

# COVID-19 MEASURES in MEMBER STATES



This publication comprises a listing of measures that COMESA Member States have put in place to contain the spread of the Corona virus. They cover trade facilitation and support to businesses, protection of the vulnerable from the impact of the spread of the virus and other relevant measures. It also includes the support received from the international community Aid agencies. A trendline on the number of cases reported has also been included as well as the contacts of the focal points in the Ministries that coordinate COMESA activities in Member States. This document will be updated on a regular basis to take into account the new measures that governments are putting in place in response to changing circumstances.

The data and information are drawn from monitoring press briefings of the national COVID-19 response task forces and other open sources.

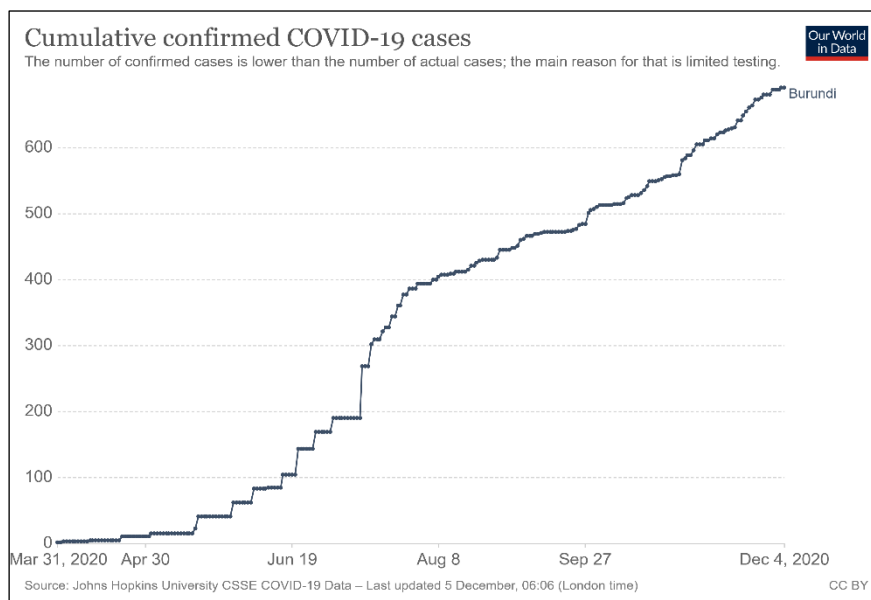
**Compilation**

Trade and Customs Division  
Governance, Peace and Security Unit

**Editing/Publishing**

Corporate Communications

***COMESA Secretariat***



**BACKGROUND**

The first case of COVID-19 was reported on 31st March 2020

**Preventive Measures in Place**

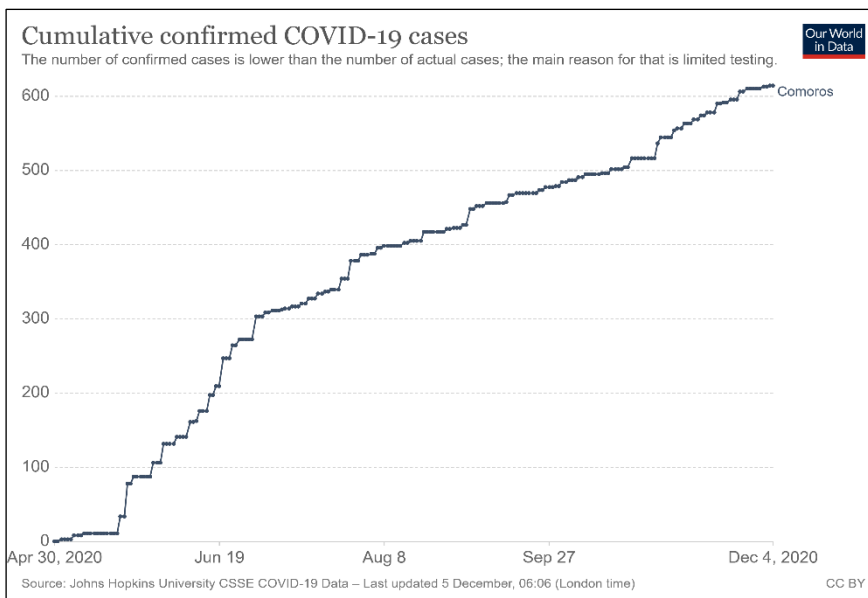
- On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Burundi opened its airspace for international flights. Passengers will be required to adhere to laid down COVID-19 preventive measures. These include:
  - *All travelers entering Burundi must present a certificate of a negative COVID-19 test carried out before 72 hours of boarding;*
  - *Upon arrival at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport, all passengers will be subjected to mandatory screening for COVID-19 infection for the following screening fee: One hundred U.S. dollars (\$100) for foreigners; Thirty U.S. dollars (\$30) or the equivalent in free-to-air for nationals;*
  - *Burundian students and refugees are exempt from COVID-19 screening fees.*
- As from 7th July 2020, mass testing campaign was launched in Bujumbura Other measures put in place include:
  - *reduction on the price of soap and water to enhance and ensure accessibility, provision of masks to the citizens,*
  - *health personnel equipped with protective masks,*
  - *wearing of masks is mandatory.*
- Limited access to hotel premises.
- Sensitization and awareness campaigns have been created through TV and radio.
- Installation of hand sanitizers and water for hand washing in public places.
- Hospitals to make beds available for potential cases (20 for each national hospital and five for each local hospital).

**Trade Facilitation / Business Support**

- All borders are now open for cargo movement and cargo flights are still operating.

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## Comoros



### BACKGROUND

First case of Coronavirus was confirmed on 30 April 2020

### Preventive Measures in Place

- As from 11th August 2020, the wearing of protective face masks is mandatory in public places.
- Public gatherings including weddings remain prohibited until further notice.
- The number of passengers in public transport remains limited to 10 people in buses and four in taxis.
- Adherence to measures as announced by the President including regular washing of hands, social distancing (1-2 meters), etc.
- Schools and educational institutions of higher learning remain closed since 20th March 2020.
- Gatherings of more than 20 people prohibited.
- Ban of collective prayers including Friday prayers (blessed day for Muslims)
- Flights between Comoros and the islands of Mayotte and the Réunion suspended
- Quarantine measures implemented for travelers from, or those who have transited through COVID-19- infected countries
- Night curfews to restrict movement from 20:00-05:00 hours.

### Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Closing of sea and air borders (except for cargo ships and/or special evacuations)
- Support for economic operators and households (reduction of customs duties, deferral of tax obligations, etc.)
- Import taxes on food, medicines, and items related to hygiene reduced by 30 percent.
- A fund to support employees associated with airport operations created.
- The Central Bank reduced reserve requirements to 10 percent.
- The authorities announced a restructuring of commercial loans and freezing of interest rates for some commercial loans.

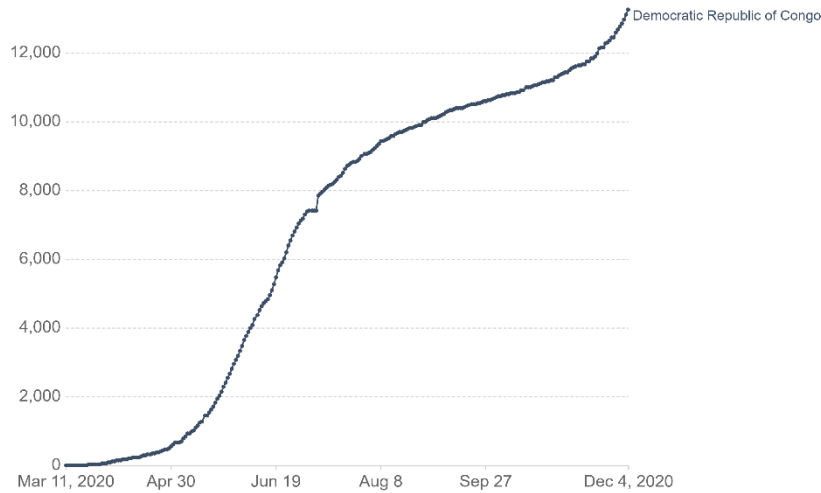
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## Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

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



## Democratic Republic of Congo



### BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 10 March 2020.

### Preventive Measures in Place

- On 15th August 2020 suspension of International flights lifted and flight services to DR Congo resumed.
- A Covid-19 Health Emergency Decree that had been in force since March 2020 ended on 23rd July. The President also announced the reopening of business activities, schools and borders:
  - *Primary schools, secondary schools and universities reopened on 10th August 2020.*
  - *As from Wednesday 22nd July 2020, all shops, banks, restaurants, cafes, and bars as well as social gatherings and public transport resumed operations.*
- Places of worship, stadiums, airports and ports of entry and international borders reopened on 15th August 2020. Night clubs, stadiums and entertainment venues also reopened on 15th August 2020.
- Mandatory wearing of masks in public places.
- The development of a response national plan with an estimated budget of \$135 million (0.3 percent of GDP) to:
  - *Strengthen early detection and surveillance and foster coordination within the government.*
  - *Improve the quality of medical care to infected patients; and*
  - *Develop preventive communication strategies and enhance medical logistic platforms.*

Dashboard that shows current information and information on COVID-19 put in place on: <https://www.stopcoronavirusrdc.info/>

### Trade Facilitation / Business Support

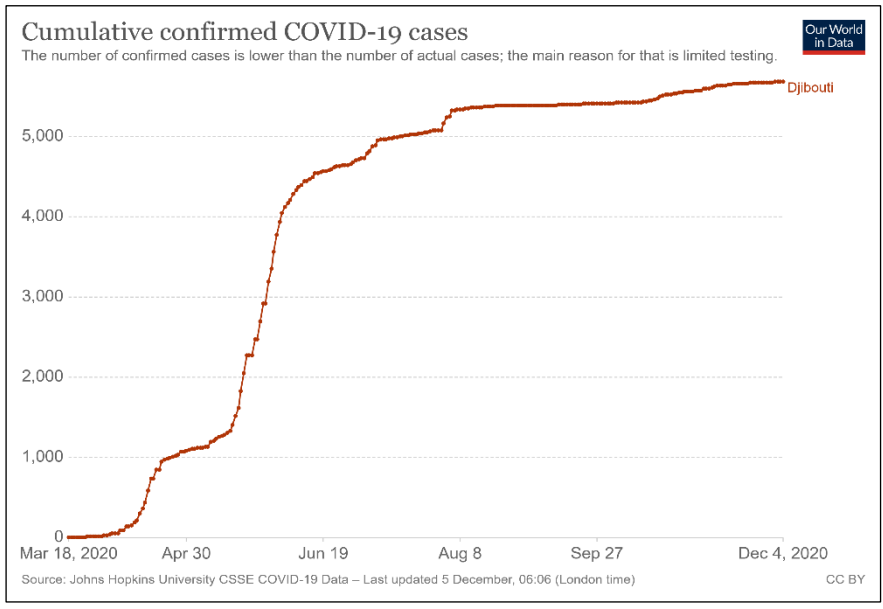
- Continuation with mineral export trade from Lubumbashi.
- The borders are open, and Customs officers are on duty
- Measures to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief consignments and essential supplies include:
  - Emergency collection of in-bond pharmaceutical inputs and products;
  - Limitation of Customs controls to what is strictly necessary;
  - Authorization to make incomplete and provisional declarations;
  - Exemption from duties and taxes on pharmaceutical supplies and equipment and essential supplies, in accordance with government instructions.
- Measures to support the economy and ensure supply chain continuity include: Access to goods removal credit;
  - *Adoption of measures allowing payment by instalments of Customs duties and taxes and of penalties;*
  - *Suspension of checks at outposts;*

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- *Action to facilitate compliance with the formalities for Customs clearance of goods;*
  - *Measures adopted in accordance with government guidelines, in particular as regards exemption from duties and taxes on pharmaceutical inputs and medical equipment and the suspension of Value-Added Tax (VAT) on imports of basic necessities.*
  - Promotion of use of e-payments to reduce contamination risks in bank notes.
  - Fast tracking of ASYCUDA World Implementation approved.
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**BACKGROUND**

**First case reported on  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Preventive Measures in Place**

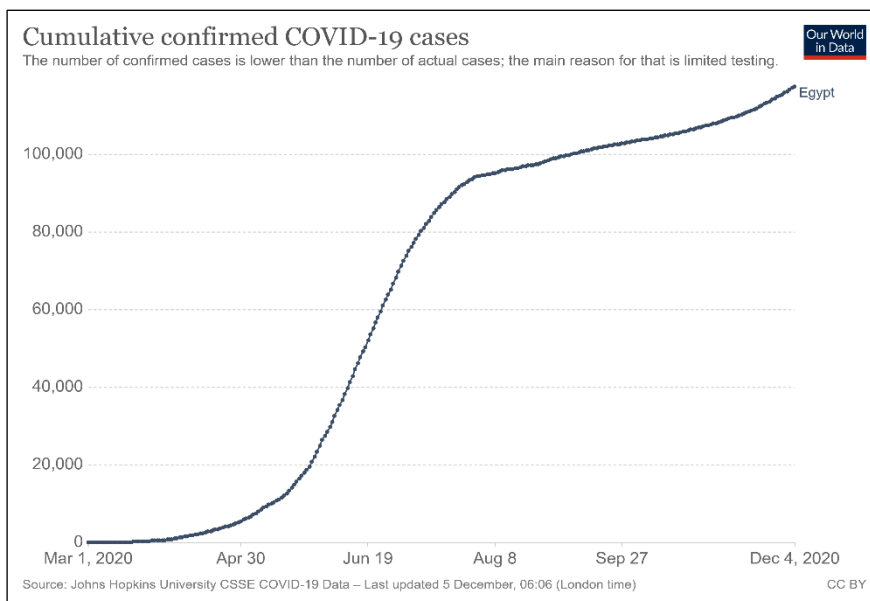
- The Djibouti Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 28th March 2020 chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees established as well to observe the COVID-19 situation and impact and conduct necessary responses.
- Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport opened for commercial flights beginning 17th July 2020. All passengers entering Djibouti are tested for COVID-19 upon arrival by Ministry of Health personnel. Sea ports and border posts are open to receive outsiders. Upon arrival at Ambouli International Airport, travelers identified with the virus either go into isolation and treatment or depart Djibouti on the next flight without leaving the airport.
- On 16th July 2020, the Ministry of Health issued a circular note on the reopening of borders, specifying the health protocols for passengers. Travelers coming to Djibouti by air/sea/land must be screened for COVID-19 upon arrival at ports of entry. In addition, travelers coming to Djibouti must be equipped with protective masks at the time of departure or arrival at the points of entry, respect the physical distance of one meter, if possible, at all stages of the journey and carry a hydro-alcoholic gel throughout the trip.
- Airlines may require passengers heading to Djibouti to show a negative COVID-19 test certificate before allowing them to board their flight.
- Gatherings of more than ten people not allowed.
- Use of facial masks in all public or private spaces in which social distancing cannot be observed is mandatory.
- Public and private construction activities allowed to operate.
- Traffic has been restricted to the minimum and is only allowed with administrative authorization.
- Hotels resumed normal operations on 30th June 2020.
- Grocery stores and retail outlets reopened on 10th July 2020.
- Places of worship reopened on 10th July 2020 but must follow very strict measures of ensuring protection including wearing of facial masks and social distancing.
- Quarantine sites to be established for infected persons and contact tracing procedures put in place.

