



UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

COVID_19 INFORMATION SERIES NO. 19 (2020)



672
KENYA



509
TANZANIA



284
RWANDA



121
UGANDA



120
SOUTH SUDAN



15
BURUNDI

**MONDAY,
MAY 11, 2020**

NATIONAL NEWS ROUNDUP

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PRESIDENT MUSEVENI HOSTS 02ND NATIONAL PRAYERS ON COVID-19



Latest developments on Truck drivers:

- Kenya and Uganda will start testing truck drivers 48 hours before take off.
- Rwanda has gone ahead effective Monday May 11, 2020, to require that the transiting cargo trucks be handed over to a Rwandan driver for an onward drive across the Rwandan territory.

- On Saturday May 09, 2020 H.E the president hosted the 02nd wave of the inter-denominational prayers against COVID-19 at State House Entebbe. Among other dignitaries, the Vice President H.E Edward Ssekandi, first lady Maama Janet Kataha Museveni and members of the Inter Religious Council of Uganda attended the prayers.
- The service was led by His Grace Archbishop Dr. Cyprian Lwanga of Kampala Diocese under the theme 'God's power is complete' derived from Psalms 46:10 and Quran 645:12.
- The president, quoting from Genesis 1: 26-28 reiterated his message to Ugandans of the need to exercise dominion over nature as authored and granted by God to solve problems including defeating the virus and / or getting a vaccine for it.
- The president also informed the country that the East African leaders had agreed on a modus operandi to deal with marauding problem of truck drivers.
- He advised all Ugandans to get used to wearing masks, which will soon be made compulsory for anyone appearing in public. He however said, the masks should be from approved manufacturers.



UGANDA GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE BI-LATERAL SUPPORT FROM DONORS TO BATTLE COVID-19 AND RELATED EFFECTS

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on world economies, Uganda being no exception.
- The pandemic has forced governments to reconsider their economic targets in addition to reallocating more resources to fighting corona virus, its spread and its resultant effects on other sectors.
- The need for more resources has seen more efforts being put to resource mobilization both locally and internationally. Different bilateral donors have continued to support the Uganda government to deal with COVID-19 health emergencies and its related effects.



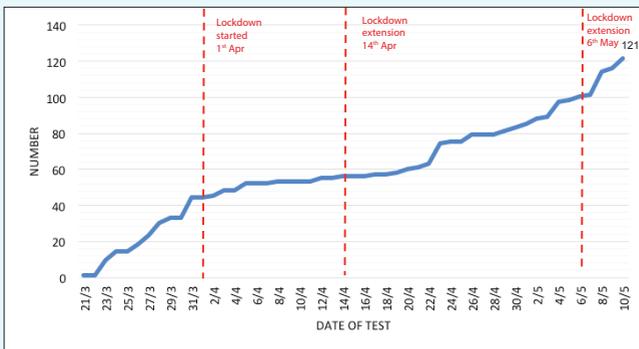
- **USD 491.5 Million** – IMF
- **EUROS 30 Million** – EUROPEAN UNION
- **USD 316.4 Million** – UN in Uganda
- **USD 2.1 Million** – DENMARK
- **USD 6.6 Million** – USA
- **EUROS 830,000** – IRELAND



THE CURRENT STATUS OF COVID-19 IN UGANDA

As of May 10, 2020, Uganda has 121 confirmed cases with 35 active cases, 55 recoveries and zero death. Ugandans make up 53% of these cases. Males constitute three quarters of the confirmed cases (75%). Figure 1 shows that the pandemic is taking an upward trend.

Figure 1: Cumulative trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases





THE PROFESSIONAL INCIDENCE OF THE COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES

The lockdown allowed Cargo transporters to continue operation in Uganda using the various modes of transport. Of the 121 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Uganda, 61 are cargo truck drivers constituting 50.4%. However, 31 (51%) of the truck drivers have returned and / or been repatriated to their respective countries of nationality, mainly Kenya and Tanzania. The remaining 30 truck drivers have either not yet been successfully tracked or are in the different treatment centers across the country.



