

Outbreak Brief #20: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 2 June 2020

6,064,014 cases and 371,291 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (26 May 2020), 755,373 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 29,140 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 6,064,014 COVID-19 cases and 371,291 (CFR: 6.1%) related deaths have been reported worldwide. Worldwide, a total of 215 countries and territories have reported COVID-19 cases. No new country or territory is reporting cases for the first time but one country (Rwanda) is 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 475,756 (8%), European Region 2,159,791 (36%), Region of the Americas 2,817,232 (46%), South-East Asia Region 275,512 (4%) and Western Pacific Region 183,939 (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 2 June 2020, a total of 152,442 COVID-19 cases and 4,334 (CFR: 3%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is about 2.5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (26 May 2020), 37,096 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 32% increase in new cases reported compared to what was reported in the previous week (19 to 26 May 2020). The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 31% (11,395), Northern region 27% (10,179), Western region 17% (6,287), Eastern region 13% (4,888), and Central region 12% (4,347). Five countries account for 66% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Cameroon (4%), Egypt (23%), Ghana (3%), Nigeria (7%), and South Africa (29%). When population is taken into consideration, Djibouti (361), Sao Tome and Principe (219), Gabon (119), Equatorial Guinea (93), and Cabo Verde (82) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population within the continent. Five countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 6.1%. Out of these, the case fatality rates for countries with 100 cases or more are: Liberia (9%), Chad (8%), Algeria (7%) and Niger (6.7%). See Table 1 for the full list of countries in Africa reporting

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>

cases, deaths, and COVID-19 recoveries in addition to the epidemic phase in each country. Africa 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 26 May - 2 June 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases ⁴ (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	16,514 (4,347)	401 (58)	5,847	
Burundi	63 (21)	1 (0)	33	2
Cameroon	6,397 (1,507)	199 (34)	3,629	3
Central African Republic	1,011 (359)	2 (1)	23	2
Chad	790 (103)	66 (5)	539	3
Congo	618 (131)	20 (4)	179	2
DRC	3,195 (898)	72 (5)	454	3
Equatorial Guinea	1,306 (587)	12 (5)	200	3
Gabon	2,655 (520)	17 (3)	722	3
Sao Tome and Principe	479 (221)	12 (1)	68	1
Eastern Region	17,697 (4,888)	532 (183)	5,193	

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (26 May 2020, 9am)

⁴ Inadvertently reported 7,1824 new cases for South Africa; 5,868 new cases for Senegal in the last brief.

⁵ Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

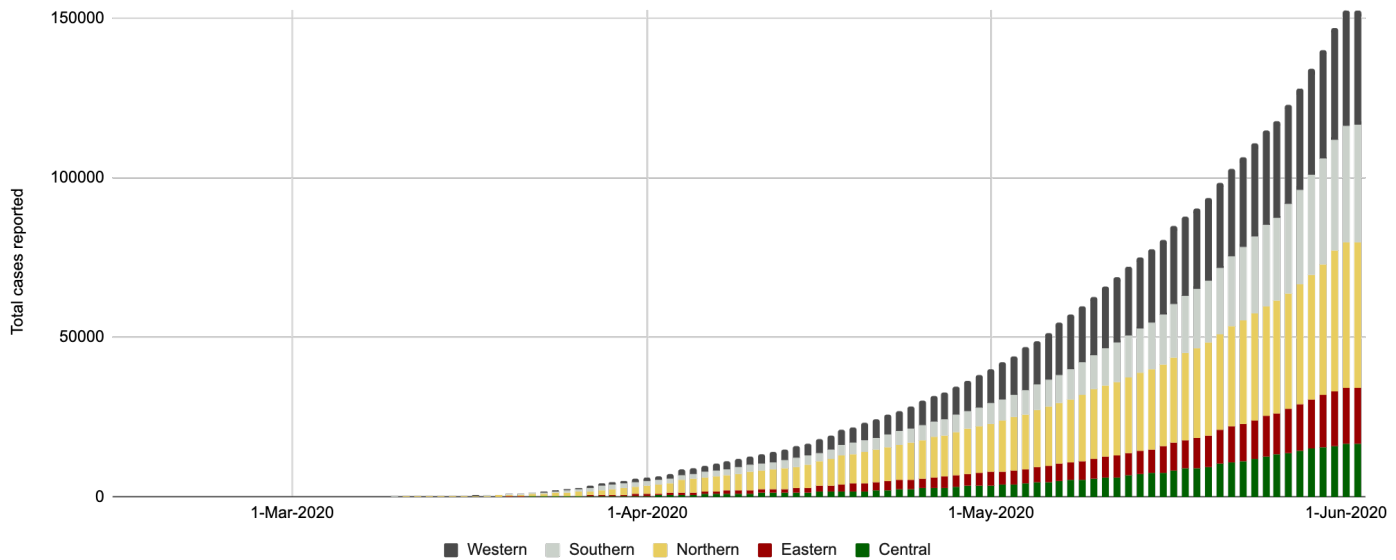
<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing 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

