

Outbreak Brief #29: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 4 August 2020

17,928,698 cases and 687,011 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (28 July 2020), 1,800,515 new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 39,969 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 17,928,698 COVID-19 cases and 687,011 (CFR: 4%) related deaths have been reported from 215 countries and territories. 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 1,419,299 (8%), European Region 3,391,779 (19%), Region of the Americas 9,630,598 (54%), South-East Asia Region 2,187,015 (12%) and Western Pacific Region 328,358 (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 4 August 2020, a total of 968,020 COVID-19 cases and 20,612 deaths (CFR: 2%) have been reported in 55 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 108,783 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is an increase of 13% compared to the 28 July 2020 report. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 65% (70,318), Northern region 12% (13,016), Western region 9% (9,638), Eastern region 11% (12,367) and Central region 3% (3,444).

Six countries account for 80% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (59%), Morocco (5%), Algeria (4%), Kenya (4%), Ghana (4%) and Ethiopia (4%). South Africa (890), Djibouti (524), Sao Tome and Principe (437), Cabo Verde (431) and Gabon (364) 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 4%. These are: Chad (8%), Sudan (6%), Liberia (6%), Niger (6%), Egypt (5%), Mali (5%), Burkina Faso (5%), Angola (5%), Algeria (4%), Sierra Leone (4%) and Tanzania (4%).

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

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>

all affected countries and is mobilizing laboratory, surveillance, and other response support where requested.

Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported in Africa³ 28 July - 4 August 2020, 9 am EAT

Country	No. of cases (new)	No. of deaths (new)	No. of recovered	Epidemic phase ⁴
Central Region	49,220 (3,444)	944 (48)	35,463	
Burundi	395 (17)	1 (0)	304	2
Cameroon	17,255 (547)	387 (2)	15,320	3
Central African Republic	4,614 (15)	59 (0)	1,635	3
Chad	936 (14)	75 (0)	814	3
Congo	3,546 (346)	58 (4)	1,589	3
DRC	9,133 (289)	215 (7)	7,424	3
Equatorial Guinea	4,821 (1,750)	83 (32)	2,182	3
Gabon	7,646 (457)	51 (2)	5,408	3
Sao Tome and Principe	874 (9)	15 (1)	787	2
Eastern Region	81,103 (12,367)	1,835 (270)	42,833	
Comoros	386 (46)	7 (0)	330	3

³ New numbers reported since last weekly report (28 July 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

