



SPECIAL REPORT: COVID-19 IN WEST AFRICA

When humanity has all its eggs in one basket

Prepared by ARC West Africa

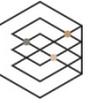
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INTRODUCTION

The last week of April was marked by an explosion in the number of COVID-19 cases diagnosed in sub-Saharan Africa. This may be explained by the implementation of screening strategies that has seen the amount of testing taking place increased.

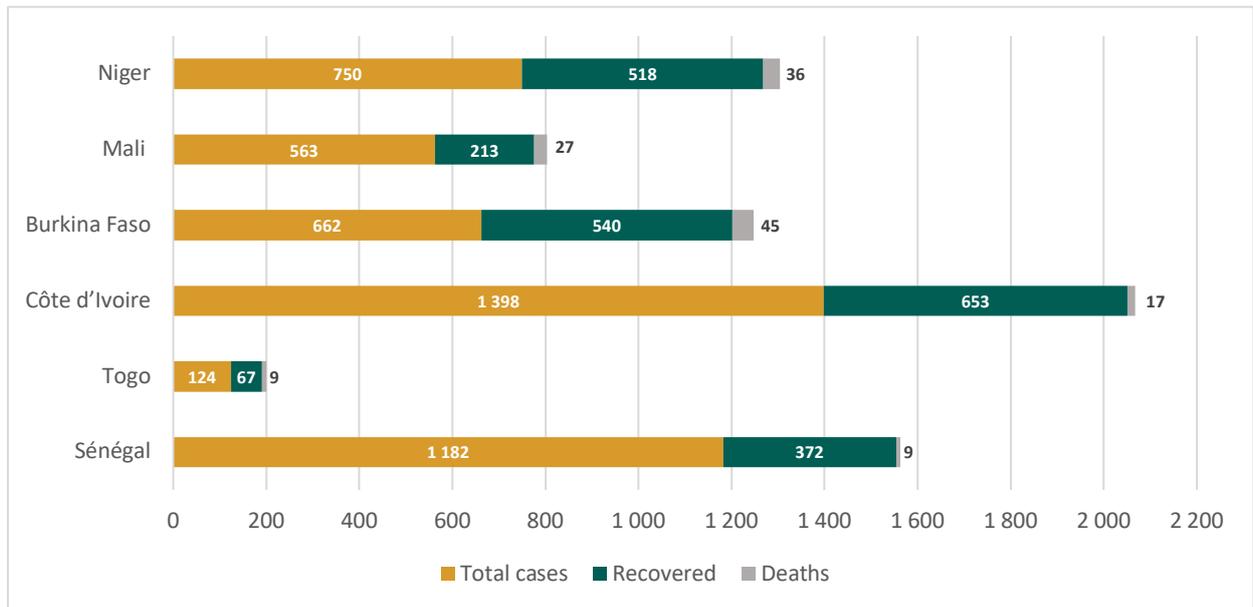
However, the proportion of the infected population over the number of people tested still remains below 10 per cent with a fatality rate still very low compared to Europe.

Senegal has published preliminary results from clinical trials with Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin. Initial results appear to show a reduction in complications and in the length of hospital stay of the patients (four days less than without treatment).

Some countries are starting to ease restrictive measures aimed at breaking the chain of containment (South Africa, Nigeria, Burkina Faso), but these decisions are not unanimous and observers fear the worst in the weeks to come.

REGIONAL STATISTICS

COVID-19 in West Africa (3 May 2020)



SENEGAL

In Sénégal, the weekend of 2 May marks two months since the first case of COVID-19 in the country, which was recorded on 2 March. On Saturday 2 May, health authorities shared details on the situation during the two months and the response measures undertaken.



At the Council of Ministers chaired by Macky Sall, the President of the Republic, there was a call to apply new and more coercive measures in terms of intercity transport, places of commerce and public spaces, given the increase of risky behaviours.

Furthermore, "Covid-19 Force" continues to receive financial resources. As of Tuesday, 28 April, Senegal had successfully raised 103.130 billion XOF in COVID-19 social bonds in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) financial market while the contribution of goodwill is pursuing on the other hand.

Faced with the rise of positive cases, Senegal is waiting for the validation by the WHO of rapid screening kits for use. Moreover, in Touba, given that the two treatment centres are almost saturated, the health authorities are opening a third one.

This week, the COVID-19 treatment centre at Dalal Jaam Hospital in Guédiawaye is expanding, with 100 new beds and 11 more ventilators.

The Red Cross, with 215 young national volunteers, supports the teams dedicated to isolation centres that host on-follow contact cases established throughout the country. It has also deployed 41 doctors, 52 nurses and 179 hygienists to assist patient treatment centres.

