

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	1- 31 October, 2020
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Brief summary of major changes:

COVID-19 response continues to vary widely across the Sub-Saharan African continent. Several countries, including Gabon, Angola, and Guinea, have had 'State of Emergency' or 'State of Calamity' status extended. The beginning of October has also seen a swath of schools and universities reopening after a six-month shutdown in most Sub Saharan countries. Schools have reopened in countries including Cameroon, Gambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. However, school reopening was postponed nationally in Angola and locally in Cape Verde's capital city, Praia, amidst concerns over rising COVID-19 cases.

International travel remains a key cite of policy response. Madagascar - despite easing restrictions such as permitting public gatherings of up to 200 people, lifting curfews, and resuming in-person school teaching and domestic flights - has tightened controls over international travel by suspending flights from a number of European countries. Whereas Madagascar suspended international flights, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe have eased international travel restrictions from 1 October, and Cape Verde has allowed commercial flights and maritime travel from 12 October.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angola: Schools planned to reopen from 5 October; however, amid rising cases, school reopening was postponed as of 24 October.• Cameroon: Schools reopened from 5 October with safety requirements including mask-wearing and handwashing. However, concerns over COVID-19 safety compliance have been flagged.• Cape Verde: The reopening of schools in the capital city, Praia,
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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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	<p>postponed until at least November amidst concern over rising cases. Online instruction continues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gambia: Schools begin staggered reopening throughout October, with mask-wearing compulsory. ● Madagascar: Schools resumed normal operations with appropriate hygiene and distancing measures in place from October 5. ● Mozambique: 1 October, in-person classes for the 12th grade were resumed. ● Rwanda: Universities and other higher education institutions reopened on 12 October. ● Sierra Leone: 5 October, schools began reopening. ● South Africa: Primary school students are back in school and universities have permission to return to in-person teaching from 1 October. ● South Sudan: 5 October, schools began Phase 1 of reopening for Primary 8 and Senior 4. ● Zimbabwe: 26 October, Grade Six, Form Three and Form Five classes return to school for the first time since March.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No major changes recorded
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Madagascar: 5 October, the easing of public gathering restrictions is announced by permitting groups of up to 200 to gather for religious, cultural, and sporting events.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Angola: 'State of Calamity' extended from 9 October to 7 November, limiting gatherings to a maximum of 10 people in public and 15 people in homes. Public activities and meetings cannot exceed 150 people.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cameroon: Public transport now open with a mask requirement. ● Gabon: Public transport is fully open with mask-wearing and social distancing mandatory.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Madagascar: 5 October, curfews introduced in multiple areas of Madagascar were lifted, following a fall in the rate of new COVID-19 infections.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gabon: The State of Health Emergency extended for 45 days until 17 November. As part of the extension, a daily curfew is in place from 8 pm to 5am. ● Guinea: The State of Emergency was extended for a month from 15 October, resulting in a curfew from midnight to 4 am in the greater Conakry area. ● Madagascar: Domestic flights were resumed, and regional flights from other islands in the Indian Ocean region are permitted from 29 October.

