

# 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>	1-31 January
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### Brief summary of major changes:

In January, many Sub-Saharan African countries restricted movement both domestically and internationally. Curfews continue or were implemented in Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. Lockdowns were also put in place in the Rwandan capital of Kigali and the Senegalese regions of Dakar and Thiès. International arrivals from countries with new COVID-19 variants – primarily the United Kingdom and South Africa – now face further restrictions in both the Gambia and Mauritius. Sudan, however, diverged from this trend by lifting a ban on travelers from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and South Africa from 13 January.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kenya:</b> From 14 January, Schools reopen at all levels across Kenya with safety measures.</li> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective 4 January, The Government of Lesotho announced schools will reopen for grades 10 and 11 under COVID 19 guidance. And will be followed by staggered reopening for other grades. However, on 6 January, the government immediately closed all schools and moved the country to harsher.</li> <li>● <b>Mali:</b> 11 January, all restrictions have been lifted in Mali.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> 12 January The Ministry of education, announced that schools will be opened despite increasing COVID cases however 17 January, the president of Malawi has announced that all schools will close for three weeks, but students in boarding schools will remain in their respective campuses until health authorities assess the severity of infection in those schools to determine whether it is safe for those students to go home.</li> <li>● <b>Namibia:</b> 26 January, face to face learning is to resume after all schools were closed on January 19.</li> <li>● <b>Rwanda:</b> From 18 January, the government closed all nursery, primary and secondary schools in Kigali for two weeks.</li> <li>● <b>Seychelles:</b> On 23 January, the government announced that all schools remain closed until further notice.</li> <li>● <b>Zimbabwe:</b> The reopening of schools was postponed indefinitely</li> </ul>
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<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gabon:</b> While the health emergency – originally declared 10 December – was extended through January, hotels and restaurants with outdoor terraces have been allowed to reopen.</li> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective 6 January, Further workplace restrictions were announced by the Lesotho government including: entertainment industry required to close, textile and manufacturing Industries at 50% capacity with day and night shifts, restaurants to operate with takeaways only, and essential stores like supermarkets to close at 6PM, with COVID guidance in place.</li> <li>● <b>Mali:</b> Effective 11 January, all lockdown restrictions have been lifted.</li> <li>● <b>Mauritania:</b> From 11 January, all government offices will work from 8 am to 4pm instead of 9 am to 5pm.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> From 17 January, the President of Malawi announced that all drinking places must close at 8pm, and must not allow consumption of their goods on their premises. All other workplaces are instructed to work from home for the next three weeks and in case that is not possible, Employers must reorganize their employees to work in shifts.</li> <li>● <b>Rwanda:</b> On 18 January, the government brought the capital Kigali back to a lockdown. The lockdown measures include business closure and working from home, except for those providing essential services.</li> <li>● <b>Seychelles:</b> On 3 January, the government closed all businesses with the exception for grocery shops until 13 January. Hardware stores are allowed to operate until midday. On 23 January, the government announced early closures of shops - until 6 pm during weekdays, and until 3 pm during weekends.</li> <li>● <b>Sierra Leone:</b> From January 25, all restaurants and bars were banned from operating during weekends.</li> <li>● <b>Zimbabwe:</b> From 21 January to 3 February, all ministries, government departments and agencies operate with 10 percent of their staff in the office. Whereas restaurants and bars have been shut down.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective 6 January, all public events have been cancelled. Except, church services with a maximum of 50 people inside and 100 people outside and mask-wearing requirements.</li> <li>● <b>Mali:</b> Effective 11 January, all lockdown restrictions are lifted.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> From 13 January, cancellation or postponement of all major public events was announced on social media.</li> <li>● <b>Senegal:</b> On 7 January, the government banned all public meetings and large gatherings in Dakar and Thies regions.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective 4 January, the government made announcements to limit gatherings to less than a 100 and in outdoor settings while observing Social distancing protocol. Alcohol was banned.</li> <li>● <b>Mauritania:</b> From 11 January, gatherings for the prayers at the most have been banned.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> Effective 17 January, Religious gatherings and all gatherings in general must have no more than 50 people under the strictest Covid-19 compliance certified and regulated by the local Council.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Senegal:</b> On 7 January, the government banned gatherings at hotels, bars, beaches, sports grounds, theatres, and public spaces in Dakar and Thies regions.</li> <li>● <b>Seychelles:</b> From 23 January, visits outside the immediate household are banned, social gatherings are not permitted.</li> <li>● <b>South Africa:</b> On 11 January, the government banned social gatherings, religious gatherings, political events, traditional council meetings, and gatherings at sports grounds.</li> <li>● <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Funerals are limited to 30 people while gatherings such as weddings and church services have been banned for 30 days.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gabon:</b> Public transportation resumed nationwide; however, limits on passenger numbers remain in place.</li> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> 12 January, public transport services i.e., Minibuses, taxis, and bus services are operating at reduced levels subject to social distancing and mandatory use of face masks for passengers and drivers.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> Effective 17 January, The Malawi Government Instructed that public transport capacity should be at 60% and all passengers should wear masks.</li> <li>● <b>Rwanda:</b> On 18 January, the government suspended public transport in the capital Kigali.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Côte d'Ivoire:</b> State of emergency was extended on 21 January until 28 February, with social distancing and non-essential movement discouraged.</li> <li>● <b>Democratic Republic of Congo:</b> Nationwide curfew remains in effect from 9pm to 5am.</li> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective from,6 January, a curfew has been introduced from 05:00 am to 20:00 pm.</li> <li>● <b>Mauritania:</b> From 5 January, a nationwide curfew across the country from 8pm to 6am is introduced.</li> <li>● <b>Namibia:</b> From 19 January, a nationwide curfew is in place between 9:00 pm and 4:00 am daily.</li> <li>● <b>Rwanda:</b> On 18 January, the government increased the hours of a nationwide curfew, and now it runs from 6 pm until 4 am.</li> <li>● <b>Senegal:</b> On 5 January, the government introduced curfew from 9 pm to 5 am in Dakar and Thies regions. On 18 January, the curfew was extended at least eight days.</li> <li>● <b>Seychelles:</b> On 3 January, the government banned visits to hospitals and elderly people's homes. On 23 January, the government introduced a curfew from 8 pm to 4 am. During the curfew, no one is allowed to be on the road, except for essential workers who will be granted permits.</li> <li>● <b>Sierra Leone:</b> On 25 January, a nationwide curfew from 10 pm until 5 am came into effect.</li> <li>● <b>South Africa:</b> On 11 January, a nationwide curfew was shortened by an hour and now it runs from 9 pm until 5 am.</li> <li>● <b>Zimbabwe:</b> The government introduced a nationwide curfew from 6 pm until 6 am.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Beginning 12 January, restrictions for internal movement have been put in place.</li> <li>● <b>Rwanda:</b> On 18 January, the government banned travel between the capital Kigali and other provinces and districts, except for</li> </ul>

