

Majority of MS Records Steady Decline in Cases with only a few Exceptions

COVID-19

in COMESA

Situational Update No. 34

20th October, 2020

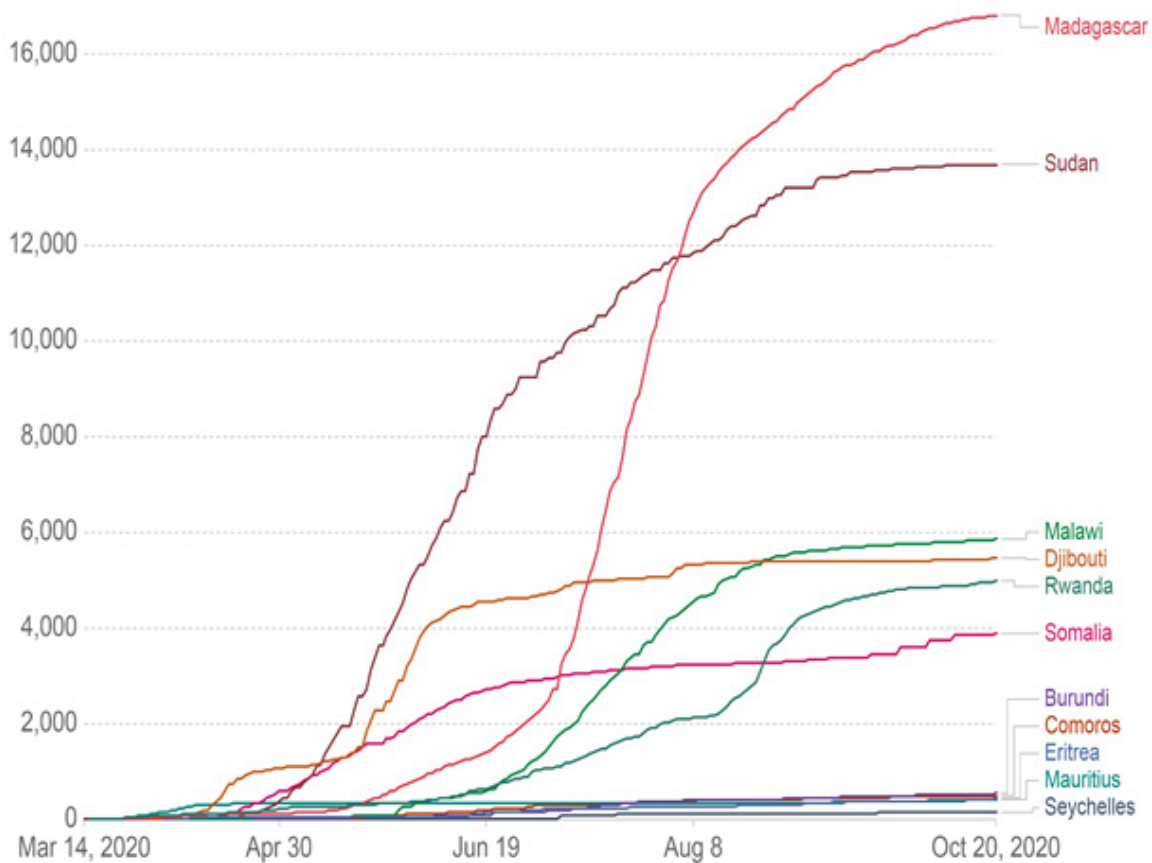


Recent data compiled by COMESA Early Warning System (COMWARN) shows that majority of the Member States are steadily recording low numbers of new COVID-19 cases. Exceptions to this are Tunisia, Libya, Ethiopia and Kenya which have recorded a significant rise in the last seven days.

In the last one week, for instance, Seychelles recorded one new case while Comoros recorded seven, Mauritius 15, Burundi 24, Somalia 26, Sudan 33, Malawi 36, Eritrea 38, Djibouti 43, Madagascar 84 and Rwanda 87. The low numbers is mainly due to the stringent measures that have been put in place. In addition, there is a high level of adherence to the measures put in place.

