

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

Burundi

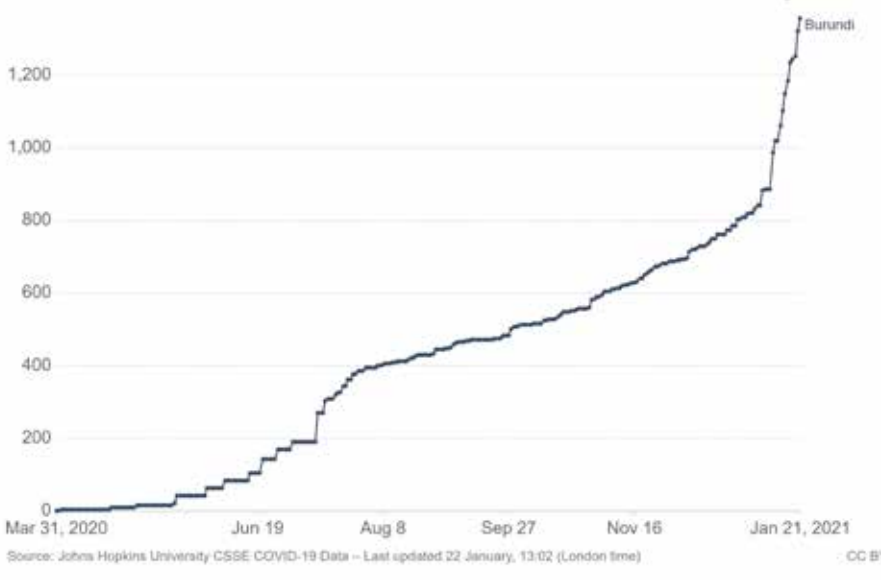


Background

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

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- From 11th January 2021, the government of Burundi extended the quarantine period. Anyone entering Burundi by air must be confined for seven days instead of three days.
- 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

- On 6th January 2021 Burundi closed its land borders with the exception of freight carriers.
- Melchior Ndadaye International Airport (BJM) will remain open and all incoming and outgoing passengers must possess negative COVID-19 test results taken within 72 hours prior to travel.
- All travelers must take a test on arrival in Burundi, and a second test after six days in isolation.
- Travelers will be isolated at facilities approved by the authorities and will be transported to and from these sites by the security forces.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

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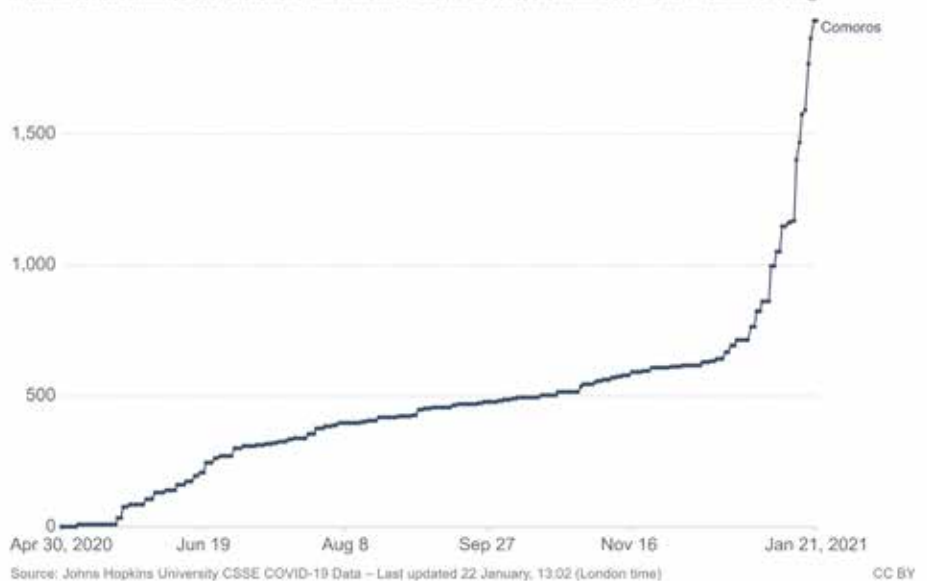


Background

First case of Corona virus was confirmed on 30 April 2020

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- The wearing of protective facemasks and social distancing measures is mandatory in public. Religious gatherings are permitted, provided that social distancing is adhered to.
- The number of passengers in public transport remains limited to 10 people in buses and four in taxis.
- Regular washing of hands, social distancing (1-2 meters) encouraged at all times.
- All weddings and public gatherings remain prohibited until further notice. Domestic flights, including inter-island travel, has resumed; all travelers are required to present a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before departure.
- Night curfews to restrict movement from 20:00-05:00 hours.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- As from 31st December 2020, International flights resumed, provided the country of origin or destination is approved by the Comorian government.
- International travelers are required to present a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival. Children aged eleven and under are exempt from the test requirement.
- Travelers who do not arrive with a negative PCR test will be required to quarantine for three to five days at a designated hotel until test results are negative.
- All previously considered nonessential businesses remain open.
- 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.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

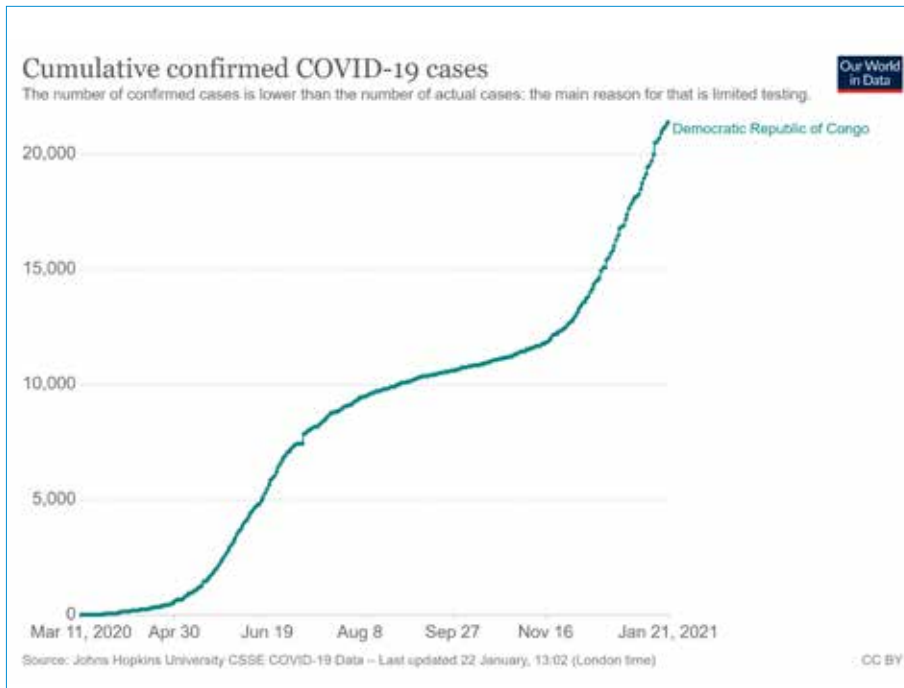
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Democratic Republic of Congo



Background

The first case was reported on 10 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 16th December 2020, DR Congo announced its approval of a locally produced drug "Manacovid" as an anti-COVID drug.
- International flights lifted and flight services to DR Congo operational.
- Places of worship, schools, stadiums, airports, night clubs, stadiums and entertainment venues reopened in August 2020.