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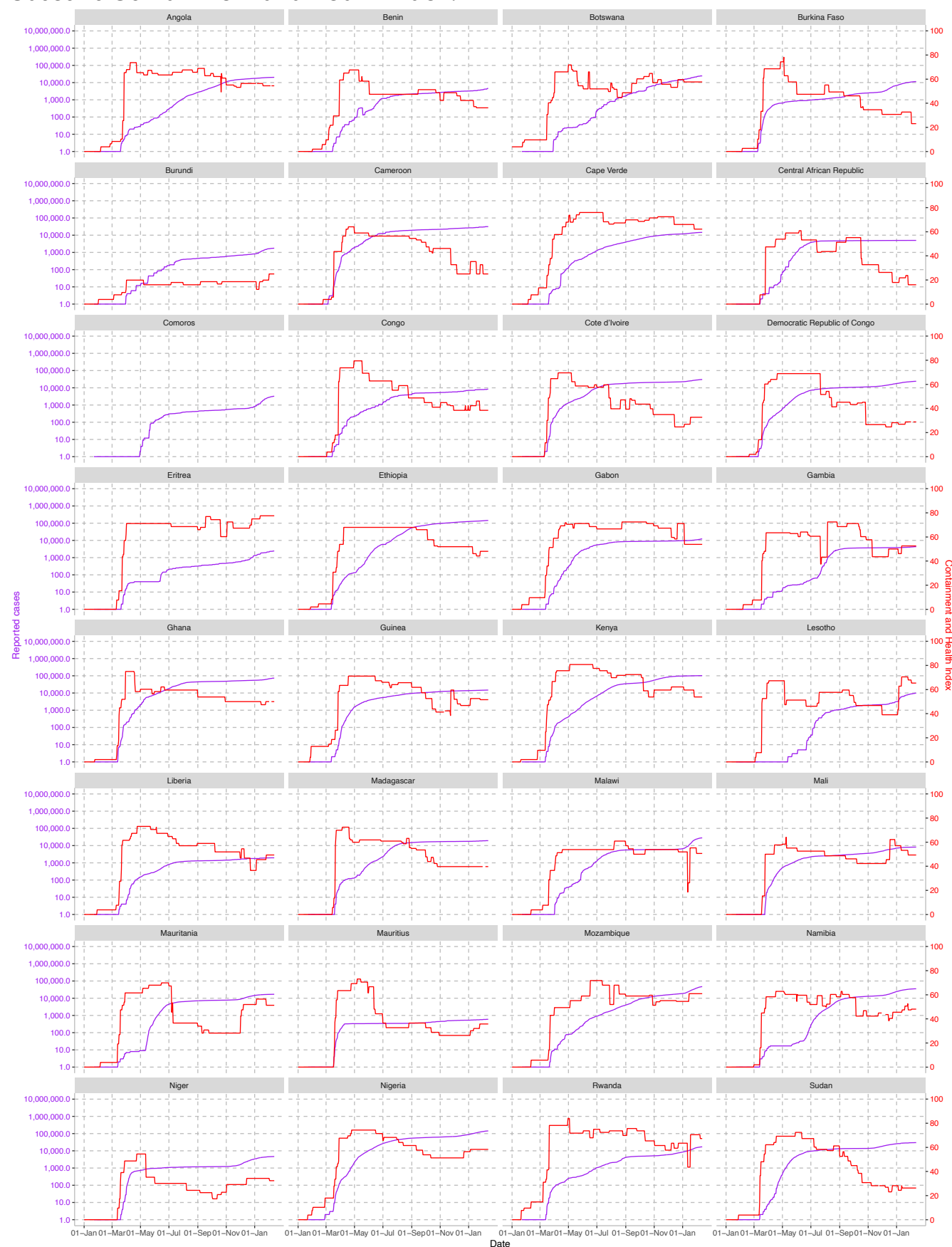


