

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.

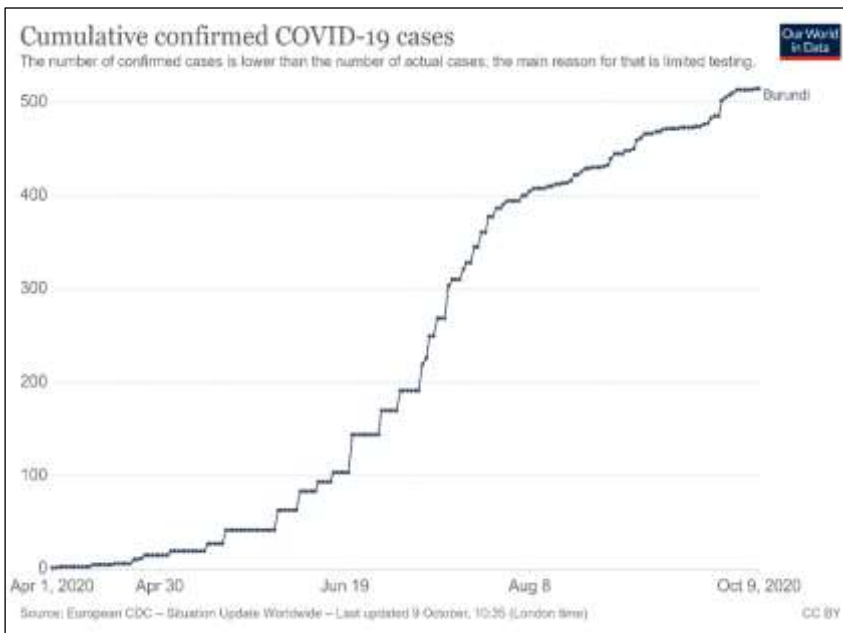
Compilation

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 31st March 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

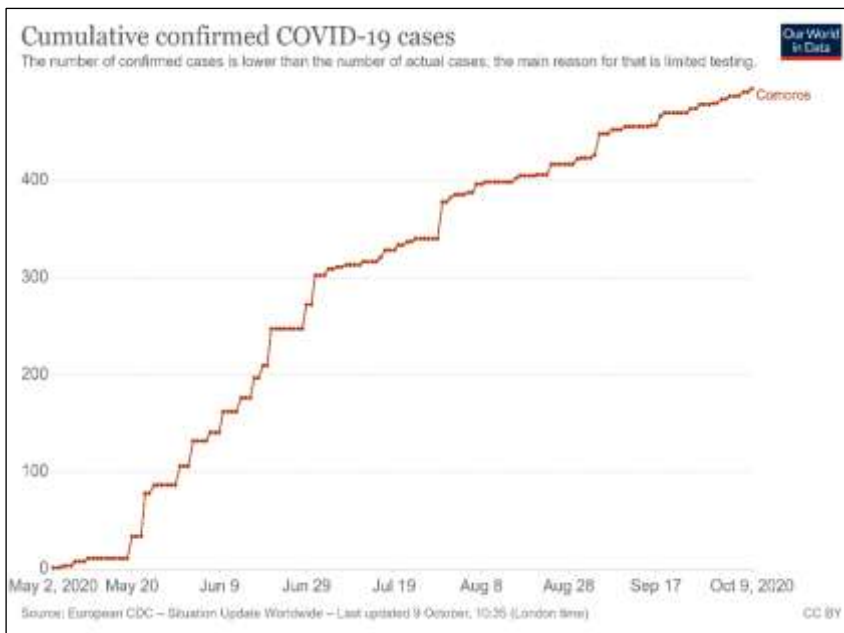
- Suspension of passenger flights in and out of Burundi commenced 22nd March 2020.
- All borders were closed except for cargo. Travelers are advised that if they plan to cross the border from Rwanda into Burundi, they may be denied entry
- Mandatory quarantine for 14 days for those exposed or suspected of having the virus.
- As from 7th July 2020, mass testing campaign was launched in Bujumbura . Other measures put in place include:
 - *reduction on the price of soap and water to enhance and ensure accessibility, provision of masks to the citizens,*
 - *health personnel equipped with protective masks,*
 - *hygiene to be maintained in public transport vehicles and passengers to wear masks.*
- 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

- All borders are now open for cargo movement and cargo flights are still operating.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

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



Comoros



BACKGROUND

First case of Corona virus was confirmed on 30 April 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

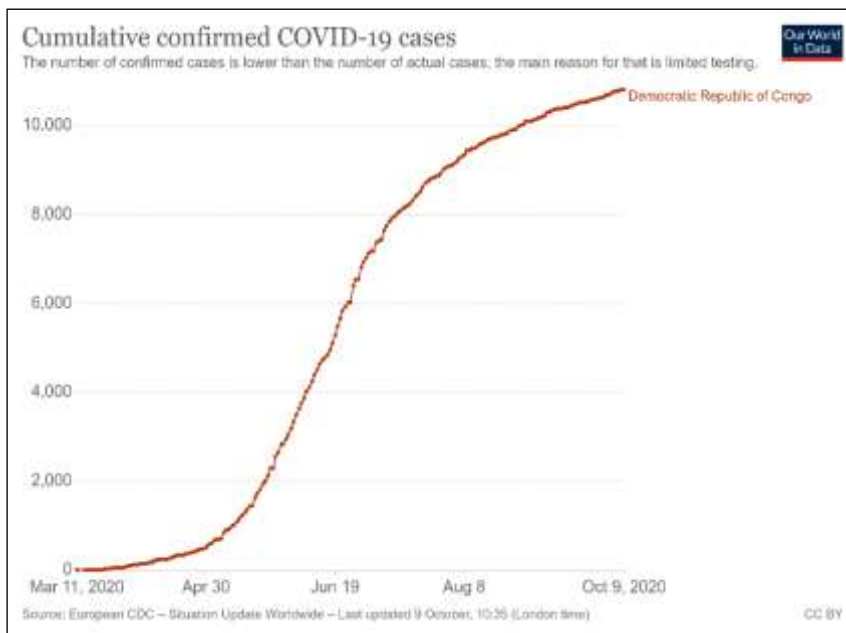
- As from 11th August 2020, the wearing of protective face masks is mandatory in public places.
- Public gatherings including weddings remain prohibited until further notice.
- The number of passengers in public transport remains limited to 10 people in buses and four in taxis.
- Adherence to measures as announced by the President including regular washing of hands, social distancing (1-2 meters), etc.
- Schools and educational institutions of higher learning remains closed since 20th March 2020.
- Gatherings of more than 20 people prohibited.
- Ban of collective prayers including Friday prayers (blessed day for Muslims)
- Flights between Comoros and the islands of Mayotte and the Réunion suspended
- Quarantine measures implemented for travelers from, or those who have transited through COVID-19- infected countries
- Night curfews to restrict movements from 20:00-05:00 hours.

Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- Closing of sea and air borders (except for cargo ships and/or special evacuations)
- 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 in some commercial loans.

Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)

Ministres de l'Economie, des Investissements, chargé del'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



Democratic Republic of Congo



BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 10 March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- On 15th August 2020 suspension of International flights lifted and flight services to DR Congo resumed.
- A Covid-19 Health Emergency Decree that had been in force since March 2020 ended on 23rd July. The President also announced the reopening of business activities, schools and borders:
 - *Primary schools, secondary schools and universities reopened on 10th August 2020.*
 - *As from Wednesday 22nd July 2020, all shops, banks, restaurants, cafes, and bars as well as social gatherings and public transport resumed operations.*
- Places of worship, stadiums, airports and other ports of entry and international borders reopened on 15th August 2020. Night clubs, stadiums and entertainment venues also reopened on 15th August 2020.
- Mandatory wearing of masks in public places.
- The development of a response national plan with an estimated budget of \$135 million (0.3 percent of GDP) to:
 - *Strengthen early detection and surveillance and foster coordination within the government.*
 - *Improve the quality of medical care to infected patients; and*
 - *Develop preventive communication strategies and enhance medical logistic platforms.*

Dashboard that shows current information and information on COVID-19 put in place on: <https://www.stopcoronavirusrdc.info/>

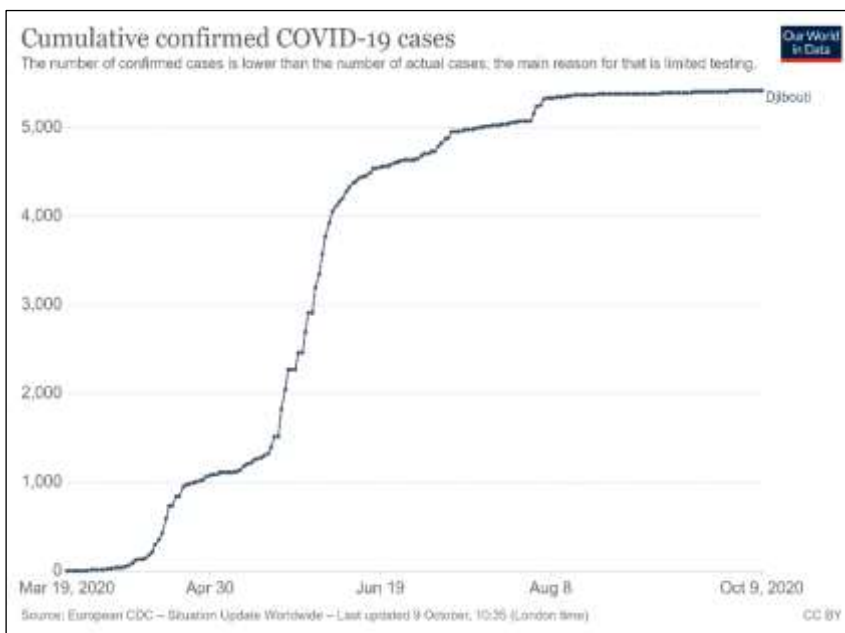
Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- 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)**