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;*
 - *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.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

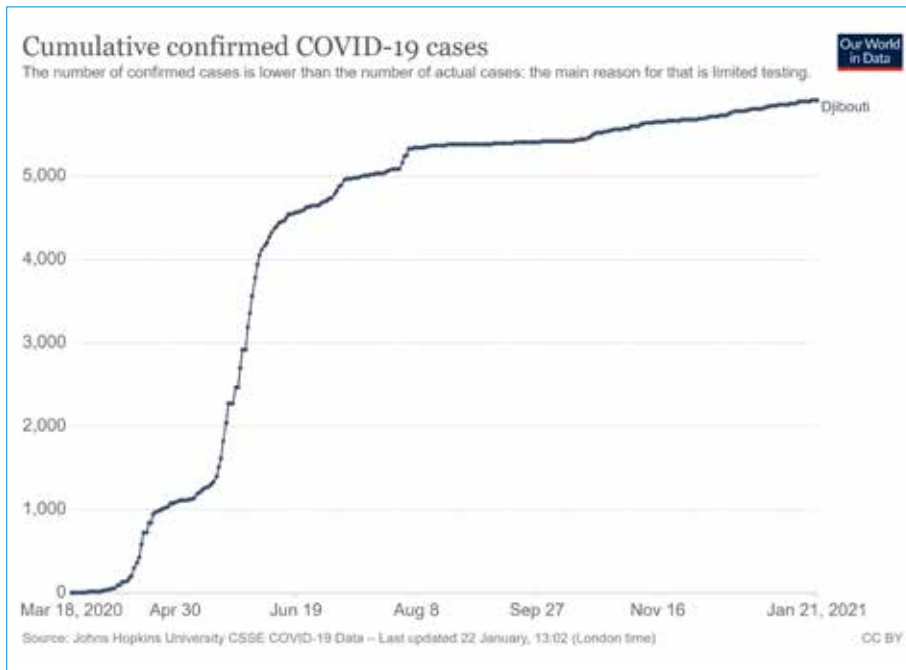
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Djibouti



Background

First case was reported on 18 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees established in 2020 to observe the COVID-19 situation and impact and conduct necessary responses.
- Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport operational for commercial flights. All passengers entering Djibouti tested for COVID-19 upon arrival by Ministry of Health personnel. Sea ports and border posts 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 available flight without leaving the airport.
- Airlines may require passengers heading to Djibouti to show a negative COVID-19 test certificate before allowing them to board their flight.
- Use of facial masks in all public or private spaces in which social distancing cannot be observed is mandatory.
- Places of worship opened in line with very strict measures of ensuring protection including wearing of facial masks and social distancing.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Cargo movement and services permitted.
- Hotels and grocery stores operational.
- 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

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

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Egypt

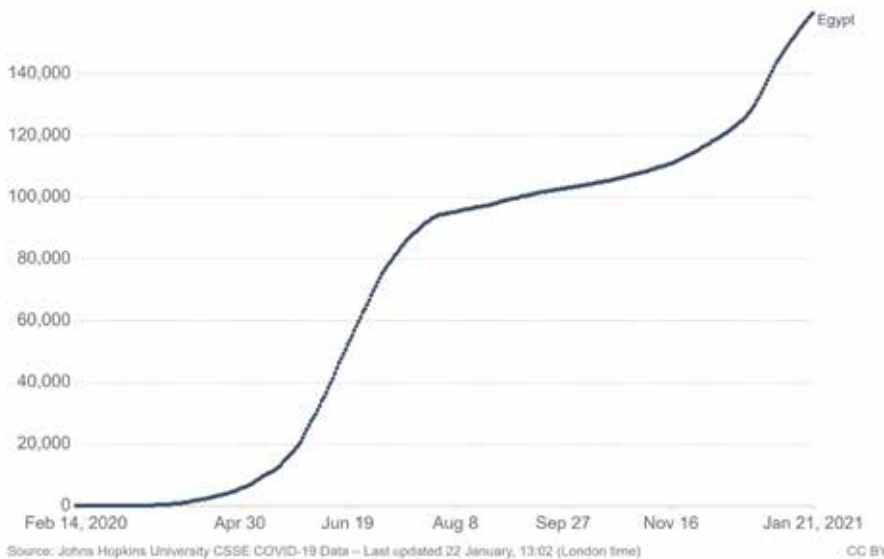


Background

The first case reported on 14 February 2020

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Restaurants and cafes to operate at 50 percent capacity. An immediate fine of LE4,000 (USD 254) will be applied on violating establishments such as restaurants and cafes, and the facility will be closed for a week. In the event of repeat violations, the closing period will be doubled.
- From 3rd January 2021, an immediate fine of LE50 (USD 3.17) would be applied on individuals failing to adhere to the precautionary measures, such as by not wearing a mask. Violators unable to pay the fine will be arrested. Wedding ceremonies and funeral gatherings continue to be banned.
- On 28th December 2020, the government announced that it is imposing an EGP 50 (USD 3.17) fine for those who choose to not wear masks in public and in case it is not paid, the case will be taken to the prosecution to take necessary action.
- Exams to continue as per the precautionary measures that need to be taken.
- 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.
- Flights and tourism activities resumed in the following three governorates: Red Sea, Marsa Matrouh, and South Sinai. Egypt has temporarily suspended the visa requirement for travellers that are staying at a resort in Sharm el Sheikh, Dahab, Nuweiba and Taba for a maximum of 15 days, and are landing at the airport of Sharm El Sheikh
- 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.
- 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.

Preventive Measures in Place

- Official conferences and meetings allowed 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.
- Public parks and beaches to remain closed.
- Theatres, cinemas, and museums have been reopened with limited capacity.
- Restriction of public gatherings in schools, universities, bars, clubs, malls, public transport, public gathering places and tourists' locations.
- Public transport resumed and operates between 4 a.m. and midnight.
- Daily fumigation of all terminals, means of transport and roads.
- Public transport operators restricted to 50% of capacity of conveyance Increased number of metro coaches in operation
- The government has expanded the cash transfer programs known as Takaful and Karama (Solidarity and Dignity). In addition, the government has instituted 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).
- Allocation 100 billion Egyptian pounds (6.35 billion U.S. dollars) to finance the anti-COVID-19 comprehensive plan and its precautionary measures.
- 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.
- 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 USD 3,180) for businesses is applied.
- Launched an online awareness campaign against COVID using animation. This is also aimed at curbing misinformation.
- On 1st 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 30th next year (2021) for tourists visiting the governorates of South Sinai, the Red Sea, Luxor and Aswan;
- 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.
- Egypt secured an additional loan of USD5.2 billion on 27th June 2020 from the international Monetary Fund to help 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.
- 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.
- Withholding tax on dividends paid by companies listed on the EGX reduced from 10% to 5%.
- The Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry (the Foreign Trade Sector) put the following measures in place in 2020:
 - *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.*

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

**Trade
Facilitation
/ Business
Support**

- 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

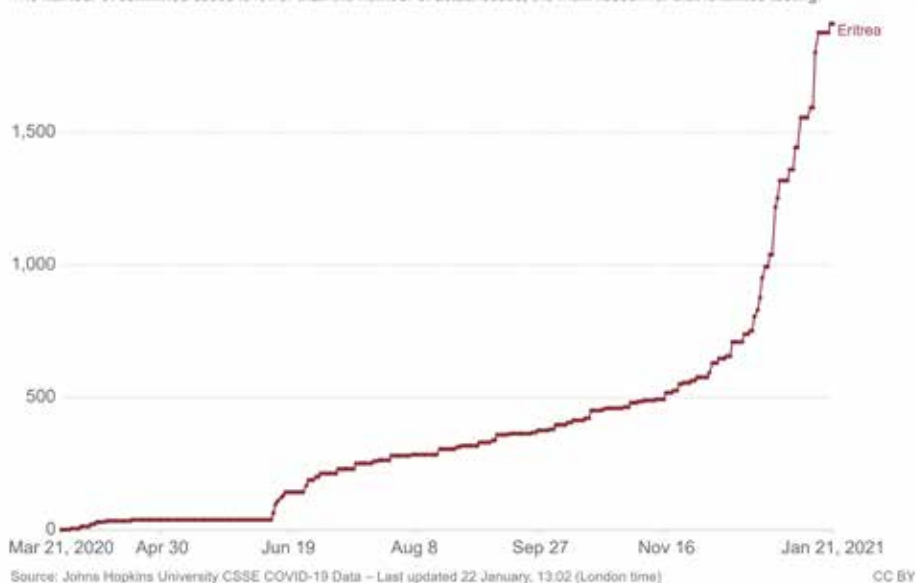


Background

The first case was reported on 21 March 2020

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Lockdown was declared on 2nd April 2020.
- National Task Force on COVID-19 was established at high and lower levels and has been issuing regulations and implementing Guidelines.
- 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.
- 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

