A few insights from the countries in the OHCEA region...

**SENEGAL**

In an address on 11 May 2020, the President of the Republic of Senegal, after recalling the measures previously taken to combat COVID-19, in particular the proclamation of a curfew on 23 March 2020 throughout the national territory, offered his encouragement and thanks to health workers, religious leaders and relevant national agencies involved in the fight against spread of the outbreak.

Researchers in Senegal developed a USD 1 test kit for COVID-19.

He announced measures to prevent the infection of health workers and called on all Senegalese to avoid stigmatization of COVID-19 patients. In response to high demand, he also lifted the ban on repatriation of the bodies of Senegalese who died of COVID-19 abroad. Based on the results of consultations with a multidisciplinary team of national experts, the President called for an adaptation of the national strategy on combating COVID-19. This adaptation is all the more necessary as the disease is projected to continue to circulate in the country until August or even September 2020. This adaptation should allow the resumption of essential activities while protecting the health of communities. Senegalese people are thus called upon to learn to live with the virus and to assume their individual and collective responsibilities in the face of this disease.

A series of measures have been taken, including a change in the curfew from 8pm - 6am - 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., the opening of markets and places of commerce six days a week, the reopening of weekly markets, the reopening of places of worship, the resumption of courses for examination classes on 2 June, the adjustment of the academic year and the examination calendar, and the call for the resumption of teaching in universities with distance learning courses. In addition, there is a request for the reduction of transport restrictions to enable agricultural workers to reach their

COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE OHCEA REGION IN FIGURES (as of 2112hrs) EAST June 4, 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>6,789</td>
<td>3,705</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>3,644</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>1,636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>2,340</td>
<td>592</td>
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<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>271</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>2,162</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>509</td>
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<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html
localities as the rainy season is approaching. All of these relaxations will have to be carried out in compliance with physical distancing measures and others like compulsory wearing of masks and handwashing. Ten (10) million masks have been produced locally and will be distributed in schools, places of worship, markets and public transport.

**Content contributed by Dr Sara Danièle Dieng – OHCEA Senegal Country Manager**

**KENYA**

In an effort to promote and enhance research, the National Research Fund made a call for research into COVID-19 and the locust infestation in the country. The OHCEA network institutions, as part of the academic fraternity, are considering responding to the call, and OHCEA- Kenya is exploring ways of partnering with them, where possible.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 response efforts were almost put into jeopardy after health workers issued a strike notice, in efforts aimed at securing better remuneration and/or allowances for frontline health workers. Fortunately, this was mitigated against and an amplification of the disaster averted.

In his 7th address to the country, the President of the Republic of Kenya observed that the COVID-19 pandemic would continue to undermine the efforts of the country in trying to revitalize the economy. The president further noted that failure to follow the protocols issued by the Ministry of Health may result in an upward surge in the number of cases (as was currently being seen). Subsequently, the president urged everyone to conduct themselves responsibly.

To safeguard the vulnerable, the government continued disbursement of financial assistance to identified families, to cushion them against the negative economic effects of COVID-19. Through these funds, the local economies are also catalyzed and cushioned.

The president outlined an eight-point economic stimulus package, aimed at stimulating growth and cushioning families and companies. The areas targeted included: infrastructure; education; small & medium enterprises; health (where additional 5000 health workers would be recruited and research would be enhanced and encouraged); agriculture; tourism; deforestation and climate change and; manufacturing.

The nationwide dusk to dawn curfew, as well as the cessation of movement into and out of COVID-19 infected areas, was extended for a further 21 days. And, inasmuch as the government implored people to stay at home as the situation was not yet back to normal, these calls appeared to go unheeded. In the capital Nairobi for example, rush hour traffic was noticeable, an indication that quite a number of people had decided to go back to their economic livelihood practices. This notwithstanding, mass gatherings are still not allowed, including church gatherings, amongst others. The Government continued to roll out mass testing in various areas of the country.