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



Djibouti



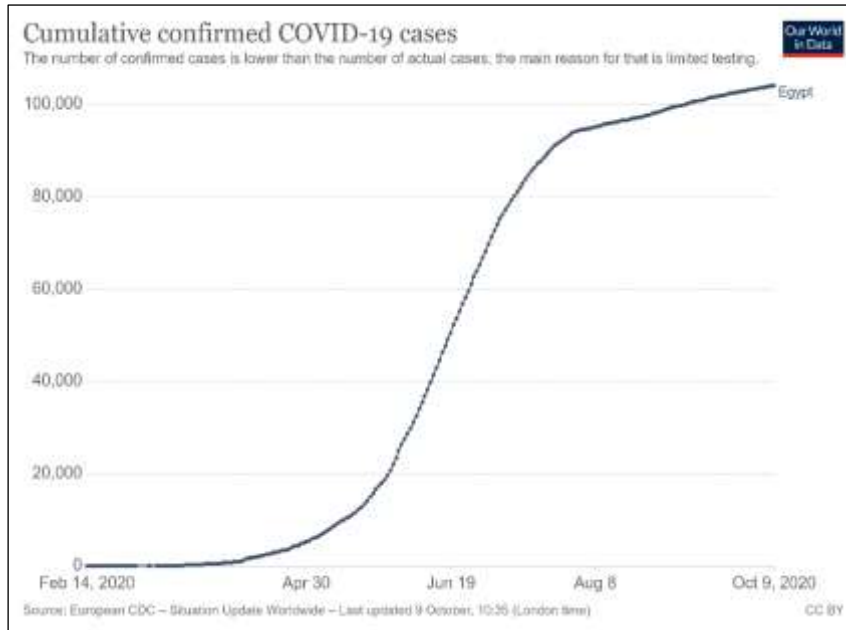
BACKGROUND

**First case reported on
18th March 2020**

Preventive Measures in Place

- The Djibouti Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 28th March 2020 chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees established as well to observe the COVID-19 situation and impact and conduct necessary responses.
- A nation-wide lockdown has been in place since March 23rd 2020, except for essential services.
- Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport opened for commercial flights beginning 17th July 2020. All passengers entering Djibouti are tested for COVID-19 upon arrival by Ministry of Health personnel. Sea ports and border posts are 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 flight without leaving the airport.
- On 16th July 2020, the Ministry of Health issued a circular note on the reopening of borders, specifying the health protocols for passengers. Travelers coming to Djibouti by air/sea/land must be screened for COVID-19 upon arrival at ports of entry. In addition, travelers coming to Djibouti must be equipped with protective masks at the time of departure or arrival at the points of entry, respect the physical distance of one meter, if possible, at all stages of the journey and carry a hydro-alcoholic gel throughout the trip.
- Airlines may require passengers heading to Djibouti to show a negative COVID-19 test certificate before allowing them to board their flight.
- Gatherings of more than ten people not allowed.
- Use of facial masks in all public or private spaces in which social distancing cannot be observed is mandatory.
- Public and private construction activities allowed to operate.
- Traffic has been restricted to the minimum and is only allowed with administrative authorization.
- Hotels resumed normal operations on 30th June 2020.
- Restaurants and cafes reopened on 16th June 2020 with social distancing and hygiene measures in place;
- Conference rooms, event halls, and cinemas are closed until 1st September 2020;
- Grocery stores and retail outlets reopened on 10th July 2020.
- Leisure and amusement sites as well as hotels have reopened.
- Closure of educational institutions, sports events and bars. Schools to remain closed until 2nd September 2020 – the start of the next school year;
- Places of worship reopened on 10th July 2020 but must follow very strict measures of ensuring protection including wearing of facial masks and social distancing.
- Quarantine sites to be established for infected persons and contact tracing procedures put in place.
- The World Bank provided Djibouti with US\$5 million credit towards efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the rapid spread of COVID-19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Health Organization 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"> Cargo movement of goods and services permitted. Only commercial traffic to/from Ethiopia allowed through Galafi border. At Galafi, a health checkpoint has been set up to screen people for Covid-19. 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. Slight shortage of trucks experienced due to spike in demand and drivers' fear of COVID-19. 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 Djibouti reduced port tariffs by 82.5% and granted Free Terminal Handling Charges for 60 days, from 16th April 2020 for Ethiopia export cargo to the world through the Djibouti Ports.
Coordinating Ministry (National Contact Points)	<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 reported on 14th February 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

- Egypt plans to open institutions of learning from 17th October 2020. The following measures have been recommended to enable smooth re-opening of schools.
 - *School pupils will have to bring their own meals and bottled waters.*
 - *Temporary isolation rooms will be established in all school for staff and pupils suspected of the virus.*
 - *School buses will be disinfected regularly.*
 - *Ban on smoking on school premises.*
 - *Each pupil will seat on a separate desk.*
 - *Awareness posters will be placed strategically in all classes.*
 - *Teachers and staff will have their temperature measure before entering or leaving the school.*
 - *Schools to form coordination committees to implement and supervise protective measures including providing detergents and disinfectants.*
- Official conferences and meetings allowed from 27th July 2020 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.
- 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.
- Friday prayers resumed from 28th August 2020 under strict adherence to health and safety protocols.
- Major exhibitions allowed starting October 2020.
- Public parks and beaches to remain closed.
- Public transport resumed and operates between 4 a.m. and midnight.
- Restaurants and cafes have resumed operations with 25 per cent capacity and to close by 10:00 p.m. Other shops close by 9:00 p.m.
- Restriction of public gatherings in schools, universities, bars, clubs, malls, public transport, public gathering places and tourists' locations.
- Theatres, cinemas, and museums have been reopened with limited capacity.
- Hotels allowed to re-open, provided they abide by strict hygiene measures stipulated by the government, at 25% occupancy rate in May and 50% occupancy rate in June.

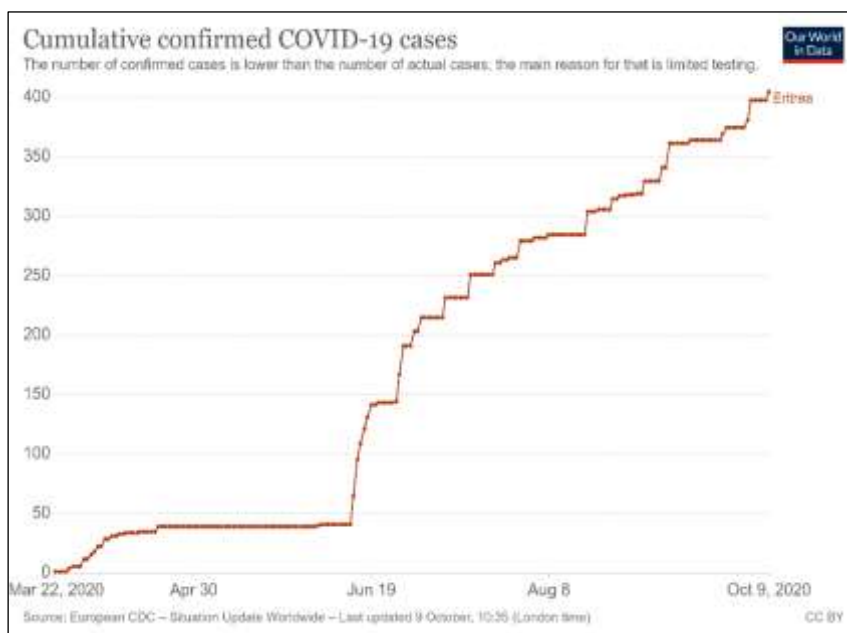
-
- Re-opened hotels to mandatory acquire hygiene safety certificate from the Joint Inspection Commission of both the Ministries of Tourism and Health. By 18th July, 31 more hotels for tourists were opened raising the number of hotels reopened nationwide to 572.
 - Preparation of medical sites nationwide in anticipation of the escalation of Covid-19 cases.
 - 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 villages.
 - 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).
 - From July 2020 EgyptAir resumed flights to 24 destinations.
 - Flights and tourism activities resumed in the following three governorates: Red Sea, Marsa Matrouh, and South Sinai.
 - 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.
 - Universities and colleges and all sporting activities closed on 14th March 2020.
 - 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.
 - Securing food stuff and goods in preparation for the months ahead to continue on regular basis.
 - Allocation 100 billion Egyptian pounds (6.35 billion U.S. dollars) to finance the anti- COVID-19 comprehensive plan and its precautionary measures.
 - Increased number of metro coaches in operation
 - Daily fumigation of all terminals, means of transport and roads.
 - Public transport operators restricted to 50% of capacity of conveyance
 - Decontamination of 7500 buildings including government administrative building and tourist facilities.
 - In July 2020 the government introduced measures to partially offset the revenue shortfall such as promoting green recovery through a fee on the consumption of fuel products.
 - The government has hastened structural reforms that began under the Extended Fund Facility. The reforms being undertaken include streamlining the financial operations of state-owned enterprises and economic authorities, strengthening competition by levelling the market to encourage SMEs and amendment of the customs law to improve Egypt's investment climate.
 - 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 3180 USD) for businesses is applied.
 - 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 3180 USD) for businesses is applied.
 - Launched an online awareness campaign against COVID using animation. This is also aimed at curbing misinformation.
 - From May 30, people are required to wear face masks in public places, with violators fined 4,000 pounds (\$250) by police. Slight lifting of overnight curfew to start at 9pm instead of 8pm. Shopping malls that were originally ordered to close to remain open until 5pm
 - The international Monetary Fund approved an additional loan of USD5.2 billion on 27th June 2020 to help Egypt 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.

