

Common Market for  
Eastern and Southern Africa



# COVID- 19 IN COMESA



Since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the COMESA region has continued to record cases of the virus. Data from global sources indicate that to date, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, over 80% of COMESA Member States (17 countries) have so far reported cases of COVID-19. Member States that had not reported cases of COVID-19 included Burundi, Comoros, Libya and Malawi. The COMESA region has so far reported 651 cases, 28 deaths and 69 recoveries.

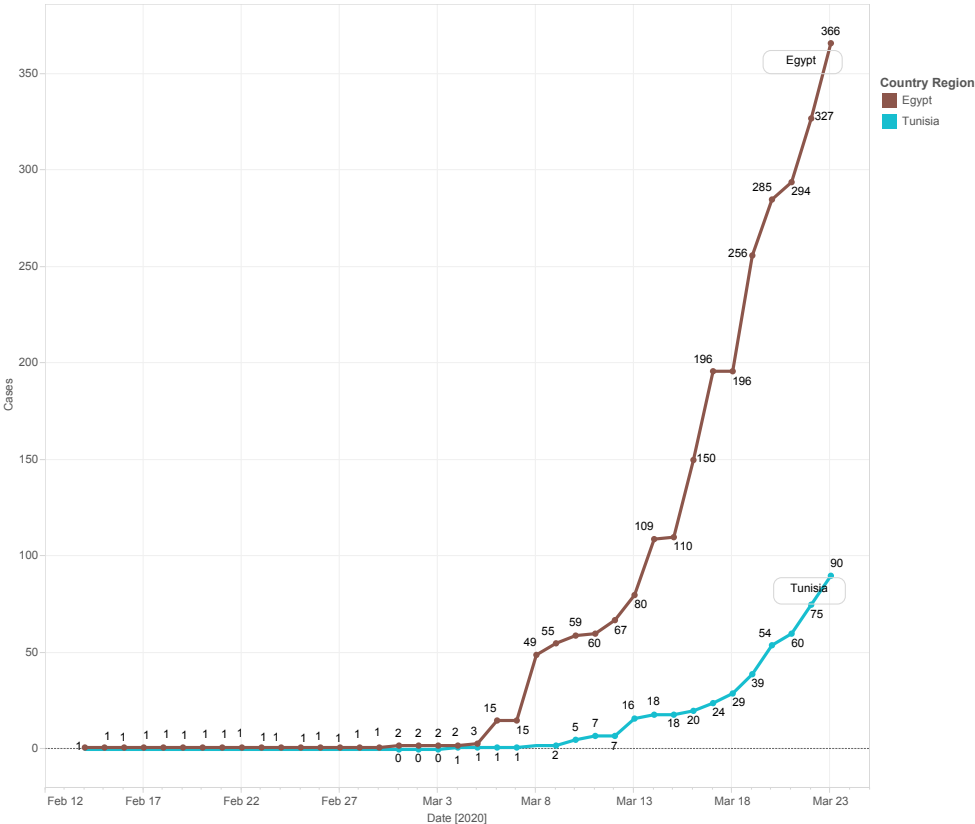
### COMESA MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE REPORTED CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) CASES: 24-MAR-2020

#### REFERENCE TABLE

#	COUNTRY	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Recoveries
1	Burundi			
2	Comoros			
3	Djibouti	3	0	0
4	DR Congo	45	2	0
5	Egypt	366	19	68
6	Eritrea	1	0	0
7	Eswatini	4	0	0
8	Ethiopia	12	0	0
9	Kenya	16	0	0
10	Libya			
11	Madagascar	17	0	0
12	Malawi			
13	Mauritius	36	2	0
14	Rwanda	36	0	0
15	Seychelles	7	0	0
16	Somalia	1	0	0
17	Sudan	2	1	0
18	Tunisia	90	3	1
19	Uganda	9	0	0
20	Zambia	3	0	0
21	Zimbabwe	3	1	0
<b>Total:</b>		<b>651</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>69</b>

The first case in the COMESA region was reported on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Egypt. To date, two of COMESA Member States have recorded more than 50 cases. These are Egypt and Tunisia with 360 and 90 cases, respectively.

