

Common Market for
Eastern and Southern Africa



Five Countries have
Maintained Lead
in COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19

in **COMESA**

Situational Update N°39

1st December 2020



Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020, five COMESA Member States: Egypt, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Kenya and Libya have notably recorded the highest number of cases. In the initial stages after the outbreak the pandemic, Egypt, Kenya and Tunisia experienced high surge in cases. This however slowed after they put in place preventive measures to curb the spread.

On the other hand, Ethiopia and Libya started with low numbers in the initial stages of the outbreak, but in recent times, they have experienced a surge which have propelled them to the top five. A number of factors can be attributed to the increase of cases in the five countries in the last three months. One of the key factors is the lifting of some of the measures that had initially been put in place to contain the pandemic. Some of these included suspension of social events/activities (cinemas, weddings, funerals gatherings, sports activities), educational institutions, public transport and closure of border entry points such as airports.

The situation in EGYPT

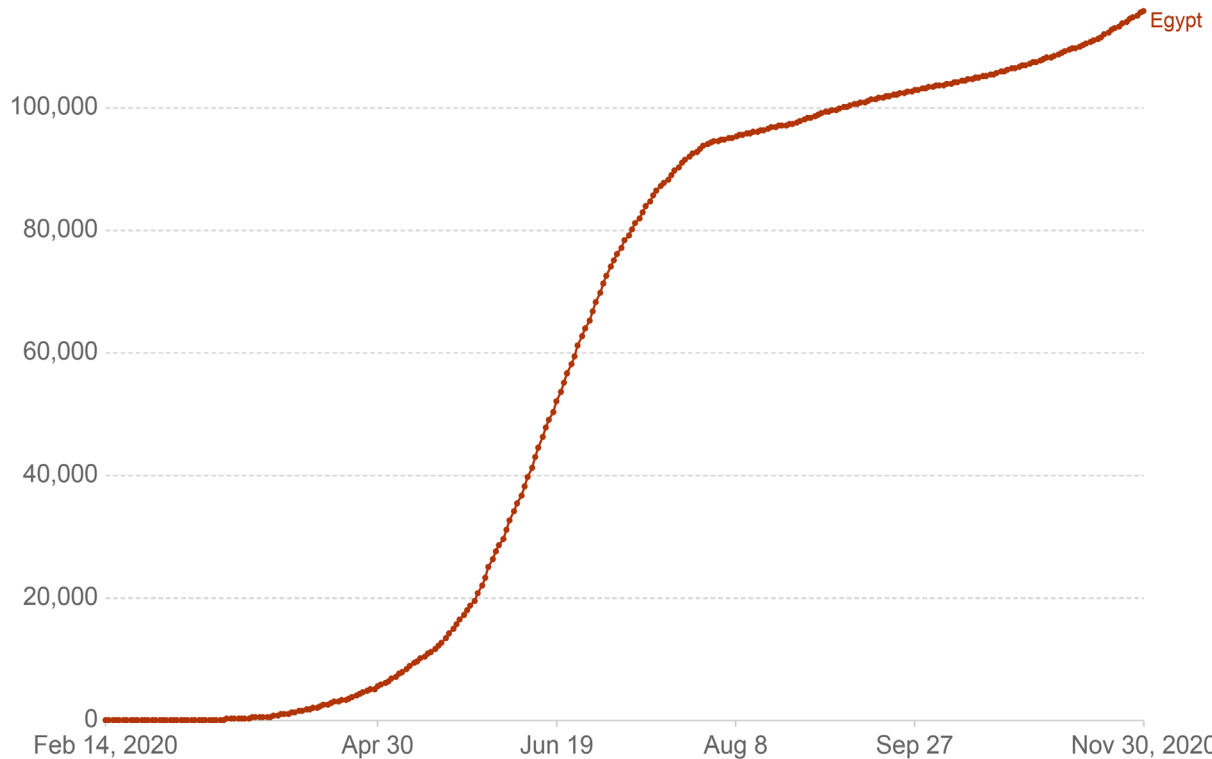
In the initial stages from (February – April) the government had managed to contain the outbreak of the pandemic by suspending public gatherings, closure of religious and educational institutions, revisiting of curfews as well as providing economic stimulus to cushion the population from the impact occasioned by the closure of income generating activities. Around July, some of these measures were relaxed and there was a notable increase in the number of new cases. However, compared to the total cases per 1million population (1124 cases) the number of cases is low.

