

Common Market for  
Eastern and Southern Africa



## Numbers Rise in Ethiopia and Libya as Kenya Records Significant Drops

# COVID-19

in **COMESA**

**Situational Update N°29**

8 September 2020



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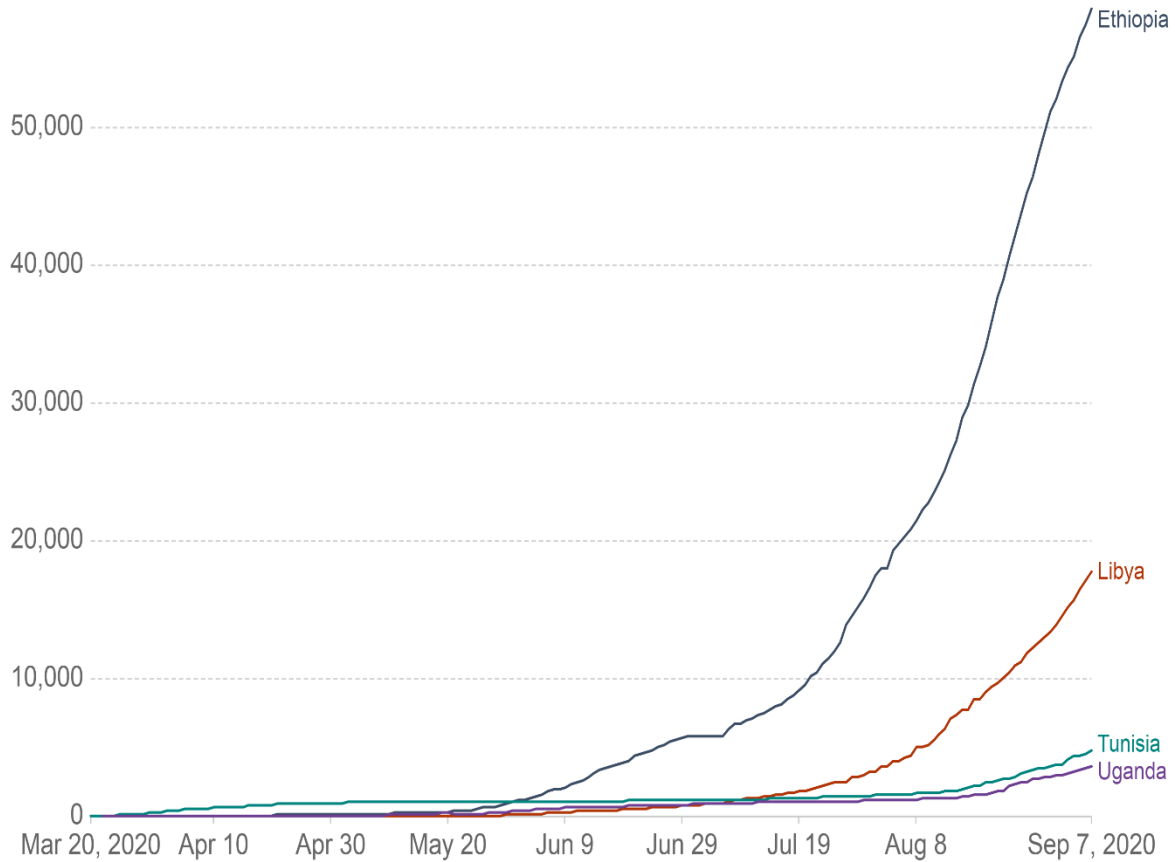
In the last one week, four countries have recorded a significant rise in the number of cases of COVID-19. These are Ethiopia at 14.42%, Libya (34.86%), Tunisia (34.74%) and Uganda (24.33%). In Ethiopia, for instance, the total numbers of new cases were 7,517. Of these, 36,926 people remain actively infected whilst 21,789 have recovered and 933 deaths have been recorded. In Libya 4,868 new cases were reported within the week. Of these, 16,412 people remain actively infected whilst 2,126 have recovered and 296 deaths have been recorded. The municipalities that have recorded the highest numbers of cases in Libya include Tripoli, Misrata, Benghazi, Sebha and Zliten.

To date, 307,189 COVID-19 cases have been recorded in the COMESA region. In the past week, a total of 19,693 new COVID-19 cases have been recorded which represent a 6.85% increase.

The graph below presents a steep rise of the numbers in the Ethiopia and Libya.

## Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 7 September, 09:35 (London time)

