

Outbreak Brief #12: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 7 April 2020

1,211,961 cases and 67,666 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (31 March 2020), 518,122 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 34,452 new deaths have been reported globally. This is a 75% increase in cases reported. To date, a total of 1,211,961 COVID-19 cases and 67,666 (CFR 6%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Six countries and territories², including four African countries, are reporting cases and 26 countries and territories³, including seven African countries, are reporting deaths for the first time this week. The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases %) from the WHO reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: Eastern Mediterranean Region 71,391 (6%), European Region 655,339 (54%), Region of the Americas 352,592 (29%), South-East Asia Region 8,828(0.7%) Western Pacific Region 113,234 (9%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports⁴

As of 3 pm EAT 7 April 2020, a total of 10,086 COVID-19 cases and 487 (CFR 5%) deaths have been reported in 52 African countries. Out of 52 Member States that have reported cases, 41 have local transmission and 9 have imported cases only⁵. Since the last brief, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased by 91% (4,799 cases). The five countries in Africa with the highest cumulative number of cases (proportion of reported cases in Africa) are South Africa 1,686 (17%), Algeria 1,423 (14%), Egypt 1,322 (13%), Morocco 1,120 (11%) and Cameroon 650 (6%). See Table 1 for the full list of countries in Africa reporting cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to transmission type being reported. Africa CDC is working with all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

¹ Per WHO, effective 17 February 2020, 'confirmed' cases include both laboratory-confirmed and clinically diagnosed (Hubei province, China only).

² Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Burundi, Falkland Islands, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan

³ Bahamas, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Mayotte, Myanmar, North Mariana Islands, Oman, Saint Martin, Senegal, Sint Maarten, Uruguay, Zambia

⁴ WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

⁵ Local transmission: indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location; Imported cases: only indicates locations where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa⁶ 31 March - 7 April 2020, 1pm EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Transmission Type ⁷
Central Region	950 (663)	33 (16)	34	
Burundi	3 (3)	-	-	Local Transmission
Cameroon	650 (508)	9 (1)	17	Local Transmission
Central African Republic	9 (3)	-	3	Local Transmission
Chad	9 (2)	-	1	Imported Transmission
Congo	49 (30)	5 (5)	2	Local Transmission
DRC	180 (97)	18 (10)	9	Local Transmission
Equatorial Guinea	16 (2)	-	1	Local Transmission
Gabon	30 (14)	1 (0)	1	Local Transmission
Sao Tome and Principe	4 (4)	-	-	Under Investigation
Eastern Region	861 (415)	18 (11)	37	
Djibouti	90 (64)	-	9	Local Transmission
Eritrea	31 (16)	-	-	Local Transmission
Ethiopia	44 (19)	2 (2)	4	Local Transmission
Kenya	158 (108)	6 (5)	4	Local Transmission
Madagascar	82 (36)	-	2	Local Transmission
Mauritius	244 (101)	7 (4)	7	Local Transmission

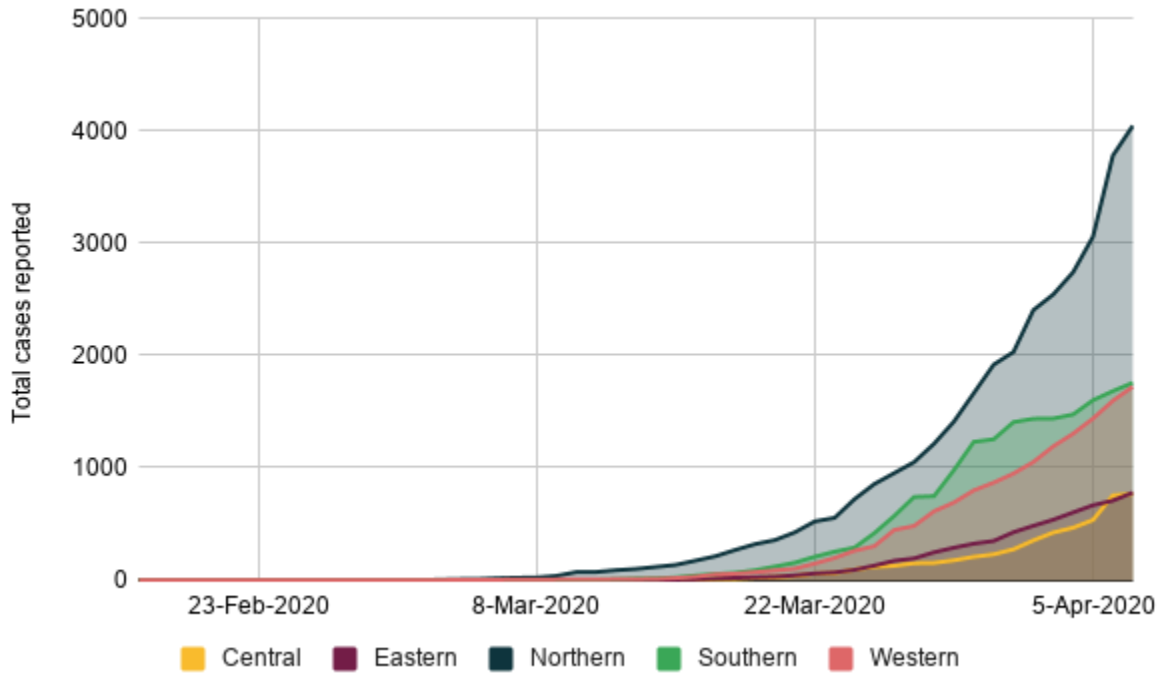
⁶ New numbers reported since last weekly report (31 March 2020)

⁷ Local transmission: indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location; Imported cases: only indicates locations where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.