Egypt has also recoded remarkable recoveries with the current recorded total of 102,718 while the total number of deaths stands at 6,650. Egypt has also conducted over one million tests.

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.

Our World
in Data



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 1 December, 06:06 (London time)

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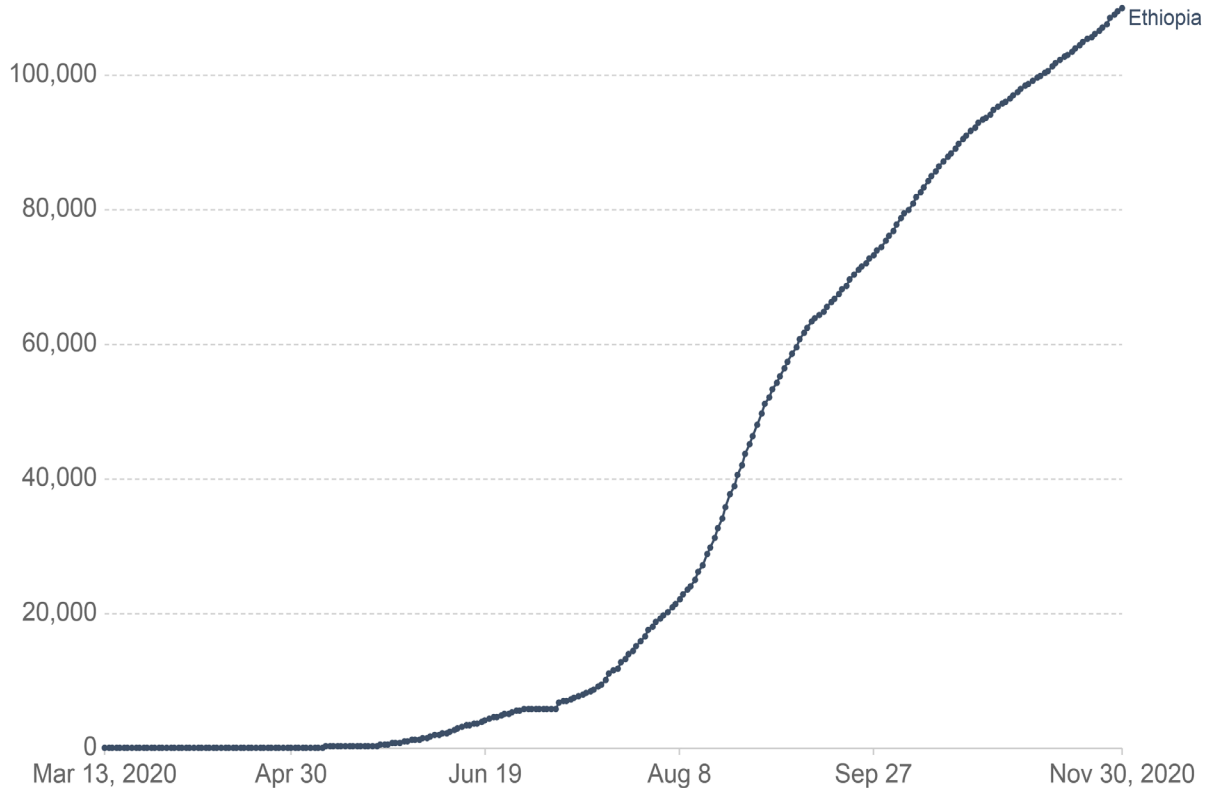
The situation in ETHIOPIA

Unlike other countries that recorded high number of cases in the initial stages of the pandemic outbreak, Ethiopia cases were low. However, the situation changed beginning in August. The increase of the new cases could partly be attributed to demonstrations that occurred in Addis Ababa and other major towns in August where COVID-19 prevention measures were not adhered to by the population. Currently the number of total cases stand at 110,074. The number of recoveries is currently at 73,808 while the numbers of deaths are 1,706. Ethiopia has conducted over 1,636,729.

