

Outbreak Brief #23: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 23 June 2020

8,871,099 cases and 465,987 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (16 June 2020), 1,037,856 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 34,192 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 8,871,099 COVID-19 cases and 465,987 (CFR: 5.3%) 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 831,639 (9%), European Region 2,543,778 (29%), Region of the Americas 4,370,519 (49%), South-East Asia Region 600,191 (7%) and Western Pacific Region 206,652 (2%). 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 23 June 2020, a total of 315,410 COVID-19 cases and 8,334 (CFR: 2.7%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is 3.6% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (16 June 2020), 63,544 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 25% increase compared to the 16 June 2020 report. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 45% (28,835), Northern region 22% (13,775), Western region 17% (11,018), Central region 8% (5,357) and Eastern region 7% (4,559). The highest number of new COVID-19 cases reported in a single day was recorded on 20 June 2020 with 10,758 new COVID-19 cases reported. The average daily new cases reported this week is 9,078.

Ten countries account for 86% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (44%), Egypt (17%), Nigeria (7%), Côte d'Ivoire (4%), Ghana (3%), Cameroon (3%), Ethiopia (2%), Kenya (2%), Morocco (2%) and Sudan (2%). Djibouti (465), Sao Tome and Principe (320), Gabon (213), South Africa (171) and Cabo Verde (170) are 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 5.3%. These are: Chad (8.6%), Algeria (7.1%), Niger (6.4%), Sudan (6.1%), Burkina Faso (5.8%), Mali (5.7%), and Angola (5.4%).

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>

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. 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 16-23 June 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases ⁴ (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	30,460 (5,357)	668 (117)	13,115	
Burundi	144 (40)	1 (0)	93	2
Cameroon	12,041 (1,901)	308 (31)	7,740	3
Central African Republic	2,953 (674)	30 (20)	495	2
Chad	858 (8)	74 (1)	755	3
Congo	1,087 (204)	37 (10)	456	3
DRC	5,925 (1,088)	135 (23)	856	3
Equatorial Guinea	2,001 (695)	32 (20)	515	3
Gabon	4,739 (706)	39 (12)	2,002	3
Sao Tome and Principe	702 (41)	12 (0)	203	2

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (16 June 2020, 9am EAT)

⁴ The numbers for cumulative and new COVID-19 cases published in the last weekly report (16 June 2020) were incorrect. The correct numbers are available in the addendum of this report. Numbers for the deaths and recoveries were correct and have not been changed in this addendum.

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

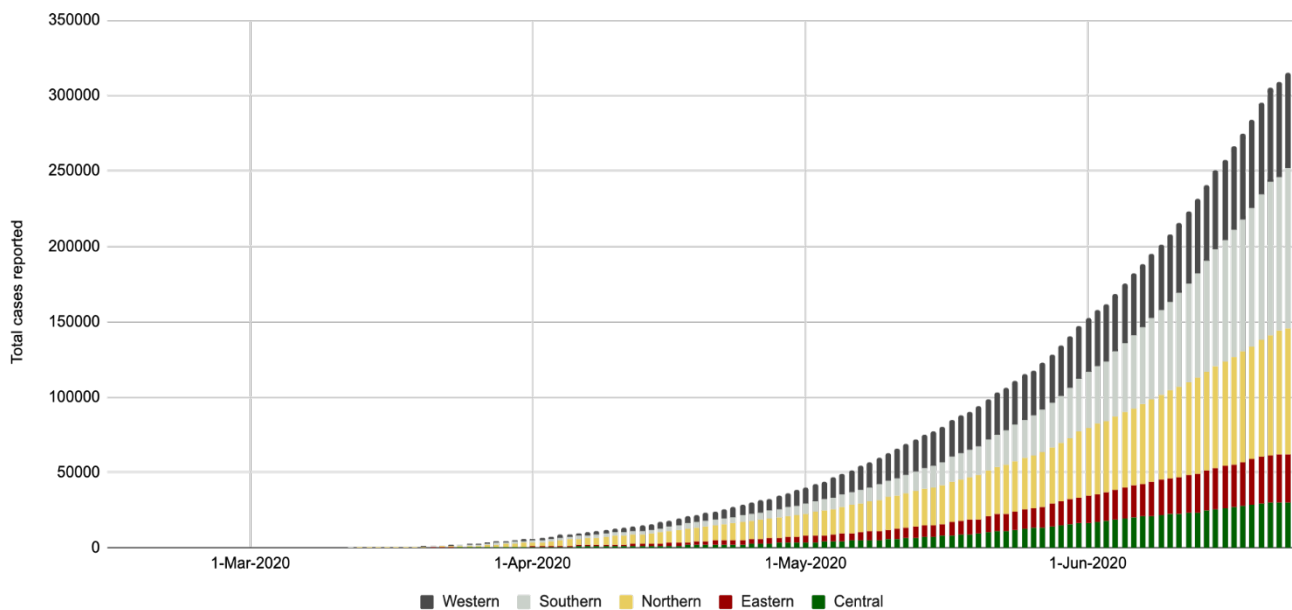
<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing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

