

COVID-19 DEATHS REMAIN LOW IN AFRICA AND THE COMESA REGION

COVID-19

in COMESA

Situational Update No. 35

27th October, 2020

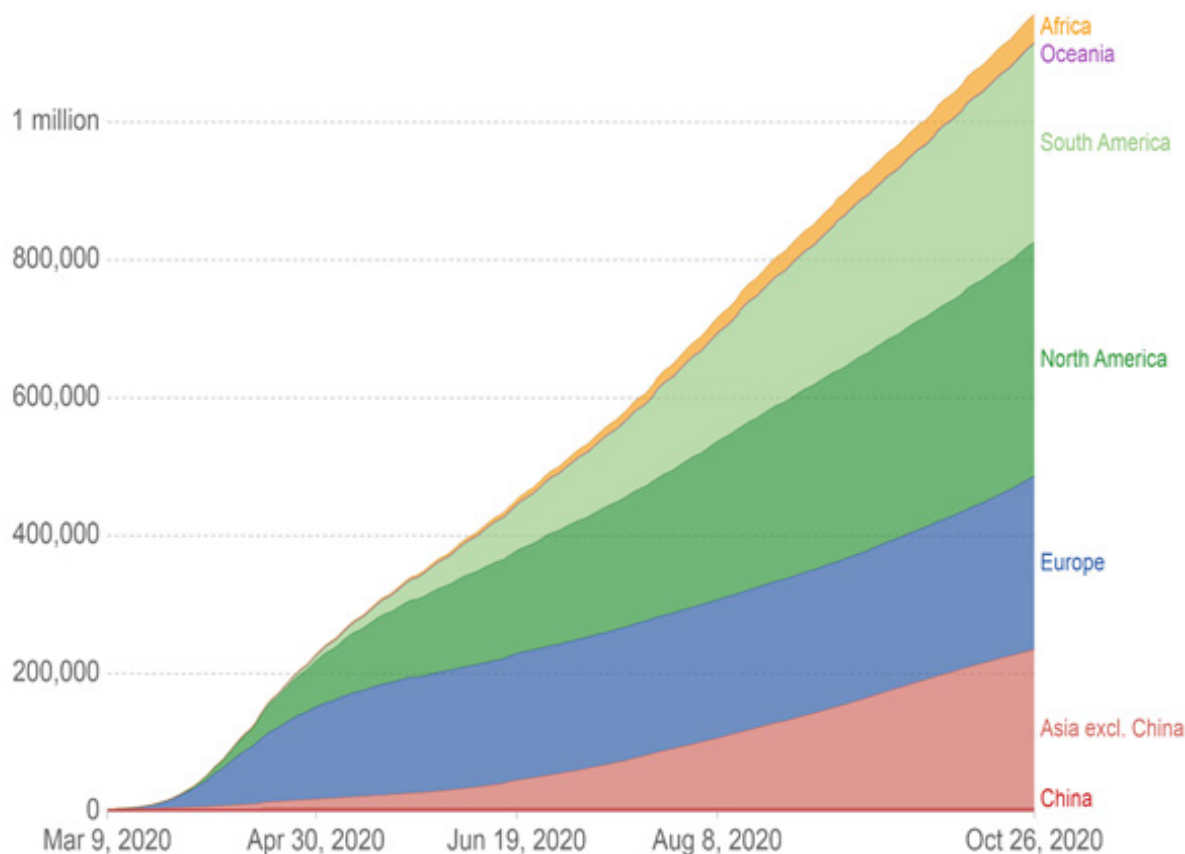


The number of COVID-related deaths in Africa have remained low at 2.39 percent of the total recorded cases despite the cases reaching over 1.739 million on the continent. As of 27th August 2020, COVID-19 deaths in Africa were at 41,672 which is relatively low as compared to other regions including North America (344,834), South America (288,993), Europe (252,825) and Asia (235,996).

The countries that have recorded a relatively high number of deaths in Africa include South Africa (19,008), Egypt (6,211), Morocco (3,373), Algeria (1,922), Ethiopia (1,437), Nigeria (1,132), Tunisia (983), Kenya (920) and Sudan (837). Most of deaths in these countries are mainly associated with underlying ailments that affect the 60+ age group.

