

## Outbreak Brief #32: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 25 August 2020

23,349,962 cases and 806,619 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (18 August 2020), 2,037,959 new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 44,362 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 23,349,962 COVID-19 cases and 806,619 (case fatality rate (CFR): 3.5%) related deaths have been reported from 215 countries and territories. 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 1,643,090 (7%), European Region 4,026,146 (17%), Region of the Americas 12,423,038 (53%), South-East Asia Region 3,602,066 (15%) and Western Pacific Region 455,879 (2%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports<sup>2</sup>.

**As of 9am East African Time (EAT) 25 August 2020,** a total of 1,195,297 COVID-19 cases and 27,984 deaths (CFR: 2%) have been reported in 55 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 67,052 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 6% increase overall and a 7% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the 18 August 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 40% (26,941), Northern region 25% (16,763), Eastern region 23% (15,594), Western region 10% (6,889), and Central region 1% (865).

Eight countries account for 83% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (51%), Egypt (8%), Morocco (5%), Algeria (4%), Ghana (4%), Nigeria (4%), Kenya (3%) and Ethiopia (4%). South Africa (1,052), Djibouti (538), Cabo Verde (589), Sao Tome and Principe (446), and Gabon (400) are reporting the highest cumulative incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) in Africa. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, ten countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 3.5%. These are: Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (8%), Chad (8%), Sudan (6%), Liberia (6%), Niger (6%), Egypt (5%), Mali (5%), Angola (5%), Burkina Faso (4%) and Sierra Leone (4%)

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa<sup>3</sup> as of 25 August 2020, 9am East Africa Time**

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since previous brief	Epidemic phase <sup>4</sup>
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>52,806 (865)</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>1,026 (17)</b>	<b>-63%</b>	
Burundi	430 (17)	240%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	18,662 (273)	-66%	408 (7)	-13%	3
Central African Republic	4,679 (12)	-54%	61 (0)	-100%	3
Chad	987 (28)	100%	76 (0)	NA*	3
Congo	3,979 (148)	72%	78 (2)	-88%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	9,842 (136)	-38%	251 (8)	-58%	3
Equatorial Guinea	4,926 (105)	NA*	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,409 (139)	-47%	53 (0)	-100%	3
Sao Tome and Principe	892 (7)	No change	15 (0)	NA*	2
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>120,472 (15,594)</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>2,510 (250)</b>	<b>8%</b>	
Comoros	417 (18)	NA*	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,383 (11)	-56%	60 (1)	NA*	2
Eritrea	306 (21)	600%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	42,143 (10,807)	40%	692 (148)	19%	3
Kenya	32,557 (2,192)	-36%	554 (72)	22%	3
Madagascar	14,402 (516)	-25%	178 (7)	-65%	3

<sup>3</sup> New numbers reported since last weekly report (18 August 2020, 9am EAT)