Comoros	106 (19)	2 (1)	26	1
Djibouti	3,569 (1,101)	24 (10)	1,521	2
Eritrea	39 (0)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	1,257 (602)	12 (7)	217	3
Kenya	2,021 (735)	69 (17)	482	3
Madagascar	826 (284)	6 (4)	174	2
Mauritius	335 (1)	10 (0)	322	3
Rwanda	377 (41)	1 (1)	262	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	2,023 (334)	79 (13)	361	2
South Sudan	994 (339)	10 (2)	6	2
Sudan	5,173 (1,197)	298 (128)	1,522	2
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	457 (235)	-	72	3
Northern Region	45,544 (10,179)	1,950 (301)	18,852	
Algeria	9,513 (1,010)	661 (52)	5,984	3
Egypt	26,384 (8,417)	1,005 (222)	6,447	2
Libya	156 (81)	5 (2)	52	2
Mauritania	588 (351)	26 (20)	36	2
Morocco	7,819 (287)	205 (5)	5,459	2
Tunisia	1,084 (33)	48 (0)	964	3
Southern Region	36,680 (11,395)	730 (226)	18,618	
Angola	86 (16)	4 (0)	18	1

Botswana	35 (0)	1 (0)	20	2
Eswatini	293 (37)	3 (1)	194	2
Lesotho	2 (0)	-	1	1
Malawi	336 (235)	4 (0)	42	2
Mozambique	254 (45)	2 (1)	97	2
Namibia	25 (4)	-	14	2
South Africa	34,357 (10,742)	705 (224)	17,291	3
Zambia	1,089 (169)	7 (0)	912	3
Zimbabwe	203 (147)	4 (0)	29	2
Western Region	36,007 (6,287)	731 (105)	15,151	
Benin	243 (52)	3 (0)	147	3
Burkina Faso	883 (42)	53 (1)	741	3
Cape Verde	458 (68)	4 (1)	210	2
Côte d'Ivoire	2,951 (528)	33 (3)	1,467	3
Gambia	25 (0)	1 (0)	20	1
Ghana	8,070 (1,262)	36 (4)	2,947	3
Guinea	3,844 (569)	23 (3)	2,135	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,339 (166)	8 (2)	67	3
Liberia	296 (31)	27 (1)	159	3
Mali	1,315 (256)	78 (11)	744	3
Niger	958 (7)	65 (3)	844	3
Nigeria	10,578 (2,510)	299 (66)	3,122	3
Senegal	3,739 (609)	42 (6)	1,858	3
Sierra Leone	865 (130)	46 (4)	475	2

Togo	443 (57)	13 (0)	215	3
Total	152,442 (37,096)	4,344 (873)	63,661	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 23 Feb - 2 June 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. African Union Commission announced the Africa CDC Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme on 25 May 2020. The programme will support capacity development of emerging and established public health leaders to become ardent, effective leaders who can support and empower others, and provide strategic leadership for Africa to achieve the health goals of the Sustainable Development Goals by African Union Member States.
2. Africa CDC deployed 28 frontline responders to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, and Niger through activation of the African Union Strategic Lift Capability.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

3. The twelfth webinar on Clinical Community of Practice entitled “COVID-19 respiratory failure and respiratory management, COVID-19 presentations in critically ill patients, and

prone position ventilation in COVID-19 patients” was held on 28 May 2020 at 1:30pm EAT and attended by 228 clinicians from all 55 Member States.

4. Africa CDC held midweek office hours on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and weekend office hours on Saturday 30 May 2020 for the Clinical Community of Practice (CCoP) and had open-ended clinical consultations with 23 clinicians from across the continent.

Infection Prevention and Control

5. The first cohort of 2,802 healthcare workers from 49 Member States was trained on IPC specifically for COVID-19 through a webinar series conducted in collaboration with Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) from 15 April - 29 May 2020.
6. Africa CDC will conduct training on COVID-19 specific IPC for the second cohort in a series of webinars from June - July 2020. The first webinar will be held on 3 June at 1pm EAT. Registration for this training is available at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpIR3feAR9CGil92LG-Nnw
7. Africa CDC facilitated step-down IPC training for healthcare workers in Zimbabwe from 27 - 29 May 2020.
8. Released the “COVID-19 Guidance on Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Different Clinical Settings and Activities” this week. Available at <https://africacdc.org/download/covid-19-guidance-on-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-different-clinical-settings-and-activities/>

Laboratory:

9. Africa CDC distributed 625,000 tests to 50 Member States and 1,000 GeneXpert cartridges to Sao Tome.
10. Held a webinar titled “*Face mask during COVID-19*” on Tuesday 26 May 2020 at 4pm EAT for 464 participants from 79 countries.
11. The next webinar titled “*Specimen referral systems for SARS-CoV-2*” will be held on Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 4pm EAT in collaboration with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). Registration link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiScI3lzx>

Surveillance:

12. Africa CDC held its 7th surveillance webinar titled “*Introducing the Go.Data platform for COVID-19 surveillance*” on Wednesday 27 May 2020 at 4pm EAT. The French version was held on Friday 29 May 2020 at 4pm EAT. Over 600 health professionals from 48 AU Member states attended these sessions.
13. Africa CDC will hold its 8th surveillance webinar titled “*Capitalizing on the use of Community Health Workers to support COVID-19 response: A move to achieve 1 Million CHW in the African Continent.*” on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the English session and Friday 5 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for the French version. Registration link https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RbXV0-NSRCSDgahWD7I30w .

14. The Africa CDC AFTCOR Surveillance TWG is developing a roll out strategy to meet the target of deploying 1 million community health workers on the continent in collaboration with Member States and other partners. A monitoring and evaluation framework to track both the number and the impact of CHWs in the continent for the control of COVID-19 is being developed by the TWG.

Risk Communication

15. The 13th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC director and journalists was held on 28 May 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday, 4 June 2020 at 10am EAT.

Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁶ to include COVID-19⁷ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)⁸. 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 local or community transmission.
3. Member States should perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.⁹
4. 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.
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/>

⁶Africa 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/>

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

⁸WHO 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/

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

- 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>