Eastern Region	31,912 (4,559)	958 (120)	13,782	
Comoros	247 (71)	5 (3)	159	3
Djibouti	4,599 (96)	48 (5)	3,952	2
Eritrea	143 (34)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	4,663 (1,142)	75 (15)	1,297	3
Kenya	4,797 (1,070)	125 (21)	1,680	3
Madagascar	1,640 (350)	15 (5)	692	2
Mauritius	340 (3)	10 (0)	326	3
Rwanda	787 (175)	2 (0)	370	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	2,812 (170)	90 (2)	818	2
South Sudan	1,892 (116)	34 (4)	169	2
Sudan	8,698 (1,263)	533 (65)	3,460	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	774 (69)	-	631	3
Northern Region	83,444 (13,775)	3,513 (702)	33,877	
Algeria	11,920 (889)	852 (75)	8,559	3
Egypt	56,809 (10,520)	2,278 (606)	15,133	2
Libya	571 (104)	10 (0)	103	2
Mauritania	2,813 (926)	109 (18)	696	2
Morocco	10,172 (1,287)	214 (2)	8,366	2
Tunisia	1,159 (49)	50 (1)	1,020	3

Southern Region	106,065 (28,835)	2,041 (438)	55,557	
Angola	186 (44)	10 (4)	77	2
Botswana	89 (29)	1 (0)	25	2
Eswatini	643 (137)	6 (2)	291	2
Lesotho	12 (8)	-	2	1
Malawi	803 (248)	11 (5)	258	2
Mozambique	737 (128)	5 (2)	181	2
Namibia	63 (31)	-	21	2
South Africa	101,590 (28,037)	1,991 (423)	53,444	3
Zambia	1,430 (48)	11 (0)	1,194	3
Zimbabwe	512 (125)	6 (2)	64	2
Western Region	63,529 (11,018)	1,154 (188)	33,651	
Benin	807 (324)	13 (4)	253	3
Burkina Faso	907 (13)	53 (0)	823	3
Cape Verde	944 (184)	8 (1)	419	2
Côte d'Ivoire	7,677 (2,238)	56 (10)	3,128	3
Gambia	41 (11)	2 (1)	26	1
Ghana	14,154 (2,190)	85 (31)	10,473	3
Guinea	4,988 (416)	27 (1)	3,669	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,556 (64)	19 (4)	191	3
Liberia	650 (152)	34 (1)	260	3
Mali	1,961 (101)	111 (7)	1,266	3

Niger	1,046 (66)	67 (1)	913	3
Nigeria	20,919 (4,261)	525 (101)	7,109	3
Senegal	5,970 (797)	86 (22)	3,953	3
Sierra Leone	1,340 (164)	55 (4)	788	3
Togo	569 (37)	13 (0)	380	3
Total	315,410 (63,544)	8,334 (1,565)	149,982	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 15 Feb - 23 June 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. On Thursday, 18 June 2020, Africa CDC launched the Africa Medical Supplies Platform is a continental online portal, developed in partnership with the African Export-Import Bank, that enables countries in Africa access critical medical supplies needed for their COVID-19 response. The platform will allow Member States to access services from quality and certified suppliers.