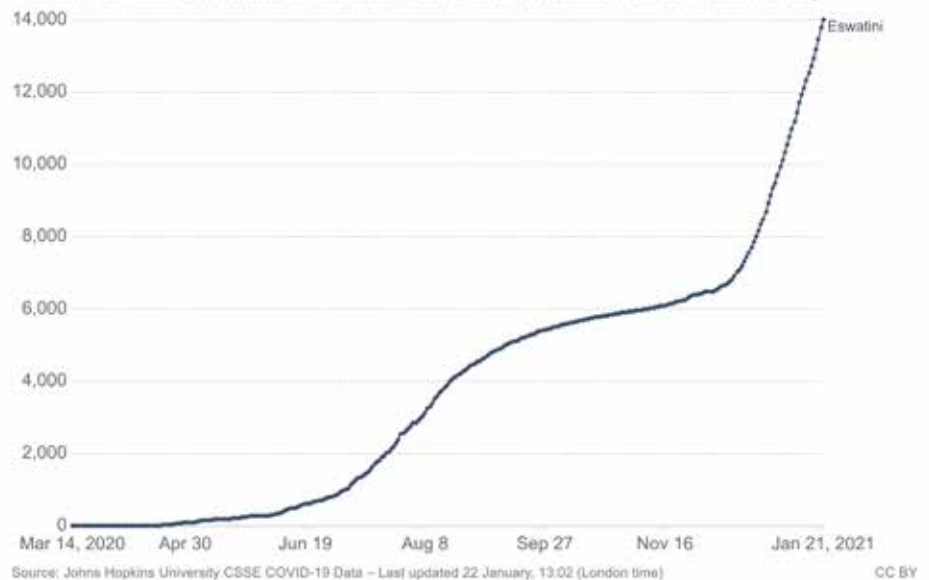


Background

The first coronavirus case was reported on 13 March 2020.

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 20th January 2021 Swaziland extended coronavirus restrictions by banning alcohol sales for thirty days, including the sale of traditional homebrew.
- On 24 November 2020 Eswatini announced the following:
 - Introduction of a two-year jail term for people who break coronavirus regulations on the size of gatherings under new measures.
 - Fines amounting to E25,000 (US\$1,630) to be imposed.
 - Compulsory wearing of masks in public or when travelling in private vehicles with passengers.
 - Arrest and 100 Emalangeneni fine for people who break rules about wearing a face mask in public places, including public transport of which an additional fine of E800 will be imposed on the public transport drivers for allowing unmasked passengers on board.
 - Those in charge of gatherings, including weddings, funerals or community meetings, to take necessary steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or face the stipulated fine.
 - The number of people attending functions such as weddings, funerals or memorial services or an arts and entertainment event in closed areas, not to exceed 100 and 200 people if held in an open area.
 - Night gatherings still banned, including vigils.
- On 21st November 2020, Government announced the end of the national emergency to control the spread of COVID-19
- 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.
- 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,
- 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.

**Trade
Facilitation
/ Business
Support**

- 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.
- 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.*
- 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.

**Coordinating
Ministry (National
Contact Points)**

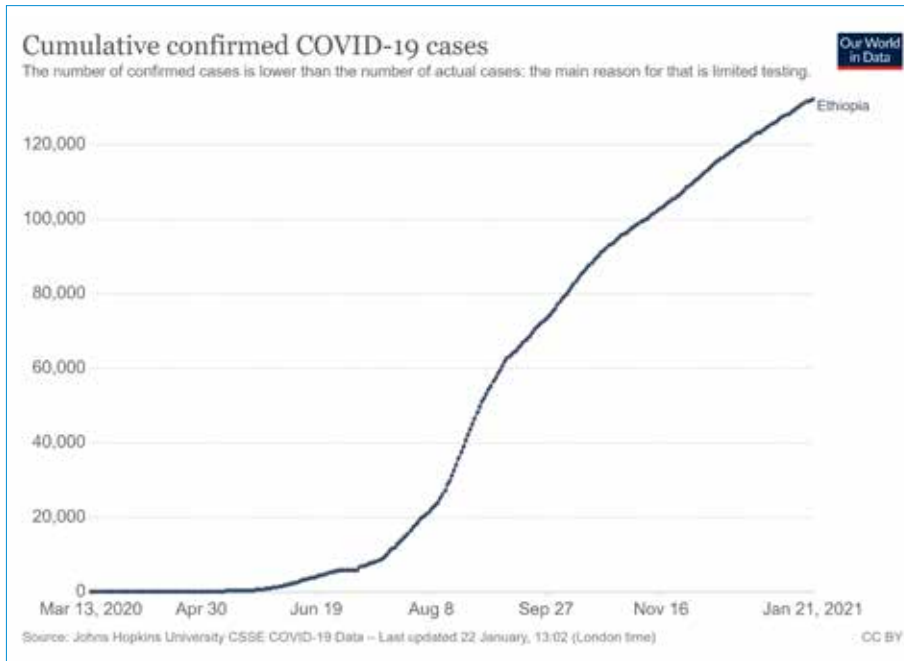
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Ethiopia



Background

The first case was reported on 13 March 2020.



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 22nd 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 two years. Other restrictions introduced prohibit
 - o shaking hands and
 - o sitting of more than three people at a table or not keeping “two adult steps” - around six feet apart.
- Released over 4,000 prisoners to prevent overcrowding in prisons and contain the spread of the coronavirus
- Postponement of elections from 29th 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 20th March until further notice
- Mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches suspended. Other public gatherings, including sporting events also suspended. Greetings by handshake also not allowed.
- Government employees ordered to work from home.
- 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 financial and non- financial and include buildings, hotels, vehicles, sanitary items, masks, etc.

**Trade Facilitation /
Business Support**

- 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.

**Coordinating Ministry
(National Contact
Points)**

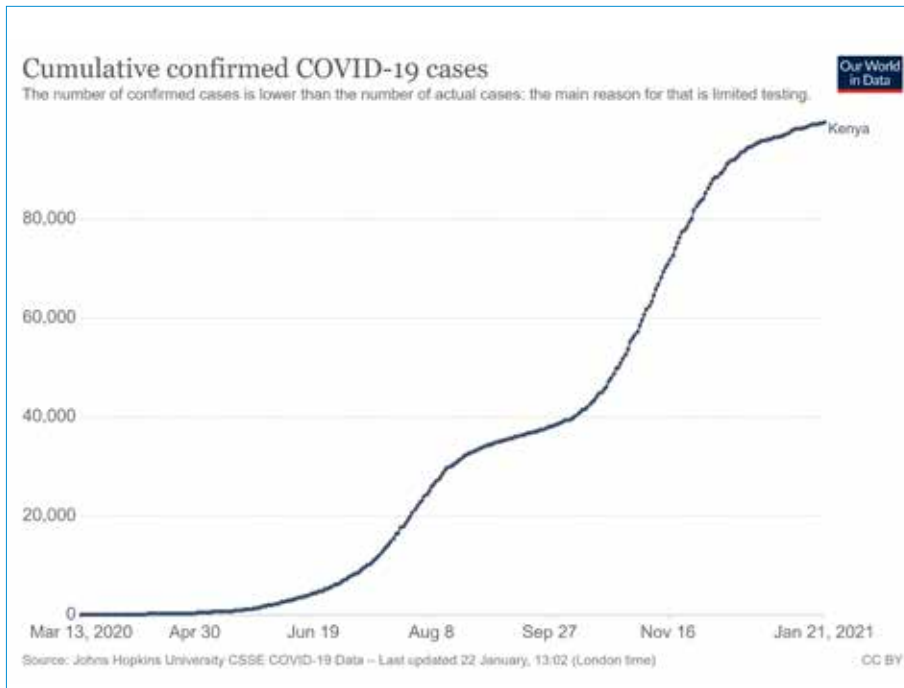
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Kenya



