

Outbreak Brief #16: Monkeypox in African Union Member States

Date of Issue: 27 October 2022

891 confirmed cases, 5,992 suspected, 173 deaths in AU MS

Data sources: US CDC, WHO, and AU Member State Ministries of Health

Global Update (non-endemic countries)¹: As of 26 October 2022, 75,348 confirmed cases of monkeypox and 193 deaths were reported from 109 countries/territories globally. The countries reporting the majority of cases are mainly in Europe and the Americas.²

Africa update (endemic³ and non-endemic countries): Since the beginning of 2022, the continent has reported 6,883 cases (891 confirmed; 5,992 suspected) and 173 deaths (CFR: 2.5%) of monkeypox from eight endemic Africa Union (AU) Member States (MS): Benin (3 suspected; 3 confirmed; 0 deaths), Cameroon (35; 9; 2), Central African Republic (CAR) (17; 8; 2), Congo (14; 5; 3), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (4,068; 184; 154), Ghana (535; 105; 4), Liberia (48; 3; 0), Nigeria (1,272; 552; 7); and five non-endemic MS: Egypt (0; 2; 0), Morocco (0; 3; 0), Mozambique (0; 1; 0), South Africa (0; 5; 0) and Sudan (0; 11; 1). This week, a total of 39 new cases (17 suspected, 22 confirmed) and no new deaths of monkeypox were reported from Ghana (1 case), Liberia (17), and Nigeria (21).

Ghana: Since the last report (21 October 2022), Ghana Health Services reported one new confirmed case with no new deaths of monkeypox. There is no percentage change in the number of confirmed cases compared to the previous update. Cumulatively, 640 cases (105 confirmed, 535 suspected) and four deaths (CFR: 0.6%) were reported.

Liberia: Since the last report (07 October 2022), Liberia MoH reported 17 new suspected cases and no new death of monkeypox. Cumulatively 51 cases (3 confirmed, 48 suspected) and no deaths of monkeypox were reported from four counties: Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Maryland and Bomi.

Nigeria: Since the last report (21 October 2022), the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reported 21 new confirmed cases and no new death from monkeypox in Nigeria. This is an 84% decrease in the number of new confirmed cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively, 1,824

¹ Global case and death numbers are inclusive of numbers being reported in Africa.

² US CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html>; WHO - https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/

³ Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone

cases (552 confirmed; 1,272 suspected) and seven deaths (CFR: 0.4%) of monkeypox were reported from 30 states and the federal capital.

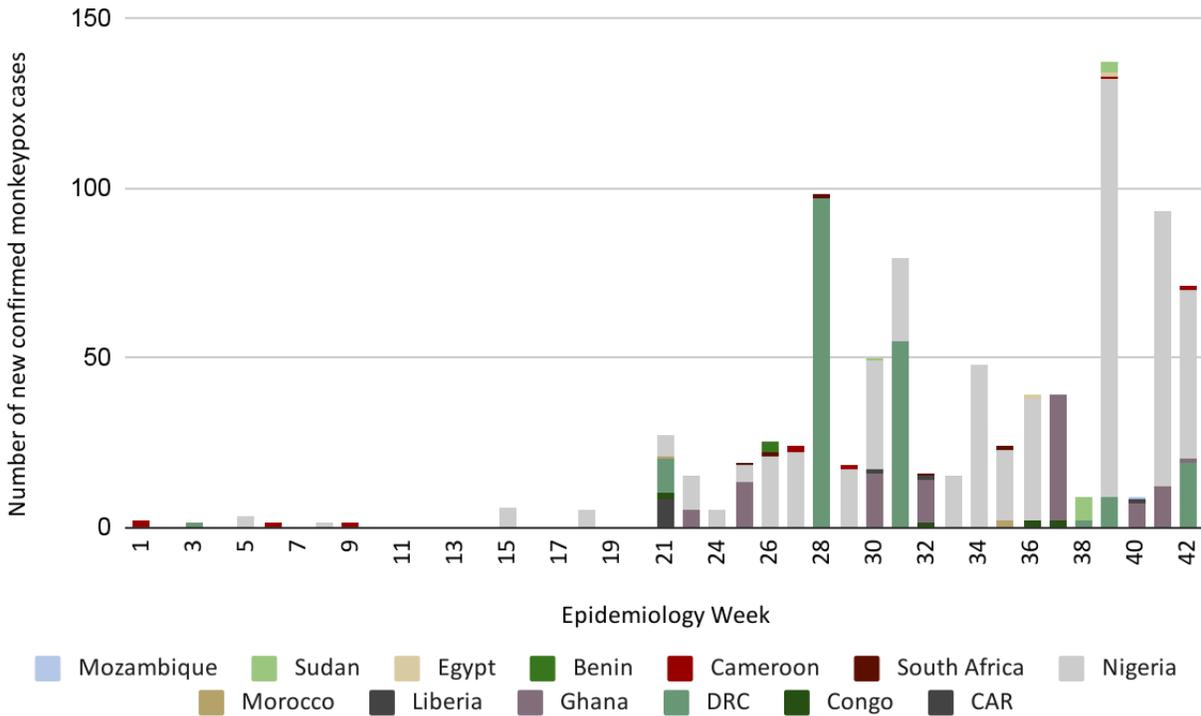


Figure 1. New confirmed monkeypox cases reported by epidemiological week in AU MS since January 2022⁴

The majority of AU MS reporting cases are from the central and western Africa regions with DRC, Ghana and Nigeria accounting for 94% of all confirmed cases reported (Table 1). Most cases were reported after the week of 21 July and this could be a result of enhanced surveillance in MS (Figure 1).