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Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 1 December, 06:06 (London time)

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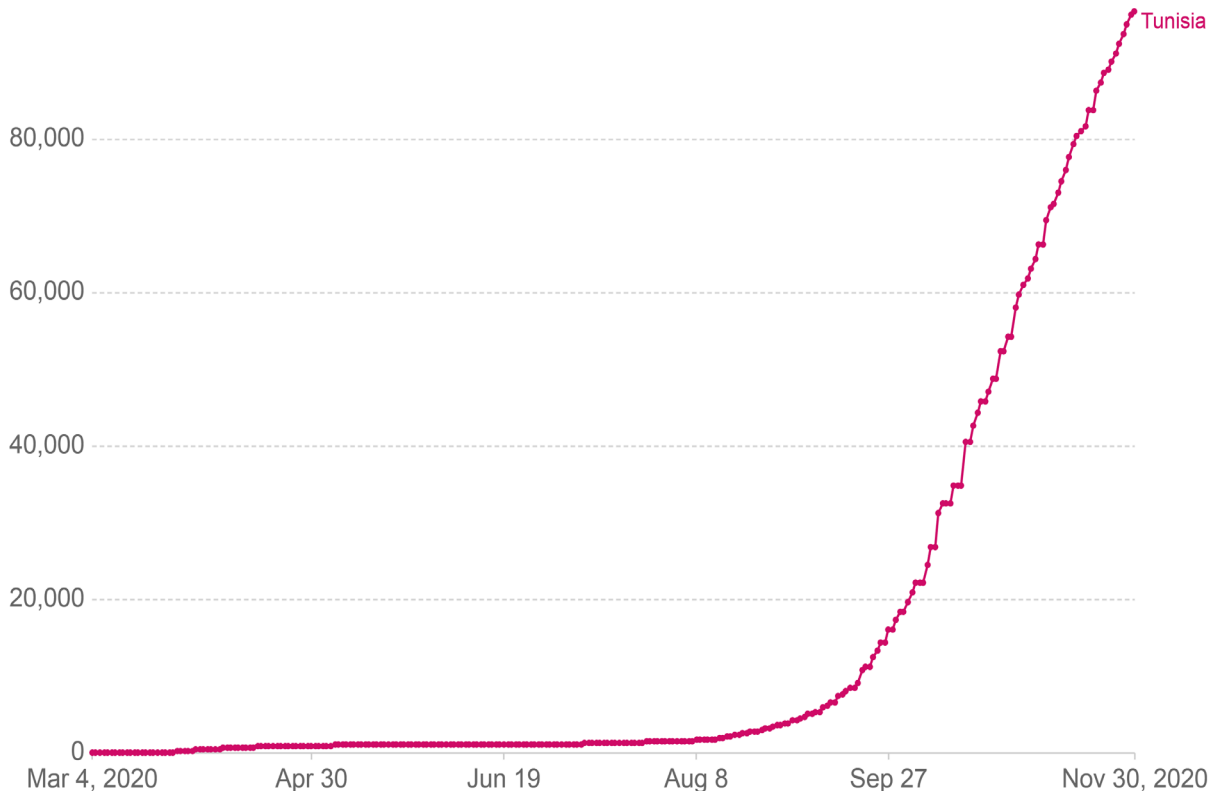
The situation in TUNISIA

From March to late August 2020, Tunisia managed to contain the spread of the pandemic by putting in place a number of measures including curfews, closure of borders, suspension of social activities such as sports events and closure of educational and religious institutions. However, with the opening of the economic activities and lifting of some measures in late August, there was a surge in September as indicated in the graph below. Currently Tunisia has reported a total of 96,769 cases of which 70,851 are recoveries. The death toll stands at 3,260.

