

STATUS REPORT ON COVID-19 – MARCH 2021

FOCUS: AFRICA AND EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. Executive Summary

This is our monthly analysis of the COVID-19 statistics in Africa and East and Southern Africa region as at mid-March 2021. What is unique about the last month is that it saw the COVID-19 vaccine rolled out in a number of our member countries, mainly the AstraZeneca vaccine. While lower doses were offered to the region, and continent at large, there has largely been low uptake of the vaccine among targeted groups – especially the health and other frontline workers. Various reports attribute this hesitancy to different reasons, including: a wait and see attitude, fears and beliefs, lower trust and confidence in the vaccine efficacy, and misinformation.

The report shares the statistics of the period mid-February and mid-March. It also summarizes the total number of cases, deaths, recoveries in the region and also the whole of Africa. It further gives the percentage increases in cases and deaths, active cases and critical cases between the months of February 2021 and March 2021.

(see tables).

We have always brought forth updates and conducted research, which are available on our website

(<https://www.wcoesarocb.org/covid-19/>) and social media platforms.

2. Highest hit countries by cases in Africa and East and Southern Africa (ESA)

While cases have continued to increase, the last month (mid-February to mid-March) was an increase of 6.7% in cases compared to 18.1% the previous month.

Somalia was the hardest hit country in Africa in the period under review with **82.1%** increase in cases between mid- February 2021 & mid-March 2021, that is, from **5,183** to **9,183** cases

Ethiopia registered a **21.1% increase** in cases, from **147,092** to **178,108**, and becoming the hardest hit country in Africa with actual number increase of cases.

The table below shows the top five countries with the highest increase of cases for both Africa and East and Southern Africa over the comparative period. Notice that the ESA region members have been hardest hit by the pandemic in Africa over the comparative period.

AFRICA		ESA	
Country	% increase	Country	% increase
1. Somalia	82.1	1. Somalia	82.1

2. South Sudan	77.6	2. South Sudan	77.6
3. Seychelles	77.3	3. Seychelles	77.3
4. Benin	42.7	4. Botswana	40.4
5. Togo	41.7	5. Burundi	34.7

3. Highest hit countries by deaths in Africa and East and Southern Africa (ESA)

The top three countries in Africa that were most hit by number of deaths over the comparative period were ESA Region members. The continent registered a **6.4%** increase in deaths over the last one month (mid-February to mid-March 2021). This represents a significant decrease compared to the previous month which recorded **28.4%** increase in deaths.

Somalia recorded the highest rate increase of **153.3%** in deaths over the comparative period; that is from **152** to **385** deaths in one month. Egypt had the highest actual numbers increase in deaths from **9,994** to **11,384** deaths.

AFRICA		ESA	
Country	% increase	Country	% increase
1. Somalia	153.3	1. Somalia	153.3
2. Botswana	121.3	2. Botswana	121.3
3. Seychelles	100.0	3. Seychelles	100.0
4. Sao Tome & Principe	68.4	4. South Sudan	43.2
5. Benin	44.6	5. Mozambique	36.8

4. COVID-19 numbers in Africa

Reported new cases in Africa have increased by **6.7%** whereas in the deaths have increased by **6.4%**. Cases in Africa stand at **4,004,678** from **3,751,726** and deaths at **104,807** from **98,506** over the last one month; from mid-February 2021 to mid-March 2021.

The table below outlines the COVID-19 statistics.

Take note of the percentage change in cases and deaths recorded over the last month. Notice to the ESA countries are shaded light blue.

No.	Country	Cases mid Feb	Cases mid Jan	% Change	Deaths mid Feb	Deaths mid Jan	% Change	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious Critical
1.	South Africa	1,492,909	1,491,807	0.1	48,094	47,899	0.41	1,391,155	53,660	546
2	Morocco	489,622	478,474	2.3	8,737	8,477	3.07	476,727	4,158	265
3.	Tunisia	242,673	223,244	8.7	8,429	7,544	11.7	209,755	24,489	276
4.	Egypt	192,195	173,813	10.6	11,384	9,994	13.9	148,089	32,722	90
5.	Ethiopia	178,108	147,092	21.1	2,573	2,194	17.3	144,488	31,047	591
6.	Nigeria	161,074	146,184	10.2	2,018	1,752	15.2	146,072	12,984	10

