

**COVID 19 Response Measures in EASF region**  
**29<sup>th</sup> April 2020**



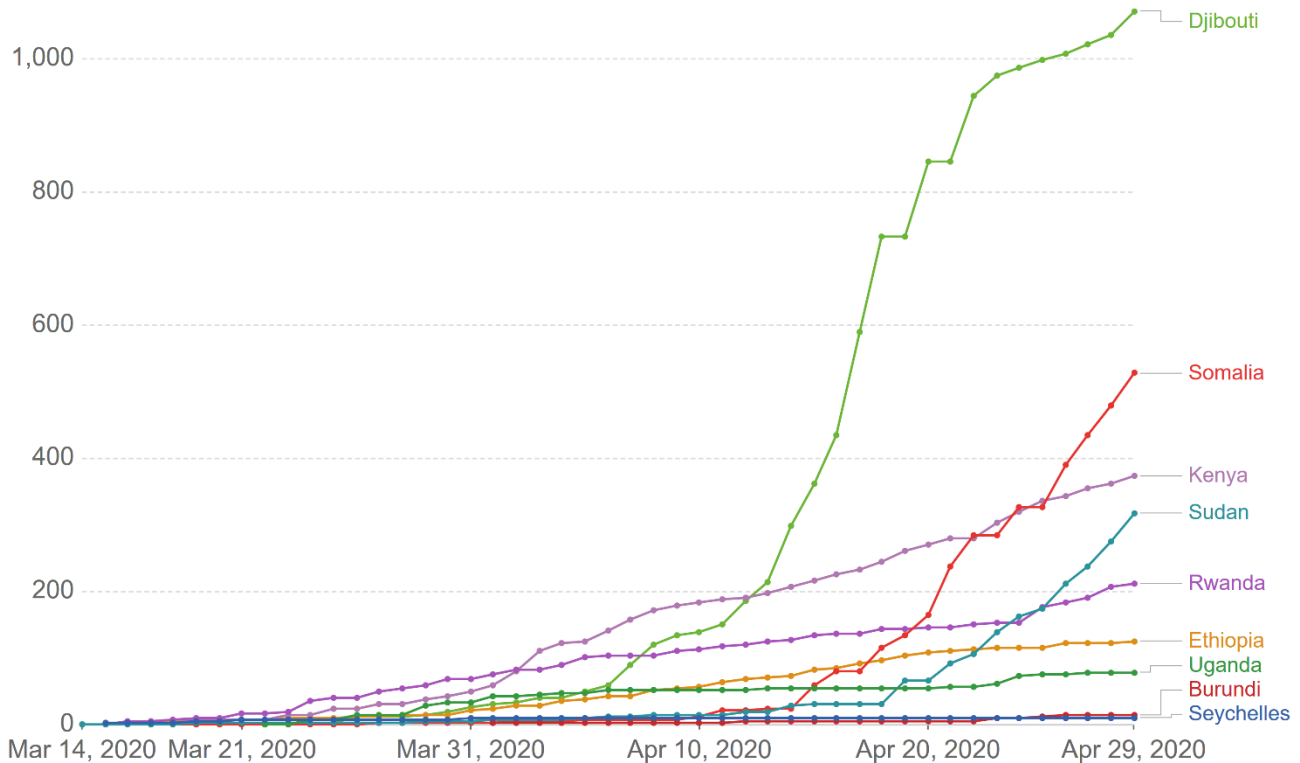
# INTRODUCTION

This report will document the response measures taken by EASF Member States in an effort to flatten the COVID -19 curve. EASF has ten Member States at different stages of the corona virus curve with Djibouti recording over 1000 cases. The Union of Comoros on the other hand is yet to record any cases of the virus. The positive news is that the number of deaths are still relatively low. On the other hand, testing is still limited in most EASF Member States and therefore most Member States have taken every precaution to protect their populations through a raft of socio-economic measures.

