

COVID- 19 IN COMESA MEASURES IN PLACE IN MEMBER STATES

17th April 2020



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.

Compiled by:

Trade and Customs Division and Governance, Peace and Security Unit

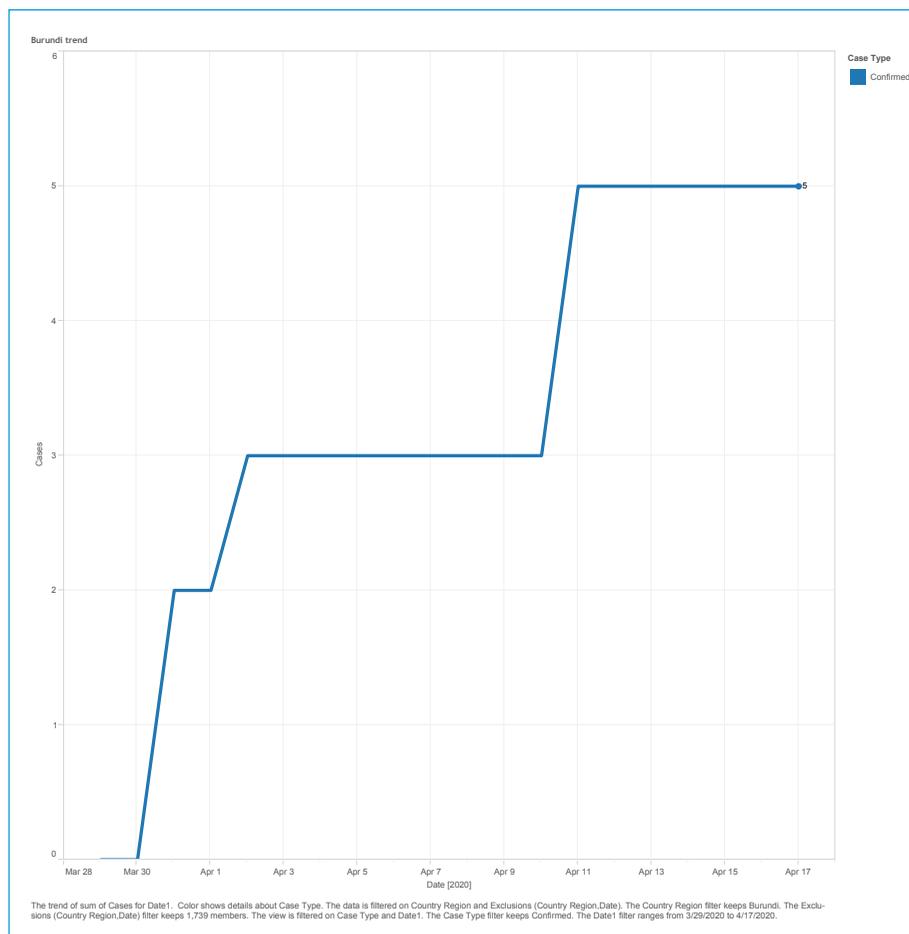
A publication of COMESA Secretariat

BURUNDI



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Burundi on 31st March 2020 and by 17th April, there were 5 confirmed cases



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Suspension of flights in and out of Burundi from 22nd March 2020. ∑ Closure of borders. ∑ Mandatory quarantine for 14 days for those exposed or suspected of having the virus. ∑ Limited access to hotel premises for two months at least since then. ∑ Sensitization and awareness campaign have been created through TV and Radio. ∑ Installation of hand sanitizers and water for handwashing in public places. ∑ The authorities have asked hospitals to make beds available for potential cases (20 for each national hospital and 5 for each local hospital).
<p>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ All Borders were closed. Government of Burundi has closed the land border with Rwanda. Travellers are advised that if they plan to cross the border from Rwanda into Burundi, they may be denied entry ∑ From the new COVID 19 government directives/guidelines, all borders are now open for cargo movement. No longer police escort but drivers must ensure minimal interaction with people and apply strictly hygiene measures. ∑ Suspension of flights in and out of Burundi from 22nd March 2020. Cargo flights are still operating for some origin / destinations (only Ethiopian Airlines).
<p>Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)</p>	<p>Directeur général du Commerce Ministère du commerce, de l'Industrie, et du Tourisme B.P. 492 BUJUMBURA République du Burundi Tél: +25779927041, +257 22 242833 E-mail: mutchryso@yahoo.fr , Burundi Embassy in Lusaka: Email: ambabulskabi@gmail.com pasruho@gmail.com</p>

COMOROS



Background

By 17th April no cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Comoros

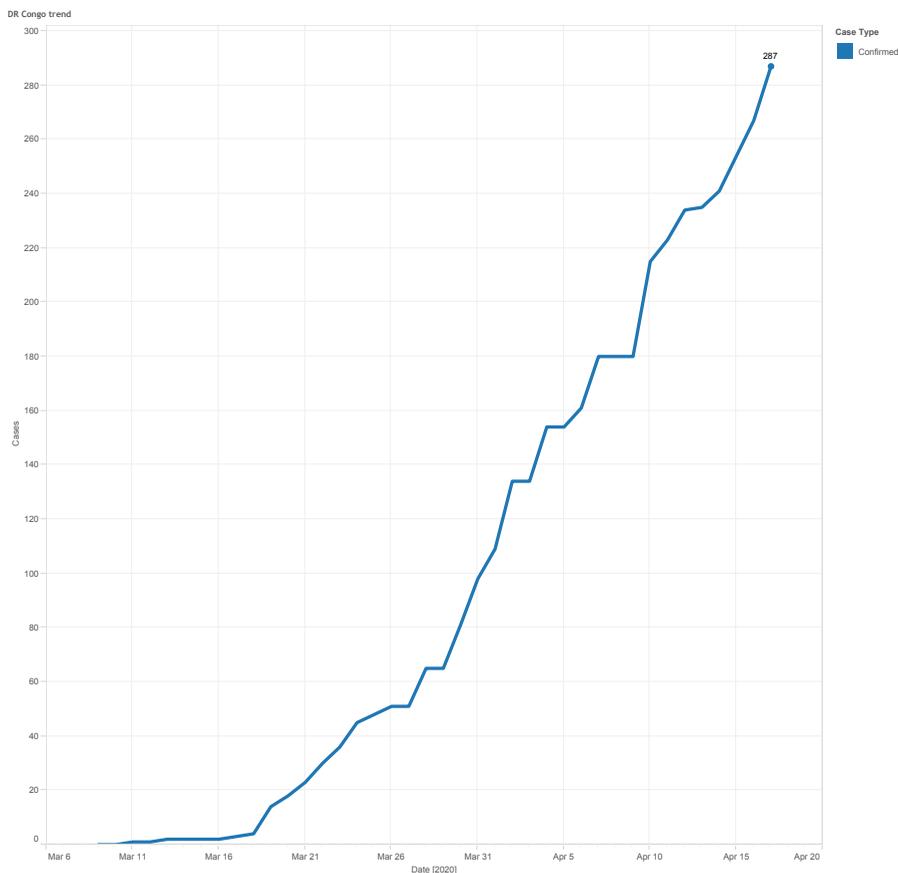
Preventive Measures in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning for 30 days' effective 20th March 2020 Σ Prohibitions of gatherings of more than 20 people. Σ Suspension of traditional ceremonies. Σ Transfers to vulnerable households were raised. Σ Flights between Comoros and the islands of Mayotte and the Réunion suspended Σ Quarantine measures implemented for travelers from, or who have transited through COVID-19-infected countries
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Import taxes on food, medicines, and items related to hygiene reduced by 30 percent. Σ A fund to support employees associated with airport operations created. Σ The Central Bank reduced reserve requirements to 10 percent. Σ The authorities announced a restructuring of commercial loans and freezing of interest rates in some commercial loans.
Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)	<p>Ministres de l'Economie, des Investissements, chargé de l'Intégration Economique MORONI Union des Comores Tél: +269 332 66 69, +269 339 10 15, +269 321 58 58 Email: minieco2019@gmail.com; sgmourtadhoi@gmail.com; Abdou_nassur@yahoo.fr</p>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Background

The first coronavirus was confirmed on 10 March 2020. As of 17th April 2020, a total of 287 cases had been reported. 23 recoveries and 22 deaths had been reported.



The trend of sum of Cases for Date[1]. Color shows details about Case Type. The data is filtered on Country Region and Exclusions (Country Region,Date). The Country Region filter keeps Congo (Kinshasa). The Exclusions (Country Region,Date) filter keeps 1,729 members. The view is filtered on Case Type and Date[1]. The Case Type filter keeps Confirmed. The Date[1] filter ranges from 3/6/2020 to 4/17/2020.

<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Formation of a COVID-19 Task Force and a coordination team in the government on 18 March and issuance of Presidential Decree declaring a state of emergency on 24th March. Σ Closure of all education centers, suspension of all religious and sporting events, and closure of bars and restaurants Σ Suspension of all major international flights into and out of the country from 20 March until further notice. However, cargo flights are still operational. Σ Closure of land borders with Angola, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda starting 21 March. Σ Declaration of a 48-hour-long total confinement from 23 March 2020 over all Haut-Katanga province. Σ Release by Government of 1200 inmates from Makala Prison and other prison facilities on 7th April to decongest the prisons Σ Ban of inter-provincial travel from 24th March Σ Prohibition of all gatherings of people in public spaces Σ Shut down of all land, sea and air borders to passenger, private or commercial travel from 24th March Σ Total lockdown of Kinshasa for four days from 28 March and for 14 days from 7 April 2020. Σ Covid-19 victims interred under government supervision.
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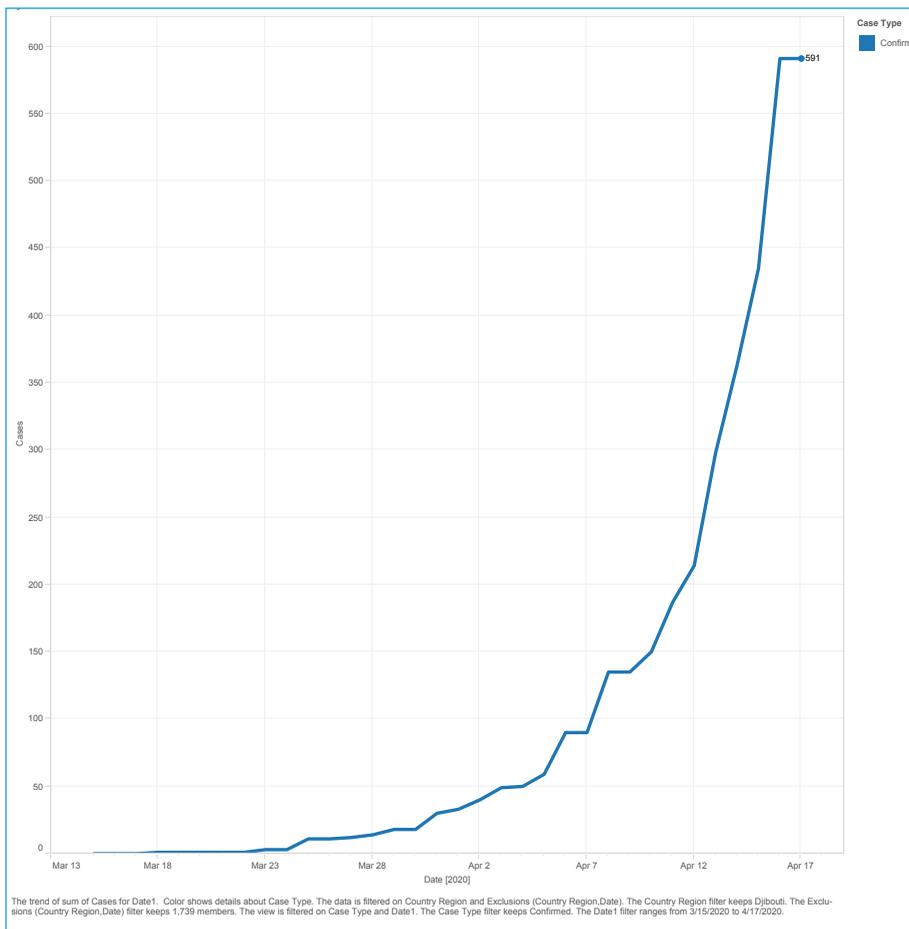
Preventive Measures in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Other measures: The development of a response national plan with an estimated budget of \$135 million (0.3 percent of GDP) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthen early detection and surveillance and foster technical and operational coordination within the government ○ Improve the quality of medical care to infected patients; and ○ Develop effective preventive communication strategies and enhance medical logistic platforms. ○ To enhance the effectiveness of the national response plan. An expert, Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe, who helped discover Ebola and was also pivotal in its eradication was given the task of coordinating the mechanism. ∑ Dashboard that shows current information and information on COVID-19 put in place on: https://www.stopcoronavirusrdc.info/
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ DRC did not close borders to cargo ∑ The borders are open and Customs officers on duty ∑ Kasumbalesa border open but limited flows / inbound flows / traffic out of Zambia so far (40km queue on the Zambian side) ∑ Freight services and emergency transportation exempted from the Presidential Decree ban subject to strict screening of crews before admittance to allow entry of cargo. ∑ Promotion of use of e-payments to reduce contamination risks in bank notes. ∑ Fast tracking of ASYCUDA World Implementation approved. ∑ Through the Central Bank (BCC) on 24 March to ease liquidity conditions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of policy rate to 7.5 percent - Elimination of mandatory reserve requirements on demand deposits in local currency - Extension of the maturity of emergency liquidity loans to up to 24 months. - Postponement of the adoption of new minimum capital requirements
Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)	<p>Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale 238, Avenue de la Justice KINSHASA/GOMBE République Démocratique du Congo Tél: +243 998 126 526, +243 818 118 061 Courriel: minicir@yahoo.fr zachtshim@gmail.com DRC Embassy in Lusaka : Tél : +260 975 852896 , Courriel : ambardclusaka@gmail.com</p>

