

Common Market for
Eastern and Southern Africa



NEW YEAR'S CORONAVIRUS SURGE IN COMESA

COVID-19

in **COMESA**
Situational Update N°40

27th January 2021



In what is seen as a second wave of the Coronavirus, 2021 has begun with a surge in the number of new cases in the COMESA region. A total of 189,511 new COVID-19 cases were recorded by 25th January compared to 145,908 in the entire month of December 2020, according to data compiled by the COMESA Early Warning System (COMWARN). While the average rate of increase in December 2020 was at 30%, the average rate in January 2021 has doubled to 63.4%. A further interrogation of country-specific data indicates that this surge (the second wave) has been reported in Seychelles, Malawi, Comoros, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Burundi.

Table 1: Comparison of Cumulative Totals of New COVID-19 Cases and Average Rates of Increase for December 2020 and January 2021

Country	Total Cases (as at 1-Dec-20)	Total Cases (as at 31-Dec-20)	Total New Cases (Dec-20)	Monthly Avg Rate of Increase in New Cases (Dec-20)	Total Cases (as at 01-Jan-2021)	Total Cases (as at 25-Jan-21)	Total New Cases (Jan-21)	Monthly Avg Rate of Increase in New Cases (Jan-21)
Burundi	689	818	129	18.72%	822	1,479	657	79.93%
Comoros	613	823	210	34.26%	823	2,350	1,527	185.54%
DR Congo	12,859	17,658	4,799	37.32%	17,849	21,954	4,105	23.00%
Djibouti	5,680	5,831	151	2.66%	5,840	5,920	80	1.37%
Egypt	116,303	138,062	21,759	18.71%	139,471	162,486	23,015	16.50%
Eritrea	577	1,320	743	128.77%	1,320	1,950	630	47.73%
Eswatini	6,442	9,358	2,916	45.27%	9,482	14,622	5,140	54.21%
Ethiopia	110,554	124,264	13,710	12.40%	124,652	134,132	9,480	7.61%
Kenya	84,169	96,458	12,289	14.60%	96,614	100,052	3,438	3.56%
Libya	83,417	100,277	16,860	20.21%	100,744	114,429	13,685	13.58%
Madagascar	17,341	17,714	373	2.15%	17,714	18,743	1,029	5.81%
Malawi	6,028	6,583	555	9.21%	6,684	19,987	13,303	199.03%
Mauritius	505	527	22	4.36%	527	568	41	7.78%
Rwanda	5,948	8,383	2,435	40.94%	8,460	13,311	4,851	57.34%
Seychelles	183	256	73	39.89%	256	1,069	813	317.58%
Somalia	4,451	4,714	263	5.91%	4,714	4,754	40	0.85%
Sudan	18,045	23,316	5,271	29.21%	23,316	26,526	3,210	13.77%
Tunisia	96,769	139,140	42,371	43.79%	140,557	198,636	58,079	41.32%
Uganda	21,035	35,216	14,181	67.42%	35,511	39,188	3,677	10.35%
Zambia	17,665	20,725	3,060	17.32%	20,997	46,146	25,149	119.77%
Zimbabwe	10,129	13,867	3,738	36.90%	14,084	31,646	17,562	124.69%
AGGREGATES	619,402	765,310	145,908	23.56%	770,437	959,948	189,511	24.60%

Seychelles

Seychelles is one of the COMESA Member States that had managed to contain the spread of COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic. As a result of the initial measures put in place, the numbers of new cases remained low while recoveries were high. However, data for December 2020 and January 2021 indicate an upsurge in the new COVID-19 cases. In December 2020, for instance, Seychelles reported 73 new cases (39.89% average rate of increase) whilst in January (from 1st - 25th) the numbers surged to 813 (317.58% average rate of increase).

