

Outbreak Brief #26: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 14 July 2020

12,786,051 cases and 566,904 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (7 July 2020), 1,419,904 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 34,326² new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 12,786,051 COVID-19 cases and 566,904 (CFR: 4%) 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 1,167,859 (9%), European Region 2,925,686 (23%), Region of the Americas 6,669,879 (52%), South-East Asia Region 1,163,556 (9%) and Western Pacific Region 244,960 (2%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports³.

As of 9 am EAT 14 July 2020, a total of 610,807 COVID-19 cases and 13,456 (CFR: 2%) deaths have been reported in 54 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief (2020), 118,183 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 24% increase compared to the 7 July 2020 report. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 72% (84,628), Northern region 11% (12,646), Western region 10% (12,038), Eastern region 6% (6,246) and Central region 2% (2,625).

Five countries account for 85% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (69%), Egypt (6%), Ghana (4%), Nigeria (3%) and Algeria (3%). Djibouti (498), South Africa (495) Sao Tome and Principe (366), Cabo Verde (287) and Gabon (287) are reporting the most cumulative COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Africa. Nine Countries are reporting case fatality rates comparable to or higher than the global case fatality rate of 4%. These are: Chad (9%), Sudan (6%), Niger (6%), Algeria (5%), Burkina Faso (5%), Angola (5%), Mali (5%), Liberia (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 The number of deaths globally were erroneously reported in the last brief of 7 July 2020, the correct number should have been 532,578

³ 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 Africa⁴ 7 - 14 July 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁵
Central Region	40,769 (2,625)	836 (31)	22,973	
Burundi	269 (78)	1 (0)	207	2
Cameroon	15,173 (649)	359 (17)	11,928	3
Central African Republic	4,321 (288)	53 (1)	1,208	2
Chad	880 (8)	75 (1)	792	3
Congo	2,222 (665)	47 (3)	615	3
DRC	8,075 (643)	190 (8)	3,620	3
Equatorial Guinea	3,071 (0)	51(0)	842	3
Gabon	6,026 (283)	46 (0)	3,475	3
Sao Tome and Principe	732 (11)	14 (1)	286	2
Eastern Region	47,557 (6,246)	1,251 (115)	25,215	

⁴ New numbers reported since last weekly report (7 July 2020, 9am EAT)

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

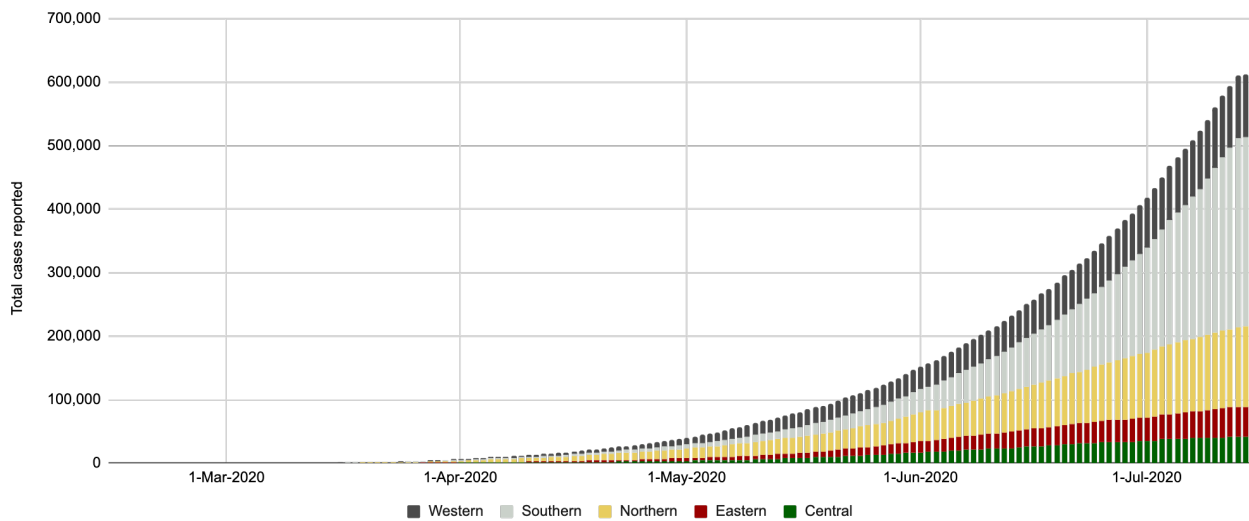
Comoros	317 (6)	7 (0)	296	3
Djibouti	4,977 (155)	56 (1)	4,729	2
Eritrea	232 (17)	0	107	2
Ethiopia	7,766 (1,100)	128 (25)	4,556	3
Kenya	10,294 (2,227)	197 (33)	2,946	3
Madagascar	5,080 (1,830)	37 (4)	2,494	2
Mauritius	342 (1)	10 (0)	330	3
Rwanda	1,378 (265)	4 (1)	710	2
Seychelles	100 (20)	0	11	2
Somalia	3,072 (75)	93 (1)	1,343	2
South Sudan	2,145 (52)	41 (1)	1,135	2
Sudan	10,316 (422)	657 (49)	5,403	3
Tanzania ⁶	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	1,029 (76)	0	977	3
Northern Region	126,312 (12,646)	5,438 (615)	55,740	
Algeria	19,206 (3,265)	1,011 (59)	14,019	3
Egypt	83,001 (6,779)	3,935 (513)	24,975	2
Libya	1,512 (466)	40 (8)	367	2
Mauritania	5,355 (476)	147 (17)	2,363	2
Morocco	15,936 (1,557)	255 (18)	12,934	2
Tunisia	1,302 (103)	50 (0)	1,082	3

⁶ Last report was received on 7-May-2020.