**Trade Facilitation / Business Support**

- Cargo movement and services permitted.
- Port communities have raised awareness among Ethiopian drivers on compliance with barrier measures and brochures in Amharic language produced and disseminated to the latter.
- The Djibouti Port and Corridor is still operational with an alerting protocol being implemented by the port communities in case of any new COVID-19 cases being detected.
- Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority (DPFZA) introduced online payment gateway facility for the port community in order to limit physical visits to ports and free-zones premises and decrease online documentation completion time, enable savings on transportation while respecting government measures to contain the spread of the pandemic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Djibouti reduced port tariffs by 82.5% and granted Free Terminal Handling Charges for 60 days, from 16th April 2020 for Ethiopia export cargo to the world through the Djibouti Ports.</li> </ul>
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## Egypt



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 14th February 2020

## Preventive Measures in Place

- From 1st December 2020, retail stores would be closing as early as 10 p.m. in winter time instead of at midnight, while restaurants and cafés would close at midnight instead of at 2 a.m. Essential stores, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, are exempt from the mandate.
- As from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 a fine of 4,000 Egyptian pounds (about US\$254) would be imposed on citizens who fail to wear face masks in public and on mass transit.
- On 18th November 2020 the Government ordered the medical sector to create a protocol of medical treatment for COVID-19 cases that would apply to all health facilities across the country and could be accessed by all citizens.
- On 18th November 2020 the Government announced that the Central Bank of Egypt would provide financial assistance to all health establishments to enhance their capacity to purchase all necessary medical supplies.
- Egypt officially reopened schools on 17th October 2020 to start the new academic year while implementing precautionary measures against the COVID-19.
- Official conferences and meetings allowed from 27th July 2020 at a maximum of 50 participants provided that the capacity of the hall in which the conference or meeting takes place is no less than 100 people.
- As from 1st September 2020 visitors into Egypt are required to present Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results. The decision excludes Arab and foreign tourists arriving on direct flights to Sharm El-Sheikh, Taba, Hurghada, Marsa Alam and Marsa Matrouh airports, as well as transit passengers to those airports.
- Friday prayers resumed from 28th August 2020 under strict adherence to health and safety protocols.
- Major exhibitions allowed starting October 2020.
- Public parks and beaches to remain closed.
- Public transport resumed and operates between 4 a.m. and midnight.
- Restriction of public gatherings in schools, universities, bars, clubs, malls, public transport, public gathering places and tourists' locations.
- Theatres, cinemas, and museums have been reopened with limited capacity.
- Hotels allowed to re-open, provided they abide by strict hygiene measures stipulated by the government
- Re-opened hotels to mandatorily acquire hygiene safety certificate from the Joint Inspection Commission of both the Ministries of Tourism and Health.
- The government has expanded the cash transfer programs known as Takaful and Karama (Solidarity and Dignity). In addition, the government has instituted

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new programs to provide cash transfers to irregular workers who are substantially affected by the crisis and distribute medical and sanitation kits to poor villagers.

- Fiscal policy is being eased to support the economy and address crisis needs, including increases in health spending (26 percent) and social protection (10 percent).
- From July 2020 EgyptAir resumed flights to 24 destinations.
- Flights and tourism activities resumed in the following three governorates: Red Sea, Marsa Matrouh, and South Sinai.
- Mandatory quarantine for visitors who test positive for Coronavirus in a government isolation hospital.
- Adoption of an integrated plan which covers early detection, quarantine and treatment measures, as well as raising public awareness.
- All services provided by ministries and governorates to citizens, such as civil registry services, work permits, passports and renewal of traffic licenses, are all suspended.
- Allocation 100 billion Egyptian pounds (6.35 billion U.S. dollars) to finance the anti- COVID-19 comprehensive plan and its precautionary measures.
- Increased number of metro coaches in operation
- Daily fumigation of all terminals, means of transport and roads.
- Public transport operators restricted to 50% of capacity of conveyance
- Decontamination of 7500 buildings including government administrative building and tourist facilities.
- In July 2020 the government introduced measures to partially offset the revenue shortfall such as promoting green recovery through a fee on the consumption of fuel products.
- Limiting cash withdrawals and deposits to avoid overcrowding during payroll and pension disbursement. A daily limit of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (around 630 USD) for individuals and 50,000 (around 3180 USD) for businesses is applied.
- Launched an online awareness campaign against COVID using animation. This is also aimed at curbing misinformation.
- From May 30, people are required to wear face masks in public places, with violators fined 4,000 pounds (\$250) by police. Slight lifting of overnight curfew to start at 9pm instead of 8pm. Shopping malls that were originally ordered to close to remain open until 5pm
- The international Monetary Fund approved an additional loan of USD5.2 billion on 27th June 2020 to help Egypt ameliorate the economic impacts of COVID-19.
- The Central Bank of Egypt extended the tenor of all bank loans to businesses for six months and provides debt relief for individuals.

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**Trade  
Facilitation /  
Business  
Support**

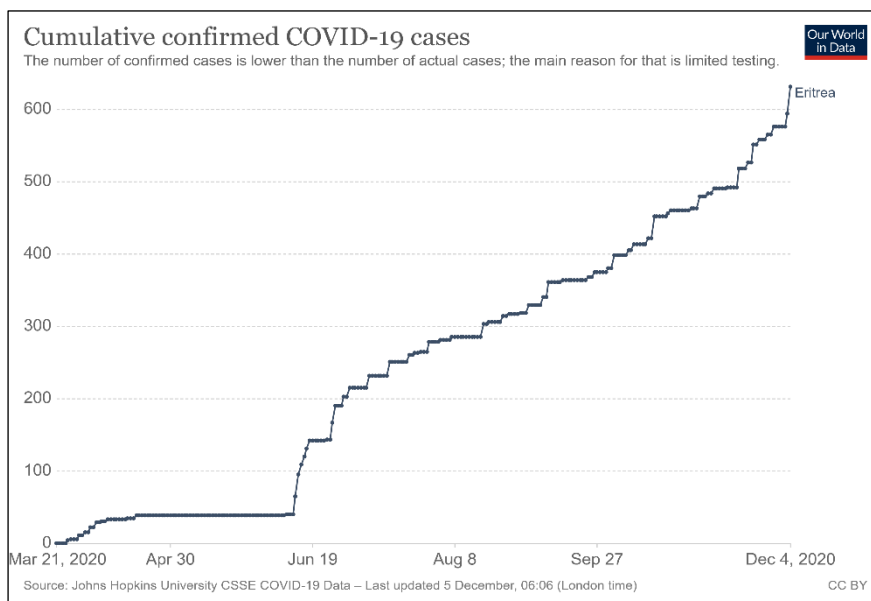
- On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 the Egyptian Government extended the duration of a number of policies and incentives designed to boost the country's struggling tourism sector, and these include:
  - Waiving of visa fees until April 30<sup>th</sup> next year (2021) for tourists visiting the governorates of South Sinai, the Red Sea, Luxor and Aswan;
  - Businesses that operate within the tourism industry, including hotels, will not have to pay any fees or electricity, water and gas bills until Dec. 31 2020;
  - A flight incentive program, which includes discounted airport fees for airlines, was extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
- On 1st September 2020, the government introduced the New Tax Amnesty Scheme and extended the Dispute Settlement Process.
- On 2nd September 2020, the Government introduced Solidarity Contribution on Employment and Pension Income.
- The National Bank of Egypt announced a one-year savings deposit program with a 15% interest rate.
- The exemption from the taxation of capital gains on securities listed on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) for Egyptian residents extended to 1 January 2022 (originally due to expire 17 May 2020).
- The exemption from the taxation of capital gains on securities listed on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) for non-residents will be made permanent.

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- Withholding tax on dividends paid by companies listed on the EGX reduced from 10% to 5%.
  - From 25 March 2020, the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry (the Foreign Trade Sector) put the following measures in place
    - *Documents, such as commercial invoices, would be accepted without being accredited by the Chambers of Commerce (this usually being a requirement) and*
    - *Certificates of Origin would be accepted without authorization from the Egyptian Embassy abroad.*
  - Stamp duty on transactions on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) reduced from 0.15% to 0.125% for non-residents.
  - The grant of an “immediate” financing for the import of key commodities.
  - Trade between Egypt and Saudi Arabia to be done through trailers only without trucker by using RORO ships.
  - General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) currently permits local companies to hold meetings virtually via conference and/or video calls.
  - The EGX developed electronic trading support systems allowing remote access to several platforms, including customer coding, electronic membership system, financial solvency, and OMNI accounts.
  - Allocation of USD 6.35 billion to raise wages and pension
  - A USD 2.7 billion loan was requested and granted by the IMF, as an emergency support;
  - Write-off EGP 17 billion from 226 distressed firms
  - Starting 1st July 2020 scheduled international flights and foreign tourists allowed to travel to resorts that have been least affected by the Coronavirus
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## Eritrea



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 21 March 2020

### Preventive Measures in Place

- Lockdown was declared on 2nd April 2020.
- Since 26th March 2020, commercial airline flights in and out of Eritrea were suspended. Land borders were also closed.
- National Task Force on COVID-19 was established at high and lower levels and has been issuing regulations and implementing Guidelines.
- All entry visas to Eritrea suspended since April 2020.
- All citizens, except those engaged in indispensable developmental and security tasks directed to stay at home.
- Only a maximum of two members of a household are allowed to go out from their homes to buy essential food items during the day. This conditional permission also holds for emergency medical treatment.
- All trading activities and transactions banned. Similarly, weekly markets that occur in various parts of the country also remain closed.
- All government institutions ceased from performing routine services and functions to focus on indispensable developmental and security tasks and most public sector employees stay at home.
- People that have been confined to their homes are not allowed to use their private cars during the period of lockdown, except the citizens employed in institutions that have been allowed to continue their functions.
- All public and private education institutions that will continue their operations will have to strictly observe social distancing and all personnel of the public and private bodies that will continue their operations will be issued with permits by their respective institutions.
- From 17th May 2020 random and extensive COVID-19 testing carried out. Residents of Asmara, frontline health workers, and residents of border areas are targeted.
- Food production, supply and processing enterprises as well as grocery stores, pharmacies and banks will continue to provide services. These institutions will close at 8:00 p.m. every evening.

### Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Major productive and service sectors (manufacturing, food processing, construction, and transport) in operation.
- Citizens in the rural areas engaged in farming and animal husbandry continues their occupational activities.

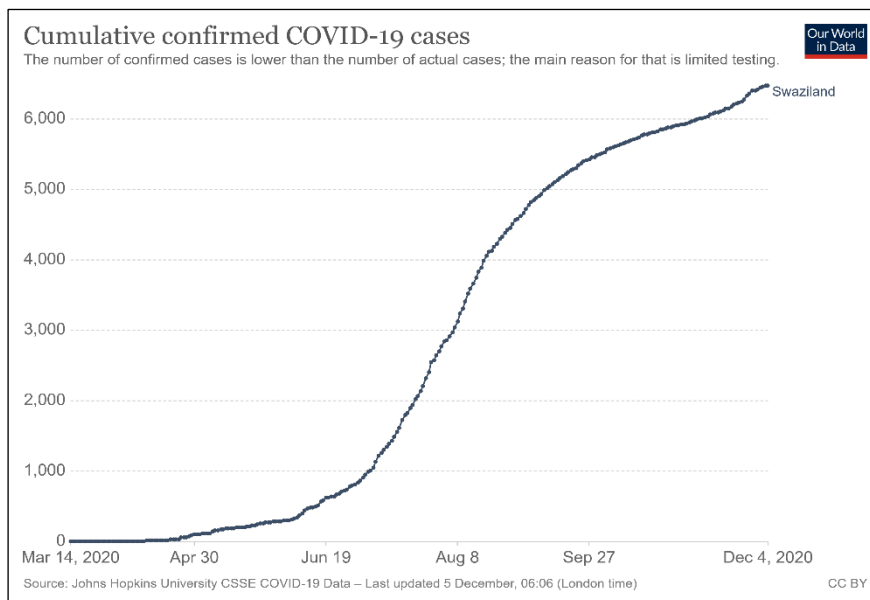
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## Eswatini



### BACKGROUND

The first Coronavirus case reported on 13 March 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- On 13th October 2020, the government announced that some schools in the Kingdom will continue to remain closed until at least January 2021 in line with recommendations from health experts that there could be a new surge in coronavirus cases.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the Government announced the lifting of some restrictions on sporting activities and arts venues. The lifting allows the following:
  - *A gradual reopening of organized top-level football activities under the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) with observance of strict health protocols;*
  - *Premier League and National First Division football to resume operations under strict health protocols with no spectators at any football match and training venues;*
  - *Regular screening of all participants and players;*
  - *Only four match venues would be used to limit the movement of teams;*
  - *Sporting codes categorized as middle risk namely chess, gymnastics and swimming would be allowed to resume with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 but under strict Coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols;*
  - *Some arts activities to reopen including theatre, comedy, poetry, fashion shows, and small-scale concerts under strict conditions, including a maximum of 100 people at any one event;*
  - *All other levels of football, including informal football remain banned;*
  - *Government to regularly send inspectors to all sports and arts activities to ensure compliance to COVID-19 regulations;*
  - *Any sporting entity or artist and venue found not to be adhering to the laid down protocols will be banned from continuing with activities.*
- Partial lockdown to continue.
- Operation permits for non-essential businesses revoked beginning 24 April 2020, that include car dealerships, craft vendors, photographic studios, agents and consultants, dry cleaners, driving schools, furniture shops, general dealers not selling food items, car wash business, casinos and gambling shops, clothing shops (excluding baby shops)
- Only essential sectors as identified allowed to operate and to also follow WHO Guidelines;
- Suspension of private and public gatherings of 50 people or more
- Closure of schools
- Suspension of non-essential travel for all citizens
- Intensive screening and mandatory self-isolation for residents/citizens coming from high risk countries,
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration among stakeholders through one channel of communication and conducting joint inspections,