**Trade
Facilitation /
Business
Support**

- 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.
- The Financial Regulatory Authority has announced an extension to 15th June for EGX listed companies to submit their financial statements for Q4 2019 (original deadline 30 April).
- 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).
- 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%.
- From 25 March 2020, the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry (the Foreign Trade Sector) 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 authorization from the Egyptian Embassy abroad.
- Stamp duty on transactions on the Egyptian stock exchange (EGX) will be reduced from 0.15% to 0.125% for non-residents.
- Three-month extension for the payment of property taxes for companies in the industrial and tourism sector.
- 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 their 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
- Provide 3-month tax relief for Real Estate taxes for tourism and industrial sectors;
- 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

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact Points)**

Ministry of Trade and
Industry CAIRO
Arab Republic of Egypt Tel:
+20(2)2342190
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



Eritrea



BACKGROUND

The first case reported on March 21st, 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

- Lockdown was declared on 2nd April 2020.
- Since 26th March 2020, commercial airline flights in and out of Eritrea were suspended. Land borders were also closed.
- National Task Force on COVID-19 was established at high and lower levels and has been issuing regulations and implementing Guidelines.
- All entry visas to Eritrea suspended since April 2020.
- 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.
- From 17th May 2020 random and extensive COVID-19 testing carried out. Residents of Asmara, frontline health workers, and residents of border areas are targeted.
- 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.

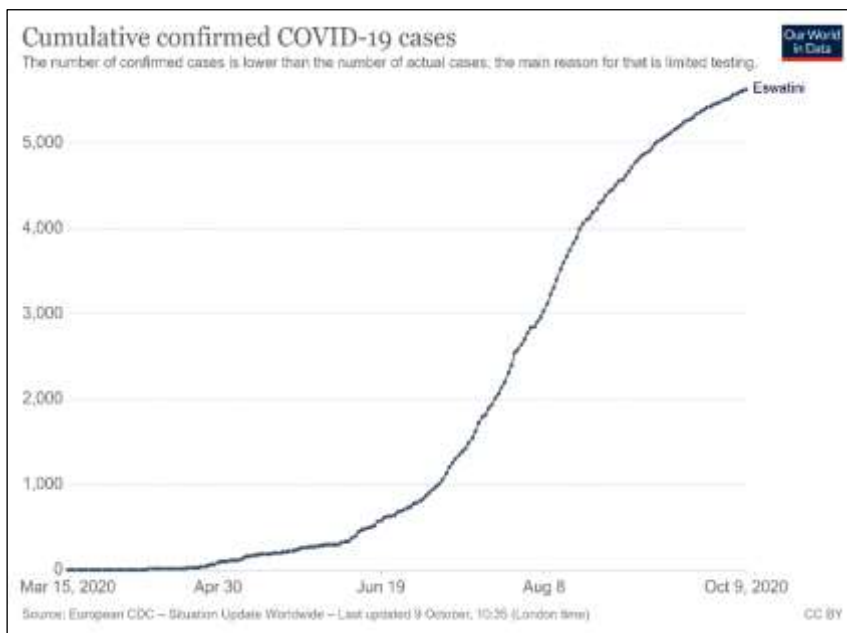
Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- 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.

**Coordinating
Ministry (National
Contact Points)**

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

The Eritrean Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent
Representative to COMESA New Waumini House 2nd Floor
P O Box 38651
Westlands,
NAIROBI
Kenya
Tel:+254-2-443164 , Fax: +254-2-443165, E-mail: beyeneruesom@gmail.com



Eswatini



BACKGROUND

The first coronavirus case reported on 13 March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

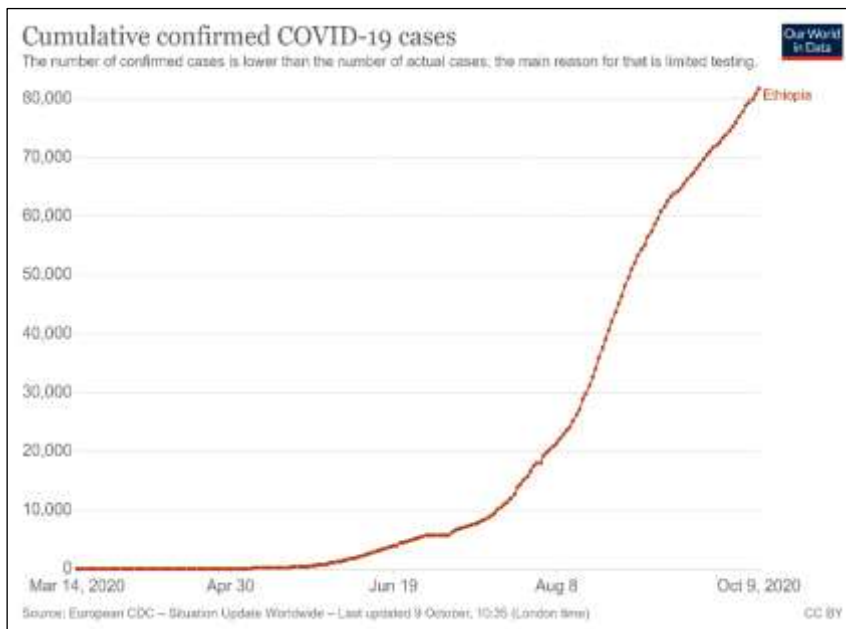
- On 8th October 2020 the Government announced the lifting of some restrictions on sporting activities and arts venues. The lifting allows the following:
 - *A gradual reopening of organized top-level football activities under the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) with observance of strict health protocols;*
 - *Premier League and National First Division football to resume operations under strict health protocols with no spectators at any football match and training venues;*
 - *Regular screening of all participants and players;*
 - *Only four match venues would be used to limit the movement of teams;*
 - *Sporting codes categorized as middle risk namely chess, gymnastics and swimming would be allowed to resume with effect from 12th October 2020 but under strict Coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols;*
 - *Some arts activities to reopen including theatre, comedy, poetry, fashion shows, and small-scale concerts under strict conditions, including a maximum of 100 people at any one event;*
 - *All other levels of football, including informal football remain banned;*
 - *Government to regularly send inspectors to all sports and arts activities to ensure compliance to COVID-19 regulations;*
 - *Any sporting entity or artist and venue found not to be adhering to the laid down protocols will be banned from continuing with activities.*
- Partial lockdown to continue.
- Operation permits for non-essential businesses revoked beginning 24 April 2020, that include car dealerships, craft vendors, photographic studios, agents and consultants, dry cleaners, driving schools, furniture shops, general dealers not selling food items, car wash business, casinos and gambling shops, clothing shops (excluding baby shops)
- Only essential sectors as identified allowed to operate 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
- 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,

**Trade Facilitation /
Business Support**

- 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.
 - 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
 - Ban on alcohol production and distribution for two months starting 1 July 2020.
-
- In terms of hygiene the following for businesses to comply with:
 - 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.*
 - On 7 May 2020, the government announced the easing of restrictions as follows:
 - a. *Manufacturing and Production companies that have international orders to fulfil - under strict WHO and Ministry of Health Guidelines.*
 - b. *Agents and Consultants to operate three times a week*
 - c. *Furniture Shops to open three times a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9am and 3pm.*
 - d. *Dry Cleaners to also operate under similar conditions as furniture shops.*
 - e. *Retail Clothing Shops, tailors and dressmakers (that produce face masks and PPE) to operate three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 9am and 3pm.*
 - f. *Vehicle testing stations to operate three times a week.*
 - 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;
 - 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)**

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 reported on 13th March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- On April 8, the Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency for five months under Article 93 of the constitution, which allows it to impose more stringent measures.
- On 2nd August 2020 the Government officially launched a nationwide one-month-long testing campaign, to determine the next steps to be undertaken by the Government in the New Year which started on 11th September 2020.
- Release of 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
- Wearing of face masks mandatory when visiting 'service providing' places such as shops and everyone must stand at least two strides apart
- Closing of all schools including institutions of higher learning and banning of public gatherings including sporting events was instituted from 16th March 2020
- As of 1st April, suspension of mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches
- Government employees ordered to work from home
- Sporting activities at all levels are prohibited
- Greetings by handshake banned
- 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)

Ministry of Trade and Industry

P.O. Box 704

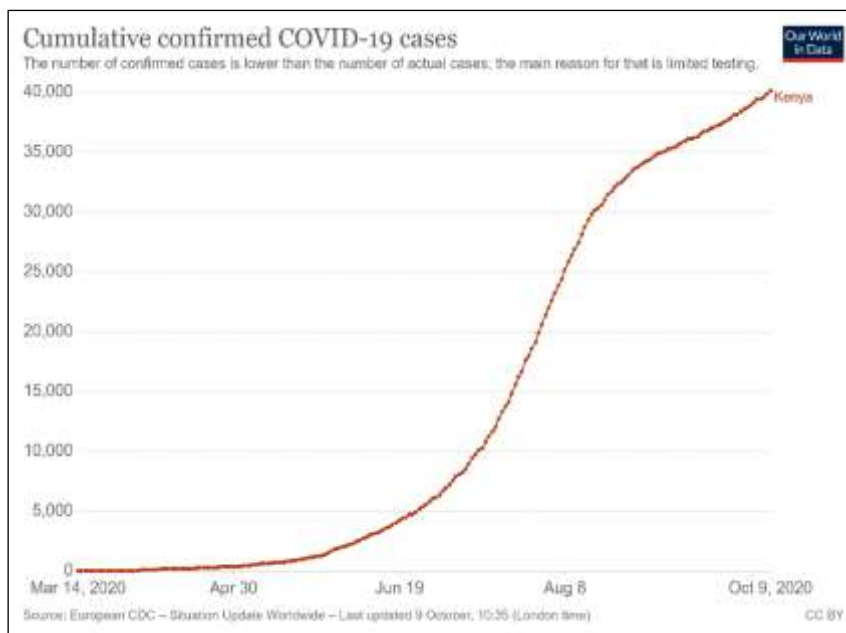
ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