DJIBOUTI



Background

First case detected on March 18th, 2020 and by 17th April 2020, 591 cases were reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- ∑ The Djibouti Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees have been established to observe the situation and impact.
- ∑ A nation-wide lockdown is in place, except for essential services.
- ∑ All commercial passenger flights suspended as well as train, boat and ship transport.
- ∑ Traffic has been restricted to the minimum and is only allowed with administrative authorization.
- ∑ Restrictions of air, land, and sea borders, interruption of passenger flights and trains to (and from) Djibouti;
- ∑ Closure of educational institutions, religious/worship places, sports events and bars.
- ∑ Quarantine sites to be established for infected persons and contact tracing procedures put in place;
- ∑ Social distancing and other preventive measures including sanitization to be popularized by Government health agencies and the media.
- ∑ Provision of essential services including medical supplies, food, and humanitarian services allowed to continue operating.
- ∑ The World Bank has provided Djibouti with US\$5 million credit towards efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the rapid spread of COVID-19.
- ∑ The World Health Organization has delivered protective equipment to the Ministry of Health including goggles, surgical gowns, gloves, face masks and hand sprayers. WHO has also ordered 500 test machines and 80 respirators for COVID-19 preparedness in the country.

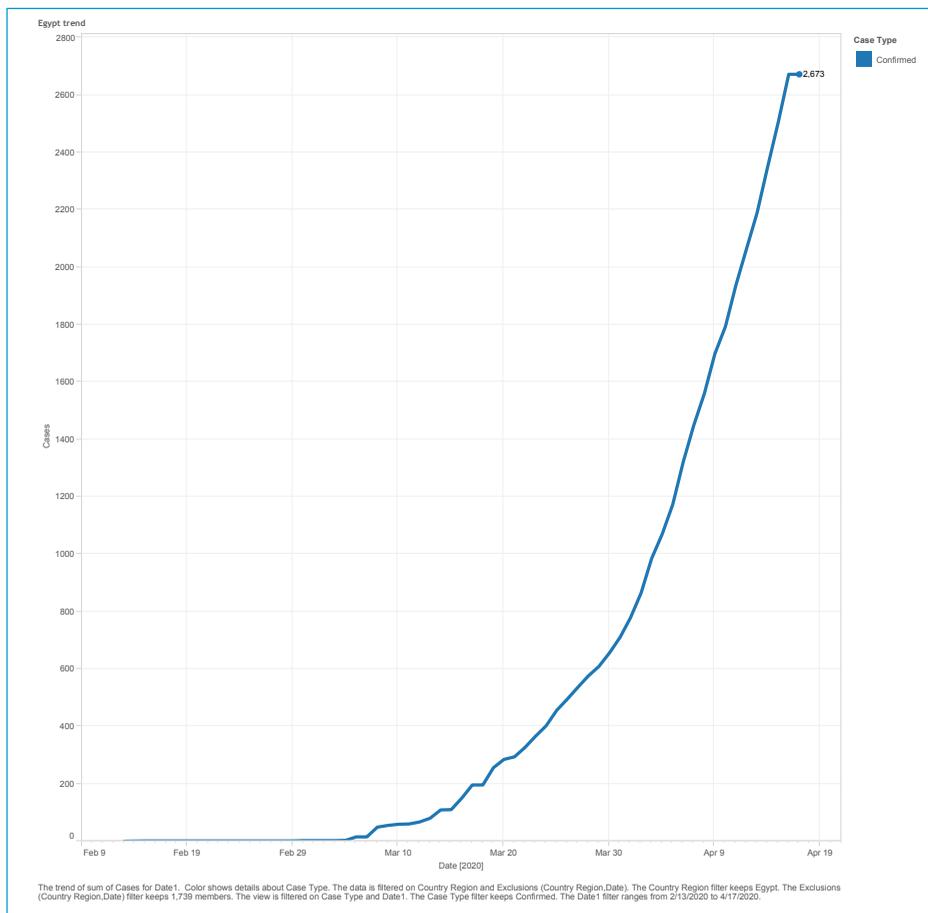
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Cargo movement of goods and services permitted. Σ Only commercial traffic to/from Ethiopia allowed through Galafi border. At Galafi, a health checkpoint has been set up to monitor the temperature of people. Σ Port communities have raised awareness among Ethiopian drivers on compliance with barrier measures and brochures in Amharic language were produced and disseminated to the latter. Σ The Djibouti Port and Corridor is still operational, and no case has been detected. An alerting protocol is implemented by the port communities. Σ Slight truck shortage experienced due to spike in demand and drivers' fear of COVID-19. Σ 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 Σ Djibouti made 82.5% reduction in port tariffs and granted Free Terminal Handling Charges for 60 days, from Thursday, April 16th, 2020 for Ethiopia export cargo to the world gated in Djibouti Ports.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministre Délégué auprès du Ministre de l'Économie et des Finances, chargé du Commerce, des PME de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme et de la Formalisation B.P. 24 DJIBOUTI République de Djibouti Tél : + 253 21325441 +253 77851345 + 253 21355177 Fax : + 253 21 35 49 09 Courriel: ministre.commerce.dj@gmail.com; ali.d.abdou@gmail.com; hassanchehem@hotmail.fr</p>

EGYPT



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Egypt on 14th February 2020. As of 17th April, there are 2,673 confirmed cases



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ Overnight curfew
- Σ Restriction of public gatherings in schools, universities, cafes, bars, clubs, malls, hotels, public transport, public gathering places and tourist locations.
- Σ Released over 4000 prisoners to prevent overcrowding in prisons and contain the spread of the Coronavirus
- Σ Suspension of flights in and from Egypt until mid-April 2020
- Σ Mandatory quarantine for visitors who test positive for Coronavirus in a government isolation hospital.
- Σ Adoption of an integrated plan which covers early detection, quarantine and treatment measures, as well as raising public awareness.
- Σ Closure of schools, universities and colleges and all sporting activities.
- Σ Securing food stuff and goods in preparation for the months ahead.
- Σ Allocation 100 billion Egyptian pounds (6.35 billion U.S. dollars) to finance the anti-COVID-19 comprehensive plan and its precautionary measures.
- Σ Increased number of metro coaches in operation.
- Σ Daily sterilization off all terminals, means of transport and roads.
- Σ Public transport operators not to carry more than 50% of capacity of conveyance
- Σ Total lock down in a number of villages including Nile Delta, Gharbia, Menoefia and in some residential building in the Suez-canal city of Port Said.
- Σ Decontamination of 7500 buildings including government administrative building and tourist facilities.

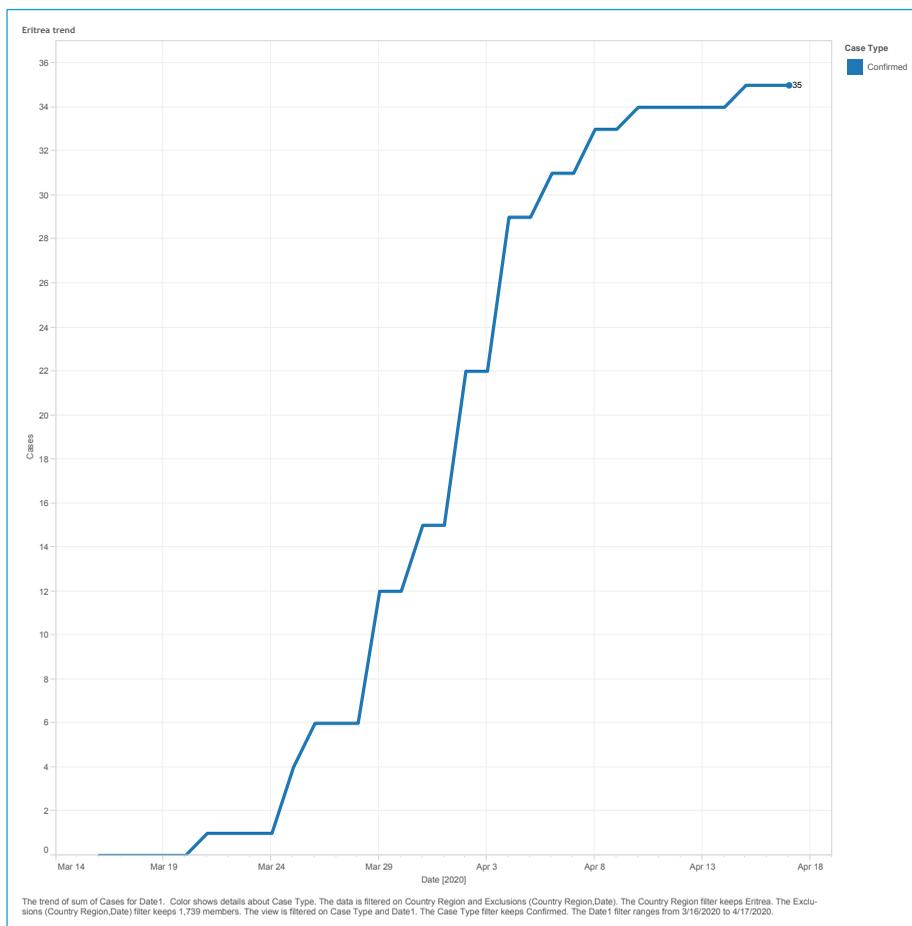
<p>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ USD4.50 per million British Thermal Unit (mmBtu) (previously USD 6.00 per mmBtu for cement companies and USD5.50per mmBtu for metallurgy and ceramic manufacturers). Σ Reduction in the price of electricity for “heavy industries” from EGP 1.10 to EGP 0.10 (c. USD 0.0064) per kilowatt hour. Electricity prices are frozen for all other industries for the next 3-5 years. Σ The Export Subsidy Fund will pay out the entire EGP 1 billion in arrears during March and April, plus 10% in cash payments to exporters during June 2020. Σ The Central Bank of Egypt has decreased interest rates from 13.75% to 10.75%. Σ The Central Bank of Egypt has extended the tenor of all bank loans to businesses for six months and provides debt relief for individuals. Σ The National Bank of Egypt has announced a one-year savings deposit program with a 15% interest rate. Σ The Financial Regulatory Authority has announced an extension to 15 June for EGX listed companies to submit their financial statements for Q4 2019 (original deadline 30 April). Σ The Financial Regulatory Authority has ordered mortgage lenders, factoring and leasing companies to grant a six-month grace period upon request by clients. Σ The exemption from the taxation of capital gains on securities listed on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) for Egyptian residents will be extended to 1 January 2022 (originally due to expire 17 May 2020). Σ The exemption from the taxation of capital gains on securities listed on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) for non-residents will be made permanent. Σ Withholding tax on dividends paid by companies listed on the EGX will be reduced from 10% to 5%. Σ As from 25 March 2020, the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry (the Foreign Trade Sector) has put the following measures in place (i) documents, such as commercial invoices, would be accepted without being accredited by the Chambers of Commerce (this usually being a requirement) and (ii) certificates of origin would be accepted without authorisation from the Egyptian Embassy abroad. Σ Citizens filing taxes online will not be charged the subscription fee for the use of the online filing portal. Σ Stamp duty on transactions on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) will be reduced from 0.15% to 0.125% for non-residents. Σ Stamp duty on EGX transactions will be reduced from 0.15% to 0.05% for Egyptian residents. Σ All spot transactions on the EGX will be exempt from stamp duty Σ Three-month extension for the payment of property taxes for companies in the industrial and tourism sector. Σ Trade between Egypt and Saudi Arabia to be done through trailers only without trucker by using RORO ships.
<p>Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)</p>	<p>Ministry of Trade and Industry CAIRO Arab Republic of Egypt Tel: +20(2) 23421950 Fax: +20 2 27940554 Fax: +20(2) 23422197 Email: a.elwassal@tas.gov.eg; m.ali@tas.gov.eg Egyptian Embassy in Lusaka: E-mail: Lusaka@ecs.gov.eg; Lusakaecs@outlook.com Tel: +260-211-251151, Fax: +260-211-250284</p>

ERITREA



Background

First case detected on March 21st, 2020 and by 17th April 2020 35 cases reported.