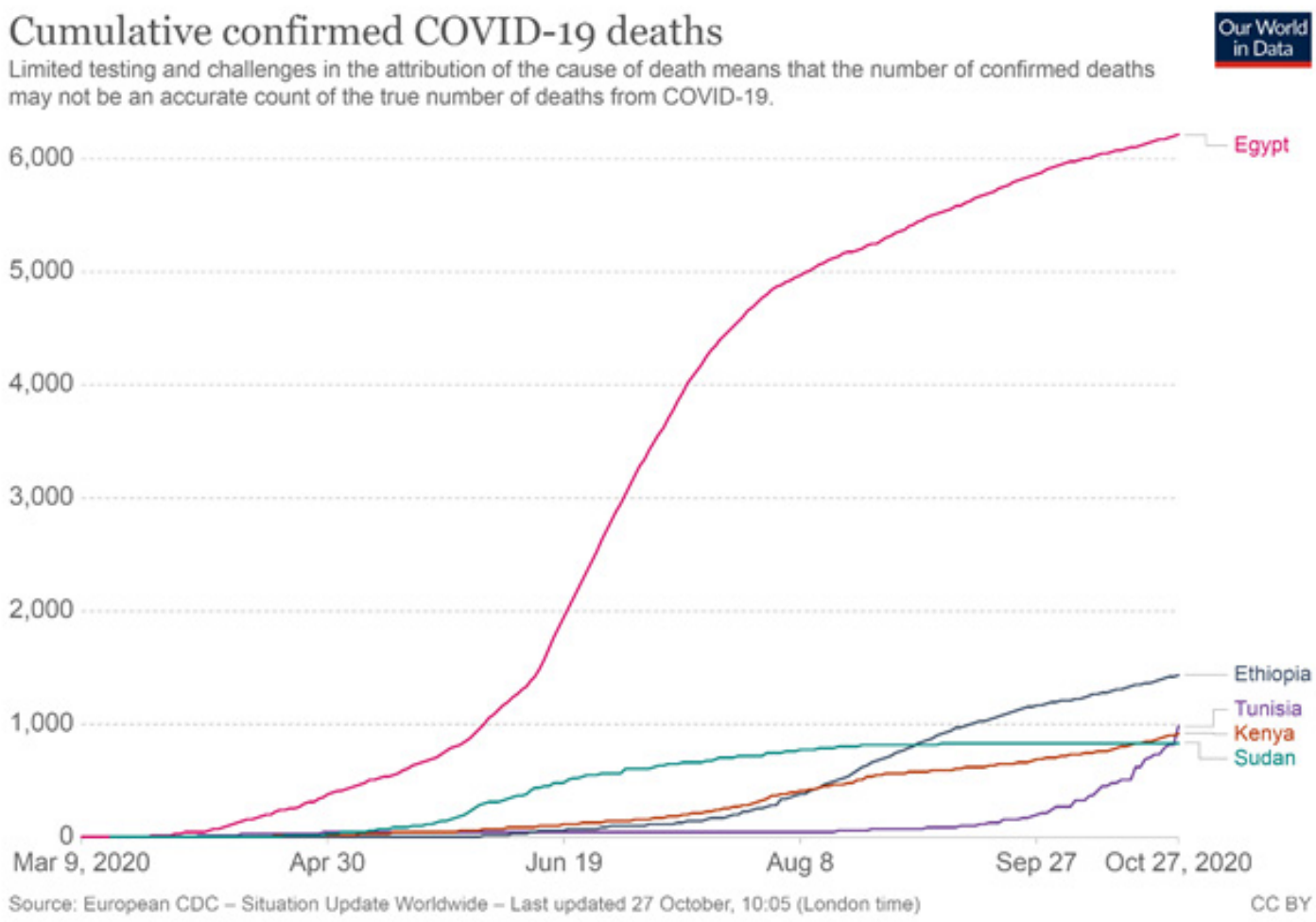
Total confirmed COVID-19 deaths

Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 27 October, 10:05 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

The low numbers of COVID-19 deaths in Africa are also reflected at the regional level. In the COMESA region, a total of 12,945 COVID-19 deaths (which is 31.06% of the continental figures) have been recorded. Egypt (6,211), Ethiopia (1,437), Tunisia (983), Kenya (920) and Sudan (837) are some of the countries in the COMESA region with high COVID-19 death counts.





Over the past few months, the low numbers of COVID-19 deaths in the COMESA region have been attributed to the stringent measures put in place by Member States to contain the spread of the pandemic. In addition, the strategies put in place to manage COVID-19 cases has contributed to high recoveries and related low death counts. However, the high numbers of emerging new cases in some countries such as Tunisia, Libya, Ethiopia and Kenya are likely to lead to an increase in the numbers of deaths.

Summary of Regional Figures as of 27th 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	557	8	1.46%	49,642	46	4,137	511	1	0	91.7%	45
Comoros	517	15	2.99%		591		494	7	8	95.55%	16
Djibouti	5,541	72	1.32%	84,133	5,582	84,763	5,409	61	61	97.62%	71
DR Congo	11,174	122	1.10%		124		10,468	305	3	93.68%	401
Egypt	106,707	1,160	1.10%	135,000	1,037	1,311	98,981	6,211	60	92.76%	1,515
Eritrea	461	9	1.99%		129		405			87.85%	56
Eswatini	5,863	75	1.30%	45,870	5,037	39,407	5,511	116	100	94.00%	236
Ethiopia	93,707	3,847	4.28%	1,449,170	809	12,508	48,150	1,437	12	51.38%	44,120
Kenya	49,997	4,921	10.92%	662,046	923	12,228	34,429	920	17	68.86%	14,648
Libya	57,223	7,274	14.56%	301,577	8,292	43,700	31,515	801	116	55.07%	24,907
Madagascar	16,968	158	0.94%	87,659	608	3,140	16,301	244	9	96.07%	423
Malawi	5,894	34	0.58%	60,308	306	3,127	5,294	183	9	89.82%	417
Mauritius	439	20	4.77%	260,973	345	205,095	389	10	8	88.61%	40
Rwanda	5,073	81	1.62%	548,938	389	42,055	4,848	34	3	95.56%	191
Seychelles	153	4	2.68%	5,200	1,553	52,769	149			97.39%	4
Somalia	3,941	51	1.31%		246		3,185	104	6	80.82%	652
Sudan	13,747	23	0.17%		311		6,764	837	19	49.20%	6,146
Tunisia	52,399	9,672	22.64%	330,412	4,419	27,864	5,032	983	83	9.60%	46,384
Uganda	11,557	866	8.10%	539,146	250	11,673	7,351	101	2	63.61%	4,105
Zambia	16,200	303	1.91%	237,710	874	12,818	15,445	348	19	95.34%	407
Zimbabwe	8,303	144	1.76%	163,656	556	10,960	7,797	242	16	93.91%	264
AGGREGATES	466,421	28,859	6.60%	4,961,440			308,428	12,945		66.13%	145,048

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

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