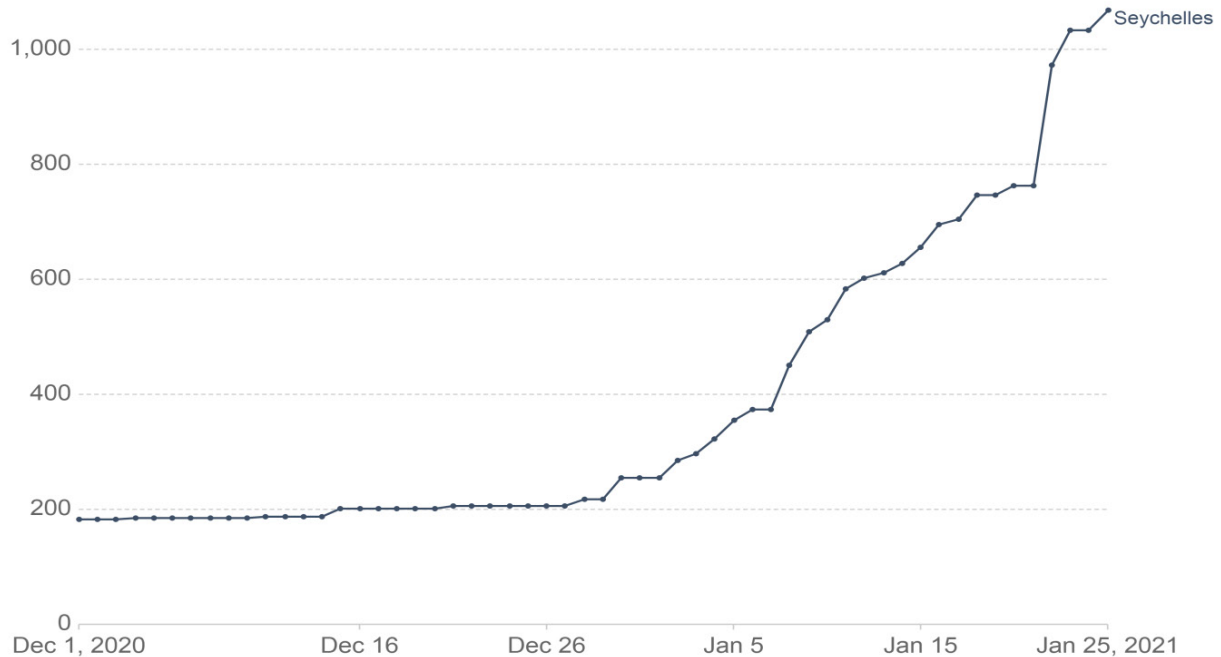
To curb the increase, Seychelles has now extended restrictions on movement to February 15 and introduced new stringent measures including:

- Overnight curfew from 8 pm to 4 am where no one is allowed to be on the road, except for essential workers who are granted permits
- early closures of shops - 6 pm during weekdays and 3 pm during weekends.
- All schools to remain closed until further notice.
- Visits outside the immediate household are not permitted as well as social gatherings.

In addition, Seychelles has rolled out COVID-19 vaccination.

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: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 26 January, 06:02 (London time)