7.	Libya	147,121	127,705	15.2	2,406	2,042	17.8	133,768	10,947	
8.	Algeria	115,540	110,711	4.4	3,045	2,939	3.6	80,103	32,392	10
9.	Kenya	115,031	102,867	11.8	1,925	1,795	7.2	88,781	24,325	104
10.	Ghana	88,228	75,836	16.3	698	533	31.0	83,829	3,701	66
11.	Zambia	85,240	69,437	22.8	1,167	951	22.7	82,432	1,641	150
12.	Mozambique	64,929	50,265	29.2	732	535	36.8	50,844	13,353	
13.	Namibia	41,466	35,952	15.3	474	388	22.2	38,793	2,199	28
14.	Uganda	40,593	40,055	1.3	334	328	1.8	29,609	2,010	25
15.	Cote d'Ivoire	38,120	31,140	22.4	214	174	23.0	15,099	25,160	53
16.	Senegal	37,062	31,275	18.5	981	754	30.1	35,111	2,795	
17.	Zimbabwe	36,535	35,172	3.9	1,507	1,400	7.6	33,047	3,034	50
18.	Botswana	34,999	24,926	40.4	447	202	121.3	34,124	904	22
19.	Malawi	32,894	29,035	13.3	1,088	952	14.3	29,916	4,636	1
20.	Cameroon	32,098	32,098	0.0	479	479	0.0	26,890	4,916	43
21.	Sudan	29,135	27,820	4.7	1,959	1,849	6.0	23,583	3,593	
22.	DRC	27,100	24,295	11.6	722	693	4.9	23,759	2,619	
23.	Madagascar	21,688	19,598	10.7	335	292	14.7	20,614	739	23
24.	Angola	21,446	20,366	5.3	522	492	6.1	19,971	953	17
25.	Rwanda	20,412	17,343	17.7	282	239	18.0	18,804	1,326	13
26.	Guinea	17,982	14,967	20.2	104	85	22.4	15,719	2,159	24
27.	Mauritania	17,487	16,974	3.0	444	430	3.3	16,806	237	14
28.	Eswatini	17,243	16,535	4.28	663	630	5.2	15,841	739	36
29.	Gabon	16,945	12,577	34.73	101	73	38.4	14,780	2,064	27
30.	Cabo Verde	16,154	14,741	9.59	157	139	13.0	15,549	448	23
31.	Burkina Faso	12,378	11,588	6.82	144	138	4.4	11,974	260	
32.	Lesotho	10,530	9,965	5.67	309	230	34.4	3,922	6,299	
33.	South Sudan	9,613	5,413	77.6	106	74	43.2	7,906	1,601	2
34.	Somalia	9,437	5,183	82.1	385	152	153.3	4,306	4,746	
35.	Congo	9,329	8,419	10.8	131	123	6.5	7,514	1,684	

36.	Mali	9,018	8,229	9.6	364	342	6.4	6,526	2,128	
37.	Togo	8,322	5,874	41.7	97	81	19.8	6,940	1,285	
38.	Equatorial Guinea	6,603	5,694	16.0	100	87	14.9	5,994	509	19
39.	Benin	6,501	4,560	42.6	81	56	44.6	5,552	868	35
40.	Djibouti	6,336	5,971	6.1	63	63	0.0	5,998	275	
41.	CAR	5,025	4,996	0.6	63	63	0.0	4,920	42	2
42.	Gambia	5,019	4,414	13.7	153	138	10.9	4,525	341	3
43.	Niger	4,870	4,695	3.7	183	169	8.3	4,516	171	1
44.	Chad	4,344	3,645	19.2	155	129	20.2	3,818	371	
45.	Sierra Leone	3,939	3,821	3.1	79	79	0.0	2,782	1,078	
46.	Comoros	3,647	3,334	9.4	146	129	13.2	3,453	48	
47.	Guinea- Bissau	3,469	2,924	18.6	52	46	13.0	2,776	641	14
48.	Seychelles	3,354	1,892	77.3	16	8	100.0	2,940	398	
49.	Eritrea	3,062	2,429	26.1	7	7	0.0	2,731	324	
50.	Burundi	2,461	1,824	34.9	3	3	0.0	773	1,685	
51.	Sao Tome and Principe	2,085	1,482	40.7	32	19	68.4	1,880	173	
52.	Liberia	2,030	1,956	3.8	85	84	1.2	1,899	46	2
53	Mauritius	758	595	27.4	10	10	0.0	592	156	
54	Tanzania	509	509	0.0	21	21	0.0	183	305	7
55.	Western Sahara	10	10	0.0	1	1	0.0	8	1	
	TOTAL	4,004,678	3,751,726	6.7	104,807	98,506	6.4	3,568,486	331,385	2,592

5. COVID-19 numbers in ESA

The table below highlights the status of ESA as at mid-February 2021 compared to mid-January 2021.

No	Country	Cases mid Mar	Cases mid Feb	% Change	Deaths mid Jan	Deaths mid Dec	% Change	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious Critical
1.	Somalia	9,437	5,183	82.1	385	152	153.3	4,306	4,746	
2.	South Sudan	9,613	5,413	77.6	106	74	43.2	7,906	1,601	2
3.	Seychelles	3,354	1,892	77.3	16	8	100.0	2,940	398	
4.	Botswana	34,999	24,926	40.4	447	202	121.3	34,124	904	22
5.	Burundi	2,461	1,824	34.9	3	3	0.0	773	1,685	
6.	Mozambique	64,929	50,265	29.2	732	535	36.8	50,844	13,353	
7.	Mauritius	758	595	27.4	10	10	0.0	592	156	
8.	Eritrea	3,062	2,429	26.1	7	7	0.0	2,731	324	
9.	Zambia	85,240	69,437	22.8	1,167	951	22.7	82,432	1,641	150
10.	Ethiopia	178,108	147,092	21.1	2,573	2,194	17.3	144,488	31,047	591
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12.	Namibia	41,466	35,952	15.3	474	388	22.55	38,793	2,199	28
13.	Malawi	32,894	29,035	13.3	1,088	952	14.3	29,916	4,636	1
14.	Kenya	115,031	102,867	11.8	1,925	1,795	7.2	88,781	24,325	104
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19.	Angola	21,446	20,366	5.3	522	492	6.1	19,971	953	17
20.	Eswatini	17,243	16,535	4.3	663	630	5.2	15,841	739	36
21.	Zimbabwe	36,535	35,172	3.9	1,507	1,400	7.6	33,047	3,034	50
22.	Uganda	40,593	40,055	1.3	334	328	1.8	29,609	2,010	25

23.	South Africa	1,492,909	1,491,807	0.1	48,094	47,899	0.4	1,391,155	53,660	546
24.	Tanzania	509	509	0.0	21	21	0.0	183	305	7
	TOTAL	4,004,678	3,751,726	6.7	104,807	98,506	6.4	237,592	63,504	426

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