**KENYA**

The Government of Kenya has extended the nationwide dusk to dawn curfew (7pm – 5am) by twenty-one (21) days, while the containment of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties was also extended by another twenty-one (21) days. While restaurants were allowed to re-open, there is a set of strict rules they are expected to adhere to, including operating hours, limiting the number of customers in the restaurant at any one time, observing social and physical distancing, enhancing hand hygiene and food safety, and contact-free temperature monitoring at entry. Bars will remain open, although one can get a beer in a restaurant as part of a meal or as they wait for their meal. These new developments fired up the Internet and social media in Kenya as below.

The reopening of restaurants was also not lost to critics, some of who observed in social media, that it was not a step in the right direction, especially drawing comparisons with Germany, where “a small rise in COVID-19 infections was realized after loosening of the lockdown measures”.

**OHCEA – Kenya contributing to the covid-19 workforce**

The OHCEA-Kenya institutions, as part of the University fraternity in the country, will be contributing to the health workforce, in support of the COVID-19 response in the country. This is in response to the government request to the State Department of University Education and Research, to second human resources for health to support COVID-19 response.

**SOHIC-Kenya activities**

Following the OHCEA Kenya Country Office invitation for consideration, the University of Nairobi and Moi University SOHIC Clubs will be participating in the MIT COVID-19 Challenge; Africa Takes on COVID-19, a series of virtual hackathons, scheduled to be held from 1st to 3rd May 2020.

The MIT COVID-19 challenge aims at empowering participants to take action on the COVID-19 crisis, through “rallying the innovation community to develop solutions towards the most pressing issues related to the COVID-19 crisis in Africa; channelling and unlocking untapped potential into positive and meaningful efforts to rapidly create and implement

## COVID-19 situation in the OHCEA region in figures (as of 1530hrs) EAT May 07, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>#Confirmed Cases</th>
<th># Recoveries</th>
<th># Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>2,265</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>190</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>268</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>493</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCES:** [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)
The following teams had successfully registered and were scheduled to participate in the challenge:

1. **Moi University SOHIC** – 4 participants in the following tracks:
   - **Track A**: Getting patient samples to labs for analysis
   - **Track B**: Strengthening Referral Systems
   - **Track C**: Empowering the Health Workforce
   - **Track D**: Readiness for Potential Surges
   - **Track E**: Sustaining Primary Care During COVID-19
   - **Track F**: Energizing Healthcare

2. **UoN CHS SOHIC** – 6 participants in the following tracks:
   - **Track A**: Getting patient samples to labs for analysis
   - **Track B**: Strengthening Referral Systems
   - **Track C**: Empowering the Health Workforce
   - **Track D**: Readiness for Potential Surges
   - **Track E**: Sustaining primary care during COVID-19 (two participants scheduled on this)
   - **Track F**: Preventing community transmission
   - **Track G**: Enabling work and supporting livelihoods
   - **Track H**: Combating Misinformation

The clubs are planning to document and share lessons learned.

**Content compiled by Dr. Samuel Wanjohi – AFROHUN Kenya Country Manager**

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**RWANDA**

**Surge in new infections**

Rwanda has recently seen a surge in infection rates due to long distance/trans-border truck drivers who come in infected. The country has therefore decreed that; all truck drivers will need to be tested for COVID-19 twice a month before travel, they will offload their merchandises at the point-of-entry and return home, Rwanda Revenue Authority will build storage facilities for such goods in transit at all borders; where custom authorities will clear them before Rwandan trucks take them to Kigali.

**Ease in lockdown measures**

In an effort to revive the economy, the Government of Rwanda announced ease in some of the lockdown measures to allow some categories of people to return to work from May 4th, easing a nationwide lockdown that was instituted to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. Mass level measures to be undertaken during this period will include the mandatory wearing of face masks in public at all times, while mass screening and testing for COVID-19 will continue nationwide.

**Technological developments in the wake of COVID-19**

A team of Rwandan engineers develop and make functional medical ventilators for use in Rwanda and possible sell to other countries. [Watch the video](https://covid19challenge.mit.edu/africa-takes-on-covid19/) for details of this development.

