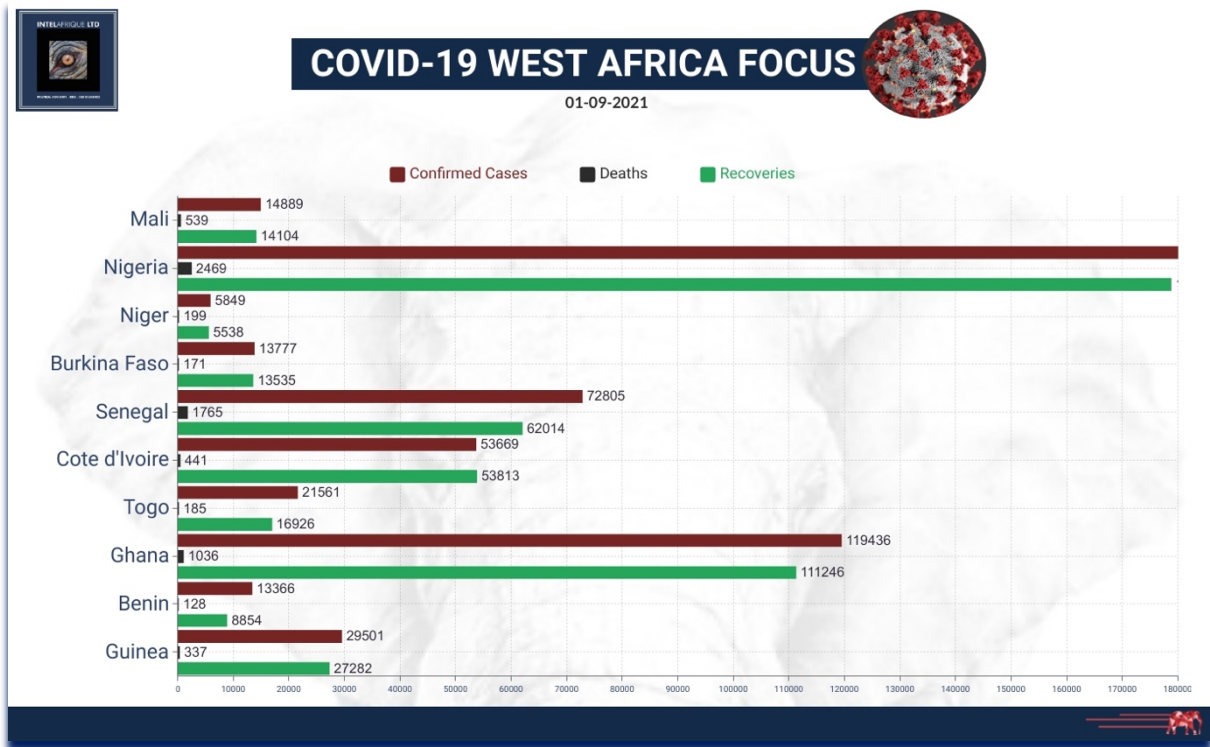


COVID-19 WEST AFRICAN REPORT

1st September, 2021



COVID-19 UPDATE

Ref No:C19/WA/29

TOGO

Confirmed Cases: 21,561

Death: 185

Recovered: 16,926



CURRENT SITUATION

Togo's coronavirus cases count has increased to 21,561 after 1,598 new infections were reported over the last 7 days. 10 new deaths have increased the death toll to 185 while recoveries increased to 16,926. The death toll and recoveries represent 0.8% and 78% of cases reported since March 2020. Recent figures have left active cases at 4,450—21% of reported cases. The situation has deteriorated in the last 7 days although the number of new infections reduced by 0.3% The number of new deaths increased by 5% while the active cases in the last week increased by 25%. Positivity rate for tests conducted this week—14,552 was 10% from 8%. The poor compliance to preventive health and safety measures

remains the major factor responsible for the current trend. The number of vaccines administered remains at 536,000 as the number of vaccines administered since March 2021. This figure is expected to be more as the data is yet to be updated. Togolese health authorities have vaccinated 2.2% of its population. The arrival of additional vaccines in the next few weeks will increase this figure to approximately 4% by mid-September. Travel requirements have been reviewed this week as passengers travelling from 7 countries—Brazil, South Africa, India, the United Kingdom, Russia, Portugal and Tunisia Are expected to quarantine for 72 hours upon arrival regardless of the result of PCR tests.