⁴ The high numbers of confirmed cases reported from DRC in week 15 July is likely the result of batch reporting.

Table 1. Cumulative monkeypox cases and deaths reported from African Union Member States in 2022 – as of 26 October 2022.

Country	Total cases (new)		Total deaths (new)	CFR ⁵
	Suspected	Confirmed		
Benin	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Cameroon	35 (0)	9 (0)	2 (0)	4.5%
Central African Republic	17 (0)	8 (0)	2 (0)	8.0%
Congo Republic	14 (0)	5 (0)	3 (0)	15.8%
Democratic Republic of Congo	4,068 (0)	184 (0)	154 (0)	3.6%
Ghana	535 (0)	105 (1)	4 (0)	0.6%
Egypt	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Liberia	48 (17)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Morocco	0 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Mozambique	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Nigeria	1,272 (0)	552 (21)	7 (0)	0.4%
Sudan	0 (0)	11 (0)	1 (0)	9.0%
South Africa	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0%
TOTAL	5,992 (17)	891 (22)	173 (0)	2.5%

Event Geoscope and Risk Assessment Levels

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) conducted a preliminary assessment of the geographic scope (geoscope) and risk level for the monkeypox events being reported for Africa and globally. Given that this outbreak is currently affecting multiple countries both on and outside of the continent, the geoscope assessment is high. If additional AU MS report disease linked to this outbreak, we will reassess and elevate accordingly. For the risk assessment level, we looked at the following criteria: morbidity and mortality of the disease, probability to spread within and to other

⁵ Case fatality ratio is the proportion of total deaths over the total cases, both suspected and confirmed.

**Geoscope
level: High**

**Risk level:
Moderate**

AU MS, and the availability of effective treatments, vaccines, or other control measures. We have listed the risk level as moderate given that monkeypox is not an easily transmissible, self-limiting disease with low mortality, which lacks effective treatment for those infected. We are closely monitoring the situation and we will reevaluate the risk periodically.

New Africa CDC Response Activities

- On 8 August 2022, the Africa CDC Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated to support preparedness and response efforts of AU MS, in close collaboration with relevant partners.
- This week, Africa CDC published a monkeypox fact sheet with key facts on: transmission, clinical features, animal reservoirs, surveillance, laboratory diagnosis and prevention and control⁶.
- The Africa CDC continues to provide support to AU MS with laboratory test kits on request.
- The Africa CDC continues to engage with Ministries of Health in Member States reporting cases to provide support as requested.
- Africa CDC continues to communicate with global partners to secure adequate access to test kits and vaccines for AU MS.

Recommendations for AU Member States

Member States are advised to:

- Establish laboratory diagnostic and genomic sequencing capacity for orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox.
- Establish and/or strengthen existing monkeypox surveillance efforts.
- Develop and distribute both general and tailored risk communication messages for the community at large as well as specific populations currently impacted and at risk (e.g., sex-workers, immunocompromised individuals, children).
- Strengthen knowledge of monkeypox clinical management and infection prevention control measures.
- Report new cases of monkeypox as part of the current multi-country outbreak to Africa CDC (AfricaCDCEBS@Africa-Union.org).

The general public is advised to:

- Seek medical attention if you experience any monkeypox-like symptoms (e.g., develop rash with or without prior symptoms of fever, swollen lymph nodes, body aches, and weakness), especially if you have been in contact with a positive case
- Practice effective hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after contact with any infected animal or human

⁶ <https://africacdc.org/download/monkeypox-technical-factsheet/>

- Avoid contact with animals that could harbor the virus, including animals that are sick or found dead in areas where monkeypox occurs
- Avoid contact with any potentially contaminated material, such as clothes and bedding, with which animals with monkeypox have been in contact with
- If deemed a close contact of a monkeypox case, individuals should self-monitor for the development of symptoms up to 21 days from the last exposure to a case
- If you are infected with monkeypox, adhere to recommended isolation protocols prescribed by your medical provider to minimize transmission to others, including pets and other animals that may be susceptible to monkeypox infection

References

1. European Centres for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) - [Risk assessment: Monkeypox multi-country outbreak](#) (23 May 22)
2. Nigerian CDC National Monkeypox Public Health Response Guidelines - https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/96_1577798337.pdf
3. US CDC - [Information for the clinical management of monkeypox](#)
4. US CDC - [2022 Monkeypox Outbreak Global Map | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#)
5. US CDC - [Monkeypox: Get the Facts](#)
6. WHO - [Monkeypox](#) factsheet
7. WHO - [Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries](#)
8. WHO - [Laboratory testing for the monkeypox virus: Interim guidance](#)
9. WHO - [Meeting of the international health regulations \(2005\) emergency committee regarding the multi-country monkeypox outbreak](#)
10. WHO - [Director-General's statement on the report of the meeting of the IHR 2005 emergency committee regarding the multi-country monkeypox outbreak](#)