**Content compiled by Dr. Juvenal Kagarama – AFROHUN Rwanda Country Manager**

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**ETHIOPIA**

**COVID-19 status in Ethiopia and AFROHUN Ethiopia**

Following the state of emergency and the lockdown measures, Ethiopia is facing a pronounced economic slowdown, with the poor most affected.

AFROHUN member Universities are playing a pivotal role on fighting COVID-19 through public education using different media outlets, hand sanitizer preparation, resource mobilization and distribution to the neediest and vulnerable groups and individuals.

**AFROHUN-Ethiopia institutions and experts are at the frontline in all activities in general and in technical support and public education like awareness creation and public mobilization. The deans are participating in different committees and in mass media programs.**

Dean Abrha Bsrat and the AFROHUN Country Manager have been assigned to manage one quarantine center - in the Veterinary campus of Mekelle University - where all persons coming from other places in Ethiopia and from other countries are quarantined for 14 days. The College of Veterinary Sciences at Mekelle University and AFROHUN office are taking care of all the activities in the quarantine center like awareness creation, recreational services, counseling service and all logistics.

Following the slight relaxation of the state of emergency in Tigray Region, Northern Ethiopia, people started moving about in desperate search for food which raised concerns with social distancing. This situation created a big challenge to the AFROHUN institutions to intensify their awareness-creation programs. Financial resources are being mobilized from University and private companies and technical guidance is being provided by AFROHUN institutions experts.

**Content compiled by Dr. Berihu Gebrekidan – AFROHUN Ethiopia Country Manager**

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**SENEGAL**

**Senegal steps up testing for COVID-19 in the Face of increasing community cases**

At national level, Senegal has changed its strategy to deal with the increase in COVID-19 community cases. Thus, in addition to tracking contact cases, random testing in health structures has been instituted. The Ministry of the Interior has made it obligatory, by Order No. 009137 of 7 April 2020, to wear facial masks in administrative services, in places of business and in vehicles. Prior to this, the Ministry of Transport had, by Ministerial Order No. 008231 of 25 March 2020, defined guidelines for respecting physical distancing in transport vehicles with a 50% reduction in the number of passengers
indicated on the vehicle registration document and daily cleaning of public transport vehicles.

At university level, many departments at UCAD are continuing trainings or plan to restart training with online courses in response to restrictions induced by the COVID-19. In the same vein, Ministerial Council of April 29th called on the country’s academic leaders to examine the ways and means of ensuring the resumption of courses for the period from 2nd to 14th June 2020.

In light of the increase of community cases in Senegal, the socio-anthropologist in service at Institute of Environmental Sciences (ISE/UCAD), Pr Cheick Ibrahima Niang advocates a paradigm shift. Pr Niang is involved in fighting COVID-19 spread with communities. According to him, Senegal and Africa have endogenous supports on which to draw to provide an additional response to the spread of COVID-19. He advocates for a cultural response based on endogenous practices like Fambondi, a mystical being of the mandingo society which, when announced, everyone stays at home. He insists that in the different African communities, there are mechanisms to keep people at home.

**OHCEA Institutions at Frontline of the COVID-19 Response**

OHCEA member institutions are distinguishing themselves in preparing their staff for the response. Thus, 30 students in Master’s degree in Health were trained by ISED in collaboration with the medical region of Dakar in data management and epidemiological investigations. These students will support the 12 health districts of Dakar. At EISMV, 21 people including 15 veterinary doctors, 1 laboratory technician and 1 communication officer have been trained by a team from the Senegalese Red Cross. This training aims to build a pool of COVID-19 personnel to support health structures in case they become saturated.

Veterinary Drug Control Laboratory « LACOMEV » of EISMV is producing Hydro Alcoholic solutions and gels according to WHO-recommended formula. These products are intended for use by EISMV staff and students.

**UGANDA**

**OHCEA faculty at Makerere University takes part in the development of a vaccine for COVID-19 in Uganda**

As the world remain in uncertainty on when the COVID-19 pandemic will come to an end, developing a vaccine is one of the measures different countries are aiming at developing so as to ensure that the population is safe and protected. Uganda’s number of cases is also on the rise (more than 80) with more than 50% recovering from the virus. The Ministry of Health is looking at its scientists to develop a vaccine. However if one is available on market before Uganda develops it’s own, they will adopt the vaccine.