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## Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Collaboration with neighboring countries through sharing of information on national developments that impact the movement of goods across the border,
  - Provision of PPE to staff and sensitization on the pandemic,
  - Restricted entry to foreign nationals coming from high-risk countries.
  - The Government issued a supplementary budget for public healthcare amounting to E100 million (app. US\$ 5.38 million) or 0.14 percent of GDP.
  - Redirected low priority recurrent spending to the fight against the pandemic and health infrastructure.
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- The following applies for businesses:
    - a. *Reinforcement of cleaning and sanitization protocols,*
    - b. *At Point of Sale (POS), there shall be a dedicated resource whose sole job will be to enforce social distancing measures as patrons make payment for their shopping.*
    - c. *Management obliged to ensure that at no point in time does the number of people exceed 20 inside any establishment. For smaller retail shops, this figure shall even be lower. In any event, social distancing of 1.5 metres apart shall be observed without fail. Sanitise counters, doors and areas subject to frequent contact by people.*
    - d. *Management obliged to enforce these measures at all times and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade with the help of duly authorised agencies such as Business Eswatini and FESBC shall ensure compliance.*
    - e. *Employers to ensure that public transport in which their employees are transported are sanitized both at boarding and disembarking.*
  - On 7 May 2020, the government announced the easing of restrictions as follows:
    - a. *Manufacturing and Production companies that have international orders to fulfil - under strict WHO and Ministry of Health Guidelines.*
    - b. *Agents and Consultants to operate three times a week*
    - c. *Furniture Shops to open three times a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9am and 3pm.*
    - d. *Dry Cleaners to also operate under similar conditions as furniture shops.*
    - e. *Retail Clothing Shops, tailors and dressmakers (that produce face masks and PPE) to operate three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 9am and 3pm.*
    - f. *Vehicle testing stations to operate three times a week.*
  - The Government permitted the sale of alcohol for home use only with effect from 26th October 2020.
  - Deco Shops to operate three times a week
  - Through the Central Bank of Eswatini, a reduction of the discount rate by 100 basis points to 5.5 percent; Reduced the reserve requirement to 5 percent (from 6 percent); Reduced the liquidity requirement to 20 percent (from 25) for commercial banks and to 18 percent (from 22) for the development bank
  - Encouragement of greater use of electronic payments;
  - Encouragement to banks by the Central Bank to consider loan restructuring and repayment holidays.
  - Cross Border Trade to operate normally;
  - Borders open to travelers with effect from 1 December 2020 under strict adherence to guidelines
  - Provision for later completion of clearance procedures
  - Fast tracking clearance of goods for the fight against COVID-19, i.e. medicaments. Clearance can be done after, controls still exercised
  - Enhanced Customs collaboration with other stakeholders i.e. Health (communication to clients through one channel, joint inspections, etc.)
  - Provision of PPE to the Customs staff, sensitization on the pandemic.
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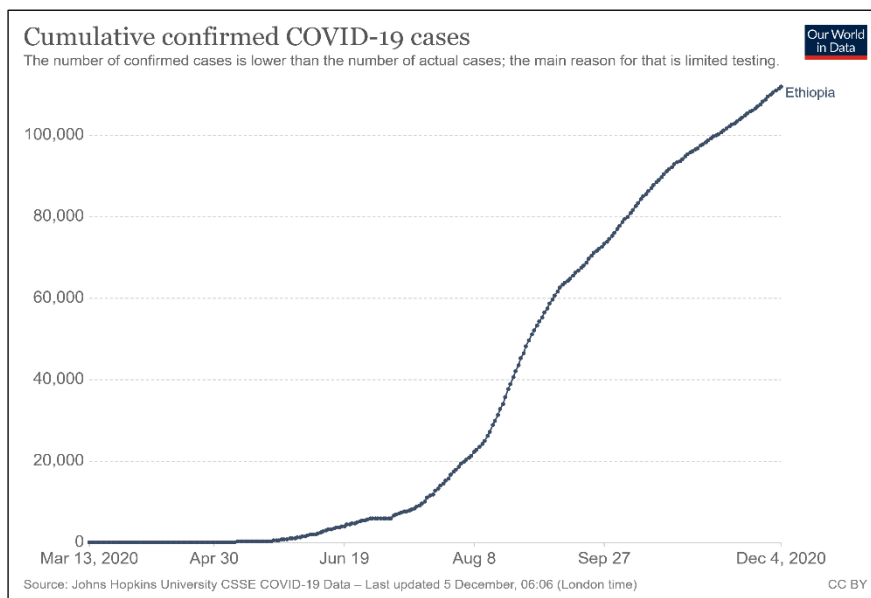
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## Ethiopia



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 13th March 2020.

### Preventive Measures in Place

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, Ethiopia introduced a new law for compulsory wearing of masks in public failure of which citizens will either be fined or face jail of up to two years. Other restrictions introduced prohibit
  - shaking hands and
  - sitting of more than three people at a table or not keeping “two adult steps” - around six feet apart.
- On April 8, the Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency for five months under Article 93 of the constitution, which allows it to impose more stringent measures.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 the Government officially launched a nationwide one-month-long testing campaign, to determine the next steps to be undertaken by the Government in the New Year which started on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- Released over 4,000 prisoners to prevent overcrowding in prisons and contain the spread of the coronavirus
- Postponement of elections from 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to a new date to be determined
- The mandatory 14-day quarantine of arrivals from abroad shortened to as few days as three. In addition, passengers from abroad who hold COVID-19 negative certificates are mandated to isolate themselves for only three days after giving samples and stay for 14 days at home before joining their communities.
- Closure of all-night clubs and places of entertainment effective 20<sup>th</sup> March until further notice
- Wearing of face masks mandatory when visiting ‘service providing’ places such as shops and everyone must stand at least two strides apart
- Public gatherings including sporting events banned from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Schools (that were temporarily closed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020) resumed face-to-face teaching on 19<sup>th</sup> October subject COVID 19 precautions including having a maximum of 20-30 learners per class. In preparation for opening of schools, Government launched distribution of 50 million face masks to 46,000 schools countrywide.
- As of 1<sup>st</sup> April, suspension of mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches
- Government employees ordered to work from home
- Sporting activities at all levels are prohibited
- Greetings by handshake banned
- House to house screening and diagnostic testing conducted.
- COVID-19 Response Fund established for resource mobilization. Comprises both private and public institutions. Contributions are both

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financial and non- financial and include buildings, hotels, vehicles, sanitary items, masks, etc.

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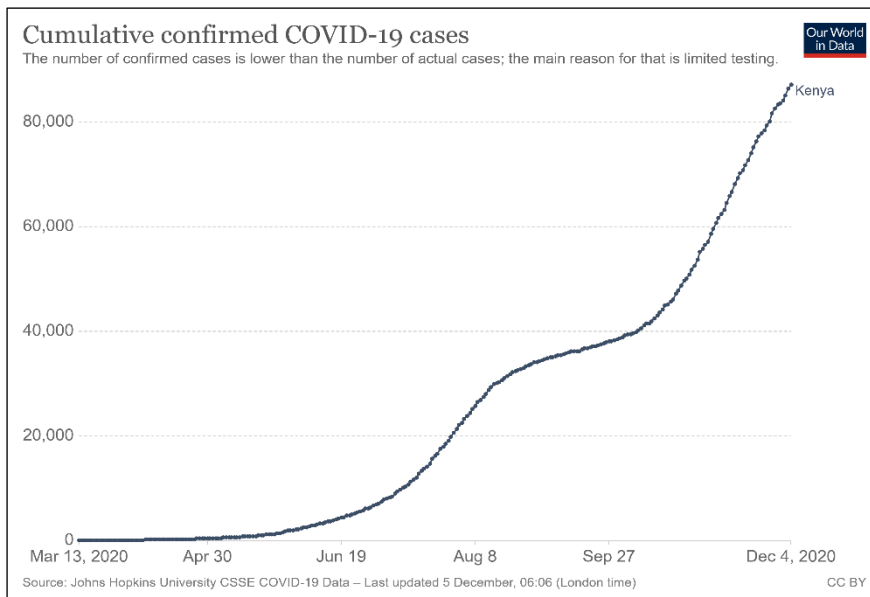
**Trade Facilitation /  
Business Support**

- Three border crossings were opened on 16th October 2020 between Ethiopia and Sudan to allow for the resumption of trade-related activities between the two countries. The border crossings are with Sudan's Blue Nile state areas of Geisan, Wali and El Gedaref.
  - Extra funding for healthcare facilities
  - Removal of the restriction on floor price for flower exports that was previously set by the National Bank of Ethiopia
  - National Bank of Ethiopia has availed 15-billion-birr (About USD 450 million) liquidity for private banks to enable them to provide debt relief and additional loans to their customers in need and especially the businesses adversely affected by COVID-19
  - Clamping down price gouging by retailers to protect low income households
  - Emergency support of \$82.8M from the World Bank to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19
  - Ethiopia has relaxed rules for mobile banking and money transfers, opening the market to all local businesses to encourage people to go cashless to control the spread of coronavirus
  - Commercial banks ordered to give priority to importers that import goods to combat COVID-19 like ventilators, sanitary goods and medical equipment, including testing kits, when providing forex.
  - Ministerial level macro-economic management sub-committee has been set up
  - Waived all duties and taxes on all medical supplies and equipment imported to fight COVID- 19
  - Border closure in effect but no restrictions on cargo movements from Djibouti to Ethiopia. Custom offices operating on both sides. However, shortage of trucks to Djibouti due to spike in demand
  - Customs and Revenue authorities are facilitating continuity of business by implementing e-documents and e-payments and pre-arrival clearance procedures and exempting some required documents such as certificate of origin.
- 

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## Kenya



### BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 13 March 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- On 29th November 2020 the Government issued a directive banning the serving of food in funerals and weddings to curb the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the Government stated that funeral services will be limited to 100 people and only 15 close members of the deceased will be allowed at the grave site.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Government revised COVID-19 measures as follows:

- all State and Public Officers aged 58 and above to work remotely;*
  - all basic education classes to resume in January 2021.*
  - all political gatherings and rallies suspended for 60 days.*
  - curfew revised and enforced to run between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. till 3rd January 2021. Initially the curfew time was from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.*
  - all bars and restaurants open to the public must close by 9 p.m.*
  - Religious gatherings to be limited to 1/3 of venue seating capacity.*
- Full reopening of schools and universities deferred to January 2021
  - Fines and jail time introduced for those found in breach of the various measures in place.
  - Minimized congestion in public transport and limiting visitors to hospitalized patients in both public and private hospitals.
  - Public transport including all matatus, hospitals and shopping malls are encouraged to provide soap, water and hand sanitizers and ensure that all their vehicles and premises are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
  - Government registries and the courts closed except for the handling of emergency matters.
  - Government offices, businesses and companies encouraged to allow employees to work from home except for those working in critical or essential services.
  - Kenya Medical Research Institute develops a local testing kit
  - Resumption of domestic air travel from 15th July. International flights resumed on 1st August 2020.
  - Mandatory PCR-Covid-19-Free certificate for all international arrivals valid for 96 hours prior.
  - Mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators by private sector in Kenya.
  - Temperature readings for truck crews to be taken at entry points and at designated weighbridges which are: Namanga; Busia, Gilgil, Mariakani; Malaba and Taveta.
  - Truck occupants to keep temperature/readings/health forms until they exit Kenya unless they are Kenyan residents; stringent screening of the trucks; limited numbers of crew and passengers, and any truck crew member who exhibits symptoms occupants subject to a 14 days quarantine.
  - Cashless transactions encouraged and facilitated to limit contact.

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**Trade  
Facilitation /  
Business  
Support**

- Stringent medical screening at all border points. Only drivers, loader plus the clearing agent are allowed across the border.
  - A 100-percent tax relief for low-income-earning persons up to KES24,000
  - Reduced the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate from 30 percent to 25 percent.
  - Appropriation of KES 10 billion through cash transfers to the vulnerable members of society.
  - Temporary suspension of listing with Credit Reference Bureau for persons who default on their loan obligations with effect from 1 April 2020.
  - Disbursement of KES 1 billion for the recruitment of additional medical personnel.
- 
- On 4 December government announced the return to pre- Covid-19 situation on the following with effect from January 2021:
    - a. *The VAT rate reverts to 16% from the current 14*
    - b. *The Individual Income tax rate reverts 30% from the current 25%*
    - c. *The Corporate Tax rate reverts to 30% from the current 25%.*
  - From 28th September 2020, turnover tax reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent. The Government to continue rolling out credit guarantee scheme.
  - Cashless transactions such as mobile money and credit cards are encouraged.
  - 24-hour Call Centre and information portal set up and manned by Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA)
  - Lowering of Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.2%
  - Lowering of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.2%
  - Central Bank of Kenya offered flexibility to banks on loans that were active as of March 2020 to maintain liquidity levels
  - Assessment and restructuring loans taken by corporate borrowers (and SMEs) based on their respective circumstances arising from the pandemic.
  - Cargo movement allowed to continue however spike in transport requirements has led to a strained supply of trucks.
  - Mandatory requirement for all returning cargo crew to self-isolate for a period of 14 days straining cargo operations.
  - Office hours for Customs Offices changed to 9.00 – 3.00pm at a 50% reduced staffing. There is also reduced access to Customs officers and other officials.
  - Kenya Ports Authority has reduced workforce to two shifts.
  - KPA enabled online document submission systems to reduce human contact at Mombasa Port
  - Mandatory pre-arrival report of ships
  - Allocated of USD 100 Million to fast-track payment of outstanding VAT refunds and other pending payments to SMEs. USD 30 million as seed capital for SME Credit Guarantee Scheme.
  - Allocation of USD 20 Million soft loans to hotels and related establishments.
  - Allocation of USD 15 Million to assist flower and horticultural producers to access international market.
  - Enforcement of “Buy Kenya, Build Kenya” policy.
  - Allocated of USD 6 Million to purchase locally manufactured vehicles.
  - Trade related essential services providers, Customs, Immigration, and Port Health officials are exempted from the provisions of curfew and required to work 24 hours.
- 

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Kenya Ministry of Health:  
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<http://www.health.go.ke/>

KRA Contact Points:

For Domestic Taxes and all frequently requested services, log on to:  
<https://itax.kra.go.ke/KRA-Portal/>

For Customs related taxes, log on to ICMS (Integrated Customs Management)

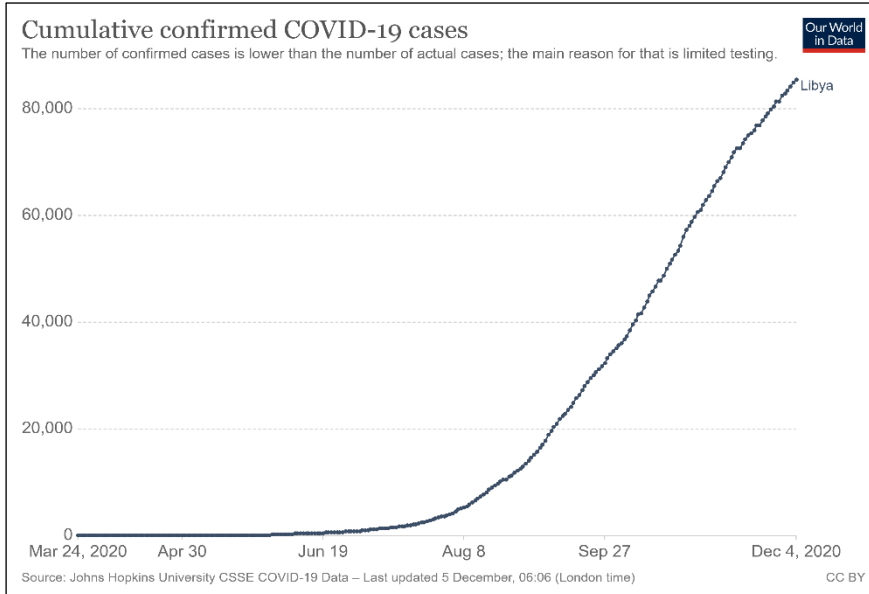
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Systems) and the Simba System