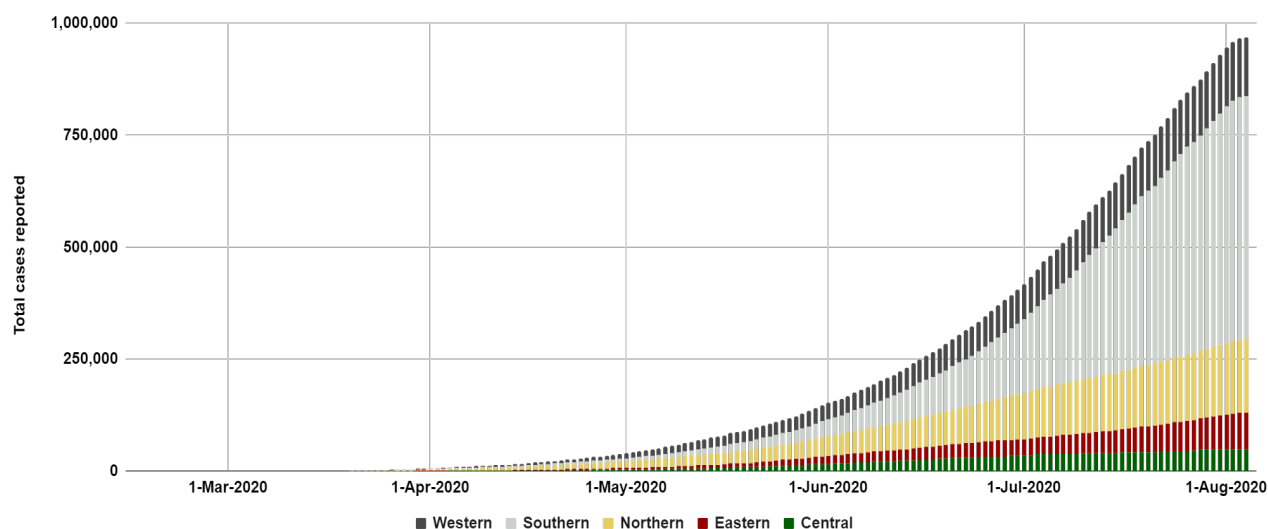
Djibouti	5,240 (181)	59 (1)	5,028	2
Eritrea	282 (19)	0	225	1
Ethiopia	19,289 (4,742)	336 (108)	7,931	3
Kenya	22,597 (4,622)	382 (97)	8,740	3
Madagascar	11,660 (1,970)	118 (27)	8,825	3
Mauritius	344 (0)	10 (0)	332	1
Rwanda	2,092 (213)	5 (0)	1,169	3
Seychelles	114 (0)	0	75	1
Somalia	3,220 (42)	93 (0)	1,598	1
South Sudan	2,437 (151)	47 (2)	1,195	3
Sudan	11,738 (314)	752 (32)	6,137	3
Tanzania ⁵	509 (0)	21 (0)	178	3
Uganda	1,195 (67)	5 (3)	1,070	3
Northern Region	164,208 (13,016)	6,817 (424)	91,903	
Algeria	31,416 (4,050)	1,226 (72)	21,901	3
Egypt	94,640 (2,158)	4,888 (236)	44,066	2
Libya	4,063 (1,236)	93 (29)	625	2
Mauritania	6,323 (152)	157 (1)	5,115	3
Morocco	26,196 (5,309)	401 (85)	18,968	2
Tunisia	1,565 (110)	51 (1)	1,225	1
Sahrawi Arab	5 (1)	1 (0)	3	1

⁵ Last report received 7-May-2020.

Democratic Republic				
Southern Region	541,809 (70,318)	9,063 (1,610)	368,643	
Angola	1,280 (330)	58 (17)	476	2
Botswana	804 (122)	2 (1)	63	2
Eswatini /Swaziland	2,838 (522)	45 (11)	1,253	2
Lesotho	718 (213)	19 (7)	173	2
Malawi	4,273 (564)	123 (20)	2,020	2
Mozambique	1,973 (272)	14 (3)	676	3
Namibia	2,406 (563)	12 (4)	187	2
South Africa	516,862 (64,333)	8,539 (1,472)	358,037	3
Zambia	6,580 (2,028)	171 (31)	4,701	3
Zimbabwe	4,075 (1,371)	80 (44)	1,057	2
Western Region	131,680 (9,638)	1,953 (100)	90,884	
Benin	1,770 (0)	35 (0)	1,036	3
Burkina Faso	1,153 (48)	54 (1)	947	3
Cape Verde	2,583 (255)	25 (3)	1,911	2
Côte d'Ivoire	16,220 (565)	102 (6)	11,887	3
Gambia	498 (172)	9 (1)	68	1
Ghana	37,812 (4,188)	191 (23)	34,313	3
Guinea	7,364 (497)	46 (4)	6,505	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,032 (78)	27 (1)	944	3
Liberia	1,214 (47)	78 (6)	696	3

Mali	2,543 (30)	124 (0)	1,943	3
Niger	1,152 (20)	69 (0)	1,032	3
Nigeria	44,129 (2,949)	896 (36)	20,663	3
Senegal	10,386 (622)	211 (17)	6,901	3
Sierra Leone	1,848 (65)	67 (1)	1,375	3
Togo	976 (102)	19 (1)	663	3
Total	968,020 (108,783)	20,612 (2,452)	629,726	

Chart 1: Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by region, 15 Feb - 4 August 2020



NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:

General:

1. The weekly series of Africa CDC’s Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOCs) and COVID-19 Management titled “logistics and supply chain management in emergencies and sharing of South Africa’s experience” will be on Thursday 6 August 3.00-4.10 PM EAT. Registration is available on the [Zoom Video Communications Platform](#).