	<p>essential services and tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sierra Leone:</b> From 25 January, entry and exit from the Western Area - the territory corresponding to Freetown and its surroundings – are restricted.</li> <li>● <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Intercity travel has been banned with borders open only to commercial cargo and vehicles transiting to other countries.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gabon:</b> Travelers must show a negative COVID-19 test from within 14 days to travel between cities.</li> <li>● <b>Gambia:</b> From 9 January, travelers from countries where new strains of COVID-19 have been identified must be tested upon arrival and undergo a mandatory quarantine at their own cost, in addition to meeting the requirement of a negative PCR test within 72 hours of departure.</li> <li>● <b>Lesotho:</b> Effective 6 January, The Prime Minister announced the closure Lesotho's land borders and suspended all flights at least through February 3, 2021, with limited movement across borders except for essential goods and services, diplomats, funerals, migrant workers, students, medical reasons.</li> <li>● <b>Malawi:</b> From 12 January, all land borders remain closed and International travel is operating in limited capacity under increased symptomatic screening. All incoming travelers are expected to present a negative test within the last 10days.</li> <li>● <b>Namibia:</b> From 19 January. All non-Namibian travelers must present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result that is not older than 7 days. They will not be required to be quarantined or to be subjected to another test including when exiting Namibia. Namibian citizens may enter Namibia with or without any result. In the absence of any result, they will be subjected to a 7-days quarantine and testing at own cost.</li> <li>● <b>Seychelles:</b> On 3 January, the government announced that all incoming travelers, both foreigners and Seychellois will stay for 10 mandatory days in a facility either a quarantine one of a tourist accommodation before doing a PCR test.</li> <li>● <b>South Africa:</b> On 11 January, the government announced a land border closure until 15 February that includes six busiest border posts - Beitbridge, Lebombo, Maseru Bridge, Oshoek, Ficksburg and Kopfontein.</li> <li>● <b>Sudan:</b> On 13 January, the government lifted a ban on travelers coming from Britain, the Netherlands, and South Africa until April 11.</li> </ul>
<b>H1: Public Information cam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No Major Changes recorded.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Liberia:</b> On 5 January, the ministry of health announced free sample collection for all non-travelers.</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No Major changes recorded.</li> </ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Namibia:</b> From 24 January, wearing face masks correctly at all times in public spaces including on public transport has been mandated.</li> <li>● <b>Nigeria:</b> From 5 January, Required outside-the-home at all times</li> </ul>

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### Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker> or [bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](https://bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)

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

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