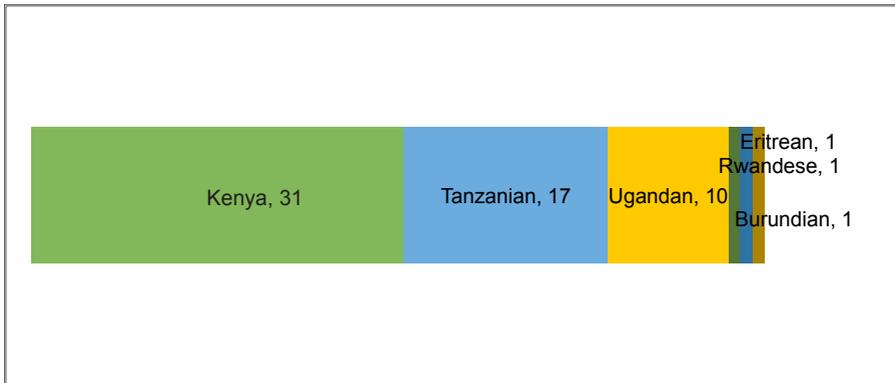
THE TRUCK DRIVERS CONUNDRUM: The Kenyan Case



Figure 2 shows that the majority of the confirmed COVID-19 cargo truck drivers are from Kenya (by source of infection) and ten of these are Ugandans. It is worth noting that Kenya is among the top four countries that contribute to Uganda's import bill. The truck drivers from Kenya facilitate movement of formal imports that contributed US\$484.6 million towards the country's total formal imports bill of US\$5,595.9 million as of 2017 (9%). This underlines the high traffic of merchandise from Kenya and hence the many cases of truck drivers.



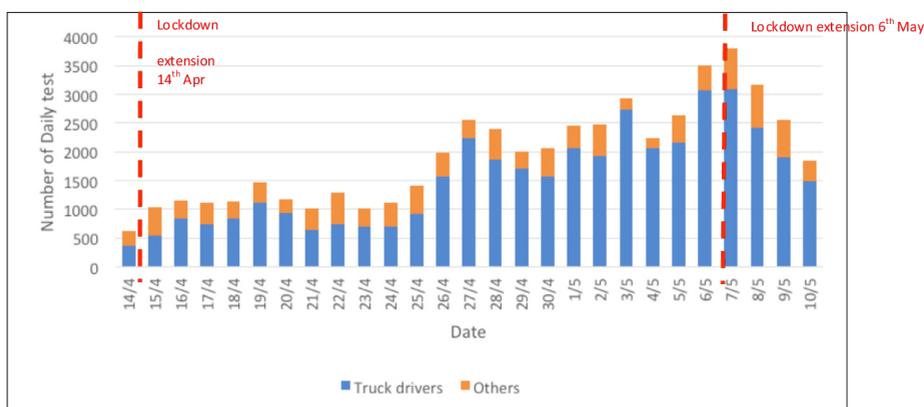
Figure 2: Nationality of COVID-19 Confirmed Truck Drivers



TESTING AMONG TRUCK DRIVERS

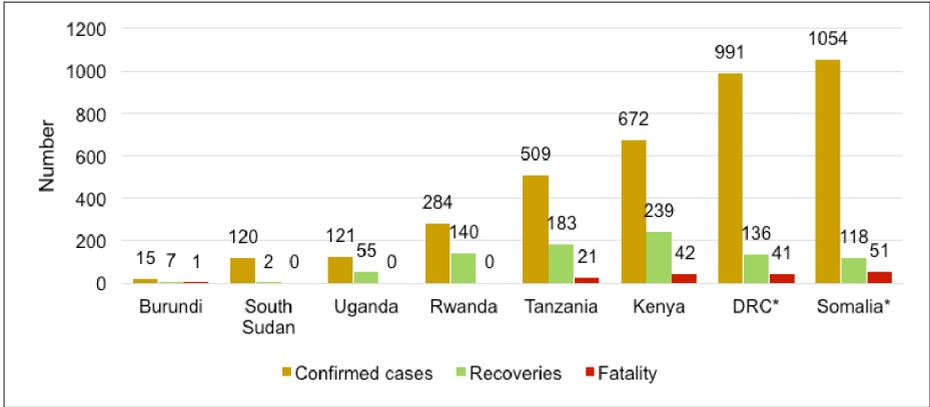
Focused testing of truck drivers started on April 14, 2020 to date. **Figure 3** shows that the daily number of tests for COVID 19 has been inclined more to the truck drivers and less for the community and persons in quarantine. It also shows that the number of truck drivers tested per day since the lockdown extension on May 06, 2020 has been declining. This may be due to the fact that most of these drivers have been complaining about the long queues and resultant delays at the borders before they are tested resulting into a decrease in their inflow into the country.