TOGO

In Togo, as of 1 May, 6,882 tests had been carried out since the first case was recorded, whilst the government continues to implement its response plan.

In addition, ARC continues to engage with the national party, assistance to the DPML to improve health supply chain. The Director-General of Health Action has introduced has marked ARC to WHO officials with a view to our integration into the Togo Health Partners Coordination. We view this as an important development. The Togo Health Partners Coordination holds a meeting on Zoom every Wednesday to discuss ongoing actions relating to COVID.

While several partners have supported the public sector in PPE for capacity building, staff in private health facilities have not yet received equipment from partners and the state which is the first recipient of various donations. ARC support is needed to address the issue.

BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, the peak of confirmed cases was reached in the 15th week of the year (6 to 12 April 2020) with 151 cases recorded.

This week, the regulation requiring mandatory wearing of masks comes into effect. Masks are being produced by local industries with local fabrics.

As for the *Coronathon*, more than 377,000,000 XOF, which supports the committee to fight Covid-19, has been mobilised since 18 April.

In addition, two measures have been revised:



- Markets in the city of Ouagadougou, Bobo Dioulasso and in some homeland cities have been reopened.
- Extensive quarantine and public transport measures have been reduced to support educational and academic activities resuming in the school system from 5 May, 2020.

ARC believes the following actions should also be considered:

- Expand diagnosis, particularly in contact cases. Screening has already commenced and began on 30 April.
- Diagnosing vulnerable people, especially haemodialysis patients. Of the 43 deaths, six were haemodialysed.
- Expanding the healthcare centres, including the 50-bed Pissy Centre, and the opening of a centre at Bogodogo University Hospital.
- Take care of the sick and the healthcare staff psychologically.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In Côte d'Ivoire, as of 2 May, 10 073 tests had been carried out.

In the fight against the expansion of the pandemic, health measures have been renewed while the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene continues to receive donations from both sides. This week's administrative decisions are mostly as follows:

- Reducing non-essential activity.
- Effective implementation of teleworking.
- Reducing the number of passengers in transit vehicles and personal vehicles.
- Payment of fines or the imposition of penalties for all persons who violate the rules of home containment and transfer them to dedicated centres.
- Mass import and manufacturing of masks to ensure adequate supply for the entire population.
- Production of medicines by the local pharmaceutical industry in order to cover national needs.
- Extending the curfew and the state of emergency until 8 May, 2020.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has successfully raised 180 billion XOF in COVID-19 social bonds in the WAEMU financial market.

NIGER

In Niger, from the beginning of the pandemic in the national territory until April 29, 2,871 people have been tested.

After the Council of Ministers met on Thursday, 30 April, the Nigerien government drew up a response plan with six strategic axes. In addition, important steps have been taken to contain the pandemic.

The Council pointed out, following an assessment dated 29 April, 2020, that a favourable development of the situation is a consequence of the measures taken even before the first confirmed cases in the country. The government intends to renew all measures in force for at least another two weeks. If the downward trend continues, the government is considering the gradual lifting of certain measures from 1 June, 2020.



MALI

In Mali, information released on 2 May by APO Group for Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) points out as follows:

- As of 30 April, the Special Fund created by the government, held in the Malian Solidarity Bank under the number ML102 01001 057590803001-39, was credited with 3 461 938 258 XOF (5.8 million USD).
- The International Monetary Fund has provided 116 616 940 000 XOF (200 million USD) to help Mali combat COVID-19's negative impact.
- It's initially estimated that of the request for 390 million USD from the Humanitarian Response Plan 2020, \$42 million will be needed to provide new humanitarian actions in response to COVID-19 and to cover the costs associated with adapting humanitarian actions to COVID-19 prevention measures.
- The Minister of Health and Social Affairs travelled to Kidal with the National Management Coordinator of COVID-19, OCHA's Chief of Office and the WHO representative on a mission to support prevention and response to COVID-19 by delivering examination gloves, FFP2 individual respiratory masks, personal protective equipment, soap and bleach.
- The minister pledged to support and enhance local production, including associations that manufacture masks, soaps and hand-washing devices with soap, while already placing orders.
- The commitments made by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs and the CMA have been welcomed, but OCHA noted that the COVID-19 crisis must not overshadow other humanitarian priorities in the region including malnutrition, food insecurity, protection, education and water.
- The minister announced the provision of an envelope of 50 million XOF (85 000 USD) to support the prevention and response action plan at COVID-19 in Kidal while indicating that he advocate to close the funding gap. He also stressed that the resources mobilised for COVID-19 are an invaluable opportunity to strengthen its structures.

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