2. The Africa Union Commission and the Africa CDC will be hosting a two-day virtual conference on "COVID Vaccine: Development and Access" from Wednesday June 24 to Thursday June 25, 2020 at 10:00am (East Africa Time) GMT+3. It will be streamed live on the Africa CDC YouTube Channel as well as on the [Zoom](#) video communications platform.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

3. The fourteenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar titled "COVID-19 Laboratory testing; An experience from Sierra Leone and evidence-based medicine" was held on Thursday, 18 June 2020. There were 232 participants in attendance.
4. Africa CDC has created a Canvas Hub as a platform to share all the learning materials and videos shared during webinars or other instructive initiatives. Registration for this platform is available here: http://bit.ly/COVID19_Membership_Request_v1
5. The fifteenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar titled: "Applying palliative care principles to the care of patients with COVID-19" will be held on Thursday, 25 June 2020.

Infection Prevention and Control

6. The third session of the Africa CDC's IPC Webinar series discussed "IPC in Community" and Kenya's COVID-19 experience was held on Wednesday, 17 June 2020. There were 621 participants in attendance for the English and French Webinars.
7. This week's IPC Webinar session will discuss "Personal Protective Equipment for COVID-19", Ethiopia's COVID-19 experience and Africa CDC's PACT, on Wednesday June 24, 2020, 13.00 EAT.

Register for English https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpIR3feAR9CGil92LG-Nnw and French https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r4KmA2bKRrmBsV11aH2Dwg

Laboratory:

8. A total of 4.2 million PCR tests for COVID-19 have been conducted with an overall 7.3% positivity rate. This is a 22% increase from last week.
9. Africa CDC has distributed 625,000 tests to 51 Member States and will distribute an additional 315,000 tests in the next few weeks. Africa CDC will continue to support Member States to ensure uninterrupted supply of test kits, reagents and other essential testing supplies.
10. Sao Tome received 1,000 GeneXpert cartridges and distribution has also started for an additional 7200 GeneXpert cartridges and countries with limited or no capacity for PCR testing will be prioritized.

Surveillance:

11. Africa CDC held its tenth surveillance webinar titled "How to implement rapid mortality surveillance in the COVID-19 context" on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 at 4pm both for English and French. A total of 317 participants from 43 MS were in attendance.

12. Africa CDC will continue with its weekly webinar on “Analysis and use of Mortality Data for COVID-19 Response Actions”. This week the webinar will be on Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 4pm EAT for both English and French.
13. The surveillance technical working group is working with different stakeholders including WHO, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the private sector to co-develop a comprehensive public health recommendation to support the resumption of travel on the continent using land, marine and air transport. The document will address: setting up a harmonized minimum pre-travel clearance criteria for travelers, maintenance of a safe en-route public health corridor within different transportation modes, setting up a technological protocol to guide minimum functions and data security for any electronic platform used to handle travelers’ information to ensure credibility, and cross border data sharing framework to allow travelers’ information to be exchanged across African Union Member States.
14. Vital Strategies in partnership with Africa CDC has released a technical package titled “Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States” to support national governments to enhance their outbreak surveillance and response planning.

Sciences, standards and regulations

15. 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

16. Africa CDC has continued with the [One by One](#) and the [Facebook](#) campaigns. As of 20 June, the campaigns had reached 131,563,348 Facebook users in Africa, with 254,199,451 impressions and 19,180,167 post engagements.
17. The 15th COVID-19 continental update press briefing with the Africa CDC Director and journalists was held on Thursday, 18 June 2020, 11 am EAT. This week’s press briefing will be held on Thursday, 25 June 2020, 11 am EAT and will be streamed live on the [Africa CDC YouTube Channel](#).
18. The fifth risk communication webinar, which focused on the role of faith-based groups in providing positive communication about COVID-19 was held on Friday, 19 June 2020.
19. Africa CDC supported messaging and publicity for the In For Africa Campaign entertainment event aimed to raise awareness and support fundraising for COVID-19.