## Total confirmed COVID-19 cases



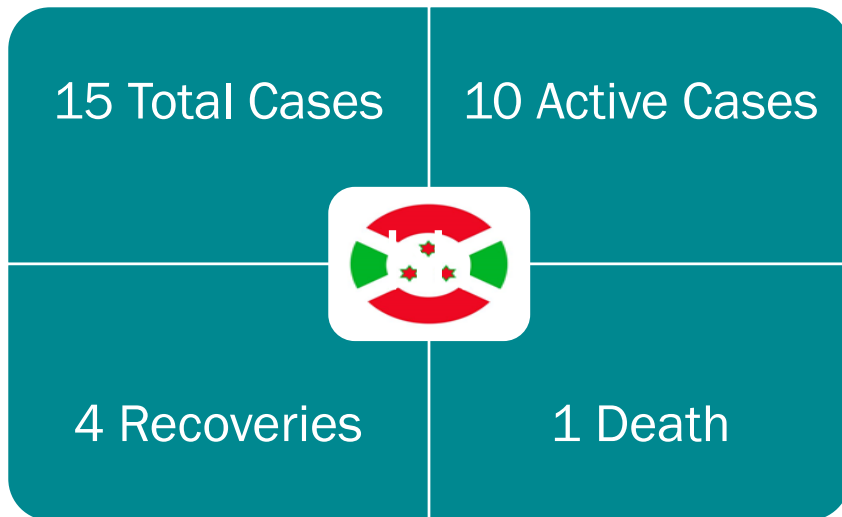
The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 29th April, 11:30 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

## BURUNDI

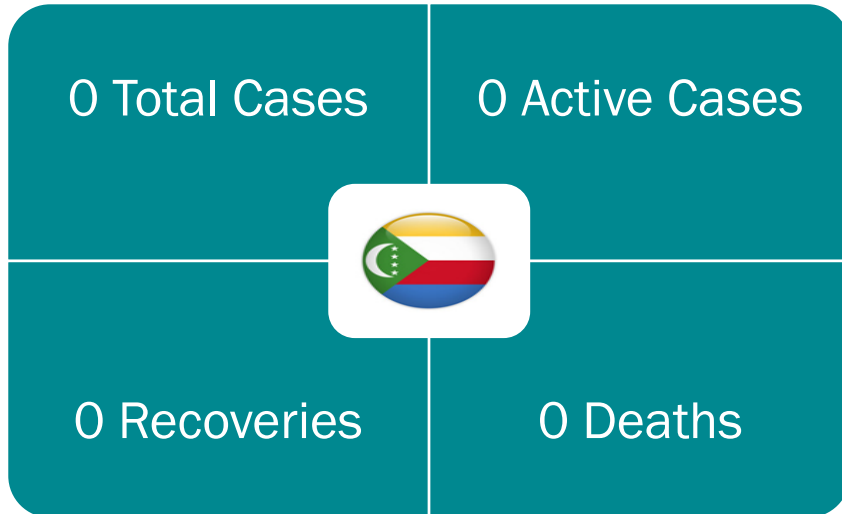
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- Mandatory quarantine for 14 days for those exposed or suspected of having the virus.
- Limited access to hotel premises for two months on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Sensitization and awareness campaigns have been created through TV and Radio.
- Installation of hand sanitizers and water for handwashing in public places.
- The authorities have asked hospitals to make beds available for potential cases (20 for each national hospital and 5 for each local hospital).
- All borders were closed. Travelers are advised that if they plan to cross the border from Rwanda into Burundi, they may be denied entry
- From the new COVID 19 government directives/guidelines, all borders are now open for cargo movement. No longer police escort but drivers must ensure minimal interaction with people and apply strictly hygiene measures.
- Suspension of flights in and out of Burundi from 22nd March 2020. Only Ethiopian Airlines cargo flights are still operating.

# COMOROS

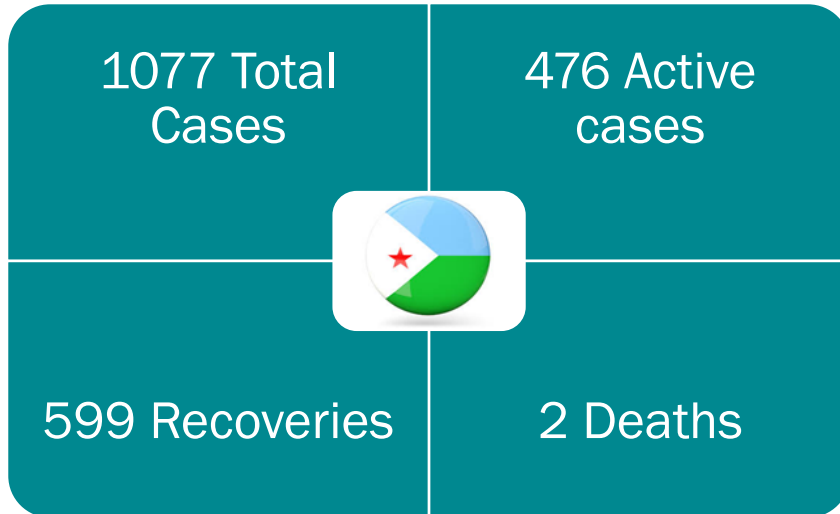
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- Adherence to barriers as announced by the President including regular washing of hands, social distancing (1-2 meters), etc
- Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning effective 20th March 2020
- Prohibitions of gatherings of more than 20 people
- Ban of collective prayers including Friday prayers (blessed day for Muslims) closing sea and air borders (except for cargo ships and/or special evacuations).
- Flights between Comoros and the islands of Mayotte and the Réunion suspended
- Quarantine measures implemented for travelers from, or who have transited through COVID-19-infected countries
- 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.

