

Outbreak Brief #25: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 7 July 2020

11,366,147 cases and 564,846 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (30 June 2020), 1,500,070 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 68,666 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 11,366,147 COVID-19 cases and 564,846 (CFR: 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 1,061,519 (9%), European Region 2,816,968 (25%), Region of the Americas 5,816,679 (51%), South-East Asia Region 947,519 (8%) and Western Pacific Region 227,623(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 7 July 2020, a total of 492,624 COVID-19 cases and 11,622 (CFR: 2.4%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is 4.3% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (30 June 2020), 99,319 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 25% increase compared to the 30 June 2020 report. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 64% (63,206), Northern region 15% (14,968), Western region 12% (11,502), Eastern region 5% (5,032) and Central region 5% (4,611).

Five countries account for 82% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (61.9%), Egypt (9.5%), Nigeria (4.2%), Ghana (3.8%), and Algeria (2.4%). Djibouti (482), Sao Tome and Principe (361), Gabon (273), South Africa (354) and Cabo Verde (244) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Africa. Eleven Countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 5%. These are: Chad (9%), Sudan (6%), Niger (6%), Sudan (6%), Algeria (6%), Burkina Faso (5%), Angola (5%), Mali (5%), Gambia (5%), and Egypt (5%).

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 30 June - 7 July 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	38,144 (4,611)	805 (76)	20,657	
Burundi	191 (21)	1 (0)	128	2
Cameroon	14,524 (1,932)	342 (29)	11,360	3
Central African Republic	4,033 (420)	52 (5)	970	2
Chad	872 (6)	74 (0)	787	3
Congo	1,557 (312)	44 (4)	501	3
DRC	7,432 (493)	182 (15)	3,226	3
Equatorial Guinea	3,071 (1,070)	51 (19)	842	3
Gabon	5,743 (349)	46 (4)	2,574	3
Sao Tome and Principe	721 (8)	13 (0)	269	2
Eastern Region	40,491 (4,212)	1,136 (77)	19,263	

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (30 June 2020, 9am EAT)

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

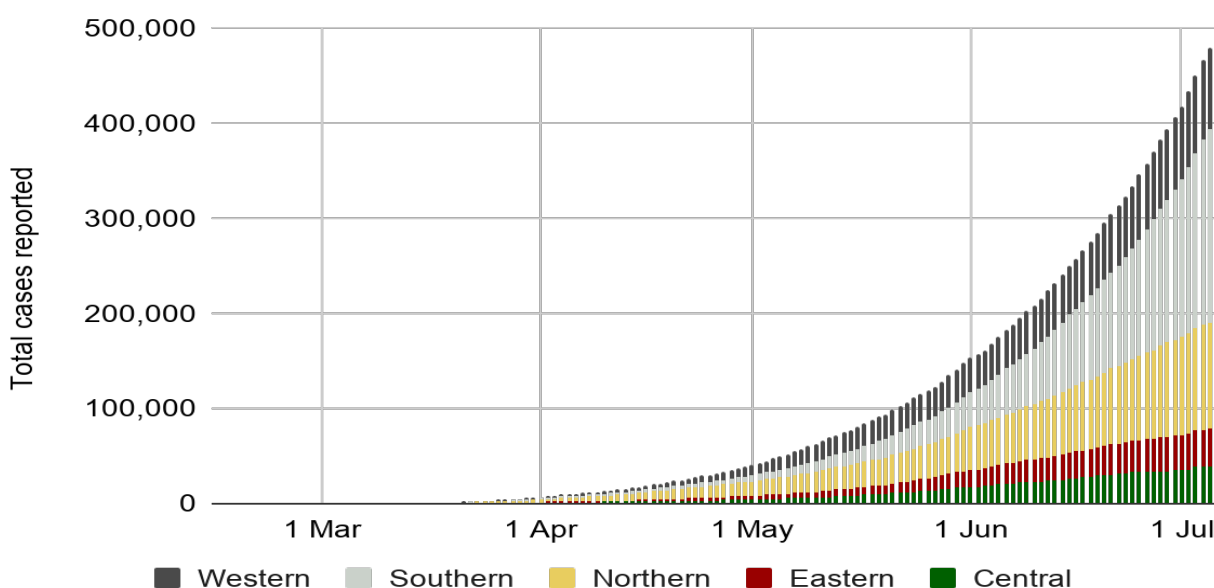
Comoros	311 (18)	7 (0)	296	3
Djibouti	4,822 (166)	55 (2)	4,610	2
Eritrea	215 (24)	0	56	2
Ethiopia	6,666 (820)	103 (0)	2,430	3
Kenya	8,067 (1,877)	164 (20)	2,414	3
Madagascar	3,250 (1,112)	33 (13)	1,135	2
Mauritius	341 (0)	10 (0)	330	3
Rwanda	1,113 (112)	3 (1)	575	2
Seychelles	80 (3)	0	11	2
Somalia	2,997 (93)	92 (2)	1,014	2
South Sudan	2,093 (87)	40 (3)	649	2
Sudan	9,894 (637)	608 (36)	4,673	3
Tanzania ⁵	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	953 (83)	0	892	3
Northern Region	113,666 (14,968)	4,823 (624)	46,057	
Algeria	15,941 (2,370)	952 (47)	11,492	3
Egypt	76,222 (9,468)	3,422 (550)	21,238	2
Libya	1,046 (284)	32 (11)	261	2
Mauritania	4,879 (730)	130 (4)	1,844	2
Morocco	14,379 (2,089)	237 (12)	10,173	2
Tunisia	1,199(27)	50 (0)	1,049	3