Background

The first case was reported on 13 March 2020.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Schools reopened on 4th January 2021. Schools are expected to adhere to all the necessary COVID-19 measures. All extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama, music and prize-giving days, involving more than one school remain prohibited for the next 90 days; and all exchange visits between schools shall remain prohibited for the same period
- 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 4th November 2020, the Government revised COVID-19 measures as follows:

- all State and Public Officers aged 58 and above to work remotely;
- all political gatherings and rallies suspended for 60 days.
- curfew revised and enforced to run between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. till March 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.
- 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 developed a local testing kit
- International and domestic flights operational.
- Mandatory PCR-Covid-19-Free certificate for all international arrivals issued not more than 96 hours prior to departure.
- Mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators by private sector in Kenya.

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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.
- 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.
- Disbursement of KES 1 billion for the recruitment of additional medical personnel.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- 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%.*
 - 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 Ration (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.
-

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

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Kenya Ministry of Health:

Twitter: @MOH_Kenya, Facebook: MinistryofHealthKE, website: <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 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

Libya

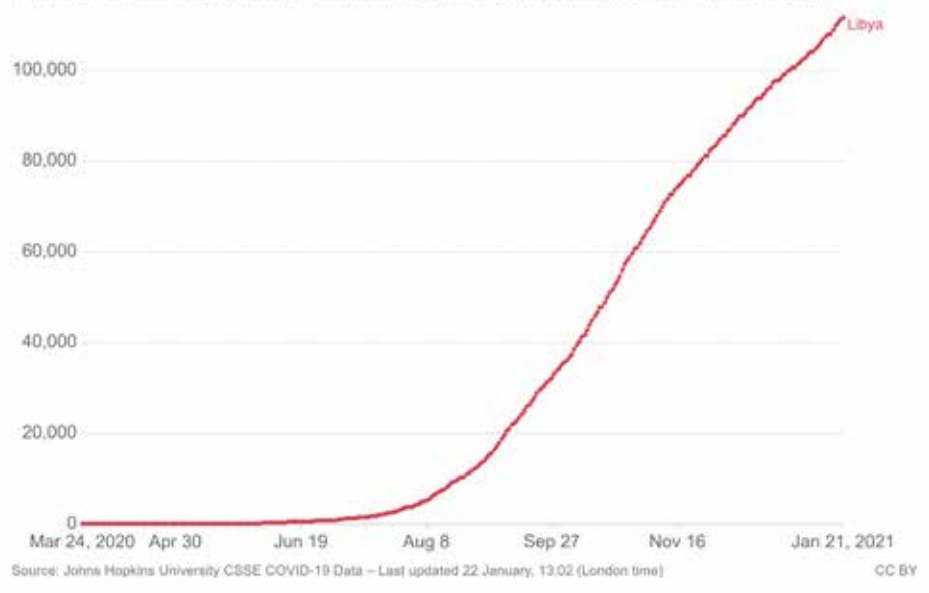


Background

The first case was reported on 3rd April 2020

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.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Large public gatherings banned
- Flights resumed at the Mitiga Airport in the Libyan capital Tripoli on 9th August 2020.
- 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.
- 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).
- Returning citizens are tested and allowed to quarantine at home for 14 days.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Following government directives issued on 14th November 2020, Libyan authorities reopened the land border with Tunisia.
- Cargo transportation exempted from ban
- Eastern authorities reopened borders from 31st August 2020.
- No penalties apply to the late filing of corporate income tax, personal income tax and stamp duty returns.
- 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.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

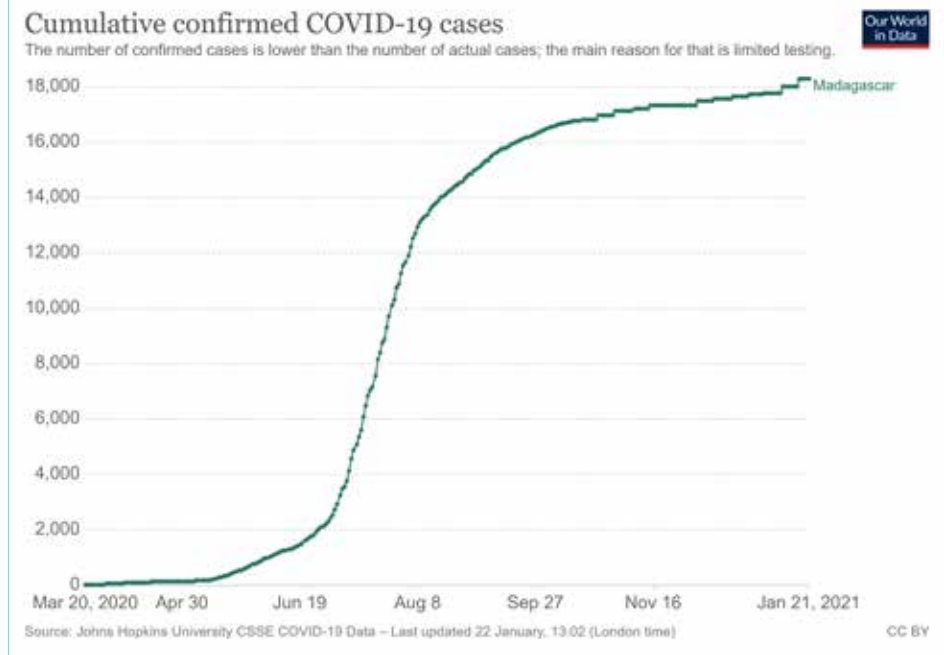
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Madagascar



Background

The first case reported on 20 March 2020.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Beginning 17th September 2020 curfew hours in the capital Antananarivo 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.
- 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.
- Mandatory wearing of face masks in public
- Public markets operational 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

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

Secrétaire général du Ministère des Affaires

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Malawi

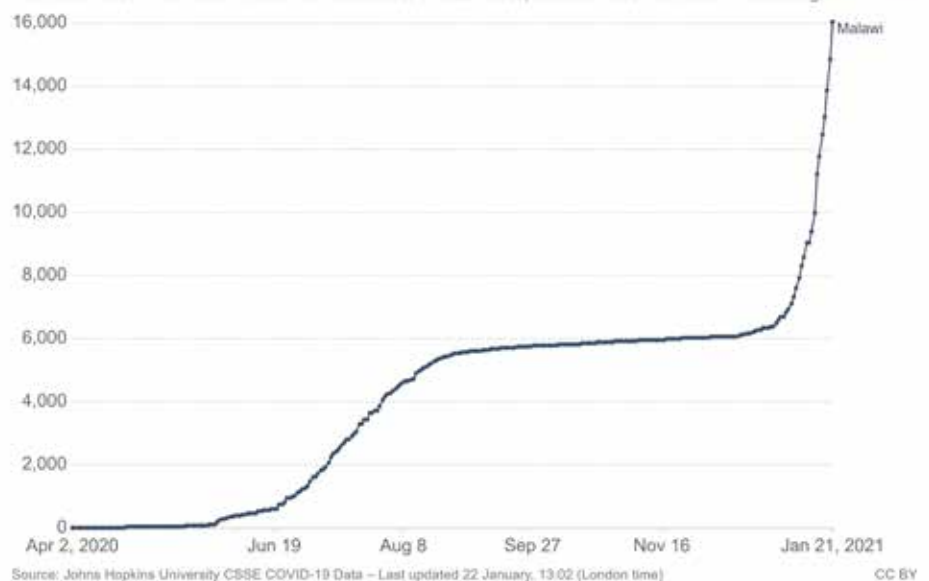


Background

The first case reported on 2nd April 2020

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.



Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Malawi declared a State of National Disaster effective 12th January 2021 in all its 28 districts. The declaration follows the death of two cabinet Ministers on 12th January 2021 and a spike in infections and COVID 19 related death.
 - *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 14th August the Government eased COVID-19 rules on public gatherings by allowing up to 100 people to gather.
- On 7th September schools opened in Malawi but with strict adherence to health guidelines by both learners and teachers. Schools were closed on 20th March 2020.
- As of 9th 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 9th August 2020.
- Beginning 9th August 2020, all markets, shops and businesses that are in close proximity to hospitals ordered to close.
- Introduction on 1st 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.
- 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
/ Business
Support**

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

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National Contact
Points)**

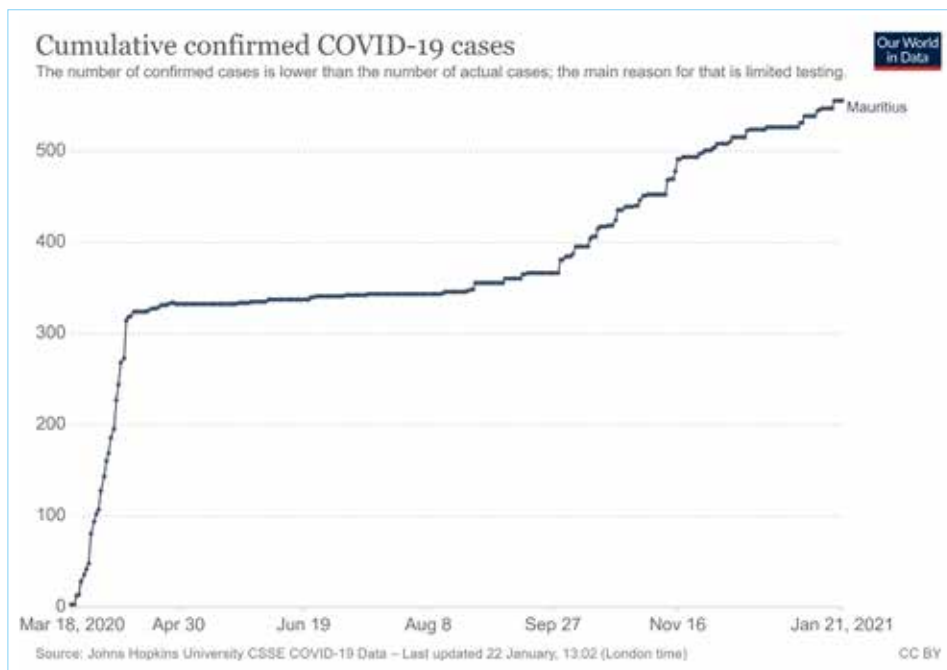
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Mauritius



Background

The first case was reported on 18th March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- 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.
- 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

- 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:
- 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.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support and related measures

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;

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

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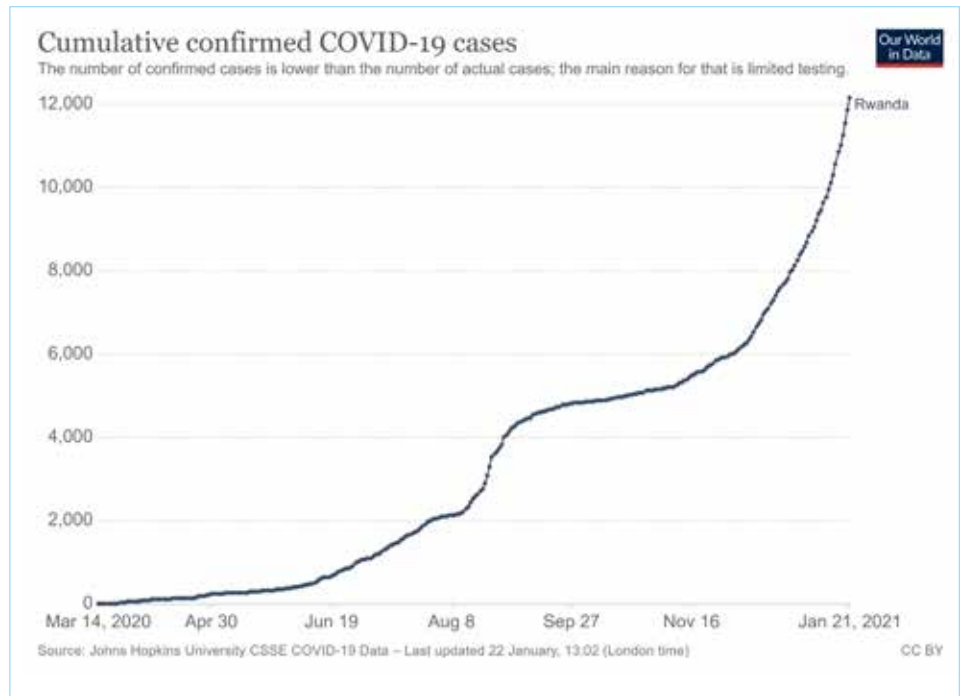
Email: swrasawmy@govmu.org

Rwanda



Background

First case was reported on 8 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- Beginning 11th December 2020, the Government issued guidelines to control the spread of COVID-19 with regard to the resumption of entertainment activities (live performances) and exhibitions as follows:
- All concerts should request the authorization of the events from the district administrations or send it to the City of Kigali with a copy to the Ministry of Youths and Culture and Rwanda Development Board. This should be done ten days prior to the event and the proposal should contain all the information regarding the concert including the venue, organizers, etc.
- On activities to be held at outdoor venues, these activities should take place in a designated outdoor area like a conference hall or multi-purpose facility. The venue should also be disinfected prior to use and have all hygienic facilities as well as notices indicating Covid-19 preventive measures at visible locations. Participants should also undergo temperature screening, washing of hands or sanitizing and wear facemasks properly.
- With regard to social distancing measures, participants should not exceed 50 per cent of the venue capacity and seats must be placed 1.5 meters apart and two meters apart for tables.
- Vocalists, singers and dancers will be allowed to perform without a mask, however they should maintain a two-meter distance between them and three meters from the audience (as well as the audio-visual crew). Speakers should also sanitize their hands as they share microphones.
- Exhibition organizers should have the minimum booth of 2m x 2m spacing having two people per booth with a physical distance of 1m between seated exhibitors. During the exhibitions, visitors are not allowed to touch the merchandise.
- Cultural shows will only last for three hours maximum and all participants will be required to have a negative Covid-19 test certificate.
- All events must use e-ticketing methods to issue the tickets and restaurant services will be authorized once the organizers have requested so, and clearly stated how it will be used in accordance with Covid-19 protocols.
- 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.
- 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.

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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 operational subject to approval by local authorities.
- 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 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.
- 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.

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.

