

## Outbreak Brief #33: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 1 September 2020

25,126,084 cases and 844,601 deaths

*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (25 August 2020), 1,776,122 new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 37,982 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 25,126,084 COVID-19 cases and 844,601 (case fatality rate (CFR): 3.4%) 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 1,716,157 (7%), European Region 4,232,301 (17%), Region of the Americas 13,268,634 (53%), South-East Asia Region 4,157,798 (17%) and Western Pacific Region 493,707 (2%). For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO daily situation reports.<sup>2</sup>

**As of 9am East African Time (EAT) 1 September 2020,** a total of 1,252,552 COVID-19 cases and 29,833 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 57,255 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 5% increase overall and a 15% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the 25 August 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Southern region 35% (20,146), Northern region 29% (16,691), Eastern region 24% (13,911), Western region 9% (4,923), and Central region 3% (1,600).

Nine countries account for 81% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: South Africa (27%), Ethiopia (17%), Morocco (16%), Libya (5%), Algeria (4%), Kenya (3%), Nigeria (3%), Namibia (3%) and Egypt (3%). South Africa (1,079), Cabo Verde (647), Djibouti (539), Sao Tome and Principe (448), and Gabon (406) are reporting the highest cumulative incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) in Africa. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, eleven countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 3.4%: Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (8%), Chad (8%), Sudan (6%),

<sup>1</sup> WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

<sup>2</sup> WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Liberia (6%), Niger (6%), Egypt (6%), Mali (5%), Tanzania (4%), Angola (4%), Burkina Faso (4%) and Sierra Leone (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 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, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa<sup>3</sup> as of 1 September 2020, 9am East Africa Time**

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since previous brief	Epidemic phase <sup>4</sup>
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>54,406 (1,600)</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>1,064 (38)</b>	<b>124%</b>	
Burundi	445 (15)	-12%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	19,142 (480)	76%	411 (3)	-57%	3
Central African Republic	4,711 (32)	167%	62 (1)	NA*	3
Chad	1,013 (26)	-7%	77 (1)	NA*	3
Congo	4,628 (649)	339%	102 (24)	1,100%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,097 (255)	88%	260 (9)	13%	3
Equatorial Guinea	4,941 (15)	-86%	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,533 (124)	-11%	53 (0)	NA*	3
Sao Tome and Principe	896 (4)	-43%	15 (0)	NA*	2

<sup>3</sup> New numbers reported since last weekly report (25 August 2020, 9am EAT)

<sup>4</sup> Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

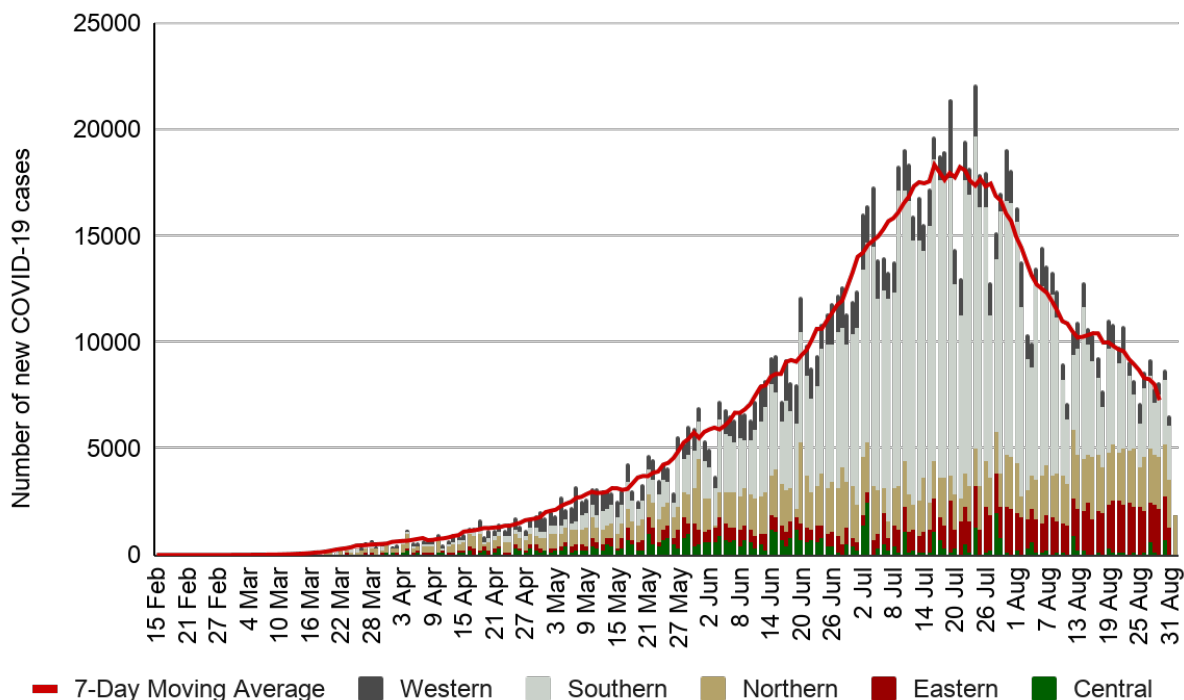
<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing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