Figure 3: Number of tests done daily



RATES ACROSS THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

According to the corona virus worldometer as of May 11, 2020 within the EAC member states, Kenya (672) ranks highest followed by Tanzania (509) with the highest number of confirmed cases. On the other hand, Kenya has the highest number of recoveries (239) followed by Tanzania (183). Uganda has the highest rate of recovery (55 out of 90 treated in Uganda making 61%). The DRC and Somalia, which are close to the EAC, have also a high number of COVID 19 cases. These should also be of concern given the porous nature of our regional borders. Burundi has not reported any statistics to the global tracker for more than a week. The Republic of South Sudan has had a great increase from 58 recorded on Thursday last week to now 120 confirmed cases.



*Countries neighboring East Africa but not in the EAC

TANZANIA'S HEALTH MINISTER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



Hon. Ummu Mwalimu

- Hon. Ummu Mwalimu (Tanzania's Health Minister) tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday May 08, 2020.
- The otherwise vibrant minister revealed she tested positive for the deadly virus after developing mild symptoms.
- Nonetheless, she remained optimistic of serving her country in the remotest ways possible as she battles to individually defeat the deadly infectious virus.



Brief Profile:

Dr. Kalebi is a Kenyan award winning Doctor who also doubles as the CEO and chief consultant pathologist at Lancet group of laboratories.

Dr. Ahmed Kalebi

- He has commended the efforts of the East African countries in combating COVID-19 and its spread. In particular, he singled out the mitigation measures advanced and implemented by the Uganda government, which has so far been the most successful in the region.
- For instance, according to Dr. Kalebi, a review of the daily percentage test positive rates (TPR) in Kenya shows that the daily record of new COVID-19 cases and the daily TPR (%) are not surging despite the increased volume of testing in the country.
- A comparison of total tests done against total confirmed cases across the EAC countries shows the total TPR (%) for Kenya (1.89%) being lower than Rwanda (0.73%) and Uganda (0.21%).



Dr. Ekwaro Obuku

- Dr. Obuku has commended the Uganda government response in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- However, he encouraged the government not to ignore the non COVID-19 ailments mainly the vast non-communicable diseases that continue to affect the population and accounting for more deaths than the corona virus.
- In his support for Africa's herbal technology, he advised government to consider importing the now trending "Madagascar magic cure" since it has been touted to yield good results in some countries.
- He said it is important to acknowledge that African indigenous technology exists, but what needs to be done is to link the scientists to already established organizations for further development. That this could be augmented with procuring the necessary technological equipment for drug development and training of the requisite human capital.

Dr. Obuku is a Ugandan physician and health policy expert who is also the immediate past president of the Uganda Medical Association, a professional industry association that champions medical doctors' interests in Uganda.