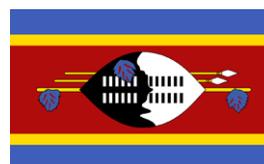


Preventive Measures in Place

- ∑ A lockdown declared on 2nd April 2020.
- ∑ National Task Force on COVID-19 was established at high and lower levels and has issued regulations and implementing Guidelines.
- ∑ All entry visas to Eritrea suspended.
- ∑ 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 to 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 to 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.

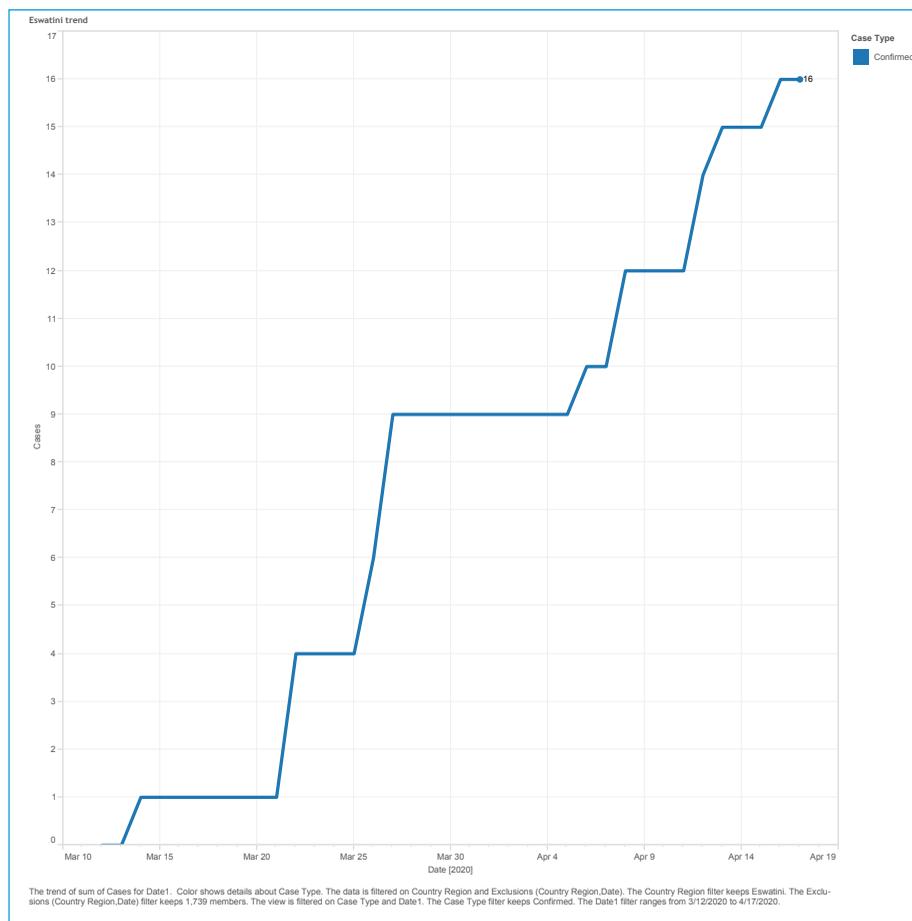
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Asmara International Airport is closed to commercial passenger flights for a minimum of two weeks from 25 March and extended on 08 April for next 21 days. Σ Major productive and service sectors (manufacturing, food processing, construction, and transport) allowed to continue their functions. Σ Citizens in the rural areas engaged in farming and animal husbandry allowed to continue their occupational activities. Σ 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. Σ Major productive and service sectors (manufacturing, food processing, construction, and transport) allowed to continue their functions.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Trade and Industry P. O. Box 1844 ASMARA State of Eritrea Tel: + 291 1117103, Fax: +291 1120586; +291 1124175 Email : ericomesa2@gmail.com; abdulrah78@gmail.com; zeferfd@gmail.com</p> <p>The Eritrean Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative to COMESA New Waumuni House 2nd Floor P O Box 38651 Westlands NAIROBI Kenya Tel:+254-2-443164 , Fax: +254-2-443165, E-mail: beyeneruesom@gmail.com</p>

ESWATINI



Background

The first coronavirus case reported on 13 March 2020. As of 17th April 2020, a total of 16 cases had been reported. Eight recoveries and one death had been reported.



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ The Government established the Cabinet sub-committee, Emergency Task Force, Regional and Sector Committees to implement the COVID-19 Emergency Plan and declared a national state of emergency ∑ Partial lockdown for 21 days beginning midnight of 15 April 2020. ∑ Only essential sectors as identified allowed to continue operating and to also follow WHO Guidelines; ∑ Suspension of private and public gatherings of 50 people or more ∑ Closure of schools ∑ Suspension of non-essential travel for all citizens ∑ Recruitment and training of health workers, including scheduled onsite trainings of army personnel on screening at informal PoEs ∑ 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, ∑ Mass COVID-19 screening, and ∑ Restricted entry to foreign nationals coming from high-risk countries.
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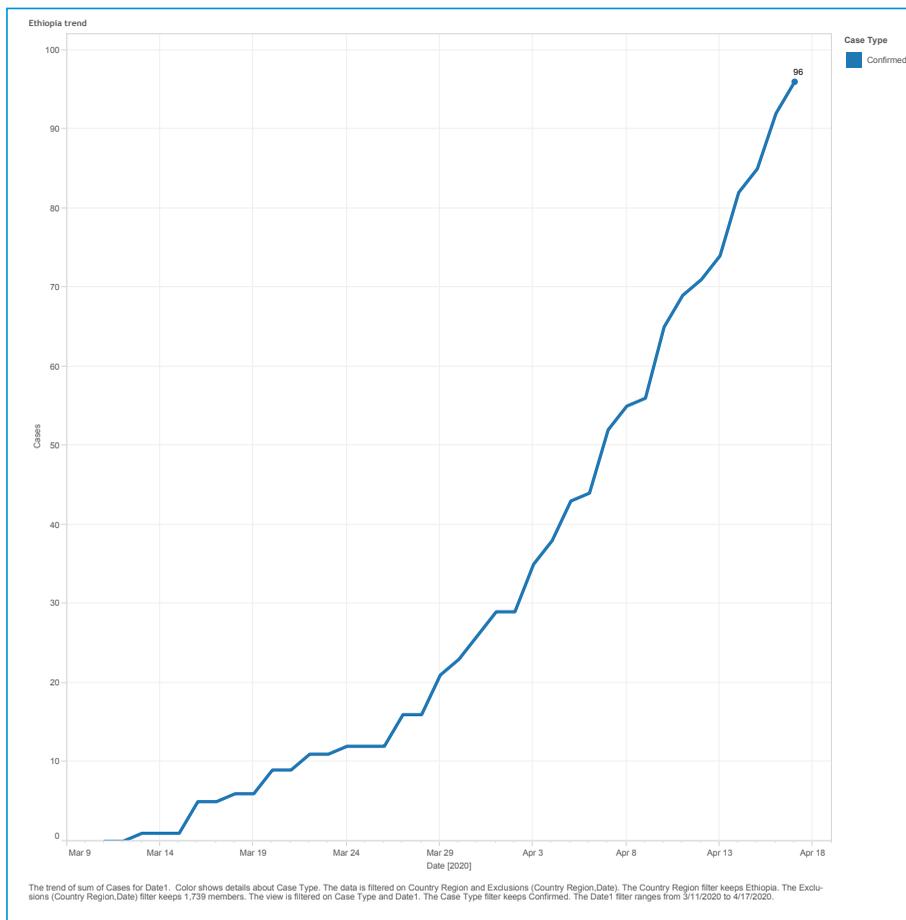
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Set up Contact Point for information on measures affecting trade appointed with contact details. Σ The Government issued a supplementary budget for public healthcare in the amount of E100 million (app. US\$ 5.38) or 0.14 percent of GDP. Σ Redirected low priority recurrent spending to the fight against the pandemic and health infrastructure. Σ Put in-place revenue measures to mitigate the impact of the virus including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Authorisation of taxpayers projecting losses to file loss provisional returns without payment requirement ○ Extension of returns filing deadlines by 3 months ○ Payment arrangements for taxpayers facing cash flow problems; Waiver of penalties and interest for older tax debts Σ 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 Σ Encouragement of greater use of electronic payments; Σ Encouragement to banks by the Central Bank to consider loan restructuring and repayment holidays. Σ Cross Border Trade to operate normally; Σ Provision for later completion of clearance procedures Σ Fast tracking clearance of goods for the fight against COVID-19, i.e. medicaments. Clearance can be done after, controls still exercised Σ Enhanced Customs collaboration with other stakeholders i.e. Health (communication to clients through one channel, joint inspections, etc.) • Σ Provision of PPE to the Customs staff, sensitization on the pandemic.
Coordinating Ministry (Contact point details)	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade MBABANE Eswatini Tel: (+268) 404 3201, Fax: (+268) 404 3055 Email: itd@realnet.co.sz ; nkambulesib@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA



Background

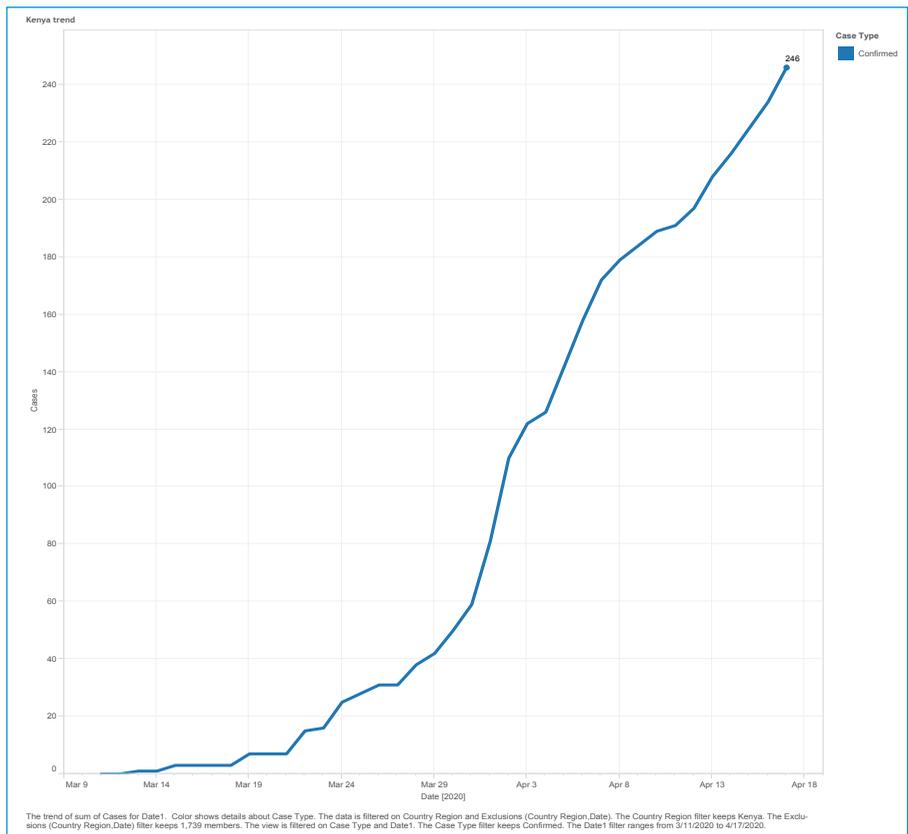
The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Ethiopia on 13th March 2020. As of 17th April, there are 96 confirmed cases



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ On April 8, the Prime Minister declared a state of emergency for 5 months under Article 93 of the constitution, which allows it to impose more stringent measures.
- Σ Closing of all schools including institutions of higher learning and banning of public gatherings including sporting events for 15 days from 16th March 2020
- Σ Release of over 4000 prisoners to prevent overcrowding in prisons and contain the spread of the coronavirus
- Σ Postponement of elections from 29th August 2020 to a new date to be determined
- Σ Effective 20th March, all arriving passengers face mandatory quarantine for 14 days
- Σ Closure of its land borders to nearly all human traffic from 23rd March
- Σ Closure of all-night clubs and places of entertainment effective 20th March until further notice
- Σ Government employees ordered to work from home
- Σ As of 1st April, suspension of mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches
- Σ 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.
- Σ Addis Ababa city received about \$6,000,000 from the Gates Foundation to combat COVID-19 in the city
- Σ Disruption of courier services has negative impact on clearance processes for both Airfreight and Sea Freight Imports due to requirement for original documents from Shipper.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Emergency support of \$82.8M from the World Bank to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 Σ 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 Σ 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. Σ Ministerial level macro-economic management sub-committee has been set up Σ Waived all duties and taxes on all medical supplies and equipment imported to fight COVID- 19 Σ Ethiopian Airlines continues to operate concentrating mainly on cargo deliveries and scaled down passenger flights by about 90% Σ 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 Σ Djibouti Port operational for Ethiopian service. However, extended lockdown in Djibouti affecting operational hours for Shipping Lines and the storage space shortage in Djibouti port adds costs and time to the clearance of containers at the port. Σ Ethiopia-Sudan border is closed to all traffic. Σ 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 Focal Point contacts	<p>Ministry of Trade and Industry P.O.Box 704 ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Tel: +251 115513990, +251 115527676 Email: harrimiganu.arga@gmail.com; lisanework@yahoo.com; fikrutadesse@gmail.com; saronlakewethiopia@gmail.com</p>