Tel:+251 115513990, +251 115527676

Email: harrimisganu.arga@gmail.com; lisanework@yahoo.com;

fikrutadesse@gmail.com;

saronlakewethiopia@gmail.com



Kenya



BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 13 March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- On 28th September 2020 new measures were announced as follows:
 - a. Curfew extended for 60 days and the curfew time changed to run from 11 p.m to 4 a.m. Initially the curfew was from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.
 - b. Restaurants and bars allowed to sell alcohol and will close at 10pm.
 - c. Religious gatherings to be limited to 1/3 of venue seating capacity.
 - d. Weddings and funerals allowed a maximum of 200 people.
- Coronavirus Task Force established as a national emergency response
- Reopening of schools and universities deferred to January 2021
- As from July 7th, 2020 places of worship opened with strict adherence to health measures.
- 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.
- As from 27th July 2020, nighttime curfew extended for 30 days.
- Kenya Medical Research Institute develops a local testing kit
- Resumption of domestic air travel from 15th July. International flights resumed on 1st August 2020.
- Mandatory PCR-Covid-19-Free certificate for all international arrivals valid for 96 hours prior.
- Mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators by private sector in Kenya.
- 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

**Trade
Facilitation /
Business
Support**

- 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.
 - Temporary suspension of listing with Credit Reference Bureau for persons who default on their loan obligations with effect from 1 April 2020.
 - Disbursement of KES 1 billion for the recruitment of additional medical personnel.
-
- From 28th September 2020, turnover tax reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent. The Government will also continue rolling out credit guarantee scheme.
 - Cashless transactions such as mobile money and credit cards are encouraged.
 - The reduction of the standard VAT rate from 16 percent to 14 percent (effective 1 April 2020).
 - A reduction of the resident corporate income tax from 30 percent to 25 percent.
 - 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)**

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

Kenya Ministry of Health:
Twitter: @MOH_Kenya, Facebook: MinistryofHealthKE, website:
<http://www.health.go.ke/>

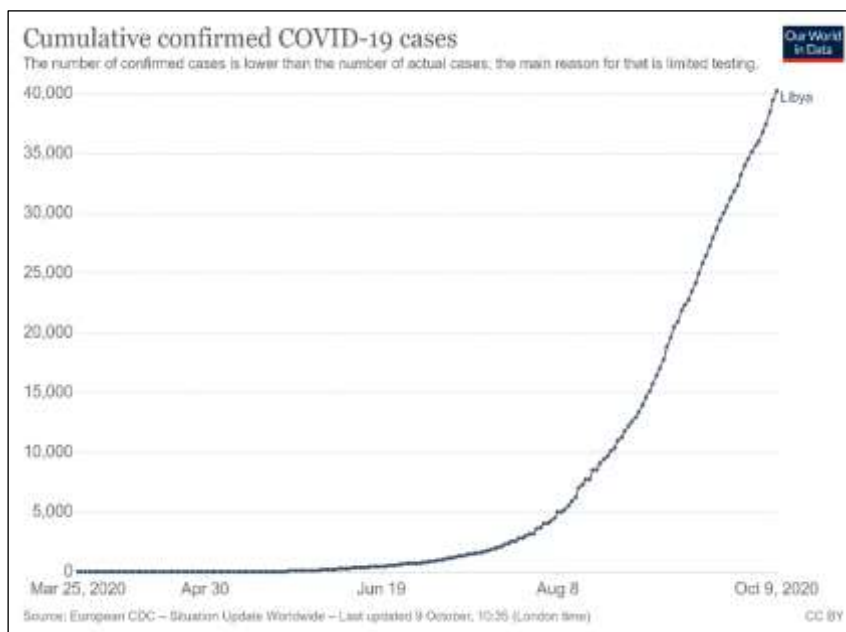
KRA Contact Points:
For Domestic Taxes and all frequently requested services, log on to:
<https://itax.kra.go.ke/KRA-Portal/>
For Customs related taxes, log on to ICMS (Integrated Customs Management

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

Preventive Measures in Place

- Large public gatherings banned
- Flights resumed at the Mitiga Airport in the Libyan capital Tripoli on 9th August 2020.
- By 8th August 2020 the European Union mobilized €20 million (LYD 33 million) to assist Libya in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will contribute to improve national detection and surveillance mechanisms in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus, boost preventive measures and support Libya's national health system.
- Prayers in mosques cancelled, schools and universities closed for two weeks and public gatherings limited.
- Reopening of restaurants and cafés from 7th July 2020 on under strict conditions.
- A primary healthcare centre in the Gergaresh neighbourhood of Tripoli – serving a catchment area of at least 30,000 people, including high concentrations of refugees and migrants from sub-Saharan Africa re-opened from 15th July 2020 to deal with the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- Starting on 31st July 2020 the Government of National Accord based in Tripoli imposed a lockdown in areas that it controls for a period of 5 days. The lockdown replaced the previous curfew that had been in place from 9 pm – 6 am. In the East, in areas controlled by the Libyan National Army (LNA), the curfew remains 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- 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

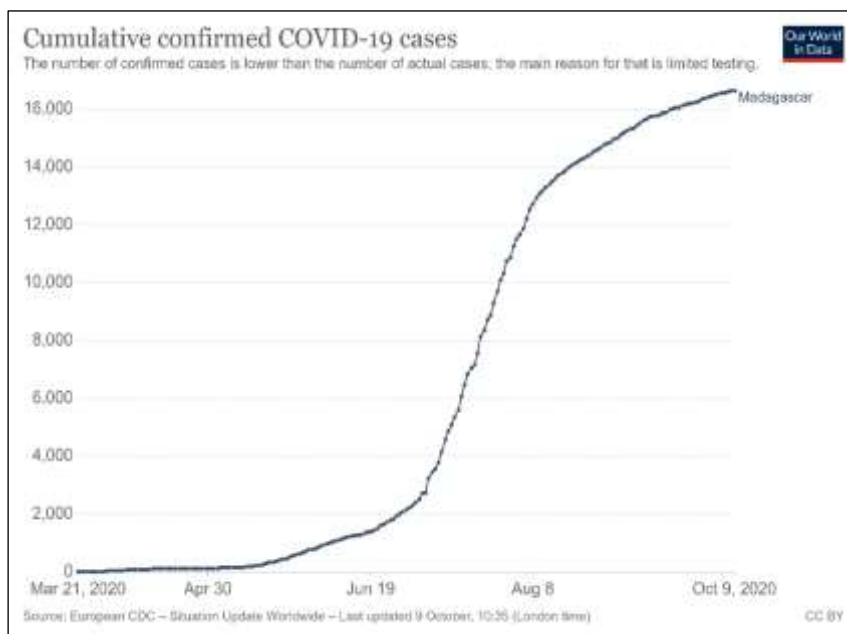
- Cargo transportation exempted from ban
- No penalties apply to the late filing of corporate income tax, personal income tax and stamp duty returns.
- Customs and Revenue authorities are facilitating continuity of business by implementing e-documents and e-payments and pre-arrival clearance procedures and exempting some required documents such as certificate of origin.

-
- Joint mechanism on export of goods between Libya and Tunisia through the border of Ras Ajbir established on 22nd April 2020.
-

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

Ministry of Economy and Industry
P.O. Box 4779
TRIPOLI, LIBYA
Cell: +218 928 344531, Fax: +218 214 831394, Email: libya_zambia@yahoo.com

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



Madagascar



BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 20th March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

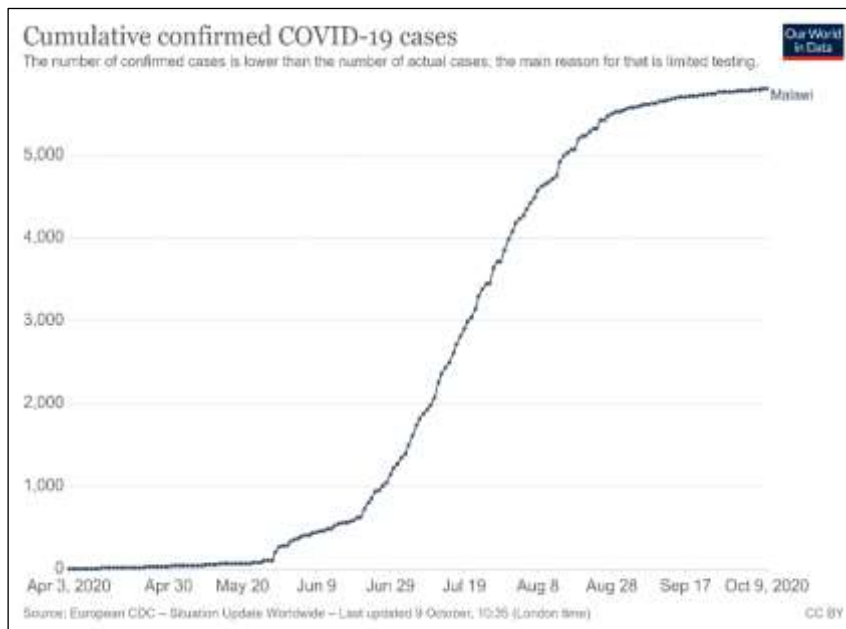
- Suspension of all international flights effective 20th March 2020. Only Air France and Turkish Airlines serve Madagascar via their weekly cargo flights.
- Beginning 17th September 2020 curfew hours in the capital Antananarivo have been shortened to start from 23:00hrs to 04:00hrs. The earlier curfew 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.
- Cruise ships not allowed in any port.
- Extension of the State of Health Emergency for another 15 additional days effective 25th July 2020, and maintained a full containment on the capital Antananarivo declared on 5th July 2020, and partial containment in the districts of Moramanga, Fenerive Est, and Toamasina I and II following a spike in the number of COVID-19 infections countrywide.
- On 6th July 2020 the Government launched new dedicated COVID-19 treatment centers amid rising cases of the pandemic. The new centres are in Alarobia Professional Technical High School and the Mahamasina Sports Complex in the capital Antananarivo.
- On 26th July 2020 the Government launched an additional new coronavirus treatment center in the capital Antananarivo that can accommodate 250 COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms amid rising cases of COVID 19 in the country.
- 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.
- All land, sea, and air borders remain closed. Cargo and humanitarian flights are permitted to operate.
- Mandatory wearing of face masks in public
- Public markets to open 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)**

