

## Outbreak Brief #36: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 22 September 2020

**30,954,775 cases and 959,242 deaths**

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

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (15 September 2020), 2,028,825 new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 36,835 new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a total of 30,954,775 COVID-19 cases and 959,242 (case fatality rate (CFR): 3.1%) related deaths have been reported from 217 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 1,967,954 (6%), European Region 5,236,612 (17%), Region of the Americas 15,580,622 (50%), South-East Asia Region 6,167,904 (20%) and Western Pacific Region 582,638 (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) 22 September 2020,** a total of 1,412,310 COVID-19 cases and 34,072 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) have been reported in 55 African countries. This is 5% of all cases reported globally. Since the last brief, 52,586 new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 2% decrease in the number of new cases reported when compared to the 15 September 2020 brief. The proportion of new COVID-19 cases reported by region is as follows: Northern region 48% (25,279; 2% increase change from previous week), Southern region 29% (15,048 cases; 5% decrease), Eastern region 15% (7,902; 3% decrease), Western region 7% (3,587; 9% decrease), and Central region 1% (770; 1% decrease).

Eight countries account for over 82% of the new COVID-19 cases reported since the last brief: Morocco (26%), South Africa (21%), Libya (10%), Ethiopia (9%), Tunisia (7%), Mozambique (3%), Uganda (3%) and Algeria (3%). Libya (80), Cabo Verde (63), Morocco (37), Tunisia (33), Namibia (24), South Africa (18) and Eswatini (11)) are reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population) over the past seven days in Africa. Of the countries actively reporting COVID-19 epidemiologic data, ten countries are reporting case fatality rates higher than the global case fatality rate of 3.1%: Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (8%), Chad (7%), Sudan (6.2%), Liberia (6.1%), Niger (5.8%), Egypt (5.7%), Mali (4.2%), Angola (3.7%), Algeria (3.4%) and Sierra Leone (3.3%).

<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>

Table 1 highlights the reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in all countries in Africa. In addition, the table reports the current phase of the epidemic for each country. Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported by day and region from 22 February to date.

**Table 1. Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries reported in Africa<sup>3</sup> as of 22 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>56,986 (770)</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1,071 (9)</b>	<b>-25%</b>	
Burundi	474 (2)	-67%	1 (0)	NA*	2
Cameroon	20,431 (422)	4%	416 (1)	No change	3
Central African Republic	4,793 (21)	-51%	62 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	1,153 (68)	51%	81 (0)	-100%	3
Congo	5,002 (74)	100%	89 (1)	-80%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	10,519 (129)	-18%	271 (7)	75%	3
Equatorial Guinea	5,002 (2)	-87%	83 (0)	NA*	3
Gabon	8,704 (50)	9%	53 (0)	NA*	3
Sao Tome and Principe	908 (2)	-75%	15 (0)	NA*	2
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>160,977 (7,902)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>3,155 (136)</b>	<b>-6%</b>	

<sup>3</sup> New numbers reported since last weekly report (15 September 2020, 9am EAT)

