19)	1,286	3
Madagascar	1,272 (178)	10 (1)	384	2
Mauritius	337 (0)	10 (0)	325	3
Rwanda	582 (131)	2 (0)	338	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	2,603 (235)	88 (4)	622	2
South Sudan	1,755 (151)	30 (11)	58	2
Sudan	7,220 (978)	468 (96)	2,720	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	696 (50)	-	299	3
Northern Region	69,669 (13,354)	2,811 (520)	29,321	
Algeria	10,919 (654)	777 (62)	7,735	3
Egypt	44,598 (9,154)	1,672 (401)	12,329	2
Libya	418 (148)	10 (5)	70	2
Mauritania	1,783 (836)	91 (48)	360	2
Morocco	8,793 (491)	212 (4)	7,828	2
Tunisia	1,096 (9)	49 (0)	999	3
Southern Region	77,230 (23,481)	1,603 (495)	41,645	
Angola	140 (48)	6 (2)	64	2
Botswana	60 (20)	1 (0)	24	2
Eswatini	490 (150)	4 (1)	249	2
Lesotho	4 (0)	-	2	1

Malawi	547 (104)	6 (2)	69	2
Mozambique	583 (150)	3 (1)	157	2
Namibia	32 (1)	-	17	2
South Africa	70,038 (19,159)	1,568 (488)	39,867	3
Zambia	1,358 (158)	11 (1)	1,142	3
Zimbabwe	383 (96)	4 (0)	54	2
Western Region	52,511 (9,749)	966 (123)	23,672	
Benin	470 (182)	9 (5)	232	3
Burkina Faso	894 (4)	53 (0)	807	3
Cape Verde	750 (183)	7 (2)	354	2
Côte d'Ivoire	5,084 (1,203)	46 (8)	2,590	3
Gambia	28 (0)	1 (0)	24	1
Ghana	11,964 (2,054)	54 (6)	4,258	3
Guinea	4,532 (311)	26 (3)	3,259	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,460 (71)	15 (3)	153	3
Liberia	458 (113)	33 (3)	221	3
Mali	1,809 (262)	104 (12)	1,125	3
Niger	980 (10)	66 (1)	885	3
Nigeria	16,085 (3,284)	424 (63)	5,349	3
Senegal	5,090 (663)	64 (15)	3,424	3
Sierra Leone	1,132 (131)	51 (2)	683	3
Togo	531 (34)	13 (0)	308	3
Total	251,866 (55,612)	6,769 (1,428)	114,308	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 23 Feb - 16 June 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. Africa CDC rolled out the [Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing \(PACT\): Test, Trace, Treat in Africa](#) initiative. PACT will support the Joint Continental Strategy to help Member States limit COVID-19 transmission by mobilizing experts, community workers, supplies and other resources to test, trace and treat COVID-19 cases in a timely manner to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the Africa continent.
2. [Africa CDC and MasterCard Foundation](#) have partnered to deliver one million test kits, train and deploy 10,000 community health workers and 80 surveillance rapid responders for the COVID-19 response on the continent.
3. Nature Medicine recently published a comment from Africa CDC entitled, “[COVID-19 in Africa: the spread and response.](#)” <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0961-x>

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

4. The thirteenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar “Public Health Emergency Operation Centers (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 management” was held on Thursday, 11 June 2020. More than 100 participants attended. <https://zoom.us/j/3091234567>.
5. Africa CDC held midweek office hours in French on Wednesday 10 June 2020 “COVID-19 Epidemiology and case management” on 10 June 2020. A total of 22 participants joined. https://bit.ly/Office_Hour.

6. The fourteenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar held on Thursday, 11 June 2020. A total of 5,259 attendees to date, and 50 AU MS have now trained clinicians. Over 1,100 questions were asked during the webinar.

Infection Prevention and Control

7. Conducted IPC webinar titled “Environmental and Equipment Hygiene and Waste Management” on Wednesday, 10 June 2020 at 13 EAT and Friday, 12 June 2020 for the English and French versions respectively.
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpIR3feAR9CGil92LG-Nnw and
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r4KmA2bKRrmBsV11aH2Dwg.

Laboratory:

8. Africa CDC distributed 625,000 PCR tests to 51 Member States and an additional 6,600 GeneXpert cartridges to three Member States (Comoros, Sao Tome, and Guinea) that have limited or no capacity for PCR testing. Almost all MS have confirmed receipt of items.
9. Africa CDC held a special COVID-19 ECHO session in collaboration with ASLM focused on manufacturers of COVID -19 molecular diagnostics tests on 11 June 2020.
10. Interim guidance on the use of serological tests for COVID-19 response has been finalized and submitted for translation, design and distribution.

Surveillance:

11. Africa CDC held its 9th surveillance webinar titled “*Introducing Rapid mortality surveillance for COVID-19 epidemic awareness and response*” on Wednesday, 10 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the English session and Friday, 12 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the French version. A total of 215 participants from 41 MS attended. <https://zoom.us/j/ac7YzmoHcc>
12. Africa CDC held a training on Health Information Service Programme’s knowledge transfer (HISP), focused on the use of Event Management System on DHIS-2 platform developed by HISP. A total of 16 participants from the RCCs and HQ joined.
13. Africa CDC will hold a webinar on “*How to implement rapid mortality surveillance in the COVID-19 context*” on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the English session and Friday, 19 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the French version. <https://zoom.us/j/ac7YzmoHcc>

Sciences, Standards and Regulations

14. The weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update can be accessed at <https://africacdc.org/resources/>. The updates are published every week on Tuesdays.

Risk Communication

15. The 14th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC Director and journalists was held on Thursday, 11 am EAT June 2020.
16. Africa CDC in collaboration with Facebook and One by One has continued with campaigns on social media platforms to raise awareness on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and testing as well as on countering COVID-19 myths and rumours.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁵ to include COVID-19⁶ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁷. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:
 - a. Adding questions about travel, contact history, and testing for coronaviruses to existing influenza surveillance systems;
 - b. Notifying healthcare facilities to immediately inform local public health officials about persons who meet the case definition for COVID-19, SARI and/or have recent travel to a country with local transmission or history of contact with a case.
2. Member States should continue to enhance surveillance at the borders to screen incoming travelers for severe respiratory illness and a history of recent travel to affected countries or territories reporting community transmission.
3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁸
4. Notify and routinely share with WHO and Africa CDC data regarding suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and healthcare workers infected to continually inform these and other updates. Africa CDC should be notified by emailing AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
5. Provide guidance to the general public about seeking immediate medical care and informing healthcare providers about recent travel or contact history in anyone who develops symptoms of severe respiratory illness.

Resources for more information:

Africa CDC Resources

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Multimedia: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-multimedia/>
- Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

Other Resources

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

⁵Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: <https://africacdc.org/download/protocol-for-enhanced-severe-acute-respiratory-illness-and-influenza-like-illness-surveillance-for-covid-19-in-africa/>

⁶WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

⁷WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$) and cough with symptom onset within the last 10 days that requires hospitalization. https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/

⁸Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>