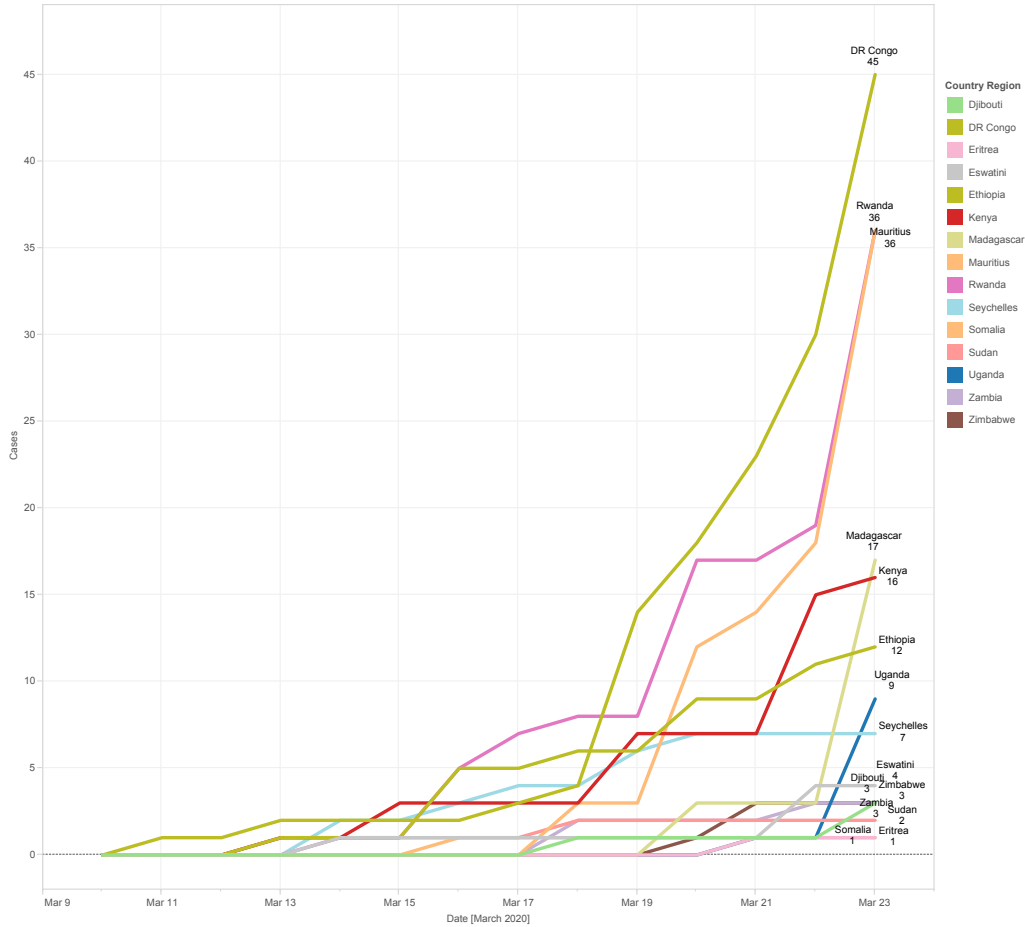
**Trends of COMESA Member States with more than 50 COVID-19 reported case (14th Feb – 24 Mar 2020)**



Sources: World Health Organisation, <https://data.world/covid-19-data-resource-hub/>, <https://www.wordometers.info/coronavirus/> Compiled by COMWARN

Other Member States that include DR Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Madagascar, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have recorded less than 50 cases.

Trends of COMESA Member States with less than 50 COVID-19 reported case (14th Feb – 24 Mar 2020)



Sources: World Health Organisation, <https://data.world/covid-19-data-resource-hub/>, <https://www.wordometers.info/coronavirus/> / Compiled by COMWARN

Most Member States in the region started recording cases from the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and subsequently many countries put in place measures to contain the spread. As the numbers of cases continued to escalate, more stringent measures were put in place by the respective Member States.

### Measures put in place by Member States

Member States in the region have introduced different measures to contain the pandemic. Given that most cases of infection in COMESA Member States are associated with persons who have travelled to affected countries in other parts of the world, one key measure that has been put in place is the grounding of passenger carriers as is the case with RwandAir and South African Airways (effective 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020) and Kenya Airways and Emirates (to be effected on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020). The other measures undertaken by individual countries include among others:

- ← Travel restrictions
- ← Restricting congregational meetings (limiting number of mourners during funerals to 15 and burials to be conducted within 24 hours after death)
- ← Disinfecting public places and providing public sanitisers
- ← Early detection
- ← Quarantine
- ← Random testing
- ← Raising public awareness
- ← Closure of schools and institutions of higher learning as well as places of worship
- ← Governments encouraging people to work from home
- ← Encouraging cashless transactions
- ← Release of political prisoners to relieve prisons/jails of congestion for inmates who are mothers, with light sentences, and those nearing prison terms completion

- ← Restricting crowds, including Holding of open-air court hearings; restricting numbers in funerals and weddings and in some cases temporarily banning weddings,
- ← Limiting number of passengers in public transport vehicles;
- ← Stopping visits by family members to inmates in prisons
- ← Closure of industrial areas/centres with large numbers of employees
- ← Requirements for businesses to use hand sanitizers and maintain social distance with clients

### Regional Initiatives

Currently, regional efforts to assist Member States in containing the pandemic have been initiated. For instance, the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has deployed more than 100 experts in different countries. It has supplied 60,000 testing kits to 43 countries to fight the spread of the disease.

#### COMESA Member States COVID-19 Emergency Numbers

COUNTRY	HOTLINE
<b>Burundi</b>	+25761636399, +25768768086, +25779962944
<b>Comoros</b>	+2694693641 (Ngazidja +2694693643), (Moheli +2694693642), (Ndzouani +2694693644)
<b>DR Congo</b>	+243854463582, +243841363267
<b>Djibouti</b>	1517
<b>Egypt</b>	105
<b>Eritrea</b>	
<b>Eswatini</b>	977
<b>Ethiopia</b>	8335

<b>Kenya</b>	+254800721316, +254732353535, +254729471414
<b>Libya</b>	191, 193, +218214631808, +218214631809, +218214629191, +218214631807, +218921888999, +218924555554, +218926888999
<b>Madagascar</b>	910
<b>Malawi</b>	+265887371288
<b>Mauritius</b>	8924
<b>Rwanda</b>	114
<b>Seychelles</b>	141
<b>Somalia</b>	449
<b>Sudan</b>	9090
<b>Tunisia</b>	+21680101919
<b>Uganda</b>	+256800203033, +256800100066
<b>Zambia</b>	909, +260974493553, +260964638726, +260953898941
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	+263714734593, +263774112531

**Source:** Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDCP)

Compiled by COMWARN

**Note:** These numbers operate 24 hours. If you know you have symptoms of COVID-19 or know anyone who has a case, please call the emergency number in the country where you reside. You can also follow the World Health Organization (WHO) updates on its WhatsApp No. No. +41 79 893 18 92.