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



Malawi



BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 2nd April 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- Malawi declared a State of National Disaster from 23rd March 2020. On 29th September new measures were announced and included:
 - 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.
- The Government has effective from 14th August eased COVID-19 rules on public gatherings by allowing up to 100 people to gather, unlike only 10 people as earlier announced on 9th August 2020.
- 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.
- Closure of all colleges and universities from 20th March 2020 until further communication.
- As from 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).
- As from 9th August 2020, public gatherings of greater than 10 people are prohibited with the exception of funerals which can have up to 50 people in attendance.
- 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.
- 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.
- Recruitment of 2000 health workers to support the fight against COVID-19
- Mandatory 14 days quarantine for all travelers from COVID-19 affected countries

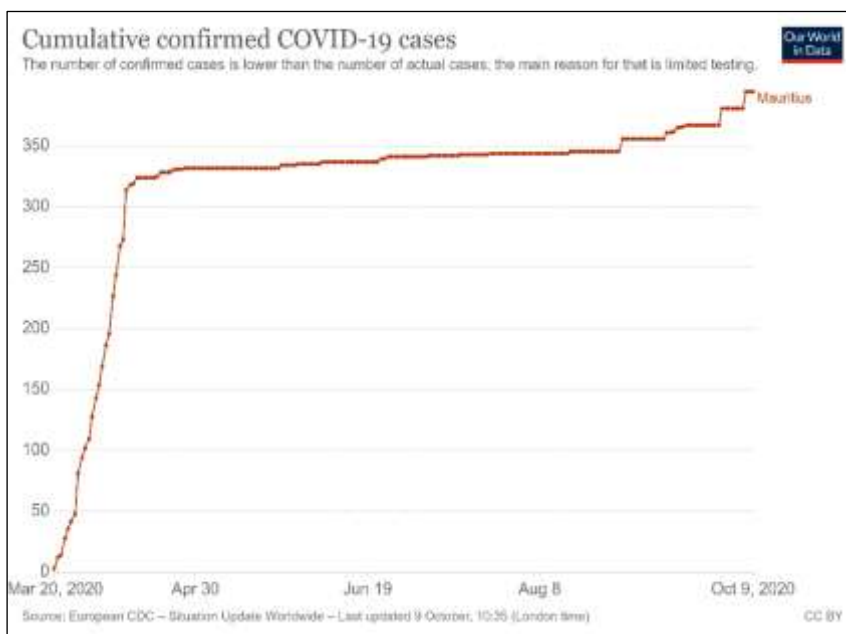
-
- Opening of institutional isolation and treatment centers in the cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu

**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)**

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, kelphas.m@gmail.com



Mauritius



BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 18th March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- Closure of borders and banning of commercial flights effective 19th March 2020. Only specially authorized flights allowed to operate;
- Mauritius 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.
- As from 19th March, all passengers entering Mauritius are quarantined in hotels for 14 days;
- Stranded Mauritian nationals abroad have been repatriated from South Africa, France and India beginning 21st April 2020;
- Beginning 6th March 2020, the Covid-19 High level Task Force, chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister, comprising Senior Ministers and the Minister of Health to meet daily to closely monitor the situation;
- 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

- On 10th July 2020 the Government extended the access period to its 5 billion rupee (\$130 million) special relief programme as part of its ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, this will be available to banks to enable them to continue lending to businesses affected by COVID-19.
- 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:
- Commercial Banks remained open in strategic locations during lockdown;
- 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.

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

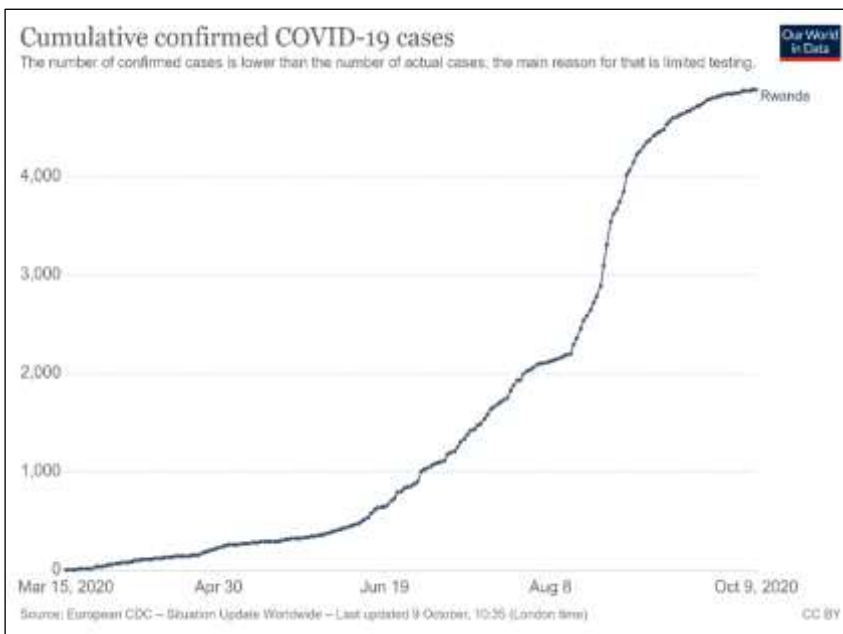
Other measures:

- 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)

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

Focal Point – Ministry of Health & Wellness
Mr. S. Ramasawmy,
5th Floor, Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port-Louis, Mauritius
Tel: 230 201 1892
Fax: 230 201 2330
Email: swrasawmy@govmu.org



Rwanda



BACKGROUND

First case reported on 8th March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- A nation-wide lockdown announced on March 21, 2020. Gradual lifting of lockdown from 22nd March 2020 with movements in and out of Kigali City prohibited.
- New measures were announced on 3rd October 2020 with regard to the re-opening of learning institutions and are that:
 - Universities and tertiary institutions that are cleared for re-opening will do so in mid-October 2020 for students in their final year. In addition, universities will only accommodate students in the third year and above (3rd year-5th year) at their school premises while the rest will continue to study online;
 - Secondary schools under the national programme to resume physical classes in November 2020 while those that are under international programmes to do so in October 2020 if they have fully complied with the Covid-19 guidelines.
 - The reopening of other educational institutions including nursery and primary schools will be determined by the experience of those other educational institutions that will have reopened in mid-October 2020.
 - All learning institutions are required to have two isolations rooms where students and staff suspected of having COVID-19 can be isolated in order to curb the spread of the pandemic.
- Beginning 10th September 2020, private transport between Rusizi District and other districts allowed to resume in adherence to COVID-19 health guidelines.
- The Kigali City Market re-opened on 3rd September 2020 following a thorough inspection by a coronavirus taskforce. The market was shut down for two weeks on 17th August 2020 after recording multiple cases of Covid-19. However, the Nyabugogo market also known as Kwa Mutangana, which was closed at the same time as the Kigali City Market, remain closed following the spike in Covid-19 infections.
- Public transport between Kigali City and the rest of the country prohibited from 27th August 2020. Other prohibitions are private transport movements between Kigali and other districts.
- From 1st September 2020, all public hospitals to start COVID-19 tests in a move to boost capacity and will apply the PCR technology.
- Curfew reviewed as from 25th September 2020 and it will start from 10:00 p.m. to 5 a.m. The earlier curfew had been set at 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Movements are restricted within that time.
- As from 26th August 2020, the number of people working in public institutions at any given time reduced to 30% from 50% and required to work in shifts.
- Beginning 26th August 2020 employees working in the private sector including markets to continue observing the 50% quota of employees at any given time.

- From 14th August 2020 new arrivals to Rwanda must present a negative COVID-19 tests certificate done within 5 days of departure from their point of origin. Initially, international travelers were required to have the tests done within 3 days (72 hours).
- 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.
- Mass testing of taxi moto operators carried out beginning 21st June 2020. It was also made mandatory that all taxi moto operators remove the helmet screens for passengers and use a hand sanitizer to clean the helmets. The passengers were further directed to wear a cloth to cover their heads before using the helmet.
- On 25th June six villages of Kigali City put under a 15-day total Covid-19 lockdown in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus to other areas. The six villages are Nyarugenge and Kicukiro districts and are Kamabuye, Zuba, Nyenyeri, Rugano, Kadobogo and Gisenga
- From 22nd July 2020 three more villages in Kigali City which are Tetero, Indamutsa, and Intiganda which are all in Tetero Sector put on lockdown.
- Citizens or foreigners returning to the country are subject to a 7 -day mandatory quarantine at designated locations at their own cost;
- 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 resumed services from 16th July 2020 with approval by local authorities.
- From 15th July 2020 six administrative cells in Nyamagabe District (in Southern Province) and Nyamasheke District (in Western Province) placed in a 15-day COVID-19 lockdown after increases cases being recorded. The cells ar Kigeme and Ruhunga (Nyamagabe District) and Mubuga, Gitwa, part of Kivu-Butare road, and Jarama
- Beginning 1st August 2020 self-check in kiosks, thermal cameras, screening robots, and hand sanitizer dispensers have been put in place at Kigali International Airport as part of health measures.
- 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 visitors travelling for tourism by charter flights allowed in the country from 17th June 2020.
- 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.
- As from 22nd July 2020 all staff of national parks, airports, and hotels near tourist sites to be tested every two weeks for COVID-19 as the country prepares to start receiving international flights beginning 1st August 2020.
- Citizens urged to use mobile money and online banking whenever possible to limit the transfer of paper money and minimize person to person contacts.