In Uganda, scientists are employing a one health approach, consultative meetings on the potential collaborators on vaccine development have been identified. The team is led by the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), with other institutions including the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB), Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries (MAAIF), and Ministry of Health (MoH). Dr. Kato Charles Drago, activity lead for Makerere University SOHIC-an immunologist has been consulted by the team to give scientist support for the initial phases of protocol development ahead of development of a vaccine.

**Mbarara University of Science and Technology SOHIC develops messages**

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) SOHIC members have developed COVID-19 messages that are being shared across several groups.
by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University designed and produced a functional open design low cost medical ventilator engineering prototype to support management of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome caused by the coronavirus.

The low cost medical ventilator project is being undertaken by Makerere University acting through the Resilient Africa Network, a Project at the School of Public Health, Makerere University; and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation acting through Kiira Motors Corporation, according to Prof. Nawangwe. Prof. Nawangwe in social media posts stated that a team of Ugandan scientists and engineers from Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) have registered a major breakthrough by designing, producing and successfully undertaking bench tests using artificial lungs on the low cost medical ventilator prototype paving way for the next stage of validation.

A Schematic Diagram of the Proposed Low-Cost Ventilator Architecture set to be developed as collaborative effort between Makerere University, ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) a project of the School of Public Health, Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI), Kampala Uganda

NEW STAFF AT OHCEA

Dr. Marc Yamba joins OHCEA as DRC Country Manager

Dr. Yamba Yamba is a former student of University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) and formerly a Student One Health Innovations Club (SOHIC) president at UNIKIN. He holds a MSc. One Health Epidemiology.

Reflections from the AFROHUN ECHO Session Webinar on What is Working and What is Not

There is no quality information from countries to help assess success, testing data is not easily available, so making decisions on how to adjust restrictions is very difficult – Dr. Marcy Uhart – Argentina.

“In Africa, where cultures of gathering in huge crowds are socially significant, social distancing measures are challenging to implement”, Dr. Abhra Brat - Dean Mekelle University College of Veterinary Sciences.

“What is working in Kenya? Use of complementary approach and coordination; COVID-19 is a wicked problem with multiple dimensions and us introducing a new norm”, Dr. Samuel Wanjohi – OHCEA Kenya Country Manager

“Tanzania response is unique – no lockdown, people are not social distancing, masks are not being used, large gatherings are still happening, number of cases is shooting up very fast, yet there is a human resources for health challenge”, Dr. Deodatas Kakoko - Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences.

“At the beginning we were focusing on travellers from countries that were reporting high number of cases, little did we know that countries were not reporting accurately. Infected people from some of these countries were coming into Uganda without us knowing. We also realised the volume of travellers coming in at Entebbe had grown exponentially to the tune of 18,000 passengers in one week; the planes now coming in were Dreamliners” – Dr. Monica Musenero, Uganda Presidential Advisor on Epidemics.

COVID-19: This is our Call and it is Urgent – Professor William Bazeyo

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has ravaged the entire world in unprecedented ways; almost entire national economies are collapsing, hundreds of thousands of lives lost, countries totally shutdown, social set-ups turned upside down, while traditional work practices have been disrupted. It is a complex multi-dimensional health challenge that calls for multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral response. Prof. William Bazeyo (OHCEA CEO) highlights the One Health dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic and what this means to the kind of responses that should be designed. See video link here; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVtas7As8s&=33s

Please look out for our Upcoming COVID-19 ECHO Sessions

May 20/21: “Diagnostic testing approaches for COVID-19”
June 3/4: “Immunity issues and interventions for COVID-19”
June 17/18: “One Health approaches addressing COVID-19 origins and spillover”

Coming Soon!
COVID-19 SOHIC Digital awareness Challenge

CONTACT US

16A Elizabeth Avenue, Kololo Uganda
PO Box 35270 Kampala
Tel: +256 392 001 642
Email: secretariat@ohcea.org
Website: www.ohcea.org
Twitter: @OHCEA_