IVORY COAST

Confirmed Cases: 53,787
Death: 441
Recovered: 53,813



CURRENT SITUATION

Cote d’Ivoire’s cumulative case count increased to 55,669 after 1,882 new cases were reported over the last 7 days. Fatalities and recoveries have increased to 441(39 new deaths) and 53,813 respectively. Active cases have also increased from 684 to 1,451. For now, any fears of an Ebola outbreak in Cote d’Ivoire has been allayed. This follows a further test conducted on the sample of the suspected imported case in France contradicting the earlier test conducted in Cote d’Ivoire on 14th August 2021. The WHO further confirmed that the samples of 140 contacts traced did not test positive either. The contradicting result is a call for concern especially for Cote d’Ivoire as it raises doubts, capacity and credibility issues of the health system and its professionals. However, it is noted that efforts to raise COVID-19 awareness are taking a nosedive coupled with a dip in repression efforts by the security to check offenders of the covid-19 protocols. Citizens are also complicit as social gatherings go beyond the mandated 200 people. These have resulted in the upward trend in new infections and deaths.

SENEGAL

Confirmed Cases: 72,806
Death: 1,765
Recovered: 58,813



CURRENT SITUATION

The health crisis in Senegal has improved over the last 7 days as the number of new infections reported this week decreased from 820 to 719. The new cases have increased the total case count to 72,805. Mortality rate deteriorated slightly as the number of new deaths recorded during this time increased to

61 from 68. Recoveries have increased to 62,014 while active cases dropped to 9,026(from 11,965) majority of which are in the Dakar, Guediawa and Goudiry. 0.3% (31) of active cases are reporting currently severe or critical conditions. Positivity rate over the week following 17,708 tests also dropped to 4% from last week's 3%. The steady improvement has been a relief to government and health authorities following weeks of massive numbers of new cases and fatalities. Although steady improvement has been witnessed in the last 2 weeks, health workers have warned that it is still unclear if the West African nation is coming out of the 3rd wave as the trend according to experts needs to be studied and improved for a longer period. Health officials have admonished that the public maintains health and safety protocol to ensure that the curve for the 3rd wave is flattened. Efforts to scale up vaccination are also ongoing as the government has announced the procurement of 227,200 of Sinopharm vaccines through the COVAX initiative. The health minister is expected to take delivery of this consignment on 2nd September. Details for the distribution are yet to be delivered but reports suggest the programme will be expanded to other areas away from the hotspots. 405,000 AstraZeneca and 150,000 J&J vaccines are expected to arrive in Dakar by mid-September. Approximately 12% of the Senegalese population have received a shot of the COVID-19 vaccine while 8% have been fully vaccinated.