## DJIBOUTI

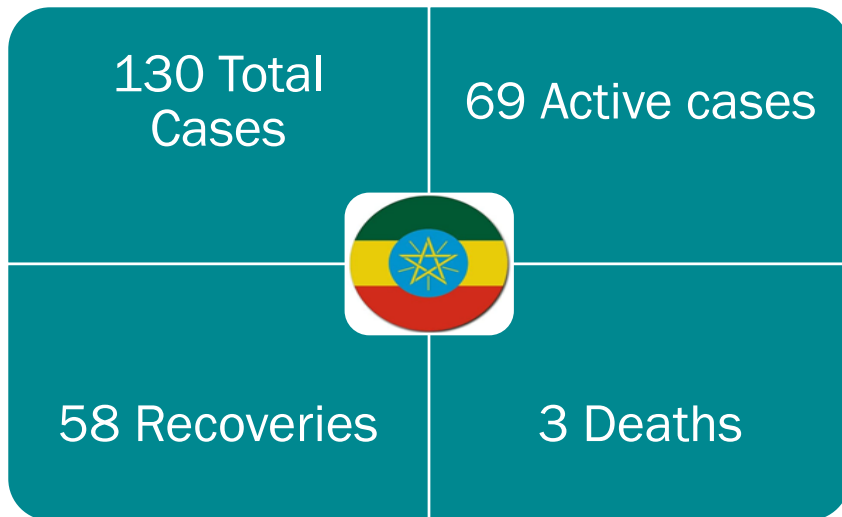
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- The Djibouti Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and subcommittees have been established to observe the situation and impact.
- A nation-wide lockdown is in place, except for essential services.
- All commercial passenger flights suspended as well as train, boat and ship transport.
- Traffic has been restricted to the minimum and is only allowed with administrative authorization.
- Restrictions of air, land, and sea borders, interruption of passenger flights and trains to (and from) Djibouti;
- Closure of educational institutions, religious/worship places, sports events and bars.
- Quarantine sites to be established for infected persons and contact tracing procedures put in place;
- Social distancing and other preventive measures including sanitization to be popularized by Government health agencies and the media.
- The World Bank has provided Djibouti with US\$5 million credit towards efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the rapid spread of COVID-19.
- The World Health Organization has delivered protective equipment to the Ministry of Health including goggles, surgical gowns, gloves, face masks and hand sprayers. WHO has also ordered 500 test machines and 80 respirators for COVID-19 preparedness in the country.
- 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 monitor the temperature of people.
- Port communities have raised awareness among Ethiopian drivers on compliance with barrier measures and brochures in Amharic language were produced and disseminated to the latter.
- The Djibouti Port and Corridor is still operational, and no case has been detected. An alerting protocol is implemented by the port communities.