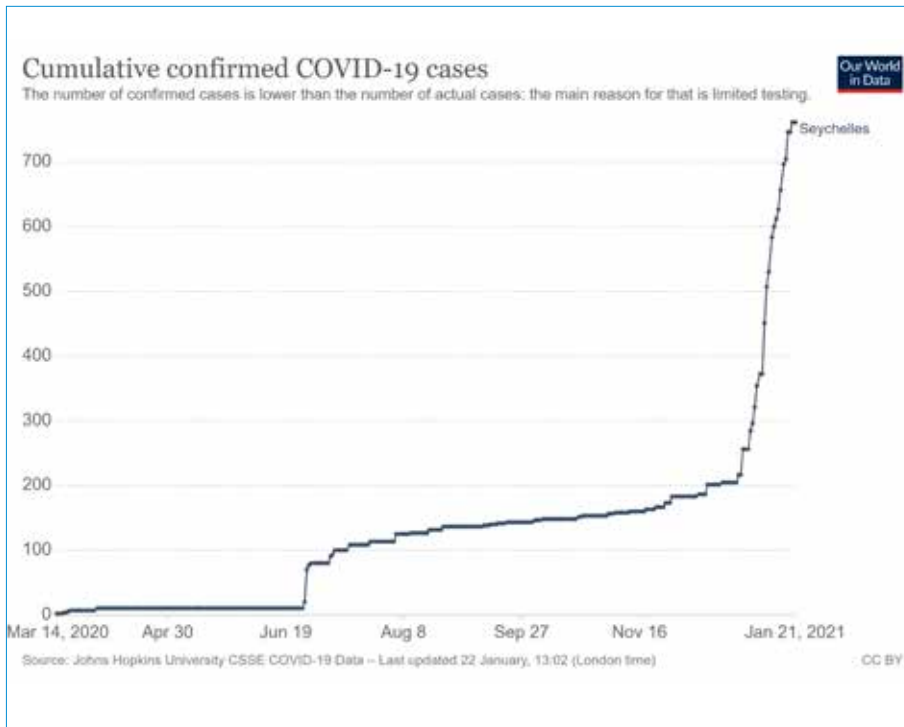
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMF emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility in March 2020 provided Rwanda with a \$109.4 million (Rwanda Francs 104 billion) for COVID-19-related pressures on trade, tourism and foreign exchange reserves. The support 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 was reported on 14 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 9th January 2021 Seychelles rolled out its Sinopharm vaccine with priority given to healthcare workers.
- On 19th January 2021 Seychelles announced the reopening of its borders and dropped quarantine requirements for international travelers from any part of the world who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccinated travellers will not be required to quarantine.
- Home learning for schools in 2021 to be virtual for the first two weeks.
- 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.

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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 Travorz 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:
 -
 - 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 in 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
- Improvement of handling capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities, including the finalization of a programme to receive additional human resource support if necessary.
- All restrictions on the movement of people removed.
- Religious services, including funeral services, have resumed following guidance from the Department of Health.

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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.
- 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.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- 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.
- 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)

Facilitation / Business Support

- 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.

Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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Somalia

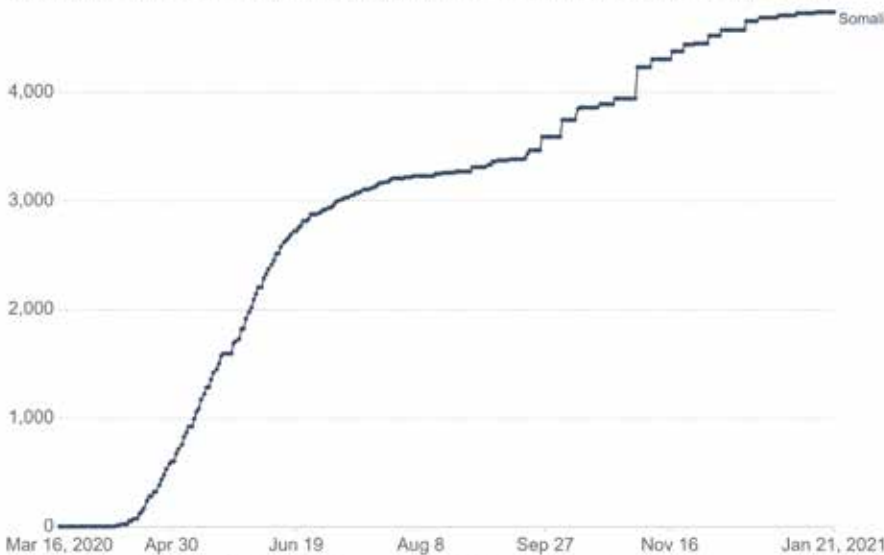


Background

First case was reported on 16 March 2020

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 22 January, 13:02 (London time)

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Preventive Measures in Place

- On 1st August 2020, all immigration services resumed 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.
- Schools and universities re-opened and directed to adhere to health measures.
- Mosques and religious centers allowed to operate.
- Minibuses which usually carry 15 passengers allowed to carry 10 passengers in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles.
- 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.
- 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

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.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

Embassy of the Republic of Somalia

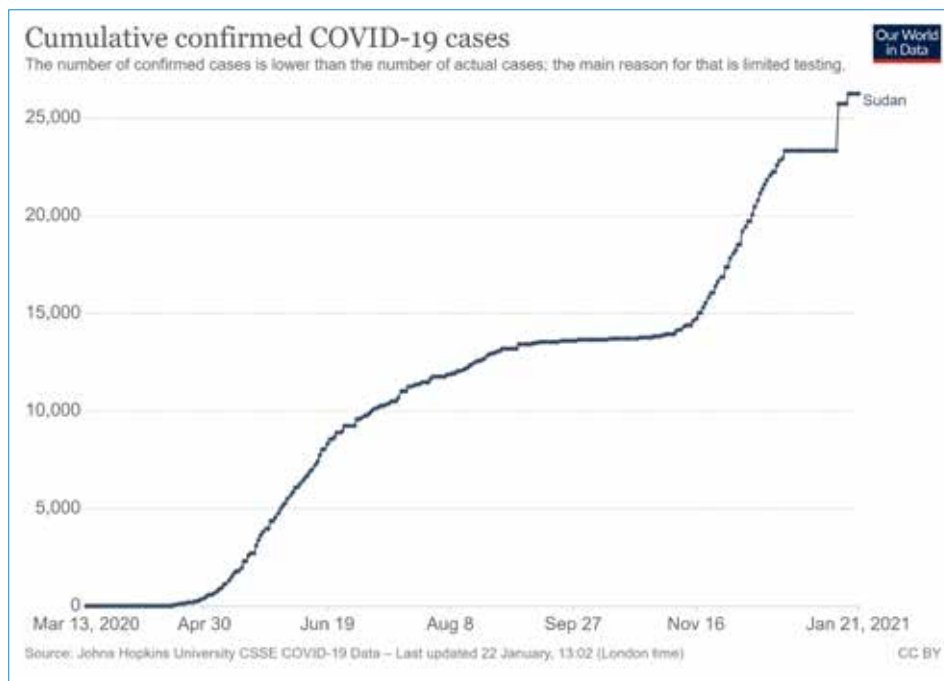
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Sudan



Background

First case was reported on 13 March 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

- On 11th 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 16th 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 27th September 2020 will be postponed until 22nd November 2020.*
 - *The State of Health Emergency will be maintained.*
- 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.
- Sudan Joined the United Nations’ Better Than Cash Alliance - a digital payments platform to Drive Financial Inclusion and Transparency.

**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 on the part of Sudan cover the Blue Nile state areas that include Geisan, Wali and El Gedaref. As part of new trade measures:
 - o Import tax has been cancelled on the Wali border crossing, and
 - o 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 worshippers 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 if they do not possess a 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.
- Shops and restaurants allowed to operate.