**Content contributed by Dr. Sam Wanjohi - OHCEA Kenya Country Manager**

**RWANDA**

The government strategy is to improve testing at community level in high risk health zones; fifty thousand rapid testing kits were given recently to the response team by the Prime Minister. Risk communication and community engagement are the other areas that have been identified as needing improvement. These measures will be evaluated after fifteen days by the response team to provide strategic guidance for the next steps.

**Monitoring recovering patients** - The Rwanda Biomedical Centre-RBC has started monitoring people who have been declared healed of COVID-19 and discharged to go home. The two main reasons for follow up is to ascertain if there could be a reinfection AND to see if recovered persons have developed antibodies that can be used to treat other patients. Information is that some have in their blood IgG and or IgM, others do not. It is still too early for any conclusion to be made one way or the other.

**OHCEA involvement in COVID-19 containment - Some of our faculty were co-opted and are still serving on the National Task Force in their disciplinary capacity.**

With the second phase of lifting the lockdown coming in, there is opportunity to start planning SOHIC activities and involvement.

**Content contributed by Dr. Juvenal Kagarama – OHCEA-Rwanda Country Manager**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

On Friday 22nd of May, the country’s parliament renewed for the third time the national health emergency state at the President’s request. The country will remain on lockdown for fifteen more days, borders will remain closed with travel restrictions across the country. Schools, markets, universities, churches, hotels and restaurants will remain closed. Supermarkets are open, while strictly respecting social distancing and hand-washing measures. The wearing of a face-masks is mandatory in public places and offices, while meetings with more than 20 participants are prohibited. There is no curfew in the country since the beginning of the response to the pandemic and this remains the status quo.

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Since the beginning of this pandemic, seven provinces out of 26 have notified cases, with Kinshasa, the capital city contributing 90% of all the cases.

Content contributed by Dr. Marc Yambayamba – OHCEA-DRC Country Manager

UGANDA

OHCEA-Uganda institutions recognized for conducting research on Corona Virus and COVID-19

Since the first case of the coronavirus disease in Sub-Saharan Africa was diagnosed in late January, universities in Sub-Saharan Africa have been proving their capacity to support the global response to the pandemic. Since the current outbreak and global spread of coronavirus, researchers at Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB), have found new forms of coronavirus in Ugandan, in bats and camels.

Through collaborations with the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Denis Byarugaba, Professor of microbiology and Laboratory Director of emerging infectious diseases at Makerere University Walter Reed Project, says the current outbreak provided researchers an opportunity to screen 500 bats for corona viruses. “We were able to isolate mass coronaviruses from those bats,” said Byarugaba recently in Kampala. Over 500 samples collected from camels in northern Uganda tested positive for coronavirus. “We found 70% positivity in our serological tests,” said Dr. Sylvia Baluka, a lecturer at COVAB and member of the coronavirus research team.

In addition, Dr. Misaki Wayengera, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pathology at the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University, is inventing a faster and low-cost COVID-19 test kit. A physician and researcher, Wayengera had previously created a cheap paper strip test to rapidly detect filoviruses, including Ebola and Marburg, which are zoonotic – like the novel coronavirus – and wanted to contribute his skills to the fight against the new threat.

OHCEA-Uganda Dean- Prof Rhoda Wanyenze on the frontline – Using science to fight COVID-19

Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean School of Public Health-Makerere University was stepping out of her office at Uganda’s Makerere University in March when a news item on the television caught her attention: more people had died of the novel coronavirus in China and Italy, and authorities were saying the pandemic was quickly making its way to Africa. Wanyenze reached for her phone and posted a call on the school’s Facebook page, urging fast action against the new epidemic. “We must all act very fast given the rapid spread,” she said. “With COVID-19, every hour and day matters and we can quickly lose the battle if we don’t act quickly!”