KENYA



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Kenya on 13 March 2020. As of 17th April, there are 246 confirmed cases

Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ The President established a Corona Virus Task Force as a national emergency response
- Σ Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning for 30 days effective 20th March 2020
- Σ Suspension of religious gatherings including Friday prayers in mosques, Sunday church services, weddings, for 30 days.
- Σ Minimized attendance of social gatherings like weddings, funerals, malls for a period of 30 days.
- Σ Minimized congestion in public transport and limiting visitors to hospitalized patients in both public and private hospitals.
- Σ 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.
- Σ Government registries and the courts are closed except for the handling of emergency matters.
- Σ Government offices, businesses and companies have been encouraged to allow employees to work from home, with the exception of employees working in critical or essential services.
- Σ Imposition of a curfew from 1900-0500.
- Σ Development of a local testing kit for COVID-19. It was developed by the Kenya Medical Research Institute.
- Σ Travel suspended for all persons coming into Kenya from any country with reported cases of Coronavirus.
- Σ Kenya citizens and any foreigner with valid residence permit entering Kenya is required to self-quarantine or go to a government designated quarantine facility.
- Σ Cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale Counties from 6th April 2020 for 21 days. Movement is restricted in and out of Nairobi Metropolitan Area starting April 6 for 21 days.
- Σ Suspension of international flights.
- Σ Govt directed private sector to commence mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators
- Σ Temperature readings for truck crews to be taken at Entry Point and at designated weighbridges which are: Namanga – Mlolongo; Busia- Gilgil- Mlolongo- Mariakani; Malaba - Gilgil- Mlolongo- Mariakani; Taveta, Mariakani.
- Σ Clearance of trucks and cargo will be facilitated by a multi-agency team led by Commissioner Customs (KRA) and comprising KRA, Immigration, Health, Interior, EAC, MFA and Trade.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Cashless transactions such as mobile money and credit cards are encouraged. Mobile operators and banks have been implored to take into consideration the situation and reduce the cost of transactions during this period. Σ A 100-percent tax relief for low-income-earning persons upto KES24,000 Σ Reduced the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate from 30 percent to 25 percent. Σ Appropriation of KES 10 billion through cash transfers to the vulnerable members of society. Σ Temporary suspension of listing with Credit Reference Bureau for persons who default on their loan obligations with effect from 1 April 2020. Σ Disbursement of KES 1 billion for the recruitment of additional medical personnel. Σ The reduction of the standard VAT rate from 16 percent to 14 percent (effective 1 April 2020). Σ A reduction of the resident corporate income tax from 30 percent to 25 percent. Σ 24-hour Call Centre and information portal set up and manned by Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) Σ Lowering of Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 7.2% Σ Lowering of Cash Reserve Ration (CRR) to 4.2% Σ Central Bank of Kenya to offer flexibility to banks on loans that were active as of March 2020 to maintain liquidity levels
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Facilitating expedited payment of VAT Refunds by allocating an additional Ksh. 10B. Σ Provision of relief to borrowers on their personal loans based on their individual circumstances arising from the pandemic. Σ Review of requests initiated by the borrower for extension of personal loans for periods of up to one year. Σ Assessment and restructuring loans taken by corporate borrowers (and SMEs) based on their respective circumstances arising from the pandemic. Σ Meeting all costs related to extension and restructuring of loans by the banks. Σ Facilitating use of mobile digital platforms by waiving attendant charges for balance inquiry; Σ Eliminating all charges for transfer of money between mobile money wallets and bank accounts. Σ Facilitating expedited payment of VAT Refunds by allocating an additional Ksh. 10 Billion (app. US\$96 Mill) Σ Setting up a fund to which players in the Public and Private Sector are contributing in support of Government efforts Σ Cargo movement is continuing to be allowed but only 1 driver and maximum 2 crew allowed per truck. Σ Temporary spike in transport requirements leading to a strained supply of trucks. Stringent medical screening at all border points. Only drivers, loader plus the clearing agent are allowed across the border. Σ Mandatory requirement for all returning cargo crew to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Σ 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. Σ Kenya Ports Authority has reduced workforce to two shifts. Σ Trade related essential services providers, Customs, Immigration, and Port Health officials are exempted from the provisions of curfew and required to work 24 hours Σ Truck occupants must keep temperature/readings/health forms until they exit Kenya unless they are Kenyan residents. Any truck crew member who exhibits symptoms occupants will be subject to a 14 days quarantine.

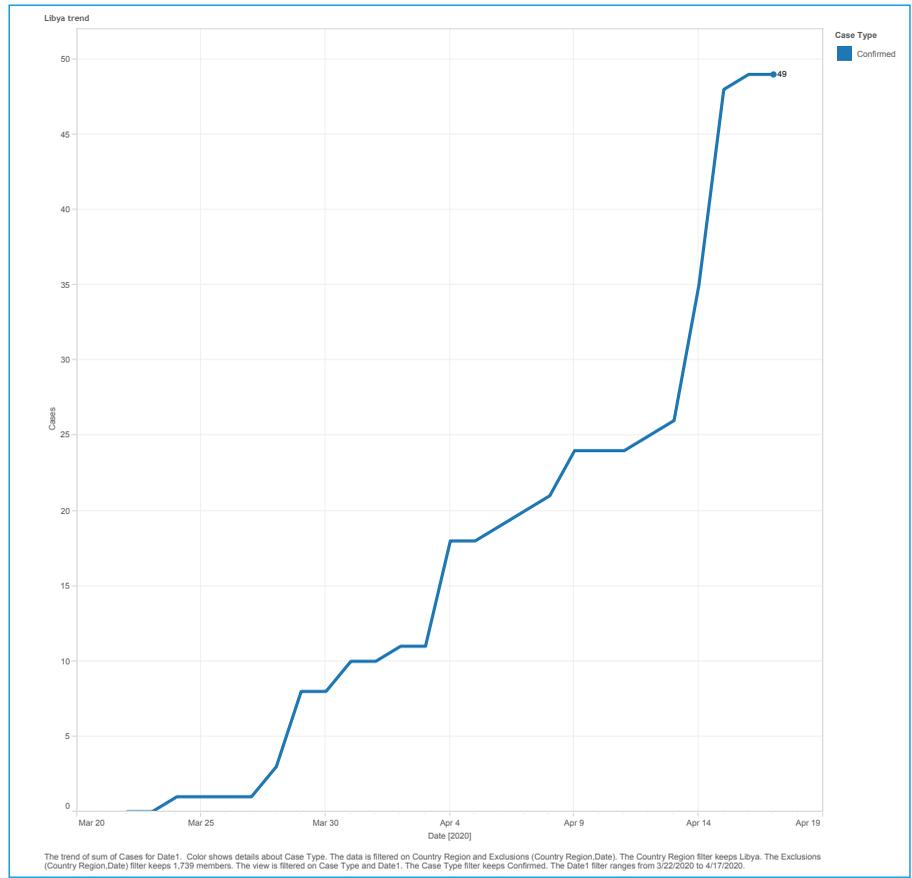
<p>Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)</p>	<p>Ministry of Industrialization, Trade & Enterprise Development P.O. BOX 30547-00100 Kenyatta Avenue NAIROBI Tel: +254-20 2731531/2-44, +254-20 310983 Fax +254 20 3313600 E-mail: pa@industrialization.go.ke, psfortrade@gmail.com; b_makau@yahoo.co.uk; jnwkario@gmail.com Website: www.industrialization.go.ke</p> <p>Kenya Ministry of Health: Twitter: @MOH_Kenya, Facebook: MinistryofHealthKE, website: http://www.health.go.ke/</p> <p>KRA Contact Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Domestic Taxes and all frequently requested services, log on to: https://itax.kra.go.ke/KRA-Portal/ Σ For Customs related taxes, log on to iCMS (Integrated Customs Management Systems) and the Simba System Σ For Supply Chain Management (SCM) or e-procurement, log on to: http://www.kra.go.ke/en/tender Σ For additional support, call our Contact Centre on Tel: 020 4 999 999, 0711 099 999 or Email: callcentre@kra.go.ke
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LIBYA



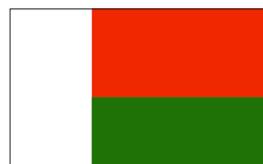
Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Libya on 3rd April 2020. As of 17th April, there are 49 confirmed cases



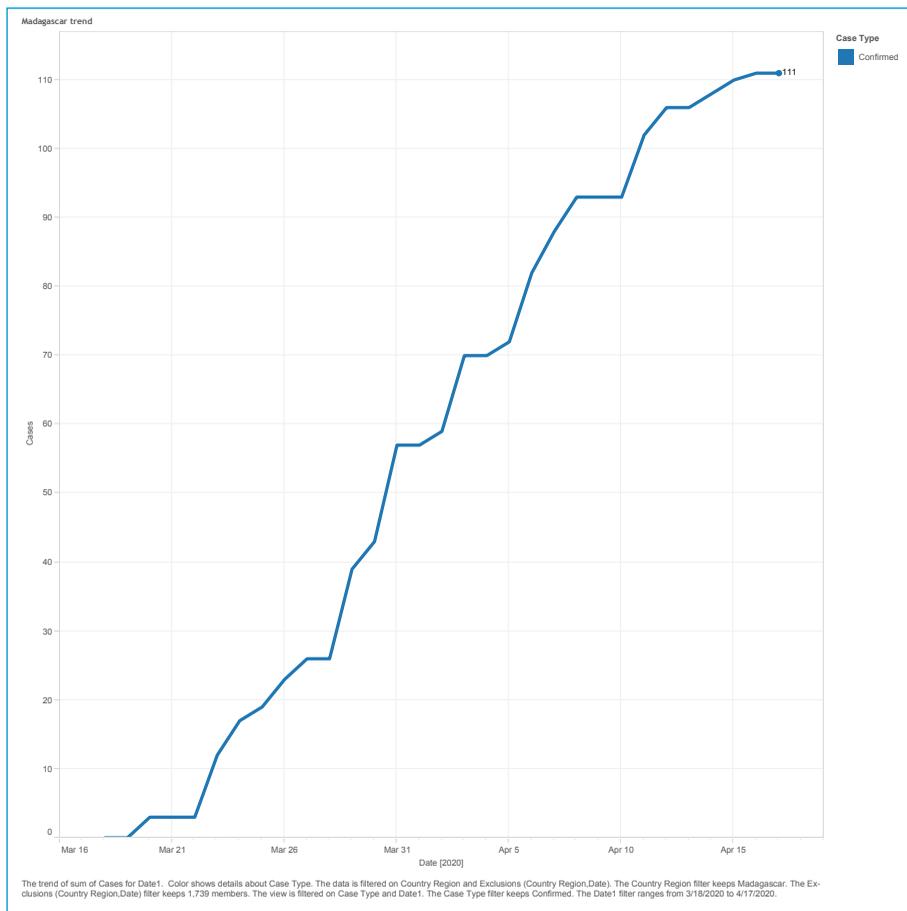
<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Closure of all air, ground and maritime Libyan borders for a period of three weeks (with possible extension). Σ Prayers in mosques have been cancelled, schools and universities have been closed for two weeks and public gatherings limited. Σ Large public gatherings have been banned. Σ 470 inmates from local and regional prisons have been freed to reduce the risk of infections. Σ Suspension of all court proceedings until the end of April. Σ Curfew in the country for 19 days from 10th of April 2020 Σ 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. Σ Only pedestrians allowed to go out between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.
<p>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Allocation of 500 million LYD for COVID-19 preparedness and response Σ Cargo exempted from ban
<p>Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)</p>	<p>Ministry of Economy and Industry P.O. Box 4779 TRIPOLI, LIBYA Cell: +218 928 344531, Fax: +218 214 831394, Email: libya_zambia@yahoo.com</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister Plenipotentiary TRIPOLI Libya Cell: +218 91 0123447, Email: elseed.ali@hotmail.com Embassy of the State of Libya P O Box 35319 LUSAKA, Zambia Tel : +260(211) 253055/255388, Fax : +260(211) 251239, Mobile: 0955 208900/0977 977605 E-mail : libya_emb_zm@foreign.gov.ly; farajzarroug@gmail.com</p>

MADAGASCAR



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Libya on 3rd April 2020. As of 17th April, there are 49 confirmed cases



