

Common Market for  
Eastern and Southern Africa



## Member States Start Easing COVID-19 Restrictive Measures

# COVID-19

in **COMESA**

**Situational Update N°20**

8 July 2020

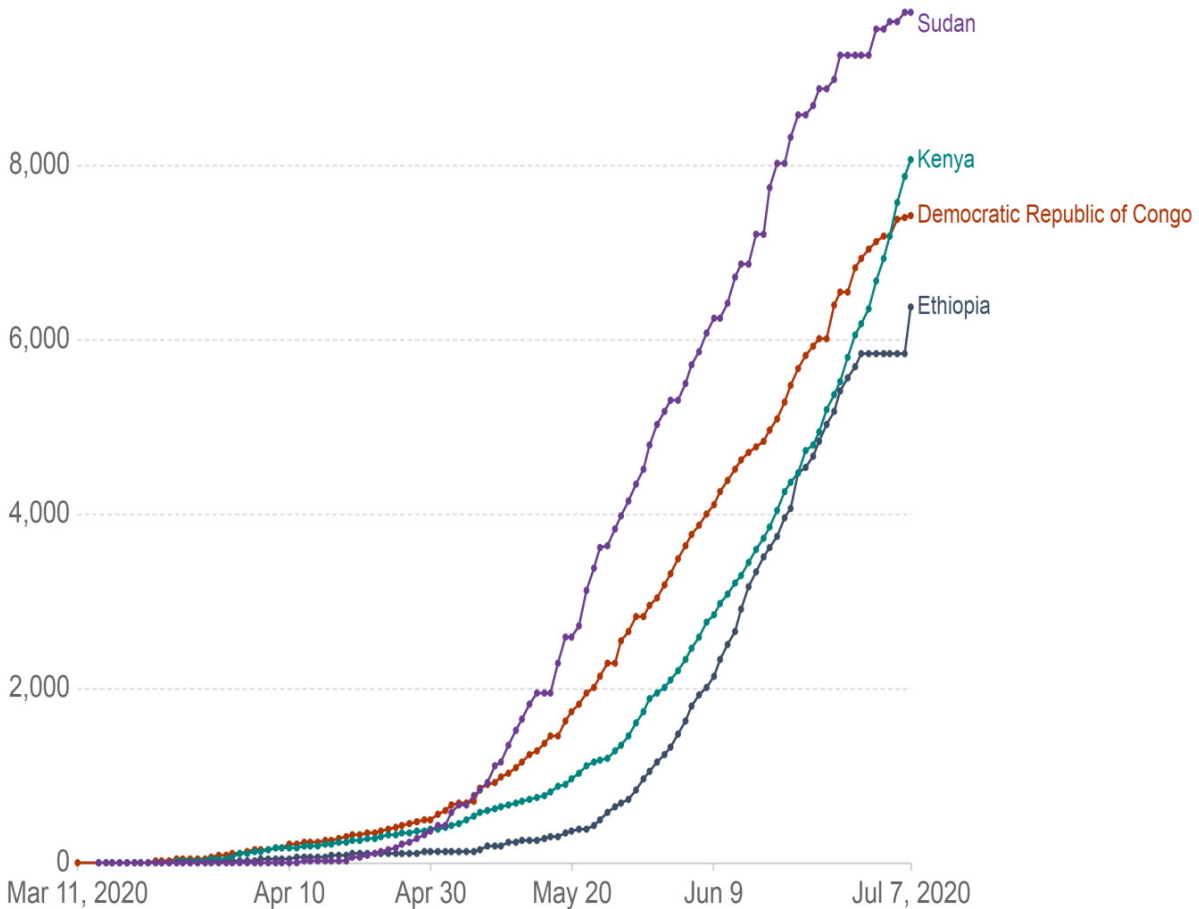


## Member States Start Easing COVID-19 Restrictive Measures

A number of countries have started gradual relaxation of the strict measures they have had in place even as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the COMESA region. As of 8th July 2020, the total reported cases were 131,401 which translates to 2.19% of the total regional population. The total recoveries stood at 47,876 while the number of reported deaths are 4,933. The countries with the highest number of recorded cases include Egypt (with 77,279 cases), Sudan (9,997), Kenya (8,250), DR Congo (7,432) and Ethiopia (5,846).

## Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 7th July, 10:45 (London time)

OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Some like Mauritius, Tunisia and Seychelles have managed to contain the spread of the virus thus necessitating review of the measures. Others, such as Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, have continued

strengthening surveillance, testing and increased bed capacities at county levels even as they relax other measures.

Further, citizens of two COMESA Member States, Tunisia and Rwanda are among a few that the European Union has lifted travel restrictions.