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

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/>

ADDENDUM:

Table 2. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa¹⁰ 9-16 June 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ¹¹
Central Region	25,103 (4,415)	551 (114)	9,493	
Burundi	104 (21)	1 (0)	75	2
Cameroon	10,140 (2,080)	277 (71)	5,601	3
Central African Republic	2,289 (439)	10 (5)	382	2
Chad	850 (11)	73 (3)	720	3
Congo	883 (200)	27 (5)	391	3
DRC	4,837 (731)	112 (24)	613	3
Equatorial Guinea	1,306 (0)	12 (0)	200	3
Gabon	4,033 (786)	27 (6)	1,334	3
Sao Tome and Principe	661 (147)	12 (0)	177	2
Eastern Region	27,103 (4,613)	838 (176)	10,177	
Comoros	176 (35)	2 (0)	114	3
Djibouti	4,503 (225)	43 (12)	3,183	2

¹⁰ New numbers reported since the weekly report of 9 June 2020, 9am EAT

¹¹ 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	109 (68)	-	39	2
Ethiopia	3,521 (1,365)	60 (33)	620	3
Kenya	3,727 (865)	104 (19)	1,286	3
Madagascar	1,290 (196)	10 (1)	384	2
Mauritius	337 (0)	10 (0)	325	3
Rwanda	612 (161)	2 (0)	338	2
Seychelles	11 (0)	-	11	2
Somalia	2,642 (274)	88 (4)	622	2
South Sudan	1,776 (172)	30 (11)	58	2
Sudan	7,435 (1,193)	468 (96)	2,720	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	705 (59)	-	299	3
Northern Region	69,669 (13,354)	2,811 (520)	29,321	
Algeria	11,031 (766)	777 (62)	7,735	3
Egypt	46,289 (10,845)	1,672 (401)	12,329	2
Libya	467 (197)	10 (5)	70	2
Mauritania	1,887 (940)	91 (48)	360	2
Morocco	8,885 (583)	212 (4)	7,828	2
Tunisia	1,110 (23)	49 (0)	999	3
Southern Region	77,230 (23,481)	1,603 (495)	41,645	
Angola	142 (50)	6 (2)	64	2
Botswana	60 (20)	1 (0)	24	2

Eswatini	506 (166)	4 (1)	249	2
Lesotho	4 (0)	-	2	1
Malawi	555 (112)	6 (2)	69	2
Mozambique	609 (176)	3 (1)	157	2
Namibia	32 (1)	-	17	2
South Africa	73,553 (22,674)	1,568 (488)	39,867	3
Zambia	1,382 (182)	11 (1)	1,142	3
Zimbabwe	387 (100)	4 (0)	54	2
Western Region	52,511 (9,749)	966 (123)	23,672	
Benin	483 (195)	9 (5)	232	3
Burkina Faso	894 (4)	53 (0)	807	3
Cape Verde	760 (193)	7 (2)	354	2
Côte d'Ivoire	5,439 (1,558)	46 (8)	2,590	3
Gambia	30 (2)	1 (0)	24	1
Ghana	11,964 (2,054)	54 (6)	4,258	3
Guinea	4,572 (351)	26 (3)	3,259	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,492 (103)	15 (3)	153	3
Liberia	498 (153)	33 (3)	221	3
Mali	1,860 (313)	104 (12)	1,125	3
Niger	980 (10)	66 (1)	885	3
Nigeria	16,658 (3,857)	424 (63)	5,349	3
Senegal	5,173 (746)	64 (15)	3,424	3

Sierra Leone	1,176 (175)	51 (2)	683	3
Togo	532 (35)	13 (0)	308	3
Total	251,866 (55,612)	6,769 (1,428)	114,308	