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

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



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 20 October, 10:35 (London time)

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In Tunisia, a total of 10,171 COVID-19 cases were recorded in the last seven days which represents a 31.24% increase. While Tunisia was one of the first COMESA Member States to flatten the COVID-19 curve, the increase in daily new infections in the recent past is of concern. It should be noted that Tunisia was among the first countries in the region to put in place stringent measures that helped to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the new surge can be attributed to the opening up of borders and allowing tourism activities to resume, and non-adherence to preventive measures such as social distancing and wearing of masks.

Biweekly change in confirmed COVID-19 cases



The biweekly growth rate on any given date measures the percentage change in the number of new confirmed cases over the last 14 days relative to the number in the previous 14 days.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 20 October, 10:35 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

In Libya, the increase can be attributed to non-adherence to the COVID-19 prevention measures in particular in the malls and other gatherings such as weddings. In the past week alone, Libya recorded 6,128 new cases which represent a 13.98% increase. Areas that have been largely affected include Tripoli, Misrata in the west and Sebha where there has been a high rate of community transmission. In addition, contact tracing in these areas has remained a challenge and has been exacerbated by stigma and insecurity. The escalation in numbers is likely to strain health systems in these areas.

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In Kenya, 3,457 new COVID-19 cases representing an 8.31% increase has been recorded in the last seven days. This is mainly attributed to the low levels of adherence to safety measures and the easing of restrictions. This has prompted Kenya's Minister of Health to issue a warning on 19th October 2020, that rising COVID-19 infections in the country might lead to a second wave of the pandemic.

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Ethiopia has equally experienced a modest increase of 5.55% in the last seven days. While this increase is significantly reduced when normalized by the population, the continued rise of the new cases, if not contained, may pose a health security risk. The rise could be linked to non-adherence to COVID-19 preventive health measures and the opening of the country's economic sectors such as tourism.

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Summary of Regional Figures as of 20th October 2020

Country	Total Cases	New cases	% Increase of new cases	Total Tests	Total Cases/ 1M pop	Tests/ 1M pop	Total Re-covered	Total Deaths	Deaths/ 1M pop	Recovery Rate	Active Cases
Burundi	549	24	4.57%	44,526	46	3,712	497	1	0.08	90.5%	51
Comoros	502	7	1.41%		574		485	7	8	96.61%	10
Djibouti	5,469	43	0.79%	82,449	5,511	83,089	5,379	61	61	98.35%	29
DR Congo	11,052	184	1.69%		122		10,357	303	3	93.71%	392
Egypt	105,547	899	0.86%	135,000	1,026	1,312	98,314	6,130	60	93.15%	1,103
Eritrea	452	38	9.18%		127		388			85.84%	64
Eswatini	5,788	105	1.85%	45,570	4,973	39,157	5,427	116	100	93.76%	245
Ethiopia	89,860	4,724	5.55%	1,403,894	776	12,123	43,149	1,365	12	48.02%	45,346
Kenya	45,076	3,457	8.31%	623,828	833	11,527	32,084	839	16	71.18%	12,153
Libya	49,949	6,128	13.98%	274,711	7,240	39,818	27,262	732	106	54.58%	21,955
Madagascar	16,810	84	0.50%	85,407	603	3,061	16,215	238	9	96.46%	357
Malawi	5,860	36	0.62%	58,002	304	3,009	4,757	181	9	81.18%	922
Mauritius	419	15	3.71%	260,973	329	205,101	379	10	8	90.45%	30
Rwanda	4,992	87	1.77%	535,782	383	41,067	4,797	34	3	96.09%	161
Seychelles	149	1	0.68%	5,200	1,512	52,775	148			99.33%	1
Somalia	3,890	26	0.67%		243		3,089	99	6	79.41%	702
Sudan	13,724	33	0.24%		311		6,764	836	19	49.29%	6,124
Tunisia	42,727	10,171	31.24%	303,202	3,604	25,574	5,032	687	58	11.78%	37,008
Uganda	10,691	827	8.38%	523,399	232	11,338	6,992	97	2	65.40%	3,602
Zambia	15,897	348	2.24%	212,699	858	11,476	15,031	346	19	94.55%	520
Zimbabwe	8,159	138	1.72%	162,958	547	10,917	7,683	232	16	94.17%	244
AGGREGATES	437,562	27,375	6.67%	4,757,600			294,229	12,314		67.24%	131,019

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



COMESA SECRETARIAT
COMESA Center
Ben Bella Road
P.O. Box 30051. Lusaka, Zambia



+260 211 229 725



www.comesa.int



info@comesa.int



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