The current move towards easing of the strict measures is informed by the ability of some countries to contain community transmissions which has resulted in low numbers of new cases and enhanced testing, contact tracing and treatment. Other reasons include the enhanced levels of preparedness (isolation centres, hospital bed capacities, surveillance, among others) and the need to safeguard the economy.

**Egypt:** The numbers of new cases continue to rise in Egypt with 19,138 new cases reported in the past two weeks. This is attributed to increased community transmission and increased testing. To date, Egypt has conducted 135,000 tests. Although the numbers of COVID-19 cases are at 77,279, the number is still low, at 755 per million population. These low numbers coupled with enhancement of preparedness, informed the decision by the Government to ease some of the restrictive measures. The following are some of the measures that were recently relaxed in Egypt:

- removal of the night curfew.
- opening of restaurants and cafes, but to operate at 25% capacity.
- resumption of public transport.
- opening up of worship places.
- resumption of commercial flights to 24 international destinations.

**Kenya:** Since the 1st case was recorded on 14th March 2020, the increase in the number of cases was steady until the end of May when the numbers begun peaking. Despite this surge, the government took the decision to remove a number of restrictions on 6 June 2020 to forestall further damage to the

economy. These include: lifting restrictions on travel in and out of the capital city Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera, resumption of domestic flights (from 15 July 2020) and international flights (from 1st August 2020) and allowing religious institutions (mosques and churches) to conduct services for a maximum of an hour with not more than 100 worshippers.

**Mauritius:** Mauritius was one of the first countries to put in place restrictive measures to minimise the spread of the pandemic. For example, flights coming from China and Europe, were restricted; mandatory screening at airports and other public places was introduced. These measures and the strict adherence by citizens ensured that the early detected spread of the virus was contained and, in addition, prevented community transmissions. To date, Mauritius has two active cases. The enhanced capacity of the health system to contain newly recorded cases has informed the decision to ease some of the restrictive measures. For instance, from July:

- schools were allowed to reopen.
- religious and social gatherings have been allowed but should adhere to stipulated health guidelines.
- public transport services have resumed.

**Seychelles:** The earlier restrictive measures limited the spread of COVID-19 infections from outside the country. However, 70 new cases, largely linked to cruise ship crews, were reported. Despite this, Seychelles has lifted some of the initial restrictions including:

- removal of restrictions on internal movements.
- reopening of non-essential shops
- resumption of religious activities
- reopening of institutions of learning
- resumption of commercial flights from 1st August 2020.

## Summary of Regional Figures as of 8th July 2020

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Tests	Total Cases/ 1M pop	Tests/ 1M pop	Total Deaths	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Re- covered	Recovery Rate	Total Active Cases
Burundi	191	47	749	16	63	1	0.08	118	61.8%	72
Comoros	311	46	-	358	-	7	8	266	85.53%	38
Djibouti	4,878	261	48,170	4,936	48,745	55	56	4,621	94.73%	202
DR Congo	7,432	1,405	-	83	-	182	2	3,226	43.41%	4,024
Egypt	77,279	19,138	135,000	755	1,319	3,489	34	21,718	28.10%	52,072
Eritrea	215	72	-	61	-		-	56	26.05%	159
Eswatini	1,056	382	14,247	910	12,278	14	12	570	53.98%	472
Ethiopia	5,846	998	250,604	51	2,179	103	0.9	2,430	41.57%	3,313
Kenya	8,250	3,298	193,455	153	3,597	167	3	2,504	30.35%	5,579
Libya	1,182	543	31,092	172	4,524	35	5	295	24.96%	852
Madagascar	3,472	1,748	25,864	125	934	33	1	1,187	34.19%	2,252
Malawi	1,818	1,015	17,406	95	910	19	1	317	17.44%	1,482
Mauritius	342	2	193,561	269	152,193	10	8	330	96.49%	2
Rwanda	1,172	374	166,255	90	12,833	3	0.2	595	50.77%	574
Seychelles	81	70	-	824	-		-	11	13.58%	70
Somalia	3,015	180	-	190	-	92	6	1,096	36.35%	1,827
Sudan	9,997	1,108	401	228	9	622	14	5,034	50.36%	4,341
Tunisia	1,205	46	73,610	102	6,227	50	4	1,049	87.05%	106
Uganda	977	180	212,860	21	4,653		-	904	92.53%	73
Zambia	1,895	418	56,825	103	3,090	42	2	1,348	71.13%	505
Zimbabwe	787	262	81,335	53	5,471	9	0.6	201	25.54%	577
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>131,401</b>	<b>31,593</b>	<b>1,501,434</b>			<b>4,933</b>		<b>47,876</b>		<b>78,592</b>

Source: World Health Organisation, Worldometer, Johns Hopkins University (compiled by COMWARN)



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