

# 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](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker).

<b>REGION</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Date range</b>	8 Sept - 21 Sept
<b>Reported by</b>	Jessica Anania

### Brief summary of major changes:

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, countries continue to implement varied COVID-19 policies. Broad trends, however, include the gradual reopening of schools, with numerous countries, such as Botswana and Malawi, implementing phased restarts to classes. Workplace closures have remained static in the last few weeks, although Rwanda has now implemented fines for private businesses caught using more than 50% of their staff. Rwanda has also put fines in place for people hosting large events or parties.

Despite easing lockdown on 20 September, Uganda continues to enforce strict limits on gathering size (maximum five people), a 9pm - 6 am curfew, a ban on public exercise, and closure of numerous workplaces including bars and cinemas. Masks are mandatory outside the home for anyone over age six. Both Uganda and Rwanda have been highlighted by [the Lancet](#) for their success in achieving suppression of COVID-19.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Botswana:</b> Schools continue to reopen, prioritizing examinations.</li><li>• <b>Cote d'Ivoire:</b> Primary and secondary schools continue to remain open across the country.</li><li>• <b>Malawi:</b> Continues a phased reopening of its schools, announced 28 August, with priority given to examination classes and final-year university students. Phase 1 of reopening began 7 September. Phase 2 began 20 September, allowing for staggered reopening of colleges, universities and international schools.</li><li>• <b>Eswatini:</b> Reopened Cambridge examination classes 14 September.</li><li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> The Information, Publicity, and Broadcasting Services Minister announced that all students will move on to the next</li></ul>
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	grade, with no 'repeats' of grades or courses in order to prevent academic pathways from becoming backlogged.
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Private businesses caught using more than 50% of their existing employees now face fines of 150,000 Rwandan francs (about USD \$155).</li> <li>• <b>South Sudan:</b> Hotels, shops, restaurants, and businesses are open under condition of strict social distancing – however, there is concern that such measures are not regularly observed.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Initial lockdown measures relaxed as of 20 September; however, casinos, gaming centers, cinemas and bars remain closed.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mauritania:</b> 'Large' gatherings and religious services permitted.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Public exercise remains banned. Open air sports allowed after 20 September without spectators.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Fines (200,000 Rwandan Francs, or approximately USD \$207) now in place for people who host events or other mass gatherings, including birthday parties and baby showers.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Continues to restrict event size to 5 people.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> Public transport now operating at full capacity, but in adherence to WHO guidelines.</li> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Public transport between the capital, Kigali, and other districts suspended.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Madagascar:</b> Curfew continues in the capital, Antananarivo, it has been relaxed elsewhere in the nation.</li> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> A night curfew enforced for fifteen days from 7pm to 5am, from 3 September to 18 September. This was later changed to 9pm to 5am.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eswatini:</b> Roadblocks between cities with temperature checks; vehicles cannot carry more than fifty percent of their allotted passenger capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> As of the 20 September lockdown easing, curfew remains in place from 9pm to 6am.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eritrea:</b> Borders are officially closed, as is Asmara international airport.</li> <li>• <b>South Sudan:</b> Land borders are officially open, but due to restrictions from neighboring counties, they effectively remain closed.</li> </ul>

Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database [www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)

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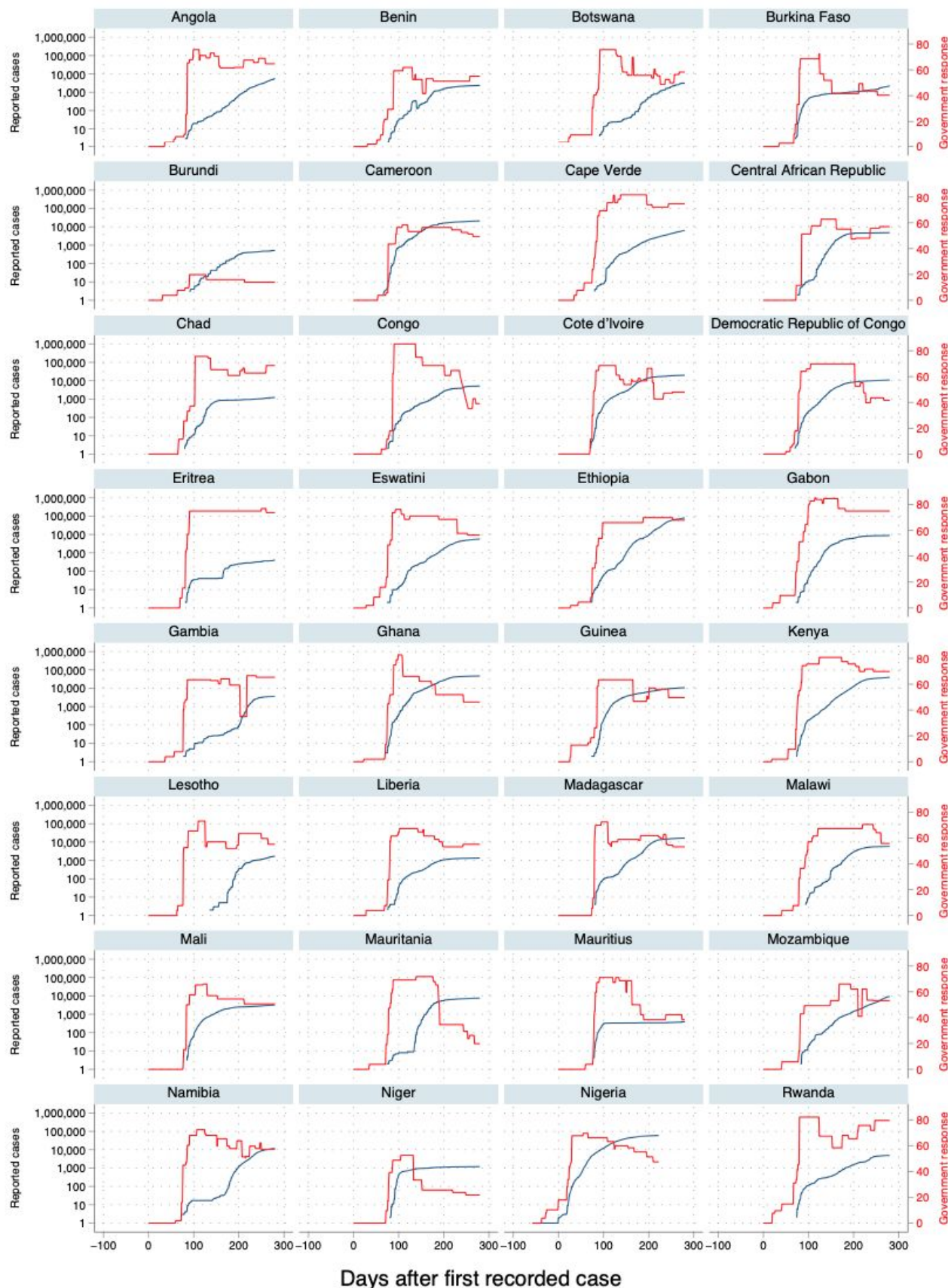


<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Burkina Faso:</b> All COVID-19 testing continues to be free. Testing centers are contracted by the government and include locations in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso.</li></ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Botswana:</b> Contact tracing efforts remain strong in accordance with advice and directives from the national government.</li></ul>

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### Cases vs Government Response Index:





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