Southern Region	297,816 (84,628)	4,332 (923)	142,017	
Angola	525 (172)	26 (7)	118	2
Botswana	422 (145)	1 (0)	38	2
Eswatini /Swaziland	1,389 (378)	20 (7)	688	2
Lesotho	245 (154)	3 (3)	33	1
Malawi	2,430 (612)	39 (20)	747	2
Mozambique	1,219 (207)	9 (1)	369	2
Namibia	861 (322)	1 (1)	28	2
South Africa	287,796 (82,075)	4,172 (862)	138,241	3
Zambia	1,895 (263)	42 (12)	1,412	3
Zimbabwe	1,034 (300)	19 (10)	343	2
Western Region	98,353 (12,038)	1,599 (150)	59,916	
Benin	1,378 (179)	26 (5)	557	3
Burkina Faso	1,037 (34)	53 (0)	873	3
Cape Verde	1,722 (259)	19 (2)	772	2
Côte d'Ivoire	12,872 (1,906)	84 (9)	6,810	3
Gambia	64 (3)	3 (0)	34	1
Ghana	24,988 (3,911)	139 (10)	21,067	3
Guinea	6,141 (691)	37 (4)	4,862	3
Guinea-Bissau	1,902 (112)	26 (1)	903	3
Liberia	1,024 (133)	51 (12)	439	3

Mali	2,412 (81)	121 (2)	1,730	3
Niger	1,099 (6)	68 (0)	992	3
Nigeria	33,153 (3,867)	744 (90)	13,671	3
Senegal	8,198 (720)	150 (14)	5,514	3
Sierra Leone	1,642 (95)	63 (1)	1,175	3
Togo	721 (4)	15 (0)	517	3
Total	610,807 (118,183)	13,456 (1,834)	305,861	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 15 Feb - 14 July 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. Africa CDC has deployed 16 experts (9 Epidemiologists, 5 lab and 2 risk communication experts) to Malawi and Chad to support COVID-19 response activities.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The Eighteenth Clinical Community of Practice webinar titled “Minimizing Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Children – Systems Approach” was held on Thursday, 9 July 2020. There were 300 participants in attendance.

2. Africa CDC in collaboration with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has finished the arrangement of the COVID-19 perception survey in Africa.
3. The Nineteenth webinar on Clinical Community of Practice titled “Advising patients on home-based care” will be held on Thursday, 16 July 2020.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. Africa CDC will hold a webinar entitled " COVID-19 and Transport industry " and Africa CDC's Supply chain and logistics activities on Wednesday July 15, 2020, 13.00 EAT for the English session (registration available at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpIR3feAR9CGil92LG-Nnw) and Friday July 17, 2020 14.00 EAT for the French session (registration available at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r4KmA2bKRrmBsV11aH2Dwg).
2. The fifth session of the Africa CDC's IPC Webinar series, held on Wednesday 8 July 2020, focused on " Handling dead bodies and burials during COVID-19 and Uganda's COVID-19 experience" was attended by over 1,000 participants in the English and French sessions.

Laboratory:

1. A total of 6.3 million PCR tests for COVID-19 have been conducted with an overall 9.4% positivity rate.
2. Africa CDC distributed GeneXpert cartridges and enzymes to Chad and Lesotho and Sierra Leone.
3. Africa CDC Conducted mentorship on genomic sequencing to 3 counties, Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), Senegal Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD) and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC will hold its 12th surveillance webinar titled “Sero-survey studies and their contribution in generating evidence to guide COVID-19 response” on Wednesday, 15 July 2020 at 16:00 EAT for both the English and French sessions. Registration is available at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kTNdFBMT9SMUSB-InOd2g.
2. Africa CDC is working with stakeholders to develop a high level policy recommendation to guide the African Union Member States towards the resumption of travel. The policy will cover necessary public health measures to limit transmission within all the means of transportation (land, marine and air).

Sciences, standards and regulations

1. The weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update can be accessed at <https://africaccdc.org/resources/>. The updates are published every week on Tuesdays.

Risk Communication:

1. Africa CDC continued the [One by One](#) and the [Facebook](#) campaigns and As of 27 June, the campaign had reached **132,841,315** Facebook users in Africa, with **20,247,275** post engagements and **271,316,503** impressions⁷.
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 8th risk communication webinar entitled *“How COVID-19 is affecting healthcare services provision to young girls in Africa”*.

Recommendations for Member States

1. All Member States should enhance their surveillance⁸ to include COVID-19⁹ and for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)¹⁰. 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.¹¹
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.

⁷ Impressions is the number of times the post is displayed even if is not clicked

⁸Africa 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/>

⁹WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

¹⁰WHO SARI case definition: anyone with an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever (or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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/

¹¹Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

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>