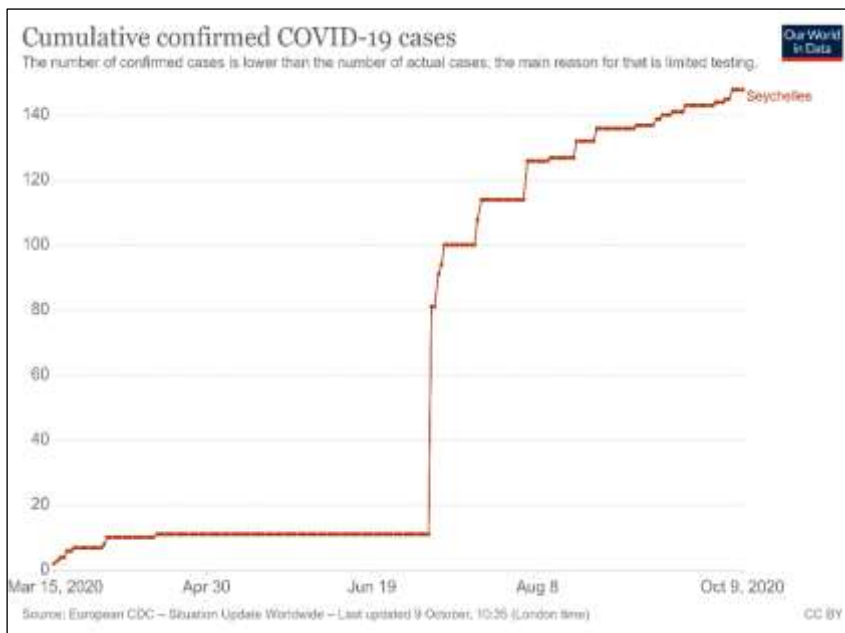
-
- The World Bank on April 7th, 2020 approved a USD 14.3 million (RWF 13.65 billion) International Development Association (IDA) credit as emergency response towards efforts to contain COVID-19.
 - New Guidelines for the Mining sector issued on 5th June 2020 and included: mining operators and quarry owners to provide relevant personal protective equipment (PPEs) to all workers, and miners to put in place contact tracing programmes.
 - Beginning 1st July, the Ministry of Health launched a random street testing survey in Kigali City to assess COVID-19 situation.
-

**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.
 - 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.
-

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

Ministry of Trade and Industry
B. P. 73 KIGALI Rwanda
Tel: +250-784855445, +250788415515
Email: ps@mineacom.gov.rw; msebera@minicom.gov.rw



Seychelles



BACKGROUND

The first case reported on 14th March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- Ban on all cruise ships in Port Victoria until end of 2021.
- On 2nd October Seychelles reviewed its Visitor's Travel Advisory and put in place new advisory as follows:
 - a. all countries allowed to enter Seychelles will be considered permitted countries and 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.
- 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 Travizory 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 on 1st 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
 - All child-minding and day-care services, all post-secondary institutions including A-Levels, Guy Morel Institute and the University of Seychelles Primary and Secondary Schools will reopen reopened in May 2020.
 - Improvement of handling capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities, including the finalization of a programme to receive additional human resource support if necessary.
 - Additional \$3.6 million provided to health sector through national budget amendments.
 - Seychelles secured an African Development Bank (AfDB) loan of US\$10 million to support the Government's COVID-19 response programme.
 - All restrictions on the movement of people removed.
 - Religious services, including funeral services, have resumed following guidance from the Department of Health.
 - All shops able to stay open until 8 pm in the evening.
 - The majority of services and businesses reopened. Construction companies have resumed their work as per guidance issued by the Department of Health
 - Conduct of funeral procedures at the cemetery under strict guidelines as set out by the Department of Health.
 - Government issued new Seychelles Safety Travel Guidelines
 - Gymnasiums and fitness facilities opened
 - Sporting activities have resumed, following guidance from the Department of Health.
 - Leisure boats and yachts able to enter Seychelles territory, respecting any guidance from the Department of Health.

**Trade
Facilitation /
Business
Support**

- 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.
 - 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 on March 23.
 - 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)
 - 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.
 - 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)
- 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.
- On 25th June the Government secured US\$15 million loan from World Bank to support macro-economic stability.

Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs State House

P O Box: 55 VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Seychelles

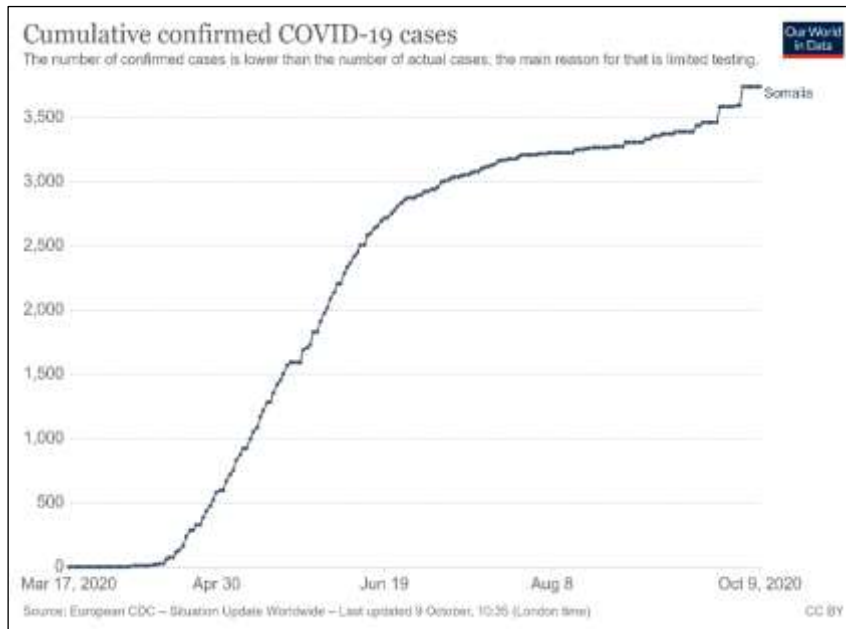
Tel: [+248] 429 56 56

Fax: [+248] 432 42 48

Focal Points

Ms. Amenda Padayachy. email: APadayachy@mfa.gov.sc

Mr. Jean-Paul d'Offay. email: Jpdoffay@mfa.gov.sc



Somalia



BACKGROUND

First case detected on 16th March 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

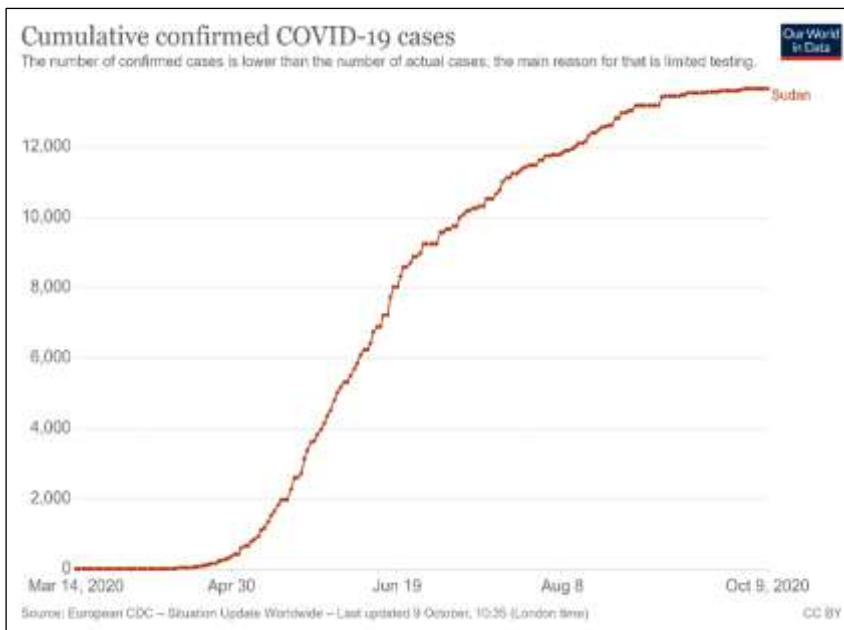
- All educational institutions both private and public closed and large gatherings prohibited. However, beginning 15th June, the Galmudug State Ministry of Education opened primary schools for Grade 8 students and exams started on 11th July 2020.
- From 15th August 2020, schools and universities re-opened and were directed to adhere to health measures.
- On 1st August 2020, all immigration services re-started 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.
- On 5th July 2020 mosques and religious centers resumed their services.
- Beginning 5th July 2020, UNICEF and other partners began working with government for the provision of distance learning lessons through television, radio, and online platforms.
- Public meetings are banned.
- A night curfew declared on 15th April 2020 for Mogadishu and to be observed between 7:00 and 5:00 a.m. The curfew prohibits opening of business premises and traffic. However, shops selling dry foods, hospitals, and pharmacies are exempted.
- Minibuses which usually carry 15 passengers allowed to carry 10 passengers in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles.
- Domestic flights which were suspended in April 2020 resumed services on 5th July 2020 but with adherence to strict health guidelines.
- 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.
- Restriction on imported KHAT to Somalia from our neighbouring countries (Kenya and Ethiopia) as from March 2020.
- 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 377A Kabulonga Road
Box 34051 LUSAKA
Zambia
Tel: (+260) 211 262199
Email: embassyofsomalialusaka@hotmail.com



Sudan



BACKGROUND

The first case was confirmed on 13 March 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

- 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.*
- On 16th August 2020 the Government eased Coronavirus curfew measures in Northern Sudan State whereby markets reopened with a requirement for people to wear face masks and follow health emergency measures, and vehicles disinfected. On 10th August 2020, the Government with the support of its partners increased intensive care capacity from 16 beds to 30 beds at the isolation centre for the Jabra Emergency Hospital in southern Khartoum.
- 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.
- On 14th July 2020, Sudan suspended the special entry arrangement for special business representatives and foreign diplomats and their families that was introduced on 1st July 2020. This followed a case where a 9-year-old daughter of the Sudanese attaché in Bangkok tested positive for COVID-19 upon return.
- The Qastal-Ashkeet land border crossing with Egypt reopened on 11th June 2020, having been closed in March 2020 over coronavirus concerns.
- Sudan Joined the United Nations' Better Than Cash Alliance - a digital payments platform to Drive Financial Inclusion and Transparency.

