

# Covid-19 in sub-Saharan Africa

Weekly Situation Report #02

April 21, 2020



African Population and Health Research Center

## Introduction

The global community is racing to slow down and halt the spread of SARS-CoV-2. The Covid-19 pandemic has claimed tens of thousands of lives in a very short period of time, since it was first announced on December 31, 2019. In Africa, the virus has spread to dozens of countries within weeks. Several African governments have put in place measures for early detection, contact tracing, and quarantining of potential contacts. Currently, forty-seven countries in the WHO African region can now test for Covid-19. The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is committed to generating an Africa-led and Africa-owned body of evidence to inform decision making for an effective and sustainable response to the most critical challenges facing the continent. The objective of this weekly situation report is to highlight the weekly trends of new confirmed cases, cumulative cases, and active cases for all sub-Saharan African Countries. This bulletin is a summary for informational purposes. Complete summaries and trends can be assessed from the in-house dashboard (<https://siddi.shinyapps.io/covid19dashboardsa/>).

## Data source and analysis

The Covid-19 incidence data used to prepare this bulletin is extracted daily from the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU CCSE) Coronavirus (<https://github.com/RamiKrispin/coronavirus-csv>) data repository. These data are used in our in-house R-Shiny dashboard developed for countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Graphical R functions such as ggplot2 and plotly are used to generate the statistics and trends.