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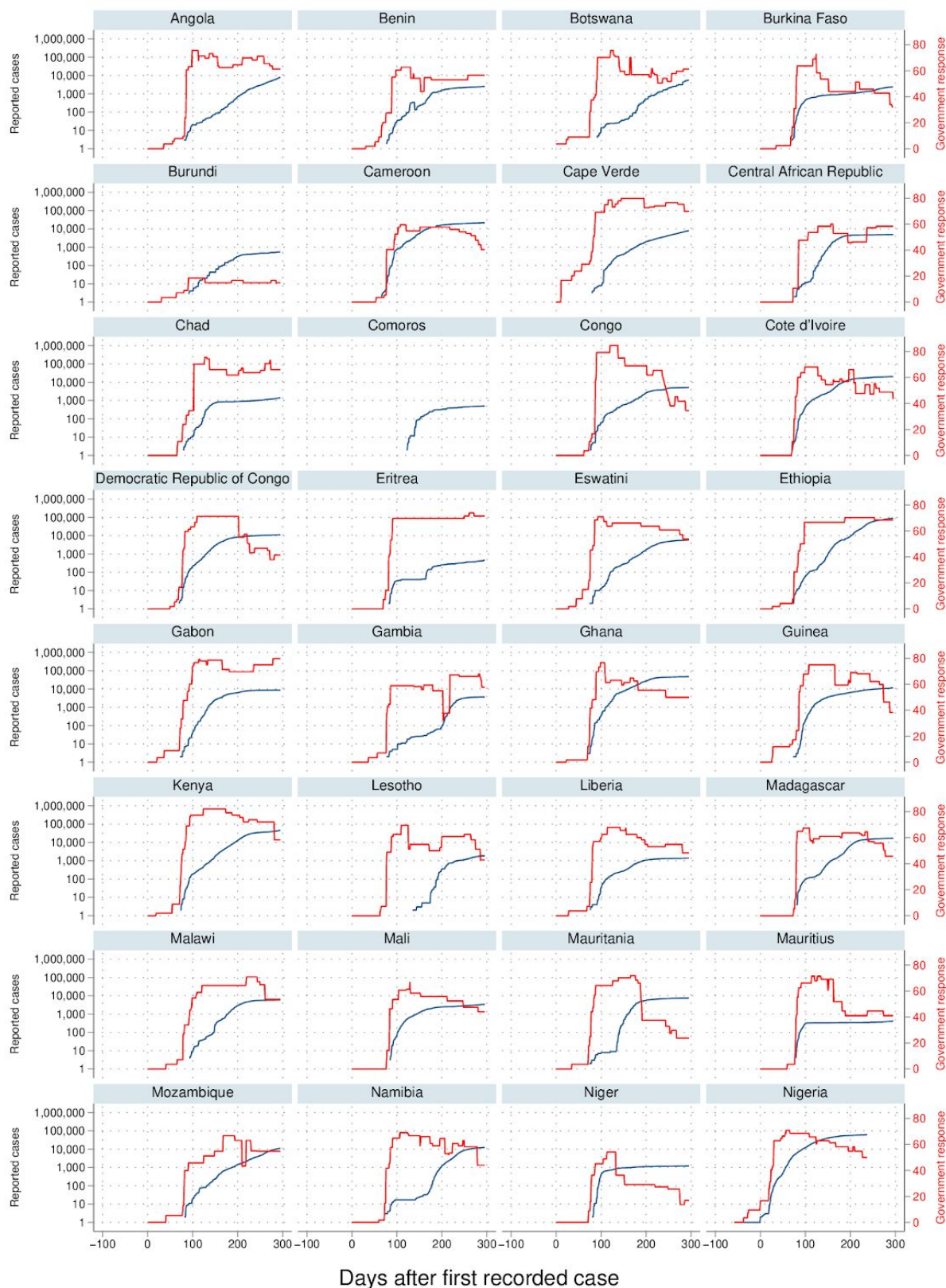
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C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Verde: From 12 October, commercial flights and international maritime transportation resume. Travelers must show a negative COVID-19 test at the time of check-in. • Madagascar: 22 October, Madagascar's Civil Aviation Authority imposed restrictions on travel to Madagascar from a number of countries. Tourist flights to/from the island of Nosy Be restarted on 1 October, but onward travel to the mainland of Madagascar is not permitted. • Mauritius: 1 October, Mauritius announced the phased easing of travel restrictions. Borders are open to Mauritian nationals, residents and tourists travelling to Mauritius for long stays. • Seychelles: From 1 October, Seychelles is currently admitting visitors from 35 countries, including Australia, Germany and Singapore. Visitors from France, the United Arab Emirates, and the UK are permitted to enter Seychelles subject to additional health security measures. • South Africa: Travelling into and out of South Africa for business, leisure and other travel is allowed from 1 October. • Zimbabwe: 1 October, international flights are resumed after a six-month suspension.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded
H6: Facial Coverings	No major changes recorded

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