

Common Market for  
Eastern and Southern Africa



# COVID- 19

## IN COMESA

Situational Update #3  
31 March 2020



## **Confirmed Cases Rise by 79% in the last Four Days**

In the last four days, the COMESA region has recorded 703 new COVID-19 cases as compared to 239 that were recorded on 26 March 2020. This is an indication that the cases are on the rise. The countries that recorded relatively high numbers of new cases include Egypt with 200 and Tunisia with 189.

Compared to the last update, on March 26, a significant increase of new cases has been noted in Mauritius (91), DR Congo (50), Rwanda (29) and Madagascar (27). The increases are of concern and more containment measures need to be put in place to slow down the rate of infections.

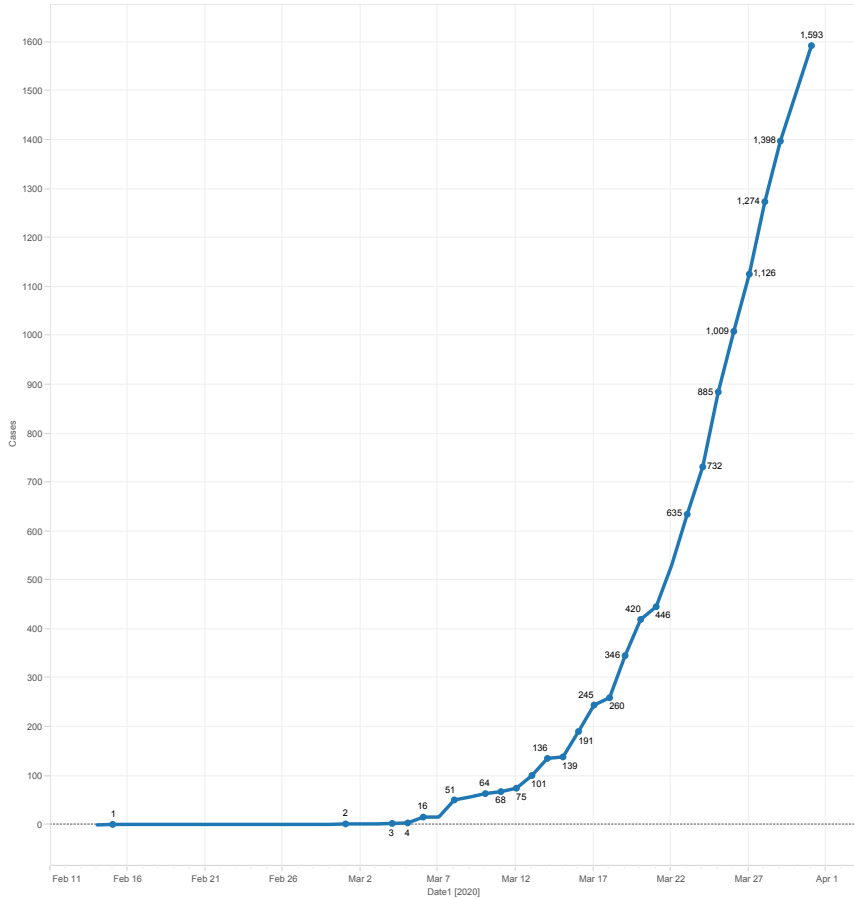
To date, a total of 1,593 cases, which represent a 79 percent increase, have been recorded in the COMESA region. Out of these 160 infected persons have recovered and 65 deaths have also been recorded. The surge in the number of new cases can partly be associated with the increase in the number of local community transmissions. It should be noted that in the early stages most countries in the region reported imported cases. As shown in the regional trend the number of total cases have spiked in the last 10 days.

However, dynamics have changed and now most countries have entered into a new phase of local transmission, which is an issue of concern. The AU Chairperson has noted that most African States are experiencing high levels of poverty, poor sanitation and existing disease burden, overstretched health systems and high urban population density. These are likely to exacerbate the already worrying trend of new infections. Most of the deaths recorded so far have been associated with underlying pre-existing conditions and old age.

### COVID-19 Cases in the Region

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Recoveries
Burundi	0	0	0	0
DR Congo	98	50	8	2
Comoros	0	0	0	0
Djibouti	18	7	0	0
Egypt	656	200	41	150
Eritrea	15	11	0	0
Ethiopia	23	11	0	4
Kenya	50	22	1	1
Libya	8	7	0	0
Madagascar	46	27	0	0
Mauritius	143	91	3	0
Malawi	0	0	0	0
Rwanda	70	29	0	0
Sudan	6	3	2	0
Somalia	3	1	0	0
Eswatini	9	5	0	0
Seychelles	10	3	0	0
Tunisia	362	189	9	3
Uganda	33	19	0	0
Zambia	35	23	0	0
Zimbabwe	8	5	1	0
	<b>1593</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>160</b>

### Regional Trend



The trend of sum of Cases for Date1. The data is filtered on Country Region, Case Type and Exclusions (Country Region, Date). The Country Region filter keeps 16 of 177 members. The Case Type filter keeps Confirmed. The Exclusions (Country Region, Date) filter keeps 12,230 members. The view is filtered on sum of Cases and Date1. The sum of Cases filter includes values less than or equal to 2,350. The Date1 filter ranges from 2/14/2020 to 3/31/2020.

