

# COVID-19: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

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# COVID-19: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

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- COVID-19 arrived in Africa in March 2020
- COVID-19 spreading in countries with a similar climate e.g. Brazil, Singapore, India
- African Americans and Africans in the UK have a higher mortality from COVID-19 than European-Americans or White British
- Africa has a young population- only 3% aged over 65 years
- We need to test cases, trace contacts, isolate and social distancing, hygiene and face masks

# GHANA COVID-19 STRATEGY

**Table 2: Positivity rate by Surveillance type for samples tested in Ghana March to June 2020**

<b>Surveillance Type</b>	<b>Total no. Tests</b>	<b>Total no. positive</b>	<b>Test Positivity rate</b>
<b>Routine Surveillance</b>	<b>72,664</b>	<b>3,997</b>	<b>5.50</b>
<b>Contact tracing</b>	<b>160,526</b>	<b>5,763</b>	<b>3.59</b>
<b>Mandatory quarantined</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>5.69</b>
<b>Mandatory quarantined (Prampram/Kuwait)</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15.15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,443</b>	<b>9,910</b>	<b>4.21</b>

Isolate, test and trace contacts

Lockdown

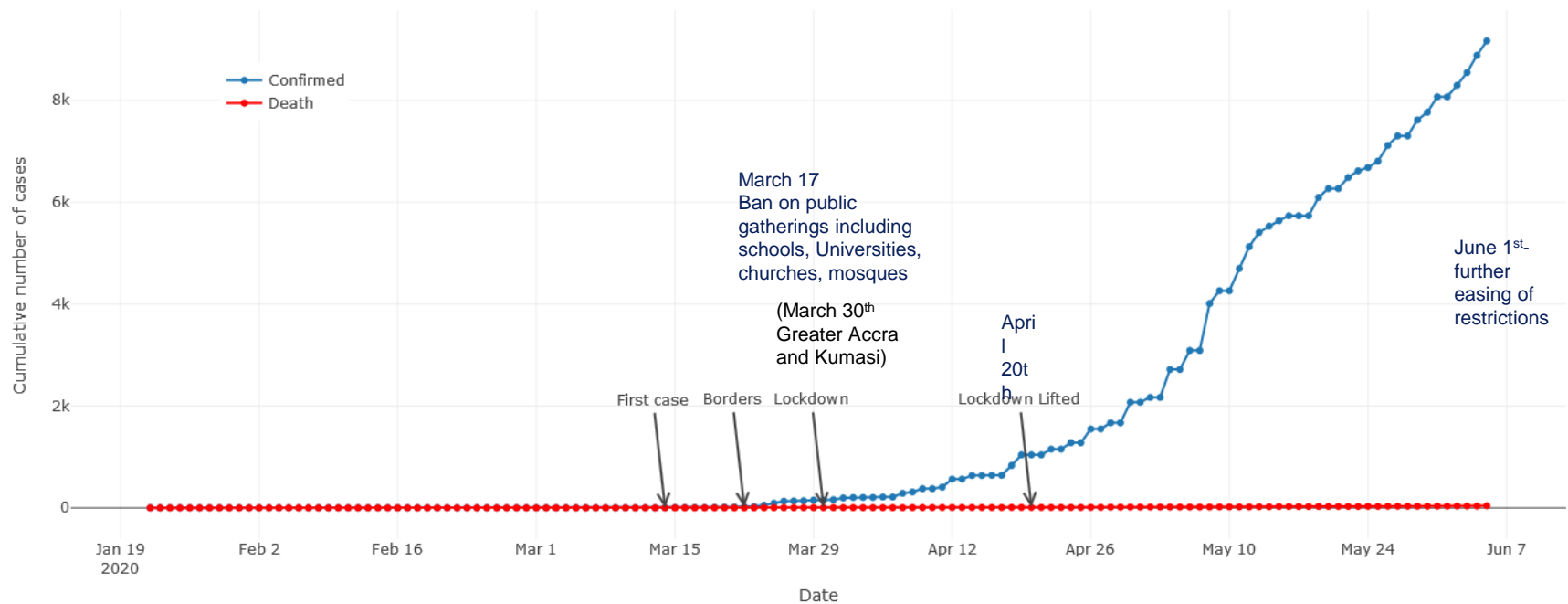
Community education and engagement

Physical (social) distancing, handwashing, facemasks

Ban on public gatherings (Church, Mosque), closure of schools and Universities

# COVID-19 IN GHANA

(<https://rpubs.com/Aheto/595207>)



