

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - Sub Saharan Africa



This report summarises the major changes in the region for the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker's [Containment and Health Index](#), providing a high level overview of shifts in government policies.

OxCGRT is created by the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. For more information visit www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker.

REGION	Sub-Saharan Africa
Date range	15-30 July 2020
Reported by	Jessica Anania

Brief summary of major changes:

Sub-Saharan African states reflect diverse COVID-19 responses, as some states begin easing lockdown measures while other states strengthen lockdown policies. The Democratic Republic of Congo continues to relax its State of Emergency, which has been in place since 24 March. From 22 July, bars, restaurants, shops, and other businesses have been allowed to reopen; public transport has resumed; and large gatherings are now permitted. The government also announced plans to reopen schools and universities starting 3 August. In Namibia, Stage 4 measures taking effect 29 June have continued to allow for the reopening of businesses, including nightclubs and casinos nationwide, with the exception of the Erongo region. Togo has allowed approximately 10% of religious services to resume. Starting 15 July, Cape Verde has allowed domestic travel by air and sea to restart. Travel declarations, and – in the cases of Sal and Santiago island – a COVID-19 test within 72 hours, are required for passengers.

While some countries have eased restrictions, others have tightened lockdown measures amidst rising COVID-19 cases. Gambia extended its State of Emergency for another week from 15 July. Guinea extended its Health State of Emergency through to 15 August, continuing the closure of businesses including bars, cinemas, and service industry establishments and the restriction of internal travel between Conakry and other cities. Despite this, the Gbessia International Airport in Conakry has gradually reopened to commercial air travel based on reciprocity, with masks required at all times on airplanes and within the airport. From 19 July, Lesotho implemented sweeping restrictions, including the closure of schools, the closure of churches and parks, the banning of political rallies and contact sports, the restriction of factories to 50% employee capacity, and the limiting of gatherings to 30 people.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COD: Government announced plans to reopen schools and universities on 3 August marking a relaxation of the State of Emergency put in place 24 March.• LSO: From midnight 19 July, schools and initiation schools (cultural educational institutions) are closed in order to control COVID-19 spread. <p>MOZ: A previously announced decision to reopen schools by 27 July was reversed: school reopening will be delayed in order to improve water and sanitation infrastructure in schools over 90 days.</p>
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Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAM: School reopening continues in phases, with several grades resuming face-to-face teaching from 20 July. • TGO: The government authorized public and private higher education institutions to partially reopen in order to complete face-to-face teaching prior to exams. Social distancing guidelines must be respected.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COD: Gradual easing of lockdown from 22 July allows for shops, bars, cafes, banks, restaurants and other businesses to reopen. • GIN: Workplace closures, including bars, cinemas, and other service industry businesses extended. Health State of Emergency declared through 15 August. • NAM: Stage 4 measures adopted from midnight 29 June allow for the reopening of nightclubs and casinos (to pre-booked clients) with consumption of alcohol on premises only, mandatory face masks, and capacity limits. Measures expected to last until 17 September. Applicable to all of Namibia, except for the Erongo region in which nightclubs and casinos remain closed. • LSO: Factories allowed to remain open but only at 50% employee capacity. • UGA: Forty-eight shopping arcades in Kampala allowed to reopen after meeting operating procedures.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COD: From 22 July State of Emergency ends, allowing social events, meetings, and other public and private gatherings to resume. • LSO: From midnight 19 July, churches and parks closed, and political rallies and contact sports banned. • TCD: Sporting events are allowed to resume from 15 July, without public participation. • TGO: Around 10% of places of worship allowed to reopen, with social distancing and hand washing requirements in place.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COD: From 22 July, "large gatherings" are permitted. • LSO: Gatherings limited to a maximum of 30 people beginning midnight 19 July. • NAM: Gatherings of up to 250 people allowed across the country, except for Erongo region. In the Erongo region, gatherings are restricted to maximum 50 people, except for Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Arandis, where gatherings are limited to ten people. • NGA: Plans to allow religious gatherings in Lagos state from 19 July suspended amidst increasing COVID-19 cases.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COD: Public transport resumes as state of emergency lifts 22 July. • NAM: Public transport is open; however, face masks are required.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	No major changes recorded.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWA: Domestic flights remain suspended. • COD: Domestic travel by air, land, and river from Kinshasa to the provinces remains suspended. • CPV: From 15 July, domestic travel by air and sea is allowed to resume. Prior to any travel, individuals must fill out a self-declaration form, and prior to travel to Sal and Santiago island, individuals must take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of travel.