Rwanda	105 (35)	-	4	Local Transmission
Seychelles	11 (1)	-	-	Imported Transmission
Somalia	7 (4)	-	1	Local Transmission
South Sudan	1 (1)	-	-	Under Investigation
Sudan	12 (6)	2 (0)	3	Local Transmission
Tanzania	24 (5)	1 (0)	3	Local Transmission
Uganda	52 (19)	-	-	Local Transmission
Northern Region	4,485 (2,318)	362 (244)	437	
Algeria	1,423 (841)	173 (138)	90	Local Transmission
Egypt	1,322 (666)	85 (44)	259	Local Transmission
Libya	18 (10)	1 (1)	-	Local Transmission
Mauritania	6 (3)	1 (1)	2	Imported Transmission
Morocco	1,120 (564)	80 (47)	81	Local Transmission
Tunisia	596 (234)	22 (13)	5	Local Transmission
Southern Region	1,798 (391)	17 (12)	59	
Angola	16 (9)	2 (0)	2	Imported Transmission
Botswana	6 (3)	1 (1)	-	Imported Transmission
Eswatini	10 (1)	-	3	Local Transmission
Malawi	5 (5)	-	-	Local Transmission
Mozambique	10 (2)	-	1	Local Transmission
Namibia	16 (5)	-	3	Local Transmission
South Africa	1,668 (360)	12 (10)	45	Local Transmission
Zambia	39 (4)	1 (1)	5	Local Transmission
Zimbabwe	10 (2)	1 (0)	-	Local Transmission

Western Region	1,992 (1,012)	57 (32)	348	
Benin	26 (20)	1 (1)	5	Local Transmission
Burkina Faso	345 (118)	18 (6)	108	Local Transmission
Cape Verde	7 (1)	1 (0)	-	Imported Transmission
Côte d'Ivoire	245 (155)	3 (2)	41	Local Transmission
Gambia	4 (0)	1 (0)	2	Imported Transmission
Ghana	287 (135)	5 (0)	3	Local Transmission
Guinea	121 (105)	-	5	Local Transmission
Guinea-Bissau	18 (16)	-	-	Imported Transmission
Liberia	14 (11)	3 (3)	3	Local Transmission
Mali	47 (29)	5 (4)	5	Local Transmission
Niger	253 (235)	10 (9)	26	Local Transmission
Nigeria	238 (107)	5 (3)	35	Local Transmission
Senegal	226 (51)	2 (2)	92	Local Transmission
Sierra Leone	6 (5)	-	-	Imported Transmission
Togo	58 (24)	3 (2)	23	Local Transmission
Total	10,086 (5,287)	487 (315)	915	

Figure 1. Trend of COVID-19 Reported Cases by Region, 7 April 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

Surveillance:

1. AFTCOR’s weekly surveillance technical working group met on 1 April 2020 to strategize on innovative ways to provide remote technical capacity and improved policy recommendations to Member States, backed up by Member State data, in this era of closed borders and restricted movement.
2. Africa CDC will start holding weekly disease surveillance webinars on priority topics, like early detection and containment of COVID-19 cases, to support technical teams within the AU Member States’ ministries and governments. The English and French Webinar will launch this week on Wednesday (8 April) and Friday (10 April), respectively.

Healthcare Preparedness

1. Africa CDC initiated a continent-wide network of clinicians, who met for the first time on 9 March 2020 and has been holding weekly webinars including ~300 clinicians from across the continent. The next webinar is scheduled for 9 April 2020.
2. Africa CDC will be engaging selected Member States to support national & subnational level case management training.
3. Africa CDC is collecting information on Intensive Care Units capacity across the continent to guide our support to Member States.

4. Africa CDC is mapping the ongoing COVID-19 clinical trials and research initiatives on the continent.
5. Africa CDC is working with partners to build Member States infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity via an online platform.
6. In-country IPC step-down training is being supported by Africa CDC.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸ and to carefully review any unusual patterns of SARI or pneumonia cases. Examples of enhanced surveillance include:
 - a. Adding questions about travel 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 SARI and/or have recent travel or contact history with someone who has traveled to a country with local transmission.
2. Member States that receive direct or connecting flights from affected countries should screen incoming passengers for severe respiratory illness and a history of recent travel to any country/area or territory reporting local transmission. Member States should be prepared to expand questions about recent travel to additional countries as the outbreak evolves.
3. Notify WHO and Africa CDC immediately if suspected or confirmed cases of infection with novel coronavirus are identified. Africa CDC should be notified by emailing AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org.
4. 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: <https://africacdc.org/resources/>
- Guidelines: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>
- Infographics: https://africacdc.org/resources/?wpv_aux_current_post_id=217&wpv_view_count=549&wpv_paged=3

Other Resources

⁸ WHO 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/

- China CDC. Coronavirus overview. http://www.chinacdc.cn/yrdgz/202001/t20200109_211159.html
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Novel coronavirus overview. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/yqtb/list_gzbd.shtml
- Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center & School of Public Health. 10 January 2020. Initial genome release of novel coronavirus. <http://virological.org/t/initial-genome-release-of-novel-coronavirus/319>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 14 January 2020. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Wuhan, China. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- WHO. Coronavirus overview. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>