<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>134,367 (13,895)</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>2,691 (181)</b>	<b>-28%</b>	
Comoros	423 (6)	-67%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,387 (4)	-64%	60 (0)	-100%	2
Eritrea	318 (12)	-43%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	52,131 (9,988)	-8%	809 (117)	-21%	3
Kenya	34,201 (1,644)	-25%	577 (23)	-68%	3
Madagascar	14,863 (461)	-11%	192 (14)	100%	3
Mauritius	346 (0)	-100%	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	4,063 (757)	-1%	16 (2)	-67%	2
Seychelles	136 (4)	-20%	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,310 (41)	242%	97 (4)	NA*	1
South Sudan	2,519 (15)	-6%	47 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	13,189 (353)	-17%	823 (11)	22%	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	2,972 (610)	-24%	32 (10)	43%	2
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>230,555 (16,691)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8,542 (479)</b>	<b>2%</b>	
Algeria	44,494 (2,192)	-23%	1,510 (77)	15%	3
Egypt	98,939 (1,461)	65%	5,421 (141)	32%	2
Libya	13,656 (2,647)	9%	232 (33)	-21%	2
Mauritania	7,048 (143)	-30%	159 (1)	No change	3
Morocco	62,590 (9,338)	-4%	1,141 (221)	-8%	2
Tunisia	3,803 (910)	29%	77 (6)	-60%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	25 (0)	-100%	2 (0)	NA*	1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>672,586 (20,146)</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>15,147 (1,089)</b>	<b>-14%</b>	
Angola	2,624 (402)	40%	107 (7)	-42%	2
Botswana	1,633 (325)	NA*	6 (3)	NA*	2

Eswatini	4,577 (273)	-33%	91 (6)	-50%	3
Lesotho	1,085 (36)	-65%	31 (1)	NA*	2
Malawi	5,566 (147)	-50%	175 (6)	-14%	3
Mozambique	3,916 (476)	-10%	23 (2)	No change	3
Namibia	7,550 (1,520)	-10%	75 (19)	-5%	3
South Africa	627,041 (15,591)	-28%	14,149 (990)	-16%	3
Zambia	12,097 (949)	-28%	288 (8)	-50%	3
Zimbabwe	6,497 (427)	-44%	202 (47)	135%	3
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>160,638 (4,923)</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>2,389 (62)</b>	<b>-35%</b>	
Benin	2,145 (50)	56%	40 (1)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	1,370 (32)	-45%	55 (0)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	3,884 (352)	7%	40 (3)	200%	2
Côte d'Ivoire	18,067 (561)	39%	117 (3)	-25%	3
Gambia	2,963 (526)	-7%	96 (12)	-43%	3
Ghana	44,298 (676)	-30%	276 (13)	-46%	3
Guinea	9,409 (396)	1%	59 (5)	67%	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,205 (56)	75%	34 (1)	NA*	3
Liberia	1,304 (14)	8%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	2,776 (68)	No change	126 (1)	NA*	3
Niger	1,176 (4)	-20%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	54,008 (1,460)	-52%	1,013 (9)	-67%	3
Senegal	13,611 (598)	-23%	284 (12)	-25%	3
Sierra Leone	2,022 (25)	-39%	70 (1)	NA*	3
Togo	1,400 (105)	-26%	28 (1)	NA*	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,252,552 (57,255)</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>29,833 (1,849)</b>	<b>-12%</b>	

