

## Outbreak Brief #13: Monkeypox in African Union Member States

Date of Issue: 07 October 2022

**705 confirmed cases, 5,110 suspected, 155 deaths in AU MS**

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

**Global Update (non-endemic countries)<sup>1</sup>:** As of 06 October 2022, 70,420 confirmed cases of monkeypox and 169 deaths were reported from 107 countries/territories globally. The countries reporting the majority of cases are mainly in Europe and the Americas.<sup>2</sup>

**Africa update (endemic<sup>3</sup> and non-endemic countries):** Since the beginning of 2022, the continent has reported 5,815 cases (705 confirmed; 5,110 suspected) and 155 deaths (CFR: 2.7%) of monkeypox from eight endemic Africa Union (AU) Member States (MS): Benin (3 suspected; 3 confirmed; 0 deaths), Cameroon (32; 8; 2), CAR (17; 8; 2), Congo (14; 5; 3), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (3,774; 165; 137), Ghana (535; 91; 4), Liberia (31; 3; 0), Nigeria (704; 400; 6); 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; 0). This week, a total of 247 new cases (9 confirmed, 238 suspected) with 17 new deaths from monkeypox were reported from DRC, Ghana, Liberia and Mozambique.

**DRC:** Since the last update (23 September 2022), DRC reported 238 new suspected cases with 17 new deaths (CFR: 7.1%). This is a 51% increase in the number of cases compared to last update. Cumulatively, 3,939 cases (165 confirmed and 3,774 suspected) and 137 deaths (CFR: 3.5%) were reported from DRC.

**Ghana:** Since the last report (16 September 2022), Ghana Health Services reported seven confirmed cases with no new deaths of monkeypox. This is a 98% increase in the number of cases compared to last update. Cumulatively 626 cases (91 confirmed, 535 suspected) and four deaths (CFR: 0.7%) were reported.

**Liberia:** Since the last report (16 September 2022), Liberia reported one new confirmed case with no new deaths from monkeypox. This is a 90% decrease in the number of cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively 34 cases (3 confirmed, 31 suspected) and no deaths were reported.

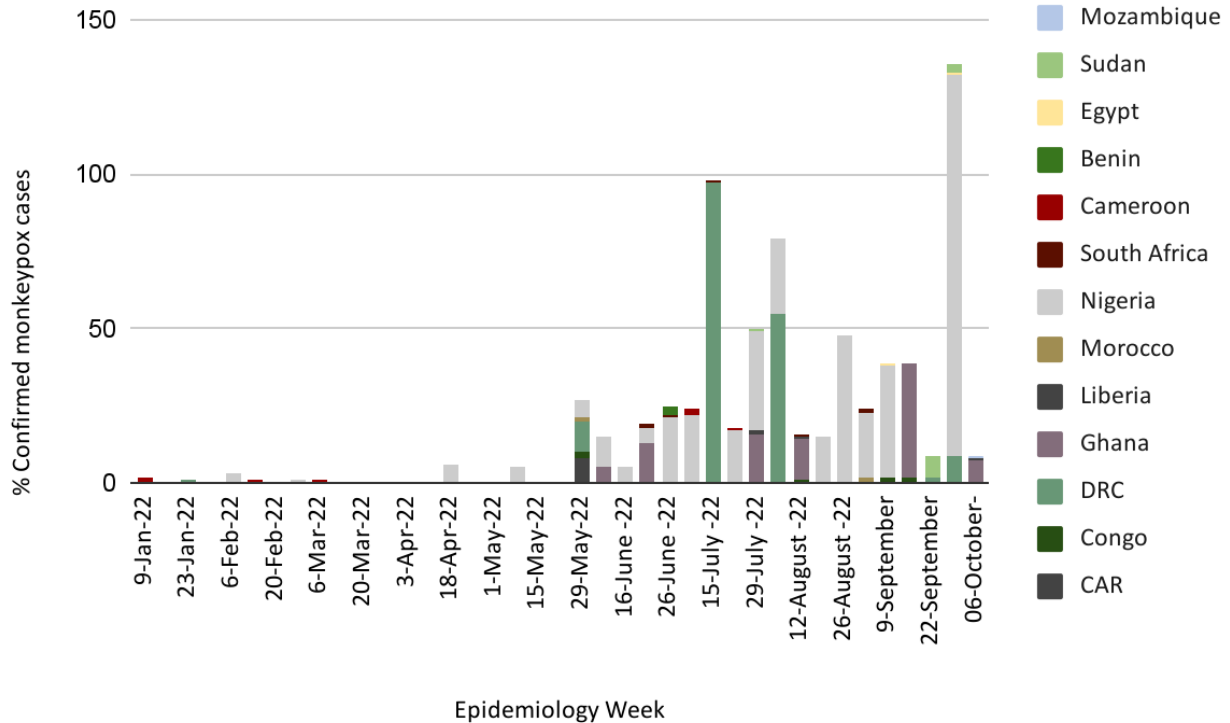
**Mozambique:** On 06 October 2022, the MoH reported one confirmed case and no deaths of monkeypox. The case was confirmed by PCR at the National Public Health Institute on 05 October 2022. The confirmed case is an adult man from Maputo province who presented at a health facility