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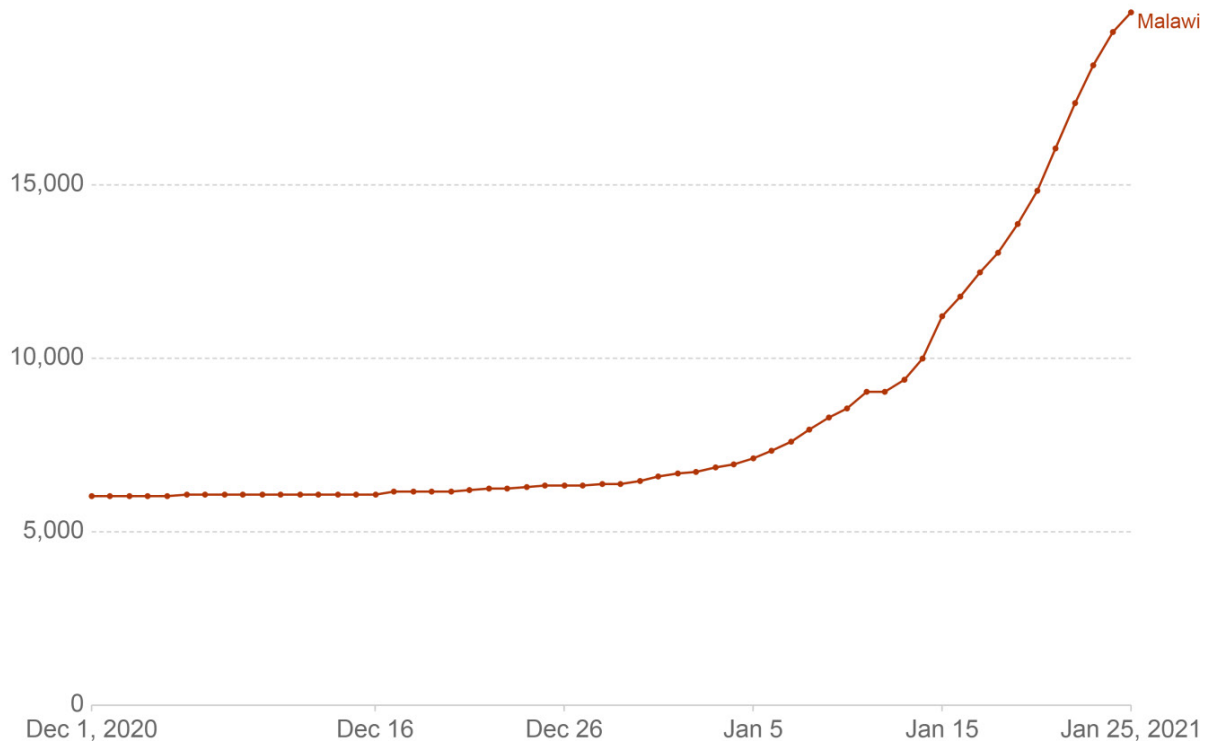
Malawi

In the last 25 days of January 2021, Malawi has had an average rate of increase of 199.03% (13,303 new cases) compared to 9.21% (555 new cases) in December 2020. The surge is attributed to lax observance of preventive measures during the festive period. The surge has claimed two senior Ministers who succumbed to the virus within a day. The Government has now declared a State of National Disaster tightening the enforcement of COVID-19 preventive measures, including compulsory wearing of face masks in public places and restriction of public gatherings to a maximum of 100 people.

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Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 26 January, 06:02 (London time)