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Suspension of all international flights effective 20th March for 30 days. Only Air France and Turkish Airlines serve Madagascar via their weekly cargo flight. Σ Cruise ships not allowed in any port Σ Suspension of all public transportation in the country effective 23rd March Σ Closure of all schools and universities Σ State of emergency in force until 19th April Σ Imposition of a curfew from 2000hrs to 0500hrs from 23rd March Σ Only shops selling essential items remain open and opening hours restricted from 0600hrs to 1200hrs Σ All public services are closed, except for health workers, the judiciary, public security, municipal sanitation and roadworks, telecommunications and the media Σ Lockdown in Antananarivo and Toamasina effective 23rd March with only one person per household allowed to go shopping for essential items Σ A complete ban on all public gatherings throughout the country effective 23rd March Σ Public markets to open for only three days a week subject to strict SOPs Σ All entertainment venues closed, and all sporting events suspended
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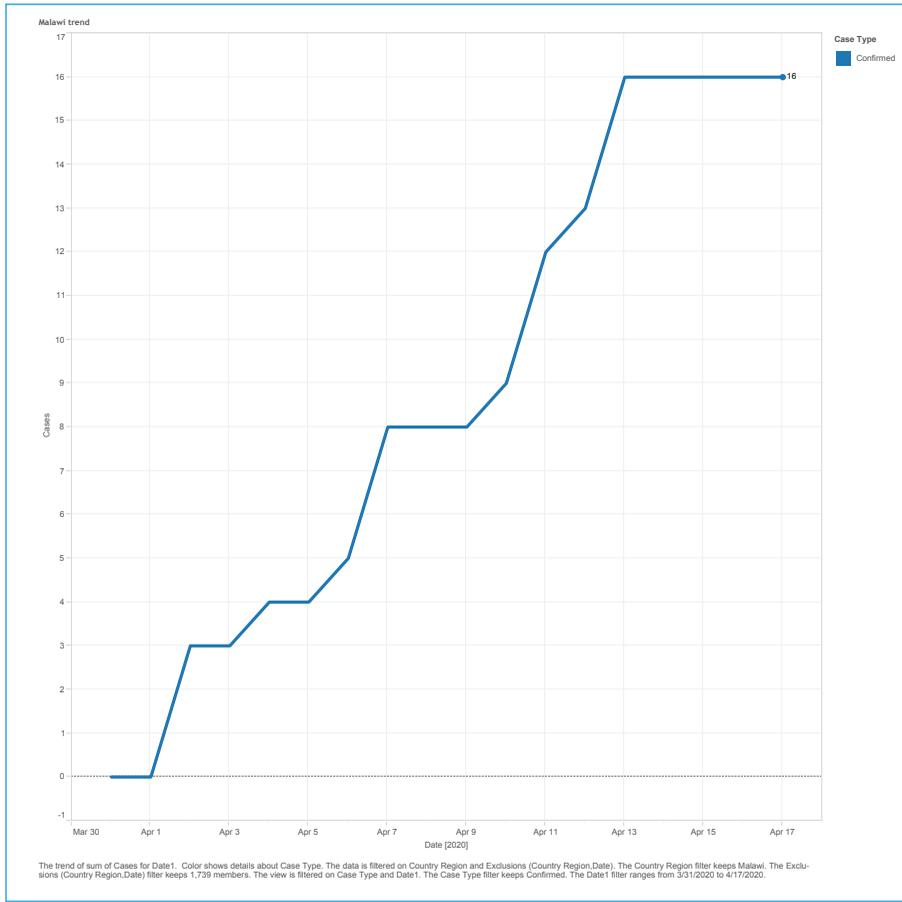
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Price controls introduced by Government to regulate the prices of essential services and to prevent businessmen from taking advantage of the situation to hike prices Σ Lockdown in Antananarivo and Toamasina not affecting transportation of goods Σ Any transport, except for goods banned. Σ Ports are operational while respecting governmental procedures. Major problems experienced on Mauritius trans shipments and connections. Σ Customs offices Tamatave and Antananarivo will ensure maximum service with minimum contact. However, humanitarian aid, pharmaceuticals and PPN will be given priority. Σ Temporary suspension of all exports of drugs and other health products
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of foreign affairs. Secrétaire général du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères 1, rue Andriamifidy, Anosy ANTANANARIVO 101 Madagascar Tél: +261 34 49 555 89 / +261 34 66 635 44 Courriel : sg.mae.gov@gmail.com; rthm12@yahoo.fr; Director of the COMESA-Tripartite Department Directorate of Regional Integration Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tel.: +261 34 39 388 95, +261 34 66 635 86 Email: dcrmae2019@gmail.com; mbola.andriana@gmail.com mar.rabi@yahoo.fr</p>

MALAWI



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Malawi on 2nd April 2020. As of 17th April, there are 16 confirmed cases



Preventive Measures in Place

- ∑ Malawi declared a State of National Disaster from 23rd March
- ∑ Closure of all schools, colleges and universities from 23rd March 2020 until further communication
- ∑ All flights into and out of Malawi suspended effective 1 April, until further notice.
- ∑ Flights carrying medical professionals, essential health equipment and emergency relief items are exempted. Additionally, authorities have suspended the issuance of visas. Flights carrying returning Malawi citizens and or cargo are handled on a case by case basis.
- ∑ Announced a three-week lockdown beginning 18th April to 9th May to try to curb the spread of COVID-19. All non-essential businesses and services would stop
- ∑ Recruitment of 2000 health workers to support the fight against COVID-19
- ∑ Postponement of a repeat Presidential Elections May to July 2020
- ∑ Restriction of all forms of public gatherings to less than 100 people
- ∑ Mandatory 14 days quarantine for all travellers from COVID-19 affected countries
- ∑ Establishment of a relief fund through which well-wishers, companies can contribute to support the fight against COVID-19
- ∑ The President and all the ministers to take a 30% pay cut for three months in order to support the fight against COVID-19

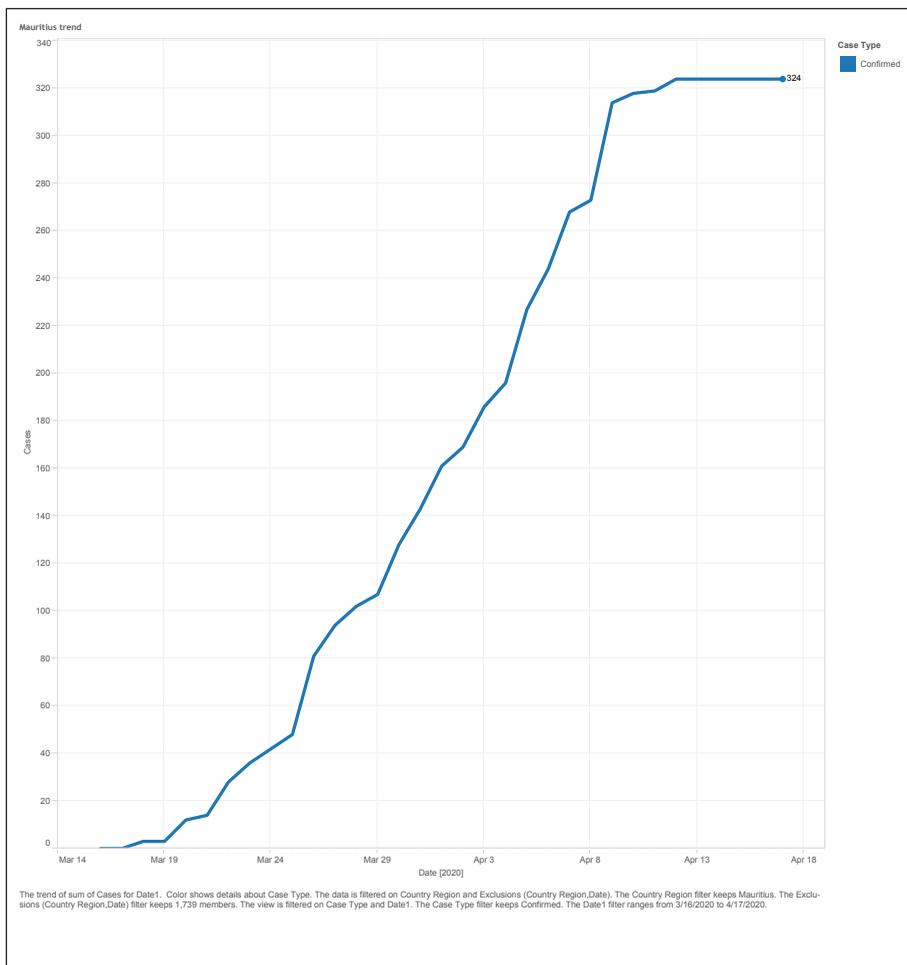
Trade facilitation / business support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Reduction of fuel prices to lower the transport costs ∑ Application of tax waivers on the importation of essential goods for Corona Virus management ∑ Reserve Bank of Malawi to allow banks to offer a three-month moratorium on 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. ∑ Trucks carrying cargo allowed into and out of Malawi. ∑ Road transport from South Africa prohibited. All other corridors normal.
Coordinating Ministries (Focal point contacts)	<p>Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism P. O. Box 30366 LILONGWE 3 Malawi Tel: +265 999 969669; +265 1 770244, +265 1 780244, 780647 Fax: +265 1 770680, +265 1 780680, 782183 Email: minci@malawi.net; ken.ndala@gmail.com, kelpas.m@gmail.com</p>

MAURITIUS



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Mauritius on 18th March 2020. As of 17th April, there were 324 confirmed cases



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Closure of borders and banning of commercial flights effective 19th March ∑ Closure of all schools and institutions of higher learning effective 23rd March until further communication ∑ Covid-19 Task Force which includes ministries of health and trade created ∑ A lockdown imposed for all non-essential services/travel from 23rd March to 15th April now extended until 4th May ∑ Mandatory wearing of face masks while out of home ∑ Precautionary measures including handwashing stations mandatory at all public facilities ∑ The supermarkets and shops selling essential commodities opened from Monday to Saturday from 0900hrs to 17.00hrs but families restricted to shopping only twice a week for a maximum of 30 minutes each ∑ Mauritians to be in possession of their National Identity Card and foreigners to present either their passport, residence permit or work permit ∑ Only one person per family will be allowed in stores ∑ Home loan repayment deferred for six months ∑ Postponement of court cases ∑ Wage support
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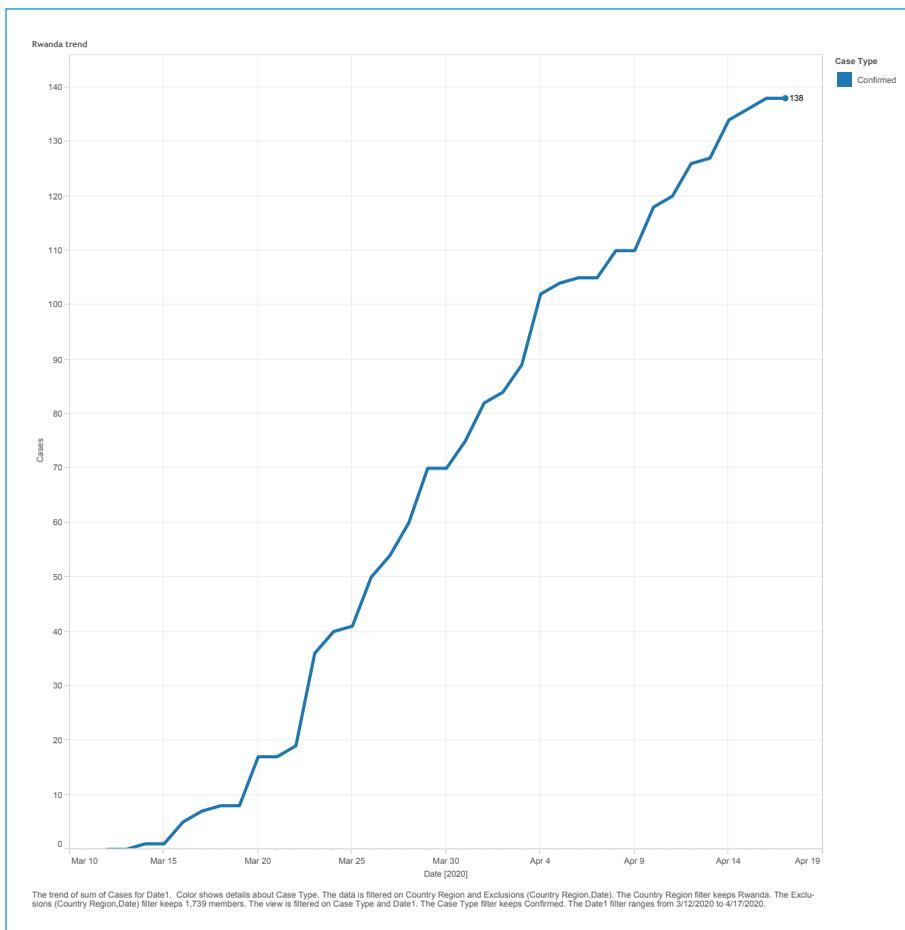
Preventive Measures in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Food safety net for vulnerable persons in place. ∑ Sanitary control at the entry and those with a temperature above 37.5°C will be taken in charge by the Ministry of Health and Wellness ∑ Shopping restricted to 30 minutes only and shoppers to carry their own bags ∑ Access limited to only three per persons for essential products e.g flour, rice, oil, milk, tissue papers ∑ Other measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of a special relief fund to support small scale enterprises ○ A COVID-19 Solidarity Fund was put in place to support the population
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Introduction of a moratorium of six months on capital repayment for existing loans for enterprises that are being affected by COVID-19 ∑ Provision of a special Relief fund through commercial banks to meet cash flow and working capital requirements of economic operators which are being directly impacted by COVID-19 ∑ Reduction of a cash reserve ratio applicable for commercial banks from 9 to 8%. This reduction is a key measure that aims at supporting banks to further assist businesses which are being directly impacted by COVID-19 ∑ Provision of financial support to workers in the informal sector of 50% of the monthly minimum wage ∑ A standing committee to be formed to explore potential ways to limit the impact of the Covid-19 on trade and businesses. The committee will be under Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade PORT LOUIS Republic of Mauritius Tel: (230) 405 2541; (230) 405 2622 Fax: (230) 211 3148, (230) 2137674 Email: sfa@govmu.org; secretariatmofa@govmu.org; mphokeer@govmu.org; skhundoo@govmu.org</p>