# ETHIOPIA

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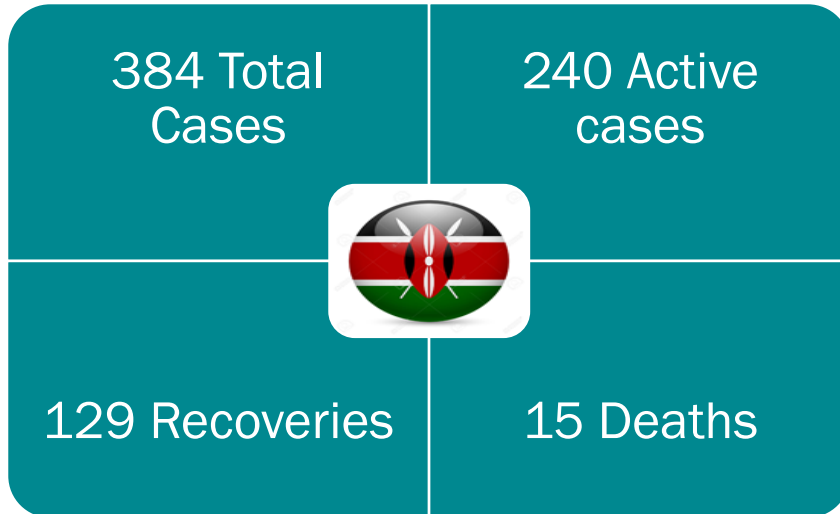


- On April 8, the Prime Minister declared a state of emergency for 5 months under Article 93 of the constitution, which allows it to impose more stringent measures.
- Closing of all schools including institutions of higher learning and banning of public gatherings including sporting events.
- Release of over 4000 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
- Effective 20th March, all arriving passengers face mandatory quarantine for 14 days
- Closure of its land borders to nearly all human traffic from 23rd March
- Closure of all-night clubs and places of entertainment effective 20th March until further notice
- Government employees ordered to work from home
- As of 1st April, suspension of mass gatherings in places of worship including mosques and churches
- 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.
- 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
- Ethiopian Airlines continues to operate concentrating mainly on cargo deliveries and scaled down passenger flights by about 90%

- 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
- Djibouti Port operational for Ethiopian service. However, extended lockdown in Djibouti affecting operational hours for Shipping Lines and the storage space shortage in Djibouti port adds costs and time to the clearance of containers at the port.
- Ethiopia-Sudan border is closed to all traffic.
- 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.

# KENYA

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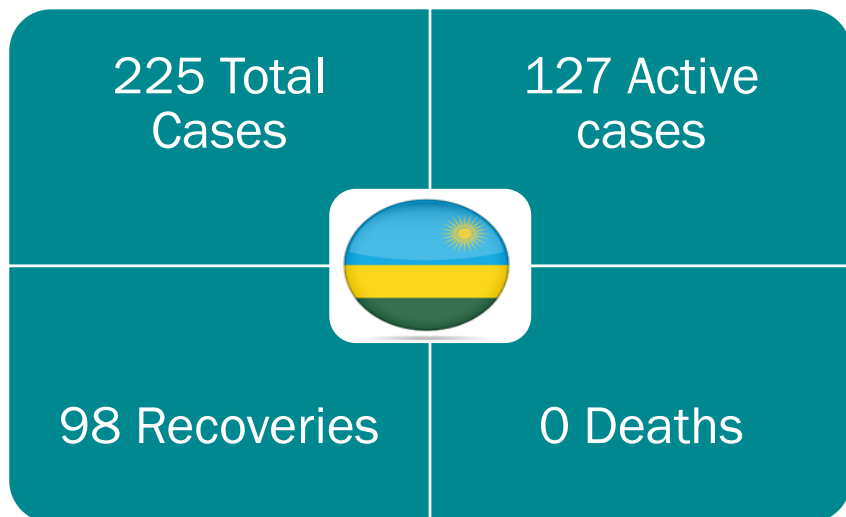
- The President established a Corona Virus Task Force as a national emergency response
- Dusk to dawn (1900hrs to 0500 hrs) curfew extended for 21 days from 25th April, 2020
- Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning for until further notice
- Suspension of religious gatherings including Friday prayers in mosques, Sunday church services, weddings, for 30 days.
- Minimized attendance of social gatherings like weddings, funerals, malls for a period of 30 days.
- 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. 1.5-meter distance to be maintained within public transport. Private cars to carry not more than 2 passengers.
- Government registries and the courts are closed except for the handling of emergency matters.
- Government offices, businesses and companies have been encouraged to allow employees to work from home except for employees working in critical or essential services.
- Imposition of a curfew from 1900-0500 hours.
- Development of a local testing kit for COVID-19 by the Kenya Medical Research Institute.
- Travel suspended for all persons coming into Kenya from any country with reported cases of Coronavirus.
- Kenya citizens and any foreigner with valid residence permit entering Kenya is required to self-quarantine or go to a government designated quarantine facility.
- Movement in and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale Counties banned extended for an extra 21 days after 27th April, 2020 . This is with exception to movement of goods and essential services
- Suspension of international flights.
- Mass production of sanitizers, masks and ventilators by private sector in Kenya