For Supply Chain Management (SCM) or e-procurement, log on to:

<http://www.kra.go.ke/en/tender>

For additional support, call our Contact Centre on Tel: 020 4 999 999, 0711 099 999 or Email: [callcentre@kra.go.ke](mailto:callcentre@kra.go.ke)



**Libya**



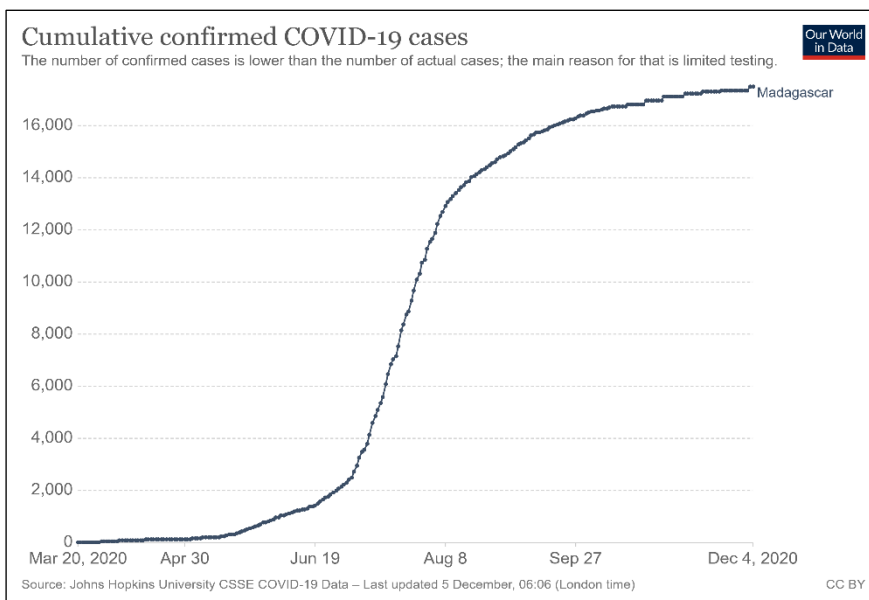
**BACKGROUND**

The first case was reported on 3rd April 2020

### Preventive Measures in Place

- Large public gatherings banned
- Flights resumed at the Mitiga Airport in the Libyan capital Tripoli on 9th August 2020.
- By 8th August 2020 the European Union mobilized €20 million (LYD 33 million) to assist Libya in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will contribute to improve national detection and surveillance mechanisms in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus, boost preventive measures and support Libya's national health system.
- Reopening of restaurants and cafés from 7th July 2020 on under strict conditions.
- A primary healthcare centre in the Gergaresh neighbourhood of Tripoli – serving a catchment area of at least 30,000 people, including high concentrations of refugees and migrants from sub-Saharan Africa re-opened from 15th July 2020 to deal with the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- Starting on 31st July 2020 the Government of National Accord based in Tripoli imposed a lockdown in areas that it controls for a period of 5 days. The lock down replaced the previous curfew that had been in place from 9 pm – 6 am. In the East, in areas controlled by the Libyan National Army (LNA), the curfew remains 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- On 31st August 2020, High schools in Libya reopened for the new semester with precautionary measures including providing sanitizers, face masks and thermometers to teachers and student returning to school this year is optional for students and they can choose whether to go back to school or not.
- A special committee that includes the ministries of interior, finance and health formed to develop a policy and procedures for repatriating Libyans from abroad.
- The Supreme Committee for Combating COVID-19 closed all vegetable and meat markets, but bakeries and some shops remain open to meet people's needs.
- Points of Entry (PoEs) to screen travelers arriving from affected areas established at three airports (Mitiga, Misrata and Benina), four seaports and land border entry points at Ras Ijdier, Wazen and Msaed.
- Testing is being undertaken for truck drivers travelling over the Tunisian/Libyan border with drivers required stay for 14 days in Zwara for quarantine.

<b>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities in both the West and East have started to repatriate Libyan citizens stranded overseas (those wishing to return are in Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey).</li> <li>• Returning citizens are tested and allowed to quarantine at home for 14 days.</li> <li>• Following government directives issued on 14th November 2020, Libyan authorities reopened the land border with Tunisia.</li> <li>• Cargo transportation exempted from ban</li> <li>• Eastern authorities reopened borders from 31st August 2020.</li> <li>• No penalties apply to the late filing of corporate income tax, personal income tax and stamp duty returns.</li> <li>• Customs and Revenue authorities are facilitating continuity of business by implementing e-documents and e-payments and pre-arrival clearance procedures and exempting some required documents such as certificate of origin.</li> <li>• Joint mechanism on export of goods between Libya and Tunisia through the border of Ras Ajbir established on 22nd April 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)</b>	<p>Ministry of Economy and Industry P.O. Box 4779 TRIPOLI, LIBYA Cell: +218 928 344531, Fax: +218 214 831394, Email: <a href="mailto:libya_zambia@yahoo.com">libya_zambia@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister Plenipotentiary TRIPOLI Libya Cell: +218 91 0123447, Email: <a href="mailto:elseed.ali@hotmail.com">elseed.ali@hotmail.com</a> Embassy of the State of Libya P O Box 35319 LUSAKA, Zambia Tel : +260(211) 253055/255388, Fax : +260(211) 251239, Mobile: 0955 208900/0977 977605 E-mail : <a href="mailto:libya_emb_zm@foreign.gov.ly">libya_emb_zm@foreign.gov.ly</a>; <a href="mailto:farajzarroug@gmail.com">farajzarroug@gmail.com</a></p>



**Madagascar**



**BACKGROUND**

The first case reported on 20 March 2020.

**Preventive Measures in Place**

- Suspension of all international flights effective 20th March 2020. Only Air France and Turkish Airlines serve Madagascar via their weekly cargo flights.
- Beginning 17th September 2020 curfew hours in the capital Antananarivo have been shortened to start from 23:00hrs to 04:00hrs. The earlier curfew put in place was from 22:00 hours to 04:00 hours. Grocery stores can operate as well until 18:00 hours.
- The Government opened the Island of Nosy Be to international travelers effective 1st October 2020.
- Cruise ships not allowed in any port.
- On 6th July 2020 the Government launched new dedicated COVID-19 treatment centers amid rising cases of the pandemic. The new centres are in Alarobia Professional Technical High School and the Mahamasina Sports Complex in the capital Antananarivo.
- On 26th July 2020 the Government launched an additional new Coronavirus treatment center in the capital Antananarivo that can accommodate 250 COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms amid rising cases of COVID 19 in the country.
- Entry and exit restrictions are heightened in the regions of Analamanga, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, and Alaotra Mangoro, which are COVID-19 clusters.
- Gatherings of more than 50 people prohibited.
- All land, sea, and air borders remain closed. Cargo and humanitarian flights are permitted to operate.
- Mandatory wearing of face masks in public
- Public markets to open for only three days a week subject to strict SOPs
- 14-day quarantine mandatory for individuals who have had possible exposure to COVID-19; travel limited to essential services and work
- All entertainment venues closed, and all sporting events suspended.

**Trade Facilitation / Business Support**

- Cash-transfers and in-kind necessities to the poorest and those unemployed.
- Gradual relaxation of lockdown allowing movement and public transportation from 0600-1300 hours
- Price controls introduced by government to regulate the prices of essential services and to prevent businessmen from taking advantage of the situation to hike prices
- Ports are operational while respecting governmental procedures.
- Customs offices Tamatave and Antananarivo will ensure maximum service with minimum contact. However, humanitarian aid, pharmaceuticals and basic necessities will be given priority.
- Temporary suspension of all exports of drugs and other health products

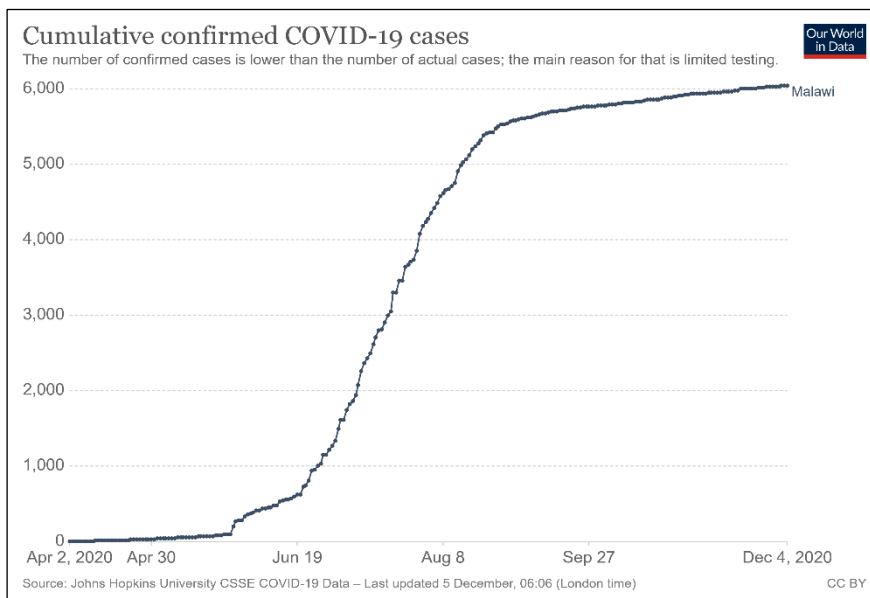
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## Malawi



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 2nd April 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- Malawi declared a State of National Disaster from 23rd March 2020. On 29<sup>th</sup> September new measures were announced and included:
  - *Travelers entering Malawi are required to produce a PCR negative certificate of not more than 10 days old from a designated testing laboratory from the country of origin.*
  - *Travelers arriving without a PCR certificate will have their samples taken at their own cost and will be required to self-quarantine as the results are awaited.*
  - *Non-Malawian arriving travelers who test positive will be managed according to the guidelines of Malawi at his/her own cost.*
- From 14<sup>th</sup> August the Government eased COVID-19 rules on public gatherings by allowing up to 100 people to gather.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> September schools opened in Malawi but with strict adherence to health guidelines by both learners and teachers. Schools were closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- As from 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 mandatory wearing of face masks in all public spaces declared failure of which can result in a fine of 10,000 Malawian Kwacha (USD 13).
- Places of worship, restaurants and bars closed with only take-away sales being permitted for drinking establishments beginning 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- Beginning 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020, all markets, shops and businesses that are in close proximity to hospitals ordered to close.
- Introduction on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 of the Zikomo Presidential Award as a token of thanks to the most dedicated health care workers in the fight against COVID-19.
- All flights into and out of Malawi suspended effective 1 April, until further notice.
- Flights carrying medical professionals, essential health equipment and emergency relief items are exempted. Additionally, authorities have suspended the issuance of visas. Flights carrying returning Malawi citizens and or cargo are handled on a case by case basis.
- Recruitment of 2000 health workers to support the fight against COVID-19
- Mandatory 14 days quarantine for all travelers from COVID-19 affected countries
- Opening of institutional isolation and treatment centers in the cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu.

## Trade Facilitation /

- Reduction of fuel prices to lower the transport costs
- Application of tax waivers on the importation of essential goods for Corona Virus management

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**Business  
Support**

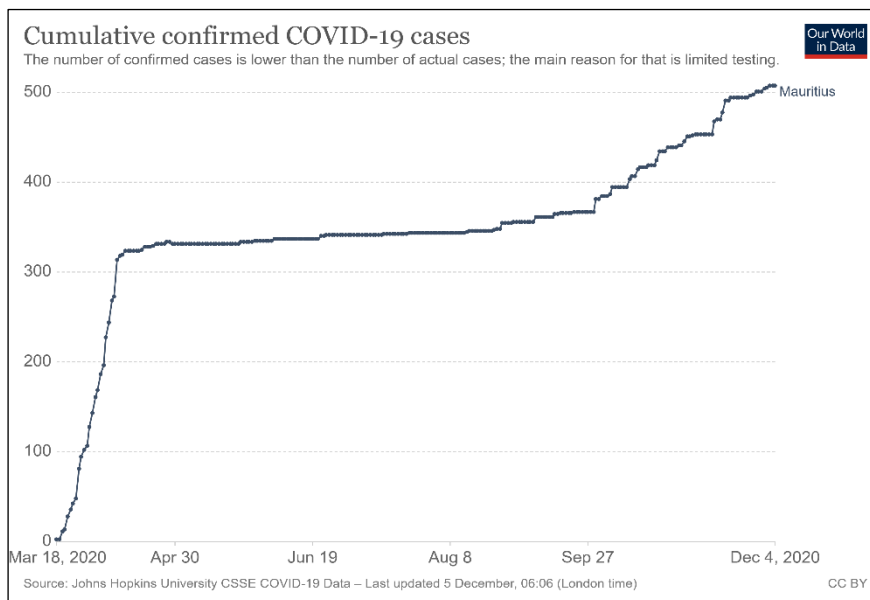
- Reserve Bank of Malawi to allow banks to offer a three-month moratorium on interest payments on loans to small- and medium-sized businesses
- The country's Competition and Fair-Trading Commission to put in place strict monitoring of price controls and punish anyone found increasing prices
- The government to increase loans under the Malawi Enterprise Development Fund that will help micro, small and medium scale businesses that have been seriously affected by COVID-19
- Tobacco markets to remain open and allowed to operate without disruption to protect small farmers and bolster foreign currency receipts.

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## Mauritius



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 18th March 2020.

### Preventive Measures in Place

- Closure of borders and banning of commercial flights effective 19th March 2020. On 18th September 2020 announced a phased easing of travel restrictions. As from 1st October 2020, borders reopened to Mauritian nationals, residents and tourists travelling to Mauritius for long stays. Visitors will have to undergo a PCR test 5 days prior to travel to Mauritius. Upon arrival in Mauritius, a 14-day quarantine will be mandatory at an establishment approved by the authorities.
- Beginning 6th March 2020, the Covid-19 High level Task Force, chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister, comprising Senior Ministers and the Minister of Health to meet daily to closely monitor the situation;
- Treatment of COVID-19 patients in hospitals and community infection control measures under implementation including contact tracing in line with WHO recommendations;
- Sensitization of the population on the precautionary and hygiene measures including, the wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizers, home confinement and social distancing through media campaigns in appropriate languages;
- Shopping authorized in supermarkets and shops selling essential commodities based on alphabetical order under strict conditions subject to sanitary control;
- Postponement of court cases;
- Food safety nets for vulnerable persons put in place.