### Challenges Faced by Member States

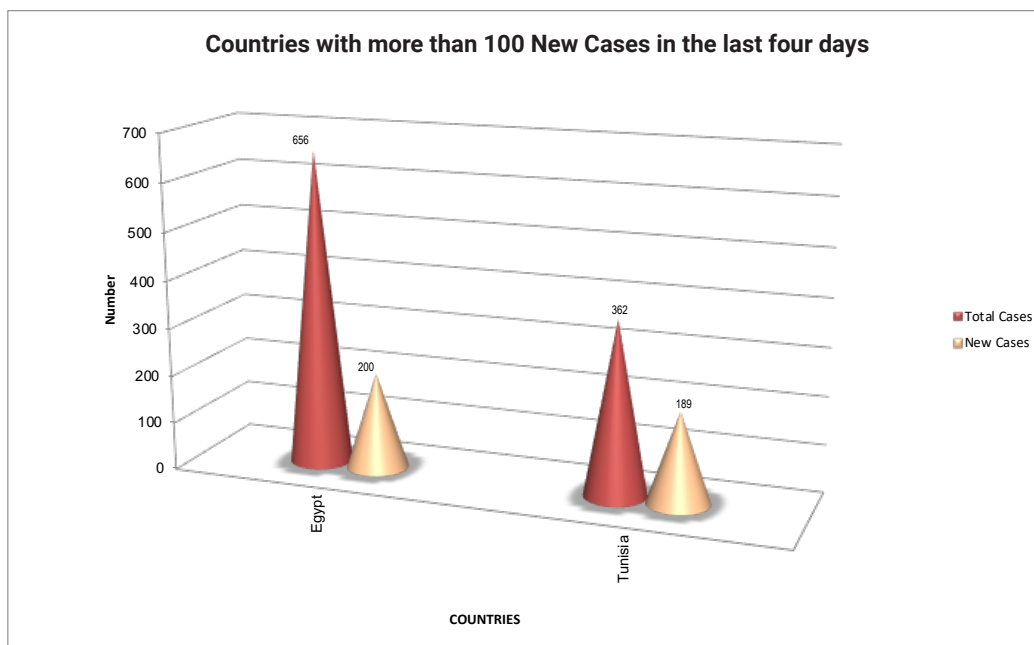
Whilst Member States have made gallant efforts to contain the spread of the Corona Virus, there are challenges which have contributed to the increase in the number of cases. Some of the challenges include;

- ☒ Failure by individuals to observe self-quarantine

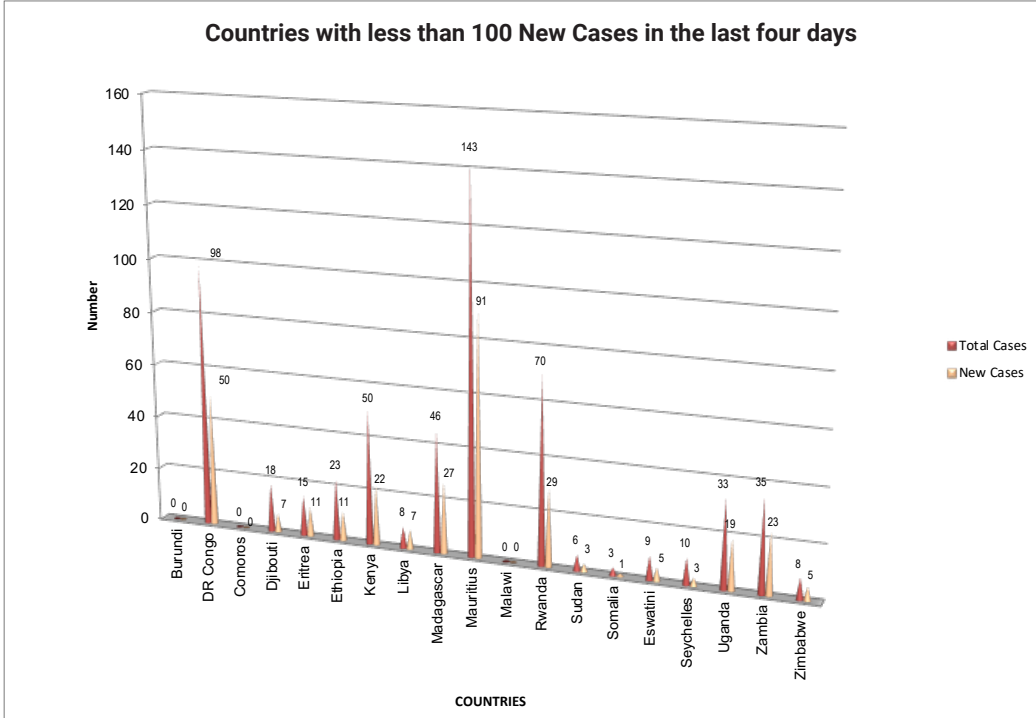
- ☒ Tracing of suspected cases
- ☒ Observing social distance
- ☒ Failure by individuals to adhere to curfew instructions
- ☒ Limited isolation facilities
- ☒ Lack of sufficient testing kits and ventilators
- ☒ Limited health personnel

### Regional Efforts

To bolster the efforts towards combating the spread of COVID-19, the African Union leaders have agreed to establish a Continental Anti-COVID-19 Fund with a seed capital of US\$12.5 million. These funds will be used to provide a continental coordinated response to contain the pandemic.



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Sources: World Health Organization, <https://data.world/covid-19-data-resource-hub/> <https://www.wordometers.info/coronavirus/> Compiled by COMWARN