<sup>4</sup> 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

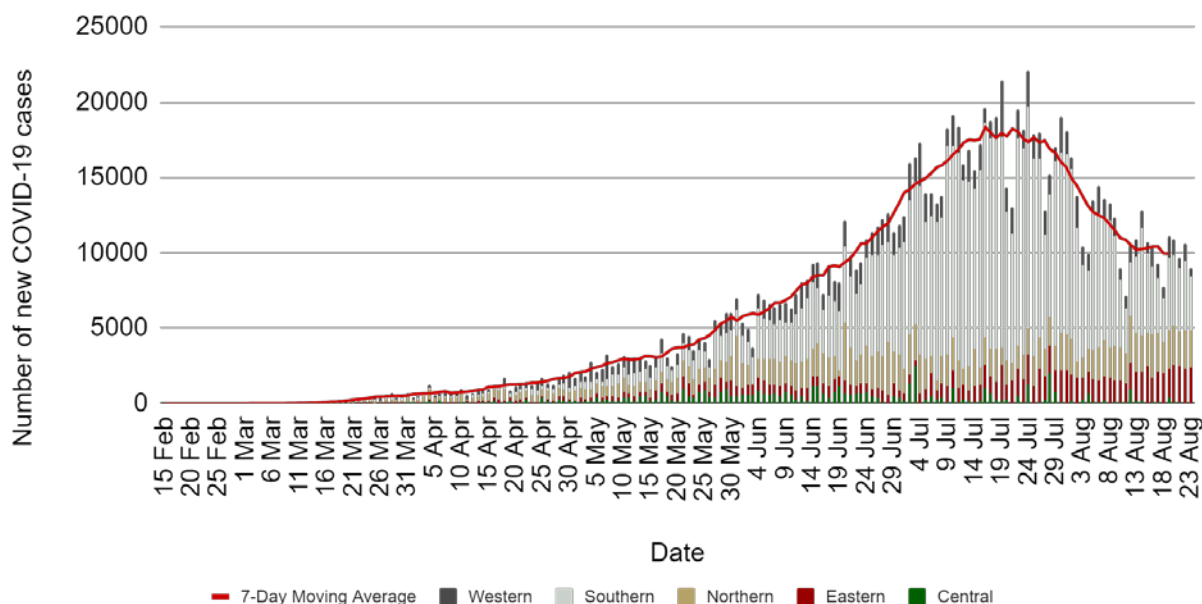
Mauritius	346 (2)	NA*	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	3,306 (766)	97%	14 (6)	500%	2
Seychelles	132 (5)	400%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,269 (12)	-60%	93 (0)	NA*	1
South Sudan	2,504 (16)	-11%	47 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	12,836 (426)	-6%	812 (9)	-59%	3
Tanzania <sup>5</sup>	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	2,362 (802)	205%	22 (7)	17%	2
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>213,864 (16,763)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>8,063 (471)</b>	<b>14%</b>	
Algeria	42,302 (2,833)	-34%	1,433 (67)	No change	3
Egypt	97,478 (888)	-4%	5,280 (107)	-22%	2
Libya	11,009 (2,430)	-20%	199 (42)	14%	2
Mauritania	6,905 (204)	7%	158 (1)	NA*	3
Morocco	53,252 (9,694)	2%	920 (239)	45%	2
Tunisia	2,893 (708)	51%	71 (15)	200%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	25 (6)	20%	2 (0)	NA*	1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>652,440 (26,941)</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>14,058 (1,266)</b>	<b>-14%</b>	
Angola	2,222 (287)	12%	100 (12)	20%	2
Botswana	1,308 (0)	-100%	3 (0)	-100%	2
Eswatini	4,304 (410)	-30%	85 (12)	No change	3
Lesotho	1,049 (103)	-38%	30 (0)	-100%	2
Malawi	5,419 (294)	-35%	169 (7)	-56%	3
Mozambique	3,440 (526)	5%	21 (2)	-33%	3
Namibia	6,030 (1,686)	36%	56 (20)	18%	3
South Africa	611,450 (21,564)	-18%	13,159 (1,177)	-14%	3
Zambia	11,148 (1,309)	-20%	280 (16)	-30%	3
Zimbabwe	6,070 (762)	36%	155 (20)	-35%	3
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>155,715 (6,889)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>2,327 (96)</b>	<b>-27%</b>	
Benin	2,095 (32)	-79%	39 (0)	-100%	3

<sup>5</sup> No updated data - last report received 7-May-2020.

Burkina Faso	1,338 (58)	-16%	55 (0)	-100%	3
Cape Verde	3,532 (329)	3%	37 (1)	-75%	2
Côte d'Ivoire	17,506 (404)	33%	114 (4)	-20%	3
Gambia	2,437 (565)	-11%	84 (21)	-48%	3
Ghana	43,622 (969)	-33%	263 (24)	No change	3
Guinea	9,013 (393)	-43%	54 (3)	200%	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,149 (32)	-51%	33 (0)	-100%	3
Liberia	1,290 (13)	-65%	82 (0)	-100%	3
Mali	2,708 (68)	1%	125 (0)	NA*	3
Niger	1,172 (5)	-44%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	52,548 (3,063)	17%	1,004 (27)	No change	3
Senegal	13,013 (776)	-16%	272 (16)	-20%	3
Sierra Leone	1,997 (41)	5%	69 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	1,295 (141)	62%	27 (0)	-100%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,195,297 (67,052)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>27,984 (2,100)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	