- Temperature readings for truck crews to be taken at Entry Point and at designated weighbridges which are: Namanga; Busia, Gilgil, Mariakani; Malaba and Taveta.
- Truck occupants must keep temperature/readings/health forms until they exit Kenya unless they are Kenyan residents; stringent screening on the trucks;
- Limited numbers of crew and passengers, and any truck crew member who exhibits symptoms occupants will be subject to a 14 days quarantine.
- Partial reopening of eateries and restaurants following approved guidelines by the ministries of health.
- Establishment of a national hygiene programs to commence on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to create jobs and make the environment healthier.
- Cashless transactions encouraged and facilitated to limit contact.
- Stringent medical screening at all border points. Only drivers, loader plus the clearing agent are allowed across the border.
- A 100-percent tax relief for low-income-earning persons up to KES24,000
- Reduced the top Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) rate from 30 percent to 25 percent.
- Appropriation of KES 10 billion through cash transfers to the vulnerable members of society.
- 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.
- Cashless transactions such as mobile money and credit cards are encouraged. Mobile operators and banks have been implored to take into consideration the situation and reduce the cost of transactions during this period.
- 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 Ratio (CRR) to 4.2%
- Central Bank of Kenya to offer 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.
- Trade related essential services providers, Customs, Immigration, and Port Health officials are exempted from the provisions of curfew and required to work 24 hours

## Rwanda

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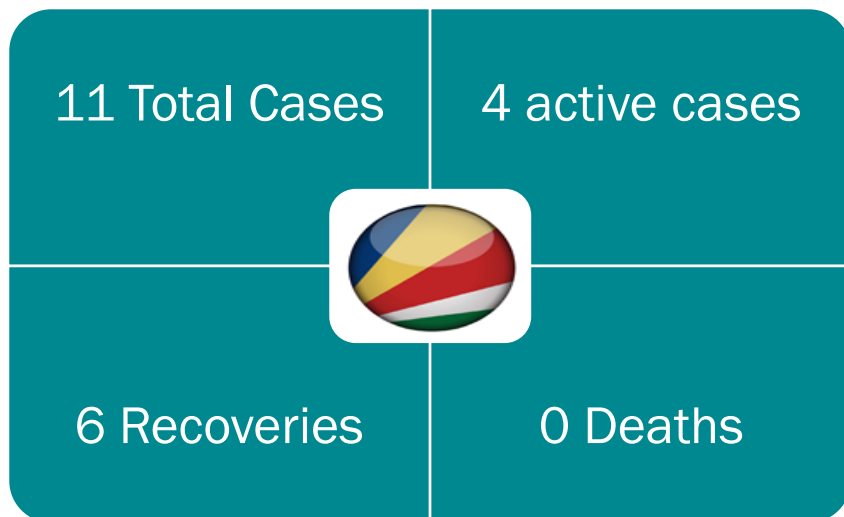
- A nation-wide lockdown announced on March 21st 2020.
- Citizens or foreigners returning to the country are subject to a 14-day mandatory quarantine at designated locations;
- Suspension of all commercial flights to and from the country except for cargo and essential services.
- Places of worship closed as well as educational institutions (schools and colleges), bars and restaurants.
- Social distancing to be observed.
- Wearing of face masks is mandatory in public places and multi-family settings.
- All borders closed except for goods and cargo services.
- Internal travel between districts and cities not authorized except for medical reasons or essential services.
- Social gatherings including weddings and sports events banned and non-essential movement outside homes not permitted.
- Shops and markets closed except for those selling food, medicine and other essential services.
- Contact-tracing for suspected infected persons to be conducted for further follow-up, testing, and treatment.
- Citizens urged to use mobile money and online banking whenever possible to limit the transfer of paper money and minimize person to person contacts
- 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
- The Central Bank of Rwanda has provided a Rwf50 billion (\$54 million) facility and reduced the reserve requirement ratio for commercial banks from 5 per cent to 4 per cent to support the country's banking sector.
- 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 to benefit from USD \$11 million (RWF 10.5 billion) debt service relief from the International Monetary Fund for an initial period of 6 months