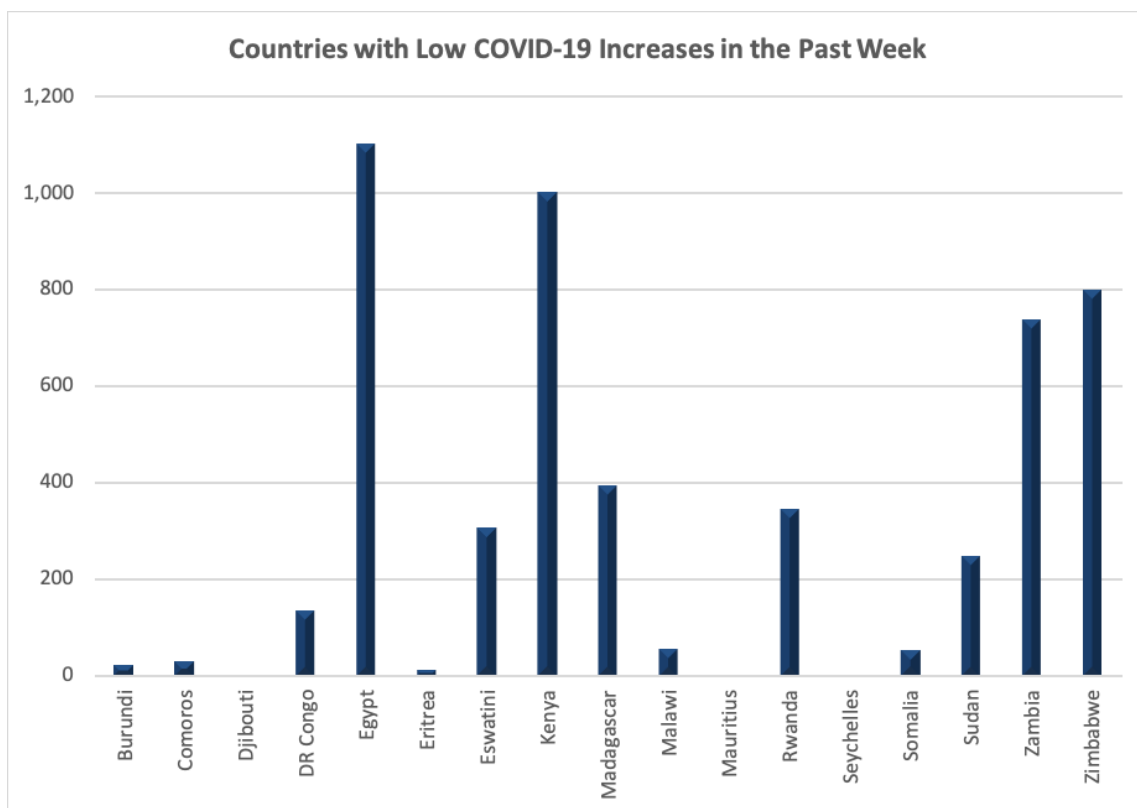
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### Possible causes of the surge

For Ethiopia, the increase can be attributed to the protests that were reported in the country in the month of August 2020. These are likely to have contributed to increase as the demonstrators did not adhere to preventive measures such as wearing of masks and social distancing. On the other hand, the increases in Libya can be attributed to the prevailing conflict. The division of the country into two administrations (Tripoli and Tobruk-based) has also complicated the management of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the varied preventive measures that they have issued in their respective domains.

### Low rates recorded

In the period under review, some countries in the region have continued to register low rates of COVID-19 increases. This low increase is mainly due to continued strengthening of preventive measures particularly adherence to social distancing,



mandatory wearing of masks in public places and continued restrictions on public gatherings such as holding of social and political events. The low rates of COVID-19 increases can also be attributed to effective testing, treatment and isolation of identified cases. Countries in the region that have recorded low rates of increase in COVID-19 cases include Mauritius (0.00%), Djibouti (0.02%), Seychelles (0.74%), Malawi (0.99%), Egypt (1.11%), DR Congo (1.35%), Somalia (1.57%), Sudan (1.88%), Madagascar (2.64%) and Kenya (2.94%).

#### Summary of Regional Figures as of 9th September 2020

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	% Increase of new cases	Total Tests	Total Cases/ 1M pop	Tests/ 1M pop	Total Recovered	Total Deaths	Deaths/ 1M pop	Recovery Rate	Total Active Cases
Burundi	466	21	4.72%	27,836	39	2,329	374	1	0.08	80.3%	91
Comoros	452	29	6.86%		518		410	7	8	90.71%	35
Djibouti	5,388	1	0.02%	69,405	5,439	70,061	5,327	61	62	98.87%	0
DR Congo	10,233	136	1.35%		114		9,451	260	3	92.36%	522
Egypt	100,041	1,102	1.11%	135,000	974	1,315	79,008	5,541	54	78.98%	15,492
Eritrea	330	11	3.45%		93		295			89.39%	35
Eswatini	4,884	307	6.71%	30,327	4,202	26,090	4,029	94	81	82.49%	761
Ethiopia	59,648	7,517	14.42%	1,063,454	517	9,210	21,789	933	8	36.53%	36,926
Kenya	35,205	1,004	2.94%	474,477	652	8,789	21,310	599	11	60.53%	13,296
Libya	18,834	4,868	34.86%	133,989	2,734	19,451	2,126	296	43	11.29%	16,412
Madagascar	15,352	395	2.64%	61,334	552	2,205	14,184	202	7	92.39%	966
Malawi	5,621	55	0.99%	46,750	292	2,433	3,590	176	9	63.87%	1,855
Mauritius	356	0	0.00%	227,409	280	178,757	335	10	8	94.10%	11
Rwanda	4,409	346	8.52%	444,350	339	34,155	2,271	19	1	51.51%	2,119
Seychelles	137	1	0.74%	5,200	1,391	52,813	127			92.70%	10
Somalia	3,362	52	1.57%		210		2,696	97	6	80.19%	569
Sudan	13,437	248	1.88%		305		6,730	833	19	50.09%	5,874
Tunisia	5,124	1,321	34.74%	159,597	433	13,478	1,788	94	8	34.89%	3,242
Uganda	3,776	739	24.33%	411,666	82	8,950	1,741	44	1	46.11%	1,991
Zambia	12,836	739	6.11%	123,346	695	6,676	11,748	295	16	91.52%	793
Zimbabwe	7,298	801	12.33%	152,262	490	10,217	5,455	210	14	74.75%	1,633
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>307,189</b>	<b>19,693</b>	<b>6.85%</b>	<b>3,566,402</b>			<b>189,329</b>	<b>9,772</b>			<b>102,633</b>

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



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