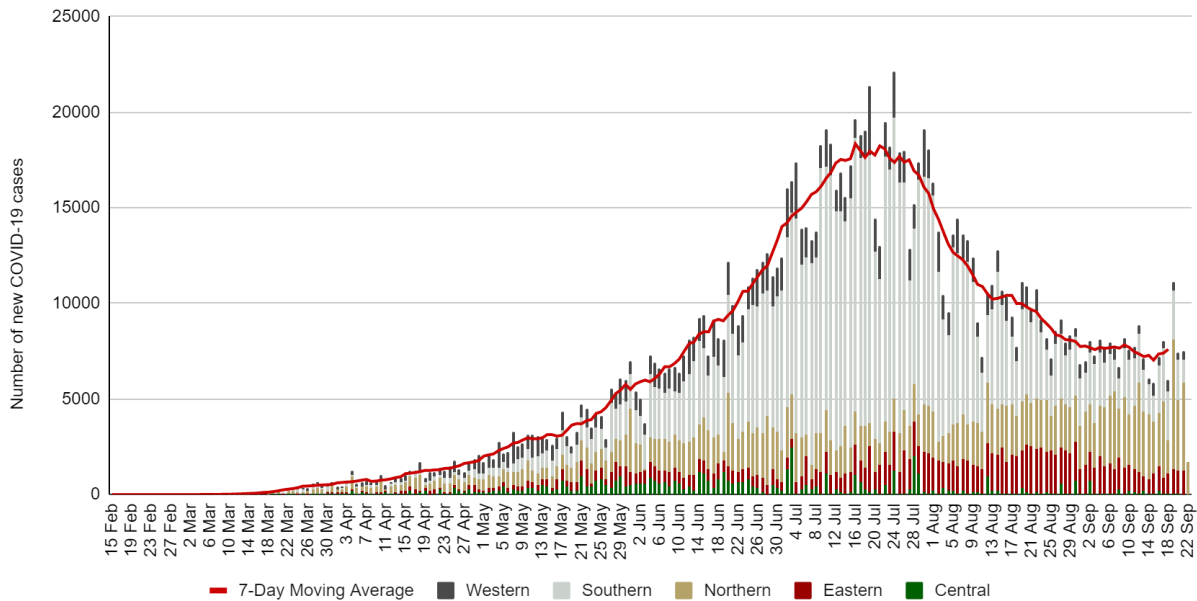
<sup>4</sup> Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response - <https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported 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

Comoros	470 (13)	160%	7 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	5,404 (8)	No change	61 (0)	NA*	2
Eritrea	364 (3)	-90%	(0)	NA*	1
Ethiopia	69,709 (4,923)	-4%	1,108 (86)	-3%	3
Kenya	37,079 (874)	-13%	650 (26)	4%	3
Madagascar	16,073 (304)	-27%	225 (12)	9%	3
Mauritius	367 (6)	20%	10 (0)	NA*	1
Rwanda	4,722 (120)	-38%	27 (5)	67%	2
Seychelles	143 (3)	No change	(0)	NA*	1
Somalia	3,465 (76)	181%	98 (0)	-100%	1
South Sudan	2,649 (62)	48%	49 (0)	-100%	3
Sudan	13,555 (20)	-80%	836 (0)	-100%	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	3
Uganda	6,468 (1,490)	24%	63 (7)	-42%	2
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>301,375 (25,279)</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>10,077 (534)</b>	<b>7%</b>	
Algeria	50,026 (1,527)	-28%	1,679 (59)	-8%	3
Egypt	102,141 (964)	-15%	5,787 (126)	5%	2
Libya	28,796 (5,281)	13%	454 (86)	19%	2
Mauritania	7,384 (89)	-39%	161 (0)	-100%	3
Morocco	101,743 (13,540)	-6%	1,830 (216)	-2%	2
Tunisia	11,260 (3,878)	66%	164 (47)	96%	2
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	25 (0)	NA*	2 (0)	NA*	1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>720,378 (15,048)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>17,189 (549)</b>	<b>-6%</b>	
Angola	4,117 (678)	48%	154 (18)	13%	2