RWANDA



Background

First COVID-19 case detected on March 8th, 2020, and by 17th April 2020, 138 cases reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- ∑ A nation-wide lockdown announced on March 21st 2020.
- ∑ Citizens or foreigners returning to the country are subject to a 14-day mandatory quarantine at designated locations;
- ∑ Suspension of all commercial flights to and from the country except for cargo and essential services.
- ∑ Places of worship closed as well as educational institutions (schools and colleges), bars and restaurants.
- ∑ Social distancing to be observed.
- ∑ All borders closed except for goods and cargo services.
- ∑ Internal travel between districts and cities not authorized except for medical reasons or essential services.
- ∑ Social gatherings including weddings and sports events banned and non-essential movement outside homes not permitted.
- ∑ Shops and markets closed except for those selling food, medicine and other essential services.
- ∑ Contact-tracing for suspected infected persons to be conducted for further follow-up, testing, and treatment.
- ∑ Citizens urged to use mobile money and online banking whenever possible to limit the transfer of paper money and minimize person to person contacts
- ∑ On other measures, the Government to provide free food assistance to vulnerable people (poor, elderly, sick, and those paid on daily basis) for about 20,000 households in Kigali City.

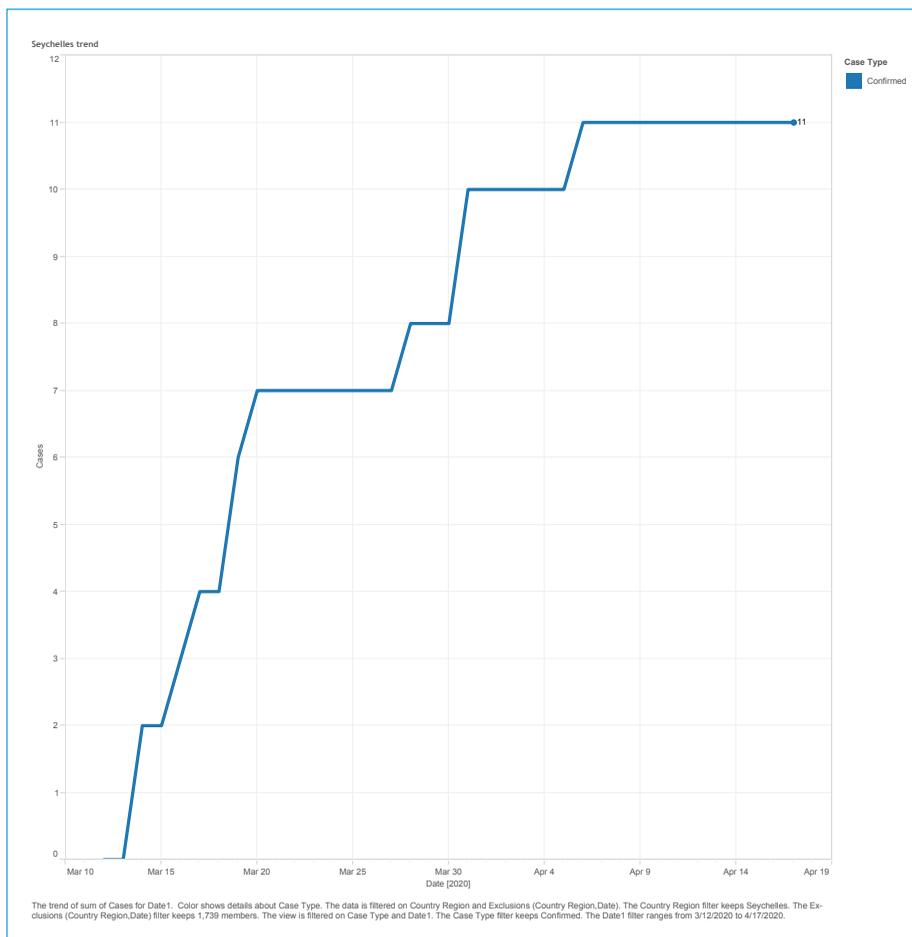
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ The Central Bank of Rwanda has provided a Rwf50 billion (\$54 million) facility and reduced the reserve requirement ratio for commercial banks from 5 per cent to 4 per cent to support the country's banking sector. Σ The IMF emergency 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. Σ The World Bank on April 7th 2020 approved a USD 14.3 million (RWF 13.65 billion) International Development Association (IDA) credit as emergency response towards efforts to contain COVID-19. Σ From 14th April 2020 Rwanda to benefit from USD \$11 million (RWF 10.5 billion) debt service relief from the International Monetary Fund for an initial period of 6 months.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Trade and Industry B. P. 73 KIGALI Rwanda Tel: +250-784855445, +250788415515 Email: ps@mineacom.gov.rw; msebera@minicom.gov.rw</p>

SEYCHELLES



Background

The first two coronavirus cases were reported on 14 March 2020. As of 17th April 2020, a total of 11 cases had been reported. 5 recoveries and 0 deaths had been reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ On 6 April Government extended the closure of the Seychelles’ International Airport effective until end of April.
- Σ A ban on movement of people from 7 p.m. in the evening until 6 a.m. in the morning from 17th April to 29 April 2020. Only the police with the support of the army allowed to move during those times
- Σ Only Shops allowed to operate from 6 p.m. in the evening until 6.30 a.m. the next morning. Food outlets such as takeaways and restaurants to close from 8 pm to 6.30 am
- Σ Travel bans on visitors from high-risk regions and obligatory quarantine for all returning residents
- Σ Screening at ports of entry
- Σ Temporary closure to cruise ships on 9 March and ban on US, Australian nationals and foreign yachts effected from 30th March.
- Σ The closure of all schools and day care centers in Seychelles.
- Σ A 30-day ban on foreign travel by Seychellois citizens from 30th March.
- Σ Cancellation of flights to Mauritius, South Africa and India from 26 March to 30 April
- Σ Limited public gatherings to four people
- Σ Government guarantee for salaries of all private sector employees in April, May and June.

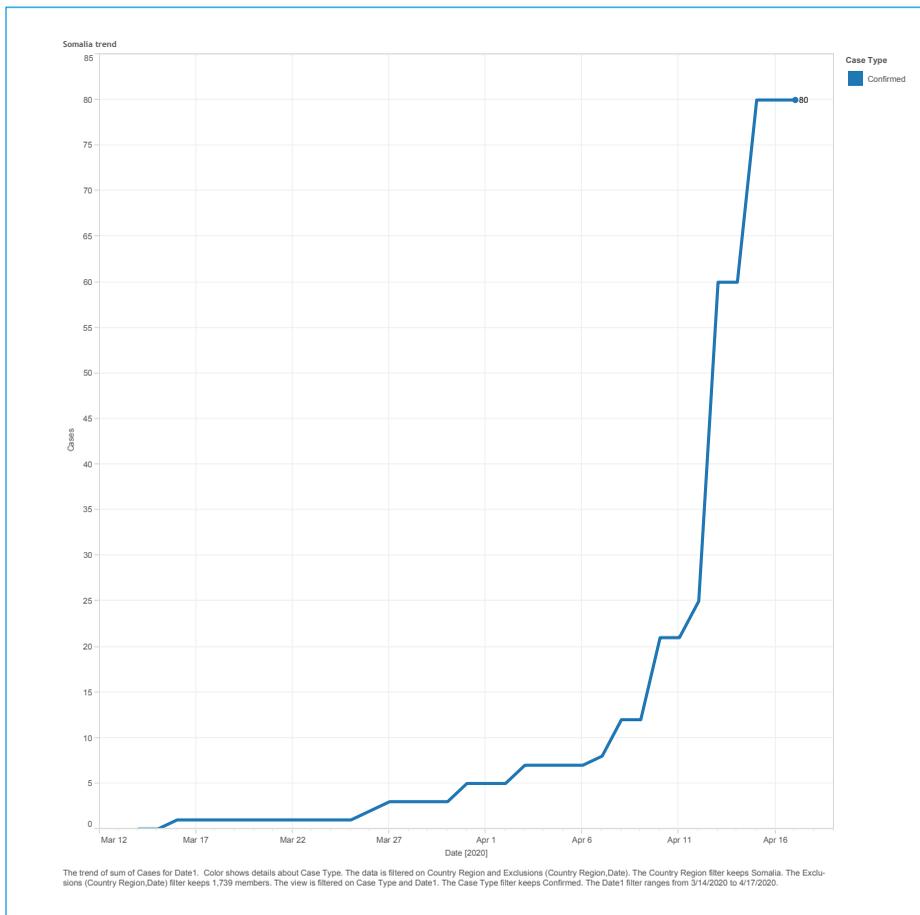
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ On 8 April 2020, Central Bank of Seychelles Governor announced the disbursement of \$10 million out of the country's international reserves of \$591 million to assist the domestic market. Σ The government announced measures to subsidize wages for companies facing distress caused by COVID-19 Σ On 20 March 2020, Government announced reduction of loan repayments for six months. Σ Tax payments postponed due in March until September. Σ The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) reduced the policy rate by 100 bps to 4 percent on March 23. Σ Central Bank provided a credit facility of approximately \$36 million to assist commercial banks with emergency relief measures to assist businesses and individuals struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic. Σ A limited credit provided to government by the Central Bank up to SCR 500 million Σ Maturity of credit to commercial banks extended to 3 years.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs State House P O Box: 55 VICTORIA, MAHÉ Seychelles Tel: [+248] 429 56 56 Fax: [+248] 432 42 48 E-mail: bfaure@gov.sc mconfait@gov.sc; mlarsen@mfa.gov.sc; marosequatre@seychelleshc.co.za</p>

SOMALIA



Background

First case detected on 16th March 2020 and by 17th April 2020 80 cases were reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ All educational institutions both private and public closed. Large gatherings prohibited.
- Σ Public meetings banned.
- Σ International and domestic commercial flights suspended with exceptions for humanitarian flights.
- Σ Cancellation of all flights except medical equipment and foodstuff flights
- Σ Restriction on imported KHAT to Somalia from our neighbouring countries (Kenya and Ethiopia)
- Σ National health institutions -assisted by WHO - to conduct case findings and contact tracing, testing and treatment, and quarantine activities.
- Σ A toll-free number 449 has been set up for the public to seek advice and report suspected cases of COVID-19 across the country.
- Σ UN agencies and other development agencies have partnered with the Government to set up the integrated Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) to address the humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan is focused on scaling up specific COVID-19 activities that will reinforce healthcare and humanitarian services such as food distribution and provision of medical supplies.
- Σ Banned re-export of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to domestic shortages

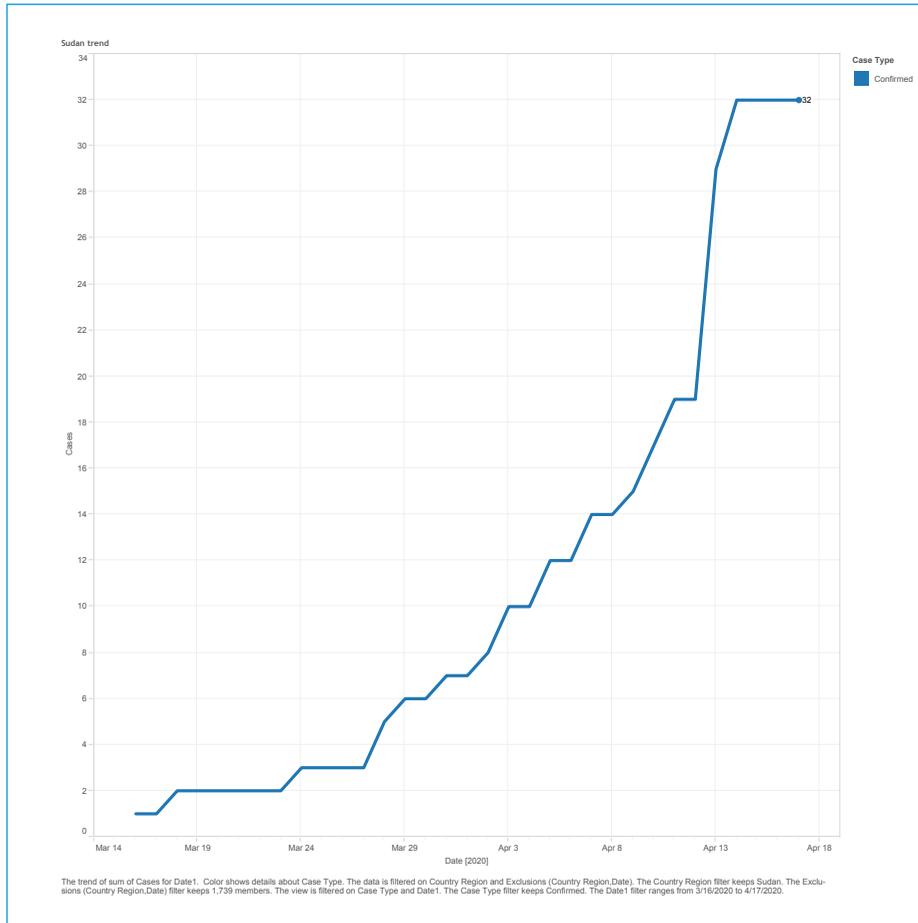
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Exemption of tariffs on all imported foodstuffs including rice, dates, wheat flour, and cooking oil ahead of the month of Ramadan. Σ Sea ports and road transport are operational but medical screening of crew in effect.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal Point contact details)	<p>Embassy of the Republic of Somalia 377A Kabulonga Road Box 34051 LUSAKA Zambia Tel: (+260) 211 262199 Email: embassyofsomalia@lusaka@hotmail.com</p>