## SEYCHELLES

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- Ban on foreign travel by Seychelles citizens and residents, effective 23rd March 2020 until further notice
- Travel ban on foreigners arriving in Seychelles by sea from any marine vessel (will not be allowed to disembark)
- As of 10th March 2020, all cruise ships not allowed entry into Seychelles' waters until further notice
- All leisure boats not allowed entry into Seychelles' waters until further notice
- All Seychellois citizens returning from any country by sea to be subjected to additional health screening and placed under obligatory quarantine for at least 14 days upon arrival.
- All foreign workers holding a Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) and outside of Seychelles as of 20th March 2020, not allowed to return until further notice. No new GOPs to be issued.
- Closure of all public schools and day cares centres on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue until further notice, including all post-secondary institutions, the University of Seychelles and the Guy Morel Institute.
- Improvement of handling capacity of quarantine and treatment facilities, including the finalization of a programme to receive additional human resource support if necessary.
- Lockdown of Seychelles International Airport is closed to international passenger flights until 30th April 2020 with the exception of:
  - Repatriation flights of foreign nationals from the Seychelles;
  - Emergency diversions and;
  - Special mission flights that are specifically approved (cargo/medevac)
- Reinforcement of measures and controls since 6th April 2020 at the Port, including new maritime surveillance measures that mandate the use of tracking systems such as VMS, on all vessels at all times; failure of which will be a punishable offence under the law.

- Temporary closure of all construction companies to stop the transportation of large groups of construction workers.

- Since midnight of 9th April 2020, movement of people restricted during the day except for essential services of which a list has been published and special pass has been made available.

*Additional measures include:*

- Non-essential workers advised to stay at home and work from home.

- Members of the public restricted from leaving homes and moving on the roads until 4th May 2020 except for purposes of accessing essential services such as, to buy food, for medical assistance, to go to the bank, amongst others.

- As of 17th April 2020, movement of people restricted from 7pm in the evening till 6am in the morning until 4th May 2020. Only the police with the support of the army and certain key workers in critical services to be allowed on the road.

- A list of these critical services has been published by the Public Health Commissioner. Additional measures include:

- Closure of all shops from 6pm in the evening until 6.30am the next morning until 4th May 2020.

- Closure of all shops and businesses that do not sell groceries and food.

- All public gatherings which attract crowds or comprise social distancing, strictly forbidden and no permission to be granted by the police for any public gatherings. This applies to places, which include, but are not limited to:

- Religious services and gatherings at all locations;

- Public meetings;

- Cinemas and theatres;

- Musical shows and concerts;

- Bars, nightclubs, discotheques and casinos;

- Parties, celebrations and large functions;

- Fun fairs, fancy fairs and bring and buy sales;

- Political gatherings;

- Beach parties and picnics;

- Matches, sporting competitions and other sporting events; and

- Any other close-contact events and gatherings.

- Conduct of funeral procedures at the cemetery under strict guidelines as set out by the Department of Health.

- Amended budget presented by Minister of Finance to National Assembly on 7th April 2020 as a move to reconsider and reprioritize Government spending for the year in light of the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget also caters for economic and social support that the Government intends to provide to private sector and the most vulnerable people over a defined period of time.

- On 8 April 2020, Central Bank of Seychelles Governor announced the disbursement of US\$10 million out of the country's international reserves of US\$591 million to assist the domestic market.

- The government announced measures to subsidize wages for companies facing distress caused by COVID-19

- On 20 March 2020, Government announced reduction of loan repayments for six months.

- Tax payments due in March postponed until September.

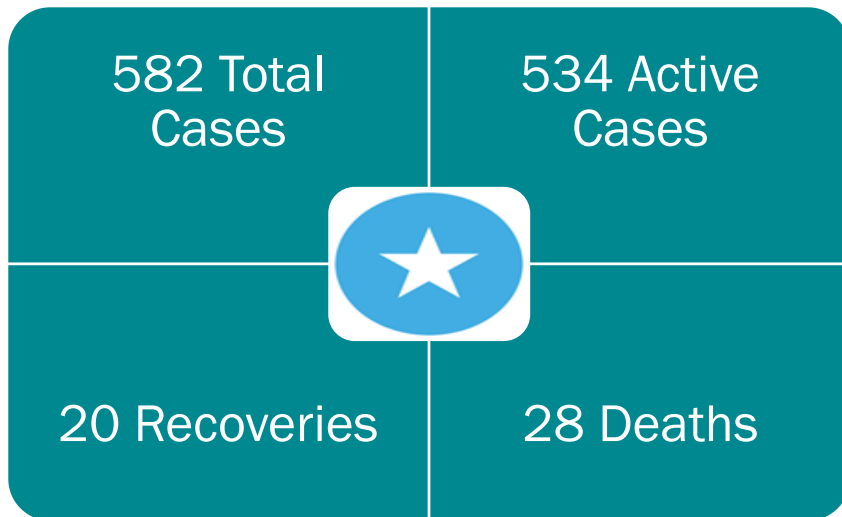
- The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) reduced the policy rate by 100 bps to 4 percent on March

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)
- Maturity of credit to commercial banks extended to 3 years.