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

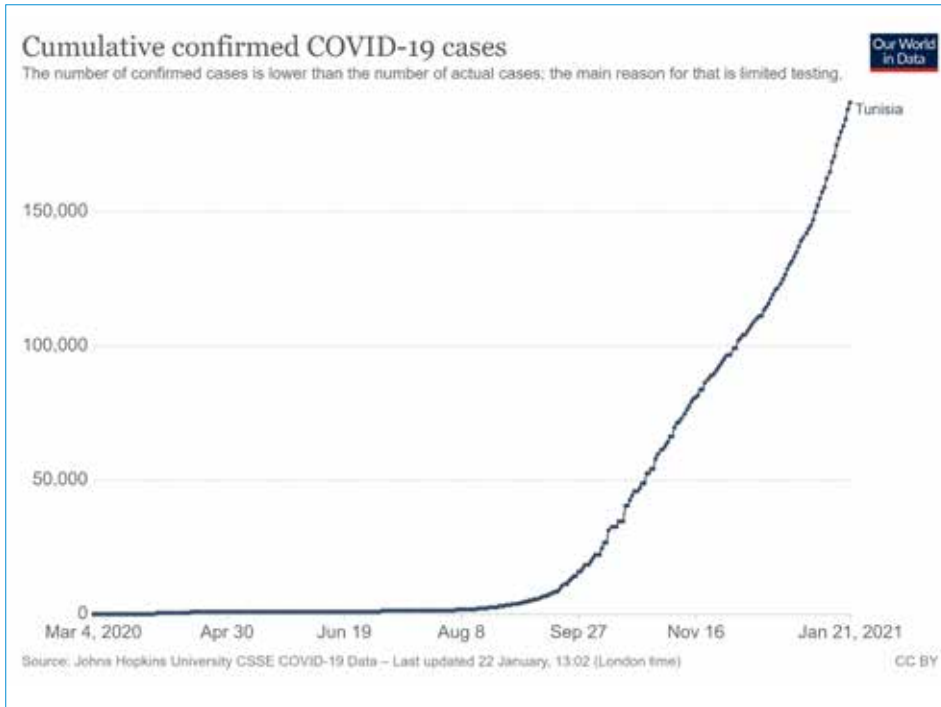
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Tunisia



Background

The first case was reported on 2 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 7th December 2020, the government of Tunisia extended a night-time curfew until the end of the year. The curfew time will run from 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) until 5:00 am in all the governorates. Other measures are that:
 - Cafes may remain open until 7:00 pm but must remove their chairs from 4:00 pm onwards.
 - Shisha pipes and smoking remain banned in all public spaces.
- On 29th October 2020, the Government issued a number of COVID-19 measures including:-
 - 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 ban on protests, and a four-person limit on public gatherings.
- On 14th 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- Government Offices, factories, shops business, mosques and cafes open.
- Sea, land, and air borders opened for foreigners under strict measures. A color-coded system was introduced to show which countries may enter without restrictions and which countries can enter with enhanced restrictions.
- 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 operational.
- 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

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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.
- 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.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

Ministry of Trade

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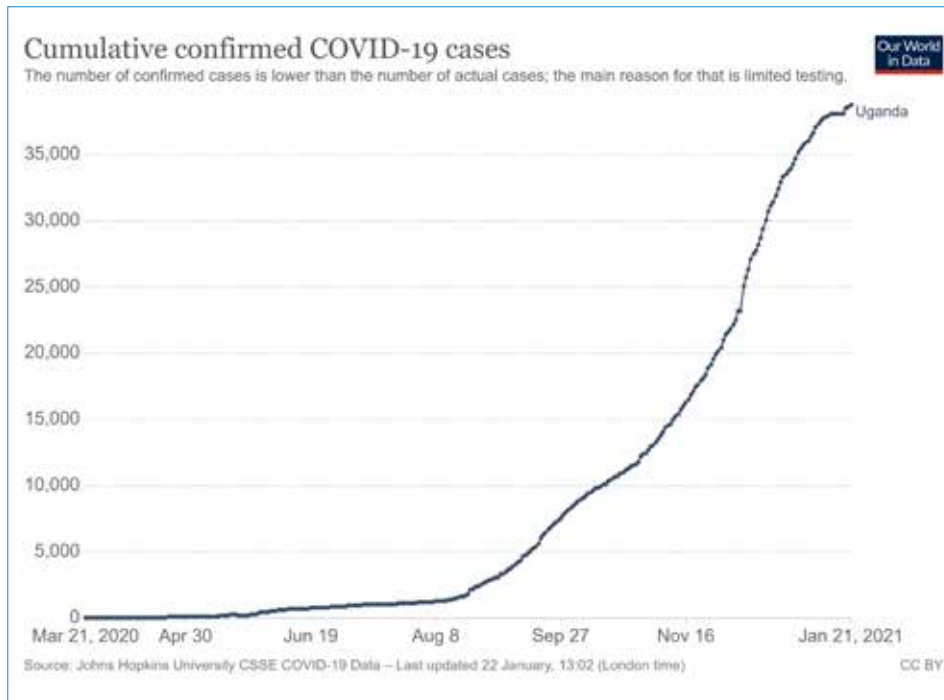
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Uganda



Background

First case was reported on 18 March 2020



Preventive Measures in Place

- On 10th December 2020, the Government banned the signing of condolences and visitors' books during funerals. In this regard, the Ministry of Health strongly advised all bereaved families and funeral service companies to stop giving condolence books at homes or other places of mourning for mourners to sign in.
- Beginning 14th November 2020, casinos, betting shops, gyms, massage parlors, and mobile markets are allowed to resume operations subject to strict SOPs.
- Starting 10th November 2020, the Government eased restrictions on public gatherings from 70 persons to 200 persons.
- 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 20th September restrictions on movements on border districts lifted, curfew maintained from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m;
- Boda-bodas (commercial passenger carrying motorcycles) movements to end at 6 p.m.
- Beginning 20th 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.*
 - *There will be no Sunday School sessions for children.*
- Sporting activities to resume from 20th 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;*
 - *With tournaments, teams should be quarantined for the whole season of the competition.*

Preventive Measures in Place

- *Indoor sports activities, including gyms to remain closed.*
- Hotels to continue operating following the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) agreed with the Ministry of Health.
- 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 subject to adherence to strict operating procedures.
- Commercial motorbikes locally known as “boda boda” allowed to operate passenger services 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.
- 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 working from home since 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

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

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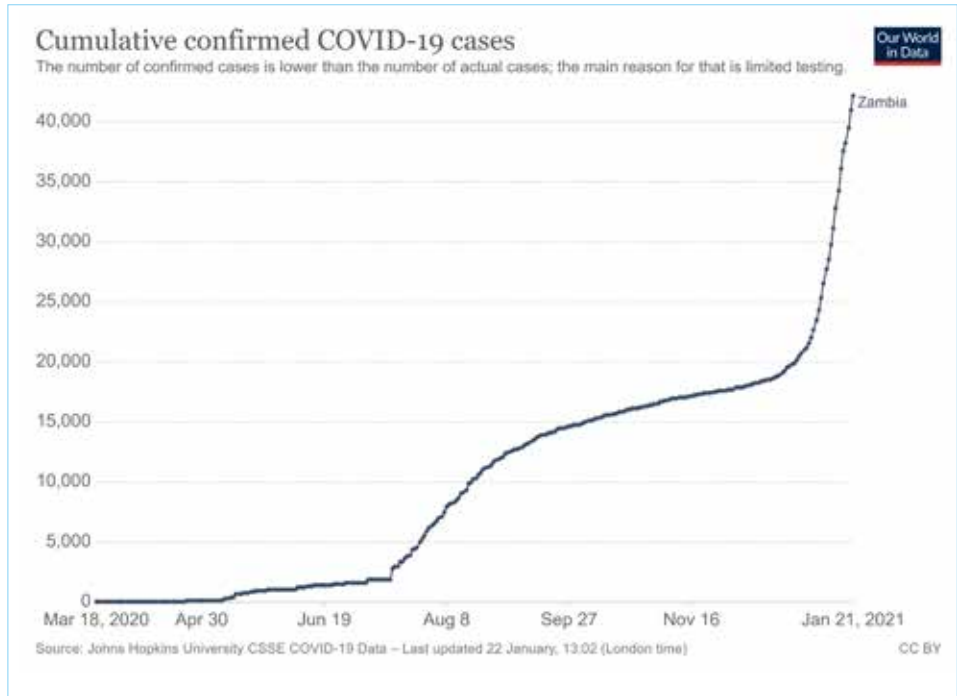
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Zambia



Background

First case reported on 18 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.
- 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 operational under strict health protocols.
- Police restrict numbers of people visiting inmates and suspects in police detention.