Botswana	2,567 (104)	-77%	13 (2)	-33%	2
Eswatini	5,282 (178)	-19%	104 (3)	-57%	3
Lesotho	1,424 (97)	-40%	33 (0)	-100%	2
Malawi	5,733 (36)	-53%	179 (1)	-50%	3
Mozambique	6,912 (1,430)	55%	44 (9)	13%	3
Namibia	10,526 (708)	-30%	113 (10)	-17%	3
South Africa	661,936 (11,187)	-2%	15,992 (493)	No change	3
Zambia	14,175 (455)	-49%	331 (11)	-56%	3
Zimbabwe	7,706 (175)	-25%	226 (2)	-86%	3
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>172,594 (3,587)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>2,580 (49)</b>	<b>-17%</b>	
Benin	2,294 (27)	-63%	40 (0)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	1,896 (179)	-30%	56 (0)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	5,281 (442)	-8%	52 (7)	133%	2
Côte d'Ivoire	19,327 (261)	-28%	129 (9)	800%	3
Gambia	3,526 (121)	-42%	108 (5)	25%	3
Ghana	46,062 (461)	-22%	297 (3)	-73%	3
Guinea	10,344 (324)	46%	65 (2)	No change	3
Guinea-Bissau	2,303 (28)	-7%	39 (0)	-100%	3
Liberia	1,336 (15)	50%	82 (0)	NA*	3
Mali	3,024 (89)	37%	128 (0)	-100%	3
Niger	1,189 (9)	350%	69 (0)	NA*	2
Nigeria	57,437 (1,049)	-15%	1,100 (17)	-23%	3
Senegal	14,738 (432)	48%	302 (5)	-17%	3
Sierra Leone	2,168 (59)	9%	72 (0)	-100%	3
Togo	1,669 (91)	7%	41 (1)	-86%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,412,310 (52,586)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>34,072 (1,277)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	

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

**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day and AU region, 15 February - 22 September 2020**



**NEW Africa CDC Response Activities:**

**General:**

1. Africa CDC holds a virtual ceremony of the Global Goalkeeper 2020 Award to Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, by the Bill Gates foundation, 22 September, 2020 at 6pm EAT. Link:<https://events.gatesfoundation.org/d/s7qxtj?ct=59f403ed-6c8e-4673-9c3b-fbc476b14728>
2. Africa CDC held its regular weekly press briefing on the COVID-19 pandemic on Thursday, 17 September 2020 at 11am EAT. The speaker for the week was Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC and Prof. Tulio de Oliveira, Director, KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

The recording for this press brief session is available on the Africa CDC facebook page.

Link: <https://t.co/stio57WNpp?amp=1>

3. Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched a network of laboratories on 10 September 2020. The aim of this network is to reinforce genome sequencing of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes

COVID-19, in Africa. Twelve specialized and regional reference laboratories in the network will provide sequencing, data analysis and other technical support services to their host countries as well as to countries in their sub-regions.

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

#### *Case Management*

1. Africa CDC Case Management TWG held the 22nd clinical webinar titled “Neurological complications of COVID-19” on Thursday 17 September, 2020. There were 220 participants on the webinar and 300+ on Institute for Workforce Development(IWD) Facebook page. The recording can be accessed here: <https://www.africacdc.training/courses/ccop>
2. Africa CDC Case management will commence Training of Trainers (TOT) on treatment of mild and severe cases of COVID-19 for 5 Arabic speaking countries (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Sudan and Saharawi Republic), from 21 to 24 September, 2020.

#### *Infection and Prevention Control (IPC)*

1. This week Africa CDC IPC TWG in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives will hold a webinar titled “Masks –a Gateway to Safe Opening” on 23 September, 2020 , 4 pm EAT. Link: [https://vitalstrategies.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_18viOslYTqipwz8\\_WaH7cg](https://vitalstrategies.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_18viOslYTqipwz8_WaH7cg)

#### **Laboratory:**

1. Over 13.4 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted to date, with a positivity rate of 10.1% and test per case ratio of 9.9 and 5.8% increase from last week.
2. The Africa CDC Laboratory TWG will hold a webinar on Wednesday 23 September 2020 titled “SARS-COV2 Genomics Surveillance and Informatics” at 2pm EAT. Link: <https://bit.ly/2Okfogy>

#### **Surveillance**

1. The Africa CDC Surveillance TWG will hold a webinar titled “Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC): Using multidisciplinary analysis for response decision-making”, on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 4pm EAT for both the English and French sessions. Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97332126178?pwd=SUpsQ3NHcTc4a2JaK3Z1VWw1ZFbMz09>

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



1. Access the weekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update which is published every other 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/>

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

- 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>