### Trade Facilitation / Business Support and related measures

- On 10th July 2020 the Government extended the access period to its 5 billion rupee (\$130 million) special relief programme as part of its ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, this will be available to banks to enable them to continue lending to businesses affected by COVID-19.
- Provision of a Special Relief Fund to economic operators to meet cash flow and working capital;
- Setting up of a standing committee to explore ways to limit the impact of the Covid-19 on trade and businesses.
- Exemption of municipal fees for some 13,000 market stallholders;
- Lines of credit and soft loans made available to support vulnerable companies/ SMEs from the import-export sector and tourism industry.
- Financial Support/Assistance to individuals by Commercial Banks and other financial entities:
- Commercial Banks remained open in strategic locations during lockdown;
- Introduction of contactless transactions by some commercial banks;
- A loan scheme was provided to Mauritians stranded abroad to cater for their needs;
- COVID-19 Support to Households Programme introduced to defer the capital repayment of home loan.

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**Employment-related measures**

- Both public and private sector employees have been working from home;
- Work Access Permits issued to those in need of accessing their places of work;
- Wage Assistance subsidy provided to companies for payment of staff salaries;
- Financial support provided to workers in the informal sector/ planters/ fishermen;
- Hotline put in place to facilitate inter-alia, complaints and employments laws

**Other measures:**

- A COVID-19 Solidarity Fund created to support the population;
- Capital Market activity has been suspended until further notice;
- The Government has applied for a grant of MUR 26bn from the World Bank;
- Payment of vehicle insurance and renewal of road taxes deferred by a month;
- Electricity consumption rates reduced for low income groups/ small businesses;
- Control of prices of several basic commodities such as rice, cheese, flour etc;

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Coordinating  
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Contact  
Points)

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Focal Point – Ministry of Health & Wellness

Mr. S. Ramasawmy,

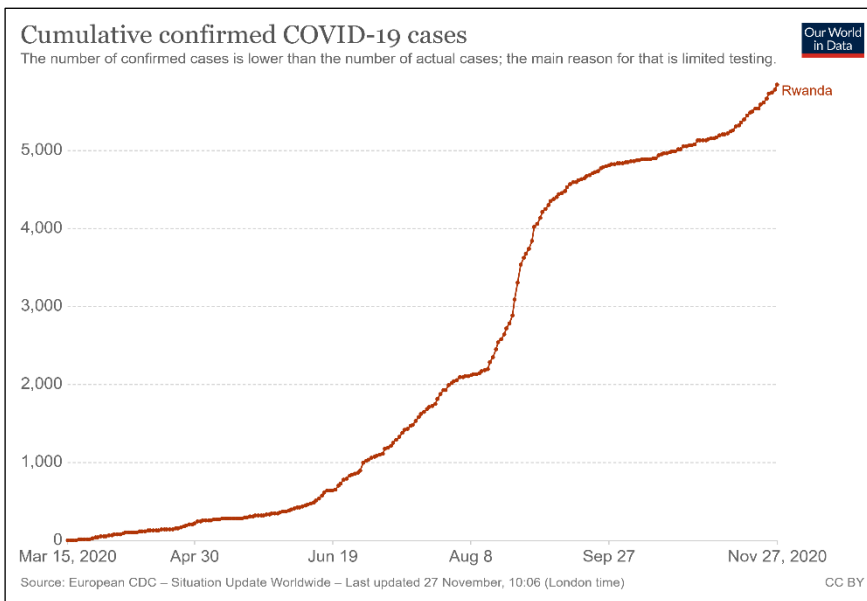
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## Rwanda



### BACKGROUND

First case reported on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Government announced new measures as follows:
  - That gyms and swimming pools shall resume operations upon assessment of compliance with COVID-19 health guidelines to be provided by the relevant institutions.
  - Live performances and cultural shows to resume and will have to adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the Government announced a number of measures to contain the rising cases of COVID-19 infections in prisons. These measures are:
  - Treatment and testing centres to be established in every prison where cases have been reported;
  - Deployment of medical personnel in affected prisons where contact tracing and testing will be carried out in order to ensure that COVID-19 spread is contained;
  - Relatives of inmates will not be allowed to visit and can only send money through mobile money transactions;
  - Prisons will be decongested by sending some of the inmates to participate in community services;
  - Separation of aged inmates from other inmates as they are more vulnerable to the disease;
  - New inmates will be put under a two-week quarantine period before joining others and those who are discharged must be tested before joining their communities;
  - All persons supplying goods to prisons must undergo COVID-19 testing.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the University of Rwanda announced that it will reopen for first and second-year students effective on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. The students will join their third, fourth and fifth-year counterparts who resumed in-person class sessions since October 2020.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) announced that massage therapy services are allowed to open after being closed since March 2020. However, both sauna and steam services will remain closed until further notice. When operating massage therapy centres will ensure strict adherence to COVID-19 health guidelines.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Rwanda reopened its border crossing with DR Congo at the Gisenyi/ Goma border to ease small-scale cross border business. The reopening is in line with a Memorandum of Understanding reached on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 between the two countries. As part of preventive measures and trade facilitation measures.
- Movement to be allowed for passport holders and those with temporary travel permit, unlike previously when people also used national IDs to cross.
- Travelers to follow health protocols, including rapid tests for COVID-19 before being allowed to proceed to their destinations.
- New measures were announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 with regard to the re-opening of learning institutions.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Government announced the school calendar for the

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year 2020-2021.

- Public transport between Kigali City and the rest of the country prohibited from 27th August 2020. Other prohibitions are private transport movements between Kigali and other districts.
- Beginning 12th October 2020, public transportation to continue with buses operating at full capacity for seated passengers and at 50 percent for standing passengers; and further guidelines to be provided by the Rwanda Utility Regulatory Agency (RURA).
- From 1st September 2020, all public hospitals to start COVID-19 tests in a move to boost capacity and will apply the PCR technology.
- Curfew reviewed as from 12th October 2020 to start from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. The earlier curfew had been set at 10 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Movements are restricted within that time.
- As from 26th August 2020, the number of people working in public institutions at any given time reduced to 30% from 50% and required to work in shifts.
- Beginning 26th August 2020 employees working in the private sector including markets to continue observing the 50% quota of employees at any given time.
- From 14th August 2020 new arrivals to Rwanda must present a negative COVID-19 tests certificate done within 5 days of departure from their point of origin. Initially, international travelers were required to have the tests done within 3 days (72 hours).
- Government established an online platform for people in need of essential services including visiting hospitals, attending to emergencies, shopping etc. to apply for clearance of movement.
- Commercial flights to and from the country were allowed to operate as from 1st August 2020. RwandAir resumed international flights on 1st August 2020 starting with Africa routes. RwandAir to resume weekly flights to the London and Brussels routes beginning October 3rd, 2020. Health measures put in place to safeguard the health of passengers, crew, and airport staff as provided by Ministry of Health and ICAO.
- Places of worship resumed services from 16th July 2020 with approval by local authorities.
- Beginning 1st August 2020 self-check in kiosks, thermal cameras, screening robots, and hand sanitizer dispensers have been put in place at Kigali International Airport as part of health measures.
- All visitors travelling to Rwanda by charter flights must test negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to arrival; a second test will be taken prior to visiting any tourist attraction.
- Domestic and international visitors travelling for tourism by charter flights allowed in the country from 17th June 2020.
- Domestic and international tourists visiting Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe National Park, and other parks must test negative for COVID-19 – at their own cost - within 48 hours prior to visiting the parks.
- All passengers arriving in Rwanda by commercial flights including those in transit required to show proof of a COVID-19 PCR negative test from a certified laboratory taken within 72 hours of arriving in Rwanda. A second PCR test to be conducted upon arrival – with results delivered after 24 hours.
- Apart from the national Kigali National Reference Laboratory, other satellite testing labs set up in COVID-19 hotspots areas of the country which include the districts of Kirehe, Rubavu, Rwamagana, Nyagatare, and Rusizi, This is to hasten the process of generating results for patients to ensure timely interventions.
- Beginning 12th October 2020, venue capacity for participants in meetings and conferences raised from the previous 30 percent to 50 percent and participants no longer required to show proof of COVID-19 tests conducted within past two weeks.
- Hotels to operate and offer tourism and conference services but must adhere to the provided health guidelines.
- Religious wedding ceremonies allowed to take place but should not exceed 30 people.
- Restaurants and cafes allowed to operate until 7:00 p.m.
- Social distancing to be observed in public places.
- Wearing of face masks is mandatory in public places and multi-family settings.
- As from 22nd July 2020 all staff of national parks, airports, and hotels near

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tourist sites to be tested every two weeks for COVID-19 as the country prepares to start receiving international flights beginning 1st August 2020.

- Citizens urged to use mobile money and online banking whenever possible to limit the transfer of paper money and minimize person to person contacts
- The World Bank on April 7th, 2020 approved a USD 14.3 million (RWF 13.65 billion) International Development Association (IDA) credit as emergency response towards efforts to contain COVID-19.
- New Guidelines for the Mining sector issued on 5th June 2020 and included: mining operators and quarry owners to provide relevant personal protective equipment (PPEs) to all workers, and miners to put in place contact tracing programmes.
- Beginning 1st July, the Ministry of Health launched a random street testing survey in Kigali City to assess COVID-19 situation.

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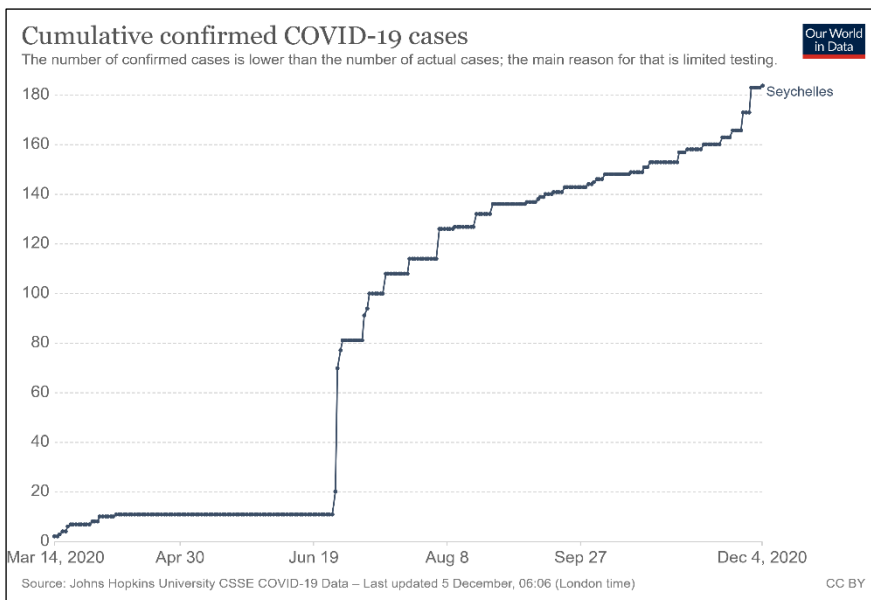
**Trade  
Facilitation/  
Business  
Support**

- Maximum utilization of non-intrusive cargo scanners for homogeneous goods.
- The whole clearance process for imports, exports and transit is conducted in the Rwanda Electronic Single Window (RESW) which minimizes to a great extent any human intervention.
- Authorized trucks carry not more than two people including the driver.
- All cargo and conveyors shall be offloaded and transshipped at the Customs point of entry (i.e. Rusumo and Kagitumba Customs Border Posts).
- Warehousing facilities available for loading, offloading and warehousing of cargo at the entry points;
- Inland Cargo depots shall be availed for effective loading and transshipment exercises at the Customs entry point;
- Clearing of goods to be done using the pre-clearance mechanisms currently in place i.e. SCT Clearance framework and payment of duties and taxes before the arrival of the goods quick release at the entry border posts;
- All declaration documents accompanying cargo must be submitted electronically to customs administration to avoid paper manipulation;
- Clearing agents must declare the full detailed description of goods to expedite the clearance and release of goods;
- Clients with perishable goods and consignments that require special warehousing facilities such as petroleum products shall be allowed to proceed to destination after change of crew members (truck drivers) in respect with the current health guidelines in places;
- Transit cargo to be escorted upon entry to the final destination and truck drivers to stop only at designated points.
- The Central Bank of Rwanda provided a Rwf50 billion (\$54 million) facility and reduced the reserve requirement ratio for commercial banks from 5 per cent to 4 per cent to support the country's banking sector.
- The IMF emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility in March 2020 provided Rwanda with a \$109.4 million (Rwanda Francs 104 billion) for COVID-19-related pressures on trade, tourism and foreign exchange reserves. The support will also provide much-needed resources for health expenditure and for households and firms affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- From 14th April 2020 Rwanda benefited from USD \$11 million (RWF 10.5 billion) debt service relief from the International Monetary Fund for an initial period of 6 months.