**Trade
Facilitation
/ Business
Support**

- 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.
- 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.
- Kwacha 140 million (app. US\$7.8 Million) t was paid to local contractors in the road development sector.
- Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) suspended excise duty on imported ethanol- based sanitizers and other medicine-related activities based on guidelines issued by ZRA.
- VAT payments on imported spare-parts, lubricants, and stationery were removed to ease pressure on companies.
- Suspension of import duties on the importation of concentrates in the mining sector to ease pressure on the sector.
- Suspension of export duty on precious metals and crocodile skins.
- 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:
 - (i) *Waiving charges for person to person electronic money transfers of up to Kwacha 150: these transactions are thus free of charge.*
 - (ii) *Removing the transaction and balance limits on agents and corporate wallets.*
 - (iii) *Reducing the processing fees for Real Time Gross Settlement System.*
- Pre-clearance and e-Payment strongly encouraged to reduce human contact
- Use of Risk Management and selectivity
- 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

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

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Zimbabwe

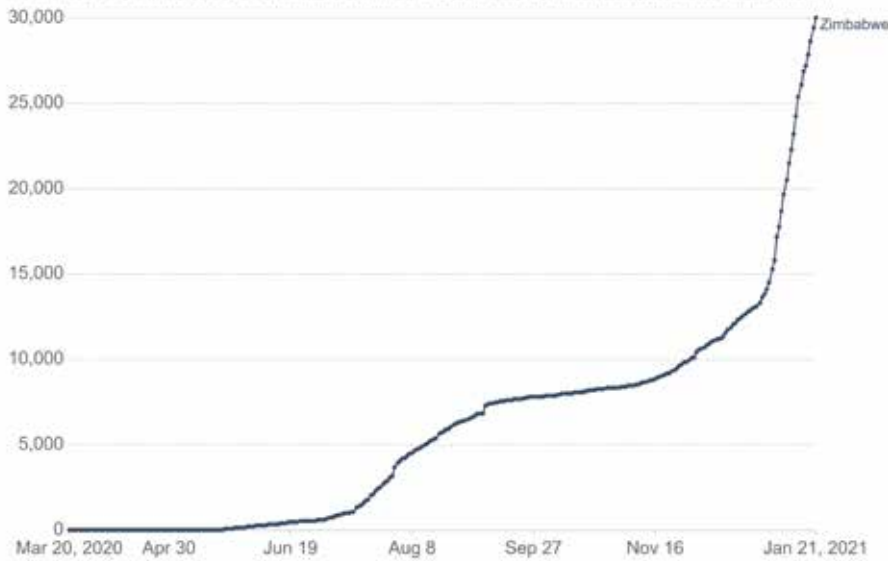


Background

The first case was reported on 20 March 2020

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 22 January, 13:02 (London time)

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Preventive Measures in Place

- On 9th December 2020, the Government announced new measures as follows:
 - *In order to protect in-patients, staff members and visitors from contracting COVID-19 Parirenyatwa hospital in Harare suspended all hospital visits to its in-patients until further notice due. To ensure continued patient support from relatives, only the recorded next of kin would be allowed in the ward and updates daily updates on patient's progress and any other requirements needed for the proper management of the admitted patient.*
- From 1st December 2020, the Zimbabwean Government introduced generic measures to limit public gatherings to not more than 100 persons irrespective of the gathering.
- On 2nd January 2021, the Government announced a 30-day level 4 lockdown with new measures as follows:
 - 6 p.m to 6 a.m. night curfew introduced.
 - *A ban of all social events, including sports, weddings and church services, bars, bottle stores, gymnasiums, restaurants banned for 30 days with the exception of funerals that would be limited to 30 people. Traditional conduct at funerals banned, including body viewing and allowing a corpse to stay overnight in a family home. However, repatriation of corpses to Zimbabwe to continue under strict health protocols.*
 - *Reopening of schools deferred indefinitely and only ZIMSEC Ordinary and Advanced Level examinations would be allowed from 5th January to 5th February under strict COVID-19 precautionary measures.*
 - *Existing COVID-19 preventive health measures to be strictly enforced including correct wearing of face masks, social distancing, hand sanitization and temperature checks and offenders to be prosecuted.*
 - *Inter provincial and inter City transport services restricted only to essential services and Part 4 commercial services.*
 - *People required to stay at home save for buying food and medicines or transporting sick relatives.*
- On 9th January 2021 the Government announced having cumulatively availed ZW\$7 billion to motivate and employ more health workers, procure testing kits, PPEs, sundries, sanitisers and to improve infrastructure.
- On 12th January 2021, the university of Zimbabwe postponed to February examinations of its students which were due in January.

- On 2nd January 2021, the Government announced a 30-day level 4 lockdown with new measures as follows:
 - *Restaurants, bottle stores and bars closed for 30 days except for bars and restaurants serving hotel residents. However, tourist facilities and national parks to remain operational subject to the usual health precautions.*
 - *Only essential services such as hospitals, pharmacies and supermarkets to remain open and to be operational from 8 am and to close at 3pm.*
 - *Of the other commercial services only Part 4 lockdown order services such as mining, manufacturing and agriculture to operate as before. Other commercial services specified on Part 5 of the lockdown order that is to say all formal businesses and registered informal traders suspended from Tuesday 5 January 2021 for 30 days.*
 - *Cross border traders not required to operate except for commercial and transit cargo related to essential and critical services.*
 - *Airports to remain open and travellers required to produce negative PCR test results.*
 - *Land borders closed and only open to commercial cargo and vehicles transiting to other countries and returning residents subject to presentation of a negative PCR test issued within 48 hours before departure.*
 - *Agricultural markets to remain operational during the prescribed hours to limit disruption on the supply of agricultural products. In addition, vehicles carrying agricultural produce to be allowed passage at all roadblocks and COVID-19 checkpoints.*
 - On 20th January 2021 Government ordered that there be only 10% of civil servants to work from the offices whilst the rest would work from home.
 - On 16th January 2021, the National Railways of Zimbabwe suspended indefinitely Bulawayo's intracity commuter trains that were servicing the Coty-Cowdray and City-Emganwini routes.
 - On 6th January 2021 Government suspended face-to-face meetings in the public service to ensure safety of employees.
 - On 4th January 2021 the Courts suspended some of its regular operations such as the Sherriff and Messenger of Court services.
 - On 25th August 2020, the Government extended from 3 months to 6 months unpaid sick leave for COVID-19 positive civil servants.
-
16. ZWL\$15 billion (\$720 million) economic rescuer and stimulus package announced by the government to support businesses
 17. Suspension of duties and taxes on various goods and services related to COVID-19, including on testing, protection, sterilization, and other medical consumables.
 18. Relaxation of some procurement regulations with a view of facilitating speedy procurement of essential goods and services.
 19. Return of the multicurrency system allowing both Zimbabwean dollar and US dollar as legal tender.
 20. Reduction in bank policy rate from 35 percent to 25 percent.
 21. Reduction of the statutory reserve ratio on bank deposits from 5 percent to 4.5 percent
 22. Increase of the private sector lending facility by the central bank from ZW\$1 billion to

Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)

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