

# 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 March - 1 April
<b>Reported by</b>	Aidana Arynbeke & Meskerem Aleka Kebede

### Brief summary of major changes:

Government responses to the COVID-19 continue to vary across the Sub Saharan continent in March. One of the salient restrictions can be seen in **Kenya** and **Ghana**, where the governments announced lockdown on the local level. While the former introduced stringent new restrictions in counties of Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu, and Nakuru, the latter announced a lockdown on the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and the Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area.

Notable shifts in policy measures on the national level can be observed in **Kenya**, **Lesotho**, **Mauritius**, and **Sudan**, where the governments actively set new limits on gatherings to curb the spread of the COVID-19. Nevertheless, there are some countries that eased COVID-19 restrictions in March. **Eswatini**, **Lesotho**, **Mozambique**, and **Seychelles** allowed schools to teach face-to-face. Besides, a great variety of business activities have been allowed to resume in **Zimbabwe** and **Lesotho**.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eswatini:</b> Schools are permitted to reopen from 29 March, through blended and rotational approaches.</li> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> On 26 March, the government closed schools and universities.</li> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> Schools and colleges are permitted to open on a rotational basis to reduce numbers on site and in school transport.</li> <li>• <b>Mozambique:</b> On 7 March, face-to-face classes at all educational institutions are permitted to resume.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On 8 March, all schools are instructed to close in Mauritius.</li> <li>• <b>Seychelles:</b> On 15 March, all state schools resumed face to face teaching under reduced class sizes.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eswatini:</b> The sale of alcohol will be permitted for home consumption from 22 March between 9 am - 5 pm, Mondays to Thursdays.</li> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> On 26 March, the government confirmed that bars in the counties of Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu and Nakuru are closed.</li> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> Supermarkets, grocery shops, hardware stores, cafes and clothing stores are permitted to operate normally. Hair salons may operate an appointment-only service between 8 am and 8 pm. Off licenses can operate Monday to Friday between 8 am and 8 pm with take-out service only. All over the counter essential service providers are permitted to operate with 50% maximum staff capacity. Hotels and hotel restaurants may open at 100% capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On March 10, as part of a new set of restrictions, all activities will remain closed except for essential services.</li> <li>• <b>Somalia:</b> On 3 March, the government announced the closure of government offices and sports arenas for two weeks. After 23 March, hotels, restaurants, bars, and businesses are generally open but subject to strict hygiene and social distancing measures.</li> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> On 2 March, most economic activities have been allowed to resume.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> Large gatherings, congregational worship, conferences and political events have been suspended in the counties of Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu, and Nakuru.</li> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On 10 March, all religious and sociocultural activities are cancelled.</li> <li>• <b>Somalia:</b> On 3 March, all large public gatherings were banned for 30 days.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> Large gatherings and in-person meetings of any nature have been suspended in the counties of Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu, and Nakuru. In other counties, the maximum number of persons permitted to attend meetings or events has been capped at 15, while those permitted to attend funerals or</li> </ul>

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	<p>weddings have been capped respectively at 50 and 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> Conferences and workshops can be held but numbers are restricted to 50% of the conference venue capacity. Church services are permitted indoors only and with numbers limited to 50% capacity of the church. Weddings are permitted with a maximum of 50 guests and a maximum length of 2 hours, and pre-packed food only. Funerals are restricted to a maximum of 50 family members and 10 attendants for a maximum of 2 hours.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On 10 March, curfews have been put in place and limits to funerals and wedding ceremony attendees have been set.</li> <li>• <b>Sudan:</b> On 25 March, the Minister of Health has approved strict restrictions on gatherings.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> On 2 March, public transport is allowed to operate under the COVID-19 guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghana:</b> From 30 March, all individuals are advised to stay at home as much as possible for the next two weeks and are permitted to leave their homes for essential items.</li> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> From 26 March, the curfew in Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos, Kiambu and Nakuru counties is in effect from 8 pm to 4 am. The curfew for the rest of Kenya - from 10 pm to 4 am.</li> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> On 22 March, Lesotho reverted to "Blue Level" restrictions. A curfew is in place from 10 pm to 4 am.</li> <li>• <b>Senegal:</b> Effective March 19, curfews have been lifted.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghana:</b> From 30 March, a lockdown takes place in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and the Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area. Inter-city travel for private and commercial purposes, except for essential goods and services, has been suspended.</li> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> From 28 March, a cessation of all movement by road into or out of Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos, Kiambu and Nakuru counties was imposed.</li> <li>• <b>Lesotho:</b> Lesotho reverted to "Blue Level" restrictions on 22 March. Movement across the Lesotho border remains prohibited except for essential goods and services, business people and truck drivers, migrant workers/pensioners, medical emergencies (with permits), funerals for parents, children, siblings and grandparents students, daily commuting students and teachers, diplomats.</li> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On 10 March, restrictions and roadblocks on interstate</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/lesotho/coronavirus>