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## Seychelles



### BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- Beginning 12th November 2020, all travelers to Seychelles are required to take a COVID-19 PCR test on the sixth day after their arrival as part of reinforced measures in response to the acceleration of the outbreak in several parts of the world. The cost of the test, which will be done on both foreigners and Seychellois citizens travelling to Seychelles, will be covered by the Government.
- On 2nd October Seychelles reviewed its Visitor's Travel Advisory and put in place new advisory as follows:
  - a. Travelers from all countries are allowed to enter Seychelles. These have been divided into 2 categories namely: Category 1 which includes permitted countries from low and medium risk; and Category 2 which consists of countries from the list of seven countries given special status (Italy, France, Germany, UK, Switzerland, Austria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)).
  - b. Category 1 of permitted countries will be subjected to a set of different measures amongst which are: will not be subject to special conditions imposed for category 2 countries. In addition, a COVID PCR test prior to travel should be no more than 72 hours;
  - c. Category 2 will be subjected to a set of different measures amongst which include:
    - *Visitors will be allowed in Seychelles even if the COVID-19 situation in these tourism markets keeps changing;*
    - *Visitors to ensure that all requirements are met before arrival failing which may result in restriction of entry;*
    - *Adherence to all stated procedures in the Visitor's Travel Advisory;*
    - *COVID PCR test prior to travel should be no more than 48 hours;*
    - *Visitors to stay within hotels designated for Category 2 countries;*
    - *Restricted movement for visitors for the first 5 days of the stay in Seychelles and will be monitored by the staff of the hotel*
    - *On the fifth day, a second PCR test to be done and if test is negative, they can leave the hotel premises.*
- In addition, Seychelles has also accredited category 1 and category 2 hotels, including specific training to hotel staff to handle visitors from different countries based on COVID-19 risk. Under this arrangement, a hotel can be certified as both a category 1 that is welcoming guests from low-risk countries and category 2 for the high-risk countries. At least 74 hotels have been accredited and published in the visitor's information for category 2 permitted countries and are subjected to regular updates by the Tourism Department.
- On 15th September 2020, Seychelles adopted a new technology called Travizory technology to facilitate the collection and analysis of travelers' documentation that will ensure re- opening of the borders in the safest manner. Among other features, the technology allows:



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- a. Seychelles health authorities to collect in advance identity and health information directly from the traveler via the easy-to-use web version and mobile apps.
  - b. Authorities to run rapid and efficient vetting procedures to minimize COVID-19 risks and other security risks.
  - c. Travelers to apply from their mobile phone via Android or iOS apps or on the web in about five minutes.
  - d. Travelers to receive a clear response on their eligibility to travel in the form of a secure barcode, also available as a wallet pass, which they can present at check-in and boarding. With the use of the technology travelers will be required to pay a fee of US\$50 under normal conditions or US\$150 for emergency and late submissions.
- On 14th September 2020, Seychelles introduced a new public health order that makes wearing a mask mandatory as follows:
    - *when using public transport (which includes buses, ferries, taxis and other means of transportation) and in places where sufficient distancing is not possible.*
    - *in all indoor places where a one-metre physical distancing cannot be maintained as well as outdoor places like sports venues, markets and bus terminals.*
    - *in places such as financial institutions, customer service centres, retail shops or outlets, funeral places, meeting rooms and cinemas.*
  - International Airport opened on 1st August 2020 to commercial passenger flights from low and medium risk level COVID-19 countries. Process guided by the national framework for the integrated management of reopening of Seychelles borders which has a criteria for classifying countries into low, medium and high risk.
  - Application for international flights carrying passengers to be made to Public Health Commissioner (PHC).
  - A standard form (application for entry into Seychelles by air and sea) available on DoH website to be completed and submitted.
  - Applications to be processed on a case by case basis as per Public Health Order
  - All child-minding and day-care services, all post-secondary institutions including A-Levels, Guy Morel Institute and the University of Seychelles Primary and Secondary Schools reopened in May 2020.
  - Improvement of handling capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities, including the finalization of a programme to receive additional human resource support if necessary.
  - Additional \$3.6 million provided to health sector through national budget amendments.
  - Seychelles secured an African Development Bank (AfDB) loan of US\$10 million to support the Government's COVID-19 response programme.
  - All restrictions on the movement of people removed.
  - Religious services, including funeral services, have resumed following guidance from the Department of Health.
  - All shops able to stay open until 8 pm in the evening.
  - The majority of services and businesses reopened. Construction companies have resumed their work as per guidance issued by the Department of Health
  - Conduct of funeral procedures at the cemetery under strict guidelines as set out by the Department of Health.
  - Government issued new Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines
  - Gymnasiums and fitness facilities opened
  - Sporting activities have resumed, following guidance from the Department of Health.
  - Leisure boats and yachts able to enter Seychelles territory, respecting any guidance from the Department of Health.
  - Ban on all cruise ships in Port Victoria until end of 2021.
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- Indoor seated public shows or gatherings, conferences and meetings held per health guidelines and sports competitions that will take place without spectators allowed to resume.
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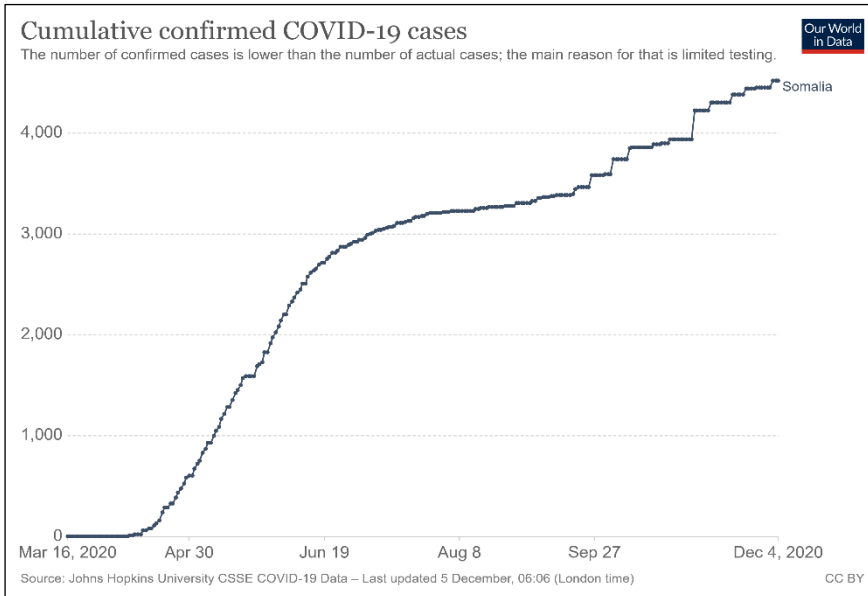
- Seychellois will be able to travel abroad as per guidance and regulations issued by the Department of Health.
- Three islands that include Cousine Island, Fregate Island and North Island authorized to resume tourist activities.
- Criteria for allowing entry into Seychelles and management of visitors:
  - *All passengers must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test that is 48 hours or less prior to boarding the flight to Seychelles.*
  - *Aircraft/Airline are not to board any passengers or crew who are symptomatic of COVID-19. Any passengers who arrives in Seychelles without this proof will be turned back on the same aircraft.*
  - *Exit screening must have been completed by all incoming passengers and crew. This is done upon arrival starting with completion of the health check form, symptomatic check, temperature scanning. The passenger may be required to undergo a rapid antigen test.*
  - *All passengers must provide proof of accommodation in an approved establishment for the entire period of stay and must show booking vouchers at Immigration on entry.*
  - *Visitors not to change accommodation during their stay and must not interact with the community apart from those at their place of residence.*
  - *In order to minimize interaction between groups of clients arriving on different dates client groups should be segregated within the Establishment. The Establishments will be visited prior to re-opening to verify that this can be done.*
  - *For 14 days after arrival the client will be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety officers or focal person.*
  - *All clients to ensure strict hygiene measures and physical distancing are enforced.*
  - *All staff to be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety Officer or focal person and record kept.*
  - *Any illness to be reported immediately to the nearest Health Facility who will provide appropriate guidance.*
  - *All cost of screening and test will be borne by the passenger.*
  - *Businesses to prepare their own standards of operation to ensure the guidelines are implemented.*
  - *Tourism businesses to be issued with a Safe Tourism Certificate by the Government before they can reopen*
- The government announced measures to subsidize wages for companies facing distress caused by COVID-19
- The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) reduced the policy rate by 100 bps to 4 percent on March 23.
- Central Bank provided a credit facility of approximately US\$36 million to assist commercial banks with emergency relief measures to assist businesses and individuals struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic.
- A limited credit provided to government by the Central Bank up to SCR 500 million (US\$30 million). In addition, credit line facility worth SCR500 million (\$28 million) set up for small businesses and accessible through commercial banks as well as Seychelles Credit Union and the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS)
- Maturity of credit to commercial banks extended to 3 years.
- Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies include: Fast tracking the processing and release of urgent medical cargo and relief supplies through simplified procedures; Accepting scanned copy of preferential certificate of origin during the COVID 19 pandemic subject to the original copy being submitted once the crisis is over; Taking deposit for the release of consignment benefitting from preferential treatment but unsupported by preferential certificate of origin because of lock down from exporting countries.
- The Port is operational with Customs staff working to ensure that import and export procedures are completed in a timely manner with priority given to consignment directly related to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Encouraging declarant to use pre-payment account and pre-lodgment (pre-arrival declaration)
- Part of the US\$10 million and US\$15 million loan secured an African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, respectively, to be used for macro-economic stabilization

- 
- Central Bank of Seychelles cut Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to 3% from 4% to promote economic stability.
  - 37,409 private sector workers provided with wage grants as support to private sector.
  - Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies include: Fast tracking the processing and release of urgent medical cargo and relief supplies through simplified procedures; Accepting scanned copy of preferential certificate of origin during the COVID 19 pandemic subject to the original copy being submitted once the crisis is over; Taking deposit for the release of consignment benefitting from preferential treatment but unsupported by preferential certificate of origin because of lock down from exporting countries.
  - Encouraging declarant to use pre-payment account and pre-lodgment (pre-arrival declaration)
  - About 37,409 private sector workers provided with wage grants as support to private sector.
  - Central Bank of Seychelles cut Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to 3% from 4% to promote economic stability.
  - On 25th June the Government secured US\$15 million loan from World Bank to support macro-economic stability.
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## Somalia



### BACKGROUND

First case detected on 16th March 2020

### Preventive Measures in Place

- All educational institutions both private and public closed and large gatherings prohibited. However, beginning 15th June, the Galmudug State Ministry of Education opened primary schools for Grade 8 students and exams started on 11th July 2020.
- From 15th August 2020, schools and universities re-opened and were directed to adhere to health measures.
- On 1st August 2020, all immigration services re-started at all entry points. Travelers arriving or departing by international commercial flights required to possess health certificates indicating that they have tested negative in the past 72 hours.
- On 5th July 2020 mosques and religious centers resumed their services.
- Beginning 5th July 2020, UNICEF and other partners began working with government for the provision of distance learning lessons through television, radio, and online platforms.
- Public meetings are banned.
- A night curfew declared on 15th April 2020 for Mogadishu between 7:00 and 5:00 a.m. The curfew prohibits opening of business premises and traffic. However, shops selling dry foods, hospitals, and pharmacies are exempted.
- Minibuses which usually carry 15 passengers allowed to carry 10 passengers in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles.
- Domestic flights which were suspended in April 2020 resumed services on 5th July 2020 but with adherence to strict health guidelines.
- A quarantine unit established at Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA) in Mogadishu to isolate passengers who demonstrate symptoms of Coronavirus.
- Cancellation of all flights except medical equipment and foodstuff flights.
- Restriction on imported KHAT to Somalia from our neighbouring countries (Kenya and Ethiopia) as from March 2020.
- National health institutions -assisted by WHO - to conduct case findings and contact tracing, testing and treatment, and quarantine activities.
- A toll-free number 449 was set up for the public to seek advice and report suspected cases of COVID-19 across the country.
- A ban to re-export of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to domestic shortages has been put in place by the Government.

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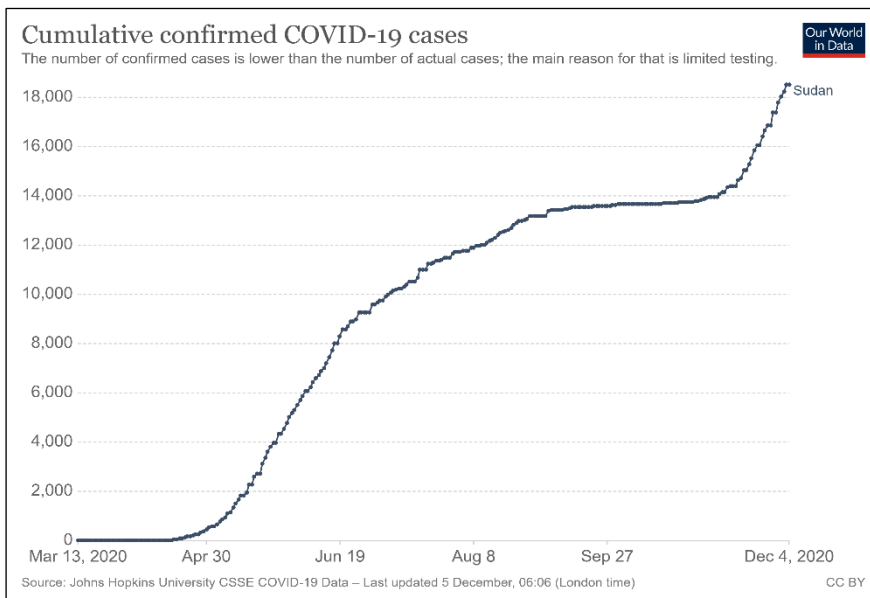
**Trade Facilitation  
/ Business  
Support**

- Exemption of tariffs on all imported foodstuffs including rice, dates, wheat flour, and cooking oil ahead of the month of Ramadan.
  - Sea ports and road transport are operational but medical screening of crew in effect.
  - Dropping charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs was put in place and Ministerial level macro- economic management sub-committee set up to supervise this directive.
  - The Government has waived all duties and taxes on all medical supplies and equipment imported to fight COVID- 19.
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## Sudan



### BACKGROUND

The first case was confirmed on 13 March 2020

### Preventive Measures in Place

- On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 –in compliance with a decision by Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health to ensure adherence to precautionary measures and health guidelines – the Omdurman Islamic University imposed a fine of Sudanese Pounds (SDG) 300 for anyone who fails to wear a face mask within the university premises.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Sudan announced the lifting of the COVID-19 lockdown in the country as follows:
  - *Activities allowed again in halls, public gardens, exhibitions, and clubs, while the curfew in Khartoum State is reduced to 10:00 p.m – 6 a.m. Initially the curfew was from 6 p.m to 5 a.m*
  - *Sports matches can resume provided no spectators are present.*
  - *The opening of the new school year initially scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 will be postponed until 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.*
  - *The State of Health Emergency will be maintained.*
- On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the Government eased Coronavirus curfew measures in Northern Sudan State whereby markets reopened with a requirement for people to wear face masks and follow health emergency measures, and vehicles disinfected. On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the Government with the support of its partners increased intensive care capacity from 16 beds to 30 beds at the isolation centre for the Jabra Emergency Hospital in southern Khartoum.
- Establishment of a National Covid-19 Response Plan with a budget of \$82 million to manage arrivals at points of entry, isolation, patient care, infection prevention and control, supplies, risk communication, surveillance and capacity building.
- Daily reporting activated at 10 points of entry: Northern, Red Sea, Khartoum, Kassala, Gedarif and West Darfur states; seaports, airports and ground crossings.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Sudan suspended the special entry arrangement for special business representatives and foreign diplomats and their families that was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. This followed a case where a 9-year-old daughter of the Sudanese attaché in Bangkok tested positive for COVID-19 upon return.
- The Qastal-Ashkeet land border crossing with Egypt reopened on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020, having been closed in March 2020 over coronavirus concerns.
- Sudan Joined the United Nations' Better Than Cash Alliance - a digital payments platform to Drive Financial Inclusion and Transparency.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020, Sudanese Supreme Committee for Health Emergencies announced that the new school year will be postponed for two weeks due to the second wave of the Coronavirus.
- Three border crossings were opened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 between Ethiopia and Sudan to allow for the resumption of trade-related activities between the two countries. The border crossings on the part of Sudan cover the Blue Nile state areas that include Geisan, Wali and El Gedaref. As part of new trade measures:

