

WEEKLY FACTSHEET #13

COVID-19: WEEK 13 - 19 JULY 2020

REGIONAL INDICATORS

SOUTH AFRICA		DRC	
CONFIRMED	324,221	CONFIRMED	8,199
RECOVERED	165,591	RECOVERED	4,248
DEATHS	4,669	DEATHS	193
ZAMBIA		IVORY COAST	
CONFIRMED	1,895	CONFIRMED	13,554
RECOVERED	1,412	RECOVERED	7,363
DEATHS	42	DEATHS	87
TANZANIA		Source: app.powerbi.com	
CONFIRMED	509		
RECOVERED	183		
DEATHS	21		

DID YOU KNOW?

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of parasitic and bacterial infectious diseases that affect more than 1.7 billion of the world's most impoverished people, including more than 1 billion children. Over 40% of the global NTD burden is concentrated in Africa, where the END Fund focuses the majority of its work. NTDs rank among the four most devastating groups of communicable diseases. They cause severe pain and long-term disability and lead to death for more than 170,000 people per year. Effects

from NTDs such as deformed legs and blindness results in social isolation. Amongst children, infection leads to malnutrition, cognitive impairment, stunted growth, and the inability to attend school. Social isolation and physical ailments make working difficult for people with NTDs. Many people are unable to provide for themselves or their families and are left in a cycle of poverty.

Source: [The End Fund](http://TheEndFund)

YOUTH VOICES

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

JORDY (KINSHASA) - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

QUESTION: "Will the coronavirus ever go away?"

RESPONSE: A statement from the World Health Organization suggested that the coronavirus could become endemic in the same way as HIV, and populations around the world will have to learn to live with it. Even if the world has some control over how it copes with the disease, there still needs to be a "massive effort" to monitor the virus and

contain the spread, even if a vaccine were found. More than 100 potential vaccines are being developed, including several in clinical trials, but experts have not yet found a conclusive treatment to COVID-19. Maria van Kerkhove, a WHO epidemiologist says, "We need to get into the mindset that it is going to take some time to come out of this pandemic."

Source: Aljazeera

THOMSON SILOMBA (POWEFM KABWE) - ZAMBIA

QUESTION: "Apart from talking about Covid19, how else can we incorporate other relevant issues still going on in our country like Climate Change and SRHR?"

RESPONSE: As the world faces the crisis of the pandemic, the focus has shifted from responding to other global health, environmental and social issues. But this is not a time to neglect human rights; it is a time when the economic, environmental and social issues must be dealt with alongside the public health response. In the shows that you produce, ask questions about how we can find solutions for the impact that

the pandemic has had on women and girls, including their access to sexual and reproductive health/rights. Address the ways in which the responses to the COVID-19 must continue to respond to the rights of future generations by enhancing climate action that is aiming at carbon neutrality and protecting biodiversity by 2050. Encourage your governments and communities to maintain the momentum in keeping up with social issues that will affect humanity in devastating ways if they are ignored or deprioritised during the COVID-19 crisis.

Source: United Nations

KOUAKOU ABENAN PRISCA (YOPOUGON) - IVORY COAST

QUESTION: "I would like to have more information about the coronavirus, how are people who test positive treated to get well and in what condition do they have to be to receive treatment?"

RESPONSE: Most people who become ill with COVID-19 will be able to recover at home. But some patients with COVID-19 will have severe disease requiring hospitalization for management. There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, and many are encouraged to treat their symptoms in the same way you treat a flu: getting enough rest, staying well hydrated, and taking medications to relieve fever and aches and pains.

Among all hospitalized patients, a range of 26% to 32% of patients are admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). The criteria for hospital admission or intensive care ICU admission, and being put on mechanical ventilation differ between countries. In some hospitals, the patients that require ICU care, mostly have acute respiratory failure. In most cases, people with COVID-19 and acute respiratory failure, require oxygen therapy using ventilators, alongside antiviral medications.

Source: Harvard Health Publishing / Centers For Disease Control And Prevention

OLWETHU SAPULAM (FORTE FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION: "What makes the children so easily infected by COVID-19 because at first we heard that it would mostly infect elderly people?"

RESPONSE: Older persons have faced higher infection and mortality rates, while at the same time being subjected to age discrimination in health care, as well as some cases of neglect and domestic abuse at home. Older people are also more likely to be in isolation without access to essential services, and are therefore more likely to be hard hit by COVID-19. The COVID-19 symptoms that occur in children are generally milder than in adults. Fever

and cough are common COVID-19 symptoms in both adults and children, but shortness of breath is more likely to be seen in adults. Children can have pneumonia and can also experience sore throat, excessive fatigue or diarrhea as seen in infected adults. Even though the infection rate is higher in adults, serious illness in children with COVID-19 is possible. A study shows that severe illness rates are lower in children, but there have been rare cases of children in each age group requiring hospitalization, and a few that have died.

Source: Johns Hopkins Medicine

CASIMIRO SITHOLE (ALEX FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION: "Is it essential to put children's lives at risk to save the academic year?"

RESPONSE: When outlining plans for safety measures in schools, Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga said there would be physical distancing in classrooms. Teachers and learners will be wearing cloth masks, which will be provided; classrooms will be sanitised before the beginning of the school day; and everyone will sanitise their hands before entering classrooms. The minister said buses ferrying learners to school will also be sanitised, and there will be distance placed between the learners; and wearing masks will be compulsory. She also said provinces

are buying COVID-19 essential items for schools, which include personal protective equipment, sanitisers, soap, gloves and thermometers. But the plan is being met with much skepticism from most MPs, who said they had doubts about the department's "sudden capacity" to fix long-standing problems, such as overcrowding and sanitation at schools. The education ministers are facing great pressure from parents as well and may have to revisit their proposed plans - in a media statement, Motshekga agreed that it was important to save the 2020 academic year, but saving lives was most important.

Source: Mail & Guardian