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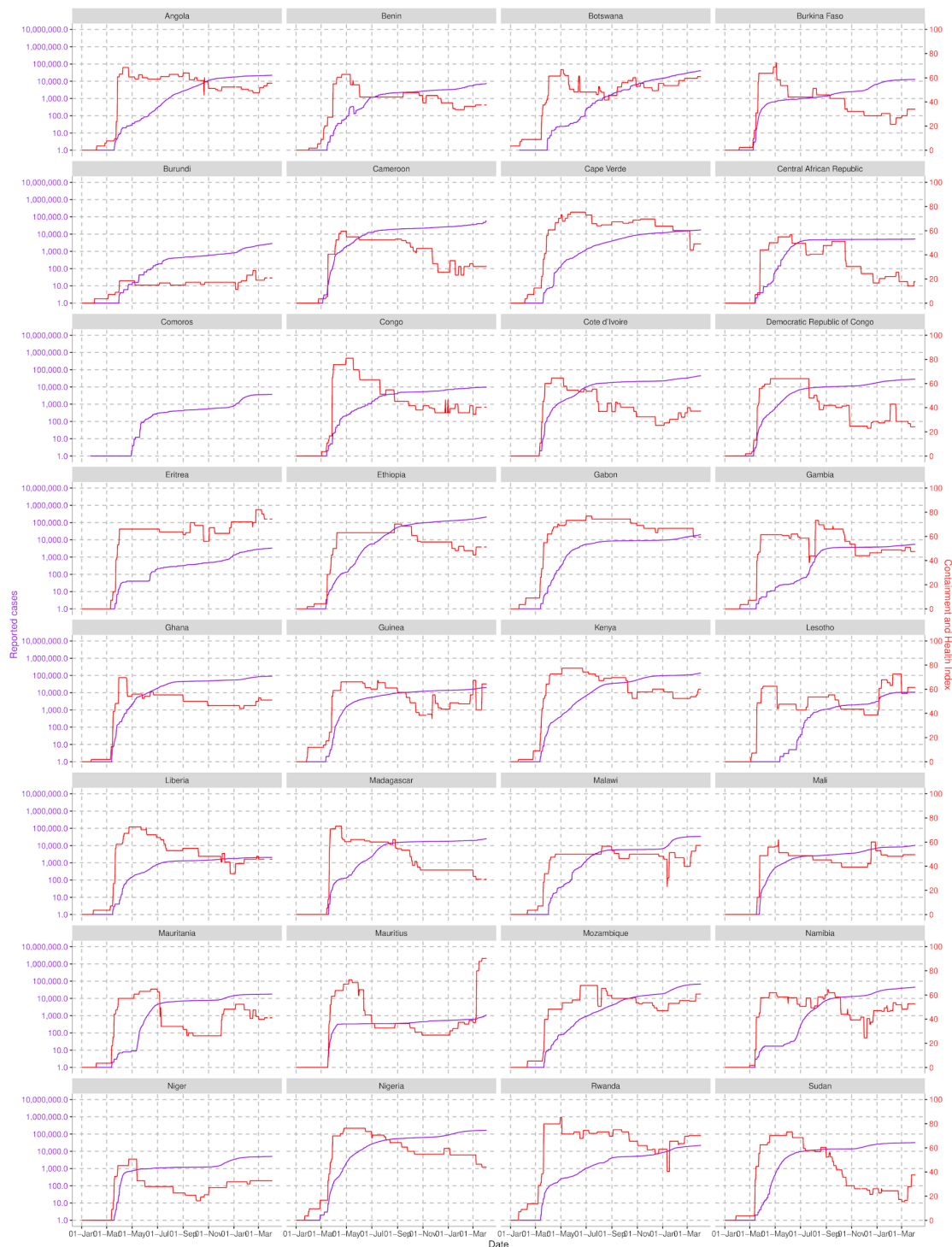
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	<p>travel were introduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zimbabwe:</b> On 2 March, inter-city travel resumed with bus operators required to ensure the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kenya:</b> The government has advised that passengers departing the airport during curfew must retain their boarding pass as proof of their arrival time, which will allow for movement to their accommodation. Similarly, evidence of air passengers arriving during curfew will enable access for drivers coming to collect passengers during curfew hours.</li> <li>• <b>Mauritius:</b> On 10 March, most international flight arrivals except limited commercial flight departures have been suspended until 25 March.</li> <li>• <b>Seychelles:</b> On 4 March, all passengers who can present proof of full vaccination and a negative PCR test will be allowed free movement throughout their stay in Seychelles.</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>Somalia:</b> On 1 March, face masks have been made mandatory in all public spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Sudan:</b> On 19 March, the government made face masks and social distancing mandatory at the workplace.</li> </ul>

### Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

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