Content contributed by Ms. Angella Musewa – OHCEA Uganda Country Manager

ETHIOPIA

Mekelle University in collaboration with several other partners organised a sensitisation and psychiatric training for 120 civil voluntary service providers in College of Veterinary Science-Mekelle University – Kallamino campus quarantine centre. The training was provided by experts from College of Veterinary Sciences, College of Health Sciences, College of Social Sciences of Mekelle University and one NGO called OSA. The OHCEA-Ethiopia Country Manager Dr. Berihu Gebrekidan and Dean Abraha Bsrat participated as facilitators.

Training of the voluntary service providers

OHCEA – Ethiopia facilitates creation of country-wide SOHIC through Telegram

The newly-established Ethiopian Students One Health Innovations Club (E-SOHIC) Telegram group which is being guided and hosted under the umbrella of OHCEA- Ethiopia is now very active. So far the group has 3250 members from different disciplines from across almost all universities in Ethiopia. Topics on One Health-related approaches and core competencies are being discussed on the group every 3 days. The OHCEA-Ethiopia Country Manager has already held virtual meetings with the E-SOHIC leadership and have discussed OHCEA genesis and direction and the vision of E-SOHIC. The E-SOHIC is in the process of designing a strategy to include all students on health-related programs and disciplines in all Ethiopian universities.

Content contributed by Dr. Berihu Gebrekidan – OHCEA-Ethiopia Country Manager
Students Innovating for COVID-19 Risk Communication

Simon Peter Oteba, a 4th Year BSc. Environmental Health student at Moi University - Kenya takes matters in his hands and designs locally-adapted COVID-19 risk communication and prevention materials for community engagement. This is innovating to suit the local context.

One Health Workforce Next Generation COVID-19 digital awareness challenge

One Health Workforce - Next Generation (OHW-NG), in collaboration with AFROHUN AND SEAOHUN, invites current One Health students (SOHICs, OHCC, etc.) to the COVID-19 digital awareness challenge. Raise awareness in your community via preparing outreach materials (posters/cartoons/videos) that you can share with your community

Submission Deadline: June 10, 2020 (11.59pm EAT)

What we are looking for
Digital content (ex., poster, flyer, cartoon, 2-3min videos, photo(s)) to answer at least one of the following questions:
• What is COVID-19?
• How is the COVID-19 transmitted?
• How to prevent individuals from getting infected?
• What message would you share with your community about COVID-19?

Submission process:
Digital content can be submitted here: [LINK]

Rules:
• Individual or group participations are welcome
• All students should follow government regulations (confinement, social distancing, masks..). Any submissions that break governmental guidelines would be excluded.
• Submissions must be original content. If submission is not in English, please also submit a translation or a summary in English. Content should be appropriate for all literacy levels.

Review Criteria
Submissions will be judged by a panel on the strength, relevance and artwork and communication skills. All students are welcome to participate. Multidisciplinary and multi-county teams are highly encouraged.
A winner will be selected for each of the following material:
1) Best video
2) Best flyer/poster
3) Most innovative digital content
Prizes will be available and selected submission will be published on OHW-NG digital platforms and websites. For more information on contest guidelines, email Milly Nattimba: mnattimba@ohcea.org
Practice cough etiquette like coughing into the elbow. Keep a distance of at least 2 metres from people with symptoms of acute respiratory infection. Use disposable wipes after coughing and sneezing and wash your hands. If this is not possible, use hand sanitiser. Use Surgical mask when symptoms present.

COVID-19 SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Keep a distance of at least 2 metres from people with symptoms of acute respiratory infection. Use disposable wipes after coughing and sneezing and wash your hands. If this is not possible, use hand sanitiser. Use Surgical mask when symptoms present.

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COVID-19 SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

We should forward and consider messages of hope but also safety. Even as we settle into the new normal, we still need to protect ourselves. A lot is being learnt and a lot has been accomplished in diagnosis, so it is important to hear from each other what the good practices are - Professor William Bazeyo, One Health Workforce - Next Generation Project Director.

Some notes from our ECHO Session COVID-19 One Health Updates on Sex, Gender and COVID-19 held May 7th 2020

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