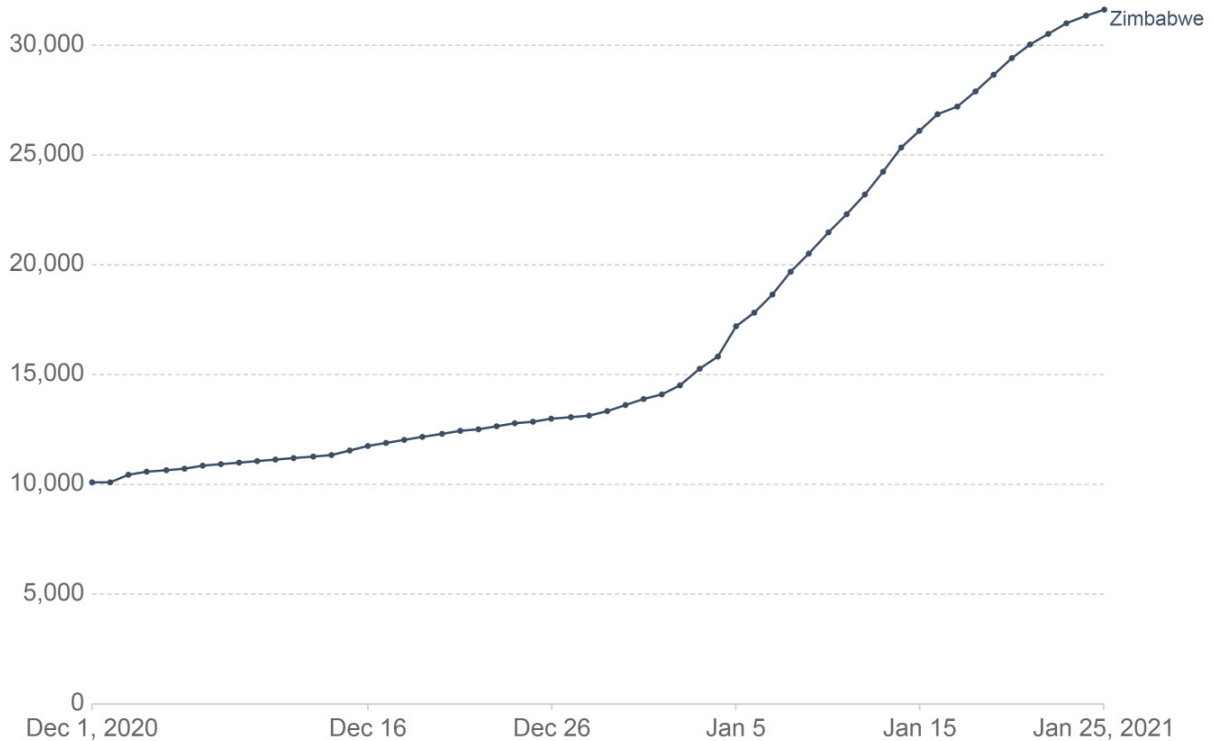
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Zimbabwe

between January 1 and 25, Zimbabwe recorded 17,562 new COVID-19 cases representing 124.69% average rate of increase in new cases compared to 3,738 new cases recorded in December 2020 (36.9% average rate of increase). Like Malawi, the pandemic has led to the deaths of senior Government officials, including Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister Lieutenant General (Retired) Dr Sibusiso Moyo and Transport and Infrastructural Development Minister, Dr Joel Biggie Matiza who died in January 2021.

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

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The Government has now introduced new measures including a 30-day nationwide lockdown. Other measures include:

- Night curfew from 8pm to 6am.
- Restrictions on funeral gatherings to 30 people.
- All other gatherings such as at weddings, churches, bars, gymnasiums, restaurants banned for 30 days.
- Essential services only operational up to 3pm.