<sup>1</sup> Global case and death numbers are inclusive of numbers being reported in Africa.

<sup>2</sup> US CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/world-map.html>; WHO - [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/)

<sup>3</sup> 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

in Maputo city with fever, rash and unspecified history of recent travel. He is isolated at a health center and responding to treatment. This is the first case of monkeypox reported in Mozambique.



**Figure 1. Confirmed monkeypox cases reported by week in AU MS since January 2022<sup>4</sup>**

The majority of AU MS reporting cases are from the central and western Africa regions with DRC and Nigeria accounting for 80% of all confirmed cases reported (Table 1). Most cases were reported after the week of 15 July and this could be a result of enhanced surveillance in MS (Figure 1). The increase in the number of new cases reported this week is due to batch reporting from Nigeria.

**Table 1. Cumulative monkeypox cases and deaths reported from African Union Member States in 2022 - as of 05 October 2022.**

Country	Total cases (new)		Total deaths (new)	CFR <sup>5</sup>
	Suspected	Confirmed		
Benin	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%

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

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

Country	Total cases (new)		Total deaths (new)	CFR <sup>5</sup>
	Suspected	Confirmed		
Cameroon	32 (0)	8 (0)	2 (0)	5.6%
Central African Republic	17 (0)	8 (0)	2 (0)	8%
Congo Republic	14 (0)	5 (0)	3 (0)	10%
Democratic Republic of Congo	3,774 (238)	165 (0)	137 (17)	3.5%
Ghana	535 (0)	91 (7)	4 (0)	0.6%
Egypt	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Liberia	31 (0)	3 (1)	0 (0)	0%
Morocco	0 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Mozambique	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0%
Nigeria	704 (0)	400 (0)	6 (0)	0.6%
Sudan	0 (0)	11 (0)	1 (0)	9%
South Africa	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,110 (238)</b>	<b>705 (9)</b>	<b>155 (17)</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

### Event Geoscope and Risk Assessment Levels

**Geoscope level: High**

**Risk level: Moderate**

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 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.

### Africa CDC Response Activities

- The Africa CDC Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has moved to response mode to support preparedness and response efforts of African Union Member States, in close collaboration with relevant partners.
- The Africa CDC, in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), [trained 20 AU MS on monkeypox diagnostics](#). Africa CDC has also continued to distribute test kits to AU MSs to support surveillance and detection needs in both endemic and non-endemic countries. Additional rounds of laboratory diagnosis training are planned.
- The Africa CDC continues to coordinate sequencing support to AU MS as a monitoring tool for any variants of monkeypox.
- The Africa CDC has also engaged with Ministries of Health of the highly affected Member States to provide support to areas of high need.
- Africa CDC is communicating with global partners to secure adequate access to test kits and vaccines by AU Member States.
- Africa CDC conducted a training of trainers on capacity building for surveillance, case management and risk communication & community engagement from the 03-07 October 2022 in DRC
- Africa CDC organized a training workshop on real-time PCR diagnosis of monkeypox virus at the National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB) for the 27th - 29th September 2022 in DRC

### 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](mailto: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
- 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](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](#)