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Our World
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The Situation in KENYA

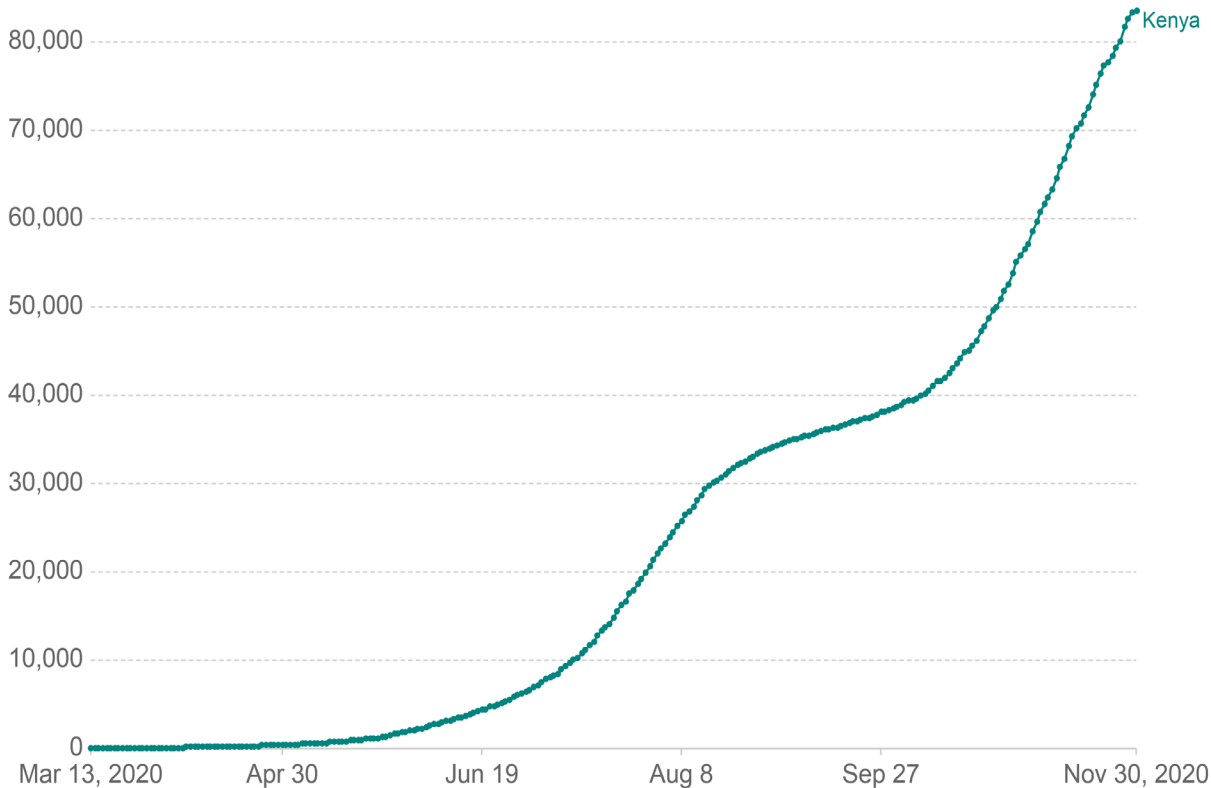
Kenya has experienced an upsurge in new cases from late September. This trend has continued to date whereby the total number of reported cases are 83,618. The increase prompted the government to revise the preventive measures on 28th September 2020. For instance, the number of people attending social activities including weddings, funerals and religious gatherings were reduced and the curfew time increased. The opening of social amenities such as restaurants were reviewed to limit their opening and closing time. Fines for violation and

non-adherence to the measures were also introduced. Kenya has also recorded high number of recoveries that currently stands at 55,344 and the number of deaths at 1,469. Kenya currently has 26,805 active cases.