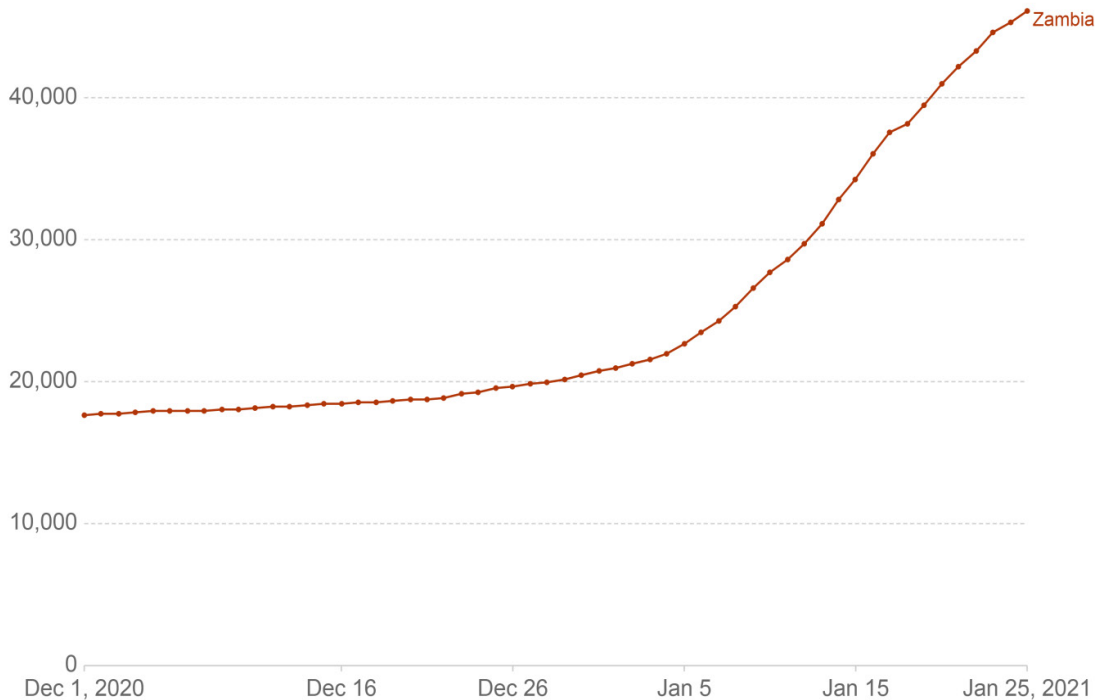
Zambia

While Zambia experienced low numbers of COVID-19 cases in the initial stages, current data shows the country is experiencing a second wave of COVID-19. In the past 25 days, 25,149 new COVID-19 cases (119.77% average rate of increase in new cases) were recorded. The increase is attributed to activities during the festive season where people were not adhering to the measures put in place by the Government. Furthermore, the increase can be linked to the more virulent COVID-19 variant confirmed in Zambia that was first detected in South Africa. The numbers of deaths have also increased in the same period. Due to the surge, the Government has tightened restrictions including banning football fans from all games.

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases

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Our World
in Data



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data – Last updated 26 January, 06:02 (London time)

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Table 2: Summary of Regional Figures as of 26th January 2021

Country	Total Cases	Total Tests	Total Cases/ 1M pop	Tests/ 1M pop	Total Recovered	Recovery Rate	Total Deaths	Deaths/ 1M pop	Active Cases
Burundi	1,479	90,019	122	7,446	773	52.27%	2	0.20	704
Comoros	2,350		2,670		1,424	60.60%	76	86	850
Djibouti	5,920	106,177	5,943	106,588	5,840	98.65%	61	61	19
DR Congo	21,954		241		14,915	67.94%	661	7	6,378
Egypt	162,486	1,000,000	1,571	9,669	127,001	78.16%	9,012	87	26,473
Eritrea	1,950	23,693	546	6,629	1,378	70.67%	7	2	565
Eswatini	14,622	125,614	12,530	107,639	9,394	64.25%	493	422	4,735
Ethiopia	134,132	1,924,136	1,151	16,507	120,199	89.61%	2,071	18	11,862
Kenya	100,052	1,158,920	1,838	21,288	83,418	83.37%	1,744	32	14,890
Libya	114,429	625,963	16,526	90,401	93,342	81.57%	1,782	257	19,305
Madagascar	18,743	108,310	667	3,856	17,930	95.66%	279	10	534
Malawi	19,987	130,006	1,030	6,699	6,780	33.92%	518	27	12,689
Mauritius	568	289,552	446	227,461	525	92.43%	10	8	33
Rwanda	13,311	838,675	1,014	63,861	8,681	65.22%	177	13	4,453
Seychelles	1,069	5,200	10,831	52,688	738	69.04%	3	30	328
Somalia	4,754		295		3,666	77.11%	130	8	958
Sudan	26,526		597		19,884	74.96%	1,738	39	4,904
Tunisia	198,636	821,279	16,708	69,080	146,740	73.87%	6,287	529	45,609
Uganda	39,188	818,180	842	17,576	14,051	35.86%	318	7	24,819
Zambia	46,146	844,026	2,471	45,200	38,639	83.73%	660	35	6,847
Zimbabwe	31,646	274,187	2,112	18,297	22,877	72.29%	1,075	72	7,694
AGGREGATES	959,948	9,183,937			738,195	76.90%	27,104		194,649

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



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