## SOMALIA

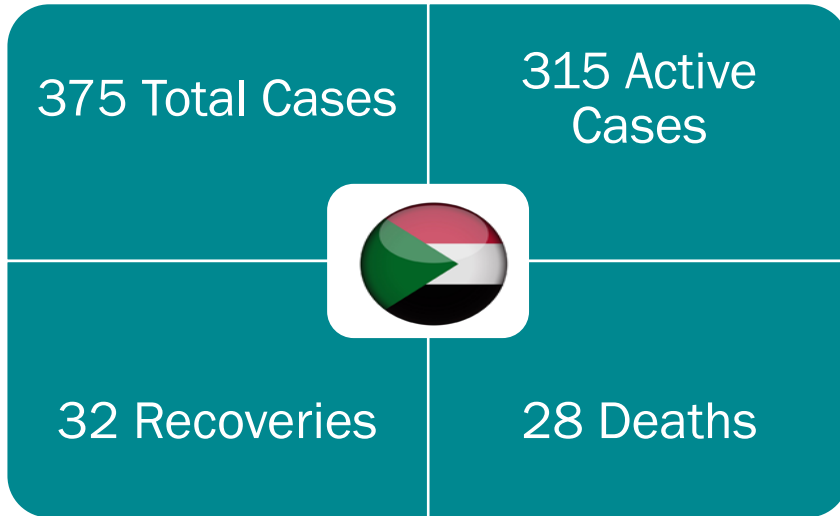
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- All educational institutions both private and public closed. Large gatherings prohibited.
- Public meetings banned.
- A night curfew declared on 15th April 2020 for Mogadishu and to be observed between 7:00 and 5:00 a.m. The curfew prohibits opening of business premises and traffic. However, shops selling dry foods, hospitals, and pharmacies are exempted.
  - Minibuses which usually carry 15 passengers will only be allowed to carry 10 in order to reduce congestion in public transport vehicles.
  - International and domestic commercial flights suspended with exceptions for humanitarian flights.
    - Cancellation of all flights except medical equipment and foodstuff flights
    - Restriction on imported KHAT to Somalia from our neighboring countries (Kenya and Ethiopia)
    - National health institutions -assisted by WHO - to conduct case findings and contact tracing, testing and treatment, and quarantine activities.
    - A toll-free number 449 has been set up for the public to seek advice and report suspected cases of COVID-19 across the country.
    - Banned re-export of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to domestic shortages.
      - 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. 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

