

Reporting period: 14 - 27 October

## Biweekly Report

International media and organizations continue to spotlight Africa as an example of a successful COVID-19 [response](#), particularly as Europe and North America enter large second and third waves. However, the secondary impacts of public health and social measures (PHSMs) have been significant: across the continent, health systems are becoming increasingly overburdened, and food prices and insecurity are rising; public mistrust of government handling of the virus and disbursement of aid is fueling protests. In some African Union (AU) member states, cases have begun to rise again, signaling that a second wave is starting. Strengthening public trust in government and expanding rapid testing and contact tracing will be necessary to control the spread in the coming months.

### Disease Situation

- For the continent as a whole, new cases and deaths reported between 14-27 October remained relatively unchanged compared to the previous two weeks (30 September – 13 October). The test per case ratio remains below the recommended range in two-thirds of AU Member States surveyed, indicating many cases are still going undetected and underscoring the importance of strict adherence to PHSMs, particularly when testing is limited.<sup>2</sup>
- New cases are concentrated in the Northern Region, and in parts of the Southern and Eastern Regions. **Morocco** sustained its largest single day increase in new cases and surpassed **South Africa** to report the largest number of new cases from 14-27 October. Cases from **Morocco, Libya, Tunisia** and **Algeria** comprised more than half of total new cases.
- Hospitals in **Libya** are overwhelmed by rising cases, as more than 50% of hospitals are currently shuttered due to existing conflict. Health officials [report](#) that contact tracing is difficult because of the stigma associated with the virus, highlighting the need for expanded community outreach to communicate accurate, helpful information to dispel misinformation about COVID-19.
- Following loosening of PHSMs in early October, new cases in **Kenya** are approaching the 7-day moving average experienced during its highest peak in August. There are [reports](#) of hospitals being overwhelmed and COVID-19 outbreaks among health care workers, as well as a [health care worker strike](#) at Nairobi's largest hospital, underscoring the need for more investment in the safety and health of frontline workers.

Total Reported Cases	New Cases (14 October – 27 October)	Total Reported Deaths	New deaths (14 October – 27 October)	AU Member states where test per case <10 <sup>1</sup>	Total reported cases among health care workers <sup>2</sup>
1,729,580	127,843 <i>(.2% increase since 30 September – 13 October)</i>	41,636	2,900 <i>(5% decrease since 30 September – 13 October)</i>	Algeria; CAR; Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; DRC; Egypt; Eswatini; Gambia; Guinea; Libya; Madagascar; SAR; Sao Tome and Principe; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Tanzania; Tunisia	58,849

<sup>1</sup> Countries with a low number of tests per case (<10) may not be testing widely enough to find all cases. Africa CDC recommends 10-30 tests per case, as a benchmark of adequate testing.

<sup>2</sup> Data compiled from WHO AFRO where available, as well as reports from Ministries of Health and other government-affiliated organizations. Reporting on health care worker cases is inconsistent across Africa, and the current numbers may be an underestimate.

For more information on the disease situation, PHSM implementation and adherence in Africa, as well as PERC Survey findings, please visit the PERC [dashboard](#) and [website](#).