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Case Management

1. The 21st Clinical Community of Practice webinar on “The Ghanaian experience regarding Innovations in the management of severe and critical COVID-19 cases” was held on Thursday,

30 July 2020. There were over 320 participants in attendance. The materials for this webinar have been uploaded to the Canvas Hub and can be accessed after [registration](#).

2. Africa CDC held midweek and weekend office hours to discuss “COVID-19 treatment misinformation” and “Use of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics following well-conducted Randomized Clinical Trials (RCTs)” on Wednesday 29 July 2020 and Saturday 1 August 2020 respectively. This week’s midweek and weekend office hours will be held on Wednesday 5 August 2020 and Saturday 8 August 2020 respectively. Registration is available at https://bit.ly/Office_Hour.
3. The 22nd webinar on Clinical-Community of Practice will be held on Thursday 6 August 2020, 1:00 PM EAT. Registration is available at <http://bit.ly/2WTP9Lp>.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. This week, Africa CDC has published interim guidance on [Strategies for managing acute shortages of personal protective equipment during COVID-19 pandemic](#).
2. The 3rd series of Africa CDC’s Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Webinar series will begin on Wednesday 5 August 2020 for English and Friday 7 August 2020 for French sessions. Registration is available for the [English](#) and [French](#) sessions on the Zoom Video Communications platform.

Laboratory:

1. A total of 8.7 million PCR tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date, up from 7.9 million tests reported last week, with an overall positivity rate of 11%.
2. Africa CDC received a [donation of COVID-19 test kits](#) capable of conducting 1.3 million tests from the Government of Germany to support the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19.
3. Africa CDC has continued to support Member States under the PACT initiative and has sent 900 cartridges to Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic for GeneXpert SARS CoV-2 testing. In addition, 240, 000 test kits and 250, 000 extraction kits for 14 Member States and 2 research institutes will be distributed this week.
3. Africa CDC will commence advanced training on the use of GeneXpert for COVID-19 testing for the Central Africa region this week and will be delivered in French.

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC held its 14th surveillance webinar titled “Management of outbreaks in localized settings: what countries need to know” on Wednesday, 29 July 2020 at 4:00 PM EAT for both the English and French sessions. This was attended by 261 participants. The [video](#) for this webinar is available online.
2. This week’s surveillance webinar titled “Resumption of travel and reopening of borders: Implication for cross border surveillance” will be held on Wednesday 5 August 2020 at 4:00 PM EAT. Registration is available on the Zoom Video Communications Platform.

Sciences, standards and regulations:

1. Africa CDC held its knowledge management webinar series titled “Lockdowns and easing of restrictions: what can be done to adapt to local contexts and to protect those who are vulnerable?” on Thursday 30 July 2020 at 2:30 PM EAT. Webinar video available on https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/20lzfqrRz29JW8_U7GPjV5BiTo6_X6a8gyJM-6IJmUxnhpAYyyNewVUUNitgedRc Password: tE#F\$?ON.
2. The biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update can be accessed at <https://africacdc.org/resources/>.

Risk Communication:

1. Africa CDC held its regular weekly press briefings to update the public on the trend of COVID-19 on the continent, Africa CDC response activities and provide clarifications to journalists and relevant stakeholders on Thursday 30 July 2020. The next press briefing will be held on Thursday 6 August 2020 at 11:00 AM EAT.
2. This week Africa CDC will hold specialized training for journalists titled “Infection prevention essentials for journalists” on Thursday 6 August 2020 from 6.00-8.00 PM EAT. Registration is available on the [Zoom Video Communications Platform](#).

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

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 $\geq 38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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/>

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>