

# 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 August 2021
<b>Reported by</b>	Akhila K Jayaram and Ehsan Rafian

## Brief summary of major changes:

COVID-19 restrictions remained largely unchanged in many Sub-Saharan African countries during the month of August. **Rwanda** has opened schools for students but applied restrictions on workplaces, places of worship, public transport and gatherings. **South Africa** has introduced mask-breaks for students every two hours. **Zimbabwe** has opened the vaccination eligibility to 14-17 years old children.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Namibia:</b> Schools reopened at full capacity from 15 August.</li> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Schools reopened on 2 August for all students.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Medical schools reopened on 13 August.</li> <li>• <b>Zambia:</b> Schools opened for grades 7-12 on 5 August for examination classes</li> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Schools opened on 30 August for students to take graduation exams for primary school, secondary school, and university.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Public offices may be staffed at 50% capacity, from 12 August; additionally, all businesses must close at 19:00.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> 20% of employees are allowed to return to the office, from 2 August.</li> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Restaurants are allowed to reopen for sit-in patrons who are fully vaccinated, beginning 25 August.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Places of worship were closed on 1 August, then reopened on 12 August, with a 30% occupancy limit.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Outdoor sports events are open, from 2 August.</li> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Churches can allow sit-in congregants who are fully vaccinated, from 11 August.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Funeral gatherings are restricted to 20 individuals, from 1 August. Wedding ceremonies were allowed to resume on 12 August, with a 50-person limit.</li> <li>• <b>Zambia:</b> Funerals were restricted to 50 individuals, beginning 2 August.</li> </ul>

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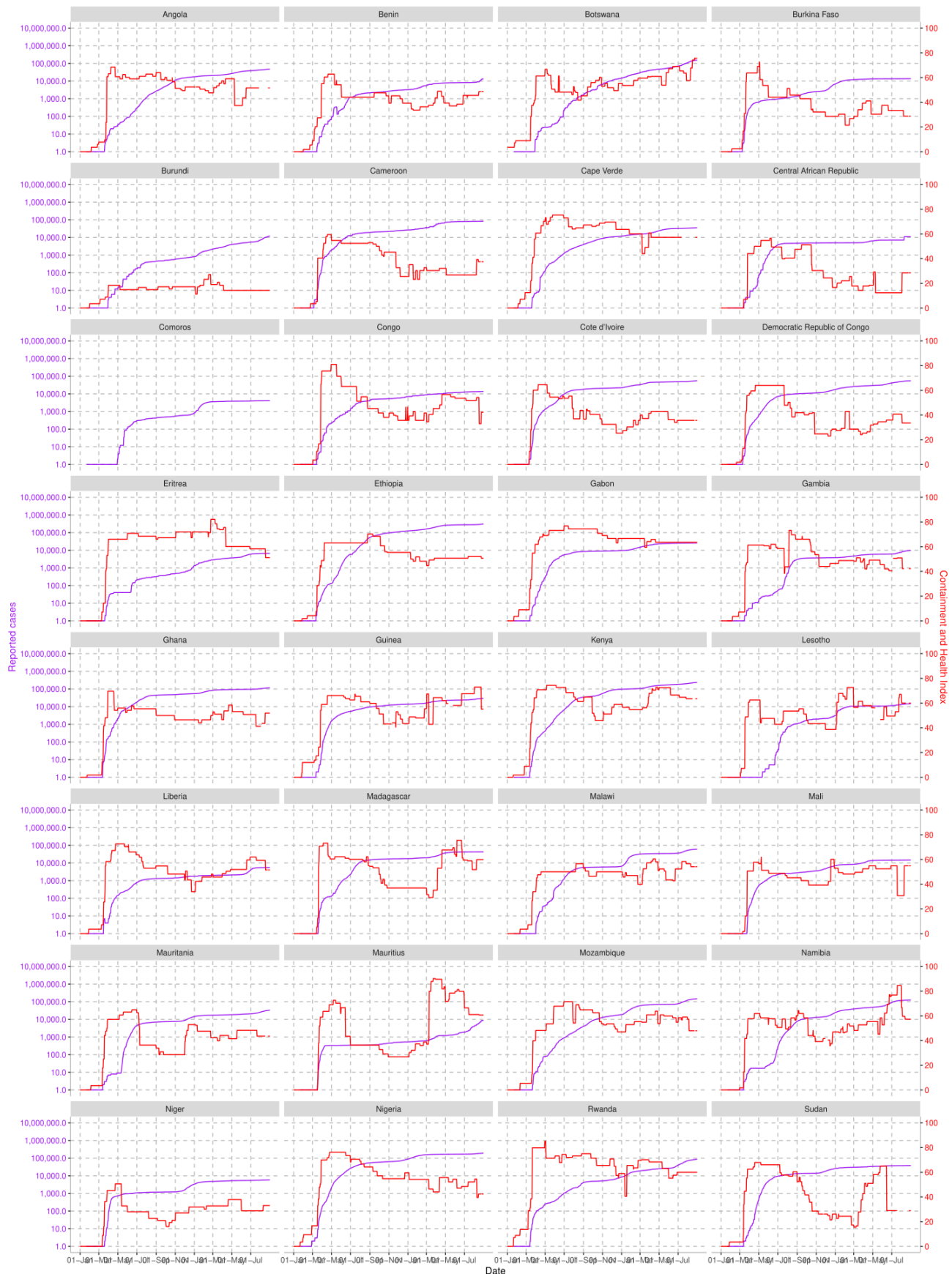
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Motorcycles are permitted to carry passengers, from 1 August; public transport should not exceed 75% of seating capacity, from 12 August.</li> <li>• <b>Uganda:</b> Public transport resumed on 2 August, limited to 50% capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Curfew was shortened to 20:00-04:00, from 12 August.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> Movements between Kigali and other districts (except those under localized lockdown) resumed on 1 August.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Victoria Falls land border with Zambia and Kazungula border post with Botswana were opened on 2 August for vaccinated tourists to visit Victoria Falls.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recorded</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>South Africa:</b> Primary schools are to grant "mask breaks" for students every two hours, beginning 2 August.</li> </ul>
<b>H7: Vaccination Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rwanda:</b> The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of vaccination began on 23 August, which expanded eligibility to individuals 18 years and older.</li> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> Vaccines were made available to children aged 14-17 years old, beginning 25 August.</li> </ul>
<b>H8: Protection of elderly people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recorded</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)

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