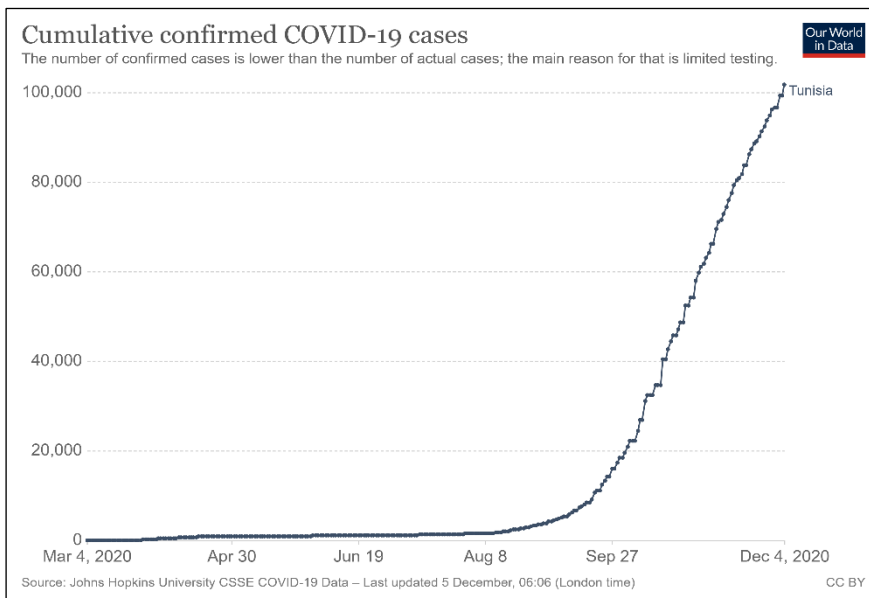
### Trade Facilitation / Business Support

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- *Import tax has been cancelled on the Wali border crossing, and*
  - *Security measures have been enhanced.*
  - New Coronavirus protocol for Banks issued by the Central Bank of Sudan to guide banking operations in handling of paper money as well as basic hygiene.
  - Postponement of basic certification exams in all states until further notice.
  - Measures introduced to shorten the time worshipers spent in mosques to avoid crowding.
  - Establishment of a national fund to collect donations to combat the pandemic
  - Khartoum International Airport (KIA) allowing flights from Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. All passengers arriving at KIA will be tested for COVID-19 as of July 14 if they do not possess a certificate for being COVID-19 free.
  - Sudan authorities have opened up gold export trade to private firms including the handling of all exports through Khartoum International Airport.
  - Local travel within Sudan allowed including transport for fuel and other essential commodities.
  - Port Sudan operational but Cargo vessels must meet 14 days quarantine from last departure.
  - Sudan exports on Egyptian trucks are allowed to leave through Ashkit border crossing as from 3rd June 2020.
  - Lockdown measures on shops and restaurants lifted from July 6th, 2020.
  - Launch of an online project announced to help in testing and containing COVID-19 on 22nd July 2020
- 

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## Tunisia



### BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 2nd March 2020.

## Preventive Measures in Place

- On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Government issued a number of COVID-19 measures including:
  - *Revision of the overnight curfew and extended across Tunisia whereby the curfew has been brought forward by an hour to 20:00 hours to 05:00 a.m. (local time). A longer 19:00 - 05:00 curfew also applies across the country at weekends.*
  - *issued a ban on non-essential movement between the country's governorates, with domestic travel being limited to work-related trips and other essential journeys;*
  - *a 16:00 hours closure time for cafes and restaurants, a ban on protests, and a four-person limit on public gatherings.*
- On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Governor of Sousse Governorate, Raja Trabelsi, extended the night curfew by 10 days to stem the spread of Covid-19. The curfew will be in force in the entire governorate from 8pm to 5am.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Tunisia finalized measures to be administered for passengers travelling from high-risk countries, categorised as the 'red zone' of travellers. According to the measures, passengers required to present themselves at the departing airport three hours in advance to commence pre-check in activities, and present two printed copies of payment receipts for a seven-day quarantine at a hotel in Tunisia.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the German company Van Laack distributed 10,000 face masks in Bizerte for free. Additionally, the company offered 3,000 medical smocks to the staff of hospitals in the governorate of Bizerte.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Sports ministry suspended youth and sports events, as well as official sports competitions and exhibition games, for 15 days, with the possibility of extension if required. As part of the measures, national teams must carry out COVID-19 tests and ensure they are negative so as to continue training.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the government announced plans to recruit 3,000 healthcare staff to support public hospitals as part of an exceptional hiring drive.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020, the Prime Minister banned all gatherings and public or private demonstrations.
- Educational institutions opened on 15th September 2020 and must adhere to the following measures:
  - Mandatory wearing of protective masks for all staff in educational and training facilities.
  - Screening and monitoring at the entrances to educational and training institutions.
  - Cleaning and disinfection of *toilets and educational and training facilities.*
  - Conducting awareness campaigns and provision of psychological support for children, pupils and students. The curfew imposed in Kef province from 19:00 – 04:00 to contain the spread of the virus the curfew will be in place until mid-September 2020.



- On 21st August 2020 Tunisian authorities reinstated a curfew in El Hamma from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. after a spike in novel Coronavirus cases for a period of one week. Trains from Tunis to the city of Gabes, which services El Hamma, have also been cancelled.
- Overnight curfew re-imposed in greater Tunis from 8th October 2020 for 15 days.
- Beginning 2nd October 2020, sanitary confinement to be established in certain regions classified as a "hot spot" with a cumulative incidence exceeding 250 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.
- Beginning 12th August 2020 wearing of masks made mandatory in several areas such as airports, Tunis railway station, the port of La Goulette, hospitals, private clinics and supermarkets.
- Beginning August 2020 in Siliana Region the Government is providing unconditional cash transfer of 200 TND (about US\$70) to aid vulnerable groups meet their basic food needs.
- From 5th August 2020 wearing of face masks made mandatory in public places nationwide.
- From 27th July 2020, members of the same family coming from countries not classified on the 'green' or 'orange' list, including children under 12, to be put under mandatory isolation.
- Government Offices, factories, shops business, mosques and cafes to open.
- From 27th June borders were opened for international flights.
- From June 4, work resumed at 100 percent capacity in public administrations and in the other sectors of the economy.
- From 27th June 2020 sea, land, and air borders were opened for foreigners under strict measures. A color-coded system has been introduced to show which countries may enter without restrictions and which countries can enter with enhanced restrictions.
- As of 27th July 2020, passengers arriving without a lab test certificate to be held in quarantine for at least three days to allow the Ministry of Health to carry out tests.
- Through Decree No. 2020-208 the government allowed partial and gradual opening of the courts. As part of the easing up of measures mosques, all worship places, hotels, party halls and restaurants have been opened from 4th June 2020.
- From 8th June 2020, sporting activities resumed.
- Supermarkets and retail shops re-opened as part of easing lockdown measures.
- As from 4th June 2020 inter-city and travel between provinces has been allowed
- Closure of schools and other educational institutions still in place.
- Expansion of the budget allocation for health expenses as well as the creation of a 100 TND Million (app. US\$34 mill) fund for the acquisition of equipment for public hospitals.
- Enhanced digitization of government services to minimize human contact.
- Robotic technology deployed for policing and screening of patients at all hospitals.
- Allocated 100 MD (approximately \$50million) for acquisition of hospital and public health equipment.

**Trade  
Facilitation /  
Business  
Support**

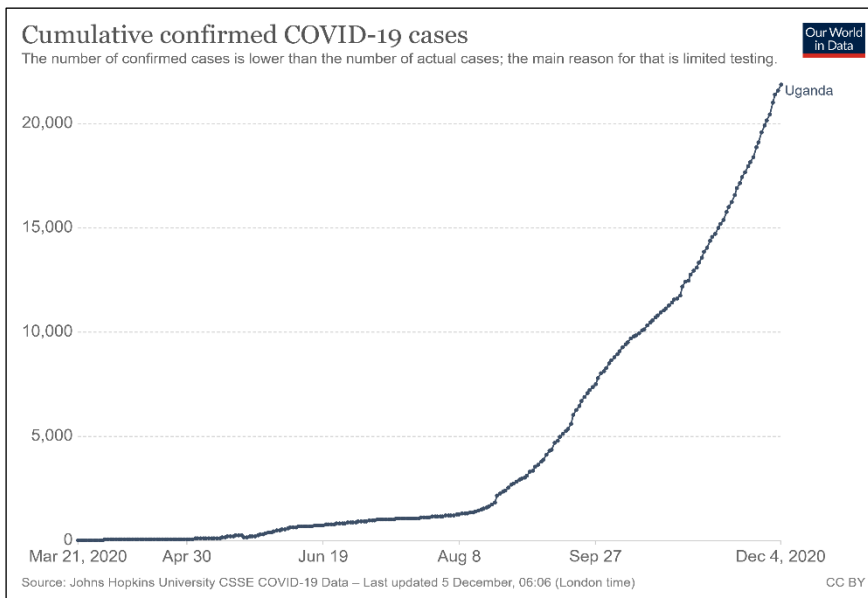
- A 2.5 billion TND emergency plan (\$0.71 billion or 1.8 percent of GDP) was announced on March 21.
- Creation of investment funds of 600 million TND (app.US\$ 204 million).
- Established a state guarantee for new credits of 500 million TND (app. US\$ 170)
- The government will delay tax debts, postpone taxes on small- and medium-sized businesses, delay repayment of low-income employee loans and provide financial assistance to poor families.
- Provided banks with the necessary liquidity to enable them to continue their normal operation.
- Establishment of a fund of 2.5 billion Tunisian dinars (\$860 million) to support businesses
- Lowering of the interest rate to 6.75%.
- Delaying the payment of instalments on loans and dropping charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs.
- Banks have removed withdrawal charges and offering e-banking subscriptions
- Activation of a mechanism for the state to cover the difference between the policy rate and the effective interest rate on investment loans within a cap of 3 percent.

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- Exemption from VAT for sales of pharmaceuticals by retailers and wholesalers;
  - All companies are authorized to revalue their buildings and lands recorded in their balance sheets on the basis of their market value; the capital gain resulting from this revaluation will be exempt from income tax provided that the revalued assets are not sold;
  - For companies severely impacted by COVID19, certificates of suspension of VAT as well as all tax certificates, for persons who are normally eligible, will be granted immediately on request without requiring the presentation of the necessary documents based on a commitment to provide these later;
  - For companies severely impacted by COVID19, the procedures for the refund of VAT credits derived from operations will be simplified through removing the consideration of the requirement for 6 months of consecutive credit, and the credit will be refunded within one month;
  - Joint mechanism on export of goods between Tunisia and Libya through the boarder of Ras Ajbir established.
  - On 8 May 2020 the government launched an electronic platform to receive requests from companies affected by the pandemic and that wish to benefit from the government's support measures.
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## Uganda



### BACKGROUND

First case reported on  
18th March 2020

## Preventive Measures in Place

- Beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020, casinos, betting shops, gyms, massage parlours, and mobile markets are allowed to resume operations.
- Starting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Government eased restrictions on public gatherings from 70 persons to 200 persons.
- The Entebbe International Airport and land borders opened on 1st October 2020 for tourists, coming in and going out, provided they test negative 72 hours before arrival. Tour operators to ensure that the tourists do not mix with the Ugandans. Returning Ugandans, who have negative PCR results, allowed to go home. The Ministry of Health will only get their addresses for follow up.
- From 20<sup>th</sup> September restrictions on movements on border districts lifted, curfew maintained from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m;
- Boda-bodas (commercial passenger carrying motorcycles) movements to end at 6 p.m.
- Beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 places of worship opened with the following guidelines:
  - *Individual prayers or confessions with priests or counselling with the necessary SOPs.*
  - *Prayers and fellowships whose numbers do not exceed 70 and by observing all the other SOPs.*
  - *Night prayers and trans-nights are not allowed.*
  - *The regular large gatherings of prayers and preaching on Sundays and Fridays will be considered at a later stage, depending on how the disease will be evolving; but the rule of the number of 70 and not more can be used on the Fridays and Sundays.*
  - *There will be no Sunday School sessions for children.*
- Sporting activities to resume from 20<sup>th</sup> September but must adhere to the following guidelines:
  - *Open air activities of sports will re-open provided there are no spectators and the players are tested for Covid-19, 72 hours before. This test will expire in 14 days. Hence, the Sportsmen will have to repeat the test;*
  - *Sportsmen and women should remember that masks should not be worn when they are engaged in strenuous exercises.*
  - *With tournaments, teams should be quarantined for the whole season of the competition.*
  - *Indoor sports activities, including gyms to remain closed.*
- Hotels to continue operating following the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) agreed with the Ministry of Health.

- As from 10th August 2020, borders opened for Ugandans stuck in the East African Region to get back to the country.
- Private cars to carry a maximum of 4 passengers including the driver to ensure social distancing
- Public service vehicles to carry half their capacity to ensure social distancing and to adhere to strict SoPs
- Hair salons and shopping arcades allowed to open effective 22nd July subject to adherence to strict operating procedures.
- Commercial motorbikes locally known as “boda boda” were allowed to resume passenger services effective 27th July 2020 subject to strict adherence of Standard Operating procedures including keeping records of all passengers carried. Since the lockdown started, their operations were restricted to transportation of cargo only.
- Compulsory wearing of face masks in all public places.
- Testing of all truck drivers entering the country from all entry points in place including testing the crew of cargo planes.
- Schools opened on 15th October 2020 for the candidate classes of P-7, S-4, S-6, finalists in tertiary colleges and finalists in universities. Schools and educational institutions of higher had closed from 20th March 2020.
- Release of over 800 prisoners in July 2020 to lessen congestion in the prisons sector and ensure social distancing.
- Presidential Directive to allow free movement of cargo within the country and across borders issued on 16th April 2020.
- Trucks may carry a maximum of three persons with duties in connection with the movement and clearance of conveyance and or cargo.
- All drivers on Uganda side are to go through a mandatory “blood test” upon arrival at the borders.
- Shops and shopping malls have been allowed to open but to abide by strict SoPs
- Civil servants to work from home as from 8th April 2020.