# SUDAN

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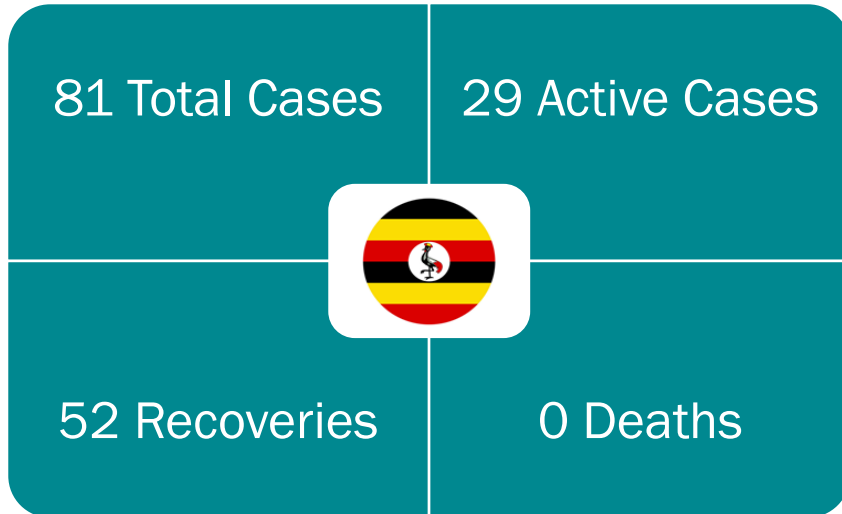
- Prime Minister issued Emergency Order No. 1 of 2020 which criminalizes attacks on health personnel, smuggling, and illegal hoarding of good and medicines
- Suspension of visa issuance and flight services to countries listed by WHO as the most affected (Korea, China, Italy, Iran, France, Spain, Japan, and Egypt) from 12 March to 23 April
- Closure of three border crossing points with Egypt, dispatch of medical teams and security forces to the border areas with Egypt and halting bus trips to Egypt; and following a state of emergency declared on 16th March, a shutdown of all ports of entry.
- Ban on political and social events or gatherings beginning 14 March, including the postponement of the National Economic Conference, scheduled for 29-31 March.
- Closure of schools, universities, religious institutes, universities, colleges and higher institutes for one month beginning 14 March.
- Introduction of a curfew in the whole country from 24 March 2020 (08:00 pm until 06:00 am) until further notice. From 31 March, the hours of the mandatory nationwide curfew were extended to 12 hours to between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- 21-day lockdown of Khartoum State and nearby city of Omdurman beginning 18 April 2020.
- Postponement of basic certification exams in all states until further notice.
- Measures introduced to shorten the time worshipers spent in mosques to avoid crowding.
- 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.
- Introduction of one-month mandatory self-quarantine beginning 19 March 2020 for Sudanese arriving from abroad.
- Release of 4,217 prisoners on 25 March at al-Hoda prison in the city of Omdurman.
- Halt to inter-city and long-haul bus travels beginning 26 March (from 6 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.).
- Establishment of a national fund to collect donations to combat the pandemic.



- Daily reporting has been activated at 10 points of entry: Northern, Red Sea, Khartoum, Kassala, Gedarif and West Darfur states; seaports, airports and ground crossings.
- Only scheduled flights of goods and humanitarian supplies and medical supplies are permitted
- Ban on maize exports from 15 March until further notice.
- Local transport within Sudan allowed including 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.

# UGANDA

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- A total lockdown extended for 21 days from 15th April to 5th May
- Testing of all truck drivers entering the country from all entry points in place including testing the crew of cargo planes
- Closure of all schools and educational institutions of higher learning for 30 days effective 20th March 2020
- Suspension of religious gatherings including Friday prayers in mosques, Sunday church services for 30 days effective 18th March 2020
- Ban of all international flights and closure of all borders including land, sea for a period of 21 days effective 22nd March 2020 and extended to 5th May
- All incoming travelers are quarantined at designated facilities for 14 days
- Suspension of political and cultural public meetings, rallies, conferences, by-elections
- Public gatherings limited to a maximum of 5 persons
- Ban of exercising in public places (especially jogging) to enforce social distancing. People advised to exercise from their homes.
- Ban of all public and private transport except cargo and the transport of essential services for fourteen days effective 30th March 2020
- Presidential directive to allow free movement of cargo within the country and across borders in 12 hours. Empty trucks, however, allowed to move during the night across the border to reduce the queues. Cross border pedestrian traffic prohibited
- 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 border
- no major impact on truck movement
- Construction sites should continue if they can be able to encamp their workers for the entire period of the lockdown
- All shopping malls, Arcades and shops to suspend operation for 14 days effective 30th March.

- Those selling food items and supermarkets exempted but must strictly adhere to SOPs
- Curfew starting from 1900hrs to 0600hrs for 14 days effective 30th March 2020 now extended to 5th May
- Civil servants to stay and work from home
- Food markets allowed to operate subject to adherence of strict standard operating procedures including the vendors staying at their workplaces for the duration of the lockdown
- Reduction of fees on mobile money transactions and other digital payment charges in order to limit the use of cash and increase daily transactions limits for Mobile Money
- Intervening in the foreign exchange market by the Central Bank to save the shilling from depreciation and to smoothen out excess volatility arising from the impact of COVID-19 on the global financial markets
- Central Bank to provide exceptional liquidity assistance to financial institutions for a period of one year for those who need it. This measure will enable financial institutions to have sufficient liquidity to assist businesses which are being directly impacted by COVID-19
- The movement of cargo trucks and cargo flights in and out of the country permitted despite the total lockdown currently being enforced.
- Container depots in Kampala operational.