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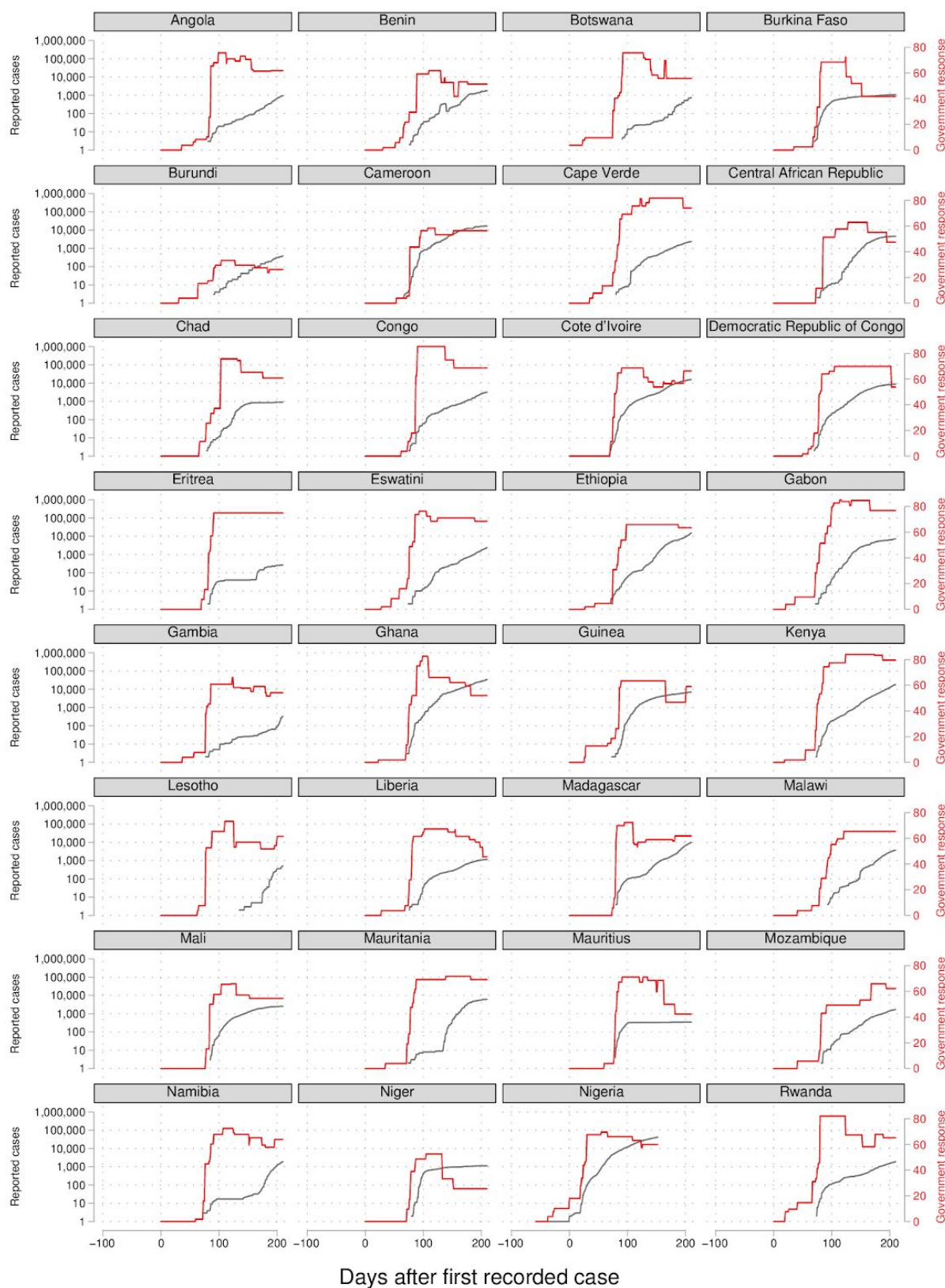


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIN: Travel between Conakry and other cities is restricted, and a curfew is in place between 10pm – 5am nationally. • NAM: Internal travel between the Erongo region now permitted from 29 June, with the exception of Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Arandis where travel is restricted only to emergency situations. • SDN: Internal travel continues to be allowed, with the 6pm – 6am curfew in Khartoum, announced 8 July, still in place.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIV: Commercial air travel open. All travelers must arrange a visa prior to departure (e-visas are not operational), complete air travel declaration form, comply with the medical monitoring system (temperature and registering contact details), and advised to quarantine for 14 days in their own accommodation. • COD: Government announced plans to reopen airports, ports, and borders from 15 August. • LSO: Border movement remains prohibited for foreign visitors, except for personnel working with COVID-19 equipment. • GIN: With the Health State of Emergency extended through 15 August, all land borders remain closed. However, Gbessia International Airport in Conakry is gradually reopening to commercial flights based on reciprocity.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAM: Government reported increased case search and testing capacity in a 18 July report, averaging 300 daily in past weeks.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIV: Arrivals are registered and asked to quarantine at home for 14 days, with follow-up for compliance and symptom monitoring. • NAM: Businesses continue to be required to keep a register of customers, including contact details, to assist with possible contact tracing.

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Cases vs Government Response Index:



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