\*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 25 August 2020



## **NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:**

### **General:**

1. Africa CDC held its weekly press briefing on COVID-19 Pandemic on Thursday, 20 August 2020, 11am –12pm Eastern Africa Time (EAT). The speaker for the week was H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed, AUC Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy, and Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC. Link: <https://africacdc.org/news-item/saving-lives-economies-and-livelihoods-campaign-launches-in-africa/>
2. Africa CDC Director briefed 12 Heads of Member States on the COVID-19 epidemiological situation in Africa on Tuesday, 19 August, 2020. Speakers provided strategic direction for two new initiatives: 1) Africa against of COVID-19: Saving lives saving Economy campaign and 2) COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial (CONCVACT).

## **Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:**

### *Case Management*

1. Africa CDC held its 22nd Clinical-Community of Practice webinar on Thursday, 13 August 2020, 1pm EAT. Link: <http://bit.ly/2WTP9Lp>
2. Africa CDC distributed ventilators donated by the Jack Ma foundation to Central African Republic, Sudan and Somalia.

### *Infection Prevention and Control*

1. Africa CDC held a webinar series for over 450 participants entitled “Biosafety from sample collection to the laboratory” in English and French on Wednesday 19 August 2020. Link: <https://t.co/S4ILjkSYWM?amp=1>
2. Africa CDC conducted two step-down IPC trainings in South Sudan and Zambia between 10-14 August 2020 for 20 participants per country.
3. Africa CDC published guidance on setting up an isolation ward for COVID-19. Link: <https://africacdc.org/resources/>

## **Laboratory:**

1. Africa CDC’s laboratory technical working group held its weekly webinar series on COVID-19 genomic surveillance in Africa entitled “Genomic characterization and surveillance of Microbial threats in West Africa” on Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 4pm EAT. Link: <https://t.co/eD6jgXdejZ?amp=1>
2. Africa CDC distributed additional laboratory reagents (600,000 enzymes) to Member States from 10 to 14 August 2020.

3. Resolve to Save Lives provided funds to Africa CDC to support the continental testing strategy. The activity is being implemented by African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) with Africa CDC guidance.
4. Africa CDC trained 141 people from Francophone countries in RT-PCR on 11 to 12 August, 2020.

#### **Risk Communication:**

1. Africa CDC continues to engage the community through an online Facebook campaign. As of 15 August, the campaign reached over 140 million Facebook users in Africa, with over 22 million post engagements and 332 million impressions. Link: [https://mobile.facebook.com/profile.php?id=788477174582031&ref=content\\_filter](https://mobile.facebook.com/profile.php?id=788477174582031&ref=content_filter)

#### **Surveillance:**

1. Held its 17th surveillance webinar entitled “Resumption of travel and reopening of borders: Implication for ground crossings and inland ports” on Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 4pm EAT. Link: <https://t.co/LIKlweyc6v?amp=1>
2. Africa CDC continues to engage Member States on the conduction of Sero-surveys and to hold bilateral meetings with seven Member States.

#### **Sciences, standards and regulations:**

1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every week on Tuesdays at: <https://africacdc.org/resources/> or at the WHO AFRO link: [https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac\\_css/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=7728](https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac_css/doc_num.php?explnum_id=7728)

#### **Recommendations for Member States:**

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance<sup>6</sup> to include COVID-19<sup>7</sup> and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)<sup>8</sup>. 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

<sup>6</sup>Africa 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/>

<sup>7</sup>WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

<sup>8</sup>WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 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/](https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/)



and/or have recent travel to a country with local transmission or history of contact with a case.

2. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.<sup>9</sup>
3. Member states should 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. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: [AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org](mailto:AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org).
4. Member states should continue to 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>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

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<sup>9</sup>Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>