

Outbreak Brief #15: Monkeypox in African Union Member States

Date of Issue: 19 October 2022

869 confirmed cases, 5,975 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 18 October 2022, 73,782 confirmed cases of monkeypox and 190 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 6,844 cases (869 confirmed; 5,975 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), CAR (17; 8; 2), Congo (14; 5; 3), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (4,068; 184; 154), Ghana (535; 104; 4), Liberia (31; 3; 0), Nigeria (1,272; 531; 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; 0). This week, a total of 1,017 new cases and one new death of monkeypox were reported from Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Nigeria.

Cameroon: since the last report, the Cameroon MoH reported four new cases (1 confirmed; 3 suspected) and no new deaths of monkeypox. There is no change in the number of new cases compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 44 cases (9 confirmed; 35 suspected) and two deaths (CFR: 4.5%) of monkeypox were reported from five regions in Cameroon.

DRC: Since the last report (7 October 2022), the MoH reported 313 new cases (294 suspected; 19 confirmed) and 17 new deaths from monkeypox. This is a 40% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the last report. Cumulatively 4,252 cases (184 confirmed, 4,068 suspected) and 154 deaths (CFR: 3.6%) were reported.

Ghana: Since the last report (07 October 2022), Ghana Health Services reported one new confirmed case with no new deaths of monkeypox. This is a 92% decrease in the number of confirmed cases compared to last update. Cumulatively, 639 cases (104 confirmed, 535 suspected) and four deaths (CFR: 0.6%) were reported.

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

Nigeria: Since the last report (30 September 2022), the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reported 699⁴ new cases (131 new confirmed; 568 suspected) and one new death (CFR: 0.1%) of monkeypox in Nigeria. This is a 6% increase in the number of new confirmed cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively, 1,803 cases (531 confirmed; 1,272 suspected) and seven deaths (CFR: 0.6%) of monkeypox were reported from 30 states and the federal capital.

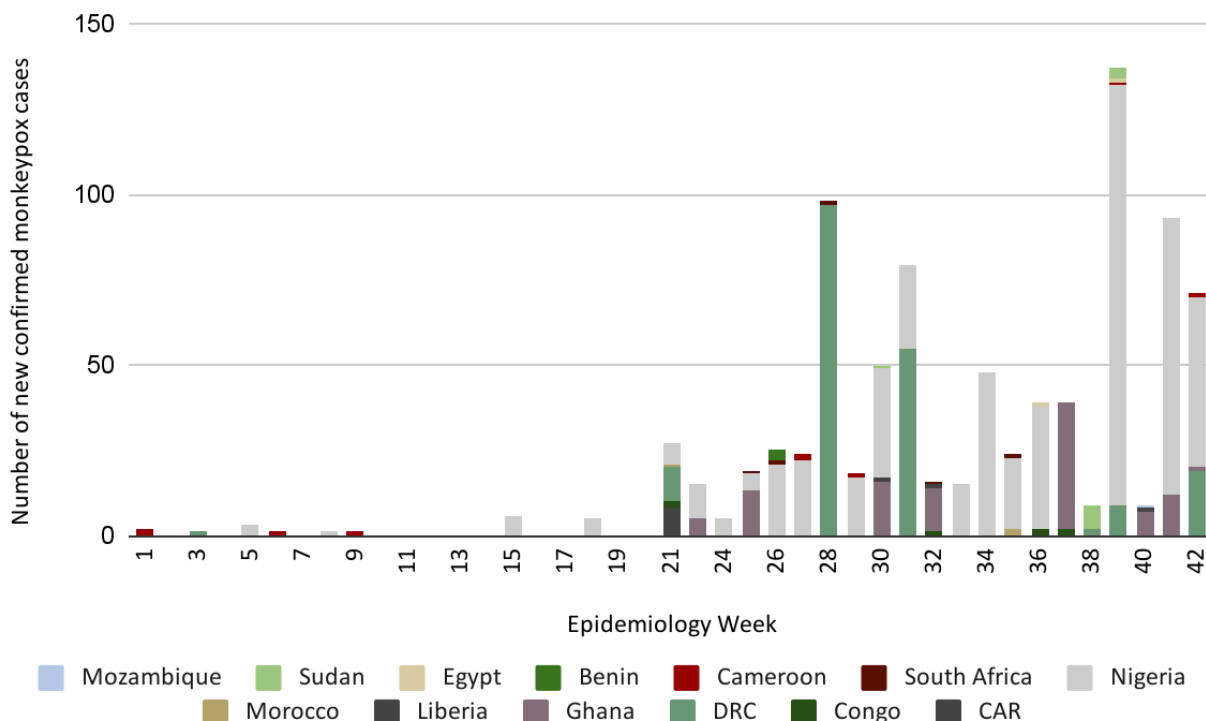


Figure 1. New confirmed monkeypox cases reported by epidemiological week in AU MS since January 2022⁵

The majority of AU MS reporting cases are from the central and western Africa regions with DRC and Nigeria accounting for 82% 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).

Table 1. Cumulative monkeypox cases and deaths reported from African Union Member States in 2022 - as of 18 October 2022.

⁴ The increase in the number of new cases reported this week from Nigeria is due to batch reporting (81 confirmed cases that were reported last week plus 50 confirmed cases reported this week).

⁵ The high numbers of confirmed cases reported from DRC in week 15 July is likely the result of batch reporting.

Country	Total cases (new)		Total deaths (new)	CFR ⁶
	Suspected	Confirmed		
Benin	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Cameroon	35 (3)	9 (1)	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	4,068 (294)	184 (19)	154 (17)	3.5%
Ghana	535 (0)	104 (1)	4 (0)	0.6%
Egypt	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Liberia	31 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Morocco	0 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Mozambique	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Nigeria	1,272 (568)	531 (131)	7 (1)	0.6%
Sudan	0 (0)	11 (0)	1 (0)	9%
South Africa	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0%
TOTAL	5,975 (865)	869 (152)	173 (18)	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 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

⁶ Case fatality ratio is the proportion of total deaths over the total cases, both suspected and confirmed.

**Geoscope
level: High**

**Risk level:
Moderate**

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 African Union Member States, in close collaboration with relevant partners.
- 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 Member States.
- Africa CDC will conduct a training of health care workers on capacity building for surveillance, case management and risk communication & community engagement from 31 October - 4 November 2022 in Cameroon.

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
- 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](#)