\*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 1 September 2020**



### **NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:**

#### **General:**

1. Africa CDC held its weekly press briefing on COVID-19 Pandemic on Thursday, 27 August 2020, 11am –12pm Eastern Africa Time (EAT). The speakers for the week were Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC and Dr Anne-Marie Antchouey, Director General, Ministry of Health, Gabon.
2. Africa CDC held the 3rd One Health and COVID-19 webinar entitled, “Occupational risks at the human-animal interface” on 31 August 2020 at 4:00pm EAT. Register for future webinars in this series here:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JuZaV0KmR3GllGHsZPt2sw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JuZaV0KmR3GllGHsZPt2sw)

#### **Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:**

##### *Case Management*

1. Africa CDC in collaboration with Project HOPE will conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) in case management for Northern Africa Member States on 7 - 10 September 2020.

### *Infection Prevention and Control*

1. Africa CDC held the third session of its IPC webinar series III for over 878 participants entitled “IPC for first responders and community workers” in English and French on Wednesday 26 August 2020. Link: <https://t.co/S4lLjkSYWM?amp=1>
2. Africa CDC will hold a webinar entitled “The New Normal: IPC in WorkPlaces and Schools” on Wednesday 2 September 2020, 1pm EAT for the English session (registration available at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_97hF6iqdQHOP3ieF7xQT4Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_97hF6iqdQHOP3ieF7xQT4Q)) and Friday 4 September 2020, 2pm EAT for the French session (Registration available at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_)).
3. Africa CDC will hold a special workshop entitled “Promoting manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) in Africa on Thursday 3 September 2020, 1pm EAT. Registration available at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Q--PI60nQWamHnxe\\_CNPwg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q--PI60nQWamHnxe_CNPwg)

### **Laboratory:**

1. Just over 11.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date, with a positivity rate of 10.7% and test per reported case ratio of 9.5.
2. Africa CDC’s laboratory technical working group will hold its weekly webinar series on COVID-19 genomic surveillance in Africa entitled “Main Routes of Entry and Genomic Diversity of SARS-CoV-2 in Uganda” on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 4pm EAT. Link: <https://bit.ly/2Okfoqy>
3. Africa CDC is providing ongoing sequencing mentorship to four laboratories: the Pasteur Institute of Dakar in Senegal, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, and the Egypt Central Public Health Laboratory.

### **Risk Communication:**

1. Africa CDC inaugurated the public health risk communication and community engagement community of practice for Africa on Thursday, 27 August 2020.

### **Surveillance:**

1. Africa CDC held its 18th surveillance webinar entitled “Using Serosurveys to guide evidence generation for epidemic response” for over 267 participants on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4pm EAT. Link: <https://t.co/LIKlweyc6v?amp=1>; this week’s webinar series will cover, “Country experiences in implementing the Public Health Corridor during resumption of flights”. Please register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kTNdFBMT9SMUSB-InOd2g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kTNdFBMT9SMUSB-InOd2g)

### **Sciences, standards and regulations:**

1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every week on Tuesdays at: <https://africacdc.org/resources/> or at the

WHO AFRO link:

[https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac\\_css/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=7728](https://afrolib.afro.who.int/pmb/opac_css/doc_num.php?explnum_id=7728)

### Recommendations for Member States:

1. All Member States should continue to enhance their surveillance<sup>5</sup> to include COVID-19<sup>6</sup> and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)<sup>7</sup>. 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 perform contact tracing of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity.<sup>8</sup>
3. Member states should 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. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: [AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org](mailto:AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org).
4. Member states should continue to 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>

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<sup>5</sup>Africa 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/>

<sup>6</sup>WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/surveillance-and-case-definitions>

<sup>7</sup>WHO 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/](https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/ili_sari_surveillance_case_definition/en/)

<sup>8</sup>Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

- 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>