Prof. David Justin Bakibinga

- In his paper **“COVID-19: The Social Protection and Fiscal Implications”** has advocated for favourable tax reliefs, government financial support to businesses and vulnerable sections of the public, direct food relief, loan relief and restructuring and job protection.
- This he said would help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy but in particular, for the survival of businesses and other employment streams.
- He borrowed examples of stimuli initiatives from the regional governments such as Kenya which has already introduced a 100% tax relief for persons earning a gross monthly income of up to USD 223.98 (KShs. 24,000), reduction in income tax from 30% to 25%, appropriation of USD 93.24 million for elderly support among others. Conversely, South Africa announced a USD 26 billion economic stimulus targeting an increase in existing welfare grants and supporting pandemic hit businesses.
- He advises that Uganda should follow the PSFU economic recovery approach.
- However, that for any economic stimuli initiatives to work in Uganda, they may need amendments in the existing legal regimes by parliament such as the Uganda Development Bank Act (1972) to allow recapitalization of businesses.

Brief Profile:

Prof. Bakibinga is a distinguished commercial law don with extensive publications in the areas of corporate taxation, harmonization of tax laws, corporate rescue and governance, acquisition and mergers.

STATISTICIANS DURING THE COVID 19 LOCKDOWN



Betty Nawoova,
Senior Statistician/UBOS

As the health sector responds to the COVID 19 pandemic, what can a statistician do to support the general public? We do not have the capacity to diagnose cases, treat positive cases, develop drugs, find vaccines or antibodies, track contacts, counsel recoveries nor can we provide frontline care. Statisticians can contribute by doing what we do best; collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate statistical information related to the outbreak. During this time of the crisis, real time data is of great value and significance. To this end, the UBOS taskforce response team has made us proud. In the staff information series, they have analyzed and disseminated information related to COVID 19 active cases and recoveries.

Disaggregating numbers by sex, age, nationality, workstatus, administrative units (District), geographical location (island), vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children) among others.

The tabulated, graphical and pictorial representation provides a remarkable user-friendly pattern of the outbreak. The economic outlook namely; inflation figures for March and April 2020 has also been disseminated. The Bureau is yet to establish the impact of lockdown on the economy, communities, households and society at large.

In this historical event of our times, the Bureau's routine activities have also been affected, constrained and / or disrupted. Staff are back to the drawing board to re-think what the Bureau can do differently in this "disturbed" working environment. To maintain continuity of our activities, the Bureau has embraced the opportunity of working from home and gone ahead to support staff by providing airtime and data bundles to ease communication, as well as transport to office for some sections of staff.

As we progress in this lockdown, do we therefore need to further interrogate ourselves about the need for new surveys to inform recovery of the different sectors, new data sources or new data collection methods? Is using administrative sources a possible alternative? Is suspending the face-to-face interviews (in-depth discussion) a better option until normal activities resume? Or can we adopt the web based / online surveys, landline / mobile phone based interviews as the 'new normal'?

In the recent past, the concept of using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) has been pursued relying mainly on face-to-face interviews. Staff capacity has progressively been built to design, develop and implement the electronic data collection tools. Major

challenges faced while using CAPI i.e limited network coverage, network interference from neighbouring countries, inadequate phone battery life, and incompatible smart phones. Using either hard copy questionnaires commonly known as PAPI, working offline, provision of power banks and compatible hand held devices respectively solved some of these problems.

Currently, CAPI is of limited use, and the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) or Computer Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI) may become the new normal. Let us all therefore, improve our digital literacy and phone ethics as we test drive CATI / CASI in the production and compilation of statistical data and information. Together we can bring CATI / CASI in the bigger picture.

SEND US YOUR VIEWS:

On how we can improve our content for your enhanced reading experience / send us a well researched professional article (not exceeding 500 words) for publication.

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IN OTHER NEWS...

DISASTER ALERT

- As heavy rains continue to pour country wide, there is an increasing threat of rising water levels threatening human settlement mainly in low land areas.
- Rivers in the countryside continue to burst their banks, the latest being in Kasese where river Nyamamba displaced hundreds including Kilembe Hospital as floods wrecked havoc.
- The lake Victoria waters have surpassed the highest ever level of 13.41 meters recorded on May 12, 1964. As of May 07, 2020, the lake victoria waters stood at a whole new record of 13.42 meters.



Kilembe Hospital abandoned after river Nyamwamba burst its banks.



Ggaba market over flooded by waters from lake victoria.

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