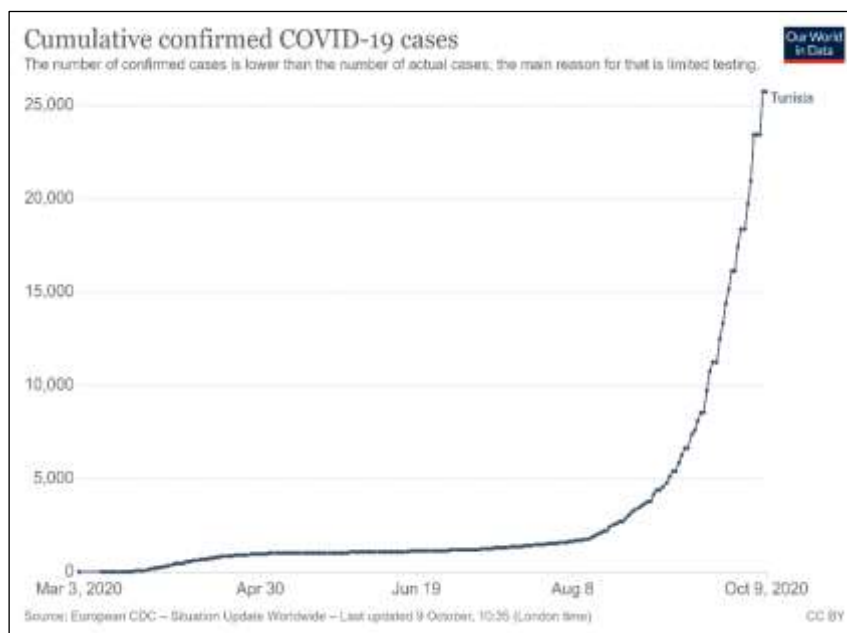
Trade Facilitation / Business Support

- 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 as of July 14 if they do not possess a certificate for being COVID-19 free.
- Sudan authorities have opened up gold export trade to private firms including the handling of all exports through Khartoum International Airport.
- Ban on maize exports from 15 March 2020 until further notice.

-
- 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.
 - Sudan exports on Egyptian trucks are allowed to leave through Ashkit border crossing as from 3rd June 2020.
 - Lockdown measures on shops and restaurants lifted from July 6th, 2020.
 - Launch of an online project announced to help in testing and containing COVID-19 on 22nd July 2020
-

Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)

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



Tunisia



BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 2nd March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- Educational institutions opened on 15th September 2020 and must adhere to the following measures:
 - 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.
- On 21st August 2020 Tunisian authorities reinstated a curfew in El Hamma from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. after a spike in novel Coronavirus cases for a period of one week. Trains from Tunis to the city of Gabes, which services El Hamma, have also been cancelled.
- Beginning 12th August 2020 wearing of masks made mandatory in several areas such as airports, Tunis railway station, the port of La Goulette, hospitals, private clinics and supermarkets.
- 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.
- From 5th August 2020 wearing of face masks made mandatory in public places nationwide.
- From 27th July 2020, members of the same family coming from countries not classified on the 'green' or 'orange' list, including children under 12, to be put under mandatory isolation.
- Government Offices, factories, shops business, mosques and cafes to open.
- From 27th June borders were opened for international flights.
- From June 4, work resumed at 100 percent capacity in public administrations and in the other sectors of the economy.
- From 27th June 2020 sea, land, and air borders were opened for foreigners under strict measures. A color-coded system has been introduced to show which countries may enter without restrictions and which countries can enter with enhanced restrictions.
- As of 27th July 2020, passengers arriving without a lab test certificate to be held in quarantine for at least three days to allow the Ministry of Health to carry out tests.
- 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 have been opened from 4th June 2020.
- From 8th June 2020, sporting activities to resume.

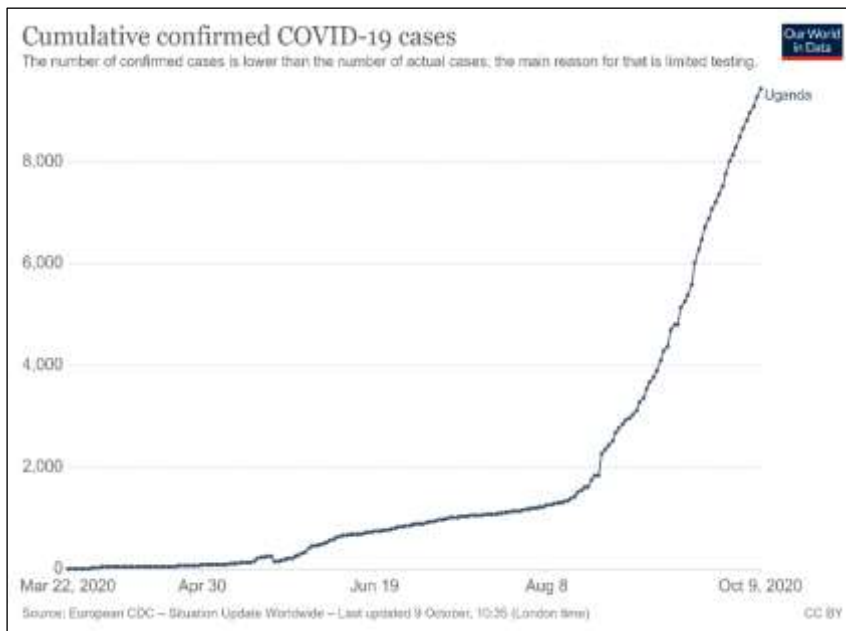
- Supermarkets and retail shops re-opened as part of easing lockdown measures.
- As from 4th June 2020 inter-city and travel between provinces has been allowed
- Closure of schools and other educational institutions still in place.
- Expansion of the budget allocation for health expenses as well as the 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 has been 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.
- 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
- 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.
- Postponement of CIT return filing deadline (due by March 25) until the end of May 2020, for all companies except those subject to CIT at the rate of 35%;
- 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;
- Amnesty of customs duties for industrial companies, which were subject to customs minutes or judgments before 20 March 2020, provided they pay a fine of 10% of the amount of the said duties;
- 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.
- On 8 May 2020 the government launched an electronic platform to receive requests from companies affected by the pandemic and that wish to benefit from the government's support measures.

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

Ministry of Trade
CNR Hedi Noura and Ghana Avenues 1002 Tunis-
Tunisia
Email : omar.behi@tunisia.gov.tn
Email: chaouki.jaballi@tunisia.gov.tn / chaouki.jaballi@gmail.com Tel: +216 71 354 434;
Fax : +216 71 245 868



Uganda



BACKGROUND

First case reported on
18th March 2020

Preventive Measures in Place

- The 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.
- From 20th September 2020, the existing curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m, e maintained; but for the boda-bodas (commercial passenger carrying motorcycles), their movements must always end at 6 p.m.
- Beginning 20th September 2020 places of worship opened with the following guidelines:
 - (i) *Individual prayers or confessions with priests or counselling with the necessary SOPs.*
 - (ii) *Prayers and fellowships whose numbers do not exceed 70 and by observing all the other SOPs.*
 - (iii) *Night prayers and trans-nights are not allowed.*
 - (iv) *The regular large gatherings of prayers and preachings of Sundays and Fridays will be considered at a later stage, depending on how the disease will be evolving; but the rule of the number of 70 and not more can be used on the Fridays and Sundays.*
 - (v) *There will be no Sunday School sessions for children.*
- Sporting activities to resume from 20th September but must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - (i) *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;*
 - (ii) *Sportsmen and women should remember that masks should not be worn when they are engaged in strenuous exercises.*
 - (iii) *With tournaments, teams should be quarantined for the whole season of the competition.*
 - (iv) *Indoor sports activities, including gyms to remain closed.*
- Casinos, bars, gaming centres and cinemas to remain closed.
- Hotels to continue operating following the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) agreed with the Ministry of Health.
- As from 10th August 2020, borders opened for Ugandans stuck in the East African Region to get back to the country.
- 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 effective 22nd July subject to adherence to strict operating procedures.
- Commercial motorbikes locally known as “boda boda” were allowed to resume passenger services effective 27th July 2020 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 will re-open 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.
- Release of over 800 prisoners in July 2020 to lessen congestion in the prisons sector and ensure social distancing.
- Public gatherings limited to a maximum of 7 persons for weddings and 10 persons for funerals
- Presidential Directive to allow free movement of cargo within the country and across borders issued on 16th April 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 to work from home as from 8th April 2020.