SUDAN



Background

The first coronavirus case was confirmed on 13 March 2020. As of 17th April 2020, a total of 32 cases had been reported. 4 recoveries and 5 deaths had been reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ On 12 April 2020, the Prime Minister issued Emergency Order No. 1 of 2020 which criminalizes attacks on health personnel, smuggling, and illegal hoarding of good and medicines
- Σ Suspension of visa issuance and flight services from 12 March to 23 April to eight countries listed by the WHO as being majorly affected that included Korea, China, Italy, Iran, France, Spain, Japan, and Egypt.
- Σ Closure of three border crossing points with Egypt, dispatch of medical teams and security forces to the border areas with Egypt and halting bus trips to Egypt; and following a state of emergency declared on 16th March, a shutdown of all ports of entry.
- Σ Ban on political and social events or gatherings beginning 14 March, including the postponement of the National Economic Conference, scheduled for 29-31 March.
- Σ Closure of schools, universities, religious institutes, universities, colleges and higher institutes for one month beginning 14 March.
- Σ Introduction of a curfew in the whole country from 24 March 2020 (08:00 pm until 06:00 am) until further notice. From 31 March, the hours of the mandatory nationwide curfew were extended to 12 hours to between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Σ Postponement of basic certification exams in all states until further notice.
- Σ Beginning 14 March, measures introduced to shorten the time worshipers spent in mosques to avoid crowding.
- Σ 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.
- Σ Temporary opening of Khartoum airport and Port Sudan seaport from 19 to 20 March and the border with Chad from 20 to 21 March that allowed 413 Sudanese to return back home with a requirement to produce an international clearance certificate on Coronavirus.

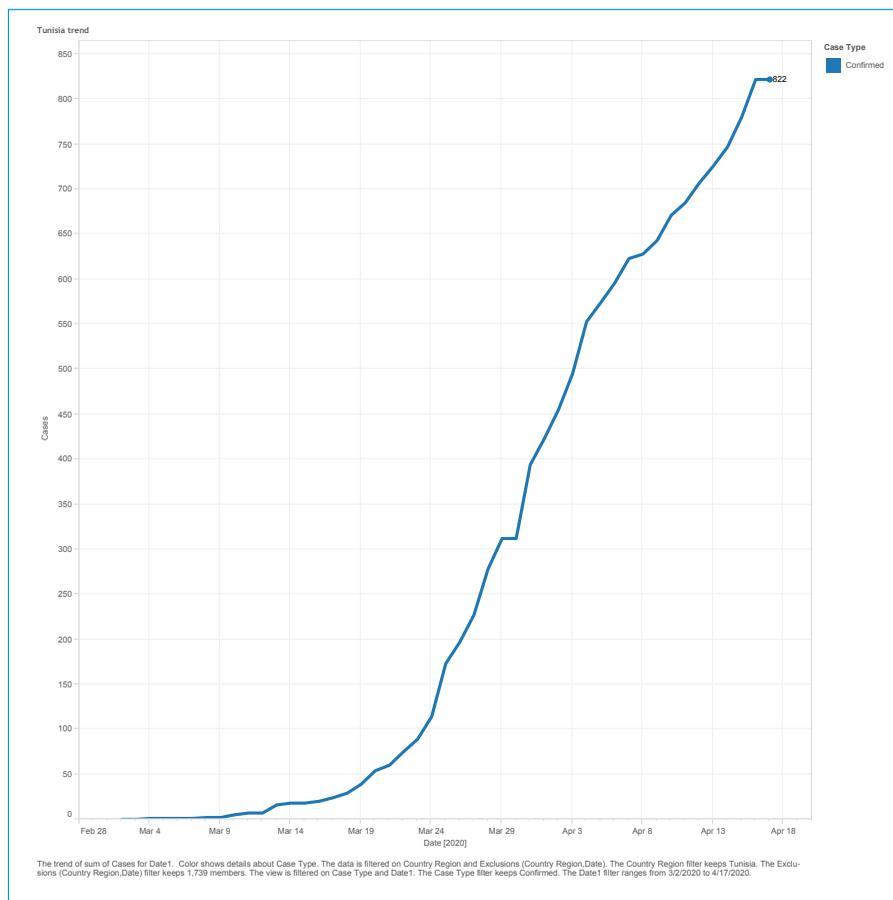
Preventive Measures in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Introduction of one-month mandatory self-quarantine beginning 19 March 2020 for Sudanese arriving from abroad. Σ Release of 4,217 prisoners on 25 March at al-Hoda prison in the city of Omdurman. Σ Halt to inter-city and long-haul bus travels beginning 26 March (from 6 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.). Σ Establishment of a national fund to collect donations to combat the pandemic. Σ The capital city of Khartoum will go into full lockdown W.E.F Saturday 18 April 2020 for a period of three weeks. Only essential services will be allowed to operate. Quarantine for all arrivals in Sudan. Σ Daily reporting has been activated at 10 points of entry: Northern, Red Sea, Khartoum, Kassala, Gedarif and West Darfur states; seaports, airports and ground crossings. Σ No foreign trucks are allowed to leave Sudan to Egypt through Arkin border Σ Only scheduled flights of goods and humanitarian supplies and medical supplies are permitted.
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Ban on maize exports from 15 March until further notice. Σ Local transport within Sudan allowed including fuel and other essential commodities. Σ Port Sudan operational but Cargo vessels must meet 14 days quarantine from last departure. Σ Sudan exports on Egyptian trucks are allowed to leave through Ashkit border crossing.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal Point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Industry and Trade P.O. Box 194 KHARTOUM Sudan Tel: +249 183 772793; Fax: +249 183 781208 E-mail: comesasudanmft@gmail.com ; Email: sudanmt@gmail.com</p>

TUNISIA



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Tunisia on 2nd March 2020. AS of 17th April, there are 822 confirmed cases.



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Suspension of flights and closure of maritime borders Σ Restriction of internal movements and imposition of a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am. Σ Closure of factories, offices, hotels and restaurants to stop the spread of coronavirus Σ Total lockdown – Robocop was enforcing the lockdown. Σ Cancellation of cultural and sports events and scientific conferences Σ Closure of cafes, bars and restaurants as of 04:00 p.m. Σ Closure of schools, Universities and other educational institutions. Σ Expansion of the budget allocation for health expenses as well as the creation of a 100 TND Million fund for the acquisition of equipment for public hospitals. Σ 150 TND has been allocated for cash transfers for low income households, disabled and homeless people. Σ 300 TND million allocated to support those who will be on temporary unemployment because of the COVID19 shock.
<p>Trade Facilitation / Business Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ A 2.5 billion TND emergency plan (\$0.71 billion or 1.8 percent of GDP) was announced on March 21. Σ Creation of investment funds (600 million TND). Σ Established a state guarantee for new credits (500 million TND) Σ 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. Σ Provided banks with the necessary liquidity to enable them to continue their normal operation. Σ Carry over of credits (principle and interest) due during the period from 1st March until the end of September 2020. These measures granted to customers classified 0 and 1

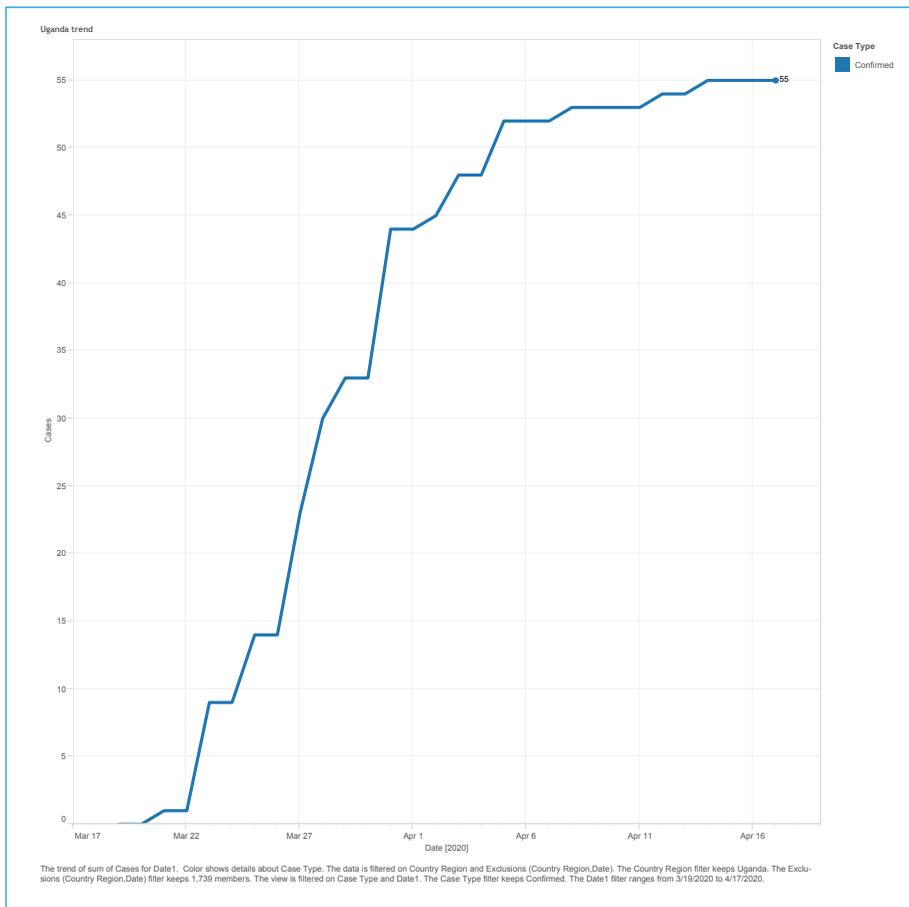
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Establishment of a fund of 2.5 billion Tunisian dinars (\$860 million) to support businesses Σ Lowering of the interest rate to 6.75%. Σ Delaying the payment of instalments on loans and dropping charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs. Σ Banks have removed withdrawal charges and offering e-banking subscriptions Σ 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.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Trade CNR Hedi Nouria and Ghana Avenues 1002 Tunis- Tunisia Email : omar.bahi@tunisia.gov.tn Email: chaouki.jaballi@tunisia.gov.tn / chaouki.jaballi@gmail.com Tel: +216 71 354 434; Fax : +216 71 245 868</p>

UGANDA



Background

The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Uganda on 21st March 2020. AS of 17th April, there are 55 confirmed cases



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ A total lockdown extended for 21 days from 15th April to 5th May
- Σ Testing of all truck drivers entering the country from all entry points in place including testing the crew of cargo planes
- Σ Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning for 30 days effective 20th March 2020
- Σ Suspension of religious gatherings including Friday prayers in mosques, Sunday church services for 30 days effective 18th March 2020
- Σ Banning all international flights and closing all borders including land, sea for a period of 21 days effective 22nd March 2020
- Σ All incoming travellers are quarantined at designated facilities for 14 days
- Σ Suspension of political and cultural public meetings, rallies, conferences, by-elections
- Σ Public gatherings limited to a maximum of 5 persons
- Σ Banning all public and private transport except those transporting cargo and carrying out services deemed essential for fourteen days effective 30th March 2020
- Σ There is a Presidential direction to allow free movement of cargo within the country and across borders in 12 hours. Empty trucks can move during the night across the border to reduce the queues. Cross border pedestrian traffic prohibited
- Σ Truck may carry a maximum of three persons with duties in connection with the movement and clearance of conveyance and or cargo.
- Σ All drivers on Uganda side are to go through a mandatory “blood test” upon arrival at the border – no major impact on truck movement
- Σ Construction sites should continue if they can be able to encamp their workers for the entire period of the lockdown