# COVID-19 MANAGEMENT AFRICA-E,W,C,S

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- Responses from 11 African countries
- All had a national policy
- 50% used chloroquine
- 73% used hydroxychloroquine
- 92% used azithromycin
- Lockdown- 50% whole country, 33.3% for some regions, 17% no lockdown

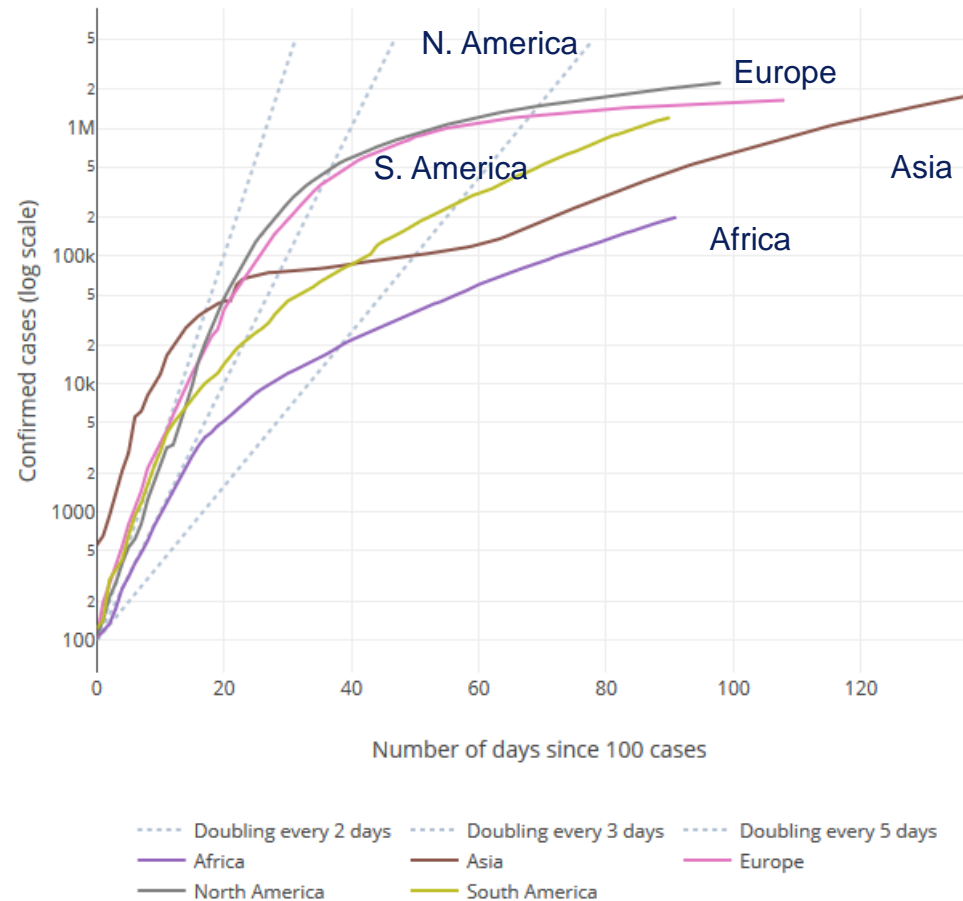
# AFRICA COVID-19 DATA

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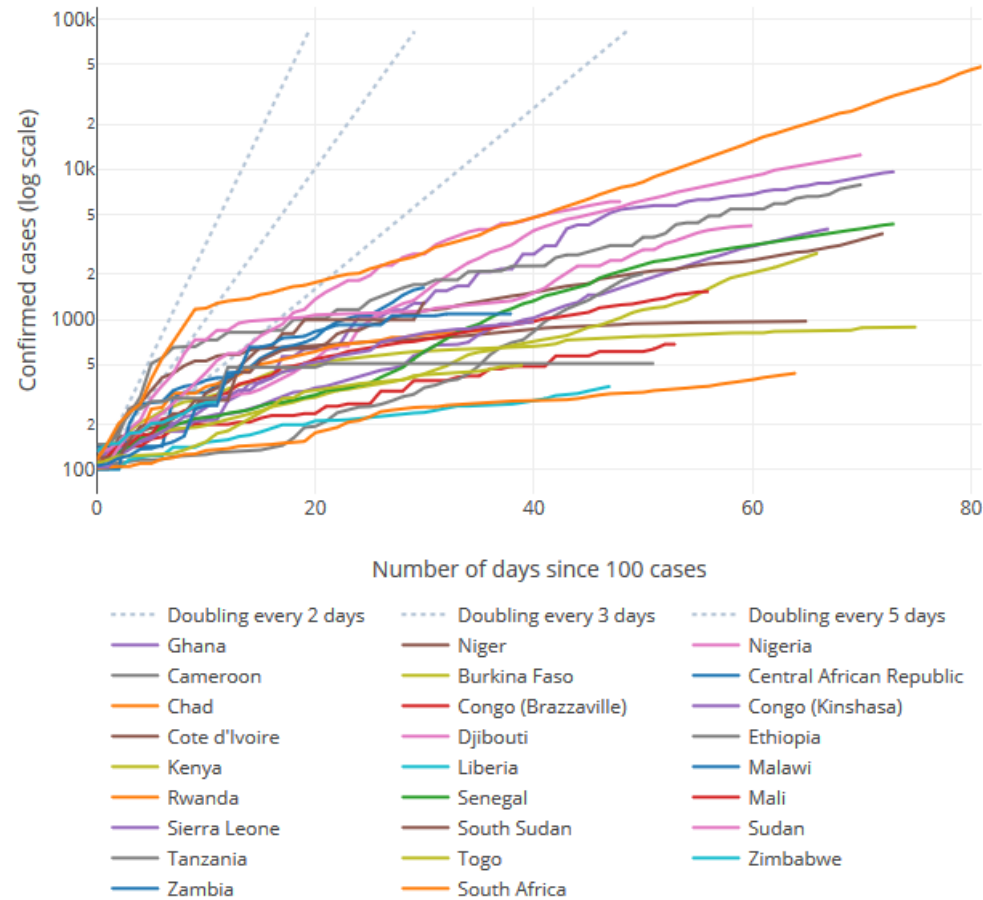
- <https://covid19forecast.science.unimelb.edu.au/#about>
- Next slides show the growth trajectory of selected regions/countries: growth in total cases standardised to start when a region/country reaches 100 cases.
- Because it is on the log scale, the slope at any time is indicative of the doubling time in total cases at that point in time (indicative slopes shown).

# AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE AND NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

<https://covid19forecast.science.unimelb.edu.au/#about>

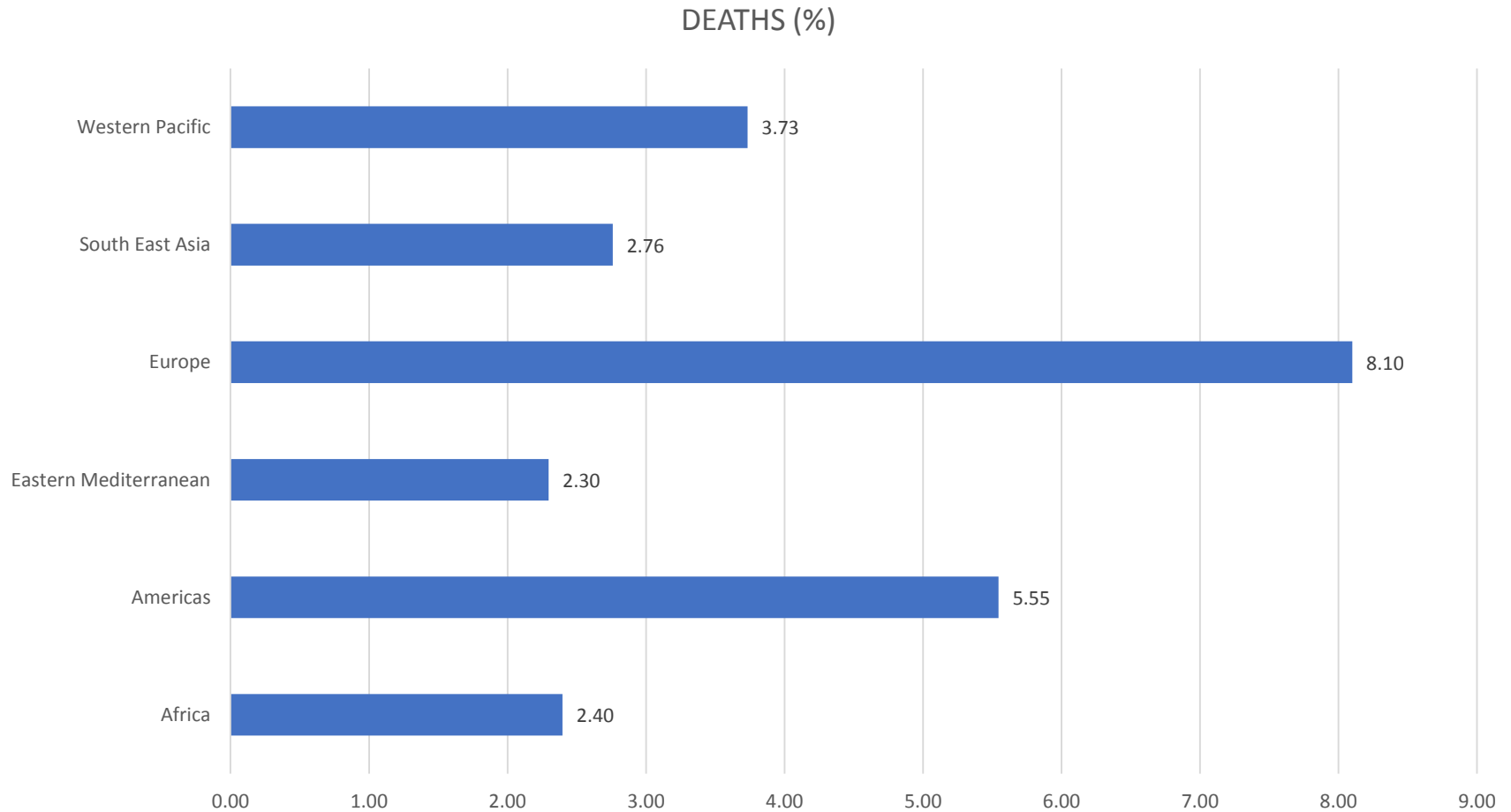


# COVID-19 AFRICA PLUS SOUTH AFRICA





# COVID DEATHS WORLDWIDE



As of 10 June 2020, 6pm

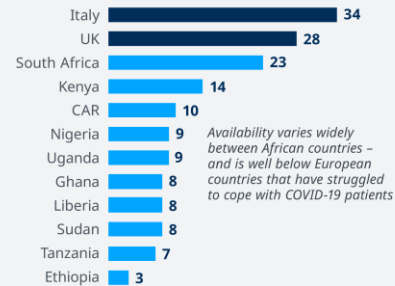
Region	New* 9 June 2020			Cumulative 10 June 2020 6pm				Countries in each region	
	New* Cases	New* Deaths	New* Recoveries	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Cumulative CFR (%)	Total Recoveries	# countries affected	# countries in the region
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>203,899</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>91,398</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>
Central	562	7	108	21,728	451	2.08	7,646	9	9
Eastern	636	25	270	23,806	696	2.92	7,722	14	14
Northern	1,774	42	554	58,134	2,337	4.02	25,342	6	7
Southern	2,241	82	2,961	56,011	1,190	2.12	30,578	10	10
Western	693	10	675	44,220	856	1.94	20,110	15	15

\*New numbers as of 9 June 20. Data taken from official RCC and Member State reports

Safeguarding Africa's Health | [www.africacdc.org](http://www.africacdc.org)

# CAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS COPE?

Hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants



Number of non-ICU hospital beds overall in selected countries



Source: DW research, most recent available data: 2010 - 2017  
See [github.com/dw-data/coronavirus-africa](https://github.com/dw-data/coronavirus-africa) for details

WHO Africa projections: **37** X10<sup>6</sup> cases, **4.6X** 10<sup>6</sup> hospitalizations, **89,000** requiring oxygen in year 1 (Cabore JW et al. *BMJ Global Health* 2020, 5(5):e002647)

After 3 months, 203,899 cases and 5,530 deaths

1. That depends on whether African countries can flatten the curve of infection
2. We also need to hope that most people with COVID-19 infection are young and have mild or asymptomatic disease not requiring admission
3. The current move to easing restrictions on movement and gathering could lead to an increased rate of infection
4. In Ghana with an effective  $R_0$  of 1.15 or less we would

# SUMMARY: THE SITUATION IN AFRICA

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- The rate of increase in COVID-18 in Africa cases slower than in Europe and North America but comparable to Asia and the curve continues to rise
- Mortality appears lower in Africa than in Europe and North America
- May be more asymptomatic cases in Africa
- Most modelling gives unrealistic figures for cases and deaths
- Strange new virus gives no room for complacency