BURKINA FASO

Confirmed Cases: 13,777
Death: 171
Recovered: 13,535



CURRENT SITUATION

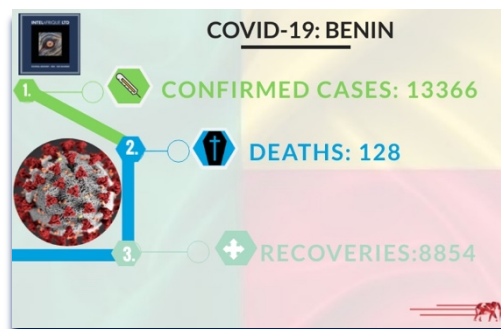
52 out of the 2,322 tests that were conducted over the last 7 days turned out positive increasing cumulative cases count in Burkina Faso to 13,777. Death toll remained at 171(1.2%) while recoveries/discharges increased to 13,535(98% recovery rate). Active cases also dropped from 85 to 71 over the same period. Active cases form 0.5% of total cases reported since March 2020, the lowest in the sub-region. The health situation has remained stable despite the slight increase in new infections. It remains unclear what factors are responsible for the low infection, death and high recovery rate in the Sahelian country although poor testing regimes, the absence of the delta variant and youthful population has been unofficially attributed to this trend. Figures from *Our World in Data* suggests 27,160—3880 per day doses of vaccines were administered by health officials this week increasing the total number of vaccines administered to 98,670 with 13,558(0.1%) of the population fully vaccinated. The vaccination drive in Burkina Faso has been one of the slowest in the sub-region as 15% of the 626,400 vaccines obtained by the government has been administered. This is largely due to high levels of scepticism for the vaccines among residents. The low levels of infection and death have also been attributed to the poor participation in the inoculation drive as several residents have doubts about the existence of the C-19 pandemic.

BENIN

Confirmed Cases: 13,366

Death: 128

Recovered: 8,854



CURRENT SITUATION

C-19 infections increased to 12,492 as health authorities reported 874 new cases in the last 7 days. Death toll and recoveries increased to 128(1 new death) and 8,854 respectively. The number of active cases has also increased from 3,793 to 4,384. As part of efforts by the government to curb the spike in cases, the measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus have been modified to reduce the risks of infections. Specifically, all cultural and festive events have been suspended. The resurgence of severe cases of Covid-19 in Benin has made this possible. The dynamics of infection has changed as more young people are severely infected and under intensive care. Treatment centres are overwhelmed and an averagely of 200 bottles of oxygen are consumed daily. The rate of partially or fully vaccinated people in Benin is still dropping sharply. To date, only 0.34% of the Beninese population has submitted to the vaccination programme. As the pandemic ravages businesses, the government has put in place measures to provide a buffer to micro, small and medium scale enterprises. An online platform has been created to roll out funds through the ministry of finance and with support from the World Bank upon meeting the requirements.

SITUATIONAL SUMMARY W/A

COUNTRY	NO. OF CASES	DEATH	RECOVERIES	NO. OF TESTS
MALI	14,889	539	14,104	382,712
NIGERIA	192,431	2,469	178,759	2,779,725
NIGER	5,849	199	5,538	143,020
GUINEA	29,501	337	27,282	536,982

GLOBAL SITUATION

Confirmed Cases: 218,644,194 Death: 4,535,408

EBOLA UPDATE

The Ministry of Health of Guinea announced an outbreak of the Ebola virus in February 2021, since the previous outbreak in 2016. Cases were reported in the sub-prefecture of Gouecke in the Nzerekore Region. 16 cases were reported between February and June 2021, 12 of which succumbed to the virus. 7 probable cases were also reported. The outbreak was officially over in July 2021 following several efforts by the Guinean government and WHO officials. 24,000 Ebola vaccines were provided to authorities by the WHO to inoculate residents of the region. 11,000 vaccines were administered to a high-risk population, 2800 of which were frontline workers. No new cases have been reported in Guinea since June 2021.

Cote d' Ivoire reported its first cases of Ebola since 1994 in August 2021. The patient was reportedly a woman that travelled from Guinea to Ivory Coast on 12th August. Health authorities detected the virus after the patient was admitted for experiencing fever symptoms. The patient was urgently isolated and treated at a health facility in Abidjan. Health experts and 5,000 Ebola vaccines were by the WHO to speed up efforts to prevent transmissions. A statement issued by the Ivorian government has confirmed no other existing Ebola infection in the country after the initial patient recovered from the virus. There are no active cases of Ebola currently in the West Africa region but travellers are advised to take the necessary precautions while travelling in Ebola prone regions as the risk for infections is substantial.