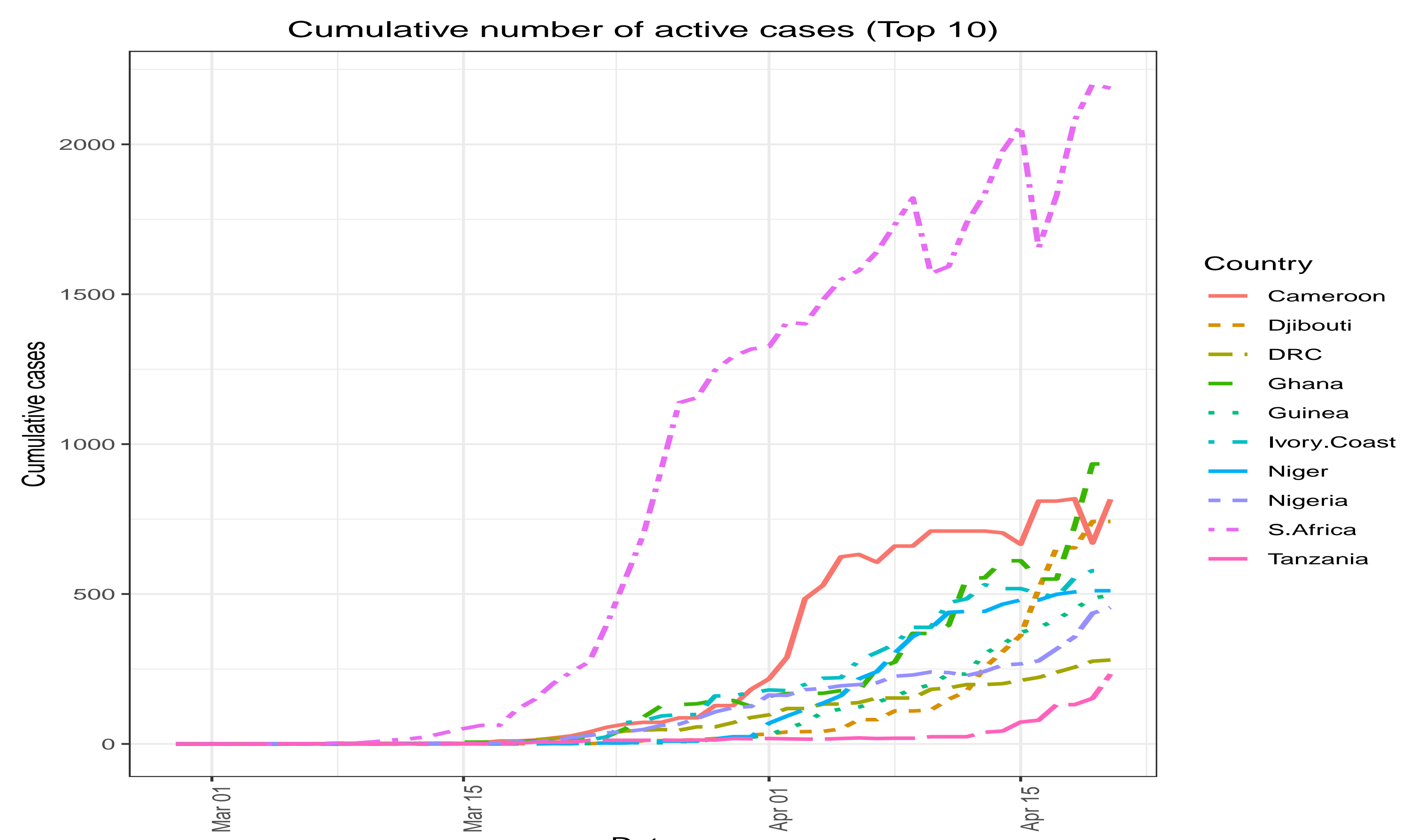
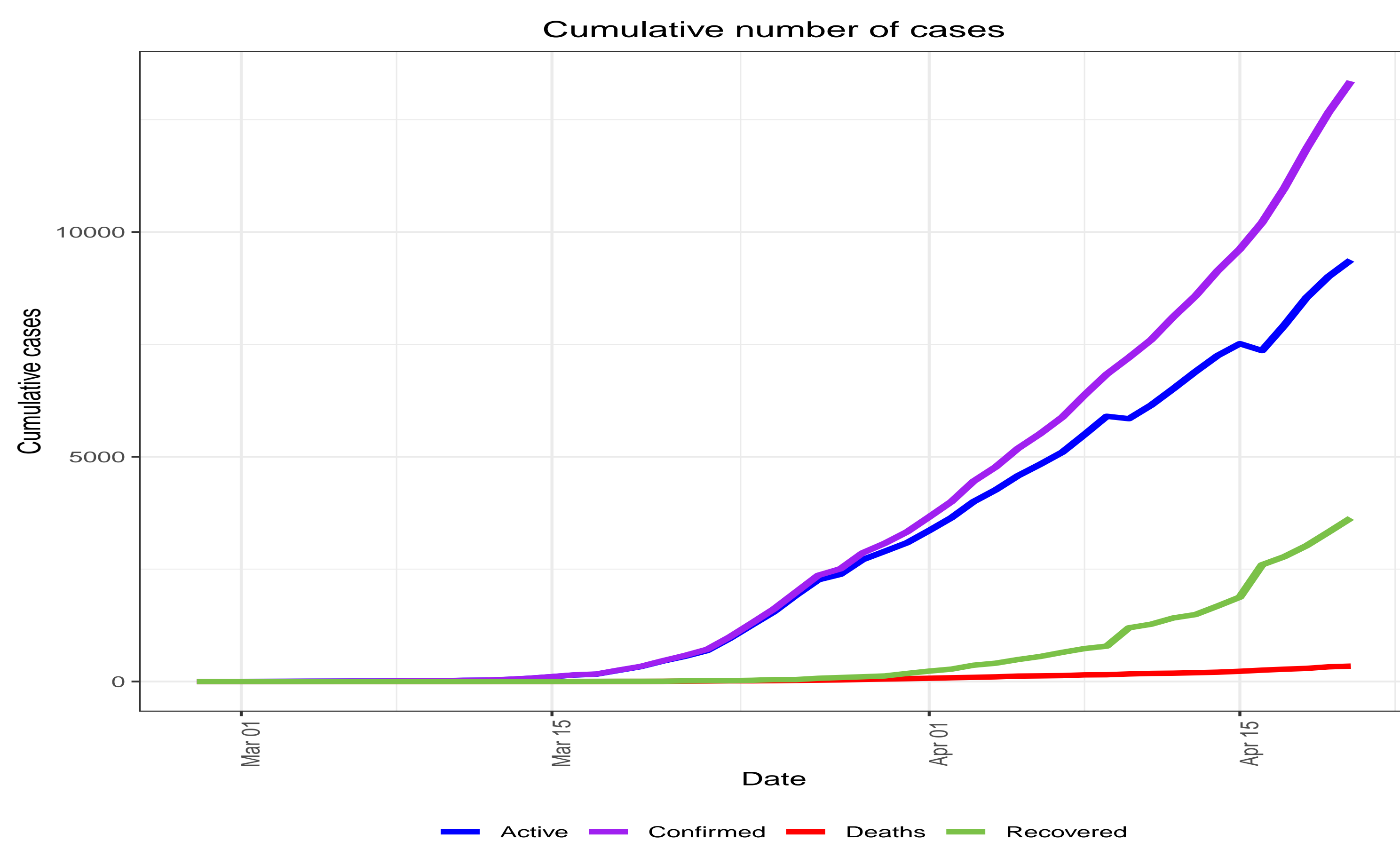
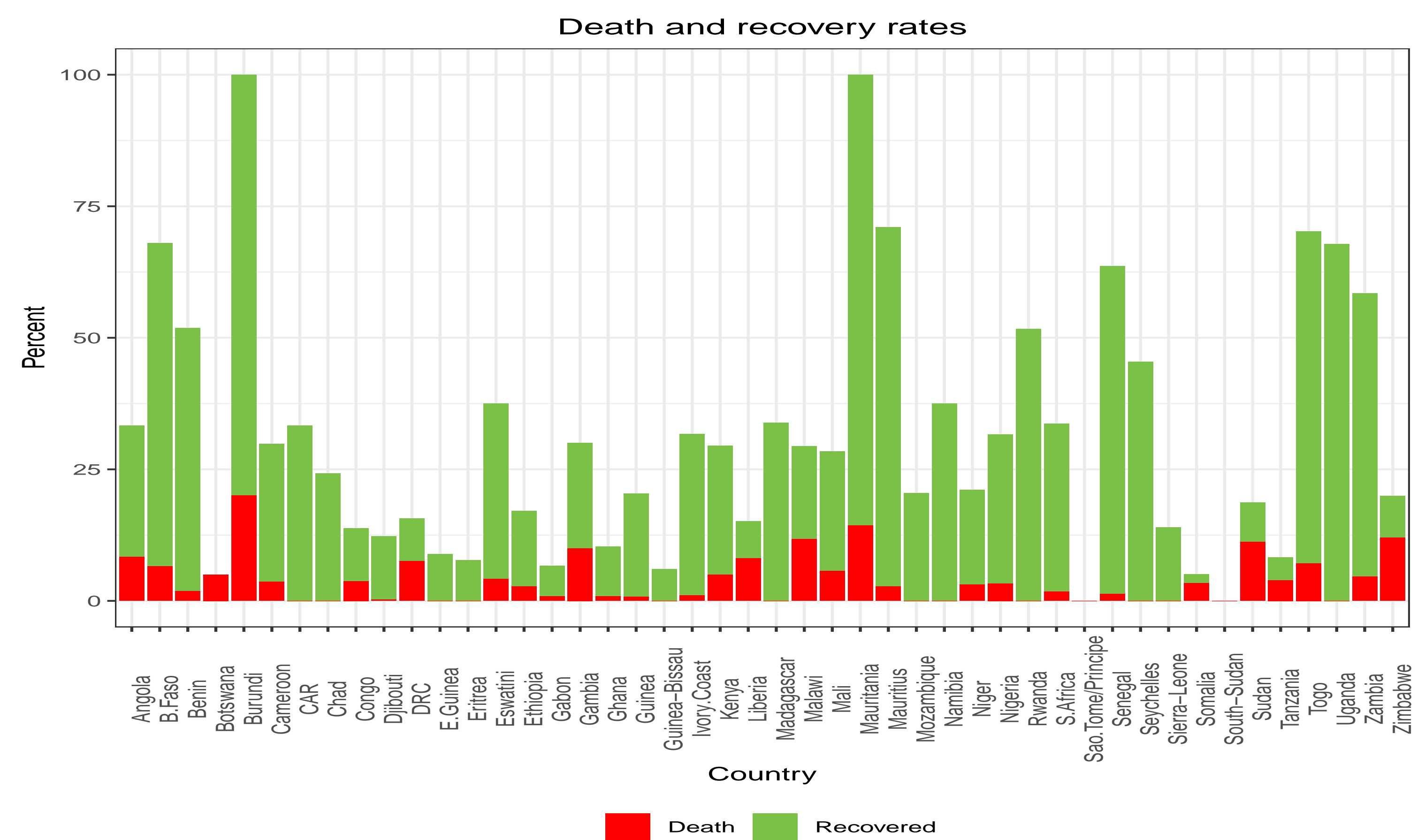
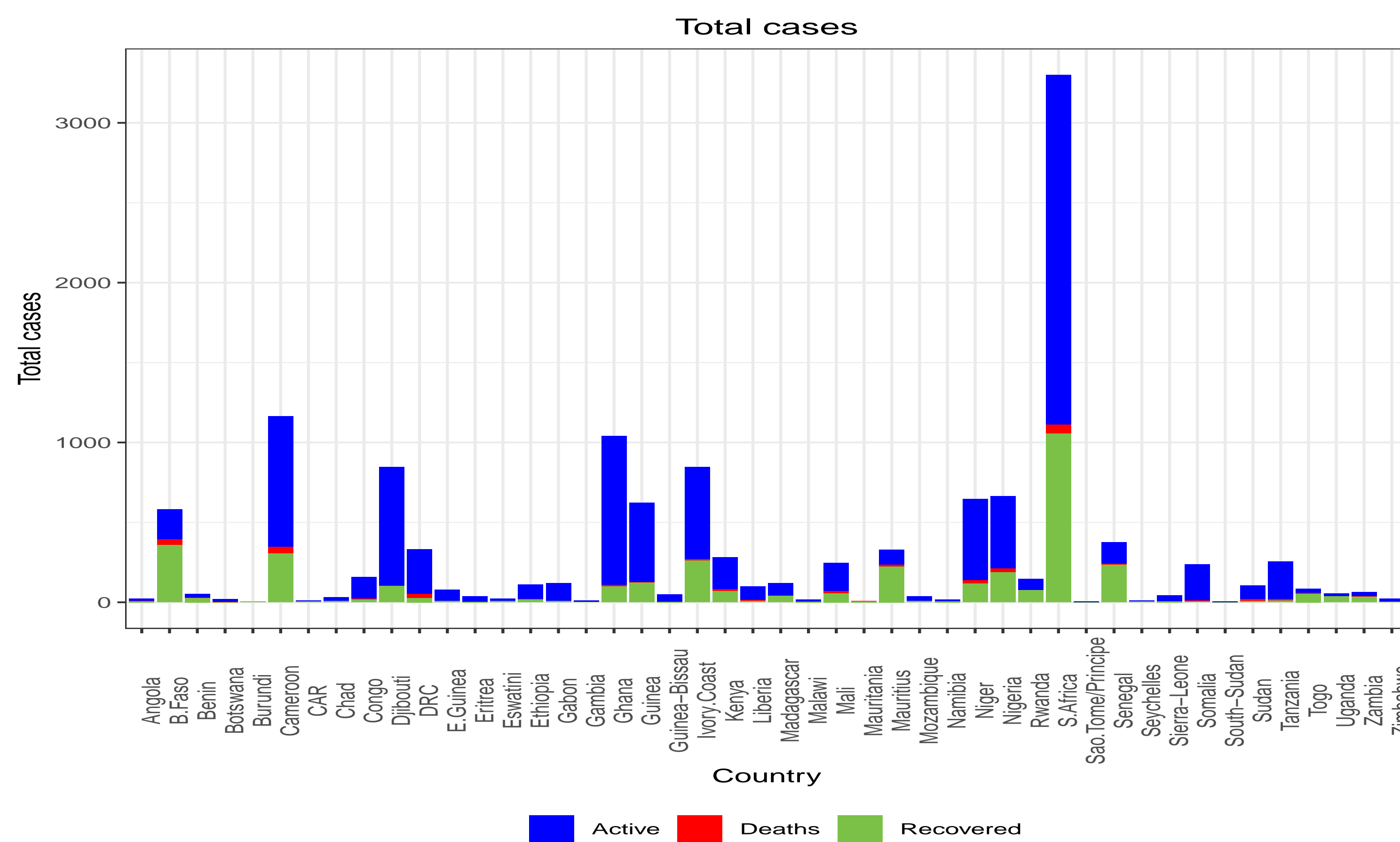
## Highlights

Using data up to 2020-04-20

- Sub-Saharan African has so far reported a total of 13355 confirmed, 3636 recovered, 342 deaths, and 9377 active cases of Covid-19
- S.Africa has the highest confirmed cases in Africa which stands at 3300 cases.
- Sudan has the highest case fatality rate (CFR) of 11.21% among all Countries with more than 100 confirmed cases.
- Mauritius has the highest recovery rate of 68.29% of all the countries with more than 100 confirmed cases.
- Cameroon reported the highest number of confirmed new cases of 146.
- There were 311 new recovery cases and 16 new deaths.

## Graphical results

### For sub-Saharan African Countries



## Key messages

The number of new confirmed cases in sub-Saharan Africa continues to grow across the region. There is wide variation in the number of confirmed cases across countries with South Africa having the highest number of confirmed cases as well as new cases. Deaths from Covid-19 in the region are relatively low. Looking at countries with at least 100 confirmed cases, CFR ranges from nil (Rwanda and Madagascar) to 7.5% in DRC and 11.2% in Sudan. It is important for countries with high CFR to benchmark against the strategies adopted by Countries with low CFR and yet have high confirmed cases. More disaggregated data is needed to understand the epidemic better, for example, by sex and age.

## For comments or questions, contact

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