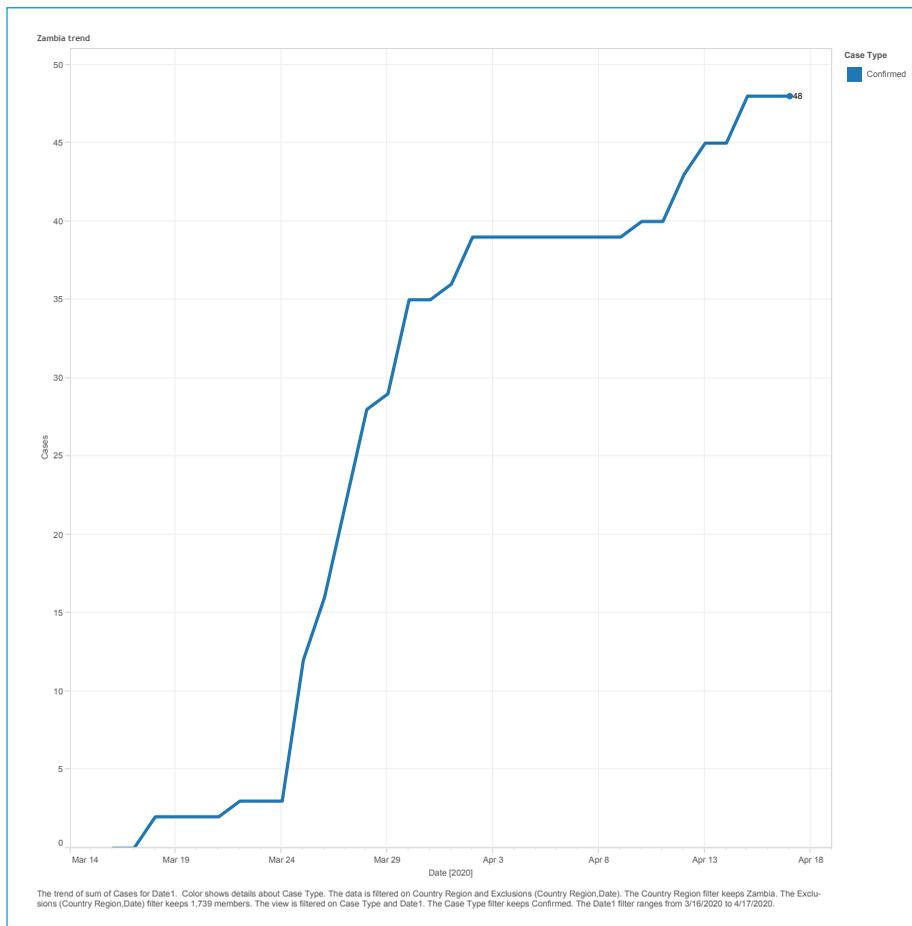
Preventive Measures in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ All shopping malls, Arcades and shops to suspend operation for 14 days effective 30th March. Those selling food items and supermarkets exempted but must strictly adhere to SOPs Σ Curfew starting from 1900hrs to 0600hrs for 14 days effective 30th March 2020 Σ Civil servants to stay and work from home Σ On other measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Government established a National Task Force on COVID-19 headed by the Prime Minister ○ Relief food distribution to the most vulnerable targeting at least 1.5M urban poor ○ The Government launched a fundraising drive to seek emergency funds to support COVID-19 response. The fund is receiving donations from individuals and corporations
Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Reduction of fees on mobile money transactions and other digital payment charges in order to limit the use of cash and increase daily transactions limits for Mobile Money Σ Intervening in the foreign exchange market by the Central Bank to save the shilling from depreciation and to smoothen out excess volatility arising from the impact of COVID-19 on the global financial markets Σ Central Bank to provide exceptional liquidity assistance to financial institutions for a period of one year for those who need it. This measure will enable financial institutions to have sufficient liquidity to assist businesses which are being directly impacted by COVID-19 Σ The movement of cargo trucks and cargo flights in and out of the country permitted despite the total lockdown currently being enforced Σ Food markets allowed to operate subject to adherence of strict standard operating procedures including the vendors staying at their workplaces for the duration of the 14 days lockdown Σ Mombasa Port (Kenya) operational with mandatory inspection of vessels by Port Health services. Shipping lines are operational on emails and containers depots in Kampala are operational.
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Trade, Industry & Cooperatives P.O. Box 7103 KAMPALA Uganda Tel: +256 41 230916; Fax: +256 41 341247; E-mail: ps@mtic.go.ug</p> <p>High Commissioner & Permanent Representative to COMESA Uganda High Commission 25 Msasane Road Oysterbay P.O. Box 6237 DAR ES SALAAM Tanzania Tel: 2556 22 266 7200; Email: rkabonero@gmail.com or info@ughc.co.tz</p>

ZAMBIA



Background

First case detected on 18th March 2020 and by 17th April 2020 a total of 48 cases reported



<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 are subject to mandatory isolation at a Government of Zambia-designated health facility. ∑ All travelers arriving in Zambia from any country with confirmed COVID-19 cases are required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days, and to inform Zambian health officials if they develop symptoms. ∑ Health screening at all entry points. ∑ International flights in Ndola, Livingstone and Mfuwe suspended until further notice. The Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in the capital Lusaka to remain open until further notice.
<p>Preventive Measures in Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Conferences, meetings and workshops involving large groups of people banned; ∑ Schools, universities and other educational institutions closed till further notice. ∑ Restaurants to operate only on take-away and delivery basis while all bars, nightclubs, cinemas, gyms and casinos closed. ∑ Police to restrict numbers of people visiting inmates and suspects in police detention. ∑ Prison authorities to ensure detention facilities are not overcrowded. ∑ Social distancing of at least one to two meters to be observed. ∑ Social gatherings banned. ∑ Ministry of Health has set up the Epidemic Preparedness Fund amounting to Kwacha 57 million (app. US\$3.17 million). ∑ Cabinet approved a COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan with a Budget of 659 million Kwacha (app. US\$36.6 million) under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit. ∑ Meetings of the Council of Ministers, Committee of Permanent Secretaries, and the National Epidemic Preparedness, Prevention Control and Management Committee (NEPPC&MC) have been convened since the declaration of the outbreak. ∑ Mandatory wearing of face masks announced on 16th April

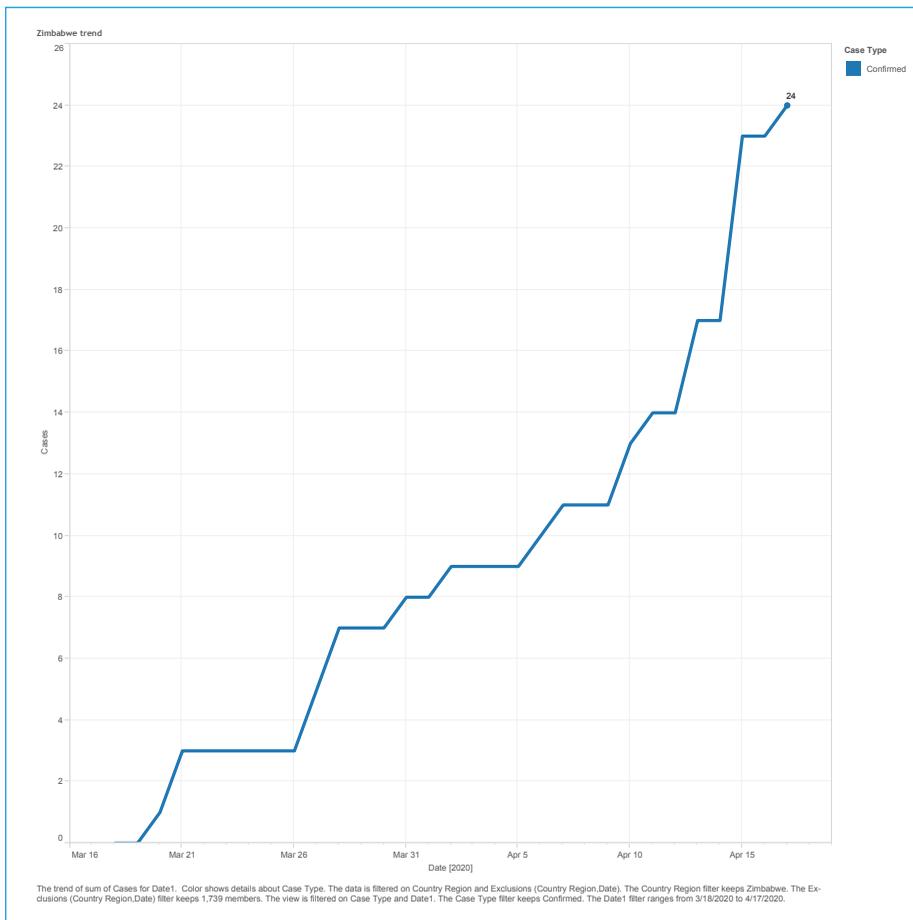
<p>Trade facilitation / business support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∑ Measures put place to ensure there is no disruption in the movement of goods and services. In this regard truck drivers are allowed entry at border points, tested and kept under mandatory quarantine centers if they are originating from high risk countries. In addition, all truck drivers have their records kept for further follow up and monitoring. ∑ To support easing of liquidity, Government to release Kwacha 2.5 billion (app. US\$140 Mill) to reduce arrears owed to domestic supplies of goods and services, pay outstanding arrears of pensioners and retirees. ∑ Kwacha 140 million (app. US\$7.8 Million) to be paid to local contractors in the road sector. ∑ Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) to suspend excise duty on imported ethanol-based sanitizers and other medicine-related activities subject to guidelines to be issued by ZRA. ∑ VAT payments on imported spare-parts, lubricants, and stationery to be 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. ∑ Through the Bank of Zambia, the Government has put in place measures to encourage the use of digital financial services to minimize use of cash money and minimize person to person contacts in conducting financial transactions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ waiving charges for person to person electronic money transfers of up to Kwacha 150: these transactions are thus to be free of charge. ○ Removing the transaction and balance limits on agents and corporate wallets. ○ 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 are allowed entry at border points, tested and kept under mandatory quarantine for 14 days on entry at own cost- if showing symptoms and if they are originating from high risk countries. In addition, all truck drivers have their records kept for further follow up and monitoring.
<p>Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry P.O. Box 31968 LUSAKA Zambia Tel: +260 223617 / 228301; Fax: +260 226673 Email: mushuma.mulenga@grz.gov.zm; paul.mumba@mtci.gov.zm; Philip.soko@mcti.gov.zm; kabuswe.bwalya@mcti.gov.zm Zambia National Public Health Institute. Email: ims.covid@znphi.co.zm</p>

ZIMBABWE



Background

The first coronavirus case was confirmed on 20 March 2020. As of 17th April 2020, a total of 24 cases had been reported. 2 recovery and 3 deaths had been reported.



Preventive Measures in Place

- Σ On 17 March 2020 the President declared the pandemic a State of National Disaster and on 19th March a COVID-19 National Preparedness and Response Plan was launched
- Σ Suspension of gatherings of more than 50 people including suspension of prayers at churches and mosques
- Σ Closure of all schools, colleges and universities indefinitely
- Σ Cancellation of political meetings and major events like the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF)
- Σ Reduction of employee attendance at government and private workplaces (except for critical staff).
- Σ Gazette Public Health (Covid-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations 2020 on 23 March to allow for compulsory testing
- Σ Authorities availed over ZWL\$100 million (app. US\$2 million) to fight against COVID-19.
- Σ Government reported to have made cash transfers for 1 million vulnerable households
- Σ Government lifted freeze on hiring for the health sector and set a target to recruit 200 additional medical personnel (5 percent increase)
- Σ A 21-day nationwide lockdown from 30 March.
- Σ Massive testing intensified

Trade Facilitation / Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σ Authorization to companies to extend the payment of corporate taxes (waiving interest and penalties) Σ Suspension of duties and taxes on various goods and services related to COVID-19, including on testing, protection, sterilization, and other medical consumables. Σ Relaxation of some procurement regulations with a view of facilitating speedy procurement of essential goods and services. Σ Return of the multicurrency system allowing both Zimbabwean dollar and US dollar as legal tender. Σ Reduction in bank policy rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. Σ Reduction of the statutory reserve ratio on bank deposits from 5 percent to 4.5 percent. Σ Increase of the private sector lending facility by the central bank from ZW\$1 billion to ZW\$2.5 billion. Σ Movement from managed floating exchange rate system to a fixed exchange rate management system. Σ Encouragement of use of electronic payments including RTGS, mobile money and other electronic payments Σ Borders open for commercial cargo Σ Electronic cargo tracking in place for high risk cargo Σ Designated transit routes as per Electronic cargo tracking in place Σ Regulated transit days and CVG conditions in place Σ Regional Customs Guarantee Scheme (RCTG) acceptable Σ Mandatory pre-clearance Σ Physical examination suspended except in exceptional circumstances (Non-Intrusive inspection (NII)) Σ E resolution of queries via ASYCUDA World
Coordinating Ministry (Focal point contacts)	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade P.O. Box 4240 HARARE Zimbabwe Tel: +263 4 794681-6/ +263 793372-5 Fax: +263 4 705161 Email: secretary@zimfa.gov.zw</p>



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