⁵ Last report was received on 7-May-2020.

Southern Region	213,134 (63,206)	3,409 (808)	100,726	
Angola	353 (77)	19 (8)	108	2
Botswana	277 (102)	1 (0)	31	2
Eswatini /Swaziland	1,011 (216)	13 (2)	564	2
Lesotho	91 (64)	0	11	1
Malawi	1,818 (594)	19 (5)	317	2
Mozambique	1,012 (129)	8 (2)	277	2
Namibia	539 (343)	0	25	2
South Africa	205,721 (61,457)	3,310 (781)	97,848	3
Zambia	1,632 (64)	30 (8)	1,348	3
Zimbabwe	734 (160)	9 (2)	197	2
Western Region	86,315 (11,502)	1,449 (158)	49,663	
Benin	1,199 (12)	21 (2)	333	3
Burkina Faso	1,003 (41)	53 (0)	860	3
Cape Verde	1,463 (298)	17 (5)	722	2
Côte d'Ivoire	10,966 (1,752)	75 (9)	5,384	3
Gambia	61 (14)	3 (1)	27	1
Ghana	21,077 (3,726)	129 (17)	16,070	3
Guinea	5,450 (159)	33 (3)	4,392	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,790 (136)	25 (1)	710	3
Liberia	891 (121)	39 (3)	377	3
Mali	2,331 (158)	119 (4)	1,547	3

Niger	1,093 (18)	68 (1)	968	3
Nigeria	29,286 (4,153)	654 (81)	11,828	3
Senegal	7,478 (780)	136 (28)	4,909	3
Sierra Leone	1,547 (97)	62 (2)	1,086	3
Togo	680 (37)	15 (1)	450	3
Total	492,624 (99,319)	11,622 (1,743)	236,366	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 15 Feb - 7 July 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General

1. Africa CDC has deployed seven experts (3 infection prevention and control, 2 epidemiologists and 1 data manager) to Mali to support COVID-19 response activities.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The seventeenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar titled "RECOVERY Trial and Management of COVID-19 Patients: Frontline Experience" was held on Thursday, 2 July 2020. There were 200 participants in attendance.

2. Africa CDC has published the following two guidance statement documents on [the use of Dexamethasone for severely ill COVID-19 patients](#) and [on herbal remedies and medicines for prevention and treatment of COVID-19](#).
3. The eighteenth webinar on Clinical Community of Practice will be held on Thursday, 9 July 2020.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. Africa CDC will hold a webinar entitled "Handling dead bodies and burials during COVID-19" on Wednesday, July 08, 2020 at 13.00EAT for English session (registration available at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpIR3feAR9CGil92LG-Nnw) and Friday, July 10, 2020 at 14.00 EAT for the French session (registration available at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r4KmA2bKRrmBsV11aH2Dwg). Uganda will share their experience implementing IPC measures for COVID-19.
2. Africa CDC has published an [Interim Guidance on Environmental decontamination in the context of COVID-19](#).

Laboratory:

1. A total of 5.6 million PCR tests for COVID-19 have been conducted with an overall 8.67% positivity rate.
2. Africa CDC completed a training on "Biosafety and Biosecurity" for Eastern Africa Regional Collaborating Center (RCC) and over 90 participants attended from the 14 Member States.

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC will hold its 11th surveillance webinar titled "Analysis and Use of Mortality Data for COVID-19 Response Actions" on Wednesday, 8 July 2020 at 4pm for both the English and French sessions.

Sciences, standards and regulations

1. 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

1. Africa CDC continued the one-on-one and the Facebook campaigns and as of 4 July 2020, 132,841,315 Facebook users have been reached throughout Africa, with 20,247,275 post engagements and 271,316,503 impressions.
2. Africa CDC held its regular weekly press briefings on COVID-19 response interventions and provided updates on COVID-19 vaccine development and access conferences to journalists and relevant stakeholders.
3. Africa CDC held the seventh risk communication webinar entitled "*the struggles of young people due to 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 $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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/

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