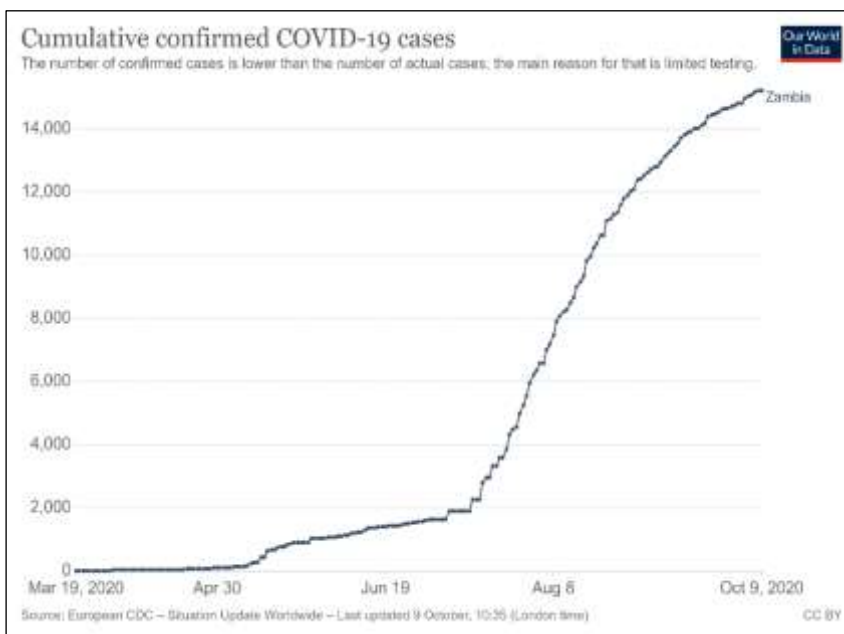
**Trade
Facilitation /
Business
Support**

- 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:
 - Wholesale shops*
 - Hardware shops*
 - Garages for repair and servicing of automobiles*
 - Metal fabrication and wood workshops*
 - Insurance providers to start operations*
 - Restaurants operate but only on takeaway basis*
 - Warehouses*

**Coordinating
Ministry (National
Contact
Points)**

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

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



Zambia



BACKGROUND

First case reported on 18th 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.
- As from mid-August 2020, Zambia to be among other seven African countries (alongside Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Morocco) to start administering the coronavirus antibody tests as part of efforts to understand the extent of the outbreak on the continent.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 resumed normal operations as from May 2020.

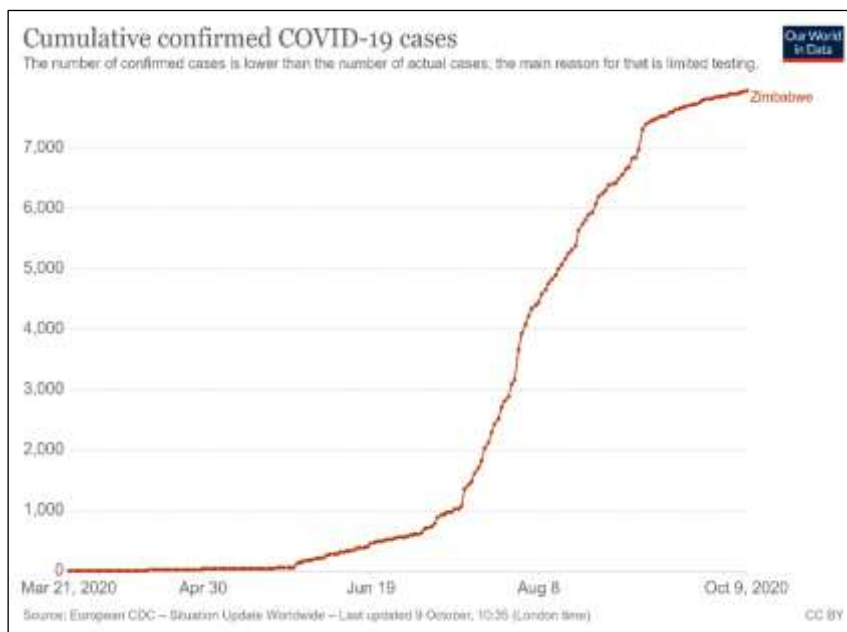
- Police restrict numbers of people visiting inmates and suspects in police detention.
- Prison authorities to ensure detention facilities are not overcrowded.
- Social distancing of at least one to two meters to be observed in public places.
- Ministry of Health set up the Epidemic Preparedness Fund amounting to Kwacha 57 million (app. US\$3.17 million).
- Cabinet approved a COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan with a Budget of 659 Mill. Kwacha (app. US\$36.6 M) under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit.

**Trade
Facilitation /
Business
Support**

- 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) 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
 P.O. Box 31968 LUSAKA Zambia
 Tel: +260 223617 / 228301; Fax: +260 226673
 Email: mushuma.mulenga@grz.gov.zm; paul.mumba@mcti.gov.zm;
Philip.soko@mcti.gov.zm; kabuswe.bwalya@mcti.gov.zm
 Zambia National Public Health Institute. Email: ims.covid@znphi.co.zm



Zimbabwe



BACKGROUND

The first case was reported on 20 March 2020.

Preventive Measures in Place

- On 4th October 2020 the Government of Zimbabwe announced that Zimbabweans in South Africa will be allowed to return without seeking clearance from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in South Africa under the following procedures:
 - *Passage to the country to be subjected to relevant Covid-19 regulations as put in place by health authorities;*
 - *This facility also covers those with permanent resident permits in Zimbabwe;*
 - *Zimbabweans with valid South African permanent residence and other permits such as work, and student permits will also be allowed to cross into South Africa and back home.*
- On 22nd September 2020, the Government announced that:
 - *primary and secondary schools will gradually reopen from 26th October 2020 for all learners. Students sitting for Grade 7, Ordinary and Advanced Level Zimbabwe Schools Examinations Council (Zimsec) examinations required to return to class on 28th September 2020 to start preparations for their final examinations. Other non-examination classes will return to schools in phases.*
 - *International flights will resume on 1st October 2020.*
 - *the re-opening of the Registrar-General's Office to allow access to registration of births.*
- On 15th September 2020, Government approved the resumption of inter-city travel to facilitate the smooth movement of examination candidates, citizens and visitors based on the following conditions:
 - (i) *Transporters who wish to ferry passengers should register with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development.*
 - (ii) *Transporters to strictly comply with Standard Operating Procedures for the sector which are compliant to the WHO guidelines and all COVID-19 regulations.*
 - (iii) *In support of this service, the Vehicle Inspection Department to resume its services.*
- Air Zimbabwe will resume domestic and regional flights as follows:
 - *Domestic flights and regional flights to resume on 23rd September 2020 and 3rd October 2020, respectively.*
 - *The regional Harare-Dar es-Salaam-Harare schedule will initially operate every Tuesday and Saturday.*
 - *All passengers to be tested for Covid-19 within 48 hours before travelling*
- On 15th September 2020, Government reopened the Central Registry department for the resumption of services amid a backlog of critical documents such as birth certificates and passports.
- On 15th September 2020 the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) lifted the suspension of electoral activities. This lifting allows the following:

-
- Finalization of the Covid-19 Policy on electoral activities by the Commission which is accessible to the public on the ZEC website www.zec.org.zw.
 - Publication of electoral timelines for all pending by-elections in the press through notices.
 - Holding of Parliamentary and local council by-elections with the Commission applying procedures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection.
 - Beginning 4th September 2020 COVID-19 measures have been relaxed in Zimbabwe as follows:
 - Returning residents with a negative PCR test certificate conducted within 48 hours of departure will not be quarantined.
 - Returning residents without a PCR test conducted within 48 hours of departure will proceed to a quarantine facility where they will be tested before being discharged.
 - On 27th August 2020, the Zimbabwe Prison Correctional Services (ZCPS) rolled out COVID-19 provincial awareness campaign in Masvingo province
-
- On 26th August 2020 the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO) rolled out a solar-powered self-sanitization booth at one of the terminuses in the Harare Central Business District (CBD).
 - On 26th August 2020 the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat) begun the door-to-door enumeration exercise as it prepares for a COVID-19 Epidemiological Prevalence Survey to be conducted in September 2020.
 - Rolled out COVID-19 provincial awareness campaign in Masvingo Province.
 - On 25th August 2020, the Government extended from 3 months to 6 months unpaid sick leave for COVID-19 positive civil servants.
 - On 24th August 2020, in order to enhance testing capacity at Beitbridge border point, laboratory personnel at Beitbridge district hospital were trained on the Abbott Platform which is capable of testing 94 COVID-19 samples at one go.
 - On 18th August 2020, the Government reviewed the lockdown measures as follows:
 - (i) Immigrants who have tested negative for COVID-19 would no longer be detained upon arrival in the country;
 - (ii) Business hours extended from the initial 8 am – 3 pm to 8 am – 4.30 pm;
 - (iii) Curfew revised from 8 pm – 6 am instead of the previous 6 pm – 6am;
 - (iv) Public transport drivers to undergo regular PCR tests
 - (v) Public transport buses to be allowed dedicated lane at roadblocks to expedite their passage.
 - On 18th August 2020, the President launched a virtual Cabinet meeting systems to be used for Cabinet business and to be conducted at three different venues as follows:
 - (i) The State House Tent
 - (ii) The Cabinet Room
 - (iii) The Munhumutapa Boardroom.
 - On 3rd September 2020, the Government announced the full resumption of all tourism activities. However, restrictions on inter- city and inter-provincial travel to be maintained.
 - Government announced on 1st September 2020 the reopening of primary and secondary schools from 14th September 2020 for students taking final exams.
 - Zimbabwe among seven other countries that include Liberia, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Morocco, and Zambia that will start administering Coronavirus antibody tests beginning from the week of 24th August 2020 in the hope that this will help in reopening the economy.
 - Designation of journalists as an essential service (SI 93 of 2020)
 - Reduction of employee attendance at government and private workplaces (except for critical staff).
 - Gazette Public Health (Covid-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations 2020 on 23rd March 2020 to allow for compulsory testing.
 - To ease the situation in quarantine and isolation facilities, the Government adopted new World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines that allow
-

asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 patients to be discharged after 10 days and 13 days, respectively.

- Mass testing intensified.
- Use of schools by churches banned as from 8th July 2020 to reduce the risk of infections when schools reopen.

**Coordinating
Ministry
(National
Contact
Points)**

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