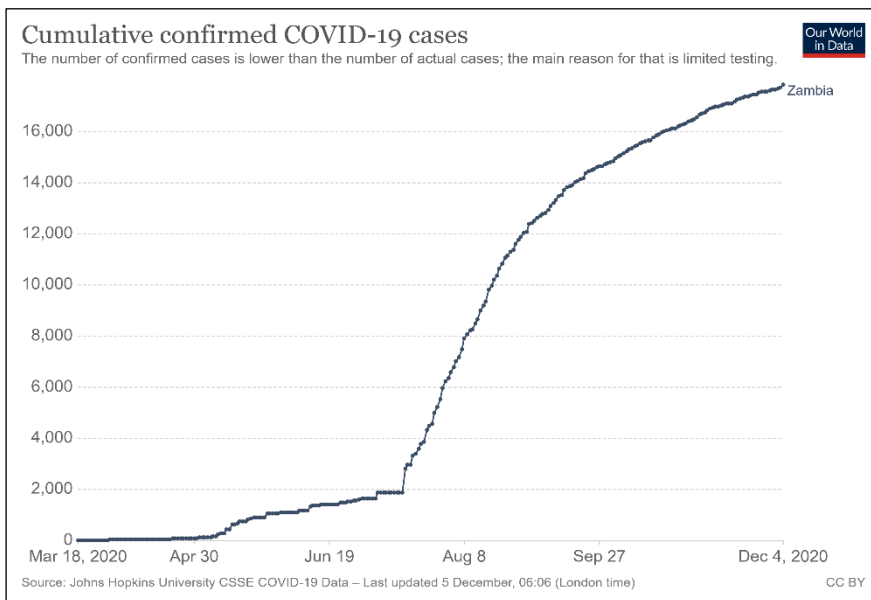
**Trade  
Facilitation /  
Business  
Support**

- Use of electronic cargo tracking technology to track drivers whose results test positive for COVID-19.
- Ensured that operational guidelines issued during the period are relayed to clients and the public through all available channels of communication including social media.
- Encouraged importers and manufacturers encouraged to take on tax exemptions as provided for under the laws and allowed general extension of payment of duties upon request.
- Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) is facilitating Bond owners and clearing agents to access the bonded warehouses.
- Use of Online systems for cargo clearance and to respond to queries and inquiries, e.g. ASYCUDA, Help tool to respond to queries.
- Categorization of Customs officials as providers of essential services and thus enabling them to continue to work during lock down
- Restrictions have been lifted and the following allowed to be operational:
  - (i) *Wholesale shops*
  - (ii) *Hardware shops*
  - (iii) *Garages for repair and servicing of automobiles*
  - (iv) *Metal fabrication and wood workshops*
  - (v) *Insurance providers to start operations*
  - (vi) *Restaurants operate but only on takeaway basis*
  - (vii) *Warehouses*

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## Zambia



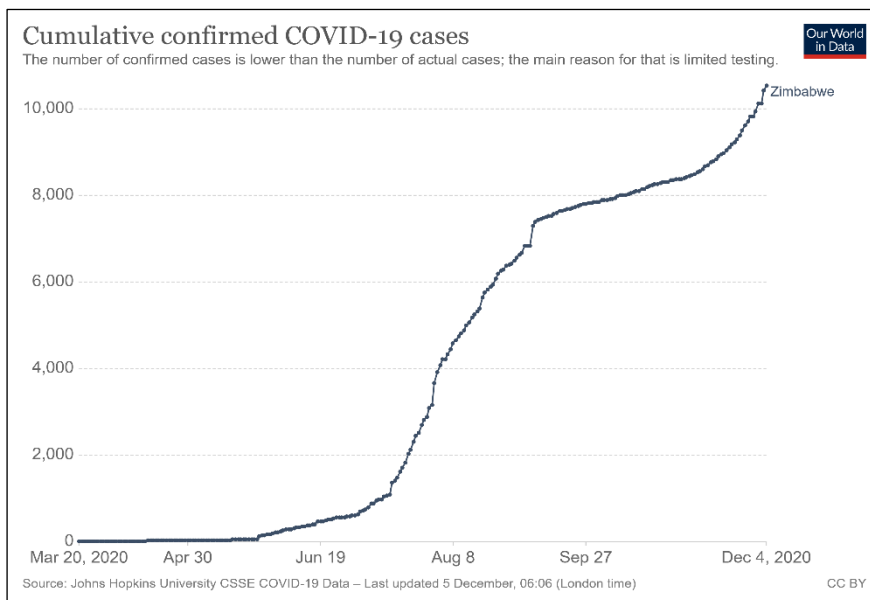
### BACKGROUND

First case reported on  
18th March 2020

## Preventive Measures in Place

- Beginning September 2020, COVID-19 testing centres established in all the 10 provinces.
- Learning institutions including schools, colleges, and universities re-opened on 21st September 2020. However, the learning institutions will follow COVID-19 prevention guidelines.
- Beginning 11th September 2020 bars and nightclubs to open and operate from 18:00 hours to 23:00 hours from Friday to Sunday.
- On 26th August 2020 the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued standard operating procedures that all public transport operators should comply with which include:
  - *carrying the number of passengers in accordance with the registration requirement in order to curb overloading;*
  - *mandatory masking by drivers, conductors and passengers as well as frequent and routine sanitization of public passenger vehicles.*
- Other measures include provision of handwashing materials and hand sanitizers in public transport vehicles, mandatory temperature reading, and ventilation. Public transporters who violate the measures risk withdrawal of their licenses.
- From mid-August 2020, Zambia among other seven African countries (alongside Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Morocco) to start administering the Coronavirus antibody tests as part of efforts to understand the extent of the outbreak on the continent.
- Citizens who have tested positive but are not showing any symptoms are allowed to go in self-isolation and strictly observe health guidelines. Health officials must conduct surveillance on such persons to monitor their situation.
- Patients who have tested positive and have underlying illnesses such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS placed under quarantine in government designated health facilities.
- All travelers coming into Zambia will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) PCR test result. The test should have been conducted within the previous 14 days prior to arrival in Zambia. Travelers who do not meet this requirement will not be allowed into Zambia.
- Health screening conducted at all entry points.
- The Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka remains open.
- Conferences, meetings and workshops involving large groups of people banned;
- Restaurants, cinemas, gymnasiums, and casinos open but must continue adhering to the stipulated public health guidelines.
- Hotels and lodges resumed normal operations as from May 2020.
- Police restrict numbers of people visiting inmates and suspects in police detention.
- Prison authorities to ensure detention facilities are not overcrowded.
- Social distancing of at least one to two meters to be observed in public places.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Health set up the Epidemic Preparedness Fund amounting to Kwacha 57 million (app. US\$3.17 million).</li> <li>• Cabinet approved a COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan with a Budget of 659 Mill. Kwacha (app. US\$36.6 M) under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support easing of liquidity, Government released Kwacha 2.5 billion (app. US\$140 Mill) to reduce arrears owed to domestic supplies of goods and services, paid outstanding arrears of pensioners and retirees.</li> <li>• Kwacha 140 million (app. US\$7.8 Million) was paid to local contractors in the road development sector.</li> <li>• Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) suspended excise duty on imported ethanol-based sanitizers and other medicine-related activities based on guidelines issued by ZRA.</li> <li>• VAT payments on imported spare-parts, lubricants, and stationery were removed to ease pressure on companies.</li> <li>• Suspension of import duties on the importation of concentrates in the mining sector to ease pressure on the sector.</li> <li>• Suspension of export duty on precious metals and crocodile skins.</li> <li>• The Government put in place measures to encourage the use of digital financial services to minimize use of cash money and minimize person to person contacts in conducting financial transactions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <i>Waiving charges for person to person electronic money transfers of up to Kwacha 150: these transactions are thus free of charge.</i></li> <li>(ii) <i>Removing the transaction and balance limits on agents and corporate wallets.</i></li> <li>(iii) <i>Reducing the processing fees for Real Time Gross Settlement System.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pre-clearance and e-Payment strongly encouraged to reduce human contact</li> <li>• Use of Risk Management and selectivity</li> <li>• Truck drivers allowed entry at border points however, they are subjected to testing and kept under mandatory quarantine for 14 days on entry if showing symptoms or if they are originating from high risk countries</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry  P.O. Box 31968 LUSAKA Zambia  Tel: +260 223617 / 228301; Fax: +260 226673  Email: <a href="mailto:mushuma.mulenga@grz.gov.zm">mushuma.mulenga@grz.gov.zm</a>; <a href="mailto:paul.mumba@mcti.gov.zm">paul.mumba@mcti.gov.zm</a>;  <a href="mailto:Philip.soko@mcti.gov.zm">Philip.soko@mcti.gov.zm</a>; <a href="mailto:kabuswe.bwalya@mcti.gov.zm">kabuswe.bwalya@mcti.gov.zm</a>  Zambia National Public Health Institute. Email: <a href="mailto:ims.covid@znphi.co.zm">ims.covid@znphi.co.zm</a></p>



## Zimbabwe



### BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 20 March 2020.

### Preventive Measures in Place

On 27th October 2020, the Government announced new measures as follows:  
Phased re-opening of land borders as follows from 1 December as follows:

- *Border posts that fall into the first phase are Beitbridge, Plumtree, Victoria Falls, Chirundu, Nyamapanda and Forbes.*
- *The borders will open first to private passenger vehicles and pedestrian traffic from 1st December 2020, while further assessment will be undertaken with regard to preparations for handling public passenger transport.*
- *Cross-border public transport to remain barred until further assessments have been completed.*
- *Border operating hours for private traffic at the points of entry fixed at between 6am and 6pm until further assessment of the situation.*
- *The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) will resume commuter train services in Bulawayo on 2nd November 2020 with measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as follows:*
  - *Coaches will be disinfected every day.*
  - *Passengers will also have temperature measured and required to wash or sanitize hands before boarding the train.*
  - *People suspected to be infected with Covid-19 will not be allowed to board the train.*
  - *Passengers will be required to wear face masks in adherence to Covid-19 regulations.*
  - *Passengers without face masks will not be allowed to board the train.*
  - *Security personnel will be deployed aboard trains to ensure strict enforcement of Covid-19 regulations*
  - *Passengers can pay train fares using cash, Point of Sale (POS) machines or mobile money according to NRZ.*
  - *The commuter train service will run from Monday to Friday and there will be no service during weekends and public holidays.*
  - *Relaxed curfew hours to start from 10pm instead of 8pm for the convenience of those who are cleared late at ports of entry.*
- On 4th October 2020 the Government announced that Zimbabweans in South Africa will be allowed to return without seeking clearance from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in South Africa under the following procedures:
  - *Passage to the country to be subjected to relevant Covid-19 regulations as put in place by health authorities;*
  - *This facility also covers those with permanent resident permits in Zimbabwe;*
  - *Zimbabweans with valid South African permanent residence and other permits such as work, and student permits will also be allowed to cross into South Africa and back home.*

- On 22nd September 2020, the Government announced that:
    - *primary and secondary schools will gradually reopen from 26th October 2020 for all learners. Students sitting for Grade 7, Ordinary and Advanced Level Zimbabwe Schools Examinations Council (Zimsec) examinations required to return to class on 28th September 2020 to start preparations for final examinations. Other non-examination classes will return to schools in phases.*
    - *Rest of non-examination classes resumed on 9 November 2020*
    - *International flights resumed on 1st October 2020.*
    - *the re-opening of the Registrar-General's Office to allow access to registration of births.*
  - On 15th September 2020, Government approved the resumption of inter-city travel to facilitate the smooth movement of examination candidates, citizens and visitors based on the following conditions:
    - *Transporters who wish to ferry passengers should register with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development.*
    - *Transporters to strictly comply with Standard Operating Procedures for the sector which are compliant to the WHO guidelines and all COVID-19 regulations.*
    - *In support of this service, the Vehicle Inspection Department to resume its services.*
  - Air Zimbabwe resumed domestic and regional flights as follows:
    - *Domestic flights and regional flights resumed on 23rd September 2020 and 3rd October 2020, respectively.*
    - *The regional Harare-Dar es-Salaam-Harare schedule will initially operate every Tuesday and Saturday.*
    - *All passengers to be tested for Covid-19 within 48 hours before travelling*
  - On 15th September 2020, Government reopened the Central Registry department for the resumption of services amid a backlog of critical documents such as birth certificates and passports.
  - On 15th September 2020 the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) lifted the suspension of electoral activities. This lifting allows the following:
    - *Finalization of the Covid-19 Policy on electoral activities by the Commission which is accessible to the public on the ZEC website [www.zec.org.zw](http://www.zec.org.zw).*
    - *Publication of electoral timelines for all pending by-elections in the press through notices.*
    - *Holding of Parliamentary and local council by-elections with the Commission applying procedures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection.*
  - Beginning 4th September 2020 COVID-19 measures have been relaxed in Zimbabwe as follows:
    - *Returning residents with a negative PCR test certificate conducted within 48 hours of departure will not be quarantined.*
    - *Returning residents without a PCR test conducted within 48 hours of departure will proceed to a quarantine facility where they will be tested before being discharged.*
  - On 27th August 2020, the Zimbabwe Prison Correctional Services (ZCPS) rolled out COVID-19 provincial awareness campaign in Masvingo province
  - On 24th November 2020, Zimbabwe intensified measures to ensure strict adherence to COVID-19 regulations that have not been adhered to. These include closure of public bars, night clubs, beerhalls, betting shops and theatres as well as regulations for authorized public events such as weddings and church sessions that are limited to 50 and 100 persons, respectively.
  - On 23rd November 2020 - All travelers from Tanzania will be tested for Covid-19 at Zimbabwean points of entry using the PCR test
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- On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Zimbabwe resumed consular services in Eswatini and Mozambique. The consular services in Eswatini and Mozambique had been temporarily shelved at the peak of the Covid-19 lockdowns in March 2020.
  - The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) announced that it will hold its first ever



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**Business Support**

virtual Sanganai/ Hlanganani World Tourism Expo from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 to ensure a platform for exhibitors and buyers is maintained amidst COVID-19.

- On 26th August 2020 the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO) rolled out a solar-powered self-sanitization booth at one of the terminuses in the Harare Central Business District (CBD).
- On 26th August 2020 the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStats) began a door-to-door enumeration exercise as it prepares for a COVID-19 Epidemiological Prevalence Survey to be conducted in September 2020.
- On 25th August 2020, the Government extended from 3 months to 6 months unpaid sick leave for COVID-19 positive civil servants.
- On 24th August 2020, in order to enhance testing capacity at Beitbridge border point, laboratory personnel at Beitbridge district hospital were trained on the Abbott Platform which is capable of testing 94 COVID-19 samples at one go.
- On 18th August 2020, the Government reviewed the lockdown measures as follows:
  - (i) *Immigrants who have tested negative for COVID-19 would no longer be detained upon arrival in the country;*
  - (ii) *Business hours extended from the initial 8 am – 3 pm to 8 am – 4.30 pm;*
  - (iii) *Curfew revised from 8 pm – 6 am to 10pm – 6am;*
  - (iv) *Public transport drivers to undergo regular PCR tests*
  - (v) *Public transport buses to be allowed dedicated lane at roadblocks to expedite their passage.*
- On 18th August 2020, the President launched a virtual Cabinet meeting systems to be used for Cabinet business and to be conducted at three different venues as follows:
  - (i) The State House Tent
  - (ii) The Cabinet Room
  - (iii) The Munhumutapa Boardroom.
- On 3rd September 2020, the Government announced the full resumption of all tourism activities. However, restrictions on inter- city and inter-provincial travel to be maintained.
- Zimbabwe among seven other countries that include Liberia, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Morocco, and Zambia that will start administering Coronavirus antibody tests beginning from the week of 24th August 2020 in the hope that this will help in reopening the economy.
- Designation of journalists as an essential service (SI 93 of 2020)
- Reduction of employee attendance at government and private workplaces (except for critical staff).
- Gazette Public Health (Covid-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations 2020 on 23rd March 2020 to allow for compulsory testing.
- To ease the situation in quarantine and isolation facilities, the Government adopted new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines that allow asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 patients to be discharged after 10 days and 13 days, respectively.
- Mass testing intensified.
- Use of schools by churches banned as from 8th July 2020 to reduce the risk of infections when schools reopen.

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