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Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 1 December, 06:06 (London time)

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The situation in LIBYA

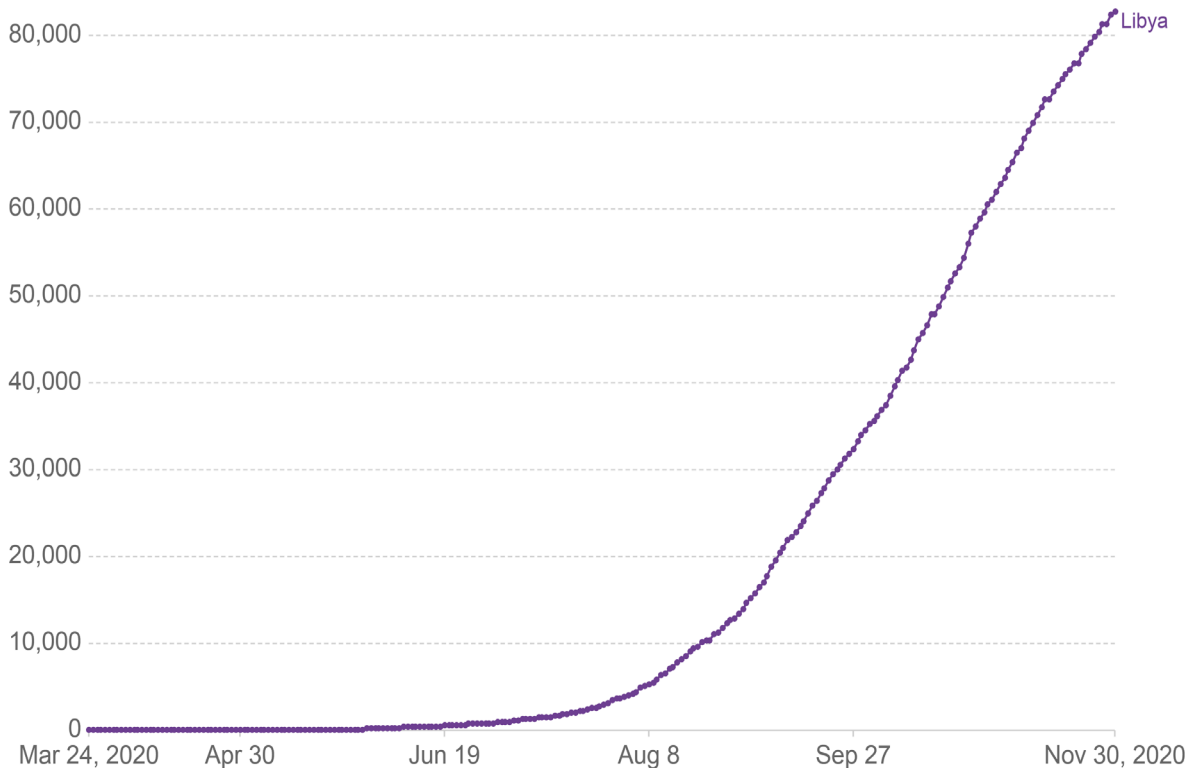
As indicated in the chart below, Libya recorded low number of COVID-19 cases within the period March – mid August (7,738). However beginning September, the number of cases had surged eleven-fold (83,417). This

upsurge can be partly attributed to the continued insecurity in the country brought about by the conflict between the Tripoli and Tobruk-based administrations which has made it difficult to enforce the preventive measures. Secondly, the ongoing conflict between the two administrations has contributed to the malfunction of health facilities that have been affected by the protracted civil war and displaced large numbers of the population making it difficult to contain the spread of the pandemic. Despite this, Libya has recorded a high number of recoveries - at 54,209 to date.

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